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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Penalty and Interest Relief – Municipal Taxes, Water and Sewer Billing**

**(Parry Sound, ON. – April 8, 2020)**

In light of the current COVID-19 global pandemic, the Town of Parry Sound is implementing temporary relief for penalty and interest for taxes and water and sewer billing.

Effective Tuesday April 7, 2020 the Council of the Town of Parry Sound passed an amending bylaw to allow relief for those impacted by COVID-19. The bylaw implements that:

- Penalty and interest on the 2020 interim tax bill will be waived for three months ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Penalty and interest on water and sewer bills will be waived for three months ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Transfers to taxes and the disconnection of water and sewer services on past-due accounts be placed on hold between April 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Non-sufficient funds (NSF) charges be waived for both property taxes and water and sewer accounts between April 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Be advised, for those utilizing the relief program, reminder notices will continue to be sent at regular scheduled times and according to regular procedures.

This is a temporary measure for those who have lost income and are unable to make payments. If you are able to continue to make payments, we encourage you to do so to ensure you do not incur additional charges at the end of the relief period.

Payment options for property taxes and water accounts during the temporary closure to the public are available through online banking, at financial institutions or cheques can be deposited into the drop box located at the front of the Town Office (old entrance).

Mayor Jamie McGarvey stated on behalf of Council:

*“These are unprecedented times. We understand that many of our residents and businesses will be facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 and the tax and water and sewer billing relief is our way of recognizing the hardship and providing support for our community members.”*

Information regarding COVID-19 in our community is shared on the Town of Parry Sound website, [www.parrysound.ca/coronavirus](http://www.parrysound.ca/coronavirus), and through our social media accounts as it becomes available.

For up to date information about the virus please refer to the following websites:

North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit – [www.myhealthunit.ca](http://www.myhealthunit.ca)

Ontario Ministry of Health – [www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus)

Public Health Agency of Canada – [www.canada.ca/coronavirus](http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus)

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