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MEDIA RELEASE

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

(Parry Sound, ON. – March 16, 2020)

The West Parry Sound Area Municipalities continue to work collaboratively to monitor the status of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) as it evolves and to ensure business continuity while following direction from the Ministry of Health and the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit.

The Town of Parry Sound is taking steps to protect our community and staff members by limiting gatherings at our community facilities. Effective immediately until April 6, 2020, the Bobby Orr Community Centre, the Charles W. Stockey Centre and the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame will be closed to the public. Programming has been cancelled or postponed.

The Town of Parry Sound Municipal Office, Fire Hall and Waste Transfer Station remain open to the public. Amended operating procedures have been put in place for these facilities. If possible, we encourage all members of the public to limit their visits to our facilities. Staff will remain available by email and phone. Payment options for property taxes and water accounts 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.

The regular meeting of Council Tuesday March 17, 2020 and the special budget meeting, Wednesday March 18, 2020 will continue as scheduled. We encourage public participation through alternative avenues including providing comments in writing ahead of the meetings, by live steaming the meetings through our YouTube channel or viewing through the YourTV Community Channel.

We ask that all members of the public who have travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days, who are feeling unwell or who have had close contact with someone who is feeling unwell, refrain from visiting our facilities and scheduled Council meetings.

Currently, there are no reported cases of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the West Parry Sound Area. We encourage all members of our community to do their part to help keep the virus from spreading within our area by practicing good hand hygiene and social distancing while at work and at home.

Additional information will be made available on the Town of Parry Sound website, <u>www.parrysound.ca</u>, and though 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 – <u>www.myhealthunit.ca</u> Ontario Ministry of Health – <u>www.ontario.ca/coronavirus</u> Public Health Agency of Canada – <u>www.canada.ca/coronavirus</u>

- 30 -

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