



Media Release

Further relief for residents & small business tenants impacted by facility/amenity closures

June 4, 2020 – At its June 3 meeting, Midland Town Council approved reports recommending further relief for residents and small business tenants of Town properties, that will help alleviate some financial concerns during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

Council approved recommendations from Staff that will see the following measures in place:

- Penalties and interest will not be applied for non-payment of the property tax instalment due June 29, or non-payment of utility accounts until the first of the month following the lifting of the Provincial Declaration of Emergency;
- All returned cheque fees on tax and utility payments will be waived until the lifting of the Provincial Declaration of Emergency or until further direction from Council; and
- Parking fees in downtown Midland will remain suspended.

Small business tenants of municipally owned properties who were impacted by the closure of facilities/amenities under the Province of Ontario's COVID-19 emergency orders, will be offered rent relief from the Town. These tenants are currently unable to participate in the Federal CECRA program. Similar to the federal program, tenants who qualify can receive a 75% reduction in rent from the Town for the second quarter of 2020 (April, May, June).

“For almost three months now, our residents and small business owners have been dealing with the stress and anxiety resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Mayor Stewart Strathearn. “These measures will hopefully provide some relief during these uncertain times, as we navigate the safe reopening of Ontario, one phase at a time.”

The Town of Midland will also request an extension from the County of Simcoe on the County's property tax relief program, while also requesting financial relief and statutory deadline extensions from the Ontario Government.

“Council and staff are being proactive in trying to establish a financial framework on which to operate over the coming months,” added Mayor Strathearn. “We cannot operate with a deficit as a municipality, so by requesting these extensions and financial support from the upper-tier levels of government, we can plan accordingly for the coming months with more financial certainty.”

The Town of Midland will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and provide updates on the Town of Midland website at [Midland.ca/COVID-19](https://www.midland.ca/COVID-19), and we encourage residents to follow our social media channels for updates as well, [@MidlandON](https://twitter.com/MidlandON) on Twitter, and [@townofmidland](https://www.facebook.com/townofmidland) on Facebook.

For more information on the state of COVID-19 in our area, please contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit their website at [simcoemuskokahealth.org](https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).



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