Although restrictions are now starting to lift and businesses are opening up, we must continue to be diligent with our social and physical distancing. Both the province and the provincial governments are warning us daily that the Covid- 19 threat is not over. They are predicting a second wave late this year and spikes for months or more.

The Township is adjusting to the lessoning of restrictions, the Township office is now open, parks, beaches, and boat launches are now available for public use. Washrooms at Melissa Bishop Park and the Golden Lake Community Centre will open for daytime use only starting on June 29th. Due to cleaning and sanitization procedures Township outhouse facilities will not be opening in the foreseeable future.

Other facilities are preparing to open over the next couple of weeks. Township cottage rentals are opening in July with some new occupancy limitation and extra cleaning procedures. The Golden Lake Community Centre is going to open for rentals that conform to provincial restrictions.

Council meetings are getting back to somewhat normal with council and staff now together in the same room with strict physical distancing protocol. Unfortunately, residents are not permitted to attend Council meetings in person as there is still a limit of ten persons in the room with correct physical distancing. Residents are welcome to call into the meeting and listen to the proceedings. Sound quality is dependent on the internet and equipment the resident is using.

Starting June 27th transfer sites will be charging $2.00 per bag of household garbage (see information sheet). Berndt road site will no longer be permitting residents to use the $12.00 per cubic metre option. Leaf, yard waste and brush will not be permitted at Berndt Road Site until improvements are made to conform to provincial licensing requirements and a new fee structure is created to reflect actual disposal costs.

Large item day or bulk day is going ahead this year, a little later and with a different format. There will be two sites where residents can drop off large items for a period of eight days dependent on when the sites are open through regular hours. The plan is to have the event August 8th through to the 15th at the Berndt Road Site and at The Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre. Residents will receive a coupon for one load of material that they can deposit either at the transfer site or the landfill. The coupons will be included in the next tax bill mail out. (Please stay tuned for more details coming soon.)

Canada Day is less than two weeks away and with some disappointment the Township is cancelling its plan to have an in-person event honouring first responders and front-line workers due to difficulties securing onsite attendance. Instead, the Township is going to do the event through a web based virtual “variety/talk show” format with special guests’ music and entertainment (details will follow shortly).

Just wondering, if any resident knows; where did the “Wilberforce” in North Algona Wilberforce come from? I was reading about William Wilberforce the other day and was wondering if there was a connection. The name William Wilberforce has some relevance today with the dialogue that is happening in the United States and around the world today.

Andrew Sprunt
CAO/Clerk