

Town of Penetanguishene Municipal Offices open buildings to the public, effective June 3, 2021

(Penetanguishene) - In line with the end of the provincial Stay-at-Home Order, The Town of Penetanguishene will be reopening Town Hall, the Public Works Administration Building and the Penetanguishene Fire Hall to the public Thursday, June 3, 2021. Previously, these offices were operating by appointment only. In accordance with the <u>Provincial Re-opening Plan</u>, the Penetanguishene Centennial Museum will continue to remain closed to the public until Step 3 in the <u>Roadmap to Re-opening Ontario.</u>

"Since the arrival of COVID-19 almost 15 months ago, residents have done an incredible job of following public health guidelines. The Town's Emergency Management Team have been in consistent contact throughout the pandemic to ensure that our Municipality operates under proper procedures and is in line with the provincial reopening plans" said CAO Jeff Lees. "As we open to the public for the first time since April, we will continually monitor and make adjustments that will keep our residents and staff as safe as possible."

Office hours for each location are below:

The Town Hall: 8:30AM -4:30PM

The Fire Hall: 8:00AM – 4:00PM

Public Works Administration Building: 8:00AM – 4:00PM

All locations will have a **full closure from 12:00 PM-1:00 PM** to allow for proper cleaning protocols and a full staff lunch break.

"The end of the mandated stay at home order is great news for our community and residents" said Mayor Doug Leroux. "I am proud of how hard our community members have worked to remain home and follow provincial protocols, although restrictions are lifting, please ensure you continue to do your part and stay safe."

It is **required** that the public make an appointment for any Planning and Development Department services, including applying for building permits or to speak with staff in the planning or by-law offices. If an appointment is not made, there is no guarantee that a staff member will be in the building and/or available to assist you. **Appointments for Planning and Development Services can be made by calling: (705) 549-2673. Those with appointments are to access the Townhall Building and Planning Department through the Shanahan Road doors (back door).**

Residents continue to be encouraged to use online options for service and make an appointment where possible. Online options regarding tax payment options are outlined here. In order to serve or community better we ask that all visitors adhere to all provincial regulations, including wearing a face covering, utilizing hand sanitizer and keeping 6 feet apart when in the office buildings.

NEWS RELEASE June 2, 2021



Staff will be available by phone or email during regular working hours, 8:30am – 4:30pm to answer any inquiries that do not require an in-person visit or appointment. A full staff directory is available <u>here.</u> We appreciate our community's patience and understanding during this transition.

The Town of Penetanguishene's Emergency Management Team will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation. Updates are provided on our website at www.penetanguishene.ca.

We encourage you to sign up to receive public notice updates through email. To register please visit our subscription portal, <u>here</u>. Alternatively, updates are provided on our social media channels on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>.

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.

For media inquiries, please contact:

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