

City continues to adjust programming and services

March 25, 2020 – The City of St. Catharines continues to take the COVID-19 pandemic seriously, and following the advice of provincial and federal leaders continues to make changes to services and programming to help protect health and well-being of the community.

Recent programming changes include:

Postponements

St. Catharines Arts Awards: The City has postponed its 2020 Arts Awards. Organizers are working on rescheduling the event, and will announce more details as they become available at stcatharines.ca/artsawards.

Tree Giveaway and Rain Barrel Sale: The spring tree giveaway and rain barrel sale will be postponed to sometime in the fall. The City remains committed to growing the urban tree canopy and encourages residents to care for their trees. Residents can also help the City grow its tree canopy and beautify the community by requesting a boulevard tree or sharing their suggestions of a street that could benefit from some greening at stcatharines.ca/greenstreets.

Rain barrels and planting trees can also assist in reducing flooding. With spring here, residents are encouraged to look at ways to reduce flooding on and around their properties, including making downspouts drain away from your foundation and into your lawn or garden, and clearing any roadside and backyard catch basins, if safe to do so, to ensure water can enter the storm sewer. Other tips to protect your home are available at stcatharines.ca/basementflooding.

Older Adult Centre Art Show and Sale: The City has postponed its annual Older Adult Centre Art Show and Sale. Organizers are looking at rescheduling the event and will announce further details when available.

Cancellations

Easter Eggstravaganza: The St. Catharines Farmers Market's Easter Eggstravaganza, scheduled for April 11, has been cancelled. Market Discovery Table activities and school tours are temporarily suspended until further notice.

Essential service efforts continue

Residents will continue to see City crews and contractors working on behalf of the City, out doing essential infrastructure and maintenance work ranging from street cleaning to sewer infrastructure repairs. The City of St. Catharines provides several essential services such as the delivery of drinking water and the related maintenance that entails. With this work physical distancing between workers is not always feasible. In light of this the City is taking a number of precautions and using a multi-layered approach to protect the health of its workers, and community as a whole, such as:

- Self assessments of workers;
- Self isolation when warranted by self assessment;
- Physical distancing of at least two metres when feasible;
- Limiting physical interactions such as hand shaking, when physical distancing is not feasible;
- Use of personal protective equipment;
- Proper hygiene practices such as frequent hand washing; and
- Increased cleaning and disinfection of work environments

All critical services, including fire services, traffic services, water and sewer operations and road operations will continue to operate to support our community.

A reminder to residents that while City facilities remain closed to the public, residents can still access City services online, or contact Citizens First by emailing citizensfirst@stcatharines.ca or calling 905-688-5600, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Alternative options for those needing to make a payment can be found at www.stcatharines.ca/paymentoptions.

Stay informed with a complete list of closures and program disruptions can be found at www.stcatharines.ca/COVID19.

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Contact:

Darrell Smith
Director of Municipal Works
dsmith@stcatharines.ca
905.688.5601 ext. 2137

Phil Cristi
Director of Community, Recreation and
Culture Services
pcristi@stcatharines.ca
905.688.5601 ext. 3160