

## TOWNSHIP OF GEORGIAN BAY

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[www.gbtownship.ca](http://www.gbtownship.ca)

# Press Release

**To: All Media and Neighbours of the Township of Georgian Bay**  
**From: Mayor Peter Koetsier**  
**Date: March 27, 2020**  
**Subject: COVID-19 - Township of Georgian Bay Declares an Emergency**  
**Pages: Two**

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Today the Township of Georgian Bay has Declared an Emergency in line with, and in support of, the Federal directives and Provincial declarations. This decision has also been made to support our local health services as they respond to the demands of COVID-19.

It is essential that we all recognize the seriousness of this pandemic and the effect that it is having on all of us. We must have all residents practice physical distancing if we are to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our area.

### **It is time to realign our municipal efforts.**

By declaring an emergency today, the Township can shift our attention to what our community needs in order to flatten the curve of COVID-19 now and in the coming days.

Our staff must focus on ensuring that our residents, both seasonal and local, are in a community where they can be safe. Our staff have been more than stretched by the extra work that is going into managing the current situation.

Georgian Bay is still covered in ice. Inland lakes may have some open water, but that does not include entire water systems.

We invite you to view the recent photos sent by the OPP just today on the state of Georgian Bay. Many marinas cannot put boats in, our contractors cannot put in and connect docks, nor can they open up cottages at this time.

These businesses cannot be expected to deliver the same services that seasonal residents have been used to, nor can emergency services reach you as quickly.

This is not only because of March conditions, but also because our local marinas, operators, contractors and residents are also physically distancing to protect their families, and themselves. Many are self-isolating in accordance with the Federal and Provincial decisions that we are all to abide by.

Until residents have been advised otherwise, please be mindful of the weather, the condition and presence of ice on our waterways and the services available in this area.

You can have confidence that we are supporting Federal, Provincial and Health Unit directives in every decision we make. Please stay safe, and help take care of those who need extra assistance at this time.



North Bay, Honey Harbour  
Photo taken March 27, 2020



Aerial photo of Honey Harbour  
Photo taken March 20, 2020

Photo Credit Rob Bielecki and Armin Grigaitis VIA OPP

For municipal information that matters to you, please visit our website at [www.gbtownship.ca](http://www.gbtownship.ca).

We are on Twitter @gbtownship  
We are on Facebook @Township of Georgian Bay Muskoka  
We are on Instagram @georgianbaytownship  
#muskokacovidready

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