

## The Township of Ramara decides not to declare a state of emergency

**Ramara/March 24, 2020 –** At the Township of Ramara's Council meeting on Monday, March 23, 2020, Council discussed the current state of the COVID-19 Pandemic. At this time, the Township of Ramara has intentionally decided to not declare a state of emergency.

In recognizing the Government of Ontario and the County of Simcoe have declared states of emergency, Council feels that municipal services in the Township of Ramara continue to function, both financially and operationally, so an emergency declaration would not be warranted at this time. As both Provincial and County declarations provide the necessary framework to manage the COVID-19 issues arising in communities, the Township feels that it has the necessary resources and staff capabilities to effectively deal with the current COVID-19 Pandemic.

At this time, the Township's emergency management team and senior staff continue to meet regularly to ensure that decisions are being made based on recommendations from the province and public health officials. The Township continues to make pro-active decisions that are necessary to protect residents and staff. As always and particularly during this unprecedented time, the health and safety of our community is of upmost importance.

"We want to assure residents that the Township of Ramara is committed to responding responsibly and cooperatively to the current COVID-19 pandemic crisis and will ensure that essential services continue to be delivered," Mayor Clarke stated.

All buildings/facilities remain closed to the public, but all staff are working to ensure that essential services are running and all mandated requirements are being met. In an effort to ensure social distancing, there will be limited staff available at the Township Administration Building; however, we ask the public to phone and e-mail the Township and staff will respond based on priority.

Due to the recent direction given from the Premier's Office, we will be advising on further impacts to our municipal services. Regular updates are made through social media and the Township's website to ensure residents are well informed. For up-to-date information on the status of Township's services, residents can visit **www.ramara.ca**, or call 705-484-5374. For health-related information, please go to

**www.simcoemuskokahealth.org**, or call the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit directly.

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www.ramara.ca