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**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SCOTSTOWN CITIZENS' PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF SCOTSTOWN maintains essential services and government recommendations

Scotstown, April 4, 2020 - The Town of Scotstown is maintaining the recommendations for Coronavirus (COVID-19) from the federal and provincial governments.

Dear citizens

Further to my message of March 15 and the one published in the municipal newsletter, L'Info-Scotstown, on March 31, I will come back to provide an update on the situation and on the essential services maintained in relation to the VIDOC 19 situation.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity today to thank the elected municipal officials as well as the municipal staff in administration, public works and volunteer firefighters of the fire department.

Thank you all!

I would also like to thank the people who continue to provide us with essential services, be it Le Marché Désilets and the Charcuterie, the Dépanneur Victoria, the Garage Charles Brochu as well as the Façoteck industry and Léo Désilets, master herbalist who are still at work and keep the jobs on duty. Not to mention the employees of Canada Post.

Thank you to all of you!

In terms of work organization, here is the situation:

- o All essential services are maintained (administration, public works, aqueduct-sewer, fire department) despite a reduced staff complement;
- o Despite the closure of City Hall to the public, you can reach the municipal office by phone and e-mail to answer your questions;
- o All municipal parks and buildings are closed to the public;
- o THAT in accordance with the directive issued by Order-in-Council number 177-2020 of March 13, which declared a state of health emergency throughout Quebec due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Order-in-Council number 2020-004 of the Minister of Health and Social Services, the regular meeting of the Municipal Council on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 will be held in camera by teleconference. No members of the public will be admitted.

Since the first recommendations issued by the provincial government following the declaration of the Covid-19 health emergency on March 13, municipal elected officials must comply with applicable laws, orders in council, directives and by-laws and exercise their powers within this legal and regulatory framework.

The Covid-19 pandemic is an exceptional event that requires exceptional measures, with the aim of curbing the spread of the disease and protecting the population, while allowing society to continue to function as normally as possible.

The municipality must prohibit public access to its facilities and places used for cultural, recreational, sports or community activities (e.g., library, arena, swimming pool, building housing meeting rooms, convention centre), unless they are temporarily used for public health or safety purposes.

It is up to the municipality to assess the relevance of maintaining access to its administrative buildings, based on the evolution of the VIDOC-19 pandemic.

It should also be noted that indoor and outdoor gatherings are now prohibited.

Consequently, the municipality is required, in compliance with the ban, to cancel any sporting or cultural event. Moreover, since the municipality must prohibit the public from accessing its indoor facilities and places intended for cultural, recreational, sports or community activities, no events may take place there.

Source: <https://www.mamh.gouv.qc.ca/ministere/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Everyone has a role to play in reducing the risk of spreading viruses. Here is a reminder of the most important recommendations:

- Wash your hands often with warm running water and soap for at least 20 seconds;
- Follow good hygiene rules when coughing or sneezing: cover your mouth and nose with your arm to reduce the spread of germs and, if you use a tissue, dispose of it as soon as possible and wash your hands afterwards;
- People 70 years of age and older and those with chronic illnesses should stay at home unless it is necessary or exceptional, such as to attend an important medical appointment.

We need to manage tightly in this time of crisis, because so far cities have not been given the power, like other governments, to run deficits. Any deficit would have to be paid off immediately the following year and the tax bill would be affected accordingly.

I invite citizens who are in a position to do so to offer assistance to a relative, neighbour, senior citizen or anyone else who might need a hand in any way. The people of Scotstown have always proven that helping neighbours is important to a community. Something as simple as picking up a few groceries at the grocery store can be a great service to someone. Volunteering can be done on a small scale to show that we are tightly knit.

COVID-19 - SUSPENSION OF BURNING PERMIT ISSUANCE

Due to the current pandemic situation in Quebec, the City of Scotstown is indefinitely suspending the issuance of burning permits throughout its territory. This measure comes into effect as of April 1, 2020.

Buying locally

As well, we remind the people of Scotstownoise that in these challenging times, it is more than important to invest in our local economy. Let's invest in local businesses. Many have put a lot of effort into initiatives such as food delivery, grocery delivery and online ordering.

Invitation to young and old

For more than 2 weeks, schools and daycares have been closed. In order to brighten up the city's Facebook page with the artistic talents of the young and not-so-young in our community, we invite you to participate in this little game.

Each week a theme will be unveiled and we invite you to send us by internet (ville.scotstown@hsfqc.ca) your drawings, crafts, recipes and family photos related to the announced theme. Keep an eye on the city's Facebook page and who knows, you might get some surprises at the end of the confinement.

The City of Scotstown recommends that its citizens follow its Facebook page to keep up with the information. It is also possible to visit our website and the traditional media to learn more about developments within the municipality. More information and press releases will be issued in the coming days.

If you have any questions, you can contact the municipal office by phone at 819-560-8433, ext. 7 or by e-mail at ville.scotstown@hsfqc.ca.

Thank you for your understanding and collaboration!

Take care of yourself to take care of the community!
Thank you to all of you!

Iain MacAulay, Mayor
Town of Scotstown