



Committee of the Whole Report

Meeting date:	July 28, 2020
Title:	COVID-19 Municipal Operations Update - 3
Reviewed by:	Laura Johnston, CAO

Recommendation

That Report COVID-19 Municipal Operations Update - 3 be received for information.

Executive summary

Under the Municipality of West Grey's declared state of emergency, the municipality's Emergency Control Group (ECG) meets regularly to remain informed and make decisions regarding operations and critical services. The ECG is now meeting once a week, or at the call of the chair, and reports on community activity or responses to the pandemic as well as provides clarity on directives from the province and public health.

Standing meetings with public health, meetings hosted by Bruce Power, and meetings with the South Bruce Grey Health Services continue.

This report provides departmental updates since the last report of May 26, 2020.

Background and discussion

Since the May 26, 2020 report to committee of the whole, there has been more progress in "opening up" West Grey, in accordance with provincial orders and guidelines and adhering to the advice and direction from public health and enforcement professionals.

The West Grey Emergency Control Group (ECG) has met via zoom meetings 37 times since March. At the declaration of the emergency, the ECG met daily. Since June, meetings have been reduced to once per week or at the call of the chair.

West Grey is now in phase three which has allowed West Grey to restart its economy with businesses starting to slowly reopen. Recently, Grey Bruce area had no new cases for almost a full two-week period, however, on July 23, 2020 a new case was reported. The situation report from Grey Bruce Health is emailed daily to control group members and is published on their website <https://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca> for the general public.

Recreational facilities, including sports fields, playgrounds, basketball courts, baseball fields, etc. have opened to the public, with the standard physical distancing and personal hygiene



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requirements.

West Grey recreation operations implemented the annual flower program in June, and with the assistance of public works, prepared and opened the community gardens in Durham. A modified summer camp program was launched in early July and will run until the end of August. Summer student staff have been deployed to assist with park operations such as watering flowers and weeding and maintenance of beds. Summer ice will return to Ayton with two hockey-skills training camps booked as well as some private rentals. The ball diamonds in West Grey are being prepped for reopening by the end of July/early August and, playground equipment in Durham is open, while Neustadt and Ayton's equipment is being prepped and repaired where necessary before officially opening for the summer.

West Grey's building department continues issuing permits, processing files and completing plans reviews. The building inspectors have also resumed in-house inspections, ensuring safety protocols in accordance with public health guidelines.

Public works staff in roads, utilities, water/wastewater, and waste management continue working normally scheduled shifts, ensuring physical distancing. All public works sheds continue to disinfect equipment and facilities. Public works staff took the lead on opening parks and boat launches and will continue assisting as more amenities are able to reopen.

Although municipal facilities remain closed, staff in the administration building are working full-time in the office. Protective equipment, additional cleaning supplies and signage have been ordered to prepare for a gradual reopening of the municipal office and select facilities. The CAO and the Chief Librarian are also working toward a co-ordinated approach to reopening. West Grey library started curbside pick-up at the Durham branch on June 10, with patrons making appointments by phone or online. By the first week of July, all library locations were offering the service. A variety of programs for children, teens and adults have been created or adapted for virtual delivery, and plans proceed for a hybrid model for the balance of 2020. Delivery to Rockwood Terrace and Serenity Assisted Living has started, as well as delivery to home-bound patrons.

The Economic Development Advisory Committee, the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Traffic Safety Working Group have been approved to resume meeting, on the zoom virtual platform. An information night is scheduled for August 11 from 7-9 p.m. to present the Community Improvement Plan (CIP), which has been a significant focus for the Economic Development Advisory Committee. After the information night, the CIP will come to council for consideration and adoption.

The municipality continues to communicate with the community as services and facilities reopen and new public health protocols come into place. The West Grey social media channels share accurate and timely information about new guidelines and municipal announcements. A continued up-to-date list of information is listed on the municipality's new website with links to latest information from the province.



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Legal and legislated requirements

Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

Financial and resource implications

The following financial information is based on actual costs that have been processed to July 20, 2020 relating to the COVID-19 pandemic:

Materials & Supplies	\$20,196
Waived Penalty/Interest	\$73,111
Refunded Recreation Fees/Deposits	\$ 3,407
Total	\$96,714

The second installment of interim taxes was due on May 25, 2020. Penalty was waived for the months of April, May, and June. As of June 30, the outstanding current year tax receivable balance was \$58,980 higher in 2020 compared to the same time in 2019. When we look at our total tax receivable balance as at June 30, 2020 it was \$108,687 lower than the same time in 2019.

Staffing implications

No implications.

Consultation

West Grey staff.

Alignment to strategic vision plan

Pillar: Work together

Goal: Clear communication

Strategy: Improve internal communications

Attachments

None.

Next steps

Senior staff and the emergency control group will continue monitoring and responding accordingly in consultation with public health, other municipalities and partners.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura Johnston, CAO