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March 20, 2020

Good Afternoon,

We are facing an unprecedented situation in Lambton County with the current COVID-19 pandemic. I want to reassure each and every one of you that your Lambton County Council and Staff are committed to providing the residents of Lambton County with the services you need, while maintaining the health and safety of our community.

As the outbreak situation unfolds, we have been taking necessary precautions to protect the health and wellbeing of our community, our staff, and each and every one of you. We are following recommendations from our Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Ranade, and other local public health officials. I strongly encourage you to follow suit.

This situation requires a whole of society and whole of government approach. We are all in this together. Our local municipalities and First Nations partners have been meeting on a daily basis, and will continue to do so, to ensure we are all up to date on the COVID-19 situation in our communities, and that we are communicating clearly with both each other and our residents.

I would also like to stress the importance of supporting local businesses, especially at times like these. Small businesses are the backbone to our communities and our economy - right now, they need our support more than ever. I encourage you to shop local first; let's keep our money in our communities.

I think it is important to recognize all those on the front lines during this situation. Our healthcare workers, first responders, public health team and many, many others are working tirelessly to protect our community and keep everyone informed. There are also the superheroes to thank beyond a healthcare perspective - those individuals in our communities that are taking the time to help their neighbours by picking up groceries, running errands, making meals or even just making phone calls to check in and chat. The sense of community and togetherness that has emerged is a bright light in an otherwise unsteady time.

I once again encourage all of you to take the proper precautions by washing your hands, practicing social distancing and self-isolating if you have been travelling. Working together, we will get through this.

Thank you, take care and stay healthy,

Bill Weber  
Warden, County of Lambton