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Southpoint SUN

remains committed to bringing you the local news and the paper will continue to be published. However, at this time we will be closing our office to the public until further notice.

We are doing this as a result of the large number of people who visit our office on a regular basis, including many older individuals, and also because we have a number of employees who have family members with compromised immune systems.

In the meantime, we can be reached at
 sun@southpointsun.ca
 We thank you for your understanding.

County declares State of Emergency due to COVID-19

By Ron Giofu

ESSEX — The County of Essex has announced it has declared a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Flanked by the other six mayors of the Essex County municipalities, Warden Gary McNamara declared the State of Emergency Sunday afternoon in the council chambers at the Essex County Civic Centre. McNamara, also the mayor of Tecumseh, noted this gives the County of Essex additional tools to respond to emergencies – including flooding – in the region.

The warden stated the Coronavirus – a.k.a. COVID-19 – is “indiscriminate and knows no borders” and the declaration allows the county to “martial all of

our resources in the fight against COVID-19.” It also allows the county to have the tools to do what they can to combat any flooding issues.

As society attempts to “flatten the curve” of COVID-19 cases, McNamara pressed those who just came home from international trips to stay home for 14 days in self-isolation.

“I can’t stress enough to those coming home to self-isolate,” said McNamara. “It’s in our own self interest to do that.”

Staying home, getting groceries delivered and self-assessing if a person believes they have symptoms was encouraged for everyone, he said.

The warden thanked health-care professionals including



Essex County Warden Gary McNamara signs the State of Emergency declaration Sunday afternoon at the Essex Civic Centre.

Ron Giofu photo

doctors and nurses, staff with Essex-Windsor EMS and those in the retail profession who keep shelves stocked with necessary items.

“I certainly classify the media as an essential service,” he added.

McNamara also offered tips to help the public stay safe.

“Stay at home as much as possible. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds. Use technology to check on each other,” he said.

McNamara said the county will still offer essential services but noted the Essex County Civic Centre is closed to the public. He urged people to be kind, practice social distancing and be patient. County CAO Rob Maisonneville said the “lion’s share” of the work done by the county is essential services including EMS, roads, the Sun Parlour Home among others. He said they are doing their best to practice social distancing as well.

McNamara said they can’t offer a time limit on how long the emergency declaration will last. He emphasized how important self-isolation is, calling it “critical,” and noted there are people returning home from March Break vacations.

“This is serious stuff for folks coming back,” said McNamara.

Looking how COVID-19 has impacted Italy and other nations, McNamara said it underscores how important it is to address the matter quickly.

“It makes you aware of how COVID-19 can progress extremely fast,” he said. “We have to do our part to make sure it doesn’t happen here.”

Leamington, Kingsville follow suit

The Mayors of Leamington and Kingsville followed suit Sunday, declaring States of Emergency in their own communities.

“The decision to declare a State of Emergency was not made lightly,” said Leamington Mayor Hilda MacDonald. “We are in the early stages of this pandemic and based on the evidence we have seen from a global standpoint, we believe the time is now.”

Kingsville Mayor Nelson Santos said they acted now, “so that there is no confusion or question amongst our citizens about the seriousness and threat that COVID-19 poses.”

Staff at Erie Shores HealthCare dedicated to fighting COVID-19

By Mark Ribble

LEAMINGTON — Staff at Erie Shores HealthCare (ESHC) are preparing for the long-haul when it comes to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the past week, the COVID-19 preparations have been ongoing with the expectation that the virus issue will get worse before it gets better.

Currently, visiting hours have been suspended. No visitors are allowed at Erie Shores HealthCare, with a small number of exceptions for maternity, ICU and palliative patients.

No outside food or flower delivery to patients is allowed and it was announced last week that during the duration of this pandemic, patient television will be free of charge.

Driving by, you may notice a large trailer outside of the Emergency Department entrance. This screening trailer is being used to screen patients, palliative visitors and any other members of the public. You’ll be asked if you’ve had a fever, cough or shortness of



Two of the frontline staff members at Erie Shores HealthCare demonstrate the importance of ‘staying home for us’. From front line medical personnel, to housekeeping, to behind-the-scenes staff, they are all going above and beyond and they ask you to simply ‘stay home’.

(ESHC photo)

ERIE SHORES- Continued on Page 2

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