NEWS RELEASE

The City of Brockville's Response to COVID-19

July 22, 2020 3:30 pm
Space to Shop Saturdays

Starting on **Saturday July 25th,** King Street will be closed every other Saturday from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm until October 31st in order to facilitate physically distanced shopping to support our downtown retailers and restaurants.

King Street will be closed from Perth Street to Buell Street, Apple Street to Courthouse Avenue, and Courthouse Avenue to Park Street. Stores will be able to utilize the sidewalks out in front of their businesses to display their merchandise, and the street will be used exclusively for pedestrian traffic. The street closure is designed to ensure that customers have ample room to social distance while walking and shopping, and to create an environment where people feel more comfortable coming downtown and supporting local small businesses. Stores on side streets that do not have a presence on King Street will be able to reserve a section in front of a vacant storefront or business that is otherwise closed on Saturdays in order to participate.

"Downtown Brockville is home to nearly 300 businesses who have been working hard to help the community get through this difficult time. They have been working tirelessly to ensure that you, the customer, can enjoy a safe, enjoyable day downtown. From plexiglass, masks, hand sanitizer and more, downtown merchants are committed to allowing you to enjoy your time downtown while stopping the spread of COVID-19." Haley Veronyak, Executive Director, Downtown Brockville

July 25th also marks The Big Spend: a national campaign to support small businesses across the country and inject money into our economy by making an intentional purchase at a local small business. Local small businesses provide nearly 70% of all private-sector jobs in Canada and have been some of the hardest hit by COVID-19. Chamber, DBIA, and Tourism staff will be out on King

Street during The Big Spend to capture photos of "spend friends" out making their purchases in support of local small businesses.

To facilitate shopping, parking will not be enforced on side streets and in City parking lots on Saturdays during the street closures.

"Our downtown contributes to the vibrancy of our whole community and we want to see those businesses thrive. By closing the street to vehicles and opening it up to pedestrians, customers can feel more confident returning to their favourite businesses by shopping outdoors and easily distancing themselves from others." – Mayor Baker, City of Brockville

Taking Public Transit, the closest access to King Street on the Green and Blue Routes is from Courthouse Square at the stop every hour on the hour. The Red Route will be detouring to Water Street for these days but will have a stop at King at Park Street for the eastern limit of the street closure at :40 minutes past the hour, and at King at St. Paul/Perth Street at :45 minutes past the hour for the western limit of the closure. The Red route will also have stops along Water Street for riders that would like to walk up to King, as well as the Courthouse Square stop on the hour.

The City reminds residents that everyone has a role in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Wearing a mask in all indoor commercial settings, practicing physical distancing, staying home if you are sick, washing hands frequently, visiting parks and open spaces that aren't crowded are ways to protect your health and the health of the community.

The Province recommends you get tested if you feel you are experiencing any symptoms or think that you may have been exposed. The testing is free and available for walk-ins.

-30-

For more information on the Saturday shopping initiative, visit
www.downtownbrockville.com
Visit our Website for more information https://brockville.com/covid19
or Follow us on Twitter for notifications: https://twitter.com/BrockvilleON

Additional Resources:
Government of Canada
Health Canada
Ontario Ministry of Health
Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit
World Health Organization