



GEORGINA

# Media Release

Town of Georgina Corporate Communications  
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For Immediate Release  
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## Town responds to latest COVID-19 measures by province

**Georgina, ON** – The Town of Georgina is closing the natural outdoor skating rink and the municipally maintained toboggan hill at the ROC, effective immediately. This closure is in response to the latest [COVID-19 measures](#) from the Province of Ontario for a minimum of 28 days. The following ROC amenities are closed: the municipally maintained toboggan hill, skating rink and tube and terrain hill. The balance of the ROC property will remain open for permitted use. Georgina parks, trails, and playgrounds will remain open for permitted activities such as tobogganing, cross country skiing, snow shoeing and walking. Residents must follow all health and safety measures as outlined by the province.

The province issued a stay-at-home order, effective today, requiring everyone to remain at home with exceptions for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services, for exercise or for essential work. Outdoor organized public gatherings and social gatherings will now be restricted to a limit of five people with limited exceptions.

The [Pefferlaw Ice Pad](#) (PIP) will remain open at this time. It is an artificial outdoor ice surface and controlled environment with strict capacity limits. All participants are required to complete a health screening and pre-book skating sessions in advance. Public skating is the only permitted activity at the PIP, with hockey and shinny games not allowed (no sticks and no pucks). Physical distancing of two metres must be maintained and masks/face coverings are required to be worn at all times. The Town will continue to evaluate the PIP and make changes as required.

At this time, the Town will be closing temporary neighbourhood rinks based on the stay-at-home provincial order. The Town recognizes the commitment and efforts of volunteers who work on these, with the hope they will be able to reopen in the future after the 28 day shutdown.

A reminder to the public, with the closure of neighbourhood rinks, [stormwater management ponds](#) may become enticing for recreational use. Residents are reminded that they are not intended or designed for skating as temperatures change quickly. These activities are not permitted. This is extremely dangerous and poses many safety risks for those venturing on them at any time.

With more people remaining at home due to the provincial stay-at-home order, the Town is reinstating the bag tag exemption, effective Jan. 18, 2021. A maximum of five untagged bags or items can be placed at the curb on regular scheduled garbage collection days.

“Georgina, as part of York Region, has been deemed a hot spot for the spread of the virus and now, more than ever, our role in helping to stop the spread is critical. We need to follow the provincial guidelines which means staying home and reducing the number of people we come into contact with outside our immediate household,” said Mayor Margaret Quirk. “We know people are adjusting again to working from home and online learning for kids, and this is a challenge. These additional closures are not unique to Georgina, and we need to work together and take strong action as a community to stop the spread of the virus.”

Access to the three Georgina Public Library branches will continue for contactless pickup of holds and drop boxes. No in-person services will be available at this time. More information can be found at [georginalibrary.ca/ServiceUpdates](http://georginalibrary.ca/ServiceUpdates).

Residents are reminded they can help stop the spread of COVID-19:

- Avoid close contact with anyone other than members of your household
- Maintain physical distancing of at least two metres from others
- Wear a mask or face covering
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often
- Stay home unless its essential travel

For the latest information, news and updates on COVID-19 in Georgina, visit [georgina.ca/COVID-19](http://georgina.ca/COVID-19).

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