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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWN LAUNCHES COVID-19 REOPENING WEBSITE ***StouffvilleReopens.ca* outlines reopening phases, work environment protocols and service availability levels**

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, ON – The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has launched a new website outlining the Town’s reopening plan in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. *StouffvilleReopens.ca* outlines the Town’s plan for a gradual, safe and measured reopening of municipal facilities and the restart of Town services and programs.

“*StouffvilleReopens.ca* outlines the steps the Town will take to keep our residents and employees safe,” said Mayor Iain Lovatt. “It provides a roadmap to our future – in a world where COVID-19 is still present and every precaution is needed.”

Since COVID-19 began to spread in Whitchurch-Stouffville in March, the Town has taken steps to prioritize the health and safety of residents and employees. Municipal facilities were closed, and programming and events were cancelled or postponed. Many municipal services were able to continue, and the Town found new and different ways to continue delivering as many services as possible.

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville delivers more than 40 services to the community. During the COVID-19 emergency, some of these services have continued, and some have continued on a modified basis. Some services were postponed or cancelled due to resourcing or other health and safety related concerns. *StouffvilleReopens.ca* provides information on each Town service through each of the phases of reopening.

The website also outlines the steps the Town will take to keep residents and employees healthy and safe in municipal facilities and spaces as staff as we slowly reopen. It identifies 15 municipal workplaces or environments, some where residents may visit and outlines the different requirements and controls that will be in place in each of them.

In addition to the phases, work environment descriptions and service availability, the website also outlines the 'Current Situation' in Whitchurch-Stouffville, including Planning, Building and Council information. It also has resources for businesses and individuals and ideas for fun family activities.

"We must keep in mind the virus is still out there," Lovatt said. "We need to do everything possible to make the community safe and our quality of life is maintained ... and we are well on our way!"

The Town will take guidance from the Province of Ontario moving between phases. However, reopening in Whitchurch-Stouffville will depend on the pandemic situation within the town, and may not align exactly with the Province's phases, Lovatt notes.

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