

MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER APRIL 2020,  
**TOWNSHIP OF  MATACHEWAN**

*Vision Statement*

*Matachewan strives to preserve its friendliness and to create a progressive community that will have economic growth and bring wealth to all through strong leadership and community involvement.*

**Mayor's Address COVID19**

**Message to all residents of the Township of Matachewan;**

As residents we hear daily about the impacts that COVID 19 Pandemic is having in our community, our province, our country and all around the world.

Our governments and health authorities are implementing processes to support and protect its citizens by putting initiatives in place to prevent the further spread of the virus so we can all stay safe and healthy during this pandemic.

To date our community has not had anyone contract the virus, we must continue to ensure that we follow all the preventive measures coming from Health Unit directives to stay safe and healthy.

As a council we continue to take steps necessary to protect our residents and to keep you informed.

Self Isolation, Social/Physical Distancing, Washing Hands and other sanitation practices and strategies are key to stopping the spread of the virus and the Township of Matachewan is no different.

Governments and health units are putting preventative processes in place to ensure that your husband, your wife, your brother, your sister, your aunt, your uncle, your niece, your nephews, your grandparents, your friends and your neighbours are all doing everything they can to keep themselves and others safe.

Our municipal staff continue to get updates with respect to COVID19 media releases from various ministries and have continued to provide our community with updates from the Health Unit, provincial and federal government directives via newsletter, municipal website and Facebook.

To anyone moving into our community we recommend you follow the Public Health directives and stay self isolated for the minimum requirement as indicated by health authorities.

Residents without access to internet or are experiencing bandwidth issues in our community are asked to check local TV listings for CBC, CTV and other media outlets who carry these daily announcements live.

This is a time for residents of Township of Matachewan to come together and be conscious of our responsibility as citizens. One thing we can do is to check on and assist family, friends or neighbours to ensure their basic needs are being met.

As Mayor, I take this responsibility very seriously and compliance is what will help protect people, so please take these protective measures seriously.

We know this is a hard time for everyone if you feel emotionally overwhelmed please don't hesitate to phone a friend, to phone a family member, or to phone your neighbour, reach out to someone.

“The virus doesn't move, we move it”

“Thank you to everyone for doing your part in keeping your family, neighbours and each other safe.”

The safety of our community is everyone's concern and we can accomplish this, together.

As always, I am open for suggestions or advice so feel free to contact me at  
mayor@matachewan.com.

Thank you-Stay Safe Be Well

*Mayor Anne Commando-Dube*

## NEW OFFICE PROCEDURES

Effective Monday, April 6, 2020; there will only be one person working in the office at one time.

The days we are not in the office, we will be working from home.

Janet may be reached by phone at 705-679-4085.

This may change later, and everyone will be working from home. If this happens, we will still be able to receive emails and the phone calls will be forwarded.

## **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Effective immediately all Council meetings will be held, either by virtual meeting on Zoom, or by Conference call. The first meeting will be Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

If you wish to attend, please call or email the Municipal Office so we may set up a list for Participation. (We hope we can accommodate everyone who wishes, but may be limited.)

All agendas will continue to be posted on the website, Dog Star and at the Post Office.

## **BEARS**

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, bears are now coming out of hibernation. You are advised to

- keep your garbage in a safe and secure place in advance of taking to the Waste Disposal Site.
- take down your bird feeders (if you have been feeding birds over the winter).
- clean your barbecue after use.

**ECO-LOGIX**

Hassle Free Recycling

(705)647-2322

[Ecologixrecycling.com](http://Ecologixrecycling.com)

To all our municipalities/communities,

### **Eco-Logix is offering a window decorating contest for kids during our self-isolation time!**

Windows are meant to be decorated with a "stay home" theme it can be as simple as displaying all the art children have created at home or could be done with paint, window markers, construction paper etc. The sky's the limit!

First prize in each community is a family activity gift pack curated by the North Cobalt Flea Market. If your front window isn't visible from the road, please leave us a note on your recycling and we'll come up the driveway to view your special art work!

Please let me know personally if your family is in need and doesn't have any craft supplies to participate. We want to ensure no one is left out.

Prizes will be awarded on the regular collection days as follows:

**Matachewan First Nations April 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Matachewan April 29<sup>th</sup>**

Kind regards,  
Belinda Beirsto

## Alamos Gold update

To date, Alamos has not had any confirmed cases of COVID-19 among any of its employees or contractors and has not experienced any impact to its operations or its supply chain. Over the past two weeks, the Company has instituted a number of measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and well-being of its employees and contractors, their families, and the local communities. This includes temporarily suspending operations at its Island Gold mine given the unique set-up of the operation with both a large local community and fly-in, fly-out workforce. The Company continues to closely monitor the situation and will institute additional measures as appropriate.

To date, operations at Young-Davidson and Mulatos have not been impacted. The Company is on track to achieve consolidated production guidance for the first quarter of 2020 of 105,000 to 110,000 ounces of gold.

“First and foremost, our focus is on ensuring we protect the health and safety of our employees and the communities in which we operate. At Island Gold, approximately half of our employees travel from various parts of Ontario and Quebec, while the other half are local residents. We have a very unique camp set-up at Island Gold, with the camp located directly within the town of Dubreuilville. For these reasons, we have decided that the best way to minimize the possible spread of the virus is to temporarily suspend the operation of the mine. This is a rapidly evolving situation and we will take further action based on the best available information,” said John A. McCluskey, President and Chief Executive Officer.

### **Ontario Energy Board COVID-19 UPDATE - Time-of-use pricing**

The Government of Ontario issued an Emergency Order under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*. As a result, starting on March 24, 2020, residential and small business customers on time-of-use (TOU) pricing will pay **10.1 ¢/kWh no matter what time of day the electricity is consumed**. This means that TOU customers will be paying the off-peak price throughout the day as long as the Emergency Order remains in place. The Government has indicated that it intends to keep the 10.1 ¢/kWh pricing in place for 45 days.

**The 10.1 ¢/kWh pricing applies automatically – no customer action is required.** Some customers may receive a bill before their utility or unit sub-meter provider is able to implement the price change, in which case they will receive a credit on the following bill.

For more information, read the Government’s news release at

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/03/ontario-providing-electricity-relief-to-families-small-businesses-and-farms-during-covid-19.html>

Also visit <https://.oeb.ca/newsroom/2020/oeb-covid-19-update>, for the latest updates from the Ontario Energy Board on measures its taking in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## For Emergency Dispatch Calls

### Fire and Ambulance

Landline: 1-705-565-2212

Cell: 9-1-1

### Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)

Landline: 1-888-310-1122

Cell: \*677

**For more information call Fire Chief Gerald Begley 1-705-570-1478**

**Matachewan Volunteer Fire Department**

**Reminder that recycling pick-ups are done every other Wednesday.**

Recycling bins need to be out for **9:00 am** to ensure pick-up  
April 15, April 29, May 13, May 27, June 10,

## **Matachewan Landfill Hours**

Open Holiday Mondays from Victoria Day to Thanksgiving

<b>Monday</b>	<b><u>CLOSED</u></b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b><u>CLOSED</u></b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b><u>CLOSED</u></b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b><u>CLOSED</u></b>

## **EMERGENCY KIT BASIC ITEMS**



- 1 Water – at least two litres of water per person per day; include small bottles that can be carried easily in case of an evacuation order
- 2 Food that won't spoil, such as canned food, energy bars and dried foods (replace food and water once a year)
- 3 Manual can-opener
- 4 Crank or battery-powered flashlight (and extra batteries)
- 5 Crank or battery-powered radio (and extra batteries)
- 6 First aid kit
- 7 Extra keys to your car and house
- 8 Some cash in smaller bills, such as \$10 bills and change for payphones
- 9 A copy of your emergency plan and contact information
- 10 If applicable, other items such as prescription medication, infant formula, equipment for people with disabilities, or food, water and medication for your pets or service animal (personalize according to your needs).

## **Ontario Prohibits Gatherings of Five People or More with Strict Exceptions**

March 28, 2020

### **Stronger action required to stop the spread of COVID-19**

TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government is taking immediate and decisive action to further stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and well-being of all Ontarians.

Based on the best advice of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government is issuing a new emergency order under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act to prohibit organized public events and social gatherings of more than five people, effective immediately.

This order would not apply to private households with five people or more. It would also not apply to operating child care centres supporting frontline health care workers and first responders provided the number of persons at each centre does not exceed 50 people. Funerals would be permitted to proceed with up to 10 people at one time.

"If we are going to stop the spread of COVID-19 now and keep our communities safe, we need to take extraordinary measures to ensure physical distancing," said Premier Doug Ford. "I strongly encourage everyone to do the responsible thing and stay home unless absolutely necessary. I can assure everyone that we will do everything in our power to stop this virus in its tracks."

"We are acting on the best advice of our Chief Medical Officer of Health and other leading public health officials across the province," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "These are extraordinary times that demand extraordinary measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect our people. Nothing is more important."

Organized public events include parades, events including weddings, social gatherings and communal services within places of worship. This order replaces a previous emergency order which prohibits organized public events of over 50 people.

Ontario declared a provincial [state of emergency](#) on March 17, 2020 and has issued orders to close non-essential workplaces, recreational programs, libraries, publicly funded schools, private schools, daycares, provincial parks, churches and other faith settings, as well as bars and restaurants, except those that may only offer takeout or delivery. Essential services, such as grocery stores, convenience stores, pharmacies, public transit, manufacturing facilities, and supply chain companies remain open and operational.

#### **QUICK FACTS**

- Everyone in Ontario should be practicing physical distancing to reduce their exposure to other people. Avoid close contact (within 2 metres) with people outside of your immediate families.
- On March 25, 2020, the federal government announced an Emergency Order under the Quarantine Act that requires any person entering Canada by air, sea or land to self-isolate for 14 days whether or not they have symptoms of COVID-19. They should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days.
- Take everyday steps to reduce exposure to COVID-19 and protect your health: wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer; sneeze and cough into your sleeve; avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth; avoid contact with people who are sick; stay home if you are sick.

# Coming together through physical distancing

## The importance of strengthening ties during the coronavirus pandemic

Almost overnight, physical distancing has become part of the Canadian lexicon. By now, we all know we must distance ourselves from others to slow the spread of COVID-19. But physical separation does not have to diminish social connection. If we're more mindful in our thoughts and actions, the public health measures keeping us apart have the power to bring us closer together.

Today, we have more time than ever to focus on our relationships. Many people are either working from home, working fewer hours, or not working at all. It's a harsh reality that no one saw coming, but with fewer hours spent working and commuting, there's more time to text a friend, call a relative, or even chat with a neighbour — from a safe distance, of course.

The closure of public events and gathering places also means fewer distractions. A text message exchange doesn't have to exist only in stolen moments of calm between competing priorities — the conversation can be the priority. Parents who usually spend their evenings shuttling their kids to activities can use the pause to connect as a family or just catch up with each other.

We also have more common ground with a wider circle of people. No one is immune to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, be it economic, mental, physical, or otherwise. While some situations are more serious than others, all of us are facing a lot of unknowns. Just about everyone will have an answer to the question, "What are you most afraid of right now?"

Confiding in someone about our fears can deepen our relationship while helping us process and reduce our anxiety. At a time when many of us are feeling overwhelmed, with a flurry of worries vying for top spot, our friendships can offset the body's stress response, ultimately bolstering our ability to withstand the uncertainty. Since chronic stress can lower our immune system and make us more vulnerable to COVID-19, prioritizing our mental wellness is a way to protect our physical health.

Positive relationships can also be a welcome distraction from the troubling headlines. Learn more about a colleague, reach out to a relative you haven't heard from in a while, reminisce about good times with old friends. When the period of self-isolation is over, the bonds we've built up will remain with us as we readjust to everyday life.

Right now, we're facing a sobering reminder that life is fragile. But we've also been given the chance to take stock of our priorities and nurture the relationships that matter. Strengthening our social ties now will help us weather the storm and emerge more connected on the other side.

## Released by Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has implemented a Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) across the entire legislated fire region of Ontario due to impacts related to the COVID-19 outbreak. This is a proactive action by the Ministry to reduce the number of preventable human-caused wildfires to ensure that emergency response capacity is maintained. Minimizing wildfires will ensure the province is able to address any emergency fire situations as well as will reduce necessary contact among staff, and between staff and the public.

This RFZ is effective **April 3, 2020** and will be in effect until such time that the MNRF can determine that emergency response capacity will not be impacted by COVID-19. This RFZ will help reduce demands on the emergency response system while the hiring and training of seasonal fire staff is completed. This is the first time that MNRF has implemented a provincial RFZ at the onset of the fire season (April 1) where heightened wildland fire hazard has not existed.

It is important to note that an RFZ applies to all Crown and private land within a municipality, as well as provincial parks and conservation areas inside the regulated fire region.

Below is a summary of the restrictions that are in place during an RFZ.

- No open fires are allowed unless the fire is for cooking or warmth and is in a stove or installation prescribed in the Outdoor Fires Regulation (O.Reg. 207/96); or a fire permit is issued by a Fire Officer.
- Campfires are not allowed. There are some exceptions to this for organized campgrounds if they meet certain criteria in section 8.4 of O.Reg. 207/96.
- Portable stoves must use liquid or gas fuel and have a shutoff valve.
- A charcoal barbeque can be used if they are permanent structures or portable and within 100 metres of a dwelling you occupy.
- Outdoor wood burning stoves or furnaces must be completely enclosed with solid material and be within 100 metres of a dwelling you occupy.

For more information on when a restriction is in place, please visit our website:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/outdoor-fire-restrictions>

## Operation of Seasonal Trailer Parks and Recreational Campgrounds

Nothing is more important than protecting the health and well-being of Ontarians. Since first learning of COVID-19, Ontario has taken decisive action to contain the spread of this new virus.

Based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the province has declared an emergency so that we can take immediate action to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public. On Tuesday, March 24th, the province ordered the mandatory closure of all non-essential workplaces pursuant to Ontario Regulation 82/20 under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*. On April 3, 2020 the province released an amended list of essential workplaces and ordered all businesses not covered by the amended emergency order to close their physical locations effective as of Saturday, April 4, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

Seasonal trailer parks and recreational campgrounds are not listed as essential businesses and, as such, are required to be closed as of 11:59 p.m. today. We recognize Ontario “snowbirds” are returning to Canada earlier than they normally would. In some instances, seasonal trailer parks and campgrounds may have been opened earlier than usual to permit individuals to take up temporary accommodation in their mobile homes, recreational vehicles or trailers. For Ontarians whose only Canadian residence is at one of these seasonal trailer parks or campgrounds, they are permitted to continue their occupancy and complete their mandatory self-isolation as required by the mandatory isolation order made by the federal government under the *Quarantine Act* which took effect on March 25, 2020.

Everyone has a role to play in stopping the spread of COVID-19 and we are asking that our enforcement partners assist in this effort. We encourage you to assist in enforcement efforts to ensure that seasonal trailer parks and/or campgrounds are not being used for recreational purposes. We encourage you to work with park operators and local public health officials in this regard, including to take into consideration the continued need for accommodation of those individuals outlined above.

Officers are encouraged to undertake a graduated approach to enforcement of the emergency orders, which may include educational messaging to businesses around the emergency order, specific warnings, the issuance of a ticket under Part I of the Provincial Offences Act (POA) or a summons under Part III of the POA. Officers are also encouraged to review the applicable provincial and federal emergency orders, and to continue to monitor [ontario.ca/alert](http://ontario.ca/alert) for any updates or changes to provincial orders.

By staying home and avoiding contact with others we can stop the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued cooperation on this matter.

**PIONEER PARK WILL NOT BE OPENING AT THIS TIME. THE PARK AT THE BEACH IS CLOSED. DOCKS WILL NOT BE GOING IN THE WATER UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE PARKS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REOPEN.**

# Make a difference in your community by volunteering to help support seniors and the most vulnerable during COVID-19

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Your community needs your help!

On March 30, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health recommended that individuals over 70 years of age self-isolate and, where possible, seek services over the phone or internet or ask for help from friends and family with essential errands. During this difficult time, it is more important than ever to come together and help those in need, ensuring all Ontarians have access to food, medicine and basic necessities.

## How can I help?

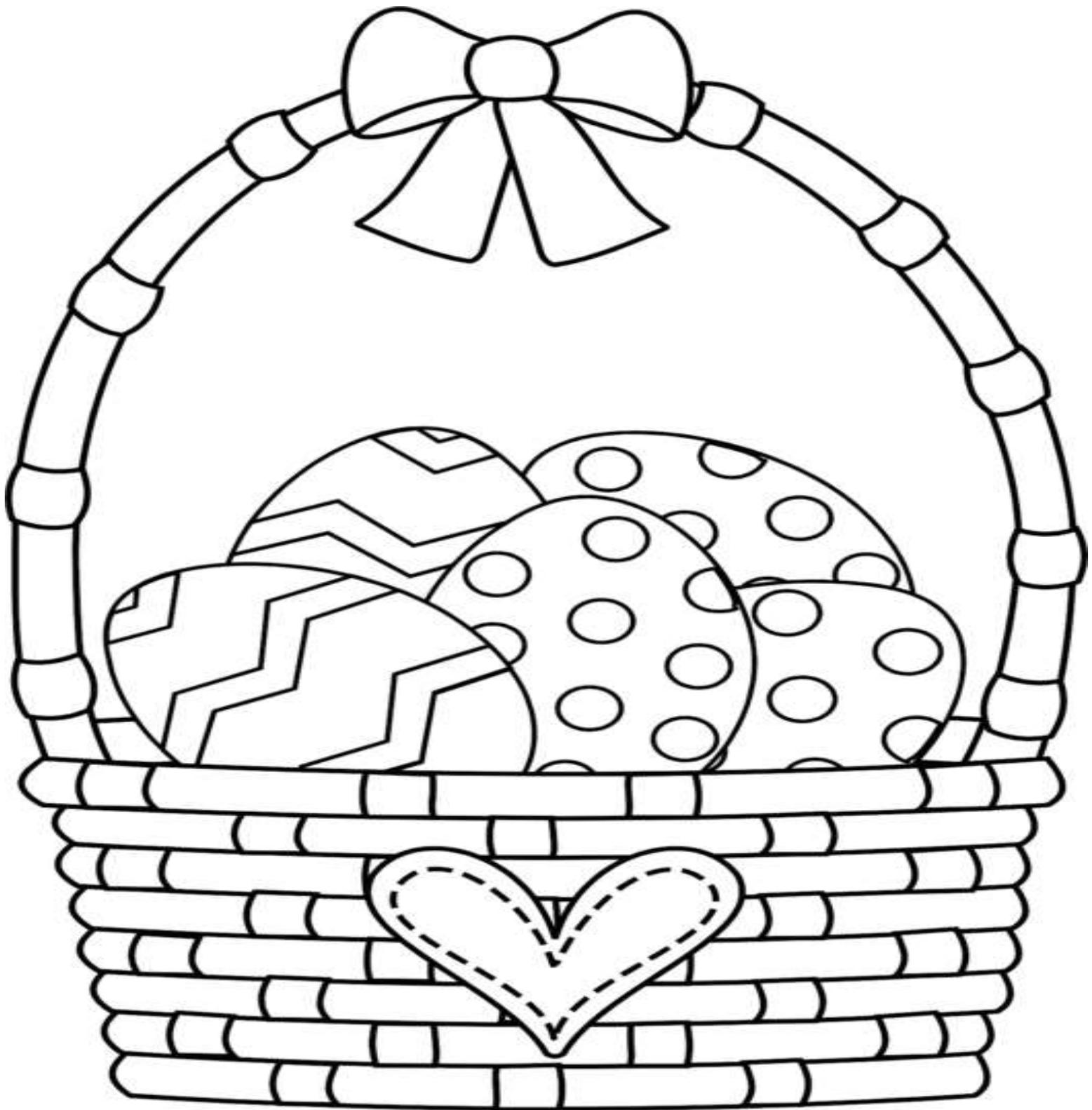
If you are an individual interested in volunteering or an organization in need of volunteers, visit SPARK Ontario at [www.sparkontario.ca](http://www.sparkontario.ca) to get connected and start helping those impacted by COVID-19.

**Spread the word about volunteering** and let's give back to the community.

## What is SPARK Ontario?

SPARK Ontario is an online platform that connects not-for-profit organizations with potential volunteers.

SPARK Ontario supports volunteer recruitment and retention by gathering volunteer opportunities from across the province, as well as other resources into a single, accessible website that encourages Ontarians to volunteer and support their communities.



*Have a Good Virtual Happy Easter!*

