



SHELburne POLICE SERVICE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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The Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and Shelburne

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented situation that we are all affected by. For our safety, the Provincial Government has enacted the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA). This was a necessary measure to allow those at the front-line to have the ability to fight the COVID-19 virus, as well as, keeping the rest of us safe.

The EMCPA gives the police the ability to enforce the very important emergency orders issued by Premier Ford. There are three main parts to this act that apply directly to policing and these are what all police services, including the Shelburne Police Service, will be enforcing. They are as follows:

- Fail to comply with an order made during a declared emergency. **Fine \$750.00/\$880.00**
- Obstruct any person exercising a power in accordance with an order made during a declared emergency. **Fine \$1000.00/\$1130.00**
- Obstruct any person performing a duty in accordance with an order made during a declared emergency. **Fine \$1000.00/\$1130.00**

While there have been many additions to the EMCPA since it was enacted, the Shelburne Police Service wants to remind you of a couple points. An emergency order was issued on March 31, 2020 that prohibits anyone from attending:

- an organized public event of more than five (5) people, including a parade;
- a social gathering of more than five (5) people; or
- a gathering of more than five (5) people for the purposes of conducting religious services, rites or ceremonies.

These prohibitions apply to an event or gathering even if it is held at a private dwelling. This means no house parties, yard parties, garage or driveway parties of more than (5), no matter how well that you feel that you are socially distanced.

Further an order was issued on March 30, 2020 that closes all outdoor recreational amenities:

- All outdoor playgrounds, play structures and equipment
- All outdoor sports facilities and multi-use fields, including,
 - baseball diamonds
 - soccer fields
 - Frisbee golf locations
 - Tennis, platform tennis, table tennis and pickleball courts,
 - Basketball courts
 - BMX parks, and
 - Skate parks.
- All off-leash dog areas
- All portions of park and recreational areas containing outdoor fitness equipment
- All outdoor allotment gardens and community gardens

- All outdoor picnic sites, benches and shelters in park and recreation areas
- Outdoor recreational amenities that are intended for use by more than one family are closed, regardless of whether they are publicly or privately owned and regardless they are attached to a park system
- No person shall enter or use an outdoor recreational amenity except for a maintenance, safety, law enforcement or other similar purpose.
- For greater certainty, nothing in the Order precludes individuals from walking through or using portions of park and recreational areas that are not otherwise closed and that do not contain an outdoor recreational amenity.

In short this means nobody is allowed to enter any park, or school grounds at all with the exception of directly walking through the park.

The Shelburne Police Service also wants to inform the public that when a police officer is conducting an investigation under the EMCPA a member of the public must identify themselves when identification is requested by the police. Failing to identify carries a fine of \$750.00 for failure to comply with an order made under the EMCPA or \$1000.00 for obstructing any person in exercising a power if a ticket is issued.

It is important to remember that these are temporary powers provided through an emergency order to help law enforcement personnel carry out their duties as they deal with the extraordinary challenges posed by the COVID-19 situation. As uncomfortable as these emergency orders may be, they are designed for the health and safety of all of us. If you see something, please say something. As you would with an impaired driver, we ask that you call the police to report this. Please use the non-emergency line **(519)925-3312 X 1**. The Shelburne Police Service will be taking a zero tolerance approach regarding blatant non-compliance to these emergency orders.

We are all in this together Shelburne. We can do this, but we all have to do our part. This means social distance, washing your hands, staying home and following emergency orders that are meant for our safety.