

**From:** Denonville, Alex

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**To:** Town of Essex All Staff <[EssexAllStaff@essex.ca](mailto:EssexAllStaff@essex.ca)>

**Subject:** Town of Essex Preparing for Extension of Patios and Outdoor Retail Spaces



Media Release

June 19, 2020

## **Town of Essex Preparing for Extension of Patios and Outdoor Retail Spaces**

**Essex** – The Town of Essex is preparing for the extension of patios and outdoor retail spaces ahead of Phase 2 of reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Town is currently accepting applications from local businesses who would like to expand their patios or create outdoor retail space adjacent to their current properties. The application, available online at [essex.ca/PatioApplication](https://essex.ca/PatioApplication), will give the Town of Essex an opportunity to proactively review applications prior to Phase 2.

“This process will ensure our businesses are ready to open their patios and outdoor retail spaces as safely and as quickly as possible,” said Mayor Larry Snively. “We appreciate all that our local businesses have done for the community throughout this crisis and we are doing all we can to help them get back to business while ensuring they can follow the guidelines of public health officials.”

The application asks business owners to identify operating hours as well as layout and dimensions of their planned patio or outdoor retail space. The information will be used by the Town of Essex to identify any safety and accessibility concerns as well as potential impacts on municipal property.

Under the Town’s Community Improvement Plans, businesses may also be eligible grants for up to 50 per cent of the cost of patio or outdoor cafe construction (\$4,000 maximum). Learn more online at the [Community Improvement Plan page](#).

In early June, [the Ontario government announced](#) it will allow restaurants and bars to extend outdoor patio spaces to safely accommodate patrons and staff once licensed establishments are permitted to fully reopen for business. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario will also waive fees for the establishment of patios, effective until January 1, 2021.

### **Media Contact**

Alex Denonville

Manager, Communications

[adenonville@essex.ca](mailto:adenonville@essex.ca)

519-990-7546