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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Rotary Clubs Donates Over \$10,000 in Gift Cards to Help Local Families Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic**

On Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the Rotary Club of Arnprior donated \$10,700, in the form of food, gas and supply gift cards to the County of Renfrew Ontario Works office. The Rotary Club began fundraising last spring to raise money for flood victims in Renfrew County – they provided \$3,050 in gift cards at that time to help victims of flooding.

*“We want to extend our sincere thank you to Gerhard Peters and all Rotary Club members within the 7040 District Rotary Clubs. These funds come at a time where they will be most needed within our communities. The number of families in need of assistance right now is growing and we are grateful for all of the help we receive,”* said James Brose, Chair of the County of Renfrew Social Services Committee.

This initiative was spearheaded by Gerhard Peters of the Arnprior Rotary Club and the money comes from all District 7040 Rotary Clubs. The Club requested that the cards be distributed to residents in need across the County at this time. Gift cards are from Canadian Tire, President’s Choice, Ultramar, Esso, & Home Hardware to help residents in financial crisis to purchase food, gas, and other essential supplies during the pandemic.

For information on how to access emergency financial supports, residents can contact their local Ontario Works office or apply online at [ontario.ca/community](https://ontario.ca/community).

**Ontario Works Office Phone Numbers:**

**Renfrew:** 613-433-9846 (toll free 1-888-281-7526)

**Pembroke:** 613-732-2601 (toll free: 1-866-897-4849)

**Arnprior:** 613-623-5426 (toll free 1-844-623-5426)

**Killaloe:** 613-757-0770

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