



A Growing Tradition

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

Office of the Mayor

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Message from Mayor Rob Keffer:
COVID-19 update – April 1, 2020

In today's update, Dr. Gardner of the SMDHU said there have now been 62 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Simcoe-Muskoka, including 12 who have recovered and 4 deaths. Another resident of Bradford West Gwillimbury has tested positive and been hospitalized, and I wish him a speedy and thorough recovery. This brings the total in BWG to 7, including 2 who have recovered.

To help prevent the spread of the virus in our community, the province has given municipal By-law Enforcement Officers the power to demand identification. They are now able to act on reports of people gathering in groups of more than 5 anywhere in our community (both public and private spaces), or using facilities that have been closed (like playgrounds and sports fields) and to ticket if there are violations. Watch this page tomorrow for a detailed explanation of these restrictions and how to contact authorities if necessary.

A lot of you have asked how you can help those who are having a difficult time right now as a result of job losses or other financial, emotional or physical stresses. Many organizations have stepped up to bridge the gap until EI and other federal and provincial support becomes available, and I am proud to say that the Town of BWG has made a grant to Contact South Simcoe to provide short-term emergency financial aid to residents in need. The money will come from the Council Community Initiatives Fund, which is funded by the Mayor's Annual Golf Tournament. I want to thank all of the local businesses and citizens who sponsor and participate in that event each year and whose generosity will now play such an important role in assisting residents.

Many local agencies would welcome your support if you are in a position to give, including Contact South Simcoe (www.contactsouthsimcoe.ca/donate.php) and the Bradford Helping Hand Food Bank. The best way to donate to the food bank right now is either to drop food off in the bins at local grocery stores, or to mail a cheque to Helping Hand Food Bank Inc., PO Box 1268, Bradford, ON, L3Z 2B5.

There are more support services available than I could possibly name, so I'd like to encourage anyone who is struggling to please contact Ontario 211, which is a free service that can connect you with the help you need. Simply dial 211 on your phone or visit 211ontario.ca.

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to offer help or words of support – you are the heart of our community!

Best,
Rob Keffer