

Message from Mayor Rob Keffer:
COVID-19 update – April 28, 2020

We are very slowly creeping into spring, and with the warmer weather will come the desire to be outside more. I know it's going to be a challenging time, especially if you have little ones who are eager to see their friends, so I thank you in advance for continuing to maintain physical distancing so that we can flatten the curve as quickly as possible.

Of the 68 cases of COVID-19 that have been confirmed in BWG since the beginning of this pandemic, 24 have recovered, 37 are still ill and 7 have passed away. There have been 11 new cases reported in the past week, so clearly we are still in a critical phase.

Yesterday, Premier Ford announced a three-stage approach to re-opening businesses, services and public spaces. It must be understood that this plan does not begin to roll out until we hit certain critical benchmarks, including a consistent two-to-four-week decrease in the number of new daily COVID-19 cases across the province. With a significant number of new cases reported in Ontario today, we are not there yet.

Meanwhile, local businesses continue to carry on as best they can and to find new ways to operate. The Town has worked with the Bradford Farmer's Market to make it possible for them to carry out a modified market this year, in which people will be able to order and pay in advance directly through the vendors, and then do trunk pick-ups in the Library parking lot. This is anticipated to start sometime in June, and there will be more information soon about how you can place orders.

We are very pleased that through Nottawasaga Futures, we have been able to help about 60 small businesses in BWG with emergency funding. While this program is now complete, Nottawasaga Futures continues to provide support to businesses in South Simcoe, including helping them find and apply for support from other agencies and levels of government. Their consultants will also help businesses to work more efficiently during the pandemic, including improving online service delivery, converting to e-commerce platforms and learning to use various communications technologies. For more information, contact Nottawasaga Futures at ced@nottawasaga.com or 1-800-509-7554.

I will have more good news to share later this week, including details on several projects the Library is involved in to help healthcare workers and our community.

Until then, please take care and be well.

Best,
Rob Keffer