

Message from Mayor Rob Keffer:
COVID-19 update – December 4, 2020

I want to start by thanking the residents of BWG for your continuing community spirit and support of those in need. Every day I read new stories of generous donations to local charities, and I'm certain I've seen more Christmas lights up than usual. We have done the same at the Town, adding a bit more sparkle to our festive light display along Holland Street, to try to put a bit of a silver lining on what has been a very challenging year.

The holidays are a stressful time for many, with too much to do and too many expectations on us to make celebrations perfect. I hope that this year – with gatherings reduced to just our immediate households – we can take the opportunity to scale back to what's really important. We can spend time with those around us, make phone and video calls to loved ones while still in our pyjamas, and not worry about making the house guest-worthy.

Obviously one of the most powerful stressors right now is uncertainty about what the world is going to look like next week, next month and beyond. The news about vaccines is extremely promising, and gives us hope that we may be returning to a more normal way of life in 2021. I am very grateful that there have been no further COVID-related deaths in BWG this fall, but with rising case numbers, there is still the possibility of further restrictions.

Simcoe-Muskoka is currently in the “orange” zone, which has limits for things like private functions (max 10 indoors and 25 outdoors, 2 metres physical distancing), public events (max 50 indoors and 100 outdoors), restaurant dining (indoors allowed with 2 metres or an impermeable barrier between tables), sports (physical distancing of 3 metres when engaged in activity), and more. The complete list of “orange” restrictions can be found on the province's website here: www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-response-framework-keeping-ontario-safe-and-open#orange If we move to the red level, private functions would be completely prohibited, and other activities significantly restricted.

There are also recommendations from the Simcoe-Muskoka Medical Officer of Health on safe holiday celebrations: www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/COVID-19/Special-Statement

It's a lot to take in, and I know that the frequent, sometimes daily changes can be frustrating and upsetting. We continue to provide information and links on our website at www.townofbwg.com/covid and we are always happy to try to answer your questions or direct you to the right resources.

Best,
Rob Keffer