

Message from Mayor Rob Keffer:
COVID-19 update – July 17, 2020

There has been just one new case of COVID-19 in BWG in the last three weeks, so I want to thank all of you who are doing your part to help prevent the spread of the virus. As the Simcoe-Muskoka District enters the province's Stage 3 of reopening today, the Town of BWG is making progress towards our 'new normal.'

Parks staff are out today and tomorrow taking down tape from playgrounds, hanging basketball nets and inspecting equipment in order to make these amenities available once again. Staff are also working with local sports leagues to make fields available for practice and games.

Starting Monday, July 20, our administration offices (located at 100 Dissette St., 61 Holland St. E, 305 Barrie St. and 3541 Line 11) will be back to regular hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) for any services that require an in-person visit. Drop-ins will be permitted but to minimize line-ups, I encourage you to call in advance to make an appointment or to see if staff can help you by phone or email. Just call 905-775-5366 and listen to the call tree options to be directed correctly.

At the August 4 meeting of Council, we will receive a staff report outlining options for reopening the Leisure Centre. I anticipate there will be several scenarios with various timeframes for opening some or all of the centre, as well as costs associated with each. Council meetings continue to be held virtually and streamed on YouTube so you are welcome to tune in on Tuesday, August 4 starting at 7 p.m. or to watch the recording afterward: www.youtube.com/c/TownofBradfordWestGwillimbury

We would appreciate your input on how you foresee using the Leisure Centre once it reopens. Please take the five-minute survey at: <https://bit.ly/2Cni1FB>

Meanwhile, I am pleased to announce that the Leisure Centre will begin to offer outdoor fitness classes starting July 28. Registration opens soon for programs such as Boot Camp, Cycle, Tabata and Stretch. To learn more, visit www.bwgleisurecentre.ca and click 'Registration' or follow @bwgleisurecentre on Facebook or Instagram.

Several restaurant patios have now opened in private parking lots and in our downtown core. As long as restaurants are limited in how many patrons they can serve indoors, these temporary new and expanded patios will continue to be an important means for businesses to recoup some of their losses. Thanks again to Ontario Barrier Wall for supplying barriers at no cost to be used in the downtown area, and Utilicon Engineered Precast Structures for supplying barriers at cost to business owners setting up patios on private property.

I'd like to thank everyone who is helping to support local business safely, whether from home or out in the community. Working together, we can keep BWG strong!

Best,
Rob Keffer