

Message from Mayor Rob Keffer:
COVID-19 update – July 3, 2020

July is shaping up to be hot and sunny, which is wonderful if you enjoy the heat, but at extreme levels can be a challenge for anyone without access to air conditioning. In the past, we have encouraged people to find respite in the Library or Leisure Centre, but this summer we are instead preparing a cooling centre at the Bradford and District Memorial Community Centre (also referred to as the 'old' community centre) at 125 Simcoe Road.

On days when Environment Canada declares a Heat Warning, the centre will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for anyone who needs to take advantage of some cooler air and a drink of water. (Updated) Enter the building through the doors on the south side beside the Curling Club - you'll see the sign on the door. Please keep in mind that this is not intended to be a social gathering and physical distance will be required – the aim is simply to help anyone in need of relief from the heat. Splash pads continue to be open and we are very pleased that residents have been using them safely and respecting capacity and physical distancing guidelines.

I am very glad to see that there have been no new cases of COVID-19 reported in BWG in the past week, and I want to thank you all for your vigilance and respect for recommendations around physical distancing, staying home if you feel unwell, and using masks if physical distancing is difficult. We are not prepared to make masks mandatory at this time but we will continue to monitor the local situation, and to seek direction and follow guidance from the health unit.

Many local restaurants and businesses are now taking advantage of our new temporary patio and patio extension program to help them to recover from recent losses by increasing their ability to offer service while their indoor space remains closed. I ask all drivers to please take extra care around these spaces, and abide by the reduced speed limit of 40 km/h in the downtown area. I think this is a minor inconvenience that we can all bear for the sake of helping local business owners and ensuring these important amenities survive. If you are able to do so, I also encourage you to support local business and check out some of the new and expanded patios.

Another effect of the summer weather is an increase in the fire danger rating – we have just upgraded to a “High” rating, which means you can still have recreational fires if you have a permit, but must be extra vigilant and stay alert for the possibility of an upcoming burn ban if we do not get enough rain. Throughout the summer or any time the rating reaches High, an icon is displayed on the homepage of the Town's website and you can click it for more information:
www.townofbwg.com.

Please have a safe and enjoyable first weekend of July!

Best,
Rob Keffer