

Message from Mayor Rob Keffer:
COVID-19 update – June 5, 2020

There has been both good and bad news regarding the pandemic this week. On Wednesday, for the first time since late March, there were no new cases of COVID-19 reported in the entire Simcoe-Muskoka district. Unfortunately, two new cases were reported yesterday and five more today, including one community-acquired case in Bradford West Gwillimbury. There are only four active cases right now among residents of BWG and all of those individuals are isolating at home. A total of 85 residents of BWG have now recovered from the virus, and there have been no further deaths since the outbreak at Bradford Valley Care Community has ended.

The Health Unit recommends you take a non-medical-grade face mask alongside your keys and wallet anytime you leave the house in case you find yourself in a situation where it is difficult to employ physical distancing. Whether you are shopping, taking public transit or attending a protest, there are steps you can take including wearing a mask and washing or sanitizing your hands as often as possible that will help protect you and those around you.

The pandemic has forced many local businesses to take urgent and drastic action to ensure their ability to survive, including shifting to online sales, telework and virtual interaction with staff and customers. While there is still a long way to go before businesses are fully re-opened, the Town of BWG is taking steps now to put together a plan that will help businesses to recover, to improve their ability to withstand future challenges, and ultimately to grow.

Our Office of Economic Development, in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), is working on a strategy to help guide local economic recovery over the next couple of years. To help us prepare the strategy we need input from the local business community. Please take 15-20 minutes to complete this survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XPKKS68>

The survey closes June 11, and the strategy is expected to be completed by September.

I know that we are all mentally fatigued from the months of vigilance, worry and not being able to take part in normal activities. Thank you for all you are doing to ensure that we make slow but steady progress in defeating COVID-19 so that we can return to a more balanced way of life soon.

Best,
Rob Keffer