

Message from Mayor Rob Keffer:
COVID-19 update – June 9, 2020

Premier Ford announced yesterday that the region served by the Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit, which includes BWG, is included in the Stage 2 reopenings that will be permitted starting Friday, June 12. If you are wondering if your business is eligible to reopen, please refer to the provincial website here: <https://bit.ly/3f0LJOU>

My message today is to ask all residents to please be patient. No business needs to reopen until it feels comfortable doing so, having ensured that measures are in place to protect both their employees and their clients and customers. If you are reopening, the SMDHU offers these guidelines for doing so safely: <https://bit.ly/3dLbRNa>. The regional approach to reopening means that we may see people from the GTA coming north to use our services, so it's essential that businesses plan for the potential volume of customers.

The same is true here at the Town of BWG. Stage 2 allows for the reopening of some recreation venues, and we will be reviewing these permissions in detail and seeking procedural direction from the Health Unit to determine how to move forward. It is going to be a tremendous challenge to operate our facilities in a safe way, and we are committed to taking all necessary measures to protect residents and staff.

Up until now we have been doing theoretical planning, but now we need to develop protocols that take into consideration the specific restrictions that were announced today for physical distancing, limits on the number of patrons, and rules for what amenities can and can't be opened. We need to bring back staff who are currently on layoff and provide training on these new practices. For our indoor facilities, there will be physical modifications needed to ensure patrons can use them safely, and for our outdoor facilities, there will need to be rules established and signs installed to ensure compliance with the current restrictions.

While we do not anticipate that municipal recreation facilities will be ready to open next week, we have begun the process to work towards a limited reopening, and we will share dates and more detailed information with you as soon as it is available.

One bit of great news is that the BWG Library has been working on protocol for curbside pick-up and will be announcing very soon how you can reserve and pick up books.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding.

Best,
Rob Keffer