

Message from Mayor Rob Keffer:
COVID-19 update

I would like to start by thanking all residents for your patience, understanding and caring during this challenging time. I have seen great outpourings of concern for one another, for local small businesses and for protecting the most vulnerable members of our society.

Like in all communities in Canada and around the world, we have seen brief episodes of panic as everyone prepares their household for potential isolation. From what I have seen out in our community and online, this has largely subsided as we have been assured that our supply of food and household products is not at risk.

I encourage you to continue to listen to updates only from official sources like the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, the Ontario Ministry of Health and the Canadian government, and to avoid sources of rumour and fearmongering.

I have been in regular contact with health and government officials, Mayors of neighbouring municipalities and Town of BWG senior staff to ensure that we have all of the information we need to act appropriately. Like you, we are all trying to balance daily living with taking precautions to protect our health.

At this time, the Town's administration offices will remain open to serve residents who have immediate needs that cannot be served online or by phone. Essential services like water, wastewater, road maintenance and Fire & Emergency services will of course be maintained, even if further reductions in administrative services become necessary. We will continue to monitor the situation and take action as needed to protect our staff and residents and to do our part to help flatten the curve of this disease.

In this era of abundant technology, social distancing doesn't have to mean social alienation. I encourage you to keep in touch with the people in your life, particularly the elderly and anyone who might be struggling with the current situation. Social services such as the food bank are still operational, though potentially with changes to procedures. If you have questions about available social services, please call 2-1-1.

I will be communicating with the public via social media on a regular basis, and you can also find the latest information on impacts to municipal programs and services at www.townofbwg.com/covid.

Best,
Rob Keffer