

Message from Mayor Rob Keffer:
COVID-19 update - March 23

Over the weekend, we received several pieces of very troubling news. Sadly, in the Simcoe-Muskoka area, a second person has passed away as a result of COVID-19. The man was a visitor from Alberta who was being treated at Royal Victoria Hospital.

Also concerning is that a third resident of Bradford has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and is being treated in hospital. The two residents diagnosed previously are recovering at home. We wish them all a speedy recovery and hope that their families remain well. This brings the total number of cases in the Simcoe-Muskoka area to nine.

The most recent case is also the first local one where the infection was not related to travel or to close contact with another known case. I know that this information is causing a lot of worry. It's a fine line between caution and fear, and I understand that you may be struggling to find accurate information.

I'm hearing that people would like me to report on the latest cases in our area. I have been directing you to get this information from its source – the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit – but if I can help by passing along the latest update, I am happy to make this a part of my regular messages as I have done in this one. Please be aware that the information supplied by the Health Unit to municipalities (including to myself) does not include information on the movements of a patient prior to diagnosis.

You may also wish to bookmark these sites:

- the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's daily update can be found here: www.simcoemuskokahealthstats.org/topics/infectious-diseases/a-h/covid-19
- the Ontario Ministry of Health compiles information from Health Units across the province and posts updates here: www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus
- these links and more are available on the Town's website at www.townofbwg.com/covid in the Resources section.

It is important to note that there was also some encouraging news this weekend, including that a number of people in Ontario have now recovered from COVID-19, and that manufacturers have been stepping up to the province's request for help in producing critical equipment like masks and ventilators.

Speaking of businesses, our Economic Development team has been in contact with partner organizations and local businesses to see how we can help them to get through this pandemic, and we will have an update for you very soon.

I will also have more information for you about an emergency Council meeting to pass property tax relief measures, so please check back for my daily updates.

Best,
Rob Keffer