

Message from Mayor Rob Keffer:  
COVID-19 update – May 1, 2020

The first of May dawned grey and rainy but now the sun has come out and given us a lovely start to the month, and a hope that better things are coming in the days ahead.

Likewise, today started with some very sad news – an additional two residents of Bradford Valley Care Community have passed away. I offer my very sincere condolences to the family and friends of these individuals. There was also a new reported case of COVID-19 in BWG, bringing the total to 70 cases, 25 of whom have now recovered.

Premier Doug Ford announced that some workplaces in Ontario would be allowed to reopen starting Monday, as long as they meet strict public health measures and operate safely. This includes car washes, lawn care and landscaping, more types of construction, and allowing golf courses and marinas to prepare for the season that we hope the public can take advantage of. If you have questions about these new openings, I encourage you to look for official sources including the province's Ontario Newsroom page ([news.ontario.ca/newsroom/en](https://news.ontario.ca/newsroom/en)) and their FAQ on businesses: [www.ontario.ca/page/frequently-asked-questions-about-essential-businesses](https://www.ontario.ca/page/frequently-asked-questions-about-essential-businesses)

If the sunny sky has you thinking about gardening, then I encourage you to check out a special program offered by the BWG Public Library. Since patrons can't currently go to the Library, the BWG Seed Library is available to you by mail! Visit [www.bit.ly/bwgpl\\_seeds](https://www.bit.ly/bwgpl_seeds) to learn more and to sign up to receive a pre-selected packet of easy-to-grow seeds. If you don't have a library card yet, click the link and then select My Account at top right to set one up.

The Library has also found a great way to put their brand new 3D printer to use. Being a new purchase, the Library didn't have the skills or the materials to make PPE themselves, but staff and the CAO wanted to find a way to put it to good use in the fight against COVID-19. They have now partnered with the NewMakelt digital innovations hub in Newmarket, which is creating visors for paramedics and Southlake Hospital by using a laser cutter to cut face shields and 3D printers to create headpieces. NewMakelt had only two 3D printers, but with the loan of a printer from the BWG Public Library and one from the Newmarket Public Library, they are now able to double their production and reach their goal of making 5,000 masks that much more quickly. Kudos to the Library for making this happen!

I want to make one more plea ahead of this beautiful spring weekend to please continue to practice physical distancing and not to congregate with people outside of your household. We are seeing so many indications that our efforts are working, but there are still more cases of COVID-19 almost every day. Hospitals have been preparing field hospitals in their parking lots, anticipating another surge of cases.

Let's continue to do all we can to protect our loved ones and our community, and hopefully we can see a little more of one another this summer.

Best,  
Rob Keffer