

Message from Mayor Rob Keffer:
COVID-19 update – May 22, 2020

As we head into the final week of May – coming up on three months since we first began to contemplate COVID-19 and the impacts it might have on our community – our approach is one of cautious optimism.

I am tremendously relieved to hear that the outbreak at Bradford Valley Care Community is over. My heart goes out to all those mourning the loss of loved ones, and my sincere thanks go to all of the staff who worked incredibly hard to care for residents throughout this very difficult period. I am very proud of the outpouring of community support and generosity that has been shown to the staff and residents of Bradford Valley, as well as to others in need these past few months.

I am also glad that we are able to offer residents a few more opportunities to get outside and enjoy exercise and fresh air. We recognize how valuable time spent in nature is to both mental and physical health, so we are happy to be able to reopen tennis and pickleball courts as well as municipal sports fields for casual use. Scanlon Creek Conservation Area will reopen next weekend (May 29) for trail use, although the dog park remains closed at this time.

BWG Library and Leisure staff are closely following the announcements and advice of the provincial government and health authorities to determine what services we may be able to provide over the next weeks and months, and how to do so while keeping staff and the public safe. We appreciate your patience as we figure out how to work in new ways and with different precautions than we are used to.

As officials have told us, the pandemic is not over, and continued preventative measures are absolutely necessary to ensure that lightened restrictions don't cause a spike in new cases. Health authorities caution that there is every reason to believe that there will be a second wave, so it's critical that we understand that precautions – physical distancing, limiting contact with people outside of our own household, and even using masks when distancing is difficult – must remain part of our everyday lives.

I know a lot of people have spent some of their time at home spring cleaning and decluttering, so it's great news that the County has extended the hours of the Line 12 waste facility to Tuesday through Saturday from 8:30am to 3:30pm. If you have items that could be of use to others, please just set them aside for now. We have postponed our Curbside Treasure Hunt program that was planned to take place at the end of May, but hope to be able to hold it before the end of summer.

It looks like rain may be coming next week so I hope you can take advantage of the sunshine while it lasts to take a walk, garden or enjoy a favourite outdoor exercise.

Best,
Rob Keffer