

Message from Mayor Rob Keffer:
COVID-19 update – May 29, 2020

Although it's stormy right now, it looks as though there is more spring-like weather ahead of us, so here's some good news for dog owners – Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has announced that not only is Scanlon Creek Conservation Area open again, so is the Bark Park and parking is temporarily free. Washrooms remain closed so you'll need to keep your visit short, but it will be nice to enjoy the trails and forests again.

Other recreational amenities are starting to open up as well, such as boat launches and parks that were previously closed. Premier Ford has extended the emergency orders until June 9, so restrictions on groups of more than 5 remain in place, as does the recommendation for 2 metres of physical distancing, so it's critical that we keep these limits in mind to keep the number of new cases on a downward trajectory.

More good news – starting Monday, you can apply for Town of BWG burn permits online and pay online or drop off a cheque in our Finance building drop slot. Because there will still be a wait period while our Fire Department processes your application and payment, we will be accepting your 2019 Outdoor Wood Burning Appliance Permit until June 30. We'll be sharing more details as soon as applications are open.

Most types of commercial construction are once again permitted, and our Building Division is also able to provide permits and inspections for many types of home improvement projects. If you have projects in mind, please visit www.townofbwg.com/building to find out more.

Quite a few local businesses are now opening, and I have received mainly good reports of both businesses and customers being careful and respectful of one another to limit the spread of coronavirus. We do need to be alert to the fact that a few new cases of community-acquired COVID-19 are still appearing in BWG every week. I encourage you to wear a mask if you are going to be someplace where it is difficult to distance yourself from others.

If you have a business that is allowed to reopen now, or if you are waiting for the next phases of the reopening, I encourage you to look to the Health Unit and the province for advice on safety, sanitization and protective measures for your staff and customers.

One last bit of good news – while we cannot all be together for our traditional Canada Day celebration, we are planning a fun virtual event including a decorating contest, musical performances and announcements of the Civic Award winners. We'll be sharing more details about this on Monday!

I hope you have a great weekend,
Rob Keffer