



Mayor's Message on COVID-19
August 4, 2020

Hello everyone, week 20 for my messages.

Twenty weeks ago, I started these weekly messages to primarily update everyone on the steps your council and staff were taking to keep our community as safe as possible in the midst of a pandemic.

I wish I could report that there is no longer a need for any concern, but of course, that is not the case. This past long weekend saw a huge increase in people within the hamlet, an unintended consequence of the closing of the staircase to the falls perhaps, has been a shift of people and vehicles to parking lots leading to the trail systems. I have yet to see a single vehicle parked on the side of the highway adjacent to the falls parking lot like in the past years which created a very real safety concern.

In a news story today, a study finds that almost half of Canadians believe at least one unfounded theory about COVID-19 according to Canadian Press (i.e. a growing online movement opposing the wearing of masks, questioning the science behind wearing masks). Public COVID-19 fatigue is very real and understandable but misinformation is not helpful.

According to a recent Public Health Ontario study the actual number of cases in Ontario was likely 4 times higher than reported. Roughly 160,000 people in Ontario could have been infected in June or 1.1% of Ontario's 15 million. The important take away message is that likely 95% of Ontarians remain susceptible to infection from this virus and it is still present.

Remain vigilant, keep doing what has proven to work.

Thank you,
Ian