



Mayor's Message on COVID-19
July 21, 2020

Hello everyone, week 18 for my messages. It has been 5 days since most of Ontario has gone to Phase 3 of our re-opening plan. In the last week Ontario has had 784 new cases. This morning the province of British Columbia, which re-opened much sooner than Ontario, is now reporting an increase in new cases, which they believe is linked primarily to parties and larger public gatherings. Hopefully this will reinforce the need to remain vigilant and continue to follow all of the recommended safety protocols.

During the Billings Township Emergency Control Group meeting last week, a number of re-opening decisions were made which included the opening of the entire Kagawong River Trail system. The stairs will remain closed at this time. The playground at the Main Beach and the game boards located beside the KuKu Hut are now open.

Billings Municipal Office is now open to the public during our posted regular business hours. Face coverings must be worn while entering the office.

Our Small Craft Basin Project is well under way with Build North Construction. This project will enhance our slip capacity to approximately 42 with all new dock infrastructure and a new electrical system. The public is cautioned about the increased traffic congestion potential near the construction site.

At yesterday's council meeting there was discussion around whether to return to some form of face to face public council meetings. It was agreed that early in September, providing COVID-19 numbers remain low in our Health Unit, we would return to the Park Centre exercising within all guidelines.

Also discussed was the need to get our committees up and running as soon as possible. There is still a lot of our staff time being committed to this pandemic but we are actively working towards a resumption of committee meetings.

Staff recently made a funding application to a Federal Enabling Accessibility Fund for an accessibility ramp replacement and two fully automated doors for our Municipal Office at The Old Mill.

Lastly, this pandemic has affected virtually everyone in some fashion. I saw today on Ontario's COVID-19 website, the following tips to reduce stress:

- pause, breathe, reflect
- connect with others
- keep to a healthy routine
- be kind to yourself and others
- reach out for help if you need it

From my perspective, this is good advice.

Thank you,
Ian