

# COVID-19 update

7 August 2020 - Number 28

**Compassion • Accountability • Rights and responsibilities • Excellence • Safety**

## Town thankful for Community Cares mask project

COVID-19 has reminded us that we live in a community full of wonderful volunteers. When it became clear that face coverings could assist in slowing the spread of COVID-19, the West Parry Sound Health Centre Auxiliary stepped up, they coordinated volunteers and started sewing masks for distribution.

To date they have sewn and distributed over 10,000 masks to our community members. The masks are available in various sizes, including kids' sizes. Donations to the Auxiliary are being accepted but not mandatory. In recognition of their efforts and to assist with ongoing costs associated with the program, the Town of Parry Sound has made a \$1,000 donation to the Auxiliary.

"I'm so proud of our community and how they have pulled together to support one another during the pandemic" said Parry Sound Mayor Jamie McGarvey. "The Community Cares mask program volunteers have helped to slow the spread of COVID-19. They have played a key role in keeping our community healthy."

"Our communities sewers have worked together to make our mask program successful," said WPSHC Auxiliary President Carroll Gray. "Without the volunteers we could not have put



Mayor Jamie McGarvey (front right) with Auxiliary President Carroll Gray and Community Cares volunteers: Barb Packer, Doug McNaughton, Sylvia Gorham, Angelika Distler, Judy Ideson, Lynda Hanna, and Cheryl Palmer.

out the thousands of masks"

The Auxiliary also extends their thanks to the Distler Family for the donation of office space for the depot and to the community who have been able to make donations for their masks, supporting the mask program and their ongoing efforts to support the health centre.

The auxiliary mask depot volunteers can be reached at (705) 774-1046.



### Community Cares masks are available at

92 James Street - Parry Sound  
Monday to Wednesday - 9 a.m. to noon

# COVID Alert

**Download the app to protect yourself and your community.**

The **COVID Alert app** lets you know if you may have been exposed to the virus. You can then get tested and keep you and your community safe. The app is voluntary: The more people who choose to use it, the more effective we will be at stopping the spread of COVID-19.



## **COVID Alert is:**

- **Free.** Download it in Apple and Google app stores.
- **Easy to use.** Install it and stay safe on your daily journey.
- **Safe and private.** It never collects your health information, location, or identity.



Protect yourself. Protect others.  
**Download Canada's COVID Alert app.**  
Available in the Apple or Google app stores.



For more information, visit [ontario.ca/covidalert](https://ontario.ca/covidalert)

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July 2020 © Queen's Printer for Ontario 2020.

**Ontario**

## **Download the COVID Alert App to Protect Yourself and Your Community**

COVID Alert, Canada's official COVID-19 exposure notification app, is now available for download in Ontario from the Apple and Google Play app stores.

The new made-in-Ontario app is free, easy and safe to use. It lets you know if you may have been exposed to the virus. You can then get tested and keep you and your community safe. The more people who have the app, the more effective we will be at stopping the spread of the COVID-19 as the province carefully reopens.

COVID Alert uses Bluetooth technology to detect other users nearby and **never collects** your health information, location or identity.

### **How the app works:**

- Once you download the app, it runs in the background of your phone.
- The app will not know where or when you encounter other users, your location, name, address, contacts or health information.
- If you receive a message from COVID Alert that you may have been exposed to the virus, follow the public health advice given on the app and get tested.
- To notify other people if you've tested positive for COVID-19, enter the one-time key from Ontario's test results website ([Ontario.ca/covidresults](http://Ontario.ca/covidresults)) into the app. This will send a message to other app users who have been within 2 metres of you for at least 15 minutes within the past 14 days.

COVID Alert keeps you informed, allows you to act quickly and helps stop the spread of the virus. It is another key tool in the fight against COVID-19.

To stay safe, everyone should continue to follow public health guidelines including physical distancing with people not in their social circle, wearing a face covering if physical distancing is a challenge, washing hands thoroughly and frequently, and if anyone thinks they have COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, getting tested.

Download this made-in-Ontario app for free on your mobile phone from the Apple or Google Play app stores and help stop the spread.

**For more information click on this link.**



# **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

## **BOOT DRIVE**

**AUG 22<sup>ND</sup> (9AM-1 PM)**

**AMBULANCE WILL BE PARKED AT:**  
**No FRILLS**  
**SOBEYS**

**CANADIAN TIRE**

**TIM HORTON'S (ALL 3 LOCATIONS)**

**PINE DRIVE IN FRONT OF WALMART**



**\*DONATIONS WILL BE GOING TO THE TOY/FOOD DRIVE  
& LOCAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMS**

## NEWS FROM QUEEN'S PARK

29 July 2020

# Independent Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission

The Ontario government launched an independent commission into COVID-19 and long-term care. Three commissioners will investigate how COVID-19 spread within long-term care homes, how residents, staff, and families were impacted, and the adequacy of measures taken by the province and other parties to prevent, isolate, and contain the virus. The commission will also provide the government with guidance on how to better protect long-term care home residents and staff from any future outbreaks.

"As Premier, I made a commitment to our long-term care residents and their families that there would be accountability and justice in the broken system we inherited," said Premier Doug Ford. "Today, we are delivering on that promise by moving forward with a transparent, independent review of our long-term care system. We will do whatever it takes to ensure every senior in the province has a safe and comfortable place to call home."

Three commissioners have been appointed for the expertise and experience they bring to addressing the commission's mandate:

**Associate Chief Justice Frank N. Marrocco (Chair)** - appointed to the Superior Court of Justice in 2005 and holds a distinguished career practising criminal law and civil litigation law spanning 33 years.

**Angela Coke** - served as a former senior executive of the Ontario Public Service where she spent more than 27 years committed to the transformation of government operations, consumer protection reform, and the development of a strong professional public service.

**Dr. Jack Kitts** - served as President and CEO of The Ottawa Hospital from February 2002 until his

retirement in June 2020. He is known nationally for his focus and expertise in patient experience, performance measurement and physician engagement.

The commissioners are expected to deliver their final report by April 2021.

"The people of Ontario deserve a timely, transparent and non-partisan investigation," said Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care. "That is why our government is launching this independent commission to help us identify ways to prevent the future spread of disease in Ontario's long-term care homes. I look forward to receiving their report and recommendations to make Ontario's long-term care homes a better place for our most vulnerable seniors to live and receive the care they deserve."

- The Ontario government recently announced a new funding model, to make it more attractive for operators to build long-term care homes and bring aging homes up to modern design standards — providing seniors with the quality care they deserve.
- Nearly 78,000 Ontario residents currently live in 626 long-term care homes across the province. More than 38,000 people are on the wait-list to access a long-term care bed (as of March 2020). Previous public inquiries, such as the Public Inquiry into Long-Term Care Homes, took two years to complete.
- In 2003, the Ontario government appointed an independent commission to investigate the introduction and spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. The commission interviewed 600 people and held six days of public hearings. The commission's interim report included a chapter focusing on the SARS experience in Parry Sound.



## ANNUAL PASS

### FRONT LINE WORKERS

It has never been easier to make art part of your everyday life. The AGO Annual Pass offers a full year of unlimited access to the AGO Collection and all special exhibitions.

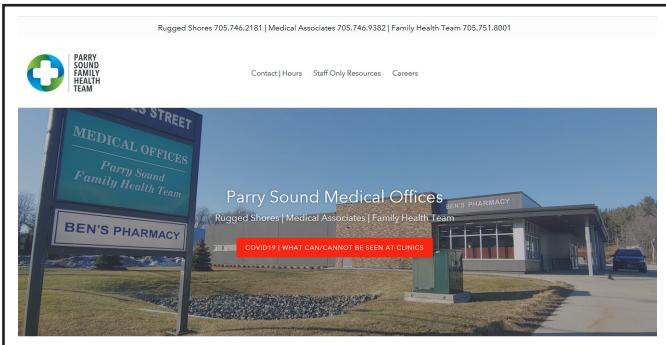
**We want to extend an artful thank you to the many front-line workers — in hospitals, grocery stores and on mass transit — who kept Ontario running during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Valid for one year, the Annual Pass will enable front-line workers to book a timed-entry ticket for free, whenever they wish.**

#### About the offer:

- Offer available from July 16 - August 16, 2020.
- Offer applies to residents of Ontario who are Doctors, Nurses, Hospital Employees, Paramedics, Police Officers, Firefighters, Grocery Store Workers, Mass Transit Employees, Retirement and Long-term Care Workers, Social Services, Emergency Shelter Staff, Sanitation and Waste Management employees, and others.
- Pass Holders must show work ID when first visiting the AGO.
- Not combinable with other offers and current Annual Pass holders or Members are not eligible.
- No cash value.

#### How to secure your free Front Line Worker Annual Pass:

- You may secure your Annual Pass by completing the order form below. The AGO Annual Pass is available in digital form and **each Annual Pass requires a unique name and email address.**
- You may already have an account with us - if you see a message indicating your email already exists, you must log into that account to complete the transaction.
- Not sure if you have an AGO account? No worries – fill in the form and follow the prompts.



For information about appointments, programs, and services at the Family Health Team, please visit

Updates here: <https://www.psfht.com/pages/physician-offices>



Support Cottage Country Hospital Care: Parry Sound Ride

# Set a Goal, Do Your Best, Keep Hospital Care Local.

You love to ride. You love to push yourself. You need to know hospital care is there when you need it. Ride with us and be the difference.

Ride with us until August 31. Become part of PSRide with your own goal setting page. Set your kilometre goal. Set your Fundraising goal. It's not about one of us, it's about all of us together. Riding to be the difference for our bodies, our minds and our local hospital.

[REGISTER](#)[DONATE](#)

Raised so far

\$11,056



Kilometres logged

740

**PSRide: Be part of a ride bigger than yourself.**

**Click on the image above to learn more and support our Foundation's PSRide.**



west parry sound  
health centre  
**FOUNDATION**  
**INSPIRED GIVING.  
KEEPING HOSPITAL CARE LOCAL.**

Last week's payroll prize winner

**Amariah Steele - \$502.50**

Our Foundation's payroll deduction 50/50 draw takes place every two weeks - and you can sign up to participate any time.

The cost to enter the 50/50 draw will be \$5 per pay - only available through payroll deduction. The winning participant and the Foundation equally share the amount of money collected through the entry fee.

Pick up a form from the Foundation office.

## **Despite COVID-19, Hospice West Parry Sound can still hold their annual Hike for Hospice!**

Hike for Hospice is Hospice West Parry Sound's only fundraiser of the year. They need your support more than ever! With the safety of all in mind, they are pleased to announce that they are launching their first ever VIRTUAL HIKE FOR HOSPICE!

### **What is a Virtual Hike for Hospice?**

This virtual event is an opportunity to come together safely to raise funds to help provide quality, compassionate care for those with a life threatening illness. The Virtual Hike will also provide participants with an opportunity to "walk" in memory of a loved one.



There are some great prizes too... Fitbits, guided fishing trip, local restaurant gifts certificates, and more. Click on the image above to register and read additional information.

Technology & Science

## Living with face masks: How to stow them, reuse disposables and more



A paper bag is good for storage when a mask is not in use, but under the chin is not



Emily Chung - CBC News · Posted: Aug 06, 2020 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: 2 hours ago



The wearing of masks or protective face coverings is mandatory in indoor public spaces in many cities across Canada and in the entire province of Quebec. The Public Health Agency of Canada is also recommending masks in schools for students over the age of 10. (Graham Hughes/The Canadian Press)

1261 comments



Now that wearing a mask to the mall, to the hairdresser and to school will be a regular occurrence for the [next two years or more](#), a lot of questions have arisen about how it will fit into our busy lives.

[CLICK ON THIS IMAGE](#)



- In late March the WPSHC Auxiliary and community volunteers began creating Community Cares masks based on prototypes created by expert seamstress Nanci Beers. At the beginning of April, hundreds of those masks were made available to staff at WPSHC, Lakeland, and Belvedere Heights. We began to strongly encourage wearing a non-medical grade mask while in public whenever safe physical distancing was not possible.

The very first Community Cares masks were packaged in paper bags (donated by Parry Sound Books) and included COVID-19 safety advice. This is how the masks continue to be distributed.

- On April 6, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam advised that wearing a non-medical grade mask could stop the spread of COVID-19.

- On July 17 the Town of Parry Sound enacted a face covering bylaw for enclosed public spaces. This was followed by a North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit directive that took effect on July 24.

- Mask wearing continues to make news headlines - August 6 CBC (above).
- Community Cares has created and distributed over 10,000 handmade masks.

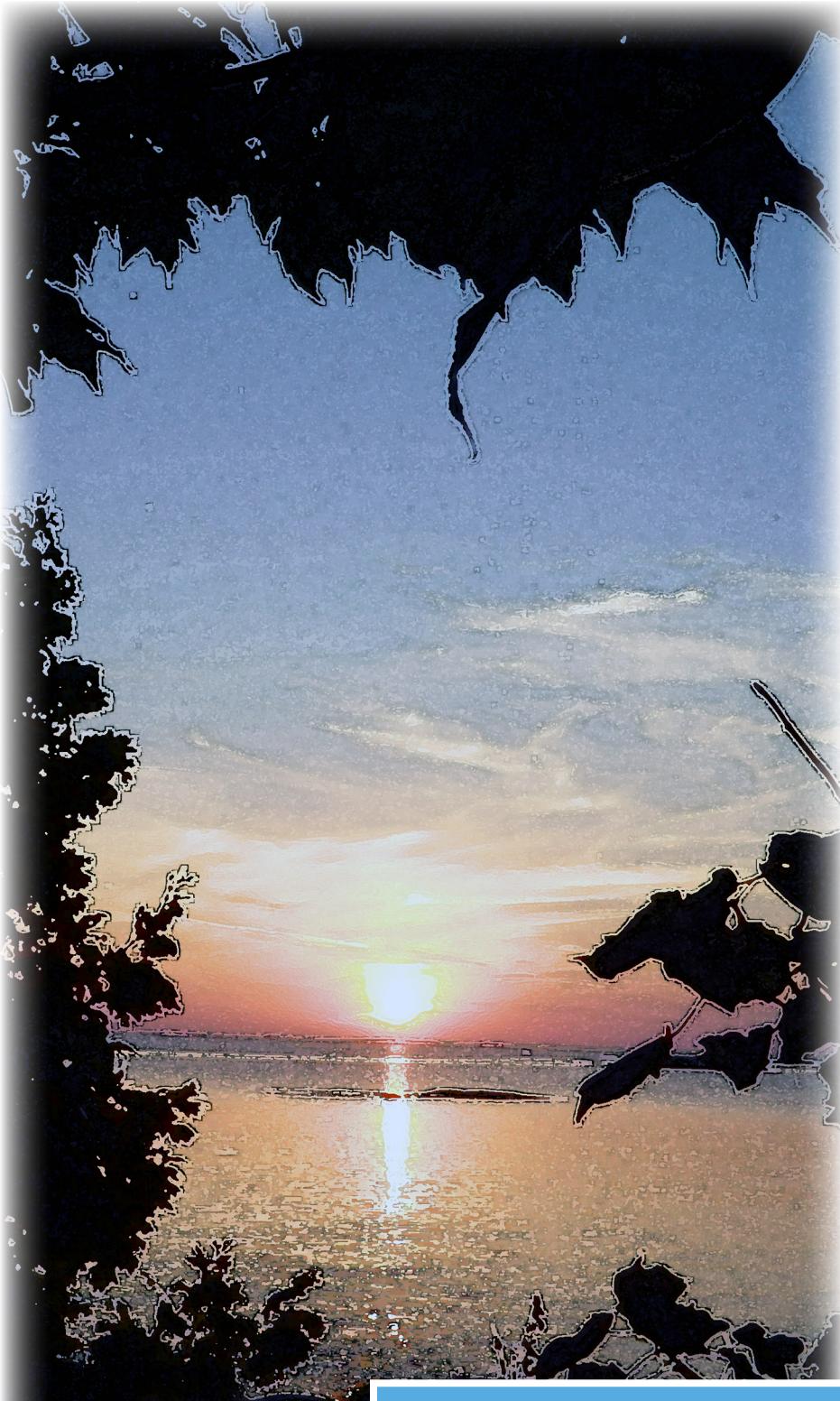
**Would you wear a mask  
to save another person's life?**

**PLEASE WEAR A MASK**



**Join us in sharing  
community safety messages.**

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and at [wpshc.com](http://wpshc.com)



We are working together through an exceptional time in the history of our health care system.

Please make time to care for yourself, your family, friends, and neighbours.

Get out to safely enjoy the beauty that is all around us.

We live and work in a very special place.

*Reach out to us,  
the WPSHC Wellness Team*

*Sandra Quathamer  
extension 2412*

*Hilary Piano  
extension 2410*

***We are a team, and we're working together!***

Masked & maintaining physical distancing.