

River Glen Haven dealing with third COVID-19 outbreak

By MIKE ANDERSON

York Region Public Health reported a third COVID-19 outbreak at River Glen Haven Nursing Home on April 9, after four staff members and one essential caregiver tested positive for the virus.

According to RGH's Administrator Darlene Horne, public health believes two staff members were infected after sharing a staff washroom used by a staff member who later tested positive.

"As a variant of concern (VOC) is highly contagious when staff shared the same washroom, the spread would have been transmitted at that point," she said.

An essential caregiver, who was previously vaccinated, also tested positive. However, his infection is believed to have occurred outside the home.

Still, the essential caregiver was admitted to the home after a faulty rapid antigen detection test (RADT), currently used to screen visitors, produced a false negative.

"The rapid test failed to detect the infection," said Ms. Horne, who stressed the essential caregiver, who wore a mask, did not infect any of the home's 74 residents or staff members.

However, the multiple staff infections did place the home into a "confirmed" outbreak.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

LOCKDOWN NO MORE NO MORE OCKDOWN

BARRIE THONG MAN I FADS PROTEST

Anti-lockdown protest held in Keswick

By MIKE ANDERSON

A crowd of nearly 40 demonstrators held an anti-lockdown protest on Saturday afternoon at the corner of Woodbine Ave, and Dovedale Dr. in Keswick.

wear masks, called on the Ford government to lift the province-wide lockdown they say is destroying small businesses.

Richard Fleming, a Sutton resident, The demonstrators, many of whom did not organized the event through his Facebook

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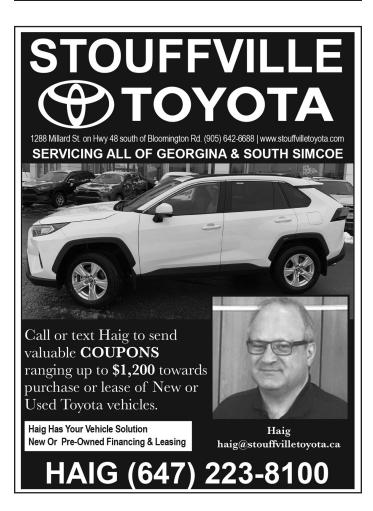
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OUTBREAK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Due to the variant of concern (VOC) in the home, the third floor was put on droplet precautions. And due to the external positive that came into the home, RGH was moved from a surveillance outbreak to a confirmed outbreak," she said.

While the essential caregiver and two of the staff cases are now resolved, the last staff member tested positive on April 13.

According to public health, an outbreak may be declared over when there are no new cases in residents or staff after 14 days — so the current outbreak could be declared over by April 27.

The outbreak means that RGH is now in lockdown, with residents confined to their rooms and group activities cancelled.

"Unfortunately, one of the staff cases was confirmed as a VOC. To protect the residents, who all remain negative, isolation is required," Ms. Horne said.

However, she said staff would be providing more one-to-one programming, increasing virtual visits, and allowing residents to take walks for fresh air.

"Ideally, we would like residents to stay in their room; however, we do have residents coming out for walks," she said. "It's still their right to do so while masked."

"Essential caregivers can still visit, but out of caution, we have asked that they limit their visits. They can visit after showing a negative PCR result completed no longer than seven days."

According to Ms. Horne, RGH is complying with the Ministry of Long-Term Care's (MLTC) revised Directive #3, which was recently reissued to LTC homes after family members and advocacy groups pressured the Ministry to lessen restrictions on residents.

Even during a lockdown, residents can now walk outside to get fresh air, although they must be masked and remain on the

property.

Another critical change is the definition of what constitutes an outbreak.

Under the previous definition, a single lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 in one resident or staff member constituted an outbreak, which, according to MLTC, was the lowest threshold in Canada for declaring an outbreak.

The new definition defines an outbreak as two or more labconfirmed cases in residents, staff or visitors, with an epidemiological link, within a 14-day period, where at least one case likely acquired the infection in the home.

According to MLTC, the change gives public health units more discretion to restrict outbreak measures to a specific outbreak area rather than the entire home if appropriate.

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Police powers

It's said you shouldn't judge a man until you walk a mile in his shoes. Nevertheless, Premier Ford's recent decision to enforce a province-wide stay-at-home order by giving police special powers to stop people arbitrarily was at best misguided and at worst a brazen attempt to curtail our fundamental legal rights.

To his credit, the Premier has apologized.

"We moved fast to put in measures in place to reduce mobility. But we moved too fast. And I know that some of those measures, especially around enforcement, they went too far," a circumspect Premier Ford said during a news conference held on April 22.

"Simply put, we got it wrong. We made a mistake."

But that admission only came about because most police services across the province, including York Regional Police, refused to do the Attorney General's bidding, which is understandable as there was little consultation before the directive was made.

If these police services had not expressed their unwillingness to uphold expanded police powers, we would have woken up to a society where police could arbitrarily stop individuals on the street or in their vehicles to question why they were outside of their homes.



The folly of this policy was on full display when Ottawa police attempted to do just that on a busy weekday morning, arbitrarily stopping commuters from crossing bridges linking Gatineau to Ottawa.

The result was chaos. Traffic backed up for kilometres with scores of irate motorists. Police officers soon realized they were in a no-win situation and began waving everyone through.

The police services who decided not to follow the Ford government's directive should be congratulated. It takes guts to stand up to your boss. But it was the right decision.

Another right decision is for police not to get involved in peaceful protests.

Citizens have a democratic right to protest as long as they abide by the laws and don't threaten public safety.



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PROTEST CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

group "End The Lockdown Georgina Ontario," which, according to Mr. Fleming, has over 650 followers.

"I don't feel this lockdown is fair for local small businesses. They're suffering. And I feel they can open safely," Mr. Fleming said.

While Mr. Fleming was hoping to have more people show up, he was buoyed by the positive response he got from most motorists who honked or gave a thumbs up.

"I'm very happy to be here and have their support. I think it's going to grow," he said. "I only had four days to organize this, so hopefully, more people will come out. We're going to continue this every weekend."

However, not all the motorists were supportive. One woman, whose pickup stopped at a red light, yelled that the protestors should be ashamed of themselves.

While Mr. Fleming does not own a small business, he's upset that he can't shop in person locally and is forced to turn to online retailers.

"I have a cardboard sign because I can't even go to Walmart and buy one," he said.

"I can't get a haircut. And I've had to buy my clothing lately from Amazon, which does not pay Canadian taxes. And I don't feel that's right. I should be able

RICHARD FLEMING

to go to Angelo's in town and buy my clothing like I always have."

Roseann Guglietti, the owner of Angelo's Sportswear in Keswick, was also at the protest and wants the lockdown lifted.

"I'd like to go back to normal business with precautions," said Ms. Guglietti, who was fined by The Town of Georgina in January after her 87-year-old father placed a display rack on the sidewalk outside her shop.

"The Ford government started to listen to small business when they cordoned off Walmart and Costco, but that's a little bit late now. With this lockdown, they're definitely not listening anymore."

"It's now getting very serious for most businesses. They're going to be suffering within the next month or two. There's only so much funding, and it will only take you so far. If you have no money coming in, how do you maintain everything?"

Ray Zammit, the owner of Zammit's Barber Shop in Sutton, brought a homemade cardboard sign which said "Lockdowns Don't Work" and "End The Lockdown."

Mr. Zammit believes his barbershop is safe, so he doesn't understand why his business is shut down.

"I have one chair, and people come in, and then they leave. There's no way they're going to

get a germ from my store, not stay-at-home order. compared to a big store?"

"We're all frustrated. And a lot of people are now out of money, and they're going to lose their livelihood and everything that they worked for all those years that they were going to give to their kids."

While some demonstrators wore masks and socially distanced, most did not. And several expressed more strident views on the pandemic to The Post. including a few antimaskers and anti-vaxxers who that governments are believe using COVID as an excuse to curtail their rights.

A near-naked Weldon Hachey, aka Barrie Thong Man, who is becoming a fixture at antilockdown protests, caught the attention of many of the motorists.

"It started off as a bit of a joke when Ford said clothing is nonessential," Mr. Hackey said.

"But look at the honking. We're getting very little negativity. I'd say 99 per cent of the people are against the government. They know this isn't working."

York Regional Police and Town bylaw officers did not attend the protest, so no fines were issued for violating outdoor gathering limits – no more than five people--or the province-wide

However, Ward 1 Councillor Mike Waddington expressed his opposition to the protest in an email statement to The Post.

"As a small business owner myself, I can assure you that any anti-lockdown protests in support of business does not represent interests." Councillor mv Waddington said.

"In a time when most organizations are struggling to keep their staff and communities safe, these actions promote dangerous behaviour and counter the advice of health professionals. Although I support people's right to protest, I do not support the reason for doing so in this case."



ROSEANN GUGLIETT







Question: I am selling my house and the potential buyer has requested a survey, do I have to provide one?

The short answer is that you only have to provide a survey if you agree to do so in your Agreement of Purchase and Sale. If the potential buyer of your house requests a survey, make sure you have one in your possession before you agree to provide one. Sometimes sellers believe that they have a valid survey but when the closing date arrives, it turns out that they do not and the sellers end up having to compensate the purchaser.

A valid plan of survey is a schematic sketch showing the boundaries of a property, including fences, any structures, and rights of way. To be a true and valid survey, it needs to be prepared by an Ontario Land Surveyor who has physically examined the property. Potential buyers often request surveys to confirm a variety of matters, such as the size of the property or the locations of the fences and lot lines, or to make sure that structures on the property (e.g. the house/garage/shed) are within the boundaries of the property.

If you are unsure of whether you have a valid survey or not, you can ask a real estate lawyer to confirm that the document you have is a plan of survey. Another option is before you have signed the Agreement of Purchase and Sale, in the Agreement Schedule where the clause states, "seller is to provide a survey" have your real estate agent insert the words "if any" or "if available" after the statement. That way, if it turns out that your document is not a valid survey, you will not be on the hook to provide one at closing.

Often there is no up-to-date survey of a property available, and it is common in today's market to close a house purchase/sale without one because title insurance will often protect the purchaser from defects that would have been disclosed had a new survey been obtained. If you have any questions about surveys, give our office a call, and one of our lawyers would be happy to answer them.

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STEVE JACOBSON

Construction begins on nurse practitioner clinic

By MIKE ANDERSON

While the provincial stay-athome order ruled out an official groundbreaking ceremony that didn't seem to upset Health Georgina Chair Steve Jacobson.

He was just glad to see construction begin on April 19 for the Georgina Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic (GNPLC) rebuild at 21071 Dalton Rd. in Jackson's Point.

"Today is a great day. We're bringing the nurse practitioners back home to Jackson's Point. Everybody is excited, including the residents and the nurse practitioners. It's been a long time coming, and we're really pleased to have shovels in the ground today," Mr. Jacobson said.

"I'll be even more excited when we turn the keys over to the nurse practitioners, which hopefully will be the end of August, if not earlier."

Once completed, the new clinic will provide residents with a state-of-the-art health facility and allow the nurse practitioners to expand their patient capacity by more than 800 patients.

"The Georgina Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic Team and Board are very excited to see movement on the Dalton

Road site and are thrilled that Health Georgina has been able to move this project along," Beth Cowper-Fung, GNPLC Clinical Director, said.

"We look forward to working with Health Georgina on the exterior as well as our new contractors, pending our tender, towards the completion of a state-of-the-art medical facility."

"With what we have learned throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic about air filtration, patient flow, personal protection and disinfecting, a new facility will allow us to provide the best, safest possible care to our patients."

Health Georgina, the volunteerrun, non-profit organization overseeing the clinic rebuild, awarded the contract to Kenstruct Ltd., a general contractor based in Pefferlaw.

Kenstruct specializes in commercial and industrial projects, including gas stations, convenience stores and truck stops.

"We're really excited to have Ken on board. It's local people building this. He's also going to subcontract with a lot of local contractors here in Georgina, so that employs more people in the community," said Mr. Jacobson.

"It's great to be working locally," Ken Jamieson, President, Kenstruct Ltd, said.

"Most of our work we've done in the past has been all over Ontario, so it's nice to have a project close to home finally and to work with some of the local trades on.'

"We don't have a huge amount of sub-trades right now because it's phase one on the project, which is the construction of the building and the earthwork. But when the nurse practitioner portion of the job comes out, which is the interior, there would be a lot more trades involved at that point and a lot of work for them."

Mr. Jamieson will also be able to source labour from Georgina's new GTTI Skilled Trades Institute, which has agreed to provide its carpentry and electrical students to help

SUTTON

complete the project.

According to John De Faveri, GTTI Board Chair, the students, under the supervision of their instructors, will be primarily involved in roofing, drywall installation, as well as some rough-ins for services.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be able to participate in this project," Mr. De Faveri said.

"Ken's reputation and the caliber of work he does is outstanding. And we're delighted to have our students part of a local initiative that's going to benefit the community."

"We've said we want to be part of economic growth in the Town, I think this is the point where we've put our money where our mouth is, and we're demonstrating that."

With the phase one budget, according to Mr. Jacobson, set at \$1.3 million, the project still

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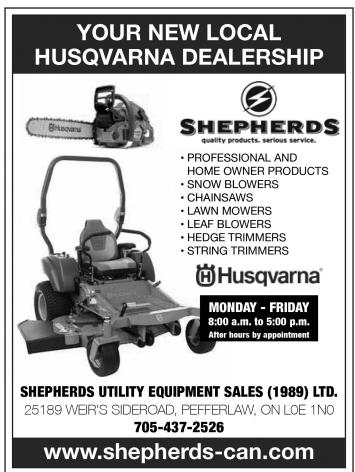
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GEORGINA COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry challenges us to help those in need

By MICHELLE POIRIER

The Georgina Community Food Pantry has started the #GoodFoodChallenge and is asking residents to rise to the challenge of raising \$100,000 in April to help them buy fresh foods.

"Food costs have gone up, and we want to make sure that if someone needs assistance that the last thing they are worried about is that their kids are hungry or that they're feeling lethargic because the food their eating isn't good," Trish Kosar, Chair of the Board of Directors for the Georgina Community Food Pantry, said.

Ms. Kosar said they've named the fundraising effort the #GoodFoodChallenge because they want to focus on getting fresh and nutritious food to those in need; things like milk, eggs, meat, fresh fruits and vegetables.

The food pantry spent \$19,934 from January to March this year. In March alone, they provided food for 637 people, 188 of them being children and 117 seniors, which is 10 per cent higher than March of last year, Ms. Kosar said.

"We know that this year we are not going to be able to hold any of our fundraising events, so we said let's try in the month of April to challenge our community to help us help others," she said.

The Town of Georgina is taking the challenge and has said they will match donations up to

\$25,000.

"We know people are struggling in our community with this very basic need. Making ends meet has become even more difficult during the pandemic for many families and individuals. We want to make sure we are doing our part to ensure everyone has food to eat and does not go hungry," Mayor Margaret Quirk said.

"I ask if you can help, please do so. Donations, big or small, all make a difference. We all experience different challenges at different times, and we are a community who lifts each other up in times of need."

In 2020 the food pantry raised approximately \$92,000 in a similar fundraising effort, and last year they spent almost \$120,000 on buying food, Ms. Kosar said.

"The community has been fantastic, from small donations of \$25 to what we hope will be \$25,000 from the Town; we've had businesses come in and donate \$1,000 to \$2,000 -- we've seen the gambit. Every time I am reassured that our community is such a caring and generous community," Ms. Kosar said.

The Food Pantry has raised \$67,162.55 as of our publication date, and the last day to donate is Friday, April 30.

To donate, you can visit https:// georginafoodpantry.com.

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

faces significant challenges, including skyrocketing material costs, which, in some cases, have already risen 300 per cent.

"We were quite concerned about it," Mr. Jamieson said. "That's why the day we received the contract, we issued all our purchase orders to all of our subcontracts and suppliers and said purchase everything today."

"So when we need the materials on-site, we're not hearing they're six weeks out and that there's been another price increase, which is our biggest concern."

However, the pandemic has also made it difficult to source major building components, like joists and beams.

"We're already on our plan B," Mr Jamieson said.

"Suppliers have already called and said there's no way they could guarantee delivery of two of the major components, TJI floor joists and laminated veneer lumber (LVL) beams, here in 2021.

So we went to a backup plan and got a large lumber company that could commit to us to get materials. They've never let us down before, and they're a huge Canadian company."

Despite these challenges, Mr. Jamieson is confident that he can complete phase one of the project, the outer shell of the building and parking lot, on time and budget.



KEN JAMIESON



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LEASH FREE DOG PARK

Town discourages residents from letting dogs off-leash

By MICHELLE POIRIER

It's a dog owner's worst nightmare: when another dog viscously attacks your dog. And the odds of it happening are greater when your dog is offleash.

On March 25, an eight-pound Yorkshire Terrier was mauled to death in the York Region Forest, near the Hollidge Tract in Stouffville, by a German Wirehaired Pointer, while both dogs were off-leash. The pointer, who had a previous history of aggressive behaviour, was put down on March 30.

Allowing pet dogs to be offleash while off of their property is against the Town of Georgina's bylaws, yet many residents are allowing their dogs to roam free while out on walks.

"Lately, I can't take my daughter to any children's playgrounds in my area because people are using them as offleash dog parks every single time we go," Chantel Townsend, a resident of Keswick, said.

"Last week, for example, while on foot, pushing her stroller, I ended up leaving three different playgrounds with a very disappointed little girl."

She said at the first park they visited, a dog owner had his dog off-leash. When she asked him to keep his dog away from her, he assured her the dog was friendly; the dog then attacked another dog on leash. The next park they visited was just around the corner from Georgina's Leash Free Dog Park. A woman had her large dog off-leash and ignored Ms. Townsend's reminder that she should not have her dog offleash. After visiting the third park and finding a dog off-leash, they went home.

"And this is our experience almost every single time I try to take my daughter to play somewhere," Ms. Townsend said.

The Town says Animal Services officers have increased their presence at popular parks, including the Leash Free Dog Park, where some owners keep their dogs off-leash while entering and exiting, to educate and generate awareness.

The Town asks that if you see a dog off-leash, or you ask a dog owner to put their dog on-leash, and they refuse, to call Animal Services at:

1-877-979-7297(PAWS).

You will need to describe the dog owner and the dog, and if they return to their vehicle, you will need to describe the vehicle and/or provide a licence plate.

"We typically have one Animal Services officer on duty each day in Georgina. They prioritize their requests for service in the order they come in and based on the severity of the incident. Municipal Law Enforcement is not an emergency service, and many matters can be investigated after the alleged infraction," a Town representative said.

The Town bylaw states that dogs are not allowed to run at large within the Town's limits, other than on the premises of the dog's owner.

If you are found with your dog off-leash in Georgina, the fine with all fees and surcharges is \$125.

Not only can you be fined if your dog is off-leash; if your dog bites someone, you can also be prosecuted under the Ontario's Dog Owners' Liability Act, which can lead to a fine, restrictions on your dog's freedom, or, in extreme cases, having your dog put down. Georgina's Leash Free Dog Park, located at 685 Lake Drive South in Keswick, is where many residents take their dogs to have some leash-free time.

Keswick resident Rose Lamann often takes her two dogs to the park. She said she has had many positive experiences there.

"They love it; it's very beneficial for us to be able to get out," she said.

Other residents would like to see a section for smaller dogs at the park to keep them away from larger dogs.

"It would be great to have a separate space available for small dogs. My smaller dog gets terrified of the big dogs, and I've heard some stories from other small dog owners that they've encountered some problems between some of the bigger dogs with the small dogs," Andrea Lockwood said.

According to the Town, there are no plans to modify the Leash Free Dog Park, but they are currently considering other locations in Georgina for a second leash-free dog park that could include a separate small dog zone.



ROSE LAMANNA & HER DOGS



Q: Can my employer terminate me for disregarding COVID-19 protocols?

In employment relations there are many grounds that an employer may rely upon to terminate an employee for just cause. While there are clearer grounds, including theft and fraud, neglect of duty, and gross insubordination, the ability to discipline and/or terminate for breaches of Public Health Agency COVID-19 guidelines and company guidelines pertaining to COVID-19 has yet to be conclusively decided by the Courts.

The reality is, at law, each termination for cause must be considered on its own particular merits and circumstances. This standard hinders the predictability of situations relating to COVID-19. However, a recent Ontario decision in a unionized environment may have shed some light on what employers can do when employees breach COVID-19 guidelines.

Within the decision an employee went to work during the mandatory self-isolation period after being tested for COVID-19. Shortly following the test, the employee was informed they had tested positive and, on that day, advised their employer of this new information. Although, it was discovered that the employee worked during the period in which they were supposed to be in self-isolation. As a result of the employee's breach of the Public Health Agency and employer COVID-19 guidelines they were terminated for cause. Ultimately, the arbitrator hearing the matter upheld the termination.

The takeaway point for employers and employees alike is that the guidelines pertaining to COVID-19 are expected to be followed. Decision makers will support a for cause dismissal if an employee chooses to put their colleagues or others at risk from COVID-19, in violation of the relevant guidelines.

To discuss the particulars of your case and whether an employment lawyer is able to assist, please contact our office. .

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PEFFERLAW FIRE HALL

PEFFERLAW FIRE HALL OPENS

Finally! After almost three years, fire fighters in Pefferlaw have a new home. The 10,600 sq. ft. fire hall which also incorporates the former and heritage Cooke's United Church was completed on April 17, 2021. Chief Ron Jenkins and fire crews were onsite to guide three emergency fire

vehicles into the bays of the new building. Firefighters have been working out of a temporary home on Pefferlaw Road ever since the shovel for the new building hit dirt in August 2018.

The original price tag for the building was \$3.74 million but overruns, construction issues, contract failures and ongoing legal battles has resulted in costs ballooning to \$5.8 million to date. The Town has commenced a legal action against the original contractors, BECC Construction Group Ltd. and against Echelon Insurance, the issuer of a Performance Bond in favour of the Town. The action seeks payment from those parties of all cost overruns and delay costs incurred in the construction of the fire hall. However, it is unknown if those costs can be recovered.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, an Open House to celebrate the completion of the project and to give the community an opportunity to view the hall will be announced at a later date.

AND... A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

The committee organizing the rebirth of the Pefferlaw Association of Ratepayers (PAR) has announced the winners of their first virtual Easter Scavenger Hunt Contest. Pefferlaw families were given clues to the secret locations of various Easterthemed characters and asked to post photos of their finds on social media. Each photo was awarded an entry into the contest and 13 winners were selected in a random draw. Congratulations Christina Jerome, Tracy to: Sims Black, Visa Corvus, Barry Cormen, Mellanie Jones, Katrina Kay Pordy, Melanie Jo, Lindsay Trask, Annette Nadon, Sylvia Peliti, Bonnie Cauchard, Nicole Larocque, Amy Green.









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