

VIDEO: Mayor Letham speaks about heartbreak as Pinecrest tragedy unfolds

Sarah Sobanski

Kawartha Lakes Mayor Andy Letham says he knows the community feels “frustrated” and “heartbroken” when it comes to the tragedy at Pinecrest Nursing Home and COVID-19.

The mayor reached out to residents via video message April 1 to reflect on the month passed.

“I just want to take a minute and think about how different our conversations were a month ago on March 1,” he said before speaking of the more than a dozen resident deaths at Pinecrest Nursing Home in Bobcaygeon due to a COVID-19 outbreak.

He said the tragedy has made national news and asked residents to remember the lived and people behind the numbers being announced by the media.

“These numbers represent parents, grandparents, spouses, siblings and most importantly, loved ones,” he said.

“Together, let’s make sure that we are remembering who they were as people. People who grew up here and who were a part of shaping the community we all enjoy today.”

Letham said he knew that residents were wondering what more they could do to help as the situation continues to unfold. He said it’s important to stay home and keep your distance from others.

“Ontario has further extended their state of emergency for at least another two weeks,” he said.

“With that being said, we continue to focus on critical services only, echoing announcements about public safety by being risk-adverse and closing all municipal spaces where contact may occur.”