

10 good acts in Kawartha Lakes during COVID-19 to help you keep it positive

Sarah Sobanski

We're into week four of staying home and staying safe amidst the COVID-19 outbreak.

Self-isolating — not seeing your neighbours, friends, community — can be tough. We put together a list to remind you they're still out there and they're doing great works.

Here's just a handful of positive things happening in our communities despite the pandemic:

1. Guitar player for [The Tragically Hits](#) and Bobcaygeon resident Richard Kyle organized [Sing Bobcaygeon From Your Front Porch](#). He posted the event to Facebook asking local residents to come out and sing the Tragically Hip song "Bobcaygeon" — in support of the community which has been hard hit by COVID-19.

"I felt that it would be fitting with what the village, and especially the staff and residents of Pinecrest Nursing Home, along with the town as a whole, to come together and show their support and solidarity with the town," he said noting he hoped the event would raise awareness for the Bobcaygeon and Area COVID-19 Relief Fund.

"Since I'm a Bobcaygeon resident, and a musician playing in a Tragically Hip tribute band, we thought we could do more than just our monetary donation to the relief this town needs at a time like this. Positivity is the light we wish to shine rather than a spectacle of doom and gloom. If this can relieve any stigma the town may succumb after this then I feel we've done something that we are in a position to accomplish."

The community was to participated in the event on Sunday, April 5 at 6 p.m.

2. Ruby Lockhart organized an "impromptu" drive-by for health care and frontline workers.

Julie Coombs filmed the drive-by outside Ross Memorial Hospital and posted it to our Facebook post asking for community members to share what acts of kindness they were seeing in the community.

Coombs said she and other nurses who saw became emotional when they saw the support from their community.

"Oh, I teared up," Coombs said. "So did the nurses I was walking out with. It was greatly appreciated and touching to know the community is behind us."

Lockhart also planned a drive-by Wednesday, April 1 past Victoria Manor to show support for long-term care facilities.

3. Victoria County Signs in Fenelon Falls is putting up encouraging signs for folks driving by during the pandemic.

Belinda Wilso co-owns Victoria County Signs with Rick Hughes. She said they were heading out to put up more signs when she spoke to Kawartha Lakes This Week. The sign shop already had three signs up across Kawartha Lakes (March 31).

“We just felt that we needed to do something to share a positive message — folks are scared, worried, unsure what is going to happen — and we wanted them to know we are all in this together. It's also important to reinforce the safety protocols,” she said.

4. Kids across our communities have been taking to the pavement to show their support for health care and frontline workers.

Bob Bartlett reached out to tell us his neighbour’s children on McGibbon Boulevard in Lindsay showed their appreciation for local health care workers during a glimpse of sunshine. Bartlett's neighbour works at Ross Memorial.



- *Drawings in support of healthcare workers on McGibbon Boulevard in Lindsay.*

Lindsay Hussey also sent us photos of her two children, Sadie and Rosie, showing their support by drawing at their property on Deacon Crescent in Lindsay.



- From left, Sadie and Rosie Hussey show their support for health care workers.

5. Kawartha Mobile Wash is helping keep customers at Reid's valu-mart safe.

Owner of valu-mart Mark Reid posted photos of the mobile wash company cleaning carts on Facebook. Reid said shopping and carry-out carts would be steam cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis.

6. A home on Colborne Street in Fenelon Falls left out a table topped with groceries for those in need.

A sign on the food table announced the groceries were free and asked passersby to help themselves to whatever they needed.



Dallas Marwood posted the food table to the [Road & Weather Reports From Local Lindsay Bobcaygeon Fenelon Falls & Area](#) Facebook page. He wrote he had stopped by to ask to add some things to the table and the owner was "very happy" he was willing to help.

The post had 350 likes and loves from views and 115 shares. Pamela Albert commented that tables like this one were popping up all over the community.

7. [Bobcaygeon residents created the Bobcaygeon and Area COVID-19 Relief Fund to support health-care workers, Pinecrest Nursing Home residents, their families and others in need in the community after the long-term care facility was hit hard by the COVID-19 outbreak.](#)



The fund will be administered by the Community Foundation of Kawartha Lakes, advised by the citizens' group headed up by Kawartha Lakes Ward 2 Coun. Kathleen Seymour-Fagan.

8. Local photographers [Morgan Bress](#), [Crystal Whitehead](#) and [Kim Magee](#) are participating in the [Front Porch Project](#). Photographers head out to local families and take photos of them on their front porch. The mini-photoshoots are no-contact.

In return for the photos, the families donate to Kawartha Lakes Food Source. [As of April 2, the project had raised more than \\$3,000.](#)

"With Covid-19 and my business being closed. I felt the need to help out but I didn't know how. I decided to give back the best way I could and that was with my camera," said Bress who originally started the project.

"The purpose of this project is to bring us together when we might feel isolated. To highlight the faces of our community during a time when we might not see each other in passing at the grocery store, coffee shop or at the gym. Families participating in this project have an opportunity to step up to help those who need it most right now in the Kawartha Lakes."

She added the project took off "right away."

9. [Fenelon Falls Brewing Co.](#) is donating \$2 from every case sold online to Ross Memorial Hospital.

"As part of serving our community, we feel a responsibility to assist by giving back to people that need our support most. Fenelonbrewco has partnered with the Ross

Memorial Hospital Foundation to support urgent COVID-related equipment and technology needs as the RMH team responds to the pandemic," the brewing company stated in an email release to customers.

"We'll donate \$2 from every case of 24 from our online Bottle Shop to RMH's front-line staff and first responders. Due to the urgency, we are making donations retroactively from March 1 to kick-start this fundraising."

10. Charlene Shirk shared a post to the City of Kawartha Lakes Takeout/Delivery /Services during COVID-19 Facebook page showing Fenelon Falls, Bobcaygeon and Coboconk Tim Hortons were stepping up to support families during the outbreak.

In her post, Shirk shares a letter from the local coffee shop explaining it's offering lunch to families in need for kids 13 and younger. The program would run until April 5 and was based on an honesty policy, the letter read, so kids could stay safe at home while parents came to get lunch.

BOBCAYGEON, FENELON FALLS, COBOCONK



DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF OUR SCHOOLS DURING THIS TRYING TIME WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITIES THAT RELY ON OUR SCHOOLS LUNCH PROGRAMS.

WE WILL BE OFFERING A TIMMIES MINIS THAT WILL INCLUDE A KIDS GRILLED CHEESE, FRUIT SNACK, CHEESE STRING AND A JUICE BOX. On Us
THIS OFFER IS VALID FROM MARCH 25 2020 – APRIL 5 2020
VALID FROM 11AM-2PM FOR ALL KIDS 13 YEARS AND UNDER.
WE WOULD APPRECIATE HONESTY WITH ORDERS AS WE DO NOT REQUIRE YOUR KIDS PRESENT FOR PURCHASE SO THEY CAN STAY HOME AND STAY SAFE.

The post was shared almost 450 times around the community.

On the post, Laura Williams commented, “This is one of the reasons I love our community! People helping people!”

Did you see some positivity in the community you think should be shared? Send us an email at ssobanski@mykawartha.com to be featured in our next list of positive things happening in your community.