

# LET'S HELP EACH OTHER THROUGH ORDEAL: MAYOR

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Lions Club has postponed the annual Citizen of the Year Awards Dinner to April 28.

By Tuesday morning, local restaurants and bars were ordered to close by Premier Doug Ford as he declared a state of emergency in the province, with only those that can offer take out and delivery allowed to operate. Places of worship and daycare centres are also impacted by the provincial order.

As of press deadline, there were four confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Halton — three in Burlington and one in Oakville. There had been no cases documented in north Halton.

"While we continue to see more cases, I want to reassure residents that most individuals who do contract COVID-19 with mild

symptoms will recover on their own," said Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Hamidah Meghani. "Please continue to follow the advice provided by health care professionals, self-monitor or self-isolate as appropriate and simply stay at home if you are feeling unwell."

Bonnette has used his well-followed Twitter platform in recent days to urge local residents to look out for each other during these challenging times.

"Hey Halton Hills, let's make this extraordinary time one of care and kindness for others. Check on them. Show your care. Let's start a movement," he wrote. "Please shop reasonably. Leave some for others. Let's remember those who are vulnerable. Remember our food banks."

By Wednesday, the



Graham Paine/Torstar

Bare shelves have been a common sight at grocery stores these days.

Town decided to close all of its facilities to the public, including Town Hall, the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre and fire sta-

tions, with the department continuing its regular emergency response duties.

"We are doing things dif-

ferently as the majority of our technical and indoor staff will work from home and other employees redeployed as possible," said Bonnette.

Growing concerns about the novel coronavirus, which has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization, drove many to supermarkets and shops to stock up on toilet paper and other essentials.

Social media users expressed frustration over empty shelves and long lines at checkout, with some calling for stores to enforce a purchasing limit.

"We have never seen anything like this, and no matter how prepared we were, could not anticipate what is happening," Georgetown FreshCo owner Justin Bernard told local residents in a Georgetown community Facebook group.

Although the federal government's website states that people should try to fill their cupboards with non-perishable items and other essentials, it advises against panic buying and making large-scale purchases in one go.

"The reason for stocking up on these items is not necessarily because you will need to self-isolate. Having these supplies on hand will ensure you do not need to leave your home at the peak of the outbreak or if you become ill," the explanation reads.

The website suggests gradually building up household supplies.

For extensive coverage of the local response to COVID-19, visit theifp.ca.

— with files from Bambang Sadewo

*STORY BEHIND THE STORY: We're tracking the local arrival and impact of the coronavirus on residents and will continue to deliver the facts on this story as it evolves.*



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