

HERE'S A SUMMARY OF CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES IN HALTON

DAVID LEA
dlea@metroland.com

The number COVID-19 cases confirmed in Halton Region had reached 36 as of press time.

On March 30 Halton Public Health said 23 of those cases were self-isolating, two Oakville women were in hospital, one case involving an Oakville man was considered resolved, and a 51-year-old Milton man, Sean Cunningham, had died.

No further information is available for the other nine cases.

Of all the Halton municipalities, so far, Oakville has the most confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus at 16, followed by Burlington with 10, Milton with eight and Halton Hills with two.

As of March 29 travel outside the country was the common denominator for the majority of Halton's (then 27) coronavirus cases, with around 63 per cent (17) of the individuals reporting recent travel.

Six others had close contact with people now confirmed to have COVID-19.

For four other cases, it is unclear how or where they got the virus.

On March 19, Halton Region's medical officer of health said Cunningham in particular had not travelled outside of Canada recently and had no contact with a known case of COVID-19.

She said Cunningham's infection indicates the virus is spreading locally.

No information is available regarding how the

nine most recent cases may have come into contact with the virus.

So far in Halton, people between the ages of 45 and 64 appear to be the largest age group impacted as they make up 47 per cent (17) of the 36 cases.

Those between the ages of 20 and 44 made up around 36 per cent (13) of the cases followed by those between the ages of 65 and 79 who made up around 11 per cent (four) of the cases.

Another case is described as being in the 0-19 age range while another is described as 80 plus.

The first Halton case of coronavirus was diagnosed on March 11.

Those infected with coronavirus now include a Halton police officer and an Oakville firefighter.

Dear Friends in Wellington-Halton Hills:

Together, we are confronting the coronavirus public health emergency. Everyone is pulling together and doing their part.

At the best of times, Members of Provincial Parliament must divide their time between work in their constituencies and their legislative responsibilities at Queen's Park.

Few things give me greater satisfaction than interacting with people in our Riding: hearing what's happening, then working together and within the Provincial Government to do what I can to help.

But now, because of the emergency, we all need to take a step back. To the greatest extent possible, we all need to listen to our public health officials, and we need to be staying home.

Like so many in Government, technology allows me to work from home, which is what I must do in the coming weeks.

Although it is only March, I might guess the "Word of the Year" for 2020 will be "Social Distancing," something we have heard much about from our friends, family, political leaders, and healthcare professionals.

Social distancing means reducing our exposure to other people, and avoiding close contact with people outside of our residence. But, it does not mean that we cannot find other ways to be social during these unusual times.

We are fortunate to have the technology to connect with friends and family from afar. As we have seen around the world, people have been coming together—apart—in many beautiful ways. We have seen videos of people singing from balconies in Italy, and heard stories of neighbours helping vulnerable people around them with supplies.

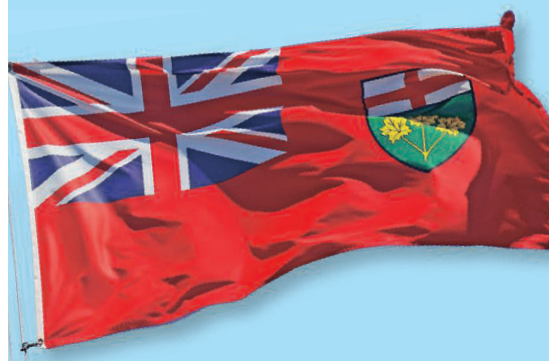
If you are having a difficult time during this period of social distancing, uncertainty and ever-changing circumstances, please know there are still a number of community resources available to assist you, including:

Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo-Wellington branch: 1-844-437-3247
Canadian Mental Health Association Halton Region branch: 1-877-693-4270
ConnexOntario: 1-866-531-2600

I have absolute confidence and faith we will persevere and overcome. And yes, we will get through this together. But let's also remember the wise advice of Dr. Eileen de Villa, the City of Toronto's Medical Officer of Health: "Let's work together to stay apart."

While our Wellington-Halton Hills Provincial Riding Office is also practicing social distancing, please know we are still available by phone and e-mail to assist you on matters involving the Provincial Government.

Until I see you again, keep well, stay safe, and take care.



TED ARNOTT, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills

www.tedarnottmpp.com
1.800.265.2366

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