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THURSDAY

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# #FINANCIALWELLBEING

## WEATHERING THE STORM

### SMALL BUSINESSES FIGHTING FOR #FINANCIALWELLBEING DURING PANDEMIC SHUTDOWN

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As the coronavirus pandemic wears on and non-essential services remain closed, financial stress is setting in for many throughout Halton.

From laid-off staff who now must navigate the world of temporary unemployment to business owners trying to decide if they can survive the closure, the fiscal future is uncertain for thousands locally.

In north Halton, Troy's Diner owner Troy Newton has closed the doors to his restaurant on Main Street in Milton and laid off his staff for the time being.

"It's pretty tough on them as employment insurance doesn't cover tips," he said. "The servers are feeling a financial strain."

With rent to pay, outstanding

invoices, and no income at the moment from the diner or his catering business, Newton is bracing for the challenging days, weeks and months ahead.

"For a small business, cash flow is king. It's affected us drastically," he said. "We (small business owners) are all kind of going through this together. It's tough for everybody."

The uncertainty of when this may be over is weighing on the mind of Tonya Pasqualino, a registered massage therapist (RMT) who's part of the Dynamic Health Integrative Clinic team in Georgetown.

With RMTs asked to close by the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario before the Province ordered non-essential businesses to shut their doors, the local woman has been at home for a few weeks now.

"And one of the joys of being self-employed is that when you're not working, you don't make any money," she said, noting she also doesn't qualify for employment insurance, but is hoping to meet the criteria for

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Graham Paine/Torstar

Registered massage therapist Tonya Pasqualino has been forced to stop seeing clients at the Dynamic Health Integrative Clinic in downtown Georgetown.

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### AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO OUR READERS

Dear Reader,

For the past few weeks we have been bringing you all our fact-based reporting and information on the coronavirus pandemic to help you stay informed to better protect yourself, your family and your neighbours.

We are publishing a resource page to help you stay connected to us during this time. We will post any important updates about your community newspaper to this website.

**For reader updates, please keep a copy of this notice for easy reference:**

**Go To:**  
[theifp.ca/updates](http://theifp.ca/updates)

If you do not have access to a computer, tablet or smartphone, you can call 1-833-440-7474 to listen to recorded updates.

We remain committed to you, our loyal readers – and we want to make sure you continue to have access to your community news for accurate and timely news about what is happening in your community and around the world.



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