

Belmont News



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Access to expertise during turbulent times

Around town

As we reach the end of May, there is brightness around the community. The world is green again, the sun has been shining, backyard pools are opening and in every neighbourhood you can see outdoor beautification projects underway. Heading into June, many are wondering what summer will or could look like during the pandemic, especially for children. If we're truly going to be staying close to home and milling about town, then we certainly have a wonderful, friendly, beautiful town to mill about in. So, cheers to the coming June and the start of summer it brings – one thing is for sure, it's not likely to be a summer we will ever forget.

New hours for Belmont Freshmart

Belmont Freshmart wishes to thank the community for their support during these trying times and is grateful to the customers who helped with deliveries. To continue to help those who work or can't shop until late in the day, they've extended their hours. Their new hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.

Last Saturday for yard waste collection

The last Saturday for yard waste collection is this Saturday, May 30. If you miss it, yard waste can also be taken to the Community Recycling Centre located at 330 South Edgeware Road in St. Thomas.

Looking for summer activity information

If you're part of an organization, sports group or business that would usually host summer activities or programs and would like to inform the community about the status of events, or plans to adapt for COVID-19 measures, email newsbelmont@gmail.com.

Rock hunting continues

The decorating of and hunting for rocks in Belmont continues. Colourful, hand-painted rocks can be found in green spaces, by signs and placed in plain sight around the community. If you are out looking, one hint – Belmont Community Park is a treasure trove of beautiful rocks to admire.

Keep supporting local eateries

Local restaurants keep feeding us and it's been a delicious way to take a break from cooking while supporting business in the community. Here is an at-a-glance list of Belmont eateries offering to feed you. For more information on the menus, takeout and delivery options, prices and open/close hours, contact the businesses directly. Country Pizza: 519-644-1081, Pizza by Design: 519-644-2211, The Belmont Diner: 519-644-1444 and Belmont Town Restaurant: 519-644-1726.

We want to hear how you are doing!

Get in touch to share how you and your family are staying healthy, happy and occupied during this time of continued physical distancing. Email your stories and photos to newsbelmont@gmail.com.



supplied photo

Ken Farrow of Farrow Financial sits beside the company's sign in front of their Belmont Road office.

by Julie Neufeld
FOR THE SIGNPOST

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused lots of disruption in people's lives and it continues to re-shape how Canadians are working, interacting and managing their finances. With physical distancing the norm, financial advisers and insurance agents are among the service providers that have had to quickly adapt their businesses to operate at a distance while continuing to address the needs of their clients.

For two local businesses,

Farrow Financial and Westminster Mutual Insurance Company, the pandemic has only changed where they work, not the relationships they maintain with their clients or policyholders. "Our priority throughout these pandemic months has been to continue to provide a high level of service while protecting the health and safety of our staff and clients," said Stephanie Farrow, financial planner with Farrow Financial. "Keeping in touch with our clients has been important as we navigate these times. We've increased the use of virtual and socially distanced options and are conducting client meetings via telephone or video meeting as needed. One way or another we make sure we're available to speak with any of our clients who need us."

According to Christine Van Daele, president of Westminster Mutual Insurance Company, it's in times of crisis when their members need them the most. While their office is closed to the public, it hasn't changed the support they are providing for their clients. "I don't think our policyholders have noticed much changing for us as we are still answering all telephone calls and emails as usual," she said. "Our members are able to pay their premiums online and we have a secured mail slot for paper deliveries. We utilize technology to allow for secure signatures from your laptop or phone. Our claims adjuster is trying to adjust most claims remotely but if he is needed at the claim site, he's taking all necessary precautions to protect everyone involved."

While all indications are that clients and policyholders themselves are adapting well to being serviced at a distance, the pandemic has also been wreaking havoc on the global economy. For some, the resulting turbulence is a significant source of added

stress to an already stressful time. "Of course there is always going to be cause for concern for investors at times like these," said Farrow. "People work hard for their savings and seeing your investments fluctuate in value is always unsettling no matter your level of investment education. It's human nature. There are many scary media headlines and the negative emotions and stress associated are real."

For both companies, supporting their clients or policyholders through challenging market conditions is part of what they do well; they're a valuable resource during these turbulent times. "A big part of our job in times like these is to help clients keep their emotions in check and to avoid making ill-advised decisions fuelled by fear or panic" explained Ken Farrow, financial adviser and tax planning specialist with Farrow Financial. Van Daele said that a significant component of protecting one's financial assets is insurance. "Every day we see our members have house fires, hit deer, get vehicle stolen, have sewer backups, have an accident, etc. During this time of volatility in the markets, our members know we're still protecting their physical assets the same way we have been for 163 years."

While it may seem the extraordinary pace of change and uncertainty in the markets has never been more daunting, there is comfort in knowing that there is access to expertise and great resources within Belmont. Both Farrow Financial and Westminster Mutual Insurance Company, longstanding members of the Belmont business community, are here to help people make the best financial decisions for themselves and their family. For more information on both companies, visit their individual websites at farrowfinancial.ca and wmic.ca.



photo by Julie Neufeld

BEST-DRESSED WINDOWS IN BELMONT: Robyn Cable stands in front of the newest Cable's Garage window display. She created a colourful and lively display to show appreciation for the continued efforts of essential workers during COVID-19. Cable's Garage is known for having some of the best holiday themed displays in the community and the current decorations bring a smile to the face of everyone who walks by.