

An open letter to Sundridge and Strong residents from the **Lake Bernard Property Owners' Association:**

As lakeshore residents of the Sundridge and Strong community, some of our families in our fourth generation on Lake Bernard, we want to reach out to you during this time of the coronavirus.

First, we want to thank all of the businesses that have been open throughout this time, working hard to safely provide for everyone. There are too many even to list. You are amazing!

As you know, some of us are seasonal residents and some live here year-round. For all of us, Lake Bernard is a very special place and the people who live and work here all year are valued members of our community. For years we have shared cake on Canada Day and chatted with you at the Foodland, the splash pad and the Post Office. We've golfed together, watched each other's children grow up and attended church and wedding receptions together. We have contributed to the library and the Sunflower Festival and we've joined the Happy Gang. We eat and shop at our local businesses and value all they add to our lives. We care about you.

Around the world, of course, we are in this COVID-19 situation together. More than that, we will be in this together in Sundridge as restrictions loosen over the coming months. For those of us who are seasonal residents, we will be allowed to return to the cottage and shop in town again, with whatever social distancing restrictions are appropriate. We want to assure you that we are mindful of the stress that many of you may feel about this, and that we will be careful to protect our community. We will shop at local stores and order takeout as much as we can to support local businesses, but carefully. And we are aware of the limitations of local health resources. We will rely on our own health care providers as much as possible, as we do each year.

The LBPOA is asking everyone to follow provincial health guidelines, and we are keeping our members up to date on what those are. We can't wait to socially isolate on the dock with a book or greet you again at the pharmacy at the right time, from a good 2m apart. We hope you are staying safe and healthy.

Take good care.

The Lake Bernard Property Owners' Association

May 3, 2020