



April 23, 2020

### **Statement from Mayor Ken Hewitt & Council**

For the numbers today go to:

<https://hnhu.org/health-topic/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Over the past few weeks you have heard about all the things you can't do and when you turn on the news it has either been about some new government funding plan or mostly it has not been the most pleasant.

We have seen many people rise to the occasion in this pandemic and offer their services in so many ways. Whether it's someone's birthday, or helping those that need groceries, or reinventing businesses to make PPE equipment. In every one of these cases it is about who we are, it is about the kind of people that we live next to. We are so blessed to be living here in H-N and more blessed for the selfless people and businesses amongst us.

I am sure that you have all witnessed the frustration of many people in Ontario with how this COVID -19 virus has affected our long term care homes. Watching these families struggle to communicate with their loved ones tore the very strings of my heart. Seeing it happen day after day and knowing that it was the same right here in Haldimand with Anson Place.

We have had so many people step up to help, the students who have stepped right into the job, the countless number of donated PPE. That said, it occurred to me that the one thing missing was the ability to just talk between family members.

I reached out to a couple of businesses with the idea of donating iPads and headsets to our long term care residents and was absolutely amazed at the response. What started with bringing a couple of iPads has grown to now over 50 iPads and 200 headsets. I intend to start with Anson Place when they arrive but now my hope is that we will raise enough funds to purchase an iPad and headset for every long term care resident in Haldimand-Norfolk.

I have spoke to Mayor Chopp and she agreed that this would be a wonderful way to help our long term care families. Sadly our biggest problem now is securing the equipment as there are not as many out there as I thought would be.

If you know anyone or any options that could assist in securing either funds or iPads and want to help, please let me know.



I want to acknowledge the generosity of the following companies who have helped get this program off the ground and without them this would not be possible.

1. Empire Communities
2. Losani Homes
3. Ballantry Homes
4. Pattern Energy
5. McKeil Family Foundation

On behalf of the counties, we cannot thank them enough and as more support comes I will acknowledge those as well.

“Every grain of sand in our hourglass is a priceless jewel, and how we use those jewels is a reflection of our priorities and the life we want.” —Humble the Poet

Stay Safe,

Mayor Ken Hewitt