

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

March 10, 2021

A lot of water has gone under the bridge since our Club shut down a year ago this month. Thousands of infections across our Country resulted in thousands of deaths, especially among our elderly citizens, are now part of the history of Covid-19 and its variants. To date, in our Country, there have been over 890, 000 infections and 22,000 + deaths. As I write this, I hear on the news of 1000 more new infections and 37 deaths in one day in our Province along with the closing of more schools because of outbreaks. March 11 will be the anniversary date when Covid-19 was declared a pandemic. Since that date there has been 2 ½ million deaths worldwide.

When you look at our local situation today, as compared to 1 year ago, little has changed in respect to the restrictions and protocols we must follow. We just got through a shut down and stay at home order and, as of March 1, find ourselves in the Red Zone with the threat of returning to a shutdown if infections increase to a specific level.

Your Board has looked at opening the Club for a few activities such as bingo and darts. But the restrictions, along with the protocols we must follow (10 seated members maximum, including anyone in the office or on the desk, 2 meter physical distancing must be strictly adhered too, the gathering of contact information must be recorded and a prepared safety plan made available on demand) are only some of Red Zone measures and restrictions that do not make it practicable at this time to open.

As soon as restrictions allow; we will have a full Board meeting at the Club, to plan the reopening and to do it safely.

Many if not all members should be vaccinated shortly. The over 80 age group begins the week of March 8 to be followed by other age groupings. After a number of attempts, I finally have a date for 'the jab' this coming Monday (March15). These vaccinations alone should make our return sooner and much safer.

The construction of the future Seniors Centre is still on hold. There is absolutely no construction activity at this time which means the estimated completion date is impossible to make. This will result in the Club remaining in our current location much longer than first predicted.

Since my Christmas message we have lost two more members so, on behalf of the membership, I pass on our condolences to the families of Doris Hancock (big Barrie's Wife) & our past president Dave Simpson.

I am sure many members miss the Club and all it offers, like Iona and I do. So I ask you to be patient a bit longer as we get closer & closer to our reopening.

Ed Fry

President of the South Pickering Seniors' Centre