

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

BURLINGTON HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY EFFORTS TO REMAIN OPEN AMIDST COVID-19 CRISIS

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It's no surprise that the hospitality industry is one of the hardest hit with the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Across the world, hotels, restaurants and attractions are closed or offering reduced services. Here in Burlington, it's no exception.

Some hospitality businesses are partially open and doing what they can to support the community and their employees. The list of restaurants and food services offering these services continues to grow. Many eateries are offering call-ahead or curbside pick-up, some are making personal deliveries with front porch drop-offs and many others are utilizing the services of delivery companies like Uber Eats, Skip the Dishes and Door Dash. A detailed list of food related businesses offering service is kept up to date at www.tasteofburlington.ca.

Craig Kowalchuk, President of the Burlington Restaurant Association commented *"The Burlington restaurants and food services appreciate the support of our local community ordering take-out and delivery services. These businesses have taken recommended measures to ensure the health and safety of our customers and employees and look forward to your continued patronage. They need your help now and in the months ahead"*.

With Easter quickly approaching, local retailers are doing what they can to ensure that this holiday will continue to be a special celebration. Although we won't be able to have the neighbourhood egg hunts and large family gatherings, chocolate can be delivered to your door, you can still order spring planters to brighten up your home and special Easter dinners can be prepared and enjoyed with your household. Tourism Burlington has created a blog of businesses offering Easter/spring-related service which you can view at www.tourismburlington.com.

With travel at a stand-still and many businesses having employees work from home, a few Burlington hotels are closed and the remaining are open with limited services. Currently the following properties are open; Admiral Inn, Best Western Plus, Comfort Inn, Homewood Suites, Motel 6, Quality Inn and the Waterfront Hotel. Some area hotels are assisting local hospitals by providing a welcome refuge for health care workers and patients with minimal care requirements.

Jason Stoner, Chair of the Burlington Hotel Association states that *"On behalf of the Burlington Hotel Association we extend our heartfelt thoughts and best wishes for the health and safety of our workers, their families, our partners, first responders, front line health workers and all of you. Despite the everchanging challenges many of our hotel properties are still open to service the needs of Burlington residents and businesses alike. We wish to acknowledge the efforts of all our associates as well as the Tourism Burlington team who have been our front line in identifying how we individually or collectively can assist in addressing any and all needs of the community we serve. Thru all of our efforts we look forward to the end of this pandemic and to welcoming you, your families, your companies and visitors back to Burlington."*

Restaurants, shops, hotels, attractions and retailers are an essential part of the Burlington community providing employment opportunities and generating significant revenues which contribute to the local economy. It is important that we support these small businesses now and in the days ahead.

#BurlON every little bit helps – We are all in this together.

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