



Despite the unprecedented challenges caused by COVID-19, the Town of New Tecumseth was ready, resilient and resourceful. As 2020 comes to a close let me begin by recognizing my Council colleagues and members of our administration, led by CAO Blaine Parkin, for all that they have done to serve our community during these unparalleled times. Their support, commitment and dedication are appreciated by all.

As Mayor of New Tecumseth, I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am of this Town that has pulled together as a community to support each other in this time of uncertainty. It has been heartwarming to hear of all the different ways we have stepped up to get through this year together.

- The frontline workers and first responders who risked their very lives to keep us and our families safe.
- Our businesses who continued to offer their services to our community, with many adjusting how they deliver services.
- Community members donating to the local food banks to ensure no one went hungry.
- Volunteers shopping for and delivering groceries to our most vulnerable.
- Town staff who continued to work throughout the pandemic to ensure municipal services were delivered to the highest service standard that residents have come to expect.
- Local organizations who shifted their events to virtual, so that we could continue to feel a sense of community.
- Socially distanced street dances that lifted spirits and provide some physical activity during quarantine.
- And to the children who proved to be so resilient. Who stayed home and missed their friends, who gave up traditional holiday event celebrations to keep their families safe, and who painted rocks with messages of encouragement to make strangers smile.

These are some examples of what it truly means to not just live in this Town but to be a part of the New Tecumseth community.

I know how busy and stressful the holiday season can be at the best of times but this year, in particular, I ask you to remember that no one is too busy to be kind. Please continue to check in on family, friends and neighbours, particularly those who might be facing this holiday season alone.

Staying home and apart as much as we can is the most important thing we can do.

On behalf of Council, have a safe and happy holiday season and all the best to you and your family in 2021.

