

NINA BIFOLCHI

MAYOR

# *Proclamation*

## FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD) AWARENESS DAY

SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

**WHEREAS**, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a term used to describe the range of disabilities that may affect an individual who was exposed to alcohol in utero/or during pregnancy- these disabilities may be physical, mental, behavioural, and/or learning challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, Current Canadian studies have found that up to 4 per cent of the population are born with FASD, affecting people of all ethnicities, income, and education levels. FASD has a big price tag. It is estimated that the cost of FASD in Canada is \$4 billion per year covering education, health, social services and justice costs; and

**WHEREAS**, FASD is preventable, but prevention is not as simple as it seems. Many people don't understand the possible effects of alcohol use during pregnancy. It is estimated that up to 60 per cent of pregnancies are unplanned. Drinking may occur before the pregnancy is confirmed, exposing the developing baby to alcohol; and

**WHEREAS**, The Simcoe County FASD Prevention Committee is a community partnership with the goal of building awareness and providing information and resources regarding FASD in Simcoe County; and

**WHEREAS**, People around the world began observing International FASD Awareness Day on September 9 each year beginning in 1999, in order that on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year, the world will remember that during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should abstain from alcohol;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Nina Bifolchi, at the request of the Simcoe County FASD Prevention Committee, and on behalf of the Council of the Town of Wasaga Beach, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2019 as "**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day**" in the Town of Wasaga Beach.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Bifolchi".

Nina Bifolchi, Mayor