



JUNE 2020

your update on what's happening in Wasaga Beach

# beachPAGES

Town of Wasaga Beach | 30 Lewis Street, Wasaga Beach, ON | (P) 705-429-3844 | (F) 705-429-6732

[www.wasagabeach.com](http://www.wasagabeach.com)

## Get your parking permit

Residents can obtain a parking pass for \$28.25. The pass is good for any of the designated municipal parking lots.

There is a limit of one pass per address but the pass is transferrable from vehicle to vehicle. To obtain your pass, visit town hall at 30 Lewis Street, Monday to Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

## 211 can help

Are you looking for information about programs and services in the community? Check out [www.211ontario.ca](http://www.211ontario.ca) online or telephone 2-1-1.

211 is a trustworthy source for information and services to deal with life's challenges. You can access 211's services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## Tax bill

Enclosed with this newsletter is your tax bill. If your bill indicates a balance forward, it's important to note that interest has been calculated to the current billing date. Interest will be applied on the prior year's balance only at 1.25 % on the first day of each month thereafter. Council has waived the interest on the 2020 interim tax bill at this time. For further information on the final billing, please visit [www.wasagabeach.com](http://www.wasagabeach.com).

## E-Billing

To sign up for e-billing for tax and water bills, please e-mail: [ebilling@wasagabeach.com](mailto:ebilling@wasagabeach.com). Please include the following information:

- 1) Your municipal address;
- 2) Your name and telephone number;
- 3) Your e-mail must come from the e-mail address that you would like the bill sent to.

## Paying your bill

Payments can be made the following ways:

- 1) In person at town hall, 30 Lewis St., Monday to Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- 2) Use our drop box beside the front door (cheques only).
- 3) Payments can be mailed to the address indicated on your bill.
- 4) At most financial institutions.
- 5) Through online banking.
- 6) Pre-authorized payment plan.

## Mayor's Message

Supporting our community through the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a top priority for your council and staff.

We recently established the Business Recovery Task Force to determine how the town can help businesses and organizations recover from partial or full closures since mid-March.

Part of the task force's job is to consult with stakeholders in our community, building on the work already done by the Economic Development Department.

This consultation took place recently in the form of surveys on our community engagement website and through one-on-one conversations.

Staff are now reviewing all of the findings of the consultation. They will bring a report to council in the near future on how the municipality can best help.

In the meantime, we are rolling out a campaign encouraging our community to support local businesses.

The intent is to remind everyone in our town of local shopping options before considering online out-of-town choices, or travelling to other communities to buy items.

We all win when we shop local. Small business owners can maintain local jobs and potentially create new ones.

In addition, business owners can reinvest in their operations in a number of ways: offering more goods and services, physical expansion, and support for non-profit community organizations.

If we do not have a healthy business environment, it is hard to expect our business community to support minor sports, school fundraisers, and other important aspects of local life.

I encourage you to consider shopping local at all times when you can. We all win in Wasaga Beach when we shop local.

Throughout the pandemic, your town council has looked for ways to make life easier for everyone.



Let me share with you some examples.

We are allowing portable signage on business properties – a permit is required through town hall – on a temporary basis for marketing purposes, and we have a dedicated business information page on our COVID-19 site chalk full of information from various sources.

For our residents, we continue to offer virtual programs online through our social media platforms.

I am happy to say that on Monday, June 8 we were finally able to reopen some town facilities to the public. Specifically, town hall, public works, fire station 1, and the RecPlex office. While we are not offering any on-site programs, people are welcome in our buildings to conduct business.

With the opening of the economy, I am pleased to say staff are busy providing the services the public expects. Activity has picked up and staff are responding to the challenge. On behalf of council, I once again want to thank staff for their dedication and professionalism. We are truly fortunate to have so many talented and committed individuals helping move our community forward.

Development activity continues, too. Recently we approved a draft plan of subdivision for Elm Developments in the east end of town. They plan to build 58 condominium-style homes, south of River Road West, east of Village Gate Drive.

We also approved a draft plan of subdivision for 3219 Mosley St. The applicant plans to build 10 single-detached homes.

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## Check out our online programs

The Wasaga Beach Public Library, as well as the Recreation, Events and Facilities Department are providing online programs through their social media channels.

You can learn more about library programs by visiting the library website at [www.wasagabeach.library.on.ca](http://www.wasagabeach.library.on.ca) or the library's Facebook page. For details about Recreation, Events and Facilities programs visit their departmental page on [www.wasagabeach.com](http://www.wasagabeach.com) or the department's Facebook page.

## Our COVID-19 information page your local resource

Throughout the pandemic, our COVID-19 information page has been your one-stop location for details about the town's response to this health crisis.

As well, the page contains extensive information from other sources, including the Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit, Government of Ontario, and Government of Canada. In addition are resources for our local business community.

You can find the page at [www.wasagabeach.com](http://www.wasagabeach.com). Stay tuned, too. We will soon be launching a new page with resources that support the reopening of our local economy.

## Open Fires By-law

The Town of Wasaga Beach would like to remind its residents and visitors of the "open fires" by-law.

Property owners are not required to obtain a permit, however, the by-law rules must be followed to ensure fire and health safety.

- Only dry seasoned firewood shall be burned (no rubbish or yard waste).
- Smoke from the fire is your responsibility; do not allow smoke to interfere with others enjoyment of their property.
- A fire shall only be set in an outdoor burning device complete with a spark arrester.
- Fire shall be less than 1 metre in diameter and ½ metre in height.
- A minimum of 4 metres from any combustible material must be maintained (i.e. structures, fence, trees etc.).
- Each fire shall be supervised by a responsible adult with access to adequate means of extinguishment (i.e. garden hose, bucket of water etc.).

Failure to adhere to these rules may result in fines or the removal of your burning privileges.

The full open fires by-law can be found on [www.wasagabeach.com](http://www.wasagabeach.com).

## Mayor's Message continued...

At 45th Street, we directed staff to process an application from Canadian Tire Properties Inc. that will accommodate a new restaurant and drive-thru on the Canadian Tire property.

Beachfront redevelopment work continues as well. We are investing \$39,000 on a parking study for the beachfront area, between Spruce Street,

Third Street, Mosley Street, and Beach Drive. The study will help us plan the infrastructure required for parking in this part of our community.

As you can see, we continue to move Wasaga Beach forward and I look forward to sharing more news with you soon.

**Nina Bifulchi is mayor of Wasaga Beach.**

## New transit benches for community

Creative Outdoor has installed 35 new benches at transit stops in Wasaga Beach.

The Town of Wasaga Beach awarded the company a five-year contract in January following a Request for Proposal process.

Creative Outdoor, a Canadian company, holds contracts with more than 300 transit clients throughout North America and is an industry leader.

The company is providing the benches and their installation at no cost to the municipality.

In exchange for the right to supply and

install the benches on municipal property, as well as provide advertising space on them, the company will provide the town \$39,690 over the life of the agreement.

Through its contract with the town, the company is installing its Lexington model bench, billed as a rugged all-weather model ideal for the various types of weather in Wasaga Beach. The bench also meets provincial accessibility requirements.

"Corrosive-free and maintenance-free, the Lexington is constructed with high-strength heavy steel and aluminum that is coated with thermoplastic PVC," the company said. "The Lexington is the strongest, most durable thermoplastic-coated bench on the market today."



On May 27, in celebration of National Access Awareness Week, May 31 to June 6, Mayor Nina Bifulchi, deputy clerk Laura Borland, and Councillor Mark Kinney took part in a flag-raising and proclamation reading at town hall. We look forward to when regulations allow gatherings so that larger groups can participate in flag-raising and proclamation events.

## Town moving forward with important infrastructure projects

Council awarded a \$221,063 contract to Tatham Engineering to administer the geometric improvements and water main installation project on Veterans Way and Klondike Park Road.

Members of council awarded the contract following a competitive RFP process.

"The geometric improvements on Veterans Way, as well as the intersection of Veterans Way and Klondike Park Road, will address safety concerns of the town," director of public works Kevin Lalonde said in a staff report. "The water main installation limits will extend from its current termination, south of Fernbrook Drive, to the northwest corner of the Klondike Sports Park. The system extension and upgrade becomes essential when the town commissions the fourth municipal well at the Jenetta Street well site."

Lalonde added that as per the 2018 Water

Distribution System Model Update, the well upgrade is estimated to be required in 2032, based on projected water demands.

"The intent of merging the road geometric improvements and the water main installation into one contract is to reduce the net cost to the town as there would be overlap of effort in terms of administration and construction, including grading and repaving," Lalonde noted. The town will advertise the tender for construction in June.

## Meeting agendas

Visit our website at [www.wasagabeach.com](http://www.wasagabeach.com) to learn about upcoming meetings of council and committees. You can even subscribe to receive notifications of new agendas ready for viewing.

Our website includes minutes of past meetings. Questions about a meeting? Call our Clerk's Department at 705-429-3844, ext. 2224.