



**PORT COLBORNE**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## Nickel Beach ready to open just in time for summer

**Port Colborne, ON (June 18, 2020)** — On Friday, June 26, 2020, Nickel Beach will be reopening, just in time for summer. In an effort to keep the residents and visitors safe, staff has implemented changes to Nickel Beach operations for the 2020 season.

What can residents and visitors expect this season?

### **Hours of operation**

Monday – Thursday - 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Friday – Sunday (and holiday's – Wed. July 1; Mon. Aug. 6, and Mon. Sept. 7) - 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

### **Beachfront parking fees**

The City of Port Colborne will not be selling 2020 seasonal passes for beachfront parking. Beachfront parking for cars, motorcycles and ATV's will be limited to day pass sales for all interested beach goers under a resident and non-resident fee structure.

Niagara residents will continue to pay the current fee structure of \$15, Monday – Friday, and \$20 on weekends and holiday Monday's.

The non-Niagara resident fee for beachfront parking is \$50 throughout the week, Monday through Sunday.

Cash will be accepted for all daily pass sales; however, beach goers are encouraged to bring exact payment of fees to limit as much cash handling as possible.

Beach goers can walk on to Nickel Beach for free.

This seasonal fee structure may be subject to change beyond the 2020 operating season.

### **Daily beach capacity**

There will be a limit for total capacity on the beach daily, in order to ensure the safety of all beach goers. As natural factors, such as lake levels, affect the beachfronts total usable space on a daily basis, staff will monitoring beach use and overall spacing available to beach goers. Therefore, it is likely that total capacity may vary.

For those paying for beachfront parking, staff will be spacing cars from one another to ensure physical distancing is maintained and that there is always a usable beach footprint for both walk-on visitors and those visiting by water.



**Alternative parking**

As there will be limitations on the daily numbers of beachfront parking passes sold, the City of Port Colborne is permitting walk-on beach goers to park along the south side of Lake Road on a temporary basis for the 2020 season, without being subject to parking violation fees. All vehicles parked on the north side of Lake Road, or anywhere else that obstructs Lake Road, will be subject to parking violation fees.

**Washroom facilities**

There will be public access to washroom facilities and hand sanitation stations on the beachfront. Signage at the entrance of the washroom facility will outline reminders for physical distancing, proper handwashing/hand sanitizing, and one-person occupancy limits to help limit the spread of COVID-19. Beach goers are to use public washrooms at their own risk, however, in accordance with public health guidelines, washrooms will be cleaned twice per day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon.

**What you can bring to Nickel Beach**

Personal hand sanitizer, towels, water toys, a cooler with snacks and non-alcoholic drinks, umbrellas for shade.

**What to leave at home**

Alcohol, cigarettes and cannabis (smoking is not permitted in municipal parks), dogs, and horses.

**Playground equipment**

Under Provincial guidelines the playground equipment at Nickel Beach will remain closed until further notice.

**Beach water testing**

Niagara Region Public Health has resumed [beach testing](#), and starting Friday, June 26, 2020, results will be posted [online](#). Beach water testing information is also available through the beach hotline at 905-688-8248 ext. 7789 (or 1-888-505-6074). A reminder for attendees that the unsafe for swimming warning signs are no longer posted onsite at the beaches.

**Niagara Region Public Health**

Anyone taking advantage of Nickel Beach is to follow the [best practices](#) as outlined by Niagara Region Public Health to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our community. These include frequent washing/sanitization of hands, physical separation, avoiding touching



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of shared surfaces, and staying home if displaying symptoms or having been in contact with cases of the virus.

**Enforcement**

By-law enforcement staff will be patrolling Nickel Beach twice daily to enforce physical distancing. Nickel Beach staff will also be monitoring attendees' compliance of physical distancing and public health guidelines. Staff have also advised Niagara Regional Police Services of Nickel Beach's opening and will be making efforts to attend regularly.

If beach attendees do not comply with regulations outlined by staff and public health the City is prepared to proceed with reinstating the closure of Nickel Beach. We all have a responsibility to be both healthy and safe while we PORTicipate this summer.

**More information**

For more information about recreation and park amenities open and/or closed in Port Colborne amid COVID-19, visit [www.portcolborne.ca/page/covid-19/RecreationandParks](http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/covid-19/RecreationandParks).

For more information about COVID-19 and City updates, visit [www.portcolborne.ca/page/covid-19](http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/covid-19).

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