



Township of Wainfleet

"Wainfleet - find your country side!"

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – May 21, 2021

Wainfleet Plans “Heavy” Enforcement on May 24 Weekend

Wainfleet, ON – With the summer season now underway, Wainfleet officials will be taking a dim view of those who would disregard their by-laws this May long weekend.

After months of planning and collaboration, Wainfleet Council has taken steps to address what has been a growing issue in the Township with the illegal and improper conduct of some visitors to the area, including public indecency, illegal fires, street racing, and illegal parking in fire routes and on local streets.

The past several months have seen Council raise fines for illegal parking from \$30 to \$100 wherever posted. The move, initiated by Councillor John McLellan, won unanimous support from Council. Public safety concerns led Council to designate road allowances from Lakeshore Road leading south to beach areas as 'Emergency Routes' which carry an increased fine of \$175.

Township staff have also been partnering with local agencies such as the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) and the Niagara Regional Police (NRP) to address issues in the municipality.

In a joint news release with the NPCA earlier today, Wainfleet Mayor Kevin Gibson referred to “an effective partnership with government and government agencies” intended to reduce impacts on local residents. “The Niagara Regional Police have assembled a special unit for Beach Patrols which is being deployed this season,” he said.

The new measures from Council are part of a wider plan to see increased and more coordinated enforcement from the Township, the NRP and the NPCA this weekend and going forward. These measures will include patrols from By-law Enforcement and Parking Enforcement, Rapid Response from Wainfleet Fire and Emergency Services, on-site security from the NPCA and increased patrols from the Niagara Regional Police.

The NPCA today officially authorized both Wainfleet By-law Enforcement and Wainfleet Fire and Emergency Services as agents for enforcing all regulations of the Conservation Authorities Act (R.R.O. 1990, Regulation 109) and Trespass to Property Act and other applicable Provincial Acts on Wainfleet Wetlands Conservation Area. The authorizations also noted specific prohibitions on the use of motorized vehicles on NPCA lands, as well as open fires, alcohol and drugs.

A recent incident in Wainfleet's Oakwood cemetery has also drawn the ire of Wainfleet Council, who already installed enhanced signage and will be following up with strict enforcement, putting local towing companies on standby if needed this weekend.

Mayor Gibson said the increased measures will happen largely in the background and have little to no impact to residents and the vast majority of visitors who enjoy the Township's amenities each year. "Most people are law-abiding and will simply stay home or enjoy those activities they are able to at this time," said Mayor Gibson. "For those however, who think they can come and disrespect our Township and its by-laws, it's going to be a costly day – we will be ticketing and we will be towing - they need to think twice."

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