



**Subject: 2022 Beach Plan**

**To: Council**

**From: Corporate Services Department**

Report Number: 2022-56

Meeting Date: March 8, 2022

---

**Recommendation:**

That Corporate Services Department Report 2022-56 be received for information.

---

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the ongoing operational planning for Nickel Beach and Centennial-Cedar Bay Beach for the 2022 season.

---

**Background:**

In 2021, Council approved a Strategic Operational Plan for public beach operations that addressed various challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as an increased volume of daily use at both beach locations. Key highlights of the Operational Plan for Nickel Beach included limiting capacity to 150 parking spaces daily for non-Port Colborne residents, prohibiting all parking along Lake Rd., as well as implementing online ticketing technology that required patrons to purchase parking passes in advance.

Parking and security were operationalized at Centennial-Cedar Bay Beach by limiting capacity to 20 parking spaces for residents of the Niagara Region only. All other space within Centennial-Cedar Bay Park were reserved for Port Colborne residents.

The implementation of a “PORTicipate” pass was approved by Council for permanent residents of Port Colborne. This enabled residents to visit either beach location at no cost, and without having to register access times in advance.

Council also approved several capital projects for beach enhancements in the 2022 Capital Budget. Included within these projects were repairs and maintenance to existing perimeter fencing as identified in the land lease with Vale Canada Limited, a decommissioning and repurposing of the old washroom building, the design and purchase of new mobile washroom stations, and staff/first aid refuge.

---

## **Discussion:**

As a result of the efficiencies experienced in 2021, staff are preparing to once again implement the same Operational Plan in 2022 with the following updates:

### **Nickel Beach**

- Daily parking capacity for non-Port Colborne residents increased from 150 to 200.
- Introduction of a Seasonal Niagara Weekday Pass. Sales will begin in 2022, this pass will allow permanent residents of Niagara outside of Port Colborne to access the beach without advance registration any time from Monday – Thursday (excluding Holidays). A limit of 100 passes will be sold.

### **Centennial-Cedar Bay Beach**

- No residency-based restriction on access to limited parking spaces for non-Port Colborne residents (open to residents outside of the Niagara Region).
- Align parking pass sales with Nickel Beach and utilize the same online ticketing software to require advance purchase online for non-Port Colborne residents

### **PORTicipate Pass**

- Residents will continue to have free access to beaches without advance registration in 2022. Staff highlight that a separate report will be brought forward to Council detailing enhanced programming initiatives and incentives that will be added to the PORTicipate pass in 2022 and beyond.

### **Capital Projects Status**

- Staff anticipate that the fencing project at Nickel Beach will start as soon as the ground thaws this spring. With the overall length, and scope of work associated with the fencing project along the beach property, work may extend into the operational season, however, staff will ensure if this is the case that disruption to patrons is minimal to none.
- The old washroom facility is targeted for demolition prior to the start of the season so that the old pad can accommodate a food vending operation.

- The RFP for the new mobile washroom units and staff/first aid refuge was awarded to Turkstra Modular Builders Inc. based in Beamsville. Turkstra is currently finalizing the official drawings for the units and construction has started on all trailer base frames.

Staff identify to Council that, although all of the above projects have been set for completion prior to opening operations on the Victoria Day weekend, setbacks to completion may be experienced as a result of supply shortages and demands brought forward by COVID-19.

### **Third-Party Beach Enhancements**

Both Splashtown Niagara's inflatable water park, and Big Pappi's food truck have confirmed that they will be opening operations in 2022 at Nickel beach. Both of these operations were targeted to open in the 2020 season but were sidelined during the Pandemic.

---

### **Internal Consultations:**

Staff continue to have open dialogue with departments that support seasonal beach operations.

---

### **Financial Implications:**

Staff are not forecasting any change to the beach budget as presented through the 2022 Levy Budget, Report 2021-275.

---

### **Strategic Plan Alignment:**

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar(s) of the strategic plan:

- Service and Simplicity - Quality and Innovative Delivery of Customer Services
  - Attracting Business Investment and Tourists to Port Colborne
  - City-Wide Investments in Infrastructure and Recreational/Cultural Spaces
- 

### **Conclusion:**

That Corporate Services Department Report 2022-56 be received.

Respectfully submitted,

Blair Holinaty  
Supervisor, Recreation & Marina  
(905)-835-2900 Ext. 538  
Blair.Holinaty@portcolborne.ca

**Report Approval:**

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.