



**Subject: Parking and Traffic – Access to Lake from Road Ends**

**To: Council**

**From: Community Safety & Enforcement Department**

Report Number: 2021-109

Meeting Date: April 12, 2021

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**Recommendation:**

That Community Safety and Enforcement Department Report 2021-109 be received;

That the Parking Prohibition Certificate attached as Appendix A to Community Safety and Enforcement Department Report 2021-109 be approved; and

That Council approve moving forward with Option 3 identified under the Financial Implications section of Community Safety and Enforcement Department Report 2021-109.

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**Purpose:**

This report will provide an update regarding the parking restrictions around the beach ends along the rural road allowances; as well as respond to Councillor Bodner's inquiry at the March 22, 2021 Council meeting regarding prohibited parking on the fire lanes.

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**Background:**

The Community and Economic Development Department hired a consultant to review the beach ends and determine a feasible plan to handle the parking in the area, among other issues. However, with another COVID beach season coming soon, City of Port Colborne staff would like to be in a position to handle the potential influx of traffic and parking and ensure that proper signage is in place to enforce any and all parking restrictions.

Currently, there are 14 legal on-street parking stalls on Pleasant Beach Road and nine on Wyldewood Road with ten permit parking stalls and one accessible stall. All other roads listed in this report would have no on-street parking.

Currently, there are 6 firelanes owned by the City of Port Colborne and 23 that are private. Most firelanes are narrow and treelined, which makes erecting signage difficult. Parking on firelanes is not regulated by the City's Parking By-law and the City is not responsible for signage on firelanes. City staff are not in the practice of installing no parking signs on these lanes and do not actively enforce parking on firelanes. The City's Fire Route By-law requires that residents of firelanes maintain clear access to firelanes for emergency service vehicles – including keeping the travelled portion of the firelane free from parked vehicles.

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## **Discussion:**

### Road Ends

Staff have reviewed the area and will implement the Parking Prohibition Certificate similar to last year, with a few minor changes, such as from May 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> inclusive and the prohibited parking restrictions will be from beach end to the Friendship Trail, (excluding those with allowable parking areas) and will not extend to the main crossroad (Highway No. 3 or Killaly Street E). Restricting parking to the Friendship Trail on Pleasant Beach Road, Wyldewood Road, Silver Bay Road, Cedar Bay Road, Pinecrest Road, Weaver Road, and Lorraine Road, as well as restricting parking on Vimy Ridge Road and Lake Road to the beach gate will require 400 signs to be erected. June Road, Merkel Road and a limited number of firelanes are not included in the sign inventory. If Council wishes to restrict to the main crossroads, an additional 195 signs would be required. Staff estimate that 400 tow away tabs and 400 time limiting tabs will also be required.

If permanent restrictions are the desire of Council, Parking and Traffic By-law 89-2000 as amended, will need to be further amended to schedule "C2" to prohibit parking and establish these areas as a tow away which will increase the fines for parking in these areas to \$160.

### Firelanes

Based on Council direction at past meetings, staff explored the requirements to regulate parking on firelanes in the City including the six City-owned firelanes and the private firelanes. Firelanes 1 to 29 were reviewed and 394 signs would be required to be implemented. 45 "no parking" signs and 349 "no parking fire route" signs would be required. If permanent restrictions were the desire of Council, amendments to Parking and Traffic By-law 89-2000, as amended would require further amendments as well as Fire Route By-law 5062/117/07 as amended. By-law Enforcement Officers have not observed a problem with visitors to area beaches parking on private firelanes, however there have been some reports of cottage renters with a number of cars parking close to

the travelled portion of the firelanes. As such, staff do not recommend implementing parking enforcement on firelanes at this time.

If permanent restrictions are the desire of Council, amendments to Parking and Traffic By-law 89-2000, as amended, would require further amendments as well as Fire Route By-law 5062/117/07, as amended. Staff direction is required to pursue this course of action.

Another option to regulate parking on firelanes is for staff to review the legalities of posting at the entrance to each firelane, similar to the Regional signage stating “no parking between 2am and 6am” upon entering city limits.

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## **Internal Consultations:**

Discussions have taken place with Community Safety and Enforcement, Public Works, and Corporate Services to determine a feasible and workable solution to the potential parking and beach issues.

### Public Works' Comments:

Public Works have reviewed the workload and investigated the costs of completing the proposed sign installations. All new signposts would require locates to be conducted before any poles can be planted. This legislated requirement may delay the placement of poles/signs for several weeks, dependant on the workload of the locator. There is no cost for locates.

On average, once locates are completed, staff would be able to install 20 signs per day which would equate to 20-30 working days dependant upon Council approving the restriction from the Lake to the Friendship Trail, or from the Lake to Killaly Street East/ Highway No. 3 respectively. Dedicating staff for a timeframe of 20-30 working days to the installation of new signage will either delay or reduce the service level that the Roads Team provides on an annual basis. The programs that would be impacted by this work will include the shouldering program, grass cutting program, line painting program, general spring road maintenance and cleaning the downtown sidewalks. Staff feel confident that this work can still be completed but Council should be aware that the delay of these annual services is highly probable.

As an alternative, should Council not accept a delay in the services mentioned above, a Contractor could be hired to preinstall base posts into the ground. City staff would then focus strictly on the above ground works which will greatly reduce the amount of time needed to dedicate internal employees to this initiative. Although staff are confident that this work can be completed internally this is an alternative methodology to ensure annual services completed by the Roads Team are not delayed.

### Fire & Emergency Services Comments:

Fire & Emergency Services have reviewed and have no objections to the proposed parking restrictions.

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### **Financial Implications:**

The funding to implement the partial signage or full signage will be funded by the COVID relief funding. The costs below reference material costs and contractor costs. Labour costs to install signs by the City is not included in the costs below.

The cost for the implementation of signage are as follows:

#### **Option #1 – Signs on Temporary Wood Bases from the Lake to Killaly Street East/Highway No. 3**

Cost to complete work internally: \$76,000 (includes purchase of temporary wood bases and posts)

#### **Option #2 – Permanent Signs and Posts from the Lake to Killaly Street East/Highway No. 3**

Cost to complete work internally: \$41,000

Additional cost for contractor to supplement internal staff: \$14,000

#### **Option #3 – Permanent Signs and Posts from the Lake to the Friendship Trail**

Cost to complete work internally: \$32,000

Additional cost for contractor to supplement internal staff: \$11,000

#### **Cost to Replace Stolen Signs and Posts from 2020**

Cost to complete work internally: \$7,000

Staff will request an increase to the 2022 operating budget in order to accommodate an increase in the replacement of these signs in the future.

Depending on the type of signage to be acquired and installed, staff would have to review and advise Council, as the funding to implement the restricted parking on all the firelanes would need to be budgeted. The timing and installation would be determined by available staffing or contractors.

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### **Public Engagement:**

This report has been prepared to advise City Council of staff plans to administer parking, litter, and public access to lakefront road allowances for the summer season.

As Council is aware, Sierra Planning and Management is currently conducting a strategic review of these road allowances to help the City plan the appropriate future operation of these road allowances for residents and visitors – this is a separate initiative. Sierra Planning and Management presented to Council in January of 2021 and is planning to present a further update of the project at the April 26, 2021 Council Meeting.

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### **Conclusion:**

Staff is seeking direction regarding Council's desire to implement restrictive parking limits on the roads that lead to the lake and firelanes, and if such signage would be installed via staff or contractors.

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### **Appendices:**

- a. Prohibition Certificate
- b. Aerial map of area with limit of restrictions

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Hanson, C.P.S.O.  
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### **Report Approval:**

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