

Sound Opportunities

July 2017 • Newsletter

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SOAP BOX RACING COMES TO PARRY SOUND

The Town of Parry Sound is thrilled to announce the hosting of the Parry Sound Soap Box Derby later this year. The Derby, happening on September 16, will pit competitors against one another, as they pilot their homemade soap box cars down the streets of Parry Sound in a race for the championship trophy.

“It’s something new and exciting that we think will be enjoyed by Parry Sounders of all ages,” said Community Recreation Programs Coordinator for the Town, Brad Weiler. “The idea behind the Derby is to offer something fun and unique that will engage residents and visitors on a number of levels. People can spectate, volunteer, or even register to build a car and race – it’s really a collaboration among the community.”

The Derby will be open to competitors ages 8 and up, who build or assist in building their own race cars. The Derby will also feature a 19+ race class for the young at heart who don’t want to miss out on the action.

Soap Box Derby registrations are now being accepted at the Town Office at 52 Seguin Street. Those who are interested in participating are encouraged to visit www.parrysound.ca/soapboxderby for details on the race, rules, and how to register.

For more information on the Parry Sound Soap Box Derby, and other exciting events in Town, please visit www.parrysound.ca or contact Brad Weiler at 705-746-2101 ext. 227.



Town of Parry Sound

52 Seguin Street
Parry Sound
ON Canada P2A 1B4

www.parrysound.ca
Telephone: 705-746-2101
Fax: 705-746-7461



Events

Eat Around the Sound gbbr.ca	Jun. 27, Aug. 7, Sep. 23	Painted Paddle Silent Auction psdba.ca	Ends July 29
Summer Market psaca.ca	Tuesdays, June 27- Aug. 29	Festival of the Sound festivalofthesound.ca	July 21- August 13
Canada Day in Parry Sound parrysound.ca	July 1	Georgian Bay Craft Sale psdba.ca	July 29
'Pearl Mist' in Port pearlseascruises.com	July 6, 17, 26, Aug. 6, 17, 20 & 31	BAGS Junior Golf Tournament bags.on.ca	Aug. 1&2
Splash in the Sound! sailparrysound.on.ca	July 8	Downtown Car Show psdba.ca	August 19
Handbags for Hospice parrysoundhospice.ca	July 12	'Victory 1' in Port victorycruiselines.com	Aug. 25
Art in the Park psaca.ca	July 14-16	Films that Make You Think gbbr.ca	Sept. 12 & Oct. 10
Library-Kids & Adult Programming parrysoundlibrary.com	Various Dates	Soapbox Derby parrysound.ca	September 16

Adult Drop-In Programs (16+)

Beach Volley Ball - Waubuno Beach
Tuesdays, June 6- Aug, 29, 7:15 pm -8:30 pm
Cost: \$1

Senior Drop-In Programs

Bocce Ball - Waubuno Beach
Wednesdays, Jun. 7-Aug. 30, 9:00 am- 11:00 am
Cost: Free!

Shuffle Board - Bobby Orr Community Centre
Thursdays, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
Cost: \$1

Pickle Ball - Bobby Orr Community Centre
Tuesdays, Jun. 6- Aug. 22, 9:00 am- 11:00 am
Cost: \$1

Youth Programs

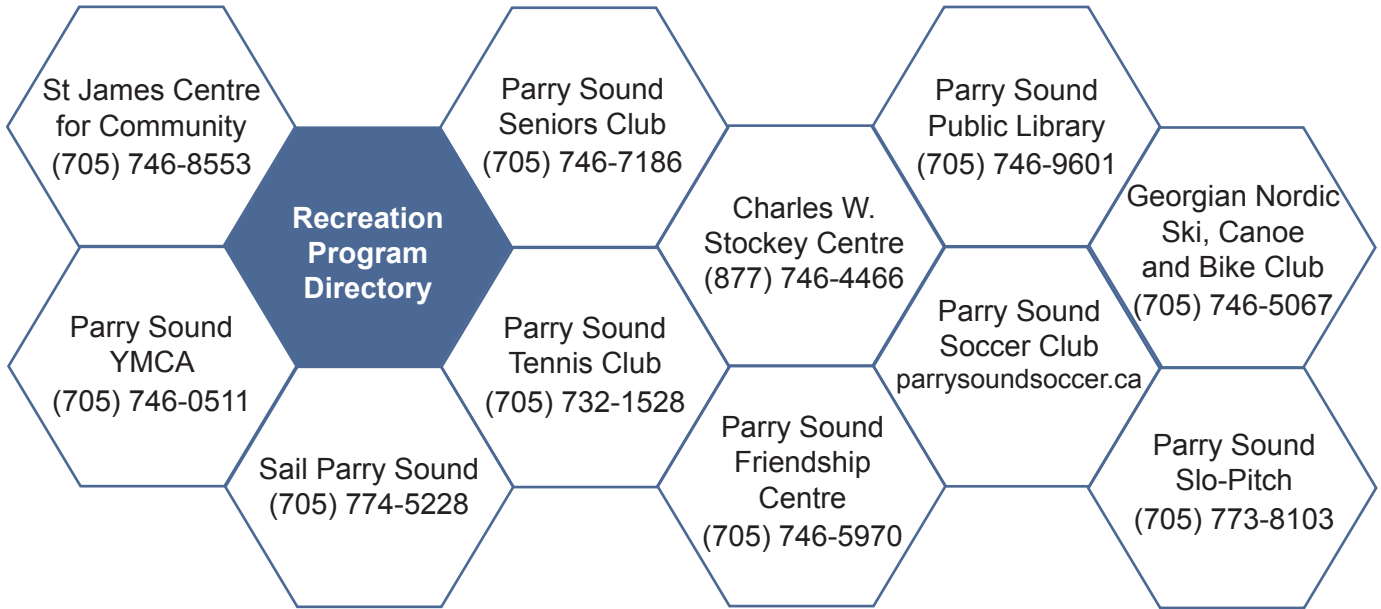
Beach Volley Ball (Drop In) - Waubuno Beach
Tuesdays, Jun. 6 – Aug. 29, 5:45 pm - 7:00 pm
Cost: \$1

Swim Program - Waubuno Beach
For all ages and abilities
Cost : \$55 for Town of Parry Sound residents
Register:
- Jun. 24 -Aug. 12 at Waubuno Beach
(705) 774-9779

For more information about programs visit:
parrysound.ca/recreation



Recreation Program Directory



SAFE BEACHES

Signs posted at municipal beaches advise of conditions that may affect water.



During June, July and August, public health inspectors are out testing water at municipal beaches throughout our district. Feel free to talk to them about water quality concerns, or phone 705-474-1400 ext. 2400 or 1-800-563-2808 for information.

Email: environmental.health@nbpsdhu.ca

www.myhealthunit.ca

North Bay Parry Sound District
Health Unit

Bureau de santé
du district de North Bay-Parry Sound

Changes to Tax Sales Process

On May 30, 2017 the Province of Ontario passed the Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017. This act changes certain legislation in the Municipal Act, 2001 City of Toronto Act, 2006 and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

One of the significant changes impacts when a municipality may begin the tax registration process for potential tax sales. Previously, if a property had any outstanding taxes into the third year on January 1 (for example all of 2016, all of 2015 and any of 2014) then the Town could start the tax registration process which leads to a tax sale of the property. Effective May 30, 2017 the act has reduced this period to two years. Therefore, on January 1, 2017 if you owe all of 2016 and any of 2015 you could be subject to tax registration.

The tax registration process remains substantially the same as under the old act, however the waiting period for the Town has been reduced. A reminder that the Town issues taxes twice per year with due dates in March, May, August and October. Residents have the option to enroll in the pre-authorized payment plan which takes the taxes automatically 10 months of the year (rather than four payments).

For more information please contact Rob Beaumont or Tanya Bolwerk in the Finance Department.

Town of Parry Sound 911 Request

The West Parry Sound Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to 67 calls of 9-1-1 between January 1, 2017 and March 31, 2017 within the Town of Parry Sound. This is a 6.3 % increase compared to 63 calls during the same period in 2016.

Of those 67 calls, 51 or 76 % were calls placed of a non-emergent nature. These non-emergent calls consist of "Pocket Dials", accidental dials and children playing with phones. The OPP is mandated to respond to all 9-1-1 calls for service to promote public safety and security.

The West Parry Sound OPP would like to remind everyone that **9-1-1 are for emergencies ONLY** and offer some tips to avoid unnecessary calls:

1. Lock mobile phones or place them on "stand-by" by using the keypad lock feature. If your mobile has a 9-1-1 auto-dial feature, you may be able to disable it. Check the user manual to see if your phone has the ability;
2. Don't program 9-1-1 into your speed dial. It only takes a second to dial 9-1-1;
3. Do not place your cell phone in a position where keys can accidentally dial.
Use a case or holster to protect it when you put it away;
4. Do not let children play with a household phone or old cell phones. If a phone has a battery in it, even if it is out of minutes or does not have a contract or service, it can still dial 9-1-1.

**The OPP reminds you that 1-888-310-1122 is available 24/7
for non-emergency calls for service in Ontario.**

Water Rates

Town staff often hear concerns from citizens regarding the water and wastewater rates. This subject can be quite complicated, however a basic overview follows.

Water and wastewater services are self-funding, property tax dollars are not used to fund these services, therefore rates need to adjust to cover the costs of the system (both operating and capital). Several years ago the Province passed new water guidelines which require that the Town have a financial plan to fully fund the water system. In 2012, the Town passed the rate bylaw setting water and wastewater rates to 2020 based on an external consultant's report. It should be noted that recent data has shown that our water and wastewater operations are fully funded by the water and wastewater rates, and are sufficient to provide for the replacement of existing water and wastewater infrastructure. Of the 12 municipalities in North Eastern Ontario with a population above 4,500 with a water system, only 7 are bringing in sufficient user fees to fund their systems, the others are under funded. As well, larger municipalities have the benefit of spreading the fixed costs of operating their facilities over a larger customer base. The Town is subject to the same quality standards as other municipalities, however we have a smaller customer base through which to fund the service.

Like many municipalities, the Town has aging infrastructure which requires replacing. In 2009, when municipalities began recognizing their assets in financial statements, it became clear that there was a growing gap between what municipalities needed to replace in the future and what they were funding for. The cost to replace this infrastructure increases every year, the estimated replacement value for all of the Town's assets is over \$290 million which is over double the historical cost of the assets. Some of the infrastructure in the ground is over 70 years old and is approaching its replacement date. It is more fiscally responsible to replace large sections of old pipe than to constantly return and make repairs (thus why you have seen large infrastructure renewal projects over the last 3 years).

As a municipality in the Province of Ontario, other than the City of Toronto, the Town is only allowed to levy property taxes. We do not have the ability to levy income taxes, sales taxes etc. The Town is able to charge user rates, such as water rates, when the service provided can be tracked to an individual level. Many of our services cannot be broken out to the individual level, which results in their costs being included in the tax levy. Provincial grants have been significantly decreasing over the last decade which further increases the responsibility for funding the services to the municipal ratepayer.

The Town is currently reviewing the water rate structure to determine if it is the best approach for the needs of our ratepayers. Staff will be bringing a report to Council with a recommended rate structure; a public consultation process will occur before any changes are finalized.

Strategic Priorities Setting Meeting

Council held its second annual Strategic Priorities Setting Meeting, May 30th. A number of potential projects involving private property were discussed in Closed followed by a live-streamed Open Council meeting.

Key projects were discussed and prioritized including:

- **Great North Rd. / Champagne St. Infrastructure** – rated very highly
In follow up to last year's Strategic Priorities Meeting, engineers have been engaged for the past several months carrying out engineering design work for replacement of infrastructure along Great North Rd. and Champagne St. The engineering work is to be done so that when development on the waterfront materializes, the actual infrastructure work can start relatively quickly.
- **Parry Sound Rd. Extension to Oastler Park Drive** – rated very highly
Council reaffirmed the long-term importance of planning for the extension of the road by directing that the pre-engineering study that was started be completed. Significant waterfront development will have to be started or committed to before the road extension estimated to cost \$9 Million would be authorized.
- **Innovation Business Park** – rated important
Council directed that a feasibility study be undertaken by a consultant to determine whether establishing an innovation business park in Parry Sound is practicable. Terms of reference for the study will be developed and a call for proposals made. Senior Government funding for the study will be pursued.
- **Tourism** – rated important
There has been much emphasis over the years on 'diversifying from tourism' so our local economy isn't so dependent on this one economic driver. The West Parry Sound Area Municipalities undertook a Tourism Study in 2016 but couldn't agree on implementation. Some tourism related initiatives underway by the Town include the Visitor Information Centre at the Stockey Centre, establishing a Tourism Steering Committee and partnership with Explorers' Edge.

Next steps are to build the feedback from Council into the 2018 Budget and 10 Year Capital Budget Forecast. Council's first budget meeting will likely be held in September.

Façade Improvement Program

The Council for the Town of Parry Sound has budgeted \$25,000 for the façade improvement program this year. The purpose of this program is to allow business operators the chance to improve the face of their building. Either a property owner or a business operator are able to apply.

The program provides a 50/50 cost sharing between the Town and business owner/operator. Most commercial facades, signs, landscaping and exterior improvements are eligible for consideration.

Advertisement for the program is expected to be released this summer. Stay tuned for details and please contact Taylor Elgie at the Town if you require any further details
- telgie@townofparrysound.com – 705-746-2101.

Beautification of our Town

The Town of Parry Sound has announced a new initiative, celebrating and recognizing the community members who contribute to the beautification of our Town through the spring and summer months. The Parry Sound in Bloom contest is the latest addition to a series of neighbourhood competitions aimed at enhancing the civic beauty of Parry Sound.

Parry Sound in Bloom will recognize the outstanding efforts and achievements of front-yard gardens in 1 of 3 categories: general, natural and edible. “The general category recognizes those gardens that are simply pleasing to the eye. The natural gardens feature plant species that are native to the area and attract local wildlife and insects, while the edible gardens feature edible plants, flowers and leaves,” said Brad Weiler, Community Recreation Programs Coordinator for the Town. “The Town wants to offer recognition to the local residents who create these beautiful gardens, and in doing so, create more visually stunning neighbourhoods.”

Two gardens for each category will be recognized, with the top garden in each category taking home a \$250 gift certificate to the winner’s choice of local home improvement store or garden centre.

Complete contest and registration details are available at the Town Office (52 Seguin Street, Parry Sound), and online at www.parrysound.ca/psinbloom. Registered gardens will be evaluated on August 25.

The Town of Parry Sound extends its thanks to all residents who contribute to the Town’s beauty, and is looking forward to seeing the beautiful gardens and greenery once again this summer.



Made in Parry Sound

Have you met your makers? Made in Parry Sound is a grassroots collaborative made up of local makers that are trying to raise awareness about the unique and innovative things that are made in the Parry Sound area, as well as the people who make them. From cosmetics, dresses and pottery to organic fruit spreads and farm fresh meat, the products this group makes are as interesting as they are diverse. The one thing they all share is a love of place and a passion for making great products.

Last year Made in Parry Sound was started by creating a website at www.madeinparrysound.com that showcases the makers and helps visitors find more information about their products. The group recently created a showcase window downtown (next to Kitchen Cupboard) that features their work and will change regularly throughout the summer. With the new window display the group has also created a new page where you can learn more about the makers, their products and their processes – just search for Made in Parry Sound on Facebook to follow along.

To see the group's products please visit the Tuesday market or stop in to Beverley's, Westlake Cosmetics or 18 James Street for more information and to meet your local makers!

BATMAN AND THE BATMOBILE ARE COMING TO PARRY SOUND

One of the best events of the summer is the Downtown Car Show on August 19th. Classic and antique cars will fill the downtown streets and this year Batman and the Batmobile will also be attending. Wild Willie will be back playing his 50's and 60's music. For anyone interested in participating in the event, registration begins at 7am.

The annual Downtown Business Association (DBA) Silent Auction is going on now with 29 paddles and chairs out on display in downtown businesses. All of the money raised this year will be used for new Christmas decorations for Market Square Park and the downtown. The silent auction ends on July 29th at 3pm during the Georgian Bay Craft Fair. Go to the website www.downtownparry-sound.ca to see a map listing all of the locations and place a bid on your favourite item.

The annual Georgian Bay Craft Fair is July 29th from 10am-4pm. Craft and food vendors will be set up on James Street. There will be kid's activities, bouncy castles, face painting, magic shows and musicians playing.

There is lots going on downtown this summer, visit some of the new stores that have opened, stop in at the Tuesday Farmer's Market, head down to the dock to see the cruise ships, stop and listen to some of the buskers playing or just hang out in Market Square Park. Be an ambassador for the downtown and ask one of the businesses for your "Ask Me I Live Here" button.

For more information about these events and downtown businesses visit DBA website at www.downtownparrysound.ca.



Alternate formats available upon request.