



UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

A Message from our Superintendents Seasonal Campers

April 21, 2021

COVID-19 Update #2 - 2021

Stay at Home Order

On Thursday, April 8, 2021, the provincial government initiated a Stay at Home Order (O/Reg 11/21) that was scheduled to last for four weeks. On Friday, April 16, the Province extended this order for an additional two weeks and implemented more restrictions.

The current Stay at Home Order includes the following restrictions:

- People are required to not leave their homes except for essential reasons. These reasons include but are not limited to:
 - Attending work if the role is deemed essential,
 - Attending/obtaining child care services,
 - Purchasing essential items (food, medication, personal care items),
 - Helping others that require assistance,
 - Exercising.

Everyone is looking forward to beginning the 2021 camping season, but there are many questions about the impact of the provincial Stay at Home Order. Following are some highlights of the order and answers to the questions we're hearing the most. This information reflects the Stay at Home Order extension as of April 17, 2021.

- All outdoor social gatherings and organized public events are prohibited, except for with members of the same household (or one other person from outside that household who lives alone or a caregiver for any member of the household).
- Outdoor recreational amenities (golf courses, basketball courts, soccer fields, etc.) are closed, but playgrounds may remain open.
- Parks and recreational areas (including benches) and off-leash dog parks may remain open, so long as two metres physical distancing can be maintained.

Impact on Seasonal Camping

Will seasonal camping start on May 1st?

No, seasonal camping opening day will be delayed until the Stay at Home Order is lifted, which is currently scheduled for May 20, 2021.

Why are some Conservation Areas delaying opening while others aren't?

Conservation areas are operated independently by individual Conservation Authorities. Each Authority sets the operational policies for its own conservation areas.

Fanshawe, Pittock, and Wildwood Conservation Areas are operated by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA). Our management team has consulted with the UTRCA's legal representative, and concluded that the best way to comply with the provincial Stay at Home Order is to not open facilities and services, such as seasonal camping and washrooms, until the Order is lifted.

When can I register for the 2021 season?

All registration for seasonal camping is delayed until the Stay at Home Order is lifted. We are tentatively planning to register campers between May 20 and May 30 at all three conservation areas. You must register for the season by 4 pm on May 30.

This schedule assumes that the Stay at Home Order is lifted on May 20 and subsequent provincial and local health unit directives permit this type of activity.

Can I stay at my trailer during the May 20-30 registration period?

Yes, this spring we will permit people to stay at their site during the registration period.

Will the fees be adjusted to reflect the delay in opening?

Yes, similar to last year, fees will be changed to reflect the shorter season length. This also applies to the docking system at Wildwood.

When do late fees start?

If payment in full has not been completed by 4 pm on May 30, late fees will be applied and you will not be permitted to occupy the site.

Will our Winter Storage Agreement be extended?

Yes, the Winter Storage Agreement will be extended and the terms and conditions will apply, until seasonal camping begins.

Can I come out to check on my trailer?

Yes, you are welcome to check on your trailer during daylight hours. The Stay at Home Order is clear about only leaving our residences for essential reasons, but it also recognizes the need for exercise and fresh air. Some access gates remain closed but you can walk in.

Can I start to set up my site for the season?

No, the Winter Storage Agreement is still in effect and you are not permitted to set up for the season. This includes not setting up chairs, bbqs, decks, etc. Please limit your visits to brief site checks.

Can I use the water tap prior to opening day?

No, the water systems are not yet on line for the season and staff need to complete testing and sampling to ensure the water is safe to use. Please do not turn on taps or hook into the water system until opening day.

Please keep the following in mind while on UTRCA lands:

- If you are sick or feel unwell, stay home. Wait until you are better before visiting.
- If you have recently returned from outside of Canada, stay home for 14 days. Do not visit our CAs until your quarantine period is over.
- Park in designated parking areas only.
- Always maintain physical distance – at least 2 m/6 ft from other people.
- Please keep pets on leash at all times, and stoop and scoop to keep our parks clean and healthy.
- Fires are not permitted at any time when the park is closed.
- Please stay away from the reservoirs and streams, especially during high water periods.
- UTRCA Regulations and Policies are in effect and must be adhered to.

Questions?

Staff will continue to keep you informed of updates or changes to the operations of our campgrounds, via email. If you don't have email, we ask that you stay in touch with fellow campers that do, so you are receiving the most up to date information.

The public is not permitted to enter UTRCA buildings at this time. Staff availability is limited, and the easiest way to get in touch is to call the park and leave a message. Staff check for messages daily.

- Fanshawe CA: 519-951-6181 ext 367
- Pittock CA: 519-539-5088 ext 1
- Wildwood CA: 519-284-2292 ext 1434

Stay informed about COVID-19 impacts on UTRCA programs and services

- fanshaweconservationarea.ca
- pittockconservationarea.ca
- wildwoodconservationarea.ca