



A Message from our Superintendents COVID-19 Update #4: Seasonal Campers April 23, 2020

No May Opening Day

With the recent extension of the Provincial Declaration of Emergency until May 12, staff have confirmed that our conservation areas will not open at all during the month of May. This was a difficult decision to make but the health and safety of UTRCA staff and visitors remain the priority.

It takes time to prepare the campgrounds for opening and to hire and train staff. Drinking water services take time to bring on line and they must meet provincial drinking water system regulations. Other aspects, such as opening facilities, inspecting septic systems, preparing equipment, and completing reservoir risk management, all take time. As well, new procedures will need to be in place to register and pay for the season. With the current restrictions in place until mid-May, staff are not able to prepare for the season in time to open for the long weekend as we had once hoped.

Currently, the earliest the parks could open would be June 1st - but this will depend on direction from health authorities and government officials.

Seasonal Campgrounds were removed from the Provincial Non-Essential Business Listing – what does that mean?

On Friday, April 17, the Provincial government amended the order originally issued in March. The amendment identifies seasonal campgrounds that meet specific criteria as essential businesses, in which case they may be opened to accommodate

“snowbirds” who do not have a permanent residence in Canada. The application of this amendment is specific to this purpose only.

Requirements to be deemed essential include:

- 3.1. *Every person who operates a seasonal campground shall ensure that,*
 - a) *campsites are provided only to individuals who do not have another residence in Canada and are in need of housing during the emergency period;*
 - b) *only campsites with electricity, water service and facilities for sewage disposal are provided for use;*
 - c) *campsites are made available only for trailers and recreational vehicles; and*
 - d) *all recreational facilities in the campground, and all other shared facilities in the campground such as bathrooms, are closed.*

Beginning in 2019, the UTRCA has required that you provide photo id with an address, as well as proof of trailer ownership and insurance, in order to register for a seasonal campsite. This usually identifies that you have a local permanent residence.

The three UTRCA campgrounds were established to provide outdoor recreational opportunities to the public. They were not intended as a permanent residence for those that camp here.

Due to the seasonal nature of our facilities, we are not able to provide the services that are required to be deemed essential.

All of our facilities, programs and services will remain closed.

Campground Operations & Staffing

During the month of May while the campground and day use facilities are closed, minimal staff will be on site. Staff that are on site will be enforcing the Conservation Area rules and regulations, including those additional powers enacted by the government during the pandemic.

Information we shared with you in COVID-19 Update #3: Seasonal Campers will apply. We request your cooperation in adhering to this information. Failure to do so will result in eviction from the park.

Winter Storage Extension

Campers who entered into a winter storage licence with the UTRCA in the fall of 2019 will receive an electronic letter formally acknowledging the extension. Please be sure to read the letter carefully and acknowledge receipt as requested.

Question & Answers

1. What if my trailer is on site and I sell it and the new owner wants to become a seasonal camper?

Like any trailer ownership transfer, we ask that you notify the park directly and make arrangements to complete the site surrender form. The new owners will need to contact the park directly to complete a new storage agreement form and provide proof of ownership, insurance, and current address. For 2020, we will NOT charge an administration fee to do this.

2. What if my trailer is on site and I sell it and the new owner wants to remove it from the park?

Please contact the conservation area directly and advise staff that you have sold your trailer and it needs to be removed. Please do not have the new owner call as we will not permit removal until we hear from you. As indicated above, for 2020 we are waiving all administration fees for this process.

Need to speak with park staff?

Please call the park directly and leave a message. Staff check these 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

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

Stay Informed about COVID-19

It's important to get your information from reputable sources and not rely on hearsay or rumour. Here are some good sources:

- [Government of Canada](http://www.government.ca)
- [Province of Ontario](http://www.ontario.ca)
- Your local Health Unit is an excellent source for information on local impacts and actions.
- Call or visit [Telehealth Ontario](http://www.telehealthontario.ca) (1-866-797-0000) for specific health concerns about COVID-19.