



# Sound Opportunities

May 2017 • Newsletter

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## Treetops Community Forest

The park on Beatty Street next to Parry Sound Public School, which will become Treetops Community Forest has raised 80% of a \$200,000 goal and is busy planning the next phase of the project. This will entail the planning, constructing and signing of the looped Trail, named in memory of Fynn Bywater, which will take park visitors through the various landforms and interesting features that the wilderness setting has to offer. From the Treetops Community Forest park entrance, visitors will also see signs showing a map of the trail, park by-laws and recognition of various sponsors. Many fundraiser events are taking place in the coming months to help with the final push to complete this important community project:

White Squall presents the Franklin Challenge with sponsorship from Bayshore Financial, June 25

Paddle on Georgian Bay around Franklin Island starting and finishing at Snug Harbour. This challenge is a 20 km circumnavigation of one of our most famous of the 30,000 islands.

Bike McKellar, August 20

Ride 10, 30 or 93km on the beautiful roads of the Township of McKellar and enjoy a BBQ upon completion.

**For further information about the TCF project or any of these events,  
please go to [www.treetopscommunityforest.com](http://www.treetopscommunityforest.com)**

### Town of Parry Sound

52 Seguin Street  
Parry Sound  
ON Canada P2A 1B4

[www.parrysound.ca](http://www.parrysound.ca)  
Telephone: 705-746-2101  
Fax: 705-746-7461



# 2017 Cruise Ship Season

The first cruise ship of the season will arrive in port on Monday June 5th at 8:30 am and depart at 5:00 pm.

The 'Pearl Mist' is a 210-passenger cruise ship, featuring 108 staterooms, 6 decks and is supported by 75-100 crew members.

## 'Pearl Mist' Schedule:

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Arrival</b>	<b>Departure</b>
Monday	June 5th	8:30 am	5:00 pm
Wednesday	June 14th	8:30 am	7:00 pm
Sunday	June 25th	8:30 am	6:30 pm
Thursday	July 6th	8:00 am	7:00 pm
Monday	July 17th	8:30 am	5:00 pm
Wednesday	July 26th	8:30 am	7:00 pm
Sunday	August 6th	8:30 am	6:30 pm
Thursday	August 17th	8:00 am	7:00 pm
Saturday	August 19th	9:00 pm	depart August 20th at 6:30 pm
Thursday	August 31st	8:00 am	7:00 pm

Parry Sound has hosted the 'Pearl Mist' for the past couple of years, welcoming passengers from across Canada, Australia, Germany, New Zealand, Singapore, United Kingdom, Ukraine and the United States.

The Victory I is also scheduled to visit our port, dates and times to be confirmed.

Dates and times are subject to change.

For a complete listing, visit the Town's web at [www.parrysound.ca](http://www.parrysound.ca)



Pearl Mist

# Spring and Summer in Downtown Parry Sound

It won't be long before the downtown will be decked out for spring with hanging baskets, planters, benches, and bistro tables. Please help us to keep downtown beautiful by using the cigarette butt containers attached to some of the light poles. If you didn't get downtown last summer, make sure you stop by this year. There have been nine new businesses open with more opening soon.

There are some great downtown events planned over the next few months. On May 27th from 7am-noon the 1st Annual Giant Community Tag Sale will be held on Gibson Street. Spots are available for \$10 each. When you do your spring cleaning, why not sell those treasures you no longer have room for. Contact Susan at 705-746-6426 or [downtown@psdba.ca](mailto:downtown@psdba.ca) for more information.

The DBA's annual silent auction will be held this year beginning June 1st, and this year we have large and small paddles and some Adirondack chairs up for auction. All the money raised will go towards new Christmas decorations for Market Square Park. The Silent Auction ends on July 29th during the Georgian Bay Craft Fair. This event will be held on James St, with craft and food vendors, kids' activities and musical entertainment.

The last event of the summer is the 5th Annual Downtown Car Show and this year we have an exciting guest – Batman with his Batmobile! Come downtown and vote on your favourite car and have your picture taken with Batman.



For more information about these events and for more information about downtown businesses visit our website at [www.downtownparrysound.ca](http://www.downtownparrysound.ca)



## Business Stimulus Plan - Town of Parry Sound Promotional Video

The Town contracted Meg Wallace, Meg Wallace Photography, to develop a promotional video that will promote Parry Sound as a place to grow or establish your business.

In April, 2016, Council adopted a Business Stimulus Plan with a goal of creating good quality, year-round employment and growing the middle class of Parry Sound.

An Economic Development landing page is being created as part of the Town's web page and will feature the video on this page. The new landing page will also include access to site selection information, 'Parry Sound Advantages' and other information targeted to business and development. Expected completion of the landing page is May 30th.

The Town's web page is [www.parrysound.ca](http://www.parrysound.ca)

## Please DO NOT feed wildlife

Although people who feed wildlife have genuine intentions, they often do not understand the impact and nuisance that can be created for other residents living within that neighborhood. Feeding wild animals may do more harm than good.

### Threats to wildlife

- animals can become dependent on artificial food sources
- animals can lose their natural fear of humans and pets, becoming more prone to conflict
- artificial feed is not healthy for wildlife
- wild animals may gather in large numbers when they are being fed — this concentration of animals in one area can spread parasites and disease and cause destruction of natural habitat
- feeding animals near roads increases their risk of being hit by vehicles

### Threats to people

- feeding wildlife may attract “unwanted” animals to your property
- animals will learn to associate humans with food, and can become a problem to neighbours
- habituated animals can become aggressive
- feeding animals near roads increases the risk of motor vehicle accidents, resulting in property damage, injury or death

Remember that the improper storage of household garbage is another method for feeding wildlife. For public safety, please DO NOT feed wildlife and ensure that your garbage is stored within a container.

## Amendment to Site Plan Control By-law 2015-6545

The Town of Parry Sound is undertaking an amendment to the existin **Site Plan Control By-law** [www.parrysound.ca](http://www.parrysound.ca).

The main goals and objectives are to:

1. Correct housekeeping matters and technical issues;
2. Clarify what percentage of security is required;
3. Permit the delegation of development between 50 square metres to 200 square metres of ground floor area to the Principal Planner; and
4. Permit the delegation of residential development of three to six dwelling units (below three is not subject to site plan control) to the Principal Planner.

The intent is to expedite, clarify and streamline the development process.

## 2017 Tax Rates

The Town received the 2017 education tax rates from the Province of Ontario on April 5, 2017. For the 2017 tax year the residential education tax rate is decreasing from 0.188% to 0.179%. The commercial education tax rates are increasing from 0.777% to 0.855%. The Town does not have any authority or ability to change these rates as they are set by the Province of Ontario.

When combined with 2017 municipal tax rates, the average single family home will see an increase of \$121.27 or 4.09% to their tax bill. The average condo unit will see an increase of \$258.31 or 10.11%, while the average commercial tax bill is increasing \$186.82 or 1.68%.

The varying tax impacts is a result of the new tax assessment cycle for 2017 to 2020. In 2017, any properties which decreased in value will see the full reduction, while properties that increase have a four-year phase-in. As well, the Town has been subject to a number of commercial appeals as well as an overall decrease of approximately 5% in the commercial assessment value in 2017. This shifts the burden of taxes to the residential tax class.

Overall, the Town's levy increased by 3.4%, however the change in the assessment base results in different type of taxpayers being impacted differently.

The Town anticipates that in 2018, the tax increases will be more in line with the overall levy increase as the assessment increases from the 2017 assessment.

## Commercial Vacant Unit Tax Rebate

In the fall of 2016, the Province of Ontario announced that they would be providing municipalities with the ability to modify or eliminate the Commercial Vacant Unit Tax Rebate program to meet local needs. The Town held two open houses, presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Downtown Business Association and had information on the Town's website for feedback.

After consultation, staff brought a report to Council recommending the elimination of the Commercial Vacant Unit Tax Rebate effective immediately. Council approved requesting that the Minister of Finance eliminates the rebate for the Town of Parry Sound at the April 18 Council meeting. Final approval for the elimination of the program is pending provincial approval.

For information on the status of this program please contact Rob Beaumont, Revenue and Taxation Supervisor at [rbeaumont@townofparrysound.com](mailto:rbeaumont@townofparrysound.com) or 705-746-2101.

## Plate Denial Expansion

In June 2015, the Province of Ontario passed the Making Ontario's Roads Safer Act, 2015 which included a policy framework to expand existing licence plate denial processes and improve customer service. Effective May 1, 2017 the following changes to plate denial take place:

1. Driving-based Provincial Offences Act (POA) offences, such as speeding, which currently result in a licence suspension on fine default will now also be subject to plate denial. This will apply to all licence plates owned by the defaulter. This is being retrospectively implemented to May 1, 2010.
2. Procedural improvements will be made to "single plate" denial for vehicle-based offences, such as parking fines.
3. Customer service improvements to permit online or in-person payment at Service Ontario for fines resulting in licence suspension will be made. Fine payments and fees to reinstate the driver's licence may now be made simultaneously.

Individuals will still pay their POA fines which are not in default through the POA Court at the Town of Parry Sound or [paytickets.ca](http://paytickets.ca)

## New Public Washrooms for the Downtown



The public washrooms at the corner of Gibson and Seguin Streets were removed on April 4.

Council approved the replacement of the old and continually vandalized washrooms. Incon Construction was the only bidder on the project.

The new washrooms will include stainless fixtures.

It is anticipated that the work will be completed by the end of June.

Public washrooms are an important part of a community's infrastructure. They help keep people downtown. The result of inadequate public restrooms is that visitors go back to their hotel to use facilities, leaving the downtown altogether.

The cost of the upgrade is \$200,000 and a significant investment by the Town in the downtown.

## Bobby Orr Hall of Fame

2017 is going to be another fun filled year for the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame.

Once again, we are proud to present the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame Celebrating Youth Awards, an event dedicated to showcasing the hard work and talents of local boys and girls. Mr. Orr will be hosting the event on June 3rd, 2017.

We have also partnered with Parry Sound High School and Cogeco TV to bring you a series of interviews on Cogeco, featuring past inductees of the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame as well as recipients of the 2016 Celebrating Youth Awards. The interviews will air on Cogeco TV.

With interesting and informative exhibits, exciting interactive games, and a fully stocked gift shop, whether you're new to the area, just passing through, or born and raised in Parry Sound, the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame has something for you.

Stop by and visit us at 2 Bay Street, Parry Sound, and experience this important part of local and hockey history.



## Parry Sound Trail Extension

Council approved utilizing the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) to pave Parry Sound Drive and to extend the Town trail.

Due to the age of Parry Sound Drive and the volume of traffic it receives, the road surface is currently in bad repair and requires new pavement. While reviewing the road section between Bay Area Electric and Smith Crescent, staff also surveyed the entire road allowance to determine the feasibility of extending the Town trail.

Town Operations staff will work on the trail extension that will utilize the watermain route on the west side of Parry Sound Drive and extend to a location just south of Cedarland Homes property. The trail will then bend back towards the road where a wide paved trail as well as a shoulder will be created and connected to the recently constructed trail in McDougall Township. The shoulder area will be painted with a double white line, effectively delineating traffic from the shoulder. Rumble stripping will be considered if required and the possibility of installing delineators will also be considered.

Town staff hope to see the work completed sometime in June.

## Boat Launches Ready for the Season

Public Works staff has been repairing and installing the boat launches for the upcoming boating season.

Public boat launches are located at Waubuno Beach Park, Mill Lake, Champagne Street, and the Salt Docks.

# TOWN OF PARRY SOUND

## CIVIC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CRITERIA

This program offers a \$500. scholarship to students who meet the following criteria:

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Must have a home address in the Town of Parry Sound.
2. Is a student entering their second year of a Canadian university or college or similarly recognized post secondary institution.
3. Is a student who has demonstrated the following in a 200 – 300 word essay:
  - Leadership on school bodies, business ventures, musical groups, cultural organizations, community groups, sports teams, political or religious organizations, charitable bodies, farm organizations, etc.
  - A commitment to volunteer service and helping others.
  - A clear vision for the future, i.e. how the student intends to make a difference in their community and the world.
  - the potential for their studies to lead to a municipal government career.
4. In a first year of an Ontario college or university, or similar recognized post secondary institution and proof of acceptance into the second year.
5. Submission of the completed application form and all necessary documents – (refer to application form).

**DEADLINE:** Complete application with all documents assembled (**in either WORD or PDF format only**) must be emailed to the Office of the Clerk (jboggs@townofparrysound.com) no later than May 31st.

**NOTE:** a copy of the application form and criteria is available on the Town's website.



Council and Staff are excited to announce that Parry Sound Council meetings will start to Live Stream on May 2, 2017. Please go to News and Public Notices on our website [www.parrysound.ca](http://www.parrysound.ca) to find out more information on how you can watch Council meetings while they happen. Once streamed, Council meetings will be available on You Tube, with closed captioning.

Cogeco will still be airing Parry Sound Council meetings pending a scheduling change.

**Alternate formats available upon request.**