



April 3, 2023

Town of Parry Sound

WASAUKSING SWING BRIDGE 2023 OPERATING SCHEDULE

Dear Ann;

Indigenous Services Canada has applied to the Transport Canada Navigation Protection Program to continue with the reduced number of daily swings of the Wasauksing Swing Bridge during the 2022 and 2023 navigation seasons in order to maintain the safety and integrity of the bridge operations. The bridge operating schedule was reduced to every second hour swings effective June 15, 2020. The operating schedule for the 2023 navigation season is detailed below. This schedule will supersede all previously advertised schedules.

All other operating restrictions at the Wasauksing Swing Bridge remain in place, as recommended by professionally licensed bridge engineers in order to maintain the safety and integrity of the aging structure. [Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program](#) approved these restrictions following the results of a thorough Navigation Impact Assessment in 2017.

Indigenous Services Canada continues to work closely with the Wasauksing First Nation and our federal partners to find a long-term solution for safe, continued access to and from the Wasauksing First Nation. We will update the public on plans for a new bridge as they are confirmed, in a timely way.

The Historic Wasauksing Swing Bridge Operating Schedule throughout the 2023 boating season will be as follows:

From April 15th to June 14th, 2023: 07:00 to 19:00 daily

- The bridge will open every second hour from 07:00 to 19:00 daily: 07:00, 09:00, 11:00, 13:15, 15:00, 17:00, and 19:00.

From June 15th – August 31, 2023; 07:00 to 21:00 daily, every second hour

- The bridge will open every second hour from 07:00 to 21:00 daily: 07:00, 09:00, 11:00, 13:15, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00, and 21:00.

From September 1st – November 25th, 2023: 07:00 to 19:00 daily, every second hour

- The bridge will open every second hour from 07:00 to 19:00 daily: 07:00, 09:00, 11:00, 13:15, 15:00, 17:00, and 19:00.
- The bridge will not open on the hour when the 10-minute average wind speed, 10 minutes prior to the hour (i.e. hh:50), exceeds 30 km/hr.
- The bridge will not open to navigation in the event of a land-based emergency.



- The bridge will open on demand for any water-based emergencies when the wind speed is 30km/hr or less.
- In the event of a land-based emergency and water-based emergency occurring at the same time, the owner is authorized to address the land-based emergency first and then open the bridge to accommodate the water-based emergency.

During the bridge's operating hours, the bridge will open at the half hour (i.e. hh:30) in the following exceptional circumstance:

- If the bridge did not open at the regularly scheduled opening on the hour (i.e. 15:00), and the 10-minute average wind speed 10 minutes prior to the bottom of the hour (i.e. 15:20) is 30 km/hr or less.
- The Wasauksing Swing Bridge is equipped with electronic signs displaying current average wind speeds, which are updated every 30 minutes. For up-to-the minute information on wind speeds and bridge status, please call the bridge operator directly at 705-746-9620, or tune in to VHF channel 6.

COVID 19 Pandemic Situation and Historic Wasauksing Swing Bridge operations

The health and safety of the bridge operators and maintenance and repair workers remains our top priority. If at any point the health and safety of these workers at the Wasauksing Swing Bridge cannot be guaranteed, work will be suspended at the site until possible solutions and methods to try to continue operations can be implemented. We will endeavour to advise commercial barge operators directly when we become aware of operational delays at the bridge. We encourage you to check the Wasauksing Swing Bridge public information phone line frequently at 1-807-624-5900.

For all other comments or inquiries related to the Wasauksing Swing Bridge, please call Indigenous Services Canada Wasauksing Swing Bridge automated information line at 807-624-5900. We return calls within 24 hours. For more information, visit canada.ca/wasauksing-bridge

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