



Wasauksing Cottager Newsletter

Welcome Back Cottagers

A heartfelt chi-miigwetch to the WFN Cottage Community for your patience and understanding during the many changes and challenges faced in 2020. Your role in complying to the Wasauksing First Nation Emergency Response Law and Orders, assisted the whole community in keeping COVID-19 out of Wasauksing.

COVID-19 Travel Advice

What precautions should you take when travelling to your cottage?

- Travel with people in your immediate household
- pack enough essential items for self-isolation upon arrival
- Plan to travel directly to your destination with minimal or no stops along your route.
 - Wear masks, practice social distancing, and wash hands frequently if stops are required.
- Do not travel if you feel unwell or have had any contact with anyone who is unwell or has tested positive for COVID-19 or a Variant of Concern.
- If you develop symptoms while in the Wasauksing/Parry Sound area, you can call one of the following locations to book your COVID testing:
 - West Parry Sound COVID-19 Assessment Centre
 - 705-746-4540 ext. 5030
 - Wasauksing Nursing Station
 - 705-746-8022

Inside this issue

Fire Safety and danger ratings	2
Aquatic Monitoring and Training	3
2021 Taxation Timeline.....	4
Survey Monuments.....	4
Announcements.....	5
Building and Compliance	6
Waste Transfer Station	7
Septic System Information.....	8

Keeping You Informed

- [Wasauksing First Nation Lands and Natural Resources](#)
- Facebook: [@wfnlands](#)
- [Wasauksing First Nation Property Tax](#)
- [Wasauksing COVID-19 Notices and Information](#)



Fire safety tips

- Regularly clean and maintain your BBQ
- Remove lint from your dryer after every use
- Do not overload an electrical outlet.
- Regularly service your heating system
- Do not keep firewood, leaves, and garbage against your cottage
- Keep potting soil moist and try to use clay pots if possible
- Do not extinguish cigarette butts in potting soil.
- Store cooking oils away from your stove
- In addition to smoke alarms and carbon-monoxide detectors, keep a fire extinguisher within your cottage.
- Never leave burning candles or cooking unattended.
- Keep ashtrays handy

Potting soils contain large volumes of peat moss as well as shredded wood, bark, Styrofoam, and vermiculite. These ingredients ignite easily under dry conditions.

Fire Danger Ratings

Fire rating signs are located at the cemetery intersection, at Paradise Lane / Oak Point Road, and on the digital sign at the WFN Swing Bridge.

If you detect a fire or require immediate assistance please call 911.

Low	No open burning before 6:00 p.m. Campfires permitted Fireworks permitted
Moderate	No open burning before 6:00 p.m. Campfires permitted Fireworks permitted
High	No fireworks. No open burning Campfires for cooking and warmth only
Extreme— Total Fire Ban	No fires. No fireworks.



Wasauksing First Nation—Aquatic Monitoring and Training Program

About the Nation

Wasauksing First Nation, located on an island in Mnídoo-gamii (The Great Lake of the Spirit or Georgian Bay) is a community of Ojibway, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples who rely upon, and shall continue to rely upon, the health and wellbeing of the natural environment within the Wasauksing-Anishnaabe Territory. Waaseyakosing (Place that shines brightly in the reflection of the sacred light), also known as the Parry Sound region, has been a vital geographical and spiritual location for Anishnaabe people from time immemorial. Due to the navigable waterways, rich local hunting grounds, and spiritual significance, the region became an important gathering place and settlement for the Anishnaabek. Wasauksing First Nation's land base consists of 7,874 hectares including old-growth forest, wetlands, abundant habitat for animals and plants, and some of the last untouched shorelines along the coast of Mnídoo-gamii.

About the Project

Wasauksing First Nation is in the process of developing and implementing an Aquatic Monitoring and Training Program. This Program was developed in response to an increasing concern for the developing infrastructure within the region and the impacts to the water, the wetlands, fish habitat, and fish populations. The water surrounding Wasauksing First Nation is of great cultural and biological significance and its protection is priority. These waterways not only provide sustenance to the Wasauksing First Nation community, but provide recreational opportunities to all who live, work, and play in the Parry Sound region (boaters, permanent and seasonal residents, sportsmen, tourists, etc.).

There are two sources of funding for this program: The indigenous Habitat Participation Program (IHPP) through the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the First Nation Land Management Resource Centre. There are two stages to the Aquatic Monitoring Program:

- **Stage 1:** Developing the Aquatic Monitoring Program—Encompasses community Engagement, background research and review, hiring essential staff, training, and developing a robust aquatic monitoring plan.
- **Stage 2:** Implementing the Aquatic Monitoring Program—Comprises of the execution of the aquatic monitoring plan.

The Aquatic Monitoring and Training Program is focused on sampling surface water, sediment, and biota (specifically, benthic invertebrates and fish). With the assistance of the funding opportunities provided, Wasauksing First Nation was able to purchase their own sampling equipment to conduct their first round of water and benthic invertebrate sampling at the end of September 2020.

Community engagement has been vital to the development of the Aquatic Monitoring and Training Program. Sampling locations were selected according to areas of community concern, including identifying the water quality parameters that should be sampled. For example, petroleum hydrocarbons was prioritized through community engagement to further understand the contaminant levels over a longer period of time and the impacts from the surrounding industry activities (boat traffic, fuel, float planes, leaching, etc.). Other areas of community priority include metals, nutrients, and a general habitat assessment.

Crucial Components to the Aquatic Monitoring and Training Program is capacity building and ensuring program sustainability. Through providing technical training to essential employees and interest community members, Wasauksing First Nation can establish a self-sufficient program that is community-based and that can further support the development of a comprehensive database.

Future Plans

This program will ultimately provide an analytical and thorough understanding of the health of the water, fish, and fish habitat surrounding Wasauksing First Nation, assisting in the First Nation's goals and visions to protect the lands and resources for seven generations.

Property Tax Dates

May 17—Proposed *Wasauksing First Nation Annual Tax Rates Law, 2021* posted to FNG and Wasauksing website for public review and comment

May 28—Proposed *Wasauksing First Nation Annual Expenditure Law, 2021* posted to FNG and Wasauksing website for public review and comment

May 29—*Wasauksing First Nation Annual Tax Rates Law 2021* comes into force and effect

June 3– 8—2021 Tax Notices sent by email, mail, and hand delivery.

June 16—*Wasauksing First Nation Annual Expenditure Law 2021*, sent to the First Nations Tax Commission for review and approval

June 24—*Wasauksing First Nation Annual Expenditure Law 2021* comes into force and effect

July 31—Final property tax payments due. Please note that taxes not paid on time will incur late penalties

If you have not received your 2021 Property Tax Notice, please contact the Tax Administrator

Survey Monuments

Survey markers, also called survey monuments, survey marks, survey benchmarks or geodetic marks, are objects used to mark key survey points on the earth's surface. Survey monuments can be iron bars, plastic bars, rock plugs, rock posts, concrete pins, cut crosses in stone or concrete.

The survey markers located within the Wasauksing First Nation cottage lots indicate property lines, utility rights-of-way, and roads. It is important to know where your property markers are to ensure structures are at least 10 feet from the lot boundary lines to avoid any accidental damage to survey monuments or encroachments on neighboring properties.

Common survey markers within the cottage lots include iron bars, grey and red survey stakes, and iron pucks. You may see orange flagging tape on various locations on your lot. This tape often indicates a "tie line" used by surveyors to determine the distance of a lot line to a structure within your property.

Please note that the survey markers should not be disturbed in any way as they are protected by federal law which applies to First Nation land.



Warning

The Criminal Code of Canada R.S. 1985, c. C-46 under Part XI, Sec. 442 and 443 States,

"Everyone who willfully pulls down, defaces, alters or removes anything planted or set up as the boundary line or part of the boundary lines of land is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction"

Please contact [Daniss](#) if you require any assistance in locating monuments or identifying a property line.



Announcements



Fibre to Cottage Project

Wasauksing First Nation and Lakeland Networks have partnered to extend the fibre-internet services to the Wasauksing Cottage Lots! Site work has already commenced and will continue throughout the summer. Representatives of Lakeland Networks will be in touch with you to discuss pricing and individual connections.

Road Upgrades

Preliminary work for the road upgrades will begin this summer. Machinery and road work crews will be along the roadways addressing drainage and ditching. Please drive with caution and obey any signage posted. The bulk of the road upgrades will be completed in 2022.



Garden Photo Contest

We want to see how you've beautified your cottage lot! Send in pictures of your flower garden by July 30th at 12:00 p.m. for chance to win a tri-axle load of gravel delivered and spread on your cottage driveway.

Pictures, along with your name, and lot number can be sent to taxadmin@wasauksing.ca.

*Please include a handwritten note of your lot number within your garden photo

Fishing and Land Use Permits

- Chief and Council have placed a moratorium on fishing, there are no permits for sale at this time.
- Due to the Pandemic and current *State of Emergency*, Land Use Permits are not for sale at this time.

WFN Swing Bridge Pier and Fender Rehabilitation Project

If you have traveled to Wasauksing this season, you will have noticed work trailers stationed on the Island side of the bridge, along with crew members walking along the bridges, and completing work underneath the bridge. Please obey the posted speed limit of 10 km/hr. and be advised that speed bumps have been placed at the bridge approaches to keep crew members safe.

Land Management and Compliance Matters

Are you planning on doing any construction, removal, alterations or demolition on your lot? Please contact the Tax Administrator for application forms to complete prior to any work being done.

All Cottagers / Lessees must submit an application form that outlines the nature of the work to be completed. This can include tree removal, dock repair / removal / installation, additions to existing cottages / structures, new construction, alterations to the lot, demolition, or alterations / repairs.

The Cottage Lot Site Plan Layout, which is included in the application package, will provide a better visual as to where, on your lot, your planned changes will occur. Measurements from shorelines, boundary lines, and structures are important to include. Any new construction / additions will require engineered-stamped drawings from your contractor for review by WFN's inspector.

Please note the Fee Schedule associated with your application. Any requested work to be completed at your cottage will not commence without payment to WFN.

Upon receipt of the complete application package, the Tax Administrator will ensure that your project meets compliance standards and contact you if there are necessary revisions or if your application was approved. A Permit will be issued upon approval to be posted in a visible spot on your cottage lot.

WASAUKSING COTTAGE LOTS

BUILDING PERMIT

This card must be kept posted in a visible place on site of construction.

Lease Lot: _____ Fire Route: _____

Project Description: _____

Date Issued: _____

Daniella Baker
Land Manager

Daniss Pitawanakwat
Tax Administrator

Compliance Application Forms can be found on the www.wasauksing.ca website or by contacting the Tax Administrator: taxadmin@wasauksing.ca

Wasauksing Waste Transfer Station

The yellow “Special Access” tags must be displayed on your front windshield while accessing the WFN Waste Transfer Station (WTS).

Hours of operation:
Sunday 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Wednesday 5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.



What you can dispose of:

- maximum of two (2) bags of household garbage per week.
- Unlimited approved recyclables.
- Large bins for non-household waste.

Rigid Plastics/Bottles <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Any plastic bottles or containers found in your kitchen	Paper and Cardboard <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Cereal/snack cardboard boxes•-Phonebooks, magazines, and mail•Office paper, newspaper and cardboard Please break down all boxes	Metals <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Tin, aluminum, and steel cans
Glass <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Food containers or jars•Soft drink and beer bottles•Wine and liquor bottles	Loose Plastic <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Plastic shopping bags•Plastic film Please place all loose plastic together in a plastic shopping bag	

The WTS does not accept batteries, hazardous waste, construction material, or appliances with Freon.

NOTICE:

There is no dumping, at any time, along Raven Road.
Site cleanup along Raven Road will commence this summer, along with the installation of signage and cameras.

Septic System Clearances

The following are the minimum distance requirements for septic systems on WFN cottage lots:

Septic Tank

- 5' from any structure
- 50' from any water source
- 10' from property line

Tile Bed

- 15' from any structure
- 50' from a well
- 100' from a any other water source
- 10' from any trees
- 10' from property lines

Holding Tanks

- 5' from any structure
- 50' from a well
- 10' from property lines

Septic System Maintenance and Care

Leaching Bed Safety

- Do not build anything on top of the leaching bed, such as parking areas, deck or storage shed.
- Do not drive vehicles or machinery over the bed, as the weight could crush the distribution pipes or pack down the soil, even in winter.
- Make sure the ground over the leaching bed has a good cover of grass or very shallow rooted plants.
- The leaching bed should be built such that water does not pool around it. If water does start to pool, contact WFN for advice from the environmental health officer.

Septic Tank safety

- Make sure you have easy access to your septic tank.
- Complete maintenance regularly:
 - Have your septic tank pumped out every 3 to 5 years or when a third of the tank is filled with solids (sludge). You will need a licensed professional to pump and dispose of the waste.
 - If your system has effluent filters, clean them out on a regular basis. How often you clean depends on the filter type and size and the amount of water used in your household.
- Be careful what you put into your septic system. Do not pour down the drain or into your toilet. Doing this could kill the bacteria that break down the organic matter in the wastewater: paints, solvents, thinners, nail polish remover, medicines, antibiotics, other common household products
- Solids are not digested and can block your system or shorten its life. Never put: oils, grease, fat, disposable diapers, tampons and their applicators, condoms, cat box litter, plastics, cigarette filters, egg shells or other kitchen waste into the septic system
- Try to control the amount of water that enters your septic system by reducing the amount of water you use. (fix leaky faucets, repair running toilets, use low-flow toilets)