



# SEASONAL CAMPER NEWSLETTER

[wildwoodconservationarea.ca](http://wildwoodconservationarea.ca)

*The staff at Wildwood Conservation Area would like to welcome our seasonal campers back for 2021! The Campground will open at 8 am on Saturday, May 1, and close at 12 pm on Sunday, October 17.*

## Registration & Payment

Seasonal camper registration will be by appointment only at the Wildwood Registration Office. Appointments are available starting on April 19.

### How to Register

- Please call 519-284-2292 ext. 1434# to set up your appointment at the Registration Office.
- Please bring the following to your appointment:
  - Seasonal Camper Registered Guest form (attached to this email). Please print a copy, complete, and bring it with you. If you cannot print it off, please make your own list and bring it.
  - Photo ID, Trailer Registration, and Insurance - You will be required to show photo identification with your address, the trailer registration (matching the address of the permit holder), and proof of liability insurance (minimum \$1 million). Unfortunately, we will not accept emailed copies. Staff only need to do a visual check – simply hold the items up to the plexiglass for staff to view. Staff will not touch your personal items.
  - Please note that payment will not be accepted without all of the required information.
- Staff will complete, sign, and date the agreement(s).
- You will be required to sign the agreement – please bring your own pen. Once you have read, initialed, and signed the agreement, you will keep the bottom copy for yourself and pass the original back to the staff.

### How to Pay

- Payment can be made with Visa, Mastercard, debit, certified cheque, or money order. Please be sure to check your card's daily limit so that the funds are available at the time of payment.
- Please note that your swipe card will not be activated and camping will not be permitted until all the paperwork has been signed and staff have viewed the required information.

### Campsite Access

- Seasonal campers will be permitted to drive into their campsites from April 19 through to opening on May 1. Campground vehicle access will be from 8 am to 3 pm.
- No overnight camping is permitted until May 1. **Overnight stays at your seasonal campsite are prohibited without payment of the seasonal fees.**

### Late Payment Procedure

Payments must be made by May 9, 2021 at 12pm (Noon). Campers with outstanding fees after this date will not be granted use of the Conservation Area until payment is made in full. After 12 pm (noon) on May 9, 2021, any outstanding payment will be subject to a \$100 late fee. The fee will increase by \$100 for every week that payment is not received.

### Winter Storage

Pay for Trailer Storage before October 1, 2021 and you will be entered into a draw for free 2021 Trailer Storage (\$315 value).

## Electrical Safety

### Site Inspections

Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) staff will return this year to ensure that our campground is free from electrical hazards. Many of you received letters from the ESA last season outlining deficiencies with your campsite's electrical system. ESA staff will inspect all those sites this spring and check new sites. If you received a letter in the past and you have not obtained a permit from the ESA, your electricity will be shut off without notice. Please retain a licensed electrical contractor and obtain a permit before having any electrical work done on your site.

### Buried RV Trailer Cords

In the fall of 2018, the ESA gave notice that all RV electrical cords must be above ground and cannot be buried or placed underground in any way (e.g., in a plastic drainage pipe). These cords are not rated for direct burial and can create a shock hazard if the wire coating is compromised. Placing these cords in plastic drainage pipe often leads to the cords being submerged in water, also creating a shock hazard. Additionally, buried cords cannot be inspected for damage or improper connections. Staff will continue to inspect all sites to ensure compliance when completing monthly risk management inspections.

Staff recognize the reasoning behind burying cords. We consulted the ESA about options, and we've listed a few here. Keep in mind that approval must be granted and a building permission application completed if additional patio stones are used.

**Q: Can the electrical cord be strung between where it connects to the trailer and the utility post, provided it is not hung on or secured with metal objects?**

A: Although it is possible to do this with non-conductive spacers, we request that this not be done due to concerns with aesthetics and the hazard created by the suspended cord.

**Q: Can the cord be contained within some type of drainage tubing above ground, as long as the tubing won't hold/retain water?**

A: Yes, non-conductive tubing may be used for protection as long as you can prove that the tubing will not retain water.

**Q: Can the cord be enclosed inside an electrical conduit with each end being properly sealed? The cord end would have to be properly removed and installed, in this case.**

A: No, it is not recommended that cords be altered in any way unless the cord end needs to be replaced due to damage.

**Q: Can patio stones be laid along either side of the cord where it runs across the lawn?**

A: Yes, this is a good solution and may provide adequate protection. This would require approval after a building permission form is completed. The size and number of patio stones would be limited to that required to protect the cord; additional walkways cannot be created.

**Q: Could the cord be painted in a bright colour to make it more visible?**

A: Yes, as long as the paint will not damage or deteriorate the cord in any way.

## Electricity to Sheds

Campers who wish to install electricity to their sheds are not permitted to excavate or attach wiring to the receptacle post. Extension cords will not be permitted as a source of temporary or permanent wiring to a shed. Wiring will only be permitted if the shed is located directly next to the trailer and the conduit is securely attached to the shed from the trailer receptacle. Staff will continue to evaluate options for future seasons to minimize risks from buried cable, faulty wiring inside sheds, and appliances being kept in less than ideal situations.

## Working on your site?

If you plan on doing work on your campsite, talk to a Superintendent before starting! Before any work on your site, such as building a shed, deck, fire pit area, etc., please refer to the "Typical Site Layout" drawing, available on our website. Approval is required to ensure the proposed work falls within our CA policies and regulations. Building permission forms can be picked up at the gatehouse and registration buildings. This process also maintains consistency with what is being done on other campsites and reduces risks associated with buried lines.

## Controlling European Gypsy Moth

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority has been removing Gypsy Moth egg masses from trees on Authority property to help protect trees and shrubs from these invasive non-native insects. This year's generation of Gypsy Moth caterpillars will hatch in the spring. Staff at Wildwood have removed over 5100 egg masses this winter.

A mature Gypsy Moth caterpillar is approximately 6 cm long, and can be identified by the pairs of dots along its back – five pairs of blue dots, followed by six pairs of red dots. The caterpillars feed mainly on deciduous trees and shrubs. Their favourite foods include oak, maple, birch, and serviceberry. The young caterpillars will hang from trees on silk threads and can be carried long distances by the wind.

Video - How to Remove Gypsy Moth Egg Masses:

<https://youtu.be/m-vhahnBFTs>

Photos of egg mass removal: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmUBJc7A>

## How can you help?

The caterpillars will hatch as the weather warms in April. At this point, egg mass removal is ineffective. The young caterpillars feed throughout the day, but as they mature they come down from the crown of the tree during the heat of the day to seek shade. At this stage, you can trap the caterpillars on the tree trunk. To make a trap, wrap a strip of burlap, approximately 45 cm (17 inches) wide, around the tree trunk at chest height. Tie rope around the middle of the burlap and fold the upper portion down to form a skirt, with the rope acting as a belt. The caterpillars will crawl under the burlap to escape the sun and become trapped. Later in the day, lift the burlap, pick off the caterpillars, and dispose of them.

## Facebook/ Twitter/ Instagram

Have you checked out our social media pages? These sites and our website are the best way to get the latest information about Wildwood, especially during the operating season.

@WildwoodCA - Facebook

@WildwoodCA - Twitter

wildwoodconservationarea - Instagram

#wildwoodconservationarea

## For more information, please go to

[www.wildwoodconservationarea.ca](http://www.wildwoodconservationarea.ca). You'll find information on fees, special events, rules and regulations, guides, available sites, and lots more!

## If you have any questions, please contact us.

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