



April 16, 2020

Subject: Seasonal Camping Communication #1

Dear seasonal camper,

During these uncertain times, we are reaching out to our valued seasonal campers to provide an update on how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the camping season and our Conservation Areas.

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) is closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic, following governmental direction and actively taking steps to help prevent the spread of infection.

On March 24, the province ordered the mandatory closure of all non-essential workplaces under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. On April 3, the province released an amended list of essential workplaces and ordered all businesses not covered by the amended emergency order to close. Recreational amenities and campgrounds were not listed as essential businesses and, as such, were required to be closed. The GRCA complied with these orders. On April 14, the province extended the Declaration of Emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act until May 12.

All GRCA Conservation Areas remain closed. Unfortunately, we are not able to accommodate seasonal campers in our Conservation Areas at this time.

We understand that with the original May 1st opening date approaching, you are eager for more information about how this situation will affect the park opening and the camping season. Please be assured that we continue to monitor the situation, and are committed to keeping you informed about changes to our camping season, as well as other relevant information.

At this time, we are reviewing our operations. It takes at least four weeks to prepare our conservation areas to open, in particular, for camping. This work has yet to occur due to the pandemic and the fact that our operations have been reduced to comply with government directives regarding essential services and social distancing. As such, we know there will be a substantial delay in opening our Grand River Parks. Unfortunately, we cannot predict an opening date at this time. Of course, with a change in the opening date, the seasonal camping fees will be pro-rated based on the actual date the conservation area opens for camping. Given the unknown timelines, we understand that some campers may wish to entirely withdraw from the seasonal camping program. Please speak directly to the Superintendent at your park regarding this, and for any deposit and refund inquiries.

We ask that you communicate with park staff via email or telephone, as members of the public are not currently permitted on any GRCA owned and managed properties at this time. If you require access to your trailer that is stored on GRCA property, for an essential reason, please contact your park directly. Telephone numbers and email addresses for each park are available on the GRCA website at: <https://www.grandriver.ca/en/outdoor-recreation/Find-a-park.aspx>.

Information will be shared with you via email and through our website as it becomes available. We would also encourage you to subscribe to our COVID-19 (www.grandriver.ca/COVID19) and COVID-FAQ (www.grandriver.ca/COVID19-FAQ) webpages.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented situation.

Sincerely,

Pam Walther-Mabee
Manager, Conservation Areas
Grand River Conservation Authority
Phone: 519-621-2763 ext. 2254
Email: pwalthermabee@grandriver.ca