



NEWS FROM COUNCIL

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2018

This edition of News from Council is a follow up to the previous edition and will provide you with details for accessing Pleasant View Beach Park when the beach is not in operation.

The previous edition of News from Council addressed concerns regarding public access to Pleasant View Beach Park, outside of beach operating hours, and described the installation of a new system which Council feels will maximize both park access and beach security, while at the same time ensuring that the municipality adheres to the provincial rule of law regarding its designated public swimming area. Due to the fact that this site has been designated as a public swimming area, this property is subject to a number of mandatory provincial laws that apply solely to this property and not to any of the other waterfront properties that are owned by the municipality. One of these rules is the mandatory presence of lifeguards when the beach is accessible to the public for swimming. More information can be found in last month's edition of News from Council : <http://www.northhatley.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2018-05-nc-ANGLAIS-1.pdf>

As mentioned at the end of the last edition of News from Council, although Pleasant View Beach Park will continue to be locked when the beach is unsupervised, the property will now be made accessible to the public via personalized electronic access keys. Anyone who wishes to have access to the park when the beach is unsupervised may procure an electronic transponder key which (like many modern car keys) fits conveniently onto a key ring and which will allow them to enter the park. In order to use this new service, individuals will be required to sign a letter of agreement and to pay an initial refundable deposit of \$20.00 for the key. Should a key be damaged, lost, stolen or misplaced, it will be deactivated and the key holder will be required to pay a fee of \$20.00 for a replacement. Of special note is the fact that since our last News from Council, numerous members of our community have come forward to make donations to the municipality in order to help cover the cost of this new system. As a result, no additional annual fee will be charged for the service. Council would like to thank all of these generous individuals for the support they have given to our community.

Anyone who wishes to have an access key will need to bring the following to the town hall office :

- A completed, signed letter of agreement (copies available at the town hall or from the municipality's web-site)
- Identification (name, photo and address)
- Deposit of \$20.00

Keys will be made available as of Friday September 7th with immediate access to the park outside of supervised beach hours. The access keys can only be used during unsupervised hours. For access to the park during supervised hours, the existing beach rules of entry (and any applicable fees) will continue to apply. Please note that the park will not be accessible between the hours of 11 pm and 5:30 am.

A number of questions have been raised regarding the letter of agreement that individuals must sign in order to have a key. In essence, this one page agreement outlines, in English or French, the conditions under which access to Pleasant View Beach Park is being given when the beach is unsupervised. These conditions aim to clarify the key holder's responsibilities and to protect the municipality and its taxpayers from legal liability. In summary :

- Key holders may not transfer or lend out their key to others ;
- All individuals living at the same address, who have signed the agreement and are over 18 years of age must use the same access key (one key per address) ;
- When the beach is unsupervised, key holders have sole responsibility for any children under the age of 18 who accompany them onto the site ;
- When the beach is unsupervised, key holders may be accompanied by several guests but must remain with their guests at all times and must ensure that they understand and respect the same conditions as the key holder ;
- Key holders are aware that the site, when the beach is not under supervision, carries certain risks and that the key holder, as well as his or her guests and immediate family who access the park and beach, when it is unsupervised, agree not to hold the municipality liable for damages due to any incident that may occur during their visit ;
- Key holders must respect all regulations, particularly those regarding swimming, opening hours, alcoholic beverages, glass containers, animals etc. ;
- Access privileges may be revoked at any time if the agreement is not respected.

Questions have also been raised regarding an additional charge to non-residents for access to the park outside of supervised hours. Council is of the opinion that North Hatley's public parks are not only windows that showcase our beautiful landscapes, but they are also green spaces that unite our community with family and friends. Since the cost of the new electronic system has already been paid for with private donations, Council has decided not to charge non residents additional fees and they will therefore only be required to pay the same deposit as village residents to obtain an access key.

This completes the August & September edition of *News from Council*. Remember to send any questions and concerns to communication@northhatley.org or by mail to The Municipal Council, Village of North Hatley, 3125 chemin Capelton, North Hatley, Québec, J0B 2C0.

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