

## **Council Meeting**

May 25, 2021

Comments Received Regarding Item 7.2 -  
Waterfront Parks Paid Parking, By-law 2021-080, By-law 2021-081 and By-law 2021-082

-----Original Message-----

From: j Sherman

Sent: Friday, May 21, 2021 3:22 PM

To: [ray.chisolm@oakville.ca](mailto:ray.chisolm@oakville.ca); Town Clerk; Cathy Duddeck

Subject: May 25 meeting - Paid Parking at Bronte and Tannery Park - comments

Hello

I would like to express my displeasure in the proposal to charge a parking fee to park at Bronte or Tannery Park.

I have lived in Oakville for over 30 years and regularly visit the waterfront for a walk, along with others doing the same. The proposal to now charge for parking is not warranted.

You state the rationale is due to overcrowding since Covid and overflow parking on the side streets. With the lockdown perhaps there have been more people in the area because that is all anyone can do. However the "supposed" problem will rectify itself as things open up. As of this weekend more outdoor activities will be open and people will disperse. In addition, it is quite likely that people were coming to the waterfront from other regions - that too will stop.

The town has already put up additional no parking signs in these areas. There is no reason to now charge for parking - doing so may actually make people stay in the park longer since they've paid, perhaps gather in groups, as opposed to just going for a walk.

Please do not punish the good people of Oakville - we have a beautiful waterfront - people need to walk for their mental health and the local businesses need us. This proposal is not warranted!

Thank you  
Janice Sherman

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**From:** Imellor

**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2021 6:13 PM

**To:** Town Clerk; Janet Haslett-Theall

**Subject:** Paid parking at beaches

Absolutely not. What are you thinking about? We need to make these areas as accessible as possible. I agree that the parking spots get filled, but that may well ease as Covid restrictions are relaxed. I don't see how forcing people to pay will help the situation. Is this a money grab by the town?  
As far as I'm concerned, one of the highlights of Oakville is access to our great beaches and harbors. Don't ruin a good thing!!!

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-----Original Message-----

From: Adriana Krizova  
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2021 6:13 PM  
To: Town Clerk  
Subject: Parking at lakefront beaches

Hello

I would like to let the council know that Oakville residents pay quite a bit of taxes and it would be sensible to charge non-Oakville residents. Residents can easily get resident cards and place on dashboard.

Thank you

Adriana

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**From:** Christine Johnston  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2021 6:43 PM  
**To:** Town Clerk  
**Subject:** Paid parking at waterfront parks

Dear Council

I am opposed to paid parking at Oakville waterfront parks, particularly for residents of Oakville.

Oakville has the least accessible waterfront public areas or parks in comparison to our neighbors - Mississauga or Burlington. Downtown Oakville parking is already excessive and adding a fee to use public parks for residents is limiting its access to residents. We pay taxes to the town of Oakville for the maintenance of these parks, we shouldn't have to pay to park to use those same parks.

Particularly during the Pandemic, local residents want and need access to our waterfront.

Sincerely

Christine Johnston  
Oakville resident

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**From:** Sheila Tucker  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2021 8:39 PM  
**To:** Town Clerk  
**Cc:** \_Ward3  
**Subject:** About the proposed paid parking at our Lakefront beaches

Comments for your meeting on May 25th:

Please consider that poorer families often only enjoy these these areas, and use them, because they cannot afford to go to resorts or bed & breakfasts. Many don't own cottages for recreation.

People have lost their jobs in this pandemic, or are working part-time, and are struggling with children (online learning). Much has been lost in the last 15 months.

The lakefront public areas are few and far between, because so much of the waterfront has been taken up as back gardens for wealthy families.

We all get taxed so much already. Please reconsider this idea of making Oakville residents pay yet more. For those watching their money, this might mean the difference between an afternoon out or just staying in (yet again). It may also mean people foregoing these areas and adding to the numbers of crowds elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,  
Sheila Tucker, Oakville

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**From:** Pat Fisher  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2021 10:36 PM  
**To:** Town Clerk  
**Subject:** Paid parking Tannery Park

**Totally the wrong time to require people to pay to park at Tannery Park!!!! It is therapeutic!**

A lot of seniors and people who live alone go there to walk. It would force them to look for alternate parking in the neighborhood or stay home.

**If anything charge for parking on weekends!**

Pat Fisher

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-----Original Message-----

From: Betty Cook

Sent: Saturday, May 22, 2021 9:40 AM

To: Town Clerk

Subject: Pay parking at beachfront parks

I propose that Oakville enforces paid parking at beachfront parks AND HAVE STREET PARKING DOWNTOWN FREE for a limit of 2 hours.

Regards,  
Betty Cook

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-----Original Message-----

From: Suzanne Andrews

Sent: Saturday, May 22, 2021 10:09 AM

To: Town Clerk

Subject: Lakeside parks, paid parking

I have many concerns with this proposal for paid parking. I live within walking distance to the waterfront parks so paid parking and no parking areas is not a issue for me. An article in the Oakville news suggested public transport or other means of transportation such as bicycles. This would not be an option for many seniors or single parents bringing small children to the park. This is putting more stress on the people who most need these facilities. People within walking distance mostly have backyards and lovely places to walk while people in apartment buildings are cooped up with current restrictions. Everyone pays taxes and should be able to access these facilities.

Recently I was in the Waterdown area to visit the waterfalls. The parking lots were closed and reservations made on line were required. All surrounding streets were closed to parking except for residents. The parks were empty. How ridiculous. These restrictions made parks the private playground for close resident.

These ideas are elitist targeting the people who most need these facilities. I have spent the winter and spring enjoying the waterfront parks from Hamilton to Toronto keeping well away from other people. Also I have explored all the wonderful trails in Oakville. Keep these areas accessible for everyone to enjoy. Yes some people will break rules and gather in groups. That is better outdoors than driving people indoors in groups.

Thank you, Suzanne Andrews, Oakville.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Sue Duncan

Sent: Saturday, May 22, 2021 3:55 PM

To: Town Clerk

Subject: Parking in parks

Hello.

I can't help but find it cruel to ask families to spend \$3 an hour to park at the town parks. The high rise apartments near me , have many young families with children and I can't imagine what it would be like not to have a safe place , for them, to run off steam . To bring little ones out you might have to drive in order to bring a chair, blanket for little ones , cooler, and odds and sods.

Please don't add another cash grab in Oakville. Do the parks and lots not belong to all of us and are paid for by our taxes?

If money is so important, ticket cars who are parked illegally.

Hope you change your minds.

Sue Duncan, Oakville

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**From:** David Tucker

**Sent:** Sunday, May 23, 2021 8:36 AM

**To:** Town Clerk

**Subject:** Regarding paid parking at Lakefront beaches

To Whom It May Concern,

Ever since moving to Oakville in 1984, I have been keenly aware of how little access Oakville residents have to their beaches. Apart from a wealthy and privileged few who enjoy unfettered access directly from their backyards, the majority of us share two beaches. These beaches are in high demand, factoring in the rapid growth in this region, as well as COVID. And thanks to development, the few remaining patches of waterfront have all been swallowed up in recent years.

Paid parking will only serve to expose the social inequities of this region and further discourage residents from accessing the health benefits of our lakefront. I hope the motion to introduce paid parking is rejected.

Sincerely,

David Tucker

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**From:** Chris Gorman  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 8:14 AM  
**To:** Town Clerk  
**Subject:** Beach Parking  
Good morning,

After reading details of proposed paid parking at Bronte and Tannery Park – I would urge the Town to consider the offsetting impact on neighborhoods within proximity to both ... For example, we live on Park and Esplanade and during the COVID “era” have noticed a significant increase in the amount of traffic (both vehicular and walking). In the case of vehicles they often park illegally, many are left idling for long periods – not to mention the occasional speeding and littering from loitering vehicles. The volume not only disrupts the area, but affects the safe movement of pedestrians and vehicles, often resulting in vehicles not able to make corners and/or driving on properties of owners in the area to avoid illegally parked vehicles and people walking the area.

If paid parking is introduced, this will only result in more people seeking unpaid areas such as this. Not only will they park illegally on the roads by the water, many (as they currently do), will leave vehicles on residential streets north of Lakeshore and walk to areas such as Park/Esplanade.

The Waterfront Trail is poorly identified online and often leads people to areas such as this thinking there is parking/pathways etc. In this case of our area there is only a one block path from Howard to Chartwell.

While I am not opposed to paid parking at the areas being considered, before implementing the Town needs to assess the impact on other areas and ensure parking and traffic restrictions are both implemented and enforced in neighboring areas.

Thank you.

Chris Gorman

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**From:** walbat7  
**Sent:** May 19, 2021 10:17 AM  
**To:** Tom Adams  
**Subject:** Parking fees at Tannery & Bronte parks?

Hello Tom

You are, as always, my go-to man., hero, knight in shining armour, whenever a serious development looms on my personal horizon. This is one of such occasions.

Paid parking at a public park? How assinine a notion Is that? O'Meara claims "We need some sort of way to make it safe for visitors and for the residents living in the surrounding area".

Paying for parking makes it safe? All it will accomplish is fewer visitors, loss of his position and a dramatic backlash from the very people who paid to create these heavens. Implementing free shuttles from designated pick-up points throughout town would be a much more reasonable alternative. An unreasonable alternative would be to pay me to stay away so that the rendangered residents residents living close by can be safe. Better yet, but still unreasonable, is to increase the taxes for those threatened residents so the expense of paying us to stay away would be borne by much wealthier folks than us plebs who need to commute.

No suggestion of exemptions for seniors either.....; just grab whatever you can to protect the safety of some folks.

Last year I wrote to the Mayor and Commissioner to point out the parked boat trailers, who seemed to be static on the beautiful walkways at Tannery Park for the entire season. Not one parking ticket on site. Why did the Town not tow them to a safe place?

If you really want to decrease visitors to the parks and truly believe this would enhance the safety of our population, CLOSE the parks entirely. Wow, safety would go through the roof.....

If the Town has difficulty getting emergency vehicles to the parks, parking fees are not a reasonable solution. Surely, Council can do better than that.

If O'Meara, et al, want more revenues, enact the littering bylaw. Just count the number of charges laid in the past 10 years, then count the convictions. The revenue from that totals ZERO. I'm sure you figured out why; (HINT....., no charges have been brought).

Parking fees in a public park in Oakville..... I hope, Tom, it will not come to pass.

Counting on you, (as always)

Peter Batek

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-----Original Message-----

From: Dawn Dabek

Sent: May 24, 2021 9:52 PM

To: Tom Adams



Subject: Paid parking at waterfront areas

Good evening councillor Adams,

I am bringing forward a concern on behalf of my senior parents who have resided in North East Oakville for more than 50 years. As homeowners they have contributed to the municipal coffers through property taxes. Taxes which were used to enhance the waterfront areas which included making them fully accessible for people with mobility issues. During the pandemic my parents have had little opportunity for outings where physical distance could be maintained while affording the accessibility needed with both of them relying on walkers. I understand the town is planning on charging for parking at the waterfront (Kerr St.). I realize that economics is driving this decision but it's important for the town to also acknowledge that senior residents may have a limited budget. Paying for parking can make safely walking for exercise cost prohibitive. Any activity a senior does improves their quality of life and helps to maintain their independence.

I would like to suggest that Halton senior residents be exempt from parking fees in these areas or that the city explores a reasonably priced flat rate annual parking pass. This will allow them continue to using the natural spaces that were designed with their needs in mind which they've already help fund.

Best Regards

Dawn Dabek on behalf of  
Thomas & Gay Craigie  
Oakville

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**From:** Peter Yourkevich  
**Date:** May 18, 2021 at 4:55:34 PM EDT  
**To:** \_Ward6 <[Ward6@oakville.ca](mailto:Ward6@oakville.ca)>  
**Subject:** Paid Parking at Tannery Park

Dear Councilors

I am a retired bi-lateral above knee amputee with limited walking and use a wheelchair. There are not a lot of quiet places that I can sit with my wife and enjoy the water, take my breakfast or lunch and sit in my car by the lake and Tannery park has become my go-to spot most weekdays and dependent on parking spots, weekend days for a few hours of enjoyment, just watching the water, birds, boats, kayaks and boarders. Paid parking would definitely curtail my 'breaks' from sitting in my house watching TV and getting out most days. Parking meters would also ruin the view from the car, for watching or photographing. I would strongly request that paid parking not be adopted for Tannery Park or Bronte Park.

I'm sharing today's daily photo of my restorative and peaceful view of the harbour from Tannery Park to let you see, which I'm sure you are familiar with, my daily view of the harbour.



Please don't eliminate my enjoyment of this view, which paid parking would curtail or reduce substantially.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Peter Yourkevich

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**From:** Steve Novak  
**Sent:** May 19, 2021 4:10 PM  
**To:** \_Members of Council  
**Subject:** parking payment

In regards to the upcoming meeting regarding paying for parking at Tannery Park and Bronte Park, I say a big NO to that! In fact, why is there paid parking in downtown Oakville? This does NOT intice people to come and shop when you have to pay for everything. Look at Milton's downtown – all FREE PARKING pn Main Street and in the lots.....let's take there idea and implement it here. FREE PARKING

Thank you,  
R. Novak

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-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Kronic

Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 8:46 AM

To: Town Clerk

Subject: Lakefront Parking

I am writing to say that I am opposed proposed restrictions and fees on lakefront parking.

I am a retiree who lives in north Oakville, and like to visit the Kerr Street, Tannery and Lakeside parks.

However, there is very little public parking in these areas, except for Tannery Park. But in the nice weather, even it's full. So I am left with no choice but to park on the street.

I realize homeowners may not like having people park in front of their homes, but I feel they and the Town should be accommodating and realize that not everyone can live in close proximity to our fine parks.

The lack of waterfront parking is a natural outcome of our town's population growth — there simply are too many people who want to visit the parks and not enough parking.

I also am opposed to the Town charging people to park on Town parking lots. We already pay exorbitant property taxes. In fact, if the Town wanted to help struggling downtown business, it would remove paid parking from all streets.

Please keep our parks accessible to all Oakville residents and not just for those who live along the lakefront.

Mike Kronic  
Oakville, Ontario

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-----Original Message-----

From: Connie Glen

Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 8:36 AM

To: Town Clerk

Subject: Paid parking at Tannery park and Bronte

I do not agree with paid parking at our parks. Please do not do this. Tax payers of this city pay enough already and with the anticipated inflation and increased food costs we are seeing already this is just another expense! I also believe that most people that use the parks are those from apartments and perhaps lower incomes - please give them a break! Let these beautiful outdoor spaces remain accessible to all!

Just my opinion!

Connie Glen

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-----Original Message-----

From: Bruce Cameron

Sent: May 19, 2021 9:03 AM

To: Town Clerk <[TownClerk@oakville.ca](mailto:TownClerk@oakville.ca)>

Cc: David Gittings <[david.gittings@oakville.ca](mailto:david.gittings@oakville.ca)>

Subject: New "PILOT" parking fees

This is the biggest lie ever. The extension of the pilot project has already been extended (of course behind closed doors) until they dream up a new & higher fee. Yes, continue to deprive us of free parking and encourage us to seek other friendly places that want our business. By the way, there are a lot of them.

You develop beautiful parks to get residents out to enjoy our tax \$\$\$\$ and then slam us with a fee to enjoy our parks & wonderful beaches.

Rob "THE THIEF" dreams up new ways to increase revenue and I'm with many others who will work hard to get rid of him and the greedy Oakville staff that vote to approve the fees.

FYI, Burlington used to be one of our favourite places to go until they introduced parking fees "EVERYWHERE" Now, we frequent establishments in other areas that welcome our support.

Bruce Cameron

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**From:** Nancy Featherstone  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 19, 2021 8:38 PM  
**To:** Town Clerk  
**Subject:** Proposed Parking charges at Tannery Park  
**Importance:** High

As a tax payer and resident of Oakville I wish to oppose the proposal to initiate parking charges at lakefront parks. I feel this user fee is unfair to Oakville residents. If you are concerned about so many out of towners crowding our waterfront then perhaps institute a system like Ajax ON. A disc could be mailed out along with our tax bills allowing Oakville residents to enjoy the waterfront without having to incur \$3.00 an hour parking charges.

Surely we seniors deserve to enjoy what our taxes have helped to build.  
Thank you,  
Nancy and Paul Featherstone

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**From:** Elaine De Souza  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 19, 2021 4:47 PM  
**To:** Town Clerk  
**Subject:** Tannery Park  
To the Town Clerk of Oakville,

I am writing as a Oakville resident in response to the issues of : paying for parking at Tannery Park.

***Absolutely there should not be paid parking at Tannery Park!***

It has been one area where my family has walked almost every week during the day, especially during the pandemic & there has never been any issues with parking.

So many Oakville residents enjoy this waterfront area everyday.

Please consider keeping it free for everyone to enjoy and give tickets to cars parked on residential streets where it's not permitted to park.

Don't let it be another cash grab!!!

Thank you,

Mrs. E De Souza

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**From:** Martha Schoo  
**Date:** May 25, 2021 at 12:09:57 PM EDT  
**To:** [council@oakville.ca](mailto:council@oakville.ca)  
**Subject:** Paid Parking at Tannery Park

Hello,

When I read about the proposal to install parking meters at Tannery Park, I was very dismayed, and continue to feel upset by this idea.

Our Oakville taxes helped to pay for this beautiful waterfront space, and now you are asking us to pay more money to access it. The cost of refurbishing parking meters and patrolling the area are adding further costs. You are also counting on parking fines for revenue, and I feel this lack of trust that the Oakville citizens will be respectful of the time they spend at the waterfront, is disappointing. I doubt if people would stay for a shorter time, because once they have paid, they will stay for the length of the payment, and what is to prevent them from topping up their meter? On Victoria Day, I went to Tannery Park in the afternoon, and observed that most people walked along the paths, maybe sat for a few minutes, and then left.

To take public transit to visit the waterfront would add so much additional time to my excursion, since I live in the Joshua Creek area. On my way home from the water, I often run errands in the south end of Oakville, which would be much more difficult, if not impossible, if I took the bus.

It would be lovely to live close enough to the lake to walk there every day, but housing prices are out of my reach. For me, walking by the water is very therapeutic for my mental health, and it is so much cooler to walk there than on the streets in my neighbourhood. As a female, I will only walk on the cooler trails near my house if I am not alone, due to a fear for my safety.

I strongly feel that if this program is implemented on a two year trial basis, it will not be dismantled, since that would add even more money to the town of Oakville's expenses.

Please reconsider this idea. The waterfront and parks are part of what makes Oakville such a special community. Charging people to visit the waterfront if they don't live close enough to walk, appears to be favouring the small percentage of people who can afford to live close to the lake. The rest of us will be the outsiders who have to pay additional money to access what belongs to everyone in Oakville.

Sincerely,  
Martha Schoo

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**From:** e hooper

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 12:41 PM

**To:** Ray Chisholm <[ray.chisholm@oakville.ca](mailto:ray.chisholm@oakville.ca)>; Mayor Rob Burton <[Mayor@oakville.ca](mailto:Mayor@oakville.ca)>

**Cc:** Cathy Duddeck <[cathy.duddeck@oakville.ca](mailto:cathy.duddeck@oakville.ca)>; Phoebe Fu <[phoebe.fu@oakville.ca](mailto:phoebe.fu@oakville.ca)>; Jim Barry <[jim.barry@oakville.ca](mailto:jim.barry@oakville.ca)>

**Subject:** Parking in parks

hi

I am not convinced that asking folks to pay for parking in our parks is the right thing to do. Access to the waterfront and parklands should be free for everyone, not just those who can afford it. It has been a blessing during the pandemic especially.

Enforcing close of park between 10-6 seems reasonable or having paid parking at that time with one of those parking machines that requires licence number might deter some people.

thanks

Elaine Hooper



Oakville