

# Your Wasaga Beach Guide — Summer 2026

*What's happening, what's open, and what you need to know*

This guide is current as of May 2026. Wasaga Beach is in the middle of a once-in-a-generation transformation, so things are changing fast — in a good way! We've pulled together the most up-to-date info from the Town's official site, provincial announcements, and local news so you can plan your stay with confidence.

## BEACH AREA 1 — What's Going On?

### Q: Why does Beach Area 1 look like a construction zone?

The Town is in the middle of rebuilding Beach Drive from the ground up — literally. The road is being raised by five feet and all underground water, stormwater, and sanitary systems are being completely replaced. Beach Drive had flooded repeatedly for decades, costing businesses and visitors alike. This infrastructure rebuild is the foundation for everything that comes next.

Construction is being done by Arnott Construction Ltd. and is expected to continue through 2026/ 2027.

### Q: Can I still get to the beach?

✓ **Yes — the beach itself is not affected.** Pedestrian access to the beach at Beach Area 1 is being maintained throughout construction.

You can reach the beach from:

- The Spruce Street municipal parking lot
- Third Street (municipal lot on Third Street also available)

**Tip:** arrive early on weekends and holidays. Parking fills fast in peak season.

### Q: What will actually be open at Beach Area 1 this summer?

Food trucks, several local businesses, and all major summer events are operating as usual. The beach itself is fully open. Think of the construction as happening behind the scenes while the beachfront fun continues in front.

### Q: What's the big-picture plan?

The "Destination Wasaga" plan is a 10-to-20-year vision to transform Wasaga Beach into a year-round destination — think Village at Blue Mountain, but on the world's longest freshwater beach. The province has committed nearly \$38 million to the project.

What's already underway or confirmed:

- **Beach Drive rebuild:** \$10.9M provincial investment. New road, new underground systems, new roundabout at Mosley Street. Construction ongoing.
- **Marriott Hotel (Sunray Group):** A 120–160-room premium Marriott with restaurant, convention centre, and a public "Festival Square." Construction required to begin by September 1, 2026.
- **The Breakers (Stonebridge Building Group):** A \$90 million mixed-use residential/commercial development inspired by the Village at Blue Mountain. Already underway.
- **Nancy Island redevelopment:** \$25 million to transform the Historic Site into a flagship year-round cultural destination.
- **Future vision:** boardwalks, a river marina, a world-class music hall ("The Dard 2.0"), an iconic pedestrian bridge, and eco-tourism infrastructure. Final master plan expected July 2026.

### Bottom line:

Beach Area 1 is a bit of a hard-hat zone right now, but the beach is open, events are on, and what's being built will make it spectacular for years to come. You're visiting at a historic turning point for this town.

## SUMMER 2026 EVENTS

### Q: What's happening this summer?

This is one of the biggest event lineups in Wasaga Beach history — 80+ live music performances, new festivals, expanded favourites, and the first-ever Canada Day Symphony Fireworks. Here's the season at a glance:

| When             | Event                                        | What to Expect                                                                                                                          |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 13–14       | <b>Arts &amp; Eats Festival</b>              | Food vendors, local art, and culinary experiences on the waterfront                                                                     |
| June 19–20       | <b>Cruisers Fest</b>                         | Classic vehicles, car culture, and cruising showcases                                                                                   |
| July 1           | <b>Canada Day Symphony Fireworks</b>         | First-ever symphony fireworks over Georgian Bay + FIFA watch party at Nancy Island                                                      |
| July 11–12       | <b>Not-So-Pro Volleyball</b>                 | Recreational beach volleyball tournament — friendly competition for all                                                                 |
| July 18          | <b>Foam Fest 5K</b>                          | Family obstacle run with foam stations — great for kids                                                                                 |
| July 23–26       | <b>BeachLife Festival &amp; Midway ★ NEW</b> | Four nights of live music (The Carpet Frogs/ Guess Who, Jukebox Heroes/Foreigner), midway rides, paddleboard lessons, yoga on the beach |
| All summer       | <b>80+ Live Music Shows</b>                  | Weekly performances throughout the season at beachfront venues                                                                          |
| All summer       | <b>Awaken the Isle ★ NEW</b>                 | Free pirate-themed adventure at Nancy Island — costumes encouraged, great for families                                                  |
| Aug 8            | <b>Rockin' the River</b>                     | Live music and entertainment at the riverfront                                                                                          |
| Aug 22           | <b>Wasaga Beach Triathlon</b>                | Annual swim-bike-run event                                                                                                              |
| Aug (Labour Day) | <b>Memories of Summer ★ Expanded</b>         | Now 3 nights: Legends of Motown, The Yacht Rock Show, Wing Night — fireworks finale over Georgian Bay                                   |
| Sept 18–20       | <b>Blues Festival</b>                        | Stonebridge Wasaga Beach Blues Festival                                                                                                 |
| October          | <b>Mayor's Charity Rodeo</b>                 | RAM Rodeo and Hootenanny Fall Festival                                                                                                  |

**Full calendar:** [wasagabeach.com/festivals-events](https://wasagabeach.com/festivals-events)

## PARKING

### Q: Where do I park near Beach Area 1?

- **Spruce Street municipal parking lot** — closest to Beach Area 1 during construction
- **Third Street municipal lot** — also available near Beach Area 1
- **Wasaga Beach Provincial Park lots** — scattered along the 14km beach; require advance reservation (up to 5 days ahead) at [ontarioparks.com](https://ontarioparks.com)

### Q: How much does parking cost?

### Municipal Parking Lots:

- \$6.00/hour (2-hour minimum)
- \$2.00 per additional 20-minute increment
- \$35.00 daily maximum

**Important:** Municipal and Provincial Park parking permits are NOT interchangeable.

**Tip:** Arrive before 10 AM on peak weekends. The lots fill quickly on sunny summer days. Check [wasagabeach.com/parking](https://wasagabeach.com/parking) for the full parking map.

## NANCY ISLAND HISTORIC SITE

### Q: What is Nancy Island and is it open?

Nancy Island is one of the most unique historic sites in Canada. The island formed around the sunken hull of HMS Nancy — a British schooner deliberately scuttled in the Nottawasaga River during the War of 1812 to prevent its capture by American forces. Over time, sediment built up around it and created the island.

The Museum and island are open to visitors (10:00 AM – 5:00 PM seasonally). You can tour with a heritage costumed guide, watch an award-winning film, and explore the history of the Nancy and her crew. Address: 119 Mosley St, Wasaga Beach.

**2026 Special Events at Nancy Island:** Canada Day programming, Awaken the Isle pirate adventure (free, all ages), and a first-ever FIFA World Cup watch party.

**Long-term:** A \$25 million provincial investment is earmarked to transform Nancy Island into a flagship year-round cultural destination under the Destination Wasaga plan.

## COSTCO — Coming to Wasaga Beach!

### Q: Is there a Costco nearby?



**Costco is coming to Wasaga Beach — but not quite yet.**

Costco received its building permit in April 2026 and construction started this spring at 345 Lyons Court (at Ramblewood Drive, near the casino on Hwy 26). The 162,000 sq ft warehouse will include a tire centre, gas bar, and seasonal garden centre. It's expected to open in fall 2026 — likely after the cottage season.

**In the meantime, the nearest Costco is in Barrie** (approximately 45 minutes south). Check [costco.ca](https://costco.ca) for the Barrie warehouse address, hours, and membership info.

## SHOPPING & EVERYDAY ESSENTIALS

### Q: Where do I go for groceries and everyday supplies?

Everything you need for a week at the beach is within a short drive:

| What                  | Where                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Groceries             | Foodland and FreshCo in Wasaga Beach. Sobeys and larger grocery options in Collingwood (~20 min west). |
| Pharmacy / Drug Store | Shoppers Drug Mart in Wasaga Beach. Guardian and Pharmasave also available locally.                    |

|                        |                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Hardware / Home</b> | Home Hardware in Wasaga Beach and Collingwood. Home Depot in Barrie (~45 min).                                                     |
| <b>Big Box / Bulk</b>  | Costco: opening Wasaga Beach fall 2026 (not this season). Nearest now: Barrie Costco (~45 min). Walmart in Barrie and Collingwood. |
| <b>LCBO / Beer</b>     | LCBO and The Beer Store both in Wasaga Beach.                                                                                      |
| <b>Gas</b>             | Several stations along Hwy 26 and Mosley Street in Wasaga Beach.                                                                   |
| <b>Medical Walk-In</b> | Town-operated Medical Centre in Wasaga Beach. RVH Barrie for emergencies (~45 min).                                                |
| <b>Casino</b>          | Georgian Downs (slots/gaming) is a short drive from town on Hwy 26 — near the future Costco site.                                  |

## BEACH RULES — NEW FOR 2026

### Q: Are there new rules on the beach?

Yes — the Town passed a new Beach By-law in May 2026 as part of the Destination Wasaga plan. The goal is to protect Wasaga Beach's dunes, wildlife (including the endangered Piping Plover), and natural shoreline for future generations. The rules aren't onerous for regular beachgoers, but the fines are serious:

#### Key fines to know:

- Up to \$3,000 for harming or disturbing wildlife on the beach
- Up to \$2,500 for damaging dune vegetation or natural features
- Up to \$900 for entering a prohibited or restricted beach area (e.g. active Piping Plover nesting zones)

If you see roped-off areas on the beach, respect them — they're protecting nesting habitat. Supervised areas are clearly marked.

## WASAGA BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK

### Q: What's in the Provincial Park and how do I access it?

Wasaga Beach Provincial Park is a 1,844-hectare park encompassing protected shoreline, dunes, and trails across all six beach areas. It's the world's longest freshwater beach park and is packed with activities beyond swimming.

- **Regular season:** April 6 – October 12, 2026
- **Trails:** Blueberry Trail, Twin Bridges Trail, Carly Memorial Trail, and the town-wide cycling network
- **Parking:** Reserve up to 5 days in advance at [ontarioparks.com](https://ontarioparks.com). Provincial and municipal permits are NOT interchangeable.
- **Accessible features:** Mobi-mats for beach access at several beach areas, accessible washrooms, and picnic areas
- **Beach areas 4–6:** Quieter, great for families, connected to Schoonertown shops and restaurants on the west end

## GETTING AROUND

### Q: What are the key distances from Bungalows On The Beach?

We're at 322 Shore Lane, right on the beach. Here's what's nearby:

| Destination                            | Approx. Drive                            |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Beach Area 1 / Beach Drive             | 5–10 min (walk the beach or short drive) |
| Nancy Island Historic Site             | 10 min                                   |
| Wasaga Beach Town Centre (Mosley St)   | 5–10 min                                 |
| Collingwood / Blue Mountain            | 20 min west                              |
| Barrie (Costco, Walmart, RVH Hospital) | 45 min south                             |
| Toronto                                | 90 min south via Hwy 400                 |
| Georgian Downs Casino                  | 15 min                                   |
| Marlwood Golf & Country Club           | 15 min                                   |

## USEFUL LINKS & CONTACTS

|                                  |                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Town of Wasaga Beach (official)  | <a href="https://wasagabeach.com">wasagabeach.com</a>                                   |
| Events & Festivals               | <a href="https://wasagabeach.com/festivals-events">wasagabeach.com/festivals-events</a> |
| Explore Wasaga Beach (tourism)   | <a href="https://explorewasagabeach.com">explorewasagabeach.com</a>                     |
| Parking Info & Map               | <a href="https://wasagabeach.com/parking">wasagabeach.com/parking</a>                   |
| Destination Wasaga Plan          | <a href="https://wasagabeach.com/imagine">wasagabeach.com/imagine</a>                   |
| MAT Info                         | <a href="https://wasagabeach.com/MAT">wasagabeach.com/MAT</a>                           |
| Provincial Park / Reservations   | <a href="https://ontarioparks.com">ontarioparks.com</a>                                 |
| Nancy Island Historic Site       | <a href="https://wasagabeachpark.com">wasagabeachpark.com</a>                           |
| Beach Drive Construction Updates | <a href="https://wasagabeach.com/news">wasagabeach.com/news</a>                         |

**Have a wonderful stay — you're visiting Wasaga Beach at one of the most exciting moments in its history!**

— *Derron, Laura & the Bungalows On The Beach team*