



PORT BRUCE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

3155 Colin Street Port Bruce ON N5H 2R2 | 226.378.2750 | portbrucerpa@gmail.com

Township of Malahide
87 John Street South
Aylmer, ON N5H 2C3

Monday September 15, 2025

Dear Mayor Giguère and Members of Township Council

On behalf of the Port Bruce Ratepayers Association (PBRA) Advocacy Group, I would like to express our support for Malahide Township in your ongoing discussions with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) regarding the seasonal closure of the Port Bruce Provincial Park washrooms.

We understand that this is a Provincial Park, not a Malahide-owned property, and that the current arrangement—where the Township operates and maintains a Provincial site—is not common practice. We also recognize that the washroom closures are the result of a directive from MECP, and we appreciate the Township's efforts to advocate for a reversal of this decision. Our approach is rooted in collaboration, and we ask: how can we help you?

To clarify, the shoulder season refers to:

- The period from the second Friday in May to the third Thursday in June, and
- From the Tuesday after Labour Day until Thanksgiving Day.
- The time in between is considered the peak season.

When the four Provincial Park washrooms are closed during the shoulder season, our community is left with only two toilets by the Pier to accommodate day visitors. Even on the slowest days, over 100 vehicles pass through our village, and the Park remains open year-round due to its unique layout—there are no gates at the entrance.

Visitor traffic has increased significantly over the years due to:

- The bridge collapse, which brought national attention and an episode of Heavy Rescue 401.
- Port Stanley's paid parking initiative which may encourage beach goers to find a nearby free option.
- The solar eclipse, which drew international recognition due to the ideal viewing conditions in Port Bruce.
- This year's Port Burwell parking fee pilot project.

Many day visitors remain within the Provincial Park area and are unaware of other amenities such as restaurants and additional washrooms further down the road. From the parking lot, they only see cottages and the Pavilion and may not know about the Pier and park area. Unfortunately, some visitors resort to using the grass area behind the closed washrooms for their bathroom needs, or seek out the washroom at La Briza, which places a burden on the restaurant located on the same property.

The single porta potty provided during the shoulder season may be insufficient. This spring, the porta potty located in Wonnacott Park overflowed before the Township washrooms were opened, leaving day visitors desperate and out of luck. Looking ahead to the May Long Weekend fireworks in 2026, we ask whether porta potties will be placed at the Provincial Park, where they are most needed. In 2025, they were placed at the Township Park, which did not serve beachgoers effectively.

We are aware of discussions regarding Malahide Township potentially resuming responsibility for opening and closing the Provincial Park washrooms. Has there been any progress in discussions with MECP on this matter?

To support your advocacy, the PBRA subcommittee is currently:

Documenting daily vehicle counts and parking activity at the Provincial Park and beachside areas.

We plan to continue with this data collection until October 15th, after which we will submit a report to Malahide Township. Please note that this data does not include nighttime visitors or those who simply drive through.

We are also prepared to:

Encourage community members to send comments via email to the Superintendent of Ontario Parks or to the Township, which can be compiled and forwarded in support of keeping the washrooms open during the shoulder season.

Request signage on the Provincial Park washroom doors to inform visitors of alternative washroom locations at the Township Park, which may help reduce misuse of the area behind the Provincial Park building.

Submit a formal letter of support to the Superintendent of Ontario Parks and MECP advocating for shoulder season washroom access.

We hope this message conveys our commitment to working collaboratively with Malahide Township to address this issue. Please let us know how we can best assist you moving forward.

Warm regards,

April Anderson

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Port Bruce Ratepayers Association Subcommittee - Advocacy Group