



News Release

**For Immediate Release:**

April 24, 2020, 3:40 pm

### **Fishing in the County of Brant**

**County of Brant, ON** – In light of the COVID-19 health emergency, many residents have been asking if fishing is permitted in the County of Brant. Fishing is permitted but only in areas that are open to the public.

“County spaces that have suitable public access to local waterways include Art Cadman Burford Lions Park, as well as Optimist, Lions and Bean Parks in Paris. The Mt. Pleasant Nature Park ponds are also a good location for beginners. Penman’s Dam should be avoided at this time as spring flooding repairs have not been completed as of yet,” said Kathy Ballantyne, Director of Parks and Facilities for the County of Brant. “If you plan to go fishing, please be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations as set out by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and practice physical distancing to keep our community healthy.”

There are many locations along the Grand and Nith Rivers as well as Whiteman’s Creek that people tend to access for fishing and we recommend that these be used only if safe to do so and when physical distancing can be maintained. Weather conditions can lead to quick changes to river flows and levels and these areas can become slippery and hazardous. Before heading out check local weather forecasts and river flows which are posted on the Grand River Conservation Authority’s website at this link <https://www.grandriver.ca/en/our-watershed/River-and-stream-flows.aspx>

Rules and regulations for fishing can be found on [www.ontario.ca/fishing](http://www.ontario.ca/fishing). This includes information about obtaining a valid fishing license, the species, size and number of fish you can keep, what you can use for bait and tackle and what you can and cannot do in specific locations. It also has helpful tips about how to fish.

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) owns and manages a number of inland waterbodies, including reservoirs, as well as much of the land surrounding these major reservoirs. All GRCA owned and managed properties are currently closed and may not be used to access local waterways.

Please note that our federal, provincial and local governments are advising all residents to take actions to stop the spread of COVID-19. These actions include staying home unless you have to go to work, avoiding all non-essential trips into the community and going outside to exercise, but staying close to home while doing so. Much like the use of trails, please do not travel to other communities for recreational activities such as fishing.

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