

PELHAM NEWSLETTER

October 2020

Volume 4 • Issue 10



Public skating returns to the Meridian Community Centre. View full schedules and other available programs at www.pelham.ca/mcc

Public Skating returns to the MCC on Oct. 4

On Sunday, October 4, public skaters at the Meridian Community Centre (MCC) can take the ice for the first time since the Centre initially closed down during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sunday skaters can enjoy ice time from 1-2:20 p.m.

Public skating on Fridays begins on October 9.

There is a 50-skater maximum during each available timeslot. On Fridays, two 50-minute time slots – 7:30 – 8:20 p.m. and 8:30 – 9:20 p.m. are available. One spectator per skater is permitted in the building, and spectators are required to wear a face-covering as per the Niagara Regional mandatory mask bylaw. Skaters will not have to wear a face-covering while on the ice surface.

The MCC continues to operate on a scheduled basis, and drop-in programs are available. Users wishing to participate in public skates are required to reserve their space by calling 905-732-7872. Payment can be made upon arrival.

Visit: www.pelham.ca/mcc for more information.

Age group	Fees
Adults	\$4 per person
Seniors/Youth	\$3.50 per person
Preschooler	\$3.50 per person
Family	\$12 per family

Programming returns to the Meridian Community Centre

The end of September marked the return of many regular programs at the Meridian Community Centre (MCC), with several more planned in early October.

The MCC's gradual integration of services follows the Province's and ORFA's Ontario Recreation Facilities Association's guidance for facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities during COVID-19.

Earlier in September, the walking track opened, and larger groups were permitted to enter the building and participate in activities. Programs becoming available were: Ladies learn to play hockey, stick and puck, shinny, Brock fitness class, pickleball, and seniors fitness.

Health screening continues to take place inside the building. As per the Regional mandatory mask bylaw, patrons must wear a face covering while in the building and not participating in physical or strenuous activities. Other than team sports, users must keep a two-meter distance from one another.

As of September 21, arena change rooms will be available; however, change room showers will not be operational. Change rooms must be empty within 15 minutes of users getting off the ice, and coaches are to remain with their team until the last player leaves. Skaters should arrive 15 minutes before their ice time and are encouraged to come dressed. Full teams, up to 50 users, are permitted on the ice.

Cleaning of player chairs, benches, and tops of pad boards occurs between rentals. As of September 21, one spectator per participant, up to 50 spectators, is permitted in the arena's pad. Spectators are required to distance and wear face coverings. The spectator area will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day.

In the Accipiter Arena, home to the walking track, the total number of spectators of on-ice users and users of the track will total 50.

Also open is the MCC's multi-purpose rooms. Tables and chairs will be sanitized and cleaned after each rental.

Visit www.pelham.ca/mcc for more information.



This newsletter is designed to provide you with news, updates, information, and more regarding what happens at Town Hall and in the community. Primarily, this will be an electronic communication, though hard copies will be available in limited quantities at Town Hall, the libraries, the Community Centre, and Nick's Cleaners, usually within a few days after the online version is posted. You are encouraged to subscribe online by visiting: www.pelham.ca/newsletter and clicking the subscribe button.

When a case of COVID-19 is confirmed, who does Public Health contact?

Contact tracing and case management continues to be Niagara Region Public Health's most important activity for stopping the spread of COVID-19 infections. When Public Health receives a report of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, Public Health conducts what is known as contact tracing.

How exactly does the process work?

Upon receiving a report of a confirmed case, Niagara Region Public Health:

- Immediately follows up to ensure the person diagnosed is isolating, gathers information about where they have been and who they have been in contact with, and assesses risk
- Public Health follows up with each person, work place, and/or business identified by our skilled team as potentially being at significant risk and provides direction
- If you do not receive a call from Public Health, that means you were not identified as being at significant risk

This contact tracing process doesn't change whether someone is an independent member of the community, affiliated with a workplace, a health care institution, or part of a school. If someone tests positive for COVID-19 at a school, and it is determined that there was risk to others at the school, a very similar process is followed:

- Public Health contacts the school, who helps identify those who have been in close contact. Public Health will assess the risk of exposure. Those with close contact will be contacted by Public Health and told to isolate for 14 days. Typically, this would be all persons who are affiliated with the same class as the person testing positive. Public Health will also advise if any household members need to be tested. In most cases, testing is NOT recommended as it will likely be too early to get an accurate result.
- It's important to keep in mind that when someone has tested positive for COVID-19 at a school, not everyone may have been exposed. Those who have been in close contact will be contacted by Public Health. Those who were identified as not being at significant risk will not receive a call from Public Health and can keep going to school as usual as long as they are not ill and the school is open. No news is good news!
- If an outbreak is declared in a school, Public Health will determine next steps on how to control the outbreak, which could include closing classrooms, isolating cohorts, or closing an entire school.

If you or someone in your family is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, please reach out to your health care provider. Public Health is also happy

to help, but a health care provider knows you and your family best, and is best positioned to decide if you or your family member needs to be tested.

If you have questions about COVID-19, contact Niagara Region Public Health by calling 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074, or chat online with a public health professional.

The best way to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19 is to:

- Practice physical distancing
- Wash your hands often
- Wear a cloth face covering in public
- Limit trips into the community
- Stay home if you're sick.
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily.

As this is a rapidly evolving situation, we continue to remind everyone the importance of using credible sources to stay informed. We update our website frequently as new information is confirmed. We encourage all Niagara residents to visit our COVID-19 webpage.

Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily

Changes to waste collection coming October 19

Changes to waste collection begins on October 19, 2020. The Town will share further reminders as the date draws nearer. Waste collection is a service provided to Pelham by the Niagara Region. Questions, comments, concerns, and complaints are to be directed to the Niagara Region's Waste Info Line.

Garbage will be collected every-other-week.

Your Blue Box, Grey Box and Green Bin will continue to be collected every week. There's no limit to the amount of recycling and organics that can be placed at the curb.

Green Bin program

If you don't use a Green Bin / Cart for organics, now is the perfect time to start. Separating your organic waste is a perfect way to eliminate odours from your garbage can that will be collected every-other-week. Over half of what's placed in our garbage actually goes in the Green Bin or Blue / Grey Boxes.

Large appliances and scrap metal, such as stoves, dishwashers, etc. will no longer be collected at the curb. You can still recycle these items at our drop-off depots free of charge, or through scrap metal haulers / dealers.

Appliances with CFCs, such as freezers and refrigerators, are subject to a \$20 fee per unit at the drop-off depots, unless you have pre-purchased the \$20 CFC sticker.

For large household items, such as furniture, there's a four item limit for each residential unit, each collection day. Large items must be booked for collection two working days before your regular collection day.

Diapers and medical exemptions

Diapers and waste resulting from a medical condition will be collected weekly. Starting July 6, you can register for a diaper or medical exemption. If you're already registered, you don't need to register again.



Virtual Halloween Events

However you are celebrating this year, add in some virtual fun for the whole family! Pelham residents can join in the festive fun with a virtual pumpkin decorating contest, colouring contest and a video parade! Visit pelham.ca/halloween for all the details – launching after Thanksgiving.



**My mask protects you.
Your mask protects me.**

