

Thursday, March 18, 2021

**MEDIA RELEASE**



**AS THE DAYS GET WARMER, WELLAND BUSINESSES ARE REMINDED OF THE TEMPORARY OUTDOOR PATIO AND DISPLAY EXEMPTIONS**

**Welland, ON** – The City of Welland would like to remind all local restaurants and retail businesses that earlier this year Council passed the extension of the 2020 streamlined approval process for temporary outdoor patios, adding outdoor displays for 2021.

The following temporary city initiatives will be in effect for 2021:

- Temporary patios and/or outdoor displays permitted on private property that comply with city guidelines.
- Road occupancy permit fees waived for businesses for the 2021 calendar year related to patio installation and/or outdoor displays.
- Cash-in-lieu of parking requirement for outdoor patios at \$0 per parking space for the remainder of 2021, where there is a need to convert required parking spaces into a temporary outdoor patio. Applicants will be required to enter into an agreement with the City of Welland.
- Site plan exemption fees waived for outdoor patios and/or outdoor displays for businesses
- Existing approved outdoor patios and outdoor displays on private property are permitted to continue without the need for additional approval from the City, unless there is a proposal to enlarge and/or create a new patio

We encourage all residents of the Niagara Region to learn about the public health and workplace safety measures for each zone under the colour-coded response framework <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>

The following provincial requirements under the Reopening Ontario Act, 2020 and its regulations apply to outdoor dining at restaurants and bars:

- If an outdoor dining area at the establishment is covered by a roof, canopy, tent, awning or other element, at least two full sides of the entire outdoor dining area must be open to the outdoors and must not be substantially blocked by any walls or other impermeable physical barriers.
- If the outdoor dining area at the establishment is equipped with a retractable roof and the roof is retracted, at least one full side of the outdoor dining area must be open to the outdoors and must not be substantially blocked by any walls or other impermeable physical barriers.

Capacity limits for outdoor dining are based on physical distancing requirements. Capacity is limited by the ability to keep 2 metres apart from others within the outdoor dining space.

For more information regarding patios on public sidewalks or parking spaces and outdoor displays, contact 905-735- 1700 Ext. 2212 or email [traffic@welland.ca](mailto:traffic@welland.ca). For more information on City of Welland COVID-19 recovery, visit [welland.ca](http://welland.ca).

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