



Staff Report

Community Services – Parks and Trails

Report To: COW- Admin, Corp and Finance, SI, Comm. Services
Meeting Date: November 17, 2025
Report Number: CS.25.048
Title: Request to Designate Delphi Point Beach an Official Quiet Beach
Prepared by: Terry Green,
Manager of Parks and Trails

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CS.25.048, entitled “Request to Designate Delphi Point Beach an Official Quiet Beach”;

AND THAT Council directs staff to create an etiquette for Delphi Point Park, highlighting existing by-laws that restrict noise and asking beach users to respect the quiet enjoyment of other users.

B. Overview

In response to written correspondence from resident Robert Patterson, this report requests a decision on whether to designate Delphi Point Beach as an Official Quiet Beach.

C. Background

Delphi Point Park is a 3.7-hectare property located at 209233 Hwy #26; Con 5PT lot 26 the beach is approximately 225 meters in length.

This staff report is being provided to Council in response to the June 2, 2025, Council Meeting. Council directed staff to provide a report in response to the August 24, 2024, correspondence of Robert Patterson requesting that Delphi Point Beach be designated as an official Quiet Beach.

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Porter

That, Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives the August 24, 2024 correspondence of resident, Robert Patterson, Re : Request to designate Delphi Point Beach as an official Quiet Beach;

AND That Council directs staff to investigate matters referenced in Mr. Pattersons correspondence that are within the jurisdiction of The Town of The Blue Mountains that can be implemented by the fall of 2025 (Q3/4)

D. Analysis

Delphi Point Park comprises approximately 3.7 hectares of undeveloped shoreline on Georgian Bay. The shoreline is bituminous shale (dark grey, fossiliferous, shaley dolostone) with provincially significant invertebrate fossils dated to approximately 455 million years old. The site's natural heritage sensitivity and passive-recreation character are best supported through a non-regulatory "etiquette" approach that leverages existing Town by-laws rather than a formal "Official Quiet Beach" designation.

An etiquette approach is preferred over a formal designation because it leverages existing tools, allowing current enforcement to proceed under the Town's Noise By-law (2003-9), Public Nuisance By-law, and Parks and Facilities Use regulations By-law without amending by-laws or creating a new designation category. It minimizes operational burden by avoiding immediate increases to proactive enforcement of service levels and the associated staffing or budget impacts that a formal designation would likely require. It also reduces the risk of unintended promotion, recognizing that labeling the park as an "Official Quiet Beach" could inadvertently market the site, drawing additional visitors and undermining the quiet character the community seeks to protect. This approach is faster and more flexible to implement, as etiquette materials and signage can be deployed prior to the 2026 peak season, adjusted based on operational feedback, and refined without legislative lead times. It is consistent with Parks Management Plans by emphasizing low-impact public access, education, and protection of unique fossil formations while managing municipal risk and liabilities.

Operationally, under the etiquette model, staff will focus on public education and communication by publishing a Delphi Point Park "Quiet Enjoyment Etiquette" page on the Town website and mirroring content on social media. The messaging will highlight existing rules including hours, amplified sound, alcohol, fires and BBQs, drones, littering, dogs and leash requirements, smoking and vaping, and respectful behaviour, while incorporating environmental messaging on the fragile shale, fossil protection. Staff will install entrance and shoreline signage with clear messages such as "Respect the Quiet Enjoyment of Others," "No Amplified Sound," and "Protect Fossils—Leave in Place," working directly with communications staff for complete language and Town brand consistency. For enforcement, the Town will maintain a complaint-driven response model with targeted presence by Municipal Law Enforcement Officers during peak periods such as weekends and holidays while on-site enforcing paid parking, applying an education-first approach and escalating to enforcement under existing by-laws as needed. No immediate increase to proactive patrol service levels is required; staff will deploy as operationally feasible during the peak season. Monitoring and evaluation over the summer 2026 period will track calls for service and noise complaints, warnings and tickets issued, observed crowding or amplified-sound incidents, and qualitative staff observations.

Financially and from a resource perspective, the etiquette approach is expected to be minimal and managed within approved budgets, with primary costs related to the design and production of signage and digital content. This approach also avoids the legal drafting, notices, and implementation associated with creating a new designation or amending multiple by-laws.

The recommendation aligns with Town objectives by setting clear expectations for behaviour while preserving passive recreation such as walking, swimming, picnicking, and nature appreciation; requesting users to keep sound levels low without creating a new regulatory regime; and protecting sensitive shale and fossil resources while mitigating neighbourhood noise spillovers. Alternatives were considered but are not recommended at this time. A formal “Official Quiet Beach” designation would require amendments to the Noise By-law and Parks Use By-law, increased proactive enforcement, and could unintentionally increase visitation by creating a distinct, marketable label. A status quo no-action approach would not address emerging complaints or provide clear, consistent expectations for visitors.

Implementation is targeted for the 2026 peak season. During winter 2025–26, staff will develop etiquette content, signage plans, and web materials. In spring 2026, signage could be installed and communications launched. In summer 2026, By-law can monitor complaints related to noise on the property.

E. Strategic Priorities

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

4. Quality of Life

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

F. Environmental Impacts

Could have adverse effects on the property by attracting more people to the beach by advertising as a Quiet Beach.

G. Financial Impacts

Purchase of signs and installation \$4,000.

H. In Consultation With

Debbie Young, Manager of By-Law and Licensing

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Terry Green, Manager of Parks and Trails parks@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Robert Patterson Correspondence

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Green
Manager of Parks and Trails

Ryan Gibbons
Director of Community Services

For more information, please contact:
Terry Green, Manager of Parks and Trails
parks@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 353

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CS.25.048 Request to Designate Delphi Point Beach an Official Quiet Beach.docx
Attachments:	- Att-1-Robert-Patterson-Correspondence.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Nov 7, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Terry Green - Nov 7, 2025 - 1:06 PM

Ryan Gibbons - Nov 7, 2025 - 1:52 PM