

WASAGA BEACH



Perhaps one of the most popular beaches in Ontario, Wasaga Beach is a 14-kilometre beautiful sandy beach located on Lake Huron. Billed as the longest freshwater beach in the world, this tourist destination attracts millions of visitors every year. The beach, provincial park and surrounding community offers a wide variety of activities, such as hiking and cross-country ski trails, jazz concerts, and military re-enactments.

The success of the Wasaga Beach is the result of efforts from many parties. The [Town of Wasaga Beach](#)), Ontario Parks, and several community efforts, such as [The Friends of Nancy Island & Wasaga Beach](#) and the [Healthy Community Network](#) that bring the community together to promote and protect Wasaga Beach.

Wasaga beach is also certified as a Blue Flag beach. The Blue Flag program criteria is generally focused on four main areas: water quality, environment management, environmental education, and safety and services. Wasaga Beach proudly works hard to maintain good standards in those four areas. The criteria must be met every year, thus the beach is evaluated every season to maintain its Blue Flag status. The Friends of Nancy Island Historic Site and Wasaga Beach Park works with Environmental Defence Blue Flag program, to conduct surveys biannually during beach season to ensure the beach meets the 27 Blue Flag criteria.

Wasaga Beach is also historically significant for an important War of 1812 event. The story of the British Schooner, H.M.S. Nancy is one of the area's little-known secrets. The Nancy was a fur trading vessel that was pressed into service for the British forces during the War of 1812 and subsequently badly outnumbered during an American attack at Wasaga Beach. The Nancy was scuttled by her own crew during the battle in the Nottawasaga River, though the crew escaped to fight another day and take revenge for the loss of the Nancy. Today you can see the hull of the Nancy, built in 1789, on display at Wasaga Beach Provincial Park's Nancy Island Historic Site near Beach Area 1.



One of the most talked about success stories of Wasaga Beach is the return of the Piping Plovers. Considered to be an endangered species in Canada, these shoreline birds were thought to be extinct from the Wasaga area, where they were previously seen 30 years ago. These shoreline birds require little vegetation cover for habitat, and the increase in human activity along the beach led the birds to disappear from the area. Wasaga Beach Provincial Park recently closed off an area of the beach for the birds. Very soon the birds started to reappear in the area and began nesting. Ontario Parks and community volunteers monitor the birds closely. The Piping Plovers have been a tremendous story for the town of Wasaga Beach, not only from a biodiversity aspect, but also economically. People are visiting the beach to see the birds, creating a boost in the local economy. For more information on the Piper Plovers, click [here](#).

For more information about Wasaga Beach:

- [Wasaga Beach Provincial Park](#)
- [Wasaga Beach Tourism](#)



[Back to Great Lakes~Great Beaches Success Stories Page](#)