

Ontario Permitting "Bring-Your-Own" Alcoholic Beverages at Outdoor Public Events

TORONTO — To help support local tourism and drive economic growth, the Ontario government is expanding "bring-your-own" (formerly tailgate) event permits for municipally designated cultur-

al or community outdoor public events, including farmer's markets, movie screenings, art exhibits and neighbourhood festivals. The expanded permit will allow people who attend these events to bring

their own alcohol for consumption in designated areas.

"Starting this spring, Ontario is giving communities more flexibility to safely and responsibly enjoy cultural and outdoor

events," said Attorney General Doug Downey. "The 'bring-your-own' event permits will help save attendees money, lower overhead costs for event organizers and contribute to local economies."

under the Liquor Licence and Control Act, giving community and cultural organizations greater flexibility ahead of the spring and summer event season.

businesses and tourism, while giving people more opportunities to come together. By modernizing outdated rules and keeping public safety front and centre, our government is protecting Ontario's hospitality and tourism sectors, and giving communities the flexibility they need to host high-quality events that residents and visitors can enjoy."

- Stan Cho
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming

"These permitting changes represent a meaningful step forward—bringing communities together and supporting the growth of tourism-related businesses across the province. I'm proud to support this common-sense measure."

- Graham McGregor
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

"Across Ontario, local events showcase the pride, culture and entrepreneurial spirit that define our communities. By modernizing these rules, our government continues to make responsible, innovative changes that help boost tourism and contribute to local economies."

- Monica Ciriello
Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General

Quick Facts

Previously, only organizers of live sporting events were able to obtain this type of permit.

Only individuals 19 years of age and older will be allowed to bring alcohol to events holding a "bring-your-own" event permit.

The province will continue working closely with the AGCO to uphold existing rigorous standards for licensing, regulation and social responsibility, ensuring events are safe and reflect community priorities.

The bring-your-own initiative builds on the recent amendment to the Liquor Licence and Control Act to allow alcohol sale and consumption on pedal pubs.

In 2024, Ontario's tourism industry supported more than 300,000 jobs and nearly 104,000 tourism-related businesses. That same year, the sector contributed \$34 billion to Ontario's GDP.

"Allowing safe and responsible alcohol consumption at outdoor public events helps support local festivals, small

Municipalities will be required to pass a bylaw authorizing the use of alcohol in public, if they do not already have one in place, and establish a local process that would determine whether an event qualifies as community or cultural. Starting April 30, 2026, event organizers in participating municipalities will be able to apply for bring-your-own permits through the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO).

"Our government is always working to find new ways to empower local communities, boost economic activity and increase tourism," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "By giving Ontario municipalities the choice to make use of this new initiative, our government is directly contributing to their economic well-being while ensuring adults can continue to safely and responsibly enjoy their favourite products."

The "bring-your-own" permit change will be enabled by an amendment to a regulation

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56th Annual Canoe the Nonquon, Port Perry, Ontario

Scugog – The 56th annual Canoe the Nonquon is taking place on Saturday, June 6, in Port Perry. The race is sanctioned by the Ontario Marathon Canoe and Kayak Racing Association (OMCKRA). Canoe the Nonquon was started by the Lake Scugog Historical Society as a fundraiser for the Scugog Shores Museum Village and continues to support the Museum and Archives each year. This race is open to all ages and all skill levels.

The course starts on the twisty Nonquon River. For the first few kilometers, there are many tight bends to challenge your rudder turns. There are also some dead-end channels along the river section (when in doubt always keep right). There is 12 km of river paddling followed by an 8 km sprint along the shores of Lake Scugog to the finish line.

Participants race the clock and can start anytime between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. This is a well attended race with a long-standing history in the community. Amateurs and professionals, young and older, may compete in several competitive or recreational categories. Shuttle vans are available to take participants back to their cars upon concluding the race at either Robinglade Park (river only) or Palmer Park (full course).

Pre-registration Opens on Wednesday, March 25, 2026
Pre-registration opens online on Wednesday, March 25, at 7:00 a.m. The first 25 online registrants will be entered into a draw for a Canoe the Nonquon merchandise package including a shirt, hat, patch and a family season's admission to the Scugog Shores Museum Village. Participants can still register in-person at the Latcham Centre, 121 Queen Street, Port Perry, on Friday, June 5, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. or Saturday, June 6, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. All participants, pre-registered or in-person, must complete their registration by checking in with event staff and receiving their race number at the Latcham Centre on Friday, June 5 or Saturday, June 6 before proceeding to the start line. You will not be permitted to start the race without this number. All race forms and pre-registration will be available on our Canoe the Nonquon page.

The registration fee is \$65 per vessel (canoe, kayak or stand-up paddle board). Pledge forms are available, and participants are encouraged to raise additional funds for the Museum and Archives.

Start Location
Bridge on Scugog Line 12, between Old Simcoe Road and Simcoe Road North near the village of Seagrave, 10 minutes north of Port Perry.

Finish Location
Robinglade Park (if racing river only), or public pier in Port Perry, at the Latcham Centre (if racing full course).
Canoe the Nonquon is the largest annual fundraiser for the Scugog Shores Museum Village. Minimum race entrance fee is \$65, but all participants are encouraged to raise more money through sponsorship to support our community and the Museum as we celebrate the 56th running of the race!