



Seniors get free pass to the beach

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East end seniors will not have to sweat going to the beach this summer. Last Thursday, May 28, Orléans Coun. Bob Monette announced seniors will receive free parking passes for the beach in the 2009 season.

"The parking passes will allow seniors groups to have events at Petrie Island and not have to worry about how long they are there, or where they are parked," said Monette.

All senior groups in the area will have access to the free passes. The plan was put into action, Monette said, at the behest of many of the groups. The goal is to get more seniors out to the beach.

"Seniors in the community are extremely active as volunteers," he said. "It has become very apparent that they want to be involved and they want to be a part of the community."

The city is also taking steps to build infrastructure that will make Petrie Island's beach more accommodating for older residents. There is a new community building being constructed at the beach, which will be fitted with a large deck and indoor washrooms, along with a canteen.

In addition to festivals at the island, Monette said he believes the beach offers a number of health and wellness benefits, like walking trails, that should be accessible to every member of his ward.

"We wanted to find a way to help the seniors of Orléans enjoy Petrie Island," he said. "Any time you have access to an area ... It creates good health and wellness for seniors."

-- By Remi Roy