

2026 Quality Foods Sand Sculpting Competition

On behalf of the Parksville Beach Festival Society, it is our pleasure to invite you to apply to compete at the Quality Foods Sand Sculpting Competition July 9-12, 2026.

The event will be held at the Parksville Community Park - 193 Island Hwy East in Parksville, British Columbia, Canada.

We invite sand sculptors to apply for one of fourteen solo spots and/or eight double spots available in the competition. **Applications need to be submitted online on or before March 1, 2026.** You may apply as both a Solo and a Double, but you will be selected for one or the other as Soloists and Doubles compete at the same time. *Doubles must complete an application that includes details for both applicants. Failure to do so could affect your chance of being selected.*

Applications will be evaluated by the Parksville Beach Festival Society Board of Directors in early March. All applicants (whether selected or not) will be notified by email **no later than March 16, 2026.**

Selection criteria when evaluating an application include:

- Whether you can speak and communicate in English,
- The number of times you have placed in the top 5 at your regional competitions as we need to be sure your sculpting is at a professional level,
- The quality of your work as determined by your competition placements,
- Photos of your work,
- Your references and how easy you are to work with (as determined by our committee, and your reputation within the industry),
- How much you anticipate your travel costs will be. It is ideal if international applicants can minimize their travel costs by sharing their travel expenses with other North American competitions such as Revere Beach; this will help your application considerably. The maximum reimbursement for travel for all sculptors will be \$2,400 CDN for international travel or \$1,400 CDN within North America per sculptor, regardless of actual costs.

If selected you, we will ask for your top 3 preferred plots and we will assign them once we have heard from all competitors.

Prize money will be awarded as follows in Canadian funds:

PLACING	SOLOIST	DOUBLES
1 st	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 3,600.00
2 nd	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 3,100.00
3 rd	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 2,600.00
4 th	\$ 1,050.00	
5 th	\$ 800.00	

We will also include a Competitor's Choice award as voted by your peers, as well as a People's Choice award as voted by the public during the 5-week exhibition. The winning double and soloist will receive \$250 CDN per person for Competitor's Choice and \$500 CDN per person for People's Choice.

All sculptors receive a \$2,000 CDN appearance fee regardless, if they place or not.

The Sculpting Schedule will take place as follows:

Wednesday, July 8: Sculptors travel to the Parksville, BC, which is located on Vancouver Island. You will be responsible for the cost of your meals on Wednesday, but we will reimburse your travel costs (airfare, ferry, gas). If you are flying into Vancouver International Airport (YVR) we will book your return flight from Vancouver to Qualicum Beach via [Iskwew Air](#). Please note that their flights are limited and might not align with your arrival/departure into YVR. If this is the case, please book a flight from YVR to Nanaimo Airport (YCD).

One of our society members will pick you up and transfer you to your motel. Try to arrive as early in the day as possible so that you can come to the competition site in the afternoon to select and build your forms.

We encourage you to order your forms in advance so we can have them prepared and set aside for you. Both wood forms (subject to availability) and flexi forms are available. Please note that we are gradually transitioning away from wood forms due to storage limitations. Whenever possible, we recommend designing your sculpture using flexi forms.

THURSDAY JULY 9, 2026

7AM	Oatmeal, pastries, fruit, and beverages are available at the site
8AM	Pound up begins
12 Noon	Mandatory 45min lunch supplied by the Beach Festival
12:45-4:45PM	Pound up and/or carving
6PM	Sculptor group dinner - location TBA

FRIDAY JULY 10, 2026

7AM	Oatmeal, pastries, fruit, and beverages are available at the site
8AM	Daily carving begins
12 Noon	Mandatory 45min lunch supplied by the Beach Festival
12:45-4:45PM	Daily carving continues
2PM	Gates open to the public
6PM	Sculptor group dinner – location TBA

SATURDAY JULY 11, 2026

7AM	Oatmeal, pastries, fruit, and beverages are available at the site
8AM	Daily carving begins
12 Noon	Mandatory 45min lunch supplied by the Beach Festival
12:45-4:45PM	Daily carving continues
6PM	Sponsor Meet and Greet Event (for competitors, sponsors, and board members) – Opening Weekend Concert at the Outdoor Theatre in the Community Park. All competitors are required to attend.

SUNDAY JULY 12, 2026

7AM	Oatmeal, pastries, fruit, and beverages are available at the site
8AM	Daily carving begins
12 Noon	Mandatory 45min lunch supplied by the Beach Festival
12:45-2:45PM	Final 2 hours of carving, plots must be titled

3:00-3:30PM	Sculptors cast their Competitors' Choice vote
5PM	Awards presentation - announcement of winners (approx. time). All competitors are required to attend.
6PM	Light meal will be provided for those staying

Meals

All meals will be provided during the competition for all participating sculptors. This includes Thursday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Friday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; and Sunday breakfast, lunch, and dinner. In addition, coffee, tea, water and snacks will be available on site throughout the day.

Spouses and children are welcome to attend the Thursday and Friday dinner and the Saturday Sponsor event; however, please advise if you intend to bring family members so we can plan accordingly. Lunches are for competitors only. You will be responsible for your own meals before Thursday. If you have any special dietary requests, please let us know on your registration form.

Accommodations

The Parksville Beach Festival will book and pay for your accommodations from Wednesday July 8 - Sunday July 12 (up to 5 nights). Please advise if you do not require lodging, or if you require accommodation outside of these dates, or if you have any special needs. Rooms are double occupancy, and you will be paired with another competitor (but you'll have your own bed!). We will circulate a list of confirmed competitors so you can let us know if there is someone you would like to share with. If you choose to book your own room, or bring a guest, you will be responsible for payment.

Travel

The Parksville Beach Festival will pay your travel costs, up to a maximum of \$2,400 CDN for international travel or \$1,400 CDN within North America per sculptor. Please make your travel arrangements early and submit your estimated costs on your application form. If you are flying, please book economy class. If you are driving, we strongly suggest that you make ferry reservations to and from the event, since this is a busy time for **BC Ferries**.

To be reimbursed, please submit your original receipts before August 31, 2026. Expenses submitted after this date will not be reimbursed!

The competition rules are available on our website at <https://www.parksvillebeachfest.ca/sculptors/rules-judging/>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at wendy@parksvillebeachfest.ca

Thank you,

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