

Health Unit Media Release



It's Time Again for the Health Unit's BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit's Public Health Inspectors have once again begun weekly water sampling of the area's public bathing beaches. The beaches will be monitored weekly throughout the summer season up to and including Labour Day.

This year the following public swimming areas will be monitored:

In Lanark County: Almonte Beach, Dalhousie Lake, Centennial Beach and Riverside Beach in Carleton Place, Lanark Beach, Pakenham Beach, Rideau Ferry Yacht Club, Robertson Lake Beach, Smiths Falls Jr, Smiths Falls Sr

In Leeds and Grenville: Merrickville Beach, St. Lawrence Park, Lyn Valley Conservation Area, South Crosby Beach, Portland Campbell Street Beach, Foley Mountain Beach in Westport, Grippen Lake Camp, Camp Hyanto and Kendrick's Park in Leeds and the 1000 Islands Township, Lower Beverley Lake Park, Bellamy Park, Westport Sand Lake, Joel Stone Beach in Gananoque, Kelly's Beach in Prescott

Every week a total of five water samples will be collected from each beach. The results will then be analyzed for the presence of E. coli (Escherichia coli) bacteria. **If the result exceeds the bathing water standard of 100 E. coli, the swimming area will be posted as "Unsafe for Bathing"**. Research has shown that where swimming beaches have a high E. coli level there is a direct relationship with an increase in ear, eye, nose and throat infections in swimmers. The bathing beach will remain posted until test results indicate that the water quality has recovered.

Bacterial water quality is one parameter used to determine water quality. Other variables, which are assessed and evaluated, are the presence of blue green algae bloom, poor water clarity and accidental spills of pollution. If at any time, these variables are believed to have an impact on the beach's safety, the beach will be posted as "Unsafe for Bathing".

Posting information is available on the Health Unit web site, www.healthunit.org or by calling the Health Action Line at 1-800-660-5853 or 613-345-5685.

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