



Hamilton

Public Health Services
Health Protection Division
110 King Street West, 2nd Floor, Hamilton, ON L8P 4S6
Fax: (905) 546-2787

February 2, 2016

Craig Murdoch, Director of Environmental Services
City of Hamilton Public Works Department
77 James Street North, Suite 400
Hamilton Ontario
L8R 2K3

SUBJECT: Closure of Bayfront Beach

Delivered by Email

Dear Mr. Murdoch,

The Recreational Water Protocol (2014) under the Ontario Public Health Standards requires the Board of Health (Public Health Services) to determine the suitability of Public Beaches for recreational use based on a water sampling program and appropriate level of surveillance, in collaboration with the owner/operator.

By way of this letter, City of Hamilton Public Health Services, is informing the City of Hamilton Public Works Department that Bayfront Beach is not suitable for recreational use, and that Bayfront Beach should be closed until action is taken to improve the water quality. This is due to the persistently poor water quality at Bayfront Beach and the likelihood that the water quality will not improve without work to mitigate the factors contributing to the poor water quality. Attached for more information is the Public Health Services 2015 Beach Monitoring Report.

Signs should be posted in sufficient conspicuous locations prior to the 2016 swimming season at Bayfront Beach to warn the public that the beach is closed and that the public should not enter the water. Public Health Services can assist with specific wording and location of the signs, if requested.

The water quality at Bayfront Beach has never met the Hamilton Harbour Delisting Criteria since 1999 and was not safe for swimming 78% of the time between Victoria Day and Labour Day 2015, based on the water sampling program conducted by Public Health Services.

Public Health Services is taking an Information Report to the Board of Health meeting on March 21, 2016 to inform City of Hamilton Council that Public Health Services has determined that Bayfront Beach is not suitable for recreational use, and that Bayfront Beach should be closed until action is taken to improve the water quality. Public Health Services is in the process of drafting the report, in consultation with Public Works staff.

Should Bayfront Beach not be closed with appropriate public notification as described above by May 12, 2016 the Medical Officer of Health may need to take steps under the Health Protection and Promotion Act to ensure the public's health is protected.

We look forward to ongoing collaboration with Public Works as plans for Bayfront Beach evolve. In order to provide Board of Health with timely information please confirm your intention to comply with the closure of the beach and appropriate posting of signs by February 19, 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hopkins', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Jessica Hopkins, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Associate Medical Officer of Health
Public Health Services Department

cc Gavin Norman
Dr. Elizabeth Richardson
Rob Hall