



INFORMATION REPORT

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| TO: | Mayor and Members Board of Health |
| COMMITTEE DATE: | June 13, 2022 |
| SUBJECT/REPORT NO: | Green Millen Trail Waterfront Assessment (BOH22004(a)) (City Wide) |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | City Wide |
| PREPARED BY: | Richard MacDonald (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5818 |
| SUBMITTED BY: | Kevin McDonald Director, Healthy Environments Division Public Health Services |
| SIGNATURE: | |

COUNCIL DIRECTION

At its meeting on March 21, 2022 the Board of Health provided the following direction to staff:

Public Beach Signage (BOH22004) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

“Public Health Services and Public Works staff were directed to prepare and evaluation of the beach area located at the end of Green and Millen Roads, to determine if it can be classified as a public beach, with a report back to a future Board of Health meeting.”

INFORMATION

On April 20, 2022 Public Health Services and Public Works staff attended the Green-Millen Trail waterfront adjacent to 101 Shoreview Place, Stoney Creek, to conduct an Environmental Survey of the waterfront for possible classification as a public beach.

The Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) specify the public health programs and services local Boards of Health must deliver. Program and topic-specific protocols under the OPHS further define the minimum responsibilities every Board of Health in Ontario is accountable to provide. To assist in the prevention and reduction of water-borne

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illness and injury related to recreational water use at a public beach, Boards of Health are directed by the *Recreational Water Protocol (2019)* and the *Operational Approaches for Recreational Water Guideline (2018)*. Both documents guide the delivery of the local Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program in Hamilton.

Under the Recreational Water Protocol, the Board of Health shall undertake the following activities using the Operational Approaches for Recreational Water Guideline:

- “a) Conduct an assessment of all classified public beaches annually, including an environmental survey and review of historical and epidemiological data, to:
 - i) Confirm the inventory of beaches that require monitoring as per this protocol;
 - ii) Determine the suitability of the site for public recreational use supported by a water sampling program and appropriate level of surveillance, in collaboration with the owner/operator;”

As part of this assessment, Public Health Services consulted with Public Works staff regarding this waterfront location. Current beach locations are maintained by Parks Operations staff to provide supporting amenities for users including: (1) parking; (2) washrooms/change rooms; (3) good sightlines to the water; and, (4) clear, gradual entry into the water. Regular maintenance in these areas includes: (1) enhanced garbage/litter clean up; (2) sand grooming; (3) washroom cleaning; and, (4) stocking of supplies. This increased level of service for these existing locations is budgeted and planned. If designated areas for public beach access increase, an equivalent increase in staffing to provide the service would also be required. Additionally, infrastructure upgrades and equipment would be required if the expectation is that additional beach areas have parking, washrooms, sand grooming and enhanced maintenance. The physical properties of the city-owned shoreline do not all lend themselves well to this level of service, because of: (1) current shoreline protection design; (2) lack of city-owned property in the area to provide parking and washrooms; and, (3) anticipated negative impact on the adjacent neighbours.

The initial Public Health Services environmental survey of the waterfront site located at the end of Green and Millen Roads along Lake Ontario identified storm water outfalls discharging immediately west of this waterfront location and ponding water adjacent to the south (see Appendices “A”, “B” and “C” to Report BOH2204(a)). These infrastructure and environmental factors have the potential to directly impact water quality, water safety, and/or public health. In addition, Public Health Services has no historical or epidemiological risk assessment data (i.e. water sampling results) for this location as a reference to guide public health actions, including communicating risk to the public.

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Given Parks Operations maintenance and infrastructure concerns, the proximity of the storm water outfalls discharging directly to this waterfront, the ponding water concern and the lack of historical water sampling data for reference, this waterfront location does not meet public beach criteria as set forth in the applicable Provincial guidelines and protocols.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

- Appendix "A" to Report BOH22004(a): Green Millen Trail Waterfront Aerial Image
- Appendix "B" to Report BOH22004(a): Storm Water Outfalls (Small Black Circles) and Green Millen Trail Waterfront (Large Red Circle)
- Appendix "C" to Report BOH22004(a): Green Millen Trail Waterfront Onsite Images