

# HALIFAX

## Beach Season 2022 Recap

Regional Watershed Advisory Board Meeting  
October 13, 2022

# Overview

- 18 beaches supervised between July 1 – August 31, 2022
- 3 beaches open through Labour Day
- Supervised beaches sampled weekly for fecal bacteria
- Supervised beaches monitored consistently for suspected blue-green algae (cyanobacteria)

# Closures

Beach	# Closures	Total Duration Closures
Kinap	4	19
Pleasant Drive	1	5
Birch Cove	2	6
Penhorn	3	28
Chocolate	1	3
Papermill	1	3
Kearney	2	3
Lake Echo	1	2
Cunard Pond	1	20
Oakfield	1	14
Total	17	103

# Fecal Bacteria

- The majority of total beach closures were due to the presence of fecal bacteria above guideline levels
  - All beaches monitored for *E. coli* except Kinap beach, which is in brackish water and monitored for *Enterococci*
- Beaches were closed a total of 55 days due to elevated bacteria concentrations

# Blue-green Algae

- Three supervised beaches closed due to confirmed blue-green algae
  - Benthic mat
    - Oakfield Beach
  - Pelagic blooms
    - Penhorn Beach
    - Cunard Pond Beach
- Shubie Park Dog Beach also closed due to confirmed blue-green algae

# Lessons Learned

- Residents need more clarity on HRM's blue-green algae monitoring and response processes
- Working to include the Shubie Dog Park beach in our blue-green algae response
- Swimmer's itch was an issue at several beaches in HRM

# Other Updates

- Centre for Water Resources Studies blue-green algae passive sampling pilot project
- Began tracking 311 calls related to blue-green algae
- Looking into new solutions to prevent migratory birds from flocking on municipal beaches