



MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: August 5, 2020
SUBJECT: Water Sampling Results
STATUS: PUBLIC –FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Municipality of Chester, through Coastal Action, is conducting a three-month water quality sampling program in two locations: Western Shore and Bayswater.

Preliminary results indicate that enterococci bacteria levels at one of three testing sites in the Rafuse Cove area of Western Shore, are higher than the Canadian Guidelines for Recreational Water Quality, and we are advising residents to avoid using the area for recreational activities until they improve. The area is Goose Creek (also known as the mouth of Vaughans River) as indicated on the map below.

According to Health Canada Guidelines for Recreational Water Quality, activities to avoid are those with primary contact or those “in which the whole body or the face and trunk are frequently immersed or the face is frequently wetted by spray, and where it is likely that some water will be swallowed (e.g., swimming, surfing, waterskiing, whitewater canoeing/rafting/kayaking, windsurfing, subsurface diving).

Secondary contact or “Activities in which only the limbs are regularly wetted and in which greater contact (including swallowing water) is unusual (e.g. rowing, sailing, canoe touring, fishing) should also be avoided for the immediate area.

The other two water quality sampling sites in Rafuse Cove and two sites in Bayswater Pond are well below the guidelines for recreational use. Once the water quality sampling program is completed in September, Coastal Action will provide the Municipality with a report and recommendations.

- Testing sites are
 - One site at the mouth of Goose Creek (Vaughans River, Western Shore);
 - two sites in Rafuse Cove (Western Shore);
 - two sites in Bayswater Pond.
- Samples collected are analyzed for enterococci bacteria (Western Shore, marine environment) and E. coli bacteria (Baywater Pond, freshwater environment).
- Sampling will continue until September 2020 to monitor bacterial levels at all sites. Coastal Action will provide recommendations as part of a final project report.

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We will continue to share results of the testing at these two locations through our social media and website for the remainder of the sampling program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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