

Recommendation:

That the C.A.O.-2022-27 report, dated September 20, 2022 regarding Back Dam – Public Beach Status be received; and

That Council agree to removing the public beach status from 902 Rock Road, known as the Back Dam Park as per the recommendation of Peterborough Public Health.

Overview:

The Back Dam Park has historically been used as a recreational location with a park and picnic areas for patrons. It had also been established as a public beach and Peterborough Public Health has conducted water testing in that location for a number of years. Over the last five years Peterborough Public Health staff have identified concerns with regard to the status and the safety hazards found present at this location.

Staff were contacted about the presence of algae on the rocks creating slippery conditions, swamp-like vegetation and an increasing number of waterfowl. It was also reported that the number of people observed swimming in this location was nil unless they were walking on the rocky part of the dam area.

Conclusion:

Based on the letter from Peterborough Public Health which is attached to this report, it is recommended that the public beach classification of the Back Dam Park be removed and that staff arrange for appropriate signage to be installed informing users that the water is not routinely monitored and discourages users from swimming at that location.

Financial Impact:

The cost of the signs is unknown at this time although, it will be budgeted for in the 2023 budget.

Strategic Plan Applicability:

To develop and/or assist with the development and delivery of social and recreational programs as well as effectively maintaining and updating recreational facilities to promote healthy lifestyles and meet the broad range of community needs.