

# STAFF REPORT

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG



<b>Report to:</b>	Mayor and Council Members	<b>Priority:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Teresa Behan, Deputy Director, Community Services tbehan@cobourg.ca	<b>Meeting Type:</b>  Open Session <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	July 19, 2021		
<b>Report No.:</b>	Community Services-050-21		
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**Subject/Title:** Amendment to By Law No. 022-2016, a By Law to Regulate, Protect and Govern the Use of Parks

## RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council support and endorse the Amendment to By Law No. 022-2016 (40.7) which would extend the existing prohibition of swimming in the Cobourg Harbour to include the west headland beach limits

## 1. STRATEGIC PLAN

The Town of Cobourg Strategic Plan Components (2019 – 2022) includes the following Strategic Actions: People: The Town supports and cares for the social and physical wellbeing of its citizens Partnerships: The Town engages in strong, sustainable public-private partnerships to improve the quality of life for everyone.

## 2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

This report is placed on the agenda and is available to the public ten days before the Council Meeting.

## 3. PURPOSE

To Amend the current By Law No. 022-2016 (40.7) which would extend the existing prohibition of swimming in the Cobourg Harbour to include the west headland beach limits;

## 4. ORIGIN AND LEGISLATION

The existing By Law No. 022-2016 section includes:

## PART VIII COBOURG HARBOUR

### 40.0 GENERAL REGULATIONS

40.7 No person shall fish, swim, snorkel or scuba dive, kiteboard or hover board in the waters included within the Cobourg Harbour, excluding the west headland beach limits without the authorization of the Director;

## **5. BACKGROUND**

Historically Municipal Staff and Council recognized the need to prohibit swimming in the Cobourg Harbour on the east side of the centre pier to keep potential swimmers safe from the dangers of stray current from the docks and collision within the sail path of vessels that would not be able to see them in the water.

Because the area to the west of the Centre Pier towards the headland beach was a calm serene area when the Parks Use By Law came into effect swimming was permitted off the headland beach area.

Due to the influx of boat launching at the ramp, vessels anchoring in the basin, larger boats coming off of the lake and general increased traffic in the area it has become apparent that swimmers could be in danger of collision.

Further, in 2020 the inner harbour basin E. coli (*Escherichia coli*) sampling and testing began. E.coli results through the season rose at an alarming rate and numbers from samples ranging in June from 68 cfu to 14000 cfu in July with Geomeans reaching 1238 cfu/100mL resulted in the closure of the shoreline.

### **Escherichia Testing Results:**

- At Low Risk (0-199 cfu) all recreational activities including swimming are considered safe.
- At Medium Risk (200-999 cfu) some activities are not recommended including swimming.
- At High Risk (1,000+ cfu) all recreational activities including swimming and non-propelled watercraft (kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, etc.) are considered unsafe.

## **6. ANALYSIS**

Harbour water quality is currently tested weekly and the results have determined the presence of faecal indicator bacteria which suggests the possible existence of faecally introduced pathogens.

Building on the proven existence of high E.coli results and the increased powered vessel usage of the west headland beach area it has been determined to be an unsafe area for public swimming.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/BUDGET IMPACTS**

Minimal – Editing existing signage and/or adding small signs in pertinent areas.  
Promotion and Education - through social media and web pages.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

That Council endorse and approve the Amendment to the existing By Law No. 02-2016.