

Recreational Use of Lake Pesaquid

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our testing for recreational use is conducted solely for advisory purposes and is not regulated by the provincial or federal government. Please be aware that the results will be used as a guide only and for public awareness purposes.

Lake Pesaquid is a recreational space that is a hub of activity during the summer months. Typical uses throughout the summer include swimming, paddling, boating, and paddle boarding.

Where this space is not a designated beach through the Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change Department, West Hants Regional Municipality is not required to complete regular testing. However, although not required by federal or provincial guidelines, West Hants Regional Municipality takes a higher level of care for the community and collects water samples at various water access points for recreational swimming purposes. These water samples are collected and then tested at AGAT Laboratories for bacteria levels and include water quality tests for Lake Pesaquid.

The guideline for Canadian Recreational Water Quality for E.Coli in a single-sample maximum concentration is equal to or less than 235 CFU/100 ml. (if a test comes back with less than 235 CFU/100ml the water is considered safe for recreational use at the time the test was taken)

Sources of E. Coli can include untreated human sewage, failing septic tanks, livestock, agriculture, pets, wildlife, and illegal connections from home sewer systems to surface water.

Water testing takes place during the summer months (July 1-August 31) and this sampling program will be increased starting in the summer of 2024. Please refer to the map for information regarding testing location points.



Stormwater and YOU!

The practice of stormwater management is constantly evolving and helping to make residents better aware of how stormwater is managed is important.

Stormwater and Wastewater Overflows: Why do they still happen?

Overflows can happen when heavy rainfall overloads the sewer system. Heavy rainfall and capacity limitations in the conveyance (pipe) systems can trigger overflows at emergency fallout locations.

Overflows can also occur due to mechanical failure or operational issues. The system is designed this way to prevent major damage to infrastructure and surrounding environment.

What is the stormwater system that WHRM owns and maintains?

Storm drains, off-street drainage corridors, buried pipes and manholes, in street (cross) culverts, detention ponds and roadside ditches.

What is a combined sewer?

A combined sewer is a system of pipes and pump stations etc. that transports both sewage and storm water to a wastewater treatment plant where the water is treated and discharged.

What is a CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) and what are the regulations around it?

Most of the time, combined sewers carry all contents (rain, melted snow and sewage) to a wastewater treatment plant for full treatment. During periods of intense, heavy rainfall, or a power outage the volume of stormwater that enters these combines sewers may exceed the system's capacity and some of the combined sewer flow (a mix of stormwater and sewage) is diverted (or overflow) untreated.

Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) were designed to act as a relief valve: preventing sewer overloads, which could lead to flooding of properties, public spaces or even sewage treatment plants.

ADVISORY



During and after rainfall events, stormwater and untreated wastewater may discharge into Lake Pesaquid.

Water may contain high levels of bacteria that can make you, or your pet, sick!

When in doubt, stay out!



902-798-8391
ext 124



For CSO Overflow Status Information:
www.westhants.ca/stormwater-and-you.html

Advisories for Lake Pesaquid are rare but do occur occasionally and are often tied to warm, dry weather. Lake Pesaquid is not a designated swimming area, but it is an important area for water-based recreation, including paddling and motorized boating activities.

In the event there is a water quality advisory for Lake Pesaquid, communication will be posted to social media and the municipal webpage. Permanent signage is in place as a communication tool for public awareness.

Regardless of the waterbody and conditions, when you consider the variable risks to people and pets, please always remember: **“When in doubt, Stay out”**

Federal Regulations under the Fisheries Act:

Subsection 38(5)

Duty to notify – deleterious substance

- (5) If there occurs a deposit of a deleterious substance in water frequented by fish that is not authorized under this Act, or if there is a serious time imminent danger of such an occurrence, and detriment to fish habitat or fish or to the use by humans of fish results or may reasonably be expected to result from the occurrence, then every person shall without delay notify an inspector, a fishery officer, a fishery guardian or an authority prescribed by the regulations if the person at any material time
- (a) owns or has the charge, management, or control of
 - (i) the deleterious substance, or
 - (ii) the work, undertaking or activity that resulted in the deposit or the danger of the deposit; or
 - (b) causes or contributes to the occurrence or the danger of the occurrence.

What is the procedure in the event of a CSO?

Any unauthorized deposits (CSO) that trigger subsection 38(5) of the Fisheries Act need to be called into the spill reporting line without delay at 1-800-565-1633. WHRM staff will assess the affected area for safety hazards and in case actions need to be undertaken, such as road and/or park closures. Staff also determine if secondary overflow pumping is required.

Follow up reporting requires a written report under subsection 38(7) of the Fisheries Act notifying both the Federal and Provincial governing bodies of the CSO event. All CSO discharge volume data needs to be submitted on the Effluent Regulatory Reporting Information System (ERRIS) upon completion of the CSO.

How will I know where there has been an overflow that affects municipal parks?

If there is a CSO that includes standing water in Victoria Park or Elmcroft Park, the property will be posted with a temporary “Park Closed Due to a Combined Sewer Overflow” sign.

Permanent signage is also in place at the (WLS1) lift station located on the Windsor side of Lake Pesaquid.



West Hants
something inspiring awaits