

**4. EXTENDED SUPERVISED BEACH SEASON
PROLONGATION DE LA SAISON DE SUPERVISION DES PLAGES**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AS AMENDED

That Council consider the matter.

RECOMMANDATION DU COMITÉ TELLE QUE MODIFIÉ

Que le Conseil examine la question.

DOCUMENTATION / DOCUMENTATION

1. Susan Jones, Acting Deputy City Manager, City Operations, report dated 18 February 2016 / rapport de la directrice municipale adjointe par intérim, opérations municipales, daté du 18 février 2016 (ACS2016-COS-PRC-0001).
2. Extract of Draft Minutes, Community and Protective Services Committee, 25 February 2016 / extrait de l'ébauche du procès-verbal du comité des services communautaires et de protection, le 25 février 2016.

**COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE
SERVICES COMMITTEE
REPORT 10
23 MARCH 2016**

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**COMITÉ DES SERVICES
COMMUNAUTAIRES ET DE
PROTECTION
RAPPORT 10
LE 23 MARS 2016**

**Report to
Rapport au:**

**Community and Protective Services Committee
Comité des services communautaires et de protection
25 February 2016 / 25 février 2016**

**and Council
et au Conseil
23 March 2016 / 23 mars 2016**

**Submitted on February 18, 2016
Soumis le 18 février 2016**

**Submitted by
Soumis par:
Susan Jones, Acting Deputy City Manager, City Operations/ Directrice
municipale adjointe par intérim, Opérations municipales**

**Contact Person
Personne ressource:
Dan Chenier, General Manager/Directeur général, Parks, Recreation and Cultural
Services / Services des parcs, loisirs et culture
613-580-2424 ext/poste 24295, dan.chenier@ottawa.ca**

Ward: CITY WIDE / À L'ÉCHELLE DE LA VILLE File Number: ACS2016-COS-PRC-0001

SUBJECT: Extended Supervised Beach Season

OBJET: Prolongation de la saison de supervision des plages

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Community and Protective Services Committee recommend Council approve the implementation of an extended supervised beach season in accordance with the Recommended Option outlined in this report.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité des services communautaires et de protection recommande au Conseil d'approuver la prolongation de la saison de supervision des plages conformément au Option recommandée dans ce présent rapport.

BACKGROUND

At the August 20, 2015 meeting of the Community and Protective Services Committee, an inquiry was put forward by Committee Chair Diane Deans requesting staff to bring forward options, before the 2016 budget deliberations, to extend the season for lifeguard supervision at municipal beaches.

Members of Council received the department's response to Chair Dean's inquiry on November 24, 2015 (Document 1). The options provided by staff to extend the supervised beach season were considered at the November 30, 2015 Community and Protective Services Committee meeting. Chair Deans further requested that staff remove the options containing budget implications and bring forward a formal report requesting direction.

The existing guidelines for the supervision of Ottawa beaches calls for the season to begin on the third Saturday in June and to end on the third Sunday in August. This practice dates back to pre-amalgamation and, based on the calendar year, results in a variable number of supervised operating days. Depending on the fluctuations in the calendar, the supervised swimming season can vary from 58 to 65 days. The 2015 season had 58 scheduled days of supervision and 2016 would have returned to 65 days which is the most common occurrence over the last 15 years.

As part of the research to respond to this inquiry, a review was undertaken of the length of the beach season in other Ontario municipalities that provide a supervised beach service. Of the municipalities benchmarked with beach operations; the City's of Sudbury, North Bay, Peterborough, Barrie and Thunder Bay all operate with a season of 58-65 days. Only Toronto has a slightly longer supervised season of 68 days. The start and end dates for beach seasons vary considerably across municipalities but generally reflect a mid-June to late August timeline.

DISCUSSION

The Department has identified sufficient resources to fund the operation of all beach sites for 65 days each summer. Appreciating the needs expressed by residents to have a supervised period that lasts longer into August, the department is recommending that the existing guidelines for the supervised beach season be amended to 65 days each year regardless of calendar variations. Based on this recommendation, the following implementation options have been put forward for consideration:

Recommended Option:

Stagger the start and close date of two of the four beach sites by one week. Using a staggered start and close date, two beach sites would have their 65 day season calculated from the fourth Sunday in August, while the other two beaches would have it calculated from the third Sunday in August (the current practice).

In 2016, supervision of Westboro and Petrie Island beaches would run from Saturday June 25 to Sunday August 28. Supervision of Mooney's Bay and Britannia beaches would run from Saturday June 18 to Sunday, August 21. This option would not generate any additional costs beyond existing budget provisions and would provide a longer overall beach supervision period of 72 days, though each location would maintain a 65 day season.

Alternative Option One:

Set a standard open and close date for all beaches. The last day of supervised beach operation would be set as the fourth Sunday of August in each year and opening date would be determined by counting backward 65 days. This approach would achieve the objective of providing four full weeks of operation in August and provide consistency in yearly operations. It would also provide better alignment of the beach season start date with the school summer holiday period for the four local School Boards. For 2016, supervision would begin on Saturday, June 25 and end on Sunday, August 28.

This option would not generate any additional costs beyond existing budget provisions and would have the beaches opened in time for the end of the school year at all four School Boards. However, it would delay beach opening by one week compared to current practice.

Alternative Option Two:

Stagger the start and close date of all four beach sites by one week as per the Recommended Option detailed above. In addition, at the two largest beach sites, Petrie and Mooney's Bay, reduce the supervision area by half for the first and last week of operations to economize on staff costs. Reinvest these savings in adding one week to the supervision Petrie in June and to Mooney's Bay in August.

Under this option, Petrie and Mooney's Bay supervision would be extended to 72 days but with reduced swimming areas for the first and last weeks of operations. Also, stagger Westboro and Britannia's start dates to maintain a 65 days season at each site.

In the 2016 Petrie and Mooney's Bay would operate Saturday, June 18 to Sunday, August 28 with reduced swimming areas Saturday, June 18 to Friday, June 24 and Sunday, August 21 to Sunday, August 28. By reducing the swimming areas in half for 14 days the added staffing cost of seven days is off-set. Britannia would maintain 65 days from Saturday, June 18 to Sunday, August 21 (the current practice of ending the third Sunday in August). Westboro would operate from June 25 to Sunday, August 28 2016.

This option would provide 72 days of coverage at the two largest beaches, with no additional costs beyond the existing budget provisions. However for 14 of the days at both sites would operate with reduced swimming areas. Given Britannia and Westboro's proximity, staggering the 65 day season with different start and end dates will provide a 72 day season to the west sector of the City.

As requested, staff has outlined several options for consideration within existing budget provisions. Staff believe that the Recommended Option provides the best balance between a simple mechanism for extending existing services and ease of implementation and communication to the public.

Alternative Option One is a sustainable and affordable alternative to providing a standardized beach season at all sites with better alignment with the school holiday period and better coverage for the late August period. However, staff are aware the June weather can be very warm and that postponing the start of beach supervision by a week can have the same negative impact as early end to supervision in August.

Alternative Option Two is also sustainable and affordable, and has the added benefit of extending the supervision season at the two largest beach sites to 72 days. However, the complexity of communicating, enforcing and scheduling reduced site operations at both sites would be challenging and could present increased risks if the public continued to swim in unsupervised areas of the beach.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific rural implications to this report.

CONSULTATION

Public consultations, in the form of inquiries, comments and requests to Councillors have shown an increase in public demand for an extended supervised beach season.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

This is a city-wide report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The increased level of risk associated with a staggered operating season among the four beaches is minimal. To mitigate this, the City will utilize on-site signage and public notices to inform residents of supervision.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to the recommendation or alternative options in this report. All options are within existing budget in 2016.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

Accessibility impacts have been considered within this report.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The report supports Strategic Priority HC2 – Revitalize Recreation Services, Healthy and Caring Communities.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1 – November 24, 2015 Memo Re: Outdoor Swim Season (*Held on file with the City Clerk*)

DISPOSITION

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services will implement an extended supervised beach season in 2016 and going forward in accordance with the option approved by Council.