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Old Beach unsafe for swimming

Not a great start to the summer swimming season for the Old Beach in Prospect Park – the first Halton Health Department samplings, taken on June 1, showed that the water was unsafe for swimming and water sports because of high levels of bacteria.

The regular testing, which occurs weekly until the end of August, measures the amount of E.coli in Fairy Lake. Water with more than 100 E. coli per 100-millilitres of water is unsafe for recrea-

tional swimming because of the risk of intestinal and respiratory infection.

Last year, the Old Beach was only closed twice all summer – both times for seven-day periods – because of high bacteria levels.

A history of closures because of unsafe test results prompted Halton to close the Boathouse Beach in Prospect Park after the 2003 season. Officials still test it once a month to keep an eye on water conditions.

Beach water quality information is available 24-hours a day by calling toll free 1-866-442-5866 or visiting www.region.halton.on.ca/health. Results of the testing is posted on the beach hotline and updated weekly or as conditions change.

Officials said the high bacteria levels are caused by storm water drain runoff, from goose droppings and from lack of movement in the lake. The weekly testing involves taking water samples from five areas along the beach.

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SWEET SONGS: Students of Rockwood music teacher Deb Tilson held their season ending concert on Saturday at Acton's Bethel Christian Reformed Church. – Submitted photo

WHAT'S INSIDE		Water harvesting concept studied for Acton's long-term water needs. See Page 4		Big Daddy Festival honours fathers See Page 7		Seniors' spotlight on Margaret Anderson See Page 16
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