

THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Report DCS 13-2022

Council Meeting Date: April 5, 2022

TO: Mayor Weber and Members of Council
FROM: Ashley Farr, Director of Community Services
RE: Grand Bend Beach Seasonal Washrooms

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report DCS 13-2022 regarding the “Grand Bend Beach Seasonal Washrooms” be received; and

THAT staff be directed to provide a portable washroom at the Grand Bend Beach House annually during the spring and fall months.

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval to provide a portable washroom during the spring and fall at the Grand Bend Beach.

BACKGROUND

The Grand Bend Beach washrooms open in May with limited hours until the beach is fully staffed with part-time staff, typically around the Victoria Day holiday. Once the beach is fully staffed, washrooms will be open daily until 9:00 p.m., and open until 10:00 p.m. during concert evenings. These hours have been extended from the 2021 beach season to accommodate later evening visitors and are consistent with pre-COVID-19 hours. Washrooms remain open daily until Labour Day, when they revert to reduced hours due to a reduced staff complement. Washrooms are closed for the season on Thanksgiving weekend.

Staff and members of Council have received numerous requests to extend the washroom season beyond what is currently offered. This is not possible for several reasons. First, the washrooms are seasonal in nature and not heated. The water must be turned off during freezing temperatures. The second issue is related to staffing and the level of service that the washrooms would require to extend the season. Part-time staff are available during the summer months only and after Labour Day full-time staff transition to fall/winter operations including the operation of arenas.

To bridge this gap in service, staff are recommending that an accessible portable washroom is made available at the Grand Bend Beach to support shoulder season visitors. The washroom is recommended for the months of April, May (until the seasonal

washrooms are open), September, October, and November. The cost for this additional service is approximately \$1,000. Washroom cleaning would be completed under contract by the washroom supplier at a frequency of twice per week. This frequency could be monitored and adjusted if required but is consistent with the cleaning schedule of other portable washroom units throughout the Municipality.

Staff are not recommending that a washroom is in place during the winter months from December to March. Staff are concerned that a washroom placed at the beach during these months will create a public perception that the beach area and boardwalk are maintained throughout the winter, which is not the case. Winter maintenance is not provided for any municipal parks or trails throughout the winter months and could not be accommodated with existing staff resources.

ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER

There are no alternatives presented.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Staff's recommendation is to provide an accessible washroom at the Grand Bend Beach during the spring and fall.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to supply an accessible portable washroom at the Grand Bend Beach will have an annual cost of approximately \$1,000 and can be accommodated through the 2022 operational budget.

CONSULTATION

Randy Shaw, Parks and Facilities Manager