

Final Evaluation Report: Open Water Swimming Pilot Project

MEECH AND LEAMY LAKES
2022

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April 2023

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Summary

This final evaluation report on the open water swimming (OWS) pilot project at Meech and Leamy Lakes ties in with various initiatives undertaken since the pandemic began, leading to official approval of OWS in Gatineau Park for the coming years.

The NCC views the introduction of OWS in a favourable light, in particular because this activity will make it possible to:

- Provide better disciplinary oversight at both lakes.
- Strengthen safety measures for all users.
- Facilitate cooperation between the community of swimmers and Meech Lake residents.
- Better regulate use of the areas at various sites (beaches/boat launches) with a view to limiting shoreline erosion.

Following our analysis of the data, observations, consultations and communications received by the NCC and based on the 2021 and 2022 evaluation reports, it is recommended that **open water swimming at Meech and Leamy Lakes be included in Gatineau Park's permanent summer recreation offer.**

By including OWS in its recreational offer, the NCC will be investing in program oversight via its current operating budget.

The equipment required to implement the program, including signage and swim buoys, will be set up at Meech and Leamy Lakes in mid-May of each year and removed in mid-October.

The launch of the OWS program is scheduled for May 20, 2023.

Timeline

- 2020: OWS issues emerge at Meech Lake.¹
- 2021: first year of the OWS pilot project.
- 2022: second year of the OWS pilot project.
- 2023: OWS is included in the recreational offer at Gatineau Park and the NCC Quebec Urban Lands.

¹ The Stakeholder Consultation Report is available online at <https://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places/open-water-swimming-at-ncc-lakes>.

1. 2022: Second year of the pilot project

1.1. Equipment, signage and logistics

- May 12, 2022: seven signalling structures and related signs with respect to private property were installed (see Appendix IV), together with 16 swim buoys at Meech and Leamy Lakes, albeit closer to the shore than in 2021.
- May 19, 2022: a swim buoy in Hope Bay was relocated.
- July 8 & July 12, 2022: two signalling structures were added at O'Brien Beach and Leamy Lake to identify the starting point more clearly.
- July 9, 2022: signs were added with reminders about regulations prohibiting the launching of boats at Blanchet and O'Brien Beaches.
- October 12, 2022: the OWS equipment was removed.²
- 30+ hours: logistics-related time for setting up and removing the equipment.

1.2. Observations and monitoring at the dedicated sites

Reminder

At each site with a starting point for OWS, the staff was required to:

- Inform swimmers about measures governing the pilot project.
- Remind them about regulations governing the beach sites and the P12 boat launch.
- Observe any swimmers:
 - Not complying with the designated swimming area or the 30 m zone along the shoreline.
 - Not using a bathing cap and/or a swim buoy.
 - Not starting from the designated entry point for OWS.
 - Complying with all three of these measures.

A total of eight trained employees with experience using the observation checklist (see Appendix II) took turns making observations during the season.

OBSERVATIONS				
LOCATIONS	DATES	STATISTICS		AVERAGE TIME
Meech and Leamy Lakes, boat launch at parking lot P12	May 14-October 8, 2022	105 periods (+27 compared to 2021), or 70% of the days of the season	✓ 1,514 open water swimmers ✓ 667 boat launch users	30-60 minutes at each site

² Buoy maintenance must be carried out twice a year, according to the operator.

Information	2021	2022
Bathing caps distributed	15	38
Preferred time of day	6-10 a.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Number of meters	3	4
Requests submitted to the NCC contact centre ³	28	37

The following table shows the types of interventions carried out by conservation officers during their 86 patrols at Meech Lake in 2022.

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	Avertissements / Warnings	Avertissements écrits / Written warnings	Constats d'infraction / Tickets issued	Total
P12	14	35		49
Plage O'Brien Beach	5			5
Plage Blanchet Beach	41	10	1	52
Sur l'eau / On water	12	94	11	117
Total	72	139	12	223

	Sécurité nautique / Safety on water	Swimmers / Swimmers	Chiens / Dogs	Alcool / Alcohol
P12	42	4	3	
Plage O'Brien Beach		1	3	1
Plage Blanchet Beach	7	39	3	3
Sur l'eau / On water	96	18	1	2
Total	145	62	10	6

In addition:

- 86 patrols were carried out, including 42 water patrols, compared to 8 in 2021.
- 95% of the interventions were educational in nature.
- 223 interventions were carried out with members of the public, compared to 113 in 2021.
- 12 tickets were issued, primarily for failing to wear a life jacket.

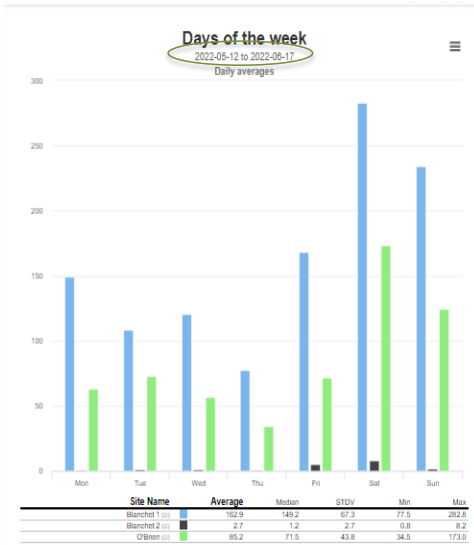
³ See Appendix I.

1.3. Follow-up committee – Park dialogue

- Three meetings were held in 2022 (April 26, August 9 and November 22).
- The same members were in attendance, primarily swimmers from the National Capital Open Water Swimmers Alliance (NCOWSA) and Meech Lake residents.
- Minutes of the meetings are available in Appendix III.
- Official and group dialogue followed on from informal and individual discussions between members prior to implementation of the pilot project.

1.4. Analysis of data at Meech and Leamy Lakes

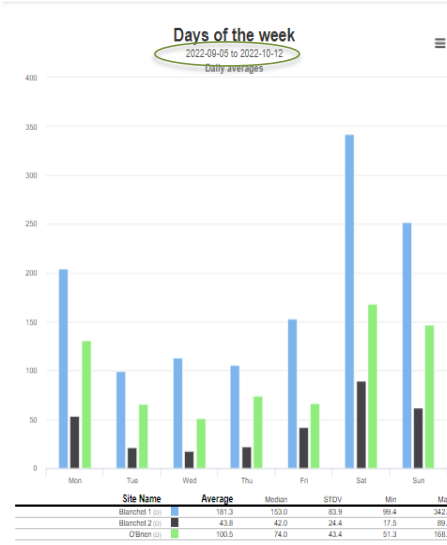
Based on meters set up at the Meech Lake beach sites, the three diagrams below show the usage patterns. The first diagram specifies the number of users for each day of the week before, during and after the beach monitoring period (10 a.m.-6.00 p.m.). The second indicates the number of users per time slot. The third diagram shows the overall number of users at both sites during the season (May-October).



Before the beach monitoring season



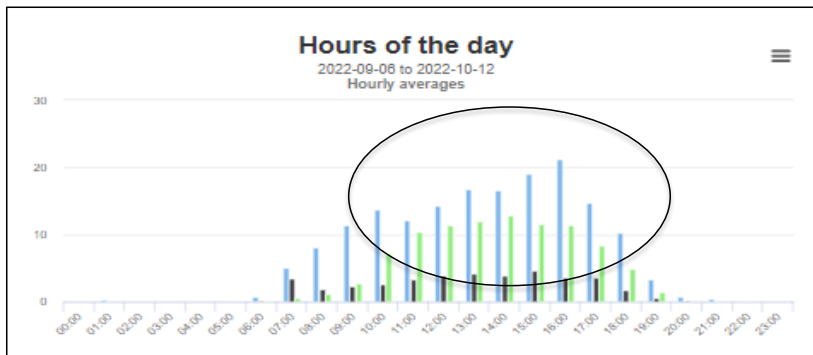
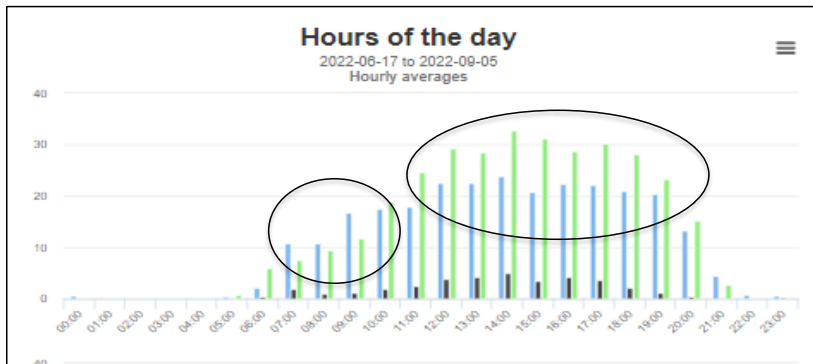
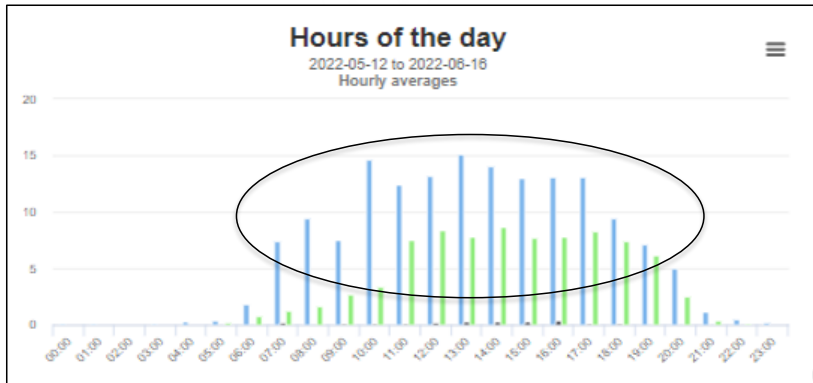
During the beach monitoring season



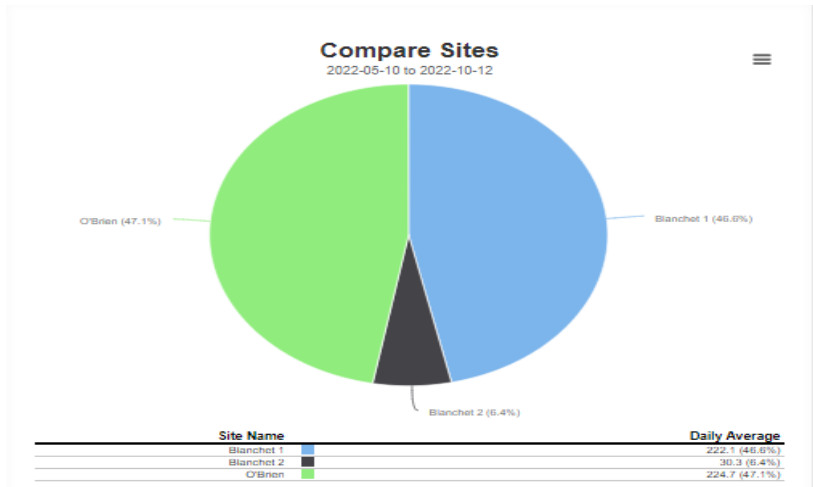
After the beach monitoring season

The above diagrams provide some useful information:

- As in 2021, the number of users is more constant at Blanchet Beach during the week and throughout the season, whereas the number of users at O'Brien Beach increases significantly on weekends and during the beach monitoring periods.
- These data are in line with the on-site observations: Blanchet Beach site is more popular than O'Brien Beach for OWS despite the smaller designated area at Blanchet Beach and the lower capacity of the P13A and B parking lots (only 60 spaces).

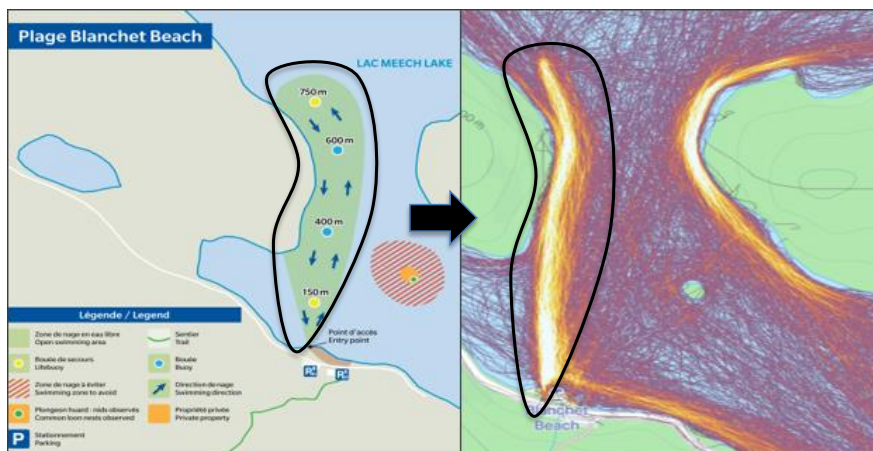


- The number of users is also constant during the day at Blanchet Beach, whereas attendance at O'Brien Beach peaks around mid-day during the beach monitoring period.
- Opening the P11 parking lot in the morning to provide access to O'Brien Beach (5 a.m.) does not seem to offset the attraction of Blanchet Beach, even though it opens later (7 a.m.).



- The seasonal visitor numbers show slightly higher volumes at Blanchet Beach as this site is prized by users for its charm and tranquility.

1.4.1. Blanchet Beach



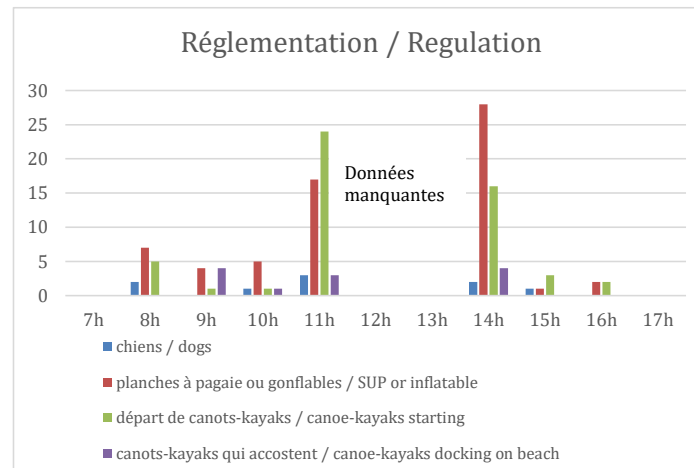
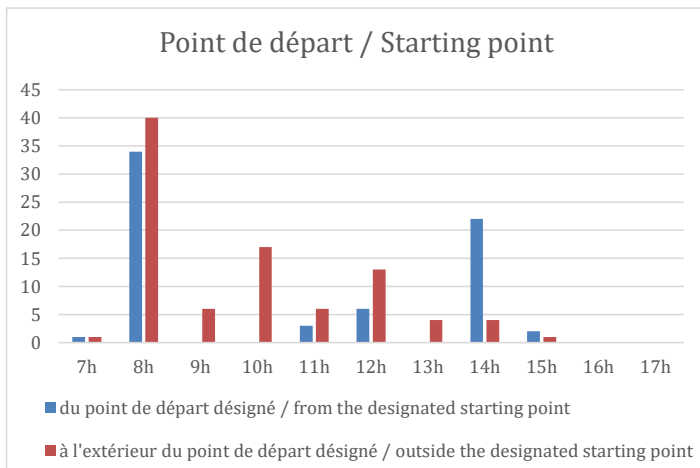
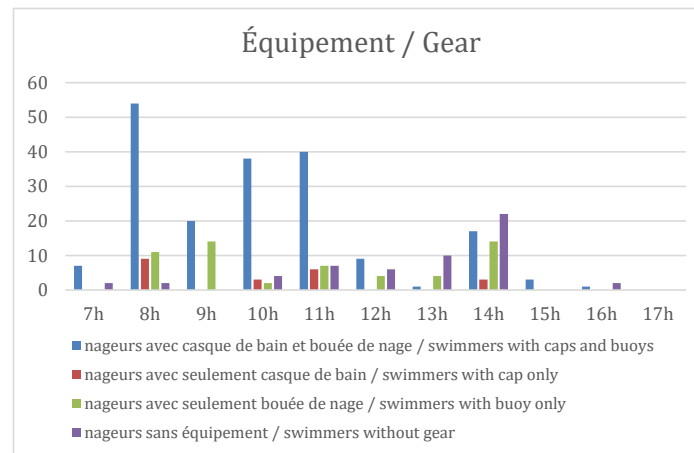
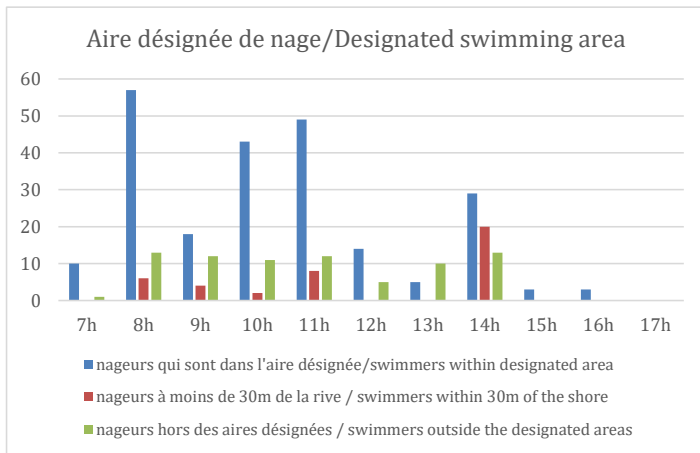
Left: map from signs posted at the site entrances

Right: data aggregated by individuals using the Strava app⁴

- **There is a marked tendency to use the designated open swimming area.**
- The left-hand diagram shows the corridor used by swimmers setting off from P13, while the right-hand diagram shows the route used by pleasure craft (canoes, kayaks, paddleboards) setting off from the P12 boat launch.

The following diagrams show the observations recorded at the Blanchet Beach site by NCC staff.

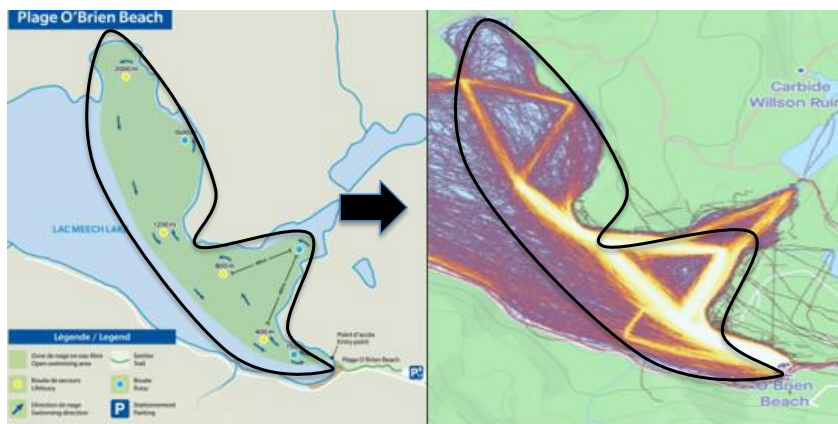
⁴ Popular app widely used by triathletes and open water swimmers.



Based on the Blanchet Beach observations:

- Compliance with OWS measures is much greater in the morning, when open water swimmers, particularly groups and clubs, frequent the site. This trend is evident throughout the season.
- Before the beach monitoring season and prior to the 10 a.m. start of monitoring once the season begins, 40% of swimmers do not set off from the designated starting point. Prior to the monitoring season, this may be due to the presence of a fence used to control Canada geese that redirects swimmers farther away from the official starting point. During the season, the access point along the swim buoys is quite narrow and uninviting.
- Swimmers without gear are mainly seen in the early afternoon.
- In general, non-compliance with OWS regulations and measures is seen in the mid-afternoon.

1.4.2. O'Brien Beach

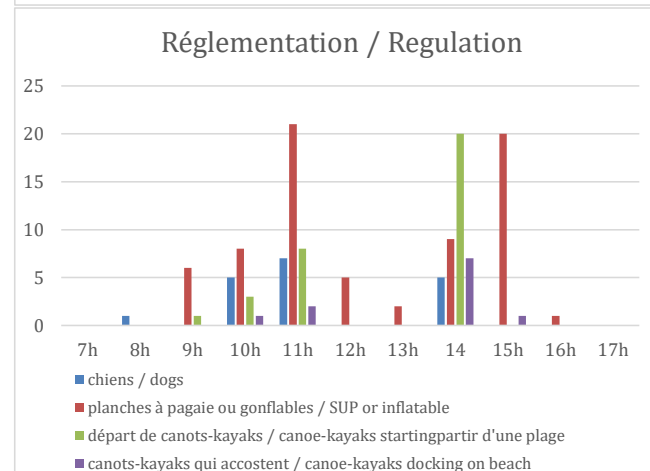
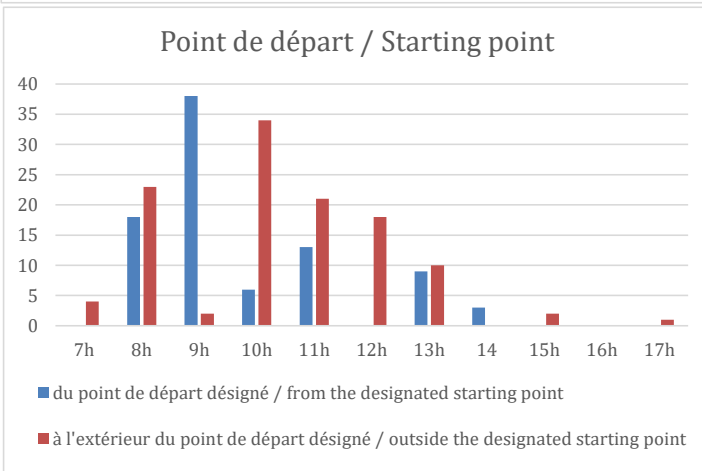
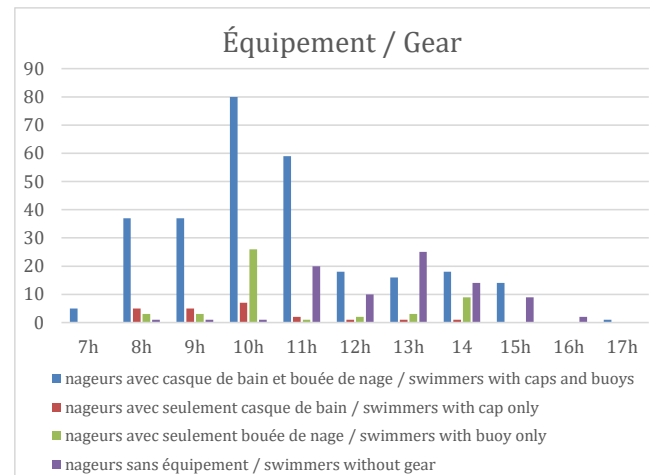
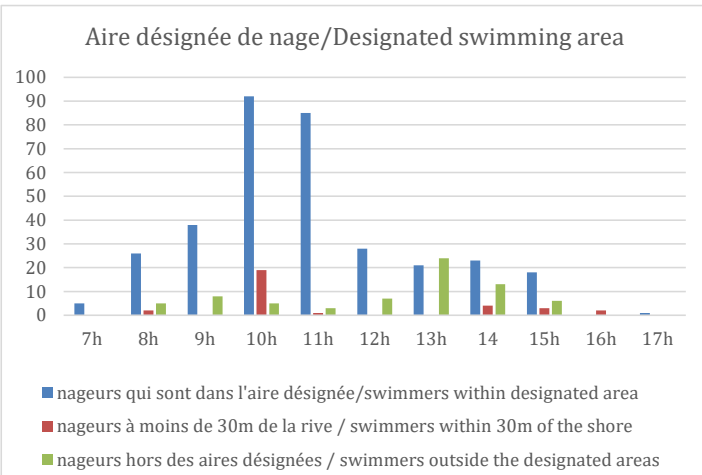


Left: map from signs at the site entrance

Right: data aggregated by individuals using the Strava app

- **There is a marked tendency to use the designated open swimming area.**
- The orange corridor corresponds to the route for the Meech Lake triathlon, which is held in early July.

The diagrams below illustrate the observations made at the O'Brien Beach site by NCC staff.

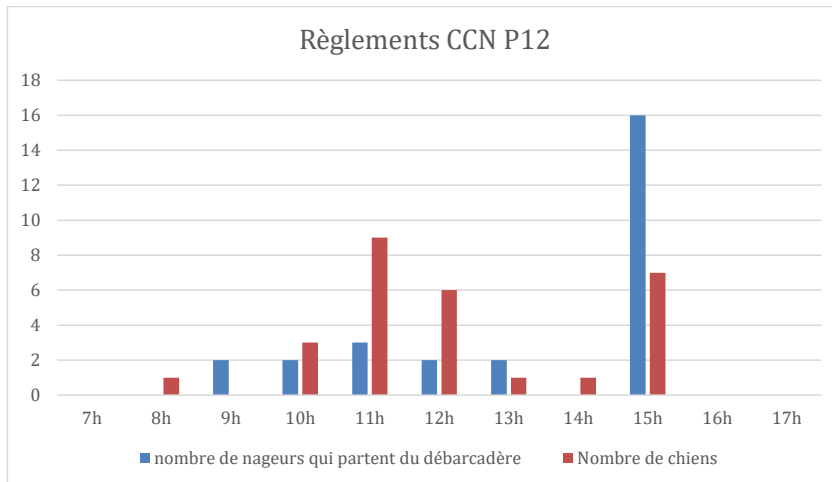


Based on the O'Brien Beach observations:

- Compliance with the designated OWS area is widespread throughout the season, as it was in 2021. Compliance merely varies at mid-day during the beach monitoring period. In that case, the individuals involved leave the bathing area and do not pay attention to the designated OWS area; this practice, however, is not widespread.
- The starting point issue is the same as at Blanchet Beach, i.e. the starting point is narrow and uninviting, on the edge of the buoy line, and is often strewn with obstacles (branches).
- Swimmers without gear are primarily seen in the early afternoon.
- In general, non-compliance with OWS regulations and measures is seen in the mid-afternoon. The main infraction is the use of paddleboards, which are prohibited⁵ in the area sectioned off by the buoy lines. On weekends, users tend to head to this site when the P12 parking lot is full (paddleboards are permitted at the boat launch there).

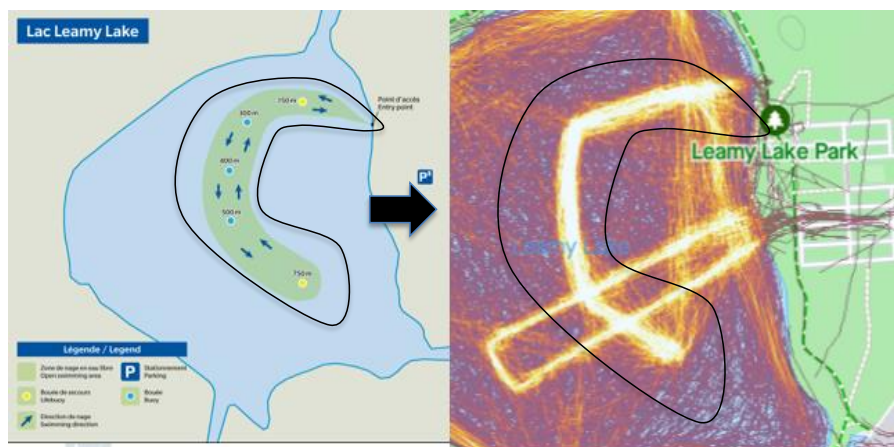
1.4.3. Boat launch in the P12 parking lot at Meech Lake

Of the 667 users observed at the boat launch in the P12 parking lot, 48% were paddleboard enthusiasts, while 44% were canoeists and kayakers. In addition, 4% were dog walkers, while 4% of the swimmers there were unauthorized (see details in the table below). These observations primarily involve bathers in July-August who remained near the boat launch. During the season, there are a few open water swimmers in the morning.



⁵ In accordance with provincial regulations governing safety in public bathing places. See also Appendix V.

1.4.4. Leamy Lake



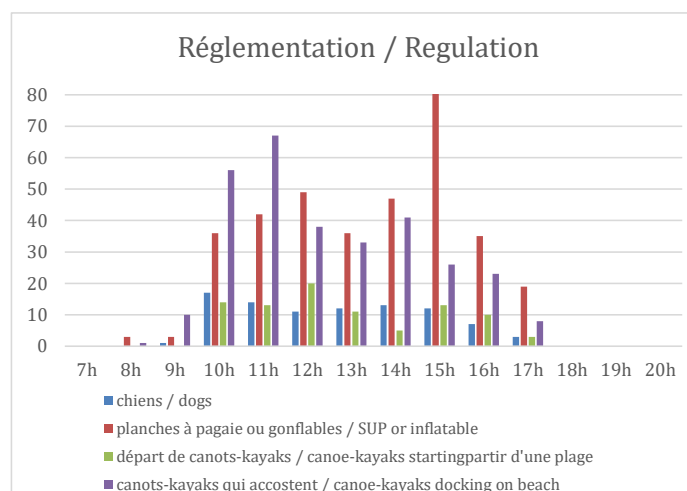
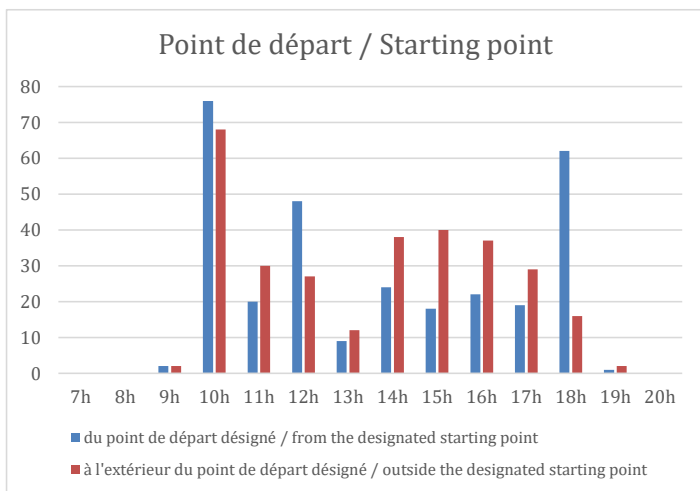
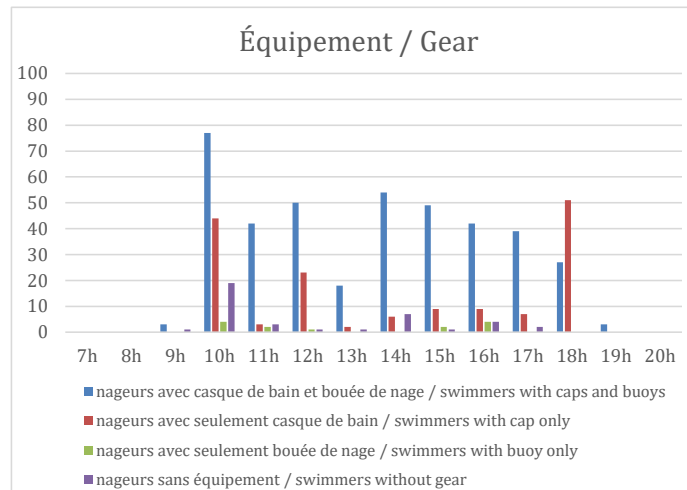
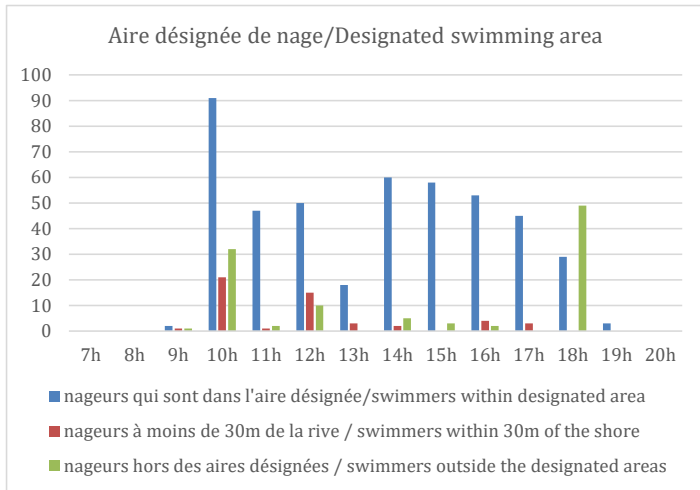
Left: map from signs at the site entrance

Right: data aggregated by individuals using the Strava app

- **There is a marked tendency to use the designated open swimming area.**
- The rectangular area corresponds to the route of the Gatineau triathlon, which is held in early July.

Useful background information

- The beach at Leamy Lake is much larger than either of the two Meech Lake sites.
- The parking capacity at Leamy Lake is significantly larger (400 places vs. 200 places in the three Meech Lake parking lots).
- The site is very accessible on foot, by bike/car or via public transportation.
- The navigation channel for boats has been temporarily out of operation since 2020.
- The beginning of supervising bathing has been delayed until July four times since 2017 (due to flooding, particularly in the spring).
- Groups of triathletes typically train during the week.
- The Gatineau triathlon is a major annual event held on the site.



Based on the Leamy Lake observations:

- The ratio of open water swimmers complying with the designated swimming area is comparable to that at Meech Lake, with 75% of swimmers observed in the designated area.
- This ratio declines in the evenings until mid-July when groups train for the Gatineau triathlon: they do not set off from the designated starting point and use an alternative route to the designated swimming area that matches the triathlon's rectangular route. Once the triathlon is over, the compliance rate for the designated area increases significantly.
- 95% of the open water swimmers have the proper gear. In general, the number of open water open water swimmers is lower, although they are experienced and use Leamy Lake during the week.
- The regulatory compliance issues are significant, mainly because many canoes, kayaks or paddleboards⁶ dock in the designated bathing area or encroach on the designated OWS area.

⁶ It should be noted that the City of Gatineau rents out boats at Leamy Lake opposite the beach site.

2. Issues and recommendations

The issues outlined below are in line with those identified in 2022 and 2021.

Issues	Recommendations
<p>Low rate of compliance with OWS regulations and measures at mid-day at Meech Lake (11 a.m.-3 p.m.) and on weekends during the beach monitoring period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preferably assign resources (Gatineau Park staff and NCC conservation officers) during this critical period. - Ask life guards to issue reminders about OWS measures at noon and 2 p.m.⁷ - Have an appropriate supply of bathing caps on hand so staff members and head life guards at beaches can hand them out to swimmers who need one. - Set up meters near the starting points at Leamy Lake. - Upgrade the regulatory signage at the beach sites (refresh the pictograms and signage at the far ends of the beaches, post reminders at the P12 boat launch and Leamy Lake that life jackets must be worn by recreational boaters). - Continue to disseminate best practices among the swim clubs, groups and the Meech Lake residents' association.
<p>Starting points are narrow, uninviting and poorly identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set up a flag and an archway to identify and designate the starting points for OWS. - Evaluate the possibility of limiting the buoy line for bathing without detracting from the bathers' experience. - Prune the trees near the starting points, particularly since branches hamper visibility at the narrow starting point on the right side of O'Brien Beach. - Close the unofficial trail on the south-eastern side of Blanchet Beach to prevent swimmers from setting off from there.
<p>Use of bathing caps and swim buoys is required as part of the regulatory measures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upgrade the signage at the sites and on the website – <i>the practice guides, the other swimming site managers consulted and NCOWSA members have all come out in favour of using either a bathing cap or a swim buoy. The NCC will recommend that individuals use a bathing cap and a swim buoy, without making this an actual requirement.</i> - Other proposed measures⁸ are included in the permanent offer.

⁷The presence of open water swimmers during beach monitoring hours may have a "knock-on effect" on members of the public who are less aware of the risks associated with this activity.

⁸Depart from and return to the designated access point; at all times, swim in an anti-clockwise direction in the designated OWS areas or less than 30m from the shore; be visible: wear a fluorescent bathing cap or a swim buoy, the use of which is strongly recommended; limit noise between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.; do not trespass on private property.

O'Brien parking lots at Meech Lake (P11) and Leamy Lake are underused in the mornings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop the offer and incentives for groups and users to use the O'Brien and Leamy sites (lockers, hourly rate, agreements, etc.). - Send out messages to the OWS groups and clubs and remind them of the advantages of setting out from these sites. - Ensure that a minimum safety zone is maintained for open water swimmers in the event that the Leamy Lake navigation channel is in operation.
Boats are not allowed to accompany open water swimmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulate OWS at the Leamy Lake site, which is both larger and safer. - Together with the new concession holder, evaluate the possibility of gear rentals by groups.
Conflicts with motorized watercraft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore the idea of a "go-slow zone" near designated OWS areas, in line with Transport Canada's evaluation.
Maintain and upgrade the equipment and install more visual cues on the watercourse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include equipment maintenance and upgrades in the operating budget for Gatineau Park and the NCC Quebec Urban Lands. - Number the buoys, assign them a colour and attach a reflective strip marking off a specific distance; ensure that they correspond to the maps at the starting points and on the website.
Enhance skills acquisition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluate best practices for regulating OWS (new guides, etc.). - Visit sites such as Mont Tremblant, Beauport Lake, Memphremagog Lake or, on a smaller scale, the Lake Simon nautical centre.
Enhance the offer at the existing sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluate the impact of adding swim buoys at the Blanchet Beach site in the direction of McDonald Bay. - Re-evaluate the designated OWS area at Leamy Lake based on the evaluation of swimmers' practices.

3. Including OWS in the summer offer and next steps

After analyzing the data, observations, consultations and communications received by the NCC and based on the 2021 and 2022 evaluation reports, **open water swimming at Meech and Leamy Lakes should be included from now on in Gatineau Park's permanent summer recreation offer.** The equipment required to implement the program, including signage and buoys, will be set up each year at Meech and Leamy Lakes in mid-May and removed in mid-October.

OWS will not be authorized at other NCC-managed sites on the Quebec side of the border, particularly at Philippe and La Pêche Lakes, due to the types of clientele and activities there, in addition to conservation issues, alignment with the Gatineau Park Master Plan and the untapped potential of the Leamy Lake site.

The NCC views the introduction of this activity in a favourable light for the abovementioned reasons. This project has made it possible to:

- Provide better disciplinary oversight at both lakes by offering guidelines to be followed and constant monitoring aimed at raising the awareness of swimmers, bathers, canoeists, kayakers, paddleboarders and beach users in general.
- Limit the impact of OWS for residents thanks to the closure of the parking lots and oversight of the pilot project (ongoing presence of conservation officers and NCC staff to raise awareness).
- Strengthen safety measures for swimmers, canoeists, paddleboarders and kayakers by installing swim buoys with lifelines and whistles attached to them in case of an emergency.
- Suggest swimming corridors by placing buoys at strategic intervals. The setting is thus more inviting for training sessions involving open water swimmers or triathletes. The recreational plan is certainly enhanced by installing effective visual aids and obstacle-free swimming corridors for users.
- Facilitate dialogue between the community of swimmers and Meech Lake residents.
- Reduce the number of complaints relating to OWS, in comparison with 2020 and prior years.
- Better regulate usage at beach sites or boat launches (this will have a positive impact on shoreline erosion).
- Limit interactions with wildlife, in particular loons, by restricting OWS to certain well-defined areas.

The launch of the OWS program is scheduled for May 20, 2023.

By including OWS in its recreational offer, the NCC will be investing in program regulation and oversight via its current operating budget.

4. Acknowledgments

The NCC would like to thank all of the project stakeholders. They include, first and foremost, the National Capital Open Water Swimmers Alliance (NCOWSA) and the Meech Lake residents for their contributions to the pilot project. Secondly, we are grateful to Dominique Piché for his invaluable advice as a consultant and as a swimmer as well. Finally, we would like to thank all the employees who played an active role in the project by making observations or enforcing the law, including the conservation officers and DEMSIS, the NCC's subcontractor.

APPENDIX I – Requests submitted to the NCC information centre

Case types	2020	2021	2022
Noise at dawn and sunrise	7	0	0
Risk of a boat colliding with swimmers (intimidation)	4	9	4
Upset by the closure of parking lots in August (9 p.m.-7 a.m.)	16	0	0
Non-compliance with NCC regulations	5	7	9
Non-compliance with pilot project measures	N/A	10	21
Trespassing on private property	2	2	1
Requests to swim from P12 accompanied by a boat	1	0	0
Parking lot P13 not closed at night			3
Follow-up meeting (Park Dialogue)			2
Requests to relocate buoys			1

APPENDIX II : Example of analysis grid

Plage du Lac Leamy														
	Aire désignée ou permise de nage			Équipement					Point de départ		Règlements CCN			
	nombre de nageurs qui sont dans l'aire désignée	nombre de nageurs à moins de 30m de la rive	nombre de nageurs qui sont ni dans l'aire désignée ni à -30m de la rive	nombre de nageurs avec casque de bain et bouée de nage	nombre de nageurs avec seulement casque de bain	nombre de nageurs avec seulement bouée de nage	nombre de casques de bain distribués	nombre de nageurs sans les 2	nombre de nageurs qui ne partent pas du point désigné	nombre de nageurs qui partent du point désigné	nombre de chiens sur les plages	Nombre de planche gonflable à partir d'une plage	nombre de canots-kayaks à partir d'une plage	Nombre de canots-kayaks à accoster à une plage
7h	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8h	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9h	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10h	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11h	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12h	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13h	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14h	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15h	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16h	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17h	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18h	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19h	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20h	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



ANNEXE III – Minutes of the 2022 *Park dialogue – open water swimming* meetings

April 26 meeting

Rencontre en ligne au sujet de la nage en eau libre — Saison 2022
Online meeting regarding open water swimming – 2022 season
Meeting Minutes – PV de la rencontre
April 26, 2022,
18 h 30 – 20 h 30 Ottawa EST
Via Microsoft Teams Teleconference

Participants:

CCN:

- Ariane Larocque: AL
- Madeleine Gomery (Minutes): MG
- Mamadou Conté (support technique): MC
- Alain d’Entremont: AdE
- Benjamin Hiard: BH
- Catherine Verreault (observatrice)

Invités :

- Anne: A
- Tom: T
- Phil: P
- Rick Hellard: RH
- Monique Boutin: MB
- Christine Vasseur: CV
- Gabrielle Lopez: GL
- Jeff Beedell: JB
- Jeff Mackwood: JM
- Lissa Heringer: LH
- Luc Champagne: LC
- Race Club: RC
- Tim Scapillato: TS

DISCUSSION

#	Membre	Objet	Réponse/Action
1	LH	Merci pour la présentation intéressante. Quelques précisions et commentaires. I’m not the only voice from Meech Lake residents, although I will try to represent their comments – for swimmers, there are differing views. Noise meter: parking lot at O’Brien, or at the Beach?	BH: That’s the plan. The goal is to grab more objective data. At the end of last year, there were cases of noise in August. So important for us to measure that.
2	LH	Noise heard is from the beach, not so much the parking lot. It was fine until the end of last season.	BH: We did a small test last year. Trying to catch the noise from both places. We may consult w/ you before implementing.
3	LH	Are we getting a copy of presentation?	AL: Yes, we’ll do a follow up email in next couple of days. Will include report from last year.



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4	LH	You mentioned you would be more systematic w/ data gathering going forward. Are you doing that yourselves, or will you circulate a form for various groups to contribute?	BH: We plan to have staff doing their own observations. Groups could relay their observations to us, we'll consider. But we'll take care of statistics.
5	MB	Je représente les nageurs. Parc a été fondé par McKenzie King pour que tout le monde puisse profiter de la nature. Je suis dépassée que Chelsea laisse bâtir des maisons à proximité du lac. Résidents doivent s'attendre à plus de bruit – ils ont bâti à côté d'un lac ! Ma journée commence à 7h, en nageant avant d'aller travailler. Ce n'est pas possible pour ceux qui travaillent plus tôt. Mais maintenant il n'y a plus de stationnement le soir (pris par des personnes avec des kayaks gonflables). Bateaux à moteur : on nous a toujours dit qu'ils étaient seulement pour les riverains, mais maintenant ils n'appartiennent pas seulement à eux. Oui, il y a du bruit, mais on peut sensibiliser les gens aux choses qu'ils peuvent faire pour l'éviter. Les riverains ont gagné beaucoup de terrain et ont plus d'avantages que les nageurs. Mais à la base, le parc c'est pour faire profiter à tout le monde la nature.	AL: That's why we're here, to get a diversity of perspectives on this pilot project. We'll be evaluating this project and will take your projects into consideration as we do that.
6	TS	Question re: Blanchet corridor. Any consideration to reconfiguring swim corridors so boats don't have to cross over it? Would be nice to have a little less congestion, which seems to be a big source of conflict between boaters and swimmers.	BH: Question was lagging, but I think I can respond. Driving a motorboat brings some responsibility – those doing so must avoid endangering safety of people active in waters. One possible approach we discussed last year would be to have no [exit?] zone. But NCC doesn't have the authority to do this – it would depend on Transport Canada.
7	TS	I understand it's not in your jurisdiction, but what would be? We need to improve the corridor somehow.	BH: Moving the corridor was also discussed last year, but will put designated OWS area further from shores, which was bad. Another factor is that moving it will go more towards Champagne Island, which is where the common loon nest.
8	JM	What is meant by "30 m from shore? Is it permissible to swim anywhere provided we are not closer than 30 m to shore? For example, is a beach-to-beach swim okay provided that once we leave the beach, we remain 30 m or more from the shore!	BH: Could depend in some areas. Sites that welcome OWSs have different kinds of distances from shorelines – varies from 20 to 50 m. So we want to keep that in mind. For safety reasons, really important for us to keep 30 m from the shoreline.
9	T	(1) I'd love to help you out again w/ buoy changes if that's what you're still looking for. (2) Request from strong swimmers: extend Blanchet to follow the same shoreline, maybe get it another 100 m or so. (3) Most residents I spoke to give a thumbs up on the work from the NCC and the people who assisted them. One thing though: the far buoy that goes into Hope Bay, the resident at the old cottage there had asked to change the location of that buoy, not for motorboat reasons, but because it obstructs a fabulous view. If you can make the change, you should. Still keep same distance, but I think we can work it out so they have an unobstructed view.	BH: (1) Help w/ buoy installation could be welcome, thank you. (3) First time I've heard that kind of feedback re: buoys. Could you ask that person to send us their question? (4/9) 30 m vs. 50 m is something we have evaluated in the past. There's an issue at Blanchet, we remember comments from Mr. Champagne last year about the width of the corridor from the shoreline. We have some ways to measure corridors w/



	<p>(4) Regarding distance – 30 m is arbitrary, and you might want to move it to 50. It’s hard to judge 30 m, and I found a number of OWSs who were swimming close to shore. Residents are almost on shoreline in a lot of cases, so maybe an adjustment would be good. Most people swimming are already strong enough to make 50 m.</p> <p>(5) I know Transport manages navigable waterways, and we all want to be pals to everybody, including residents – I imagine residents will be required to follow the same guidelines as non-resident swimmers. It’s not punitive, but if you want compliance for everyone, it needs to be fair. Second-class citizenry is not a good thing, whether we’re all the same or we’re not.</p> <p>(6) Vandalism and trespassing: can future consultations not make a note of this? There’s no validity to that, I haven’t heard of one instance of that happening. And that’s an MRC or policing issue anyway, doesn’t have anything to do with the swimmers.</p> <p>(7) I didn’t understand, or maybe misunderstood, what it would mean to have extra staff on the Lake.</p> <p>(8) I don’t understand NCC’s hesitation with allowing swimmers with kayaks or support vessels leaving at the same time at P12 and/or unsupervised beach hours. What are you doing for club swimmers who have 30 swimmers and a coach? Do swimmers have to leave from a beach and coaches meet them out in the water with their kayaks? (9) Managing two sides of Blanchet Beach: I suspect that because people have access to two sides of the buoy line and it’s pretty open, people go to one side? Maybe you could clarify that for me a little bit.</p>	<p>GPS or other tools, but we need approach to ensure safety of the users. I know this has been a request in the past. Will analyze during pilot season.</p> <p>(7) We plan to have lifeguards focus on bathing areas, regulations re: swimming inside buoy line. And to be a bit more aware of stats compiled for OWS.</p> <p>(8) Vessels accompanying swimmers: that’s something we have in mind. We will definitely look at it during the season to evaluate. At this time, we want to stay w/ the measures that are in place, and we’ll go with better onsite monitoring.</p>
10	LC	<p>(1) I understand there will be OWS at Meech, even though this is illegal under Red Cross guidelines, Transport Canada laws, Meech’s own rules.</p> <p>(2) Threats and property damage is absolutely related to swimmers, don’t say it’s not.</p> <p>(3) For boat access: I’ve heard people asking to let people get access with their paddleboards from Blanchet or O’Brien. There is no washing station from any parking lot, and given problems we have w/ invasive species, that could be a bigger problem. I need to cross the corridor by boat to get to my cottage. Mme Campeau complained against me, and I got a ticket because I was getting too close to swimmers. I have to go through a buoy line to get back to my cottage. So we have a problem there, and I will not tolerate the cops taking complaints about a boat getting through those buoy lines when I need to go there anyway. I have my permit for the boat – I’m allowed to be on the lake and access my cottage. So please settle that problem. MRC had monitoring sessions last summer with one conservation officer in the boat. He did give a ticket but profiled only residents. Gave verbal warnings to others. They gave no tickets to swimmers that were out of the buoy line at the beach. If there’s going to be profiling, there’s going to be another problem. Play fair. When we call the conservation agents, they don’t answer the phone and never come around. MRC police answer, but never come around to take care of the problems. Maybe if there were some order, there would be fewer problems.</p>



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11	JM	I'm still completely confused by 30m rule. Do you have to swim within 30 m or shore, or outside 30 m? If I swim right down the lake from beach to beach – more than 30 m from shore – is that permitted, even though it's not w/in swim corridor?	BH: You have to stay 30 m from the shore.
12	JM	Would I be permitted to go 30 m from shore at Blanchet and swim straight down to O'Brien from there?	BH: For safety reasons, you have to stay within 30 m from shore. Or go along OWS-designated areas where there are buoys.
13	JM	So if I stay 30 m from shore, I can swim beach-to-beach?	
14	LC	It's within 30 m of the shore.	
15	JM	NCC, can you please tell me that's permitted, so one of your officers won't give me a ticket when I leave the water?	BH: It's definitely within 30 m.
16	LH	(1) Noise that was of concern was at 5 in the morning. It's not 7a.m., it's not all day. It's really just when larger groups gather and talk. We didn't think a noise metre was necessary at first, we congratulated people on their efforts – it was only towards the end of the season that things got a bit noisier. (2) Tom, you mentioned the people who live in the Hope cottage: I'll happily reach out to them directly. I'll ask Lauralee (Lorelei?) to follow up directly w/ NCC. (3) I know NCC is triggered by use of their facilities by boaters to access the lake. That said, I don't know how many of my neighbours are long-distance swimmers. But most who I know wear buoys and are visible out of a desire to be safe. And most swim close to shore. So I don't know where the comment stems from, but it should definitely be a good practice if not a rule. I hear what you're saying about swimming, just from a safety perspective, it makes sense for everybody to be smart and visible while swimming. (4) I won't get into the fairness of using the park, but were residents of Chelsea, and this isn't really an issue to do with swimmers, but many residents have been here from generations, for long before there was a park. NCC has been purchasing property from time to time, and...sure. But we feel vilified here from time to time. We welcome visitors. We care about the park and its well-being, and I just want people to know that. (5) It seems to me that launching a kayak or paddleboard at P12...it's like a five-minute paddle. And at P13, you have a steady stream of kayakers there all day, even though they're not allowed. No enforcement there. Should be more effort placed on making sure activities take place in designated areas.	AL: Thank you for your comments.
17	LC	On parle depuis tantôt des 30m. Bouées de la plage Blanchet étaient pas mal plus que 30m du bord, plus comme 45 (on les a mesurés). La zone grise indiquée sur les pancartes sur la plage Blanchet indique pratiquement le double de distance des bouées. Rendus là, plusieurs nageurs prennent la liberté de s'éloigner encore plus.	AL: Some corridors outside of 30 m. BH: Vous avez mentionné ce point-là l'année passée. Effectivement une petite correction a été faite, la première bouée a été placée trop loin la première fois.
18	T	Lissa, my comments were not meant to vilify the residents at all. I'm trying to make sure compliance is met by swimmers – I just don't like answering questions I can't answer. Maybe NCC could help by sending out a brochure or letter explaining reasoning behind guidelines? That way the onus wouldn't be entirely on you. At the beach, the swimmers have the luxury of signage that	AL: We'll definitely take that back, thank you. BH: We plan to have an official path leading to OWS points. Swimmers will see big signage on the way to the lake. Need to relocate some of the signs to make sure



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		explains how the rules work, and the lifeguards. So perhaps some guidance for residents would help give perspective. And you guys are doing a great job, I know it's tough. Thank you.	swimmers see signs and rules in place. And we need to limit paper waste from brochures! AdE: residents do also relay those messages to other people taking part in our meetings, Lissa.
19	RH	Because you are going to have a shuttle bus system going on during weekends, has there been a thought to getting shuttles to drop people off at beaches so they don't have to drive?	AdE: Shuttle Route will be announced in detail shortly. We've pretty much reached capacity of our installations, but we can't cut trees or enlarge beaches to create bigger lots. We know there's more and more pressure. We encourage users to stay away from Lac Meech on weekends, but since even other areas are getting a lot of pressure, we don't necessarily want to have OWS on all our lakes. And working with our regional partners so that Gatineau Park is not the only resource being used (e.g. Mont-Sainte-Marie having success w/ mountain bike programs).



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August 9 meeting

Online update meeting regarding open water swimming – 2022 season
Meeting Minutes
August 09, 2022
18 h 30 – 20 h 30 Ottawa EST
Via Microsoft Teams Teleconference

Participants:

NCC:

- Ariane Larocque, A/Manager, Public Consultations (moderator): AL
- Madeleine Gomery, Officer, Public and Community Relations (minutes/tech support): MG
- Alain d'Entremont, Senior Manager, Visitor Services and Recreation (speaker): AdE
- Benjamin Hiard, Program Officer, Outdoor Activities (speaker): BH
- Émilie Girard-Ruel, Director, Public and Corporate Affairs (observer): EGR
- Catherine Verreault, Director, Quebec Urban Lands and Gatineau Park (observer): CV
- Christian Massé, Manager, Conservation Team (observer): CM
- Christian Laurin, Acting Manager, Conservation Team (observer): CL
- Pietro Di Rinaldo, Manager, Conservation Services (observer): PD

Attendees:

- Anne Patton, swimmer: AP
- Jeff Beedell, swimmer: JB
- Lissa Heringer, resident of Meech Lake: LH
- Luc Champagne, resident of Meech Lake: LC
- Fiona Grant, swimmer: FG
- Christopher Frank, resident of Meech Lake: CF
- Tom McGee, swimmer: TM

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Update on the 2022 season
- Program and installations
- Data gathering
- Questions and comments
- Next steps

DISCUSSION

#	Participant	Item	Response/Action
1	LH	Monitoring: BH spoke about having a presence on the beach 4-5 times / week. Are they stopping by to have a look? Do they come at various times of day? Do they ever sit and watch for a whole day?	BH: We visit more frequently than last year, but not full-day shifts. Goal is to observe swimmers' patterns during the day. Have compiled more data at different times of day, which has meant shorter (but more) overall visits.
2	JB	Have any tickets been issued by the NCC or MRC to swimmers for in-water compliance? Any tickets to powerboaters for in-water compliance?	AdE: We'll have more of those details towards the end of the season. Conservation officers have been issuing verbal warnings and will be present and issuing tickets until the end of the summer, especially if they are dealing with people – either boaters or swimmers – who have been previously warned.
3	LC	Things are not great at Blanchet beach. Conservation officers refuse to respond when violations occur. Verbal insults from illegal swimmers who come and harass us in a spiteful way. Play music to disturb people nearby. RMC refuses to take action. I will take matters into my own hands if you don't do something. Will no longer tolerate.	EGR : Please keep your tone respectful, per what we discussed at the beginning. Thank you. (after multiple interventions from AL asking if there was a question)
4	TM	What is the ticket that would be issued to a swimmer not in the 30m or corridors? And what is the fine? Who issues this ticket?	AdE: Somebody could receive a fine based on not complying with signage. I would have to check details on the amount in that kind of situation.
5	AP	I learned tonight that I was in non-compliance at P12. I went with someone who was paddleboarding at P12. Not sure why I was unaware. I didn't realize we weren't allowed to leave from P12 – where are we supposed to park? Is there a possibility of addressing this issue in a way that meets everybody's needs, when you have two people who aren't doing the same activity?	BH: Taking this comment into consideration and will reevaluate at the end of the season. We know this is something people want changed for safety reasons.
6	LH	I reached out to residents at Meech and offered to convey their comments in this meeting. I don't represent everyone, but thought I would pass along. 1) Hope Bay folks are quite pleased with the move of the buoy. Everything seems to be going well – able to easily access cottage by boat, doesn't seem to be an issue. Very appreciative. Have raised some concerns about bonfires, but that's not something that necessarily has to do w/ OWS. I would appreciate being able to discuss w/ AdE separately.	BH: We will increase our presence at Meech Lake in the evenings.



		<p>2) A couple residents with homes immediate adjacent to P12 have also noticed a difference. Happy there's less traffic because beach at Blanchet doesn't open until 7. One commented that they've seen NCC presence – which isn't to say they don't still see swimming, but it's less overall. Also fewer late-night parties, which is not a swimming thing specifically, not a good thing nonetheless.</p> <p>3) General concern that people are swimming down the lake, and they're very difficult to see. Primarily morning and evening. Worried about potential accidents. Safety is really the key here, so perhaps NCC efforts need to be concentrated on ensuring people stay within corridors or 30m buffer.</p>	
7	CF	<p>I'm particularly concerned about swimming NW to SE. My observations are not consistent with what I've heard this evening. Sunday, I counted eight people at different times coming down the middle of the lake. Problem here is that people using powerboats or waterskiing – who need to be compliant with federal and provincial safety rules – need to take these people into account, which is difficult if they can't see them. So to Lissa's point about enforcement, we need to see NCC people on the lake ticketing these folks. I've spoken to a few, and I can tell you they're not interested in any discussion about the matter, and used very base language. One accident and this will be all over every newspaper in the country.</p>	<p>AdE: Although we're here to talk about open water swimming, if you're seeing things like bonfires, we do want to hear about it – that's illegal. Please also report people you see swimming illegally – not every call will warrant an immediate reaction, but we do compile complaints, and it helps us make our point and ask for enforcement resources when we need them. Also helps make schedules for conservation officers to be there at certain moments.</p>
8	CF	<p>It just takes one instance to have a fatality. It would be awful if we did. I think you guys have to do more to discipline folks swimming down the middle of the lake.</p>	<p>AdE: nobody around this table wants to see people get injured. We appreciate your feedback, and we're working with our colleagues to act on infractions. Please do keep us informed.</p>
9	TM	<p>Is this for all swimmers who are swimming on the lake? And who is the authority that gives the ticket? What is the infraction called?</p> <p>To be clear, all boaters, motorized or not, are responsible for everything in front of them. Let's also be clear, I've seen several times water skiers with no spotters on the boat which is illegal.</p>	<p>AL: NCC traffic and property regulations. Conservation officers are issuing the tickets on behalf of the NCC.</p>
10	LH	<p>I never get your follow-up messages / meeting minutes.</p>	<p>AL: We've noticed some people aren't getting them / they aren't getting through servers. We'll send you a copy directly to make sure you get it.</p>
11	AdE		<p>AdE:</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue data collection • Parc Dialogue in the Fall • Stakeholder feedback via "reports"



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions and comments? info@ncc-ccn.ca
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TEAMS CONVERSATION/CHAT

#	Member	Item
1	JB	What is the status of open-water swimming at Lac-Philippe? AdE: Gatineau Park is first and foremost a conservation park. Recreation is done in a way that's good for the environment in the long term. At this point we don't plan to extend to other lakes, especially during a pilot project. Not saying we will at some point, but Lac-Philippe already gets a lot of pressure from camping at this point, and we don't necessarily want to amplify that. Some more development could take place at Lac-Leamy.
2	JB	Any clarification on launching a spotting kayak or SUP from O'Brien's or Blanchet to accompany swimmers outside of unsupervised beach hours? BH: Still in pilot phase right now. Use of each water access point has been challenging throughout the year, especially Meech. We need to get more data and monitoring on the side to evaluate that type of request. What we know and feel from previous comments is some groups and clubs would like to be accompanied by kayaks or canoes for their own safety. But this year, let's start w/ what we've done in the past, and if there's requests during the season (esp. sent to NCC Info) we'll evaluate it.
3	MB	I know and understand that this is very difficult situation but as I mentioned why is a National Park allows private residences. This is beyond me and Mr. MacKenzie King would be disappointed with this decision, I am sure. The Gatineau Park is for all to enjoy.
4	LH	Re Hope Bay – I will reach out to cottage owners
5	MB	Suggestion: A permit could be provided to coach of swim team. I think that would be fine, simple and also fair. Again, just a suggestion.
6	TS	Is there going to be a swim corridor at Lac-Philippe? AL: Pour cette année, on veut garder les mêmes règles pour le projet pilote. Donc non, pas cette année, pas pendant ce stage. We still want to evaluate and monitor current channels.
7	MB	Indeed... what is 30 m?
8	RH	Luc, the 30m distance does not apply in the corridors.
9	LC	So it's more secure there ? doesn't make sense
10	MB	Merci beaucoup pour la clarification. C'est parfait, car il y a beaucoup d'algues au bord de la rive.
11	RH	Yes, it is more secure because it is a marked corridor
12	LC	It's still way off the shore, doesn't make sense
13	RH	Much of the safety concern is from boat traffic. Boats know (or are supposed to know) to be careful around the corridors. That makes it safer.
14	GL	Merci la CCN pour ce moment d'échange, de vos efforts pour concilier les enjeux des résidents avec ceux des nageurs et d'assurer notre sécurité.
15	MB	Très bon travail! Je sais que c'est un sujet difficile. BRAVO!!
16	AL	Can we also have a summary of tonight's meeting? AL: A summary will be provided, among other next steps.
17	RH	Thank you for your work.
18	JM	Thank you.
19	CV	Thank you for this meeting. OWS is getting more popular!



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November 22 meeting

ONLINE MEETING: OPEN WATER SWIMMING
Update on the 2022 Season
Meeting Minutes
November 22, 2022
6:30-8:30pm, Ottawa EST
Via Microsoft Teams Teleconference

PARTICIPANTS

NCC:

- Ariane Larocque, Manager, Public Consultations (moderator):
- Alain d'Entremont, Senior Manager, Visitor Services and Recreation (speaker)
- Benjamin Hiard, Program Officer, Outdoor Activities (speaker)
- Christian Laurin, Senior Conservation Officer (speaker)
- Madeleine Gomery, Officer, Public and Community Relations (minutes/tech support)
- Émilie Girard-Ruel, Director, Public and Corporate Affairs (observer)
- Catherine Verreault, Director, Quebec Urban Lands and Gatineau Park (observer)
- Pietro Di Rinaldo, Manager, Conservation Services (observer)
- Maryam El-Akhrass, Strategic Communications Advisor (observer)

Attendees:

- Fiona Grant, swimmer: FG
- Christopher Frank, resident, Meech Lake: CF
- Brigitte Zirger, President, Master Swimming Ontario: BZ
- Christine Vasseur, local swim coach and triathlete: CV
- Jeff Mackwood, swimmer & lifeguard: JM
- Lissa Heringer, resident, Meech Lake: LH
- Tom McGee, member, National Capital Open Water Swimming Alliance: TM

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Review on the 2022 season
- Questions and comments
- Next steps

Chat

[18h32] Gomery, Madeleine

Bonsoir et bienvenue!

À tout moment, vous pouvez utiliser ce chat pour poser des questions ou laisser des commentaires. Je serai ici pour vous répondre au besoin.

Pour indiquer un désir de prendre la parole, vous pouvez lever la main et on vous donnera la parole dans l'ordre d'apparition des mains.

Merci d'éteindre votre microphone quand vous avez fini de parler.



Nos présentateurs et animateurs garderont leurs caméras allumées pendant la présentation, mais vous pouvez garder la vôtre fermée si vous le désirez.

REVIEW OF THE SEASON

#	Person	Item
1	Benjamin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opérations: 12 mai – 12 octobre / May 12 – October 12 • Monitoring: 14 mai – 8 octobre / May 14 – October 8 • 16 bouées / buoys – 9 panneaux /panels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95 périodes de prises de données / 95 periods of data collection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 667 observations à / at P12 ◦ Nombre de nageurs recensés / Number of swimmers counted 1514 ◦ Période d'observation : 7 h à 20 h / Monitoring window: 7am to 8pm
		<p>Compliance to the guidelines - from NCC data collect</p> <p>Buoy (swimming)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 75% within the buoy lines at Blanchet vs 77% at O'Brien vs 75% at Leamy - 8% within 30m of the shore at Blanchet vs 7% at O'Brien vs 8% at Leamy - 16% outside the designated swimming area at Blanchet vs 17% at O'Brien vs 15% at Leamy - 23% sans casque de bain, +60% partent du point désigné <p>Gear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - > 90% at all sites <p>Designated starting point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 60% start from the designated entry point at Blanchet vs 57% at O'Brien vs 50% at Leamy - Rate dropping after 6 pm (groups) <p>The <i>Strava</i> heatmap at Meech and Leamy lakes was presented: it showed a huge trend for showing a huge trend for compliance to the designated swimming area.</p>
		<p>Données recueillies à P12 / Data gathered at P12 : 667</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planches à pagaies/SUP (48%) ▪ Canots/Canoes (24%) ▪ Kayaks (20%) ▪ Chiens/Dogs (4%) ▪ Nageurs/Swimmers (4%)
		<p>37 requests regarding open water swimming were officially made to the NCC from May to November.</p>
2	Christian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All tools related to law enforcement were reminded. ▪ Conservation officers reported 43 regular patrols at Meech lake beaches, including 42 patrols on waters and 1 blitz with the police of the MRC des Collines. ▪ 223 infractions have been reported, including 72 warnings, 139 written warnings and 12 tickets issued



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The major issues reported were safety on waters (145 occurrences), swimmers outside the designated area (62 occurrences), dogs and alcohol present at beaches (16 occurrences)
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QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

#	Person	Item	Response/Action
1	Brigitte	Are people swimming "outside the corridor" considered in the same category as people swimming within 30m from the shore?	No, they are separate categories.
2	Jeff	Who are the other participants in this meeting? I cannot see that information.	That seems to be a function of Teams with external guests. We will look into it for next time.
3	Tom	What is the approach to discipline for those who live in the area (and also swim) vs. swimmers who are not from the area?	Conservation Officers deal with swimmers that come from NCC shorelines. For safety reasons, we don't intercept people in the middle of the lake – we wait for them back at the beach.
4	Tom	So then residents have a privilege that other swimmers don't - they're not confronted, they don't have to discuss safety issues with you. Very confused by this difference; safety of swimmers was premise behind objections of cottagers.	We won't go on private property to wait for a swimmer. We wait for swimmers on NCC property. It's very important for the safety of all swimmers.
5	Tom	So your collaboration with boats and kayaks is only done from NCC access points?	We don't interact with swimmers in the middle of the lake, but we do interact with boaters there.
6	Tom	Why don't you approach a swimmer out in the lake?	Safety precaution – (also see #3) never know what can happen when a swimmer goes up against a boat.
7	Tom	I strongly disagree that it's a safety issue, unless the NCC has a very large boat. I've been swimming and boating for decades. Turning a motor off is very easy. I find your answer unsatisfactory.	Thank you.



8	Christine	Can we share your data publicly, or is it only for internal use?	We will share the presentation and data along with the meeting minutes following the meeting.
9	Jeff	Were there any policing incidents beyond what you might expect? Did you ever have to engage with swimmers to point out dangerous actions?	Could you clarify?
10	Jeff	Safety depends on the strength of the swimmer: what's dangerous for me might not be dangerous for somebody else. Was Meech Lake actually a safe place or not for open water swimmers? My sense is that it was extremely safe, based on my time swimming there. Would you make that observation? Are the statistics a reflection of how safe swimmers were?	In this pilot project, working with both residents and swimmers, we came up with guidelines and worked together on them (e.g. corridors, safety equipment). We monitor whether people come with proper equipment. It was not our goal to assess whether people were good swimmers, although of course we'd intervene if somebody was in trouble. Our observations surrounded the rules brought forward in the pilot project, and that's what we collected data on.
11	Jeff	I question whether those rules – and adherence to them – is an indication of the level of safety. In terms of officer interactions, were there instances where safety truly was an issue? I didn't observe any, and I saw hundreds of swimmers on Saturday mornings. Can we conclude that this past season was a very safe one for open water swimming at Meech Lake?	I think we have to step back to where we were two years ago in terms of what we noticed onsite: many occurrences of trespassing on private properties, noise in the morning, other issues of conflict onsite. The goal of the pilot was to provide guidelines for different users and to enhance the recreational experience for swimmers, as well as to provide safety equipment. I understand your point about certain swim groups being more experienced and safer than others, but an accident could happen to anybody, which is why we have whistles and safety buoys along the corridor. We are not targeting different groups with different safety standards.
12	Tom	We all support good, safe swimming – especially the swimmers. It's laudable that the NCC has taken on the project. I like the buoys, I think they're done well; Benjamin has done an incredible job, and 30m is a good rule. My issue is: this is about all swimmers in the lake, and not just those who have access to the	Thank you.



		<p>beaches. This is a two-tier system, and we're being judged by cottager residents who are just like us in their use of the lake, but just happen to have the privilege of an access point. Swimmers aren't the trespassers, and if they are, that's a police issue. We just want a user-friendly experience for all users, which means residents have to be aware that there are other users on the lake. Everybody wants safety. We should keep the focus on that conversation, even if we recognize we will never get full compliance on anything. If this is truly a safety issue, we should be talking about safety for all.</p>	
13	Fiona	<p>Were the monitoring statistics done from the shores at each of the entry points? Were you taking info as swimmers were entering and exiting the water?</p>	<p>Yes. We stay at the entry points long enough to compile observational data. We don't just go onsite for quick visits; we stay and compile data and make sure swimmers follow the route.</p>
14	Fiona	<p>Are you considering doing any on-water monitoring? Did the Conservation Officers make note of any times that they noticed an infraction but were not able to discuss it because it was a resident or somebody using an alternate access point? Do you have statistics on any of those infractions?</p>	<p>On the recreational part of it, the monitoring we did was really at entry points. We did not compile any observations outside of the corridor / away from the beaches.</p>
15	Lissa	<p>A couple of points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Questions raised about safety – it's not just about ability to swim, it's also about visibility, which is why there are rules about bathing caps and buoys. These are consistent with Swim Canada Recommendations, so they are not outrageous requirements. (2) All the residents I know are aware of the rules and make themselves visible while swimming. As far as I know, residents are compliant. (3) There are people who head out from the beaches who are not strong swimmers who stop at points along the way. Their concerns are both safety and visibility. 	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p>



		<p>(4) I'm aware of instances where boaters and paddle-boarders who are residents on the lake have received tickets. So we are not getting special privileges.</p> <p>(5) We are all trying to work together here. I thought that's why we were all participating in this group. It shouldn't be one group against another.</p>	
16	Brigitte	<p>I really appreciate Lissa's comments. When I'm at Meech Lake, I come with a group in the morning, and then I have no idea what happens after I leave. I appreciate that the observations are being made from the shore, not on the water – as a swimmer, the last thing I'd want is a boat coming up to me when I'm tired to lecture me on the rules.</p> <p>The Strava maps show there is good adherence to the corridors. This data paints a positive story at all the locations. You can see some tracks out in the middle of the lakes, but the heaviest traffic is along the corridors, 30m from shore. I think people have gotten the message.</p> <p>Only issue remains that kayak escort remains difficult with current rules, but I will shelve that for now and hope we can resolve someday. I'm very encouraged by these slides and data.</p>	You can also thank Tom - he was a huge asset last year for locating and placing buoys at Meech Lake.
17	Brigitte	I swam with him last year! He definitely knows what he's doing.	Thank you.

NEXT STEPS : see the revised schedule as follows:

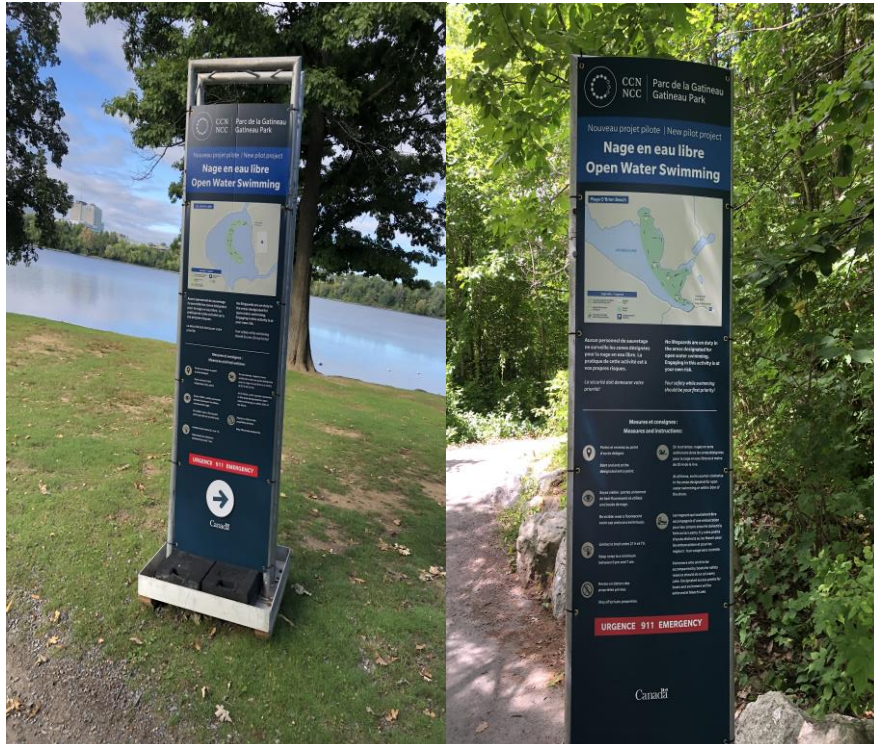
- Meeting minutes and presentation sent to the participants : February 24, 2023
- Deadline to receive feedback and comments from the involved parties : March 10, 2023
- Final report: March 31, 2023
- Park dialogue meeting : April 25, 2023



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
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APPENDIX IV – Pilot project measures displayed at Leamy and Meech Lakes





APPENDIX V – Examples of weekend coordinator report

Rapport de journée de weekend

Rapport du 07/17/2022

Coordonnateur en opération: Haggar Bichara

Conditions météorologiques

Une journée très chaude, humide et ensoleillée avec le mercure autour de 35 degrés

Résumé de la journée

Une journée très occupée sur nos plages. Des enjeux de circulation au Lac Philippe, problème de Precise au Lac Leamy.

Gestion de la circulation

Secteur du lac Meech

Fermetures intermittentes au cours de la journée: Oui.

Si oui, de 09:30 à 17:00

Observations

Le secteur du lac Meech était très achalandé. Les stationnements P12 et P13 étaient complets à partir de 9h30. Nous avons procédé à des fermetures du secteur à l'intersection Dunlop à partir de 9h30 jusqu'à 17h00, après quoi il y avait beaucoup de gens, mais les stationnements ne se remplissaient pas. Les C.O. ont fait un patrouille sur le Lac Meech en après-midi. La plage Blanchet était sans surveillance. Il y avait beaucoup de gens sur la plage O'Brien en plus des planches à pagaie.

Rapport de journée de weekend

Rapport du 08/07/2022

Coordonnateur en opération: Haggar Bichara

Conditions météorologiques

Journée chaude, humide et ensoleillée avec le mercure autour de 35 degrés. Des orages en après-midi.

Résumé de la journée

Contrairement à la journée d'hier, c'était peu achalandée dans l'ensemble du parc. Seul le secteur Meech qui était achalandé en avant-midi. La réouverture de la plage du lac Leamy ce matin suite aux résultats de tests de rééchantillonnage. Quelques enjeux au niveau de Precise à Leamy et à la Pêche. La concession de location de vélo électrique au P8 était ouverte.

Gestion de la circulation

Secteur du lac Meech

Fermetures intermittentes au cours de la journée: Oui.

Si oui, de 11:00 à 12:30

Observations

Le secteur du lac Meech était très achalandé en avant-midi. Les stationnements P12 et P13 affichaient complets à partir de 9h30. Nous avons procédé à des fermetures du secteur à l'intersection Dunlop à partir de 11h00 et ce jusqu'à 12h30. Nous avons toujours des enjeux avec les planches à pagaie qui sont mises à l'eau à partir de la plage de O'Brien.