

# Sauble Beach unsafe for swimming

## Owen Sound Sun Times

June 14, 2012

By Denis Langlois

Visitors to Sauble Beach this weekend will find the water posted as unsafe for bathing after tests revealed E. coli bacteria levels that were 10 times higher than provincial standards.

"With levels that high, I feel obligated to post the beach," Andrew Barton, safe water manager at the Grey Bruce Health Unit, said Thursday.

Tests taken from the beach Tuesday and sent to a laboratory revealed levels of bacteria that exceed "acceptable" standards set by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

The levels indicate "fecal contamination," he said.

The beach will remain posted until new samples indicate levels are within the acceptable range, Barton said.

That will be Monday at the earliest, he said.

Until then, people are "encouraged not to swim" at Sauble Beach.

"The Medical Officer of Health advises bathers that high levels of bacteria in the water may pose a risk to their health," says a statement from public health.

Barton said "historically" posting Sauble Beach as unsafe for swimming is rare, but higher bacteria levels have been found in the water in the spring the last two years.

Sauble Beach was posted as unsafe for bathing during the Canada Day long weekend in 2010 due to higher than acceptable levels of E. coli.

Barton said rain on the weekend and high waves likely led to the high levels this time.

Beach information is posted at [www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](http://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca).