

***BEACH ASSESSMENT
& SUPERVISION
RECOMMENDATIONS***

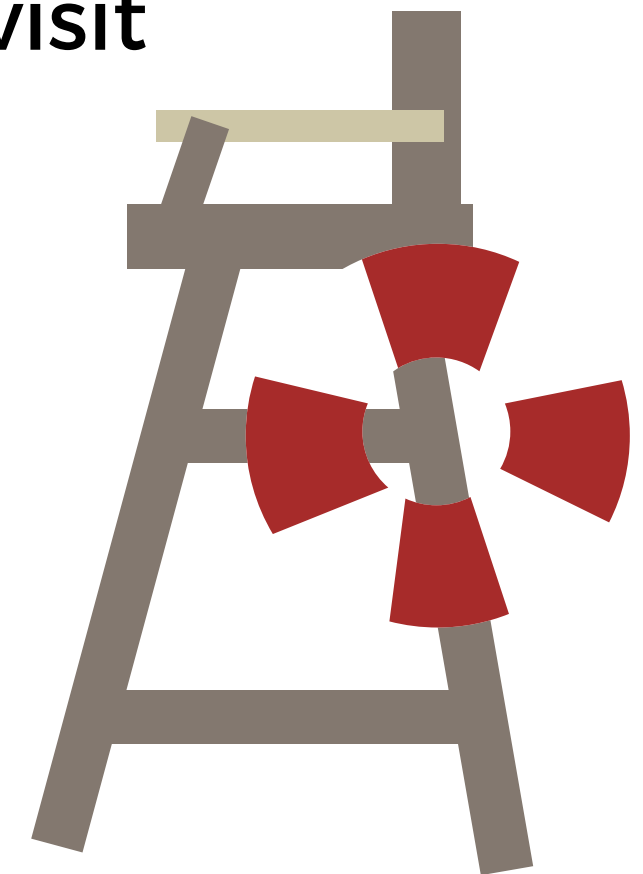


*An ocean of
opportunity*

BEACH ASSESSMENT 2020

With support from Communities, Culture & Heritage, the Municipality of Barrington contracted the Nova Scotia Lifeguard Service to assess two area beaches for lifeguard supervision. Site visits were made to Stoney Island Beach and North East Point Beach at least 3x per week from July 5 - August 30, 2020. Each visit was minimum 3 hours and assessed the following:

- Beach environmental conditions
- Infrastructure
- Populations



RESULTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Beaches are assessed for lifeguard service using several criteria:



Sand hills has been assessed by the NSLS with the province and is deemed too safe and "a waste of resources"

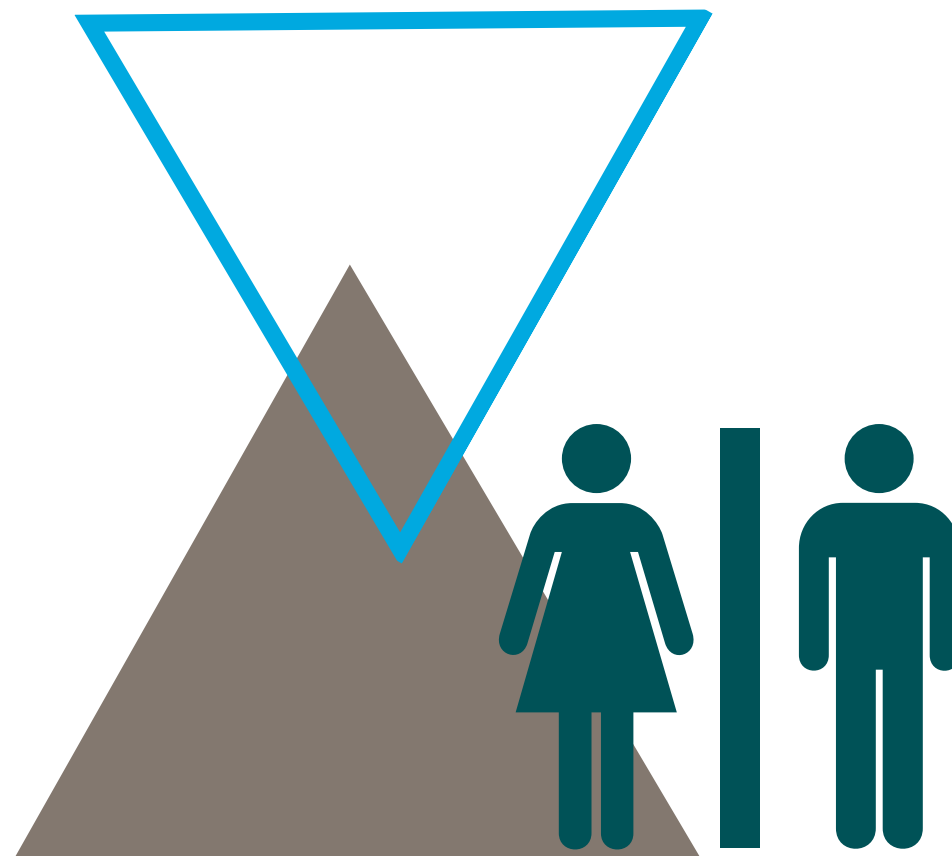
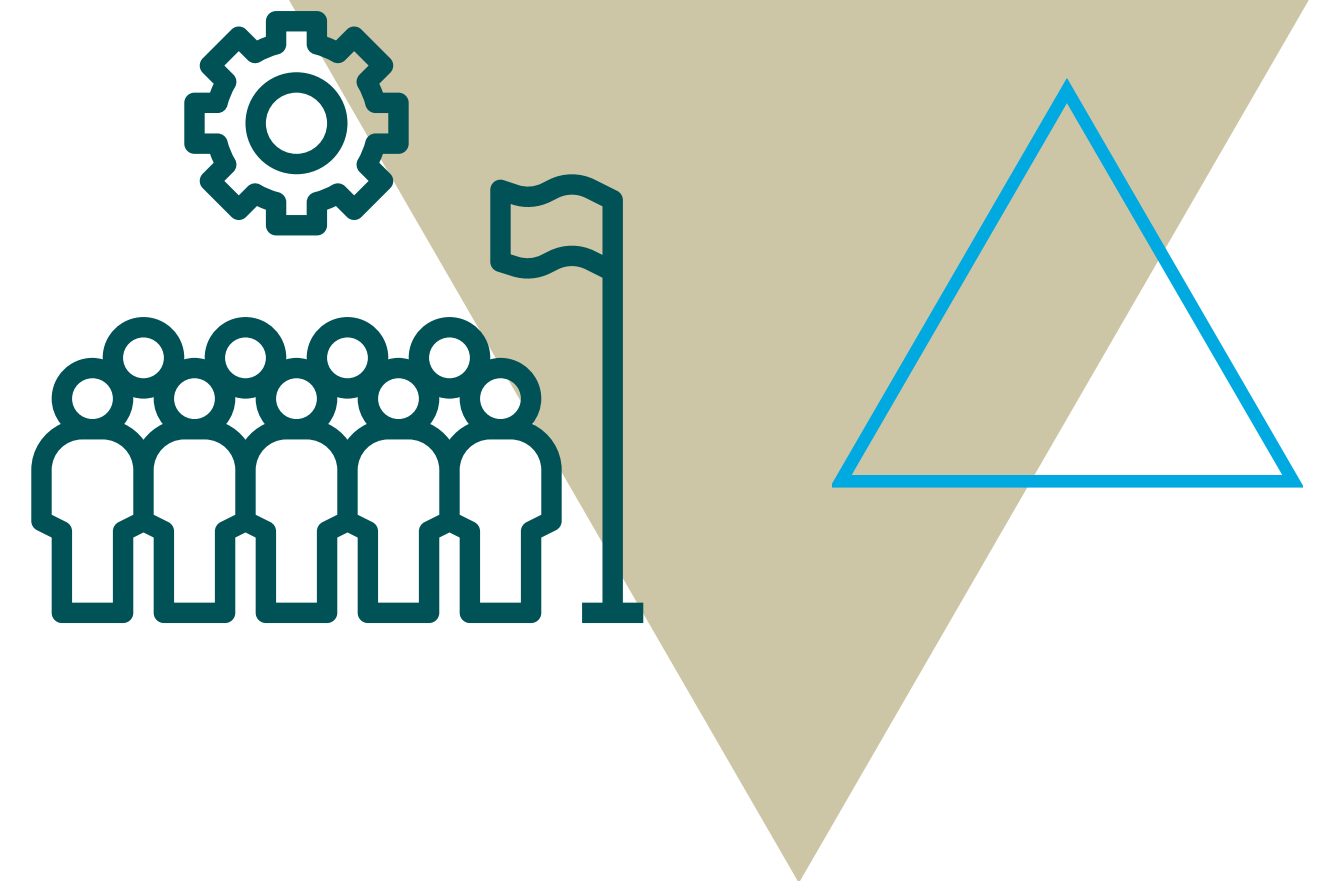
Risk:

Stoney Island Beach is relatively safe, however there is consistently small rip currents and wave heights are occasionally high. Small Stoney island is reachable at low tide so the possibility of stranded beachgoers is high. There is debris that drifts ashore that creates additional hazards.



Population:

There is very good use of Stoney Island Beach with numbers of people often around 200/ day and reaching as high as 523 during a day. The new signage is helping this showcase beach be discovered by those living outside the immediate area.



Amenities:

Some amenities already exist and other requirements are in the plan. A small investment in infrastructure would be enough to get this service off the ground. Requirements include washrooms, storage and power.

Accessibility:

Stoney Island Beach is a great location for Mobi Mats and wheelchairs that are very popular and lifeguard service would be desired at the location. Last summer the hippocampe that provides that level of mobility was loaned out all summer long to several individuals of all ages. The main use: visiting the beach.



Community Service:

To ensure "Everyone can enjoy a day at the beach", safety is paramount. No beachfront lifeguarding exists in Shelburne County therefore some residents may feel limited in what they comfortably do, or let their children do while at the beach. Many organizations that serve clients such as day cares, day camps, service organizations, etc. have requirements around safety. Having the NSLS service available would mean these organizations can access another outdoor resource.



Visitor Experience:

Visitors to the area will have expectations set by experiences elsewhere. Many will assume there is a lifeguarded beach in proximity especially in a region identifying itself with these outdoor recreation spaces.

Education:

NSLS guards also provide communications to the public and advance education on water and sun safety, the importance of physical activity, and serve as ambassadors of the municipality.





North East Point Beach was also assessed but Stoney Island is far and away the preferred location. Complete assessments of both beaches are available in the provided report. Paul D'Eon, Director of the Nova Scotia Lifeguard Service describes Stoney Island Beach as "World Class". This is a man who has trained lifeguards all over the world and has seen the best of beaches.

Service Recommendation:

To contract lifeguard service for 7 days a week from Canada Day weekend through to the end of August will cost an estimated \$30,000.

The service provides 8 hours per day of lifeguard services, promotion of beach conditions, community events, and all equipment and insurances.

This estimate also includes the cost of travel for guards and supervision in the case we do not have enough qualified/experienced staff in the first year. This cost should go down in the future due to this padding. Typically supervised hours are 10am-6 pm but that is up to us if we feel an 11-7 day, for example, is more beneficial.

