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*RCSI Bulletin 16
Coliform Counts on Lake Ontario Beaches*

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THE ROCHESTER COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

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#16(w)

COLIFORM COUNTS ON LAKE ONTARIO BEACHES, JUNE 1966

- I. Tuesday, June 14, about 10:30 AM. Water samples collected by Dr. T.T. Bannister, counts by Dr. J.R. Christensen. Weather conditions: Light SW breeze. During the previous weekend there had been strong northerly winds, and at that time large numbers of greaseballs were deposited on the beaches. Swimmers: County beaches not yet open for the season. No legal swimming.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Coliforms/100 ml of water</u>
Ontario Beach, foot of Lake Avenue	2,000
Ontario Beach, 50 paces west of pier	30,000
Durand-Eastman Beach	15,000
Mouth of Irondequoit Bay	50,000

- II. Tuesday, June 21, about 11:30 AM. Water samples collected by Dr. D. Wilson, counts by Drs. Christensen and Wilson. Weather conditions: Moderate wind, ENE, that started some time during the night. Swimmers: Nobody seen in the water. A few people on the beaches. County beaches opened Sat., June 18. Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and 19, were quite warm.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Coliforms/100 ml of water</u>
Ontario Beach, 300 paces west of pier	1,000
Ontario Beach, 40 paces west of pier	3,000
Summerville Beach	2,000
Durand-Eastman Beach, west end	5,000
Durand-Eastman Beach, near bath house	2,000

Comments: All our coliform counts are near or above the maximum average count permitted in the New York State law (2400/100 ml). Some counts are over 10 times higher than legally permitted. Conditions on the beaches appear to change. The first set of samples was taken to test the effect of a north wind on the beaches when very few swimmers were present. The north wind had blown 3 to 4 days earlier, and had deposited lots of sewage-associated material on the beaches (See our report of June 1966).

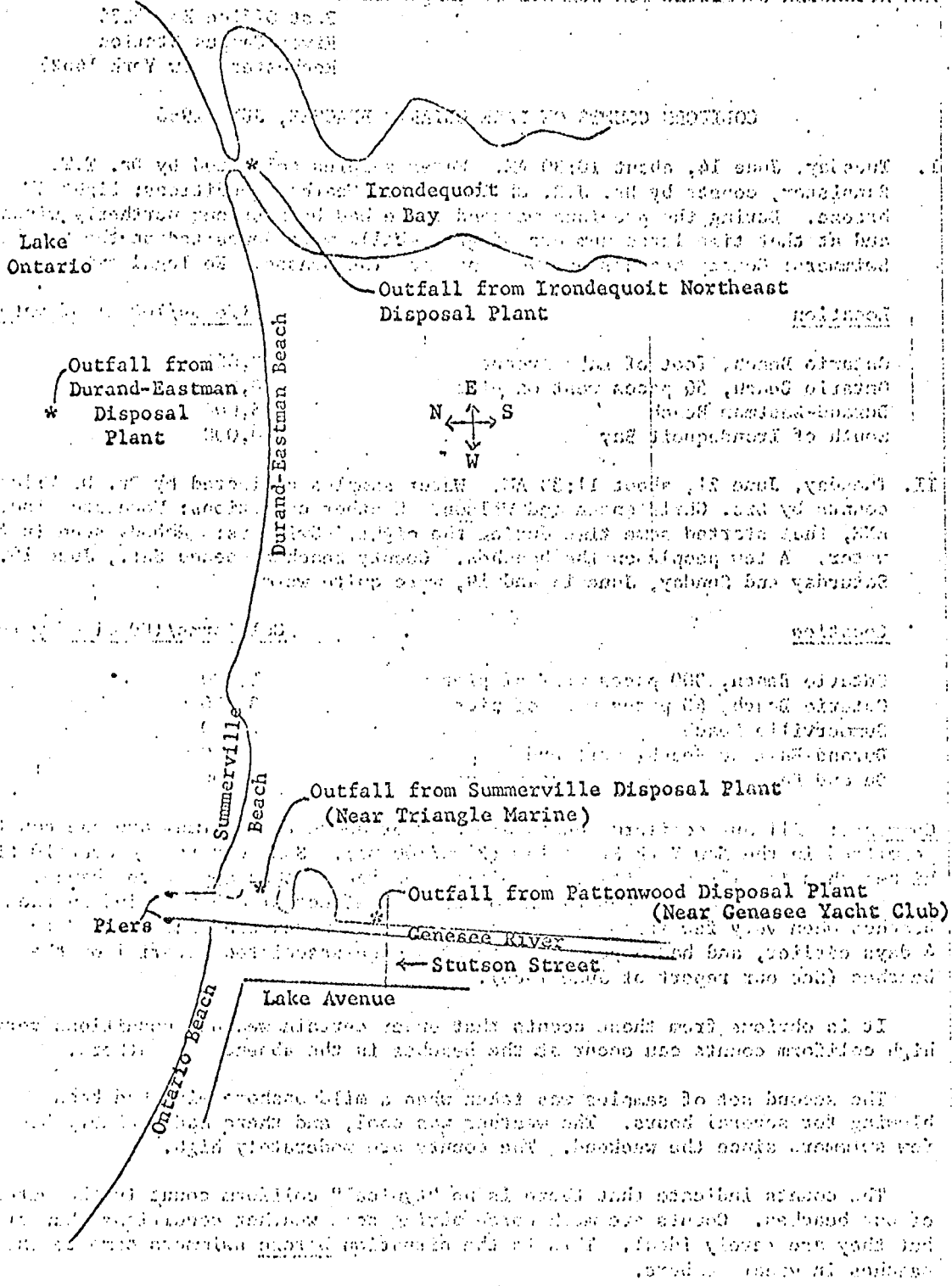
It is obvious from these counts that under certain weather conditions very high coliform counts can occur at the beaches in the absence of bathers.

The second set of samples was taken when a mild onshore wind had been blowing for several hours. The weather was cool, and there had probably been few swimmers since the weekend. The counts are moderately high.

The counts indicate that there is no "typical" coliform count in the waters of our beaches. Counts are much worse during some weather conditions than others, but they are rarely ideal. This is the situation before swimmers come to the beaches in great numbers.

July 1966
J. Roger Christensen

WATERWAYS COMMISSION FOR SEWERAGE AND SANITATION



Location of Lake Ontario Beaches, Related Waters, and Sewage Disposal Outfalls

1 mile
(Approximate Scale)