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## Swimmers back in Halifax Harbour

By DAVID JACKSON Staff Reporter

On many a hot summer day, Paul Jocys thought longingly about cooling off in Halifax Harbour as he strolled through Point Pleasant Park in south-end Halifax.

Years of dumping raw sewage in the harbour, leaving a disgusting assortment of debris and dangerous bacteria levels had prevented that until this summer.

But today, Mr. Jocys was one of a few dozen citizens, city workers, and politicians at the park's Black Rock Beach to mark the official opening of the area to swimmers.

"When you're in, it feels quite warm," Mr. Jocys, 34, said just after his inaugural dip.

He said he has no reservations about getting in the water, cleared for swimming because of the \$333-million Harbour Solutions Project.

"I enjoyed it, I can't wait to do it again," he said.

A steady, fine drizzle dampened the turnout at beach parties at Black Rock Beach and at the Dingle at Sir Sandford Fleming Park to mark their official openings for public swimming.

Mayor Peter Kelly said it was simply "liquid sunshine" as he welcomed the crowd to the opening at Black Rock Beach, where he, Northwest Arm-South End Coun. Sue Uteck, and others cut a red ribbon in the water.

Mr. Kelly thanked residents, who've paid extra on their water bills and put up with construction inconveniences, for supporting the harbour cleanup project.

"We owe them a great big thank-you," he said.

"It was them that actually said stop the talk, walk the walk, get it done. It's been talked about for 40 years."

Mr. Kelly said the water had been tested every day this week, and will be tested at least weekly the rest of the summer.

**(djackson@herald.ca)**

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