

Blue-Green Algae Public Notice Lifted

December 7, 2020

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit would like to inform residents and visitors to the Township of Muskoka Lakes that additional laboratory analysis confirm the blue-green algae bloom impacting the North Side of Bass Lake, Township of Muskoka Lakes has dissipated. Please be advised that the public health notice regarding precautions for blue green algae issued on November 18, 2020 by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) has been lifted.

This public notice advised residents to take precautions and avoid drinking the water where blue-green algae was visible.

Recent sampling conducted by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, no longer identify the presence of a blue-green algae bloom. Further, toxin levels (total microcystins) are below the provincial standards for drinking and recreational water. Generally, cooler weather, rainfall, and reduced sunshine will lead to the breakup of an algal bloom.

Blue-green algae blooms naturally occur in fresh water lakes, bays and inlets, usually during warmer weather. They thrive where water is shallow, nutrient-rich, slow moving and warm, but may also be present below the surface.

The best method of dealing with algal blooms is prevention. Decreasing the amount of nutrients, such as phosphates and nitrogen, entering the water source can effectively reduce the occurrence and severity of algal blooms. This means using phosphate-free detergents, not using fertilizers on lakefront properties, taking steps to impede agricultural run-off, and ensuring that septic systems do not leak into the water source.

For more information please call the SMDHU Health Connection service from Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520. Links to general information about blue-green algae are available on the health unit website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

If you suspect a blue-green algae bloom, please assume toxins are present, avoid using the water and call the Ministry of the Environment Spills Action Centre at 1-866-663-8477.

Sincerely,

Charles Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

Barrie:
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON
L4M 6K9
705-721-7520
FAX: 705-721-1495

Collingwood:
280 Pretty River Pkwy.
Collingwood, ON
L9Y 4J5
705-445-0804
FAX: 705-445-6498

Cookstown:
2-25 King Street S.
Cookstown, ON
L0L 1L0
705-458-1103
FAX: 705-458-0105

Gravenhurst:
2-5 Pineridge Gate
Gravenhurst, ON
P1P 1Z3
705-684-9090
FAX: 705-684-9887

Huntsville:
34 Chaffey St.
Huntsville, ON
P1H 1K1
705-789-8813
FAX: 705-789-7245

Midland:
B-865 Hugel Ave.
Midland, ON
L4R 1X8
705-526-9324
FAX: 705-526-1513

Orillia:
120-169 Front St. S.
Orillia, ON
L3V 4S8
705-325-9565
FAX: 705-325-2091