


Subject: [Fwd: Otter Lake Blue-Green Algae]
From: Dominique O'Brien <dominique@seguin.local.net>
Date: Fri, 07 Oct 2016 15:22:02 -0400
To: Chris Madej <cmadej@seguin.local.net>

Dominique O'Brien Manager of Community Services		Township of Seguin 5 Humphrey Drive Seguin, ON P2A 2W8 www.seguin.ca phone: (705) 732-4300 fax: (705) 732-6347
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Subject: Otter Lake Blue-Green Algae
From: "Leith, Carroll (MOECC)" <Carroll.Leith@ontario.ca>
Date: Fri, 7 Oct 2016 18:30:05 +0000
To: "dobrien@seguin.ca" <dobrien@seguin.ca>
CC: "Bethune, Bruce (MOECC)" <Bruce.Bethune@ontario.ca>, "Whiteley, Angela (MOECC)" <Angela.Whiteley@ontario.ca>

Hi Dominique – as per our discussion, MOECC sampled Otter Lake on September 15 in response to a blue-green algae concern. That sample came back as containing green algae but not blue-green. Subsequently our lab informed us that further analysis detected anatoxin-a in the sample which is produced by blue-green algae. This suggest therefore that although the September 15 sample did not contain blue-green algae, there was or had been blue-green algae in the lake. I have informed the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit of this result and will leave further action to their discretion. My contact information is as below should you wish to discuss further.

With regards,

...Carroll

Carroll Leith
District Manager, Timmins
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
5520 Hwy 101 E, P.O. Bag 3080, South Porcupine, Ontario, P0N 1H0
Tel: 705-235-1506 Toll Free: 1-800-380-6615 Fax: 705-235-1520
Spills Action Centre: 1-800-268-6060

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: October 7, 2016

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE IN OTTER LAKE

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit advises that a bloom of blue-green algae was detected in our district in Otter Lake in Seguin Township. The geographic coordinates are 45.26133 and -79.94760. The Health Unit advises residents and visitors near this area to take the following precautions immediately:

- Owners of private water systems should avoid using the water from the lake for drinking, cooking and bathing. Use another source of water for these purposes. NOTE: Boiling the water or using home water treatment devices **will NOT** destroy the toxins.
- Avoid swimming and other water sport activities that could increase the risk of algae material and toxins contacting your skin or being swallowed.
- Avoid using water from the lake for livestock or pets.
- Some toxins produced by cyanobacteria accumulate in the tissues of fish and shellfish, particularly in the guts including the liver, kidney, etc. We do not know if eating fish exposed to the toxins is a concern. It may depend on how much you eat and how severe the cyanobacteria bloom is. Be careful if you eat fish caught in water where cyanobacteria blooms occur. Do not eat the liver, kidneys and other organs of fish caught. Do not cut the organs when filleting.

These precautions are effective immediately. While the blue-green algae may no longer be present, there is always the risk that toxins could be present. We cannot determine the extent of the affected area as it depends on the characteristics of the site such as prevailing wind and water flow directions.

Quick Facts

- Blue-green algae, known as 'pond scum', are primitive microscopic bacteria that live in fresh water. They are usually hard to see, but during hot weather, they can rapidly grow to form a large mass, called a bloom.
- Although usually hard to see, during hot weather they can grow rapidly to form a large mass, called a bloom. Blooms continually change and are difficult to predict. Wind, temperature or sunlight could change where the bloom is located in the water.
- Even when a bloom has disappeared, toxins can persist in water bodies for a long time. Toxins can irritate the skin and, if ingested, cause diarrhea and vomiting. At high enough levels, the toxins may cause liver and nervous system damage.
- If skin contact does occur, wash with soap and water or rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove algae.

Media Inquiries

John Mitchell, Acting Communications Coordinator

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