

**Communications Office**  
Peterborough County-City Health Unit  
10 Hospital Drive  
Peterborough, ON K9J 8M1  
(705) 743-1000, ext. 391  
[www.pcchu.ca](http://www.pcchu.ca)



NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Friday August 5, 2011, Peterborough

## **Health Unit Advises Residents of Suspected Blue Green Algae Bloom in Lower Buckhorn and Crab Lakes**

### ***Residents Advised to Use Alternate Water Source***

People who draw water from the Island Drive area of Lower Buckhorn Lake, in addition to Crab Lake (in the Kawartha Signature park), are being advised to find an alternate source of water after a large quantity of algae resembling blue-green algae was discovered in these lakes.

The Peterborough County-City Health Unit is issuing the advisory as a precaution after receiving a report from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) that algae blooms are being investigated to determine if it is blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria. The algae is being tested today, and results are expected by the middle of next week.

As an immediate precaution, the Health Unit is advising residents in the two affected areas to avoid using water from the lake and seek alternative sources of water for all purposes, including drinking, cooking, bathing, washing clothes and dishes, and providing water to pets. Dogs and other pets should also be kept from entering and swimming in the water. The advisory **does not** affect people who use municipal water systems, or those residents who draw water from drilled wells that are not affected by lake water.

The Health Unit's advisory is in effect until further notice.

Blue-green algae are naturally-occurring phenomena that can produce toxins when it is dying or disturbed. This can put the health of people and animals at risk. Drinking water with the toxins may result in headaches, fever, diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. Bathing or showering in water with blue-green algae can result in skin rashes, swollen lips, eye irritation and redness, ear ache and itchiness, sore throat, hay fever-

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like symptoms and asthma. Anyone who experiences these symptoms should seek immediate medical attention.

Residents who draw their household water from these lakes are advised that boiling the water will not solve this problem. Boiling will kill the algae, but in doing so, will release toxins into the water.

Residents requiring further information should contact the Peterborough County-City Health Unit by calling (705) 743-1000.

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### **For further information, please contact:**

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