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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 10, 2011, Peterborough

No Blue-Green Algae Bloom in Lower Buckhorn Lake

Residents Still Cautioned Not to Use Water Where Algae Suspected

The Peterborough County-City Health unit is advising that analysis of water samples obtained from the Island Drive area of Lower Buckhorn Lake confirm that a blue-green algae bloom did not occur. Normal use of the water can resume.

People who use lake or river water are still advised not to use water in areas where they see a large, dense algae bloom. Algae blooms can occur quickly and travel with water currents. It is best to be cautious. If a blue-green algae bloom is suspected, the Health Unit recommends residents assume toxins are present, avoid using the water and call the Ministry of the Environment Spills Action Centre at 1-800-266-6060.

Blue-green algae blooms are natural phenomena that occur in fresh water lakes, bays and inlets. The algae thrive in areas where the water is shallow, slow moving and warm. One key factor affecting growth rates is the level of available nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen. It is difficult to predict when and where a bloom will occur and for how long the toxin will be present as environmental conditions continually change. Information for residents about blue-green algae is available on www.pcchu.ca.

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For further information, please contact:

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NEWS RELEASE