

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, September 9, 2011, Peterborough

Blue-Green Algae Confirmed in Parts of Three Local Lakes

Deer Bay on Lower Buckhorn Lake and Clear Lake Water Advisory in Effect

The Peterborough County-City Health Unit is advising local residents that small blooms of blue-green algae have been confirmed in parts of three of the Kawartha Lakes at the following sites:

- Clear Lake at the South Beach Road public access
- Deer Bay on Lower Buckhorn Lake near Newcombe Lane
- Katchewanooka Lake near Thelgar Road

Samples were taken in the morning and again in the afternoon on Friday, September 2. The samples taken in the morning were from sites at the shoreline, and showed high toxin levels and dense algae growth. The samples taken by Ministry of the Environment staff that same afternoon contained considerably less cyanobacteria than those taken earlier in the day. Toxin tests on the afternoon samples showed that levels had dropped to within drinking water standards at the Katchewanooka Lake site. The sample from Deer Bay on Lower Buckhorn Lake was moderately elevated. The afternoon sample from Clear Lake was obtained from an area of shallow water and showed toxin levels which were still very high. Residents who draw their drinking water directly from the Newcombe Lane area of Deer Bay or the South Beach Road area of Clear Lake are advised not to consume the lake water or use it for cooking until further testing has been completed.

People who draw water directly from any lake or river are advised not to consume water from any areas where they see a large, dense algae bloom in the vicinity of their water intakes. 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.

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Swimming or bathing in water containing blue-green algae may cause a mild skin irritation in

NEWS RELEASE

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susceptible individuals. Where there is heavy algae growth at the shoreline, residents should not allow pets or domestic animals to consume water from that area.

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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