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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, September 28, 2011, Peterborough

Blue-Green Algae Levels Lower in Local Lakes

The Peterborough County-City Health Unit is advising residents that the blue-green algae blooms reported in Katchewanooka Lake, Lower Buckhorn Lake, and Clear Lake have subsided. Samples obtained by the Ministry of the Environment on September 16 showed that the toxin levels from the algae blooms have fallen to within drinking water standards.

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