



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday November 15, 2016

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE FOUND – Bagot-Long Lake

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) has advised the Renfrew County and District Health Unit that test results of a water sample taken from Bagot-Long Lake, was positive for blue-green algae (cyanobacteria).

When blue-green algae blooms are visible, there is a risk that the algae could produce toxins; therefore, using or drinking the water should be avoided, says Dr. Kathryn Reducka, Acting Medical Officer of Health, with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

Toxins can irritate the skin and, if ingested, can cause diarrhea and vomiting. At high enough levels, toxins may cause liver and nervous system damage.

The municipality of Greater Madawaska Township advises people using Bagot-Long Lake to be on the lookout for algae blooms. If blooms are visible:

- Avoid using the water for drinking, bathing, or showering and do not allow children, pets or livestock to drink or swim in the water.
- Residents should not boil the water because boiling the water may release more toxins into the water.
- Residents should avoid cooking with the water because food may absorb toxins from the water during cooking.
- Residents should exercise caution with respect to eating fish caught in water where blue-green algae blooms occur. Residents should not eat the liver, kidneys, and other organs of fish caught in the water.
- Do not treat the water with a disinfectant like bleach. This may break open algae cells and release toxins into the water.
- Residents should not rely on water jug filtration systems as they do not protect against the toxins.
- On lakes and rivers where blue-green algae blooms are confirmed, people who use the surface water for their private drinking water supply should consider an alternate, protected source of water.

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and the Renfrew County and District Health Unit will continue to monitor the water conditions in Bagot-Long Lake and encourage residents on the lake to do the same.

For more information, please visit the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change website at http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@ene/@resources/documents/resource/std01_079455.pdf or call the Municipality of Greater Madawaska Township at (613) 752-2222.

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