

Public Notice Update: Blue-Green Algae Public Notice LIFTED

October 2, 2020

Dear Residents:

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit would like to inform residents and visitors to the Town of Midland that additional laboratory analysis confirm the blue-green algae bloom impacting Little Lake Park Beach on Little Lake, Midland has dissipated. Please be advised that the public health notice regarding precautions for blue green algae issued on July 13, 2020 by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) for Little Lake Park Beach, Midland has been lifted.

This public notice had advised residents to take precautions and avoid drinking the water where blue-green algae was visible.

Recent sampling conducted by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, no longer identified the algal bloom being present and toxin levels (total microcystins) were reduced to below detectable limits. Generally, cooler weather, rainfall, and reduced sunshine will lead to the breakup of an algal bloom.

Blue-green algae blooms naturally occur in fresh water lakes, bays and inlets, usually during warmer weather. They thrive where water is shallow, nutrient-rich, slow moving and warm, but may also be present below the surface.

The best method of dealing with algal blooms is prevention. Decreasing the amount of nutrients, such as phosphates and nitrogen, entering the water source can effectively reduce the occurrence and severity of algal blooms. This means using phosphate-free detergents, not using fertilizers on lakefront properties, taking steps to impede agricultural run-off, and ensuring that septic systems do not leak into the water source.

For more information please call the SMDHU Health Connection service from Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520. Links to general information about blue-green algae are available on the health unit website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

If you suspect a blue-green algae bloom, please assume toxins are present, avoid using the water and call the Ministry of the Environment Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-6060.

Sincerely,

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Medical Officer of Health

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