

Horseshoe Lake Association Bulletin

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Wednesday Sept. 1, 2010

Algae in Horseshoe Lake

What Can I do?

Algae are present in every lake. It is a natural bacterium which is omni-present in our world. It is when it is present in great quantities that it causes harm to man with clumps known as blooms which under certain conditions become toxic. **The proliferation of the bacteria is caused by a confluence of nutrients, water flows and weather conditions that provide the platform for growth.**

Recent testing on August 31st has been favourable. (more on this from us and from the Township in the next few days) But make no mistake, **the situation is serious** and each and every one of us must do what we can encourage the environment to return to a natural equilibrium where although present, the algae is not pervasive. Seguin Township has recently published a guide to environmentally friendly living on the lake called “**Living Sustainably in Seguin Township**”. (Available on line at.....)

<http://www.horseshoelakeassociation.ca/news.htm>

Here is a quick checklist of immediate actions everyone must consider and act on:

1. First and foremost **everyone on the lake must get in the act**. The HLA contacts about 40% of cottagers through these bulletins and that is not enough. Talk to your neighbours. Make sure they understand the danger. See that they have a copy of the Seguin booklet. Make sure they care. And if they are abusers take some initiative to convince them they must change. We know this is a tall order but it is the only way to get to many people on our lake who do not read emails, surf the net or join associations! **JOIN or Renew your HLA Membership Now ... and Thank You to those who have Made the Commitment to Our Lake and Growing Association!**
2. If you are **thinking about fertilizing your lawn this fall ...forget it!** Fertilizers contain Nitrogen and in some cases Phosphates (there are brands out there without phosphates) In fact if your lawn goes anywhere near the water consider letting the last 20 meters to the water “go natural”. If you are going to plant something down there make it a native plant.
3. If you use a “**grey water**” **pit of any kind** that does not have a distribution system equivalent to a proper septic system....**stop using it!** It is not just the soaps that are in the pit, it is the flow of unnatural water down slopes to the lake picking up and carrying with it nutrients that proliferate the formation of more algae.
4. If you **have not pumped** out your septic in 4 years **...do it now!** The HLA is making arrangements for a pump-out service to be available for water access or tough road access properties at reasonable cost....somewhere around \$200. Let us know if you want to get on the list.

5. **Do not use any soap or shampoo or detergent etc that has any phosphate in it.** Phosphate and Nitrogen are the two essential ingredients required for the growth of algae. Your septic does not change or stop the phosphate from entering the eco-system....it just slows it down and buries it as best it can in your weeping tile and septic bed. Eventually it will get to the lake! The Horseshoe Pines Marina sells nothing but phosphate-free products so they are readily availablethey may not be your favorite brand but for the summer give them up!

Your Water Quality Committee of the HLA is working every day to formulate and execute preventative initiatives and monitor the activity of not only the algae formation but the government bodies who play a roll in guiding progress.