

Health Unit Media Release

Date: Aug 14, 2014



Blue-Green Algae Bloom Confirmed at McNally's Bay on Upper Rideau Lake.

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit recently alerted residents of McNally's Bay on Upper Rideau Lake of a potential blue-green algae bloom following calls from concerned residents. As blue-green algae blooms may be hazardous to health and can only be confirmed through testing, the Health Unit issued notices with precautions residents could take while waiting for results from the Ministry of the Environment.

Results have now come in and confirm that the specimens collected are blue-green algae and that toxins are present. Residents of McNally's Bay using water from the lake for drinking purposes should use an alternate source as boiling does not remove the toxin. Pets and livestock should NOT be permitted to drink the water directly from the lake in this area.

As these results are from the initial samples and additional samples are being taken around the area by the Ministry of the Environment to provide a clearer picture of the risk, the Health Unit urges McNally's Bay cottagers and residents to continue to take precautions in and around algae blooms, particularly when swimming.

Should residents see any further algae blooms, they should contact the Spills Action Center at 1-800-268-6060 to report these blooms. Further updates will be posted on the Health Unit website as results become available or by calling 1-800-660-5853. You can also like the Health Unit on Facebook for important public health updates.

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