



May 30, 2022

Township of Machar
73 Municipal Road North
P.O. Box 70
South River, ON P0A 1X0

Dear Sir, or Madam:

RE: Lake Harmful Algal Blooms (HABS)

I am writing to inform you that a lake in your municipality is one where the presence of harmful algal bloom(s) (HAB) have been confirmed in the past. Because lake conditions remain the same, it is likely that the HAB will reoccur in the future. Advisories that were issued in past years for the lake still apply. We have made changes to recreational activity precautions, which are described in the enclosed documents.

We recommend providing education to residents who use the lake regarding HABS, in addition to taking the following proactive measures:

- If you use a private water system, do not use water from the lake for drinking, cooking or bathing babies or infants. Boiling the water or using home water treatment devices **will NOT** destroy the toxins that HABS produce.
- When a HAB is present, avoid swimming or other water sport activities that could increase the risk of algae material and toxins contacting your skin or being swallowed.
- Do not allow pets or livestock to swim in the water or drink the water.
- Do not eat the liver, kidneys or other organs of fish caught in the water. Also, be cautious consuming the other parts of the fish that are caught in water where a HABS occur.

While a HAB may not show the presence of toxins, there is always the risk that toxins could be produced. These toxins may stay in the water up to three weeks after the algal bloom is gone. The Health Unit and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) cannot determine when the water is safe to drink for private water systems.

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Category 2



Category 3

Blue-Green Algae Blooms			
	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Appearance	<p>The water appears cloudy, but you can still see through it</p> <p>Particle density can vary greatly in the water column</p>	<p>The water colour appears changed due to increased number of cyanobacteria</p> <p>Algae may be in clusters or balls or flakes in the water, like a pea puree</p>	<p>This is a dense bloom; it may resemble a paint spill. Accumulated cyanobacteria on the surface of the water may form a scum.</p> <p>Algae is easily swept by the wind and deposited near the shore</p>
Swimming Precautions	<p>Do not swim in any bloom which obscures your view into the water. Even if it is not blue-green algae, it is unsafe to swim or to allow children to play in any dense algal bloom, since you cannot see into the water. Wait until the bloom has subsided and the water is clear.</p>		
	<p>Health effects are not expected at this stage.</p>	<p>Sensitive individuals may develop mild symptoms of skin rash or eye irritation</p>	<p>Sensitive individuals may develop mild symptoms of skin rash or eye irritation</p>
Drinking Water Precautions	<p>Health effects are not expected at this stage.</p>	<p>Ingestion of water in this category may result in a range of health effects.</p>	<p>Ingestion of water in this category will likely result in a range of health effects</p>
	<p>Do not use the water from a Category 2 or 3 bloom for drinking, cooking or other consumption. Do not let pets or livestock consume the water. Be observant of when the water has cleared. If you treat surface water for cooking or consumption, wait <i>at least</i> a week after the bloom has subsided before resuming normal use of the treated water. The toxin is naturally reduced by dilution, degradation by other bacteria in the water, and sunlight.</p>		
	<p>Assess your water supply if you are in an area where there are frequent algae blooms. Since there is no confirmed domestic water treatment available yet, consider a drilled well</p>		

*Peterborough Health Unit