

STEERING COMMITTEE

Co-Chair—Kirk Petroski - Edge Water Street
Co-Chair—Stephen Butcher—West End Road
Joe Fyfe—West End Road
Peter Pula—Wuorinen Road
Martin Brouillard - West End Road
Alan Orme—Kantola Road
Mary Henderson—West End Road
Linda Poirier— Eden Twp. Rd.
Terry Carscadden—Kantola Road
Marilyn Butcher- West End Road
Kathy McDonald—Edge Water Road

Lana Haslan—City of Greater Sudbury

Volunteer—Become Active—
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BECOME A VOLUNTEER

HELP US HELP YOU.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER IN YOUR AREA.

THE BEST WAY TO SPREAD THE WORD IS NEIGHBOURS TALKING TO NEIGHBOURS.

SEND US AN EMAIL AND JOIN THE MAILING LIST.

POST A SIGN INDICATING YOU ARE PROTECTING THE DRINKING WATER

BE A LOCAL CONSULTING ADVISOR

HELP WITH ARTICLES FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

JOIN IN WITH OUR BIRD WATCH PROGRAM

DO AS MUCH AS YOU ARE COMFORTABLE WITH

Environmentally Friendly Products

Home Hardware's Natura brand offers alternatives to [lawn and garden care products](#), [laundry detergents](#), and [a variety of cleaners](#). They also have reusable dryer sheets to eliminate static, soften fabrics, reduce wrinkles - and save you money!

President's Choice carries a [PC Green line of products](#) for home and garden. They can be found at Your Independent Grocers and Loblaw's.

Other great brands to look out for include [Ecover](#), [Eco-ethic](#) and [Seventh Generation](#).

[Nature Clean](#) is Canada's oldest and leading brand of environmentally safe, non-toxic, household cleaning, laundry and body care products. Their laundry detergent contains no optical brighteners (chemicals that convert UV light into blue-white light to make clothes appear brighter, leaving a chemical residue that can cause irritation to sensitive skin and eyes). Nature Clean can be found at these locations in Greater Sudbury:

- The Bulk Barn, 1380 Lasalle Blvd., Sudbury. (705) 566-5250

- Durham Natural Foods, 1191 Montrose Ave, Sudbury. (705) 566-3820

- Paris Natural & International Foods, 1500 Paris St., Sudbury. (705) 522-8891

- Battistelli's Your Independent Grocer, 65 Regional Rd. 24, Lively. (705) 692-3514

Long Lake/Black Lake Stewardship Committee

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Neighbours helping neighbours

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BLUE-GREEN ALGAE “INVADES” LONG LAKE

As with most of you who have enjoyed this lake for a long time we have recently become aware of a very serious problem with our lake. Over the past 50 years we have moved from a lake that was biologically dead to a vibrant lake that enjoys a diverse plant and fish life. However, in the fall of 2008 Long Lake experienced Blue-Green Algae (BGA) blooms. A detailed explanation of Blue-Green Algae follows later in this news letter.

The Sudbury and District Health Unit has issued numerous health warnings regarding BGA. These include :

- Avoid using the water for drinking, bathing or showers, and don't allow children, pets, to drink or swim in it.
- Lake shore residents with shallow drinking water pipes should be cautious
- Don't boil the water as this will cause toxins to be released
- Don't cook food in the water
- Avoid eating fish taken from the lake
- Don't treat water with a disinfectant such as bleach as this will cause toxins to be released

The arrival of Blue-Green Algae has caused all of us all to reconsider what we have are doing in, around and on this lake. If a BGA bloom is present at your lake front, you are basically restricted to boating and looking at the lake.

Long Lake/Black Lake Stewardship Committee

The committee was formed in the fall of 2008 by residents from the lake in an effort to save Long Lake and Black Lake. The committee is in its infancy stage and welcomes new members. We have set an initial goal of educating all lake residents and visitors about the effects of phosphorus and other pollutants and practices that can lead to reducing water quality in Long Lake and Black Lake.

The committee was formed with the co-operation with the City of Greater Sudbury Lake Stewardship program.

In order to be effective due to the length and many access roads to Long Lake and Black Lake we are hoping to have least 30 members on the committee.



**Action Is
required
now to save
Long Lake**



WHY IS BLUE-GREEN ALGAE IN LONG LAKE

The fact is blue-green algae (BGA) has always been in Long Lake. It has been in existence for thousands of years. Its true name is cyanobacteria. Left on its own BGA is usually not a problem.

However man has introduced nutrients, in such large quantities, that BGA has started to grow into large quantities, called "blooms" which are a serious health problem.

The really bad news is that it

is very hard to eliminate these blooms once they start. Scientists tell us that under ideal conditions it can take many decades to reverse the process.

You, me and your neighbours have caused this problem by introducing the "food" BGA needs to grow excessively, into Long Lake. It is called phosphorous.

Phosphorous is well known to all of us. It is commonly found in lawn fertilizers, detergents

and comes from septic field beds.

Sound familiar?

We have used it all our lives, unknowingly we are all slowly but surely killing Long Lake.

BGA has peaked in recent years in the Sudbury area for many reasons.

All are man related.

Visit: <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/programs/4661e.pdf> for more info.



A GREEN LAWN IS A GREEN LAKE

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Beginning now you need to start using environmentally friendly detergents in your home.

Pay particular attention to automatic dishwasher detergents. They are particularly bad for containing phosphorous.

There is saying in regards to BGA. "A Green Lawn Is A Green Lake".

The days of fertilizing your lawn with man made fertilizers are over, if you want to save the lake. At this time we do not know of a safe lawn fertilizer to recommend.

Please stop fertilizing.

Scientists tell us that there is enough phosphorous in your lawn now to last at least 50 years. Most of this will leach into the lake first.

Septic field beds are common

on the lake now. Many of us have converted or upgraded our camps into permanent homes.

You should be pumping out your holding tanks every 3—5 years, depending on its usage.

Septic field bed inspections are free. Call the health unit 522-9200.



Should you be drinking your water?

INSPECTIONS

The City of Greater Sudbury has a program for volunteer inspections of your water front home and camp.

This program is available in the summer and is manned by students.

Shoreline Home Visits provide a wealth of information including:

- Shoreline stabilization and erosion techniques

- Regulations and permits required for shoreline work
- Lawn maintenance and turf alternatives
- Native vegetation buffers
- Septic system information
- Invasive species identification and control measures

These Shoreline Home Visits are friendly and not enforceable. They are designed to provide information and give advise only.

Unfortunately, one neighbour, introducing phosphorous, into the lake can cause a bloom in your area of the lake.

Call—671-2489 to arrange an appointment

WHY BLUE-GREEN ALGAE NOW?

Long Lake and Black Lake do not naturally have phosphorous. It has been added by man.

Scientists from Laurentian University have been studying this phenomenon of blue-green algae blooms for some time.

It seems that we have reached a tipping point where the blooms are happening with ease now in many lakes in the Sudbury region.

The old alarm level of 20 ug/l

is no longer valid. The blooms in Long Lake are happening with much lower counts.

In co-operation with the Long Lake/Black Lake Stewardship Committee these scientists will be applying for research grants to better understand the problem.

These scientists tell us that increased phosphates from detergents and the use of fertilizers on land adjacent and close to the lake are significant factors. During the past 20 years, many Long Lake and

Black Lake properties have undergone a transition from seasonal dwellings to permanent homes. The sheer volume of phosphorous entering the lake from our properties is overwhelming the lake's ability to absorb it.

These scientists have told us that the process of lowering phosphorous levels will take many decades to reverse.



WHAT PRODUCTS CAN WE USE?

Environmentally friendly products are readily available in most grocery stores now.

Environmentally friendly lawn fertilizers are not available at this time. The bottom line is at this time just don't fertilize or put pesticides on your lawn until we have a better understanding of what we are up against.

The City of Sudbury web site "Lake Water Quality Pro-

gram" - "Lake Front Living" lists many environmentally friendly products.

We have listed some of these on the back page of this newsletter.

We realize that some people are going to argue against fertilizing and using pesticides.

The lawn care companies stand to lose their income but unfortunately we need to take a firm stand at this time.

At this time, most of Long Lake and Black Lake Have Low Counts of Blue-green Algae

"A GREEN LAWN IS A GREEN LAKE"

CAN I TREAT THE WATER SO I CAN CONTINUE TO USE IT?

I am in the water treatment business and have many clients on the lake.

At this time there are no recommended residential treatment systems that will eliminate blue green algae.

Most homes using lake water have ultra violet disinfection systems in their homes, with a sediment filter prior to the UV light.

At this time there are no con-

clusive studies saying that UV lights will kill 100 % of the blue-green algae. The UV Light manufactures do not claim that their UV light will kill BGA.

The Sudbury & District Health Unit is suggesting that a UV light in sequence with a activated charcoal filter is appropriate for low counts of BGA.

However, the problem is, how does the home owner

know when the UV light has too much BGA and is no longer 100% effective or when the charcoal filter is full?

During the winter months BGA is not active. It does not do well under the ice in the cold and poor light conditions.

My recommendation, at this time is, if a bloom is present follow the Health Unit warnings listed on page one.

