

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: **September 30, 2011**

BLUE GREEN ALGAE IN STURGEON BAY

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit wishes to advise that a bloom of blue-green algae has been detected in Sturgeon Bay in the Township of The Archipelago. Blue-green algae blooms in Sturgeon Bay have appeared in previous years, most often occurring in late August and September. The GPS coordinates for this algae bloom are: E0545361, N5052339.

The Sturgeon Bay Provincial Park drinking water comes from a secure ground water source; therefore, it is not affected by the presence of the blue-green algae.

The Health Unit advises residents who live in this area and any visitors to the area, to take the following precautions for three weeks after the bloom has disappeared:

- Do not use the water from Sturgeon Bay for drinking, cooking and bathing, if you own a private water system. Use an alternate source of water for these purposes.
- You **CANNOT** destroy the toxins by boiling the water or using home water treatment devices.
- Do not swim or participate in other water sport activities in Sturgeon Bay that increase the risk of algae material and toxins contacting your skin or being swallowed.
- Do not use the water from Sturgeon Bay for pets or livestock.

The Township of The Archipelago is cooperating fully with the Ministry of the Environment and the Health Unit. Fact sheets about blue-green algae can be found at www.healthunit.biz.

For more health related information, please call the Health Unit at 705-474-1400 or 1-800-563-2808. For general inquiries about algae blooms please contact the Ministry of Environment at 705-497-6865.

Quote

“If you receive your drinking water from ground water wells, you are not at risk. However, owners of private water systems should avoid using the water from Sturgeon Bay because home treatment devices will NOT destroy the toxins.”

- Robert A-Muhong, Program Manager of Environmental Health.

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