



## **LRML Joint Water Quality Committee**

### **Communication #5**

The Lake Rosalind/Marl Lake Joint Water Quality Committee thought it would be important to send a brief communication forward to all residents as there have been some noted changes in the lakes over the past few weeks. Rick Kalte has offered his support in quoting from a communication that he forwarded to the Marl Lake residents last week. In this communication he noted that both lakes have experienced very calm nights resulting in Blue Green Algae floating to the surface. The B-G algae will concentrate on the shores when the wind blows in certain directions. Recently, on Lake Rosalind this scum of algae has been found on the Rd 4 shoreline of the first lake in coves and against docks and boats. Marl Lake had the same thing happen in the first lake along the Rd 7 shoreline. For the most part, these scums break up and mix back into the water column by late morning with wind and wave action.

The group on the tour decided to do an Algae ID for both lakes at this time. The Algae ID was sampled on Wednesday, Aug 7<sup>th</sup> for both lakes and the lab was in receipt of the samples by Thursday afternoon. Results will be reported to residents when they are received.

Our protocols for initiating B-G Algae toxin testing (Microcystin) is water clarity below 3.0 m and extensive scums present (this is very conservative considering the MOE Scientist who did the 2010 report for Rosalind recommended testing when clarity drops below 1m)

At the time of the tour, the clarity for Rosalind was 3.2 m and Marl was 4.5m. At this time of the year the lakes can have fast and

varied changes in clarity as can be seen in the different lakes on Marl. On Marl Lake the second lake has cleared up considerably over the last few weeks and the very back lake is crystal clear (way too clear).

Since we have had some B-G Algae scums and we did not have any serious blooms last year, it may be time to go over some precautions in case things start to develop.

### **“Blue Green Algae Season”- Precautions and facts**

1. Always check your waterfront for scums before letting pets or young children in or near the water. This is especially true in early morning after a calm wind free night. (B-G algae can control buoyancy and float to the surface on calm nights looking for light)
2. Scums can break up after some wind or wave action so wait until things clear up in your area.
3. Blue Green Algae are actually bacteria that can reproduce every 30 minutes under ideal conditions so their numbers can change rapidly from one day to the next. Be vigilant.
4. If you take water from the lake, check and change your filters often as the lake becomes cloudier at this time of year.
5. Do not swim in water if clarity falls below 1 m. The experts say if you wade into waist deep water and you cannot see your feet .....Do not swim.
6. All residents are responsible for checking water conditions before using the lake. The Lake Rosalind/Marl Lake Joint Water Quality Committee will do toxin testing and keep everyone informed but remember that labs only test for toxins once a week. The time between tests and getting results can have big changes in conditions. Always check the water clarity and look for scums on the surface.

Please note the photos attached that illustrate how the B-G Algae scums look and set up. The photo with the paddle boat on Rosalind is courtesy of J. Avedesian. In this shot you can see the scum being pushed around the paddle boat and how clear the surrounding water is. The second shot is courtesy of J. MacDougall. In this shot, it is evident that the wind is blowing beyond the dock resulting in the algae being trapped between the docks and pontoon boat. These scums did disappear and got mixed into the water column shortly after with wind and wave action.

Hopefully our lakes continue to stay healthy so that we can all enjoy the many activities that our lake communities provide.

