

Water Test Results August 10th 2021

Over the past weeks, residents have noticed dramatic changes in our lakes with many voicing concern over the green colour and slimy scums accumulating along various shorelines.

As was noted in previous messages, the team of "water testers" spring into action when the clarity of the lake is at 3 metres or below.

As both our first and second lake indicated clarity of less than 3 metres last week (2.3 m) as measured by the secchi disk, it was decided that further testing was necessary and the results of these tests arrived today.

The results for Microcystin Toxin in the samples taken last Tuesday (Aug 3) are shown below following the flow of water through the lakes from north to south. Toxin levels are in **µg/L** and the clarity of each lake at that time is in **metres**.

Lake Rosalind = LR Marl Lake = ML

LR-2 7.66 **µg/L** 2.3 m

LR-1 6.12 **µg/L** 2.3 m

ML-1 4.51 **µg/L** 2.9 m

ML-2 2.67 **µg/L** 3.0 m

All lakes are above the Drinking Water Standard. The Canadian Drinking Water Standard for Microcystin is **1.5 µg/L**. This is based on a person drinking 1.5 L per day over a lifetime at this level.

All lakes are below the Recreational Standard. The Canadian Recreational Standard for Microcystin is **20.0 µg/L**. This is based on the weight of a small child (13kg) swimming and accidentally ingesting 250 mL of water (at 20.0 µg/L) per day.

N.B. all the above Canadian Standards have a high amount of safety built in for the accumulated effects of toxin in the human body.

Please continue to carefully monitor your shoreline for scums on calm days before allowing children or pets to enter the water. There have been reports in the last few months of dogs dying from drinking the water where a scum or blue green algae bloom is present.

In the past, there has been notice sent out to residents to avoid swimming in the lake if the water clarity falls below 1 metre. Things can change very fast with one area of the lake appearing very murky with a thick green covering while other areas appearing clear.

It is important to note that the Lake Rosalind/Marl Lake Water Quality Committee does NOT condone using ANY surface water source for the purpose of drinking.

The committee will monitor conditions and determine when and if further testing needs to be completed.

The “water testing” team is awaiting further results from the Algae ID tests which should be forthcoming in the next week or so. When these results come forward, further information will be shared with residents.

Another concern that has been noted by some around both of our lakes is the reduction in water flow and lower water levels than normal.

June was a very dry month which resulted in drought issues throughout many lakes in the province. The Saugeen Conservation Authority noted that the water level was down in our local lakes but has reported that the levels have returned to normal in the past weeks.

The LRML Water Quality Committee is interested in hearing about any issues residents may have noticed with their water source over the past month or so as a result of lower water levels. This is important information for us to receive in order for us to continue our research in this area.

If you noticed any concerns related to your water source, please send a brief message to Diana Goodwin through email (dianalynngoodwin@gmail.com) giving a short description of your issue.

Lake Rosalind/Marl Lake Water Quality Committee