

Lake Rosalind/Marl Lake Joint Water Quality Committee

Fall 2021 Communication

The summer is now behind us and we are most fortunate to be enjoying the beauty of the changing seasons on our lake. Lake Rosalind and Marl Lake struggled this past summer to keep the water quality safe as well as aesthetically and recreationally appealing. This kept the team of water testers busy as they attempted to make sense out of the consistent and puzzling water quality changes throughout the summer months.

The most recent water samples were taken from the cloudiest part of Lake Rosalind and Marl Lake on September 14th. The results of the Microcystin Tests are as follows:

Lake Rosalind 2nd lake: **2.21 µg/L** (down from 4.70 µg/L on Aug 17)

Marl Lake 1st lake: **0.63 µg/L** (down from 2.34 µg/ on Aug 17)

The Canadian Drinking Water Standard suggests that toxin levels of 1.5 µg/L or less are safe for drinking so we are not there yet. As noted in previous communications, the LRML Joint Water Quality Committee does not recommend using the lake water as a drinking source.

The Canadian Recreational Standard suggests that toxin levels of 20.0 µg/L or less are safe for recreational activities in the water.

It is positive to observe that the toxin levels in both lakes have decreased which is good to see especially during the traditional heavier B-G algae months of September and October.

On a less positive note, some Lake Rosalind residents are reporting the presence of rather large snails that they are finding on their shorelines. These snails were mostly prevalent in Marl Lake in past summers and they have somehow made their way through the culvert to Lake Rosalind. One thought is that these snails first appeared after a large aquarium was dumped into the lake on the Marl side. The information in the link below is an excellent reminder to all residents to **never** put anything into the lake that might interfere with the fragile ecosystems.

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especies/ais-eae/prevention/index-eng.html>

It is easy to become tempted to try various products that are promoted by companies as a way to assist with the creation of a muck free lake bottom or shoreline, however, most of these only serve to create bigger water quality issues. Residents are encouraged to ask questions of a Water Quality Committee member before adding anything to the lake. Chances are pretty high that one of the members will have researched the pros and cons of products such as Muck Pucks, Aerators, Fountains, etc. and can answer questions related to benefits and detriments.

In keeping with water quality and environmental stewardship, the Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations has created an informative survey that encourages Ontario residents to gain their personalized rating while supporting a province wide initiative. You can access this survey at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FOCAwaterQuality2021>

On Friday, September 17th the Joint Water Quality Committee engaged in a productive meeting with representatives from the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and the Drinking Water Source Protection group. More information on initiatives stemming from this meeting will be included in future communications, however, one important issue was discussed regarding the necessity for residents to make certain to have their wells tested on a regular basis. This link offers relevant content:

<https://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/About-Us/News-Releases/ArticleID/681/New-Well-Water-Testing-Drop-Off-in-Brockton>

The SVCA currently has a funding program that may be of interest to lake residents with wells and sand-points. All properties around our lakes are in the Well Head Protection Area so should be eligible for the maximum amount allotted for well improvements. Hopefully there are still some funds available to those who may fit the criteria. Please click on the link below for more information.

<https://www.svca.on.ca/page.php?page=wellwater>

During the summers of 2020 and 2021, a team of volunteers inserted Biochar Bags in strategic areas around the lake. It appeared that these bags assisted with positive benefits to our lakes in 2020, however, we experienced different water clarity and algae results this summer. The LRML Water Quality Committee will assess the benefits and drawbacks of continued use of the Biochar bags.

As a closing comment, the LRML Water Quality Committee would like to thank residents for their ongoing commitment and dedication to doing their part to keep our lakes healthy. Every action that minimizes disturbance of the lake bottom, eliminates toxins from entering the water and reduces contamination from run off sources or failing septic systems is acknowledged and appreciated.

The DO YOUR PART acronym serves as an easy reminder to all of us.

Do not use fertilizers/pesticides

Obstruct leaves, grass clippings and goose poop from entering the lake

Yearly review of septic systems with a service contractor is essential

Observe all septic system compliance rules by replacing failing systems

Use non-phosphate detergents, soaps, shampoos

Read labels carefully to ensure the use of safe lake and septic products

Prevent the disturbance of the lake bottom to avoid nutrient loading

Always practice no-wake boating in near shore areas to avoid shoreline damage

Refrain from feeding ALL waterfowl and remember to “scoop the pet poop”

Thanks for committing to Lake Rosalind/Marl Lake stewardship initiatives

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