



Addendum
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday March 17, 2026

In the Dunchurch Community Centre,
Zoom Meeting (Video) and Phone Call

*Every effort is made to record meetings with the exception of the Closed Session matters.
Both the audio and video are posted on the Municipal Website.
The written minutes are the official record of the meeting.*

Addition of Items:

4.1 Presentations and Delegations

- 4.1 North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
- Harmful Algae Blooms presentation, Alenna Stirpe,

Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs)

Presented by:

Alenna Stirpe

Public Health Inspector

What is a Harmful Algae Bloom?



Caused by cyanobacteria



Also known as blue green algae



Occur naturally in fresh water



Lake Nosbonsing, 2012

Favourable conditions encourage growth and formation of blooms

Likes to grow in a slow moving, warm, shallow water

May occur in colder, deeper water, below the surface



About Harmful Algae Blooms....

HABs have been reported in various areas throughout Ontario, Canada, and the world.

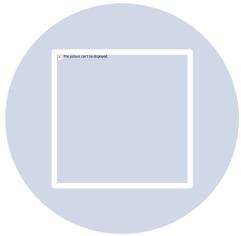
There are records of blooms dating back to the 12th century.

Blooms usually begin in the summer months and may persist through winter.

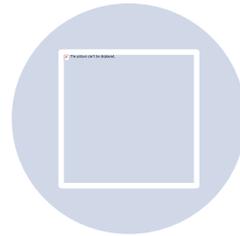
Climate change is a contributing factor.

Will often re-occur in the same water.

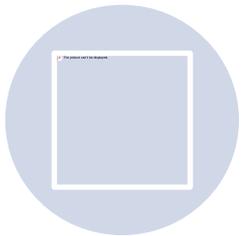
Harmful Algae Bloom Toxin



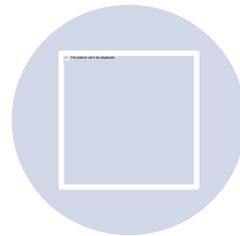
Toxin = a poisonous substance produced within a living cell.



Some varieties of cyanobacteria produce toxins with the most common toxin called **microcystins**.



They are released in water when the cell of the organism is broken.



This may occur when cells naturally die and decay or when they are subjected to chemicals or abrasion.

Exposure & Health Risks

If an active bloom is present, or for up to three weeks after a bloom was last observed, you can be exposed to cyanobacteria toxins if you:

- Use the water, this includes drinking, cooking, bathing, and brushing teeth
- Have skin contact with the water
- Inhale water droplets
- Eat contaminated food

Potential Health Effects



There are potential health effects associated with toxins from a harmful algal bloom.



The health effects will depend on type of exposure to the toxins (where on the body and how much you are exposed to).

Potential Health Effects

Contact with algae through swimming and other water activities:

- itchy/irritated eyes
- skin itch, redness, or rash

Contact with algae through ingestion (drinking the water or eating contaminated food):

- abdominal pain
- diarrhea
- vomiting
- fever
- cramps
- nausea
- headache

Potential Health Effects

Severity of the illness will depend on the amount of water ingested and concentration of the toxins.

Rare severe cases may result in:

- mouth/nose ulcers
- blistering of the lips
- seizures
- liver failure
- respiratory arrest
- death

Appearance

HABs can be classified into 3 actionable categories:

Category 1

Category 2

Category 3

Category 1

The water appears cloudy, but you can still see through it.

Particle density can vary greatly in the water column.

Swimming Precaution for Category 1

- Health effects are not expected at this stage.

Drinking Water Precaution for Category 1

- Health effects are not expected at this stage.

Category 2

The water colour appears changed due to increased number of cyanobacteria.

Algae may be in clusters, balls, or flakes in the water, like a pea puree.

Swimming Precaution for Category 2

- Sensitive individuals may develop mild symptoms of skin rash or eye irritation.

Drinking Water Precaution for Category 2

- Ingestion of water in this category may result in range of health effects

Category 2



Category 3

Dense bloom; may resemble a paint spill. Accumulated cyanobacteria on the surface of the water may form a scum. The bloom is easily swept by the wind and deposited near the shore.

Swimming Precaution for Category 3

- Sensitive individuals may develop symptoms of skin rash or eye irritation.

Drinking Water Precaution for Category 3

- Ingestion of water in this category will likely result in range of health effects.

Category 3



Safety Measures

Water from a Category 2 or 3 bloom should not be consumed. If you see a HAB, do not use the water.

Pets or livestock should not consume the water.

Consideration should be taken to not eat fish caught from lake with an active HAB, particularly the organs of the fish; where HAB toxins can be concentrated.

Pay attention to when the water has cleared.

Safety Measures

- The toxin is naturally reduced by dilution, degradation by other bacteria in the water, and sunlight.
- Currently, there are no 3rd party tested domestic water treatment devices available.
- Activated carbon, chlorine, distillation, and reverse osmosis seem to be promising technologies for commercial water treatment.
 - Long term efficacy, continuous monitoring and maintenance continue to be challenges.
 - In the absence of 3rd party tested treatment devices, individuals may consider seeking an alternate source of drinking water (drilled well, commercially bottled water, municipal source). In most cases, with the exception of ongoing category 2 or category 3 blooms, it is considered low risk to continue to use water for the purpose of bathing, showering,

Safety Measures



WATER ADVISORY

A HAZARDOUS ALGAE BLOOM HAS BEEN OBSERVED IN THIS LAKE

If a bloom IS present:

Do not drink lake water. Avoid recreational use. Do not allow pets in the water.

If a bloom is NOT present, resume recreational use of water.

Medical Officer of Health, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
For more information, call the Health Unit at 1-800-563-2808.

www.myhealthunit.ca

North Bay Parry Sound District
Health Unit

Bureau de santé
du district de North Bay Parry Sound



Look out for the water advisory signs. The type of sign is posted to provide education to the public, advise caution, and enable informed decision-making.



If a bloom is present, do not swim.



The water advisory sign stays in place all summer; however, this does not mean the bloom will be active all this time.



Callander Bay Beach 2011



Callander Bay 2010



Recently Reported HABs in NBPSDHU

2024	2025
Ahmic Lake (Magnetawan Township)	
Bear Lake (Sprucedale, McMurrich Monteith Township)	
Commanda Lake (Restoule)	Commanda Lake (Restoule)
Eagle Lake (Machar Township)	
Lake Bernard (Village of Sundridge)	
Lake Nipissing, Callander Bay (Municipality of Callander)	Lake Nipissing, Callander Bay (Municipality of Callander)
Lake Nipissing, North Bay Waterfront (City of North Bay)	
Lake Nosbonsing (Bonfield Township)	
Little Tyne Lake (Ballantyne Township)	
McQuaby Lake (Nipissing Township)	
Pickeral Lake (Armour Township)	
Ruth Lake (Nipissing Township)	
Wasi Lake (Chisholm Township)	Wasi Lake (Township of Chisholm)
Whitestone Lake (Hagerman Township)	Whitestone Lake (Municipality of Whitestone)
	Old Man's Lake (Township of Magnetawan)
	Whalley Lake (Township of Magnetawan)

Response to HABs

Three agencies have a role in responding to reports of potential HABs:

- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
- North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSDHU)
- Local Municipalities

Role of the Ministry of the Environment

Spills Action Centre:

- Toll-free 1-866-663- 8477 or 1-855-889-5775
- Available: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Online Reporting: [Report Pollution | Ontario.ca](#)

- Lead responder.
- Field investigation conducted if determined to be required.
- Samples collected and sent to Ministry of the Environment laboratory.

Role of the Health Unit

If the Health Unit receives the call:

The caller is referred to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

- The caller is directed to the Spill Action Centre:
 - Toll-free 1-866-663-8477 or 1-855-889-5775
 - Available: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- The caller may also submit a report online:

[Report Pollution | Ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/report-pollution)

Role of the Health Unit

If a HAB is confirmed through laboratory testing:

- Informs the municipality.
- Provides the HAB water advisory sign to the municipality to be posted at all public beaches and boat launches.
- Provides the 'Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB) Frequently Asked Questions' to the municipal office to be distributed.
- Posting at other locations will be supported by the Health Unit but is at the discretion of the municipality.
- Prepares and issues a media release.
- Adds the body of water to the list and map on the Health

Role of the Municipality

If HAB is present:

- Distributes information.
- Posts warnings and public notices as directed by Health Unit.

Resources

Blue-Green Algae (Cyanobacteria) and their Toxins

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/cyanobacter-eng.php>

Potential impacts to human health and safety of drinking water

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@ene/@resources/documents/resource/std01_079454.pdf

Information for cottagers and home owners

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@ene/@resources/documents/resource/std01_079455.pdf

Information for drinking water system owners and operators

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@ene/@resources/documents/resource/std01_079456.pdf

CBC News

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/story/2013/04/29/wdr-algae-bloom-predicted-lake-erie.html>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/story/2013/05/20/nb-blue-green-algae.html>

Prince Edward Island Department of Environment, Labour and Justice – Blue-Green Algae (Cyanobacteria)

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/environment/index.php3?number=1041277&lang=E>

Questions



Thank You!



Environmental Health
Santé environnementale
myhealthunit.ca



North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit

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345 Oak Street West
North Bay, ON P1B 2T2**

**Parry Sound Office:
90 Bowes Street, Suite 201
Parry Sound, ON P2A 2L7**

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1-800-563-2808 ext. 5400**

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