

**PICKEREL LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS
REPORT ON SPRING MEETING
JUNE 22, 2019**

Convened at 168 Lakeshore Rd. Approx 27 in attendance.

BLUE/GREEN ALGAE

First on the agenda was a presentation by **AMY McFARLANE**, a recent science award-winning high school graduate who for a number of years has been studying and researching causes and effects of algae. Following are some of the main point made:

- * **Primary causes** are phosphates, nitrogen and nitrates getting into the water, along with conditions such as warm, shallow, slow moving water.
- * **The algae starts at the bottom** in near microscopic state; cannot be seen and is not dangerous. When conditions are perfect, it begins its cycle, rising to the top, undergoing photosynthesis, becoming colourful and potentially dangerous.
- * **Once a bloom starts**, it cannot be effectively removed. Prevention is key. It is a man-made problem. Nature will not fix it.
- * *Statistics show* that many older septic systems are no longer up to code. Often, whether new or old, maintenances (eg. tests, pumping) is inadequate. Amy pinpoints this as one of the major causes of algae.
- * **Exposure to a toxic bloom** will cause a sore rash within 30-60 min. Additional symptoms follow. Animals particularly susceptible. There is little damage to fish. They can adapt. Fish caught in areas away from the bloom are OK to eat.
- * **Health Department posts signs** when an algae bloom is reported and tests are done, but they don't take them down that season. The reason is to deflect any liability.
- * **We have previously published "Do's and Don'ts"** in our mailings, but a few of the day-to-day key points-
 - Do not use fertilizer. Be aware that even most brands of grass seed incorporate fertilizer.
 - Use only phosphate-free materials.
 - Avoid washing in the Lake. Even phosphate-free liquids contain ingredients that do not easily disperse.
 - Ensure proper maintenance of septic systems. NO outhouses.
- * **Some preliminary** research indicates that there are tests we can do ourselves. This will be researched further.

Complete information on algae, as well as a comprehensive list of DO's and DON'TS can be found on our Association's webpage - pickerellakepropertyowners.ca

If you click on 'INFORMATION ON BLUE/GREEN ALGAE', only the third website shown is still active.

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ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

PICKEREL AND JACK LAKE ROAD CLOSURE: Has been deferred to the fall.

BOAT LAUNCH: No further action from Counsellor. Problem at Dobbs is narrow road in and out, and at the East end of Lake, utility cables in the water.

For launching at Duin's, OK to use own vehicle to launch-charge of \$10.00 for in-out same day; \$20.00 otherwise. For Tractor, \$25.00. Call ahead to arrange.

LAKE AWARENESS: Suggestion to post signs directing people to learn about the Lake through our website. Possibly letters to cottages.

EMERGENCY ALERT: Township is to introduce a Red Alert to which people can register, to receive notice of any emergency in the area.

BOATING REGULATIONS: There has been talk that there could be more Police on our, and local Lakes this summer. People should become familiar with these regulations as the fines are very severe. Regulations published in 2016 are posted on our website in the Facebook link.

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DECORATED BOAT PARADE, POKER RUN AND PICNIC: General agreement a 'GO'

* Date set for August 17. Carolyn Crawford graciously offered property for the picnic. Consensus to continue with 'picnic format' - hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments free to members. Bring your own add-ons (salad, dessert, drinks). Also agreed that "Johnny-on-the-Spot" facilities was excellent idea. Sarah Gnass (indirectly) volunteered to coordinate kid's games. Volunteers will be needed for picnic setup and cleanup. Further communication to follow.

* Reg Ewles volunteered to coordinate the Poker Run. Further information will follow at a later date.

BOTTLE DRIVE:

Suggestion to set up drop-off boxes in strategic locations. No agreement to proceed because of concerns for logistics, time required by volunteers, or what might wind up in, or taken out of the boxes.

Preference to promote people taking back their own empties, and Interac proceeds to Brian Lower.

Regardless, bottle drive set for September 1. Again, volunteers required.

WEBSITE: Currently, the Facebook group on our website is open to everyone in our database, and more. This is basically a benefit for paid Members, and it was suggested that at some point in the future, this restriction should be put in place.

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