



Pigeon Lake Open House



Recreational Water
Role of the Health Region

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE
EVERYONE EVERYDAY

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Health Region

- Lakes are a recreational resource to the public.
- Water quality is monitored to protect the public from waterborne diseases through exposure to fecal contaminated waters.
- We monitor lakes every year from the last week in June to the long weekend in September.

Nuisance and General Sanitation Regulation

- What do we test for?
- Fecal Coliform bacteria! (FC)
 - Live in the intestine of warm-blooded animals and humans. The presence of these bacteria in water indicates contamination.
 - Sources of fecal coliform include sewage effluent, agriculture run-off, fertilizer run-off from domestic use, animal and bird droppings and increase in bathers.

Nuisance and General Sanitation Regulation

- Section 16(1) states:
 - “No person shall operate a beach unless the water quality meets the following:
 1. Geometric mean from not fewer than 5 samples of water from the bathing area taken over a 30-day period does not exceed 200 FC/100 ml of water.
 2. No 2 consecutive samples of water from the bathing area have a count in excess of 400 FC/100 ml of water

Pigeon Lake

- Divided into two health regions:
 - David Thompson Health Region covers the South shore and Mulhurst Bay/Argentia Beach in the North. Approximately, South of HWY 616.
 - Capital Health Region covers the rest of the North shore.

Blue-Green Algae Blooms

- Human Health Effects
- Livestock and pets
- Precautions



Human Health Effects

- Skin contact
 - Skin irritation
 - Rash
 - Sore throat
 - Sore red eyes and swollen lips
- Drinking water containing the algae.
 - Nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps, diarrhea, fever
 - Weakness, joint pain, muscle pain, liver damage.

Livestock and pets

- Animals tend to drink water regardless of how it looks and smells.
- Deadly for animals if toxins from algae are present.



Precautions

- Avoid contact with scum layers or visible blooms of blue-green algae.
- Do not allow pets or children to play or swim where blooms of algae are present.
- If you come into contact with a bloom, wash off thoroughly.
- If your pet comes into contact with a bloom, wash off your pet's coat to prevent it from ingesting algae while self-cleaning.

Precautions

- Provide an alternate source of drinking water for pets and livestock.
- Contact a doctor if any symptoms occur after being in contact with algae-affected waters.