

## **LAKES REPORT - SEPTEMBER 30, 2014**

Most recent testing of a sample of a surface bloom at Wee Wah Lake shows that it is Cyanobacteria (Blue/Green algae) of a sort that can be toxic. The surface bloom comes and goes, depending upon the wind. The bloom looks like a bright green paint spill along the shoreline. The water looks “yucky”.

As in the past, we caution against swimming in the Wee Wah or Little Wee Wah under these conditions. These algae can be harmful to pets as well. If you suspect that your dog has been swimming in a lake, the dog should be bathed.

All swimming by people or pets is prohibited on Tuxedo Lake .

The formal sampling season has ended, but the EC continues to monitor the lakes. Warm weather and virtually no rain have helped create ongoing “bloom” conditions.

An article in today’s NY Times, in the Science section, titled “A Rising Tide of Contaminants” is worth reading. It underscores how lucky we are to have a reservoir that is not loaded with contaminants. That said, what contaminants are in our lakes? Whatever products we use on our lawns, in our gardens, or as cleaning products on cars etc. makes its way into our water and back to our households. The actions we take matter.