

Spring 2019
Volume 14

Three Mile Lake Barnacle

Your "In-Depth" Lake News

Annual General Meeting (Sunday, June 30 @ 10:00am)

- You can pay your annual Membership securely via e-transfer! PayPal / credit card option also still available on our web site, www.3milelake.org ! Go to the 'Members' link...

- Our Facebook group has now reached 350 members, up 100 from last year! We are finding this is the best way to communicate quickly in our community. Join at www.3milelake.org

- If you spot a runaway minion (i.e. lake hazard marker) please place it on your dock and text 705-717-2658 for pick up.

- Don't forget that all Armour residents now need a "landfill card" to track garbage bag usage...pick up at the Township offices.

NEW MAILING ADDRESS: 167 Sunnylea Ave., Katrine, ON P0A 1L0
Email: info@3milelake.org Web: www.3milelake.org

Blue-Green Algae Awareness

Concerns From Last Summer's Notifications

On August 16, 2018, a Public Health Notice was issued for Three Mile Lake regarding the potential for a blue-green algae bloom. Unrelated to our regular water quality monitoring, a sample had been sent to the Ministry of Environment based on concerns observed on one part of the lake. Unfortunately, not even our regular monitoring of key water quality metrics helps us predict when this sort of lake event may occur. This time around, fortunately, the conditions did not lead to a full toxic bloom. This is, however, a warning we need to take very seriously. Protection of our lake is absolutely critical and anything we can do to reduce pressure on the natural environment will help us avoid serious situations. Maintaining the natural shoreline and its natural filters; eliminating use of fertilizers or pesticides which may run into the lake; leaving the natural habitats of all of our lake creatures undisturbed; ensuring that our septic systems are working as they should – all of these things will help us. Obviously, a lot of this is beyond our control, but we do have control over certain aspects. We also need to ensure that local planning by-laws continue to protect our lakes and shorelines.

Related to last year's Public Health Notice, we have raised the issue of "process problems" with the folks at Public Health, Ministry of Environment, and the Township. There is currently no closing-of-the-loop with respect to the blue-green algae warnings which were made public. Although we never incurred a serious bloom, the warning sign was left up at the boat launch and not removed until after Thanksgiving. We want to ensure that anyone visiting our lake is aware of potential issues; however, we also want to ensure that accurate information and accurate warnings are provided. None of the agencies involved have a process to close the loop by re-testing the lake and removing the warnings. We will continue to push to get this process fixed. It should be noted that these warnings were issued for at least 15 lakes in the Parry Sound / North Bay Public Health catchment area last summer...

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, June 30, 2019 @ 10:00 am at the Katrine Community Centre.

Annual Golf Tournament

Sunday, Aug 4, 2019.
Shotgun start @ 8:30am at the Almaguin Highlands Golf Course in Katrine – www.cottagegolf.ca...\$30, including BBQ and prizes...what a deal!

For reservations or to donate prizes, call or text Dan @705-241-1974.

To reserve carts call 705-349-8337.

Suggestions are welcomed!

Potential ideas for a Three Mile Lake social event...ideas to help adapt to climate change on the lake...improved ways of communication. Please tell us what you think! You can post ideas on the Three Mile Lake Facebook group, or email us at info@3milelake.org ...or find your local director!

Email: info@3milelake.org

The Three Mile Lake Barnacle Newsletter is for informational purposes of TMLCC members only.

Water Testing Summary from 2018

Contact Information to Keep Close By...

Emergency Services
(Fire, Police, Ambulance)...911

Non-emergency local O.P.P. detachment
(Almaguin / Burk's Falls)...705-382-2015

Armour Township
(building permits, by-laws, local roads, snow removal, landfill, etc)...705-382-3332

Burk's Falls Landfill Site Summer Hours – 10am – 5pm Thursday through Monday (closed Tues / Wed)

The **Burk's Falls Towne Theatre** ... schedule will be posted on web site

Burk's Falls Arena open for ice time throughout the summer! 705-382-3811

Your TMLCC Executives and Directors:

Rod Ward (President)
Vacancy (Vice-President)
Barb Leonard (Treasurer)
Tammy Ward (Secretary)
Vacancy (Lake Steward)

Directors:

Wendy Bristow
Albert Bollenbach
Vivian Harvey
Carolyn Hodgins
Gord Isbister
Wilf Schneider
Tim Taylor

The **coliform** levels were tested twice during the summer at five different spots on the lake and the good news is that all results were below the threshold for recreational waters. The maximum allowable value is 1000 cfus (colony forming units).

Cfus	TML-1	TML-2	TML-3	TML-4	TML-5	Sandy Cove
5/20/2018	36-43	13	11	3	8	-
8/19/2018	213	434	307	451	65	-

The **E.coli** levels were also tested twice at the same five spots in the lake. The E.coli levels were all well below the recreational water threshold of 100 cfus.

cfus	TML-1	TML-2	TML-3	TML-4	TML-5	Sandy Cove
05/20/2018	30	<3	3	<3	<3	-
08/19/2018	28	13	<3	8	39	-

High **phosphorus** along with nitrogen can be a driver of algae blooms. Typically, one would like to have phosphorus levels below 20 µg/L. All of our results were well below 20µg/L.

Date	Test results µg/L	Average of results µg/L
06/21/2018	7.0, 7.2	7.1
08/02/2018	10.6, 11.4	11.0
08/22/2018	9.8, 9.6	9.7
09/13/2018	10.2, 9.0	10.0

After many years of dedicated volunteer work, **Arnie and Nancy Pundsack** will be stepping away from their duties with TMLCC and, most notably, with water testing. We have been very fortunate to have their support over the years and wish to thank them on behalf of all of our members! And thanks to **Bromley Henning** and **Rudy Klassen** who will help continue our testing in 2019.

Directors' Call...we currently have two vacancies for key TMLCC director positions – Lake Steward and Vice-President. We are actively seeking new directors to help out, as our reliance on long-term directors and executives continues. Many, many thanks to **Arnie Pundsack** and **Arlene Vujacic** for their roles on the TMLCC executive for many years.

Changes / Clarifications Made to Lakefront Property Development...two key wording changes were made at Armour Township recently to clarify that a 'bunkie' needs to be a separate structure (i.e. not part of an existing structure) and only one septic system is allowed per lakefront property. Wording on these points was not clear previously.

Flooding this past Spring in areas very close to us (Burk's Falls and Katrine) underline the new reality we are likely going to face more frequently. Most properties on Three Mile Lake were spared this time around, but flooding and wild fires are two examples of natural occurrences which are happening much more frequently. Cottagers should be aware that their insurance may not cover all damage from these occurrences and that certain government funding for damages only covers permanent residences, not cottages. Be educated on the coverage you may or may not have...and take precautions!

Don't Forget to Visit www.3milelake.org every day! Join our Facebook page

Email: info@3milelake.org

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