

Lake algae book a must-read

Roschkov, Tom. [Edmonton Journal](#) [Edmonton, Alta] 31 July 2012: A.17.

Re: "Lake algae sparks warning; Alert comes as pilgrims gather at Lac Ste. Anne," the Journal, July 25.

A spiritual pilgrimage to Lac Ste. Anne last week was hampered and somewhat demoralized by an algae bloom. Now warnings have been issued for Pigeon Lake.

Alberta Health Services says Prairie lakes, especially those with a lot of human activity around them, regularly see blue-green algae in July or August. Human activity, indeed! This could be Alberta's understatement of the year.

While algae blooms occur naturally, this province's situation has been multiplied many times over by negligence and mismanagement of water systems. Add this to a long, growing list of Alberta's ecological failures.

It's a complicated matter made all the more confusing by government and industry misinformation.

Fortunately, one of the world's leading water experts, David Schindler, lives here in Alberta. He is an inspiration. Schindler and John Vallentyne have produced a book on the subject, *The Algal Bowl*. Every Albertan should get a copy.

Tom Roschkov, Edmonton

Credit: Tom Roschkov; Edmonton Journal

Copyright CanWest Digital Media Jul 31, 2012