

## Look out for blue-green algae

[Daily Gleaner](#) [Fredericton, N.B] 12 July 2012: A.6.

When looking to cool off in a lake or pond this summer, New Brunswickers should be aware of blue-green algae that blooms in warm weather.

The algae, which gets its common name from it's colour can be toxic or even poisonous if swallowed.

"While not all algae blooms are problematic, blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria, can produce microcystin toxins, which may cause skin, eye and throat irritation and may lead to more serious health effects if consumed," said chief medical officer of health, Dr. Eilish Cleary.

Children and anyone who already has skin conditions should take extra caution as the algae can be fatal to many animals.

The Department of Health advises those taking part in summer activities to be cautious and not to swim where the algae is visible, nor should water around the algae blooms be consumed even after boiling. Fish caught in the area should be thoroughly cleaned and have all it's organs removed before it's eaten.

The local government asks that blooms be reported to the Department of Health and regional office.

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