

# Blue Green Algae Outbreak

Last week the entire school of Kindler Elementary attended a presentation about blue green algae blooms and how to prevent it, which was given by John Alms from the Alberta Lake Management Society.

From the presentation, there were some basic facts about the Algae. Another word for blue green algae is cyanobacteria blooms and there are over 100 different species of algae ranging in size and shape. It can be caused by some unneeded nutrients which come from fertilizer, pesticides, manure and dog poop making their way into the lake. Blue green algae is made of bacteria that produces energy through photosynthesis. The algae forms a scum on the lake that is harmful to fish, animals, and humans. John Alms went on to explain that you should not swim in the infected lakes. A girl from Kindler elementary said “last summer, I was swimming in the lake all day then I got hives, I was itchy for weeks.”

Blue green algae can decrease oxygen in the lake which can be harmful to the aquatic life. People can't eat fish from the infected lakes, because when the fish are exposed to the water, the algae can get into their liver, gills, blood, bile, intestines and their brain. You should make sure that both you and your dog don't eat the infected fish, or else it could make you very sick.

John Alms gave a few ideas of how people living on the lake can prevent the algae from growing. Blue green algae can be prevented by keeping the shoreline as natural as possible with its native plants such as cattails, bulrush, pondweeds and northern watermilfoil. It can also be prevented by picking up dog poop and using less fertilizer and pesticides in your gardens.

Blue green algae is out during the summer and sometimes in the fall. It has already affected Moose Lake in July 2019 and Cold Lake in August 2019. “Blue green algae is very harmful to the environment and ecosystems, and

we need to do something about it". John Alms said at the beginning of the presentation. We should be taking extra precautions when swimming in lakes and start to prevent it.

Learn more at [www.preventingbluegreenalgae.ca](http://www.preventingbluegreenalgae.ca)

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