This page includes information related to an algae issue experienced on Dixie Lake beginning in mid-September.2020. Dixie Lake had not experienced this type of an issue prior to 2020 and did not experience it in 2021.

Please read through the information in these links to learn how actions and behaviors by all of us on Dixie Lake may be contributing to algae in the lake, then ask yourself what you can do to minimize run-off of nutrients into the lake, especially from lawns that are fertilized.

Those pulling boats off of Dixie Lake at this time of the year SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL TO AVOID TOUCHING THE ALGAE and to WASH-OFF THOROUGHLY WITH CLEAN WATER AS SOON AS THEY COME OUT OF THE WATER!

We will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes available.

UPDATE 9/23/20: Today, the Dixie Lake Improvement Board (DLIB) received a report from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) pertaining to additional analysis of blue-green algae samples collected on the south shoreline of Dixie Lake along King Road on Monday, September 14, 2020:

- ***They found a high concentration of microcystin (algal toxin) in the sample (630 µg/l). For reference, the EPA's recreational guidance for microcystin is 8 µg/l.***
- ***They are aware that an algae bloom is still present in Dixie Lake and, based on these results, assume that the cyanobacteria bloom that is occurring now is also producing toxins***
- ***They advise that contact with the scums should be avoided***
- ***Dogs should be especially kept away from any obvious cyanobacteria scums***

- ***They will collect additional samples next week Monday 28.September for additional analysis***

While surveying the lake on a boat today, Donna Ventimiglia of the DLIB observed very visible blue-green algae along the Dixie Highway shoreline, in the bay/cove, and peppering of these algae all over the lake. If you must go into the water, please be very careful not to touch these algae, especially near any heavy build-up, and to rinse-off thoroughly with clean water per the advice from our water quality consultant, Paul Hausler of Progressive A&E, as noted in the initial email alert of this algae condition back on 9/11/20. Donna plans to meet with MDHHS when they are on Dixie Lake next Monday to collect samples – she has already asked them what treatment options are available to resolve this algae condition producing high levels of toxin and plans to discuss this with them when they are here, if not before. Please be safe and look for future updates as information becomes available.

UPDATE 9/17/2020: The Dixie Lake Improvement Board (DLIB) has been advised that additional results from analysis of Dixie Lake water samples collected this past Monday by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) may take 2-3 weeks.

In the meantime, the DLIB has arranged for "Caution – Harmful Algae" signs to be placed on shorelines around the Dixie Lake, as is done prior to chemical treatments during the spring and summer, and these signs have been posted as of Thursday morning September, 17 – see photo below.

Please keep these signs posted on your lawns until additional results are received from MDHHS or this algae condition is resolved.

Also, please see below the feedback from MDHHS in response to inquiries made regarding sprinkler systems that draw water from Dixie Lake during this time:

We would recommend that people do not water lawns or plants with lake water from areas where there are visible cyanobacterial blooms or scums. Hoses or sprinklers may

cause water spray with droplets that may contain the toxin. When the cyanobacteria dissipates or in areas of the lake that are clear of cyanobacteria, the lake water can be used.

Once again we want to acknowledge the DLIB and MDHHS for their prompt response and action pertaining to this algae condition on Dixie Lake – THANK YOU!

Additional updates will be provided as more information becomes available, but as always – please make safety a priority considering this algae situation, but in boating behaviors as well.

9/15/2020 UPDATE: Results of an initial strip test indicated there is greater than 10 parts per billion (ppb) of microcystin in the blue-green algae sample collected at about 3p Monday 14.September.2020 on the south shore of Dixie Lake along King Road. Additional testing will be conducted with results to be reported as necessary. However, the blue-green algae should be avoided and dogs should especially be kept away from it!

Our thanks to the Dixie Lake Improvement Board (DLIB), Oakland County Health Division (OCHD), and State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for

their prompt response to this urgent situation discovered/reported just last Friday (5 days ago).

Mike Mulligan, President

Dixie Lake Homeowners Association

9/11/2020: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY THE INFORMATION BELOW ABOUT AN ALGAE BUILD-UP ON DIXIE LAKE'S SOUTH SHORE ALONG KING ROAD AND BE VERY CAUTIOUS TO PROTECT SMALL CHILDREN AND DOGS – IT MAY NOT BE SAFE TO USE THE WATER IN THIS AREA OR ANYWHERE ON THE LAKE!!

We have been in contact with the Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) who are working with the State of Michigan to have samples of the algae collected next week for analysis. Until the exact type of algae is identified, any attempts to treat it may not be effective and may actually make it worse. OCHD confirmed that cautions stated in the our previous alert are appropriate until more is known about these algae blooms and suggested information about what it might be can be found at the website michigan.gov/habs or by sending questions to algaebloom@michigan.gov. Progressive A & E, the consultant contracted by the DLIB to provide guidance on water quality management of Dixie Lake, offered the following information: At its worst, excess nutrients can lead to harmful algal blooms (HABs), a concentrated growth of blue-green algae. The health concerns related to HABs involve exposure to toxins (for example, microcystin) produced by blue-green algae that can sicken people and sicken or kill wildlife, pets, and livestock when touched, ingested, or inhaled. The various toxins produced by HABs can affect animal and human liver, skin, and nervous systems. Ideal conditions for HABs include sunny weather with warm air and water temperatures. Unfortunately, it is not possible to visually determine if a given HAB is producing toxins. Water samples can be collected and analyzed to determine how much microcystin is present in the water, but currently, there are a limited number of laboratories doing the analyses and the price of the tests can be high. Because information specific to individual algae blooms is often not available and many states (including Michigan) do not currently have standards for safe human or animal contact with HABs, the general recommendation is for

animals, children, and adults to stay out of any large algae bloom, especially surface scums, and to rinse animals and people that have been exposed as soon as possible. It is similarly advisable to avoid the rotting vegetation on some great lakes shorelines. The treatment of HABs (e.g. with algaecide) is generally avoided because of health concerns regarding the uncertainty around toxin production and the possible sudden release of high toxin concentrations as algae cells die due to treatment. **The DLHA and DLIB are working closely to address this issue and communicate updates as information becomes available – the DLIB will be the primary contact for OCHD and State of Michigan. WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS WHO MAY NOT SEE THIS EMAIL NOR SEE POSTS ABOUT THIS ISSUE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND WEBSITE.**