

Google Groups

Harmful Algal Bloom - be watchful

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Posted in group: **town-of-Ulysses**

Hello Ulysses Residents,

Unfortunately Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), aka cyanobacteria, have once again been spotted on Cayuga Lake. Understanding the blooms is complicated, and they do come and go, but while they are occurring, and for about a 24-hour period of time after they have disappeared, they can be very dangerous, especially for dogs or other pets drinking the water. Taughannock Park beach was closed over the weekend.

There are several helpful educational websites below with information about these blooms. There are still some gaps in the research needed to completely understand HABs, but it does seem that excess nitrogen and phosphorus are necessary ingredients in the complicated biological mix that enables HABs to occur. Keeping stormwater runoff from entering ditches and streams is a key goal, and keeping septic systems in good working order, especially for houses near water bodies, is important too.

We'll try our best to keep you posted on the locations of the blooms, but since they can quickly come and go, and occur in different locations, it's hard to make general statements about which areas are safe, and which are not. The most up to date website I use is hosted by the **Community Science Institute** in conjunction with the **Cayuga Lake Watershed Network**. It is here . A HUGE thanks to these not-for-profit organizations who do so much work on our behalf. Also very helpful is the NYS DEC website.

Other sites:

<http://www.cayugacounty.us/Community/Health/Environmental-Health/Blue-Green-Algae>

<http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/health/eh/water/algae>.

<https://ithacavoices.com/2018/07/taughannock-closed-weekend-due-suspected-harmful-algal-bloom/>

If you have questions, we'll do our best to answer, or find the answer, if there ARE answers.

Be watchful. Be safe.

-Liz

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