



For Immediate Release

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

RAMSEY LAKE ALGAE WATCH PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Information Session Focusing on Blue-Green Algae Scheduled for July 29

The Nickel District Conservation Authority Drinking Water Source Protection Program has launched a Ramsey Lake Algae Watch Program on a trial basis to support blue-green algae monitoring efforts on Ramsey Lake.

The Algae Watch Program provides residents living near Ramsey Lake with information on how to assist in monitoring the Lake for blue-green algae and report any potential blooms. Brochures about the program and how to participate were recently mailed to residents living within 100 metres of Ramsey Lake. Information gathered by volunteers will aid researchers looking into potential causes of previous and future algal blooms in Ramsey Lake.

As part of the program launch, an information session focusing on blue-green algae will be held for interested residents in the Vale Inco Cavern at Science North on Wednesday, July 29, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the public will have an opportunity to learn more about blue-green algae and the Ramsey Lake Algae Watch Program.

A keynote presentation will be delivered by Dr. Sue Watson, a research scientist from the Canada Centre for Inland Waters at Environment Canada in Burlington who specializes in noxious and harmful algal outbreaks and the compounds they produce. Dr. Charles Ramcharan from the Biology Department at Laurentian University will speak about blue-green algae occurrences locally. Representatives from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, City of Greater Sudbury and the Greater Sudbury Lake Water Quality Group will also be present.

More information about blue-green algae and the Ramsey Lake Algae Watch Program can be found online at www.sourcewatersudbury.ca

-30-

Contact:

Brianne Carter, Communications Specialist
Drinking Water Source Protection Program, 674-5249