

Septic Reinspection Day 2

September 16, 2016



Septic Reinspection Day





The Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association (OOWA) is dedicated to representing and educating its members within the onsite and decentralized wastewater industry. OOWA members include:

- Regulators and academics
- System designer and engineers
- System installers and contractors
- Technology manufacturers and suppliers
- Service providers: inspectors and residuals haulers

OOWA advocates for onsite and decentralized systems as critical rural infrastructure components. Onsite systems facilitate the effective treatment of wastewater and protect the environment when they are managed and maintained properly.

The Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations

- 99% of the County's Lake Associations
 - 51 associations
 - 123 lakes
 - 15,800 + Properties
- All volunteer/non profit
- Scientific Advice



The C.H.A. Has One Mission

Protecting our Lakes

Two Areas Of Focus

- Septic Health



- Shoreline Health



Why We Are Here

- Septic Day 1 - May 31st 2013
 - Started the conversation
 - Changed people's understanding
- 3 years later – all municipalities investigating
- We want to inform the continuing conversation
 - Learn from others
 - Mandatory pump out with inspection



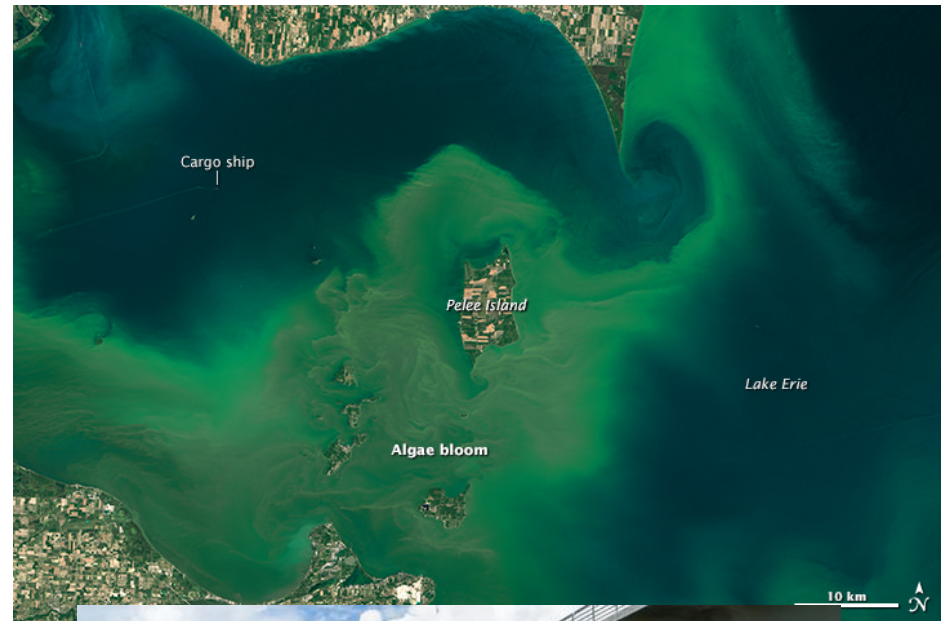
Two Imperatives

- 1. The Health of Haliburton's Lakes and its economy are connected and dependent on the reality, not merely the image, of outstanding water quality.**
- 2. Water quality protection and maintenance is "job one" for all of us**

Our Lakes Are Under Threat Like Never Before

Multiple Stressors

- Phosphorous +
- Calcium declines
- Runoff ↓ 25%
- Invasive species ↑
- Open water season length ↑
- Temperatures ↑
- Decades of Phosphorous in sediment
- Creating the perfect conditions for blooms



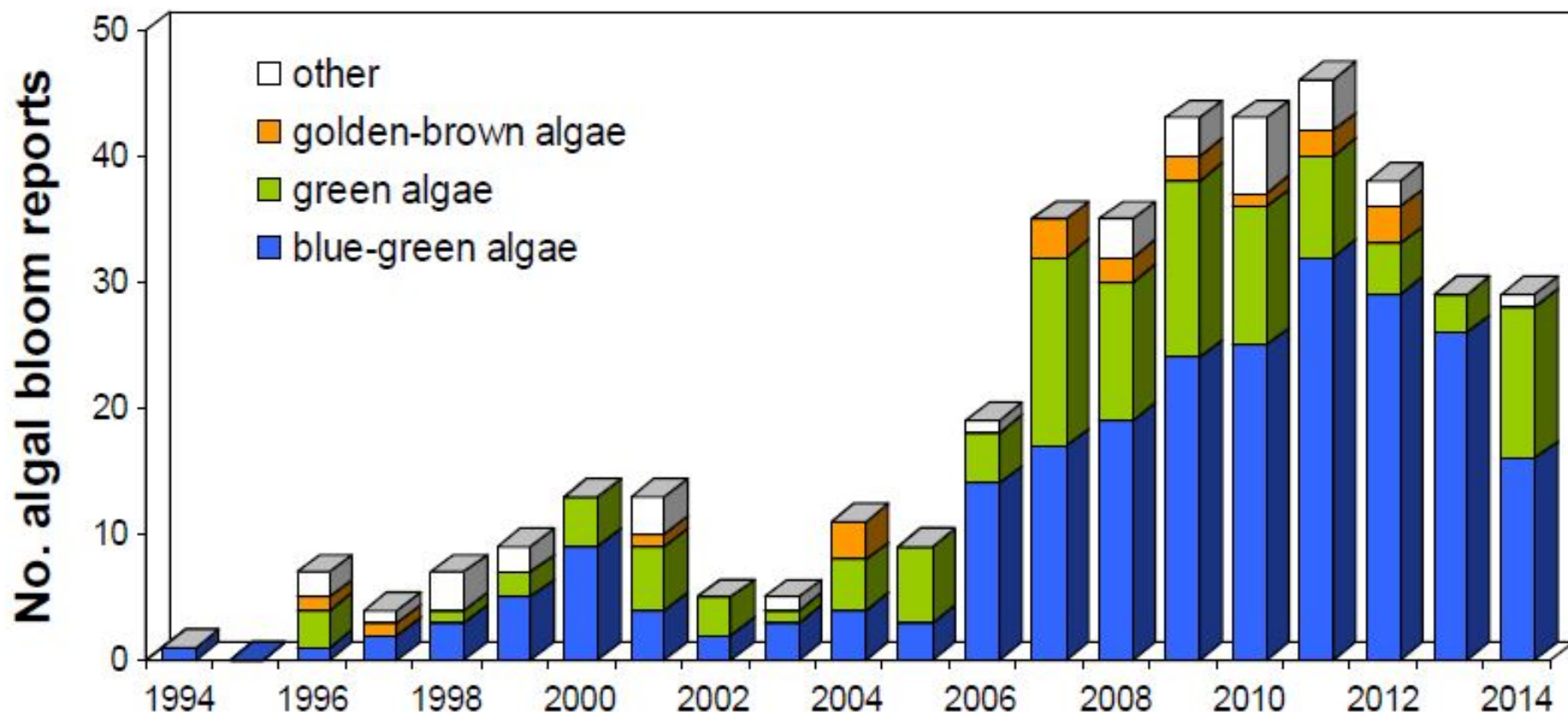
The Impact



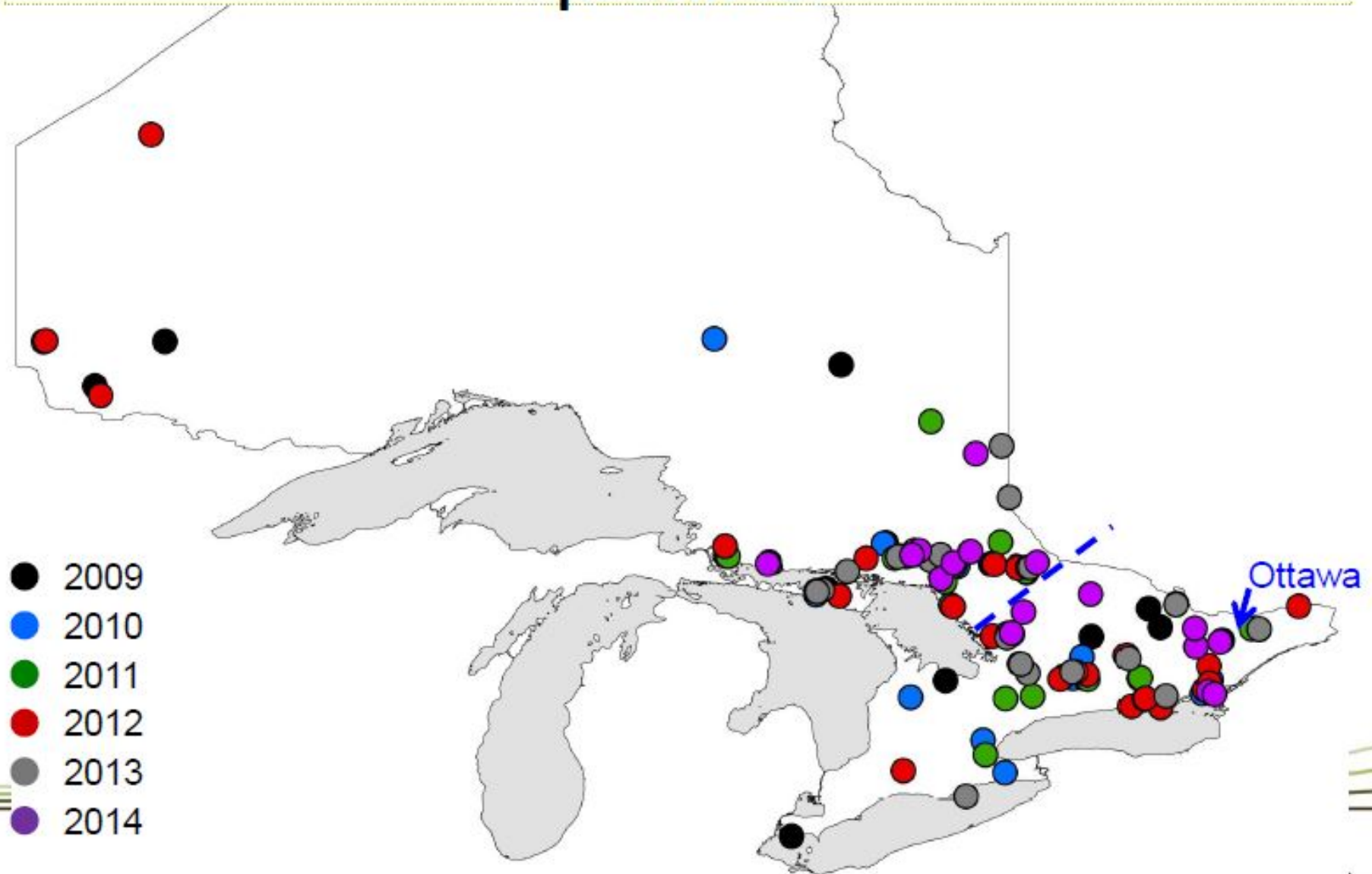
July 22, 2016 Dear resident /property owner: The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is providing this notice because a potential **blue-green algal bloom** has been detected in **Lake St. John**, Ramara Township.

- **do not use the water for drinking**, making infant formula, dishwashing, brushing teeth, bathing/showering
 - **boiling or other home treatment devices will not destroy toxins**
- do not prepare food or cook with the lake water because food may absorb toxins from the water
- **do not swim** in the lake water
- **do not allow pets or livestock to drink** or swim in the water
- **do not use the water to water lawns or gardens**
- **do not eat fish caught from the lake**

Algal blooms are increasing in Ontario



Algal blooms are reported from all over the province



How Can We Prevent Blooms?

Dr Andrew Paterson MOE Dorset



Why Septic Systems?

*"While shoreline clearing, fertilizer use, erosion and overland runoff can all contribute phosphorus to an inland lake, **the primary human sources of phosphorus are septic systems** — from cottages, year- round residences, camps and other shoreline facilities."*

Lakeshore Capacity Assessment Handbook:

Protecting Water Quality in Inland Lakes on Ontario's Precambrian Shield

MOE, May 2010

What % Of Our Septic Systems Are Not Working Properly



This Is What Today Is All About

What Should We Do?

- We should do it right or not waste our time and money

• How Should We Do It

- Learn from the experts
- Don't re create the wheel
- Adopt best practices

In Closing

- There is more to Septic Reinspection than just having a program
- Learn from the experts
- Don't re create the wheel
- Adopt best practice
- We should do it right or not waste our time and money