



WHITE LAKE PRESERVATION PROJECT

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT GREEN STUFF???

The summer is only starting, but we have received quite a few enquiries about patches or blobs of algae either on the floor of the lake or free-floating and drifting with the wind. Sometimes, the whole mess ends up on your shoreline. So what's up?

It could be the result of the unusually wet spring and early summer weather we have had, or it could be one of the predicted consequences of having zebra mussels in White Lake. Whatever the reason, it is alarming to see this stuff in all parts of the lake. What is it and what can we do about it?

The WLPP has had a close look at many of these algal masses and have found through microscopic examination that they are all green filamentous algae. These algae are all naturally occurring and are harmless. At worst, they are a nuisance especially when they concentrate on your shoreline and begin to rot. Some cultures harvest this stuff and eat it as a green vegetable added to soup and other dishes. The WLPP does not recommend this!

What can be done?.....really nothing! Time will tell if this is an isolated occurrence or if these algal blooms come back each year.

If you want to know more, have a look at the photos below which correspond to the three most common filamentous algae we have seen in White Lake. You could also have a look at the algae identification guide we have on our website at http://wlpp.ca/wlppwebsite_018.htm and especially the guide prepared by the Kawartha Lakes Association which is available for download here: http://wlpp.ca/linked/kawartha_algae_book_web.pdf.

Now that we have your curiosity tickled, would you be interested in attending a symposium on the identification and impact of algae on White Lake? If you are interested, just let us know by replying to this email.

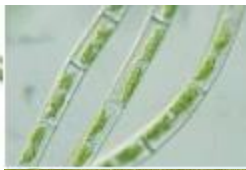
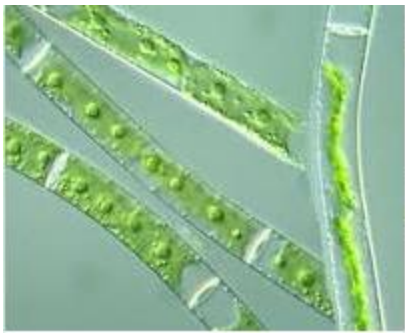
If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at WLPPmail@gmail.com.

Conrad Gregoire, Ph.D. : Chair, Science Committee; White Lake Preservation Project

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Cladophora



Mougeotia



Sirogonium



Sirogonium is a genus of filamentous charophyte green algae of the order Zygnematales. It is found in freshwater areas on all continents but Antarctica. Spirogyra measures approximately 32–115 μm in width.