

OUR TOWNS

SOUTHAMPTON TOWN

DEC warns of toxins from algal blooms

Two Southampton Town bodies of water have high levels of toxins from blue-green algal blooms that can be dangerous to humans and animals, according to the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Mill Pond in Water Mill and Wickapogue Pond in Southampton Village both have confirmed outbreaks of cyanobacteria with high measurements of toxins, DEC officials reported.

Big Reed Pond in Montauk, Marratooka Lake in Mattituck and Lake Agawam in Southampton Village also have confirmed outbreaks but not with high measurements of toxins, the DEC said.

Blooms of cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, turn the water murky green and can occur in bodies of water that have high levels of nutrients.

The toxins from cyanobacteria can cause gastrointestinal upset and allergic reactions in people and animals, and health authorities urge people to keep their children and pets away from the areas where a bloom is occurring.

In 2012, a Jack Russell terrier died after drinking water from an East Hampton pond that had a cyanobacteria bloom.

— JENNIFER BARRIOS