

## Lake James Environmental Committee Report

March 21, 2016

The last water analysis taken Feb. 2, 2016 revealed no traceable amounts of toxic cyanobacteria algae. While this is indeed, good news, it does not mean that the cyanobacteria algae will not return. Presently, the lake is in good shape for recreational activities. Residents are cautioned to always view the water for any signs of algae filaments or mats on the surface of the water. If this should occur please avoid all contact with the water. Reports of algae sighted can be sent to Peggy Sansone (424-3464 or paulpeggysansone@verizon.net). The Environmental Committee has the means to treat the algae problem, but NOT solve it. The entire Lake James community (on & off the lake) needs to continue being good stewards of the lake by using little to no lawn products, keeping your street gutters clean of debris, shooing away the ducks and geese and scooping the poop in your backyards as well as when you walk your pets. Every little bit counts. The city of Virginia Beach continues to cite that we homeowners are a major part of our lake's pollution problems. This is not the case, but we need to continue to demonstrate our proactive role in protecting our lake.

Data on the toxic cyanobacteria outbreak was submitted to the city with our statement on probable cause, notably the polluted water from the Cedar Hill Bypass Canal flowing into Lake James during high rain events. The city has promised to conduct independent water testing of the bypass canal and to test the water flowing from the stormwater culverts located in our lake adjacent to many resident's piers. I would like to ask all Lake James residents who received a letter from the city regarding this testing to please notify me when this testing actually takes place on their property.

The long promised wetlands project for the Lake James inlet canal should begin this spring. We should see construction activity in the park soon.

In an attempt to be proactive, the Lake James Environmental Committee is revisiting the solar types of water circulation systems to aerate the lake and reduce nutrients that cause algae outbreaks. These types of systems are prohibitively costly (\$55,000.00 for one unit). However, this data will be shared with the city of Virginia Beach as a suggestion on how they can help us with our pollution problem, given the most immediate source of pollution comes from city property.

Continue to be good stewards and enjoy the lake.

Peggy P. Sansone  
Lake James Environmental Committee Chair