

August 18, 2006

Media Release:

The Renfrew County and District Health Unit wishes to advise the residents of Horton Township, McNab\Braside Township and the Town of Arnprior that they have removed the precautionary advisory for swimming in the Ottawa River in the effected area of the recent fish kill.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has reported that seven (7) fish submitted to the laboratory for analysis have been identified as having extraordinary levels of Columnaris bacteria. This bacterium does not impact human health. MNR has also reported finding an abundance of other healthy aquatic life in the affected area, suggests that this event has not impacted the overall health of the aquatic ecosystem in this part of the Ottawa River, and seems to support the conclusion that we have experienced a fish disease outbreak almost exclusively limited to channel catfish.

In addition, the Health Unit inspectors have collected bathing water samples throughout the past week. The results of laboratory analysis have indicated bacterial levels that are acceptable for swimming purposes.

For further information or clarification please contact Bob Schreader, Acting Manager, Environmental health at 613-735-8654, extension 535.

Sincerely,

R.C. Schreader, C.P.H.I.(C)
Acting Manager
Environmental Health