

Lake Carmi has been designated an impaired lake for decades. In 2009 a TMDL phosphorus reduction plan was issued for the lake. More recently the Lake was Designated a Lake in Crisis. Despite all the efforts associated with these actions to clean up the lake, a toxic blue-green algae bloom infected the lake for almost the entire season in 2022. It was not restricted to one area. The entire lake was affected. The lake turned a putrid green color. As the wind blew, you saw vast waves of green. When the wind stilled, you witnessed blue green algae blotches. The rocks along the shore turned green. It was disgusting. At times it often smelled. Not a pleasant smell.

It did not last days or weeks. It lasted several months. You would not want to swim. You would not want to fish. You would not want your children or grandchildren anywhere near the water. You certainly wouldn't draw the water into your camp for cleaning and bathing. If you rented your camp the renters would probably want their money back. At the very least you will not see them next year. If you were trying to sell your camp, the lake could be a sticky selling point.

It was so bad that the town health officer in Franklin posted warning signs at all public access areas as well as at various places throughout the town. The signs warned people not to swim in the lake and not to allow their dogs to swim in the lake. The largest State Park in VT which sits at the southern end of the lake also closed its beaches. The lake was quarantined.

Articles about the lake appeared in the Burlington Free Press and the St. Albans Messenger. The article in the Free Press was front page. A large picture of the lake water in its ugly green splendor appeared on the front page. The algae blooms also made the nightly TV news broadcasts.

We have a photo journal we can share with you that documents the unacceptable condition of the lake throughout the 2022 season. We have documented prior seasons as well.

As President of the Lake Carmi Campers Association and as a camp owner I implore you not to impose a moratorium that would prevent us from treating our lake. Lake Carmi is the fourth largest inland lake in VT. It is in peril. It is dying. During the algae blooms it is not sustainable for recreation or frankly anything else. If you own a camp on the lake you can't use your backyard. I must tell family and friends to stay away from the lake. It's not a healthy environment. Moreover, the economy of the surrounding area of Franklin suffers. We have worked long and hard for decades to get to the point where we may get some relief with an Alum Treatment. Please don't stand in our way and impose more obstacles. We need to treat the lake so the many Vermonters who use the lake can once again enjoy it. Please do not impose a moratorium. Thank you.

Peter Benevento, Pres.
Lake Carmi Campers Assoc., Inc.
774-258-0216

