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For Immediate Release

**Three Mile Lake Association
Plans Innovative Treatment for Blue-Green Algae**

The Three Mile Lake Association has partnered with the Muskoka Lakes Association to undertake a small scale demonstration of an innovative technology to manage blue-green algae.

“The board of the Three Mile Lake Association has spent a great deal of time researching the pros and cons of various alternatives used to control algae,” said Sue Walker, president of the Association. “When we heard of the use of ultrasonics we felt it offered the most promising approach for our lake. The board spent the winter assessing the feasibility of its application on our lake.”

This environmentally safe technology has been tried and proven effective in the United States, European Union, Australia and other countries to manage blue-green algae on ponds and reservoirs. It is now being introduced to Ontario for application on larger bodies of water. Some of the advantages are:

- avoids the use of chemicals
- requires very little maintenance
- MOECC has advised that the technology does not trigger the requirement for Environmental Compliance Approval
- environmentally friendly

Ultrasound at the frequencies used to control blue-green algae poses no risk to other aquatic life or to humans. It's the same technology used in fish finders and depth sounders. This is similar technology that is used in the medical treatment for physiotherapy, lithotripsy of kidney stones, high intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) for non-invasive surgery, fetal and organ imaging and dental hygiene.

The firms of CanDetec Inc., and McQuest Marine Services Limited will be delivering and overseeing the project. Combined, these companies have extensive experience in water resources management, nutrient assessment, hydrology and sonar surveys of lakes and rivers.

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“We have chosen a small bay, which experiences little boat traffic, in which to conduct the experiment,” said Walker. “It will be a single floating offshore unit with a solar system to operate the ultrasound unit and the pump that will slowly rotate the CanDock float. The unit will be five feet in diameter and sit four feet off the water. It will be equipped with reflectors and a flashing light. Hazard buoys will be used to warn boaters.”

Initially there will be a two month evaluation period to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the ultrasound treatment. If deemed effective in the trial period, the treatment will be continued for the remainder of the ice-free season.

While ultrasound will not eliminate the original conditions that support the proliferations of algae blooms, it does control their growth rate minimizing their potential to form blooms and scums within the treated area.

“We are very pleased that the Muskoka Lakes Association supports this initiative and appreciate their assisting the Three Mile Lake Association both financially and administratively,” concluded Walker.