



STAFF PHOTOS/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Brenda Junkin and Allan Massicotte hope to learn more about their Bloomington school building during Doors Open.

## Couple will go to school during Doors Open

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The Bloomington Schoolhouse is going old school.

Brenda Junkin and her partner, Allan Massicotte, purchased the converted one-room schoolhouse 2-1/2 years ago and have embarked on undoing much of the modern touches previous owners installed.

"It's really important to preserve the history, because once it's gone, it's gone," Junkin said.

The schoolhouse-turned-residence is one of 12 sites open to the public during Doors Open, which runs June 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The couple is hoping by participating in the event, people who attended the school, taught at it or know anything about its history, will come by and fill in many of the blanks that remain about its history.

"We're hoping to create a community around this school's history," Junkin said.

The couple created a website — [www.bloomingtonschoolhouse.com](http://www.bloomingtonschoolhouse.com) — with photographs and what they know.

What is known about the Ninth Line one-room brick schoolhouse is that it was

built in 1898. However, it was not the first school on the 100-acre property belonging to Maxom Jones.

There was first a wood frame schoolhouse on the land in the 1700s, according to Junkin. It's in the community of Bloomington, just south of Bloomington Road.

*This year, eight of the 12 sites are brand new to Doors Open.*

An addition to the brick schoolhouse was constructed in 1952.

The property was sold in 1971 at auction for \$23,000, according to information from the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum.

Junkin and Massicotte's property is down to two acres.

Along with the couple's residence, there are three occupied apartments, one of which is in a second storey that was added to the brick schoolhouse by the previous owners.

This is Whitchurch-Stouffville's 10th time participating in Doors Open, which literally allows people to enter homes and buildings otherwise closed to the public.

Last year's event had 1,985 visitors, the

most ever, according to Glenn Jackson, who is on the organizing committee.

A total of 56 different Whitchurch-Stouffville locations have been open to visitors throughout the 10 years, Jackson told councillors earlier this month.

This year, eight of the 12 sites are brand new to Doors Open.

Along with the Bloomington Schoolhouse, new to the tour is Century Mill Lumber, a Lemonville ecohome, the Legacy Center, Summitview Public School, Christ Church Anglican, SoccerCity and the OSPCA.

Among sites once again opening its doors is the Richmond Hill Live Steamers miniature railroad near Ballantrae.

"A must for any family with kids. It's long time been our greatest draw," Jackson told councillors.

Also taking place is a historic walking tour entitled A Postcard Look at Main Street, hosted by local historian Fred Robbins. The tour leaves the Main Street GO station at 10 a.m.

Entrance to all participating venues is free.

For the complete list of sites and more information, go to [www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/Events/Whitchurch-Stouffville](http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/Events/Whitchurch-Stouffville).

# Don't fear lake slime

That green slime on the surface of Musselman's Lake is harmless.

It is a filamentous green algae, scientifically known as spirogyra, according to a notice from Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority limnologist Brian Ginn, which is posted on the Musselman's Lake Residents Association website.

The algae is common in lakes and harmless, according to Ginn, who also noted it typically grows underwater in the spring but comes to the surface when the water warms up.

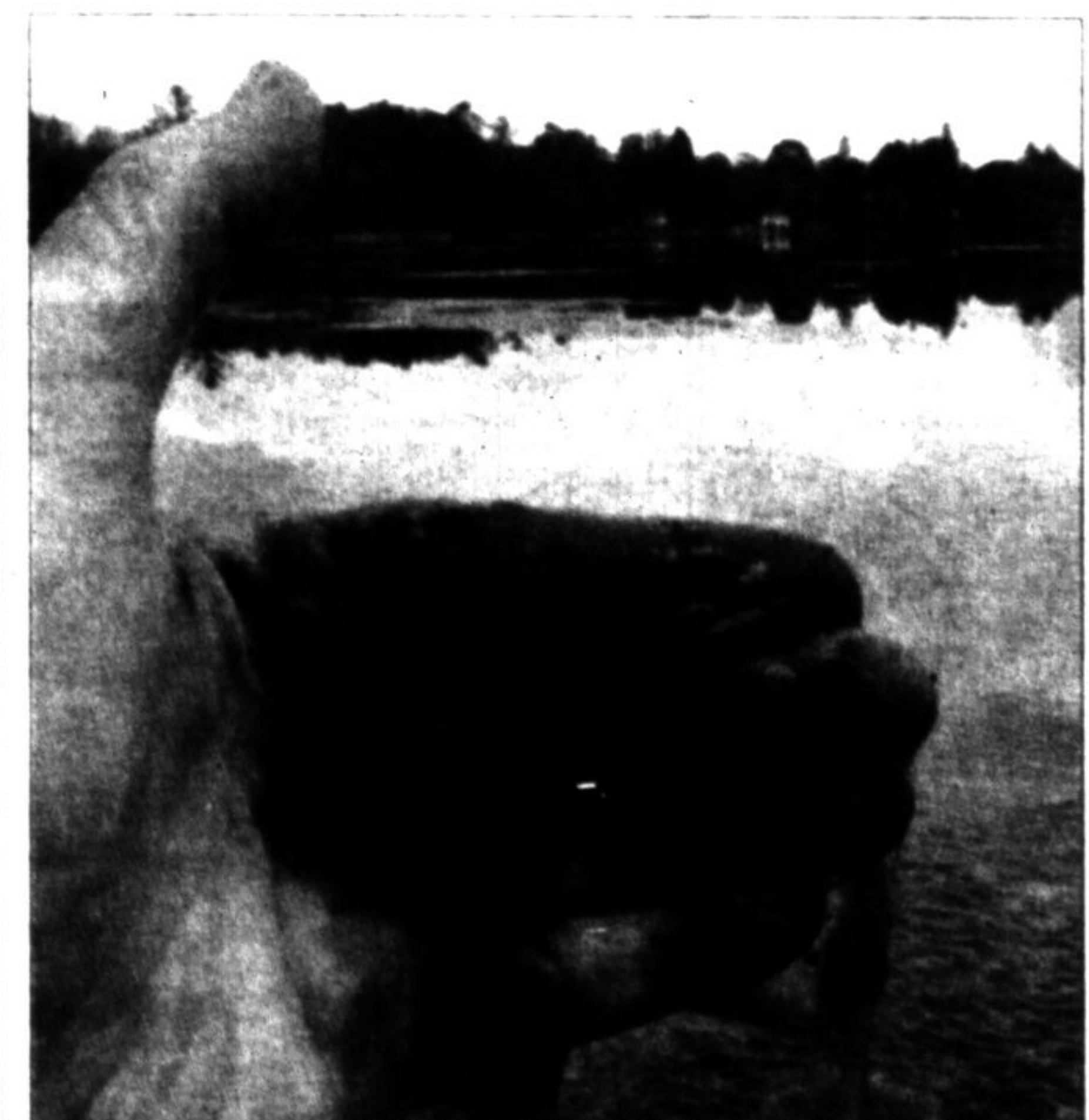
*The algae is common in lakes and harmless...*

The test samples at the Cedar Beach boathouse, around the east side of the lake and along the south shore were collected by Ginn May 6, according to the MLRA website.

"I suspect it is probably taking advantage of the sun and water warming and will die back once the plants start to take over," Ginn wrote in a letter posted on the MLRA website.

Musselman's Lake is on Ninth Line north of Stouffville.

— Sandra Bolan



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Algae on Musselman's Lake is 'probably taking advantage of the sun and water warming and will die back once the plants start to take over,' says a conservation authority limnologist.

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