



Ottawa Pub Nights

Who: Frances Pick, PhD

**When: Wednesday, April 30th
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**Where: Clock Tower Pub,
575 Bank Street**

**Cost: \$1 members
\$3 non-members**

“The ‘rise of slime’: toxic cyanobacteria on the move”

Frances Pick, Ph.D.

Professor of Biology & Environmental Science
University of Ottawa

Join us for an engaging talk, good eats and fine brew.

For more info: Leana.Vandervliet@ec.gc.ca or call 613-949-1343

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The “rise of slime”: toxic cyanobacteria on the move

Frances Pick, Ph.D.

Professor of Biology & Environmental Science
University of Ottawa

Cyanobacteria are the most ancient of photosynthetic organisms arising ~ 4 billion years ago during the Precambrian (a.k.a. Age of the Blue-Greens), under extreme living conditions of low oxygen, high UV and high temperatures. Today cyanobacteria are still found in virtually all environments and can reach bloom proportions in aquatic systems. Freshwaters around the world and increasingly in Canada are experiencing cyanobacterial blooms which directly and indirectly are affecting aquatic ecosystems, the services they provide and even human health. Cyanotoxins are associated with many blooms, leading to beach closures and drinking water advisories. Cyanotoxins are now considered by the European Water Framework Directive as priority hazardous water pollutants; the hepatotoxic microcystins are on the USEPA's drinking water Contaminant Candidate List. Drinking water guidelines have been set by Health Canada for microcystin-LR, but other cyanotoxins will need to be evaluated. This talk will summarize the situation in Canada and explore what is known about the ecology and toxicology of toxigenic cyanobacteria.