

## Fish Kill at Maple Leaf Inlet Lake December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

A sizeable fish kill occurred in the creek and small lake between McKenzie and Queensway beginning in the evening of Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>. Water levels rose to about 4-5 inches throughout the inner lakes upstream from dam at the 10<sup>th</sup> hole. Dead fish were observed primarily in the first lake and the connecting channels around the 9<sup>th</sup> green and first hole tee deck.

The kill coincided with a large water main break on King's Highway resulting in a release of treated drinking water starting around 10 pm on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December. Due to the holidays and the time of discharge the break was not serviced immediately. Charlotte County Utilities estimates about 3.7 million gallons of water may have been discharged. Not all of this flowed into Maple Leaf.

Although other factors may be involved such as toxic deposits in the connecting swales, the concentration of residual chlorine (as chloramine) at levels of approximately 3.8 ppm can result in "fish suffocation". Although the lake waters became 'muddier' during the spill there was no evidence of increased oil or scums. The conclusion reached was that the fish kill was caused mainly by exposure to the chlorinated water from the water main break.



**Maple Leaf NRC Committee.**