

Maxwell Lafayette

Hello,

I am a student who just started my freshman year at Clark College. Throughout most of high school, I rowed with the Vancouver Lake Rowing Club. We are a competitive crew with a tireless head coach that travels the west coast and Canada to compete in regattas, and we do well in them.

The Vancouver Lake Rowing Club hosts multiple regattas annually, including regionals. Clubs from all over the North West come to Vancouver for 3 days to compete on the lake. It's important that we have a clean lake when that comes around. In the lake's current condition during the warm season, parts of it are unrowable due to milfoil catching the oar blades and rudders. In addition to that, the toxic blue-green algae infestation coats the shoreline in what looks like a layer of oxidized copper. It also smells bad. When the algae is in bloom, rowers do all they can to avoid touching the water.

If nothing is done to help Vancouver lake, it will become unsuitable to host regionals. That would not only be a huge let-down to the community, but also, the city of Vancouver would lose the influx of business that comes with all of the rowing teams staying and spending their money in the city.

I think Vancouver Lake has the potential to be one of the best parts about Vancouver, if it is given the attention it needs.