

# White Lake Checkup: September 28, 2025

For our 10<sup>th</sup> sampling run of the year, we were favoured with a beautiful sunny morning. The fall colours were spectacular all around the lake. One more sampling expedition to go in mid-October! This time we collected plankton samples and took temperature and water clarity measurements.

**Water Temperature:** The average water temperature in the deeper parts of the lake was 19.2°C as compared to a temperature of 19.9 °C recorded on the same date in 2024. The temperature taken in the shallow parts of the lake was 18.9 °C, the same temperature recorded in 2024. Water temperatures are highly dependent on local weather. The slightly lower water temperature in the shallow parts of the lake indicates a cooling trend since shallow areas react more quickly to changes in atmospheric temperatures.

For those of you who appreciate graphs, we have one for you. The attached graph shows water temperatures measured at one deep water site over the past 12 years. The bold blue line is data for 2025. For most of the summer, water temperatures were middle-of-the-road as compared to historical data. During the last month, temperatures have been tracking higher than normal. So far this year, we have not experienced a blue-green algal bloom as we have almost every year for the past eleven years. The warmer water temperatures may have an impact on these algal blooms.

**Water Clarity:** Water clarity as expressed as the Secchi depth was 6.6 metres, down from 7.6 metres in 2024. The measured Secchi depth multiplied by 2 is the depth to which sunlight penetrates the lake water. The maximum depth of White Lake is 9.1 metres. Clearly, a Secchi depth of 6.6 metres indicates that sunlight can reach the bottom of the deepest parts of the lake promoting the growth of aquatic plants everywhere.

**Water Depth:** The depth of the lake as measured at the gauge on the Waba Creek dam was 115.9 cm as compared to the target depth of 116 cm. This time last year, the depth was 10 cm above the target depth. The depths cited in these Checkups are in centimetres and correspond to the water level above the sill of the dam structure.

**Cormorants:** Ten cormorants were spotted on the lake. This time last year, only four were spotted. At this time of year, most of the cormorants on White Lake are migrating south and only stopping for a short visit.

To learn more about White Lake please visit the White Lake Science website at: <https://wlpp.ca/>

We value your comments and suggestions, Contact us at [envwlpoa@gmail.com](mailto:envwlpoa@gmail.com) if you have questions or concerns or if you would like to be added to our emailing list and receive all of our reports, bulletins, and checkups.

***Conrad Grégoire and David Overholt***

Environment Volunteers, White Lake Property Owners Association

