

White Lake Checkup: August 2, 2025

The morning of August 2 would have been sunny had it not been for the blanket of forest fire smoke (see: <https://wlpp.ca/linked/smoke.pdf>) hovering over the lake. Undeterred, we visited nine sampling sites on White Lake (using GPS) and measured water temperatures, water clarity and water depth at the Waba Creek dam. We also collected plankton using a specialized net. These samples are to be analyzed using a microscope in order to identify the algae and plankton in lake water.

We now post all of this season's White Lake Checkups on our website. These can be downloaded from the homepage at <https://wlpp.ca/>. Compilations of precious years Checkups can be downloaded from the Special Reports section of the website.

Water Temperature: The average water temperature in the deeper parts of the lake was 25.0°C. Last year on this date, the water temperature was essentially the same at 24.8°C. In the shallow parts of the lake, the water temperature was 23.3°C reflecting the cooler air temperatures we experienced for several days prior to our sampling run.

Water Clarity: Water clarity as expressed as a Secchi depth was 3.8 metres. In 2024 on this date, the water clarity was 0.5 metres higher (clearer water). The difference between this and last year's readings may be due to the weather. We have until recently been going through a heat wave and long sunny days. This may have encouraged the growth of plankton resulting in a loss in water clarity.

Water Depth: The depth of the lake as measured at the gauge at the dam was 135.5 cm as compared to the target depth of 137 cm. Up to now, we have been experiencing higher than normal water levels for most of this year. Clearly, the hot dry spell would increase loss of water through evaporation.

(see: https://wlpp.ca/linked/evaporation_environment_bulletin.pdf)

Cormorants: Five cormorants were spotted on the lake. Since the beginning of June, we have counted between 6 and 9 cormorants during each sampling run (every two weeks). These are very low numbers, even though our count is likely low because some birds may have been fishing or perched on trees at new locations.

Water Devil: An interesting atmospheric phenomenon occurred on White Lake on the afternoon of August 1. A cottager heard a great roar of wind from within her cottage, looked out and saw her dock furniture lifted and blown into the lake. A steel-framed sun umbrella weighted down by a large rock, was uplifted, broken and returned to the dock. The whirlwind then left the dock and became a small waterspout dissipating 50 metres offshore. The whole event was witnessed by a neighbour.

August 1 was a windy day on White Lake and somehow conditions were right to create this interesting and somewhat frightening phenomenon.

To learn more about White Lake please read the [State of the Lake Report](#) and visit the White Lake Science and Information [website](#).

Contact us at 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.

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