

## White Lake Checkup: June 14, 2025

June 14 was our third sampling outing of 2025. It was a cool at about 17°C with winds of from 5 to 10 km/h. We visited nine sampling sites (using GPS) and measured water temperatures, water clarity and water depth at the Waba Creek dam. Water samples were also taken for analysis for phosphorus, calcium, and chloride concentrations. These samples were mailed to the Ministry of the Environment Labs for processing. Also collected were plankton samples using a specialized net. These samples were analyzed later using an optical microscope.

**Water Temperature:** The water temperature in the deeper parts of the lake was 19.6°C; exactly the same it was at this time last year (19.5°C). In the shallower parts, the temperature was marginally higher at 20.1°C. Water temperatures did not vary by more than about 0.5°C across the lake, except at the very shallow areas, particularly Hayes Bay which had the lake temperature hotspot at 20.5°C.

**Water Clarity:** Water clarity as expressed as a Secchi depth was 5.8 metres which was 1.6 meters more (clear) than last year. Secchi depth ranged from 5.7 metres in Three Mile Bay to 6.3 metres in the deepest parts of the lake near Pickerel Bay. The increased clarity may be due to the cooler weather we have been experiencing this spring.

**Water Depth:** The depth of the lake as measured at the gauge at the dam was 152.0 cm, (151.8 cm in 2024) as compared to the target depth of 146.3 cm.

**Cormorant Count:** Seven cormorants were observed on the lake. Eight cormorants were counted on this date last year. Two weeks ago, there were no cormorants. These numbers are in keeping with observations during previous years. The number of cormorants can change from week to week depending on the number of cormorants using the lake and who may be nesting kilometres away. We have not as yet found any nesting sites on White Lake.

**Algal Bloom:** This past week marked the beginning of the now annual filamentous green algal bloom. This alga has always been in White Lake and was a times visible in small isolated patches. Since the arrival of Zebra mussels in 2015, these blooms have become more intense and widespread. This type of algae is not harmful but is unsightly. If you would like to learn more about algal blooms in White Lake, please download our updated report on algal blooms in White Lake at:

[https://wlpp.ca/linked/white\\_lake\\_algal\\_blooms\\_1860\\_to\\_2024.pdf](https://wlpp.ca/linked/white_lake_algal_blooms_1860_to_2024.pdf).

**Pollen Storm:** The annual pollen storm is over, but during the past week we experienced one of the more intense storms in recent years. The roof of my (Conrad) cottage was yellow and not green! Our 2021 Environment Bullen on pollen storms can be downloaded at: [https://wlpp.ca/linked/pollen\\_storm.pdf](https://wlpp.ca/linked/pollen_storm.pdf).

To learn more about current water quality conditions of White Lake, please read our 2023 annual reports, and the State of White Lake Report which can all be accessed from the home page of the White Lake Science website: <https://wlpp.ca>

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.

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