

White Lake Checkup: May 9, 2025

May 9th marked the beginning of our 12th season sampling White Lake and reporting to the community on its condition. It was a cool and partly overcast morning as we (Conrad Grégoire and David Overholt) completed our first sampling excursion of the year. During our time on the lake, we did not see any other watercraft so we had the lake to ourselves. We collected three samples at each of our monitoring sites. Two were duplicate samples for total phosphorus and the third sample was collected for the measurement of calcium and chloride levels. All of the samples are analyzed by the Ministry of the Environment's laboratories in Dorset Ontario under the auspices of the Lake Partner Program. In addition to these samples, we also make temperature and water clarity measurements and collect plankton samples using a specialized net. These samples are analyzed later using an optical microscope.

Ice Cover: White Lake was deemed to be ice-free on April 19th. The lake was covered with ice during the 2024/5 season for 121 days. This was in keeping with the average value calculated for the 5 previous years.

Kudos: Ice in and ice out dates are monitored by Karen and Brian Cairns, White Lake residents. We are grateful for their work doing this for many years now. Thank you!

Water Temperature: The water temperature in the deeper parts of the lake was 13.6°C. The temperature last year at this time was 14.5°C. The hot spot on the lake was Hayes Bay and the village Basin with a water temperature of 14.4 °C down from last year's reading of 16.0°C.

Water Clarity: Water clarity as expressed as a Secchi depth was 6.0 metres; 0.4 metres more clear than last year. A Secchi depth of 6 metres means that sunlight can penetrate lake waters 12 metres deep. Since the maximum depth of White Lake is 9.1 metres, this means that the entire bed of the lake is illuminated with sunlight leading to increased aquatic plant growth.

Water Depth: The depth of the lake as measured at the gauge at the dam was 156 cm as compared to the target depth of 155 cm. Right on target!

Cormorants: No cormorants were observed during our sampling run on the lake today. Cormorants, an aquatic bird native to White Lake, do not have the capability to waterproof their plumage as do other aquatic species. At the moment, it is simply too cold to be here since they would have to dry their feathers in the open-air losing body heat.

The air temperature this time last year was several degrees higher than today. At that time 2 cormorants we spotted on the lake.

To learn more about White Lake please visit our website at www.wlpp.ca

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.

Conrad Grégoire and David Overholt

Environment Volunteers, White Lake Property Owners Association