

White Lake Checkup: September 17, 2025

Like so many mornings on White Lake this year, the weather was sunny and the lake was calm. Today we completed our 9th (of 11) water sampling run of the year. We collected water samples for phosphorus measurements as well as calcium, chloride and sulphate. We collected plankton samples at each of our 9 sampling sites as well and measured water clarity (Secchi Depth) and temperature. Plankton samples were analyzed later using an optical microscope.

Water Temperature: The water temperature in the deeper parts of the lake was 20.0°C. The temperature last year at this time was about the same 20.7°C. The water temperature in the shallower parts of the lake was also about the same at 20.4°C

Water Clarity: Water clarity as expressed as the Secchi Depth ranged from 5.0 to 6.2 m in different parts of the lake and averaged 5.4 metres. Last year at this time, water clarity was an average of 5.3 metres, or about the same.

Water Depth: One parameter that is very different this year when compared to last year is the depth of the lake. The depth of the lake as measured at the gauge at the dam was 118 cm as compared to the target depth of 122 cm. This is 4 centimetres lower than called for in the water depth plan for the lake.

Last year at this time the depth of the lake was 141 cm; 23 cm higher. Why? During August and September of 2024, 255 cm of rain fell on the lake. This year, only 96 cm fell during these two months. That's a difference of 62%. Lack of rain, outflow at the dam and evaporation account for the lower water levels this year.

Cormorants: We counted 9 cormorants on our 50 km run on White Lake. This is the migration period for cormorants so we can expect to see more come through from other places on the way down to their wintering areas.

To learn more about White Lake please visit our website at <https://wlpp.ca/>. There you can download our latest annual report, Environment Bulletins and all 2025 White Lake Checkups as well as compilation of previous year's checkups.

Please 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