

Water Testing Program for 2021 – Page 2 of Report

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the MLA (Muskoka Lakes Association) had to cancel the 2020 water testing program which Clear Lake has participated in since 2007.

This year, 2021, the MLA is (hopefully) proceeding with the program although as the Stay-At-Home order was recently extended from May 19 to June 2, the first water sampling which was set for the Victoria Day weekend, has had to be delayed until the June 5 weekend when hopefully the order has been lifted. The delay is unfortunate as it is always important to get that Spring Turnover Phosphorus testing done early in the season.

There is a “Zoom” seminar scheduled for May 22 which we will attend to learn new protocols for the 2021 testing period. The plan at this point is still to complete 4 testing dates throughout the summer.

As per the board’s approval, we will be testing one new site this year which will be in the southeast bay, the last bay on the Ridge Rd. side of the lake before you get to Camp Pine Crest.

This Site will be Site #8. This new area has never been tested in any other year. We will be doing both Phosphorus and Bacteria testing at this site as well as at Site 2 and Site 5. These 3 areas are tested as “Near-Shore Sites” in shallow water. We incubate the bacteria samples taken at these near shore sites using CLPOA’s equipment to determine coliform and E. Coli levels.

Site 0, centre of the lake, will be tested for Phosphorus & Clarity only. We do a Secchi Disk test to determine water clarity. Once the clarity depth is determined, that is also the depth at which the deep water phosphorus water sample is taken. All phosphorus samples from Site 0, 2, 5 & 8 are delivered to the MLA office where they then go on to a Toronto lab for testing.

A copy of the 2019 Water Test Results is attached for reference and a copy of the Historical Data is also attached. These two reports would already have been sent out to the membership last year but I attached them for your reference today as there were no tests done in 2020.

Submitted respectfully by Sharon Cleverdon

May 15, 2021