



The Buck Lake Association Inc.

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www.bucklake.ca

email: info@bucklake.ca

"To enhance people's enjoyment of Buck Lake now and for future generations"

Buck Lake News – 2015 June

Lake Partner Program

For many years, FOCA has partnered with the Ministry of the Environment on volunteer water-quality monitoring programs.

The Lake Partner Program is a province-wide, volunteer-based, water-quality monitoring program. Volunteers collect water samples for total phosphorus analysis and make monthly water clarity observations on their lakes. This information allows for the early detection of changes in the nutrient status and/or the water clarity of the lake due to the impacts of shoreline development, climate change and other stresses.

Volunteer involvement requires the collection of one sample each month (May-Oct). These samples are then sent to the Dorset Environmental Science Centre for analysis. In addition, volunteers also make monthly water clarity observations using a Secchi disk.

For the past several years, three volunteers have been making these monthly measurements:

- Heidi Linley: North Branch, South End
- Duncan Sinclair: North Branch, North End, and
- Ralph Wirsig: South Branch, South End

The sample locations are shown on the map.

Thanks to their efforts, we can look at some



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of the longer term trends in both total phosphorus and in water clarity.

Total Phosphorus

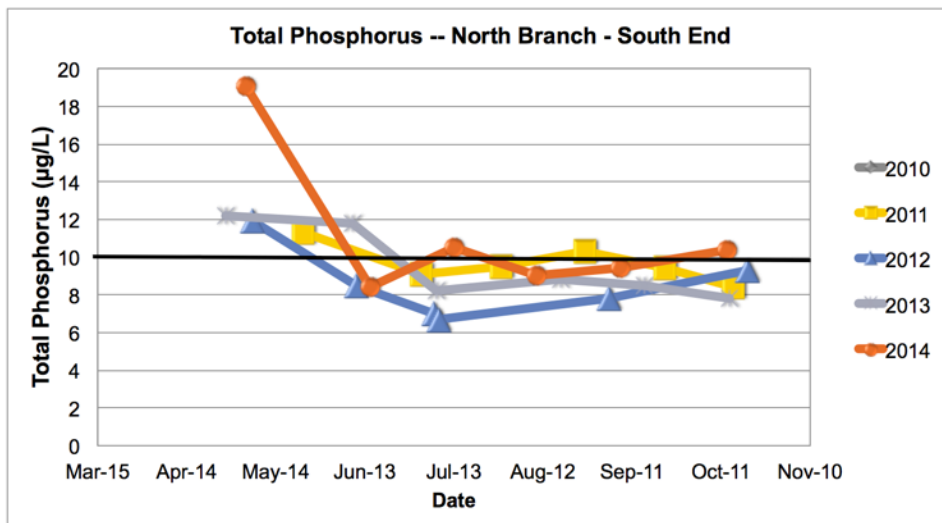
Total phosphorus concentration measurements are used to interpret nutrient status in Ontario lakes, since phosphorus is the element that controls the growth of algae in most Ontario lakes. Increases in phosphorus will decrease water clarity by stimulating algal growth. In extreme cases, algal blooms will affect the aesthetics of the lake and/or cause taste and odour problems in the water.

Lakes are generally divided into 3 categories based on their phosphorus content.

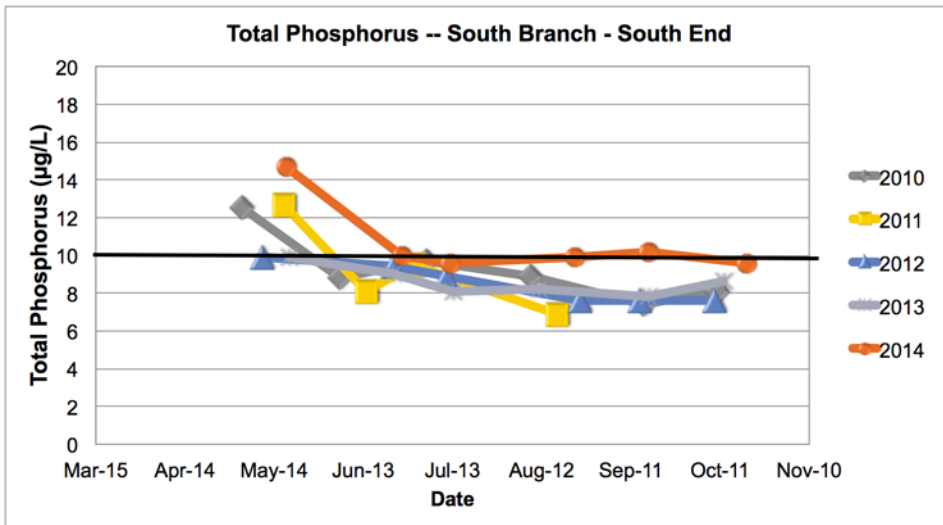
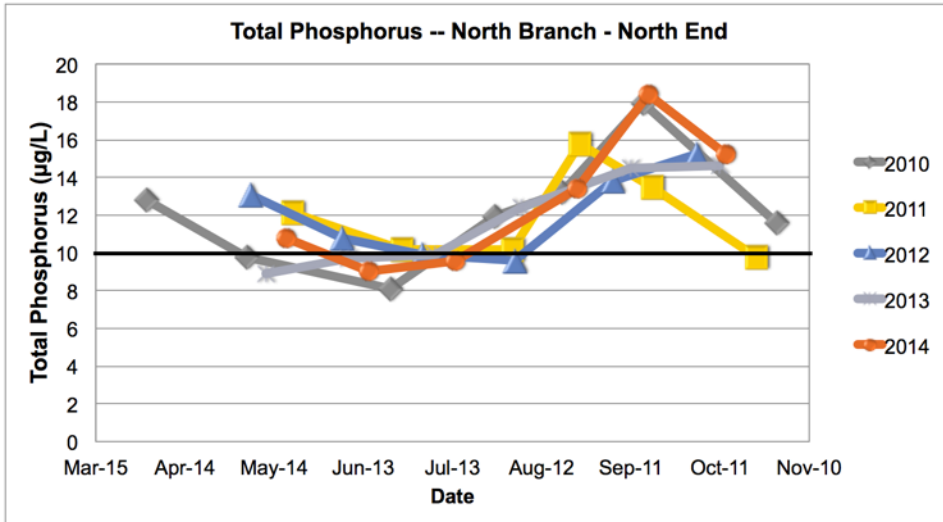
- **Oligotrophic** (less than 10 µg/L total phosphorus): These lakes rarely experience nuisance algal blooms.
- **Mesotrophic** (between 10 and 20 µg/L total phosphorus): These lakes show a broad range of characteristics and can be clear at the bottom end of the scale or susceptible to moderate algal blooms at concentration near 20 µg/L.
- **Eutrophic** (over 20 µg/L total phosphorus): These lakes exhibit persistent, nuisance algal blooms.

High levels of phosphorus can also have an indirect negative effect on the habitat of cold water fish such as lake trout. The high phosphorus promotes algal growth which in turn reduces the oxygen concentration in the water layer and forces the lake trout, young and old, into a narrower and narrower band of cold water with high oxygen concentration.

The following three charts show the total phosphorus in Buck Lake at the three sample points. The black line on each chart at 10 µg/L highlights the limit at which our lake water quality is considered good.



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In general, the samples from the south end of both the North and South branches are below 10 µg/L except for the first samples collected in the spring each year. One possible concern may be the data from 2014 for the South Branch – South End, which is consistently higher than it was in the 4 previous years. Hopefully this is a one year occurrence and not the start of an ongoing trend.

The data from the north end of the North Branch, however, presents a much more worrisome picture. Although the total phosphorus is in the 10 µg/L range in the early part of the summer, every year beginning in August it has risen dramatically. Also, 2014 was worse than any of the previous years with a measurement of 18.4 µg/L on September 17th.

So why does the total phosphorus peak in mid-September for the samples from the north end of the North Branch, while remaining fairly constant at the other 2 locations? The most probable

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cause is the greater number of homes and cottages near the North Branch – North End sample. This highlights the degree to which our properties on the lake can impact the water quality.

Another factor leading to relatively high concentrations of phosphorus in the north basin of the north branch is that it is relatively shallow and sheltered so it is not well stirred by the wind. By the end of August, this area is noticeably greener than the blue water elsewhere in the lake.

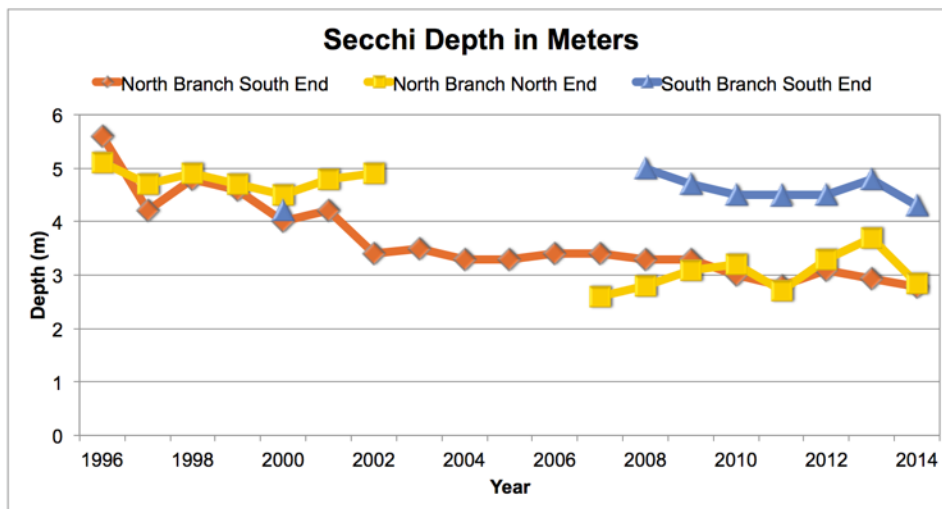
Water Clarity – Secchi Disk Measurements

While total phosphorus concentrations are the best way to describe the nutrient status of the lake, regular Secchi depths can help to identify changes in water clarity that are not linked to nutrient status (zebra mussels, climate change, etc.).



Secchi measurements are performed by lowering a Secchi disk into the water until it is no longer visible, and then recording the depth of the disk.

As shown in the following chart the average Secchi disk measurements have been gradually decreasing since 1996. This means that the water in the lake is becoming less clear.



All of the data is available online. To access all the sampling results [click here...](#)

If you are interested in participating in the Lake Partner Program and collecting samples in another part of the lake, you can find more information at <http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/water-sampling-and-testing-inland-lakes>

Submitted by Cheryl Savery

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The 11th Annual Buck Lake

KIDS TO CAMP MERRYWOOD

Boatilla

Assembly at 2:00 pm Saturday July 4, 2015
east of the culvert on the South Branch

No entry fee
Just donate
whatever you
can



All donations are
presented to an
Easter Seals
representative
when the
Boatilla ends

Come and tour our beautiful lake. Raise money for this worthwhile cause. Enjoy socializing with your friends and neighbours at the complementary BBQ at the Hidden Valley Campground

For more information contact Ross Trudel– 353-3038

<http://www.easterseals.org/buck-lake-boatilla/>



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What are symptoms and signs of Lyme disease?

Deer ticks carry Lyme disease. Lyme disease affects different areas of the body in varying degrees as it progresses. The site where the tick bites the body is where the bacteria enter through the skin. Days to weeks later, as the bacteria spread in the skin away from the initial tick bite, the infection causes an expanding reddish rash that is often associated with "flu-like" symptoms. Later, it can produce abnormalities in the joints, heart, and nervous system.

Get medical treatment quickly to minimize the effect.



Deer Tick Removal Key:

Friends of the Lake have made deer tick removal keys available at the Perth Road Village Store for \$10.00.

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Friends of the Lake:

Natural Poison Ivy Spray

Submitted by Barbara Rose Perry

1 cup of salt

8 drops of dish detergent

1 gallon of vinegar



Dissolve the salt in the vinegar either by warming it or just by stirring it in. Then add the dish detergent.

Put the liquid in a spray bottle and apply to the ivy. It will kill other vegetation in the area as well so watch what you are spraying.

We had a problem area down on the waterfront and of course did not want to use any dangerous chemicals. Our new and wonderful neighbours Greg and Kelly had a natural recipe to combat poison ivy and I found it worked amazingly well. I have since misplaced their recipe but this one that I found on line looks almost the same. Overnight you see a difference in the plants and before long they are dark and dying!!

A hand held spray bottle works fine. When I tried a larger spray bottle with a hose and nozzle it got clogged up easily and I was worried that using it down by the lake someone might think I was using round up or something!! Do the quiz in the link below to learn more.

<http://www.poison-ivy.org/poison-ivy-quiz>

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National Bird Project

Canadian Geographic magazine has started a campaign to nominate a national bird for Canada in time for the 150th anniversary in 2017. They have been publishing essays on various birds and have an on-line vote at <http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/nationalbird/>

10 essays are published in the Canadian Geographic Birds Photography Special Collector's Edition on sale now. One of the essays is by Don Young, a Buck Lake cottager. He and his wife Shirley have a cottage on the South Bay at the narrows that is called Loon Lodge. His essay is reprinted here with his permission.

The Serenity of Nature

As the sun sets over the calm waters of a Canadian lake, the familiar, peaceful call of the loon surrounds us with a deep sense of well-being. It is a call that is known to every Canadian and is more a distinct symbol of our country than maple syrup, the log cabin or, dare I say it, the beaver. The loon resides in every province and territory and shares its lakes with boaters, fishers, canoeists, kayakers and swimmers. Loons are very caring parents; taking turns protecting and feeding their young, even carrying them on their backs the first few days when the water is too cold for the chicks. The chicks are born in early summer and are very vulnerable for the first weeks, unable to dive and potential prey to many predators. While the breeding pairs are territorial, they are also social, inviting other loons to come for short visits. Yes, it's true that they winter in the south, but they save their distinctive black and white plumage for Canada, turning a dull grey when they leave for the winter. How Canadian to show their colours with pride at home, but be so humble when abroad. They return early in the spring to claim portions of the lake, find suitable nesting sites and start their family in an annual tradition. Whether you are a camper, cottager, and hiker or just passing by, hearing the call of the loon confirms that you are in a natural, beautiful part of our home called Canada. Designating the loon as our national bird would be a fitting tribute for the serenity and national identity that the loon provides. There is no better choice.

Come on Buck Lake go online and vote for your favourite bird!

<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/nationalbird/>



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Coming Events:

Friday June 26 from 5 to 7pm

FISH FRY in Perth Road Sunday School Hall, New Zealand Cod, Fries, Salads, Buns and Brown Beans. Tea, Coffee, and Pie for Desert.

Adults \$15.00 - Youth (6-12) \$5.00 or more info call: 613-353-1690

June 27th 9:00 am Annual General Meeting for the Buck Lake Association Inc. will be held at the Perth Road Sunday School Hall (same place as last year). Doors will open at 8:30.

August 8th the annual Buck Lake BBQ will be held at the Harris Park in Perth Road Village. All Buck Lakers are welcome; bring your family and visitors.

In order to promote the spirit of Buck Lake People, we invite your comments and suggestions for newsletter articles or announcements. Mail to: info@bucklake.ca

Lake Plan link: [Lake Plan Web Version](#)

“New” Renew your Buck Lake Association membership on line. A receipt will be emailed to you to confirm your payment. A service provided by FOCA: <http://foca.on.ca/product/buck-lake-association/>



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