

Ontario's Lake Partner Program



**A closer look at
your lake**

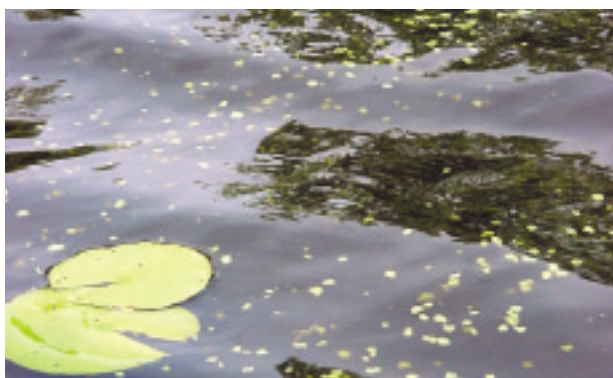
Ontario's Lake Partner Program

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) monitors Ontario's recreational lakes in partnership with cottagers and residents. The goal of the Lake Partner Program is to create a valuable, long-term database to evaluate the nutrient status of Ontario's inland lakes. The lakes' nutrient status will reflect land use changes in the watershed and assist in our efforts to conserve and protect our inland lakes.

Getting Involved

As a volunteer, you will take water samples for total phosphorus (TP) analysis and measure water clarity using a Secchi disc. The number of phosphorus samples that you take each year will depend on whether or not your lake is on the Canadian shield.

Phosphorus is the nutrient that controls the growth of algae in most Ontario lakes. For this reason any increase in phosphorus in the lake will increase the quantity of algae that can grow.



High levels of phosphorus can lead to algal blooms and in some cases affect the habitat of cold water fish such as lake trout. By sampling the total phosphorus each year it is possible to detect a change in the nutrient status of your lake.

It is important to note that several years of data must be collected to observe the



normal, between-year-differences before a trend can be identified.

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

Some of our many partners include you and:

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association

Lake of the Woods District Property Owners Association

District Municipality of Muskoka

Kawartha Lake Stewards

Kent State University

Crowe Valley Water Protectors

City of Greater Sudbury

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority

Centre for Sustainable Watersheds

Algonquin Ecowatch

Toronto Region Conservation Authority

To find out if there is a Lake Partner Program on your lake, or to get involved, please contact:

**Ministry of the Environment
Lake Partner Program,
Dorset Environmental
Science Centre
P.O. Box 39
1026 Bellwood Acres Rd.
Dorset, ON
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**Toll free in Ontario:1-800-470-8322
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**For information about other
Ministry of the Environment initiatives
please contact:**

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Toronto, ON
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Fax: 416-325-3159
Toll free in Ontario:1-800-565-4923
Website: www.ene.gov.on.ca**

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