



Sherbrooke Lake Water Quality Monitoring Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why was this program created?

This program was created to monitor any effects the development and use of the Public Access site would have on Sherbrooke Lake.

2. Who runs this program?

As jurisdiction of the lake is shared by both the Municipality of Chester (MOC) and the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL), both municipalities help direct and fund the program.

The program itself was created and is overseen by the Sherbrooke Lake Stewardship Committee. This committee is comprised of five citizen representatives of MOC and MODL, a water quality specialist, a representative from MOC, a representative from MODL, and technical support from a member of Coastal Action.

The hands-on work of the program is organized by a member of Coastal Action and implemented by a group of trained volunteers. The volunteers consist of property-owners around the lake, who have been trained in proper water sampling techniques.

3. What does this program test for?

The program is designed to monitor the health of the lake, in addition to monitoring key areas and times when water quality may be at risk – including after rainfall events and close to the Public Access site. The program runs from May to October and tests for both the physical and chemical qualities of the water.

At each site, volunteers use a multi-parameter instrument to measure temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, conductivity, pH (acidity), and total dissolved solids. Water samples are also collected at each site for lab testing.

Of the 11 sites included in the program, three lake sites are sampled monthly for total suspended solids (TSS), nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen), fecal coliform, and chlorophyll A. One additional lake site – close to the Public Access' planned swimming beach – is tested for fecal coliform monthly. Four primary inlet streams are tested for TSS, nutrients, fecal coliform, and chlorophyll A bimonthly, with seven inlet streams tested for the same parameters once per summer after >20 mm of rain. In addition, once during August, nutrient samples are collected from deeper waters at two lake sites, and sediment samples are collected at three lake sites and one stream site.

4. Where are the results published?

The program's results are published annually in two forms: a 2-page booklet and a full technical report. Both documents are available from the MOC and MODL's websites, and on Coastal Action's website.

5. What are the results used for?

The results from the program are used to inform evidence-based decisions by both municipalities. The program also helps inform citizens of the quality of their lake and what they can do to help reduce their own negative impacts on water quality.

6. How can I get involved?

Helping such an important program is always encouraged. The committee is always welcoming new volunteers to conduct the water sampling, and each year the committee seeks nominations for people to stand as committee members. If you'd like to participate, please contact either MOC or MODL's representatives to discuss how you could help.