



By Fred McConnell - Lake Steward

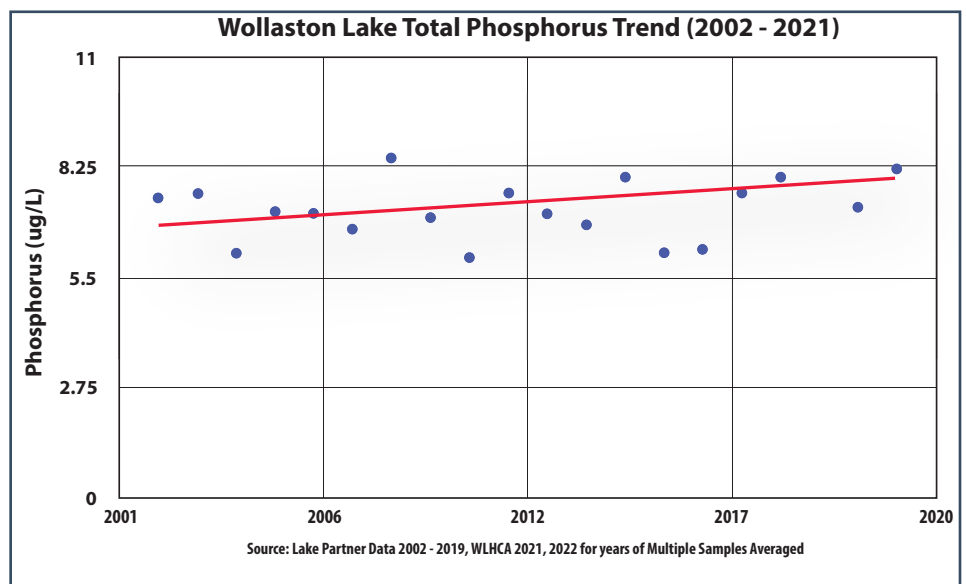
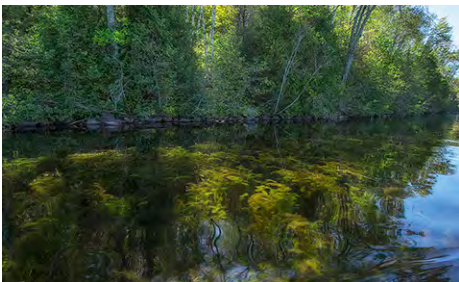
WLHCA Spring 2024 Newsletter Lake Steward's Report

Wollaston Lake, like lakes within the region, is in a process of transition based on the effects of several stressors such as climate change, invasive species, shoreline and adjacent, development, increased short term rentals, increased angling pressure, and increased pleasure craft traffic (to name a few).

Wollaston Lake Water Quality 2023 Results

The Wollaston Lake, State of the Lake review highlights a potential negative trend toward higher nutrient levels overall with spikes at times over the summer and two hot spots (3rd lake and Inlet) occurring in 2022.

The State of the Lake Report below documents and summarizes relevant information and identifies possible trends on Wollaston Lake. Highlights from the report were reviewed at a public meeting in June 2023 and again in August 2023 at the WLHCA annual general meeting.





The following table indicates the phosphorus readings table for the 2023 season:

Total phosphorus ($\mu\text{g/L}$) is an important water quality parameter as phosphorus is a growth-limiting nutrient that supports algal biomass. Values below $10 \mu\text{g/L}$ are generally associated with good water quality and typically support low algal biomass.

Comparable Lake Trout Lakes (MECP LPP phosphorus data)

Feedback received at the state of the lake reviews in 2023 was that people wish to review data from similar lakes in the region.

Both lakes exhibit nutrient levels at the deep spot in the lake below Wollaston Lake's historic deep spot average and current year (2023) data, based on the available Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) Lake Partner Program (LPP) data.

The following two lakes are similar in size to Wollaston Lake and are cold deep naturally reproducing Lake Trout Lakes:

	2022	Historical Average
Dickey Lake Deep Spot	5.7 $\mu\text{g/L}$	5.6 $\mu\text{g/L}$
Anstruther Lake Deep Spot	5.7 $\mu\text{g/L}$	6.1 $\mu\text{g/L}$

Total Phosphorus (filtered - all in micrograms per litre - $\mu\text{g/L}$)

Date (2023)	Lake Partner Program (MECP)	WLHCA Program (Caduceon)			
	Main Lake: Deep Spot	Main Lake: Deep Spot	Second Lake	Third Lake	Inlet
May 31	N/A	12	10	7	10
June 20	N/A	7	9	3	4
July 13	10.7	10	5	2	14
Aug 31	6.1	6	12	8	5
2023 Average	N/A	8.4	8.4	5	9
2022 Average	8.4	5.0	9.4	12	13.3
Historical Average: 1997 to 2017*	6.7				

Readings in the eutrophic (very high) nutrient ■

**The average was calculated using all of the data we have for each lake between the years of 2015-2021 which for most lakes is 4 or 5 sampling years. Wollaston historical average is 1997 to 2017 of Lake Partner sampling data.*



2023- 2024 Funding Applications

During the State of the Lake Planning Process, the question of funding opportunities outside of the WLHCA and Wollaston Township was asked. The WLHCA has a history of actively pursuing

funding opportunities with several successes. The 2023-2024 period is no different and includes major funding opportunities from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Ontario Trillium foundation. In addition, the Invasive Species Centre (funded in

part by the MNRF) has increased the funding amounts available from previous years. The following table summarizes the funding sources applied for and planned for the 2023-2024 timeframe.

Funding Source	Funding Available	Application Deadline	Application Status	Amount Requested	Amount Received
Invasive Species Centre (Ontario)	\$200 Microgrant	May 31 2023	Approved	\$4000	\$4000
DFO Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention (National)	Maximum \$250,000 per year for up to 3 years \$8M pool	August 31, 2023	Project Approved not currently funded	\$640,000 over 3 years	
Invasive Species Centre (Ontario)	\$2500 Microgrant \$10,000 Acceleration	April 30, 2024	All submissions confirmed eligible, grants not yet awarded	\$5000 Microgrant \$10,000 Acceleration	
TD Friends of the Environment	\$1000 - \$5000	July 15, 2024	Application in Process		
Trillium Grow grant	TBD	November 6, 2024	Planned		

