COMMUNITY SCIENCE

BALSAM LAKE | CAMERON LAKE | STURGEON LAKE
PIGEON LAKE | LAKE SCUGOG

2025 NEARSHORE MONITORING REPORT

SEE INSIDE

How our Lakes are Progressing
Nearshore Water Quality Results
And More

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

THE NEARSHORE ENVIRONMENT IS THE "RIBBON OF LIFE"

In its second year, the Community Science Program has continued to grow following the success of 2024. Tracking water quality remains central to understanding the ecological balance of our lakes while informing local conservation efforts. Over the past year, we have seen how engaging residents directly at their docks has expanded our total monitoring capacity and strengthened community stewardship. Launched and rebranded in 2024 as the **Community Science Program**, participating lake residents or "Citizen Scientists" now play an active role in collecting valuable data on water quality from the following lakes:

- **Pigeon Lake**
- **Sturgeon Lake**
- **Cameron Lake**
- **Balsam Lake**
- **Lake Scugog**

NEARSHORE MATTERS

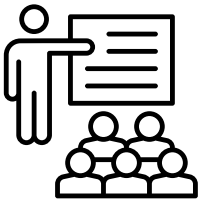
Nearshore areas are vital for lake health, providing spawning and nursery habitat, stabilizing shorelines, and cycling nutrients. These natural shoreline zones also function as filters that trap sediments and improve water quality, while being the places where people most often swim, fish, and boat. Monitoring these areas helps us protect critical ecosystem services that support both wildlife and local communities.

The Community Science Program is dedicated to actively involving our communities in hands-on efforts to protect and preserve our lakes. This year, we expanded our study area to include Lake Scugog in hopes to further understand the health of the lake. The program strives to enhance local residents' understanding of their lakes by involving them in meaningful, science-based activities.

HOW DO CITIZEN SCIENTISTS COLLECT WATER SAMPLES?

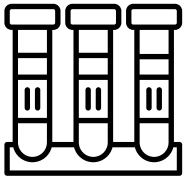
Through the Community Science program, local residents can become active participants in understanding and protecting their lakes. Volunteers are equipped with the training and tools needed to gather meaningful, science-based information throughout the season. From May to September, volunteers follow a monthly sampling process in order to collect accurate and representative samples. With a bit of care and consistency, the samples they collect offer dependable snapshots of the overall health of our lakes.

WATER SAMPLING PROCESS



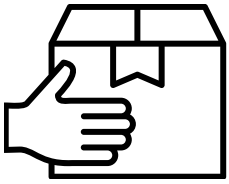
1. **Program Overview**

   Volunteers begin with a comprehensive overview of the program, receive training, and learn about the significance of nearshore water sampling.



2. **Collecting Water Samples**

   Volunteers then collect monthly water samples from designated nearshore locations, following guidelines to ensure consistency and accuracy.



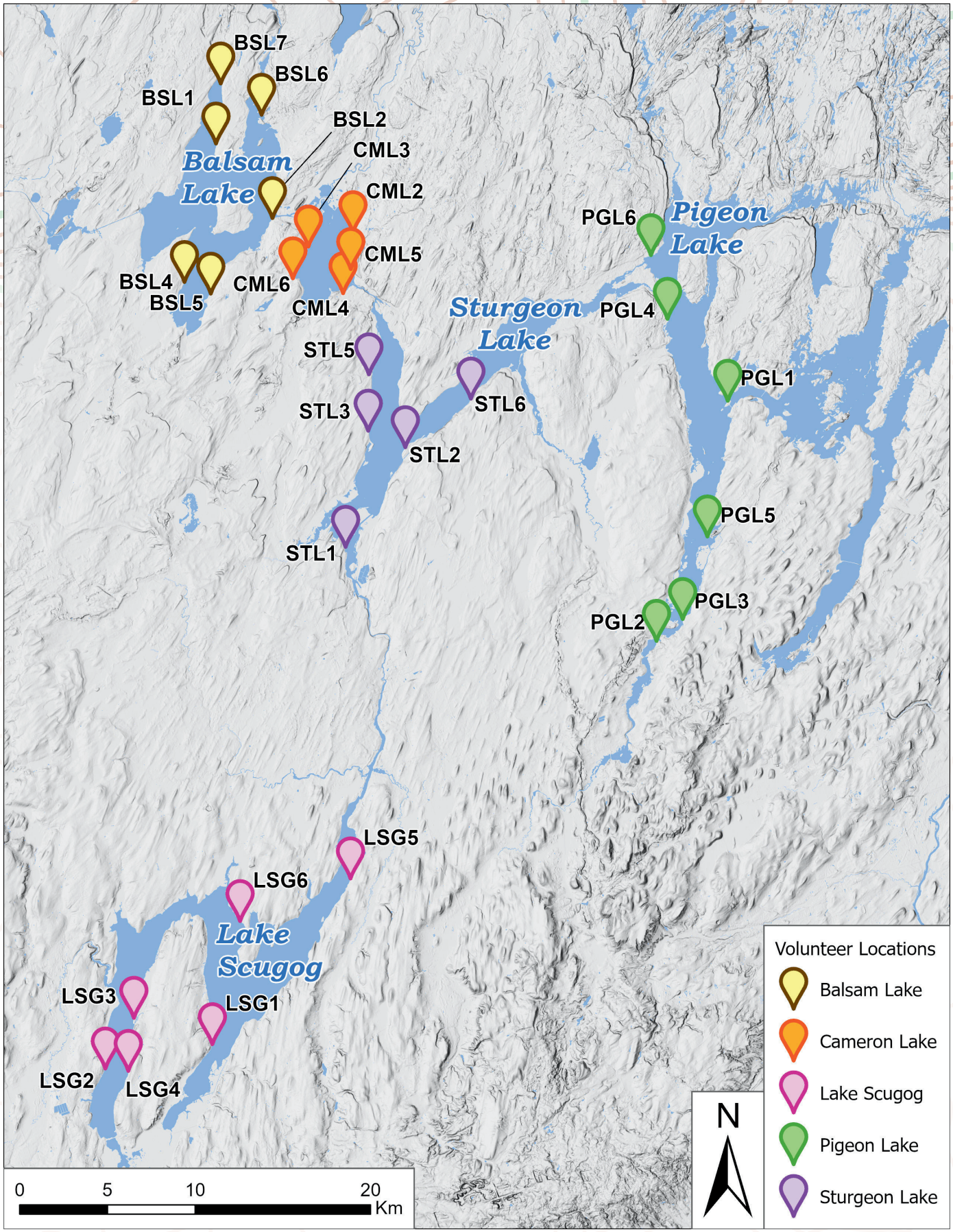
3. **Sample Pickup**

   After collection, samples are stored in a cold environment to preserve their integrity until Kawartha Conservation staff can pick up samples for lab analysis.

4. **Lab Analysis**

   Collected samples are then analyzed at an accredited lab for detailed water quality testing.

STUDY AREA


BSL7
BSL6
BSL1
BSL2
CML3
Balsam Lake
CML2
CML5
BSL4
BSL5
CML6
CML4
Sturgeon Lake
PGL6
Pigeon Lake
PGL4
STL5
PGL1
STL3
STL6
STL2
PGL5
STL1
PGL3
PGL2
LSG5
LSG6
Lake Scugog
LSG3
LSG1
LSG2
LSG4
Volunteer Locations
Balsam Lake
Cameron Lake
Lake Scugog
Pigeon Lake
Sturgeon Lake
N
0
5
10
20
Km

UNDERSTANDING WATER QUALITY

The Community Science Program analyzes a variety of water quality parameters to effectively assess nearshore lake health. Water samples are tested for *Escherichia coli (E. coli)*, phosphorus, nitrate, and chloride, while water temperature and conductivity are also measured on-site using a water quality meter.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for plant and animal growth. However, higher phosphorus levels in surface water can lead to fast and uncontrollable growth of aquatic plants and algae.

Chloride

Chloride is typically abundant in seawater (oceans and seas). Freshwater systems like rivers and lakes have low amounts of chloride. This means that fish and wildlife have naturally evolved in this region to live in lower chloride conditions and are more sensitive to large inputs of chloride.

Nitrate

Nitrate is a type of nitrogen compound commonly found in water, soil, and plants. Similar to phosphorus, nitrogen is an essential nutrient, but too much can cause uncontrollable growth of aquatic plants and algae.

Escherichia coli

The bacteria *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) is used as a fecal contamination indicator, as it is only found in the gut of warm-bodied animals (cows, birds, humans). High levels of *E. coli* can result in a higher risk of waterborne illnesses and pose a significant threat to humans.

Water Temperature and Conductivity

Water temperature and conductivity are important aspects of water quality. Temperature affects the survival and behavior of aquatic organisms and influences the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water. Conductivity measures the water's ability to conduct electricity, which reflects the levels of dissolved salts and minerals in the water. High amounts of dissolved salts can negatively impact aquatic life.

BALSAM LAKE

Balsam Lake is one of the largest lakes in the Kawarthas and is the higest point within the Trent–Severn Waterway. It is primarily fed by the Gull River and supports a diverse aquatic ecosystem, including popular sportfish such as smallmouth and largemouth bass, walleye, and muskellunge. With vibrant shoreline communities and extensive recreational use, the lake plays a key role in both local tourism and year-round enjoyment for residents and visitors alike.

Balsam Lake's nearshore water samples showcased that the lake has minimal amounts of chloride, nitrate, and *E. coli*, with higher total phosphorus levels in August and September that exceeded Canadian guidelines. Average conductivity readings were slightly lower than last year's results. Based on our 2025 results, Balsam Lake continues to have excellent nearshore water quality.

Lake Facts

Average Conductivity	**132 µs/cm**	Lake Area	**48 km²**
Average Water Temperature	**20.2°C**	Watershed Area	**115 km²**
Max Water Temperature	**25.1°C**	Lake Volume	**237 Million cubic meters (m³)**
Total # of Samples	**29**	Lake Depth	**Average depth 4.8m Max depth 14.9m**
		Lake Elevation	**256.3 Meters above sea level (mASL)**

CAMERON LAKE

Cameron Lake is a lake situated in the Kawartha Lakes region, adjacent to Fenelon Falls. The lake is primarily fed by the tributaries of the Burnt River and the outflow water from Balsam Lake, and is also part of the Trent-Severn Waterway system. The lake receives on average 1.4 billion cubic meters (m^3) of water annually, mainly from the Burnt River. The lake provides year-round recreational, ecological, and community value to the residents who live along its shores.

Cameron Lake's total phosphorus results indicated slightly elevated values compared to last year's data, with August and September's results exceeding Canadian guidelines, with nitrate, chloride, and *E. coli* levels remaining below these guidelines. Cameron Lake had a slight increase in average conductivity readings compared to last year, and saw a 9.1°C increase in its recorded maximum water temperature during peak summer conditions. Based on our 2025 results, Cameron Lake continues to have excellent nearshore water quality.

Lake Facts

Average Conductivity	**186 µs/cm**	Lake Area	**15 km^2**
Average Water Temperature	**21.2°C**	Watershed Area	**26 km^2**
Max Water Temperature	**31°C**	Lake Volume	**100 Million cubic meters (m^3)**
Total # of Samples	**23**	Lake Depth	**Average depth 9.3m Max depth 18.2m**
		Lake Elevation	**255 Meters above sea level (mASL)**

STURGEON LAKE

Sturgeon Lake is centered in the City of Kawartha Lakes, located between the towns of Fenelon Falls, Lindsay, and Bobcaygeon. Sturgeon Lake is primarily fed by the Scugog River, and Cameron Lake through Fenelon Falls, and is also a critical part of the Trent-Severn Waterway. The lake provides value to residents and visitors, offering opportunities for boating, fishing, swimming, and other recreational activities.

Sturgeon Lake showed to have similar results to last year's testing. Total phosphorus levels were above Canadian guidelines in July and September, with slightly lower levels of chloride and *E. coli* throughout the sampling months. The lake's average conductivity readings was 60% lower than last year's results, while max water temperature was 3.6°C higher. Despite these findings, Sturgeon Lake continues to have great nearshore water quality, with the opportunity for future improvement through targeted management actions.

Lake Facts

Average Conductivity	**263 µs/cm**	Lake Area	**47 km²**
Average Water Temperature	**20.4°C**	Watershed Area	**144 km²**
Max Water Temperature	**25.7°C**	Lake Volume	**163 Million cubic meters (m³)**
Total # of Samples	**20**	Lake Depth	**Average depth 3.5m Max depth 10.6m**
		Lake Elevation	**247.7 Meters above sea level (mASL)**

PIGEON LAKE

Pigeon Lake is located on the east side of the City of Kawartha Lakes, with part of the lake located in the County of Peterborough, and sections within the Otonabee Region. It lies between the communities of Omemee and Bobcaygeon and is fed primarily by Pigeon River and Sturgeon Lake through the big and little Bobcaygeon Channel, making it a critical component of the Trent-Severn Waterway system.

Results highlighted low levels of *E. coli*, total phosphorus, chloride, and nitrates. Average conductivity readings were 35% lower than the 2024 results, indicating less input of salts into the lake. Average water temperature was slightly lower than the previous year's values, while max water temperature was 2.2°C higher. Reductions in these parameters are a great sign that there are no significant inputs impacting the lake. Overall, based on 2025 results, Pigeon Lake continues to have great nearshore water quality.

Lake Facts

Average Conductivity	**253 µs/cm**	Lake Area	**57 km²**
Average Water Temperature	**20.8°C**	Watershed Area	**91 km²**
Max Water Temperature	**26.2°C**	Lake Volume	**189 Million cubic meters (m³)**
Total # of Samples	**26**	Lake Depth	**Average depth 3.3m Max depth 13.5m**
		Lake Elevation	**247 Meters above sea level (mASL)**

LAKE SCUGOG

Lake Scugog is located between Port Perry and Lindsay and is situated within both the Township of Scugog and the City of Kawartha Lakes. It is primarily fed by surrounding tributaries such as Blackstock Creek and the Nonquon River, while its outflow, the Scugog River, flows north through Lindsay before entering the south end of Sturgeon Lake. As a headwater lake to the Trent-Severn Waterway, Lake Scugog provides residents with recreation and enjoyment throughout the year.

Results for Lake Scugog indicate it has high inputs of total phosphorus, chloride and *E. coli*, and the highest average conductivity out of the five monitored lakes. With extensive waterfront development, surrounding agricultural land uses, and nearby urban areas, Lake Scugog is particularly vulnerable to nutrient and sediment inputs that can negatively impact water quality. Overall, based on 2025 nearshore monitoring results, Lake Scugog demonstrates fair water quality, highlighting opportunities for targeted management actions to support long-term ecosystem health.

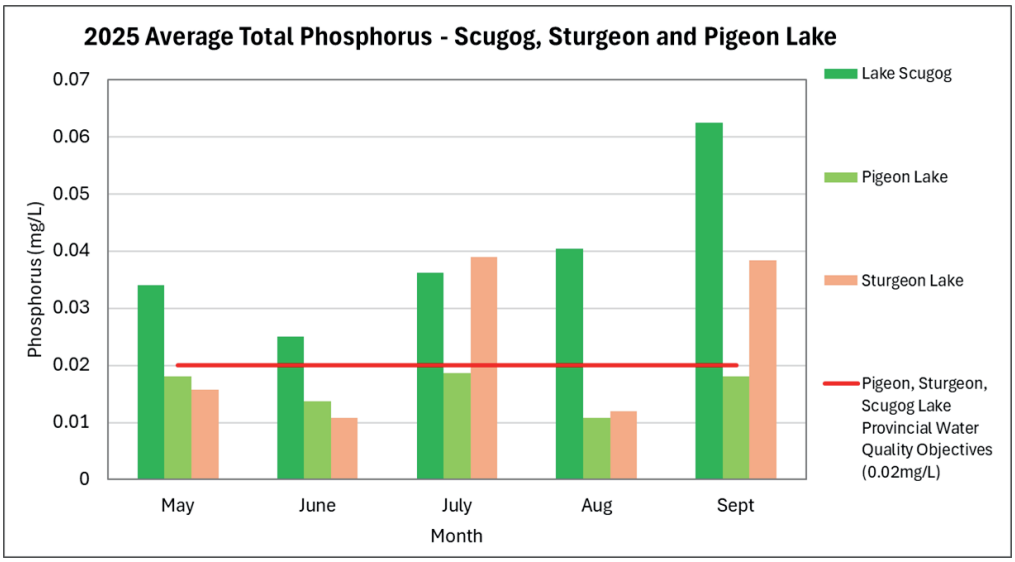
Lake Facts

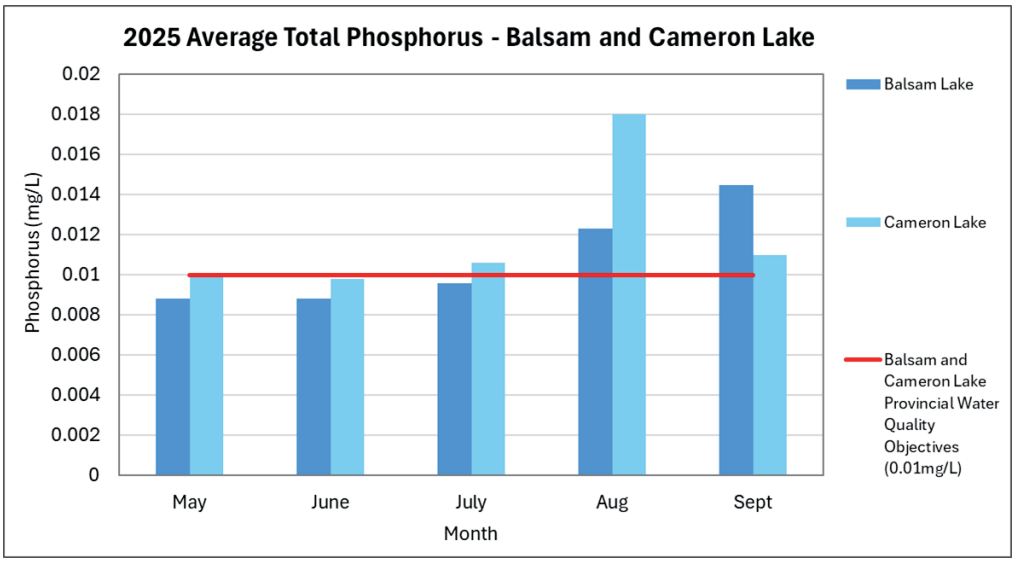
Average Conductivity	**437 µs/cm**	Lake Area	**66 km²**
Average Water Temperature	**20.8°C**	Watershed Area	**141 km²**
Max Water Temperature	**26.6°C**	Lake Volume	**95.7 Million cubic meters (m³)**
Total # of Samples	**25**	Lake Depth	**Average depth 1.4m Max depth 7.6m**
		Lake Elevation	**250 Meters above sea level (mASL)**

WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Total Phosphorus

Nearshore environments are especially vulnerable to phosphorus inputs from shorelines and nearby land activities. When phosphorus levels become elevated, it can trigger excessive algal and aquatic plant growth, which in turn reduces water clarity and limits the amount of light reaching aquatic habitats. When dense mats of organican material decompose, it can drive down dissolved oxygen levels, degrade water quality, and diminish the recreational appeal of lakes, including impacts to fishing and swimming.





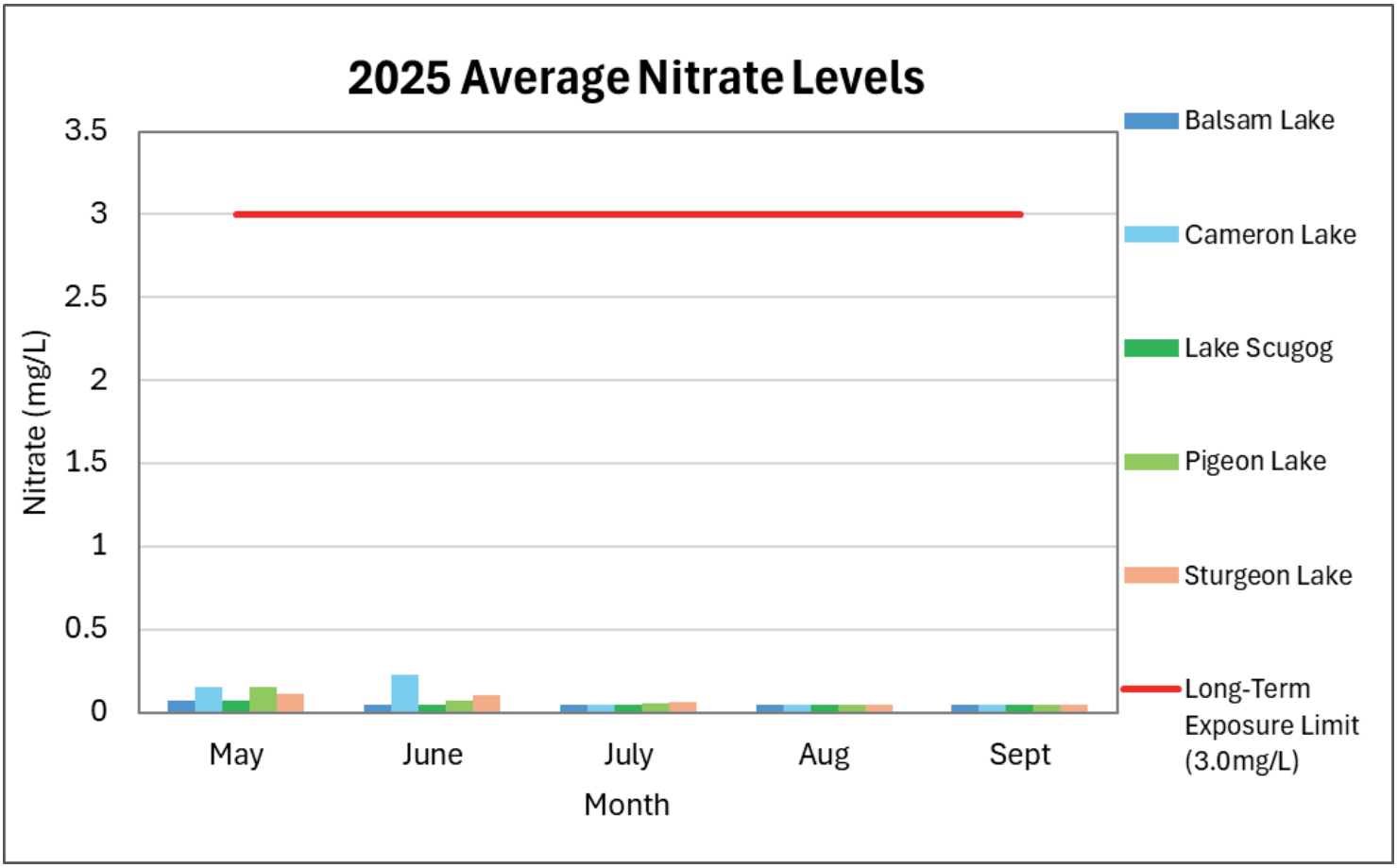
Phosphorus concentrations across the five lakes were generally higher throughout the mid to late summer period, with notable increases observed in July, August, and September.

During these months, several sites exceeded the Provincial Water Quality Objective for total phosphorus, indicating periods of elevated nutrient loading and a heightened risk of algae growth.

These elevated phosphorus levels are often linked to higher inputs from lawn fertilizers, stormwater runoff, and agricultural activities in the surrounding watershed.

Nitrate

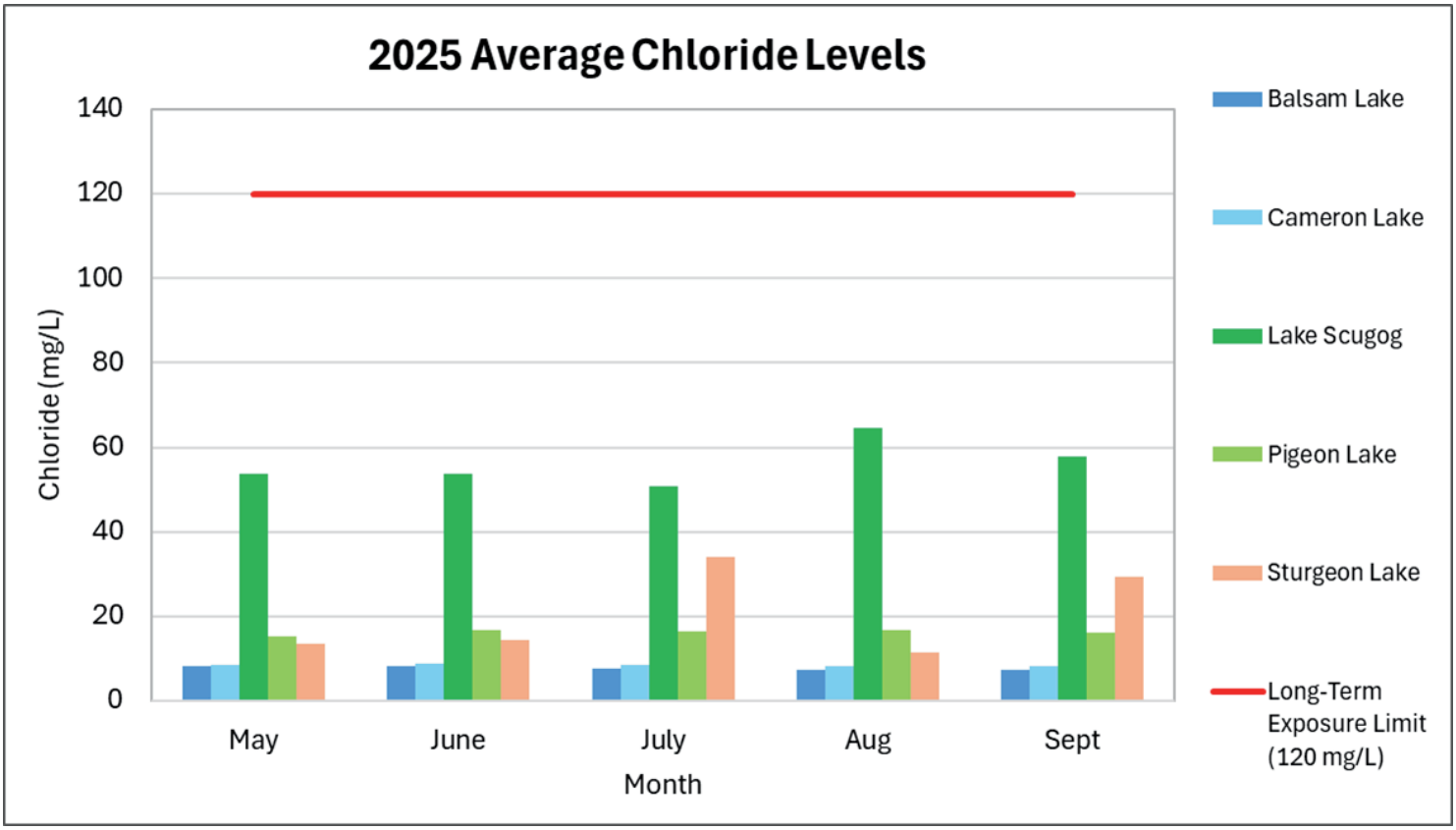
Monitoring nitrate in nearshore lake environments is important because these shallow areas receive the greatest influence from land-based runoff, including inputs from agriculture and urban land uses. Increased nitrate levels can also contribute to increase aquatic plant and algae growth, (where rapid eutrophication) can pose risks to aquatic life such as fish and benthic invertebrates. Tracking nitrate trends helps identify nutrient pressures early, supporting the management and protection of nearshore ecosystem health.



All five lakes remained below the long-term nitrate exposure limit of 3.0 mg/L outlined in the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for Aquatic Life. Nitrate levels were consistently low throughout the sampling season, with a majority of samples falling below the detection limit of 0.05 mg/L. This is an encouraging result, as maintaining low nitrate concentrations helps reduce the chance of harmful algea blooms, excessive aquatic plant growth, and other negative impacts on aquatic life. These continued low nitrate levels suggest that nutrient inputs within the watershed remain well-managed.

Chloride

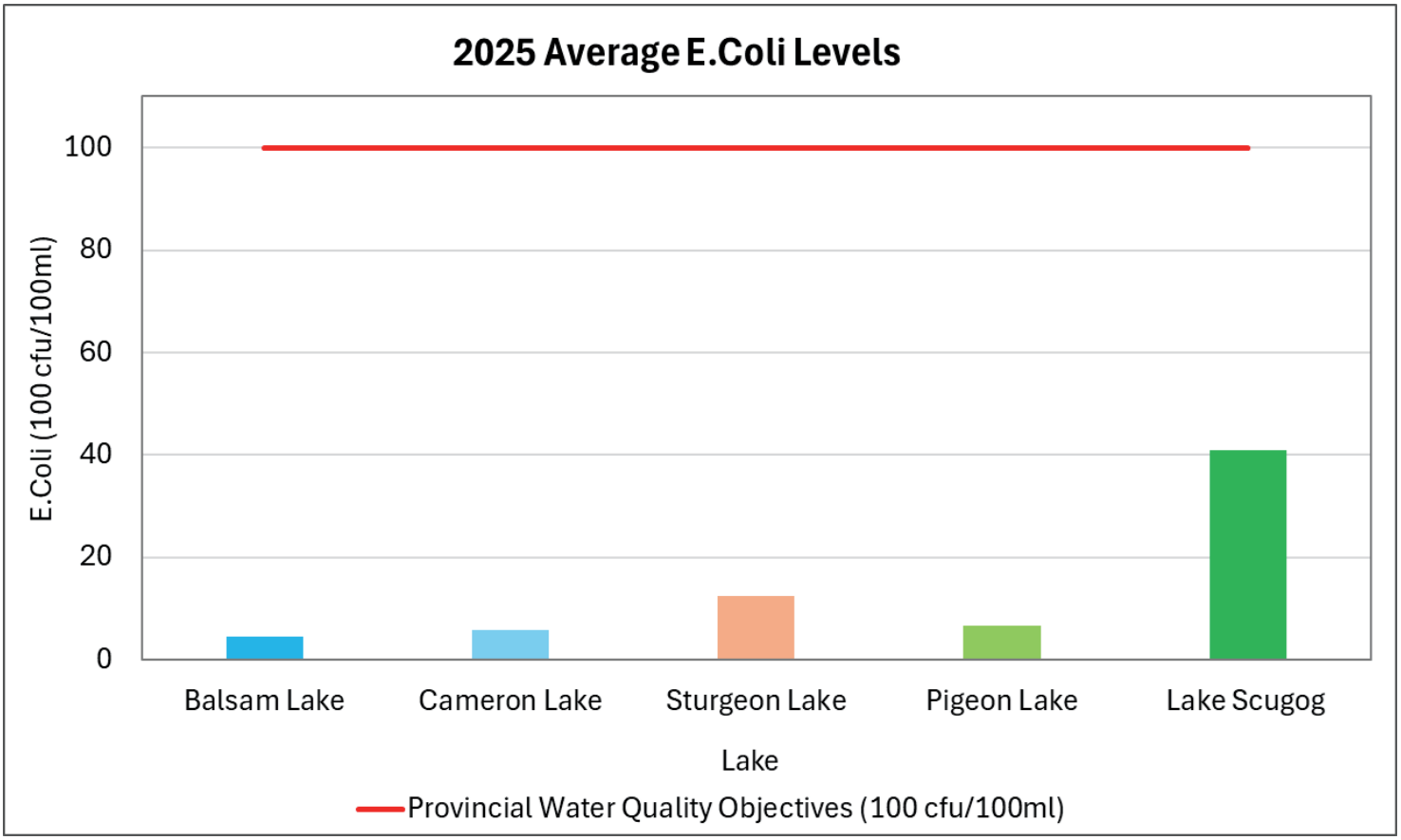
Chloride concentrations often rise in shoreline zones where runoff from road salt enters the lake. These higher levels can place stress on a wide range of aquatic organisms, including invertebrates, fish, and amphibians, by interfering with normal salt regulation, reducing survival or reproductive success. Tracking chloride levels over time supports the identification of at-risk areas and the assessment of road-salt impacts on aquatic ecosystems.



Chloride levels in all five lakes were below the Long-term Exposure Limit of 120 mg/L specified by the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for Aquatic Life, which is set to protect freshwater organisms from long-term exposure to harmful concentrations of chloride. Lake Scugog consistently showed higher levels of chloride than the other four lakes, most likely due to the larger amount of runoff containing salts from urban areas and agricultural land uses surrounding Lake Scugog. Although chloride levels remain below the long-term exposure limit, further reducing road salt application can help lower chloride levels in our lakes.

E.coli

The monitoring of Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) in nearshore waters has become a standard in most lake-based water quality monitoring, as it provides a critical indication of fecal contamination originating from sources such as stormwater runoff and agricultural operations. Elevated levels of *E. coli* can signal the presence of harmful pathogens that threaten both human health and aquatic organisms. Continuous monitoring of *E. coli* allows us to identify areas of concern within nearshore environments and supports proactive stewardship efforts aimed at safeguarding recreational waters and aquatic ecosystems.



E. coli levels across the five lakes are considerably low when compared to the Provincial Water Quality Objectives, with Lake Scugog having the highest average E. coli. Small amounts of E. coli can be from a combination of increased urban and agricultural runoff, higher amounts of wildlife, and aging septic systems. Low E. coli concentrations are encouraging, as they indicate that there are no significant or persistent sources of fecal contamination entering these lakes that are above Canadian Guidelines.

HOW OUR LAKES ARE PROGRESSING

Monitoring nearshore water quality over time allows us to build a clearer understanding of how our lakes are changing. While long-term datasets provide the strongest level of confidence in environmental trends, comparing 2024 results to the 2025 findings can help highlight where conditions are improving and where challenges remain.

Parameter	2025 Findings	What This Tells Us
Total Phosphorus	→ Minimal change in phosphorus across lakes	No significant reductions in phosphorus inputs across lakes. Some locations above Canadian Guidelines.
Nitrate	↓ Lower than 2024 results	Great sign that nitrate inputs were reduced across our lakes. Remains below Canadian Guidelines.
Chloride	→ Similar results to 2024, with reductions in Sturgeon Lake.	Less road salt entering our lakes, and no significant spikes in chloride. Remains below Canadian Guidelines.
E. coli	→ Similar results to 2024.	Indicates no significant *E. coli* inputs across our lakes, but remains below Canadian Guidelines.
Water Temperature	↓ Lower average and max water temperature across lakes	Suggests less apparent impact from climate change on nearshore water temperatures during the 2025 season compared to 2024.
Conductivity	↓ Lower Average Conductivity across lakes	Less agricultural and road salt inputs into lakes.

The 2025 results showed small improvements in nitrate and chloride levels, along with some positive changes in average and maximum water temperature and conductivity. Total phosphorus and *E. coli* concentrations showed no significant improvements and are consistent with the 2024 results. While long-term trends can only be confidently identified after several years of monitoring, these early shifts provide valuable short-term insight into how our lakes are progressing. Lake Scugog is in its first year of monitoring and will require more sampling to identify any trends.

WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER?

Protecting lake health relies on practical actions that minimize the nutrients and pollutants entering our waters. Whether it's adopting winter maintenance practices that use less road salt or by incorporating low-impact developments and natural shorelines that help capture nutrients found in runoff, everyone has a role in safeguarding our lakes. The recommendations below highlight actions residents can take to improve water quality and contribute to a more resilient watershed.

Phosphorus

- Limit fertilizer use on shoreline properties and avoid phosphorus-based products.
- Naturalize lawns with native plants to reduce nutrient runoff.
- Maintain a natural vegetated buffer along the shoreline.

Nitrate

- Plant native vegetation and install small rain gardens to capture runoff.
- Reduce the use of nitrogen fertilizers and avoid applying before rain.
- Maintain natural vegetated shoreline.
- Redirect downspouts to grassed areas and use rain barrels.

Chloride

- Reduce the use of salts on sidewalks, driveways, and roadways in the winter.
- Consider using effective alternatives such as sand and sugar beet-based de-icing products, which can achieve similar results without containing salt.

E. coli

- Maintain and upgrade septic systems when needed.
- Pick up pet waste and avoid feeding wildlife near shorelines.
- Use shoreline buffers to filter bacteria before entering water.
- Keep livestock away from streams and waterfront areas.

COMMUNITY SUCCESS

The Power of Community

The Community Science Program continues to show what can be accomplished when people come together with a shared love for the environment. By supporting nearshore water-quality monitoring across the Kawartha Lakes, this collaborative effort helps us build a stronger understanding of the health of our lakes in order for them to remain healthy for future generations. This dedication, shown through community participation, reinforces the importance of lake protection among our community members and residents. In doing so, this program directly supports our mission at Kawartha Conservation to protect, enhance, and restore our natural environment.

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the 28 dedicated volunteers who contributed to the Community Science Monitoring Program this year across Balsam Lake, Cameron Lake, Sturgeon Lake, Pigeon Lake, and Lake Scugog. Your time, effort, and passion for protecting the health of our local waterways are truly invaluable. We also extend our gratitude to our outstanding program partners, including the **Kawartha Lake Stewards Association**, the **Balsam Lake Association**, and the **Scugog Lake Stewards,** for their continued support and contributions toward the program in 2025. Together, we are all making meaningful progress in understanding our lakes and ensuring these waters remain healthy and thriving for the communities that depend on them.

References

Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy. (1994). Water Management: Policies, Guidelines, Provincial Water Quality Objectives. Toronto, Ontario. Retrieved from https://www.ontario.ca/page/water-management-policies-guidelines-provincial-water-quality-objectives#section-11

Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. (n.d.). Canadian water quality guidelines for the protection of aquatic life. Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. https://ccme.ca/en/summary-table

Community Science 2025
Raw Water Quality Data

Date	Site ID	Lake	Water Temperature (°C)	Conductivity (us/cm)	E.coli (100 cfu/100ml)	Chloride (mg/L)	Nitrate (mg/L)	Total Phosphorus (mg/L)
2025-05-26	BSL6	Balsam Lake	14.1	0	4	n/a	n/a	0.008
2025-05-26	BSL2	Balsam Lake	14	138	<2	8.6	0.06	0.006
2025-05-26	BSL5	Balsam Lake	12	172	6	8.6	0.16	0.015
2025-05-26	BSL4	Balsam Lake	14.4	145	4	8.3	<0.05	0.007
2025-05-27	BSL7	Balsam Lake	14.7	143	<2	7.7	<0.05	0.007
2025-05-27	BSL1	Balsam Lake	15	137	<2	7.7	<0.05	0.01
2025-06-23	BSL2	Balsam Lake	23.6	129	20	8.2	<0.05	0.012
2025-06-23	BSL4	Balsam Lake	22.8	138	4	8.4	<0.05	0.007
2025-06-23	BSL5	Balsam Lake	23.4	145	116	8.4	<0.05	0.006
2025-06-23	BSL7	Balsam Lake	23.8	199	6	n/a	n/a	0.004
2025-06-23	BSL1	Balsam Lake	22.3	122	6	8	<0.05	0.004
2025-06-24	BSL6	Balsam Lake	n/a	n/a	14	7.8	<0.05	0.02
2025-07-28	BSL1	Balsam Lake	24.9	134	<2	7.6	<0.05	0.008
2025-07-28	BSL6	Balsam Lake	24.6	n/a	2	7	<0.05	0.004
2025-07-28	BSL7	Balsam Lake	24.9	139	6	7.7	<0.05	0.012
2025-07-28	BSL5	Balsam Lake	24	145	<2	7.5	<0.05	0.011
2025-07-28	BSL4	Balsam Lake	25.1	130	4	7.8	<0.05	0.013
2025-08-25	BSL7	Balsam Lake	22.8	133	4	7.4	<0.05	0.016
2025-08-25	BSL6	Balsam Lake	20	n/a	2	6.3	<0.05	0.008
2025-08-25	BSL1	Balsam Lake	21.2	132	4	7.3	<0.05	0.012
2025-08-25	BSL4	Balsam Lake	21.5	129	2	7.4	<0.05	0.009
2025-08-25	BSL5	Balsam Lake	20.4	n/a	<2	7.6	<0.05	0.013
2025-08-25	BSL2	Balsam Lake	21.1	129	4	7.3	<0.05	0.016
2025-09-29	BSL1	Balsam Lake	19.4	112	n/a	7.6	<0.05	0.017
2025-09-29	BSL5	Balsam Lake	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.8	<0.05	0.014
2025-09-29	BSL4	Balsam Lake	19.4	129	n/a	7.6	<0.05	0.012
2025-09-29	BSL7	Balsam Lake	19.1	126	n/a	7.6	<0.05	0.012
2025-09-29	BSL2	Balsam Lake	18.5	127	n/a	7.6	<0.05	0.018
2025-09-29	BSL6	Balsam Lake	18.6	n/a	n/a	6.6	<0.05	0.014
2025-05-26	CML3	Cameron Lake	14.9	n/a	8	8.7	0.26	0.011
2025-05-26	CML6	Cameron Lake	13.6	171	4	7.4	0.11	0.01
2025-05-26	CML5	Cameron Lake	14.5	132	2	8.9	0.08	0.009
2025-05-26	CML2	Cameron Lake	13.4	144	<2	8.6	0.17	0.01
2025-06-23	CML3	Cameron Lake	26.9	n/a	150	9.1	0.07	0.012
2025-06-23	CML4	Cameron Lake	23	n/a	18	8.3	<0.05	0.003
2025-06-23	CML6	Cameron Lake	23.4	157	<2	9.2	<0.05	0.004
2025-06-24	CML5	Cameron Lake	23.3	138	<2	8.8	<0.05	0.02
2025-06-24	CML2	Cameron Lake	24.3	150	16	8	0.9	0.01
2025-07-28	CML5	Cameron Lake	24.7	143	4	8.4	<0.05	0.013
2025-07-28	CML4	Cameron Lake	25.3	199	<2	8.4	<0.05	0.01
2025-07-28	CML6	Cameron Lake	26.9	144	10	8.4	<0.05	0.009
2025-07-28	CML3	Cameron Lake	31	788	2	8.3	<0.05	0.013
2025-07-28	CML2	Cameron Lake	24.9	149	<2	8.4	<0.05	0.008
2025-08-25	CML3	Cameron Lake	n/a	n/a	<2	8.1	<0.05	0.01
2025-08-25	CML4	Cameron Lake	21.1	142	30	8.1	<0.05	0.011
2025-08-25	CML5	Cameron Lake	21.6	138	6	8.1	<0.05	0.038
2025-08-25	CML2	Cameron Lake	20	149	<2	8.1	<0.05	0.013
2025-09-29	CML2	Cameron Lake	17.9	143	n/a	8.2	<0.05	0.007
2025-09-29	CML5	Cameron Lake	18.5	136	n/a	8.2	<0.05	0.012
2025-09-29	CML4	Cameron Lake	18.3	n/a	n/a	8.2	<0.05	0.01
2025-09-29	CML3	Cameron Lake	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.2	<0.05	0.01
2025-09-29	CML6	Cameron Lake	18.4	146	n/a	8.5	<0.05	0.016
2025-05-28	LSG3	Lake Scugog	18.4	501	<2	65.7	<0.05	0.026
2025-05-28	LSG1	Lake Scugog	17.6	453	2	39.2	<0.05	0.064
2025-05-28	LSG4	Lake Scugog	17.6	496	<2	67.7	<0.05	0.024
2025-05-28	LSG2	Lake Scugog	13.5	501	56	n/a	n/a	0.021
2025-05-28	LSG6	Lake Scugog	17.8	421	18	n/a	n/a	0.056
2025-05-28	LSG5	Lake Scugog	17.5	374	46	41.9	0.12	0.013
2025-06-25	LSG6	Lake Scugog	26.1	375	292	46.4	<0.05	0.016
2025-06-25	LSG1	Lake Scugog	25.6	426	336	41.6	<0.05	0.034
2025-06-25	LSG5	Lake Scugog	26.5	380	18	43.7	<0.05	0.025
2025-06-25	LSG3	Lake Scugog	26.6	467	20	68	<0.05	0.022
2025-06-25	LSG2	Lake Scugog	25.6	480	396	69	<0.05	0.028
2025-07-30	LSG6	Lake Scugog	26.3	373	84	43.4	<0.05	0.03
2025-07-30	LSG4	Lake Scugog	25.6	431	62	62.4	<0.05	0.036
2025-07-30	LSG1	Lake Scugog	25.9	412	54	37.6	<0.05	0.035
2025-07-30	LSG2	Lake Scugog	25.3	469	96	n/a	n/a	0.033

Community Science 2025
Raw Water Quality Data

Date	Site ID	Lake	Water Temperature (°C)	Conductivity (us/cm)	E.coli (100 cfu/100ml)	Chloride (mg/L)	Nitrate (mg/L)	Total Phosphorus (mg/L)
2025-07-30	LSG3	Lake Scugog	26	417	12	59.9	<0.05	0.047
2025-08-27	LSG2	Lake Scugog	18.2	487	96	77.9	<0.05	0.028
2025-08-27	LSG4	Lake Scugog	17.2	445	<2	75.2	<0.05	0.047
2025-08-27	LSG3	Lake Scugog	19.6	447	22	74.6	<0.05	0.044
2025-08-27	LSG1	Lake Scugog	17.2	442	44	47.2	<0.05	0.039
2025-08-27	LSG5	Lake Scugog	16.1	392	4	48.4	<0.05	0.044
2025-10-01	LSG4	Lake Scugog	16.7	460	18	69.3	<0.05	0.061
2025-10-01	LSG6	Lake Scugog	17.7	412	28	47.3	<0.05	0.067
2025-10-01	LSG3	Lake Scugog	19.2	451	22	69.4	<0.05	0.064
2025-10-01	LSG5	Lake Scugog	15	404	4	44.8	<0.05	0.058
2025-05-27	PGL3	Pigeon Lake	17.8	426	10	18.6	0.25	0.024
2025-05-27	PGL1	Pigeon Lake	16.3	218	34	12.8	0.12	0.01
2025-05-27	PGL6	Pigeon Lake	15.7	194	2	12.5	0.14	0.009
2025-05-27	PGL5	Pigeon Lake	16.5	404	10	17.9	<0.05	0.026
2025-05-27	PGL4	Pigeon Lake	15.2	211	12	14.2	0.22	0.021
2025-06-24	PGL5	Pigeon Lake	n/a	n/a	26	17.8	<0.05	0.008
2025-06-24	PGL4	Pigeon Lake	22.9	215	56	13	0.08	0.024
2025-06-24	PGL1	Pigeon Lake	25.2	274	2	15.5	0.05	0.012
2025-06-24	PGL2	Pigeon Lake	26.1	278	<2	20.3	<0.05	0.014
2025-06-24	PGL6	Pigeon Lake	24.4	223	8	13.9	0.12	0.01
2025-06-24	PGL3	Pigeon Lake	n/a	n/a	4	20.2	<0.05	0.014
2025-07-29	PGL4	Pigeon Lake	25.1	217	2	14.1	<0.05	0.023
2025-07-29	PGL2	Pigeon Lake	25.4	287	4	21.3	0.06	0.021
2025-07-29	PGL5	Pigeon Lake	26.2	284	<2	19	<0.05	0.015
2025-07-29	PGL1	Pigeon Lake	25.3	231	<2	14.1	0.06	0.014
2025-07-29	PGL6	Pigeon Lake	25.1	219	14	14.4	<0.05	0.02
2025-08-26	PGL1	Pigeon Lake	20	224	<2	13.6	<0.05	0.006
2025-08-26	PGL5	Pigeon Lake	19.1	297	22	22.5	<0.05	0.014
2025-08-26	PGL4	Pigeon Lake	20.3	210	20	12.9	<0.05	0.013
2025-08-26	PGL3	Pigeon Lake	18	340	14	20.1	<0.05	0.01
2025-08-26	PGL2	Pigeon Lake	18.8	341	6	18.4	<0.05	0.011
2025-08-26	PGL6	Pigeon Lake	21.5	218	2	13	<0.05	0.011
2025-09-30	PGL4	Pigeon Lake	18.3	211	<2	13	<0.05	0.017
2025-09-30	PGL2	Pigeon Lake	18	12	34	16.8	<0.05	0.023
2025-09-30	PGL5	Pigeon Lake	19.1	314	6	21	<0.05	0.02
2025-09-30	PGL1	Pigeon Lake	18.8	221	<2	13.4	<0.05	0.012
2025-05-27	STL5	Sturgeon Lake	16.4	221	10	13.2	0.06	0.01
2025-05-27	STL6	Sturgeon Lake	16.2	183	<2	11.6	0.12	0.007
2025-05-27	STL2	Sturgeon Lake	17.6	247	<2	17	0.15	0.019
2025-05-27	STL3	Sturgeon Lake	n/a	n/a	30	11.9	0.11	0.027
2025-06-24	STL3	Sturgeon Lake	23	n/a	18	13.5	0.13	0.013
2025-06-24	STL5	Sturgeon Lake	21.2	n/a	<2	11.3	0.09	0.006
2025-06-24	STL2	Sturgeon Lake	24.1	236	<2	19	0.09	0.01
2025-06-24	STL6	Sturgeon Lake	23.8	212	<2	13.8	0.11	0.014
2025-07-29	STL5	Sturgeon Lake	25.2	190	60	12.3	<0.05	0.022
2025-07-29	STL1	Sturgeon Lake	23	661	76	97	0.06	0.098
2025-07-29	STL3	Sturgeon Lake	22.5	n/a	2	13.2	0.07	0.02
2025-07-29	STL6	Sturgeon Lake	25.7	202	<2	13.3	0.06	0.016
2025-08-26	STL3	Sturgeon Lake	19.4	n/a	2	11.3	<0.05	0.013
2025-08-26	STL5	Sturgeon Lake	19.9	182	44	11.3	<0.05	0.008
2025-08-26	STL6	Sturgeon Lake	20.6	195	<2	12.1	<0.05	0.015
2025-09-30	STL1	Sturgeon Lake	16.2	612	22	101	<0.05	0.099
2025-09-30	STL3	Sturgeon Lake	16.1	n/a	12	10.9	<0.05	0.028
2025-09-30	STL5	Sturgeon Lake	17.5	168	<2	10.3	<0.05	0.018
2025-09-30	STL2	Sturgeon Lake	19.8	189	<2	12.7	<0.05	0.027
2025-09-30	STL6	Sturgeon Lake	19.7	190	<2	11.7	<0.05	0.02

WANT TO BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST?

Join the Community Science Program and help protect the lakes we love. With full support from Kawartha Conservation and minimal time commitment, typically one sampling visit per month, you can play a meaningful role in monitoring nearshore water conditions and supporting the health of our local ecosystems. No experience is needed, just an interest in the environment and a willingness to get involved. Sign up today and become part of a growing network of community scientists working to safeguard our waters for future generations.

Learn More at: www.kawarthaconservation.com/citizen-science

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
Discover · Protect · Restore

Contact Us

Phone: 705-328-2271 Ext. 235
Email: nrajevski@KawarthaConservation.com
Online: https://www.kawarthaconservation.com/