

OLRA Water Testing Project 2017 on Otter Lake and Little Otter Lake – Progress Report

Bev Clark, Aquatic Scientist, and Brian Nelson, OLRA Lake Stewardship Director, were out on July 2nd continuing the water testing of Otter Lake and Little Otter Lake as part of the 2017 OLRA initiative to obtain better data on our lake water quality and how it is trending.

Water quality is the number one priority according to the 2016 OLRA Survey so we have engaged Bev Clark to do this study. OLRA has participated in the MOECC Lake Partner Program (LPP) for many years which measures in one location, the deep spot on Otter Lake, for Secchi depth and phosphorus levels.



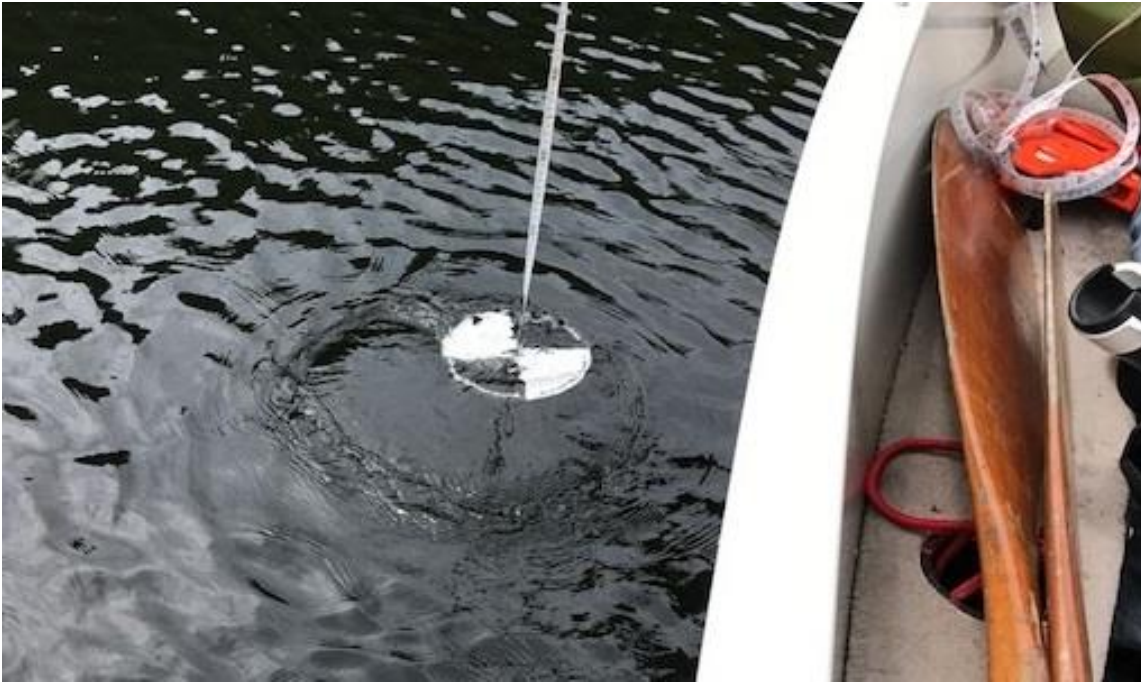
Bev Clark, Aquatic Scientist, and Brian Nelson, OLRA Lake Stewardship Director on July 2nd 2017 testing Otter Lake (Seguin) for Total Phosphorus

The Blue-green algae bloom in the fall of 2016 in Mud Bay on Otter Lake heightened our awareness that we should have more data taken in more locations, including some embayments such as Mud Bay. Otter and Little Otter Lake make up a complex water system with varying depths and several bays.

Bev Clark has been engaged to take samples from 6 locations each month from May-Oct. Data on Secchi depth, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, total phosphorus and temperature will be obtained. OLRA will continue to participate in the LPP as well.)

Phosphorus is the nutrient that helps algae to bloom or over grow. The good news is we can help decrease phosphorus levels in our lakes by not using fertilizers, using phosphate free soaps and detergents, maintaining our septic systems, keeping boat wakes low to help prevent shoreline erosion and leaving that “ribbon of life” around our shoreline natural.

OLRA will receive a report from Bev of his findings in November.



Measuring the Secchi Depth (water clarity)



Bev Clark measuring dissolved oxygen in Otter Lake