



Mississippi Valley Conservation

# State of the Lake Environment Report 2009

## Constance Lake



# Constance Lake

- Located in the West Carleton

- Max. depth is 12 feet
- Fish species include; Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass, Carp, Black Crappie, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed and Brown Bullheads
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## How Does Constance Lake Measure Up?

2009 WATER QUALITY RESULTS - Constance Lake

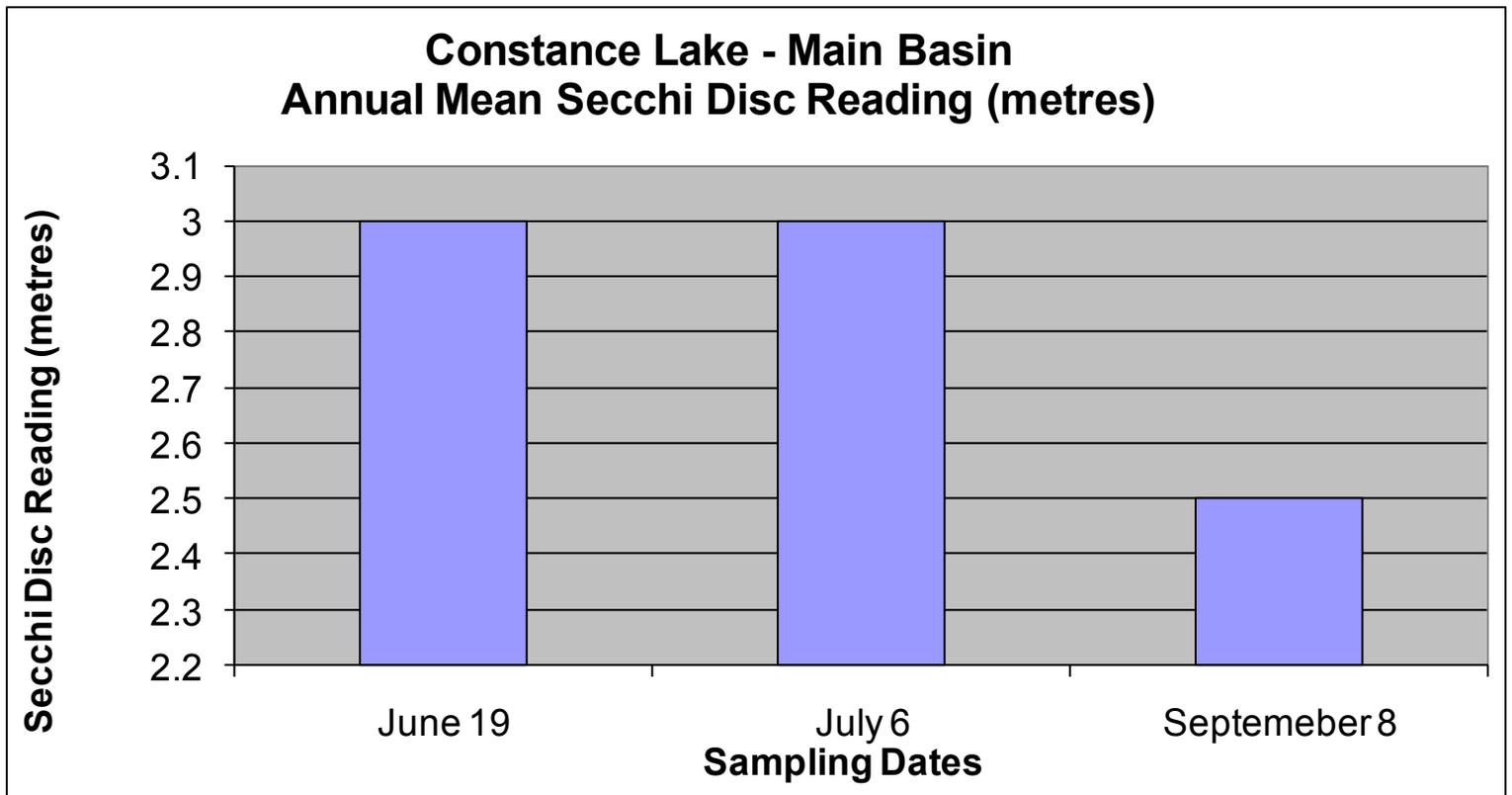
Sample Year [Various Stations]	Secchi Disc Depth [Metres]	Total Phosphorus Euphotic Zone [Micrograms/Litre]	Total Phosphorus 1 Metre off Bottom [Micrograms/Litre]	Chlorophyll <u>a</u> Composite [Micrograms/Litre]
2009	2.8	28.7	28.3	7.50
n	1	1	1	1
Minimum	2.8	28.7	28.3	7.50
Maximum	2.8	28.7	28.3	7.50
Mean	2.8	28.7	28.3	7.50

# Interpreting Secchi Disc Readings

Secchi disc is a black and white coloured disc used to determine water clarity. The disc is lowered into the water. The point, at which you can no longer distinguish the black and white, is called the Secchi depth.

**The higher the Secchi Disc measurement the clearer**

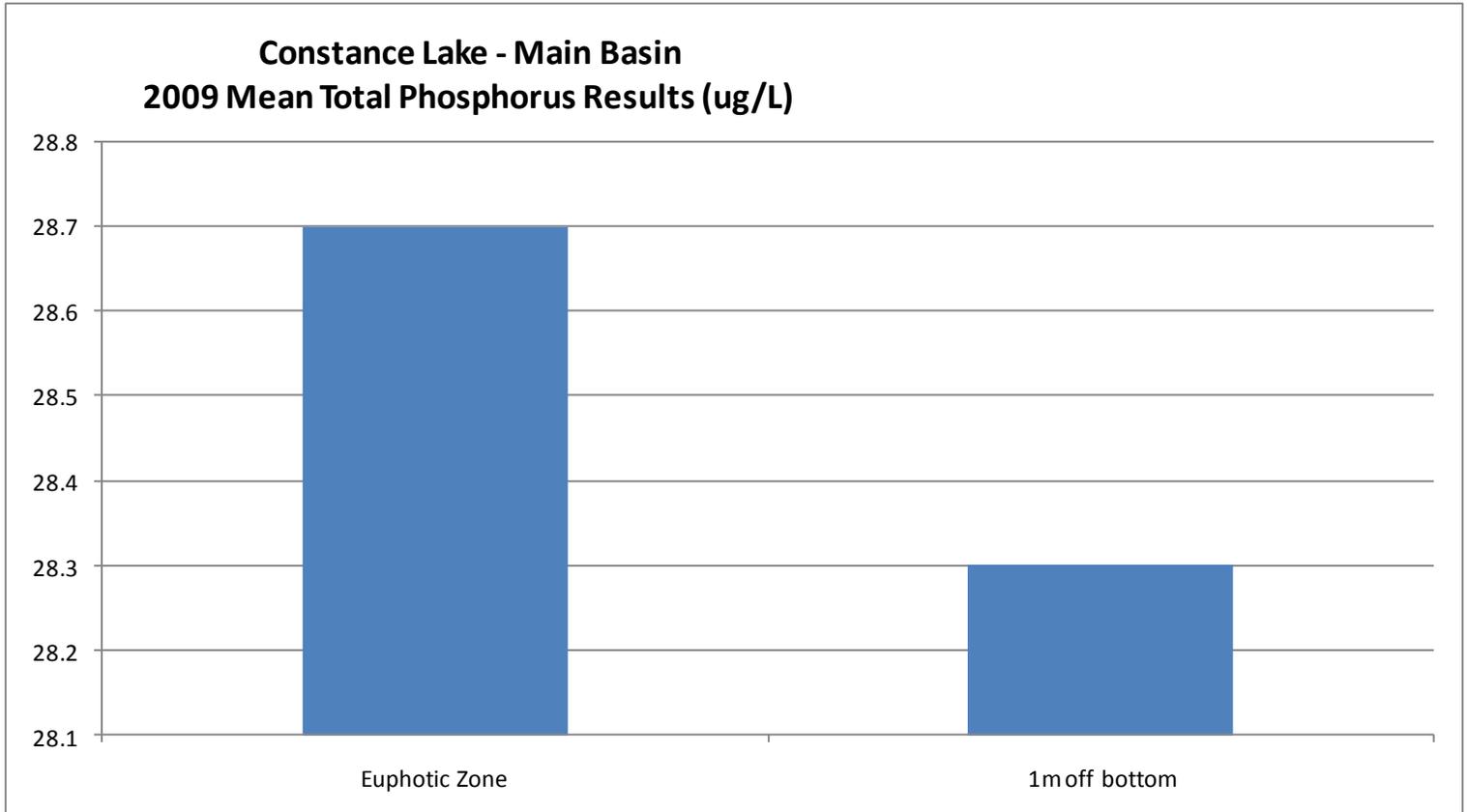
INTERPRETING YOUR SECCHI DISC RESULTS	
Secchi Reading	Lake Nutrient Status
Over 5 metres	Oligotrophic - unenriched, few nutrients
3.0 to 4.9 metres	Mesotrophic – moderately enriched, some nutrients
Less than 2.9 metres	Eutrophic – enriched, higher levels of nutrients



# Interpreting Total Phosphorus Results

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. A general guideline exists to characterize your lake based on the total phosphorus that is measured.

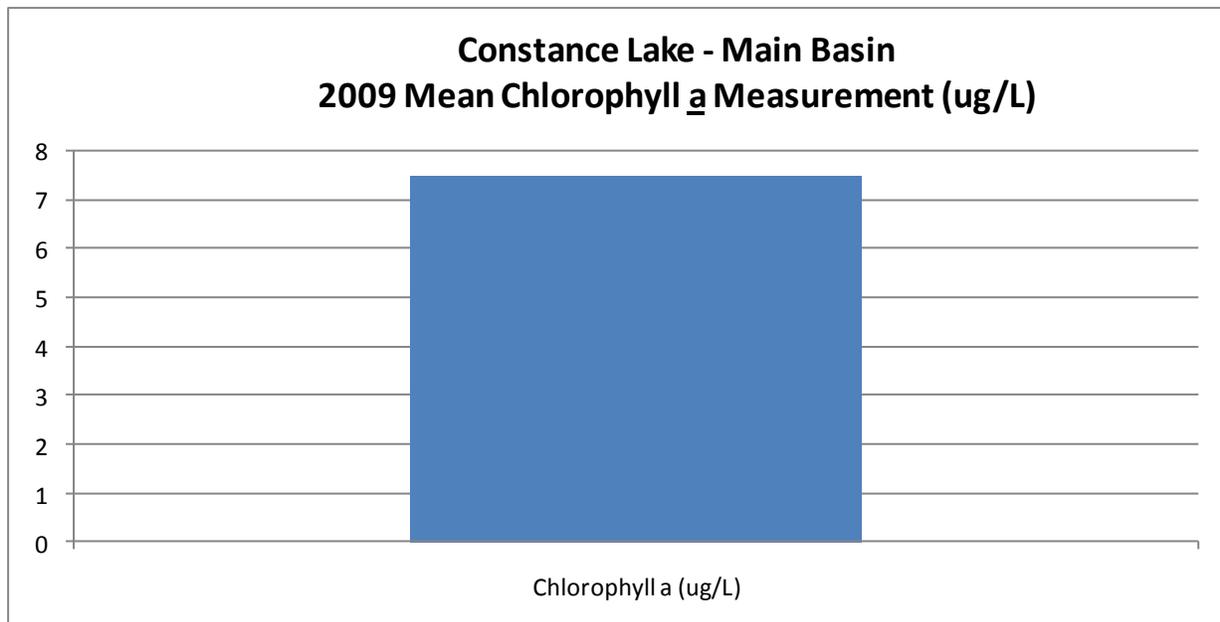
<b>INTERPRETING YOUR TOTAL PHOSPHORUS RESULTS</b>	
<b>Total Phosphorus</b>	<b>Lake Nutrient Status</b>
10 ug/L or less	Oligotrophic - unenriched, few nutrients
11 to 20 ug/L	Mesotrophic – moderately enriched, some nutrients
21 ug/L or more	Eutrophic – enriched, higher levels of nutrients



**Evaluating your Chlorophyll a Results:**

The lower the chlorophyll a density in your lake, the clearer your lake is. Chlorophyll a is directly affected by the amount of total phosphorus in your lake. The more phosphorus there is in the water, the more algal growth will occur.

<b>INTERPRETING YOUR CHLOROPHYLL <u>A</u> RESULTS</b>	
<b>Chlorophyll <u>a</u> Reading</b>	<b>Lake Nutrient Status</b>
Up to 2 ug/L - low algal density	Oligotrophic - unenriched, few nutrients
2-4 ug/L - moderate algal density	Mesotrophic - moderately enriched, some nutrients
More than 4 ug/L- high algal density	Eutrophic - enriched, higher levels of nutrients



## ***Check & clean your boat every time you change water bodies***

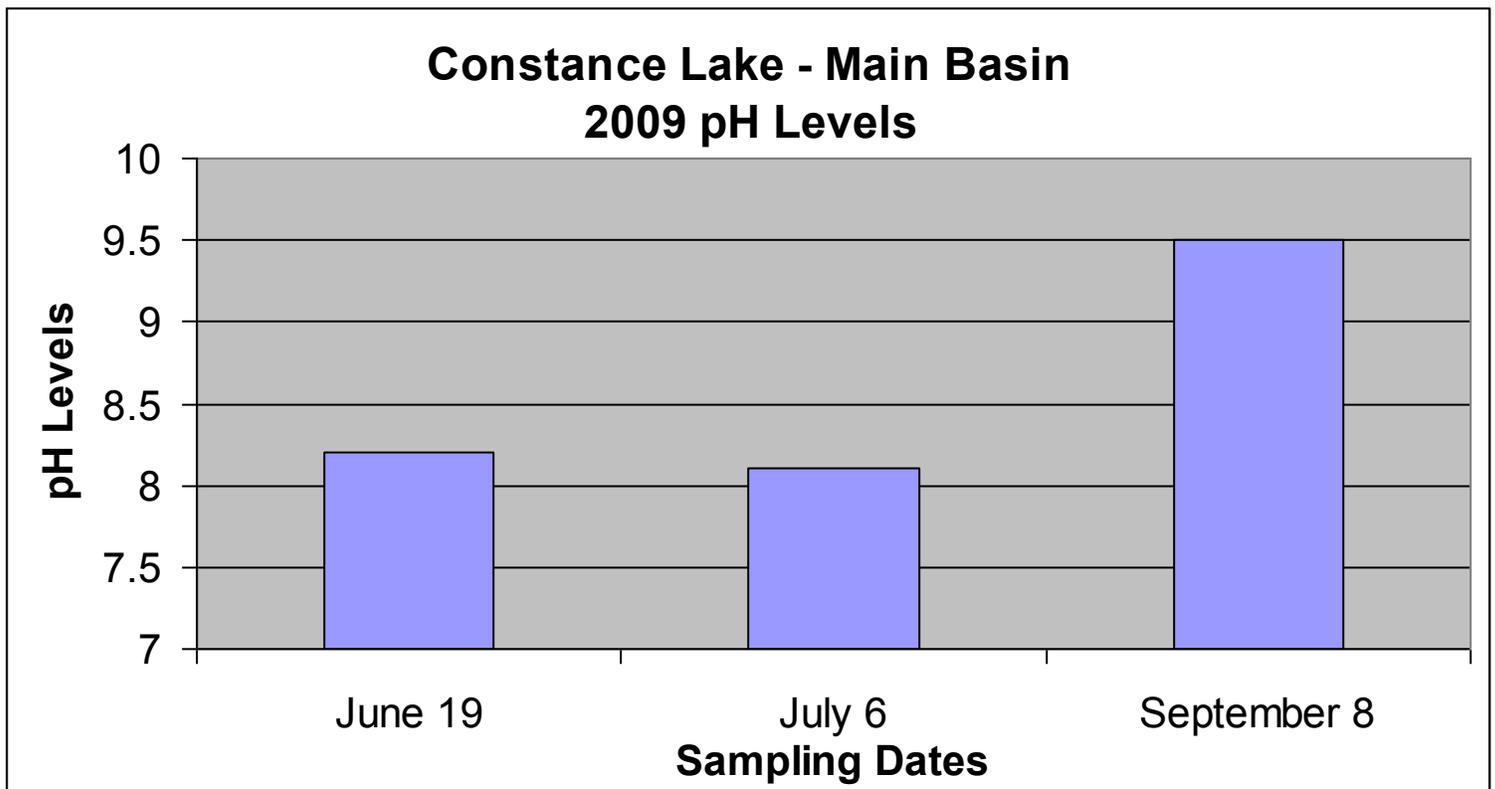
Constance Lake was also tested for invasive species in 2009, in particular, for zebra mussels and spiny water flea, in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH). Constance Lake did *not* have spiny water flea present however; zebra mussel veligers (larvae) were present in the sample collected. Residents and property owners need to ensure that all access points to the lake have posted signs indicating the precautions they can take to avoid the spread of invasive species into Constance Lake. Another recommendation is for residents to begin participation in the invasive species monitoring program through MVC.

***For more information call MVC at (613)259-2421 or  
the Invading Species Hotline 1-800-563-7711.***

## **MVC and OFAH need your help to Stop the Invasion!**

### **Evaluating your pH Results**

Lakes with pH levels at 7.3 or higher are vulnerable to zebra mussels invasive.



## Watershed Watch Seine Netting 2009

Seine netting by hand is a way of sampling fish species that may live or visit near various shorelines. A seine net is a type of fishing net that has floats along one edge and weights along the other edge, to keep it upright in the water. It is then dragged through a section of water, encircling it, thus collecting all the fish within that area. This method is used because it is affordable, easy to do, portable, and has a very limited impact on the health of the fish sampled.

Seine netting was conducted on all nine of the 2009 watershed watch lakes to help expand our knowledge of each lake beyond just its chemistry. Netting was conducted in July to avoid disturbing sensitive nesting, and breeding sites and took place at the boat launch on the south side of the lake.

The majority of the individual fish captured on the 2009 watershed watch lakes with the seine net are bait fish such as minnows and cyprinids; some juvenile and adult game fish were also caught. This is understandable because both groups (bait fish and juvenile game fish) tend to stick close to shore to avoid predation from larger fish that can be found in deeper waters. Near shore areas may also contain aquatic vegetation which is ideal camouflage for all sizes of fish that are either hiding from predators, or waiting to surprise prey, explaining why some adult game fish were caught. It is important to note that if something was not caught in the seine we cannot conclude that the fish species is not in the lake; it just means that that fish species wasn't where we were sampling when we were sampling.

Most peoples interest in fish species within a water body have to do with the game fish that they might go catch. However bait fish far outnumber game fish and thus play a critical role in their ecosystem and within the food chain. It is important to take note of their presence, and provide them the same consideration you would for larger fish. If you are curious about learning more about bait fish, as well as learning how to identify the different species, please refer to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans "[\*Bait Fish Primer\*](#)", it is available online, as well as in our office.

<b>Constance Lake</b>	<b>Fish Species Caught</b>
	Yellow Perch
	Pumpkinseed
	Creek Chub
	Banded Killifish

Constance Lake  
 # 09-09  
 June 19, 2009  
 10:00 a.m.

Depth [Metres]	Temperature [Degrees Celsius]	Dissolved Oxygen [Milligrams/Litre]	Percent % Saturation	Thermal Stratification
0.1	21.9	8.0	87	
1	21.8	7.9	86	Epilimnion
2	21.7	8.4	91	
3	Bottom	Bottom	Bottom	

Constance Lake  
 # 09-09  
 July 6, 2009  
 10:30 a.m.

Depth [Metres]	Temperature [Degrees Celsius]	Dissolved Oxygen [Milligrams/Litre]	Percent % Saturation	Thermal Stratification
0.1	22.3	11.0	120	
1	22.1	12.6	139	Epilimnion
2	22.7	12.7	140	
3	Bottom	Bottom	Bottom	

Constance Lake  
 # 09-09  
 September 8, 2009  
 10:45 a.m.

Depth [Metres]	Temperature [Degrees Celsius]	Dissolved Oxygen [Milligrams/Litre]	Percent % Saturation	Thermal Stratification
0.1	21.6	11.0	120	
1	20.8	12.0	129	Epilimnion
2	20.4	11.7	125	
3	Bottom	Bottom	Bottom	



Warm Water Fisheries Habitat (Bass, Walleye, Pike, Perch) = DO > 4 mg/L at < 25°C