Mariaville Lake Questions and Answers, 2015 CSLAP

Q1. What is the condition of our lake this year?

A1. Water quality conditions in Mariaville Lake were probably similar in 2015 to those measured in previous years. Water clarity continues to be relatively low, though close to normal in 2015, while algae levels were higher than usual. These conditions are less favorable in late summer, and a shoreline blue green algae bloom was reported at that time. However, nutrient readings were close to normal in 2015.

Q2. Is there anything new that showed up in the testing this year?

A2. Chloride testing results are typical of lakes with moderate to high impacts from road salt runoff, although no biological impacts have been measured or reported.

Q3. How does the condition of our lake this year compare with other lakes in the area?

A3. Mariaville Lake had lower water clarity, and higher nutrient and algae levels, than the typical lake in the area. Plant coverage was lower than in these other lakes in 2015, but this may vary in response to management.

Q4. Are there any trends in our lake's condition?

A4. Algae levels have decreased and pH has increased since the early 2000s, despite a slight increase in phosphorus readings over the same period. Conductivity may have also increased since the early 2000s.

Q5. Should we be concerned about the condition of our lake? Are we close to a tipping point?

A5. Mariaville Lake is susceptible to shoreline blue green algae blooms, but it is not known how extensive the blooms are in the lake. This susceptibility will likely decrease with reductions in nutrient loading to the lake.

Q6. Are any actions indicated, based on the trends and this year's results?

A6. Individual stewardship activities such as pumping your septic system, growing a buffer of native plants next to the water bodies, and reducing erosion from shoreline properties and runoff into the lake will help to maintain lake health by reducing nutrient and sediment loading to the lake. Visiting boats should be inspected to reduce the risk of new invasive species, since nearby lakes harbor several invasive plants not presently found in the lake.