

Lake Partner Program, Total Phosphorus (TP)
Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)
& the Dorset Environmental Science Centre (DESC)

The Lake Partner Program is a project through the Ministry of the Environment (MNR) and coordinated by the Dorset Environmental Science Centre (DESC). It is a volunteer based initiative to encourage protection of inland waterways through water quality monitoring activities and has more than 600 participants.

A sample of water is taken at the beginning of May and sent to the DESC and tested for total phosphorus. The volunteer(s) also monitor the water clarity by using a Secchi Disk (Figure 1 and 2) which measures how clear the water is to a specific depth. These Secchi depth measurements are taken every two weeks from May to October, the numbers are recorded and submitted to the Lake Partner Program Office in Dorset.

Figure 1 – Secchi Disk in clear water



Figure 2 – Secchi Disk with floating debris in water



(Agri-Food Canada 2007)

This data enables early detection of changes in nutrient values, clarity of the water (as noted in Figure 1 and 2), climate change and other factors contributing to stressors which impact the health of the lake and its inhabitants. The data has been recorded since 2002 and readings for Ril Lake can be found at the MNR, Data and Resources tab located at:

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/local/lake_partner_program/STDPROD_078989.html

and clicking on the link noted below.

[Lake Partner Total Phosphorus \(TP\) Concentration Data, 2002-2010](#)

Thank you!

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