



### Area Description:

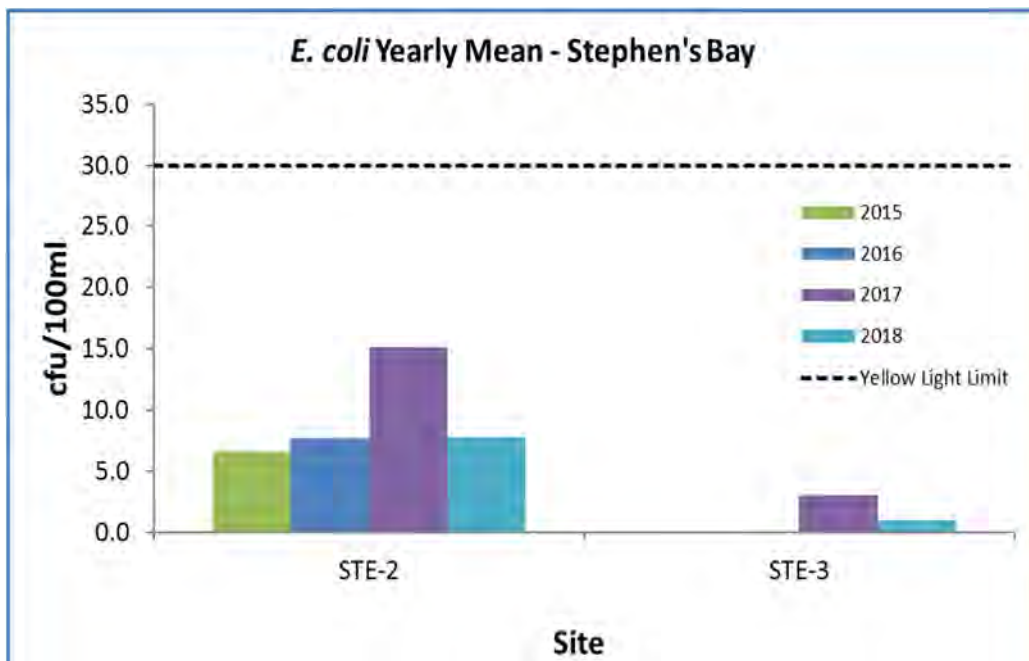
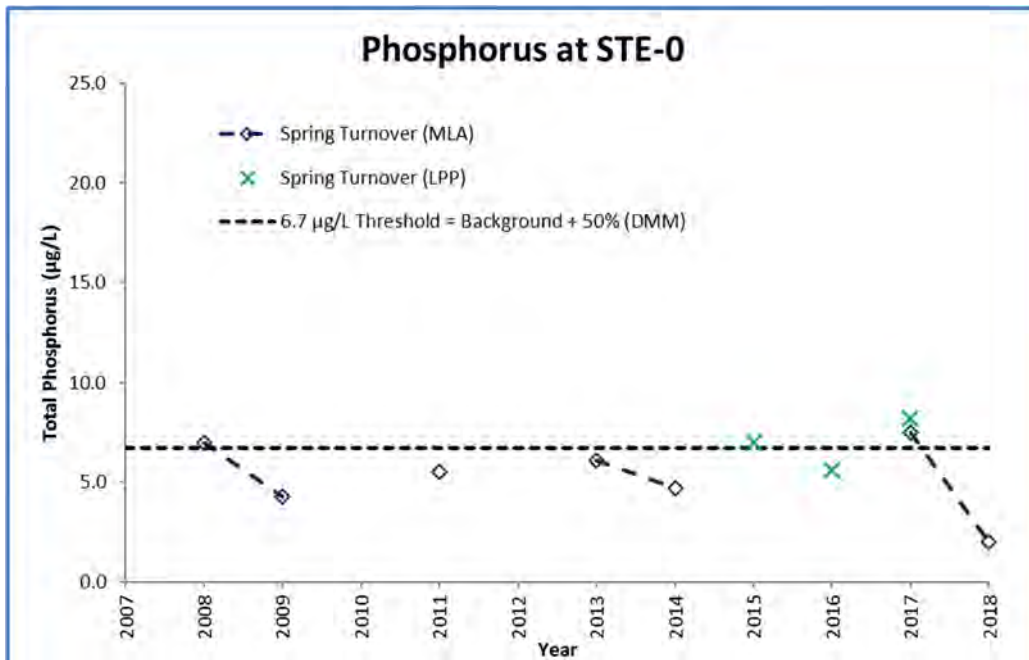
Stephen's Bay is a small bay in the central part of eastern Lake Muskoka, south of the mouth of the Muskoka River. The water quality in Stephen's Bay is influenced by input from adjacent wetlands as well as agriculture in the east, and public beaches (Strawberry Bay and Kirby's). Much of the shoreline is developed. Monitoring started in 2013 due to concern this may be a vulnerable area. All stations shown may not be sampled each year.

**Volunteer Recognition: L. Cragg, Bob Kerton, Chloe Kerton, C. Cragg, Bari Kerton, and the Lake Partnership Program.**

## Stephens Bay (STE)

2018 Water Quality Results: (Note: Hatched cell signifies not tested for in 2018)

Station	Mean Secchi Disk (m)	Total Phosphorus (µg/L)		<i>E. coli</i> Yearly Geometric Mean (cfu/100 ml)	Total Coliform Yearly Geometric Mean (cfu/100 ml)
		Spring Turnover	Yearly Mean		
STE-0	2.9	2.0			
STE-2				7.8	87.7
STE-3	2.9	5.0		1.0	56.0



## Summary and Recommendations:



The 2018 spring phosphorus concentration at the deep station (STE-0) was below the historic DMM threshold of 6.7 µg/L in 2018, and the lowest recorded to date. Spring turnover phosphorus was sampled for at STE-3 in 2018 for the second time and data will be analyzed following additional years of gathering samples. *E. coli* concentrations at STE-2 and STE-3 in 2018 remained below the MLA stoplight limits (details in report Section 3). The Secchi depths have ranged through sampling years, varying between 2.0 and 4.4 (recorded in 2013). Secchi measurements were taken for the first time in 2017 at STE-3. **Beacon recommends that the MLA rely on the Lake Partner Program data when it is available, otherwise the MLA should continue to monitor this location to analyse long-term trends.**