Area Description:

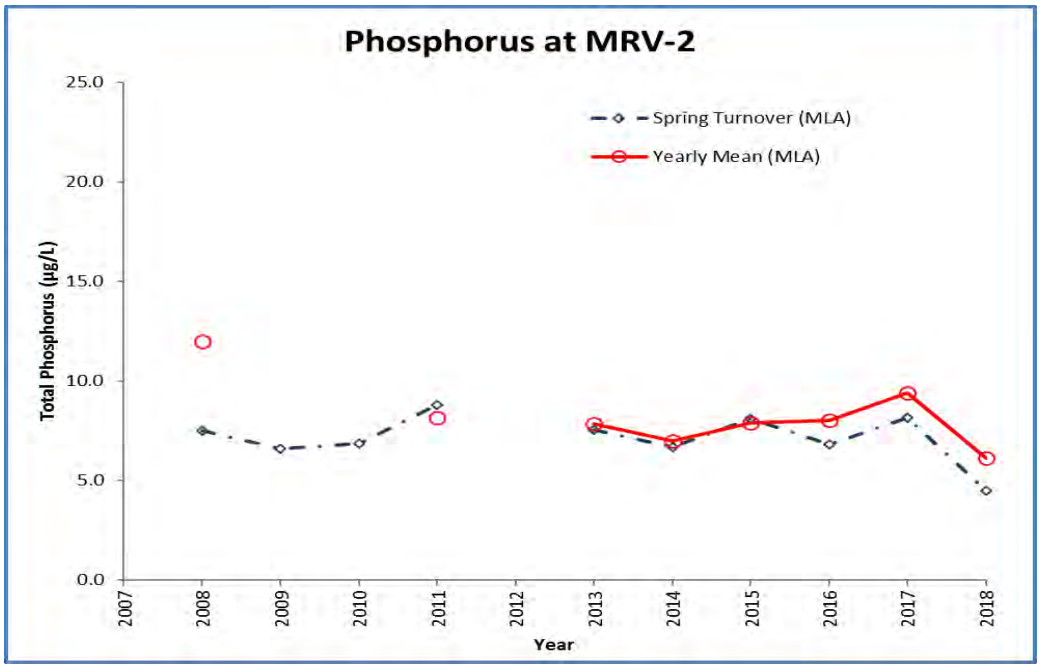
This sample area includes the most downstream reach of the Muskoka River where it flows from the Town of Bracebridge to Alport Bay, Lake Muskoka. This area is highly developed on both banks, and includes the Bracebridge urban area, large agricultural fields, and extensive residential properties along the entire reach of shoreline. Roads are located along both sides of the river for most of the reach length. Several creeks outlet into the river through this reach and there are limited wetland areas adjacent to the river. Monitoring started in 2008. All stations shown may not be sampled each year.

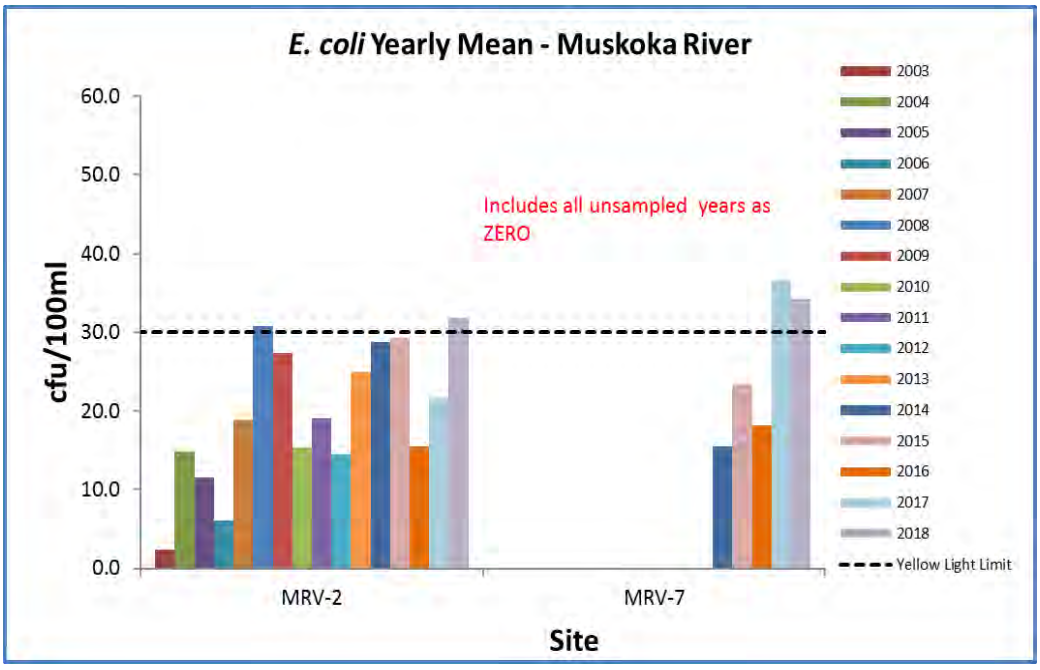
Volunteer Recognition: **Chris Cragg**, **Bill Gilbert, Debbie Hastings**, L.Cragg, and Cathy Gilbert

Muskoka River (MRV)

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

Station	Mean Secchi Disk (m)	Total Phosphorus (µg/L)		*E. coli* Yearly Geometric Mean (cfu/100 ml)	Total Coliform Yearly Geometric Mean (cfu/100 ml)
		Spring Turnover	Yearly Mean		
MRV-2	2.3	4.5	6.1	31.8	175.1
MRV-3		3.0			
MRV-4		4.0			
MRV-5		15.0			
MRV-7	2.0			34.2	167.0





Summary and Recommendations:

Yearly mean and spring phosphorus concentrations at the deep station (MRV-2) were the lowest recorded to date. The 2018 spring phosphorus concentration at MRV-3, MRV-4, and MRV-5 was also the lowest recorded to date. Only one spring phosphorus sample was collected at each of MRV-3, MRV-4, and MRV-5 in 2018, therefore no yearly mean could be calculated, and no values are reported for 2018. *E. coli* levels at MRV-2 and MRV-7 in 2018 exceeded the MLA yellow stoplight limit (details in report Section 3). Two retests were required for MRV-2 and MRV-7. Secchi measurements varied greatly through sampling years, ranging between 1.22 and 10.25. **Beacon recommends that all sampling be continued to monitor long-term trends, with special attention directed to *E. coli* samples in 2019.**