

Water Quality Report

This is an informational overview of our lake and watershed testing results.

Since 1985 thru 1995 the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) did extensive water sampling at multiple sites on all the Tri-Lakes and watershed ditches. Since that time, testing was greatly reduced or eliminated totally.

For the past several years, our membership has been greatly concerned by the diminishing lake clarity, increased aquatic plants and algae blooms. Our primary target was focused on the phosphorus levels in our Lakes and how to control it use.

Between Adams County Land Water (ACLW) and/or the DNR, there has been a single monthly test sample taken on each lake. On Upper Camelot, that single site was 50' from the Kingsway Dike by the lodge (Site#11). On Lower Camelot the site was 200 yards from Dam Spillway (Site #13). These two test sites are the deepest holes on each lake, and produced typically benign findings.

Starting this year, ACLW/DNR wanted to endorse a "citizen monitoring" program. We would take the sample and ship it to a designated lab at the expense of the DNR. Some of the information we received was less than expected and a futile waste of time.

We formed a Water Quality Committee and become proactive in addressing our concerns for our lake. The previous test site maps were obtained from Tri-Lakes Water Management District. We proposed a plan to test eight sites a month in the Lake Camelot area. We now test for water clarity, total phosphorous, and chlorophyll-A. Tri-Lakes agreed to subsidize approximately \$1,000 of our testing program with all samples to be processed at the UWSP Lab.

Beginning May 25, 2007, ACLW Lake Specialist Reesa Evans trained our 13 volunteers. Due to our aggressive approach and our consistent, proactive testing, Reesa chose to remain involved with our group and assisted with all of our testing. ACLW furnished the needed testing equipment.

After our first testing of the eight sites on Upper and Lower Camelot, results showed that the site at the 8th Avenue bridge, (Site #15) was nearly four times greater for total phosphorus than any of the other seven sites tested. Samples taken on July 17th showed that the 8th Avenue bridge test site continued to be the highest, and on September 11th the test taken at this site had a substantial increase in phosphorous levels. The 8th Avenue test site is at the east end of Lower Camelot and is the primary water source feeding Lake Camelot from the upper watershed. These high test results created high interest in locating its source and we chose to meet with Chris Murphy at the ACLW. It was agreed to start sampling sites in the upper watershed. Six locations were selected in the agricultural irrigation ditches, etc. as far away as the Hwy 73/D intersection. The first watershed samples were taken August 8, 2007. Chris Murphy (ACLW) has agreed to start an inventory of the watershed.

Now that we have our sample results, the analysis and solution process will continue. We plan to continue our testing next year and expand our efforts. We will continue to be actively involved in sharing our concerns and questions with ACLW and the DNR, and pursuing the answers. As we develop our scientific chain of correctable concerns, we encourage our friends on Sherwood and Arrowhead lakes to take a pro-active approach to water quality.

Although we feel we are gaining knowledge about the sources of our phosphorous issues, we wish to remind our members that this report is not meant to excuse the negative influences that we as property owners and visitors inflict on our lakes. We account for up to 25% of the phosphorous problem. As responsible property owners we should actively have our septic systems pumped and inspected every three years, support the non-phosphorus fertilizer ordinance passed by the Town of Rome, and try to use phosphorous free detergents whenever possible along with the other lake shore care and shore line buffer responsibilities.

This lake, its quality and its existence, is not guaranteed to us. It is our responsibility to care for this enormous asset.

As an additional side note, the DNR has just started a two-year study on the effect of high output wells on watershed groundwater levels. High groundwater levels help prevent the summer seepage and lower surface water levels of our lakes.

On behalf of LCPOA, and myself we would like to give great appreciation for the interest, concern, and participation of the initial 13 individuals who chose to get involved and initiate this program. Also welcomed were those who joined us along the way.

Thank you,

Terry James,
Lake Camelot Water Quality Committee

For additional information on how you can become active with the Lake Camelot Water Quality Committee please phone Terry at 325-3737.