

FOX POINT LAKE WATER QUALITY MONITORING COMMITTEE

Background

Fox Point Lake is one of the beautiful lakes found in Hubbards, Nova Scotia. The 1.4 km² lake drains into St. Margaret's Bay and is surrounded by both the Aspotogan Golf Course and residential properties.



Figure 1: volunteers participate in sampling and monitoring at the North Inlet site (coastalaction.org)

Water Quality Sampling Program

In 2014, the Municipality of Chester created the Fox Point Lake Water Quality Monitoring Committee (WQMC) after water quality concerns were raised over the impacts of development around the lake. The WQMC oversees the monthly water quality sampling that occurs within the lake, its two inlets, and outlet. Sampling is done by both trained volunteers and Coastal Action's Water Quality Specialist and improvements in phosphorus and sediments have been documented within the lake since the water sampling program's first collection in 2015. To learn more about the program, the results, or to become a volunteer, please contact the Municipality of Chester by phone 902-275-2599, email: planning@chester.ca or visit www.chester.ca

Fox Point Lake Stewardship

Monitoring of Fox Point Lake is led by the Fox Point Lake Water Quality Monitoring Committee, a group comprised of a representative for property owners on the lake, the executive director of Aspotogan Heritage Trust, a representative from the Municipal Planning Advisory Committee, a representative for the Developer of the Golf Course and planned residential community located on the former Canadian Forces Base, the Councillor representing District 2 and support from Municipal Planning staff. The group receives technical support and expertise from Coastal Action, which also supports the Sherbrooke Lake Water Quality Monitoring Committee. The budget for the monitoring program is approved by Council before the start of each season. The cost for the monitoring program for the 2019 season was approximately \$13,000. With each budget approval, Council commits to fund the program for the season, however, Aspotogan Heritage Trust has contributed annually to the cost of the monitoring program since its start in 2014.

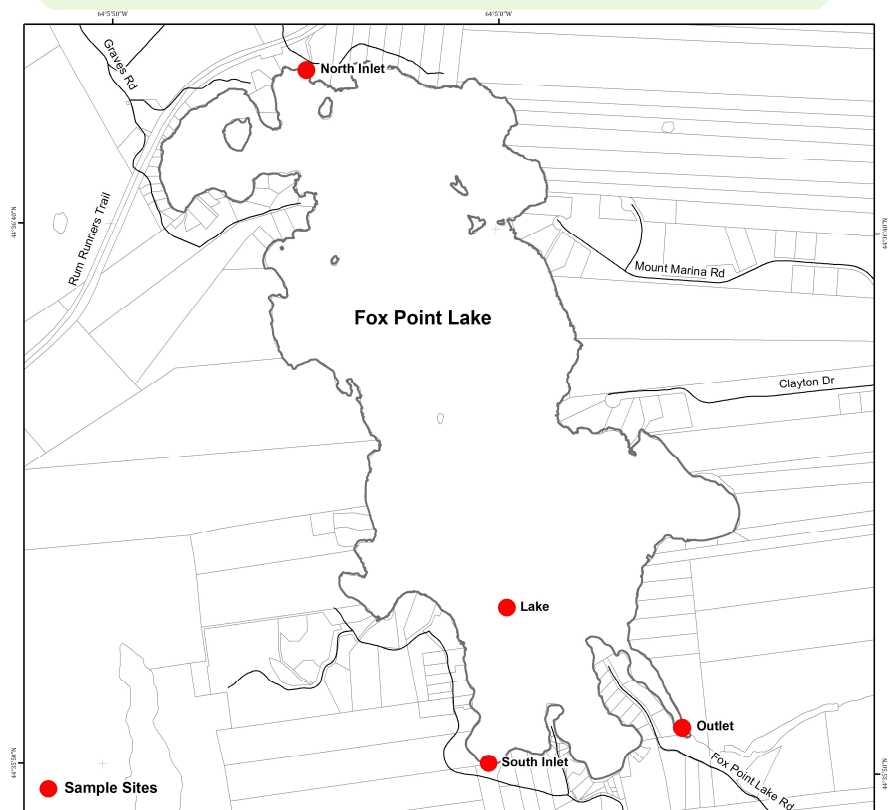


Figure 2: Map showing Fox Point Lake and sampling (testing) locations

How Can You Help?

To help protect Fox Point Lake, and all other waterbodies, it is important to remember that you have an impact on the environment!

Tips for Being Water-Wise At Home

Water quality is everyone's responsibility and small changes made by everyone can go a long way in helping to protecting our waters. Here are some tips to be water-wise:

- Put waste in its place! Pick up pet waste and put it in the trash. Waste is a source of nutrients and bacteria, which can leach and contaminate nearby waters!
- Don't apply fertilizer to your lawn before a storm. If you fertilize your lawn before a storm, the rainfall can wash away your hard work, and contribute harmful nutrients and metals into our waterways.
- Line your manure and fertilizer piles or store them in bins. Protecting manure and fertilizer from rain means you keep more for your garden and we get less in our waters!
- Reduce Nutrient and Algal Blooms. When mowing lawns, harvesting crops or clearing vegetation, leave a buffer zone (known as a "riparian zone") along the edge of all waterbodies and watercourses. This will help to protect the water against erosion and filter out pollutants and excess nutrients. **If an algal bloom occurs, please inform the local Nova Scotia Environment office (902-543-4685) so the situation can be assessed;** remember, if toxic algae are present, their toxins can last several weeks after the bloom disappears, so be careful around the water and rinse off after contact (including pets!).
- Reduce Fecal Bacteria. Sewage and grey water should never be discharged through a straight pipe to a watercourse or waterbody. Nova Scotia Environment is the authority for on-site septic systems in the Province and property owners should consult with NSE for questions relating to septic systems. Regular maintenance of septic systems is a proactive way to reduce pollutants entering Fox Point Lake.
- Reduce Hydrocarbons. Don't let boat motors idle, turn off when not in use. Be cautious with fuels and chemicals used around the house, car, and boat; avoid spills and clean up and dispose of waste properly if a spill does happen.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The Committee depends on volunteers to assist Coastal Action staff in sampling and monitoring activities on a monthly basis during the summer and early fall (June-October). Volunteers receive training during the first sample day of the season and work with existing volunteers and Coastal Action staff to determine when and how they could contribute to the program.

Maintaining an active group of engaged volunteers is vital to the continuation of the monitoring program at Fox Point Lake. **Volunteers help lower the financial cost of the program but more importantly, active and engaged volunteers makes it clear to Council that there is strong support in the local community to continue monitoring and protection efforts for Fox Point Lake.** Interested members of the community are strongly encouraged to contact Municipal Planning staff for additional information on becoming a volunteer.