

2023 Landing Monitor and Lake Monitoring Report

Boat Landing statistics

Our CBCW program landing monitors accumulated 541 hours this year (compared to 401 hours in 2022) talking to people about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and inspecting their boats and trailers for any plants.

Our monitors are present at the landing every weekday from 7 to 10 AM to catch most local fisherman. Also, they are present every Friday afternoon from 2 to 7 PM for arriving weekenders plus Saturdays from 7 AM to 4 PM and Sunday from 7 AM to 2 PM.

Traffic at the landing was up considerably in 2023 from 2022 and closer to 2018 – 2021 levels. During this time 604 boats were inspected by our monitors: 428 boats were inspected on entering the lake (a 17 % increase over last year (366)) and 176 were inspected while leaving (v. 117 last year). Accompanying these boats were 1,138 people (a 50% increase over last year's 751 people and closer to 2018 – 2021 levels). These persons all heard the message regarding AIS that our monitors were passing along.

Of the boats that entered, 66 were used in another water body within the past five days (up from 58 in 2022). This time frame is important for two reasons: first, five days is the limit which most types of AIS can survive out of water, and secondly, most other lakes in our area contain one or more types of invasive species. This triggers our monitors

to take a closer look at the boat and trailer. Most everyone who entered our waters was very cooperative with our monitors. In fact, only 3% (17 out of 516) of persons entering did not want to talk with our monitors or answer any of our questions.

For the sixth year, the monitors have found no significant amount of any aquatic plants on any boats/trailers entering our waters. I am sure this is result of our many years of effort to ensure the boats that enter our waters are clean.

Lake Monitoring

Lake monitoring was done this year Mike Linden and Marc Schulte on Pipe Lake and Jim Ladner and Tracy Van Steenburgh on North Pipe. The mean Secci reading (water clarity measure) on North Pipe in 2023 was 4.66 feet. This compares to 7.9 feet in 2022 and 3.25 feet in 2021.

This year the mean reading in Pipe Lake decreased to 10.785 feet, down from 12 feet in 2022. In September and October, the readings dipped below 10 feet. Just eight years ago in 2015, the Secci reading was 15.625 feet. When data collection started in 1990, a Secci reading of 20+ feet was common. Secci readings over 20 feet have not been seen on Pipe Lake since 2012.