

95-99 96-00 97-01 98-02 99-03 00-04 01-05 02-06 03-07 04-08 05-09 06-10 07-11 08-12 09-13 10-14 11-15 12-16 13-17 14-18 15-19 16-20 17-21 18-22 5 Year Running Averages

12.0

# What do the water tests mean?

#### Clarity: the higher the better

Measure of distance that an object can be viewed under the water from the surface of the lake (in meters). Factors affecting clarity include recent rainfall, runoff, algae, silt and water color.



**Pushaw Lake** 2022 results averaged 3.9 meters, up slightly from 2021 but below 2020 good results. Overall, clarity continues in a stable trend over time.

#### Dissolved Oxygen (DO): the higher the better

Measure of temperature and amount of oxygen dissolved in water at 1 meter increments top to bottom. Factors affecting DO include lake mixing (seasonal turnovers), algae growth, and stratification.

**Pushaw Lake** 2022 results averaged 8.3 mg/l surface and 7.1 mg/l bottom with no observed significant stratification events. Oxygen levels indicate good mixing.

### Phosphorus: the lower the better

Measure of phosphorus content in water in parts per billion (ppb). Factors affecting phosphorus levels include rainfall/runoff, faulty septic systems, lakeside hygiene, shoreline buffer removal, etc. Phosphorus numbers in the low teens are enough to trigger an algae bloom!

> **Pushaw Lake** 2022 results averaged 17.7 ppb, which continues the good downward trend of 5 year running averages for the last 3 years. Overall, however, phosphorus levels remain **to high**, high enough to support an algae bloom and remain our primary water quality risk.



## Greater Pushaw Lake Association

Preserving and improving the quality of Pushaw Lake and Little Pushaw Pond in the towns of Glenburn, Hudson, Old Town, and Orono