



### Area Description:

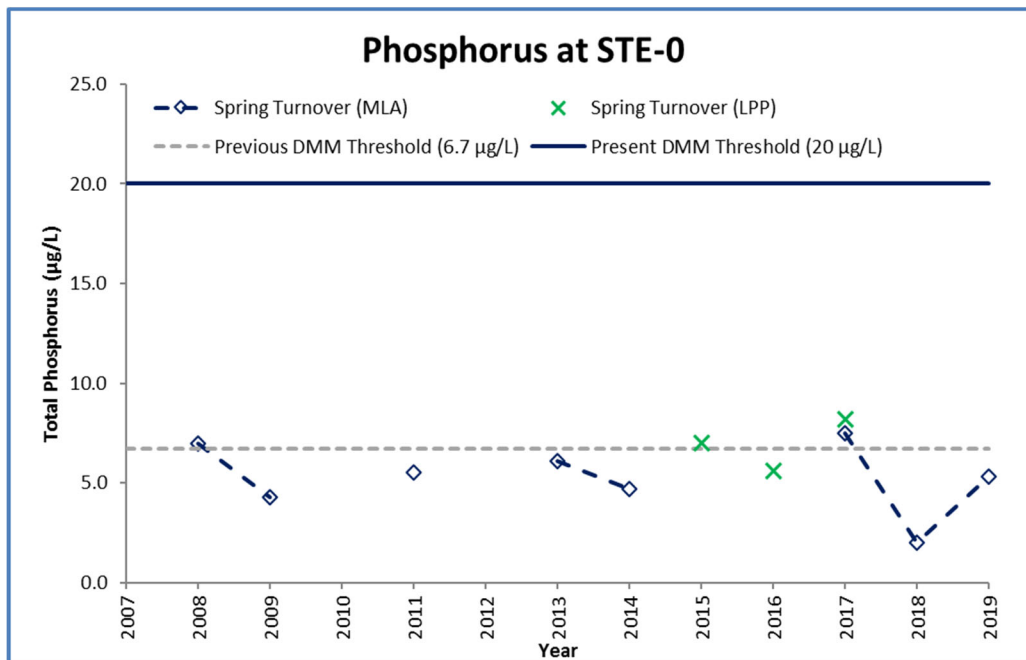
Stephen's Bay is a small bay in the central part of eastern Lake Muskoka, south of the mouth of the Muskoka River. The water quality in Stephen's Bay is influenced by input from adjacent wetlands as well as agriculture in the east, and public beaches (Strawberry Bay and Kirby's). Much of the shoreline is developed. Monitoring started in 2013 due to concern this may be a vulnerable area. All stations shown may not be sampled each year.

**Volunteer Recognition: Bob Kerton, Louise Cragg, Chris Cragg, Maxwell Kerton, and the Lake Partnership Program.**

## Stephens Bay (STE)

2019 Water Quality Results: (Note: Hatched cell signifies not tested for in 2019)

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		
STE-0	2.9	5.3			
STE-2		4.6			



## Summary and Recommendations:



The spring phosphorus concentration at STE-0 was below the historic DMM threshold of 6.7 µg/L, and all readings remain well below the present DMM threshold (20 µg/L). The spring turnover phosphorus recorded at STE-2 in 2019 is similar to the one other sample taken at STE-2 in 2013 (4.0 µg/L). *E. coli* was not sampled for in 2019. Secchi measurements vary through sampling years, ranging between 2.0 and 4.4 m (2013). **Beacon recommends that the MLA rely on the Lake Partner Program data when it is available, otherwise the MLA should continue to monitor this location to analyse long-term trends.**