

LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE

WATER QUALITY REPORT

JULY 10, 2010

THE 2009 LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE WATER QUALITY REPORT ISSUED BY THE VLMP AND THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INDICATES THAT LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE CONTINUES TO BE A STABLE BODY OF WATER.

OXYGEN AND CLARITY DATA COLLECTED IN 2009 COMPARES VERY WELL WITH OUR FIRST OFFICIAL REPORT IN 1985. IN 1985 AVERAGE CLARITY READING IN THE MIDDLE BASIN WAS 5.9 METERS, 24 YEARS LATER THE AVERAGE CLARITY READING IN THE MIDDLE BASIN IS 6.3 METERS. THE NORTH BASIN 3.2 METERS IN 1985 AND 3.7 METERS IN 2009 AND THE SOUTH BASIN 4.9 METERS IN 1985, AND 5.5

METERS IN 2009.

**THE CLARITY OF THIS LAKE IS VERY IMPORTANT
BECAUSE IT IS A INDIRECT INDICATOR OF THE
CONCENTRATION OF ALGAE IN THE WATER.**

**IT IS A REASONABLE ASSUMPTION TO SAY THAT THE
CLARITY OF LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE INDICATES
THAT THE POTENTIAL FOR A HARMFUL ALGAE
BLOOM IS LOW.**

**OXYGEN LEVELS IN LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE HAVE
SHOWN A SIMILAR CONSISTENCY. ONCE THE LATE
AUGUST THERMO CLINES ARE ESTABLISHED, THE
OXYGEN LEVELS ALONG THE WATER COLUMN SET
UP NEARLY IDENTICAL EVERY YEAR AT THE SAME
DEPTHS. I HAVE NOTED CONCERN IN THE PAST FEW
YEARS THAT OXYGEN AT THE BOTTOM THIRD OF
THE WATER COLUMN IN EACH BASIN WAS SHOWING**

**A MORE RAPID DECLINE IN OXYGEN LEVELS, 2010
READINGS SEEM TO BE CLOSER TO NORMAL.**

**A HEALTHY FISH POPULATION IN LITTLE SEBAGO
LAKE IS DEPENDANT ON A SUPPLY OF DISSOLVED
OXYGEN AT ALL DEPTHS. OXYGEN LEVELS IN
LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE AVERAGED 8.7 PARTS PER
MILLION AT THE SURFACE AND DECLINE TO LESS
THAN 2 PARTS PER MILLION AT THE BOTTOM OF ALL
3 BASINS IN 2009.**

**THE ANNUAL DEP REPORT ON THE CONDITION OF
LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE RANKS THE LAKE IN SEVERAL
SPECIFIC AREAS. AMONG THE MORE IMPORTANT
AREAS ARE THE FOLLOWING:**

**TOTAL PHOSPHORUS PHOSPHORUS IS A NUTRIENT
THAT PROMOTES THE GROWTH OF ALGAE IN A
LAKE, AN AVERAGE MAINE LAKE MEASURES 12 PPB,**

LITTLE SEBAGO MEASURES 7 PPB.

**COLOR: COLOR IS THE CONCENTRATION OF
NATURAL DISSOLVED AND HUMIC ACIDS IN THE
LAKE WATER. COLOR IS MEASURED IN STANDARD
PLATINUM UNITS AND A LAKE MEASURING MORE
THAN 25 SPU's IS CONSIDERED COLORED. THE NORTH
BASIN MEASURES 40 SPU's, THE MIDDLE 15 AND THE
SOUTH 17.**

**TROPHIC STATE INDEX: THE TSI CONVERTS MANY
DATA MEASUREMENTS INTO A 1 TO 100 SCALE
RANKING OF A LAKES WATER QUALITY. A HIGHER
NUMBER INDICATES HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY AND
POORER WATER QUALITY. LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE
MEASURED 45 ON THE TSI SCALE.**

**EVERY CONDITION IN THE WATER SHED OF LITTLE
SEBAGO LAKE EFFECTS THE QUALITY OF OUR**

WATER. IN A 1984 HEARING BEFORE THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IT WAS NOTED THAT AS MANY AS 10% OF THE 600 HOMES ON LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE WERE YEAR ROUND.

WE KNOW THAT AS OF THIS YEAR THERE ARE OVER 1000 HOMES ALONG THE SHORE AND MANY THOUSANDS MORE IN THE WATER SHED. IT WOULD BE SAFE TO SAY THAT 60% OR MORE OF THOSE HOMES ARE YEAR ROUND.

THE MESSAGE I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TAKE WITH YOU TODAY IS THAT GIVEN THE ENORMOUS POPULATION INCREASE IN THE PAST 25 YEARS, THE WATER QUALITY OF LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE HAS REMAINED STABLE. THE HOME OWNERS OF LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THIS ASSOCIATION SHOULD TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN

**THE EXCELLENT STEWARDSHIP OF THIS BEAUTIFUL
LAKE WE LIVE ON. THE CLEAN WATER THAT WE
ENJOY TODAY IS A DIRECT RESULT OF OUR
EFFORTS. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.....**