

**Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee**  
**May 5, 2011**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

**DATE:** April 13, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Water Quality Monitoring – Lake List Amendments

**ORIGIN**

This report originates from staff.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that:

1. The Committee accept Halifax Water's request to add Lisle Lake and Miller Lake to the Halifax Regional Municipality's (HRM) Water Quality Monitoring Program; and
2. The Committee forward this report as an Information Report to the current Watershed Advisory Boards.

## **BACKGROUND**

HRM began conducting water quality monitoring in 2006, in accordance with the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy. Since 2007, SEMO staff has monitored approximately 70 lakes and rivers once each spring, summer and fall. Lakes monitored by HRM were selected because they met one or more of several criteria, some of which are:

- Located downstream of (now Halifax Water) sewer infrastructure;
- The local watershed was subject to development pressure;
- Expressed public interest (such as for recreational use); and
- Relatively unimpacted by human activities (for use as a reference condition).

HRM shares the cost of the water quality monitoring program with Halifax Water, whereby they contribute 27% of the total cost of the sample analysis to HRM after the conclusion of each season.

SEMO occasionally receives requests to add lakes to the monitoring list from Halifax Water (for sites downstream of sewage infrastructure) and from community groups concerned about lakes or river systems that they perceive to be threatened.

## **DISCUSSION**

SEMO has received requests from Halifax Water to add two new lakes to our annual monitoring list:

- Lisle Lake in Middle Sackville, District 19, downstream of the Springfield Lake WWTF);  
and
- Miller Lake in Fall River (District 2), downstream of the Aerotech WWTF.

Lisle Lake was sampled regularly from 2006 through 2008, but this site was discontinued after the 2008 season due to the lack of safe access to open water. A recent request from Councillor Johns has renewed the interest in monitoring this lake, and new shoreline access points have since been identified that may prove sufficiently safe. The relative inaccessibility of open water on this site has suggested that a canoe may afford greater access than the current sampling platform (an inflatable Zodiac with outboard engine); further consideration of this option will be undertaken only if safe access by a Zodiac is not possible.

Miller Lake has not been previously sampled by HRM, but was recently identified as the nearest accessible sampling point downstream of the Aerotech Wastewater Treatment Facility, for which no receiving water was previously sampled.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The annual cost of monitoring for each additional lake is \$475. This price is based on sampling three times per year and the Price Agreement between HRM and AGAT Laboratories for laboratory services, but does not include staff time.

SEMO can absorb the additional costs for monitoring the two proposed additional lakes. However, adding other lakes to the program in the future would require dropping currently monitored lakes or an increase in the annual operating budget.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

No community engagement occurred in relation to this report.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Lake List 2011

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by : Cameron Deacoff, Environmental Performance Officer,  
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Report Approved by: Richard MacLellan, Manager, Sustainable Environment Management Office, 490-6056

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## Attachment 1

### HRM Water Quality Sampling Program List of Sampled Lakes & Rivers 2011

Lake	HRM District #		
Albro Lake	9	Miller Lake	2
Barrett Lake	2	Morris Lake (North Basin)	7
Bell Lake	7	Morris Lake (South Basin)	7, 8
Bissett Lake	4	Nine Mile River at Highway 103	22
Black Duck Pond	22	Nine Mile River at Shad Bay	22
Black Point Lake	22	Oathill Lake	5
Chocolate Lake	17	Paper Mill Lake	21
Cranberry Lake	7	Penhorn Lake	5
De Said Lake	8	Porters Lake (Upper)	3
Dents Punch Bowl	17	Powder Mill Lake	2
Drain Lake	19	Red Bridge Pond	6
Duck Lake	2	Rocky Lake	2
Fenerty Lake	2	Russell Lake	7
First Chain Lake	18	Sackville River	21
First Lake	20	Sackville River at Highway 102	21
Fletchers Lake	2	(bacteria only)	
Frenchman Lake	9	Sandy Lake (Bedford)	21
Frog Pond	17	Sandy Lake (Glen Arbour)	21
Governor Lake	22	Second Lake	2, 20
Grand Lake (Shubenacadie)	2	Settle Lake	7
Half Mile Lake	18	Sheldrake Lake	22
Hubleby Big Lake	22	Smelt Brook	8
Kearney Lake	21, 16	Springfield Lake	19
Kidston Lake	18	Stillwater Lake	23
Kinsac Lake	2	The Mill Pond (Three Mile Pond)	18
Lake Banook	5	Third Lake	2
Lake Charles	2	Tucker Lake	2
Lake Echo	3	Whimsical Lake	17
Lake Micmac	6	Williams Lake	17
Lake Thomas - North	2	Winder (Whynder) Lake	3
Lake Thomas - South	2		
Lake William	2		
Little Albro Lake	9		
Long Lake	18		
Long Pond	18		
Loon Lake	4		
Lovett Lake	22		
MacIntosh Run at Mouth	18		
MacIntosh Run at Roaches	18		
Maynard Lake	5		
McCabe Lake	19, 23		
Moody Lake	22		