

Bouchie Lake Septic System Impacts

A study completed for the MoE by J.S. Hart & Associates in 2002 found that lakeshore septic systems are a significant (15.5%) contributor to the poor water quality currently found in Bouchie Lake.

Phosphorus from the following sources has caused the lake water quality to decline.

Phosphorus source	Annual phosphorus input to Bouchie Lake from the watershed	
	Amount (kg)	% of total
Agriculture land (including hobby farms)	190.2	42.2
Lakeshore sewage disposal systems	70.0	15.5
Livestock wintering areas	60.2	13.4
Crown land (excluding lakes and ponds)	37.6	8.3
Lakeshore residential land	36.0	8.0
Rural residential land	28.2	6.3
Atmospheric contributions to lakes and ponds	28.2	6.3
Total	450.3	100.0

The above table represents the inputs to the lake from the watershed. However, due to build-up of phosphorus in the lake, the sediments themselves are also now a significant source to the lake. Options to improve lake water quality will be part of a watershed management plan presently being developed by the Bouchie Lake Stewardship Group and the Baker Cr. Enhancement Society.

It is essential that a sewage collection and treatment system is put in place for the lakeshore residents and possibly the watershed in order to improve water quality.