



# THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA

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August 18, 2016

Mary Lake  
Muskoka Road 10  
Town of Huntsville

Dear Mary Lake Volunteers,

I want to thank you for your help with the District of Muskoka's benthic monitoring program on Mary Lake. This program, and the resulting data, could not continue without the efforts of citizen scientists like yourselves.

Positive attitudes and warm hospitality were on full display while I was there and I am very thankful for it! Also, your dedication towards collecting benthos throughout the day was much appreciated. Knowing that there are so many people interested in the health of Muskoka's lakes and willing to help monitor lake health is very exciting. The hours we spent collecting biotic data will significantly contribute to the environmental datasets for the Muskoka Watershed.

I hope that you found our benthic monitoring program to be a fun and hands-on way to get a better understanding of the local waters we all enjoy so much. The more often you are involved, the more data we can collect. By continuing our monitoring of Mary Lake we will continue to gain a better knowledge of your lake, and what is happening to it over time. We are very pleased you are willing to be a part of this program and we hope you are able to continue doing so.

I have attached the results of the benthic monitoring for this year, as well as a key to help you understand what these results mean. All the data that I, the Biotech, and you, the amazing volunteers, collect will be posted on the "Muskoka Water Web" website under "biological monitoring data" (it can be found at <http://muskokawaterweb.ca/lake-data/muskoka-data/biological-monitoring-data>). We hope to post this year's results shortly.

I hope you all enjoyed our benthic day as much as I did! Have a wonderful summer, and I hope to visit Mary Lake again next year!

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me by email: [biotech@muskoka.on.ca](mailto:biotech@muskoka.on.ca) or by calling my office at: 705.645.2100 ext. 332.

Yours in stewardship,

*Jared Stachiw*

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*Managing Our Legacy Together*