



General Lake Information

Location: Town of Theresa

County: Jefferson

Basin: St. Lawrence River

Size: 505.4 acres

Shoreline Length: 6.9 miles

Watershed Area 1,037 acres

Lake Origins: Natural

Retention Time: 13.7 years

Mean Depth: 42 feet

Max Depth: 24 meters

Public Access: DEC launch 10HP or Less

Major Tributaries: Sixberry Lake

Lake Tributary To... groundwater feed to Butterfield Lake to Black Creek to Black Lake to Oswegatchie River to St. Lawrence River

WQ Classification B - contact recreation

Lake Outlet Latitude: 44.283

Lake Outlet Longitude: -75.792

Sampling Years: 1997-present

Millsite Lake Property Owners Association

Millsite Lake





Millsite Lake – A History of Caring for Water

CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program) sampling has been conducted on Millsite since 1997. Lake report cards can be found on the NYSFOLA (NY State Federation of Lake Associations) website.

Millsite Lake was sampled by the NY Conservation Department in 1931 as part of the Biological Survey of the St. Lawrence River Basin.

Unfortunately, most of the water quality parameters measured by CSLAP were not included in this study. However, the limited water quality data show pH readings comparable to those measured by CSLAP and dissolved oxygen readings at the lake bottom that were similar to those measured at the surface. Newer data indicate that deepwater DO readings may be slightly depressed today, though this difference may not be significant. The field notes from this study reported:

“Millsite is a clear, deep lake with sand or rubble beaches. The shores are precipitous and wooded. The abrupt descent of the beaches into deep water and the lack of bays protected from the winds results in the scarcity of aquatic vegetation.”

Millsite Lake was also sampled in July 2008, as part of the lake biomonitoring study conducted by NYSDEC on about a dozen CSLAP lakes. Millsite was the deep, unproductive, non-Adirondack lake sampled for this study. The water quality sampling results from this limited study indicate conditions comparable to those measured through previous CSLAP monitoring. The profile data showed that the lake was thermally stratified (warmer water above, colder water below) at a depth of about 7 meters. Very high dissolved oxygen readings were recorded in the upper portion of the water column and were sufficiently high through to support both warm and cold water fishes.



Millsite Lake has a long history of providing summer camp opportunities for youth. Cornell Cooperative Extension purchased the property for its current home, Camp Wabasso (pictured below), in 1950. The 4H camp began operating on Millsite in 1944 when it rented property from the YMCA. The Syracuse YMCA operated a youth camp, Camp Tousey, on 500 acres that spanned the land between the shores of Millsite and Sixberry Lakes and included Royale Island on Millsite. The YMCA closed the camp in 1997. Generations of young people have learned to love the north country through their experiences at these camps.

