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## Using the Website

Detailed results from all sites monitored are accessible in an interactive web-based application. To access the water quality initiative's online results, visit the MLA's website at <http://www.mla.on.ca> and click "Water Quality" on the main menu. Detailed background information including a glossary and references can be accessed by clicking on "About this Site". A more detailed step-by-step tutorial on using the website to access data is also available on this page

Reports dating back to 2001 can be downloaded directly from the main water quality page. To get results using the interactive web-based tool, you will need to use Internet Explorer 6.0 or later, and download the Scalable Vector Graphics plug-in from Adobe (<http://www.adobe.com/svg/viewer/install>, or by following the link on the main water quality page). Updates may support the use of other browsers. The most up-to-date system requirements will be listed on the main page.

The results can be directly accessed by following the "Get Results" link. Once you click on this link, you are prompted to agree with a disclaimer that the MLA has written to protect itself against any liability arising from the use of the results of the Water Quality Initiative. The use of this disclaimer allows the MLA to share its results with anyone who is interested in them. Once you agree to the disclaimer, you will have full access to all of the data from the Water Quality Initiative.

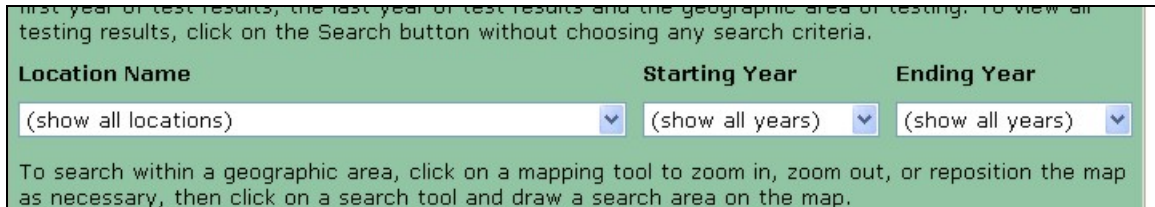
### *Searching*

You may now search for the results that you are specifically interested in. The first step is to select the time and place that the data was collected. You can then graph your selected results in a variety of ways to help you understand them. Keep in mind that neither bacteria nor total phosphorus are measured at all of the sites in the program, and that all sites have not been included in all years, so there may be some data gaps.

**Example:** View 2005 Brackenrig Bay results.

1. Select "Brackenrig Bay" from the *Location Name* drop down menu.
2. Select "2005" from the *Starting Year* drop down menu
3. Select "2005" from the *Ending Year* drop down menu
4. Click the "Search" button

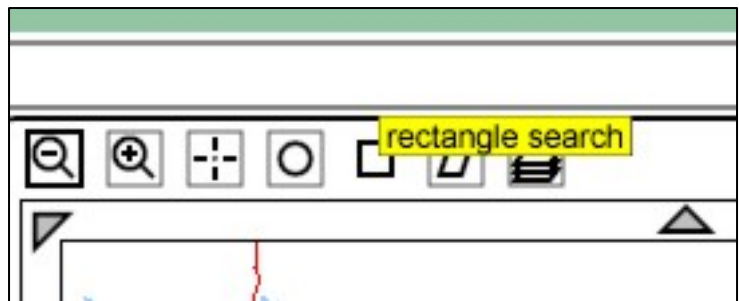
You may choose to search the data geographically, temporally or both. The temporal boundaries (the years of data you are interested in) can be defined using the drop-down menus entitled “Starting Year” and “Ending Year.” Information for both of these years and all of the years in between will be displayed. If you don’t select any years, results from all years will be displayed.



**Figure A**

Geographic boundaries of your search can be defined in two different ways. If you are only interested in data from one area, know that data exists for that area and know the name of the area you can select the area name from the drop-down menu called “Location Name” (see Figure A). If you would rather find the area on the map, you can do so by pointing at the area you are interested in. To do this, you will need to follow the following easy steps:

1. Select one of the search tools in the map window. The search tools are identified when you use the mouse to move the pointer on top of one of the tools (see Figure B).
  - “Radius search” allows you to search a circular area on the map
  - “Rectangle search” allows you to search a rectangular area on the map
  - “Polygon search” allows you to search an irregular shaped area on the map – this allows for detailed searches, but you will need to define each corner of the polygon to search results in
2. After selecting the search tool you want to use, click on the map and drag the mouse until the shaded area includes the area you are interested in. If you make a mistake, simply start again. The old shaded area will disappear and the new one will appear.



**Figure B**

**Example:** View all results in South Lake Muskoka.

1. Select the *zoom in* tool.
2. Click on the map near Gravenhurst.
3. Select the *radius search* tool
4. Click on the centre of the Lake Muskoka basin and drag the mouse until the shaded area encompasses all of South Lake Muskoka
5. Click on the “Search” button

3. If you need to see a more detailed map, use the zoom in tool in the map window to zoom in to a specific area. If you need to zoom out, switch to the zoom out tool and go back a step. When the map is showing enough detail for you to select the area you are interested in, switch to one of

the search tools and make your boundary selection.

If you do not select a geographic location, information for all locations will be displayed.

After you have set both the parameters for your search (geographic, temporal or both) click on the “Search” button below the map to display the results that match your search criteria. If no data matches your criteria, or you wish to display different data, click on the “Get Results” link to restart the search process.

## *Viewing the Information*

### **Sorting**

Once the data you are interested in viewing is displayed on the screen, you can view it in a variety of ways. You can sort the data by any of the columns listed by clicking on the small, unshaded triangles next to the column heading (one triangle sorts the records in ascending order, the other sorts in descending order).

### **Displaying sites on the map**

Some or all of the sites in the display list can be shown on the map. Multiple sites can be selected from this list by

**Example:** Compare total phosphorus concentration at site BAL-0 between 2003 and 2005.

1. Search for all results from Bala Bay (as in preceding examples).
2. Click on upward facing triangle beside *Site Code* to list all BAL-0 results at the top of the display list.
3. Check the checkboxes beside BAL-0 2003, BAL-0 2004 and BAL-0 2005.
4. Go to the command line at the bottom of the display list.
5. Select “total phosphorus” in the first drop down menu, and “year” in the second drop down menu.
6. Click the “Graph” button. The graph shows three bars, so you can see how the concentration has changed over time.

checking the checkbox to the right side of each site you wish to show. If you wish to select all of the sites in the display list, click the “Select All” link at the bottom of the display list. To display, click on the “Show selected sites on map” link. The map, set to a scale appropriate for the area you have selected, will appear showing a yellow dot indicating the location of each site selected. The site code (corresponding to the record in the display list) for each site appears when you point to the dot with the mouse pointer. Clicking on a dot shows photographs of the site.

## Graphing

You may wish to graph the results. Check the checkbox to the right of each record in the display list you wish to graph. At the bottom of the display list, use the drop down menus to complete the command: “Graph [parameter] by [sort method].” Click the

**Example:** Compare how levels of *E.Coli* differed at all Hamer Bay sites in 2005.

1. Search for all results from Hamer Bay in 2005 (as in preceding examples).
2. Click on the “Select All” link at the bottom of the display list to check all of the checkboxes shown.
3. Go to the command line at the bottom of the display list.
4. Select “*E.Coli*” in the first drop down menu, and “location” in the second drop down menu.
5. Click the “Graph” button. The graph shows five bars (one for each site), so you can see how the concentration differed within the bay.

“Graph” button to display the results as requested.

Completing this statement allows you to create a graph that shows any of the parameters measured (*E.Coli*, total coliform, total phosphorus, turbidity or

temperature) sorted by year, location, or value. Clicking on a bar of the graph shows a map and photographs of the site. If a question mark appears on the graph, you can point to it to show a note that will help you interpret the data.