

March 30, 2026

Ms. Sonya Watson
Chief Administrator Officer
Municipality of Brockton
100 Scott Street
Walkerton, Ontario
N0G 2V0

Dear Ms. Watson,

Re: Drinking Water Source Protection and Septic System Risk Mitigation – Lake Rosalind

The Lake Rosalind Property Owners' Association (LRPOA) writes to you in its capacity as a representative body of property owners and residents within the Lake Rosalind community with a long standing interest in the protection of our drinking water resources. The LRPOA has worked collaboratively with Mr. Carl Seider, Project Manager, Drinking Water Source Protection, for several years to support effective strategies aimed at protecting and maintaining safe drinking water within our community.

At a recent Water Quality Committee meeting attended by Mayor Chris Peabody, committee members raised ongoing concerns regarding drinking water sources at Lake Rosalind, specifically identifying aging and potentially failing septic systems as a significant risk factor. Mayor Peabody recommended that these concerns be formally advanced to your office for administrative review and consideration.

A community-wide survey conducted in 2021 (with an update anticipated in 2026) established that approximately 45 residents obtain potable water from municipal well systems, whereas the balance of approximately 140 households rely upon private water sources including shoreline, dug, drilled and sand point wells. Of particular note, in excess of 30 residents draw drinking water directly from the lake. The same survey identified the distribution of septic system types as follows: 83 traditional systems, 56 aerobic systems, 10 Waterloo Bio filter systems, 11 holding tanks and 20 unspecified systems.

Further, on August 29, 2021, Mr. Jeffrey V. Avedisian presented findings of his academic research entitled *Bacteroides Genetic Markers for Microbial Source Tracking Fecal Pollution in Ontario Waters* (December, 2020) at the LRPOA Annual General Meeting. This study conducted at Lake Rosalind over multiple seasons in 2019 constituted a novel and methodologically rigorous analysis of fecal contamination within the lake including the identification of human-derived sources. The findings identified multiple locations exhibiting elevated concentrations of human fecal matter, thereby underscoring the potential impact of failing to substandard septic systems (see attached).

Subsequent to this research, Mr. Seider and other relevant stakeholders have undertaken efforts to amend and strengthen Source Protection Policy 02-05, including provisions respecting both mandatory and discretionary septic system maintenance inspections. As it pertains to Lake Rosalind, the policy applies to vulnerable areas wherein the establishment, operation or maintenance of septic systems constitutes, or may be reasonably expected to constitute, a low to moderate threat to drinking water sources. In furtherance of risk mitigation objectives, it has been recommended that local approval authority for sewage systems, acting pursuant to its authority under the Ontario Building Code, give due consideration to the inclusion of septic systems and holding tanks within a discretionary maintenance inspection program as contemplated under Ontario Regulation 315\10. In

the administration of such a program, priority consideration should be accorded to areas where systems are older or known to be at higher risk of failure.

We are further advised that the foregoing policy considerations and supporting information have been communicated to previous Chief Building Officer Dieter Weitz including comparative municipal practices. In particular, reference has been made to the Township of Dysart et al. (Haliburton County), which has implemented a municipal by-law framework supporting discretionary system inspections as a proactive risk management measure.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, it is the considered position of the LRPOA that the existing septic inspection regime administered by the Municipality of Brockton is inconsistent in its application and insufficient in addressing the identified risks to drinking water quality.

In light of these concerns, the LRPOA formally requests that the Municipality provide:

1. Confirmation as to whether a comprehensive review of current septic inspections policies and practices has been undertaken or is presently contemplated; and
2. Details of any proposed or forthcoming action, plan, policy, amendment, or programmatic enhancement intended to improve the effectiveness, consistency and enforceability of discretionary septic inspection programs within the Lake Rosalind area.

The LRPOA respectfully submits that timely and coordinated municipal action in this regard is both prudent and necessary to mitigate risks to public health and to ensure compliance with applicable source water protection objectives.

Representatives of the Water Quality Committee and Lake Rosalind Board of Directors would welcome the opportunity to meet with you, or with such municipal staff or officials as you may designate, to further discuss these matters and to contribute to the development of effective and sustainable solutions.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Diana Goodwin
Secretary, Water Quality Committee

On behalf of:
Derrick Ross
President, Lake Rosalind Property Owners Association

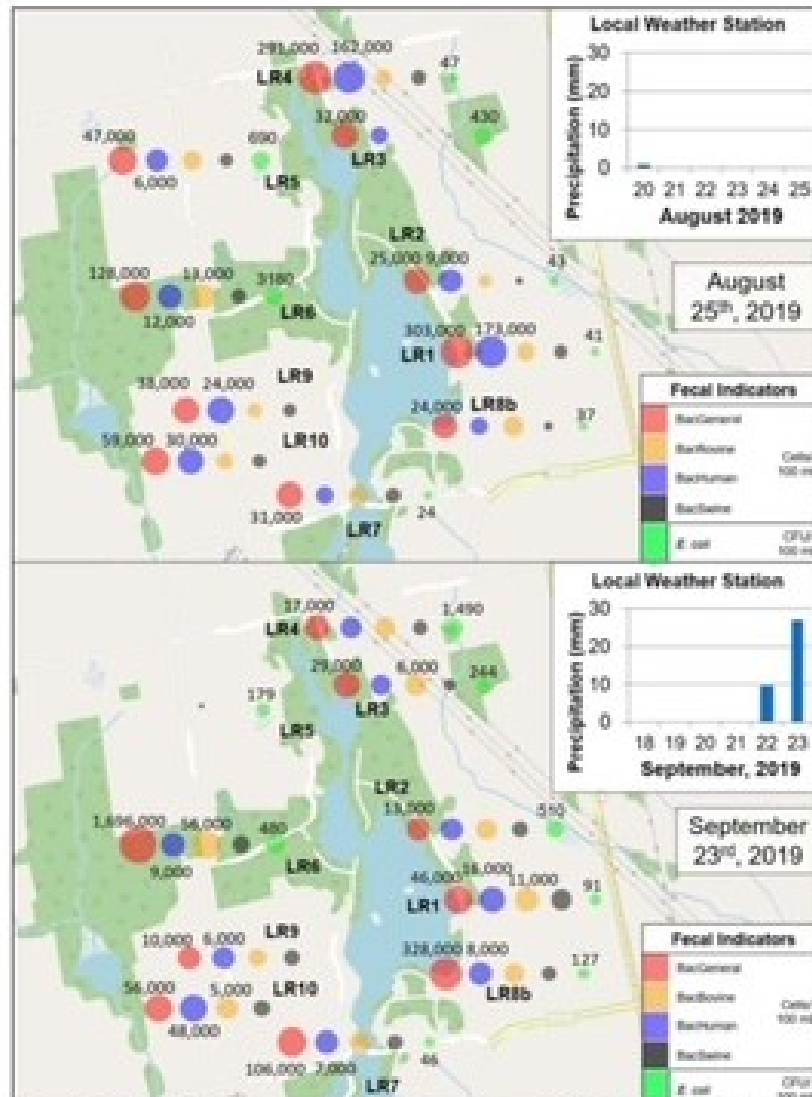


Figure 4.14. Inland Lake geospatial bubble plot data model. *Bacteroides* markers and *E. coli* colour coded with units in legend at bottom right; area of bubble plot increases with quantity marker detected; *Bacteroides* quantities ≥ 5000 cells/ 100 mL, were included and rounded to nearest 1000; daily precipitation legend in top right on day of sampling and five days leading to sampling (sourced from local weather and conservation authority)