

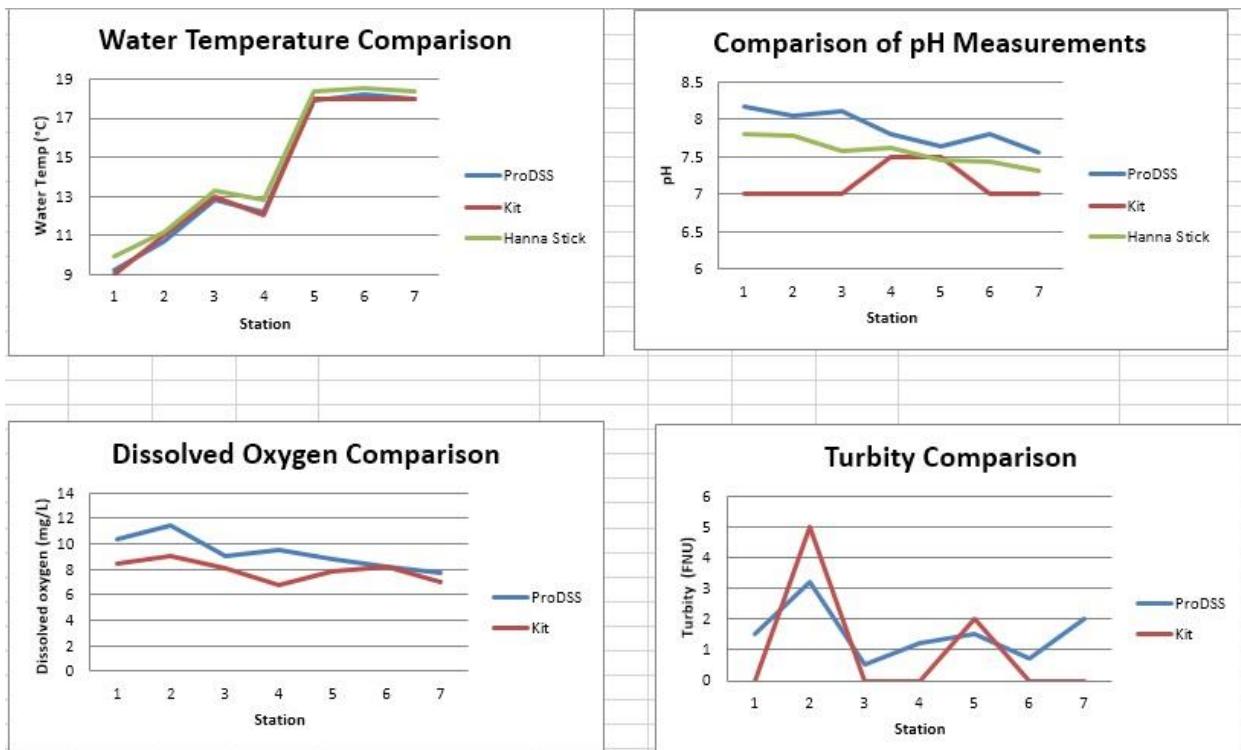


Aisha and Carl from Severn Sound Environmental Association demonstrating how they triangulate to pinpoint the location of their water testing sites. Photo: Dorthea Hangaard

The Lamotte Water Test Kit goes up against the ProDSS and Hanna Stick

We support seven teams from Copeland Forest Friends to ensure that some of the most pristine headwaters of the Oro Moraine stay that way. These waterways fall under the jurisdiction of the SSEA, and on May 24th four staff took a tour with Copeland volunteers and Couchiching Conservancy staff to see the work being done there and compare equipment.

SSEA has access to the kinds of equipment we can only dream about, and we were interested in seeing how our equipment stacked up. On the graphs below, the ProDSS (\$30,000) and the Hanna Stick (\$200) belong to SSEA, and the “Kit” was the Lamotte Kit we use. Here’s the results:



We visited all seven monitoring sites. As you can see, the thermometers and the Dissolved Oxygen kits were reasonably accurate. We had the highest variations for pH and Turbidity. Turbidity has always been a tricky one: Deciding just how well you can see that black dot in the sample test versus the distilled water is a very tough call. We're going to work on improving the method for this test, or look into another option. Note that the ProDSS always delivered a result above zero.

Unfortunately their equipment did not measure Nitrate-Nitrogen or Phosphates, but the lab sampling we do with these two tests has helped us understand the accuracy of our kits in this regard.

Keep in mind what we are trying to do: gather a baseline of data and compare the results over time to determine if problems arise. Considering this, we think our equipment is up to the task.