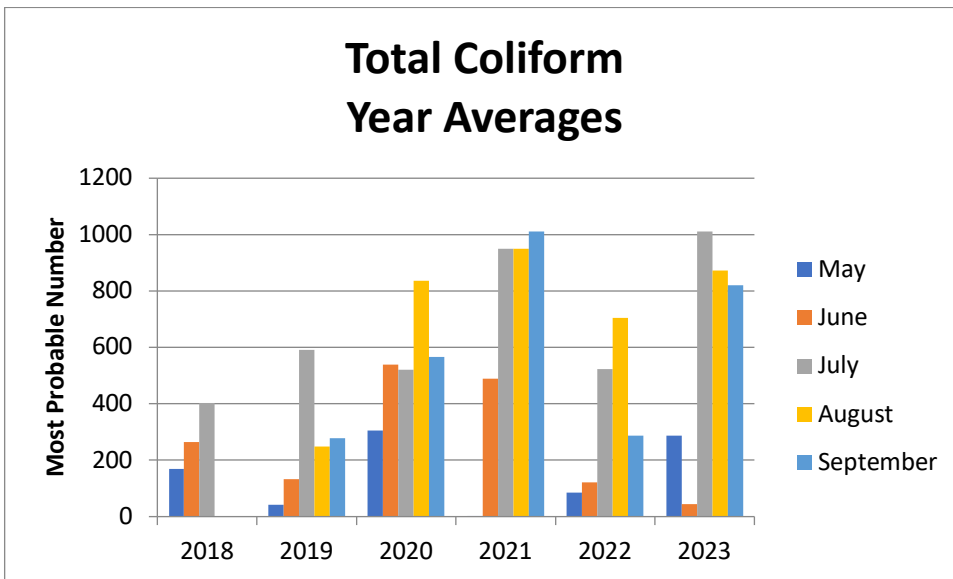


## Higgins Lake Is in Trouble

The Roscommon Area Public High School Chemistry students, have for the past four years analyzed the chemical and bacterial concentrations of the near shore waters of Higgins Lake. They have been led by their Chemistry teacher Chuck Schepke (retired), Mark Dalak, and Eric Stensen and supervised by professional EPA certified water scientists while working at Roscommon's Raven Laboratory. Their data and summary graphics are published on the [www.hlpoa.org](http://www.hlpoa.org) website under the Environmental Committee/Water Quality tabs, Life is About Testing the Waters.

The bar graph below is based on their data, and shows the rapidly increasing trend of near shore waters to become more contaminated by bacteria, some of which are pathogenic, in each of the past four years. This graph is an accurate reflection of the rapidly increasing favorable environment for bacterial growth in the near shore waters of Higgins Lake.



There is little question that the implementation of a sewer system around the lake would reduce the future growth of the nutrients contributing to this problem in the lake, and would help reverse this very troubling public health trend.

-Fred Swinehart