

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m.
Captain William Spry Centre
10 Kidston Road

EVERYONE WELCOME

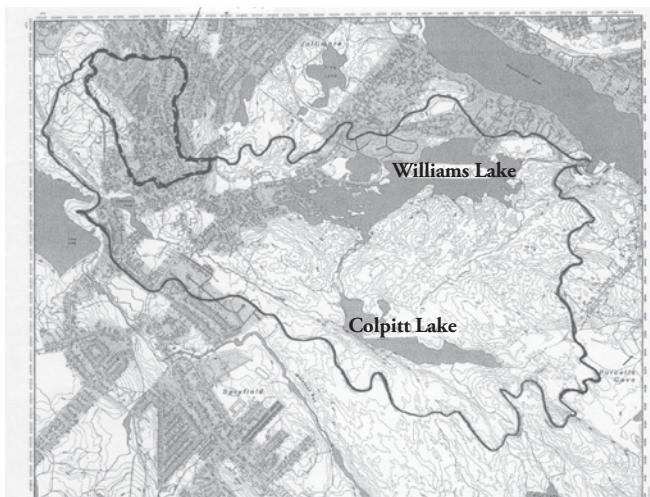
The WLCC is a non-profit volunteer organization. We welcome everyone who shares the WLCC's mandate to preserve the health of Williams Lake to come to our Annual General Meeting. Your involvement is needed this year as we continue to face proposed and ongoing developments in the area. This is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about these issues and their relationship to Williams Lake and its watershed, including Colpitt Lake. The AGM is also an opportunity for us to review the year's activities and for you to bring forward your concerns and observations.

The Board needs your input and also new members. Is your area represented on the Board? The WLCC depends on its volunteers. Please contact any of the Board listed at the end of this newsletter to volunteer or suggest a name. We encourage you to attend the AGM and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, May 28th.

PURCELL'S COVE BACKLANDS / WILLIAMS LAKE WATERSHED MAPPING STUDY

In February, 2012 the WLCC executive arranged for a study to be undertaken of the important environmental and community assets of the Purcell's Cove/Williams Lake Backlands. Professors Patricia Manuel and John Zuck from the Dalhousie School of Architecture and Planning undertook the work with the assistance of a student, Maxime Lapierre. In September, 2012 users of the land were asked to attend a Charette in order to provide valuable input by marking on various maps posted around the conference room. Much information pertaining to places of interest, trails and various uses of the land and lakes was collected. The mapping of the area focuses on the hydrology and other significant features of the land such as the rocky barrens and slopes. The legal requirements in a development scenario are identified as well as the best practices from a professional planning perspective.

A presentation of the study results will be made at the Annual General Meeting. The authors of the study and the WLCC executive are seeking input from the membership. Attendance and participation are strongly encouraged.



Williams Lake Watershed

Topographic Divide Interpreted by
Dr. Patricia Manuel

PURCELL'S COVE BACKLANDS / WILLIAMS LAKE BIRD STUDY

WLCC commissioned Fulton Lavender to help us know more about the birds that come to the Backlands. Few birders in Nova Scotia are as recognizable as Fulton. For the past 30 years he has participated in numerous scientific projects and field studies, has been a key player in research for understanding bird habitat and migration patterns, and has made significant contributions to articles and notes for important books on birds in Nova Scotia. As well, Fulton can (nearly) see the Williams Lake Backlands from his porch in Spryfield! Several WLCC members volunteered to accompany Fulton on his observational hikes and 52 species have so far been confirmed.

The birds and other wildlife come to the Williams Lake Backlands area to seek shelter from the large white and red pines, Jack pines, small Hemlocks, and deciduous trees. The vegetation found in between and on the large granite barren also provide food and shelter for the birds. Alongside the lake and larger wetlands lie the area's numerous vernal pools, which are sometimes as small as a foot or less in diameter and provide food and protection. These vernal pools, often underrated, provide valuable habitat for birds such as the Rusty Blackbird and the Barred Owl. Small vernal pools offer birds protection from predators and provide habitat for frogs and insects that are an important food source. The observations last summer suggest the area is a busy migration corridor as well as an active breeding site confirmed for over 41 species, including the Common Loon, Osprey, Great Blue heron, Nighthawks, owls, various hawks, various warblers, Flycatchers, Scarlet Tanager, Wood Ducks and Mergansers.



Saw-whet Owl,
One of the species living in
the backlands surrounding
Williams Lake.

WLCC presented our information on the terrestrial bird study to the local community through an exhibit at the Captain William Spry Community Centre. People were very interested in seeing the photographs representing the birds that live, nest or migrate through our Williams Lake Backlands. Anyone interested in reviewing the bird list or participating in future bird outings should contact WLCC.

WEBSITE

To find out more about the WLCC and our activities, check out our website:

www.williamslakecc.org

Among other items it includes links to the newsletters and a printable membership form.

FIRE, WILLIAMS LAKE MAY 21, 2012



On the afternoon of May 21st, the fire between Colpitt Lake and Williams Lake as seen from Wyndrock Drive.

Photo courtesy of Melanie Dobson

Thanks to the diligent efforts of firefighters, aided by helicopters equipped with water bombing devices, the fire was finally contained with no loss of homes. The cause of the fire that destroyed a large swath of forested land between Williams and Colpitt Lake on May 21, 2012 has not been determined.

ANNUAL LAKESHORE CLEAN-UP

This year's event is planned for September 21st, again to be held as part of the national Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup Week.

Check out their website (<http://shorelinecleanup.ca/en>) for more details .

We hope to see you there and in the meantime, thanks to all those who don't litter and who do pick up rubbish as they find it during the year.



PURCELL'S COVE BACKLANDS / WILLIAMS LAKE WATERSHED FLORA STUDY

This spring and summer two well known biologists will be conducting a flora study of the Backlands. Dr Nick Field, a wetlands expert and Dr David Patriquin will be in the field very soon. The purpose of the study is to identify the flora of the area. The inventory will include all flora but emphasis will be placed on the wetland areas: streams, lakeshore, fen, swamp and vernal pools(small seasonal pools). Unique flora known to be in the granite barrens of the area will be inventoried. The botanical survey will also look for rare sedges and rare Rockrose family plants. Particular emphasis will also be placed on the lichen and the red and white pine trees which survived the large fire in the early 1960's. The goal is to create an ecological profile of the area. This study specifically complements the bird study. The information gathered is to be used to ensure that the habitat is protected from destruction and available for all to enjoy and use in the future.



Wild Pink Lady Slipper
A protected species in Nova Scotia in abundance in the backlands & in the news!

<http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/05/11/mean-to-bees/>

BOSCOBEL

Last year the WLCC reported on this proposed development. Please see the April 2012 Newsletter posted on our website. As noted, the Boscobel wetland is part of the William's Lake watershed. Information about the development has been fairly difficult to obtain. A FOIPOP(freedom of information and protection of privacy) application was made and as a result, correspondence between the developer, HRM planning and The NS Department of the Environment (DOE) was obtained along with the design of the development. After reviewing the material a member of the WLCC executive attended the office of Adam Brown an engineer with Ekistics Planning and Design. This is the firm hired by IMP, the developer, to design and oversee construction. Adam explained that the stormwater from all but one lot will flow into the Northwest Arm. There are 23 lots in the development of which 3 have been sold. As stormwater will be diverted from the wetland it must be replaced under the government's 'no net loss' policy. The water is diverted from the wetland because there are drains on the front of each property (including those backing on the wetland) that feed into the main pipe running to the Arm. The stormwater from roofs and driveways will go to the Arm rather than the wetland. The water that does flow from the first part of the road and one lot will enter the wetland via a sump. It is a cement cylinder that is 4.5 meters deep and 1 meter wide. The pipe exiting the sump is halfway up from the bottom so there is a collection area at the bottom. This is to be cleaned out by HRM annually. The detailed design for the stormwater has been approved by DOE. The design included the delineation of the wetland by a licensed professional. It is expected that construction will begin at any time. Residents are encouraged to report anything that appears questionable to the DOE. Pictures can be very valuable in noting potential issues.

RAVENSCRAIG TRAIL UPDATE

Phase 1 of the Ravenscraig Park to Purcells Cove Road Trail has now been completed and Phase 2 will soon be underway thanks to support from HRM and the efforts of the Ravenscraig and Area Trails Association. Members of the Association have been working with HRM Facility Development - Parks, and a private sector trails consultant, to lay out a plan for the final Phase 3 which will see connection of the trail to the Purcell's Cove Road at a point opposite the Frog Pond carpark. To find out more about the trail, come along to the WLCC AGM or check out the WLCC website.

GUIDED HIKES IN THE WILLIAMS LAKE WATERSHED IN 2012



October 21st hike of the Williams lake led by Burkhard Plache for the Halifax Field Naturalists and the WLCC.

Photo courtesy of Lois Murray

KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE FOR HIKES IN 2013

SEWER & WATER UPDATE

Last year the WLCC reported on the Feasibility Study re: the extension of sewer and water central services to Purcell's Cove. Please see the April, 2012 Newsletter posted on our website. At this time last year the study had not yet commenced although the contract had been awarded to CBCL, a local engineering firm. The Community Steering Committee (CSC) was chosen and the first meeting was held in late May, 2012.

On October 29 a Charette was hosted by CBCL. The meeting room was overflowing as 185 individuals signed up to participate in the workshop. People viewed maps posted on the walls and participated in small groups. All but one person said they did not want central services extended to the area. The HRM minutes contain much detail on the outcome of the Charette and can be found at <http://www.halifax.ca/planbrm/PurcellsCoveServicingStudy.html>. People expressed concerns over the loss of green space. The groups universally stated that there should be no additional development and that the area should remain as an open green space/greenbelt. The view expressed was "development will affect the woodlands, wildlife and ground and surface water quality in the area".

The following groups made presentations to CBCL, the CSC and the public on November 19:

Clayton Developments

Our HRM Alliance

Study Area 2: Jen Powley

Williams Lake Conservation Company: Andrew Ross

In the early part of 2013 various servicing options were presented by CBCL. The options contained scenarios which included the provision of servicing down the Purcell's Cove Road while others cut through the Backlands from the Herring Cove Road. Again, for a detailed review of the options please use the HRM link. The costs of the different options were in the \$15 million range. It was indicated that the cost of servicing for each household would be approximately \$10,500 if development occurred (1200 homes built by Clayton Developments) or \$61,000 if there was no development (with option #1). The community was not convinced of the accuracy of the figures as residents have calculated the costs to be well over \$100,000 for each household. As well, the lateral lines required to hook up the houses were not included in the CBCL figures.

A further meeting of the CSC was scheduled for March 25 but it was suddenly cancelled when 4 of the Committee members resigned and a quorum was lacking. This issue proceeded to the Halifax and West Community Council on April 9, 2013. The Community Council recommended that the CSC be discharged of its duties and this was unanimously ratified by the Regional Council later that day. It is unclear whether the public will have the opportunity for further input but this question has been asked of the Community Council members and it is hoped a response will soon be received.

WLCC MEMBERSHIP

WLCC membership is \$20 per household and can be paid at the AGM or by returning the attached form. (The form is also available through our website at www.williamslakecc.org)

Heather Watts's history of the Williams Lake area is \$5 when renewing or joining, additional copies are \$10 each. The mandate of the WLCC is to protect the health of Williams Lake. Everyone who shares this goal is welcome as a member!

The Board needs your input and also new members. Is your area represented on the Board? The WLCC depends on its volunteers. Please contact any of the Board listed above to volunteer or suggest a name.

MEMBERSHIP FORM \$20. (\$80. FOR 4 YEARS)

To: WILLIAMS LAKE CONSERVATION COMPANY, % Melanie Dobson
11 Wyndrock Drive, Halifax, NS B3P 1R8

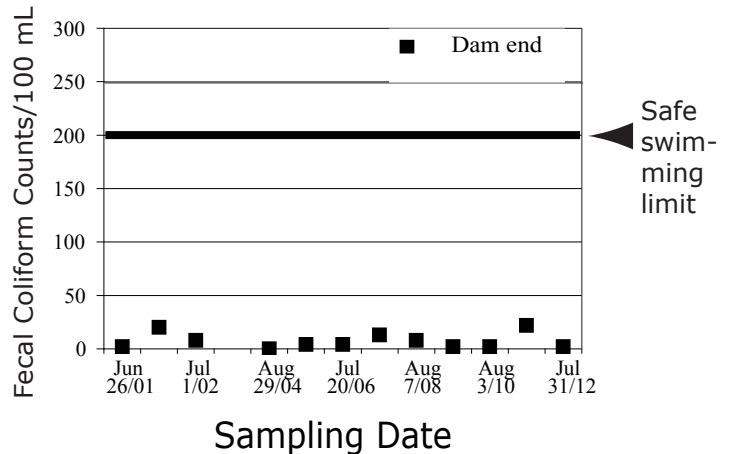
NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Monitoring of the water quality in Williams Lake by the WLCC continues to show that the main body of Williams Lake is safe for swimming. (WLCC results for samples taken near the dam end at the peak of summer are below). (HRM closes supervised swimming areas if fecal coliform counts are above 200 per 100 mL). We can all look forward to safe swimming in Williams lake this summer.



Fall colours, Williams Lake. Photo courtesy of Kay Singleton

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We encourage you to attend the AGM and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, May 28th.

