

# WILLIAMS LAKE

CONSERVATION COMPANY

JUNE 2017

[WWW.WILLIAMS LAKECC.ORG](http://WWW.WILLIAMS LAKECC.ORG)

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WLCCHALIFAXNS](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WLCCHALIFAXNS)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 6 AT 7:00 P.M. CAPTAIN WILLIAM SPRY CENTRE 16 SUSSEX STREET 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 AGM.

Come to the AGM to discuss the issues that concern you and the lake. After the meeting we will have an opportunity to socialize and discuss issues of concern to friends of the lake area.

## UPDATE ON THE SHAW GROUP/NCC PROPOSAL

As many of you know, The Shaw Group and the Nature Conservancy of Canada put forth a proposal for an urban wilderness park on Williams Lake in late April, 2016. The land, consisting of 379 acres runs from Williams Lake to Colpitt Lake and is currently owned by The Shaw Group. After the proposal was presented to HRM Council discussions commenced between Shaw, NCC and HRM staff. Representatives from the WLCC and the Backlands Coalition made a presentation to Brad Anguish, Director of Parks and Recreation for HRM. Later in the month a further presentation was made to John Traves, acting Chief Administrative Officer for HRM. Thanks to Dr Patricia Manuel, Dr David Patriquin, Paul Cashman, Kathleen Hall and Chris Markides, Masters of Planning student on these two major efforts!

A directed letter campaign was pursued in July. Seventy five experts and noted members of the community forwarded letters to Council and staff. The letters not only highlighted the value of the land and the many reasons for making a park but all were heartfelt and a true testament to the value placed on the land by so many people.

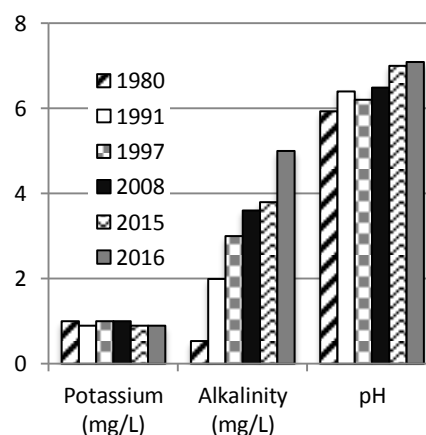
A very successful public engagement was held August 30, 2016 with over 120 people in attendance. The proposal proceeded to

HRM Council on September 20. A motion was introduced by Councillor Adams and the vote resulted in a near unanimous endorsement to continue discussions. Since then many meetings have taken place between Shaw, NCC and HRM. We look forward to a positive announcement sometime in the next few months! Fingers crossed!

## WILLIAMS LAKE WATER TESTING 2006-16

The WLCC has been monitoring water quality in Williams and Colpitt lakes since 1980. Bacterial levels are checked at the height of summer on an annual basis (results for the dam end of Williams lake are shown).

Complete chemical testing has been done routinely but less frequently. The cost of this testing is high and has only been made possible through your membership dues and donations. Most of the 33 chemical assays show no major changes in samples from the same site in successive years (as shown for potassium here) or the chemical tested was at undetectable levels (e.g, selenium, not shown). Of concern is the steady increase in pH and alkalinity and conductivity in the more recent samples (those for the dam end of Williams Lake are shown) that may reflect road run-off contamination. This evidence of change in the health of the watershed has led WLCC representatives to meet with HRM staff to try to mitigate the effects of winter road treatments on streets adjacent to the lake.



## A POSITIVE TURN OF EVENTS! ROAD SALT AND WILLIAMS LAKE

Last fall Robin Whyte, Kathleen Hall and Councillor Cleary met with a team of HRM employees to continue discussing the change of the road salting protocol on the streets close to the lake. Early in the new year another meeting was convened and it was explained that HRM was prepared to revert to the old protocol of salting with one modification.

We are pleased to report that in mid-May a meeting was held at the Centre for Water Resources, Dalhousie University. It was

agreed that Dr Jamieson on behalf of the Centre and the WLCC shall draft a proposal for the study which will be forwarded to all levels of government in an attempt to secure sufficient funds (\$20,000). The Centre is in possession of monitoring equipment which will track stormwater composition flowing into the lake from different locations. The findings of the study should be valuable for the WLCC as well as others interested in protecting fresh water lakes. It is hoped that the monitoring can begin this fall.

The full memo detailing the new procedure appears below:



PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Kathleen Hall & Dr. Robin Whyte, on behalf of the  
Williams Lake Conservation Company  
CC: Bev Audet, Cameron Deacock, Holly Richardson, Councillor Shawn Cleary  
FROM: Trevor Harvie  
DATE: January 18, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** Changes to Winter Street and Sidewalk Surface Treatments, Williams Lake Area

Hello Kathleen and Robin,

As discussed at our meeting on January 17 2017, Halifax will change the type of winter street surface treatments provided to the following to the following streets, effective January 18, 2017:

- Sagewood Lane
- Birchview Drive
- Willowdale Terrace
- Wyndrock Drive
- Wenlock Grove
- Saraguay Place
- McNab Drive
- Letson Court
- Litchfield Crescent

The change, from the current treatment to that which was provided in 2014, will have the above streets receive a sand mix surface treatment in place of what now is treated with road salt. As discussed, Litchfield Crescent will receive a direct liquid application of anti-icing treatment, prior to forecasted weather events, in order to continue providing an enhanced public safety due to the slope of the street and the hazards that it presents.

In addition to the change of surface treatments on the identified streets, HRM will also begin servicing the sidewalks adjacent to these streets with a sand mix product instead of road salt. It was recognized at the meeting that salt shall be used on the sidewalks if public safety is compromised.

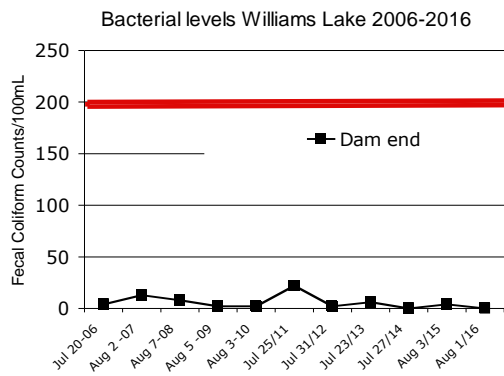
These changes to street and sidewalk servicing are intended to support a shared interest between the Halifax Regional Municipality and the Williams Lake Conservation Company (WLCC) in the health of Williams Lake. In support of that shared interest, the Municipality will facilitate an engagement of the WLCC with Dalhousie University's Centre for Water Resource Studies, and in particular Dr. Rob Jamieson, to investigate the possibility of establishing an academic project to study the impact of road salt management on Williams Lake.

Sincerely,

Trevor Harvie  
Superintendent of Winter Operations

## BACTERIAL LEVELS

Bacterial levels are measured at the dam end and are well below the limit (red line):



## TURTLE FACT:

The eastern snapping turtle, Canada's largest freshwater turtle, stays underwater for so long that algae grows on its shell.

## ICE OUT

This year marked a first in the recording of the 'ice out' date. Unlike previous years in which the ice left in a day or two, the event took several days. While the main body of the lake was often free of ice throughout the winter, the area close to the Williams Lake Road remained solid for a substantial time. The ice out date was determined to be April 12!



Melanie Dobson

## LOONS ON WILLIAMS LAKE

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017**

Paul Cashman, Litchfield Crescent  
902-431-0553

Murray Coolican, Birchview Drive

Marshall Conley, Williams Lake Road

Melanie Dobson, Wyndrock Drive  
902-477-0668

**Kathleen Hall, Hall's Road**  
902-477-4159

Philip Howard, Webmaster, Wyndrock Drive

Martha Leary, Redwood Avenue  
902-420-1520

Karen Lyle, Wenlock Grove  
902-429-1742

Leslie Randall, Wyndrock Drive

Andrew Ross, Wyndrock Drive  
902-477-7906

Nick Ross, Kirk Rd

Anne von Maltzahn, Wenlock Grove  
902-477-3353

Robin Whyte, Wyndrock Drive  
902-477-6744

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Williams Lake Conservation Company (www.WilliamsLakeCC.org)  
A registered non-profit community organization founded 1968*