

WILLIAMS LAKE CONSERVATION COMPANY
A REGISTERED NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION FOUNDED 1968
www.williamslakecc.org

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2005

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2005 7:30 PM
CAPT. WILLIAM SPRY CENTRE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

President Andrew Ross will report on the year's activities, we will elect the Board of Directors for 2005-2006, consider new business and discuss our various concerns. Several long-serving members of the present Executive have indicated that they wish to step down. We encourage you to make suggestions for the incoming Board of Directors. Is your area represented on the Board? Contact any member of the Board (see below) for further information or to put forward a name.

The WLCC welcomes new members and we encourage you to attend the AGM or call any member of the Board for further information.

DAM INVESTIGATION AND WATER LEVELS

The investigation of the structure of the dam at the south-east end of the lake is almost complete and we expect to receive the report from YMCL Engineering very shortly. The investigation has been made possible by the generous support of some of our members and we thank them for their commitment to this undertaking. Melanie Dobson, who is again recording daily water levels, as she has done for the past two summers, notes that at the beginning of May following heavy rain the dam was about 8 cm under water, which is usual at this time of year. The purpose of the dam investigation is to determine whether the dam can be improved so as to maintain the water level during dry spells later in the season.

GOVERNOR'S BROOK DEVELOPMENT

The WLCC Board voted in March to accept the offer made by Kimberly-Lloyd Developments to enter into negotiations with them concerning the major development they propose for the area between the McIntosh Run and Colpitt Lake. In return, the WLCC had to agree to drop all legal challenges to the undertaking. Since 1997 the WLCC has been opposing the rezoning of this area because of the potential impact of large-scale development on the Williams Lake/ Colpitt Lake watershed, and we were heartened by the tremendous public support for our position. However, our legal challenges to the rezoning of the land were not successful and we faced another major struggle with the development agreement which was approved by Chebucto Community Council this past January.

Dr. Patricia Manuel and Dr. Melanie Dobson are representing the WLCC. We are indebted to them for their willingness to give their time and effort to these negotiations. Melanie prepared the following report:

Representatives of the WLCC and Kimberly-Lloyd Developments Ltd. have formed an ad hoc committee to discuss options and potential changes to the Governor's Brook development agreement that was approved by Chebucto Community Council which we hope will provide better measures of protection for the William's and Colpitt Lake watershed. Representatives of other groups such as the McIntosh Run Association will also be invited to join the committee to ensure that protection of watersheds on both sides of the property is addressed. Our first meeting has been very positive, with KLD indicating their willingness to discuss and amend some aspects of their plan. We will keep the WLCC membership informed of the outcome of these discussions.

SPRING PLANT SALE

The date for this year's spring plant sale is **Sunday, May 29, 2-4 pm**, at the **Capt. William Spry Centre**, 10 Kidston Road. We'll have lots of perennials, biennials, herbs and more, all potted up and ready for your garden—and bring a friend! The sale is indoors and will be held rain or shine. The organizing committee would appreciate donations from those thinning out older gardens; please don't throw out your extras but save them for us to sell to new gardeners and younger gardens. Call 477-3353 or 431-2488, or any Board member, to arrange for pick-up or assistance.

GALA AUCTION 2004

The second annual gala event at the Saraguay Club last November was much enjoyed by all. Over 100 people braved the early winter snow storm to attend the silent and live auctions, the dance and the wonderful party. Many people contributed to the success of the evening but we are particularly grateful to John Dunsworth for being our auctioneer and to the Saraguay Club for its generous sponsorship and Carolyn Cole at the Saraguay who went out of her way to help with the arrangements. Many thanks also to Andrew Gillis and his band for their music, to the WLCC/Colpitt Lake Action Committee who masterminded the event, and to everyone who donated to the auctions and helped in so many other ways.

2004 FALL PLANT/YARD SALE and ANNUAL CLEAN-UP

The grey skies and rain held off just long enough last September 18 for these three activities on the grounds of Cunard Junior HS to be a great success. Heather Watts again coordinated the clean-up and we were pleased that quite a few younger residents/lake enjoyers participated. Thank you, Heather, and thanks also to the anonymous donor of the prizes for the event.

Around in front of the school the tables were soon crowded by yard-salers and gardeners but there was also time for neighbourhood togetherness and much community spirit. We hope to repeat these events this year.

A FIRST NATIONS' SITE?

The area around and between Williams Lake and the McIntosh Run may hold promise for enriching our understanding of the history of the Mi'kmaq people. In 1979 local historian Heather Watts wrote of the probable use of these lands by the Mi'kmaq people in her book *Beyond the Northwest Arm*. A preliminary archaeological assessment was conducted by Laird Niven. The study concluded that it is very likely that the area was used as a traditional portage, a source of salmon and summer camping grounds for Mi'kmaq hunters and families. Further assessment is needed with a focus on sub-surface testing to confirm the archaeological potential. *(Contributed by Martha Leary)*

MEMBERSHIP—PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN THE WLCC

. WLCC membership remains \$20 per household. This income allows us to issue newsletters and updates and helps fund various WLCC activities. Memberships can be paid at the AGM or by sending in the form at the end of this newsletter. The revised edition of Heather Watts' history of the Williams Lake area referred to above is available for \$5 when renewing or joining; additional copies are \$10 each. It is an excellent way of learning about the interesting past of our historical area and the book also makes a great gift.

The mandate of the WLCC is to protect the health of Williams Lake, for the benefit of all, and everyone who shares this goal is welcome as a member.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004-2005

Patricia Cuttell		Albion Road
Kathleen Hall	477-4159	Hall's Road
Melanie Dobson	477-0668	Wyndrock Drive
Martha Leary	420-1520	Redwood Avenue
Regine Maass	477-1469	Albion Road
Gerard MacNeil	477-2786	Wyndrock Drive
Patricia Manuel	477-2266	Forward Avenue
Andrew Ross	477-7906	Wyndrock Drive
Dawn Underwood	475-1568	Litchfield Crescent
Anne von Maltzahn	477-3353	Wenlock Grove
Lana Wood	422-3483	Spring Garden Road

MEMBERSHIP \$20.00 (\$80.00 for 4 years)

TO: WILLIAMS LAKE CONSERVATION COMPANY, c/o A. von Maltzahn
15 Wenlock Grove, Halifax, NS B3P 1P6

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ e-mail*: _____

*to be used for WLCC messages only, to save mailing costs

