

WILLIAMS LAKE

CONSERVATION COMPANY

May, 2009

www.williamslakecc.org

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING · TUESDAY, MAY 26 AT 7:30 P.M.
CAPTAIN WILLIAM SPRY CENTRE · 10 KIDSTON ROAD

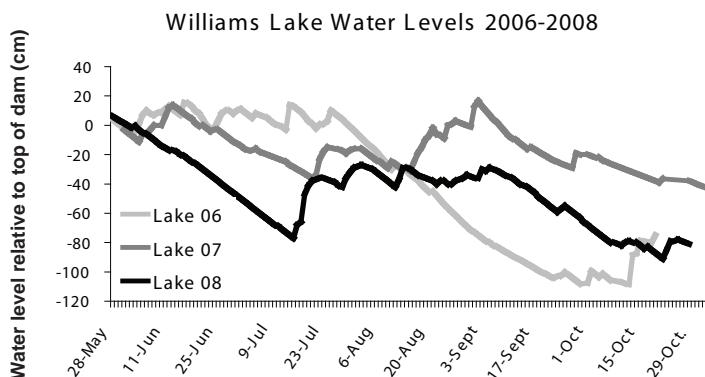
The WLCC welcomes everyone who shares the WLCC's mandate to preserve the health of Williams Lake. The Board needs your input and also new members. Is your area represented on the Board? The WLCC depends on its volunteers. Please contact any of the Board listed at the end of this newsletter to volunteer or suggest a name. We encourage you to attend the AGM and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, May 26.

WATER LEVELS AND QUALITY

One benefit of all that rain we received last summer was that the water level in Williams Lake stayed relatively high through to September although it did drop and stayed low through until mid-November. Fall seems to be our only reliably dry period over the past 3 years.

The WLCC undertook a more comprehensive testing of water quality in Williams and Colpitt lakes last summer. The good news is that for both lakes, most analyses revealed almost no change from results obtained from testing that had been done in 1980, 1991 and 1997.

Levels of some elements were raised this time, but only in samples taken from the Williams Lake Road end of Williams Lake suggesting road run-off may be impacting the water quality at that end of the lake. The lack of change in the main part of the lake indicates that, at least for now, water flow through the lake must be sufficient to buffer the main body of water from this run-off. We will need to monitor this carefully in future. Full results of our testing will be presented at the AGM and will be posted on our website.



Mayor Peter Kelly signs in at last year's annual clean-up. Photo courtesy of Stewart Cameron

ANNUAL CLEAN-UP

The annual clean-ups of the lakeshore area organized by the WLCC have had enthusiastic participation from community members during the past years, particularly from the younger generation. We appreciated Mayor Peter Kelly, HRM councillor Sheila Fougere, and local MLA Michele Raymond for contributing their efforts this past fall. We invite you to join us in the early fall for our next clean-up, date to be announced.

UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS ALONG WILLIAMS LAKE ROAD

Construction of the Ravenscraig Sportsfield was completed late last year with final landscaping around the carpark still being done. An attractive trail has been created that climbs up the road along the front restored face of the old Quarry. The trail meanders through the woods and loops back to cross the top of the hill. Two alternative paths lead back to different parts of Ravenscraig Drive. The path has a couple of steep stretches but is well worth the effort given the spectacular view of Williams Lake that can be obtained from the top of the hill. Judging from the footprints in the grit, the deer have already started to use the new trail as a wildlife corridor and the dog walkers are enjoying an alternative to the Frog Pond Walk.

THE DAM

The dam and water levels of Williams Lake continue to be ongoing works in progress. There were some positive actions in the last year. We were contacted by a couple of Dalhousie engineering students who wished to do their final thesis project on assessing the lake and potential remediation. They met with the WLCC executive a number of times and conducted hydrology tests in addition to referencing the engineering study conducted by the Company several years ago. The culmination of their work was a thesis paper and presentation in December. Several executive members attended this presentation. It was very informative (although very technical in some aspects). A summary of their presentation will be included on the Company's website for members to be able to view. This work will hopefully serve as another benchmark to further our efforts to solve the ongoing problems.

The summary of the students' work was that indeed the dam is a nonfunctional entity and requires significant repairs. Their assessment was to build a new structure of the earth mound type. They provided some detailed breakdowns of the composition and some budget costs for providing such a structure.

One of the next steps in this regard is to take this work forward to the Department of Environment and other potential interested parties to see if we can move towards a final solution. It should be noted that currently none of the levels of government are showing any inclination or willingness to help share in the responsibility for this problem. We hope that this additional work will help further clarify the situation as we continue our efforts to resolve the dam and water level problems in Williams Lake.



The York Redoubt fire as seen from Williams Lake. Photo courtesy of Andrew Ross

IT'S FIRE SEASON!

The recent forest fires were a shock to us all and the WLCC extends sympathy to those who suffered the loss of their homes. As well as information about the regulations for outdoor burning (click ' Fire and Emergency Services' on the HRM webpage) homeowners can find timely advice concerning wildfire protection at <http://www.halifax.ca/Fire/WildlandFires.html>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

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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!**

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

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NAME: _____

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