

WILLIAMS LAKE

May, 2018

CONSERVATION COMPANY

www.williamslakecc.org

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 11 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 AGM.

Come to the AGM to learn about Williams Lake. We will have a shortened meeting followed by an opportunity to socialize and discuss what we still need to do to see a major portion of the watershed become a protected urban wilderness.

CREATING A WILDERNESS PARK
AT WILLIAMS LAKE:
YOU CAN HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Craig Smith, Nova Scotia Program Director,
Nature Conservancy of Canada

As many of you know, the Nature Conservancy of Canada is working to create a 379-acre wilderness park at Williams Lake, near the Purcell's Cove Backlands. The wilderness park is an innovative project that combines conservation of a wildlife habitat and beautiful landscape with the creation of a park designed for outdoor recreation and nature appreciation. Since the project received the support of HRM council last fall, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and The Shaw Group have made a great deal of progress on both the vision for the park, and the practical details. Pending a successful fundraising campaign by NCC, the wilderness park will open in the summer of 2019.

A park entrance area and parking lot is planned for Purcell's Cove Road on lands currently owned by the Yacht Squadron, to be built by the Shaw Group. An accessible trail from the parking lot will lead to a gathering area at the east end of Williams Lake, where interpretive signage and benches will be located with a view of Williams Lake. Otherwise, not much will change: the area's existing trails will have signs and markers installed, and the trails themselves will remain narrow and natural. Year-round low-impact activities such as hiking, birding, interpretive walks and outdoor education will be permitted. Williams Lake and Colpitt Lake will both remain open for unsupervised swimming and non-motorized boating.



Williams Lake Beavers, Mar 29, 2018
Photo courtesy of Marshall Conley



COME TO THE AGM AND HELP
MAKE THIS A WILDERNESS PARK



There are still details to be worked out—such as a solution for the aging dam at Williams Lake—but these are being discussed and we are hopeful they will be resolved as the long-term plan for the park is developed by HRM, NCC and community partners.

With a supportive municipal government, a willing and contributing landowner (The Shaw Group), and a dynamic community organization like the WLCC behind it, NCC has made significant progress so far to create the park, which is expected to get the final stamp of approval from HRM council in June 2018. We hope to host events at Williams Lake over the summer and look forward to drawing on community members to help conduct volunteer activities on the site. While details are to be determined, NCC has also obtained commitment from HRM that the community will have a role in a joint management or advisory body for the park.

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED

The work to protect this incredible place in your community has come so far. NCC has been working to bring foundational funding partners to the table, including the federal and provincial governments. More than \$5 million has been dedicated to the wilderness park so far, but public support is required to match a portion of these funds to complete the \$7.5-8 million project. Tax deductible donations can be made online or by phone, by contacting NCC's Halifax office at 1-866-319-5985. Please call NCC to discuss other ways to support this project, such as pledges or gifts of securities. With your help, the wilderness at Williams Lake will become a permanent sanctuary in the city.

WLCC WEBSITE

To find out more about the WLCC and our activities, check us out on Facebook:

Williams-Lake-Conservation-Company

or on our website: www.williamslakecc.org

Among other items you will find links to colour versions of the newsletters and a printable membership form.

ROAD SALT AND WILLIAMS LAKE

HRM made a pivotal positive decision in January, 2017 regarding the lake and the distribution of road salt (for a history of this issue and the HRM memo delineating the exact changes involved please see previous newsletters found on our website at www.williamslakecc.org). The long-established practice of not applying road salt on streets close to the lake was reversed in early 2015 to the disappointment of the WLCC executive and many residents. After meetings between WLCC executive members and HRM staff along with continued pressure the policy was reversed to the status quo.

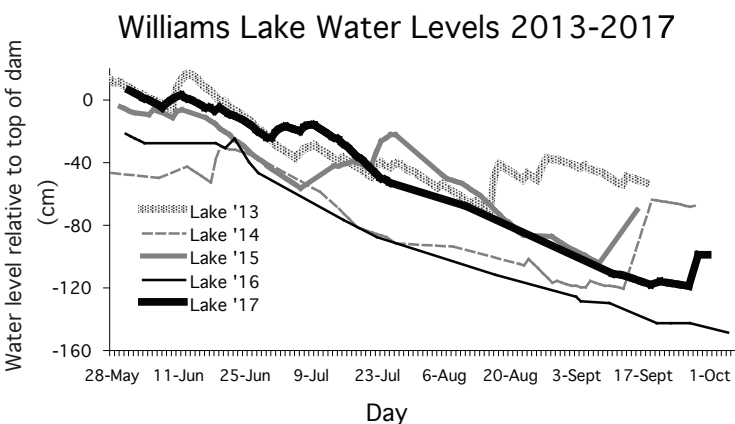
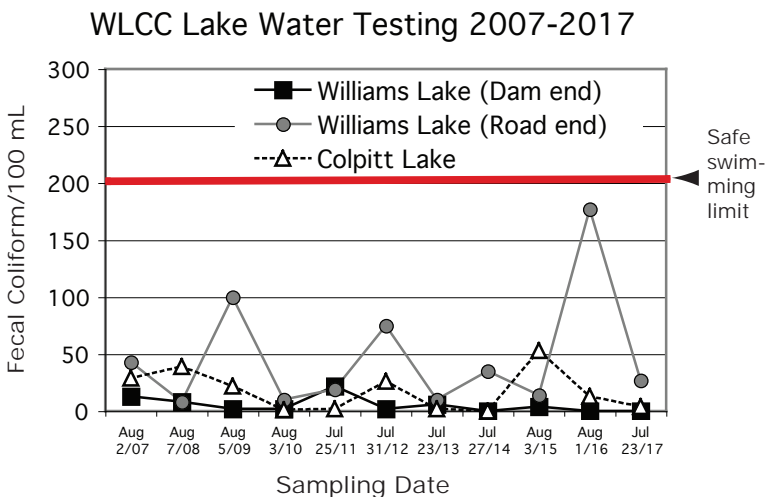


Spring Arrivals - May 21, 2018 Williams Lake
Photo courtesy of Melanie Dobson

Residents on the affected streets provided a very positive report for the 2017-18 winter. This is great news for our lake and all its inhabitants.

The WLCC is hopeful that a significant study on the lake and impact of road salt proposed by the Centre for Water Resources at Dalhousie University will find support. It is thought that once the Urban Wilderness Park becomes a reality, interest in this project and others involving the lake will happen. In the meantime, the salt levels continue to be recorded by Burkhard Plache. Thank you very much, Burkhard.

The WLCC also monitors the quality, chemical and microbiological, of Colpitt and Williams lakes and water levels in Williams Lake. Some data from recent years is shown below. For more complete results, check out our website.



COME JOIN THE WLCC

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 below to volunteer or suggest a name. We encourage you to attend the AGM and look forward to seeing you on Monday, June 11th.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018

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
 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

Philip Howard • Webmaster • Wyndrock Drive

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)

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



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____