

WILLIAMS LAKE CONSERVATION COMPANY

Activity concerning dam at the southeast end of Williams Lake, Mainland South, HRM

1968 Local residents repair dam. WLCC formed at suggestion of Nova Scotia Water Resources Commission (WRC) "in order that the WRC might have a responsible body with which to deal over the reconstruction and maintenance of the dam at the outlet of William's Lake."

1970 Lake level established by WRC at 61.12 feet, water level bench mark and gauge installed near the Dam by the Dept. of Energy, Mines and Resources. C.A.E. Fowler (designer of the previous dam, resident of Hall's Rd.) suggests inexpensive modifications to it which will meet WRC specifications. Company made responsible for maintaining the water level to vary not more than 1 foot above or below the established level.

Dam repairs made with bagged concrete, and spillway completed. Cost: \$121.48.

1977-78 "Meeting at the dam with John Jones, Director of Water Planning and Management and Lee Lewis, Chief of the Water Resources Section, ND DOE to reach understanding of each other's concerns regarding the dam".

"Vandalism growing worse each year has meant that the bagged concrete and rock has been chipped and pried loose making holes in the dam itself, the conduit pipe has been ripped out, large sections of the old wooden dam have been ripped out and used for fires..." Cameron Construction estimates cost at \$2800. Province and City to be asked for contributions; fund-raising drive. "Fill and bagged concrete have to be placed around the conduit so it cannot be moved and fill extended out on either side to cover the remains of the old dam. The whole has to be covered with a smooth concrete cap..."

Dam repaired summer 1977, cost \$3100, raised by 58 families around the lake and Jollimore, both members and non-members. John Theakston (DOE) made on-site inspection, "expressed satisfaction with the results."

1984-85 Dam reconstructed fall of 1984 under Pres. Murray Clement's direction. Grants "from the city and the provincial departments of finance and environment" covered the cost. Gabion baskets. "A letter from the Minister of Environment provides the technical and financial help."

1988-89 Dam inspected, ok. Driest summer in 30 years; lake levels "exceptionally low".

1993-94 Jim Fletcher (local resident, dam engineer) and John Theakston of DOE inspected the dam, concluded: 1, it "needed to be shored up"; 2, "seepage under the dam might be repaired by installation of a polyethelene sheet (\$1000-\$5000) but this would be a band-aid approach". "DOE mostly interested in shoring it up."

1994-95 May: Dam again needs repairs. Gabion baskets in poor condition due to vandalism.

Summer: "Lowest lake levels since 1968."

December: Repairs completed. Work overseen by Jim Fletcher. Edmonds Bros. shored it up with large granite boulders. Funds raised by member/non-member donations plus some monies from the WLCC membership account and some of the proceeds of a raffle.

2001 Very dry summer.

November: As result of complaint to NS Dept. of Environment by Mrs. Chris Beattie, Acorn Drive, and the concerns of many residents at the western end of the lake about the very low water levels, a special general meeting held. 75 in attendance. Investigation of dam structure approved. 'Ways and Means' and 'Solutions' Committees formed to raise funds and investigate what to do. Separate dam investigation fund created, appeal letters sent out.

2002-05 Very low summer water levels. Below normal summertime precipitation., summer 2005 driest on record. Major fund-raising appeal to members and all local residents continued. Engineering firm YMCL Engineering requested to submit estimate and plan for investigation of dam structure. Cost of investigation:\$19,600. Investigation completed early 2005. Bore holes indicate substructure of dam eroded, "nothing" under the visible part of the dam. Stream behind dam running down to Northwest Arm continues to flow strongly though lake water several meters distant from dam due to drought.

YMCL submits proposal for replacing dam, est. cost \$250,000-\$300,000.