

WASA LAKE LAND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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"Nature does nothing
uselessly."

Aristotle

SUMMER 2010

The Junior Naturalist Program

The children of Wasa were given the opportunity to kick off their flip flops, put on rubber boots and get downright dirty exploring the natural shoreline!

They used nets to scoop up invertebrates, draw their findings in booklets and explore around the south end of the lake.

Some of the kids even got a close up show of birds catching their breakfast of delicious dragonflies.

The hot item was always the baby frogs, found by the dozen and named everything from Jumpy to Miga to Yellow Eyes. The setting free ceremonies for the frogs became a real tear jerker and some kids grew so attached to their precious little friends they attempted to take them home in their pockets!

The program ran the first three weeks of August and involved 24 fantastic



kids. Some of the children were local and others were seasonal residents.

Next year the WLLID is hoping to expand the program to involve more than just one day for the children.

Thank you to everyone who participated. We look forward, to even more adventures next year!

If you have children or grandchildren and would like to be notified about the program for next summer, e-mail the secretary at wllid@shaw.ca to leave contact information.

We wouldn't want you to miss out!

Update on the Septic Installation at the South End of Wasa Lake

The WLLID is waiting for a decision by the Practice Review Board of the ASTTBC. *the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC*. In 2005 the government of BC shifted responsibility for septic installations to an "industry owned" system.

Under the previous system, an inspector from Interior Health would have inspected and verified this system, *at no cost to the residents*. Under the new system, the ROWP's *Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioners*, now install and inspect their own systems and are members of the ASTTBC.

Last fall a septic system was installed on a lakefront property by a Cranbrook ROWP.

East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council Community Weed Pull

On a hot summer morning volunteers from the community, along with members of EKIPC, and their "Hot Spot" crew rolled on their gardening gloves and got down to business. In just one morning of hard work 13 large garbage bags were filled and the area from School House Rd to Fast Trac Gas Station was liberated from the knapweed that had viciously invaded the area.

Although the group was small the effect was larger than expected. Many people who drove by and saw the event went home to begin their own battle with the weeds in their yards.

For anyone needing assistance for mass weed removal, the EKIPC has implemented a new program to apply for financial assistance. *If anyone has questions regarding invasive plants or this new program, contact the EKIPC at 1-888-553-5472.*

Under the previous septic regulations, the elevations, setbacks and a history of flooding were deterrents to an installation at this location.

In light of these facts, and on advice of our lawyer, the WLLID hired a geotechnical engineer. The engineer reviewed the installation data and submitted a report concerning this file to the ASTTBC. The file was assessed by the Practice Review Board in April. Recommendations have been made to the ROWP. The WLLID and the RDEK are waiting to be notified.

The WLLID board will be submitting a full report and financial accounting on this matter to the community of Wasa at the next AGM., in 2011.

As background to this issue the WLLID has written a article in the Tri Village Buzz. Contact the secretary for this article, and for any future updates.

Knapweed:

- *Has light purple flowers*
- *Toxin from its roots kill any surrounding plants*
- *Seeds viable in soil for up to 100 years*
- *Pull immediately, bag it, take it to the transfer bin.*



Shoreline Guidelines and the Habitat Mapping project 2010

WLLID and the East Kootenay Integrated Lake Partnership

An association between government, non government and lake groups.

They say you can never go home again - but you do in your memories. The cottage of grandma and grandpa is a memory. The Wasa Lake Management Plan is a picture of the lake in 2010. A picture for us to heed, or just a memory of the time?

This is why we developed this project.

At the beginning of this plan, four years ago, the WLLID was being vexed by the issue of lake development. Human activities were changing the shorelines more than ever before. *activities such as scouring, dredging, beach grooming, adding sand etc.* Ministry of Environment officials were calling Wasa Lake a "basket case" with nothing left to save. Residents were lining up on both sides of the lake development debate.

What do these documents and the data tell us today? On the whole, the lake is healthy, but there are warnings. Over half the residential shorelines have been disturbed. The south end tip of Wasa Lake, and Cameron Pond are largely intact. Of the four Provincial Park areas, two are intact, two are disturbed. The shorelines of Wasa Lake and Cameron Pond have been divided into 13 segments. Details such docks, road accesses, aquatic vegetation, modified beaches, gravels etc. are itemized.

What is the most important message in this document?

The simplest way to keep the foreshore functioning is to leave it as natural as possible. A natural shoreline will guarantee a healthy lake.

For shorelines that have been disturbed the data is a starting point for restoration.

The greatest challenge for the success of a lake management plan is for the community to "buy in". If you are a lakefront owner, you will either believe the data or think your own individual "development"

will not affect the lake negatively. The idea of "just one thing". I just want my beach, grass etc. versus the bigger picture of the lake's "tipping point". As to the rest of the community, we are all stewards of the lake. Everyone needs to become more aware and more involved.

The value of all our properties; socially, environmentally and economically hinges on a healthy lake.

All of us have a stake in the lake.

The future? It is more expensive and time consuming to restore a lake and the foreshore than the plan we have now.

We should be considering the lake in its entirety instead of just our own individual lots.

The total cost of this project for the four years was approx \$50,000. *Columbia Basin Trust - \$20,000, WLLID - \$12,000, "In Kind" support - Ministry of Environment, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Lake Windermere Project / Wildsight, Regional District of East Kootenay.*

For a link to the reports, contact the WLLID secretary at wllid@shaw.ca



“NO WAKE WEDNESDAY”

The straw poll at the Pancake Breakfast indicates an overwhelming interest in a “No Wake Wednesday” for next summer.

With a survey of over a hundred people the results are running 14 to 1 for a wake less Wednesday.

According to WLLID archives the issue of motorboats on our small lake has been a topic of debate and concern since 1973.

Finally we hope we have found a bit of a solution!

“A No Wake Wednesday”

NO- We are NOT trying to ban motorboats.

We are trying to ACCOMODATE everybody.

One day where people can canoe and swim without a worry. One day when ducks can feel safe in their habitat. One day where people can enjoy a peaceful day at the lake.

“IT’s the CANADIAN way”

Community Stats

	2006	2010	2010 Lakefront Ownership
Alberta Seasonal	43%	49%	58%
B.C. Seasonal	17%	17%	26%
Year Round	38%	33%	16%
Out of Country	2%	1%	< 1%

The WLLID welcomes help.

We need people to help us with lake testing each summer. We need a person to keep the WLLID community web site current. *Some of the work can be done from wherever you live.* If you are interested in becoming more involved, contact the secretary at wllid@shaw.ca

Wasa Wonderings

Q: Why is the Lake so low?

A: Our record keeper indicates that the lake levels are similar to last year. Around mid- August the river level drops, causing the lake level to drop, this is a natural process. At the south end and areas where the lake is shallow the change will be very noticeable.

Q: How do the flap Gates at Cameron Pond work?

A: The flap gates are called trial flood mitigation systems. They are one way valves. They allow the water to flow out, not in. Their purpose is to stop flood waters from backing up into Cameron Pond and into Wasa Lake from the Kootenay River.

Q: Is Wasa Lake draining into Cameron Pond, causing the lake to go down?

A: No. Cameron pond is not connected to Wasa Lake except during flood episodes. Cameron Pond is fed by Lewis Creek. Wasa Lake is affected by the Kootenay River and by underground springs.

Q: Is there anything wrong with the lake?

A: No. HOWEVER, that doesn’t mean our lake is invincible. Our aim is to inform people how to make choices that will help preserve the state of the lake.

If you would like further information on any of the mentioned topics there are plenty of informative documents in the WLLID archives. Contact the Secretary.

Wasa Lake Land Improvement District: Chair - Wilma Croisdale; Trustees - Susanne Ashmore, Marita Askey, Kathy Miles Boue, Sharon Prinz; Secretary - Danella MacIntrye, contact at wllid@shaw.ca

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