

Columbia Basin Water Hub

The WLLID has been a member of Living Lakes Canada (LLC) for many years. LLC is establishing a Water Hub for the East Kootenay. It went live on the internet in mid-December.

This Water Hub, <https://waterhub.livinglakescanada.ca/>, is very much in its infancy and will house a collection of publicly accessible data-sets covering various aspects of water from elevation levels to numerous quality metrics. Participating groups will soon begin adding their specific datasets to the Hub.

WLLID is participating in the Water Hub. WLLID has collected water elevation data for the lake and Kootenay River since 1996. At some point in the next year, WLLID will upload its daily water data making it available, not only to Wasa residents, but anyone wishing to conduct environmental research. WLLID will not be giving away the data to anyone or any group. WLLID will retain ownership and control of the data placed with the Water Hub. More details to come.

The WLLID conducted a water test of Wasa on 19th November. A second water sample was drawn from Cameron Pond on the same day. WLLID took this action in order to establish a baseline of data showing the chemical and mineral composition of the water.

Results from the test, for both locations, are overwhelmingly positive. Full details and the CARO Analytical Services report can be found on the WLLID website, wasalake.ca. All of the parameters tested fall well within the Provincial Government guidelines for water quality.

Readers of the reports should note one red number in the Microbiological Parameters section. Total Coliforms for Wasa tested at 39, which is above regulatory limits. The number for Cameron Pond was 8, which is also above regulatory limits.

However, the key component of coliforms is the E. coli number, which in both cases, came in at < 1 /100 mL of water.

For comparison, the E. coli numbers at public beaches around Wasa were < 5 /100 mL this past summer.

The Cameron Pond water sample was also tested for herbicides, particularly Glyphosate, more commonly known as Round-Up. The Core Report shows the presence of Glyphosate at a concentration of < 0.050 mg/L. This is well below the regulatory Maximum Acceptable Concentration (health based) (MAC) = 0.28 mg/L. The water in Cameron Pond is safe and does not have high levels of either E. coli or herbicides. Wasa water was not tested for herbicides.

Full details and the CARO Analytical Services report can be found on the WLLID website, wasalake.ca.

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