

WLLID ANNUAL REPORT 2015

2015 was a year of continuing though unspectacular activities for the WLLID. A below average snow pack and relatively little spring rains resulted in lower than usual water levels in the lake and nearby Kootenay River. The reduced spring runoff coupled with a hot and dry summer gave rise to lower lake levels and higher water temperatures, especially near the surface. New equipment was obtained to monitor the quality of the water in the lake. This enabled us to more effectively measure the temperature and oxygen levels. These were continually monitored and found to be within an acceptable range throughout the summer.

In order to encourage more participation from non-resident owners a liaison position was established. The name of the liaison is Murray Lytle. Murray resides in Calgary and is available to receive concerns and comments from those owners who reside outside BC. His email address can be found on the website, www.wasalake.ca. If you have concerns, Murray would like to hear from you and is prepared to advocate on your behalf.

Trustees also were involved, along with residents in a knapweed pull around the lake last summer. Knapweed remains a concern to residents. As a very invasive plant it can affect water quality, especially if it gets established along the foreshore.

The high water years of 2012 and 2013 likely resulted in nutrients being leached from the foreshore into the lake. Since that time the lower water levels and hot, dry summers have resulted in increased plant growth throughout. The plants have been identified as a native milfoil variety, generally considered as not invasive, unlike the Eurasian Milfoil found in a number of lakes nearby. While not a concern for the general health of the lake, the quantity and density of the plant life in some areas, especially where the lake is shallow, have raised concerns for the safety and viability of many of the activities enjoyed by residents. Residents are cautioned to ensure that their water craft are free of invasive species especially if they have been used in lakes that are known to have such species in their systems. It would also be helpful if boaters would attempt to avoid areas of heavy infestation in order to reduce the spread of the plant life.

In an attempt to bring the growth under control, the WLLID is coordinating a “plant removal activity” to be held later this spring. The date of the activity will be announced later. A small area has been selected and an effort to remove the plants from that area will be undertaken. This will be quite experimental for this lake and if it proves to be successful, authority to expand the project in future may be sought. If you would like to participate in the venture please contact us by email at admin@wasalake.ca or by mail at Box 133 Wasa British Columbia, V0B 2K0. The success of this activity will largely depend on the support from the community, so we encourage as many volunteers as possible.

For 2016 trustees will continue efforts to ensure that water quality in the lake remains high in order for you to enjoy a summer of positive and healthy activities.

Respectfully submitted.

Cliff Youngs
Chair, WLLID Trustees.