

WLLID AGM Report (October 2024)

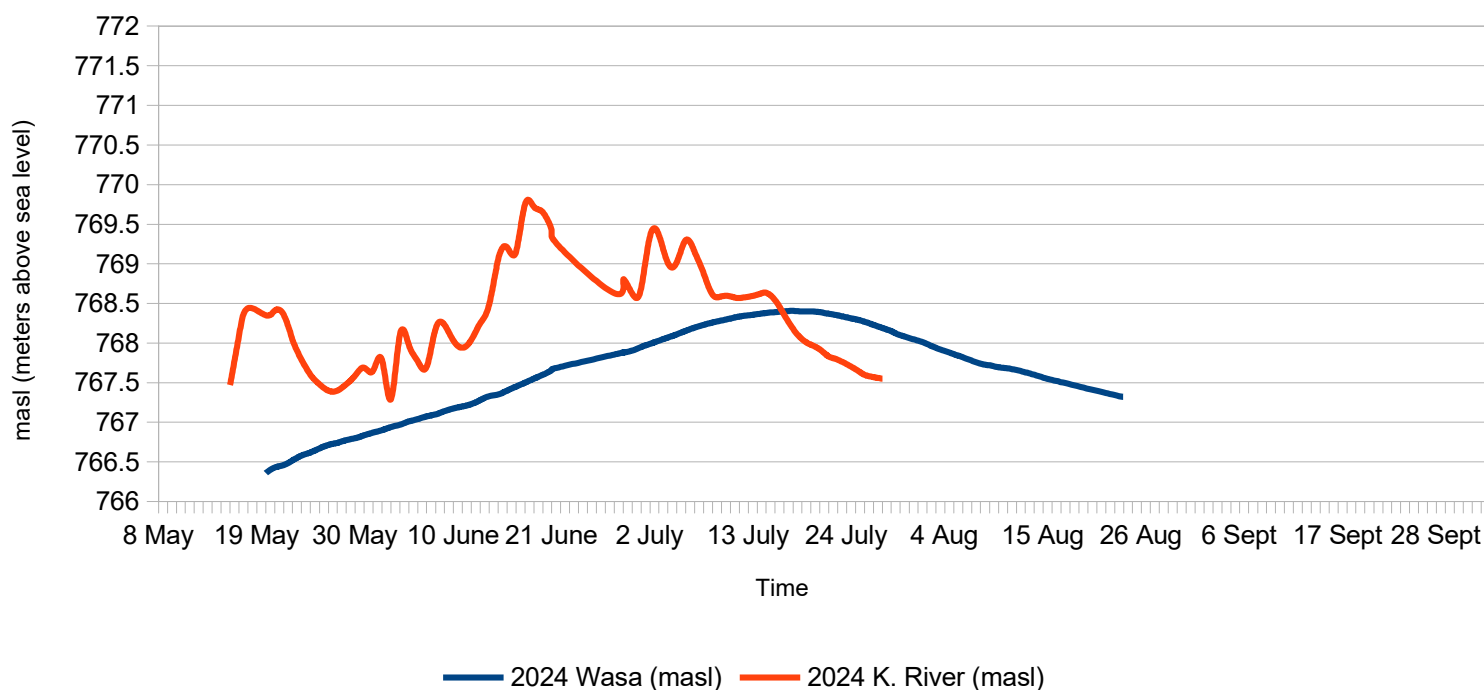
With the 2024 water season behind us, the WLLID Board thanks local volunteers Becky, Jan, Alex and Adam for their work on the water testing crew. This group volunteered 50 hours to support water testing over the past summer. Thank you.

As most would have seen, the water levels this year were nearer to normal than 2023, which saw an early freshet and low water levels in 2022.

This year, freshet did not start until after Mother's Day. Peak water at Wasa occurred in mid-July lasting from the 13th to the 16th reaching 768.40 masl (meters above sea level). Last year, peak water level occurred over a month earlier on 6 and 7 June reaching a level of 768.06 masl.

The graph below shows Wasa and Kootenay River water levels.

Water Levels
(2024)



Kootenay River levels dropped below the measuring gauge on 24 July. The Rivers sustained elevation through early July helped keep Wasa water levels higher at than last year.

The highest surface water temperature this summer was recorded on 18 July at 26.5° C.

Over the past eleven (11) years, the average high water mark has been 768.70 masl. Yearly peak water levels are reported in the chart below.

Chart One – Peak Water History

Year	Peak Level (masl)
2024	768.40
2023	768.06
2022	769.53
2021	768.84
2020	769.42
2019	768.05
2018	768.70
2017	769.46
2016	768.24
2015	768.09
2014	768.94

Water quality testing occurs weekly from late May to mid-September. These tests include E. coli, dissolved oxygen and temperature readings.

Over the course of this water season, Wasa public beaches contain, on average, <5 e. coli per 100 ml of water, which Interior Health deems “acceptable.” The level where concern would be raised and pubic beaches closed is an e. coli count >200 per 100 ml of water.

The chart below reports the weekly e. coli numbers for various locations at Wasa.

Wasa, E. coli Testing (2024)											
	Location	Main Beach	Horseshoe Beach	Campers Beach	Cedar Beach	Spruce Beach	Pine Beach	Ida’s Cove	Elm Beach	Fir Beach	South Beach
8 May	E. coli per 100 ml	<5	<5	<5	<5	9	<5				
13 May	E. coli per 100 ml	<5	<5	15	<5	<5	<5				
22 May	E. coli per 100 ml	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5				
27 May	E. coli per 100 ml	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5				
5 June	E. coli per 100 ml	<5	<5	5	<5	<5	5				
12 June	E. coli per 100 ml	5	10	<5	5	<5	<5				
19 June	E. coli per 100 ml	<5	5	9	<5	5	10				
24 June	E. coli per 100 ml	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5				
3 July	E. coli per 100 ml	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5				

8 July	E. coli per 100 ml	<5	<5	<5	5	<5	<5	
16 July	E. coli per 100 ml	<5	<5	<5	<5	20		<5
23 July	E. coli per 100 ml	<5	<5	<5	<5	20		<5
29 July	E. coli per 100 ml	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	
13 August	E. coli per 100 ml	<5	<5	<5	<5		<5	<5
19 August	E. coli per 100 ml	<5		<5	<5		<5	<5
28 August	E. coli per 100 ml	<5	<5	10	<5		<5	<5
4 Sept	E. coli per 100 ml	<5	<5	10	9	<5	<5	

On August 5th, WLLID undertook extensive water sampling from a location at the centre of the lake. The tests include a range of parameters covering the chemical composition of the water. A similar test was conducted in November of 2020. Although this type of testing costs close to \$2000 per year, the WLLID Board believes undertaking this type of water test each year is in the best interests of the lake.

These test results have been obtained from CARO Analytical Services laboratory who conducted the analysis on the water samples. At first glance, the results show no anomalies in the water composition. The Board is looking to have a professional hydrologist review the two sets of data and provide a report. For details, see Appendix 1, which will be available on the WLLID website, wasalake.ca.

The WLLID Board has been in attendance at the Saturday morning pancake breakfasts providing information on Board activities, answering questions and listening to resident concerns. It has been a positive experience. Residents who stopped by to chat expressed support for the WLLID, water monitoring and testing.

Concerns raised by residents include the increase in algae and organic material in the water, the impact of wake boats on the foreshore and lake bottom, the growing amount of aquatic plant life some refer to as weeds, and duck itch, also known as swimmers itch.

The WLLID Board is aware of these concerns and will continue to provide information to residents about the impact their activities have on the water and lake.



Invasive Species

On September 5th, WLLID received information and photos regarding a crayfish found in Ida's Cove.

After consultations with the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council and information from the Provincial government, Aquatic Invasive Fauna Specialist, Aquatic Ecosystems Branch, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, the specialist confirmed it is a virile crayfish (*Faxonius virilis*).

This crayfish is a freshwater aquatic invasive species. According to the specialist, there is “no known method” to eliminate this crayfish from the lake.

Earlier this past summer, the same crayfish was found in Lillian and Moyie Lakes.

Wasa residents are strongly urged to **Clean, Drain and Dry** all equipment used in and on the water before being transferred from one water body to another. This includes all water craft, kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, waders, life jackets, and even children's beach toys.



Not following these guidelines is what resulted in the introduction of the crayfish into the lake.

The government specialist also noted that “effective May 17, 2024, in B.C. it is now illegal to transport your watercraft with the drain plug still in place. **Pull the plug! It's the law!**”

Another key to keeping invasive species out of Wasa is to ensure any “water released from aquariums, ponds or water gardens is done on land.”

WLLID continues to monitor the water, and appeals to everyone to please think about the negative impact their actions can have on the water

Learn more about invasive species here, <https://www.ekisc.com/>, and here, www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species.