

WLLID Chair's Report - 2025 AGM

submitted by Nowell Berg

The WLLID enjoyed quite the year in 2025 with many successful events and a couple of interesting challenges.

First off, I want to thank the Board – Jan, Shauna, Phil and Luke – for their contribution by committing over 340 hours of volunteer time. Other volunteers – Becky, Adam and Alex – helped with various water tests from May through early September (40 hours).

Also, a thank you to Lori for her work on agendas, meeting minutes, bookkeeping, preparing tax notifications and over-due notices, posters and keeping the house in order.

The highlight this year was the very successful Water Day (26 July) where WLLID, EKISC and Living Lakes set-up information booths at Campers beach. Almost 100 people stopped by to learn about the organizations and the work they do to protect the water at Wasa.

Residents stopping by the WLLID booth raised concerns about the increase in algae and organic material in the water, the negative 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.

Responding to these concerns, the WLLID Board contracted Larrett Aquatic Consultants to sample the lake bottom sediment, collect deep water E. coli samples and provide a report on its findings. Board member Shauna will provide details.

The WLLID Board will continue to provide information to residents about the impact their activities have on the water and foreshore.

For the first time, WLLID and Wasa faced two E. coli readings that were substantially higher than IH and Provincial regulations. Both occurred at Campers/Dog beach.

An E. coli reading in late June (before the July long weekend) reached a never before seen 7,300 E. coli / 100 ml of water. Another reading later in July reached 1,000 E. coli / 100 ml of water. In both cases, warnings were posted by BC Parks.

In discussions with IH, an extensive investigation into the cause was not undertaken because subsequent E. coli readings at Campers/Dog beach returned to normal levels, which would be anywhere from < 5 to 15 E. coli / 100 ml of water. Extensive reporting on these occurrences can be found in the Tri-village Buzz and on the WLLID website.

Emails received by the Board during the high E. coli events raised the issue of septic leakage as the cause of the high readings.

Looking into this, the Board invited Mike Remier, who has years of experience working here in the community, to attend a Board meeting and provide information on septic systems at Wasa. Based on his knowledge and experience, septic leakage was not the cause of this summers high readings.

As reported by residents, there were a large number of dogs roaming across Campers beach prior to the large readings.

WLLID has a new website, same address – www.wasalake.ca. It is **the** public source for verified WLLID Board information, current news, water data and testing alerts. Board agenda's and meeting minutes, along with reports, both new and historic, continue to be available for public reading.

If you want to get involved with the ID, please contact us at admin@wasalake.ca.