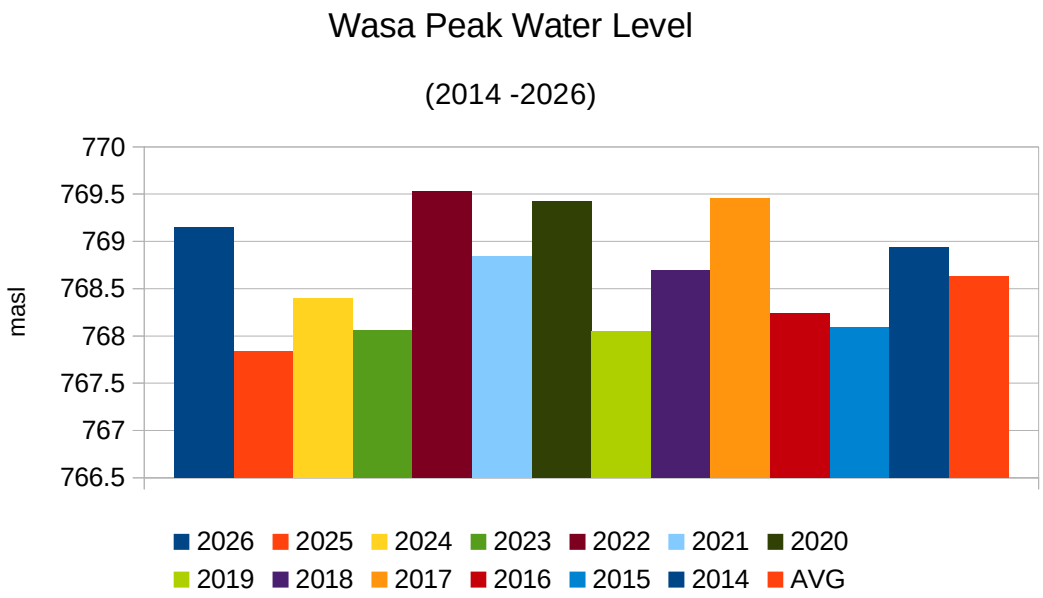
WLLID Water Report
(2025 & 2026)

The 2026 water year was highlighted with peak water reaching 769.15 masl (meters above sea level). This was 1.3 meters higher than 2025 (767.84 masl).

The chart below reports the peak water level for the past 13 years. The average peak water level over that time is 768.67 masl.

Last year (2025) was the lowest peak water level in the past 13 years.

WLLID volunteers record daily water level data at Wasa and the Kootenay River.

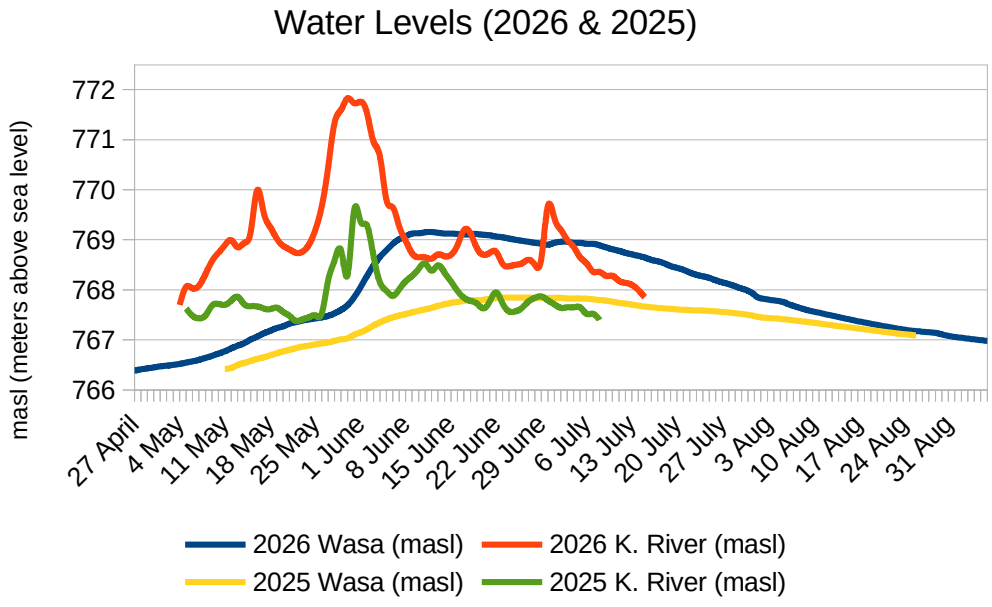


To illustrate the significant difference between yearly water levels, the graph below shows water level from the start of freshet for both locations, this year and last.

The amount of water flowing down the Kootenay River has a direct impact on the level of water at Wasa.

The graphed data for the Kootenay ends because the water level drops below the measuring gauge.

With some long-term weather forecasts expecting lower winter snow pack, the lack of spring run-off means an already shallow lake gets more so.



Testing the water for E. coli, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and temperature help in understanding how the water changes over time.

DO, turbidity and temperatures of the water column were limited this past summer (2026).

More volunteers are needed so the work does not fall to just one or two people. Wildfire smoke and evacuation also played a part in limiting testing.

Water samples are drawn from six (6) locations around Wasa. Interior Health (IH) analyses the samples to determine levels of E. coli.

The Table below reports the E. coli readings for the 2026 water season.

	E. coli per 100 ml								
Wasa Water Testing (2026)	**24 June**	**29 June**	**6 July**	**14 July**	**21 July**	**29 July**	**12 Aug**	**19 Aug**	**26 Aug**
Campers Beach	5	<5	<5	<5	75	<5	<5	5	<5
Cedar Beach	5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<1	<5	<5	<5
Horseshoe Beach	<5	<5	<5	<5	18	<5	<5	<5	9
Main Beach	<5	<5	5	<5	10	<5	<5	<5	<5
Pine Beach	5	<5	<5	5	<5	5	<5	<5	<5
Fir Beach						15	<5	<5	<5
Spruce Beach	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5				

	E. coli per 100 ml			
Wasa Water Testing (2026)	**8 Sept**	**15 Sept**	**23 Sept**	**28 Sept**
Campers Beach	23	<5	190	<5
Cedar Beach	<5	<5	<5	<5
Horseshoe Beach	<5			
Main Beach	5	<5	<5	<5
Pine Beach	<5	<5	<5	<5
Fir Beach	<5	<5	180	<5
Boaters Beach		<5	<5	5

All readings from IH are deemed “acceptable.”

Being a small research project limited the Larratt Aquatic study to sampling deep water E. coli, chemical composition and sediment analysis. It was designed to provide a baseline of data to which future observations and measurements can be compared.

The ID did not prescribe any report conclusions, they are solely those of the Larratt researchers.

The Larratt study concludes:

- Water quality at Wasa is “suitable for recreational use.”
- Green algae “poses no risk.”

- Cyanobacteria is present, but “densities do not pose a health risk to recreators.”
- The risk of invasive mussels at Wasa is extreme due to the high concentration of Calcium in the water and the number of access points around the lake.

According to the Larratt report, the primary source of invasive mussels are large and small boats.

The environmental and economic impact of invasive mussels investing Wasa would be devastating to the whole community and the area.

For more detail, please refer to the Larratt Aquatic report – wasalake.ca/reports.

The public meeting in June had the Larratt Researcher present the Study findings. A recording is available on the website at Reports.

Ice On - Off
The winter of 2025-2026 was the first time there was open water on Christmas Day. There may have been another time, but WLLID is not aware of it.

While shore ice started forming on 22 December 2025, complete ice coverage did not occur until 28 December, 2025.

The ice melt began on 4 March, 2026. By the 8th of March, 75% (est.) of the ice was melted. Full ice-off occurred by 11 March.

Usually in early March, ice fishing is still going on. This past March, the fishers were back in their boats.

2024, ice-on XX November, ice-off 21 March 2025.
2023, ice-on 24 November, ice-off 9 March 2024.
2022, ice-on 14 November, ice-off 28 March 2023.
2021, ice-on 5 December, ice-off 19 March 2022.
2020, ice-on 29 November, ice-off 23 March 2021.
2019, ice-on 27 November, ice-off 3 April 2020.

Stay up to date on WLLID water testing and measurements by visiting the website.