

WOLFE LAKE (WESTPORT) ASSOCIATION

News Flash 6 | August 18, 2018

ONE OF THE LOGS FROM THE DAM REMOVED!



Several members of the Wolfe Lake (Westport) Association noticed lower water levels closer to the end of the work week. Last night |(Friday August 17) Ken Malcolm confirmed that one of the boards has been removed, and shared the above picture with us!

Ken reported: "They have pulled the top log leaving approximately 4 inches of possible lake level drop going forward. Notwithstanding the rains over the past 24 hours the lake remains below the historic water levels at this time. One would question the need to pull the log based on the torrential rains/flooding just experienced in Kingston and surrounding area which is the direction of our water to feed the Canal."

We would like to urge all members of the association to keep on writing letters/e-mails to the relevant authorities, such as the one below. Details of contact information can be found on page 3 of this News Flash.

As discussed and proposed at the AGM (July 21, 2018), please take action and inform all that you are fed up with the extremely low water levels and want the log(s) put back in the Wolfe Lake dam. Otherwise you/we will hold Parks Canada liable for injuries and/or damage resulting from any accidents that do occur.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would be willing to share a copy of your letter with us: com-wolfelake@outlook.com

Letter example and contact info relevant authorities on next pages.

LETTER EXAMPLE + ANSWER OF PARKS CANADA

Daniel Spitzer
67 Wolfe Ridge Lane
Westport ON K0G 1X0

27 July 27, 2018

Dear Representative,

I am living on a waterfront property at Wolfe Lake. Currently we are experiencing extremely low water levels due to the complete removal of the logs from the dam to a waterway towards the Rideau Canal. The dam is controlled by Parks Canada. It appears that some outdated regulations/legislation or even unfounded decision making are applied regarding the water level management, without any appropriate environmental justification. Our Association (Wolfe Lake Association) has confronted Parks Canada multiple times with this issue, without satisfactory results. Reasoning of the contacted representatives of Parks Canada was not convincing.

Along with the safety issues connected with the extremely low water levels in our Lake (unsafe boating conditions, damaging docks) there are serious environmental implications induced by inconsistent water level management. Inconsistent water level management is a serious threat to the entire ecology of the Lake.

1. Low water levels cause substantial decrease of the water clarity, greatly (negatively) affecting the entire biodynamics in the water body.
2. Low water levels cause increase of unwanted nutrients (Phosphorus, Nitrogen) concentrations leading to increased nutrification of the lake and hence to spontaneous algal blooms and proliferation of the bottom vegetation.
3. Low water levels cause increase of the euphotic zone (the depth related to the unwanted bottom weeds growth) due to the general decrease of the water depth.
4. Low water levels cause increase of the water temperature in the shore zone and hence contribute to the increase of infestation by bottom weeds in the areas adjacent to the shores.
5. In particular, we have noticed that the density and spread of the fast-growing invasive Eurasian milfoil are reaching disproportionally high levels. Currently, infestation of Ontario lakes by the Eurasian milfoil is one of the key environmental concerns.

As the 'Director of the Water Quality', I kindly request you to help us and to take action to prevent further deterioration of our aquatic environment of Wolfe Lake by influencing Parks Canada to put back the logs in our dam, for now; and to apply ecologically responsible water level management policies, for any future lake water drainage.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel Spitzer
Director Water Quality, Wolfe Lake (Westport) Association
Adj. Professor Environmental Engineering, University of Windsor

ANSWER PARKS CANADA

From: valerie.dewinter@pc.gc.ca <valerie.dewinter@pc.gc.ca> **On Behalf Of** RideauCanal.Info@pc.gc.ca
Sent: 02 August, 2018 4:00 PM
To: dspitzer@amapsenv.com
Subject: RE: Wolfe Lake Water

Dear Mr. Spitzer,

Thank you for your email. Parks Canada manages water levels on the Rideau Canal and associated lakes with a number of watershed interests that go beyond navigation needs of the canal. For instance, water management activities also consider mitigation of flooding of agricultural, private, public and commercial property; protect fish & wildlife habitat; support municipal water supply needs; support hydroelectric generation; and help maintain water quality. Many factors influence water levels along the Canal and the impact of factors such as the area of a drainage basin and the volume of precipitation or water loss due to evaporation are closely monitored and their effects mitigated as much as possible by the Ontario Waterways team.

The water management practices for Wolfe Lake are long standing and Wolfe Lake is managed in coordination with Upper Rideau Lake. Both lakes are below average levels for this time of year due to the drought conditions that are being seen throughout the region, which include much of southern Ontario. We are working to capture previous week's rainfall in both lakes and the outflow from the dam on Wolfe Lake has been reduced to retain water in the lake. At no point during the drought period were all logs removed from the Wolfe Lake Dam and the Parks Canada water management team is working hard to conserve water for reservoir lakes, such as Wolfe Lake, and the canal itself.

Unfortunately, during dry, hot periods, there is very little that can be done to maintain water levels across the system. Conservation during drought conditions is paramount and the effects are also being felt on the southern portion of the Rideau Canal which is currently operating with a reduced boating depth. It is also important to note, that water passing through the lock system does not play a significant role in water levels on the Rideau Canal and lake levels can be dramatically affected by evaporation. Water updates, as well as lake level information, can be found online on our Water Management InfoNet, available here: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/rideau/info/infonet>.

During times of drought conditions, it is essential for boat operators to practice safe boating and to be aware of the local conditions, including low levels and underwater hazards in their lakes. During dry periods, such as these, it can reasonably be expected that water levels will be lower than normal and that extreme caution should be exercised.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views with me and I appreciate having the opportunity to respond to your concerns. For questions or concerns, or to receive water management updates by email, please send an email to RideauCanal.Info@pc.gc.ca and include "Water Management" in the subject heading.

Sincerely,

Valerie de Winter

General Inquiries Administrator
Ontario Waterways Unit - Rideau Canal
Parks Canada | Parcs Canada
rideaucanal-info@pc.gc.ca

Telephone | Téléphone: 613.283-5170

[www.parkscanada.gc.ca][www.parkscanada.gc.ca] [www.parcscanada.gc.ca][www.parcscanada.gc.ca]

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE LOW WATER LEVELS DUE TO THE COMPLETE REMOVAL OF THE LOGS FROM THE DAM ON WOLFE LAKE?

Take action and contact the influentials below



Your association has spoken several times with Parks Canada (they control the dam for the operation of the Rideau Canal) without satisfactory results.

In addition to very much reducing our enjoyment of water front properties and contributing to lower property values, the low water level creates unsafe boating conditions as it exposes water hazards not usually present and could result in serious injury or even death to residents or visitors to our lake that are unaware of those hazards.

We invite all members to make their concerns known to:

- **The Honourable Catherine McKenna**, federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change, CONTACT her at the House of Commons (Ottawa, ON):
catherine.mckenna@parl.gc.ca or by telephone at **+1 613 996 5322**
or at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change:
ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca or by telephone at **+1 819 938 3860**
- **Ms. Jewel Cunningham**, Director of Ontario Waterways, Parks Canada
CONTACT her at the Peterborough office:
jewel.cunningham@pc.gc.ca or by telephone at **+1 705-750-4919**
- **Ms. Valerie Dewinter** the Engagement, Partnering and Communications office, Parks Canada
at the Smith Falls office:
valerie.dewinter@pc.gc.ca or by telephone at **613-283-7199 ext 202**
- **Mr. Colin Clarke**, Water Management manager, Parks Canada
at the Elgin office:
colin.clarke@pc.gc.ca or by telephone at **613-359-5620**

As discussed and proposed at the AGM (July 21, 2018), please take action and inform all that you are fed up with the extremely low water levels and want at least some of the logs put back in the Wolfe Lake dam. Otherwise **you/we will hold Parks Canada liable for injuries and/or damage resulting from any accidents that do occur.**

If you no longer wish to receive the News Flashes of the Wolfe Lake (Westport) Association, please let us know at: com-wolfelake@outlook.com, and we will unsubscribe you.