

THE LAKE WINDERMERE PROJECT

Healthy Water for Healthy Communities



wildsight

At the headwaters of the Columbia River sits beautiful Lake Windermere. It's a source of drinking water, a recreational playground and the economic foundation of the valley. Lake Windermere is also a key habitat for fish, birds, wildlife and plants.

But intense pressures on the lake are taking a heavy toll. More than half of its shoreline is classified as disturbed and its aquatic habitats are threatened by pollution and intensive motorized recreation. A once-thriving burbot population — a predator fish that relies on a healthy food chain — has collapsed.

In response, Wildsight began the Lake Windermere Project (LWP) in 2005. The goal was—and is—"healthy waters for healthy communities." Since then, the LWP has effectively brought all levels of government, First Nations and community organizations together to protect and restore the natural values of this special place.

Three basics to achieve success

The Lake Windermere Project sticks to three basics to achieve success: science, stewardship and partnerships.

Science: In-depth water quality samples, biological inventories, aquatic surveys—the LWP conducts them all. All data is collected and analyzed scientifically to establish accurate baseline knowledge about the health of the lake and its tributaries. This comprehensive

approach empowers decision makers and stakeholders to effectively manage Lake Windermere.

Stewardship: From water monitoring and Streamkeepers training to shoreline restoration — responsible stewardship involves people at every step. Training programs bring in volunteers and give them the knowledge and skills to carry stewardship into the future. Education programs introduce children and adults to the importance of healthy waterways.

Partnerships: A partnership between all levels of government, First Nations, community organizations and businesses,



the LWP is the first comprehensive water stewardship initiative to engage all these stakeholders. Its structure is now followed by other groups across Canada who want to emulate its success.

Planning and succeeding

The Lake Windermere Project has mobilized hundreds of volunteers in activities ranging from water quality monitoring to shoreline cleanups and water stewardship events. It has touched hundreds of young people with educational programs and has attracted international attention for its innovative approach to gaining support. Data has been collected for four years to create a complete scientific review of the state of the lake, coming in 2009. It will be used to create water quality objectives — and ensure that we meet them.

Join these partners

Columbia Basin Trust, BC Lake Stewardship Society; Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission; Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership; Department of Fisheries and Oceans; District of Invermere; East Kootenay Conservation Program; East Kootenay Integrated Lake Management Partnership; Environment Canada; Interior Health Authority; International Living Lakes Network; Ministry of Environment; Regional District of East Kootenay; Real Estate Foundation of BC.

The innovative option

Want to support but don't have the time to volunteer? Join area residents, businesses and organizations by becoming a Steward and Ambassador. All financial contributors are given window decals to display at their businesses or homes and receive media coverage at LWP events—if they so choose. There are four levels: Bronze (\$1 to \$999); Silver (\$1,000 to \$4,999); Gold (\$5,000 to \$9,999); and Platinum (\$10,000 and more).

This is everyone's chance to become part of a legacy that protects and enhances water quality in the lake and its surrounding areas.



The benefits are many

By supporting the Lake Windermere Project, you will be supporting healthy water and healthy communities. You will be known as someone who cares about the ecological integrity of Lake Windermere, and as someone who cares about the communities of the Columbia Valley.

Please call today—every call, every contribution, makes all the difference.

Kat Hartwig,
Wildsight Development Director
kat@wildsight.ca
Office: 250.346.3036
Cell Canada: 250.346.3030
Cell Europe: 43.676.700.5656

Wildsight Main Office
office@wildsight.ca
2-495 Wallinger Ave.
Kimberley, B.C. V1A 1Z6
Phone: 250.427.9325
Fax: 250.427.3535