



BCLSS

March 2025 Newsletter



Nita Lake

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BCLSS Lake Ecology and

Monitoring Course

Upcoming Course Details



June 3-5th, 2025



Held at Opheim Lake
near Williams Lake, BC



\$800 per person

Email us to reserve your spot!

info@bclss.org



BCLSS

The BCLSS Lake Ecology and Monitoring Course is a 3 day course designed to give professionals in environment related fields a thorough grounding in the fundamentals of lake ecology and monitoring to prepare them for work in consulting firms, government agencies, and other organizations engaged in the monitoring and assessment of lakes. BCLSS has developed this course through the expertise in limnology of our staff and Board of Directors. Students will gain proficiency in a variety of lake related field monitoring techniques through field sessions at a lake comprising approximately 30% of the course.

Learn more about the course on our [website](#) or contact the instructor for further details: norm@environmentalquality.ca

Download the registration form below to reserve your spot for June, or schedule a course for your group by reaching out to us at info@bclss.org

**Refundable \$50 deposit required to register, with the balance of the tuition to be paid by May 13 2025. Please register as early as possible as class size is limited due to the field session.*

Registration Form

Meet the Instructor

Norm Zirnhelt

Norm is a Registered Professional Biologist with over 35 years experience in water and air quality. Norm was head of the BC Ministry of Environment's Air/Water Quality Monitoring and Impact Assessment Section for the Cariboo Region from 1989-2010. Norm has been Principal Consultant at his consulting firm, Cariboo Environmental Quality Consulting Ltd. (CEQC) since 2010. CEQC has completed projects on lakeshore protection in sensitive areas, aquatic benthic biology, fish tissue & water chemistry assessment in the mining sector, analysis of aquatic benthic data from a range of sites for the Ministry of Environment, and has developed & conducted training courses for impact assessment biologists for the MOE. Norm currently instructs a course for Vancouver Island University on Water Quality Monitoring and Design.



Ice-on/Ice-off Tracking with the B.C. Lake Ice Reporting Tool

With spring around the corner, don't forget to report on the status of lake ice on your local lake! Ice-on and ice-off dates for BC lakes are important data

for climate change research. By comparing these dates to climate change trends, we can examine how global warming is affecting our lakes.

The B.C. Lake Ice Reporting Tool was developed to standardize the data and make it easier to submit. Click the button below to submit an observation.



B.C. Lake Ice Reporting Tool



Nita Lake 2006-2012, 2021-2023 BC Lake Stewardship and Monitoring Program Summary Report



The BC Lake Stewardship Society (BCLSS) and the Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV) partner with local volunteers and stewardship groups to characterize lake water quality through the *BC Lake Stewardship and Monitoring Program* (BCLSMP). The BCLSMP's focus is on understanding water clarity, temperature, oxygen, and nutrients because these factors contribute to the basic understanding of lake processes which influence biological productivity. Concerns about productivity are common, specifically because high productivity can negatively impact recreation, drinking water and aquatic health due to harmful algal blooms. For more information about the BCLSMP please visit www.gov.bc.ca/lakestewardshipmonitoring.



Photo 1. Photo of Nita Lake

Background

Nita Lake has a surface area of 11.37 ha, a perimeter of 1737 m, and lies at an elevation of 638 m. The lake's average depth is 8.8 m, while the deepest spot is 21.6 m. Located only 5 km from Whistler Village, Nita Lake is a deep lake framed by the steep coastal mountains of the Whistler area. Land use surrounding Nita Lake consists of mixed residential and commercial development, and the watershed is approximately 65% forested. The CN railway follows the northwest shore of Nita Lake, while the Valley Trail follows the northeast side of the lake. Residential housing also lines the northeastern shore, and the Nita Lake Lodge sits at the south end of Nita Lake (Clark, 2024; Rebellato, 2005). However, on December 5,

New Lake Report! Volunteers from the Whistler Lakes Conservation Foundation recently completed an enhanced Level 1 BC Lake Stewardship and Monitoring Program on Nita Lake. Click the button below to read the report!

[Nita Lake Report](#)



Not a member of the BCLSS yet?

Please consider joining our network of lake stewards! For more information on the benefits of membership, [visit our website](#).

Were you forwarded this newsletter? [Subscribe today](#) to get monthly updates on stewardship activities, lake science, and much more delivered to your inbox!

The BCLSS acknowledges that the lake stewardship activities of our staff, directors, and volunteers take place on the traditional, ancestral, and

unceded lands of First Nations Peoples throughout British Columbia. We recognize that Indigenous Peoples have stewarded these lands and waters for generations and we are grateful to the Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, and youth that implement their knowledge and traditional laws to preserve water and life for the benefit of all.



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Parks.



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