

Summary of Columbia Lake Stewardship Society's 2024-25 Water Quantity Monitoring Program

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Executive Summary

Since fall 2024, the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society (CLSS) has continuously operated its Water Quantity Monitoring Program. This initiative supports the Society's goal of protecting Columbia Lake's ecological health and water supply for current and future generations. The program aims to better understand what affects lake levels, with the intention of providing useful guidance to those responsible for managing the lake over time.

The 2024-25 season experienced minimal snow accumulation, resulting in the lake reaching near-record low levels despite unusually high temperatures in late May. Subsequent rainfall during late June, July, and August offset the reduced meltwater input and moderated the rate of decline, such that by the end of the season, the lake level was comparable to that of typical years.

All loggers operated satisfactorily through the shuttle, the device used to download data in the field, developed a timing error that caused data causing lengthy gaps in the records of some stations. The ongoing failure of the RGL 800 automated station to upload correct measurements continued. The station was removed in October and disassembled for inspection. Water was found to have entered the waterproof case, and a means of repair has been taken up with the supplier.

Data from the rain-gauge at Spur Lake was lost from May onward, also because of the timing error in the shuttle. In contrast, the record from the Canal Flats rain-gauge was not affected and was complete.