



Ken Traynor <ken.traynor@gmail.com>

CLRSS November 2020 Newsletter

2 messages

Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society <chantellemcgeachy@gmail.com>

14 November 2020 at 09:31

Reply-To: chantellemcgeachy@gmail.com

To: ken.traynor@gmail.com



CLRSS Newsletter: September 2020 Issue

Welcome to the Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society Newsletter. We look forward to keeping you connected with our current projects, events and programs.

For any questions please e-mail our team at info@clrss.ca

Make sure to follow us on Facebook to keep updated on all CLRSS activities.

Follow CLRSS on Facebook

President's Message

Dear All,

These latest rains have pushed lake levels above the top of the current weir for the first time since June 1st.

The lake level today was close to the level that will be the target spring lake level for the new weir operation over the next decade. Both the weir design team and the Shoreline Natural Boundary survey team are making good progress and generating some excellent scientific updates to our knowledge about how the lake functions.

Design work is progressing on improving fish passage at the new weir especially for juvenile fish and a siphon design to introduce cooler water below the weir in the summer to reduce summer temperatures in the river. We are hoping that there will be an excellent interpretative centre incorporated into the design in Saywell Park.

And in case you missed it, the Federal Government has committed \$24.2 million in funding to Cowichan Tribes for Flood Abatement and watershed improvements, including the new weir. This is great news and excellent progress moving us closer to accomplishing this much-needed climate change impact adaptation project. Many thanks are due to all the valley folks and organizations who have worked so hard over the last decade to make this a reality.

The latest weekly report from DFO puts the salmon counts for the Cowichan River at:

- Chinook - 21,726
- Coho - 12,834
- Chum - 100,735

All represent healthy returns by the standards of the last decade.

CLRSS has been approached by a national organization, the Decibel Coalition, working to change national laws requiring noise restrictions on very loud boat engines plaguing many lakes across the country. For more information check [here](#).

Stay safe and well all as we move on to navigate our first Covid fall and winter.

Ken Traynor,

President of the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society

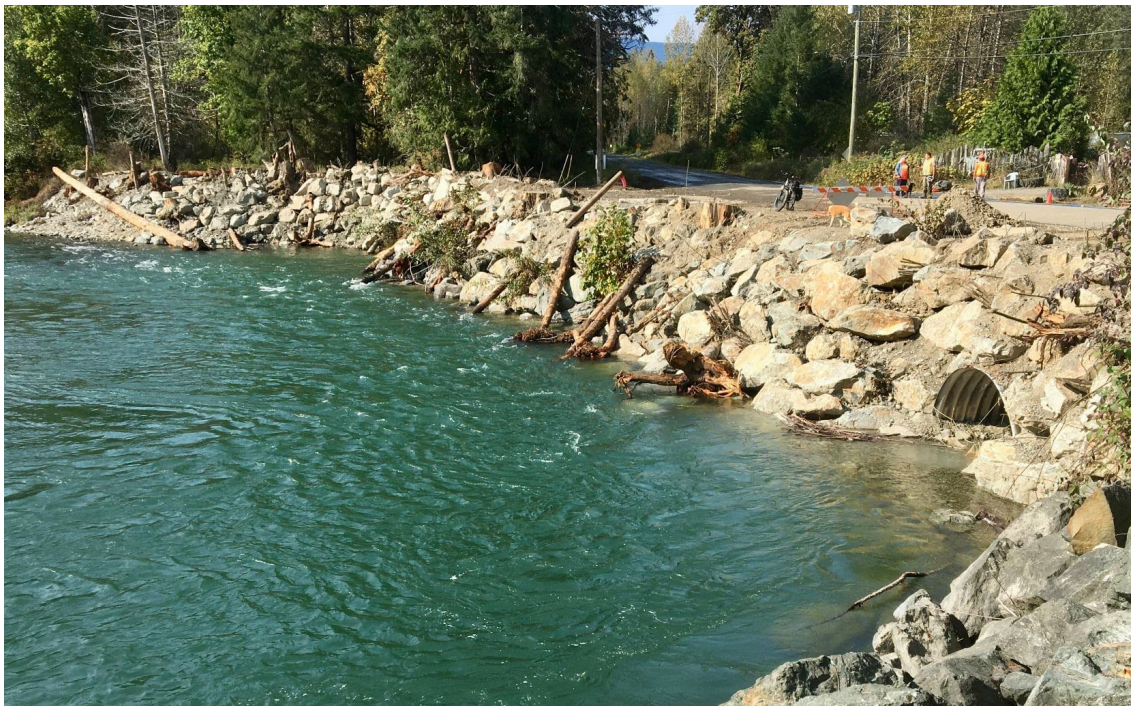
Visit our website

Update from the Cowichan Roundship Table



Success! The new spawning habitat recently created on West Riverbottom rd is working. Chum salmon can be seen going under the road and utilizing the restored oxbow. Recent rains have created good flow in the area and the spawning gravel is ideal for salmon. Well done Sean Wong of MOT, Cowichan Tribes and private land owners for the well designed and executed project.

See our Facebook post on the project [here](#)



Reminder on bottle donations to support CLRSS!



At the Duncan Return-It, you can have your donation support this mission and purpose of CLRSS by asking your return to be donated to account #484.



Photo by Genevieve Singleton.

"I never tire of Quw'utsun River.

"...rivers are the veins of the earth through which the lifeblood returns to the heart."

Roderick Haig-Brown, conservationist, author, fisherman."

For more of Genevieve's work and photos, please visit the [Genevieve Singleton Quw'utsun Nature Rambles](#) Facebook Page and to follow by liking the page!

Genevieve Singleton Quw'utsun Nature Rambles

Valley Voice Magazine article: Protections in Place for Cowichan Lake Lamprey Critical Habitat



By Genevieve Singleton and Joy Wade,

Questions? Direct to Genevieve: twinflower4@gmail.com

With all the negative environmental news that we face each time we log on or crack open the paper, it is refreshing to hear good news for conservation of species at risk. It was precisely that, good news, that was presented at the last Cowichan Valley Round Table meeting in September. Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented new protections for our very own local novelty, the Cowichan Lake Lamprey.

This species of fish, although not terribly attractive, is found only in Mesachie, Cowichan and the adjoining Bear lake in Cowichan valley, nowhere else in the world. This lake spawning lamprey spends its whole life in these waters, most of which is spent in larval form (called an ammocoete - rhymes with feet). It spends a relatively short time as a parasitic fish, feeding off of other fish species in the lakes, particularly cutthroat trout. That is why when you go fishing in these waters and catch a cutthroat trout there will likely be scars on the fish caused by feeding lamprey.

Although it may look harsh, a scarred cutthroat means the lamprey had a good meal but also that

the trout survived, until you caught it that is! Although it is not known for certain, if Cowichan Lake lamprey are like other lamprey species, they spawn only once before dying. They make nests in the sand and cobble where rivers empty into the lakes and spawn in pairs or groups from about May to August.



Cowichan Lake lamprey was designated “special concern” in 1986 and after reassessment was designated “threatened” under Canada’s Species at Risk Act in 2003. The animal itself has protections under the act and as of February of this year, the habitat critical for their survival also became protected. Critical habitat for this species includes Cowichan, Mesachie and Bear lakes themselves, as well as portions of key rivers and tributaries flowing into these lakes, as well as riparian areas, varying from 15 to 30m width therein. What this now means is that it is prohibited under the act to kill, harm or harass the fish itself and it is prohibited to destroy or damage nests and critical habitat. If anyone conducts these prohibited activities, charges can be laid under the Species at Risk Act. So if you are planning on changing riparian areas around the lake or disturbing sediment which may be a lamprey nest you need to obtain a SARA permit first.

So good news for conservation and for society. Helping protect the vulnerable components of our ecosystem will aid in ensuring the complexity of the world around us and build resilience to withstand threats. What can you do to help? Support and participate in conversation activities in the watershed, conserve water and report infringements when you see them. Call DFO’s Observe Record Report line (1-800-465-4336) when you see potential infringements to the species and its habitat. You have the power to make a difference in your community.

To learn more about the critical habitat and specific locations see [here](#).

For information regarding development activity email:

ReferralsPacific@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.



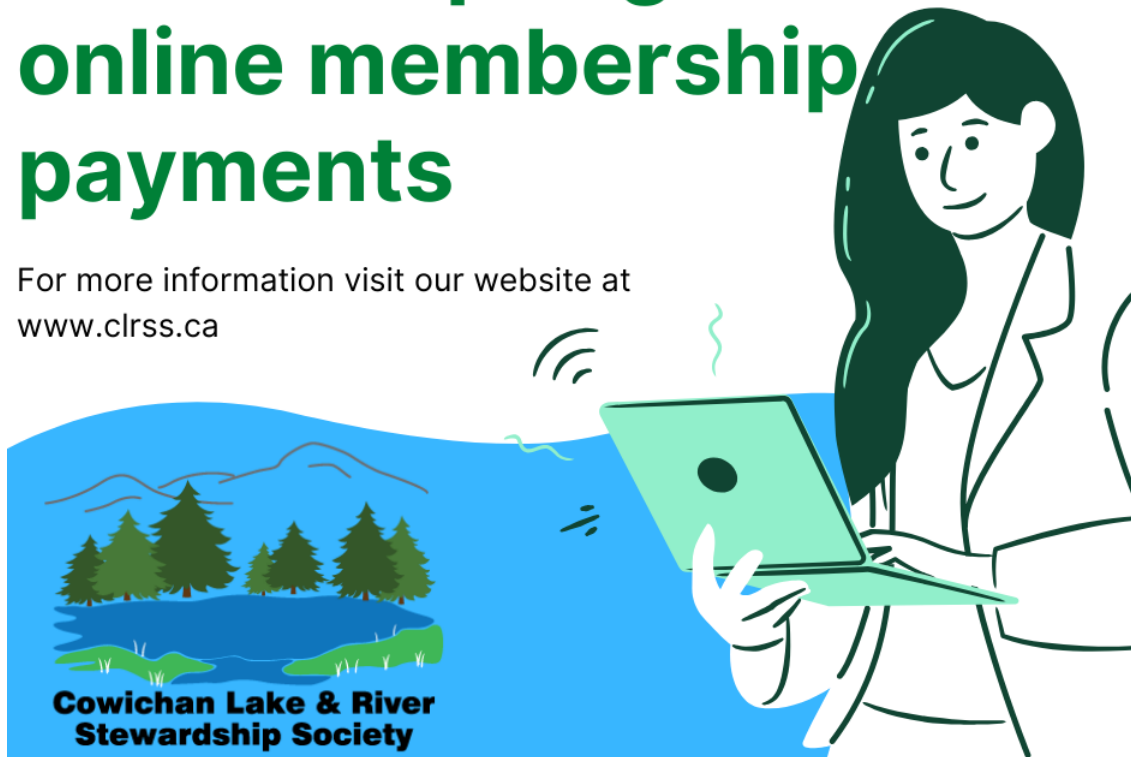
Photo by Genevieve Singleton: "Look at these jewels my young friend and I found on the forest floor! Qaanhlp stth'oom', Arbutus berries (*Arbutus menziesii*). Did you know that this is our only broad-leaved evergreen tree native in Canada? The berries are edible, but super astringent, especially if not ripe. Historically they were boiled or steamed and then dried for storage. They would be soaked again before eating."

Membership Reminder

Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society

Now accepting online membership payments

For more information visit our website at
www.clrss.ca



Reminder of Environmental Infractions

Report an Environmental Concern

The Province of B.C. relies on the public to report activity that causes pollution to the environment. By reporting pollution you are helping us act promptly to minimize harm to the environment and public health.

The RAPP program is a toll-free tip line and online service that also allows you to report known or suspected violations of fisheries, wildlife, or environmental protection laws anonymously and without risk of confronting the offender.



Dial **1 877 952-7277 (RAPP)** or **#7277** to report environmental violations of an immediate nature.

When a spill occurs, or there is the risk of one occurring, it must be reported immediately by calling **1-800-663-3456**.



Photo by Genevieve Singleton: "Fly Amanita, also known as Fly Agaric, (*Amanita muscaria*). This is the red-capped variety, I found in East Vancouver at the base of a boulevard tree today. There was six or so. I have never seen so many in one place.

Only at this one tree. Weird, did someone put soil here full of their spores?

A spectacular plant and subject of fairy tales and myths it is poisonous and hallucinogenic. Do not be scared though, that doesn't mean you can't enjoy its spectacular beauty! I am only an amateur at fungi identification, so much to learn, so little time! Learn your mushrooms well if you want to eat them, go out with a pro first.

Be safe."

Make sure to follow us on Facebook!



CLRSS Facebook Page

Copyright © 2020 Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society
PO Box #907
Lake Cowichan, British Columbia V0R 2G0
Canada

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.



Ken Traynor <ken.traynor@gmail.com>
To: Patricia McAdie <pjmcadie@gmail.com>

14 November 2020 at 09:38

Ken Traynor 
ken.traynor@gmail.com
#508 - 1433 Faircliff Lane
Victoria, BC V8S 3J6
250-228-2279

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]



CLRSS Newsletter: September 2020 Issue

Welcome to the Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society Newsletter. We look forward to keeping you connected with our current projects, events and programs.

For any questions please e-mail our team at info@clrss.ca

Make sure to follow us on Facebook to keep updated on all CLRSS activities.

Follow CLRSS on Facebook

President's Message

Dear All,

These latest rains have pushed lake levels above the top of the current weir for the first time since June 1st.

The lake level today was close to the level that will be the target spring lake level for the new weir operation over the next decade. Both the weir design team and the Shoreline Natural Boundary survey team are making good progress and generating some excellent scientific updates to our knowledge about how the lake functions.

Design work is progressing on improving fish passage at the new weir especially for

juvenile fish and a siphon design to introduce cooler water below the weir in the summer to reduce summer temperatures in the river. We are hoping that there will be an excellent interpretative centre incorporated into the design in Saywell Park.

And in case you missed it, the Federal Government has committed \$24.2 million in funding to Cowichan Tribes for Flood Abatement and watershed improvements, including the new weir. This is great news and excellent progress moving us closer to accomplishing this much-needed climate change impact adaptation project. Many thanks are due to all the valley folks and organizations who have worked so hard over the last decade to make this a reality.

The latest weekly report from DFO puts the salmon counts for the Cowichan River at:

- Chinook - 21,726
- Coho - 12,834
- Chum - 100,735

All represent healthy returns by the standards of the last decade.

CLRSS has been approached by a national organization, the Decibel Coalition, working to change national laws requiring noise restrictions on very loud boat engines plaguing many lakes across the country. For more information check [here](#).

Stay safe and well all as we move on to navigate our first Covid fall and winter.

Ken Traynor,

President of the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society

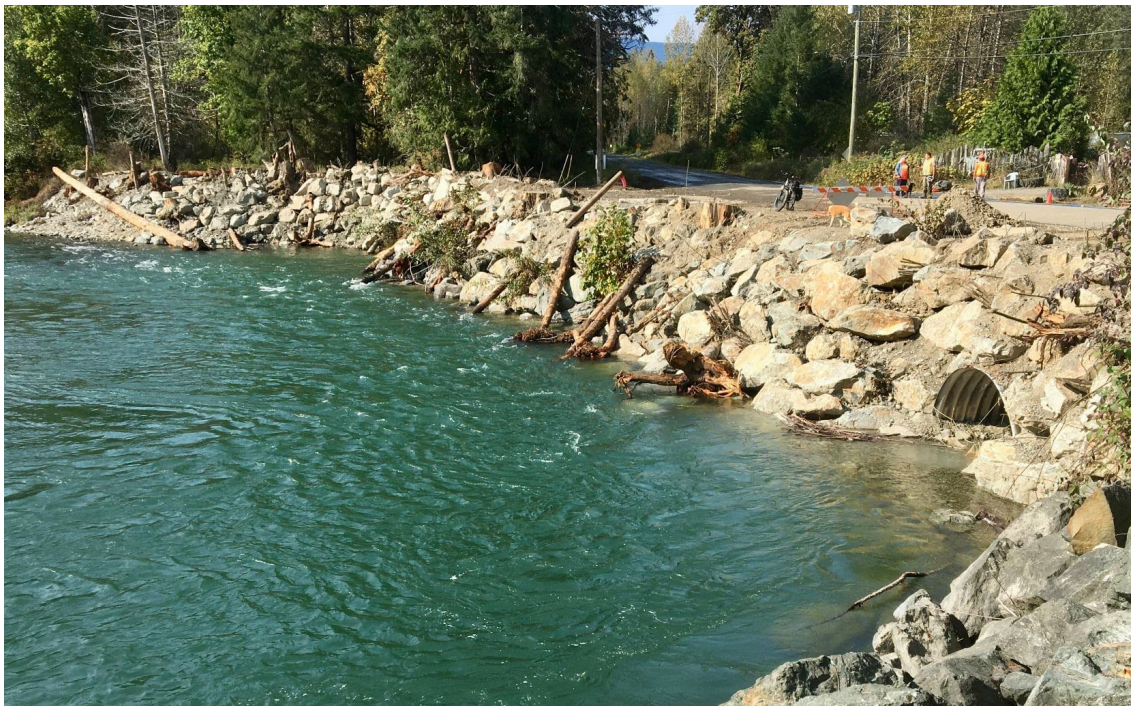
Visit our website

Update from the Cowichan Roundship Table



Success! The new spawning habitat recently created on West Riverbottom rd is working. Chum salmon can be seen going under the road and utilizing the restored oxbow. Recent rains have created good flow in the area and the spawning gravel is ideal for salmon. Well done Sean Wong of MOT, Cowichan Tribes and private land owners for the well designed and executed project.

See our Facebook post on the project [here](#)



Reminder on bottle donations to support CLRSS!



At the Duncan Return-It, you can have your donation support this mission and purpose of CLRSS by asking your return to be donated to account #484.



Photo by Genevieve Singleton.

"I never tire of Quw'utsun River.

"...rivers are the veins of the earth through which the lifeblood returns to the heart."

Roderick Haig-Brown, conservationist, author, fisherman."

For more of Genevieve's work and photos, please visit the [Genevieve Singleton Quw'utsun Nature Rambles](#) Facebook Page and to follow by liking the page!

Genevieve Singleton Quw'utsun Nature Rambles

Valley Voice Magazine article: *Protections in Place for Cowichan Lake Lamprey Critical Habitat*



By Genevieve Singleton and Joy Wade,

Questions? Direct to Genevieve: twinflower4@gmail.com

With all the negative environmental news that we face each time we log on or crack open the paper, it is refreshing to hear good news for conservation of species at risk. It was precisely that, good news, that was presented at the last Cowichan Valley Round Table meeting in September. Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented new protections for our very own local novelty, the Cowichan Lake Lamprey.

This species of fish, although not terribly attractive, is found only in Mesachie, Cowichan and the adjoining Bear lake in Cowichan valley, nowhere else in the world. This lake spawning lamprey spends its whole life in these waters, most of which is spent in larval form (called an ammocoete - rhymes with feet). It spends a relatively short time as a parasitic fish, feeding off of other fish species in the lakes, particularly cutthroat trout. That is why when you go fishing in these waters and catch a cutthroat trout there will likely be scars on the fish caused by feeding lamprey.

Although it may look harsh, a scarred cutthroat means the lamprey had a good meal but also that

the trout survived, until you caught it that is! Although it is not known for certain, if Cowichan Lake lamprey are like other lamprey species, they spawn only once before dying. They make nests in the sand and cobble where rivers empty into the lakes and spawn in pairs or groups from about May to August.



Cowichan Lake lamprey was designated “special concern” in 1986 and after reassessment was designated “threatened” under Canada’s Species at Risk Act in 2003. The animal itself has protections under the act and as of February of this year, the habitat critical for their survival also became protected. Critical habitat for this species includes Cowichan, Mesachie and Bear lakes themselves, as well as portions of key rivers and tributaries flowing into these lakes, as well as riparian areas, varying from 15 to 30m width therein. What this now means is that it is prohibited under the act to kill, harm or harass the fish itself and it is prohibited to destroy or damage nests and critical habitat. If anyone conducts these prohibited activities, charges can be laid under the Species at Risk Act. So if you are planning on changing riparian areas around the lake or disturbing sediment which may be a lamprey nest you need to obtain a SARA permit first.

So good news for conservation and for society. Helping protect the vulnerable components of our ecosystem will aid in ensuring the complexity of the world around us and build resilience to withstand threats. What can you do to help? Support and participate in conversation activities in the watershed, conserve water and report infringements when you see them. Call DFO’s Observe Record Report line (1-800-465-4336) when you see potential infringements to the species and its habitat. You have the power to make a difference in your community.

To learn more about the critical habitat and specific locations see [here](#).

For information regarding development activity email:

ReferralsPacific@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.



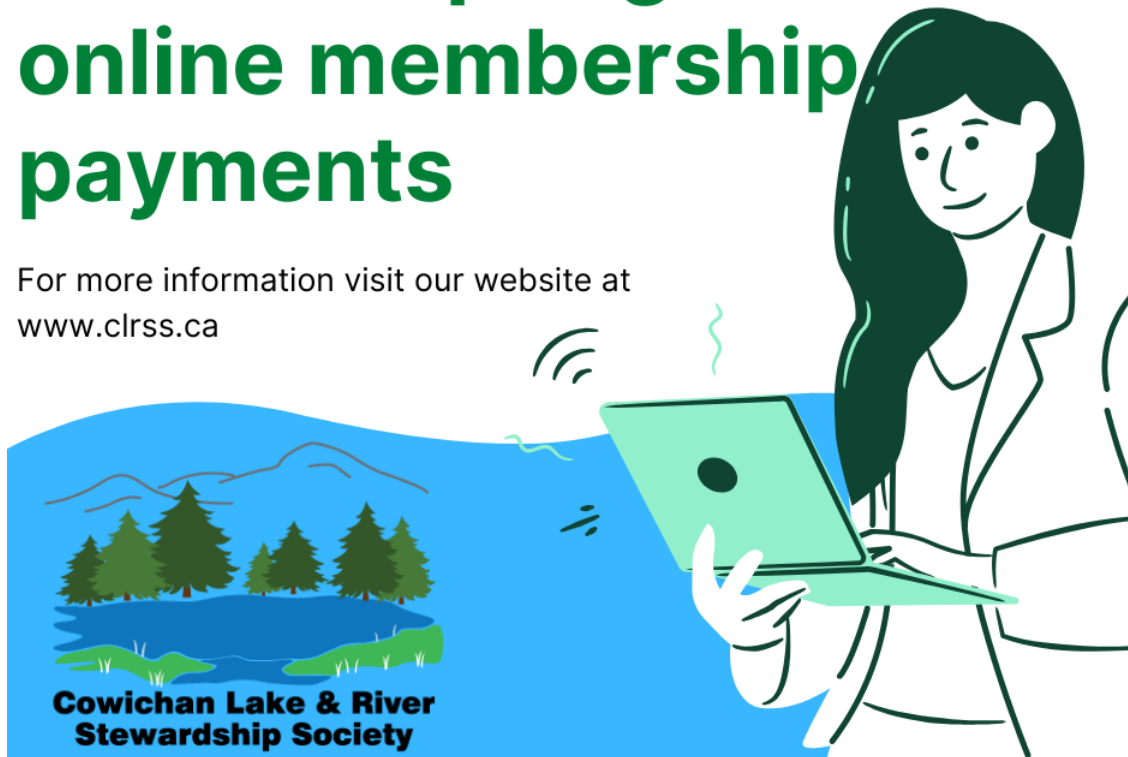
Photo by Genevieve Singleton: "Look at these jewels my young friend and I found on the forest floor! Qaanhlp stth'oom', Arbutus berries (*Arbutus menziesii*). Did you know that this is our only broad-leaved evergreen tree native in Canada? The berries are edible, but super astringent, especially if not ripe. Historically they were boiled or steamed and then dried for storage. They would be soaked again before eating."

Membership Reminder

Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society

Now accepting online membership payments

For more information visit our website at
www.clrss.ca



Reminder of Environmental Infractions

Report an Environmental Concern

The Province of B.C. relies on the public to report activity that causes pollution to the environment. By reporting pollution you are helping us act promptly to minimize harm to the environment and public health.

The RAPP program is a toll-free tip line and online service that also allows you to report known or suspected violations of fisheries, wildlife, or environmental protection laws anonymously and without risk of confronting the offender.



Dial **1 877 952-7277 (RAPP)** or **#7277** to report environmental violations of an immediate nature.

When a spill occurs, or there is the risk of one occurring, it must be reported immediately by calling **1-800-663-3456**.



Photo by Genevieve Singleton: "Fly Amanita, also known as Fly Agaric, (*Amanita muscaria*). This is the red-capped variety, I found in East Vancouver at the base of a boulevard tree today. There was six or so. I have never seen so many in one place.

Only at this one tree. Weird, did someone put soil here full of their spores?

A spectacular plant and subject of fairy tales and myths it is poisonous and hallucinogenic. Do not be scared though, that doesn't mean you can't enjoy its spectacular beauty! I am only an amateur at fungi identification, so much to learn, so little time! Learn your mushrooms well if you want to eat them, go out with a pro first.

Be safe."

Make sure to follow us on Facebook!



CLRSS Facebook Page

Copyright © 2020 Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society

PO Box #907

Lake Cowichan, British Columbia V0R 2G0

Canada

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

