
Newsletter: July 2021

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

26 July 2021 at 20:56

Reply-To: clrss.information@gmail.com

To: ken.traynor@gmail.com



CLRSS Newsletter: June 2021 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 Friends,

Well, it looks like we can finally get out in larger numbers and enjoy ourselves at long last. We are all looking forward to a summer on the lake and river. However, the scorching weather should serve as a reminder that Climate Change is real and is having real-world effects on life in the valley today and it will

be an on-going part of our future. We have been lucky this year to have had a good snowpack which has been feeding the lake for the last few weeks but the last of the snow on Heather Mountain melted during the last week in June. And with climate change seriously upon us we can no longer rely on the snowpack for spring flows which reinforces the need to raise the weir.


Weir Update: The first part of the Weir Design process is almost complete. The design packages are nearing completion and were reported out publicly on July 8th in a public webinar. The work on the Shoreline Assessment has also been forging ahead complete with wave monitoring this winter and an amazing on-line tool which shows specific lines on every property on the lake of exactly where the natural boundary line is, the lake levels of the old weir and the new weir, as well as property lines, the CVRD Riparian zone line and the average high water line, all super imposed on high quality images. You can access details on the current status of the project at cowichanlakeweir.ca.

Visit the Cowichan Weir Website

Our Watershed - Through a Creative Lens History Meets Climate

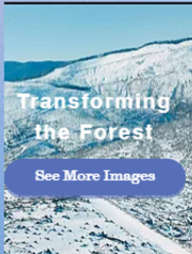
Images from our Watershed

The images displayed here have been sourced from the on-line archives of the BC Museum, the Cowichan Valley Museum and the Kaatza Museum.




In the Beginning

See more images




Transforming the Forest

See More Images




Watershed Vistas

See More Images



Watershed Giants

See More Images



The River

See More Images

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We are excited to be collaborating with the Cowichan Valley Arts Council (CVAC) and the **Cowichan Watershed Board** on a program called **Our Watershed - Through a Creative Lens - History Meets Climate Change**. This program is explained in detail on our website and there is more detail later in this newsletter as well. Please click through to [website](#) and check it out. There is a wonderful set of images, paintings, post cards that document just how much we have transformed this watershed from a sea of Primary Forest to a set of tree farms. Tom Rutherford and I did a presentation for the art folks and others outlining the Fish Flow Targets of the Watershed Board. One short 1 minute and 18 second video produced by CommonsBC a few years ago really shows it all.

Reminder:
Transforming our Primary Forests

Welcome to Muskoka!
Boat Safely. Have Fun.

A reminder of some important rules to keep everyone safe on the water!

The speed limit within 30 metres of any shoreline and dock is 9km/hr on all Muskoka lakes. These are also no wake zones.

Watch your wake! When slowing down, throttle back for 10 seconds, wait for the bow to drop and level before proceeding.

A reminder that boats with a exhaust diverter must be visibly disconnected. Excessive boat noise is a continual problem on the lakes.

Visit [safequiet.ca](#) to view the full Boater's Code.

MAKING THE MUSKOKA LAKES SAFER AND QUIETER TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE ENJOYMENT OF A TREASURED SHARED RESOURCE.
LEARN MORE: [SAFEQUIET.CA](#)

Muskoka Cottage Goer
Beautiful & Serene Ave.
MUS KOK

As reported in our last newsletter CLRSS has joined the Decibel Coalition which is actively lobbying the Federal Ministry of Transportation to regulate unmuffled boat engines on our lakes. The campaign is gaining momentum nationally and most recently the CVRD Regional District passed a motion to join the Coalition and support its objectives. CVRD joins a number of other municipal representatives from around the country in the coalition as well as the Youbou Community Association, the Shawnigan Lake Residents Association and CLRSS from here on Vancouver Island.

Fry Rescue Update

Joe Saysell reports that he was able to finish up all the fry rescue work in the upper part of the Cowichan River this year. He was glad that Brian Houle of Catalyst Paper was able to postpone the reduction of the river flow from 15 cms to 7 cms for an extra day allowing Joe and his crew to move the last of the fry from the side pools into the mainstem of the river so they can get up into the lake where it is cooler for the summer. If you do not already get the weekly lake level reports from Brian they are posted on the Catalyst website [click here](#) for a copy or go to the CLRSS.ca website for a link. Now with this hot weather the next focus will be on checking for stranded fry in the pools of the tributaries to the lake.

Ken Traynor,

President of the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society

Visit our CLRSS website

Cowichan Recreationalists

An amazing feature of our Cowichan Recreationalists

Thank you to our Member at Large, Rick Bryan for sharing!





Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project

We are collaborating again in 2021 with BCCF and doing riparian plantings along the shoreline of Cowichan Lake. This year's project leader is Elodie Rogers who is working with Genevieve Singleton, Dave Polster and Craig Wightman as advisers. She has a crew of young workers from LCS, Cowichan Tribes and a university student and they began work this wee. Last newsletter we reported on the removal of riparian vegetation on a beach on a Youbou property following its sale this winter - following intervention by fisheries and CVRD Bylaw enforcement officers the beach is being re-vegetated under the supervision of Swell Environmental Consultants.

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.

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**.

CLRSS Updates!

CLRSS Update: CLRSS held its AGM on May 30th. A copy of our Report for 2020 is posted on the website. A highlight of the event was the awarding of Honorary LifeTime memberships to wonderful longtime Lake & River Stewards Lois Atchison, Geneveve Singleton and Dave Polster who have each made tremendous contributions to our shared life in this valley for many years.

The new Board of Directors are:

Executive Directors:

President - Ken Traynor

Vice President and Treasurer - Lyndon Keeping

Secretary - Judy Brayden

Members At Large:

Di Gunderson

Rosemary Danaher

Chantelle Carden

Jim Deck

Dave DePape
Rodger Hunter
Rick Bryan
Jean Atkinson

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Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society
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