



# CLRSS Winter 2020 Newsletter

[www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca](http://www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca)

## Many thanks to those of you who responded to our October on-line survey . . .

We had an excellent response rate of 45% of 105 current members and even 19 of 127 lapsed members responded. One of the key findings was the request for more frequent updates on CLRSS activities and information by email, to that end we hope you find this newsletter useful and interesting. To see the full report if you are interested please click on this link. [\[need to load the report to the website\]](#) We will be reporting in more detail about our re-visioning exercise in the months ahead.

## Work on the engineering for the new weir is underway . . .

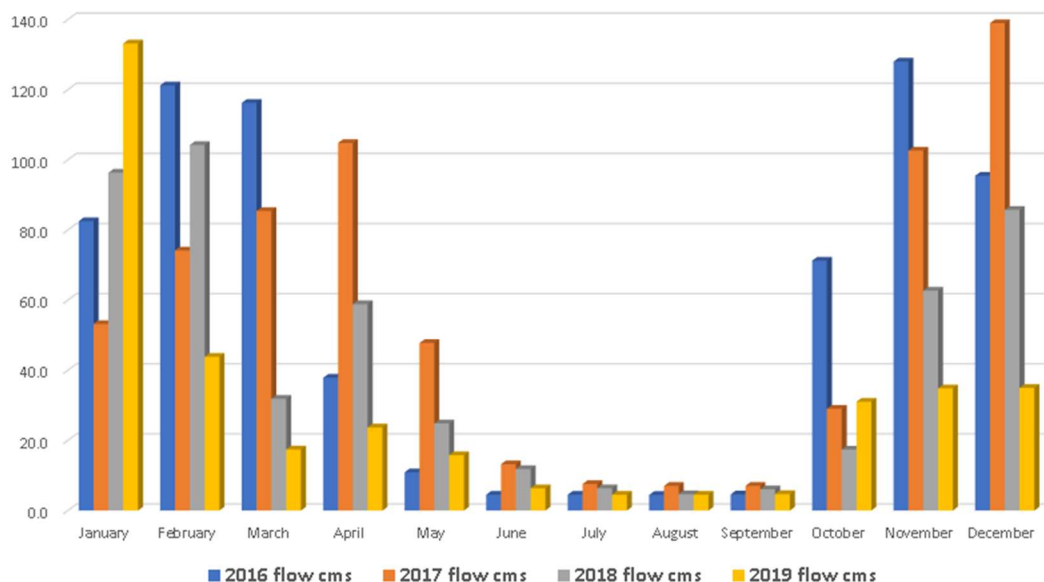
Leroy Van Wieren, our former CLRSS President and longtime lake-front owner, has been hired as the CVRD Project Manager on the file which is wonderful news. The Request for Proposal process for the design, siting and costing of the weir has been completed. Stantec was the successful bidder and should begin work February 1<sup>st</sup> as reported to the Cowichan Watershed Board meeting. A separate RFP process is underway for the work to determine the Natural Water Boundary for Cowichan Lake. It is expected the contract will be awarded by April this year.

## Some observations on water flows and Lake levels . . .

<from a Parker Jefferson Facebook post>

Here's an interesting graph. This shows the volume of water entering the Cowichan River each month since the extreme drought year of 2016. To date, 2019 has delivered 63% less water than 2016! January last year was above normal but every month since then has been way below. Just another indication of the coming challenges of climate change. Flow management planning for 2020 has started to ensure our adaptation strategies are in place for the next drought year.

2019, 63% less water released from lake Feb 1 to Dec 13 compared to 2016, the previous driest summer for the Cowichan



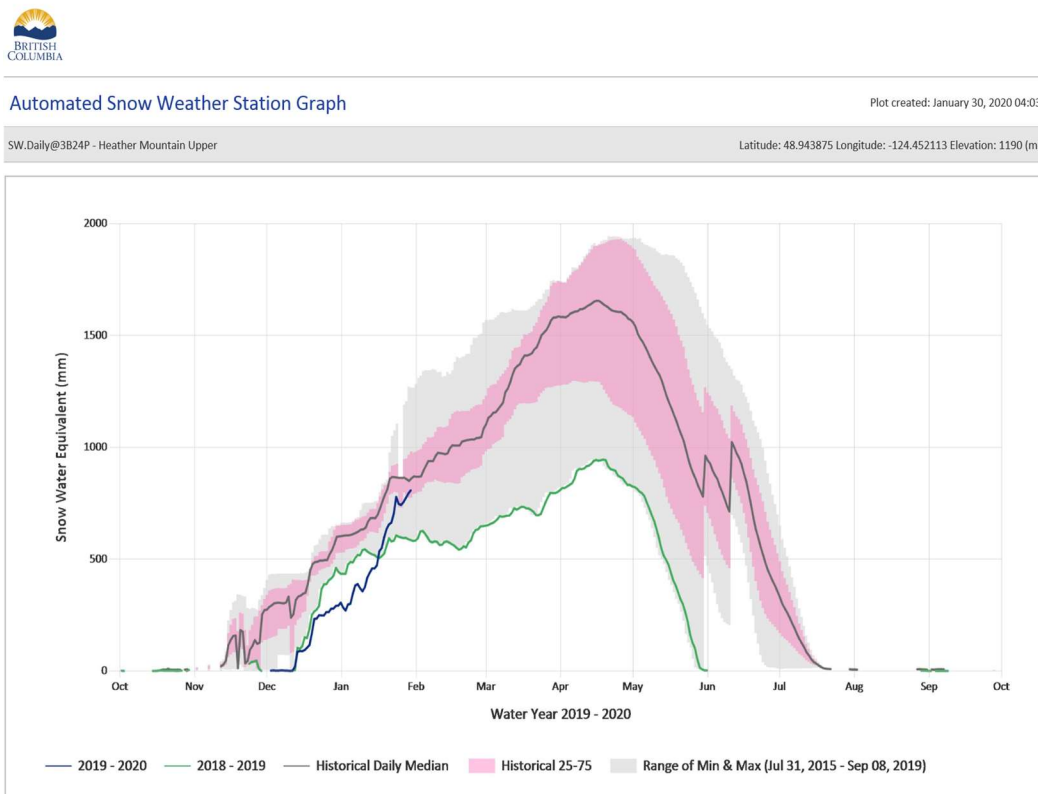


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**Lake Levels got up over the average highwater mark of 164m** for the first time this winter on January 24th. It was a dry fall with lake levels only cresting the weir for the first time on November 19th. The big rains forecast for the end of January and early February may take lake levels well above last year's levels at this time which were the start of our bad drought problems last year.

The graph below shows the **current snowpack at the automated station on Heather Mountain**. The black line can be seen climbing above the green line for 2019 which is welcome news. Hopefully these next storms will add to the snowpack significantly.



## And finally our CSSP video . . .

If you haven't already seen the recent CLRSS Video on the value of the riparian zones please click on this [link](#) to view the excellent work of Judy Brayden and her team.

**Thanks for your support and stayed tuned!**

Ken Traynor, CLRSS President  
(ken.traynor@gmail.com)