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CLRSS September 2020 Newsletter

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19 September 2020 at 12:26

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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.

President's Message

What a difference a year makes. Between Covid and a wet spring, summer 2020 has been vastly different from 2019, the 75th Anniversary summer for Town of Lake Cowichan. As a case in point, the flow in the river was maintained at 7 cubic meters per second all summer almost twice as much as last year.

By the beginning of September lake levels were nearly a half meter higher than 2019 with no pumping required and docks still floating not resting on the mud.

CLRSS had to cancel our yearly upper River Clean up but thanks to the folks at the Tube Shack the Sundown Divers Club and community members for undertaking a scaled back socially distanced mini clean up.

Hopefully, we will be able to get our River Clean up going again next year.

Cowichan Lake Weir

Those of you who have lakefront properties will have received a letter from the CVRD project team announcing the beginning of the Shoreline Assessment work for the new weir project. The engineering design work has been proceeding through the summer looking at the possibility of including a natural stream fishway for fish passage around the weir and a way to introduce cooler water into the river in the late summer to keep water temps below critical levels for the fish below the weir.

If you have not already checked out the project website you can access it at <https://cowichanlakeweir.ca>.

The Cowichan Watershed Board also has a report on the project available at [here](#).

Keep an ear out for the public consultation possibly this fall on the draft design for the weir.

Visit our website



Drilling on Weir Island this summer.

Gerald Thom Memorial Garden

If you have been down to Saywell Park you will know that the Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden is looking great. Thanks to Lois and Rosemary and their team for all the hard work. And Bee Greenway and her crews were out regularly all summer sampling water quality on the lake. A full water quality update report should be available from the BC Lake Stewardship Society this fall based on the data Bee and her team have been collecting over the last few years.

Project Updates

While we managed to squeeze in two socially distanced outdoor meetings this summer we are back to meeting on Zoom calls again. Our next focus is on developing a youth directed initiative here at the lake.

Stay well under these smokey skies in these Covid troubled times.

- Ken Traynor, President of CLRSS



Photo by Genevieve Singleton. "This photo is dedicated to my long time friend, John Scull, recently passed, who taught me to gaze meditatively into rain drops to look for the reflections: trees, sometimes my own face. Always ask for permission first. Gratitude John. Linda Lou. "Qwa'up is the Hul'q'umi'num' word for the apple of the Crabapple tree, which is known as Qwa'upulhp (*Malus fucus*). Hard to catch this photo with the rain spangled light. A real "giving tree", the hard resilient wood is used for making digging tools, implement handles, wedges and much else. I like the sour sweet taste of the apples but being lazy I don't process them often since they are so small. They are great canned and made into jelly. They taste better after a frost and can be stored green slowly ripening. Our only native apple."

CLRSS joins One Cowichan's Climate Action Checklist Campaign

As part of One Cowichan's release of a [climate action checklist](#) for local governments, CLRSS joined as a signatory in support of this campaign.

Our official statement regarding this is as follows:

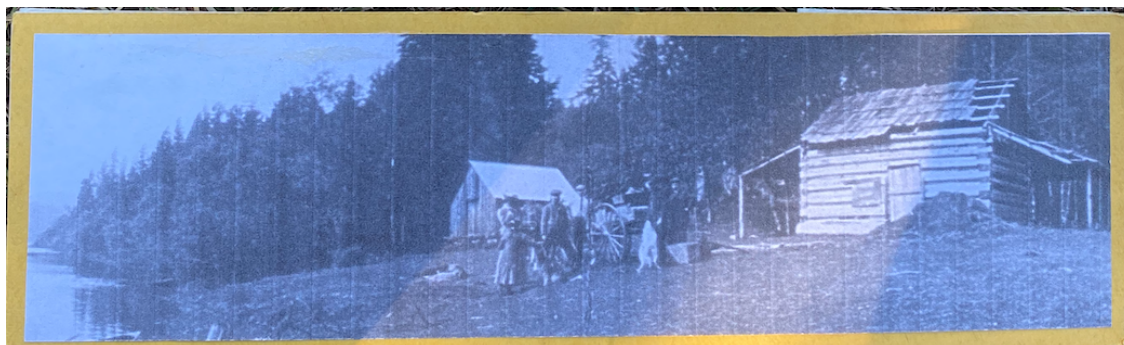
Dear North Cowichan Council, I am writing on behalf of the Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society (CLRSS) in relation to item 11.2 "Request for Follow Through on Climate Action" on the Wednesday, September 16th Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

It is our view that we get the most accomplished in the valley when we work together to accomplish our common goals. The recent progress on raising the weir on Cowichan Lake is a good example of this approach. In our work we have adopted the Four Fold way as our guiding principles. In summary: we ask everyone to speak from the heart with passion but show up to solve problems and speak without blame.

We are also engaged to address the challenges of climate change in this valley and we are willing to show up to solve problems and we are keen to know what this council proposes so we can find an effective way to support your actions. We have reviewed your new report on updating your climate modelling and your public consultation and we look forward to hearing more specifics on next step actions from council. We urge everyone involved to get on with addressing the real climate challenge we all face and which has been so evident in our smoke filled skies these last few days.

- Ken Traynor, Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society

Photo feature: 1950's photo of Lake Cowichan





1956 images of McCallum's landing.

Summer Highlight: July proclaimed as Lakes Appreciation Month



Canada Province of British Columbia A Proclamation

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom,
Canada and Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the
Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

To all to whom these presents shall come – Greeting

WHEREAS lakes are among British Columbia's most valuable natural resources, and

WHEREAS British Columbia's lakes provide drinking water, habitat for wildlife, energy, recreation, scenic beauty
and essential connection to the natural world, and

WHEREAS these beneficial uses of lakes are of fundamental importance to the environment and to communities in
British Columbia, and

WHEREAS the BC Lake Stewardship Society (BCLSS)—in partnership with other non-profit societies, local communities, Indigenous peoples and the government of British Columbia—has significantly contributed to a better understanding of lakes and lake shore ecology, and has made improvements to many lakes, and

WHEREAS the government of British Columbia recognizes the importance of protecting the health of lakes in the province;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that July 2020 shall be known as


“Lakes Appreciation Month”

in the Province of British Columbia.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province of British Columbia to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS, The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Vancouver, in Our Province, this twenty-ninth day of June, two thousand twenty and in the sixty-ninth year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.



Attorney General
(counter signature for the Great Seal)

Lieutenant Governor

The British Columbia Lake Stewardship Society (BCLSS) is excited to announce that July 2020 has officially been proclaimed **Lakes Appreciation Month** by the Province.

A letter to all Lakeshore Property Owners



September 2, 2020

Dear Property Owner,

RE: Cowichan Lake Weir Replacement Project - Update

Following Provincial guidelines, a Water Use Plan was developed for the Cowichan Lake and River systems. This plan, completed in 2018, concluded that replacing the current weir with a new weir is critical to support environmental flows now and for the foreseeable future. It will create an additional 70 centimeters of storage as well as meet all of today's engineering and dam safety requirements.

The weir replacement program has multiple steps that must be completed prior to a new weir being constructed including; engineering design of a new structure, strategies to remove the existing weir, assessment of impacts to the foreshore, formation of a legal entity to apply for a water licence, a formal licence application and adjudication by the province and finally sourcing the resources to construct a new weir prior to construction.

BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund have provided a grant to the project sponsors (Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), Cowichan Tribes, Cowichan Watershed Board, and Paper Excellence) to complete the required engineering and shoreline assessment work phases. This project will be completed by March 2022.

The weir design contract with Stantec Consulting was started in the fall of 2019 and is progressing on plan. The shoreline assessment contract has just been awarded to the engineering firm Kerr Wood Leidal who have engaged Bazett Land Surveying for field work.

A field survey program will start mid-September and run through the fall. This work will record existing conditions and will help to support and verify existing databases to support assessments, analyses and modelling. **Field crews of 1 or 2 people will access the shore by boat and walk along the beach to collect geophysical information along the shoreline from the existing water level to the typical High-Water Mark.** The field work will focus on developed areas and will collect GPS survey measurements, shoreline photos and observations.

For further information on both components of the existing program please visit the Project Website at cowichanlakeweir.ca

Regards,

Leroy Van Wieren, Project Manager

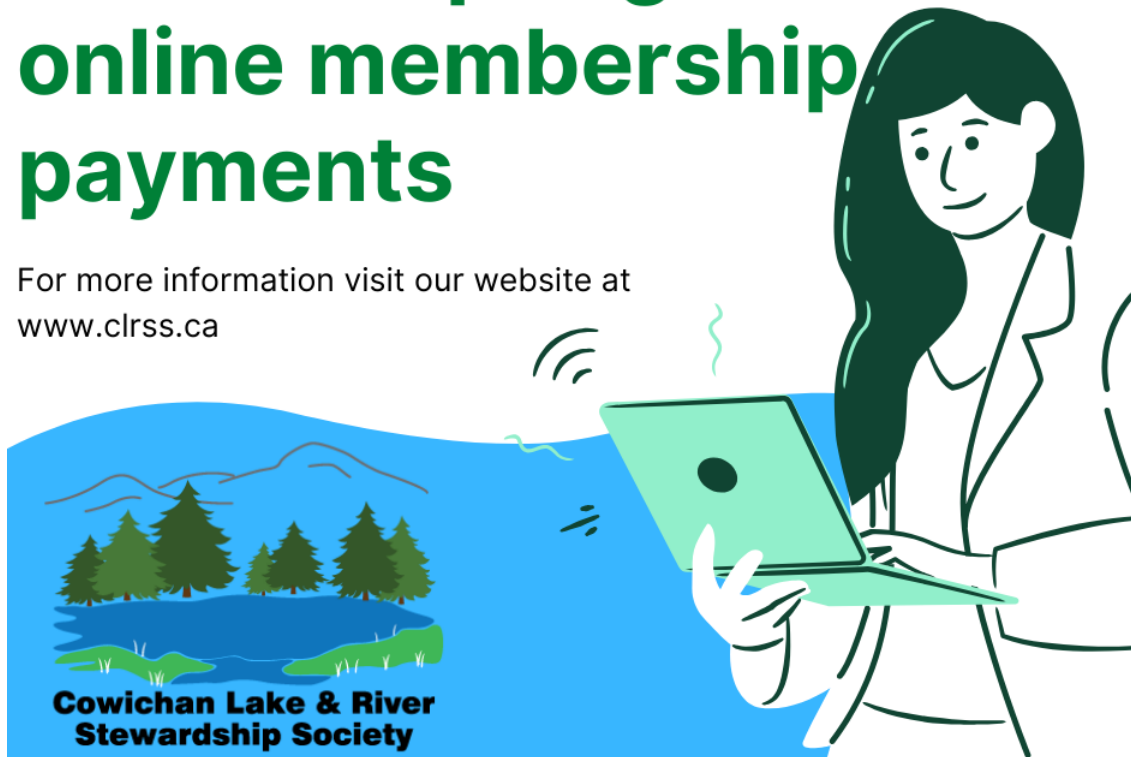


Update on Membership; now accepting online!

Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society

Now accepting online membership payments

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



Make sure to follow us on Facebook!



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