

Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society Annual General Meeting

June 28, 2020

COVID 19
Virtual Event



Our CLRSS Mission Statement

To **inform** and **educate** landowners, other **citizens** and **government** about the environmentally sustainable use and protection of the Cowichan watershed with emphasis on the upper Cowichan watershed and all riparian zones.

and

To work with **schools, citizens and other like-minded groups** for this purpose.

President's Report highlights from 2019/20 – Ken Traynor

- Completed Revisioning 2019 – 2020
- Continue CSSP riparian work and Landowner Education
- Distribute bi-monthly newsletters to members
- Continue life saving fry rescue program
- Completed 2019 River Clean Up
- Continue water quality sampling
- Continue collaboration with the CWB, at the Sustainable Roundtable and in the Water Use Planning process affording us visibility throughout the valley
- Continue Weir Ready campaign
- Continue work on the Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden



CLRSS Members worked for 3 days re-imagining the future of CLRSS and preparing a new Strategic Plan



CLRSS Guiding Values

Our Values

We acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional territories used by the Cowichan, Lake Cowichan and Ditidaht First Nations for centuries. Our aim is that the work of our organization will make a positive contribution to our shared future in this valley.

We conduct our business using the Fourfold Way:

- We respect each other by having just one speaker at a time;
- We expect people to speak from the heart with passion;
- We expect people to show up to solve problems; and
- We expect people to speak without blame.

We believe we are facing a climate emergency and must act accordingly.

Our Place

Our stewardship actions are focused in the Cowichan Lake and upper Cowichan River in active partnership with residents of Honeymoon Bay, Youbou and Town of Lake Cowichan as well as the CVRD, Cowichan Watershed Board, British Columbia Conservation Foundation, Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable and other active valley organizations.

For More Information

<http://www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca/>

CLRSS Guiding Vision for the Future

CLRSS is dedicated to
raising awareness
through consensus and
collaboration within
our community towards
creating a resilient and
diverse watershed.

Priorities
identified at
the 2019/20
CLRSS
Revisioning
Sessions

Strategic Priorities 2020-2022
1. Increase awareness of and support for building the new weir
Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Increase public support● Increase community understanding of new weir benefits● Increase public awareness of how climate change is driving the need for a new weir
2. Increase Youth Engagement
Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Increase youth membership● Re-establish Lake Studies program● Collaborate with other valley youth programs● Establish youth roundtable
3. Protect Lake Shore Lands
Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Protect critical undeveloped shoreline and tributary habitat● Promote protection for Shaw Creek watershed● Expand shoreline riparian habitat restoration work to tributary creeks

Challenges – here we come!

Establish an engaging way to continue public support to CLRSS as we move towards a post-COVID world of decreased public events this coming year.



Our Next Steps

Our On-going Core Activities	Original Timing	COVID timing
Upper Cowichan River Clean Up 2020/21 Lead: Lyndon Keeping	Planning begins in May	Cancelled until 2021 – may consider alternating with another community event
Salmon Fry Rescue 2020/21 Lead: Parker Jefferson	April to August as needed	Small group – social distancing
Water Quality Monitoring on the Lake 2020/21 Lead: Bee Greenway	Weekly June to September	Small group – social distancing
Shoreline Owner Education & Promoting Riparian Restoration 2020/21 Lead: Ken Traynor	On-going	Cancelled until safe
Gerald Thom Bursary 2020 Lead: Diana Gunderson	May	Sustainable during COVID
Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden 2020/21 Leads: Rosemary Danaher and Lois Atchison	April to October	Small group – social distancing
Monthly Meetings 2020/21 Lead: Judy Brayden	First Monday of each month 6:30 PM Country Grocer mtg room	New meeting chair format of rotating chairs; Two virtual meetings during COVID
Regular Member Newsletter 2020/21 Leads: Ken Traynor and Chantelle Carden		Sustainable during COVID

Financial Report – Lyndon Keeping

The Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2020

ASSET	
Current Assets	
Island Savings Credit Union General	9,889.15
Membership Shares	5.60
Island Savings Credit Union Bursary	<u>5,936.95</u>
Total Cash	<u>15,826.10</u>
TOTAL ASSET	<u>15,826.10</u>
EQUITY	
Members Equity	
General	8,311.75
Salmon Fry Rescue Funds	1577.40
Bursary/Gerald Thom Fund	<u>5,936.95</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>15,826.10</u>
EQUITY	<u>15,826.10</u>

Generated on April 22, 2020

**The Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society
Income Statement April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020**

REVENUE

Membership Fees	1456.00
Donations	4704.45
Sales	905.88
Fundraising	2,585.75
Interest Revenue	<u>6.17</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>9658.25</u>

EXPENSES

Public Information	87.34
BCLSS	50
Society Fees	190
Printing Costs	427.63
Purchase for Sales	1185.22
Gifted Apparel	249.46
Bank Charges	89.65
Office Expenses	172.36
Courses & Mtgs	345.42
CSSP Activities	587.48
River CU	868.36
Misc. other	18.64
Scholarship Fund	656.25
Fry Rescue	356.81
Landowner Education video	2010.42
GT Memorial Garden	333.90
Website Update	37.69
Strategic Plan	<u>1829.30</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>9249.09</u>
NET INCOME	<u>409.25</u>

Generated On: April 22, 2020

2019/20 Membership Report

I would first like to thank all the volunteers who helped with this year's membership drive, especially Lois Atchison who managed phone call-outs and Maureen Quested whose membership sales at the Honeymoon Bay Market contributed significantly to our success. We started out with a goal of 100 members and we were able to accomplish this by the end of the year. The CLRSS Membership Trend chart shows that in terms of our membership over time, that this is a significant achievement.

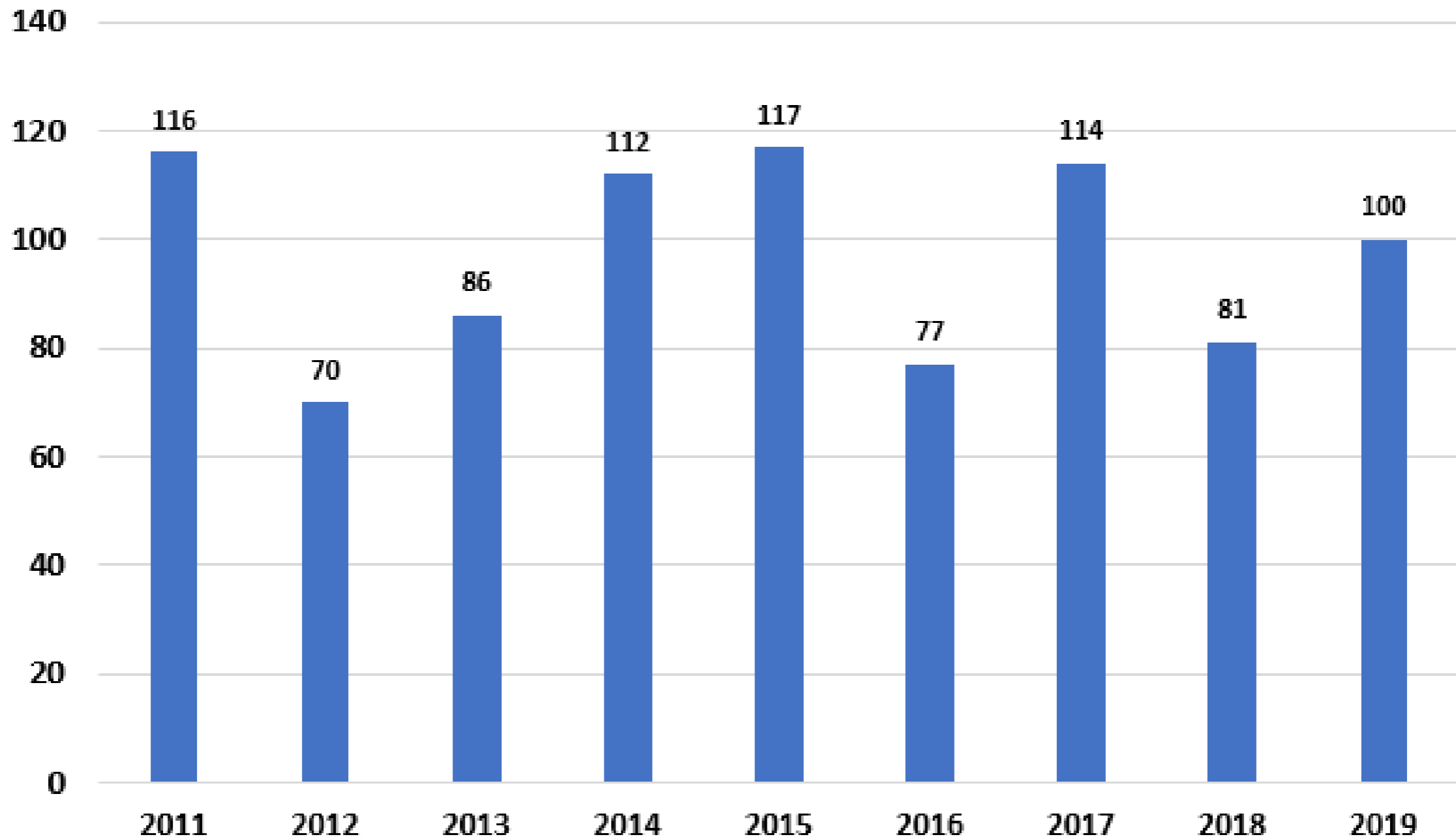
In terms of Volunteer Hours, your busy Board of Directors contributed **1,899 hours** and **other volunteers contributed 478 hours for a total of 2,377 hours of work** devoted to the Society and its work.

Well done everyone!

– Retiring Membership chair, Mike Patrick

2019/20 Membership Report

**CLRSS Membership Trend
To End of 2019 Membership Year**



Communications Committee Report – Chantelle Carden

The plan for the 2019/20 year was to keep members informed and up to date on past, current and upcoming projects associated with the organization.

Some members can't engage with Facebook on a regular basis.

We implemented a bi-monthly newsletter to all CLRSS members using Mail Chimp. It provided a great tool for hyperlinking and increasing traffic to our website, therefore promoting our online educational materials.

We have **1269** followers on our CLRSS Facebook Page.

Some statistics:

Of our 1269 followers on our Facebook page, 1253 of these are from Canada.

Of our followers:

- 359 are based in Duncan
- 191 are based in Victoria
- 135 are based in Lake Cowichan
- Our most popular post was the “Cowichan River is on life support” video, showing lake water being pumped over the weir into the river. We had 7,500 individual people watch it.

Fundraising Report – Maureen Quested

- A native garden tour
- A raffle
- A bottle drive *and*
- A summer bar-b-que and silent auction earned our society \$2585.75
- Thanks Rosemary for retail sales of \$905.88



Education Committee – Diana Gunderson

2020 Gerald Thom Environmental Studies
Bursary of \$1000 awarded to each of
Jordan Convery (l) and Ryder Wise (r) of
Lake Cowichan School

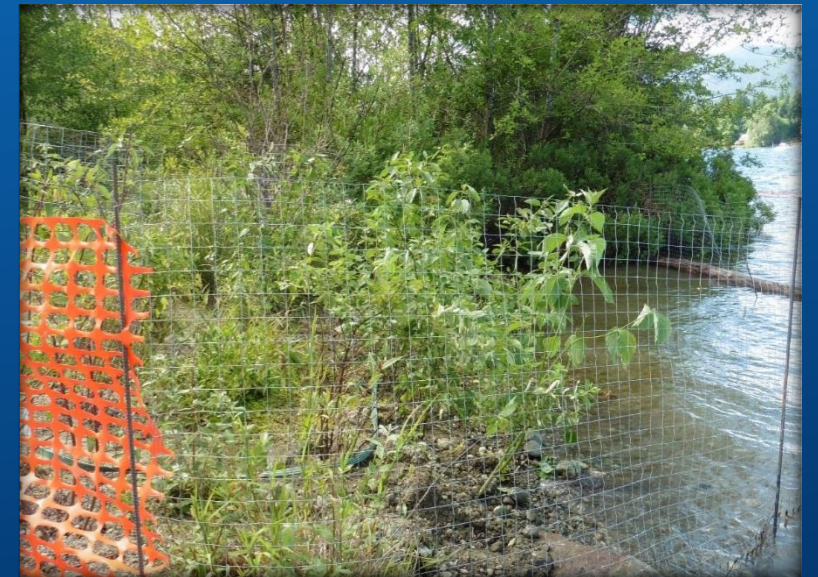


Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project

(2017–2020)



Riparian Restoration (BCCF)



Landowner
Education
(CLRSS)

Community
Engagement
(CLRSS)

Riparian
Protection
(CLRSS)

Our **CSSP** activity 2014 – 2020

A total of **44 shoreline sites/properties** have been restored with native plants and sedges since the project began in 2014.

- The area restored exceeded project targets and totaled **21,387 m²** of riparian habitat along more than **1400 linear meters** of Cowichan Lake and River shorelines.
- **395** face-to-face educational visits, including 319 surveys, were conducted with lakefront property owners over the 6 years.
- More than **8** tours of restored properties, targeting local politicians, real estate agents, project funders, and other interested parties, were completed.
- A video about riparian knowledge and values that featured the work of CSSP was produced in 2019 to be used for further educational activities.
- No doubt, CSSP has helped landowners to understand how looking after their “piece-of-the-shoreline” contributes to one of the prime objectives of the project, the health of Cowichan Lake,

The Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden dedicated summer 2019



Caroline Thom at 2019 garden dedication

Landowner Education (CLRSS)

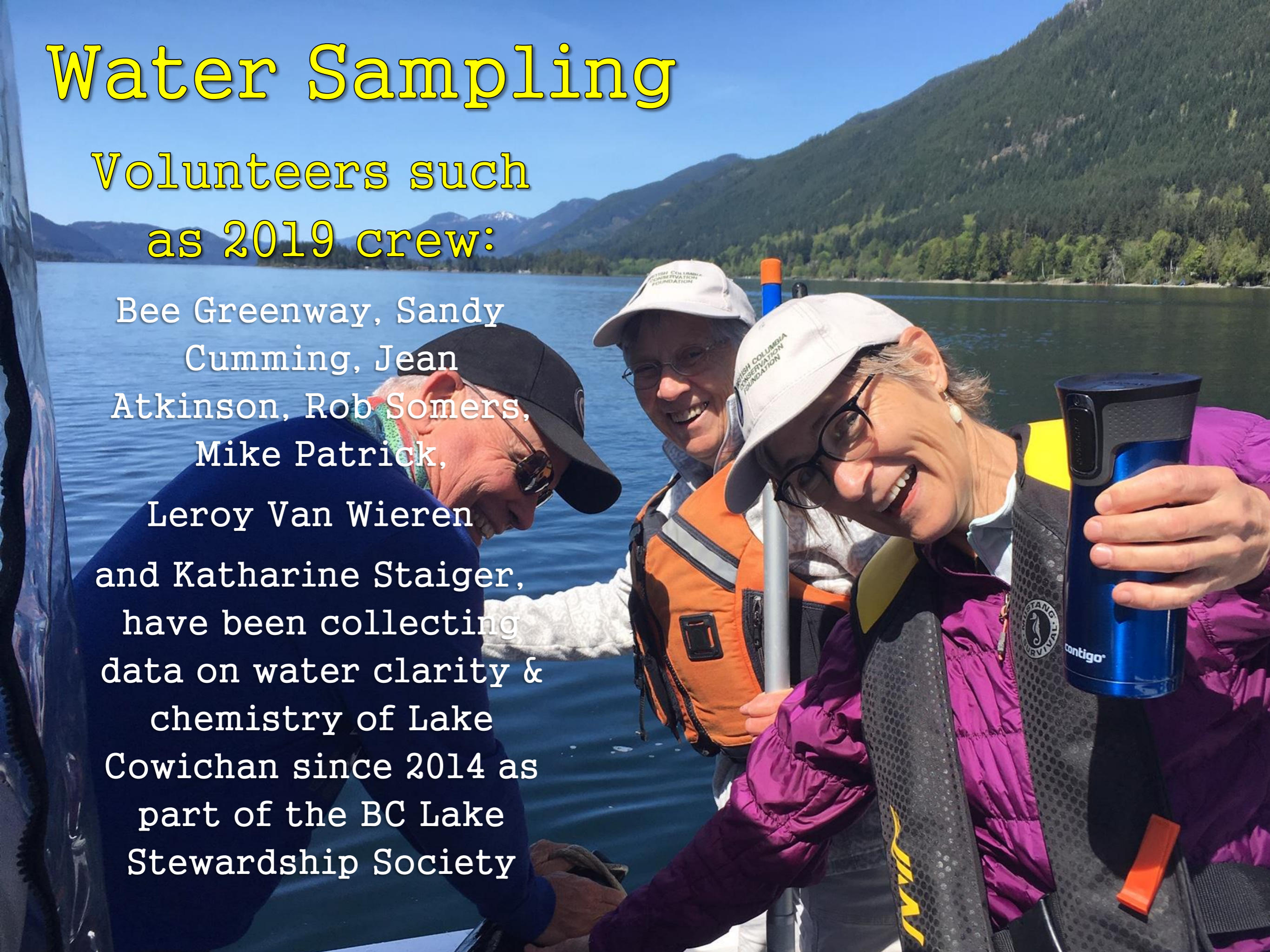


Community Engagement (CLRSS)

Water Sampling

Volunteers such
as 2019 crew:

Bee Greenway, Sandy
Cumming, Jean
Atkinson, Rob Somers,
Mike Patrick,
Leroy Van Wieren
and Katharine Staiger,
have been collecting
data on water clarity &
chemistry of Lake
Cowichan since 2014 as
part of the BC Lake
Stewardship Society



Salmonid Fry Salvage

Thanks to our dedicated crew of CLRSS volunteers, community members, Cowichan Salmon Enhancement Society folks and Cowichan Tribes members who collaborated to save as many fry as possible by relocating them to the lake for summer survival. In 2019 this combined team moved upwards of 100,000 fry into the lake.



Water Traffic Program

CLRSS boater's brochure continues to be part of the CLRSS informational package



Due to COVID 19

CANCELLED

Cowichan Lake and Mill Stream Stewardship Society
www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca

Annual
River Clean Up

Sunday, August 18

Central Park - registration 8:30 - 9:30



We need
your
continued
support!

Thank you, CLRSS supporters