



**Cowichan Lake & River
Stewardship Society**

October 2024 Newsletter

CLRSS acknowledges that our virtual newsletter is being shared on the unceded territories of the Quw'utsun, Malahat, Pauquachin, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Halalt, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, Lyackson, Ditidaht & Pacheedaht Peoples who have stewarded this land since time immemorial.

CLRSS will be emailing member newsletters every six weeks. Thanks to contributions from members: Judy Brayden (editor), Jean Atkinson, Jim Deck, Dave De Pape, Diana Gunderson, Parker Jefferson, Cam McCauley, Heather Pritchard, Maureen Qusted, Joe Saysell, Genevieve Singleton, Jacqueline Sherk, Ken Traynor, Leroy Van Wieren, and many others. Any questions, comments or feedback please see [Home | Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society British Columbia \(cowichan-lake-stewards.ca\)](https://www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca)

**Our next regular Board meeting is Thursday, October 3, 2024
at 6:30 –
in the Country Grocer meeting room. Everyone welcome!**

We need your support!

Become a CLRSS Member

For only \$10.00

Volunteer hours are calculated at BC minimum wage (unless special expertise is being donated). Last year your CLRSS team volunteered 1783 hours of their time which equaled $1783 \times \$17.40 = \$31,024.20$. Join now at [Membership | Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society \(cowichan-lake-stewards.ca\)](https://www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca)

Support CLRSS programs by purchasing Thrifty Smile Cards – order Smile Cards in any amount up to \$1000. 6% of the card value is donated to CLRSS.



Donate your bottle and can return money to CLRSS at Duncan *Island Return It...*

Just say **code 484**. With thanks!

In this Edition:

- What volunteering with CLRSS can look like – *lots of ways*
- River's Day - Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Skweyul – Sunday September 22, 2024
- Project 84,000 culminating events – *you are invited!*
- See *what's been happening in the watershed*: Deep Dive: Watershed stories by The Discourse <https://thediscourse.ca/deep-dive/downstream>

What volunteering for CLRSS can look like

There are so many varied ways that you can raise your hands in support of environmental stewardship. Become a member of stewardship groups in your community, donate money, show up to support activities, talk up the need and the work of your local group...

Right now, CLRSS is seeking one or two individuals who have access to a boat on Cowichan Lake to collect water samples this fall.

- Do you care about the health of Cowichan Lake, its tributaries, and the Cowichan River?
- Do you use and enjoy the benefits of a healthy, sustainable fishery in the lake and river?
- Do you have access to a boat and are willing to donate an hour of your time once a week for 5 weeks this fall?

If so, your assistance is needed to collect water samples once per week, commencing around mid-October, from six sites located on Cowichan Lake *which are only accessible by boat*. Samples need to be collected in the morning, for five consecutive weeks (typically on Tuesdays). Training is provided and an honorarium to help defer the cost of boat gas may be provided (pending availability of sufficient grant funds).

This is the second part of the water quality monitoring program, initiated by the Cowichan Watershed Board, in partnership with industry, government, non-government stewardship organizations and First Nations, in response to the massive fish kill last year on the Cowichan River. *Data collected under this program is helping fisheries managers understand the impact of last year's fish kill and is supporting positive change to avoid another such loss.*

For more information or to make this stewardship commitment, please contact David DePape, Program Coordinator. (403) 837-4747 or via email at aquatalesdk@gmail.com

Yikes - There's More!

Once again CLRSS is helping the BC Conservation Foundation to sample local waters for *toxic 6-PPDQ*, a tire preservative used since the 60s to prevent cracking and degradation of rubber. The compound is deposited on roadways and enters streams and waterways during heavy rainfall events. The problem is that it has been linked to 'urban run off mortality syndrome' in coho salmon. Multiple trout and salmon species can be impacted but both returning adult and juvenile (age 1+ yrs) are particularly vulnerable at extremely low levels! Concentrations as low as 40-100 ng/L (nanograms per litre) are lethal in fish and even if relocated to toxin-free waters, impacted fish will not recover.

What is the 'ask' for this upcoming season? The study will be continued this year, testing streams from last year that had concentrations of 6-PDDQ and include any new streams not previously sampled but that have historically contained salmon spawning runs and that are traversed by busy roadways.

That means during major rain events from September through January, Stanley, Hatchery and Exeter Creeks plus others suggested by the team, will be tested for 6-PPDQ.

CLRSS currently has four team members, but we need three or four more, so we can form three crews, including alternates for scheduling flexibility. The BCCF staffer will identify upcoming rain events and Cam McCauley and Hugh Sutherland of CLRSS will coordinate the crew, taking turns sampling before, during and after the rain events.

You can find the results of last year's study by Googling *Interactive Database – Mitigating Input from Tire Wear Toxins to Protect Salmonid Habitat on Vancouver Island*.

For more information or to make this stewardship commitment, please contact Cam McCauley at 343 543-0067 or mccauleyc62@gmail.com

CLRSS at River's Day - Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Skweyul – Sunday September 22nd

Join us for this very special event. Come and commemorate, celebrate and honor our Heritage Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Cowichan River.

Gather at the black bridge beach on the private land of the Quw'utsun. Parking is available behind Si'em Lelum gym, 5574 River Road Duncan. The opening ceremony will begin a short walk from this point at 10:00 a.m.



After that for the first time, all 14 rolls of **Project 84,000** fish rubbings will be “unrolled” in a ceremony. Interested in becoming an “unroller”? Call or email judybrayden@shaw.ca

**Thank you for wearing orange shirts in support of Truth and Reconciliation
in our community**

Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Skweyul – Sunday September 22nd



Cowichan Tribes and the Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable are co-hosting:

Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Skweyul

Cowichan River Day

Sunday, September 22, 2024 10:00AM to 3:00PM

Gather with us at Black Bridge Beach, on Cowichan Tribes private property. Parking will be available behind Si'em Lelum Gym, 5574 River Road, Duncan. From the parking area, you will take a short walk to the river site.



Free! Everyone welcome! Refreshments!

Please wear an orange shirt!

Performance by the Tzinquaw Dancers, learn Cowichan Teachings, make salmon art, meet birds of prey, and experience so many more opportunities to learn about the watershed!

Bring your own water bottle!

The Quw'utsun River has been the heartbeat of the Cowichan People since time immemorial and is a Provincially and Nationally designated Heritage River. Come learn about and celebrate the river with us!



Please let our volunteers know if you require accessibility support.

For more information, contact: 250-701-1054 or cowichanstewardshiproundtable@gmail.com.

Project



84,000

A project of the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society and the Xwulqw'selu Connections

Spring and summer 2024



You are invited to experience this cathartic and moving interactive, community art installation. See the collagraphic rubbing work of over 1200 children and adults.

Immersive and meaningful, this show helps viewers express gratitude for this earth, while honouring the pain of ecological tragedy.

Throughout, viewers will begin to see with new eyes how positive, personal actions are possible and necessary to prevent similar losses in our watershed.

CVAC Gallery
2687 James St. Duncan
M – F 11:00 – 4:00
Sat. 12:00 – 4:00

Also, of special interest to some...



Ecological Grief Circle

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Cowichan Valley Arts Council Gallery

2687 James Street, Duncan

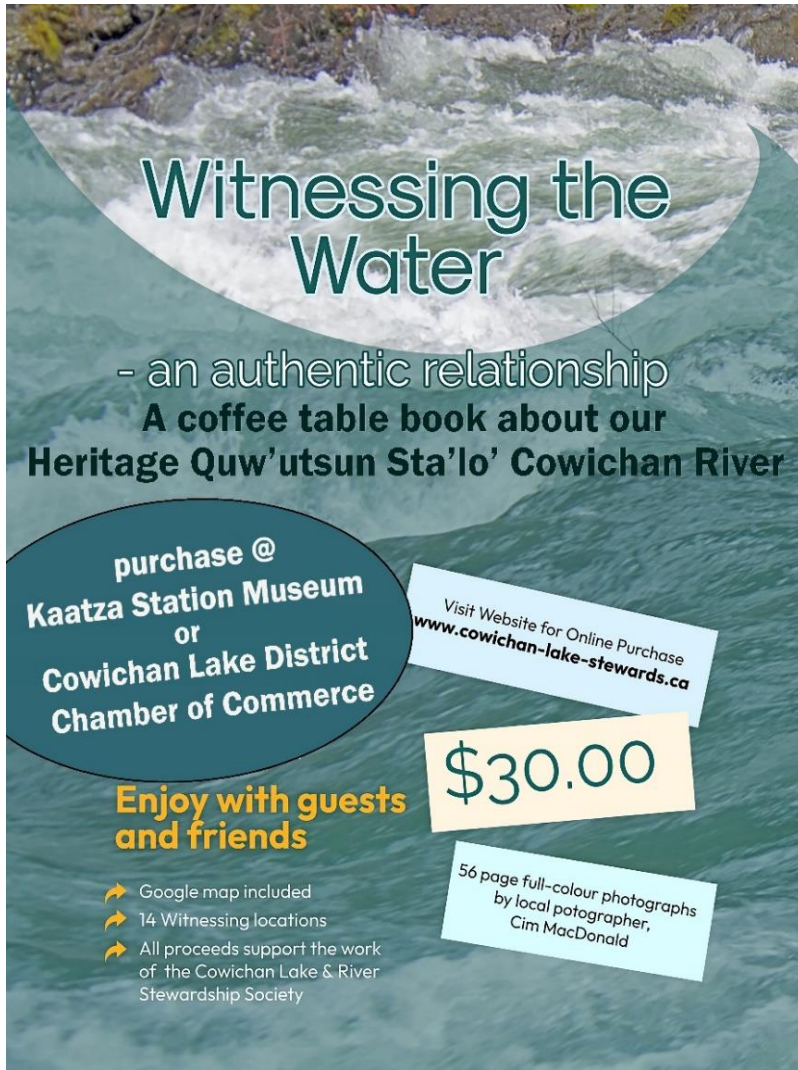
Are you feeling fear, sorrow, anger, guilt, anxiety, confusion or numbness about changes in nature?

You're invited to a community sharing and listening circle to transform these feelings into healing medicine.

Come as you are.



Hosted by Xwulqw'selu Connections and Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society



Witnessing the Water
- an authentic relationship
A coffee table book about our
Heritage Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Cowichan River

purchase @
Kaatza Station Museum
or
Cowichan Lake District
Chamber of Commerce

Visit Website for Online Purchase
www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca

\$30.00

56 page full-colour photographs
by local potographer,
Cim MacDonald

**Enjoy with guests
and friends**

- Google map included
- 14 Witnessing locations
- All proceeds support the work of the Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society

Witnessing the Water - an authentic relationship

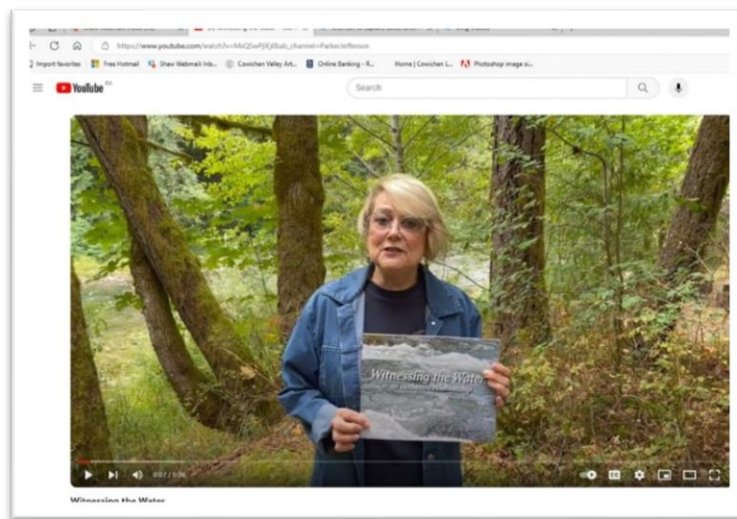
Find your copy at Kaatza Station Museum, Cowichan Lake District Chamber of Commerce, Volume One Books and Ten Old Books in Duncan and online at [W the W | Cowichan Lake & River \(cowichan-lake-stewards.ca\)](http://W the W | Cowichan Lake & River (cowichan-lake-stewards.ca))

What readers are saying about the book:

"I just want to tell you this is a magnificent book about our river...it's such a beautiful tribute to this ancient life-giving, sacred water.

Check this out!

Witnessing the Water
YouTube video thanks to
Parker Jefferson



https://youtu.be/MsQ5wPjIEjI?si=CyNo_n-17lwpVWuM