

## **BCLSS Newsletter**

### **Volume 3, Issue 1**

# "Furthering Lake Stewardship Through Communication and Education"

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#### **Don't Forget to Renew your BCLSS Membership for 2000!**

Fees are \$10 for Students, \$20 for Individuals, and \$40 for Groups

Take advantage of the Membership Signup/Conference Registration Form at the end of this newsletter!

#### **BCLSS Gets in Gear For Year 2000**

M. Boshard, BCLSS President

The BC Lake Stewardship Society is continuing to develop into its third year. Although our last two and a half years have not been without glitches, we continue to gain ground - a big accomplishment, as our volunteer member organizations will know! We have been fortunate to have had seasonal summer student workers for the last several years, and anticipate applying for Environmental Youth Team subsidies again this year to continue accomplishing our goals. Although BCLSS has been seasonal in operation, we are looking forward to building our resources to better serve our members. The process of creating this useful network with support for small volunteer groups around BC is a formidable task, but by starting with some successful annual projects (such as the Annual Secchi Disk Dip In and conferences in both Prince George and Kelowna), we have made definite strides in connecting groups. We continue to have strong support from the BC Ministry Of Environment, Lands & Parks, and are now moving into projects with other organizations, such as the Shoreline Restoration Month with the Living by Water Project.

This year should prove to be most interesting in terms of our Society's development, as we will see submission of funding applications for the development of more specific tools for lake stewards across BC. Internal planning has also begun to take form with the development of a

Regional Director phone tree for notifying groups of events, and the development of a business plan slated for the fall of 2000. Additionally, BCLSS will receive word this year from several funding sources about other tools for stewards. We also anticipate that our very slow Charitable Status Application will also be reviewed and accepted this year, so we can move forward with pursuing funds from corporate and other sources.

I hope you will find this issue of our newsletter, outlining what we've got planned for this year and what's going on around BC, useful and inspiring. We hope you will take the opportunity to participate in any or all of the BCLSS events planned for this year, and look forward to seeing you out on BC lakes!

### ***Year 2000 Conferences***

The BCLSS will be continuing its tradition of annual conferences this year both in Prince George and Kelowna, with the theme of "Lakes: Products of their Watersheds, Parts of their Communities". A wide range of speakers will be coming to address various topics, and we will have several workshops at both Prince George (April 15) and Kelowna (May 6) and this year: water quality sampling training, riparian vegetation ID and restoration and a closer look at invertebrates! Please see the registration forms at the end of this newsletter! Draft agendas will be ready March 15, 2000.

### ***Third Annual NALMS Secchi Disk Dip In***

As the official British Columbia chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (founders of the Secchi Disk Dip In), the BCLSS is excited to be co-ordinating this annual event again in July. Last year we had a great increase in participation (nearly 60 groups) due to bumped up publicity and the dedication of our member groups, and look forward to an even bigger turn out this year. We have received nearly \$3000 from Canada Trust for the production of even more Secchi Disks for distribution around BC, and are looking forward to a great sampling season. See the related article later in this newsletter about Secchi efforts in Williams Lake!

### ***LakeKeepers Program Manual and Video***

To build on the volunteer sampling training that the BC Lake Stewardship Society conducts in conjunction with the BC Ministry Of Environment, Lands & Parks, BCLSS has nearly completed the development of the text of our LakeKeepers Manual. This Manual will be supplemented by a training video and distributed to member groups, and hopefully will be adopted as part of the "Stewardship Series". BCLSS has approached several funders regarding this project, and with financial support and review by MELP, anticipates being able to deliver these products in time for the 2001 sampling season!

### ***Shoreline Restoration Month Initiative***

The BCLSS Board has moved to participate in and promote Shoreline Restoration Month, and encourage its members to get involved with this initiative of the Living by Water Project. Foreshore restoration activity kits have been promised for this year's conferences, and we'll distribute them to members. Please see the related article late in this newsletter!

## **Internal Affairs**

### *Charitable Status*

The BCLSS application for Charitable Tax Status has been finally assigned to a warm body (it only took 6 months!), and we anticipate having an answer within the next several months from the Federal Government. Once achieved, BCLSS will move forward with held off plans for funding from corporate organizations. Talks have also been undertaken with marketing classes from Okanagan University College in Kelowna for the development of a strategic business / marketing plan to raise funds and sustain projects.

### *New Directors Needed for the Kelowna AGM and year 2000!*

Members of the founding BCLSS board who volunteered to fill positions during the formative years of our Society are interested in seeing representation from new, interested and dedicated members. Directorship in the BCLSS is an excellent opportunity to bring provincial happenings home to your region, to gain experience and skills of managing a non-profit society, and to learn all about lakes! If you are interested, or know someone who would do a great job, please contact the BCLSS at 1 877 BC LAKES or email [bclss@hotmail.com](mailto:bclss@hotmail.com) !

### **Christina Lake Stewardship Society on the move!**

Marion Beattie, CLSS

The Christina Lake Stewardship Society (CLSS) received a grant this last year to do a fisheries study on Christina Lake. The 1st stage is complete and the 2nd stage will start in the spring. We also took water samples and did Secchi dips on 16 sites on the lake. Additionally, we assisted the BC Ministry of Environment Penticton office twice with deep-water sampling.

Christina Lake Stewardship Society has taken an active role by joining the local parks committee to help develop an interpretive centre on land donated by the BC government at the south end of our lake. We have submitted many articles to the news media about sampling results, septic systems and water quality in general. CLSS held a Lake Awareness Day in conjunction with TIES, SEEDS and BCLSS. While the attendance wasn't all we hoped, we hope to do another Lake Awareness day in conjunction with the BCLSS this year.

This year's Lake Day will be held in conjunction with the annual Hospital Auxiliary Garage Sale, one of the most well-known events in Christina Lake social calendar in the summer. This should provide a larger audience we desire. We have started planning it already, and are hoping to have a big Fish Fry barbeque at the end of the day. Stop by if you're in town! "

### **NEWS FROM UP NORTH!**

#### *TYHEE LAKE PROTECTION SOCIETY*

Our group has been fairly quiet as a society these last months. The treasurer, Ann Flint passed away after a short illness before Christmas. We have recently formed a committee to look at recommendations for changes to watershed property zoning, primarily because we fear pressure by individuals rather than the collective for changes from residential to commercial. They have also been informed of construction to take place in the Tyhee Lake Provincial Park.

They have welcomed recent representation by BC Parks at their meeting.

### *KATHLYN LAKE PROTECTION SOCIETY*

Our society has taken an active stance towards improving the quality of their lake and improving the quality of life of its residents. Over the last three years, volunteers have put in over 2,500 hours to ensure the success of their weed harvester project. Over 600 truckloads of *Elodea canadensis* are removed annually from the lake. They have also successfully maintained a source of fresh water from Kathlyn Glacier through a diversion into Lake Kathlyn. These instrumental steps have made Kathlyn Lake safe for recreational activities, such as swimming, and have potentially improved the clarity of the water. At present Hina Zaidi from the BCLSS Sponsored Katimavik Program is helping the society find potential funding opportunities and people power in the way of volunteers to ensure continued success with the weed harvester project.

### **MORE MEMBER SERVICES:**

The BC Lake Stewardship Society has recently developed a Member Only Email Listserve for the exchange of information on Lake Stewardship and other relevant lake issues around BC!

Please email the BCLSS at our new email [bclss@hotmail.com](mailto:bclss@hotmail.com) for your access password! Also, check out our updated web page hosted by NALMS - we're hoping to develop online registration for the conferences this year!

### **NALMS Reorganization and the BCLSS**

The NALMS Western Canada Regional Co-ordinator has indicated to the BC Lake Stewardship Society that at the last NALMS conference in Reno, NALMS received recommendations from a committee that would fundamentally alter several aspects of their organization. Several of the proposed changes would impact the BCLSS as a Chapter. The most contentious issues are the requirement of all NALMS Chapter members to also be direct members of NALMS (which is very expensive), and to separate the technical side of NALMS from the public education side. BCLSS has submitted comments against both of these proposed changes, in collaboration with the Alberta Lake Management society, and awaits convening of a committee to review comments. If you have comments about these proposed changes, or need more information, please contact NALMS Regional Director Rick Nordin at [rnordin@gems2.gov.bc.ca](mailto:rnordin@gems2.gov.bc.ca).

### **Williams Lake Area Groups Get a Helping Hand**

Shannon Winter, MELP Williams Lake

The year 2000 marks the fifth year of the BC Ministry of Environment's Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP). Motivation for the VLMP was fueled by a need to improve our understanding of the trophic status (productivity) of Cariboo Lakes. The Upper Bridge Creek Watershed Protection Society was instrumental to the initial success of the program by having volunteers monitor twenty-three lakes in the Bridge Creek Basin in 1996.

Concerned citizens, the Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks (MELP) and the BCLSS work together to ensure the VLMP's success. The BCLSS encourages volunteer participation and

focuses on environmental education; volunteers make regular trips to various lakes within the Cariboo Region and collect water transparency data using Secchi disks, while MELP plans and oversees the project as a whole. When a need is indicated, the volunteers and/or MELP staff collect additional information on dissolved oxygen, temperature, and water chemistry for particular lakes.

As in previous years, data collection will begin at ice-off and will continue through the summer months. At the end of this sampling season, data will be compiled and interpreted into critical background information on lake productivity and sensitivity that will be used to identify potential future deterioration of lake water quality before damage reaches critical levels.

I am very excited to be working as BC MELP's Williams Lake Co-ordinator for the VLMP for 2000. This program is an excellent example of successful co-operation between government and citizens. During my eight-month work-term, I will have two primary focuses: facilitating scheduled summer sampling via training, and performing audits. Additionally I will be performing overturn sampling. Sampling at this time provides very important information because shortly after overturn, nutrients are distributed uniformly from the surface to the bottom of the lake. Sampling either at or just after overturn therefore gives a good indication of overall lake water quality. Thank you to all the new and returning volunteer samplers, I look forward to meeting you!

### **Living by Water Project Update**

"Making it Happen"

Much has been happening since the Kelowna AGM in March, 1999. In the summer we published our strategic planning document entitled "Making it Happen: A Strategic Approach to the Living by Water Project". Our Tools and Techniques working paper has also been developed and is available on our website. This contains tips and ideas on "conservation marketing", and may be of interest to Lake Stewardship Groups. Our Waterfront Living Brochure with its 12 tips for shoreline stewardship and our Ribbon of Life Quiz and Activity Sheet for children have been in great demand throughout the province. For example, 2000 brochures were ordered by the Adams Lake Indian Band for their resident contact program. and the Christina Lake Stewardship Society (both BCLSS members) are sending out 1700 brochures to shoreline residents of their lake.

Our first "Shoreline Notes" publication is being finalized for Christina Lake. These customized fact sheets are a great way of delivering specific messages on lake shoreline issues or concerns. In addition to Shorelines, our second partner newsletter will be published in late March.

Towards late spring the Living by Water waterfront living handbook "On the Living Edge" will be published. Information will soon be on our website, but inquiries are also welcome. Work is well underway on our Workshop-in-a-Box and Homesite Assessment manuals together with our Shoreline Ambassador Program license manual. Any Lake Stewardship group can participate in these programs and can be directly involved in hosting workshops and issuing Shoreline Ambassador Certificates. Watch for details on the BCLSS and LBW websites, or Contact Clive Callaway or Sarah Kipp at the BC/Yukon Project Office at (250) 832-7405,

[lbywater@jetstream.net](mailto:lbywater@jetstream.net)

## **BCLSS INVITES ITS MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN SHORELINE RESTORATION MONTH THIS SEPTEMBER!**

Shoreline Celebration and Restoration Month is coming up this September! We are working to promote shoreline celebration events and restoration activities in communities across BC, and encouraging our members to get involved! The BCLSS will be working in conjunction with the Living by Water Initiative on this project, and will link our BCLSS homepage to the LBW interactive website, which has a bulletin board for posting events and information. Living by Water co-authors Clive Callaway and Sarah Kipp will be attending the May 6 Kelowna BCLSS Conference, with Shoreline Celebration and Restoration Month brochures and mini activity kits which will contain information on event ideas, scheduled events, a list of helpful contacts, and a list of resource sources. Later this spring the BCLSS will assist in distributing the LBW resource manual to provide more detailed information on staging an event. Let's get involved! For more information, contact the BCLSS toll free t 1 877 BC LAKES, [bclss@hotmail.com](mailto:bclss@hotmail.com) or Natalie Affolter at the BC/Yukon Living by Water Project Office at 250 832 7405. Or better yet, come to the BCLSS Third Annual Conference in Kelowna on May 6th!

## **BC LAKE STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL AND/OR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

Join us at the 3rd Annual BCLSS conferences in Kelowna and Prince George, or just join us!

The BCLSS is proud to serve those interested in lakes around BC. We provide an information and resource network for people with specific information needs, act as a linking body between people carrying out similar activities on lakes around BC, and provide technical water quality sampling support for those interested in scientifically monitoring the health of their lakes. Membership in the BCLSS provides you with

The BCLSS quarterly newsletter linking you to other groups around the province and giving information on relevant issues, access to the BCLSS Members Only email listserve, copies of North American Lake Management Society magazine (or other publications if not available), and discounts on all BCLSS products and services. Draft Agendas for this years conferences will be available March 15th, 2000.

Please submit the following form (and send your annual membership fee of \$10 for students, \$20 for individuals, \$40 for groups, or more to become Sustaining Member) to the BCLSS c/o Science Building, 3333 College Way, Kelowna BC, V1V 1V7 (Phone 1 877 BC LAKES, Fax 1 250 868 1047).

Name of Individual, Organization or Company:

Mailing Address:

City: Postal Code:

Contact Person: Phone:

Fax: Email:

## **1999 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PORTION**

Please fill out the information in the membership section to attend a conference, even if you are not intending to become a member, so that we can reserve your seat for you. Thank you.

I would like to attend the  
Kelowna conference May 6, 2000  
Prince George conference April 15, 2000

Yes, I am a BCLSS Member and have included \$25.00 for registration  
Yes, I am a BCLSS Student Member and included \$20.00 for registration  
I am not a member but would still like to attend and have enclosed \$35.00 for registration  
I would like to both become a member and register, and have enclosed one of the following:

\$10 Student Membership and \$20.00 (total \$30)  
\$20 Individual membership and \$25.00 (total \$45)  
\$40 Group Membership and \$25 per person from the group  
attending (total \$40.00 + \_\_\_\_\_ persons X \$25.00)  
More than \$40 Sustaining Membership and \$25 per person  
attending under membership (donation + \_\_\_\_\_ persons X \$25.00)

I am planning on attending the workshops checked below (included in price):

Kelowna Water Quality Sampling  
Kelowna Riparian Vegetation and Restoration  
Kelowna Invertebrate Identification

PG Water Quality Sampling  
PG Riparian Vegetation and Restoration  
PG Invertebrate Identification