

## **BCLSS Newsletter**

### **Volume 1, Issue 2**

# "Furthering Lake Stewardship Through Communication & Education"

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### Welcome Back!!

By Michelle Boshard, BCLSS President

Hi Everyone! Here it is, the second newsletter from the British Columbia Lake Stewardship Society. Please accept our apology for the delay between newsletters. Unfortunately the funding from the Habitat Conservation Fund we have been operating on was interrupted for the three months following our March Annual General Meeting, therefore the newsletter and membership packages were put on hold. Due to the delays, we will be putting out three (instead of four) newsletters during 1998. We appreciate your patience and continued support as we work towards smoothing the bugs out and building up the society!! We now have 42 members and are still growing! Major focuses for the rest of the year and through the end of our funding cycle (March 1999) are putting on a September workshop, coordinating a collaborative project for the 10th Annual Festival of Science and Technology in October, and drumming up membership and funding so the BCLSS will become self-sustaining after our HCF funding runs out. As you know, I was originally contracted to spearhead the society, but now the shift towards having a board run the society has begun as we elected our new Board of Directors in March. We now also have another staff member, Jill Savege, B.Sc., to speed things up. Thank you to all who came and made the March AGM such a success... I hope to see all of you again at our September workshop! Cheers!!

### Projects on the Go...

#### *Science and Technology Week*

The Science Council of BC is hosting the 10th Annual Festival of Science and Technology from October 16-25, 1998. The theme for this year's event is: "GO WITH THE FLOW: Watershed to Oceans". The BC Government Science and Technology Branch of Information, Science and Technology Agency (ISTA) has invited anyone to join the Festival by either attending or by setting up a display.

As ISTA has offered to assist groups by means of financial resources or promotional materials, the BCLSS has submitted a proposal outlining a joint project between several of our member groups. This project would involve developing an educational display by collating the experiences and issues groups had been through on their lake. After the Science and

Technology week is over, the display would be available for the groups to use as an educational or promotional tool to share their experiences and educate the public about their own valuable lessons learnt. Let's keep our fingers crossed that the proposal goes through!

### *September Workshop*

BCLSS is hosting a technical workshop in September, either the 12th or the 13th. Requests to address particular topics or suggestions for a host location anywhere in the northern part of the province. Please contact us with requests and ideas before August 31, and we will try to accommodate the areas of interest. We are looking into the possibilities of travel reimbursement.

### *Lake Testing Equipment for Members*

BCLSS is in the process of acquiring some portable monitoring kits that will be available for members use upon request. Additionally, the BCLSS would also like to provide assistance to member groups who would like to discern the right monitoring program for their lake. For more information, contact Michelle Boshard at [cwconsul@direct.ca](mailto:cwconsul@direct.ca) or 250 868 1027.

### *Stewardship Coordinator Proposal Declined by OBWB*

A joint proposal was recently developed between BCLSS, the Ministry of Environment and staff members of the Okanagan Basin Water Board advocating the creation of a combined partnership to financially support an on-going position of "Okanagan Stewardship Coordinator". This position would allow for a central coordination person between these three organizing bodies responsible for communicating and educating the Okanagan Valley about lake stewardship. All organizations agree that there is a need for more stewardship activities to protect the Okanagan's environment and that someone should be responsible to ensure coordination of such stewardship activities.

Unfortunately, the OBWB, a major funding partner has decided that this proposal should be set aside while other issues are being dealt with, such as finding more funding for the Eurasia Milfoil project. The proposal will be revised and re-submitted at a later date.

### *CDI conference a venue for BCLSS*

The Community Development Institute held their 4th Annual Conference on July 26 to 29, 1998 in Vancouver. The focus was "Local Leadership for Sustainable Communities", and the symposium of workshops and presentations ranged in social, economic and environmental issues from youth issues to affordable housing to environmental efforts. The BCLSS took part by presenting in a showcase about the BCLSS, and how our society can assist people to become more active in the health of their communities. For more information on the CDI, check out their website at [www.scrn.org/cdi](http://www.scrn.org/cdi) or phone them at 604 718 7755.

## **Domestic Affairs...**

### *New Board of Directors*

The last business meeting was held on March 29th, 1998. A new board, consisting of 16 seats (two northern chairs yet unfilled) with five executive members were elected for 1998. The executive consists of Michelle Boshard (President), Rick Nordin (Vice President), Nelson Jatel (Finance Director), Michelle Makortoff (Communications Director), and Morgan Tabor (Secretary). The Board Members include: Ian Walker, Bob Grace, Geoff Hett, Peter Law, Eric

Bonham, Stephen Legris, Norm Zirnhelt Jeff Curtis and Richard Koodrin. Biographies collected will be displayed on the new BCLSS homepage.

#### *Charitable Tax Status and Year End Report*

The BCLSS is applying for charitable tax status. The decision, made at the March AGM, was based on the large diversity interests held by the groups involved with BCLSS. The BCLSS views its member groups' interests equal in importance, and all money raised by the BCLSS must go towards charitable acts and the proper balance with a charitable mandate. The BCLSS must not advocate in support of policies (i.e. lobbying), and may only inform and educate on subjects and issues which conform with its corporate purposes. A charity should not seek to influence public opinion or to put pressure on the government and should not overstep the boundary between education and propaganda. The application for charitable tax status is still being processed. In other business it was agreed upon that the Year End Final Report would coincide with the government's year end, March 31st.

#### *Innovations with the BCLSS Webpage*

Furthering communication and discussion of lake management issues is part of the BCLSS mandate. One of the ways we communicate with others and share our experiences is through the internet. Developing an appropriate webpage and placing it strategically on the web is of prime importance when looking to maximize exposure. The BCLSS is moving its webpage to maximize it's exposure.

The Sustainable Community Resource Network (SCRNet) is a non-profit society sponsored by the Community Development Institute. The SCRNet has the hardware and server to provide webpages and support maintenance FREE to non-profit groups (including our members). SCRNet is developing a website that will act as a doorway to a "virtual community" of similar minded people and groups. The theme of this community is around environmental, social and economic sustainability concepts. The BCLSS homepage will be hosted in the "environmental" section of the site.

The SCRNet is not only offering to either develop or co-develop webpages depending on a group's experience with the internet, but also provide partners access to education, training and technical support to help them maintain their own webpages. BCLSS has joined SCRNet as a founding partner and has had input into the development of proposals that will generate funding for such this network.

The network will benefit our lake steward groups by providing a community of linked resources at our fingertips. The BCLSS webpage is now supported by this innovative "virtual community". Although the SCRNet site is still under construction, instead of having to search out and bookmark all your favorite environmental websites, the SCRNet will eventually provide easy access to all pages all linked due to their interest similarities (the SCRNet site is still under construction). If you know of interesting websites you would like to see linked to the SCRNet page, please contact the webmaster, Steven Connors, at 250 833 6328 or [sconnors@canadainmail.com](mailto:sconnors@canadainmail.com).

#### *Alberta Chapter to Host International Symposium BC Contingent Encouraged*

This year the BCLSS' Alberta counterpart, The Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS), will

be hosting the North American Lake Management Society's 18th International Symposium in Banff, Alberta between the 10th -13th of November. The theme of the conference is "Cooperative Lake and Watershed Management: Linking Communities, Industry and Government".

This will be a great opportunity for those with interests in lakes in BC to attend an assortment of sessions and lectures given by North American's best limnologists and learn about the basics of lakes. The activities range from sessions created for to teach the lay person the basics of lake ecology and lake management, to student research displays, to demonstrations of the latest lake technology by companies exhibiting their products.

Last year's NALMS conference in Houston, Texas (the conference at which the BCLSS gained its NALMS chapter status) was attended by approximately 500 people. The Vice President of the BCLSS, Rick Nordin, is the Western Canada Regional representative for NALMS and will be co-presenting a paper in Banff. We encourage anyone interested in attending this conference to do so, as this is an opportunity which you won't want to miss!! For more information on registering for Banff, or to put your name on a list to "buddy up" on travel please contact the BCLSS at 1 877 BC LAKES, or check out the ALMS Symposium web site at: [www.biology.ualberta.ca/alms/1998.htm](http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/alms/1998.htm)

### **Update Reports**

#### *Christina Lake*

Vic Jensen from the BC Ministry of Environment's Pollution Prevention Branch traveled to Christina Lake with BCLSS Staff member Jill Savege to instruct concerned residents on correct procedures to sample periphyton (algae growing on the rocks). The group is in the process of becoming a registered Steward Group and are deciding what aspects of Lake Stewardship are most important and of greatest concern to them. At a brief meeting two concerns were highlighted: the increase in periphyton growing on the littoral zone and unauthorized septic systems that may be affecting Christina's Lake water quality.

#### *Watershed Stewardship Alliance*

The BCWSA and the Rivershed Society are co-sponsoring a watershed awareness education and motivation campaign to inspire and involve new or existing groups interested in watershed issues. The tour will be hosted by Swim For Life organizer, Fin Donnelly. Fin, who swam the entire Fraser River, will be showing slides of his swim, and there will be other displays and breakout discussion groups. Fin also completed a 7 hr 15 min swim of Pitt Lake in the lower mainland Aug. 10, during the "Paddle for a Plan" campaign in Coquitlam. As a result, the City of Coquitlam has resolved to put into place a Land and Water Management Plan, and has challenged neighboring Maple Ridge to do the same.

#### *Jewel Lake*

The Jewel Lake Environmental Protection Society in Greenwood had their AGM July 18 this year elected their new board, and are looking for members. If you live in the Greenwood area and are interested in becoming involved, please call Myrna Lepine at 250 445 2283.

#### *Living By Water Project*

The Living by Water Project is continuing to advance towards completion. The project focuses

on helping those who live by water to live more sensitively to their environment. The Project includes a Guidebook full of practical tips on how to live by water in a manner beneficial to both you and to nature, and a "Workshop in a Box". Co-authors Sarah Kipp and Clive Callaway have been busy compiling a statement describing the needs, challenges and opportunities of the Living by Water Project, which hopefully will be launched in 1999. Some of the identified challenges include: communicating practical and user-friendly information to the lay person and understanding the target audience. The Living by Water Project wants to reach not only residential waterfront occupants, but also residents such as hobby farmers and ranchers and residents whose first language is not English. The project's guidebook will encourage protection and enhancement of biodiversity and address the "how to's" of changing attitudes and lifestyles.

### *Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society*

The OLOWQS has kept up it's active role in the community-after prompting from this group, the Town of Osoyoos recently implemented the use of Bio-Vert, a phosphate free soap, in and on all Town vehicles. The OLOWQS have organized two teams of their members who alternate to take test samples every week (weather permitting). The samples are analysed for dissolved oxygen, turbidity and temperature. The levels are steady, and typical for this time of year. The next meeting of the OLOWQS is September 16, and they are hosting an open house on October 21, where professor emeritus and renowned limnologist Tom Northcote will be presenting a slide show. For more information on the group or to attend the open house, please contact Lionel Dallas at 250 495 3341.

### **Free Help Available for New Groups**

Deciding to form a group to address an issue of concern where you live is a positive, practical means to effecting change. The most crucial step in accomplishing your goals is effectively organizing. Whether the focus is restoring health to your local lake or cooperating to resolve a community issue, you or your group may need help sorting out exactly what your goals and priorities are, organizing them into achievable tasks, and setting out a timeline for accomplishment.

The BCLSS, in conjunction with Cougar Watershed Consulting, Inc., is offering a free group facilitation service to assist public non profit groups in the planning and organizing of their activities.

After a consultation on what the issue is and the background of the situation, your group (or prospective group) will have facilitated idea generation and planning session to address issues important to the group. The specific process used during the session is inclusive and respectful, and is often beneficial when there are contrasting opinions about which approach should be taken to the problem. This facilitation process can also be applied to event planning and problem solving.

The initial consultation and organization planning sessions are free. Reduced rates for non-profit public groups are available for problem solving and event planning. For more information on the facilitated session your group can use to become more organized and effective, please contact the BCLSS or Cougar Watershed Consulting, Inc. at 250 868 1027, or

email cwconsul@direct.ca.

### **Got Questions or News??**

Our NEW Toll Free Number is Open for Business!!! The BCLSS is a place where our members can exchange information, ideas and experiences. We need to hear what's going on in the lake in your corner of the world, and encourage you to send us your information!!

The BCLSS also wants to help you group with questions you may have about your lake. If you are considering forming a group, the BCLSS can make that task a little easier by providing you with information on what lake stewardship is, what to consider in forming a group, and how to get things going. We also have technical expertise and equipment if your group would like to set up a lake monitoring program.

Membership in the BC Lake Stewardship Society is affordable: \$40 for groups, \$20 for individuals, and \$10 for students. All members get discounts on BCLSS products and services. Providing members with the support and answers they need is one of the objective of the BCLSS, so if you would like assistance, we'd like to hear from you!!

CALL TOLL FREE:

1 877 BC LAKES

OR (1 877 225 2537)

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE:

[www.scrn.org/bclss](http://www.scrn.org/bclss)