

BCLSS

December 2025 Newsletter



Opheim Lake

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Make a Splash for BC Lakes



Hello Lake Enthusiasts!

With 2025 coming to a close, we are asking for your support to continue the administration and development of our programs in 2026 with a goal of keeping BC's lakes clean and healthy.

We are grateful for your support in helping to create a stronger network of lake stewards, a better understanding of lake health, and more training opportunities for our dedicated volunteer lake monitors.

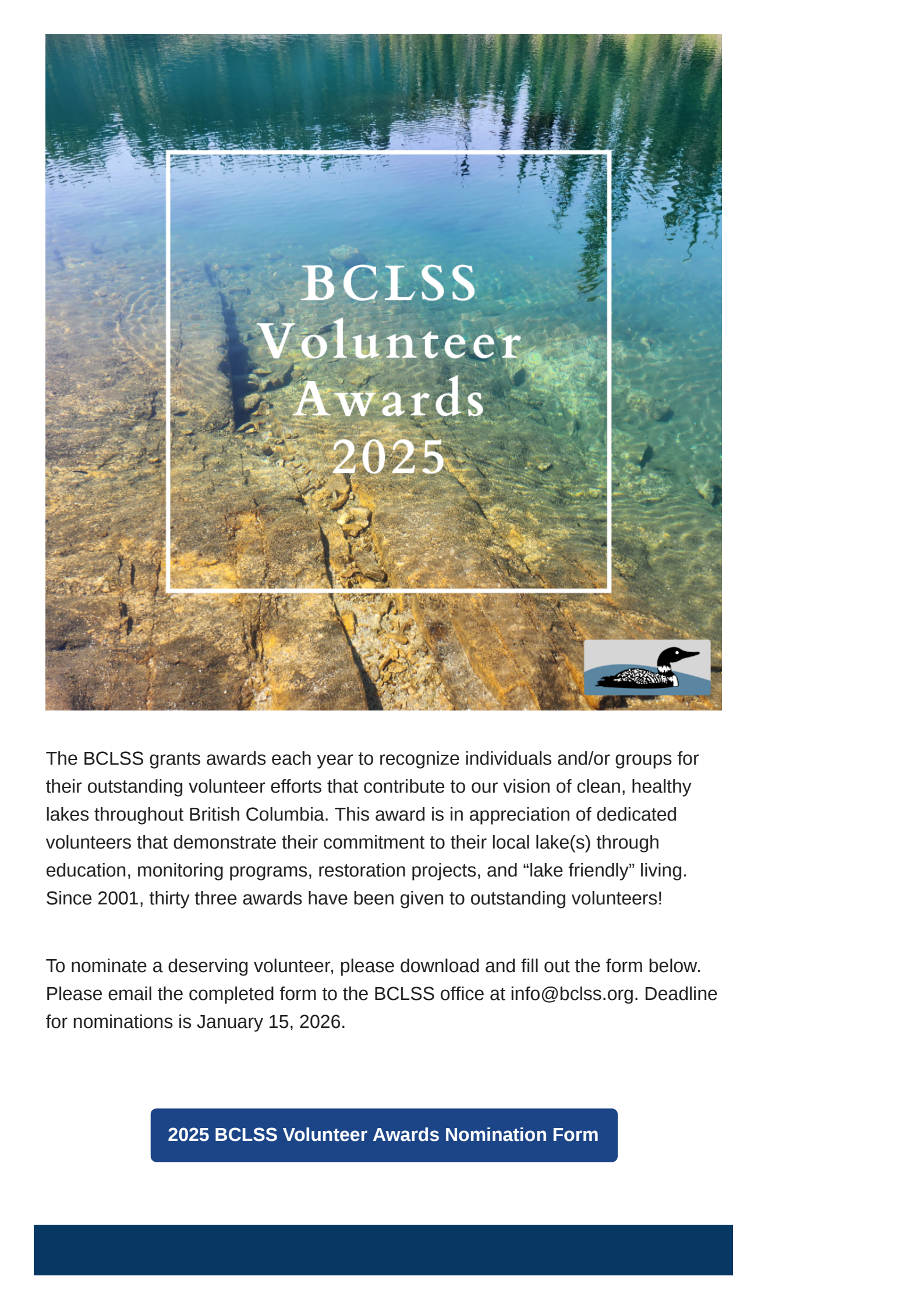
To our members and volunteers, thank you for your ongoing support of BCLSS and our mission. We truly appreciate your time and dedication to BC's lakes! Happy Holidays everyone!

With much gratitude,

The BCLSS team

(a charitable tax receipt will be issued through Canada Helps)

[Click here to donate to the BCLSS!](#)



BCLSS Volunteer Awards 2025



The BCLSS grants awards each year to recognize individuals and/or groups for their outstanding volunteer efforts that contribute to our vision of clean, healthy lakes throughout British Columbia. This award is in appreciation of dedicated volunteers that demonstrate their commitment to their local lake(s) through education, monitoring programs, restoration projects, and “lake friendly” living. Since 2001, thirty three awards have been given to outstanding volunteers!

To nominate a deserving volunteer, please download and fill out the form below. Please email the completed form to the BCLSS office at info@bclss.org. Deadline for nominations is January 15, 2026.

2025 BCLSS Volunteer Awards Nomination Form

Watershed Mapping - It's a lot easier than it used to be

By D. Baccante

Charlie Lake Conservation Society

Historically, detailed mapping of a watershed, or any other geographic feature, could only be done by government or commercial agencies who had the budgets to purchase the required software and databases. Open source software and wide availability of online data has changed this drastically.

It has opened up tremendous opportunities for anyone to download data right onto their desktop computer and use free mapping software such as QGIS, to analyze and summarize information for their own particular area of interest. Non-profit organizations have now access to tools and data that they did not have before.

To show an example of this approach, the report: "Watershed Mapping - Using Stoddard Creek Watershed as an Example" was written to show the variety of data that can be easily downloaded and used in QGIS to generate descriptive maps for a watershed, or any other distinct geographical boundary. This report shows the types of summaries that can be generated using data available from websites and mapping software, such as QGIS. There's a requirement for a certain level of technical expertise to use these tools, but the good news is that there are plenty of available online resources to learn them.

It is also important to note that, the proliferation of apps available on mobile phones, provide easy access to similar tools. This has created a huge global community of users who contribute to ecological databases, which helps scientists to study an endless variety of ecosystem components. The term "Citizen Science" has been adopted to describe this phenomenon, and it's a theme that the Charlie Lake Conservation Society is planning to feature in its future activities.

**Watershed Mapping - Using Stoddard
Creek Watershed as an Example**



Not a member of the BCLSS yet?

Please consider joining our network of lake stewards! For more information on the benefits of membership, [visit our website](#).

Were you forwarded this newsletter? [Subscribe today](#) to get monthly updates on stewardship activities, lake science, and much more delivered to your inbox!

The BCLSS acknowledges that the lake stewardship activities of our staff, directors, and volunteers take place on the traditional, ancestral, and

unceded lands of First Nations Peoples throughout British Columbia. We recognize that Indigenous Peoples have stewarded these lands and waters for generations and we are grateful to the Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, and youth that implement their knowledge and traditional laws to preserve water and life for the benefit of all.



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

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Canada
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du Canada



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