



COWICHAN STATION AREA ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

FISCAL YEAR MAR 1 2019-FEB.28 2020

AUG 30, 2020



MISSION.....bringing neighbours together to promote the livability and to sustain the natural environment and historic and cultural values of the Cowichan area.

VALUES THAT GUIDE US

Faith – we have faith in our energy and grassroots capacity to make a difference.

Respect – we respect and gain understanding from one another.

Integrity – we value honesty, commitment and follow through.

Efficiency – we are focused and strive for simplicity and clarity in what we do.

Inclusiveness – we are inclusive and collaborative and support openness and transparency.

Non Partisan – we focus on the greater interest of the community and respect orderly democratic process.

Advocacy – we actively advocate for the common good of our community.

Sustainability – we understand and embrace a model of environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD PRESIDENT

This annual report covers more than a year, as we postponed our AGM during the pandemic so we could all be together in person again. It has been a very busy, challenging and productive one and half years as we continually work towards streamlining functions and managing new energies towards continued growth!

Our first Executive Director, Barry O’Riordan moved on in June 2019. Somehow we managed to stay afloat without this position (thanks to Ronn and key volunteers, especially Alison!) until October 2019 when we were blessed to have our new ED Lynne Rozenboom start performing her magic for us! Lynne is such an accountable, hard worker who continually proves her worth through each of the issues and problems that arise weekly and sometimes daily here at the CSAA - we are so lucky to have her on board! Lynne and Ronn make a dynamite team!

Together they have done great work in countless areas such as managing renters and lease holders; contracts; events; and helping us open our doors asap during this pandemic by creating a return to workplace plan for our facility.

Our Board of Directors have poured their passion into areas such as creating a marketing plan; a new website; a water system plan that was submitted and accepted by Vancouver Island Health Authority; a new water shed design and plan; ensuring safety equipment onsite; and now, working on reinstating the cafe, as well as creating a learning and broadcast center with our Hub resiliency through technology project! (continued on page 2)

Message from the President (con't)

The Koksilah Working Group has been busy sharing it's now complete Ecosystem Based Assessment of the Koksilah Watershed. This is the most extensive and complete review of the entire Koksilah watershed and was created to help our community understand how our ecosystem originally functioned, the state it is in now, and where we should focus on restoration. See our new website koksilahwatershed.org. The report will be an excellent resource as the province and Cowichan Tribes First Nation are now exploring a long-term Water Sustainability Plan for the Koksilah.

After extensive renovations and code compliances Cowichan Community Workshop reopened May 1st, 2019! They helped install sound proof panels in the new upstairs rooms as well as performing regular maintenance, a number of electrical jobs and the installation of covid safety equipment. The Clay Hub continues to thrive and it is always such a pleasure to work with their board. We truly have an amazing multifaceted center here in our community!

In 2019 we held our annual Easter and Halloween events in addition to our first year hosting the Homesteading Fair and a Christmas Fair, as well as a Christmas Tea, and two Pub in the Hub events in November 2019 and July 2020!

We have a few new fantastic volunteers involved in our Fundraising Committee! They have helped bring new life to the submission of grants this year and have made many fun plans for the future! Grants were submitted for: operations; Rec n' Roll program; our new water system; as well as new septic system and washroom block. The committee also put together a very intensive grant plan for 2020-2022.

And I would like to make note of the Pollinator work done by Ted Leischner who is an amazing asset to our community and we look forward to more garden and flower projects with him in the future to nurture our relationships with the small creatures of our community!

Much Love,

Hilary Else, President of CSAA 2019



A Grant for New Technology and Resiliency

Through the support of the Island Coastal Economic Trust, the *HUB Resiliency Through Technology* project will purchase new technology equipment and software and enable 'plug and play' live streaming, video conferencing, Podcasting and recording capability for our community. The project also provides business restart opportunities for musicians, fitness, movement and art instructor, as well as community and fundraising events.



THANK YOU!

Volunteers – you make it happen! While we have space in our hearts to thank you all, there simply isn't space on the page. You know who you are, and so do we! Thank you.

Charitable Donors - Helping us focus where most needed. We do well raising money from grants but those funds are always tied to specific outcomes, timelines and eligibility criteria. Sometimes life doesn't fit in those boxes, and your donations make all the difference then.

OTHER SUPPORTERS: Individual donors, HUB renters, and people who support our events and programs. **We can't do it without you!**

A Farewell to two HUB friends

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of two friends of the Hub, Steve Watson and Bruce Freeman.

Steve Watson was a Cowichan Station School teacher and HUB Cafe regular. Neighbour Gil Heise reflects, "For many years Steve would walk the length of Wilson Rd with his dog, Tippy, stopping to gather information and to distribute the stories of the week." Steve is pictured right with his daughter Melanie.



Bruce Freeman had a wonderful sense of humour he was never shy about speaking to strangers, young or old, who were surprised to suddenly find themselves smiling and laughing with him. Bruce is pictured right with his Partner Irene, planting a dogwood tree at the Hub. Rest in peace, neighbours.



We gratefully acknowledge the following organizations for financial support this year:



BUSINESSES That Supported Your Community This Year!

Arcas Media, Barnes Custom Homes, Blue Grouse Winery, Cedar Valley Poultry Farm, Dinters Nursery, Dobsons Glass, Drum Roaster Coffee, Gary Interiors, Island Ford, Island Savings (Duncan), MacPherson Cabinetry, Old Farm Market, Real Estate Foundation, Seaview Glass, Tatlo Road Farm, Thrifty Foods (Duncan), and many more who have donated items to support our fundraising events. Thank you!

CSAA Board 2019 -2020

Hilary Else, President
Melanie Watson, Vice-President
Natasha Ayers, Treasurer
Donna Shaw, Secretary
Rodger Hunter
Al Mikalishen
Henry Van Hell
Jeannie McIntosh
Amie Roman
Janet Campbell
Leigha Rota
Gerry Humeny
Diane Perry



Cowichan Station Area Association,
2375 Koksilah Road, Cowichan Station, BC V9L 6M5
info@cowichanstation.org / 250-746-1794 / www.cowichanstation.org
Charitable Number: 807706155RR0001