

2020 Fundraising is officially underway. Our Stewardship Partners make giving easy!

We have recently become aware that our main source of core funding (CVRD Function 488) will again not be received by the Society this year; hence, we are reaching out to our community and corporate supporters to sponsor or donate as soon as possible. This past year our operations were funded solely through memberships and community donations. Our bare minimum operating costs are approximately \$35,000 annually. Our current goal is to raise 3 years of core funding (\$105,000) so we can focus on working for our watershed. The Cowichan Community Land Trust is supporting our efforts by maintaining a separate Shawnigan Basin Society Trust and will be able to provide tax deductible receipts for donations to our non-profit society for those who would benefit from a charitable donation receipt. We also offer some advertising and public acknowledgement sponsor benefits.

The SBS will be applying for project specific grant's through various agencies but will be relying solely on donations from community and corporate sponsors for core funding to enable us to maintain the base operations and apply for project funding. Over \$75,000 worth of time and services are delivered by SBS volunteer Directors to the society annually.

Thank you for investing your time to learn about & support The Shawnigan Basin Society. The primary objective of the Shawnigan Basin Society is the restoration of the health of our watershed.

Here is a snapshot of what we have worked on throughout 2018 & 2019.

- Hosted monthly Community presentations by various organizations including: The Cowichan Watershed Board, Sooke Hills Wilderness Committee, Cowichan Station (Koksilah) Community Association, VIHA: WellSmart education, Gaia: Nano bubble water oxygenation, Septic field safety, Milfoil awareness and walking tours of the SIA mine/contaminated soil site.
- Assisted residents with soil contamination and well water contamination concerns by contacting responsible Provincial Agencies and testing soil and sediment.
- Since dumping of fill has again resumed on Lot 23, we have begun monitoring turbidity and other parameters in the Ephemeral Stream at several locations and Shawnigan Creek upstream and downstream of Lot 23 as well as near the Creek's entry into Shawnigan lake.
- Collected and analysed water quality in Shawnigan Creek and the Lake in an effort to record and analyse long term changes in the aquifers, streams and Lake.
- Submitted commentaries on the Professional Reliance Model to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Submitted commentaries on forestry practices to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- Engaged in public land usage advocacy inquiries including, disruptive use of parkland and nature reserve land, wake damage to foreshore and property owner structures, lake access, riparian designation and zoning clarification.
- Participated in CVRD committees: (Ctag) community technical advisory group participation for the new Watershed Protection Fund including input on water quality objectives and attainment testing, South Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan (SSLWMP), attending weekly CVRD Board meetings to stay informed on local governance, (Ctag) for Think Shawnigan activities geared toward developing a master plan for the village core and volunteer invasive removal in local parks programs.
- Our partnership with ISCBC Invasive Species of British Columbia has resulted in our acquisition of 11 new informational signs ready to be installed in cooperation with MOTI and CVRD prior to summer 2020.
- Memoranda of Understanding have been agreed to with Mosaic Forest Management and Malahat First Nation to work together on improving existing practices related to watershed health. We are looking forward to working in collaboration toward community stewardship of this beautiful area and the water we all depend upon. We have also begun integrating supports for the communities of Cobble Hill & Mill Bay and building a collective within our three main South Cowichan communities as we are aware that what happens in Shawnigan also affects our downstream neighbors.

Data bases for each of the above issues will be created and maintained in our Office so we can offer information to the community. Please send us files and photos of work you have been doing in these areas so we can share your work and increase our communities' effectiveness through collaboration.

To send contributions to our community watershed database (research or correspondence regarding watershed concerns, water and soil test reports etc.) please email to info@shawniganbasinsociety.org

For sponsorship and donations please use the link above for quick & easy credit card donation via Cowichan Land Trusts Canada Helps account. You are welcome to contact me directly with any questions or comments that you may have about how to support your local watershed stewardship organization.