



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

www.columbialakess.com

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September 2022



The Columbia Lake Stewardship Society envisions Columbia Lake becoming an example of the balance that can exist between nature and the needs of our communities.

Thank you to our funders and supporters



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
Message: Board Chairperson	6
Message: Program Coordinator	6
Our Team	7
Volunteers	8
Highlights	9
Project Work	10
-Study Our Lake	10
-Share Our Findings	15
-Involve Our Communities	18
-Promote Our Lake’s Sustainability	20
-Develop Our Organization	20
Financials	21
Conclusions	22
Acknowledgements	23



The Columbia Lake Stewardship Society acknowledges and appreciates that our water stewardship work is completed on the shared traditional and unceded territories of the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc People, and the chosen home of the Columbia Valley Métis.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Columbia Lake Stewardship Society has experienced a very successful year with growth and many great accomplishments. Through collaboration, communication and strategic planning, we have managed to deliver more engaging opportunities to our audience and provide greater support to our volunteers. In 2022, CLSS focused its work on developing and implementing our five guiding principles: Study our Lake, Share our Findings, Involve our Communities, Promote our Lake's Sustainability, Develop our Organization.

CLSS has built and maintained partnerships with a variety of water stewardship organizations to improve both our programming and assist in theirs. We could not do what we do without the help and support of many volunteers. The volunteers that are part of CLSS come from all of the communities that surround Columbia Lake and are both year-round and part-time residents of the area. CLSS strives to work with all levels of government, First Nations, youth, community associations and other organizations that are interested in the health of the lake.

Late in 2021, we successfully received charitable status, allowing our supporters to receive a taxable receipt for their donations.

In 2021 with the generous support of the Columbia Basin Trust, CLSS developed its first ever five-year plan, which helped us clarify our vision, mission, priorities and long-term plans.

In 2022, we finalized and adopted our strategic plan, further promoting greater structure and providing guiding principles to our direction.

This was our ninth year of monitoring the lake for water quality and quantity, and our third year monitoring four of the small streams and tributaries. We expanded the sharing of our data to the Columbia Basin Water Hub, allowing it to be accessible to our partners and to complement other local projects and work.

This year we focused on improving and ensuring our QA/QC (Quality Control and Assurance) program. We also purchased a new van don for our water sampling program. This piece of equipment has allowed us to safely and efficiently collect our deep lake samples and reduce the potential for contamination to our water samples.

Following the guidance of our partnering organization BCLSS, we attended the annual Lakekeepers workshop which has been postponed for the past few years due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. This year we were grateful to brush up and assess the quality of our data collection towards our water monitoring programs, providing us with support for calibration techniques, equipment use, and sample collection.

CLSS also continued to engage our community members through our free summer camps for kids, booths at local community events and gatherings, and articles in both the Columbia Valley Pioneer and the Canal Flats News. We also expanded the sharing of our information through presentations and activities, completing 12 public and private presentations to community associations, council groups, environmental educators, and local organizations.

This report summarizes the highlights of the work CLSS completed between October 1st, 2021, and September 30th, 2022. More detailed reports about our water quantity and quality programs are available at our website: www.columbialakess.com.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

2022 has been a very good year for CLSS. As restrictions necessitated by COVID began to lessen, CLSS was able to return to more in person events and once again engage with the many users of Columbia Lake. 2022 was also the first full year that we had a program coordinator, which allowed us to do more programs and interact with even more people and groups. Our program coordinator also allowed the board of directors to focus on putting the finishing touches on our first five-year plan and implementing it.

For me, the best thing about being part of CLSS are the volunteers and sponsors that make it possible for us to continue our work. Their interest in the lake and enthusiasm are amazing. Thank you very much for all that you do.

The Columbia Lake Management Plan and the Foreshore Inventory Management Planning were both updated in 2022, which gave us up to date guidelines on lake usage as well as an understanding of the state of the foreshore of the lake. We are very fortunate to have a lake that has a higher-than-average percentage of undeveloped shoreline, however development pressures remain a concern. CLSS will continue to monitor the lake and work towards our vision: that Columbia Lake becomes an example of the balance that can exist between nature and the needs of our communities.

Nancy Wilson

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

This year has been an extremely successful year for CLSS and an equally rewarding one for me. Continuing in the position as the Program Coordinator, I had the opportunity to improve, enhance and cultivate many new skills, disciplines and work relationships. By continuing my role throughout the winter, I was able to get a headstart on the planning and preparation for our 2022 projects, improving our overall preparedness and resiliency for the 2022 field season.

CLSS was again able to secure funding for a seasonal position. Lucas Fuertes, a seasonal local resident in Canal Flats and a student at UBC joined us as the 2022 Summer Sample and Education Assistant to support our ongoing programs and our volunteers. He provided further support for our water monitoring and sampling program as well as our education and outreach initiatives. Lucas was a great fit for the position, excelling in this role while consistently creating a great work environment. I am fortunate to have had another great student on my team and I look forward to the future success that this position offers to others.

With another successful field season of data collection, weed pulls and shoreline cleanups, educational activities and stewardship engagement behind us, I look forward to the winter ahead to further assess and improve our upcoming initiatives in 2023. Carrying forward my excitement for the future and my passion for the lake, I hope to welcome those with similar aspirations to our growing team.

Leah Downey



OUR TEAM



Nancy Wilson, Chair



Pat Silver, Treasurer



**Tom Symington,
Secretary**



Bill Thompson, Director



Tom Dance, Director



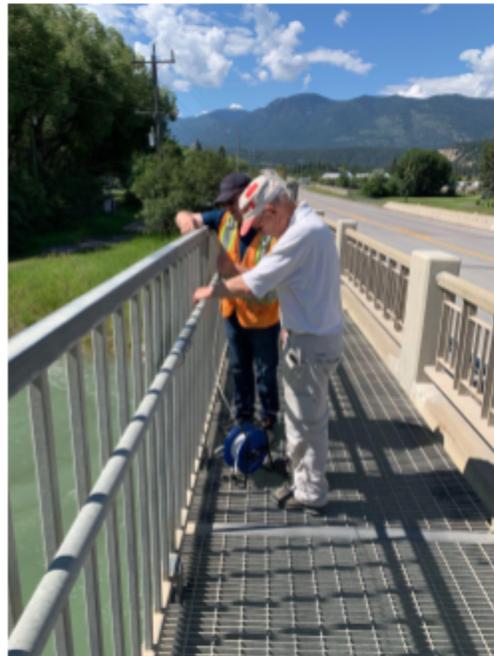
**Leah Downey,
Program Coordinator**



**Lucas Fuertes,
Summer Student**

VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to our long time and new volunteers, we were able to carry out our programs. We could not do it without you.
Thank you!



20+ Water Quantity Events

8 Lake Water Quality Monitoring Events

Study Our Lake

4 Stream Monitoring Events

49 Watercraft Counts

95 Children attended free summer camps

Involve Our Communities

3 Weed Pulls and Clean Ups

Promote Our Lake's Sustainability

Participated in Columbia Lake Management Plan Update

Collaborated on future initiatives for the Upper Columbia River

12 Presentations to local communities, councils and others

Monitored all Development Applications

Outreach Booths

New Signage

Share Our Findings

Educational Articles & Newsletters

Lake tours through Wings

Develop Our Organization

2 people trained in CABIN

CLSS Policy Manual Completed

Acquired Tent and Table for Outreach Programs

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

PROJECT WORK

This year, the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society continued to focus on developing and implementing our five guiding principles:

- Study our Lake
- Share our Findings
- Involve our Communities
- Promote our Lake's Sustainability
- Develop our Organization

In each area, we were able to see success in our programs and meet our goals

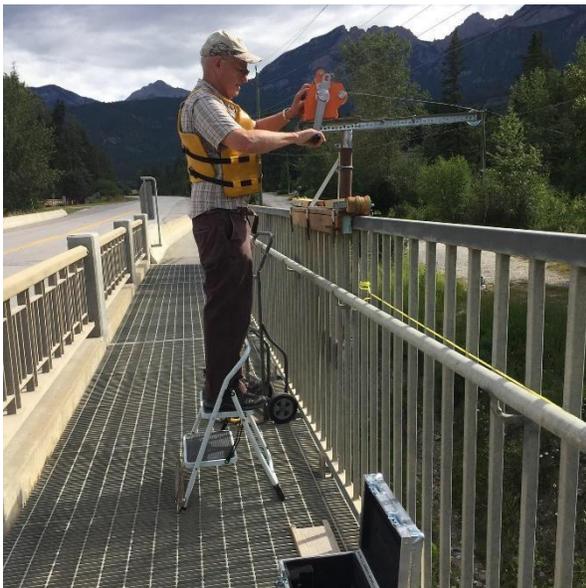
Study Our Lake

In 2022, the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society continued to monitor and sample the water of Columbia Lake and its tributaries for the eighth consecutive year. This work has allowed us to establish baselines for water quality and quantity parameters.

The results and interpretations from our water quality and quantity monitoring programs this year will be documented in our 2022 reports. These reports will be completed in January 2023 and will be shared locally through presentations and community outreach activities, provided to stakeholder groups, and made available online on our website and social media platforms.

Water Quantity Monitoring

With the collection of weather data and various streamflow measurements, we have developed a water database, and estimated the water balance of Columbia Lake from the annual and seasonal changes in



streamflow for Dutch Creek, Canal Flats Creek and the Columbia River. This data is significant in understanding the changes and fluctuations in the water balance of Columbia Lake.

This has been an exceptionally successful year for our Hydrometric Monitoring Program. Continuing the collection of data throughout the winter, we have been actively monitoring the streams' velocities, maintaining, and collecting data from our data loggers, and noting any changes within the channels. This year we added six new flow measurements to our database. To complement our streamflow data, we continued to operate our weather station and collected data from other stations in the valley. Data from these stations

contribute to our data analyses and also to our annual reports. Specific new activities during the year were:

- Collection of data from the Panorama Ski Hill weather station
- Collection of data from the high elevation Little Dragon avalanche station (near Panorama)
- Installation of rain gauges at Canal Flats and Spur Lake

For 2023, we plan to relocate our weather station to the Dutch Creek delta where it will provide more representative information on the flow of air over the lake. We also plan to upgrade the hydrometric station located in the Columere Marina so that lake levels can be read out remotely.



Water Quality Monitoring

We continued to monitor the lake for water quality parameters such as the dissolved oxygen levels, turbidity, pH, conductivity and the relative depth and temperature of the lake in various locations. Additionally, as part of our water quality program, we continue to gather samples for chemical analysis and measure the amounts of phosphorous, total metals, dissolved nutrients and chloride.

Our 2022 sampling season began smoothly as we welcomed our new 2022 summer sampling and education assistant Lucas Fuertes on May 9th. As the spring's cooler weather persisted late into June, we had to rely on the flexibility of our volunteers to compensate for choppy waves and moody weather. Fortunately, our team of volunteers is dedicated, patient, flexible and willing to get a little wet! This year we had the opportunity to sample with each of our lake volunteers, completing eight lake and four stream quality excursions, including five citizen scientists. We plan our water sampling schedule according to the weather and at a uniform time of day between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Our standard sampling regimes were developed based on common practices made by our water quality coordinators. These practices are reviewed by volunteers and staff prior to the field work to ensure all samples and data are collected with success and accuracy.



Living beside the headwaters of the Columbia River, we are extremely fortunate to have an abundance of fresh, available water to drink, recreate in, and

appreciate. This summer we did not have to endure a long and unforgiving heat dome as was the case in 2021. However, prolonged cooler spring weather followed by warmer temperatures brought us another intense year of weather changes and patterns. As local environmental projects progress in scope and other community infrastructure improvements are made to cope with various climatic changes, the data we collect will become increasingly more important.

Water quality monitoring has been conducted on the lake for eight years. We started monitoring the water quality of several Columbia Lake tributaries in late 2020.

Lake Monitoring



Since our start date in late May, CLSS staff and volunteers have been actively monitoring the lake and collecting water samples, completing seven successful lake monitoring events. These events are coordinated and conducted by our program coordinator and summer student who carry out the program's schedule of biweekly monitoring activities. The program includes the analysis of the lake's water quality parameters for our four sites at the middle and end of each month from May to August. We also collect water samples for further analysis of specific elements that may be present, alternating the collection of these samples at the end of May, the middle of July, and the end of August.

Aside from a few rough waves and unfortunate weather events, this year's lake monitoring activities were successful and enjoyable. The data collected has allowed us to document any changes in the lake from the contributing impacts of

environmental or anthropogenic activity and has provided us with the opportunity to share the information with other organizations, individuals and communities.

This year, to compliment our QA/QC program (Quality Assurance and Quality Control), we purchased a Van Dorn sampler. The device is a tube (pvc pipe) with two open ends that can be lowered into the water on a rope, then the ends of the tube is closed by a messenger (a metal weight) which is sent down the rope. Further eliminating any possible contamination to our samples as the water sample has no contact with the sampler.

Creek (Tributary) Monitoring

Four tributaries that flow into Columbia Lake were monitored monthly from May to August 2022 in a manner similar to the lake monitoring program. The creeks monitored were Dutch Creek, Hardie Creek, Marion Creek and Canal Flats Creek.

The purpose of monitoring the streams on Columbia Lake is to:

- Develop an understanding of the number and location of smaller streams that enter Columbia Lake;



- Understand the impact of these streams as a source of water for the south end of the lake as well as for riparian areas around the lake;
- Monitor the water quality of the streams;
- Estimate the flow of the various streams at several times through the seasons when they are flowing;
- Estimate the contribution of these streams to the water balance of the lake (although it will be relatively small); and
- Develop a database of stream information that can be used to note impacts from climate change or development around the lake.

The sampling protocol is the same as the one we use for the lake. In addition, we collected information on stream velocity. The data collected will be included in our water quality report.

In 2023, we will include two sites on the Columbia River to complement our tributary monitoring program. The first of these will be above the recreational put-in site and second will be below the recreational take-out site on the Columbia River. The purpose of adding these sites is to ensure water quality, environmental stability to the wetlands and downstream, public safety from changes to seasonal runoff, and inputs from external sources such as the golf courses.

Foreshore Inventory Management Update (FIMP)

Working collaboratively with Living Lakes Canada, the Columbia Lake's Foreshore Inventory Management Planning (FIMP) was updated in September 2021 and the report was published in April 2022. Considering the increase in recreation and residential pressures, this document acknowledges the cultural, social, ecological and economic values proposed by surrounding communities and representatives. This updated document identified that 41% of the shoreline is disturbed, while 59% remains relatively natural. Comparisons between the previous 2009 and 2021 FIM revealed that there was a slight increase in disturbed shoreline, by 75m. This study showed that development along the Columbia Lake shoreline has continued to increase, as many shoreline modifications increased by 100%. These included "docks (from 14 to 30), retaining walls (from 5 to 11), and groynes (from 4 to 7), while boat launches increased by 30%". As demands for improving public access to communities and local individuals, for boats launches, day-use, and recreational purposes increase, this will be greatly beneficial for decision makers to use as a guiding document for the future management to protect the health of the shoreline and Columbia Lake.

This document is available on our website and further information can be found on the Living Lakes Canada website.

Shoreline Fish Population Study

In August of 2021, the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society partnered with the Lake Windermere Ambassadors to complete a shoreline fish study on the Columbia Headwaters. The work was completed

by Lotic Environmental, an aquatic consultant, and over the course of six days, the two lakes were successfully surveyed using various capturing techniques. On Columbia Lake there were eight dominant fish species identified. Species assemblages were similar to previous studies, with Largemouth Bass being the most prevalent species present. The final report acknowledges the difference in population density of introduced species (Largemouth Bass and Pumpkinseed Sunfish) from a study completed in 2009. Identifying a noticeable change in the “fish assemblage”. As the project scope was limited because of funding, this study examined the fish populations from the shoreline, resulting in lower than expected populations of fish present within the lake. Further studies are recommended to identify the greater populations present within the Columbia Headwaters, using this study as a baseline for future studies. The final report is now available on our website.

Watercraft Counts

In 2022, we continued our twice weekly watercraft counts to monitor the type and the number of watercraft that use Columbia Lake for recreation. We counted the number of boats, kayaks, paddleboards, sailboats and windsurfers on the lake at about noon on weekdays and weekends. This information is important to document, as it allows us to recognize the recreational activity taking place on Columbia Lake and helps us to improve our educational programs and the information we provide to lake users. The results of the watercraft counts are on our website.

Upper Columbia Watershed Mapping Project

With support from the Columbia Basin Watershed Network and in coordination with the Selkirk College, we had the opportunity to work with a student in the GIS program to compile base maps illustrating ecologic and hydrologic significance in the Upper Columbia Watershed. These maps will be valuable resources for CLSS, partnering organizations and decision makers, as they illustrate the current status of various ecological aspects, as well as hydrologic and weather stations located in the watershed. These maps are available by request and within our reports.

Share Our Findings

Working with other Organizations

Much of the work we do is not possible without the support and collaboration of other groups. We work with other groups both locally and at a provincial level. In 2022, CLSS continued to collaborate with other organizations to align programs, share information, coordinate responses, and maintain best practices. We collaborated with other groups on some key projects including:

- Lake Windermere Ambassadors - CLSS and LWA collaborated on community outreach programs and water monitoring programs on the Columbia Headwater Lakes as well as a fish survey of both lakes;
- RDEK (Regional District of East Kootenay), MOTI (Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure), FCA (Fairmont Community Association) and CLSS worked to strategize a

plan of action for upgrades to the put-in and take-out points along the Columbia River near Fairmont, to further promote public safety and environmental stability;

- Data sharing with [Living Lakes Canada](#) - We shared data with LLC through their Data Hub;
- [2021/2022 FIMP with Living Lakes Canada](#) – CLSS worked with LLC to share the findings for the updated Foreshore Integrated Management Plan. A summary of the results is above in ‘study our lake’;
- [East Kootenay Invasive Species Council – EKISC](#) joined CLSS for one of our weed pulls, providing expertise and resources;
- [Fairmont Community Association](#) - CLSS provided informational brochures to recreationists who are using the upper reaches of the Columbia River;
- [BC Lake Stewardship Society](#) - provided guidance for our water quality and quantity monitoring protocols, as well as report writing. In 2023 they hosted their Lakekeepers workshop, delivering proper training to those collecting water quality data;
- [Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners](#) – CLSS is represented on the board of CWSP and recruited volunteers to monitor turtles in Armstrong Bay. CLSS also worked to increase public awareness about the turtles in Armstrong Bay and ensure the turtle habitat is protected; and
- Worked with [RDEK](#) in promoting awareness of and compliance with the 10 km/h speed limit areas in ecologically sensitive areas of Columbia Lake.

Columbia Valley Swallow Project



CLSS continued to support the Upper Columbia Swallow Habitat Enhancement Project by providing volunteers and raising awareness about the bank swallows.

This year we collaborated with Rachel Darvil, lead biologist for the UCSHEP, to deliver a volunteer training workshop to recruit new volunteers and assist training individuals. In total we supported 12 individuals at this event and completed a site visit to an important nesting location near Columbia Lake.

Turtle Monitoring in Armstrong Bay



CLSS continued to support the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Society’s program to monitor the Turtles in Armstrong Bay. The Western Painted Turtles present within the Columbia Headwaters are part of the Intermountain- Rocky Mountain Population, part of the West Kootenay turtles, which has been identified as “Species of Special Concern” by Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) (2006 and 2016). CLSS has provided support to recruit volunteers to monitor the local turtle population in Armstrong Bay and to educate people to further help protect and conserve this species. In 2022, CLSS purchased two signs from Wildsafe BC that will

remind people to respect the space and stay away from the turtles. We plan to install these signs by next spring, once appropriate permission is received.

Educational Lake Tours



Left: Program coordinator Leah Downey (in yellow) looks on as Colin Cartwright explains the history of the Columbia Headwaters area.

CLSS conducted one large and one small tour in support for the 2022 Wings over the Rockies Festival. The large tour took place at the 'Birth of the Columbia Headwaters' path, with 15 people in attendance. A lifelong Canal Flats resident and former CLSS board member, Colin Cartwright, joined Program Coordinator Leah Downey and CLSS Director Bill Thompson to

conduct this tour. Colin provided the group with a historical perspective for the area and the Birth of the Headwaters' path, while CLSS staff and volunteers shared scientific information and knowledge about our programs and initiatives.

The smaller tour was an item in the Silent Auction. Thank you to Dave and Donna Rae for providing the boat, snacks, and great company.

Newsletters

CLSS began distributing quarterly newsletters to inform lake users and CLSS members about the activities that CLSS has been doing. To sign up to receive regular newsletters, contact info@columbialakess.ca

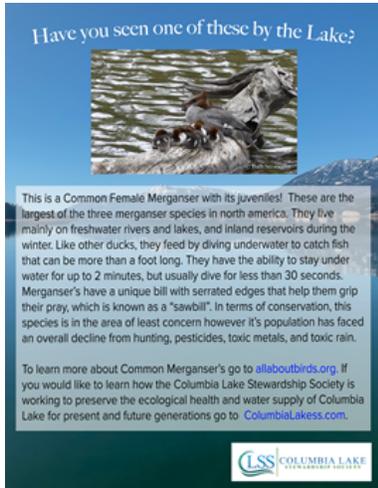
Lakeside Signage



We would like to acknowledge the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund, Columbia Valley Community Foundation and the Columbia Basin Trust for their ongoing financial support for our environmental education programs. CLSS is in the process of finalizing two new signs to be posted in lakeside communities.

One will be about Armstrong Bay and the other will be about western painted turtles. Watch the CLSS signpost in your community to see one of these new signs next spring!

Educational Articles



This year we submitted regular educational articles to the Canal Flats Newsletter. The subject matter varied. Information regarding the flora, fauna and physical setting of Columbia Lake as well as other topics provide community members with a broader connection to the lake, important updates with regard to our work and volunteer opportunities with CLSS. The Columbia Lake Stewardship Society is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to share information through this local news outlet, and we will continue to maintain and grow our presence in our communities through the local print media.

Markets, AGMs, & Community Events



Throughout the summer of 2022, Columbia Lake Stewardship Society members and staff successfully connected with 300 community members at community AGMs and meetings, various community events, boat launches and riverside booths, and other meetings of local organizations.

In 2022, we limited our attendance at farmers' markets, and focussed our efforts on popular waterside venues such as the Columbia River in Fairmont Hot Springs and the Canal Flats boat launch at Tilley Memorial Park beach. The Columbia Lake Stewardship Society successfully connected with

community members and recreationists, sharing important information and discussing their concerns. Aside from markets, CLSS staff and members supported Columbia Lake communities by raising awareness of the Society's current and future environmental activity through presentations at community AGMs and connecting with Canal Flats council members at regular council meetings and regular contact with the RDEK's Area F Director.

Social Media

As social distancing regulations were lifted and residents and visitors once again embraced social activities, CLSS continued to practice safe social distancing while encouraging in-person social interaction. We continued to use social media as a means to further connect and share information with communities, individuals and other organizations. This year we successfully reached over 500 individuals through our social media platforms. These platforms allowed us to share information more efficiently and provide our followers with important updates and volunteer opportunities.

Involvement Our Communities

Invasive Weed Pulls

This past June CLSS completed not one but two invasive weed pulls. We filled seven bags of knapweed from the banks of the Columbia River and eight bags from the Columbia Lake shoreline! With support from our dedicated volunteers and our partner, the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council (EKISC), we work to protect our sensitive shoreline. Every year, CLSS members and volunteers coordinate with EKISC to educate communities and individuals about the destructive and relentless effects of invasive species. In a combined effort, five CLSS members and three volunteers managed to collect and dispose of 15 large garbage bags of knapweed from the shoreline stretching from Spirits Reach to Columbia Ridge, and adjacent to the Fairmont Bridge over the Columbia River. Our mission was not to eliminate the presence of the invasive species, but rather to prevent the future spread of knapweed and to assist with the management of small knapweed populations, as well as help educate volunteers and the public about these invasive species. There were fewer invasive plants at the locations which we pulled last year, which is a fantastic sign that our efforts are beneficial. Over time and with continued support and increased awareness of this cause, we will see a reduction in the communities of knapweed which thrive today.

Volunteers

This year we were grateful for the contributions of the time, energy and boats that our 14 volunteers made to our programs. The Columbia Lake Stewardship Society has a remarkable team of volunteers who work with us in protecting and conserving Columbia Lake's ecosystem. While volunteering their time, these individuals have become valued stewards of the lake.



Community Clean Up

In an act of solidarity and collaboration, a few dedicated CLSS volunteers joined the Fairmont Community Spring Clean-up to remove garbage from the highway ditches between Canal Flats and Fairmont Hot Springs. This was a great opportunity to join and support our partners: Fairmont Community Association and ColumbiYEA. With the donation of garbage bags from the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, we successfully cleaned up the roadsides and prevented garbage from entering our streams and waterways!

Free Summer Camps for Kids



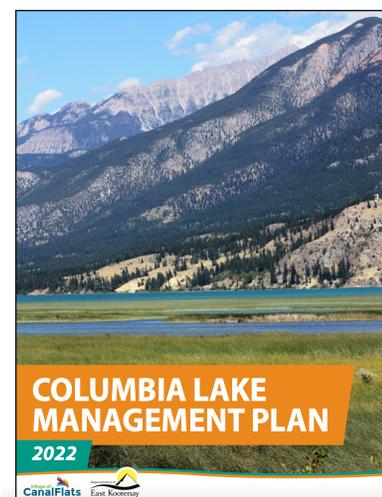
This was the third consecutive year that the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society has hosted free summer camps for kids. This year, we had the opportunity once again to collaborate with the Lake Windermere Ambassadors and co-host camps on both Columbia Lake and Lake Windermere. These camps included educational activities focusing on the ecology of the lakes, and they actively involved the kids with hands-on learning experiences. We also had the opportunity to connect and deliver educational camps to the Spirits Reach Community, Columere Park Community, and the Little Badgers Early Learning and Nature School. We had over 95 kids participate over the entire summer of 2022! As their popularity grows, we will continue to offer these camps in 2023. Our goal is to expand our collaboration with other groups and provide more opportunities for youth to learn about their environment.

Promote Our Lake's Sustainability

We monitor all development applications that could possibly impact the lake and we will always ask if the lake's health is being taken into consideration. During all of our educational sessions we promote information about the lake's sustainability and proper lake stewardship practices.

Columbia Lake Management Plan Update Completed

An update of the Columbia Lake Management plan (CLMP) was completed and published in 2022. CLSS provided feedback to drafts of the update and will continue to work closely with the RDEK to inform communities of the plan and its contents, using it as a strategic plan to better educate lakeshore owners and community associations. We will use this document as supporting guidance to help protect the health of the lake and its tributaries.



River Access near Fairmont Hot Springs

CLSS collaborated closely with the RDEK (Regional District of East Kootenay), MOTI (Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure), FHSR (Fairmont Hot Springs Resort) and FCA (Fairmont Community Association) to work towards upgrading the access points to the Columbia River in Fairmont Hot Springs. In 2022, CLSS secured funding to manage the temporary portable toilet facility located at the take-out point in Fairmont Meadows for the visitors and residents alike who enjoy the float trip down the river through the golf course from the highway bridge over the Columbia River. We supported public education through multiple outreach booths, provided pamphlets about safe river usage at the launch sites, as well as conducting one invasive weed pull along the river bank.

Develop Our Organization

CABIN Certification

In June of 2022, two CLSS members became certified as project managers in CABIN (Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network) training. CLSS will collect our first CABIN sample this fall. Sampling using CABIN techniques allows us to measure the health of the freshwater ecosystem with standardized methods, closely analyzing macroinvertebrates which act as indicator species. The data will be stored in a nationwide database as well as on our local database.



Acquisition of Tent and Table

CLSS was able to purchase a tent and table that were used frequently throughout the summer at shoreline and community events. Purchasing these items have allowed us to connect with community residents and visitors more efficiently and effectively, sharing our logo and improving our presence within the Upper Columbia Valley. We attended two public events and set up five other information booths, sharing our knowledge of the lake through games, documents and personal interactions.



Policy Manual

The CLSS board developed a policy manual, as proposed in our five-year plan. The manual will help board members, volunteers and employees understand their roles within our organization. This manual provides staff with a supporting guide to their workplace, sets out our standards and policies in writing, further improving everyone's experience with CLSS.

FINANCIALS

The fiscal year for the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society runs from January 1st to December 31st each year. A summary financial statement will be available online at Columbialakess.com in our annual general meeting minutes or can be requested from our office at info@columbialakess.ca.

Donations and Sponsorships

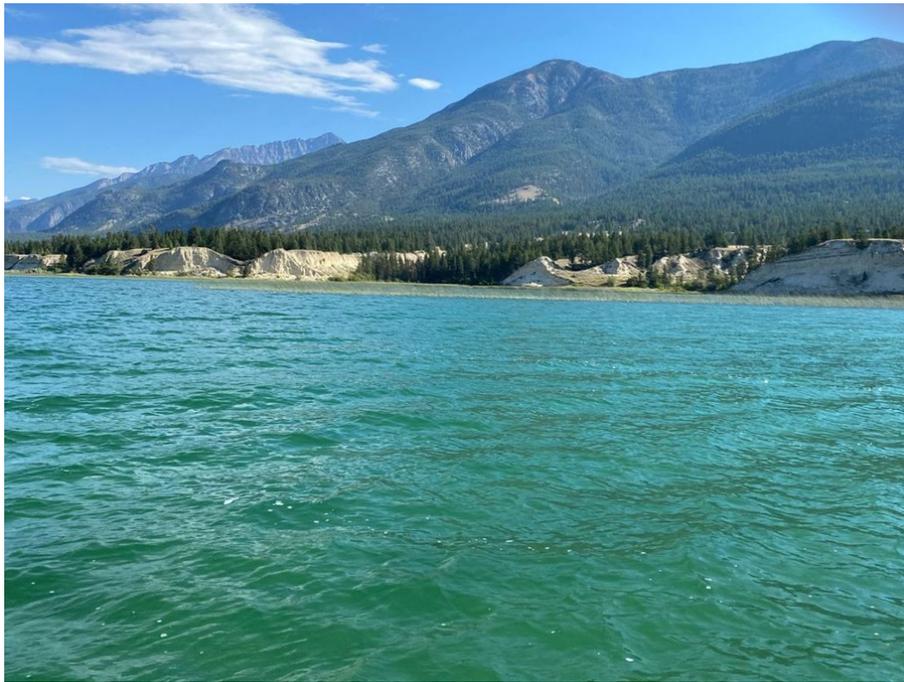
In 2022 CLSS took advantage of our newly acquired Canadian Revenue Agency registered charity status to approach local businesses to sponsor our work. We are grateful for the support we received from four local businesses that agreed to sponsor our education, stewardship and water monitoring programs.

CONCLUSIONS

In 2022, CLSS continued to work towards fulfilling its vision of Columbia Lake being an example of the balance that can exist between nature and the needs of our communities.

We expanded our efforts to include the upper reaches of the Columbia River, promoting public education for safe river usage, proper environmental awareness and respect for the surrounding landowners. 2022 was another successful year for CLSS as we achieved many of our goals and, in line with our newly developed guiding principles, we have successfully cultivated new relationships and expanded our environmental programs. In 2023, while we continue working to ensure that the health of Columbia Lake is protected, CLSS will help full- and part-time residents and the communities where they live increase their environmental awareness and provide them with a range of stewardship opportunities to enhance our collective appreciation of this gift of nature.

We are greatly appreciative of the community support we receive and we will continue to uphold our environmental and community values throughout our future initiatives.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Columbia Lake Stewardship Society would like to acknowledge the ongoing and faithful support of our collaborators, partners and mentors who are listed below:

Akisqnuq First Nations
All of our donors and volunteers
BC Lake Stewardship Society
Canada Summer Jobs
Columbia Basin Trust
Columbia Basin Watershed Network
Columbia Ridge Community Association
Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners
Columere Park Community Association
East Kootenay Invasive Species Council
Fairmont Community Association
Lake Windermere Ambassadors
Living Lakes Canada
Regional District of East Kootenay
Spirits Reach Strata Association
Village of Canal Flats