

Municipal Council,  
Municipality of North Cowichan,  
963 Herd Rd, Duncan BC V9L 5W9

February 9, 2023

Dear Mayor and Council:



In June 2023, the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society (CLRSS) will be releasing ***Witnessing the Water – an authentic relationship***, a 56-page, full-colour, softback, coffee-table book. It builds on an earlier art installation created by CLRSS for the *Watershed Through the Lens of Art* gallery exhibition of September 2019.

This book of remarkable photography will be sold by CLRSS members. Hopefully it will also be sold at local tourism locations and bookstores, connecting community and visitors alike in this shared understanding. All proceeds from sales will be used to support the work of the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society. This publication is part of the acknowledged work of the Cowichan Watershed Board's Watershed Connections Working Group.

**The point:** As a community, we need to understand that everything is interconnected - human, salmon, pollinator and water, rock, and tree. We walk a fragile tightrope, a journey that is under imminent threat of destruction. Our individual and collective actions now must reflect a deeper respect, one that views as Indigenous eyes have always seen, that respect and appreciation for a healthy ecosystem must be collective stewardship from a "whole watershed" and a "whole community" perspective.

Many community members are contributing to the text. Here is what steward biologist, Chris Steeger, says in the book:

'I invite people to realize that their physical composition is mostly water - 60%. The same H<sub>2</sub>O molecule we imagine floating by was in fact in a cloud, in a lake, in a plant; before that it was a part of a glacier and part of our ancestors. The hydrogen or oxygen atom might have been part of the body of Jesus or Buddha or my grandfather, or myself. Water is a perfect example of the absolute interconnectedness of all things in the universe.'

Together we are strong. Working together for climate change awareness and action, the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society (CLRSS) needs your support. **The support we are asking for at this time is not monetary, nor does it involve volunteer engagement.** It is simply acknowledgment that the principle behind the book is embraced by our local government(s).

All supporters will be listed in alphabetical order on the frontispiece of the book.

Please contact [judybrayden@shaw.ca](mailto:judybrayden@shaw.ca) subject line: We support Witnessing the Water in Principle.

**Deadline for inclusion is February 28, 2023**

Sincerely,

Judy Brayden  
CLRSS Witnessing the Water Project Lead