

North Cowichan Service Agreement Report

For work completed in 2024

Paul Fletcher, Executive Director

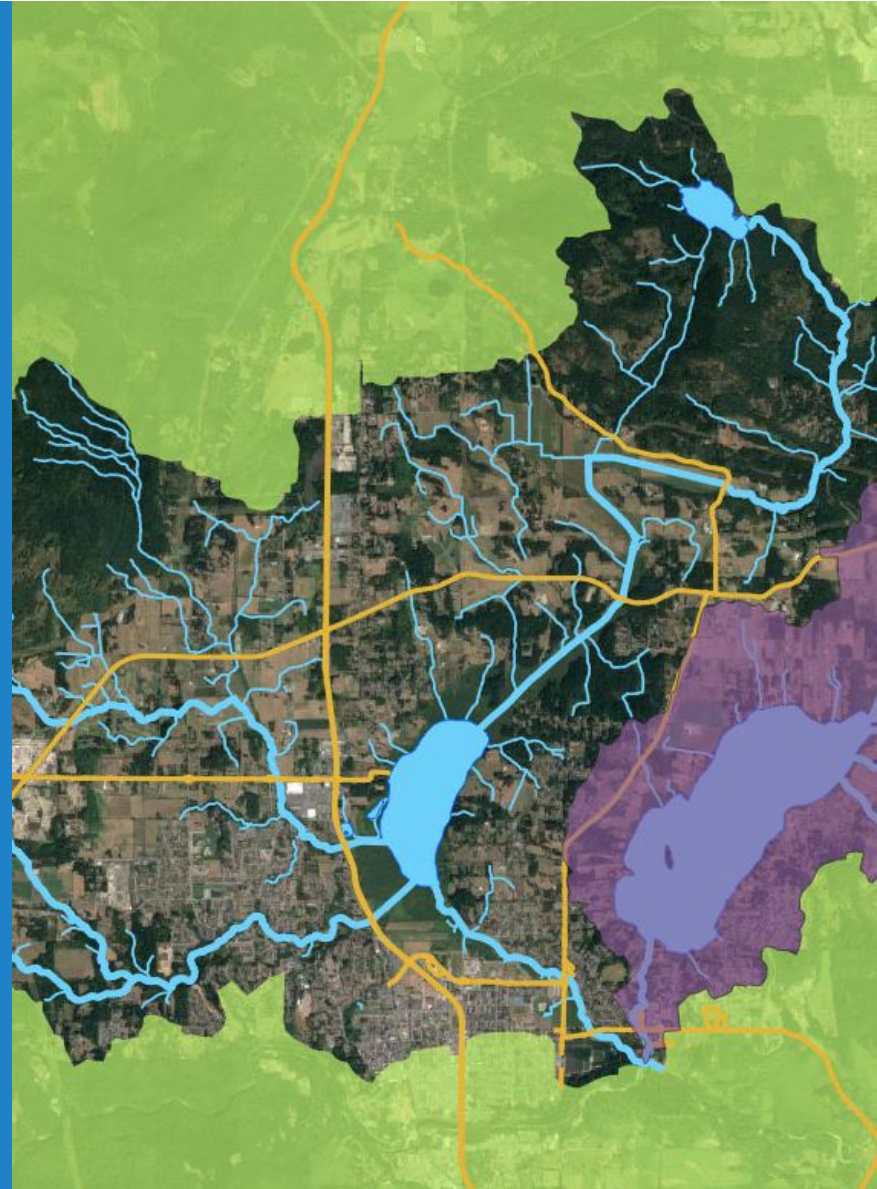
Paul Gowland, President

Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society



Our Society works in the S'amunu/Somenos Watershed

- This watershed covers a large part of North Cowichan!
- Most of the work we do is within North Cowichan
- The Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society is a long established, non-profit society
- Under the service agreement which began in 2020, SMWS has supported MNC environmental work in the Somenos watershed





The Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society . . .

- Is well known on Vancouver Island
- Is often a first point of contact for news media concerning environmental issues, such as the August 2024 fish mortality event in Somenos Lake

How does our work get done?

- We are supported by our members
- And our volunteers!
- And high school students!
- This support helps us get lots of work done!





GREENSTREAMS

The Return of the Stseelhtun

Partnership with Cowichan Tribes

- A new partnership agreement is being finalized
- We hope that North Cowichan will join the partnership

The Service Agreement between North Cowichan and the Society works!

We deliver cost-effective
services to the municipality
that support Council's
Environmental strategic
goals in the Somenos
Watershed





Our work for North Cowichan focuses on water quality

- Water quality is a critical environmental indicator.
- Many bad things happen when water quality is ignored!



What did we accomplish in 2024?

- Monitored and recorded water quality data in Somenos Lake and its creeks
- Controlled Parrots Feather in Somenos Creek, improving drainage and fish habitat
- Planted trees and restored riparian vegetation as part of MNC's long-term Parrots Feather control program
- Plus many projects for our other sponsors!

A highlight for upcoming work in 2025

- Poor water quality caused a large fish kill in Somenos Lake in August 2024
- The Society will work to gather phosphorus data in the watershed under the service agreement as per Council's direction to MNC staff in December 2024



To summarize . . .

- You are supporting a well known and popular Society
- We work hard for a small budget
- We get a lot of projects completed
- What we do reflects well on the municipality's concern for our local environment

