



SPEAKERS SERIES

Earth Week Speakers Night

“The Warmer Land”

Local youth, science, and indigenous perspectives on climate projections for the Cowichan valley and what it means for us all.

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHAT	<p>This spring Cowichan Valley (or Quw'utsun / Warmland) was in the news again as an area that is already suffering dearly from the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Water levels in Lake Cowichan in March and April were less than half what they need to be to sustain river flows through the dry season, and fish eggs that should be emerging underwater at that time were left high and dry on the riverbed as a result. Recent work by local government and others provides clear projections for the coming decades in this region, and the future that our youth will inherit.</p> <p>This is a free evening of local knowledge, perspectives and discussion on the issue of our changing home.</p>
WHEN	Thursday April 25th 7:00-8:30 pm
WHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Moore, CVRD - What are the Climate Science projections for Cowichan Region? • Tom Rutherford, Cowichan Watershed Board – What does that mean for the Cowichan River and its fish (and why a new weir is needed); what did it mean this month? • Tim Kulchyski, Cowichan Tribes - What do the climate change experiences and projections mean for indigenous peoples and culture here in Cowichan territory? • Sierra Robinson, Earth Guardians - What this all means for young people in Cowichan region, and what she hopes we'll do about it. <p>Please see speaker bios and photos on next page.</p>
WHERE	VIU Cowichan Campus, 2011 University Way, Duncan, BC. Lecture Hall – Rm 140
OTHER	Free. All welcome. Please note that seating is limited and we may not be able to accommodate everyone. Come early to ensure you get in!

Media Contacts:

Tom Rutherford, Executive Director, Cowichan Watershed Board, 250-815-5930 (cell)
Cowichan Watershed Board – cowichanwatershedboard.ca or Find us on Facebook

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Sierra Robinson, is a 16 y/o permaculture teacher, farmer, film-maker, environmental activist, homeschooler and director of the Cowichan Valley Earth Guardian Crew - where she works with her friends and family to combat local and global issues from plastic pollution to the destruction of our old growth forests. Sierra has traveled and taught groups of children, youth, families, elders, and universities about permaculture (a regenerative design system modelled on nature), environmentalism, and how to use and design with regenerative solutions. Currently she has been working on campaigns and projects to better the environment and ensure a safer future for all - She has been working together with Abundant Earth Foundation and Operation Earth Guardians to launch her newest project Chasing Change, a youth-led media project with the goal of inspiring, uplifting, and empowering young people to take action by sharing sustainable & regenerative ideas and solutions and she is also helping to design and implement a food forest garden at a local high school in her community.



Jeff Moore is an environmental analyst with the Cowichan Valley Regional District, working on issues of climate adaptation and conservation planning. Jeff spent many years living in the boreal forests of northern Ontario, while studying outdoor recreation, geography, and forest sciences at Lakehead University. Since settling in the Cowichan valley ten years ago, Jeff keeps busy raising his children, gardening, and exploring the wilds of Vancouver Island. His work in the Environmental Services Division at the CVRD includes looking at natural hazard risks and the steps that we can take as a community to become more resilient to the impacts of climate change.



Tim Kulchyski is a community member of Cowichan Tribes. He has worked with a variety of clients assessing upland, freshwater and marine ecosystems for over 20 years. His work often involves examining the impacts of development on cultural values. Recently he participated in a program to control invasive plants in the watershed. Tim has travelled extensively studying the interaction between resource issues and cultural heritage. He was involved in a major Hul'qumi'num language revitalization initiative. Tim now works as a Natural Resource Consultant in the Cowichan Tribes Lands and Self-Governance Department and serves as a member of the Cowichan Watershed Board.



Tom Rutherford, executive director of the Cowichan Watershed Board, has been involved in building partnerships to support community empowerment and salmon and watershed sustainability for almost 40 years. Tom had a long career with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and has also worked with Living Rivers / British Columbia Conservation Foundation. He has raised his family in the Cowichan Valley and is a firm believer that community engagement in water and watershed issues is the key to implementing lasting positive change.