



**Our Watershed Through A Creative Lens  
Witnessing the Water - a Moment In Time**



For the past 150 years we have been transforming our shared watershed(s) here in the Cowichan Valley. Gone are the magnificent primary forests of huge red cedars, towering Douglas firs, lichen-draped, maple giants, sheltering acres of soft moss, salal, salmonberries, Nootka rose and so much more in the forest understory. Largely gone too is significant summer rain and thick snow-packs in spring that historically nourished our creeks and lake in the summer months. The transformed landscape we inhabit is also the victim of a changing climate.

Yes, the rain still falls on the peaks surrounding the lake, flows downhill to the lake and then down the river to Cowichan Bay. Yes, the transformed watershed(s) is still where we live and play and yes, it is crucially important that we all take shared responsibility for the reality we now occupy.

The CLRSS in collaboration with the Cowichan Valley Arts Council is asking you to pause and reflect upon these profound changes and then share your personal reflections in our event called "Our Watershed - Through a Creative Lens". This brochure, describes one component of the event called *Witnessing the Water - A Moment In Time* History Meets Climate Change (see below for details and some great images)

The River follows a meandering 49 km course from the weir in Lake Cowichan to the estuary in Cowichan Bay. Although any point along that path would make for excellent "witnessing", we have selected 13 points along the river and marked them with our signs. Each sign will tell you how far the water has flowed up to that point and how long it would take a water molecule flowing down the river to reach that point. Here is an example of one of our signs, watch for them as you do your 'witnessing':



**What kind of 'witnessing' are you talking about?**

Witnessing involves paying attention with all of our senses, recalling a moment, carrying it forward as a part of our lives. Any natural, heartfelt, human response to this moment is appreciated. Some people may do this by taking a series of photographs, or they might take one and then make a painting of it later at home. Some people may feel moved to write a poem, or this moment might inspire them to write a story or to record a memory on a video. Others might compose a song or a dance, while others might simply take a 'selfie' with the sign and post it on their own Facebook page helping to encourage others to become part of this witnessing event.

**What do I do with my 'record of witnessing'?**

We are hoping that you will record your response electronically and send it to:

[clrss.information@gmail.com](mailto:clrss.information@gmail.com).

Include your name so that we can thank you for allowing us to use your image, song, dance video etc. **The last day to send us material is August 15, 2021.**

**What happens to my images, poems etc. once I have sent them to you?**

Our CLRSS team will choose some of the material for inclusion in an installation piece in a public art show running from August 27th to September 25th, 2021 at the Cowichan Valley Arts Council Gallery, 2687 James Street, Duncan. The others will be posted on our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cowichanstewards/>

For complete information on the project please go to: [www.clrss.ca/watershed-art](http://www.clrss.ca/watershed-art)



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**Guide**

Point			Distance (km) From Weir to Point	Time (hh:mm) from Weir to Point at River Speed:	Wheel Chair Accessible	Toilet at Site
#	Description	Address				
1	Weir at Lake Cowichan	Saywell Park Opposite 205 N. Shore Rd.	0.0	0:03	✓	✓
2	Greendale Trestle	Rivers Edge Memorial Garden Opposite 105 Greendale Rd.	1.2	0:18	✓	
3	Little Beach	East of 7940 Greendale Rd.	2.7	0:42		
4	Fishermans Trail Spring Pool	Just east of 7510 Lake Cowichan Road	5.5	1:18		
5	Skutz Falls	Intersection Mayo Rd. & Riverbottom Rd.	15.9	3:54	✓	
6	Trestle 66	Riverbottom Rd. 1.6 km east of Skutz Falls	19.2	4:42	✓	✓
7	Stoltz Pool Prov. Park	Riverbottom Rd. .8 km east of junction with Stoltz Rd	23.6	5:48	✓	✓
8	West Riverbottom Rd. at Jenny Pl.	West of junction with Jenny Pl.	26.1	6:24	✓	
9	Sandy Pool Prov. Park	West of 4945 W. Riverbottom Rd.	29.9	7:18	✓	✓
10	Heritage Rd. (CVRD) Public River Access	Just past 5231 Heritage Rd	35.8	8:48	✓	
11	Indian Road Bridge	South of junction of Indian Rd. & Miller Road	42.1	10:18		
12	Beech Road River Access	Opposite 150 Beech Ave.	44.5	10:54		
13	Tzouhalem Road Bridge	300 m south of junction with Joe Rd.	49.0	12:00	✓	

**This guide will help you find 13 points along the 49 km passage of the Cowichan River from the weir in Lake Cowichan to the estuary in Duncan where you can easily observe the flow of time as measured in the passage of water.**

**For each point we have shown the distance the river has flowed from the weir along with the time a water molecule having left the weir would arrive at the point.**

**We have provided address data for each point to help you locate them. For detailed directions from point to point see *Driving Directions*.**

## Our Watershed Through A Creative Lens A Moment In Time

### Driving Directions

Start Point #	End Point		Driving Directions from <i>Start Point</i> to <i>End Point</i>	Approx. Drive Time From <i>Start</i> to <i>End</i> Point
	#	Nearby Landmark		
1	2	Rivers Edge Memorial Garden Opposite 105 Greendale Rd.	1) Turn left out of Saywell Park parking lot onto South Shore Rd 2) Follow S. Shore Rd. for .7 Km to roundabout 3) Take 2nd exit from roundabout onto S. Shore Rd. 4) Follow S. Shore Rd. for .5 km to intersection with Greendale Rd. 5) Turn right onto Greendale Rd. 6) Immediately turn right into Rivers Edge Memorial Garden <follow path to Greendale Trestle>	4 minutes
2	3	Just east of 7940 Greendale Rd.	1) Turn right out of parking lot onto Greendale Rd. 2) Follow Greendale Rd. for 1.0 km 3) Park on right <follow path down to river>	2 minutes
3	4	Just east of 7510 Lake Cowichan Rd.	1) Continue on Greendale for 300 m to intersection with Lake Cowichan Road 2) Turn right onto Lake Cowichan Road 3) Follow Lake Cowichan Road for 1.8 km 4) Park on right side <follow trail on right side of road to river, about 0.8 km each way>	4 minutes
4	5	Intersection of Mayo and Riverbottom Roads	1) Continue on Lake Cowichan Road for 4.6 km to intersection with Mayo Road 2) Turn right onto Mayo Road 3) Follow Mayo Road for 2.6 km to intersection with River Bottom Road 4) Park on the right, directly ahead <follow road to bridge>	10 minutes
5	6	Riverbottom Rd. 1.6 km east of Skutz Falls	1) Follow Riverbottom Road eastwards for 1.6 km 2) Turn right into Trestle 66 Day Use parking lot <follow trail to trestle , about 3 minutes in each direction>	4 minutes
6	7	Riverbottom Rd. .8 km east of Stoltz Rd.	1) Turn right out of parking lot onto Riverbottom Road 2) Follow Riverbottom Road for 5 km to Stoltz Pool Provincial Park 3) Turn right into park 4) Follow road for 300 m to picnic area parking <follow trail to river picnic area>	8 minutes
7	8	West junction with Jenny Place	1) Follow park road back to Riverbottom Road 2) Turn right onto Riverbottom Road 3) Follow Riverbottom Rd. for 1.7 km to intersection with <b>West</b> Riverbottom Road 4) Turn right onto West Riverbottom Road 5) Follow West Riverbottom Road for 200 m and park on right	3 minutes
8	9	West of 4945 West Riverbottom Rd.	1) Continue on West Riverbottom Rd. for 3.6 km to Sandy Pool Regional Park 2) Turn right into Sandy Pool Regional Park <follow trail to river, 2 min in each direction>	6 minutes
9	10	Just past 5231 Heritage Rd	1) Continue on West Riverbottom Rd. for 2.4 km to intersection with Barnjum Rd. 2) Turn right onto Barnjum Road. 3) Continue onto Barnjum/Gibbins Rd. for 2.9 km to intersection with Vimy Rd. 4) Turn right onto Vimy Rd. 5) Follow Vimy Rd. for 500 m to intersection with Cambrai Rd. 6) Turn right onto Cambrai Rd. 7) Follow Cambrai for 100 m to intersection with Winchester Rd. 8) Turn left on Winchester 9) Follow Winchester for 900 m to intersection with Heritage Rd. [jogs at 700m] 10) Turn left onto Heritage Rd. 11) Follow Heritage Rd. to its end and enter park 12) Drive to end of road and park <follow trail to river, approx. 200 m>	12 minutes

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<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	South of junction of Indian & Miller roads.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Exit Park onto Heritage Rd.</li> <li>2) Follow Heritage Rd. for 100 m to intersection with Winchester Rd.</li> <li>3) Turn right onto Winchester</li> <li>4) Follow Winchester for 1.1 km to intersection with Cambrai Rd.</li> <li>5) Turn right onto Cambrai</li> <li>6) Follow Cambrai for 100 m to intersection with Vimy Rd.</li> <li>7) Turn left onto Vimy Rd.</li> <li>8) Follow Vimy for .7 km to intersection with Gibbins Rd.</li> <li>9) Turn right onto Gibbins Rd.</li> <li>10) Follow Gibbins for 3.4 km to intersecton with Banks Rd.</li> <li>11) Turn right onto Banks</li> <li>12) Follow Banks for .5 km until it turns into Cliff Rd.</li> <li>13) Follow Cliff Rd. for .7 km to the intersection with Government St.</li> <li>14) Turn right onto Government</li> <li>15) Follow Government St. for .5 km to intersection with Craig St.</li> <li>16) Turn right onto Craig St./Allenby Rd.</li> <li>17) Follow Craig/Allenby Rd. for .7 km to intersection with Miller and Indian roads.</li> <li>18) Turn left onto Allenby Rd.</li> <li>19) Park immediately on left side</li> </ol> <p>&lt;trail to river is approx. 100 m south of bridge&gt;</p>	15 minutes
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	East side of McAdam Park Opposite 150 Beech Ave.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Turn right &lt;towards bridge&gt; onto Allenby Rd.</li> <li>2) Follow Allenby to intersection with Craig St.</li> <li>3) Turn right onto Craig St.</li> <li>4) Follow Craig for .7 km to intersection with Underwood St.</li> <li>5) Turn right onto Underwood St.</li> <li>6) Follow Underwood to intersection with Government St.</li> <li>7) Continue onto Government St. (turns into Trunk Rd.) for 1.4 km to intersection with Beech Ave.</li> <li>8) Turn right onto Beech Ave</li> <li>9) Follow Beech Ave to its end (it takes a jog to the left at Marchmont)</li> <li>10) Park</li> </ol>	10 minutes
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	300 m south of junction with Joe Rd.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Follow Beech to intersection with Trunk Rd (takes a jog at Marchmont)</li> <li>2) Turn right onto Trunk Rd.</li> <li>3) Follow Trunk Rd. for 1.4 km to roundabout</li> <li>4) Take first exit out of roundabout onto Tzouhalem Rd.</li> <li>5) Follow Tzouhalem for 3.2 km, across bridge over Cowichan River</li> <li>6) Park on left or right side of road</li> </ol>	8 minutes

**These driving directions will help you navigate from point-to-point along the 49 km passage of the Cowichan River from the weir in Lake Cowichan to the estuary in Duncan where you can easily observe the flow of time as measured in the passage of water.**

**The route follows the path of the river as closely as possible with many great spots to stop for a picnic. The *Spring Pool* and *Beech Ave* points require medium length walks to get to the river, all others are only a short walk from where you park your vehicle. The total drive time is about an hour and a quarter but you will need to factor in your time to stop and *witness* the water.**

**The total driving distance is about 61 km.**

**For information about the passage of time as measured by the flow of the river, see the *Guide* .**