

## Commemorating Canada- Reopening Fund Update Report

### **Update re final use of funds- Quw'utsun Sta'lo Skweyul (Cowichan River Day) March 25, 2023**

To finish up the funds of \$3,290.16 left over after the September 25, 2022 Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Skweyul (Cowichan River Day) event four watershed walks were held with Cowichan Tribes knowledge keepers and Genevieve Singleton, nature interpreter and biologist. Over 70 people attended these free walks, with an age range of a few months old to people in their 80s. Attendees really appreciated this opportunity to attend these walks with many appreciative comments and emails. This was a first of having walks like this in the Valley available at no cost. For many people this was an important introduction to Cowichan Tribes culture, knowledge and building reconciliation.

On Monday, Feb 6 there was a walk with Hwiemtun Fred Roland and Genevieve Singleton in the lower reaches of the river. "Learn About Historical Quw'utsun Sta'lo' (Cowichan River) Water Movement" was the title of the walk. Fred is well known for his cultural knowledge and excellent teaching skills. He is the owner and manager of Sacred Cedar Centre. Fred shared with us history of the diking in the area and historical changes due to overlogging, log drives and other issues. Genevieve and Fred both shared plant knowledge.



Photo by R. Wiles. Genevieve Singleton and Hwiemtun Fred Roland at end of walk

March 8, 10, 12: Jared Qwustenuxun Williams and Genevieve co-lead a walk on Jared's land near the estuary. Qwustenuxun is known as an indigenous food expert and a writer with a keen interest in culture and indigenous issues. We focused on indigenous land issues, indigenous history and learned about freshwater mussels and found bones from a seal and elk. Discussion was held on the gravel issues caused by overlogging of the watershed.



Picture by G. Singleton, On the lower end of the North Arm, Cowichan River. Jared Qwustenuxun Williams sharing info on spear fishing





Sat., March 18, 10-12: Hyamiciye, Della Rice Sylvester, medicine woman and cultural teacher and Genevieve Singleton led a medicine and plant walk at Bright Angel Park, Koksilah River. Della is an Elder known for her medicinal knowledge and an Elder at Washington State University. Focus was on medicinal and cultural plants including Cedar, Snowberry, Oregon grape, Ocean spray and many others. The importance of being in good mind in gathering plants materials was often expressed.





Sat., March 25, 10-12: Q'utxulenuhw, Tim Kulchyski, fisheries biologist, naturalist, and cultural knowledge keeper led a walk with Genevieve Singleton at Horseshoe Bend Trail in Cowichan River Provincial Park. Focuses on this walk were discussions on river dynamics and flows, Chinook and Coho habitats, riparian restoration, culturally modified trees, ethnobotany and the rare Garry oak ecosystem.



Photo by G. Singleton. Tim Kulchyski talking about slumps along Cowichan River



Photo by G. Singleton. Tim Kulchyski talking about Culturally Modified Trees