



As curtains of nourishing rain close on 2023, the Cowichan Watershed Board would like to thank all the indigenous Elders, stewardship organizations, government agencies, volunteers, academic researchers, local businesses, and funders who have collaborated with us to support the health of the Quw'utsun/Xwulqw'selu (Cowichan/Koksilah) Watershed this year.

From our many friends working to forge a sustainable Koksilah Watershed Plan, to the team pursuing a new weir to support healthy flows in the Cowichan River, to the 100+ volunteers and sponsors of River Cleanup, and the 30+ organizations and agencies who serve on our Target Working Groups,...

huy tseep q'u siem (thank you with respect), for every drop of your effort, from source to sea!

We wish we could name all the individuals who make our work possible, but gratefully, there are too many of you! We would like to recognize the following organizations for their support in 2023: Cowichan Tribes First Nation, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, BC Government, Island Health, Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable, Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society, Xwulqw'selu Connections Project-UVic, Quw'utsun Cultural Connections, Cowichan Estuary Nature Center, Cowichan Community Land Trust, Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society, Vancouver Island Recreational Paddling Association, Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association, Cowichan Valley Naturalists, Friends of Cowichan River, Koksilah Watershed Working Group, Shawnigan Basin Society, Nature Trust, Mosaic, Catalyst/Paper Excellence, Duncan Rotary, All Seasons Services, Drillwell, Duncan Garage Café, Adam's Tarp N Tool, Real Canadian Superstore, Island Tractor, Vancouver Island University, UVic POLIS Project, UVic Environmental Law Clinic, Compass Resource Management, all the Koksilah Low Flows Working Group organizations, MLA Sonia Furstenau and MP Alistair MacGregor, The Discourse, Cowichan Valley Citizen, Cowichan Valley Voice and SUN FM radio, and finally, our 2023 project funders, the Real Estate Foundation of BC, Pacific Salmon Foundation, BC Ministry of the Environment, Canada Summer Jobs, and BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative (MakeWay).

Wishing everyone "best fishes" for the holiday season and hoping you will resolve with us once again to make the New Year a time to improve the health of our local watersheds. As Quw'utsun Elders generously continue to teach us:

"When we take care of the watershed, the watershed takes care of us."

www.cowichanwatershedboard.ca



It was a true celo the groundbrea Donor Lee Ferre SLHS chair Micha the society final

## **YEAR**

Continued fro

extreme weat up this winte Church, loca

The complete portive housi in Duncan has Peter de Ver told council a construction with BC Hou

ta-based Nor

A multi-mil
Public Art Ga
future of the of
Of Cowichan

Dr. Fred and their art collectional selection the CPAG.

A portion paintings by of Seven, value Other nota Riopelle, also adding to its

Mellor Hal day night (N Conservative to hear him sp approach to le prime ministe

The Somentinuing with the Canada North Cowicing located returns

As part of it to redevelop is also propose wichan-owne Canada Ave. ated, be repueducation ce an umbrella f

Cowichan authority over its members.

In voting th of the 416 citi vour of the ne