

# SQ Clean Water Action Project

## Meeting Agenda

**6:00-6:30 Snacks and Networking**

**6:30- 6:35 Convene and Introductions**

**6:35-6:40 Acknowledgement and Welcome (Fred Roland)**

**6:40-7:05: Indigenous Cultural and Ecological Knowledge about S-amuna' and Kw'amutsun Lakes (*Tim Kulchyski, Cowichan Tribes*)**

**7:05-7:30: Recent Water Quality studies and Findings  
(Dr. Dave Preikshot , RPBio, SMWS)**

**7:30-7:55: The Clean Water Action project and how to get involved**

**7:55-8:00: Questions and Comments**

# S-amuna' | Somenos Lake Kw'amutsun | Quamichan Lake Clean Water Action Project



**Presented by:**

**Elizabeth Aitken** (Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society)

**Stephanie Cottell** (Cowichan Land Trust)

# SQ Clean Water Action Project

## Background

- \* Importance within the lower Cowichan River system
- \* Aquatic ecosystems supporting Coho, Chum, Chinook, Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout among many other associated native species



Juvenile Coho in Somenos Basin

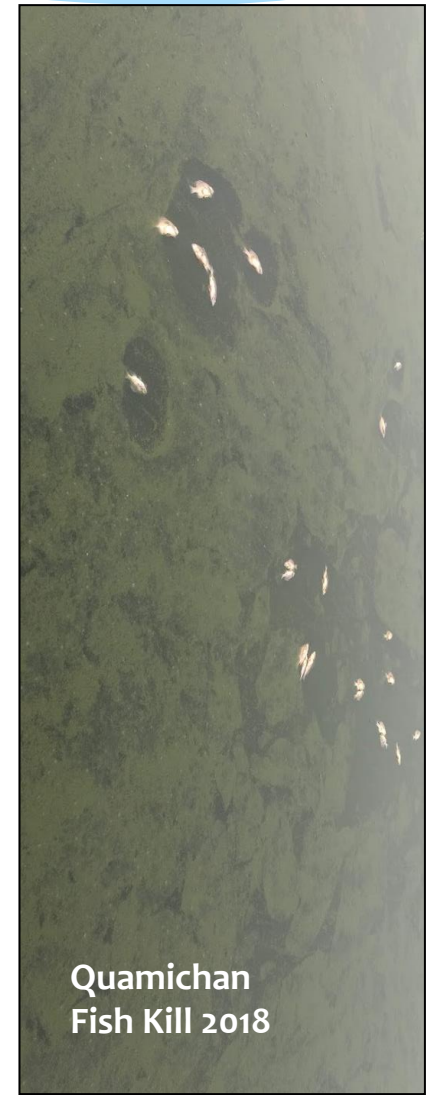
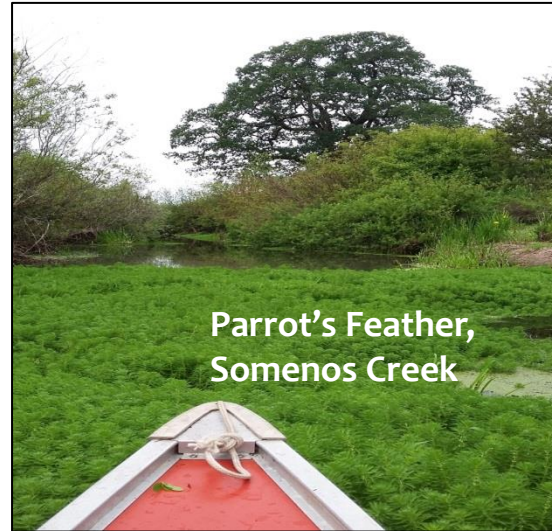


Trout Release Quamichan Lake

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## Background

- \* poor water quality
- \* loss of wildlife habitat
- \* decreased human recreational opportunities
- \* persistent summer blue-green algae blooms posing a direct threat to animal and human health
- \* eutrophication and toxic algae blooms causing pet deaths
- \* infestation of invasive aquatic plants such as Parrot's Feather



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## The Land ~ Water Connection Importance of the Riparian Ecosystem

- Riparian areas interface between other microclimates and ecosystems and the aquatic systems
- Riparian areas interface between human development and the water shed system
- Healthy Riparian ecosystems provide essential water quality and habitat services, such as: filtration, erosion control, as well as food and shade for fish and other creatures.
- **The health of a Riparian area is integral to the health and quality of the water**



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**Purpose:** to improve long-term water quality through riparian restoration actions, landowner contact, and community engagement

## Objectives

- 1) improve fresh water quality, mitigate climate change, and improve wildlife habitat through riparian planting
- 2) educate about and encourage stewardship and promote sustainable use of Cowichan's fresh water
- 3) increase community capacity and participation in beneficial practices



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## Goals

### Over 3 years:

- \* Reach 200 waterfront landowners by mail-out
- \* secure 25 stewardship agreements with landowners
- \* Implement ecological restoration actions on up to 25 properties
- \* Plant 2500 native riparian trees and shrubs
- \* Reach several thousand local residents through community meetings and workshops, outreach via press releases through local media, social media posts, websites, rack card, and email lists

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## Project Activities

1. Launch with Community Information Meeting and initial survey
2. Connect directly with interested landowners
3. Organize and implement site assessments for stewardship agreements and restoration work
4. Identify high impact restoration opportunities
5. Plan and implement restoration work
6. Offer Lake-keepers workshop
7. Collect, Synthesize, and Compare data from surveys
8. Engage ongoing media communication throughout project

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## Outreach and Communications Plan

- \* Direct mail-outs to over 200 lakeside residents
- \* 1000+ Best Practices rack card distributed
- \* Community meetings and workshops
- \* Information about Environmental Farm Plan options
- \* Launch and wrap-up project surveys to gather data around resident's practices , experiences, and changes
- \* 50 educational packages with property visits
- \* Ongoing outreach through press releases, social media posts, websites, and email lists

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## Partners and Supporters

- \* Direct Partnership between Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society and Cowichan Land Trust
- \* EcoAction Community Funding Program (ECCC)
- \* Cowichan Tribes
- \* Quamichan Watershed Stewardship Society
- \* Municipality of North Cowichan
- \* Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society
- \* BC Lake Stewardship Society
- \* Cowichan Watershed Board
- \* BC Institute of Technology
- \* Nature Trust British Columbia
- \* The community!



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Environnement and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada



# SQ Clean Water Action Project

## Get Involved:

We need your participation to help make this project a success!

- Interested in a property visit? Please fill out and return an expression of interest form
- Contribute your input via our Surveys
- Take a rack card and use the information to help assess/adjust your household practices
- Attend our Lake-keepers workshop this summer
- Volunteer at our restoration activities
- Farmers, ask for info about Environmental Farm Plans
- Be a Clean Water Model and Advocate! Spread the word to others in your community!

Huy ch q'u Siem!  
Thank You!

