

JOIN US!

Become a member and support our work! Sign-up online at:

friendsofcortes.org

VOLUNTEER!

Join our lake volunteers and help support our lake-monitoring program! Interested? Contact as the FOCI office - we would love to hear from you!

MAKE A DONATION!

Your contribution will help cover the costs of lab analysis, community education and practical action. Please send a cheque, payable to Friends of Cortes Island, to us as the FOCI office.

FOCI exists to promote awareness and support for the environment by providing stewardship activities and educational programs.

friendsofcortes.org

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*We acknowledge the support of the
Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation.*



HABITAT CONSERVATION
TRUST FOUNDATION

Help keep
OUR LAKES
HEALTHY
for the
FUTURE



FRIENDS of CORTES ISLAND SOCIETY

📷 Steve Musial (front) & Gina Trzesicka (inside)

HAGUE & GUNFLINT LAKES

In the spring of 2014 Hague and Gunflint lakes suffered a series of significant algae blooms, further small blooms occurred in 2015 and 2016.

Algae blooms can be harmful to lakes because they deplete oxygen, and repeated blooms can cause a lake to become low in oxygen, swampy and unhealthy for humans and wildlife.

With help from the BC Ministry of Environment and Vancouver Island University, Friends of Cortes Island (FOCI) have been working with the community since 2014 to monitor the lakes and find out what is happening.

Our research has shown while the lakes are relatively healthy, they remain at risk, and we need to take action to reduce nutrient input to help stabilize them, and ensure they stay healthy for the future.

Here are our Top Tips!

1

CHECK YOUR SEPTIC

Poorly maintained systems can cause wastewater to seep into the lakes. So check your system annually, and maintain it regularly to avoid problems.

2

GO PHOSPHATE FREE

Use phosphate free soaps and detergents, they are readily available at the island's stores

3

GARDEN WITH CARE

Avoid inorganic fertilizers, which typically contain nitrates, and ensure organic manures are well composted before use.

4

GO EASY ON THE WATER

Reduce your water flow to help keep your septic system healthy and functioning properly.

5

PRESERVE THE SHORE

It is a vital wildlife habitat, and helps filter unwanted nutrients. Keep it intact, plant a native buffer, or leave a strip to go wild.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Algae blooms are caused by too many nutrients, particularly nitrates and phosphates, entering the lakes.

So, our actions around the lakes can greatly affect their water quality. To ensure they stay healthy, we need everyone to LOVE THE LAKES and do what they can to help.

LOVE THE LAKES

Our Love the Lakes stewardship project aims to protect and enhance the lakes by gaining a better understanding of what is happening; taking practical action; and raising awareness in the community.

It includes a long-term water quality monitoring program led by community volunteers.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit us at friendsofcortes.org to find out more.

You can download a copy of our 2017 Hague and Gunflint Lakes Monitoring Report, which reviews the research and monitoring on the lakes that has taken place to date, and provides recommendations to how we can help protect them as a community.



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