



## FALL 2017

Welcome to our Fall Newsletter! We are pleased to be announcing our upcoming AGM. Read on to get the scoop on our HIGHLIGHTS from 2017! We also have some great FISH NEWS from Basil and Whaletown Creeks. Also in this issue, you can learn about conservation work we have planned for MANSONS PROVINCIAL PARK, become a member, and answer our call for nominations for the FOCI BOARD, and for the 2017 Jo-Anne-Green Environmental Award!

### FOCI AGM!

SUNDAY NOV 12 3-5PM MANSONS HALL followed by LOCAL FOOD BUFFET AND LOVE THE LAKES VIDEO PREMIERE 5-6.30PM

Join us to celebrate our 2017 work and achievements! We will be sharing highlights from our projects, and taking a look at what is on the horizon too.

Attending our AGM is a great way to learn about and support the work we're doing in the community. This year our AGM will be followed by a local food buffet, and our Love the Lakes video premiere. We will also be selling FOCI goods and memberships. Everyone welcome! **We hope to see you there!**

### JOINING THE FOCI BOARD

The board is up for re-election and we are seeking inspired community members to join up. Board responsibilities include attending one meeting per month, and getting actively involved in our projects and events when possible. Board members are an integral part of the work that we do (we have a lot of fun too!) If you are interested in joining our team, let us know via email and then come to our AGM!

### JO-ANNE GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

We will be presenting the 2017 Jo Anne Green Environmental Award at the AGM. This is in recognition for a Cortes Islander who has made a significant contribution to the environmental well being of the community.

Anyone is welcome to nominate individuals for this award. Please submit the name, address and phone number of the nominee, together with a brief description of their environmental contributions and reason for nomination. The award recipient will be recognized with a special gift and certificate. **Deadline: November 5th 2017.**

### LOOKING AFTER MANSONS PROVINCIAL PARK! GET ACTIVE AND HELP YOUR LOCAL PARK

Following last year's successful volunteer broom removal work parties, we will be carrying out further work in the park over the coming months. In partnership with BC Parks, we will be organizing a community broom bash on November 3rd from 10am-1pm. We will be removing broom from around the edge of the lagoon and tackling re-growth from last year. Muffins and hot drinks will be provided – an excellent reason to come along! Everyone welcome!

We also are planning to do some erosion control on the Spit in the spring to try to limit damage caused by heavy trampling. We will be also be hosting a presentation about the ecology and future conservation of the Spit in the New Year, so look for more info on that in the coming months.



Last year's volunteers – enjoying a well earned coffee break!

BECOME A MEMBER | Fill out and return the form below, or sign up online at [friendsofcortes.org](http://friendsofcortes.org)



FRIENDS OF CORTES ISLAND SOCIETY

friendsofcortes.org  
250-935-8598 | friendsofcortes@gmail.com  
Box 278 Mansons Landing BC Canada V0P1K0

### BECOME A FRIEND OF CORTES

- \$20/Individual Membership
- \$25/Family Membership

FOCI can issue tax receipts for donations above the membership amount:

I'd like to donate an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes, I'd like a tax receipt for my donation

- Cash  Cheque
- Please make cheques payable to Friends of Cortes Island Society

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

### JOIN VOLUNTEER DONATE

- Contact me about volunteering
- Sign me up for FOCI e-news

### WATERSHED SENTINEL

Your annual membership entitles you to a one-year subscription to Watershed Sentinel!

Yes! I'd like to receive my subscription:

- Print (to my mailbox)
- Online (to my inbox)



## CREEKS, CULVERTS AND GREAT FISH NEWS!

Cortes salmon populations have been benefiting from some wonderful creek works, which have been undertaken place this fall, by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI). As many people will know the old round culverts at Basil and Whaletown Creeks have been replaced with new open bottom ones. These new culverts are fish-friendly and offer a natural streambed, with more gradual gradients, which work better with low water levels. They should allow fish much easier passage, and provide a fantastic opportunity for the revival of these respective salmon runs.

MOTI also took the opportunity to undertake some major stream restoration downstream of the new Basil Creek culvert – this section of the creek has been having a major face-lift which includes providing a series of riffle and pool structures to enhance spawning habitat, and streamside

planting of native plants. Smaller scale restoration works have also been undertaken at Whaletown Creek. All in all this is great fish news!

This project has been a huge team effort by a number of organizations including MOTI, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Klahoose, Emcom and FOCI working in collaboration with Cortes Streamkeepers. We wish to thank all involved, and the goodwill and support of the Cortes Community for their understanding and cooperation during the disruption.

**An educational tour of the Basil Creek Project is planned for late fall – come along, learn about the project and see the chum returning!**



*Spot the difference! Basil Creek culvert before, during.....and after!*

## HERE ARE SOME OF OUR HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017 – COME TO OUR AGM TO FIND OUT MORE!

### MARINE STEWARDSHIP

Sub-tidal photo documentation and foreshore monitoring.

### STREAM & SALMON

Major stream restoration at Basil and Whaletown Creeks; kids stream-keeper training; ongoing monitoring of salmon.

### PARKS AND TRAILS

Awarded new SRD Parks maintenance contract for eight Provincial Parks & beach access trails.

### LOVE THE LAKES

Launched our Love the Lakes Initiative and Lake Monitoring Report; carried out monthly water quality sampling.

### EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Ran seventeen events and activities from Gumbooting the Lagoon to a bird language workshop.

### EDUCATION

New website launched; continued support for development of Cortes Island School Garden.

