



The FRIENDS OF CORTES ISLAND SOCIETY Newsletter

SUMMER 2018

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter! We are pleased to be announcing our line-up for our Summer Events Program. Read on to get the scoop on our conservation work in Manson's Landing Provincial Park, the latest news about our Love the Lakes Initiative, and find out how you can help monitor the island's Great Blue Heron population. Also, in this issue you can learn about our big beach clean up, how to become a member and how you can help us grow and develop!

SUMMER ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

HAVE FUN, LEARN, DISCOVER

We have another season of exciting activities coming up this summer! This year's program includes everything from a fascinating talk on Humpback Whales and wonderful new Beachcomber Art Workshop, to fabulous low tide walks in Manson's Lagoon and a blissful Love the Lakes early morning paddle. We hope you will join us! Please visit our website or Facebook page to find out more and contact the FOCSI office to make your booking!

MANSONS LANDING PROVINCIAL PARK

We have been working in partnership with BC Parks over the winter and spring to undertake some important conservation work in the park. In the winter we organized a community broom bash to remove broom from around the back of the lagoon and keep on top of broom regrowth on the Spit. In the spring we installed new fencing at the end of the Spit to help control erosion here caused by trampling.

In addition, in February we held a public meeting with BC Parks about the Spit, conservation issues and potential solutions, which was well received. As a result, we are planning to look into coastal erosion issues on the Spit with BC Parks, and carry out further work to protect and restore the endangered coastal sand ecosystem that exists here.



GREAT BLUE HERON WATCH

Did you know the Great Blue Heron is a Species at Risk? A combination of factors has caused their decline including habitat loss, diminishing fish populations and predation by eagles. Last year on Cortes there were NO recorded herons' nests. All the local rookeries have disappeared. We are calling on everyone to let us know if they see any signs of herons nesting. Please don't approach a nest, as this can cause the herons to abandon it. But let us know and we will undertake further research.



LOVE THE LAKES INITIATIVE

The recent spring algal bloom is a reminder that the lakes are still suffering from nutrient enrichment. It was the worst we've had since the first one noticed in 2014. We are continuing to closely monitor the situation with monthly water sampling. We are also pleased to be the recipients of seed funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) to research the feasibility of developing bioremediation solutions to help reduce excess nutrients in the lakes. We plan to carry out the research this summer and are hopeful it will allow us to implement recommendations over the coming years.

In the meantime, please do what you can to help. If you live in the Hague and Gunflint Watershed please consider inspecting your septic system; only use well composted organic fertilizers on your garden; plant a native buffer if you live next to the lakes, and switch to phosphate free soaps and detergents. More advice can be found on the Love the Lakes section of our website. We need a community effort if we are going to make a difference and ensure the lakes stay healthy into the future.





BIG BEACH CLEAN UP

In April, we carried out our first Big Beach Clean Up on the beach in front of and along from Hollyhock. Thanks to the awesome volunteers who turned up, we removed three truckloads of plastic and garbage from the beach in just 3 hours! A big thank you to Hollyhock for sponsoring this successful event and providing the yummy refreshments. We look forward to running another one next year.

BUZZING AND GROWING!

FOCI is buzzing and getting busier than ever with all of our different projects we are carrying out. This newsletter provides a taste of just some of the work we are doing. You can find out about more on our website and keep up to date on our Facebook page. As an organization we are determined to do what we can to help keep Cortes Wild and Beautiful and want to grow and develop, so we can become even more effective.

We are increasingly realizing we need extra resources to keep up with all our work and are in particular need of funding to support staff time to make everything happen; something which is increasingly difficult to find from grants. If you are interested in supporting us you can donate by sending a cheque addressed to Friends of Cortes Island to the office, or online on our website. All donations are much appreciated, however large or small. Most helpful for us is a recurring monthly donation, which you can do easily through our website.

Thank you for your generosity!

Become a Member!

WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO JOIN US! All members receive a free subscription to the awesome Watershed Sentinel Magazine. Just fill out and return the form below, or sign up online at 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)