



Our 2019 Summer Newsletter has landed in your hands!

In this issue, we are delighted to be announcing the line up for our summer events program, and the launch of the new **Room for Rider Mirror Tags**. Also, find out about plans for wetland restoration work at Linnaea Farm, and learn how you can participate in our FOCI Love Cortes Fundraising Appeal – we would love your support! We are also launching a new e-newsletter – learn how to sign up for it!

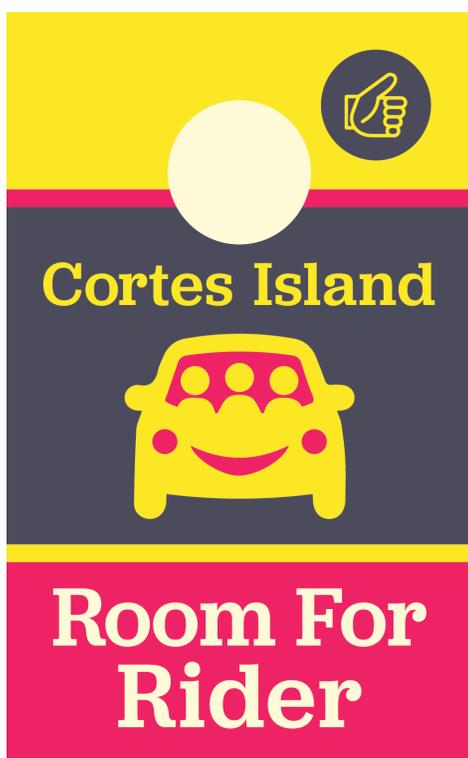
SUMMER ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

HAVE FUN, LEARN, DISCOVER

We have another season of exciting activities coming up this summer! This year's program includes everything from a fabulous Von Donop Hike to a fascinating tour of Blue Jay Farm, a blissful early morning lake paddle and a rejuvenating Be Nourished by Nature session with Laura Balducci. We hope you will join us, please visit our website or Facebook page to find out more and contact the FOCI office to book your spot!

ROOM FOR RIDER MIRROR TAGS

FOCI's Transportation Committee is delighted to be launching its new **Room for Rider Mirror Tag** to support local ride-sharing across Quadra. The Mirror Tag is designed to hang from your rear view mirror when you are in a ferry line-up, and have room to share your ride. Looking for a ride, then look for the tags! Some of you will remember the older "Green Rider" car sticker FOCI promoted years ago. This new and updated removable tag version gives drivers the option to choose when they offer rides. You can pick up the mirror tags at the post offices, Manson's Hall and at the FOCI office. Donations are appreciated to help FOCI cover costs of printing.



GREAT BLUE HERON WATCH

You may remember last year we launched our Great Blue Heron Watch in 2018. We are particularly keen to hear about Heron nests on the island. Last year we only had one confirmed nest on the island. Please report any nests to the FOCI office, so we can monitor what is happening to these iconic birds.

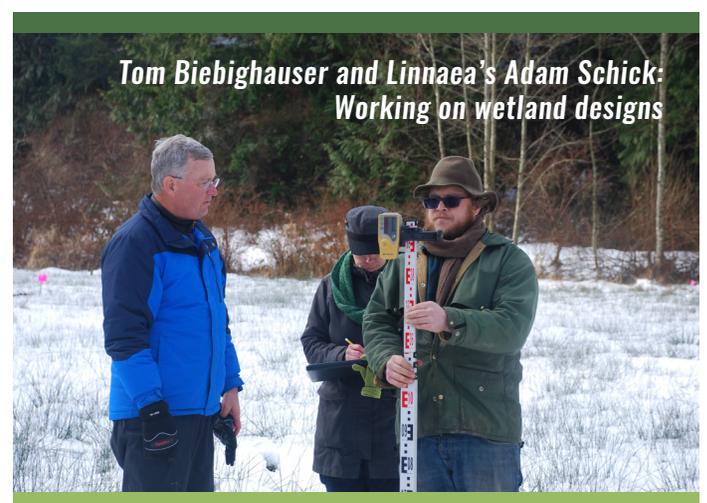
LOVE THE LAKES WETLAND RESTORATION

PLANS AT LINNAEA

During the winter months, with funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF), we carried out a feasibility study to look into potential for using bioremediation measures at Hague and Gunflint Lakes to help keep these much loved lakes healthy and reduce the incidence of algae blooms, which have been occurring for the past few years.

Bioremediation is the use of natural vegetation to uptake potentially harmful nutrients that can feed algae blooms. The study was carried out in partnership with Linnaea Farm, and concluded the best opportunity would be to undertake stream and wetland restoration at the farm, particularly given that the stream drains a much larger watershed. Wetlands are increasingly being used across North America to help remove nutrients before they enter lakes. Their slow flows and shallow water allow sediments to settle and provide increased contact with plants allowing for the removal of nutrients. Wetlands have the huge added benefit of providing great wildlife habitat and are fabulous educational resource too.

We were lucky enough to have wetland specialist Tom Biebighauser visit Linnaea and draw up wetland designs, aided by members of the FOCI board and the Farm Stewards. The next step is to apply for further funding from HCTF, with the goal of starting the project in fall 2020. We will keep you posted as this exciting project develops!



Tom Biebighauser and Linnaea's Adam Schick:
Working on wetland designs

LOVE THE LAKES VIDEO LAUNCHED

Learn how you too can help the lakes by watching our fabulous new **Love the Lakes video**, now on our website. Thanks to the Campbell River Community Foundation for their sponsorship and to everyone who took part!

SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWS!

We are launching a new e-newsletter to keep you up to date with all our events and activities. Please visit our website to sign-up!

FOCI needs your help!

Love Cortes? Help us keep it WILD & BEAUTIFUL

Join Friends of Cortes Island's 2019 **Love Cortes** Appeal. We need to raise \$35,000 to support our vital environmental stewardship work and develop new projects.

From rich forests, beautiful lakes and a stunning coastline, to a wealth of endangered species, **Cortes island is a very special and unique place.** We want to ensure it stays that way for years to come. Please help us if you can.

Formed in 1990, FOCI began with a small group of concerned Cortes citizens wanting to maintain the integrity and beauty of our precious island. Since then, we've evolved into a model for environmental stewardship and education.

AN INSPIRING LEGACY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Recent accomplishments:

- Summer education activities programming
Implementation of Species at Risk program
- Coordination of Basil Creek and Whaletown salmon stream restoration
- Love the Lakes monitoring and bio-remediation
- Care and protection of Mansons Park Spit and its threatened sand ecosystem.

BECOME A FOCI MEMBER and support the work we do. Fill out and return the form below, or sign up at friendsofcortes.org

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

friendsofcortes.org

250-935-0087

friendsofcortes@gmail.com

Box 278 Mansons Landing BC Canada V0P 1K0



**FRIENDS of
CORTES ISLAND
SOCIETY**

Name

Address

Phone

Email

LOOKING AHEAD

We're now entering our 30th year and there's so much more to do! The impact of the climate crisis is happening sooner than anticipated and there's growing concern about species loss, with even the great blue heron now under threat. **OUR WORK HAS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.**

As well as sustaining our important conservation and education programs, we're also looking to develop new programming:

- Develop **climate change tools** – from green living education to greener transport options
- A youth program to build **eco-leaders** of the future
- Stronger protection of sensitive ecosystems and species on land and water through new initiatives such as a marine atlas for Cortes

Our Goal

TOGETHER WE CAN RAISE \$35,000

We need your help for increased capacity to sustain our existing work and develop new programs! **Our goal is to raise \$35,000 by the end of this year.** Donations of any size are very welcome and much appreciated. Each will help give Cortes a greener future. Please consider contributing what you can. All donations are tax-deductible.

Please Help Today!

- Donate securely online at friendsofcortes.org
- Mail a cheque payable to Friends of Cortes Island: Box 278, Mansons Landing, BC, V0P 1K0 or drop it off at the FOCI office (983 Beasley Rd)
- Consider leaving a legacy – find out more on our website.

HELP KEEP CORTES WILD & BEAUTIFUL!

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!

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