

## **Youbou Community Association**

### **2017 Year in Review**

**Mission Statement:** We provide a forum to advance the social, safety, environmental and economic interests of the community of Youbou and its residents.

This past year has been busy, so no wonder some of us are ready to hibernate! Here are some of our accomplishments and projects that are still in progress.

#### **Calendar of Events**

**January:** The Blue Bear Swim on New Year's Day attracted a surprising number of hardy souls, who warmed themselves by the fire after plunging into the frigid waters of Cowichan Lake.

We paraded the haggis and listened to bagpipes at our Robbie Burns Dinner and Dance on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Over 80 community members enjoyed the haggis and even more people hit the dance floor to the "Tom Morissey" Band.

**February:** The YCA planned to show a free movie at the hall, however, due to a power outage, this was cancelled.

**March:** Our free movie night at the Community Hall offered free popcorn too, however this did not draw the crowd we expected.

March 17 was the date of the second annual St Patrick's Day Party. We served burgers and brew and listened to a guitar singer perform some tunes from the Emerald Isle. This was a smaller event than the Robbie Burns night.

**April:** Our second movie night ran on the 29<sup>th</sup> at the hall. Attendance was again poor, so the decision was made to discontinue this program.

**May:** Our Second Annual Spring Clean-Up was held on the third. This year, YCA asked volunteers to pick up garbage for people in our community who were unable to take their garbage to the dump site. Free tipping was arranged by CVRD at the dump site until 1:00 P.M. for Youbou residents only. Response was overwhelming. The dump actually had to shut down for a while so the workers could make room for the volume of garbage coming in. The CVRD estimated 75 loads of garbage were taken to the dump that day, with 15 loads being hauled by YCA volunteers. People were grateful for the opportunity to dump garbage for free and our community was just a little bit tidier.

**June:** Our community-wide garage sale attracted bargain hunters from far and wide on June 3. YCA published a free map with addresses of residences holding garage sales. Over 20 homes had garage sales in Youbou that weekend, in addition to the large sale put on by YCA in front of the coffee house.

On June 10, Teresa Gustafson and YCA volunteers decorated a float for the Lake Days parade in Lake Cowichan. With our artful duck theme, we won first place in the homemade float category and had a lot of fun too.

**July:** YCA supported Lake Cowichan Idol contest and set up a concession stand at Arbutus Park for the Youbou portion of this talent competition.

**August:** YCA members stole the show with a merman float in the Youbou regatta parade on August 12. YCA also participated in the recreation department's regatta by holding the chicken bingo event, selling cotton candy, and promoting membership in our organization. The volunteer fire people and friends kicked off the day with their always-delicious free pancake breakfast.

**October:** October 28th was the Second Annual Zombie Walk through Youbou, ending with a wiener roast and bonfire. This was well attended with the "Zombie Patrol" car leading the way and Dana Hummel towering heads and shoulders above the other walkers on his stilts! Mother Nature even provided a sunny day!

For Halloween, YCA members helped to decorate the Community Hall for the recreation departments' annual Youbou haunted house and costume contest. Afterward, our volunteer firefighters delighted young and old with an impressive fireworks display.

**December:** The YCA again was overwhelmed with support for helping community members in need, enabling volunteers to deliver seven holiday hampers to fellow Youbou residents on December 20.

On New Year's Eve, we resurrected the longtime Youbou tradition of a New Years' Eve Dance. We were fortunate to have Karen Dunnigan, a very dedicated community member, agree to plan the event, as long as the YCA could offer financial and volunteer support, which we were glad to do. The result was an extremely successful dance at the Youbou Hall with about 150 attending.

### **Ongoing Projects**

**CVRD partnership:** In April, YCA met with CVRD about some proposed projects. After discussion with Ryan Dias from the CVRD, it was agreed that the CVRD would revitalize the signage at the Little League Park and provide support to refurbish the historical Bug Pole. The CVRD also helped fund the Youbou welcome sign restoration and the New Year's Eve Dance.

**The Bug Pole** (near the firehouse): Family members of Margaret Gold (the woman to whom the Bug Pole was dedicated in 1952) contacted YCA and asked for support from YCA and CVRD to refurbish the historic Bug Pole. However, after discussions with Margaret Gold's family and the CVRD, the Bug Pole repainting project appears to be at a standstill. It has been recommended that the pole not be taken down to refurbish because of its fragile

condition, but the CVRD is reluctant to erect scaffolding around the pole due to liability issues.

**Yount School:** At the March board meeting, our executive board met with Loretta Puckrim and members of the Cowichan Lake Arts and Culture (CLACS) to discuss partnering to revitalize Yount School as a home for the new society and art gallery/school. Patrick Miller and Duncan Hume were to act as liaisons with the school district and the CLACS. In early September, board members learned that the Yount School proposal appeared to be going nowhere. The School District would like to sell the school and is not interested in entering into a lease agreement. CLACS is pursuing funding but this may be a very lengthy process, considering the cost.

**Youbou sign and flower bed:** May saw the completion of the beautiful stone flower bed constructed by Scott Thomas at the Welcome to Youbou sign. YCA, along with financial support from CVRD, helped complete the project.

**Speed-Watch:** Longtime resident Bob Thackery and volunteers have been working with ICBC to occasionally monitor speed levels of traffic through Youbou. In March 2018, an electronic sign will be set up to notify drivers of their speed and whether they are in compliance with the speed limit that has been set for safety.

**Strategic Vision:** Royal Roads University students made their presentation to Paula Nannery and Duncan Hume from YCA in July. While this class project was expected to offer suggestions for Yount School, the report instead focused on community building and strategies to foster community spirit, many of which we are already doing.

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Board members were approached to spearhead a local Neighborhood Watch initiative. We're willing to support such a program, but need some interested members to lay the groundwork.

**Public Lake Access:** This project is currently transitioning from one former board member to a new board member. More activity on this is expected next year. Watch our facebook page for dates for work parties to start clearing the existing public accesses.

**Road Dust:** Board members worked with both CVRD and Timberwest to see if we could eliminate the road dust created by logging trucks driving through town. While we can't get rid of the dust entirely, several positive steps occurred as a result of our efforts:

1. The village highway is being regularly cleaned by a street sweeper.
2. A truck wash was instituted where the dirt road met the pavement.
3. Timberwest paved an additional section of road, all the way to Cottonwood Creek.

**Communications:** Our board continues to meet monthly, maintain a Facebook page with over 300 members and publish a monthly newsletter. This year, we hope to launch a Youbou Association Web site as well.

## **The Board**

Board members elected in January 2017:

Mike Bishop

Rose Davidson: Treasurer

Paula Nannery: President

Kim Ring: Secretary

Duncan Hume: Membership

Cassy Emmerson

Patrick Miller

Pauline Campbell

Tom Nannery

Board members stepping down during the year:

Pauline Campbell

Rose Davidson

Duncan Hume

Paula Nannery

Tom Nannery

Board members stepping down at end of 2017:

Kim Ring

Cassy Emmerson

Patrick Miller

Board members elected to fill vacancies during the year:

Lori La Fave: Treasurer

Julia Martinusen: Secretary

Randall Wilson

Pam Henderson

## Volunteers

Our thanks go to many community members who are not board members but continue to contribute in valuable ways.

We have been fortunate that Bob Thackeray has taken over looking after the "Speedwatch" initiative originated by the YCA.

Theresa Gustafson has lent her graphic design skills to our two award-winning parade floats and the haunted house. Also working on the haunted house were Connie Vaughn and Bee Greenway

Karen Dunnigan has stepped forward to initiate a "Social Events" committee.