

Youbou Community Association

2018 Year in Review-Final

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

Thanks to our active board members and volunteers, we've had a robust year of activities. Below is a month-by-month recap of events, followed by a status report on special projects.

Calendar of Events

January: On New Year's Eve 2017, 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.

On January 21, the YCA held its annual general meeting. Re-elected were: Mike Bishop, Pam Henderson, Lori LaFave, Julia Martinusen, and Randall Wilson. Newly elected were: Spencer Day, Allan Gott, Eva Fearon, and Garry Fearon.

February: Was a planning month.

March: We planned a Tropical Night dance but feedback from the community led us to believe the event would not be successful, so we cancelled it.

April: A community memorial gathering was held at Tom and Paula Nannery's home to honour former YCA President and long-time board member Duncan Hume, who passed away in March.

May: Our community-wide garage sale was held May 26, with about 20 homes participating. YCA provided a list of addresses of participating homes and marked each home with a purple balloon.

At the encouragement of the YCA, Timberwest held an open-house to discuss future logging plans in the Youbou area. The plans showed very little logging on the front side of Mt. Holmes.

June: On June 2, the YCA spearheaded the Third Annual Spring Clean-Up. We were the first to use the newly reopened Meades Creek Recycling Centre. CVRD provided monetary support for the event.

On June 10, Teresa Gustafson and YCA volunteers decorated Al Thom's trailer into a float for the Lake Days parade in Lake Cowichan. With our artful theme, we won first place in the homemade float category. Youbou local Keely MacDonald, representing Cassy's Coffee House, won the Lake Days pageant to be crowned Queen of the Lake.

The YCA made a donation of \$500 to the Youbou Community Church Association to help fund a new roof.

July: Board members held a bottle drive over the long weekend to raise funds for YCA activities.

We purchased two new banners, plus T-shirts for board members to wear for easy identification when working YCA events.

August: YCA members stole the show with a float featuring lake activities in the Youbou regatta parade on August 12. We also participated in the CVRD recreation department's regatta by giving away free popcorn and promoting membership in our organization, despite a little bit of rain. The Youbou Volunteer Fire Department and friends kicked off the day with their always-delicious free pancake breakfast.

On August 26, the YCA hosted a family picnic at the Little League Park, serving free hotdogs, popcorn, and lemonade. We offered live music, games for the kids, and horseshoes. The event was not as well attended as we'd hoped but we want to try it again in 2019 with a few changes.

September: Several board members accepted Timberwest's invitation to attend a day's outing to learn about the company's logging practices in and around Youbou.

October: Over the long weekend, the YCA held a brief general meeting to vote on a couple of small bylaws changes. Afterward, the YCA moderated questions for the Area I Director candidates.

Littlehead played for our October 13 Oktoberfest party at Youbou Hall. The Youbou community Association gave members of the Youbou Volunteer Fire Department complimentary tickets to the event to show the community's appreciation for their efforts. Over 150 people attended the dance. Nora won the door prize of an pontoon boat appetizer cruise donated by Eva and Garry Fearon. Our 50/50 winner, Lisa Davies, went home with \$202.

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.

November: The Youbou Community Association operated the concession at Youbou Holiday Craft Fair, feeding hungry vendors and shoppers breakfast sandwiches, soups, hot dogs, muffins, cider, coffee and water. We made about \$200 profit.

December: Rather than organize our own Youbou holiday hamper project as in recent years, the board decided to donate \$500 to the Cowichan Lake Community Services Hamper project, which supported 20 needy families in Youbou.

Despite experiencing a four-day power outage, the Brighten-Up Youbou Holiday lighting contest went ahead as planned. Karen Dunnagin organized the judging. We awarded the prizes at the New Year's Eve party. Connie and Todd Vaughn won first prize. Diane and Bob Elliott earned second, and Donna Walker and Ray took third.

Local musicians Bubba Gunderson and Ray Harvey brought their internationally acclaimed band to play music from Eagle Eyes and Joint Chiefs for our sold-out New Year's Eve party. About 250 people packed the hall. Rosie Betsworth won the 50/50 prize of \$455.

Ongoing Projects

CVRD partnership: The CVRD helped fund the Youbou clean-up. The YCA held one of two Meet-the-Candidate events for the Area I candidates.

Speed-Watch: An electronic speed sign was finally operational by summer, although we've been in conversation about the placement of that sign.

Public Lake Access: The public lake access team visited every single known access in Youbou (17-including parks), taking notes and photographs. The next step will be creating a report that will offer recommendations for action steps for selected access points.

Road Dust and Safety: The YCA has been communicating with CVRD, Timberwest and the Ministry of Transport regarding safety, road dust, speed, and truck washing. We will be continuing our conversations, but note 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 past Pine Point.

Communications: Our board continues to meet monthly, maintain a Facebook page with over 300 members and publish a monthly newsletter. Because of the large number of posts, some of which may not be relevant to residents in Youbou, we drew up and posted a Facebook posting policy. We are very close to launching a Youbou Association Web site.

Looking ahead to 2019:

2019 Survey: A member survey will guide us in how we allocate valuable volunteer and financial resources to offer social events and address issues in our community.

Trailblazers: Lori LaFave and Julia Martinusen will represent Youbou on this Cowichan Lake nonprofit society, dedicated to developing and maintain hiking and biking trails around the lake. Through this group, we hope to enhance the Christopher Rock trail to benefit Youbou residents.

YCA Web site: Soon you will have a comprehensive online Youbou resources at your fingertips on the internet. We'll let you know when it is up and running.

Emergency Preparedness: Since the December power outage, we've been discussing how the YCA can help the community in the future. Working with the CVRD, we plan to gather a task force to develop an action plan for dealing with disasters in Youbou.

Yount School: We plan to continue discussions as to whether Yount School might be re-purposed into an art/cultural center.

Beach Access: We hope to produce a report and schedule some times to clean up invasive species at targeted Youbou beach accesses.

Firewood Permit issue: We hope to move forward on our firewood discussions.

Road cleanliness and safety issues: We will continue our discussions with interested parties to suggest improving road conditions through Youbou.

Boating Safety: We will remind visitors and residents where they learn or update their knowledge of safe boating practices.

The Board

Board members elected in January 2018:

Mike Bishop

Spencer Day

Eva Fearon

Gary Fearon

Allan Gott

Pam Henderson

Lori LaFave

Julia Martinusen

Randall Wilson

Board members stepping down during the year:

Pam Henderson

Board members stepping down at end of 2018:

Mike Bishop

Volunteers

Our thanks go to many community members who are not board members but continue to contribute in valuable ways. It's difficult to list everyone, but here are a few who stepped up to help:

Theresa Gustafson has lent her graphic design skills to our two award-winning parade floats, dances, and the haunted house. She will start designing our newsletter in 2019.

Connie Vaughn organized the efforts of many volunteers working on the haunted house.

Tom Nannery has been leading the charge on road cleanliness and safety, working with CVRD, Timberwest, and Ministry of Transport.

Karen Dunnigan organized the judging for the holiday lights category.

Also helping with various events throughout the year were Richard Madill, Susanne Thom, Alice Yanke, Brother John, Floyd Augustine, Bob and Cathy Fish, Paula and Tom Nannery, Paula Bruce, and Sally Frankenowski.

And thanks to Youbou and CL businesses—Cassy's Coffee House, Daly's Auto Centre, and Shop & Save (plus Scarlett's Secondhand Boutique and the Lake Cowichan Visitor Centre)—for selling tickets to our successful events.