



## **Youbou Community Association**

**2019 Year in Review      January 18, 2020**

**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:** 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.

On January 13, the YCA held its annual general meeting. Re-elected were: Spencer Day, Allan Gott, Eva Fearon, Garry Fearon, Lori LaFave, Julia Martinusen, and Randall Wilson.

We conducted a paper and online survey of members to gauge interest in events and initiatives to help with our year-long YCA planning.

As a result of the December power outage, concerned citizens asked the YCA to look into preparing the community for such emergencies in the future. As a result, the YCA formed a standing committee, the Youbou Emergency Preparedness Task Force, comprised of community volunteers. See the report under Ongoing Projects.

**May:** Our community-wide garage sale was held May 25, with over 20 homes participating. YCA provided a list of addresses of participating homes and marked each home with a purple balloon.

**June:** On June 1, the YCA spearheaded the Fourth Annual Youbou Spring Clean-Up. CVRD provided monetary support for the event.

On June 8, Teresa Gustafson and YCA volunteers decorated a historical float for the Lake Days parade in Lake Cowichan, in conjunction with Lake Cowichan's celebration of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We won first place in the homemade float category.

**August:** For the August 10 annual Youbou Regatta, YCA members stole the show in the parade with a float promoting our Oktoberfest event, winning first place for the best homemade float, with members also winning individual costume awards. We also participated in the CVRD recreation department's regatta by selling raffle tickets to benefit our emergency preparedness planning. The Youbou Volunteer Fire Department and friends kicked off the day with their always-delicious free pancake breakfast.

**October:** The Rivals with Rob Fortin played for our October 19 Oktoberfest party at Youbou Hall. Over 110 people attended the dance. Our raffle winners were: Daly's Auto Centre winning the firewood donated by Max Russell, Teresa LaFloche winning pontoon boat appetizer cruise donated by Eva and Garry Fearon, and Sally Ball won the pair of New Year's Eve tickets. Our 50/50 winner, Donna Walker, went home with \$240. Proceeds from the raffle and 50/50 went to our Emergency Preparedness budget.

For Halloween, YCA members helped to decorate the Community Hall for the recreation departments' annual Youbou haunted house (a wild-west theme this year) and costume contest. For the first time, the YCA sponsored a haunted pumpkin patch for the little ones, complete with a prize-laden ghouled-fish pond and four different crafts for kids to make. Afterward, our volunteer firefighters delighted young and old with an impressive fireworks display.

**November:** The YCA entered a float in the November 24 Santa parade in Lake Cowichan. We followed a New Year's theme to promote our New Year's Eve party. Despite not having enough juice to power all our lights, we won third place overall in the parade.

The Youbou Community Association operated the concession at the November 30 Youbou Holiday Craft Fair, feeding hungry vendors and shoppers breakfast sandwiches, soups, hot dogs, cider, coffee and water. We made about \$500 profit.

After almost a year of meetings and planning, the Emergency Preparedness Task Force presented its power-point plan to CVRD management. The CVRD staff were impressed and eager to work with the team to bring this to fruition. Julia Martinusen, chair of YCA, transitioned leadership of this committee to Spencer Day, treasurer of the YCA.

**December:** Once again, the YCA board decided to donate \$500 to the Cowichan Lake Community Services Hamper project, which supported 20 needy families in Youbou.

Littlehead from Nanaimo returned to Youbou to play to our third-annual New Year's Eve party. The hall looked great, freshly painted and decorated with lights, balloons, and a dress-up photo booth. About 128 people attended. Jen Blyth won the 50/50 prize of \$272.50.

## **Ongoing Projects**

**Emergency Preparedness:** The Youbou Emergency Preparedness Task Force met throughout the year. After looking at several options, the group decided to approach the CVRD about using the Youbou Community Hall as a shelter for any future emergencies. The plan has been well received and we look forward to fleshing out the details in 2020, fund-raising, and implementing the plan for the 2020-2021 winter season.

**CVRD partnership:** The CVRD helped fund the Youbou clean-up.

**Speed-Watch:** The electronic sign was moved to just east of Price road.

**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 and Safety:** The YCA has been communicating with CVRD, Timberwest and the Ministry of Transport regarding safety, road dust, speed, and truck washing. A town meeting was held on March 4 to discuss road improvements. 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. Lines were repainted in the centre and on the sides of the road.
3. The electronic speed sign was erected in town, then moved further east.

**Communications:** Our board continues to meet monthly, maintain a Facebook page with over 500 members and publish a monthly newsletter which is sent to over 150 member households, plus the businesses in town. We launched our youbouyca.ca website in January and it is updated on a monthly basis.

**Looking ahead to 2020:**

2020 Survey: We will repeat our 2019 member survey to benchmark any changes in direction on how we allocate valuable volunteer and financial resources to offer social events and address issues in our community.

Trailblazers: Julia Martinusen continues to 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: We'll be giving our web site a general update in January.

Emergency Preparedness: We'll be moving forward in planning to use the Youbou Community Hall as a relief centre, working with the CVRD on upgrades and equipment and volunteer needs. Fundraising will start soon. Spencer Day is now leading this committee.

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

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 2019:

Spencer Day

Eva Fearon

Gary Fearon

Allan Gott

Lori LaFave

Julia Martinusen

Randall Wilson

## **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 award-winning parade floats, dances, and the haunted house. She has been designing our newsletter.

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

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, Bee Greenway, Debbie Smith, Sandra McAfee, Jill Bradley, and Cheryl Morgan.

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

## **Treasurer's Report**

2019 was once again a very active year for everyone on the YCA Council in addition to our incredibly awesome group of volunteers. Every event would not have been possible without their participation. Youbou is a better community because of their choice to be a part of it. A sincere thank you to all who volunteer!

Some of the non-discretionary costs we must first cover in order to be an active and viable entity; CGL Insurance(\$1,075.00), BC Registries(\$40.00), Chamber of Commerce annual dues(\$85.00) set the "floor" for our necessary fund-raising efforts each year. YCA also engaged in developing a web-site (youbouyca.com) where we can keep the community informed. The development costs (\$500.00) and 5-year web-portal hosting costs (\$1,072.53) are one-time charges and won't need to be budgeted for again, until after 2023.

Covering these costs we then set our sights on the many events that make the whole effort worthwhile, like the Community Garage Sale, Spring Clean, Lake Days Float, Youbou Regatta, Craft Fair Concession and of course the two "Youbou Style" events: Oktoberfest and New Year's Eve party.

The costs associated with these events are as follows...Promotional material & advertising(\$983.74), CVRD "Tippage" fees(\$851.65), Office supplies(\$80.19), Event supplies(\$829.05), Serving It Right(\$120.00), Business/Gaming/Liquor Licenses(\$969.77), Special Event Insurance(\$630.00), Free Shuttles(\$800.00), Food & Beverages(\$940.70), Entertainment(\$3,300.00), Haunted House(\$400.00), Christmas Hamper program(\$500.00).

All in, we invested \$16,05.59 on Youbou's behalf to make these community events a reality...and to continue our efforts to bring our community closer together.

For sources of income and fund-raising, we continued with traditional efforts for any non-profit organization such as the Craft Fair Concession(\$590.00), new membership fees(\$180.00), donations(\$67.40) as well as lobbying the local government(Klaus Kuhn) for financial support(\$851.65). The non-traditional fund raising which we have come to rely on, in order to help support community engagement, are of course the parties at Youbou Hall.

The 2 "Youbou Style" 19+ paid events help support everything the YCA does and 2019 was no exception. Cash bar, live music, free food & non-alcoholic beverages and a free shuttle ride to-from the event is the premise from which we generate the majority of funds. Oktoberfest (\$4,615.00) and NYE@Youbou Hall(\$8,015.00) and related 50/50-Raffles gaming(\$1,002.50).

The revenue generated from both parties as well as the traditional sources of fund raising, equalled (\$15,387.66). Subtracting our total expenses for the year (\$16,055.59) produced a net loss of (-\$667.93) for 2019. When combined with the starting balance in January 2019 of (\$12,531.73), we now have (\$11,863.80) to continue providing Youbou with more family friendly activities.