



Youbou Community Association

2021 Year in Review January 2022

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

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and government-mandated limits on gatherings and personal interactions, our activities throughout 2021 were very limited, much like in 2020.

The board met every month of the year, except in the summer, sometimes in person when permissible, but most often remotely on zoom.

Calendar of Events

May and June: We participated in some broom cutting, but did not make it an YCA official activity, because gathering numbers permitted were limited.

July: We decorated the Mile 77 sign for Canada Day, but due to a subdued celebration of Canada (because of issues surrounding residential schools), no further activities were undertaken.

October: Halloween haunted house returned to the hall, only all decorating was outdoors. YCA Board members teamed up with community volunteers (Connie Vaughn, Bee Greenway, Teresa Gustafson, Susanne Thom) to create a haunted castle. Candy was delivered via a long pvc chute and a fishing pond. The fire department lit fireworks on the school field after the haunted castle. The event was considered a big success and brought the community together in a way that had not happened for over a year.

December: Once again, the YCA board donated \$500 to the Cowichan Lake Community Services Hamper project, to support needy families in Youbou. The YCA board also participated in a Cruise the Lake event, decorating Fearon's pick-up truck with brightly lit elk, winning an honorable mention.

Let's hope 2022 offers us an opportunity to return to at least some of our fun annual activities, such as the regatta and New Year's Eve party!

Annual events cancelled throughout 2021:

Garage sale
Youbou clean-up
Lake Days parade
Youbou regatta, pancake breakfast, parade
New Year's Eve party

Ongoing Projects

Emergency Preparedness: We are still waiting for a draft agreement to come from the CVRD hall management team and hope to see that agreement early in 2022. The last conversations with CVRD promised a definitive answer in October, but we are still waiting to hear from the CVRD. Once the agreement is in place and we can return to more normal times, we look forward to fund-raising and implementing the plan. Six Youbou residents have undergone training to become Level 1 ESS responders and one has taken the director training. These volunteers will play a key role in the community being able to open a shelter.

CVRD partnership: While our annual clean-up was cancelled due to Covid concerns, we've worked with the CVRD to address issues, such as roads, derelict boats, lakeside trash, invasive species. We look forward to working with the CVRD on the regatta, haunted house and other programs in 2021.

Public Lake Access: YCA will be again addressing this as an area of concern and will organize some efforts once Covid allows us to work together in large groups again.

Excessive Boat Noise: The YCA continues to communicate with the Decibel Coalition, a national organization that is committed to establishing and enforcing standards for lakes regarding boat noise.

Communications: Our board continues to meet monthly, maintain a Facebook page with over 800 members and publish a monthly newsletter which is sent to over 150 member households, plus the businesses in town. We also update the **youbouyca.ca** website on a monthly basis.

Community leadership

Our board members not only serve on our YCA Boards, they participate in leadership roles throughout the Youbou and Lake Cowichan communities:

CVRD Hall Commission: Eva Fearon

CVRD Park Advisory Board: Randall Wilson

Youbou Emergency Shelter and ESS Response: Cheryl Morgan and Julia Martinusen

Youbou Fire Department: Lori LaFave

Lake Cowichan Hockey Manager: Spencer Day

Lake Cowichan Baseball Treasurer: Spencer Day

Lake Cowichan Curling Coach: Allan Gott

Broom Busters: Steve Watt and Debbie Smith

Cowichan Lake Trail Blazers Society President: Julia Martinusen

Retreads Hiking Group Chair: Julia Martinusen

Appreciation

Our thanks go to many community residents who may not be board members, but still continue to contribute in valuable ways. We thanked many of them publicly in our February and March 2021 issues of our newsletter.

We also appreciate our Youbou businesses—Cassy's Coffee House, Daly's Auto Centre, the Youbou Bar & Grill, and Shop & Save—for staying open to serve us all safely during these difficult times. Let's continue to show our support.