



Youbou Community Association

2022 Year in Review January 2023

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 in the winter of 2022 were very limited, much like in 2020 and 2021. However, in April, the restrictions began lifting and we began resuming a more normal program of activities.

The board met every month of the year, either via zoom or in person when practical. Three long-time board members stepped down in 2022: Lori LaFave (6 years), Spencer Day (5 years), and Allan Gott (5 years). We thank them for their service to the community. Following our bylaws, the board then filled the vacancies with four community leaders: Monica Ash, Joelle Bellanger, Sandra McAfee, and Joe Tatham, bringing the board to 11 members, a full roster.

Calendar of Events

January: YCA member met via zoom for our Annual General Meeting on January 23. All the previous directors were re-elected: Spencer Day, Eva and Garry Fearon, Al Gott, Lori LaFave, Julia Martinusen, Cheryl Morgan, Debbie Smith, Steve Watt, and Randall Wilson

April: We helped to organize a Community Circle discussion as part of the CVRD community planning initiative. YCA board member Joelle Bellanger moderated the discussion.

The YCA joined forces with the Cowichan Lake Trail blazers to field two work days on the Christopher Rock trail. Julia Martinusen is president of both groups.

May: YCA Board member Debbie Smith coordinated a multi-group broom bash at Bald Mountain on May 7. We recruited over 30 volunteers and filled 3 bins.

The Youbou Community Garage Sale returned on May 14, with publicity, maps, and balloons from the YCA. About 20 homeowners participated and treasures were bought and sold.

The YCA hosted the Youbou Clean-Up on May 28, so residents could haul up to \$30 of trash to the dump for free.

July: YCA Board members Eva and Garry Fearon were the brains and brawn behind our inaugural Crabfest on July 16. Board members easily sold all 100 tickets and guests were thrilled to experience our first social gathering since the pandemic started.

August: Board member Cheryl Morgan and other YCA volunteers served as judges for the parade and chalk art contest at the CVRD Youbou regatta.

October: On October 1, YCA volunteers cleaned up an old boat and other garbage at the old sawmill entrance, they cleared the path for the Adelina Access. Board secretary Randall Wilson has been overseeing our Lake Access work.

Throughout the month, volunteers helped to decorate for the Mid-Evil Haunted House, with Halloween returning in full force on October 31. The YCA also offered a happy Pumpkin Patch with Ghoul-fish pond again. We tried to initiate a Witch's Paddle but the weather forced a cancellation.

November: The CVRD invited the YCA to offer a breakfast and lunch concession again. It was all hands on deck selling soup and ham-and-egggers.

December: At long last, the YCA was again able to host its traditional New Year's Eve bash with The Joints aka Eagle Eyes returning to play favourite Eagles songs and popular dancing tunes. Treasurer Steve Watt coordinated advance ticket sales, and drink tickets at the event. The sellout event was a lot of work for volunteers with decorating, blowing up balloons, preparing food and bar, and cleaning up. Shoutouts to board members Eva Fearon for coordinating the food and 50/50 raffle, Randall Wilson and Garry Fearon for bartending, and Julia Martinusen for working the door. Several key volunteers also helped make the event possible.

We're already looking forward to planning a more normal series of events in 2023!

Ongoing Projects

Emergency Preparedness: A large generator has been donated by an anonymous community benefactor and is on order. The CVRD is making plans to make necessary updates at Youbou Hall to accommodate the generator. YCA Board member Joelle Bellanger is ready to start re-energizing our campaign to prepare the community and the hall to serve as a Cooling/Warming Centre should events necessitate. 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: We have a new Area I Director, Karen Deck, and look forward to working with her on important issues, such as roads, derelict boats, lakeside trash, and invasive species. We also look forward to working with CVRD staff on the regatta, haunted house, Christmas Craft fair, and other programs in 2021, helping to publicize them and add community inspiration.

Public Lake Access: The clean-up of the Adelina access went very smoothly in October. We hope to tackle more accesses each year, perhaps one in the spring and one in the fall.

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 the Youbou Community Association Facebook page with over 800 members and publish a monthly newsletter, which is sent to over 150

member households, plus paper copies posted at the businesses in town. We also update the youbouyca.ca website on a monthly basis and the Mile 77 road sign as needed.

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: Joelle Bellanger, Cheryl Morgan, Julia Martinusen

Broom Busters: Steve Watt and Debbie Smith

Cowichan Lake Trail Blazers Society President: Julia Martinusen

Retreads Hiking Group Chair: Julia Martinusen

Elk statue project: Monica Ash

Area I Director's Second: Joe Tatham

Appreciation

Our thanks go to many community residents who may not be board members, but still continue to contribute in valuable ways. That's what a sense of community is all about.

We also appreciate our Youbou businesses—Cassy's Coffee House, Daly's Auto Centre, the Youbou Bar & Grill, and the Youbou General Store—for supporting our efforts and serving the community so well.