

BCLSS Newsletter

November 2023



Lake Lillian - Photo by Matt A.

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BCLSS Volunteer Awards 2023



The deadline for nominations has been extended!

[Please submit your nominations by December 15th](#)

The BCLSS grants two awards each year to recognize individuals and/or groups for their outstanding volunteer efforts that contribute to our vision of clean, healthy lakes throughout British Columbia. This award is in appreciation of dedicated volunteers that demonstrate their commitment to their local lake(s) through education, monitoring programs, restoration projects, and “lake friendly” living.

Since 2001, thirty awards have been given to outstanding volunteers!

To nominate a deserving volunteer, please fill out [this form](#) and email it to the BCLSS office at info@bclss.org.

B.C. Lake Ice Reporting Tool

With Winter fast approaching, don't forget to report on the status of lake ice on your local lake! Ice-on and ice-off dates for BC lakes are important data for climate change research. By comparing these dates to climate change trends, we can examine how global warming is affecting our lakes.

The B.C. Lake Ice Reporting Tool was developed to standardize the data and make it easier to submit. Click the button below to submit an observation.

[B.C. Lake Ice Reporting Tool](#)

Wake Boat Report

Article by Jim Davies, [Heffley Lake Community Association](#)

There is now a new Canada Gazette, [Canada Gazette, Part I, Volume 157, Number 24](#)

Quotes from report

"Wake Surfing Restriction

Many communities and environmental groups have raised concerns about the environmental impact of wake surfing, which can erode shorelines with excessive wave action and cause safety issues for other boaters in high traffic areas due to the speeds involved. When wake surfing is identified as a safety or environmental issue on a body of water, the only existing restriction available to local authorities is under Schedule 7 and involves a blanket prohibition on all towing activities (e.g. water skiing, tubing). This approach would lead to restrictions on some recreational activities that have not been identified as an issue such as waterskiing or tubing. As a result, some local authorities have refrained from applying for any restrictions at all, leaving safety and environmental concerns from wake surfing unaddressed."

"Wake surfing

The topic of wake surfing has been a discussion with stakeholders for quite some time. Local authorities who have identified wake surfing activities as problematic on all or portions of their bodies of water have been asking for a way to address these issues without limiting other types of recreational activities (e.g. waterski) that may not pose a problem. Under Schedule 7 of the Regulations, wake surfing activities could be prohibited but the restriction would also apply to all towing activities. Removing wake surfing from Schedule 7 and creating a unique wake surfing schedule would respond to local authorities' desire to address issues in a more precise manner."

"Wake surfing restriction

The objective in removing wake surfing from Schedule 7 and creating a new schedule is to provide local authorities with an option to apply for a prohibition that specifically targets issues generated by wake surfing activities without having to adopt other unnecessary restrictions.

The proposed amendments would remove wake surfing from the existing Schedule 7 (restrictions on all towing activities) and introduce a new Schedule that specifically provides for restrictions on wake surfing. This would allow a local authority to apply for a prohibition on wake surfing without prohibiting all other towing activities, except during permitted periods. The restriction would not prohibit the use of wake surfing boats but would restrict the activity of wake surfing as described in each restriction. These proposed amendments would necessitate amendments to the Contraventions Regulations to establish a fine for the contravention of the new restriction as is currently the practice for all other restrictions under the Regulations. The amendments to the Contraventions Regulations would be introduced as part of a separate regulatory proposal following the publication of these proposed amendments in the Canada Gazette, Part II. Until amendments are made to the Contraventions Regulations, specific wake surfing prohibitions would not be enforceable via tickets."

"Transport Canada received over 20 supportive comments on the proposal to remove wake surfing from Schedule 7 and create a new separate schedule for that activity."

The introduction and increasing popularity of wake boats on small lakes and rivers had become a concern all across Canada. In B.C. Heffley lake was asked by Community Association members to request a specific ban on ballasted wake boats only without restricting all other traditional watercraft. Transport Canada had no such restriction. Scientific Lake studies by Larratt Aquatic Consulting LTD. on Kalamalka Lake in B.C. and Laval University in Quebec both found the wave dispersion of over 200 meters and sediment disturbance to a depth of 8 meters supported our concerns. With the support from the B.C. Lake Stewardship Society and Lake Associations across Canada we were successful in having Transport Canada review the regulations. During the review process Transport rejected a specific Ballasted Boat restriction due to enforcement concerns, however they supported wake surfing as a restriction. To request the wake surfing restriction you must follow the

Local Authorities guide www.tc.gc.ca/boatingsafety. Some of the lakes in B.C. that will have the new restriction automatically applied include Heffley Lake (part of), Whiteswan Lake, Hidden Lake, Whitetail Lake, Green Lake(part of), Big Bar Lake and others. The Gazette goes to the Senate in December to be made into law. This is a great Christmas present to those who have supported the request for this restriction. It has taken over 4 years. Thankfully B.C. has many large lakes where wake surfing can be enjoyed in an environmentally responsible manner.

BCLSS is Fundraising with Tru Earth!

Save up to 33% off your entire order until December 10th with Tru Earth's Holiday sale!

Shop [using this link](#) and BCLSS will earn 20% of every purchase made!

Thank you for supporting BCLSS and freshwater ecosystems by reducing plastic waste!



Finally, a plastic jug-free laundry detergent that's as sensitive on your skin as it is to the environment.

TRY TRU EARTH TODAY



Events and Opportunities

Invasive Species Council of BC Annual Forum - Feb 26- 29

The Invasive Species Council of BC is hosting three days of big conversations around invasive species and their impact on everything from forest sciences to urban watershed management to soil quality. We invite you to join us for inspiring and practical knowledge sharing, learning and in person networking at the INVAISVES 2024 Forum & AGM.

Join the ISCBC at the Anvil Centre in New Westminster, February 26th-29th, 2024, for sessions like “Harvesting Solutions: Navigating Invasive Species in Agriculture and First Foods” and “Invasive Species and Climate Change: Adapting to Ecological Disruption”.

You’ll be in good company with invasive species practitioners, researchers, community leaders, Indigenous voices, ranchers, foresters, and the broader public, all connected by the impact of invasive species on their world. Since 2005, the INVASIVES Forum & AGM has

shared the latest best practices, cutting-edge invasive species research, and updates on government initiatives.

We hope to see you in February in New Westminster!

[Click here](#) to learn more.

Auxiliary Park Rangers - BC Parks

BC Parks is looking for qualified individuals to work as seasonal Park Rangers in provincial parks throughout the province. Positions will include frontcountry, backcountry or marine parks. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Regional Engagement Manager - Rivershed Society of BC

Rivershed Society of BC is looking for a dynamic individual to play a pivotal role in fostering collaboration and outreach across the Fraser Watershed. This position is responsible for enhancing regional connections and supporting regional efforts to protect and restore the Fraser Watershed. This includes playing a lead role in outreach for populating the Watershed CPR Dashboard in collaboration with other members of our team. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Environmental Education Coordinator - Alouette River Management Society

The Environmental Education Coordinator (EEC) leads and delivers the Alouette River Management Society's classroom and outdoor programming. The EEC develops science-based program content and is involved in community engagement activities. The EEC works with a small but dedicated team to ensure that all programs meet the ARMS' highest standards of education and delivery. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Program Manager - Wildsight Invermere

The Program Manager provides leadership and management to ensure Wildsight Invermere is achieving the organization's mandate. This goal is achieved by working directly with the Wildsight Invermere Board of Directors, who set policy and strategic direction. The Program Manager will be responsible for program development and management, communications, outreach, fundraising, and administration. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Part-time Interpreter - Fraser River Discovery Centre

[Learn more and apply here.](#)

News and Information:

- [Transfer of natural resource ministerial responsibilities](#)
- [B.C.'s draft Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework](#) - open for public comment until January 15, 2024
- [Quagga mussels found in Idaho, growing concern for B.C. waterways](#)
- [What's Threatening BC Waters](#)
- [Fish out of water: North American drought bakes salmon](#)
- [Government of Canada helps municipalities and local communities control navigation on waterways](#)
- [As drought dries up B.C. rivers, conservationists turn to beavers for help](#)

- [Toxins from B.C. coal mines found in American waters: U.S. study](#)



Not a member of the BCLSS yet?

Please consider joining our network of lake stewards! For more information on the benefits of membership, [visit our website](#).

Were you forwarded this newsletter? [Subscribe today](#) to get monthly updates on stewardship activities, lake science, and much more delivered to your inbox!

The BCLSS acknowledges that the lake stewardship activities of our staff, directors, and volunteers take place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of First Nations Peoples throughout British Columbia. We recognize that Indigenous Peoples have stewarded these lands and waters for generations and we are grateful to the Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, and youth that implement their knowledge and traditional laws to preserve water and life for the benefit of all.