



Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society

Po Box 907
Lake Cowichan, BC V0R 2G0

Dear Mayor Day and Council:

I am writing today, on behalf of the **Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society (CLRSS)**, regarding the work that has been done in the area immediately behind the Town Office on South Shore road between the old firehall bays and the top of the riverbank.

As you are aware, for over a decade now, the CLRSS has worked to educate and encourage waterfront property owners to respect the important function of an intact riparian zone in their shoreline areas whether on the river or the lake. Our goal is to create a community where there is a balance between the development impacts of property owners and their riparian responsibilities.

Which brings us to the renovation work that is going on behind the Town Office. Some CLRSS members observed the extensive excavation behind the Town Hall near the top of the river bank at a time in September very close to the end, September 15th, of the open period for works in a stream. We have also received comments on this from other members of the public.

The Lake Cowichan area is now experiencing a time of rapid growth with many new people moving in who are often unaware of regulations governing the riparian zone. It is up to all waterfront owners to do whatever they can to protect the riparian zone and to set an example for others on how development of waterfront property must coexist with respect for the riparian zone. There is no more important water front property owner than the Town of Lake Cowichan itself in setting an example.

We understand that the planning and execution of this project has been challenging for a number of reasons and we would like to know:

1. Did the Town investigate ways to expand the Town Hall without disturbing the riparian zone? For example, by using the parking areas immediately adjacent to South Shore Road.
2. If other areas for expansion were considered and rejected why was this option selected with its attendant threats to the riparian zone?
3. Does the Town have plans to make any compensatory riparian restoration on other waterfront property that they own which would set an example for others and clearly indicate to the public that the Town values the importance of our riparian zone?

I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ken Traynor', written in a cursive style.

Ken Traynor
President CLRSS