



Memo

To: Chief Administrative Officer

Date: September 21, 2021

From: Manager, CLEC

Subject: Education Centre, Lakeview Park Campground, and the Visitor Centre

In early July some of the Covid restrictions were lifted and some groups were able to put together camps and retreats that fit the new guidelines according to ministry of health protocols and expectations.

The size of the groups over the summer, and running into the fall, have been limited in numbers because of covid. Nevertheless, we have been able to provide some part time work for our seasonal staff and I believe that CLEC continues to be a positive economic generator for our community and local businesses.

Given the recent challenges of more covid concerns, I suspect that bookings over the winter months will be affected and hope that higher vaccination rates because of government mandates will help to have a stronger spring and summer for 2022.

Five of the next 7 bookings are from new customers and it still appears that most of these bookings come from referrals.

The number of participants in each group varies from 20 which is our minimum size to 50.

The centre is available to groups and organizations throughout the year however, at this point in time, groups are more attracted to Lake Cowichan during the more pleasant weather, all enquiries are addressed in a timely fashion with positive responses.

The organizations using the centre are diverse.

Youth that attend camp from different parts of the province, adult self-help organizations, Post Secondary Education students, First Nation communities and specialized gatherings that focus on personal growth themes and the occasional wedding.

What we don't book, are groups under twenty people and drop in requests that would require staff and security in some situations that would be costly and perhaps create costs without any return.

Lakeview Park campground and public beach had a banner year for visits and exceeded our financial projections.

As stated many times, we do have some maintenance and improvements to do before next season.

A contractor will remove the walkway as soon as the water gets higher in the lake, and I have begun to look at Grants to replace it and will / should have more information to report on those steps in the next couple of months.

We anticipate that we will be able to recycle the floatation and therefore reduce the costs somewhat.

The summer staff and I have pages of changes for next year and some will have budgetary requirements and others are related to operations and website and rules and regulations that don't require funds.

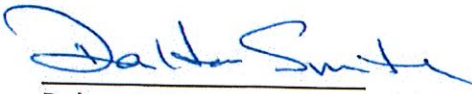
The summer staff as always were a great team.

The campground is operating with limited staff until the closing of the campground on Sept 26th.

The Visitor's centre has also been a busy place even during a year of covid and the staff have been very helpful to the many people that drop in there to ask for tourist information. Staff have organized the inside of the building so that it is inviting and user friendly while adhering to covid protocols.

They have also prepared a number of handouts, kept statistics, and monitored the pamphlets. A job well done, and the local knowledge has been very important.

The Visitors Centre will also close on Sept 26th, 2021.


Dalton Smith