



GRANT-IN-AID APPLICATION

Fraser Valley Regional District, 45950 Cheam Ave, Chilliwack BC, V2P 1N6

Applicant Name: **Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Strategy, aka CLASS**_____

Mailing Address: **c/o 4222 Columbia Valley Hwy., Cultus Lake, B.C. V2R 5B6**

Email Address: _____

or _____

Contact: Name

Telephone:

Christina Toth – _____

Dave Clyne – _____

Statement as to eligibility to apply for Grant-In-Aid Funds (Please attach a separate sheet if required):

CLASS is a community group based in FVRD's Electoral Area H, in the Cultus Lake community and watershed. As it is a non-registered society, its finances are administered in an independent bank account by Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition, which is a registered non-profit charity based in Chilliwack, and which is of good standing.

APPLICATION SUMMARY:

Project or purpose for which you require assistance (Please attach a separate sheet if required):

_____**See attached sheet below, please.**

Statement as to how these funds will benefit the community or an aspect of the community (Please attach a separate sheet if required):

_____**Also on attached sheet below please.** _

Amount of Grant Requested: \$ 2,000

****Please note:** grants over \$4,000 require a financial statement and/or report on the applicant to be provided with the application.

To the best of my knowledge, all the information that is provided in this application is true and correct. Furthermore, I hereby certify that this application for assistance is NOT being made on behalf of an individual, industry, commercial or business undertaking.

July 7, 2020 _____ Signature of

Authorized Signatory and Title

Amount Approved:

Date:

Signature of Electoral Area Director

Grant in Aid application – supplemental page

Application Summary: Project or purpose for which you require assistance:

CLASS Outreach Documents – The GIA funds will be used to print materials important to support stewardship programs in the Cultus Lake area, or to print items that are beneficial to the local and visiting communities as public awareness and education materials.

Topics include:

- **Canada Goose management**, with the message to the public to NOT feed the geese. CLASS members have helped with the goose counts over two years;
- **Cultus Lake water quality and cultural eutrophication**, based on the science to date from the DFO Lakes Research Program;
- **Smallmouth Bass mitigation program** – this is an introduced invasive fish that will have negative impacts on the endangered Cultus Lake Pygmy Sculpin, and the threatened Cultus Lake Sockeye Salmon alevin and juveniles, both species that are unique to the lake. A current study requires anglers to return fish with visible tags;
- **Other printed materials** may include information about invasive quagga and zebra mussels, invasive plants, anti-litter messaging, or other pressing stewardship issues that arise in the coming year or so;
- **General outreach materials** (brochures, rack card and/or decals) about the Cultus Lake Stewards (CLASS), their mandate and their stewardship efforts, with an invitation to join or otherwise support those efforts.
- Finally, **CLASS will invest resources to retool its website** and update written materials on the website for the benefit of the public and the environment. Remaining funds will be applied to the technical support in upgrading the site.

Outreach print materials can be important tools that help our volunteers to inform and engage our community members, whether they are residents or visitors to the area.

It should be noted that while the Grant in Aid funds will be used to cover print costs of these outreach materials, the distribution and display of the printed goods are carried out by volunteers on a volunteer basis – for example, Canada Goose brochures will be shared among the Cultus Lake neighbourhoods, park offices, Tourism Chilliwack or other appropriate sites. The smallmouth bass brochures will be supplied to sport fishing outlets and to local angler groups.

When public health regulations allow, CLASS volunteers will be back at community events such as All About Fishing, Cultus Lake Days and so on, to share the educational materials as they have conversations with people young and old who are interested in learning about the environmental topics and gifts related to Cultus Lake. In the past, CLASS volunteers have contributed countless hours at community events, informing young and old visitors about the importance and value of keeping Cultus Lake environmentally sound – the outreach materials are critical tools to help that conversation begin.

Statement as to how these funds will benefit the community or an aspect of the community:

For 13 years, the Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Strategy has been the eyes and ears, as well as the community educator, on all things related to the environmental condition of the lake.

CLASS has become the trusted source of such information and guidance, and an important stewardship partner in the Cultus community.

Its mandate is to provide science-based, non-partisan information to the public to promote the protection of the environmental values of Cultus Lake, for the benefit of people, yes, but first for the lake and watershed ecosystem. CLASS members do this in part through online platforms, person to person meetings, and with printed educational tools.

Specifically, these GIA funds will enable CLASS to have outreach communications tools that provide information to the public about:

- FVRD's safe, humane Canada goose management plan underway at Cultus Lake to reduce the negative impacts the non-native, non-migratory birds have on public areas, and to ask locals and visitors to help the program by not feeding the geese in order to keep them healthy, and to keep the public spaces healthy, clean and safe for everyone;
- The provincial government's program to reduce and control smallmouth bass, a fish recently illegally introduced into the lake, and which poses a significant threat to the lake's two unique endemic species, the Cultus Lake Pygmy Sculpin and the Cultus Lake Sockeye Salmon, both deemed to be at risk;
- The most recent science (2019) on changes in water quality in Cultus Lake, the process of cultural eutrophication which is currently underway, and how this issue may be addressed in order to preserve water quality and aquatic biodiversity for the benefit of all lake users and inhabitants in the near future and in the long term;
- Other urgent or evolving environmental and stewardship issues that may arise;
- Latest science, environmental and stewardship news as it relates to Cultus Lake, and the work being done by CLASS and its partners, at cultusstewards.ca

CLASS is a non-profit, non-registered group comprised of local individuals, community and environmental groups, and representatives from all levels of government. It has its roots in the Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy, initiated by Fraser Basin Council and local groups in the early 2000s. Since 2007, CLASS has provided an educational and advisory role to the Cultus community, with FBC providing secretariat support on behalf of the FVRD.