



## **COWICHAN LAKE SALMONID ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY**

**Date: June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

**Re: Outdoor Learning Program Class Report**

**From: Bob Crandall CLSES**

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) Senior Biologist Sean Wong partnered with Cowichan Tribes on a project to revive the Oxbow side channel that is part of the Cowichan River system. This effort included removal of a failed culvert and installing an arched culvert with gravel bottom. The project will move into Phase II next year. Being springtime we at the Cowichan Lake Salmonid Enhancement Society (CLSES) & Hatchery have both Chum and Coho Salmon fry available for out-planting.

On Thursday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Outdoor Learning Program students joined us at the Hatchery to load water and salmon fry into the transport truck tank. Twenty-four six and seventh grade students from Lake Cowichan Middle/High School with Teaching Instructor Shannon Steininger were in attendance. The salmon fry were loaded up and transported to the Oxbow Side Channel where both students and CLSES Volunteers transferred the fry into the side channel.

Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations MFLNRO Employee from Forestry Station in Mesachie Lake Andrew Coster brought Western Red Cedar and Douglas Fir trees for us all to plant. Both Andrew and Sean assisted with the planting stream side.

Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) supported this activity with a grant for Outdoor Learning Program with CLSES. The students learned about juvenile salmon, fish habitat and stream side native tree species.

**Photos next page:**



Loading Hatchery water into transport tank.



Students loading fry.



Loading fry into pails on site.



Releasing fry into Oxbow side channel.



Outdoor Learning Program Instructor Shannon Steinger doing the heavy lifting.



Releasing far upstream allows the fish to imprint on this stream (scent).



Lunchbreak on the shores of the Cowichan River (river temp 10 d C).



Sean (MOTI) and Mateo (student) start the planting session.



Planting continues while Kevin Rothbauer (Cowichan Valley Citizen) supervises.



2021 Outdoor Learning Class and Bob



Grow Kids Grow! ><:>

**Note:** Class field trip to the Cowichan Bay Estuary Centre for micro plastics course is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>. Class field trip for trapping juvenile salmonids and fish identification in the Elk Garden Side Channels of Shaw Creek is scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup>.

More reports to follow.

Big Thanks to Everyone who helped make this possible.