



CULTUS LAKE PARK BOARD REGULAR MEETING NOTICE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

7:00 PM

CULTUS LAKE PARK OFFICE BOARDROOM
4165 COLUMBIA VALLEY HIGHWAY, CULTUS LAKE, BC

The Cultus Lake Park Board Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, in the Cultus Lake Park Office Boardroom at 7:00 pm.

Please feel free to join the meeting in person or electronically via Zoom. Participants will be muted upon entry to the meeting but will be able to ask questions during the Public Question Period.

Please note you are required to have your cameras on when entering the meeting to confirm your identity.

Join the Zoom Meeting:

Cultus Lake Park Board Regular Meeting
September 17, 2025, at 7:00 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89235402053?pwd=OAmifPgGc71g0WYcmTbTC43BsGTP0.1>

Meeting ID: 892 3540 2053

Passcode: 919177

The Cultus Lake Park Board Regular Meeting video will be available to view on our website the following day at www.cultuslake.bc.ca/board-meeting-videos/.



CULTUS LAKE PARK BOARD

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

7:00 PM

CULTUS LAKE PARK OFFICE BOARDROOM
4165 COLUMBIA VALLEY HIGHWAY, CULTUS LAKE, BC

(1) CALL TO ORDER

(2) RESOLUTION TO PROCEED TO CLOSED MEETING (8:00 PM)

***THAT** the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to the following sections of the Community Charter:*

Section 90 (1), (d), security of the property of the municipality; (j) information that is prohibited or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

(3) RECONVENE

(4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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- (a) ***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve amending the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of September 17, 2025, by adding to the agenda cover page under, Section 11, (a), Reports by Commissioners, Cultus Lake Christmas, Resolution:*

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board waive the parking fees in Parking Lot A and B and allow parking by donation on Saturday, November 22, 2025;*

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the Agenda as amended; and*

***THAT** all delegations, reports, correspondence, and other information set to the Agenda be received.*

(5) DELEGATION

(6) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

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- (a) ***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board adopt the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held August 20, 2025.*

(7) ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

Page 7

- (a) ***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the Environmental and Public Area's Planning Committee Meeting Minutes from June 9, 2025.*

(8) CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Supporting the work of CLASS and the Economic Valuation Study - Cultus Lake Stewardship

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- Letter dated August 25, 2025, from Dave Clyne, Chair, Cultus Lake Stewards
- Letter of support dated February 23, 2025, from Dan T, Selbie, PHD

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board consider funding during the 2026 budget discussion to support the Economic Valuation Study proposed by Cultus Lake Stewardship.*

(b) Sudden Impact Paddling Group - Parking Passes

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- Letter dated September 7, 2025, from Jonathan Willcocks; Past-Commodore & Community Outreach, SIPC

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board refer the request from Sudden Impact Paddling Group for a one-hour extension from 10 am on Saturday's staff to consider during budget discussions.*

(9) CONSENT AGENDA

(10) REPORTS BY STAFF

(a) Chilliwack Tourism, Holly Jolly, 3D Display Idea

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- Report dated September 17, 2025, from Rachel Litchfield, Manager of Corporate Services / Corporate Officer

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve Chilliwack Tourism's, Holly Jolly, 3D Display Idea to be displayed at Main Beach during the holiday season; and*

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board requests that park staff work with Chilliwack Tourism to finalize details of the Holly Jolly display and to confirm when the display will be available to the public during the holiday season for advertising purposes.*

(b) Cultus Lake Cross Country Run

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- Report dated September 17, 2025, from Carmen Baker, Administrative Assistant, Communications & Events Coordinator
- Attachment 1; Event application
- Attachment 2; Map of run location

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the Cultus Lake Cross Country Run for Vedder Middle School event on October 16, 2025; and*

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve 75 parking waivers for Lot B.*

(11) REPORTS BY COMMISSIONERS

(a) Cultus Lake Christmas

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- Report dated September 17, 2025, from John Beesley, Chair, Community Events & Engagement Committee

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board Community Events and Engagement Committee recommends to the Board to host the Cultus Lake Park Christmas event to be held on Saturday, November 22, 2025, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Main Beach.

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board waive the parking fees in Parking Lot A and B and allow parking by donation on Saturday, November 22, 2025.

(b) **Understanding Cyanobacteria Blooms**

- Report dated September 17, 2025, from Commissioner, Darcy Bauer
- Article, Understanding Cyanobacteria Blooms: A Community Concern

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board receive the Understanding Cyanobacteria Bloom report for information; and

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board considers funding during the 2026 budget discussion to support options to reduce both the risk and growth of Cyanobacteria Bloom.

(12) COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

(13) PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

(14) ADJOURNMENT

THAT the Regular Meeting of the Cultus Lake Park Board held on September 17, 2025, be adjourned.

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CULTUS LAKE PARK BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025
CULTUS LAKE PARK OFFICE BOARDROOM
4165 COLUMBIA VALLEY HIGHWAY, CULTUS LAKE, BC

Present Commissioner K. Dzaman – Chair
Commissioner J. Beesley – Vice Chair
Commissioner E. Jartved
Commissioner T. Moul
Commissioner D. Bauer

Staff Chief Administrative Officer – J. Lamb
Manager of Corporate Services / Corporate Officer – R. Litchfield
Chief Financial Officer – E. Lee
Manager of Park Operations – T. McKay
Manager of Sunnyside Campground & Accommodations – C. Volk
Administrative Clerk, Communications & Events Coordinator – C. Baker

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm and acknowledged that we are gathered here today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Th'ewa'li First Nations. We are grateful for the hospitality to live, work and play on these lands.

(2) RESOLUTION TO PROCEED TO CLOSED MEETING

5646-25 Moved by: Commissioner Moul Seconded by: Commissioner Jartved

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to the following sections of the Community Charter:

Section 90 (1), (d), security of the property of the municipality; (e), the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality; (f) law enforcement, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct of an investigation under or enforcement of an enactment; (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

CARRIED

(3) RECONVENE

(4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5647-25 Moved by: Commissioner Jartved Seconded by: Commissioner Bauer

- (a) ***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve amending the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of August 20, 2025; by removing and replacing item 8 (a) 2025 Second Quarter Report – Parking Waiver Fees, and by removing and replacing items 9 (a) 2025 Cultus Lake Swilhcha Community School Events Report, (b) British Motor Club Picnic Event, (c) Cultus Lake Triathlon Event report;*

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the Agenda as amended; and*

***THAT** all delegations, reports, correspondence, and other information set to the Agenda be received.*

CARRIED

(5) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5648-25 Moved by: Commissioner Beesley Seconded by: Commissioner Bauer

- (a) ***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board adopt the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held July 16, 2025.*

CARRIED

(6) ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

5649-25 Moved by: Commissioner Bauer Seconded by: Commissioner Jartved

- (a) ***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the Village Center Planning and Development Committee Meeting Minutes from June 26, 2025.*

CARRIED

(7) CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) **Buoy, Dock Whips, or Boat Lift Installed**

- Email dated July 16, 2025; from Mike Laurin, resident of Cultus Lake Park

- (b) **First Aid Course Request 2025**

- Letter dated July 9, 2025; from Willcocks, Past-Commodore, SIPC

5650-25 Moved By: Commissioner Moul Seconded by: Commissioner Jartved

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board request that staff coordinate a date with Sudden Impact Paddling Club and to offer either the Cultus Lake Boardroom or the Community Hall, free of charge to host the First Aid Course.*

CARRIED

(8) CONSENT AGENDA

(a) 2025 Second Quarter Reports

- Finance
- Parking
- Bylaw Compliance and Enforcement
- Public Works
- Sunnyside Campground and Accommodations
- Fire Department
- Lease Assignment
- Parking Fee Waivers

5651-25 Moved by: Commissioner Moul Seconded by: Commissioner Jartved

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board receive the 2025 Second Quarter reports for information.*

CARRIED

(b) Cultus Lake Park Events

- (a) Sunnyside Luau, August 3, 2025
- (b) Miller Lite Photoshoot, August 13, 2025
- (c) Lakeshore Drive & Munroe Ave Block Party, August 22, 2025
- (d) Sunnyside Pig Roast, September 6, 2025

5652-25 Moved By: Commissioner Moul Seconded by: Commissioner Jartved

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board receive the Cultus Lake Park Event reports for information.*

CARRIED

(9) REPORTS BY STAFF

(a) 2025 Cultus Lake Swilhcha Community School Events

- Report dated August 20, 2025, from Carmen Baker, Administrative Assistant, Communications & Event Coordinator
- Attachment 1; Welcome Back BBQ Event Application
- Attachment 2; Remembrance Day Assembly Event Application
- Attachment 3; Winter Concert Event Application

5653-25 Moved by: Commissioner Moul Seconded by: Commissioner Jartved

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the waiver of parking fees for up to 280 participant vehicles in Parking Lot B on September 24, 2025, for the Welcome Back BBQ event from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm;*

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the waiver of parking fees for up to 80 participant vehicles in Parking Lot B on November 7, 2025, for the Remembrance Day Assembly event from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm;*

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the waiver of parking fees for up to 100 participant vehicles in Parking Lot B on December 10, 2025, for the Winter Concert rehearsal event from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm;

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the waiver of parking fees for up to 100 participant vehicles in Parking Lot B on December 11, 2025, for the Winter Concert event from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm; and

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the waiver of parking fees for up to 300 participant vehicles in Parking Lot B on December 11, 2025, for the Winter Concert event from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

CARRIED

(b) **British Motor Club Picnic**

- Report dated August 20, 2025, from Carmen Baker, Administrative Assistant, Communications & Event Coordinator
- Attachment 1; Event Application

5654-25 Moved by: Commissioner Moul Seconded by: Commissioner Bauer

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the British Motor Club Picnic event held on Sunday, September 7, 2025, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at Main Beach; and

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the waiver of parking fees for up to thirty participant vehicles in Parking Lot B from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

CARRIED

(c) **Cultus Lake Triathlon Event**

- Report dated August 20, 2025, from Carmen Baker, Administrative Assistant, Communications & Event Coordinator
- Attachment 1; Event Application
- Attachment 2; Letter to the Board
- Attachment 3; Swim Course Maps
- Attachment 4; Bike Course Maps
- Attachment 5; Running Course Maps
- Attachment 6; Traffic Management Plan 2025

5655-25 Moved by: Commissioner Jartved Seconded by: Commissioner Beesley

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the Cultus Lake Triathlon event from September 12 to 15, 2025, subject to staff review and approval of an updated Traffic Management Plan;

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board permit one (1) operational and equipment and one (1) storage trailer to park overnight for the duration of the event in Parking Lot B;

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board permit one (1) vehicle to park overnight in the lower access roadway at Main Beach for security purposes for the duration of the event;

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board approve waiving parking fees for fifteen (15) volunteers; and

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board permit use of two (2) generators from 7:30 am to 1:00 pm on Sunday, September 14, 2025, for the purpose of operating equipment at the Main Beach docks and the finish line of the race at Main Beach.

CARRIED

(10) REPORTS BY COMMISSIONERS

(11) COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Cultus Lake Community Association noted there has been an increase in e-bike and e-scooter usage along the waterfront path. They noted that they are concerned that it will only be a matter of time before someone gets hurt, and inquired if there is there anything that can be done to prevent this from occurring?

Chair Dzaman noted that there is an increase in communication with e-scooters and e-bikes, especially along the waterfront path. He noted that the Board has been gathering data from Cultus Lake Bylaw Enforcement as well as receipt of community reports and interactions. The Board is looking at precedence set by other municipalities regarding this matter. Chair Dzaman noted that the Board can govern the park via Bylaws on e-scooters and e-bikes.

Chair Dzaman would like to request parents of children who own e-bikes, or e-vehicles, to please have a conversation with their kids about the safety around e-vehicles.

(12) PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Laurel Shears, resident, inquired about events in the park and what information gets sent out about smoking limitations in the park? She noted that we do not have a no smoking sign on the west side.

Staff noted that to the event organizers that have been organizing this event for several years, when they submit their event application, and staff review it they do receive an approval letter that states they do need to comply with the park bylaws. Staff noted that we had some concerns with respect to smoking and drinking in the park with other participants of those groups, and we have been able to seek compliance.

Laurel Shears, resident, also inquired as to when the Community Hall repairs would be completed as we approach the rainy season.

Staff noted that we have received five (5) quotes for repairs/restoration. Staff noted that we won't be making a claim through our insurance as the deductible is too high. Staff further noted that we are currently working with ICBC to get approval of one of those five (5) quotes. Once ICBC provides approval we are hoping to have it completed in the Fall.

Steve Marks, owner of Cultus Lake Marina, wished to bring to the Boards attention regarding dust control in parking Lot C. He noted that he had requested three (3) dust control applications; one in June, July & August. He noted that the cost is roughly over \$1,000 per one application at Cultus Lake Marina. He noted that to date there has only been one dust control application

applied. He noted that he would like to propose a solution, and noted he has support from all four of his bordering neighbors in this request. He then read the support letters for the neighbors and noted they will be submitted to the Board. He noted for the Board's attention from the National Institute of Occupational Safety regarding silica and its dust the health effects and the exposure could cause silicosis. He noted that it concerns staff and elderly in the area. As an investment in the community in which he lives and works, he pledges to cover the balance of the cost for paving Lot C. He further noted that all lots in the park are paved currently.

Commissioner Jartved commented that it is a very generous offer. She referenced the dust from Lot A, she noted that it would be great to have the lot paved with the gravel pit and Main Beach and can become very dusty. If paved she noted the water that runs off the lot will run directly into the lake, which leads to concerns about the health of our lake, which would need to be addressed. She further noted that our new Green Shores project at the foot bridge was designed to help filter the water that comes off the road. The health of the lake needs to be considered as well before we decide whether we pave the lot or not is to consider the future health of the lake.

Steve Marks, owner of Cultus Lake Marina, noted that with respect to a separator where when you have a lot of water it funnels and/or into a storm drain. He noted that health is more important, and projected costs are approximately \$15 to \$20 thousand dollars, cost prohibited.

Chair Dzaman noted that there are many things to consider.

Brad Shears, resident, inquired about what is happening with the benthic mats in Sweltzer Creek.

Staff noted we lost several mats, and we haven't dedicated any further budgeting to that project. The last count we lost fifteen mats, due to damage caused by weather and storms. It was noted by staff that the original twelve mats were purchased by the twelve homes surrounding Sweltzer Creek.

Brent Shirley, resident, inquired about the Village Center Development and the RFP response(s). He further inquired about the sewer and asked if the streets are connected.

Chair Dzaman noted that there is an RFP with four proponents interested at this time, however, currently there is no information to share as the deadline for submissions is the end of September. He noted that we look forward to seeing some things that align with what the park is looking for. Chair Dzaman noted the sewer is working and those interested can refer to the Fraser Valley Regional Districts website for more information.

Joe Lamb, Chief Administrative Officer, confirmed that it is fully operational and has been operating since March 15th with a 6-month window of monitoring flows, bacteria growth and so on. He further confirmed that the treed streets are connected.

ADJOURNMENT

(13)

5656-25

Moved by: Commissioner Moul Seconded by: Commissioner Jartved

***THAT** the Regular Meeting of the Cultus Lake Park Board held on August 20, 2025, be adjourned at 7:58 pm.*

CARRIED

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct account of the meeting of the Cultus Lake Park Board held August 20, 2025.

Kirk Dzaman
Chair

Joe Lamb
Chief Administrative Officer



CULTUS LAKE PARK BOARD ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC AREA'S PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025
CULTUS LAKE PARK OFFICE BOARDROOM
4165 COLUMBIA VALLEY HIGHWAY, CULTUS LAKE, BC

**Present
Committee
Members**

Commissioner E. Jartved – Chair
Commissioner D. Bauer – Vice Chair – Via Zoom
K. Vander Helm
R. LeBlanc
B. Senft
G. Smit
G. Coton

Staff

Chief Administrative Officer – J. Lamb
Manager of Park Operations – T. McKay
Events Coordinator & Committee Clerk – H. Hill

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm and acknowledged that we are gathered on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the The'wa':li First Nation. We are grateful for the hospitality to live, work and play on these lands.

(2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by: B. Senft Seconded by: K. Vander Helm

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board Environmental and Public Area's Planning Committee approve the Agenda for the Meeting of June 9, 2025; and*

***THAT** all delegations, reports, correspondence and other information set to the Agenda be received.*

CARRIED

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by: G. Smit Seconded by: G. Coton

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board Environmental and Public Area's Planning Committee approve the Minutes for the Meeting of February 24, 2025.*

CARRIED

(3) CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Letter of Request from Lakeshore Drive Residents

- Letter dated May 8, 2025, from D. Clyne on behalf of various Lakeshore Drive residents

Committee members reviewed the letter of request from Lakeshore Drive residents and noted that the area was originally planted with native species plants but has since become overgrown with invasive plants and blackberry bushes. Staff noted that in order for the request for work to move forward, financial resources will need to be appropriated, and an application made for a work permit that will also need to be approved by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and an Environmentalist.

Moved by: K. Vander Helm Seconded by: R. LeBlanc

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Environmental and Public Area's Planning Committee recommends to the Board to direct staff to apply for a permit to have the blackberries removed as a starting point and reassess after the work is complete.*

CARRIED

(4) REPORTS BY STAFF

Joe Lamb, Chief Administrative Officer, introduced the new Landscape/Gardener, Baljinder Singh, to the committee members. Staff confirmed he will report to the Public Works Supervisor for daily tasks and to the Manager of Park Operations for special assignments.

(5) NEW BUSINESS

(a) CLASS Correspondence for Discussion

- Purple Loosestrife
- Car or house washing recommendations to share to residents
- Cultus Lake Park Tree Registry

Committee members noted they have spoken with members of Cultus Lake Stewardship Society (CLASS) to discuss a plan for the entire lake area. Committee members also noted they will contact the Fraser Valley Invasives Species Society (FVISS) to determine the best course of action for removing loosestrife. Staff asked the committee members to notify them when they locate loosestrife within the park, and they will take action to remove it.

Committee members noted they have put posters on the community boards with respect to car washing as an educational awareness campaign and will ask the Cultus Lake Community Association to send out to their subscribers. Committee members also noted they could invite Dr. Dan Selbie to a public community event to provide further education on the health of the lake.

Committee members discussed the various reasons to consider having a Tree Registry within the park. Joe Lamb, Chief Administrative Officer, noted that staff could review the Committee Terms of Reference for next year with respect to education regarding trees and plants within the park, and that this program would require a request from CLASS to the Board for funding.

(b) **Volunteer Roles**

- Clarity on areas and planning for a weeding Board Committee System Policy

Joe Lamb, Chief Administrative Officer, noted that no one other than park staff should be weeding in the park, however, if committee members wanted to organize a volunteer day, they would need to send the request to the Manager of Park Operations for approval. He also noted that if committee members wanted to establish adoptable areas, they would require approval from the Board and CUPE Local 458 Representatives.

(c) **Invasives**

- Blackberry Spray in the Fall

Joe Lamb, Chief Administrative Officer, noted that work for weed control will be done in the fall in Parking Lot B. He further noted that the Manager of Park Operations will meet with committee members at the south section for their input.

(d) **Mowing**

Committee members discussed different mowing heights for grass areas within the park. Committee members noted they could ask members of CLASS to invite the organizer of the Climate Fair for a delegation with the Board to discuss the benefits to wildlife in leaving the grass at higher lengths and planting clover in areas. Joe Lamb, Chief Administrative Officer, noted that mowing at different heights would require changing the mower set-ups, which would pose a challenge.

Committee members also noted they could ask members of CLASS to invite Mike Flannigan to discuss fire safety at a delegation with the Board in the fall.

(6) PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

(7) NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be scheduled for one (1) hour on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 4:00 pm.

(8) ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: G. Smit Seconded by: R. LeBlanc

THAT the Environmental and Public Area's Planning Committee meeting held on June 9, 2025, be adjourned at 5:27 pm.

CARRIED

From: Cultus Lake Stewardship
Sent: August 25, 2025
To: Cultus Lake Park Board Members
Cc: info@cultusstewards.ca; Rachel Litchfield; Joe Lamb;
Keri Ardell; Chief Brenda Wallace; Dr. Daniel Selbie



Subject: Supporting the work of CLASS and the Economic Valuation Study

Hello, Cultus Lake Park Board Commissioners

Since 2007, the Cultus Lake Stewardship Society (CLASS) has been protecting this gift of the lake and surrounding watershed, and we want to show the economic value that a healthy lake brings to the area.

We have initiated a research project in partnership with UBC Okanagan, Dr. John Janmaat and Masters Student Leonie Steigenberger. In 2026, starting in May thru August, they will conduct a visitor survey based on the Travel Cost and Contingent Behaviour approaches. A Contingent Behaviour survey is *Contingent valuation which involves directly asking people, in a survey, how much they would be willing to pay for a specific environmental service.*

Deliverables:

1. Ongoing interactions between CLASS and Janmaat/Steigenberger to:
 - a. Refine aspects of research to best meet needs of CLASS,
 - b. Open the 'black box' that research can become if a regular exchange is not part of the project.
2. A visitor survey based on the Travel Cost and Contingent Behavior approaches.
 - a. A travel cost survey provides a dollar value representing the enjoyment current visitors receive.
 - b. A contingent behavior survey provides an indication of how visitor numbers and behaviors may change in response to a deterioration in the health of the Cultus Lake system.
 - c. Combined, provide a dollar value representing the decrease in enjoyment visitors expect to receive if the health of the Cultus Lake system deteriorates.
 - d. The survey can be adapted and used again at a future date to explore how things have changed.
3. A report and presentation for CLASS to use in their communications and efforts related to protecting the health of Cultus Lake.
4. Several presentations by Steigenberger and/or Janmaat over the duration of and after the conclusion of the project, to support the work of CLASS and/or explain how the research results can be used to inform policy.
5. A UBC Okanagan master's thesis and a student with a master's degree.
6. CLASS would be responsible for reporting back to the Commissioners on a regular basis on progress if desired.
7. Include Soowahlie First Nation and Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe Management Limited [TTML] with updates of the project.

There will be 2 semesters in 2026 that we will need some help funding. Some of the costs are incurred by UBC and there is matching funding from MITACS (<https://www.mitacs.ca/>), a nonprofit that co-invests in research-based internship programs. CLASS has committed \$7,500 for 2025 with help from the Park Board commissioners.

We'd like to ask for your support of up to \$27,000 towards this project in 2026 for the masters student and an intern. This covers the CLASS portion of a reasonable salary, accommodation, food, travel costs and tablets.

Attached is a support letter from Dr. Dan Selbie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada providing some background on the health of the lake.

You are a significant stakeholder and know the value that a healthy lake has to visitors, residents and business owners. We look forward to hearing back from you on your thoughts and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Ernie Vance.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Clyne". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dave Clyne, Chair
dave@cultusstewards.ca
www.cultusstewards.ca



Cultus Lake Salmon Research Laboratory 4222 Columbia Valley Hwy.
Cultus Lake, BC V2R 5B6

February 23, 2025

Habitat Conservation Trust Fund Selection Committee
Capacity Grants

Re: Cultus Lake Stewardship Society (CLASS) – Habitat Conservation Trust Fund Application for Capacity Grant 2025

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing in full support of the Cultus Lake Stewardship Society (CLASS) application seeking 2025 HCTF Capacity Grant funds to quantify the environmental/ecological services that Cultus Lake and its watershed provide to Society. The proponents are seeking matching funding to a current MITACS application, permitting a thorough analysis of the system's contribution to regional wealth and well-being, led by an expert in the field, [Dr. John Janmaat of UBC Okanagan](#), who ties his roots to the local community in Chilliwack. This project is an crucial thrust of multi-lateral community, government, and Indigenous-led engagements and actions to preserve the ecological integrity of Cultus Lake, and address known stressors on water quality.

Monetizing ecological services is a key approach to supporting Society in effective valuation of the environment, which is commonly treated as an externality in policy and budgetary decision-making. Doing so leads to explicit environmental consideration and mitigation more likely to be commensurate with the true value of the ecological benefits derived by Society. A preliminary estimate, predicated upon historical road traffic of 2-3 million people visiting the lake, yielded annual contributions of 10's to 100's of millions of dollars (2018), and expert recommendation that detailed estimates be derived to support environmental stewardship (Janmaat & Cebry 2018; i.e. this proposal).

I have had the distinct pleasure of working hand in hand with CLASS, as a primary science advisor for over 16 years, a relationship that has held a razor sharp focus on maintaining the ecological integrity of Cultus Lake, BC, through its various insults (i.e. excess nutrient inputs, climate warming, invasive species), and to sustain its diverse array of ecosystem services (e.g. ecological, economic, cultural). CLASS-DFO-SFU partnered monitoring and research revealed a complex habitat stressor problem (i.e. eutrophication x climate change; [Putt et al. 2019](#)), that imperils fish species at risk, the Cultus Sockeye Salmon (COSEWIC, Endangered; SARA, Under listing consideration; [Selbie et al. 2022](#)) and the Cultus Pygmy Sculpin (*Cottus aleuticus*, Cultus population; COSEWIC, Endangered; SARA, Threatened, Schedule 1; [Loudon et al. 2022](#)), by stimulating excess algal production, seasonal hypoxia in deepwater critical habitats, and internal loading of nutrients and contaminants from the sediments. Through the many twists of this complex environmental science journey, CLASS tirelessly found resourcing for graduate students and supplies, supported sampling, and advocated on behalf of lake health, disseminating knowledge to the community and politicians alike.

CLASS has been a steadfast supporter of science-first approaches to identifying and resolving these problems, and the science is clear: critical near-term interventions are needed to sustain the

Cultus Lake ecosystem from runaway eutrophication, and almost certain degradation, if not significant losses to societal benefits.



Figure 1 Anabaena spp. bloom Main Beach January 2025,

Such a complex problem requires an equally intricate habitat management context (i.e. watershed to airshed nutrient abatement, intermediate deepwater lake oxygenation), which touches many jurisdictions, but it is generally believed to be resolvable. Given strong and deep societal valuations of Cultus Lake (Robinson 2012; Janmaat and Cebry 2018), and that every value ascribed to the lake (e.g. recreation quality, foreshore property values, regional economy) is in some way tied to the preservation of water quality in the system, there is unique and strong Indigenous, societal, and inter-governmental alignment on the necessary pathway forward. As demonstrated through their application, CLASS continues to lead in this very important effort.

To realize this sustainable future, Cultus must be valued for what it is, but currently is not, the “Gem of the Fraser Valley” as it is called on the Fraser Valley Regional District website. To truly do so requires communities, elected officials, and Society writ large to be able to value what the lake provides, in a ‘currency’ that is directly comparable to other values, considered in estimations of

risk, and supportive of weighing expensive investments on implementing actions that sustain lake health (i.e. lake oxygenation, reducing agricultural emissions to atmosphere) for all values. Conservation actions at Cultus Lake are at a critical juncture to save species at risk, and a broader set of societal values are in jeopardy as water quality declines. The issue is exceptionally well-informed scientifically, with necessary and tangible conservation actions required and published, and an active stewardship group seeking to take the next steps.

The benefits of investing in this project scale broadly. A detailed ecological services valuation of the lake and its watershed is critically-timed now to properly inform considerations of risk, decisions to invest in stressor mitigation, and collective action on watershed to regional airshed nutrient pollution, which will be essential for Cultus Lake and the myriad other aquatic ecosystems of the BC Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley to weather the intense predicted thermal and hydrological effects of climate change. I sincerely hope you will see the community stimulus potential in a demonstrably effectual proponent, and the means to facilitate substantial resolution of a critical and complex habitat management concern in British Columbia.

Kindest regards,

Daniel T. Selbie, Ph.D.

Head, Lakes Research Program, Salmon and Freshwater Ecosystems,
Science Branch, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Canada 



September 7th, 2025

From: Sudden Impact Paddling Club

To: Cultus Lake Parks Board

Re: SIPC Members Sunnyside Parking Passes

I'm writing this letter on behalf of our Paddling Club's need to add 1 hour to our parking time on Saturdays during the paddling season.

Our canoe club is growing through some growing pains as we register more members and develop more teams and need more time slots for paddling our big boats - mainly on Saturday mornings.

Currently members' parking passes allow them to park until 10am on weekends, and parking space is limited in the mornings, even when many members carpool.

In order to have 3 teams paddle our big boats on Saturday mornings, we need to add time slots. For example, hosting practises at 730-830am; 845-945am; 10-11am (aim of getting off the water just before 11am).

We would like to submit a request that our parking passes go until 11am on Saturdays so we have the capacity for members to park and paddle.

I am aware this may not be possible to do by October, but we would like to do it by April. We do need to know sooner than later so that teams can plan for and feel hopeful going through the winter and next spring.

NOTE: To make it easier for the Parks Board to approve this, if a potential concern is 1 hour lost parking income for 1 day per week over maybe 2 main summer months, an option could be for us to supplement some of this pay. Another option, since we only need it for about 20-30 paddlers (from 10-11am), that the computer / ticketing system for license plates is customizable and only those team paddlers log in for those hours. These are just a couple preliminary thoughts.

Thanks for your consideration. We hope for your support and look forward to any questions or feedback you may have.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Willcocks; Past-Commodore & Community Outreach, SIPC



CULTUS LAKE PARK

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD

DATE: September 17, 2025 **FILE:** 0230-20-250

SUBMITTED BY: Rachel Litchfield,
Manager of Corporate Services /
Corporate Officer

SUBJECT: Chilliwack Tourism, Holly Jolly, 3D Display Idea

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to provide the Board with information on Chilliwack Tourism's, Holly Jolly, 3D Display Idea for Cultus Lake Park.

RECOMMENDATION:

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve Chilliwack Tourism's, Holly Jolly, 3D Display Idea to be displayed at Main Beach during the holiday season; and*

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board requests that park staff work with Chilliwack Tourism to finalize details of the Holly Jolly display and to confirm when the display will be available to the public during the holiday season for advertising purposes.*

DISCUSSION:

Staff received an email from Carly Brkich, Destination Marketing Manager, Chilliwack Tourism on September 8, 2025. The email received outlines Chilliwack Tourism's Holly Jolly Chilliwack campaign plans, and the idea of installing 3D photo displays at key locations throughout the community, with Main Beach in mind during the holiday season. Staff have requested more information with respect to a timeline for the display set up during the holiday season.

The concept envisioned a layered, interactive display that invites guests to step between the elements to snap a festive holiday photo. The goal is to create a Holly Jolly-specific touchpoint amongst the lights at the lake, while also encouraging visitors to generate and share content that highlights their experience.

Presenting a vintage ornament design for Cultus with a display that would be built from durable aluminum, making it weather-resistant and sturdy enough to stay secure in a public space at Main Beach.

Chilliwack Tourism staff would like to work with Cultus Lake Park staff to find a suitable location that would benefit from a little extra holiday magic.

The display would not require electricity, however, to explore the option of adding spotlighting to enhance the experience in its placement.

The current build plan, conceptual drawing (attached) is just a starting point and is **NOT** the final design or size. The sizing presented at this time are 12 ft wide x 9 ft tall, pending the artwork. Constructed with aluminum composite panels with vibrant vinyl graphics. Inspirational photos are presented in the attachment as an example interactive of the 3D photo display.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

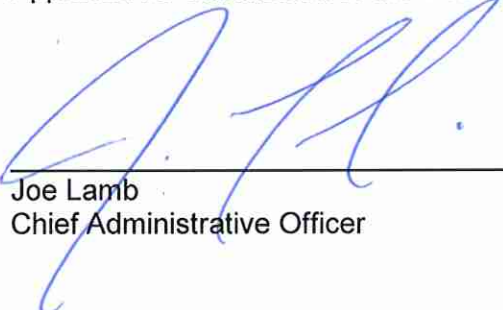
This report does not impact the Cultus Lake Park Board's Strategic Plan Initiative.

Prepared by:



Rachel Litchfield
Manager of Corporate Services /
Corporate Officer

Approved for submission to the Board:



Joe Lamb
Chief Administrative Officer

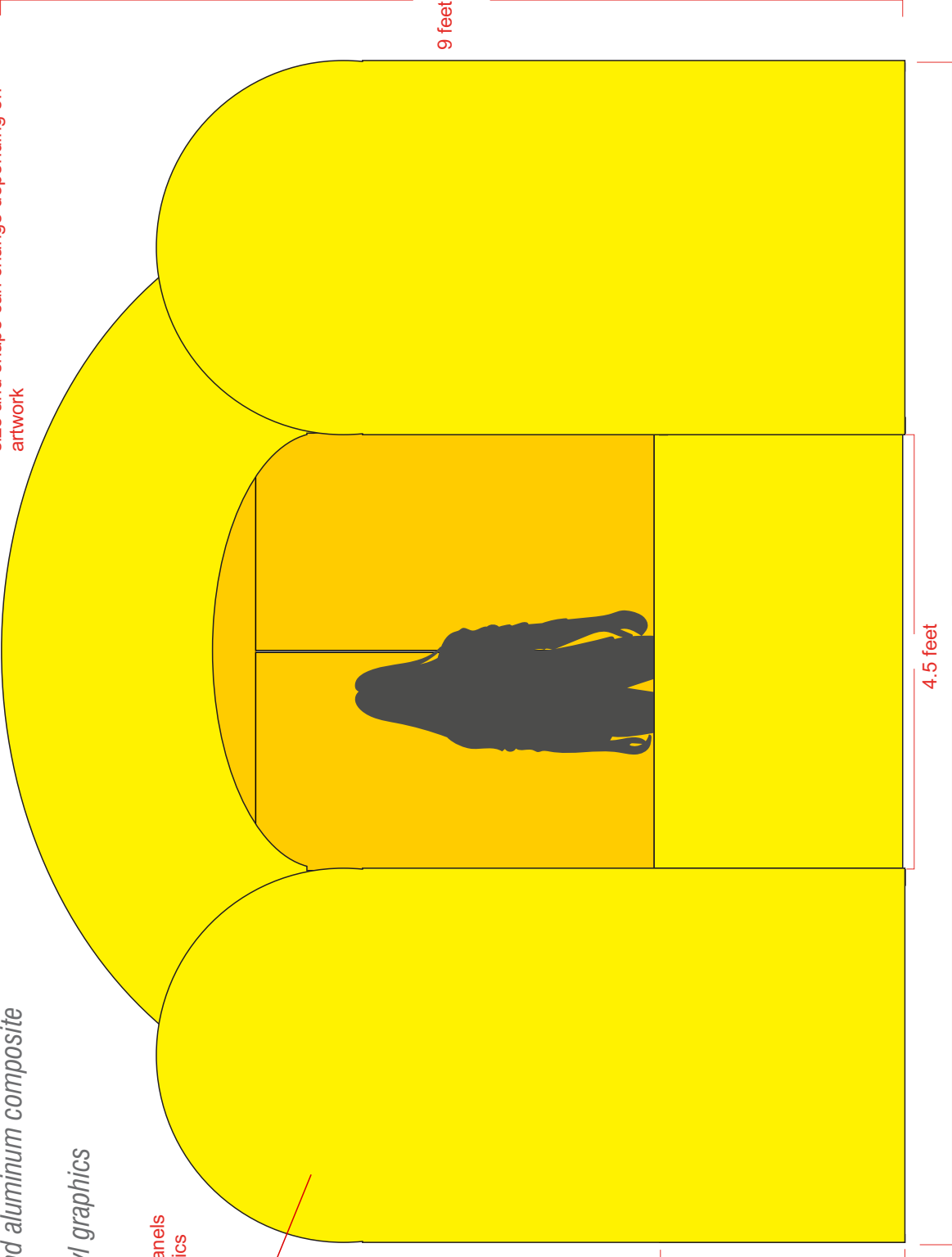
Photo stand - prototype

Specifications:

aluminum frame and aluminum composite photo display
two layers with vinyl graphics

size and shape can change depending on artwork

aluminum composite panels with vibrant vinyl graphics



CONCEPTUAL DRAWING

COMPANY:	Tourism chilliwack	DATE:	SEPT 4 2025	DESIGNER:	Summer	APPROVED BY	DATE
CLIENT:	Carly Brkich	PHONE:	604.	DESIGN FEES \$65/HR - DESIGN TIME TO DATE:		This drawing is an artist's concept only and may vary pending final product and/or site plan approvals.	
JOB #:	2025-	EMAIL:	<carly@tourismchilliwack.cbm>	PAGE:	1 / 1		

TEL 604.793.7930
FAX 604.793.7936
TOLL FREE 1.866.793.7939
45959 Alexander Avenue
Chilliwack BC V2P 1L7

PRIME Signs
www.primesigns.ca

Approval of this artwork confirms all content spelling, copy + graphics placement is correct.

Photo stand - prototype

Specifications:

aluminum frame and aluminum composite photo display
two layers with vinyl graphics



inspirational photos

aluminum frame

back layer of graphics

front layer of graphics

WATCH YOUR STEP

2-3 feet of inside space to stand

026

CONCEPTUAL DRAWING

12 feet

COMPANY:	Tourism chilliwack	DATE:	SEPT 4 2025	DESIGNER:	Summer	APPROVED BY:	DATE
CLIENT:	Carly Brkich	PHONE:	604.	DESIGN FEES \$65/HR - DESIGN TIME TO DATE:			
JOB #:	2025-	EMAIL:	<carly@tourismchilliwack.cbm>	PAGE:	1 / 1	This drawing is an artist's concept only and may vary pending final product and/or site plan approvals.	



CULTUS LAKE PARK

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD

DATE: September 17, 2025 **FILE:** 8100

SUBMITTED BY: Carmen Baker,
Administrative Assistant, Communications & Events Coordinator

SUBJECT: Cultus Lake Cross Country Run

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to provide the Board with information pertaining to the Cultus Lake Cross Country Run for Vedder Middle School event scheduled to be held on October 16, 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the Cultus Lake Cross Country Run for Vedder Middle School event on October 16, 2025; and*

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve 75 parking waivers for Lot B.*

DISCUSSION:

Staff received an event application (Attachment 1) from Vedder Middle School with a request to host the Cultus Lake Cross Country Run event on October 16, 2025, from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

This event will welcome approximately 75 students, from grades 6-8; both private and public schools of Chilliwack, Agassiz & Hope are welcome to attend.

The event will start from the school and go through the forest trails beside the school ground. (Attachment 2)

The event coordinator has requested 75 parking waivers for the students and their families for Lot B from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

Parking Waivers totals: \$5.20 x 1.5 hours = \$7.80 (plus \$2 infrastructure fee per transaction) = \$735.00 for 75 vehicles.

The event organizer will be required to provide the park with a Comprehensive General Liability Insurance Policy for not less than \$5 Million dollars, naming Cultus Lake Park as an Additional Insured, and pay the Event Fees listed below, per the Notice of Fees in the Event Bylaw No. 1255, 2025, no later than five (5) days prior to the event:

Application Fee:	\$100
Rental Fee:	\$250
Refundable Security Deposit	\$1000

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report does not impact the Cultus Lake Park Board's Strategic Plan Initiative.

Prepared by:



Carmen Baker
Administrative Assistant,
Communications & Events Coordinator

Approved for submission to the Board:



Joe Lamb
Chief Administrative Officer



2025 EVENT APPLICATION

4165 Columbia Valley Highway

Cultus Lake BC V2R 5B5

604.858.3334

reception@cultuslake.bc.ca

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED 90 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PROPOSED EVENT.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name(s):

1. Angela Olson

2.

Type of Organization: ☒ Not-for-Profit ☐ Registered Charity ☐ Indigenous Organization ☐ Other

Name of Organization: Vedder Middle School/ School District #33

Mailing Address:

Telephone Number:

1. [REDACTED]

2.

Mobile Number:

1. [REDACTED]

2.

Email Address:

1. [REDACTED]

2.

EVENT INFORMATION Mark with 'X' to request approved Event to be posted on Cultus Lake Park website ☐

Type of Event: ☒ Public Area Event ☐ Block Party Event ☐ Community Event

☐ Residential Lease Lot Event

☐ Commercial Lease Lot Event

Date(s): Thursday Oct 16, 2025

Name of Event:

Cultus Lake Cross Country Race for SD#33 Middle Scho

Location(s) of Event:

Cultus Lake Elementary and the forest area beside th 3pm to 4:30 pm

Hours of Event:

☐ Private Event

☒ Free Public Event

☐ Ticketed Public Event

EVENT DESCRIPTION

This would be race #3 for the middle schools of Chilliwack. It is open to all public school and private school students in grades 6-8. It will be one race for boys and girls starting at 3:30pm. The start and finish lines will be on the field at the elementary school, with the 3 kilometre course winding through the forest that is beside the school. The race will not cross any parking lots or roads. All participants should be done the race by 4pm at the latest, with everyone gone by 4:30pm.

ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE

Participants: 75

Spectators: 75

Staff/Volunteers: 5

FIRST AID ON SITE		☒ YES	☐ NO
May be required depending on the scope of the Event. Certification verification may also be required.			
SPECIAL REQUESTS			
Any waiver, exemption or allowance not outlined in the current Cultus Lake Park Bylaws and all amendments, Administrative Policies, that requires consideration by the Board, and are subject to additional fees.			
FOOD VENDOR		☐ YES	☒ NO
Type of Food Vendor(s). Provide Business Name if Applicable, Use a Separate Sheet if Needed:			
Total Vendors:		☐ Serving Staff/Volunteers/Participants Only	☐ Serving the Public
LIQUOR SERVICE OR BEVERAGE GARDEN		☐ YES	☒ NO
Total Occupancy:		☐ Serving at No Cost	☐ Serving at a Cost
Location of Liquor Servicer or Beverage Garden. Please Attach a Map if in Public Area:			
Fencing Details for Beverage Garden, if Applicable, Include Height, Type, # of entrances and Emergency Exits:			
Hours of Operation of Liquor Service or Beverage Garden:			
Security Company Name:		Lead Officer Contact Name:	
Phone:		Email:	
HIGHWAY CLOSURE			
Highway has the same meaning as in the <i>Motor Vehicle Act</i> (British Columbia)			
☐ Partial Highway Closure(s)	☐ Full Highway Closure(s)	☒ No Closure	
Hours of Road Use: none			
Location of Road Closure. Please Attach a Map and Include Route Information, if Applicable:			
Duration of Delays, if Applicable:			
Duration of Closure, if Applicable:			
ADDITIONAL REQUESTS			
Please note the following additional requests are subject to approval by the CAO or Designate prior to Event.			
AMPLIFIED SOUND / MUSIC: ☒ YES ☐ NO		HOURS OF USE: 3:30 to 4pm	
LOCATION OF USE: Cultus Lake Elementary			
Additional Comments:			
GENERATOR: ☐ YES ☒ NO		HOURS OF USE:	
LOCATION OF USE:		BEING USED FOR:	

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS: The following additional requests may be subject to additional fees and/or approval from the CAO or Designate. Check all that apply.

Washrooms Open Early	☐	Time:
Washrooms Closed Late	☐	Time:
Parking Lot Gates Open Early	☐	Time:
Parking Lot Gates Closed Late	☐	Time:
Additional Portable Washrooms	☐	Quantity:
Garbage Bin Rental	☐	Quantity:
Swim Line Installation / Removal	☐	
Community Hall	☐	Dates:
Gazebo(s)	☐	Dates:
☐ A ☐ B ☐ C		
Tent Rental		
10 x 10	☐	Quantity: (Up to four (4), subject to availability)
20 x 20	☐	Quantity: (Up to two (2), subject to availability)
Table Rentals (3' x 8')	☐	Quantity:
Filming	☐	

Staff to determine if any of the following is applicable:

- Use of Additional Areas
- Additional Park Staff Services
- Parking Arrangements
- Clean Up Fees
- Temporary Private Land Use Designation Change
- Noise Exemption (Quiet hours are between 11:00 pm and 7:00 am)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Request to have the parking fee waived for participants and their families.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Cultus Lake Park Event Bylaw No. 1255, 2025, and that the information provided is accurate. I accept all liability and responsibility for organizing and hosting an Event within Cultus Lake Park. I understand that it is my responsibility to provide the Park office with the following no less than five (5) days prior to the Event date:

- i. Comprehensive General Liability Insurance policy of not less than \$5,000,000 naming “Cultus Lake Park” as an Additional Insured (located at 4165 Columbia Valley Hwy, Cultus Lake, BC V2R 5B5);
- ii. Payment of all Event Fees and Refundable Security Deposit; and
- iii. A copy of any and all other required permits or certificates, as required.

I also acknowledge that I am responsible for any and all costs for clean up, or repairs, of the Park property and infrastructure resulting from this Event per Section 5.1 (a) through (d), of the Event Bylaw No. 1255, 2025.

Applicant Signature:

X Angela Olson

Date:

Sept 4, 2025

Applicant Signature:

X

Date:

REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST (OFFICE USE):

☐	Event Application Complete		
☐	Event Application Fee Received. Receipt #		
☐	Map of Event Submitted		
☐	Security Plan Submitted		
☐	Report to Board Submitted		
☐	Approved: YES / NO	By:	Date:
☐	Approval Letter Sent		
☐	Site Visit Scheduled	Date:	Completed On:
☐	Insurance Received		
☐	Event Fees Received	Receipt #:	
☐	Fraser Health Certificate Submitted		
☐	First Aid Certificate Submitted		
☐	BCLCLSEP and SIR Certificates Received		
☐	Security Deposit Received On:	By: Cheque / Credit Card	
☐	Public Works Site Inspection Complete		
☐	Closing Letter Sent		
☐	Security Deposit Reimbursed / Released On:	By: Cheque / Credit Card	
Additional Requests or Comments:			

- Start + Finish @ Elem School
- 2 loops for gr. 6-8





CULTUS LAKE PARK

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD

DATE: September 17, 2025 **FILE:** 8100

SUBMITTED BY: John Beesley,
Chair, Community Events and Engagement Committee

SUBJECT: Recommendations from the Community Events and Engagement Committee

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with a recommendation for Cultus Lake Park Christmas event from June 17, 2025, meeting of the Cultus Lake Park Board Community Events and Engagement Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board Community Events and Engagement Committee recommends to the Board to host the Cultus Lake Park Christmas event to be held on Saturday, November 22, 2025, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Main Beach.

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board waive the parking fees in Parking Lot A and B and allow parking by donation on Saturday, November 22, 2025.

DISCUSSION:

At the June 17, 2025, meeting of the Cultus Lake Park Board Community Events and Engagement Committee a discussion was had regarding hosting the Cultus Lake Park Christmas event to be held on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at Main Beach from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

The free family-friendly event, last held in Cultus Lake Park in 2024, will include the lights display, photos with Santa Claus, an artisan market, children's colouring contest, fire pits, hot chocolate, food trucks and would conclude with a fireworks display off the docks at Main Beach.

The committee is requesting Board approval to waive parking fees in Parking Lot A and B as in previous years, to allow for parking by donation for the duration of the event.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report does not impact the Cultus Lake Park Board's Strategic Plan Initiative.

Prepared by:

John Beesley,
Chair, Community Events and
Engagement Committee

Approved for submission to the Board:

Joe Lamb,
Chief Administrative Officer



CULTUS LAKE PARK

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD

DATE: September 17, 2025 **FILE:** 0550

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner, Darcy Bauer

SUBJECT: Understanding Cyanobacteria Bloom

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to provide the Board with information on Cyanobacteria Bloom.

RECOMMENDATION:

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board receive the Understanding Cyanobacteria Bloom report for information; and*

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board considers funding during the 2026 budget discussion to support options to reduce both the risk and growth of Cyanobacteria Bloom.*

DISCUSSION:

The article on Understanding Cyanobacteria Blooms: A Community Concern submitted by Cultus Lake Stewardship. The article outlines serious concerns after several dogs became ill or died from suspected contact with the water on the Nicola Lake related to cyanobacteria blooms, often called "blue-green algae", a notorious symptom of eutrophication.

The article notes, conditions like warmer water and high nutrient levels can cause them to multiply rapidly, forming harmful blooms. It is crucial to understand that not all cyanobacteria are toxic, and even those that can produce toxins do not always do so.

The article speaks to identifying the blooms and can produce cyanotoxins, which pose risks to people, pets, livestock, and wildlife. Exposure to these toxins can lead to a range of symptoms, from skin irritation and stomach upset to more severe illnesses like liver or kidney damage, and in rare cases, even death. Children and pets are especially vulnerable because they are more likely to accidentally swallow affected water.

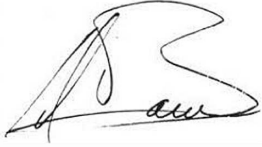
The harmful blooms thrive with high nutrient levels from sources like agricultural runoff, wastewater, and urban development. Warmer water temperatures and climate change can contribute to growth of the bacteria.

The article encourages community members to take steps to reduce both the risk and severity of these blooms. Reports can be submitted by calling your local health authority.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

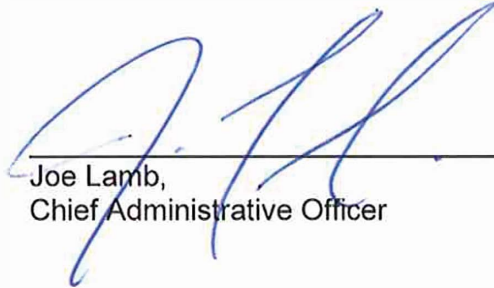
This report does impact the Cultus Lake Park Board's Strategic Plan Initiative because it relates to the Environment of Cultus Lake Park.

Prepared by:



Commissioner, Darcy Bauer

Approved for submission to the Board:



Joe Lamb,
Chief Administrative Officer

Understanding Cyanobacteria Blooms: A Community Concern

You probably heard that a dense algal bloom on Nicola Lake in the summer raised serious concerns after several dogs became ill or died from suspected contact with the water. This tragic event highlights a growing issue:



cyanobacteria blooms, often called "blue-green algae", a notorious symptom of eutrophication, are becoming more frequent globally. While they are a natural part of our aquatic ecosystems, certain conditions like warmer water and high nutrient levels can cause them to multiply rapidly, forming harmful blooms. It's crucial to understand that not all cyanobacteria are toxic, and even those that can produce toxins don't always do so. However, for safety, any suspected cyanobacteria bloom should be considered potentially toxic and avoided.

What Are the Risks and How Can You Spot a Bloom?

Despite their name, blue-green algae are actually photosynthetic bacteria. When they bloom, they can produce cyanotoxins, which pose risks to people, pets, livestock, and wildlife. Exposure to these toxins can lead to a range of symptoms, from skin irritation and stomach upset to more severe illnesses like liver or kidney damage, and in rare cases, even death. Children and pets are especially vulnerable because they are more likely to accidentally swallow affected water. Beyond health risks, these blooms can also harm aquatic life by depleting oxygen and blocking sunlight. Cyanobacteria blooms often have a distinct appearance, resembling pea soup, spilled paint, or surface scum, and may have an earthy or musty smell. If you see something like this, it's best to stay clear.

What Causes These Blooms and What Can We Do?

Harmful cyanobacteria blooms thrive under specific conditions. High nutrient levels from sources like agricultural runoff, wastewater, and urban development

are a major factor. Warmer water temperatures, intensified by climate change, also favor cyanobacteria, allowing them to outcompete other aquatic organisms. Additionally, stable water conditions with low wind and periods of drought followed by heavy rain can contribute to bloom formation. These environmental changes create a "perfect storm" for cyanobacteria to flourish.

As a community, we can take steps to reduce both the risk and severity of these blooms. If you suspect a cyanobacteria bloom, report it to your local health authority and avoid contact with the water. You can also submit your observations to Algae Watch BC, a citizen science program that helps experts track and understand these blooms. On an individual level, we can help by maintaining healthy riparian areas (the land along waterways), reducing fertilizer use, properly maintaining septic systems, and using phosphate-free products. By working together to manage nutrient inputs and understand the conditions that lead to these blooms, we can help protect the health of our lakes for everyone to enjoy.

From 2014, in conjunction with CLASS, a thesis on Eutrophication & Nutrient Loading on Cultus Lake by SFU Masters Student Annika Putt can be [read here](#).

For your interest, here is a report about Cultus Lake Phytoplankton Summary from 2021-2022 [Click here](#).

Monitoring

Beach operators are responsible for monitoring beach water quality during the swimming season. This includes the routine collection and testing of water samples for E. coli (a fecal indicator). Cultus Lake Park Board (info@cultuslake.bc.ca) samples from the Main Beach at Cultus Lake weekly, and the BC Park operators Sea to Sky (cultuslake@seatoskyparks.com) monitors weekly at three of their beach locations at the lake. Beach water quality sampling is voluntary and not required by legislation. Fraser Health recommends that beach owners begin beach water sampling approximately four to five weeks prior to the beach being

used for swimming etc., as this will help create a Geometric Mean, which is the main way that the E.coli counts are reported to the public. This would normally mean that some beaches should be sampled as early as the end of April, while others would not need to begin sampling until the beginning of June. Most beaches should be sampled up to and including the first week or two of September, as after this point very few people are using the beach for swimming etc.

With regards to the detection and reporting of Algal Blooms you can report these concerns to the Ministry of Environment through the Algae Watch portal located by clicking [here](#) or contact us at info@cultussteewards.ca.

Fraser Health Beach water quality reports [can be found on this website](#)

To report possible algae bloom or water contamination, contact [Fraser Health Recreational Water Safety - Chilliwack](#)

For more information about toxic algae blooms, visit: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/blue-green-algae>

