

Christina Lake Stewardship Society – North Bay Buoy Project
(A Wetland Protection Initiative)

Over the years there has been a rising level of concern from our community members pertaining to habitat degradation of the North Bay Wetland and neighboring Kokanee and Rainbow Trout spawning habitat in Sandner Creek.



North Bay



Sandner Creek

Therefore, the Christina Lake Stewardship Society (CLSS) has initiated a multi-partnership wetland protection project. This important initiative headed by the Society includes support and partnerships involving BC Parks, Grace McGregor – Director Area C Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (grant in aid \$2,000.00), and the Grand Forks Credit Union (a donation of \$2,000.00). The CLSS has also received generous donations from Individuals and the Granby Wilderness Society (\$500.00). Our collective goal is to protect the North Bay Wetland and Sandner Creek by minimizing the negative impacts of motor boat traffic on aquatic and riparian habitat within these sensitive areas (which includes many species at risk). Limiting boat traffic in this shallow bay will reduce wildlife disturbance and maintain important habitat for a myriad of species such as the Western Painted Turtle, Bald Eagles, Blue Heron, Grizzly Bears, Black Bears, and several fish species. Limiting boat traffic will also slow the spread of the introduced and very invasive aquatic plant “Eurasian Watermilfoil”, which currently threatens to encroach into nearby littoral habitat areas within Gladstone Provincial Park – most notably, the area around the mouth of Sandner Creek which historically is among the most important stream spawning Kokanee habitat on Christina Lake.

Project Objectives:

- 1.) The placement of marker buoys restricting boat access to the North Bay.
- 2.) The construction of an Interpretive Kiosk which will be located near Sander Creek which will promote the importance of protecting wetlands, fish habitat, and water quality.
- 3.) The production of an educational brochure which will be available to the region as well as our visitors.

The undertaking of a project of this magnitude would not have been possible without the generous donations we received and the volunteer support that will be required not only to complete the tasks at hand, it also includes an ongoing commitment of monitoring and maintenance of these sites, as well as the annual spring installation and fall removal of the marker buoys.

If you would like more information about this project or would like to be involved please contact Brenda LaCroix, Stewardship Coordinator for the Christina Lake Stewardship Society at 250-447-2504.

