

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



## Qualicum Community Education & Wellness Society

### AGM Agenda

Welcome and acknowledgement  
Opening remarks - Chair  
Treasurers Report  
Highlights from Table Leads  
Election of the 2021-22 Board  
Adjournment

Welcome to the QCEWS' 2021 Annual General Meeting. We respectfully acknowledge that we are holding this meeting on the unceded territory of the Qualicum First Nation.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of our Board of Directors, for their continuing contributions and unflagging support throughout the trials and tribulations of COVID-19 this past year, enabling the productive work of our Tables.

We want to especially thank our past co-chair Anne Skipsey who created the St. Andrews Lodge Table and spearheaded the "Save the Lodge" campaign which has resulted in the creation of The St. Andrews Lodge Historical and Cultural Society.

Thank you to Anna Sjo, Anne Skipsey and Lorna Gray for the ongoing work of updating the QCEWS' website [www.QCEWS.com](http://www.QCEWS.com).

Our perennial task is to recruit new members and to build our communications and fund raising/grant writing infrastructure. We warmly welcome all new members! We are greatly appreciative of the work of our existing members and volunteers who have made the past year a success.

Chair - Bill Preston



The St. Andrews Lodge Historical and Cultural Society plan to restore the lodge to its former picture book perfection. Their vision is of a beautiful and safe building that is fully accessible and can be used as a gathering center for the community and visitors, touching lives and shaping memories for generations to come. [www.savethelodge.ca](http://www.savethelodge.ca)

## Early Learning and Child Care Council for Oceanside (ELCCO)

Submitted by Table Lead Carol O'Connor

ELCCO has held monthly meetings via ZOOM over the last year which have been well attended. Members and liaisons have been very active in support and development of publicly funded childcare.

The Town of Qualicum Beach received funding from UBCM and Province of BC New Spaces grants. We received 2 million dollars to build 37 childcare spaces. ELCCO is named as the 'user group' for the "Into the Woods Childcare" project and has enjoyed tremendous community support from the Oceanside Early Years Childcare community. ELCCO has created an Into the Woods side table which works with the architect, Town planner, construction manager and is developing governance and operational strategies.

School District 69 and Building Learning Together are currently constructing a new childcare center at Arrowview Elementary School and is developing out of school care spaces at Errington Elementary School. They are also partnering with SD69 CUPE union to support the Building Seamless Childcare Initiative.

The City of Parksville is developing a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club and has made application to UBCM and Province of BC New Spaces. These grants will create 91 childcare and out of school childcare spaces.

ELCCO, initiated and has been an active partner in the Mid-Island Collaborative. SPARC BC were hired as the consultants for the collaborative. Through the work of these knowledgeable consultants, the Oceanside community has had many opportunities to recruit community support for a publicly funded universal childcare system.

SPARC BC's report "Mid Island Action Plan", provides our community with evidence of the need for more childcare spaces and makes recommendations that will continue to guide ELCCO in its support of Quality, Accessible and Affordable childcare for Oceanside families.

## Communications and Wellness Report

Submitted by Table Lead Bob Rowe

It has been an interesting year finding ways to engage others and take on our responsibilities within COVID-19 guidelines.

The wellness group has hosted various speaker presentation which are posted on the Qualicum Questers website [www.qualicumquesters.com](http://www.qualicumquesters.com).

Communication to the community is always a challenge and more so in these times. A full marketing plan will be submitted for the 2021-22. It will utilize an approach known as social and educational marketing which requires a lot of content. The challenge is not the amount of content, it is the way it is communicated to the public via the website and social media platforms. Since video is the preferred medium these days, that will be our focus. This may require short zoom conversations related to various QCEWS projects. Eventually, when the time is right, we will look forward to in person events. Time will tell with public safety in mind.

Our vision is to have ongoing dialogues on the QCEWS Facebook page highlighting the work of QCEWS Tables. Educational marketing lets interested people know what is going on, so they can contribute on any level they wish.

Our future plans also involve working with those interested in growing fruits and vegetables. It can be container gardening, backyard gardening, community gardens, indoor Mason jar hydroponics, local urban market or even rented land. There are unlimited ways to be involved! We will collaborate with other groups who have a similar focus on food security and food sovereignty.

The efforts of QCEWS and all the other volunteer groups will be needed more than ever as we recover from all the challenges that have occurred over the past year.





## Universal Access Qualicum Beach (UAQB)

Submitted by Table Co-Chair Holly Carnegie-Letcher

COVID-19 closed down most of our activities. We still have a connection with Jim's Gym in Parksville and our "Fitness for All" dream. We have donation funds, waiting to be spent on another piece of equipment, when the time is right. **Of course, more donations are always welcome!**

The one-on-one accessible opportunities we have been able to pursue, continue to inspire us during these challenging times. UAQB member and inventor of accessible watercrafts, Jon Pimlott, has assisted us in providing accessible rowing and fishing outings to the Grandson of one of our members (with COVID protocols in place). Such joy, new learning, physical health and emotional connection is happening out on Diver Lake in Nanaimo! We are looking forward to creating more opportunities for others in the future. Be kind, be calm be safe!



## Adaptive Cycles

Submitted by Project Lead Mike Domes

Pandemic times have slowed, but not stopped the UAQB's "Fitness for All" initiatives, from rolling out 'Miles of Smiles' on the two Accessible Huka eTrikes. Even during the pandemic in August 2020, Seniors in Long Term Care were assisted to get some fresh air and fitness (Trillium Lodge, Parksville). Likewise, several 'Juniors' have had their Physical Education programs enhanced using our adaptive bikes with the support of some very keen educational assistants (Ballenas Secondary, Arrowview and Springwood Elementary Schools). QCEWS' continues to seek an insurance program to support further expansion of the adaptive cycling program for community use, beyond our educational and care-home institutions. Whistler Adaptive Skiing has offered some guidance that has worked for them and once pandemic-time begins to ease and life begins to pulse more regularly, we are optimistic about furthering our quest of "Fitness for All."

## Intergenerational Table

Submitted by Lorna Gray

The QCEWS intergenerational table was unable to carry out any in-person classes or activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In October 2020, in recognition of the hardships that many residents in care homes faced during the lockdown, our families compiled messages and photographs of gratitude. A Happy Thanksgiving, QCEWS video <https://youtu.be/bNlcFla61JU> was created and shared residents with residents by Activities Coordinators at two local care homes in Qualicum Beach.



In February, QCEWS' collaborated with Heartwood Home Learners Cooperative, Qualicum Beach, Arrowview and Springwood Elementary Schools. The students and families coloured, painted and designed heart cut-outs which were strung into Valentine heart garlands. Between each group, we were able to make 7 beautiful and unique garlands which were distributed to 7 local care homes in Qualicum Beach and Parksville.

<https://youtu.be/UHAQqR5y8S8>



We continue to enjoy our connections with community volunteers. We have collaborated on a variety of Intergenerational activities: Kids in the kitchen, knitting and ukulele group with the Qualicum Seniors Centre. We look forward to working together again once it is safe to do so.

## Social Connections

Submitted by Table Lead Bernie Brochu

Social isolation is a significant physical and mental health concern for stay-at-home caregivers, seniors, disabled, singles and others.

Over the last year, as QCEWS Social Connections Table Lead I have participated in the collaboration that is now the Oceanside Seniors Action Group (OSAG). This group is seeking to understand seniors' needs with the key question for residents of Oceanside: "What are you doing/what do you need, to age successfully in the place of your choosing?"

At present OSAG has begun to circulate brochures with this message at selected sites in Bowser, Errington, Red Gap and Meadowood. After COVID-19 has been suppressed OSAG will start community conversations at selected sites which will allow face to face conversations on this question with local residents.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased awareness of the need for mutual support among neighbours during emergencies. There is an interest in OSAG to organize neighbourhood contact networks possibly in conjunction with existing Block Watch networks. Eventually our social action research outcomes are intended to increase social connection among residents. Through this OSAG effort people living in District 69 will have a better understanding of how social connection affects our residents' mental health and will encourage the organization of mutual support networks among neighbours.

