

December 28, 2023

received
Jan 3/24

Halls Committee
c/o Denise Williams, Manager
Cowichan Lake Recreation CVRD
P.O. Box 777 (311 South Shore Road)
Lake Cowichan, BC V0R 2G0

Dear Members of the Halls Committee:

Best wishes of the New Year!

Each year in November, I organize the Lake Cowichan Christmas Craft Sale and utilize both the main and lower levels of Centennial Hall for this event. It has been a successful community event for the past few years and I appreciate all the help I get from the front office staff and maintenance personnel.

It has been brought to my attention that there are a few issues that need to be looked into. I have briefly spoken to Ms. Williams and her suggestion is that I write to your committee. Therefore, I look to you for guidance in these matters.

Issue #1: Main level stage area: I have made use of the "lower/jut out" part of the main level stage for a vendor and we would like to use that area again. As has been indicated to me, the Lakeside Players (?) or whoever owns that jut out does not want us using that jut out part of the stage. I don't believe that jut out piece can be removed and it does take up floor space where I could otherwise be setting up tables. Other groups use this (bands, the ribbon exercise class) and I need clarification. We put no markings whatsoever on this space and hope we can use it again in November or have it removed. The upper area of the main level stage is always cluttered and full of props, etc., making it not useable.

Issue #2: Steps leading to the jut out area of that main level stage: While I realize that there are stairs (painted black with carpet on them) running along the side to the upper area of this stage, they are not safe and not possible to get to the jut out area safely. I have walked down them and they are very steep (especially for a senior or anyone with mobility issues). I had asked your maintenance personnel to build safety hand rails on the removable steps that we had used the past few years, which just sit on the floor area at either end of the jut out area of the stage. This would suffice any safety issues that are perceived. It has been indicated to me

as well that these stairs (I believe there are 3 or 4 steps and two sets) also belong to the Lakeside Players (?) and we are not allowed to use them. Without these much safer steps, the jut out area of that main level stage is simply not easily accessible and, once again, should either be made accessible or be removed.

Issue #3: The electricity in the kitchen area in the lower level. We have been told that we can only plug in a large coffee pot and our slow cooker during our event. Otherwise, the breaker blows. Can this be looked into at all?

In closing, while I have mentioned the Lakeside Players, I could be wrong. I don't remember the name of the group who owns the jut out or all the props. I apologize if I have indicated the wrong group. If that jut out area of the main level stage is going to continue to be there and cannot be used, it should be unavailable to all groups – not just to my event. Also, if the jut out and the props continue to be housed in Centennial Hall, then the rental cost should be lowered somewhat, as that is a large part of the main level of Centennial Hall that would be unavailable to the renter/client.

Thank you so much for your time. I hope to hear back from this committee in the next very few months, as I begin to organize this November event in the spring of 2024.

Sincerely,



Nadine Reeves

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Lake Cowichan, BC

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