

Wells Gray Community Forest (2010) Society

Contents for 2018 Annual Report

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Society Function

The Wells Gray Community Forest (2010) Society ("Society") works in unison with the Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation ("Corporation") to provide funding to non-profit organizations within Wells Gray Country (TNRD Electoral Area 'A') and the District of Clearwater for a wide range of community projects. The funds result from the harvesting operations within the Wells Gray Community Forest License.

The Society's function is to hold the shares of the Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation (which manages the forest and harvests the Community Forest License); provide shareholder and fiduciary oversight of the Corporation; and recommend how the net profits are distributed into the broader community. In addition, the Society provides representatives to the newly formed Wells Gray Community Forest Commission (see below), which grants some of the Community Forest profits for large projects and to small non-profit community groups that do not possess charity status.

Society Activities in 2018

Formation of the Wells Gray Community Forest Commission

In 2018 the Society and the Corporation partnered with the District of Clearwater ("District") to form the Wells Gray Community Forest Commission ("Commission"), a committee of the municipality. The Commission is made up of Society and Corporation board members and District of Clearwater councilors. Profits from the Corporation will be forwarded annually to a special account with the District. Funds in this dedicated and separate account will be used for the benefit of the community and area at the discretion of Council, having considered the recommendations from the Commission.

The Commission will be recommending grants that promote social welfare, economic structures and benevolent enterprises.

Grants

As in previous years, the Society distributed funds for a wide range of community projects (see table below) via the normal spring and fall granting cycles (\$153,135 in total).

Organization	Project	April 2018 Grants (Maximum available: \$100,000.00)
District of Clearwater (Special Resolution)	Cenotaph renovation	\$30,000.00 (Leveraged funds from Veterans Affairs)
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 259	Roof drain repairs	\$4,000.00
Dr. Helmcken Memorial Hospital	Treatment chair	\$5,475.00
North Thompson Arts Council	Children's Arts Festival	\$1,100.00
Upper Clearwater Fire Support	Fire suppression and fire truck	\$5,000.00
Clearwater Minor Hockey	Socks	\$2,000.00
CSS	Volleyball Uniforms	\$1,000.00
CSS	Spin Bike	\$1,000.00
CSS	Plasma Cutter	\$24,000.00
District of Clearwater	Recreation program	\$10,481.53
Clearwater Ski Hill	Repairs to club house	\$10,000.00
Raft Mtn. Skating Club	Rotational lift for jumping	\$5,000.00
Clearwater Food Bank	Loading dock	\$7,000.00
Evergreen Acres	Door upgrades Main and Pine Manor	\$7,000.00
Clearwater Youth Soccer	Goals	\$2,300.00
Raft River PAC	Garden Pollinator	\$400.00
	Total Spring Grants	\$115,756.53
Organization	Project	October 2018 Grants (Maximum available: \$50,000.00)
Clearwater Rotary Club	Christmas tree light up	\$250.00
Clearwater Minor Hockey	Rink Dividers and mini goals	\$12,200.00
CSS	Festool sanding system	\$5,900.00
CSS	Sewing machines	\$7,800.00
CSS	Spin bike	\$980.00

Wells Gray Country Seniors Society	Bus transit	\$2,500.00
Wells Gray Country Seniors Society	Block Party	\$1,250.00
CSS	Family Day	\$700.00
Raft River Elementary School	Local bird project	\$400.00
Wells Gray Search & Rescue	Generator	\$3,899.99
Raft Mtn. Skating Club	Upgrade equipment	\$1,500.00
	Total Fall Grants	<u>\$37,379.99</u>

As of December 2018, the total grants approved for distribution since the Wells Gray Community Forest inception in 2006 was **\$1,216,678.17** from the spring and fall regular grant application cycles, plus **\$1,314,000.00** from the large grant application process, for a grand total of **\$2,530,678.17**.

Example Grants in 2018

The following examples are but three of the many projects assisted by Wells Gray Community Forest funds in 2018.

Affordable Housing Apartment Complex

Yellowhead Community Services Society (\$300,000 grant)

Wells Gray Community Forest contributed \$300,000 towards the construction of the 26-unit Affordable Housing complex in Clearwater built and operated by Yellowhead Community Services Society (YCS).

The project consists of 10 single/bachelor units, 10 two-bedroom units and 6 three-bedroom units. The units will be available to various populations that meet the criteria for affordable housing. YCS anticipates a significant number of single parent families, persons with disabilities, and seniors to rent the apartments. The facility will also house Work BC, which will be located in a portion of the main floor.

Jack Keough, Executive Director of YCS, indicated YCS is really pleased that the YCS Society was able to make this happen for the community. The project has been in the works for roughly five years, starting after a homeless study was done by YCS, which determined there was a significant need for affordable housing in Clearwater and area.



Christmas Tree Light-up

Clearwater Rotary Club (\$250 grant)

Wells Gray Community Forest, as in previous years, contributed towards the Clearwater Rotary Club Christmas Tree Light-up event at the Wells Gray Information Centre.

Rotary volunteers decorated the Info Centre with lights, garlands, wreaths, and ornaments, and "Merry Christmas" was written in English and French in lights on the fence surrounding the CSS tennis courts. Inside the Info Centre, a table was set up with paper and envelopes for the children to write their letter to Santa, and mail them to Santa in Santa's special mailbox.

There was excellent family participation with over 55 children joining in cookie decorating; Christmas tree decorating; listening to Christmas story-reading and Carols; and visiting with Santa. And finally, parents had the opportunity to have their child's photo taken with Santa.

As always, the Christmas Tree Light-up celebration was a great success, and helped bring the community together.



Clearwater Family Day Event

Clearwater Secondary School (\$700 grant)

The Wells Gray Community Forest contributed \$700 to help stage the Clearwater Secondary School Family Day.

Thirty-five community volunteers assisted in organizing 13 family activities including: family photo fun, Pickle ball, sewing, games of strategy, cooking, colouring, play dough, sensory bins, Lego building, abstract painting, hockey, sensory bags, and bead keychains.

A total of 68 families (90 adults and 125 children) attended the 3-hour event. Everyone had fun and learned a great deal, and all are looking forward to next year's event!

