



Wells Gray Community Forest (2010) Society

2022 ANNUAL Report

October 2023

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Purpose of the Wells Gray Community Forest (2010) Society (“Society”):

1. The purposes of the Society are:
 - (a) to promote the economic and social welfare of the residents of Wells Gray Country (including the District of Clearwater) including the provision of support for benevolent and charitable enterprises, federations, agencies, and societies engaged in furthering these purposes.
 - (b) to hold the Shares, and receive all the benefits of the Shareholdings, of the Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation (WGCFC), which company manages a Community Forest License (the “Community Forest”) in Wells Gray Country (Thompson Nicola Region District Electoral Area ‘A’).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

As a requirement of the Wells Gray Community Forest (2010) Society Constitution and Bylaws, the Society held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 7th, 2022.

Elections of Officers were held with the following results:

- Heather MacLennan - Chair,
- Ron Hadley -Vice Chair,
- Leslie Groulx – Secretary,
- Sheila Thiessen – Treasurer
- Directors
 - Mitch Miller, appointed to represent - TNRD Electoral Area “A”,
 - Merlin Blackwell, appointed to represent - District of Clearwater
 - Wayne Sim, appointed representative - Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation replacing Brent Buck

Activities in 2022:

Worked with Morelli Chertkow to review the Society’s Constitution and Bylaws. The Society’s Bylaws require an update to address use of technology for meetings and signing documents and to remove the District of Clearwater as holding a position on the Board. This will be replaced with a “community member at large”. Worked with executive members of the Corporation and Morelli Chertkow to complete draft Management Agreement between the Society and Corporation.

Development of an Orientation package for incoming board members.

Reviewed and updated Society grant application form, adding a clear set of criteria including eligible and ineligible expenses.

Engaged KPMG to complete the 2022 audit process.

SPRING AND FALL GRANTS:

In 2022 the Society advertised two granting cycles 1) Spring for \$100,000 and 2) Fall for \$50,000. As in previous years, the Society adjudicated and distributed funds to community projects as per Table 1 & 2 below:

In the Spring, the Society received five (5) applications, of which all were excellent projects and received approval – noted in Table 1:

TABLE 1: APRIL 2022 (\$100,000)

Group	Grant Description	Amount
Wells Gray Outdoor Club	Half Marathon	\$4,000.00
Wells Gray Lively Arts Society	Purchase music equipment	\$10,000.00
North Thompson Arts Council	Art Supplies	\$2,000.00
Clearwater Ski Club	Chairs	\$6,700.00
Upper Clearwater Vol Fire Brigade	Purchase sea can for storage	\$5,120.00
TOTAL Approved:		\$27,820.00

In the Fall of 2022, the Society received eight (8) applications and based on the Societies granting criteria six (6) were approved – noted in Table 2:

TABLE 2: OCTOBER 2022 (\$50,000)

Group	Grant Description	Amount
Evergreen Acres	Generator for Amenities Building	\$80,000.00
Blackpool Fire Department	Enhanced fire suppression water storage	\$13,556.43
Clearwater Secondary School	Family Day	\$800.00
Clearwater Secondary School	Purchase 5 mountain bikes	\$5,247.38
Clearwater Secondary School	Purchase festool track saw and accessories	\$2,018.24
Upper Clearwater Volunteer Fire Brigade	Purchase water tanks	\$22,728.96
TOTAL Approved:		*\$124,351.01

**Based on previous granting cycles and low submission the Society held funds which allowed for the ability to grant well above the \$50,000 Oct 2022 granting.*

There are occasions when organizations may have missed the granting cycles, in this instance there is the ability to apply for a Sponsorship grant. There was one application submitted and approved as noted in Table 3 below:

TABLE 3: SPONSORSHIP GRANTS 2022

Group	Description	Amount
Clearwater & District Minor Hockey	Hockey	\$1,500.00
Total Approved:		\$1,500.00

For the reporting year of 2022 the Society approved funding as stated in Table 4 below:

TABLE 4: SUMMARY - WGCFS 2022 DISBURSEMENTS

In Take Session	Amount
Spring (April)	\$27,820.00
Fall (October)	\$124,351.01
Sponsorship	\$1,500.00
Total Approved:	\$153,671.01

In 2022, the Society in partnership with the Corporation and District of Clearwater received one (1) grant application which was adjudicated under the Wells Gray Community Forest Commission and noted in Table 5 below:

TABLE 5: WELLS GRAY COMMUNITY FOREST COMMISSION GRANTS 2022

Organization	Description	Amount
District of Clearwater Fire Department	Equip a Structural Fire Protection Unit	\$63,730.44,
	Total Approved	\$63,730.44

On an annual basis the **Ted Richardson Memorial Bursary** is to be granted to one student in the amount of \$2,000.00 **OR** two students in the amount of \$1,000.00 dependent on quality of applications. This Bursary was setup and is funded by the Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation (held under the Commission).

TED RICHARDSON BURSARY 2022:

In May, the Wells Gray Community Forest Commission received six (6) bursary applications from students graduating from Clearwater Secondary High School. A subcommittee of five (5) commission members was formed to evaluate the applications and award the bursaries. There were two (2) bursaries awarded to two (2) deserving students, Cassidy Tucker (\$1,000.00) and Harper Schrauwen (\$1,000.00) totalling the annual disbursement of \$2,000. Cassidy is enrolled in Thompson Rivers University to complete her Bachelor of Science degree going into kinesiology/physiotherapy and Harper is enrolled in the Capilano University to complete the Bachelor of Arts program majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WELLS GRAY COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY GRANTS ALLOCATED IN 2022:

The following are examples of three (3) projects that acquired funds from the Society's Spring and Fall granting cycles:

2022 Family Day, held at the Clearwater Secondary School:

The event was held at Clearwater Secondary School from 12pm -3pm on February 20, 2023. There were over twenty secondary student volunteers and 10 adult volunteers who greeted participants and manned stations.

The activities that took place this year were as follows: polaroid and picture frames, face painting, balloon tennis, relays, floor hockey, science experiments (static and magnets), northern lights painting, math games, food and coffee station, sensory bins, tabletop games, Lego, and home-made bath bombs.

All children were also able to take home a free Scholastic book along with a printed booklet that outlines how to recreate the activities on their own at home.

This year we had 91 family groups attending, serving 179 children. Most families stayed the entire three hours. This is a record number of children attending for the in-person event.



Public feedback after and during the event was very positive and families were thankful and excited to participate. A great success!



WELLS GRAY LIVELY ARTS SOCIETY:

The Wells Gray Lively Arts Society is so very grateful to Wells Gray Community Forest Society for their very generous financial support to our 'Sound & Lighting Project'. We were able to purchase all of our "wish-list" equipment in time for our First Summer Stage event on July 7, 2022. Perfect timing as so many of our community have enjoyed outstanding performances with enhanced sound quality and as the evening progressed, subtle lighting enhanced the music. What joy to change the lighting to a gentle purple as the Margit Sky Project sung Prince's "Purple Rain". As we have said before - we are not the entertainers. Our society aims to organize venues together with the necessary equipment and technical expertise for high quality performances. And with comments from our audiences of between 150-250 and our performers alike of "Great sound!" and "Incredible Sound!!", I believe the WGLAS is doing just that.

As the President, I am included in conversations with our technical guys at WGLAS and I have noticed the enthusiasm, growth of knowledge and the desire to learn new skills. All of this will snowball, so that our performances and live music events will continue to grow and become even better. The best bit of all this that our community will hear and see better and better shows - what more could we ask for? None of this would have been possible for many years with you. In promoting, reporting, and opening our live music events, I have acknowledged the financial support of the Wells Gray Community Forest Society. At our Summer Stages, I also like to acknowledge the wonderful support we have. Our new banner, with your logo on it, is centre

stage as you will see in the attached photographs. Once Summer Stage is over, we will add an acknowledgement plaque to our wonderful sound board. On behalf of everyone at Wells Gray Lively Arts Society, I offer you a very grateful thank-you.

Wells Gray Lively Arts Society

Our Sound Board



Blackpool Volunteer Fire Department \$13,556.43

Phase Three of the Enhanced Fire Suppression Water Storage project has started with the purchase of the two 5000-gallon water storage tanks ordered November 17, 2022.

Tanks arrived from the manufacturer at Blackpool on January 7th, 2023. Tank outlet valves and decals are being ordered. Including WGCF recognition decal and logo.

Site locations at Pump Town/ Highway 5 South of Blackpool and Roundtop Rd/ Highway 5 North of Little Fort are being studied for those locations that would best provide access in times of emergency. Landowners are being approached to gain permission to access and prep the sites for tank placement similar to Phases one and two of the project. Actual site prep and leveling will take place, late February thru Mid-March, unless a window of opportunity in the winter season presents itself. Tank placement to be completed by late March when the tanks go into service.

The establishment of the two additional fire suppression water storage tanks at Pump Town and Roundtop will provide enhanced public safety and fire fighting capabilities to the community and the travelling public for the fire depts. Ready access in a timely manner is critical to early extinguishment and control of fires.



Highway 5 North of Little Fort



Pump Town - Blackpool

