



**Wells Gray Community Forest (2010) Society**

## **2025 ANNUAL Report**

**February 2026**

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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 (WGFCF), 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 12, 2025.

Elections of Officers were held with the following results:

- Heather MacLennan - Chair,
- Lucy Taylor -Vice Chair
- Leslie Groulx – Secretary,
- Sheila Thiessen – Treasurer
- Directors
  - Mitch Miller - TNRD Electoral Area “A” (end December 2025)
  - Bill Haring, Councillor - District of Clearwater
  - Kerry Milner Cairns - Director

### **Activities in 2025:**

The Society’s Constitution and Bylaws amended to update composition of the Board:

- Removed reference to Wells Gray Community Forest representation and replaced with representatives of the community at large.
- Completed recruitment process for two (2) new Society Board members from the community at large.
- District of Clearwater filled their position on the board.
- Met with District of Clearwater CAO and DOF to provide the history and an overview of the Community Forest Society’s mandate.
- Adopted ten (10) policies inline with board governance and operations.
- Advertised spring and fall TMX bursary fund availability for both TNRD Area A & B.

- Appointed Director Selection Committee consisting of two Society members and one Corporation member
  - Completed recruitment process for Corporation Board, three (3) new board members were selected and appointed to the Corporation Board in 2025.
- Developed and distributed a Community Survey intended to garner what the community felt were top priorities in the event there were the funds to build a legacy project.
  - Presented results of the survey to the Corporation Board, TNRD Representative and Yellowhead Community Services.
- Held Joint Board meeting with Corporation Board (legal presentation).
- Held Joint Board meeting with Executive of Corporation.
- Obtained Charitable Status designation from CRA for the Society
  - In relation to this change – distributed a Press Release to grant distribution list and community at large through various media, updated grant application process for fall intake.
- Distributed \$2,072 Trans Mountain Expansion Education Funds to a recipient in TNRD Area “A”.
- Engaged KPMG to complete the 2025 letter of engagement process.
- The Society was invited to have a representative on the Interagency Committee hosted by Yellowhead Community Services.
- Held Annual General Meeting November 12, 2025 and submitted Annual Report to BC Societies.

**SPRING AND FALL GRANTS:**

In 2025 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 eleven (11) applications, of which eight (8) were approved projects based on the Societies granting criteria – noted in Table 1:

**TABLE 1: APRIL 2025 (\$100,000)**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Grant Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Clearwater Collective Society	Classic Car Show donation to Foodbank	\$9,000.00
Clearwater Paddling Society	Kayak program and gear	\$5,000.00
Blackpool Volunteer Fire Department	Tactical Water Tender	\$30,000.00
North Thompson Arts Council	Children’s Festival	\$1,500.00
Clearwater Elks Hall	Upgrades to hall	\$16,496.88
Upper Clearwater Fire Brigade	Water tender	\$22,500.00
Yellowhead Community Services	Meals for seniors	\$8,550.00
Wells Gray Outdoor Club	Sound system, tents and tables	\$4,700.00
<b>TOTAL Approved:</b>		<b>\$97,746.88</b>

*\*The program was over subscribed by \$247,047.79*

In the Fall of 2025, the Society received eight (8) applications, of which seven (7) were approved based on the Societies granting criteria– noted in Table 2:

**TABLE 2: NOVEMBER 2025 (\$50,000)**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Grant Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
North Thomspson Arts Council	Children’s Festival (2026)	\$1,500.00
Clearwater Secondary School	Sanders for shop	\$2,735.99
Clearwater Secondary School	Uniforms (shorts)	\$2,744.01
Vavenby Volunteer Fire Department	Update Road Rescue equipment	\$8,753.52
Wells Gray Search & Rescue	Upgrade UTV	\$7,280.00
Yellowhead Community Services	Day care expansion costs	\$25,000.00
Wells Gray Search & Rescue	50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration	\$2,300.00
<b>TOTAL Approved:</b>		<b>\$50,313.55</b>

***\*The program was over subscribed by \$42,341.00***

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 were no applications submitted for 2025.

For the reporting year of 2025 the Society approved funding as stated in Table 3 below:

**TABLE 3: SUMMARY - WGCFS 2025 DISBURSEMENTS**

<b>In Take Session</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Spring (April)	\$97,746.88
Fall (October)	\$50,313.55
Sponsorship	nil
<b>Total Approved:</b>	<b>\$148,060.43</b>

**Ted Richardson Bursary** was initially funded by the Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation **and managed by the Wells Gray Community Forest Society**, in 2020 the funds dedicated to this bursary were transferred to the District of Clearwater – Wells Gray Community Forest Commission. This commission has since been disbanded and the Ted Richardson Bursary Funds were transferred from the District of Clearwater to the Clearwater Secondary School. The Society continues to have representation in the decision making process. In 2025, the Ted Richardson Bursary was awarded to Micheal Shook \$1,000 attending TRU for Natural Resource Program, Reyna Connelly-Myhre \$1,000 attending Lethbridge Polytechnic for Natural Resource Compliance Program.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WELLS GRAY COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY GRANTS ALLOCATED IN 2025:

The following are examples of Four (4) projects that acquired funds from the Society's Spring and Fall granting cycles:

### **2025 Children's Art Festival (North Thompson Arts Council) - \$1,500**

#### **Grant Impact on the Organization:**

*The Children's Art Festival went off without a hitch after a six (6) year absence break it was a huge success.*

*The weather did not deter the event from pleasing an enthusiastic crowd of children and parents who took part in the activities. Not all the artists bought supplies specifically for the festival so the funds applied for were not utilized in full.*

*The artists and the participants (children) had a great time and the organization is already planning for next year. The organizers were able to host nine stations including:*

- ❖ *Face Painting,*
- ❖ *Sock Puppets*
- ❖ *Clay*
- ❖ *Making Inukshuk*
- ❖ *Build a Story*
- ❖ *Acrylic Painting*
- ❖ *Music to listen to*
- ❖ *Mini music lessons*
- ❖ *Painting a dragon*



### **2025 Upper Clearwater Volunteer Fire Brigade - \$18,812.24**

#### **Grant Impact on the Organization:**

The addition of a water tender has greatly improved the UCVFB's ability to suppress fires in that they can now move larger amounts of water rapidly in a vehicle that is more maneuverable and quicker to operate than their existing two fire trucks.

In combination with the 5,000-gallon water tanks and pumps previously funded by Wells Gray Community Forest Society, the new water tender will allow the Fire Brigade to deploy water to a smoldering road-side fire before it gets out of hand. It also allows for the Brigade to work on a more advanced fire to protect structures, people, and resources along roadsides.

#### **Benefits to the Community:**

The addition of the water tender to the UCVFB's inventory will aid the UCVFB to protect the Upper Clearwater community and its tourist industry. The UCVFB volunteers have been trained and are all familiar with the operation of the vehicle, and they expressed their appreciation as to how well and how easily the on-board pump works.

Water Tender



**2025 Clearwater Collective Society - \$9,000**

**Grant Impact on the Organization:**

Cruisin Clearwater - Clearwater is a classic car show hosted in the third weekend of August. During the weekend long event the organizers raise funds for The Clearwater & District Food Bank. Not only does the organization raise funds for their operation, but they also strive to bring business to local establishments, provide locals with a yearly event to look forward to, and it showcases Clearwater and area for potential returning tourists.



**Classic Car - 2025**

**Benefits to the Community:**

Clearwater Food Bank. They also provide other support elsewhere in the valley with their continued fundraising. The organizers believe that after completing their sixth (6) annual event, they have accomplished their goals to highlight the community and raise funds for the efforts. While they did not hit their target of \$9,000 to host the show, they know what they need to do for 2026 event and beyond.



**Classic Car Rally 2025 - Enjoyed by all!**

**2025 Clearwater Paddling Society – youth kayaking / summer sessions: \$5,000**

**Grant Impact to the Organization**

*This year's funding had an immense impact on the club's ability to provide programming this year. The funding enabled the club to acquire more gear and safety equipment so that they could accommodate more people on the water. It allowed for more programs throughout the summer and extend their operating season. The financial support also allowed them to focus on creating a safe, inclusive environment that promoted both skill development and community building. The Club has expressed their sincere gratitude for the support.*

**Benefits to the Community**

*The funding allowed the Club to diversify their equipment so they could provide gear and programs to a larger group of people (having more sizes and styles). This allowed them to engage and grow the paddling community. Participants of all ages attended their evening sessions and they saw a greater participation and many more volunteers than last year. The Club was able to run two (2) youth camps experiencing a 40% increase in attendance from last year.*



*The group progressed immensely and are now comfortable paddling the Clearwater River and are thoroughly enjoying the sport. The support and teamwork this group shows each other is especially heart warming. Participants not only built kayaking skills but also developed connections with each other, many of the participants were able to borrow gear and go out with each other outside of organized sessions. It was pretty special to see locals become more confident and competent in navigating and appreciating the Clearwater River, a world-renowned kayaking destination.*

**Measurable Outcomes**

- Increased membership - 65 memberships (up 35% from last year)
- Successfully engaged 45 members in our programs
- Evening session had attendance of 7-15 participants per night
- The youth camps had 8- 14-year-old boys (up 40% from last year), who showed excellent progress
- Volunteers doubled from last year to 18 volunteers
- A total of 250 on water volunteer hours
- Eight board members also volunteered to plan, organize, and run all programs

