



Wells Gray Community Forest (2010) Society

2021 ANNUAL Report

October 2022

WELLS GRAY COMMUNITY FOREST (2010) SOCIETY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2021 the Wells Gray Community Forest (2010) Society (WGCFs) advertised two granting cycles 1) Spring for \$100,000 and 2) Fall for \$50,000.

CHANGES:

In January 2021, the Society's long-time Bookkeeper, Judy Tobin, retired. Society members held a lunch for her and presented her with a gift card to say thank you for all her years of service. Judy was a pleasure to work with and always went the extra mile in her duties as our bookkeeper. It would be an understatement to say we were sad to see her go, but happy for her to be able to spend time with family and friends. We welcomed a new Bookkeeper, Karen Whitfield, who moved to Clearwater and established her business - Cornerstones of Business.

TED RICHARDSON BURSARY 2021:

In May the Wells Gray Community Forest Commission received three (3) 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, Akubakar Sharif (\$1,000.00) and Taniah Toscano (\$1,000.00) totalling the annual disbursement of \$2,000. Akubakar is enrolled in Thompson Rivers University to complete his Bachelor of Computer Science degree and Taniah has applied to the Vancouver Animation School University.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The Society held its annual general meeting (AGM) and regular grant application review on October 28th, 2021. Elections of Officers were held with the following results: Heather MacLennan - Chair, Brent Buck -Vice Chair, Leslie Groulx – Secretary, Sheila Thiessen - Treasurer and Directors Mitch Miller, Ron Hadley, and Merlin Blackwell.

Much to our regret Ken Kjenstad (Past Chair) retired from the Board of Trustees. Ken has brought his passion for the community, his deep understanding of the organizations requesting funds and his input highlighted their fit in the long-term community picture. During his time as the District of Clearwater councillor representative, Ken brought his knowledge of the districts strategic direction regarding the economic and social needs of the community and what their priorities were. This insight helped us in our funding decisions. We will greatly miss Ken's contributions and wish him the best in his much-deserved retirement.



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



GRANTS/LOANS:

As in previous years, the Society distributed funds for a wide range of community projects (refer to Tables below) via the normal spring and fall granting cycles and the sponsorship grants. (\$56,092.20 in total).

APRIL 2021 (\$100,000):

Group	Grant Description	Amount
Wells Gray Riders Association	Vet Recruitment video	\$1,000.00
Clearwater Rotary Club	Purchase equipment for zoom conference calls	\$5,000.00
Clearwater Youth Soccer	COVID Sanitation materials	\$600.00
Clearwater Secondary School	Purchase microscopes	\$1,775.00
Clearwater Secondary School	Purchase 3D Printers	\$4,300.00
Yellowhead Community Services	Accessibility Ramp	\$3,240.00
Forest View Place	Materials to Build Chicken Coop	\$3,500.00
TOTAL Approved:		\$19,415.00

OCTOBER 2021 (\$50,000):

Group	Grant Description	Amount
Raft River Elementary School	Outdoor Learning Classroom	\$24,000.00
Yellowhead Community Service	Food Security Program storage lockers and Community Garden gates replaced	\$3,538.02
Wells Gray Seniors Society	Senior's lunch and learn	Pending further information
Clearwater Secondary School	COVID Travel for Sports Programs	\$5,000.00
Clearwater Secondary School	Family Day	\$700.00
Clearwater Secondary School	Sound System for Music Program	\$1,939.70
TOTAL Approved:		\$35,177.72

SPONSORSHIP GRANTS 2021:

Group	Description	Amount
Forest View Place (IHA)	Supplies for the Chicken Coop	\$1,500.00
Total Approved:		\$1,500.00

SUMMARY - WGCFS 2021 DISBURSEMENTS:

In Take Session	Amount
Spring (April)	\$19,415.00
Fall (October)	\$35,177.72
Sponsorship	\$1,500.00
Total Approved:	\$56,092.20

WELLS GRAY COMMUNITY FOREST COMMISSION (WGCFC) GRANTS 2021

WGCFC 2021 Grants

Organization	Description	Amount
District of Clearwater Trails Task Force Committee	Design and Negotiated Request for Proposal Park Drive/Raft River multi-use pathway	\$50,000.00
Wells Gray Outdoor Club	Construct Mountain Bike Trails	\$96,000.00
Total Approved		\$146,000.00

In the fall grant in-take the District of Clearwater applied for \$64,200 to equip a Fire protection unit. This grant is moved to the Wells Gray Community Forest Commission for a decision as it is more than the available funds in the fall grant in-take.

TRAILS TASK FORCE COMMITTEE:

In February the District of Clearwater's Trail Task Force Committee applied to the WGCFC for up to \$50,000 to ensure a shovel ready project pending approval of the Investing in Canada - COVID Resiliency Infrastructure Stream grant. The funds were for the design of the Park Drive/Raft River multi-use pathway, development and advertisement of a Negotiated Request for Proposal to construct the Park Drive/ Raft River Multi-Use pathway pending grant approval in June of 2021.

WELLS GRAY OUTDOOR CLUB:

The Wells Gray Outdoor Club applied through the WGCFS for building more mountain bike trails in the Candle Creek area. The application was forwarded to the WGCFC for a decision. The funds of \$96,000 were approved by the Commission to complete the Phase 2 Green Climb trail and begin Phase 3, which consists of a 2.8 two way climb trail and a 6 km one-way downhill trail.



WELLS GRAY COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY GRANTS 2021

The following are examples of three projects that acquired funds from Wells Gray Community Forest in Spring of 2021.

CLEARWATER ROTARY CLUB (\$5,000):

The Rotary Club of Clearwater can carry out hybrid meetings (in person and with members attending via Zoom) because of the equipment purchased with the grant provided by the Wells Gray Community Forest 2010 Society (WGCF2010 Society). Once the current COVID pandemic is over the club intends to continue holding hybrid meetings so that members who cannot attend in person still have the option to attend meetings via Zoom. The Club is also able to invite speakers from outside of the community to speak at our meetings because of the equipment purchased.

The club will also use the equipment to allow other Rotarians from different clubs and districts to join our meetings, training, and speaker sessions. The club will be able to attract new members because of the increased options we can offer. Non-Rotarians can also join the speaker's sessions via Zoom. The Clearwater Ski Club will also benefit by being able to use the Rotary equipment for special occasions that they book through the lodge.

The Rotary Club may also make the equipment available to other organizations who hold events at the Ski Lodge under supervision of a Rotary Member.

Rotary Meeting using new equipment – setup at the Clearwater Ski Hill

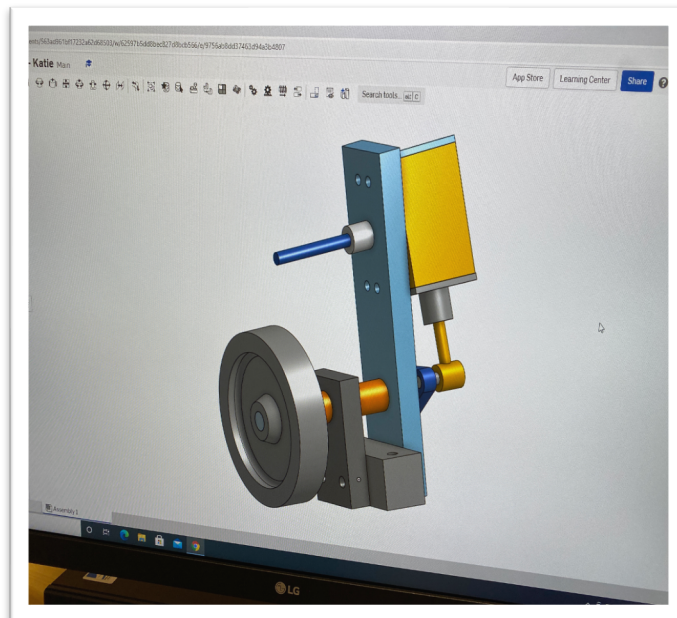
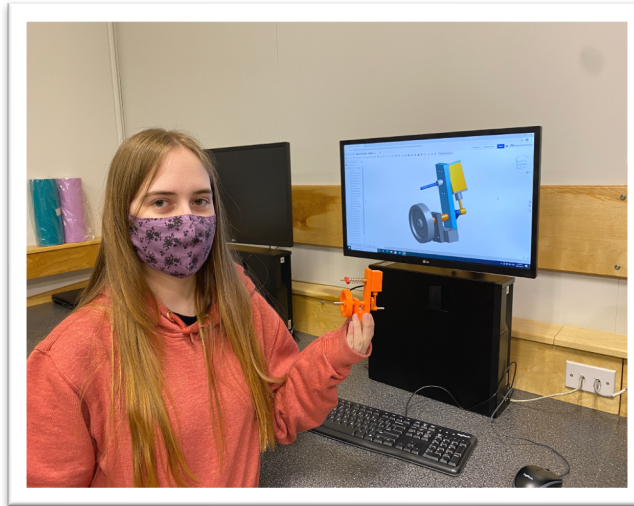


CLEARWATER SECONDARY HIGH SCHOOL (\$4,300):

The grant funding was used to purchase 3D printers to add to the CSS design lab. The additional printers allow students to print more of their projects.

Before the addition of these printers only a limited number of design projects could be printed due to the length of time it takes to print a single project, up to 8 hours.

The additional printing capacity provides more practice for students, allowing them to iterate more quickly and hone their skills at an accelerated rate. In the long run this will benefit the community as we grow skills in our own citizens which will add economic opportunities for these students and the community.



FOREST VIEW PLACE (\$3,500 grants funds & \$1,500 sponsorship):

The construction of the chicken coop and purchase of chickens has provided engagement and entertainment for our residents as well as memory aids, as chickens will remind many of them of their childhood and young adult years.

Studies have shown that having chickens helps many residents with dementia by giving them a calming presence and interacting with the birds encourages grounding in the present.

The construction of the chicken coop was designed and coordinated by Daniel Boudreau with volunteer help from community members. The chicken coop was designed for ease of access for viewing and interacting with the chickens as well as egg collection. Residents who cannot get outside can easily view the chicken coop and run from inside the building.



Chicken Coop at Forest View Place



Front view of Chicken Coop- feeding doors