

## WELLS GRAY COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY ACTIVITIES IN 2020

In 2020 the Society advertised only one granting cycle in the fall for \$50,000.00 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the health restrictions that were in place in the spring of 2020.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** The annual general meeting for the Society was held on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with the election of officers as follows; Chair Ken Kjenstad, Vice Chair Brent Buck, Secretary-Treasurer Heather MacLennan, Directors Mitch Miller, Ron Hadley, Merlin Blackwell and Leslie Groulx.

**EVERGREEN ACRES PHASE 4 DEVELOPMENT:** In September of 2020 Evergreen Acres invited the Society trustees, the Commission members and the Community Forest Corporation directors to attend a private viewing of the Phase 4 development and completed units. This was to show their appreciation of the tremendous financial support that was provided for the construction of the Phase 4 development.

**TED RICHARDSON BURSARY 2020:** In May the Wells Gray Community Forest Commission received seven (7) bursary applications from students graduating from the Clearwater Secondary High School. A subcommittee of five (5) commission members was formed to evaluate the applications and award the bursaries. The bursary of \$2,000.00 was awarded to two (2) deserving students, Ryley Griffin (\$1,000.00) and Jasmine Carr (\$1,000.00). Ryley is enrolled in Lethbridge College to complete his degree in Bachelor of Resource Compliance going into either natural resources or conservation officer. Jasmine is enrolled in Thompson Rivers University to obtain her degree in Bachelor of Arts Program.

**GRANTS:** The Society distributed funds for a wide range of community projects via the normal fall granting cycle (\$46,523.00 in total) and for two sponsorship applications. The trustees also made recommendations to move two grant applications to the Commission. (see tables below)

### **OCTOBER 2020 (\$50,000.00):**

Organization	Grant Description	Amount
Wells Gray Seniors Writing Club	Publish book	\$2,000.00
CSS	Purchase equipment	\$9,600.00
CSS	Family Day	\$700.00
Clearwater Food Bank	Purchase food	\$5,000.00
Clearwater Ski Hill	Lift & Bunny hill Maintenance, Lodge Upgrades	\$21,700.00
Wells Gray Seniors Society	Men's Shed purchase equipment	\$4,500.00
YCS		\$1,550.00
YCS	Literacy Enhancement	\$1,473.00
<b>Total Approved:</b>		<b>\$46,523.00</b>

### **SPONSORSHIP GRANTS 2020:**

Organization	Description	Amount
District of Clearwater	Value Added Workshop	\$350.00
District of Clearwater	Summer camp for Youth	\$2,500.00
<b>Total Approved:</b>		<b>\$2,850.00</b>

### **Summary of Society 2020 Disbursements:**

Fall Grants	\$ 46,523.00
Sponsorships	\$ 2,850.00
	<b><u>\$ 49,373.00</u></b>

## WELLS GRAY COMMUNITY FOREST COMMISSION GRANTS 2020

Organization	Description	Amount
District of Clearwater	Design survey for Roundabout to Wells Gray Inn multi-use pathway	\$30,000.00
Evergreen Acres	Seniors Amenity Facility	\$300,000.00
	<b>Total Approved</b>	<b>\$330,000.00</b>

Due to COVID-19 there are only two project reports submitted to date in for 2020 grants.

The following are two examples of projects that were funded by Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation and funds distributed by the Society.

### District of Clearwater Sponsored Summer Camp for Youth

The 2020 Outdoor Adventure Summer Camp took place August 31st to Sept 3 – ages 7-9 in the morning (9am to 12noon) and ages 10-12 in the afternoon (1 to 4pm). The activities were all focused on outdoor fun and included learnings about finding your way in the forests, hiking, geocaching, mountain biking, yoga in the park, and art and crafts.

The morning class – 7-9 age group had 12 participants (maximum class size= 12) with a waitlist, and the afternoon class 10-12 age group had 9 participants (maximum class size= 12).

Thanks to the generous donation by the Wells Gray Community Forest, the camp was free. The program covered teachings of survival techniques in the outdoors and each student was provided with their own backpack filled with the necessary supplies to do so.

Backpacks contained, hand sanitizer, tissues, mini First aid kit, reusable water bottle, snacks, pamphlets/information about Wells Gray/Clearwater/Candle Creek Trails, bug spray, and we can't forget the disposable masks (Covid19).

All supplies excepting the backpacks themselves were purchased locally.

this was a pilot for 2020 and proved to be very successful – we would like to make it an annual event.

We completed a survey of the students that attended the camp... here are a couple quotes from the results.

“Was great! “The kids had nothing but amazing things to say. They got a lot of arts and crafts done with their Mom, so I feel the rock painting and yoga wasn't too exciting for them, but everything rocked!” “Our child had a wonderful time and wished it was longer. “ “Thank you to the facilitators who brought their skills and passions to share with the kids.”



“Awesome camp!”











## District of Clearwater Wyndhaven to Hwy #5 Roundabout/Dutch Lake Beach Accessibility Project



# Grand Opening

Please join the  
District of Clearwater's Grand Opening of the  
Wyndhaven Multiuse Pathway & Dutch Lake Accessibility Trails

**September 25, 2020 at 3:00 pm  
in front of the TNT building.**

The Clearwater Trails Task Force Committee completed these trails as part of the Trails Master Plan.

Proudly funded by the Wells Gray Forest Society and BC Rural Dividend Fund.



The District submitted a request to the WGCF for leverage funding to construct a multi-use pathway from Wyndhaven to Highway #5 roundabout and to build an accessibility trail at Dutch Lake Beach. The Wyndhaven Safe Connector is a 0.75 km, 3 m wide path along Clearwater Valley Road from the Wyndhaven Subdivision to the Highway 5 roundabout. This path provides student, tourists and locals a safe multi-use path



to connect to the secondary school, main shopping amenities, medical centre, library and recreation centre in Clearwater.

The second part of the grant is the Dutch Lake Beach accessibility path, which is a hard packed 2 meter wide, 100-meter-long path from the upper parking lot to the beach. This path has provided safe wheelchair and scooter access to the beach shelter.

Partners included in this project are the Trails Task Force Committee, Wells Gray Outdoors Club, the Wells Gray Community Forest Society and TOTA. The Trails Task Force coordinated the project including grant application, communication and project monitoring.

The Wyndhaven Trail has dramatically increased safety for all users of the area - from one of the larger subdivisions in the District, tourist walking to amenities, and no longer having to walk along the busy Clearwater Valley Road (access to Wells Gray Park).

The second part of the grant went to the construction of the Dutch Lake beach accessibility trail and this has provided safe wheelchair access to the beach from the upper parking lot.

These trails have increased the opportunity for healthy living and are helping the District to reach or target of greenhouse gas reductions.

This project provided contractors much needed work during the COVID19 slowdown. The Wyndhaven and Beach access resulted in a total of 49 hours for survey and layout, 20 hours for geotechnical, and 1248 hours for construction and machine work.



