

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

### **Contents for 2017 Annual Report**

#### **Society Trustees:**

Richard Christenson  
*Chair*

Ted Richardson  
*Vice Chair*

Heather MacLennan  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Brent Buck  
Ken Kjenstad  
Isabell Hadford  
Mitch Miller  
*Trustees*

#### **Society Function**

The Wells Gray Community Forest (2010) Society works in unison with the Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation to provide funding to non-profit organizations within Wells Gray Country (TNRD Electoral Area 'A') and the District of Clearwater. The funds result from the harvesting operations profits 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 Community Forest License); provide shareholder and fiduciary oversight of the Corporation; and recommend to the Corporation how the net profits are distributed into the broader community.

#### **Society Activities in 2017**

##### ***Governance/ Structure Development***

In 2017 the Society and the Corporation engaged accounting and taxation consultants to provide guidance regarding the respective roles of the two entities, and how to minimize taxes, and maximize the benefits to the broader community. The recommended changes to the structures of the Society and the Corporation will be completed in 2018.

##### ***Grants/Loans***

As in 2016, the Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation generated higher than normal revenue in 2017 because of the strong log markets. The Society made available an additional \$330,000 for large projects in addition to the funds distributed to the community via the Society's normal spring and fall granting cycles (usually

approximately \$150,000), The top portion of the table below lists the approved small grant applications (27) from the spring and fall granting cycles (a total of \$118,721), and the 2 entries at the bottom of the table itemize the large grant applications approved (a total of \$330,000) for a grand total of \$448,721 in 2017.

As in 2016, there were no loans made in 2017. However, a 2nd loan repayment of \$20,000 was received from the District of Clearwater on the \$100,000 interest-free loan made in 2015 for the Dutch Lake Community Centre Biomass Furnace.

#### **Approved Small Grant Applications in 2017**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grants</b>
Clearwater Fire Department	Fireworks displays	\$3,000.00
North Thompson Back Country Horsemen	Trail restoration (Upper Clearwater)	\$1,000.00
BC Trappers Assoc.	Trappers Convention attendance	\$500.00
Clearwater Rotary Club	Christmas Tree light up	\$500.00
Clearwater Sno-Drifters	Groomer replacement	\$25,000.00
Wells Gray Curling Club	Junior Curling League equipment	\$3,360.00
North Thompson Yes2Know Youth Summit	Youth attendance	\$6,600.00
Clearwater Elks Lodge	moldings	\$6,700.00
Yellowhead Community Services	Outdoor stage	\$12,000.00
Yellowhead Community Services	Community garden enhancement	\$2,136.00
Clearwater Senior Secondary	Special needs tricycles	\$3,000.00
Clearwater Senior Secondary	Laser engraver & 3-D printer	\$9,000.00
Clearwater Senior Secondary	Volleyball stand	\$1,300.00
District of Clearwater	Upgrade Dutch Lake beach	\$23,000.00
1st Wells Gray Scouts	Outdoor equipment	\$2,000.00
Clearwater Minor Ball	Uniforms & equipment	\$1,400.00
North Thompson Arts Council	Children's Festival	\$1,000.00
Clearwater Guides	Registration and camping fees	\$1,000.00
Clearwater-Vavenby Lions Club	Seniors Christmas dinner	\$600.00
Raft Mountain Skating Club	Skating props for events	\$400.00

Wells Gray Outdoor Club	Cupboards & bins	\$4,500.00
Wells Gray Seniors Society	Transit excursions	\$3,000.00
Raft River Elementary School	Sensory bins	\$2,525.00
Clearwater Senior Secondary	Outdoor gear	\$4,000.00
Clearwater Senior Secondary	Family Day	\$700.00
District of Clearwater	Winter Festival	\$500.00
	<b>Total Regular Grants</b>	<b><u>\$118,721.00</u></b>

### **Approved Large Grant Applications in 2017**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant (contingent on using as leveraging funds)</b>
District of Clearwater	Renovation of Reg Small Park Cenotaph	\$30,000.00
District of Clearwater	Sportsplex bio-energy heating unit	\$300,000.00
	<b>Total Large Grants</b>	<b><u>\$330,000.00</u></b>

The total grants/loans approved for distribution since the Wells Gray Community Forest inception in 2006 was **\$1,105,589.86** from the spring and fall regular grant application cycles, plus **\$1,970,000.00** from the Large Grant application process, for a grand total of **\$3,075,589.86.**

### **Example Grants for 2017**

The following examples are three of the many projects completed with Wells Gray Community Forest funds in 2017:

#### **North Thompson Yes2Know Youth Summit**

*RCMP (\$6,600 grant)*

The North Thompson Youth Summit took place on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Dutch Lake Community Centre in Clearwater. The Summit was planned with the cooperation and collaboration of many community partners through the North Thompson Valley to include all students from Grade 6 through 9, including public school, First Nation school, and home school students. The goal was to provide the students with a special and memorable event where they would learn some new skills, connect with other youth and community partners, and explore new options for recreation in their area.

There were over 200 students in attendance. A wide range of topics were presented over the 2 day period including internet safety, digital citizenship and where things are going with the changes in technology. In addition, other speakers shared their life

stories, talking about overcoming adversity, learning about resiliency, and how to face life's challenges in a positive way.

Throughout the event there were community groups, organizations and others that provided booths and tables around the outside of the gym area. Most of the booths were manned by individuals who interacted with the students to explain what services the organization provided, and how the students could access them.

Overall, the event was a great success, bringing the communities and youth together to share in a fun event and great learning experience. The organizers received very positive feedback and many requests for a follow-up annual event. Currently there is no plans for another event in the near future. However, plans are being developed to invite more presenters to speak with the students about reducing their stress, anxiety and how to bolster student mental health.



### **Park Drive Multi-Use Pathway**

*District of Clearwater (\$180,000 grant)*

The District, through the Trails Task Force adopted the Trails Master Plan which identified the Park Drive multi-use pathway as a top priority to provide a safe walkable (non-vehicle) connection to move our seniors, youth and visitors to and from the key areas within our community. Trails play an important role by helping to mitigate pollution through reduction in fossil fuel consumption, and noise pollution and they offer opportunities to improve the health and well-being of our residents. The multi-use pathway is now connecting Park Drive to Murtle Crescent and is providing linkage to the

newly built crushed gravel pathway between the Roundabout on Highway #5 and Eden Road which was constructed as a donation by a local contractor.

The Park Drive Multi-Use pathway was successfully completed. The project saw the construction and completion of 1.6km of paved multi-use pathway. The multi-use pathway is 3m to 2.5m wide providing connectivity to three core areas of the community - the shopping district (pharmacy, grocery store, medical and dental clinics, banking and to seniors housing complex, the elementary and secondary schools, three recreation areas - splash park - tennis / skate park and arena). This pathway was identified as top priority within the District of Clearwater's trails master plan with the intent of developing a safe connection to the community amenities for all ages of residents and tourists, specifically our youth and seniors.

There is growing recognition to the importance of trails in contributing to active lifestyles that improve the physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing of all ages. This pathway has provided an opportunity for seniors to be mobile on electric scooters in a safe manner, it has been noted that many local citizens including students are using the pathway for recreation and connectivity. This multi-use pathway now provides a safe mode for non-vehicle traffic to move the seniors from the area of Evergreen Acres and



hospital provides a scenic route for tourist to walk, run or bike within the proximity to the motel/hotels in the community.

The District had the opportunity to partner with Wells Gray Community Forest Society (2010) to leverage Rural Dividend funds to build a high profile connection trail in the heart of the community. The Park Drive multiuse pathway, listed as a top priority in the District's Trails Master Plan was a perfect fit for the Rural Dividend funds partnered with the WGCF Society.

A Ribbon cutting to officially open the trail was held on October 21, 2017, with a great turnout. The Trails committee held a poker ride with prizes for all categories – bikers, walkers, electric scooters. All ages of folks turned out to celebrate this great day.

The full benefits to the building of this multi-use pathway have yet to be measured as it has been only a few months since the completion of this trail. Even at that there has been a significant increase in physical activities on this pathway – all modes of alternative traffic (electric scooter, walking, joggers, and bikes) have been using this trail.

### **Sensory/Self Regulation Bins**

*Raft River Elementary School (\$2,525 grant)*

We would like to extend our thanks to the **Wells Gray Community Forest Society** for their generosity in helping us to purchase Sensory/Self-Regulation Equipment for all of our Primary Classrooms. At school we do many things to help children learn to self-regulate so that they can be emotionally stable, develop healthy relationships with their peers, interact in a socially appropriate manner, and focus on their learning. This is an ongoing process, which takes consistency and time, as well as special tools. A child is successfully self-regulating when he or she can choose the correct tools to allow them to do all of these things.

Each class received a bin containing a variety of self-regulation tools to help students focus and stay regulated. There was Kinetic Sand, Porcupine Balls, Sand Windows, Soft and Spiky shapes and Squidgie Balls just to name a few. In addition, there were also wobble stools and rocker chairs as alternative seating for students who need to be able to sit and move at the same time.

We are very lucky to have the Wells Gray Community Forest Society help us to help the students at Raft River Elementary School. Thank-you so much!



