



WELLS GRAY
COMMUNITY FOREST

SOCIETY

Wells Gray Community Forest (2010) Society

2023 ANNUAL Report

October 2024

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

1. The purposes of the Society are:
 - a. To promote the economic and social welfare of the residents of the 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 Regional 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 30, 2023.

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”
 - Wayne Sim, appointed representative – Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation

Activities in 2023

- Society Trustees participated in a joint governance training session with the Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation.
- Completed a review and update of the Constitution and Bylaws.
- Society Trustees held a Strategic Planning Session in December and have completed a Strategic Plan. The Society spearheaded the development of a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation.
- Society approved a logo and branding theme

SPRING AND FALL GRANTS:

In 2023 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:

The Society adjudicated 15 applications, denied 1, approved 10, and forward 4 to the District of Clearwater Commission. Approved applications are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Spring 2023* - Applications Approved

Group	Grant Description	Amount
Interior Health – Adult Day Services	Wheelchairs	\$6,251
Clearwater Minor Hockey	Jerseys	6,550
Clearwater Chamber of Commerce	Board Governance Training	3,500
Royal Canadian Legion	Fridge/Dishwasher	6,000
Valley Pride Society	Murals, Mayday Parade/Crosswalk	4,000
Clearwater Rotary Club	Shade Pavilion	10,000
Dr Helmcken Memorial Hospital Aux	IV Pumps and Batteries	10,790
Clearwater Secondary School	Fine Arts	5,601
Clearwater Secondary School	Library Upgrades	5,034
Raft River Elementary School	Outdoor Seating	7,142
Total Approved		\$64,868

*Grant funds available \$100,000

In the fall, the Society received eleven applications and approved ten applications listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Fall 2023* - Applications Approved

Group	Grant Description	Amount
Wells Gray Lively Arts Society	Community Choral Risers	\$5,938
Wells Gray Curling Club	Club Equipment/Lounge Equip	1,584
Clearwater Volunteer Fire Assoc	2024 Fireworks	1,125
Upper Clearwater Fire Brigade	Water Storage Tanks	15,914
Yellowhead Community Services	Early Years Indigenous Program	3,330
Yellowhead Community Services	Literacy and Early Years Programming	1,378
Yellowhead Community Services	Teen Night Programming	2,000
Clearwater Secondary School	Engine Sets	3,424
Clearwater Secondary School	Family Day	800
Clearwater Secondary School	Hand Held Shaper	3,037
Total Approved		\$38,530

*Grant Funds available \$50,000

TABLE 3: SUMMARY - WGCFS 2023 DISBURSEMENTS

In Take Session	Amount	Amount
Spring (April)	\$64,868	\$65,868.00
Fall (October)	\$38,530	\$38,530.00
Sponsorship		
Total Approved:	\$	\$

TED RICHARDSON MEMORIAL BURSARY - 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).

Successful recipients were Martha Taylor - \$1,000 Bachelor of nursing – Maydson Clark - \$1,000 TRU B Ticket Welder Program

WELLS GRAY COMMUNITY FOREST COMMISSION – In July 2023 the District of Clearwater rescinded the District Bylaw governing the Wells Gray Community Forest Commission.

GRANT PROJECTS - 2023 FUND DISTRIBUTION:

Rotary Club of Clearwater

The Rotary Club of Clearwater had a vision to provide a shade structure (pavilion) for the Dragon Fly Splash Park. With approval from the District of Clearwater (DOC), club members fundraised and engaged with a local contractor, NEST Timberhome & Design, to design and build a shade structure.

The beneficiaries of the installation of this pavilion are parents and children who utilize the splash park, visitors to our community who are looking for a shaded area to sit and eat and enjoy our community facilities, local seniors and local clubs and groups who can use the pavilion to host smaller venue events such as music nights.

Completed Pavilion



Clearwater and District Chamber of Commerce

With the generous support of the Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation/Society, a two-part Board Governance Workshop was held on December 9th, 2023. The first session covered “Meeting Mechanics” and the afternoon session was directed at “Chair Training”.

38 participants from Not-for Profits, Societies, local clubs and a rep from the District of Clearwater, attendees were from Clearwater to Barriere. The day long workshop covered Meeting Mechanics in the morning and Chair Training. Successful outcomes building capacity within community not-for-profits.



Wells Gray Curling Club – purchase of stick curling equipment for group curling – to service students from Clearwater Secondary and Challengers (YCS) & speaker system for lounge area activities.

Putting new equipment to good use.

