



Wells Gray Community Forest (2010) Society

2024 ANNUAL Report

January 2025

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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 (WGFC), 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, 2024.

Elections of Officers were held with the following results:

- Heather MacLennan - Chair,
- Ron Hadley -Vice Chair, representative Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation
- Leslie Groulx – Secretary,
- Sheila Thiessen – Treasurer
- Directors
 - Mitch Miller, appointed to represent - TNRD Electoral Area “A”,
 - vacant - District of Clearwater
 - Wayne Sim, appointed representative - Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation

Activities in 2024:

The Society’s Constitution and Bylaws updated to address use of technology for meetings and signing documents, other amendments included:

- s. 27 (2) should reflect the number of directors on the board – to be seven (7) not three (3);
 - s. 28 (5) (6) & (8) should read “appointed” not “elected”;
 - s. 28(7) removal of reference to Community Forest Advisory Committee as this committee has not been active for several years;
 - s. 28(9) should be amended to replace “elected” to appointed; remove reference to 28(7) and after “seven (7) directors” add “made up of four (4) appointed and three (3) elected”
- Worked with executive members of the Corporation and Morelli Chertkow to understand the benefits if any to completing a Management Agreement between the Society and Corporation.

- Filed an application to CRA for the Society to obtain Charitable Status, this is expected to be finalized in early 2025.
- New logo and branding / marketing material approved and implemented.
- Reviewed risks and liabilities for the Corporation and Society Board members.
- Provided high level financial recommendations to the Corporation for 2024/25 budget.
- Entered an agreement with Thompson Nicola Regional District to distribute Trans Mountain Expansion Education Funds.
- Engaged KPMG to complete the 2024 audit process.

SPRING AND FALL GRANTS:

In 2024 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 nine (9) applications, of which five (5) were approved projects based on the Societies granting criteria – noted in Table 1:

TABLE 1: APRIL 2024 (\$100,000)

Group	Grant Description	Amount
Wells Gray Outdoor Club	Construct 1100m of trail	16,664.62
Clearwater Paddling Society	Youth Kayak / evening summer sessions	\$5,259.06
YCS	Renovation to Community Garden	\$15,012.22
Elks Lodge #499	Hall Refurbishment	\$32,334.92
Vavenby Fire Department	Update road rescue equipment	\$15,472.73
TOTAL Approved:		\$84,693.55

In the Fall of 2024, the Society received nine (9) applications, of which seven (7) were approved based on the Societies granting criteria– noted in Table 2:

TABLE 2: NOVEMBER 2024 (\$50,000)

Group	Grant Description	Amount
Clearwater Ski Hill	Upgrade fire alarm system	\$4,210.00
Clearwater Secondary School	Purchase rugby jerseys	\$2,453.50
Clearwater Secondary School	Purchase 2 Festool sanders	\$3,500.00
Clearwater Secondary School	Family Day	\$800.00
Clearwater Youth Soccer	Soccer nets	\$6,194.24
Raft River Elementary School	Purchase sound system	\$2,308.40
Clearwater Hospice Society	Purchase hospice bed	\$30,164.87
TOTAL Approved:		*\$49,631.01

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 was one application submitted and approved as noted in Table 3 below:

TABLE 3: SPONSORSHIP GRANTS 2024

Group	Description	Amount
Wells Gray Outdoor Club	Highway signage	\$823.20
Total Approved:		\$823.20

For the reporting year of 2024 the Society approved funding as stated in Table 4 below:

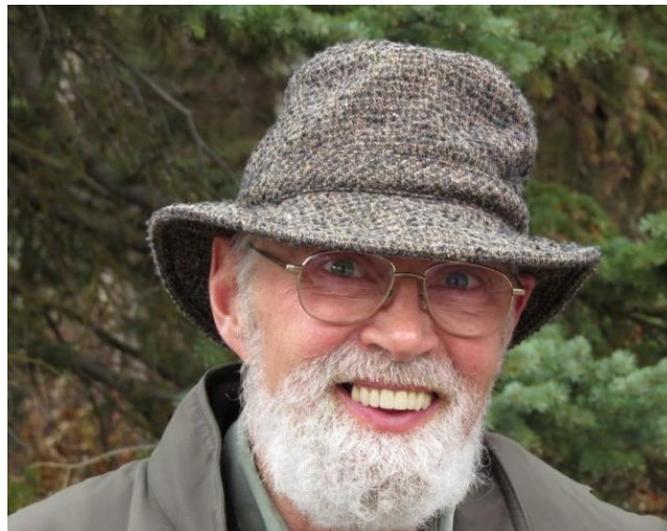
TABLE 4: SUMMARY - WGCFS 2024 DISBURSEMENTS

In Take Session	Amount
Spring (April)	\$84,693.55
Fall (October)	\$49,631.01
Sponsorship	\$823.20
Total Approved:	\$135,147.76

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 is funded by the Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation.

TED RICHARDSON BURSARY 2024:

In May, the Wells Gray Community Forest Society received eight (8) bursary applications from students graduating from Clearwater Secondary High School. A subcommittee of four (4) members two (2) from the Society and two (2) from the Corporation was formed to evaluate the applications and award the bursary. The bursary was awarded to one (1) student, Ethan Smith for \$2,000.00 who is enrolled at Thompson Rivers University in a trades program to become an Automotive Service Technician.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WELLS GRAY COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY GRANTS ALLOCATED IN 2024:

The following are examples of three (3) projects that acquired funds from the Society's Spring and Fall granting cycles:

2024 Clearwater Paddling Society – youth kayaking / summer sessions: \$5,259.06

Grant Impact on Our Organization

We are so grateful for the funding we received; it was instrumental in launching our paddling programs for the Clearwater community. We would not have been able to offer what we did without your help. With the funding, we were able to offer kayaking gear, safety equipment, and certified instructors for our participants. This enabled us to provide two months of weekly evening paddling sessions on Dutch Lake and Clearwater River, as well as two four-day youth camps. The financial support also allowed us to focus on creating a safe, inclusive environment that promoted both skill development and community building.

Benefits to the Community

The funding allowed these programs to be very accessible, the weekly sessions brought together participants ages 11 to 65 with varying skill levels. We saw strong engagement with 44 people becoming members, 23 of which came to our evening sessions. The participants learned important paddling techniques, water safety skills, and rescue methods as well as had fun playing on water games.

The camps for youth ages 10-17 were particularly successful, as we had 5 local boys whose progressions were awesome. We had very positive feedback from parents. They were paddling comfortably on the lower Clearwater River and rolling in the current by the end of the program.

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.



**Elks Lodge #499 – hall refurbishment:
\$32,334.92**

Grant Impact & community benefits:

The project involved the renovation of the Elks Hall and the building on concrete pads for the pancake breakfast grill.

The building of the concrete pads has been a huge benefit for the pancake breakfast volunteers. It has made it easier to wheel the grills out in the mornings and put them away after the breakfast is over. The pathway up to the side door of the building is now safer for our volunteers to walk on as opposed to the former dirt path, the renos included constructing an easy grade up to the stairs. This path is used often during the course of the breakfast preparations. All of the volunteers have remarked that it is much easier to make the trek between the grills and the kitchen.

The installation of a dish sanitizer has increased our viability as a rental kitchen for various community groups, certified kitchens are now required for any community baking to be offered for sale.

The renovations to the storage room have been a big help with clearing out decades of old material to enable more efficient running of the hall. It also allows the tables and chairs to be stored out of the way.

The electrical upgrades have meant that the hall is properly lighted for various uses by community members. Many of the groups have commented on how the main room is much better for many activities, such as quilting and meetings.

Vavenby Volunteer Fire Department –: \$15,911.29

Grant impact & benefits to the community:

Upgrades to the Road Rescue Equipment Program were approved in the 2024 Spring Grant intake.

It is a huge help to receive the funds to improve our services in this area.

The Vavenby Volunteer Fire Department provides rural road rescue in the North Thompson Valley from Birch Island north to Albreda. This grant provided significant assistance to this area.

The VVFD road rescue covers nearly 150 kms of Highway 5. It is a big area, and the tools and equipment the Department were able to purchase will help everyone that travels through the valley if they should be in an accident. Assisting both locals and visitors to the area.

The funds were used for the following equipment:

- Battery powered hydraulic ram that is portable, a truly great tool to have.
- Clam shell back board that splits down the middle making it easier to scoop up a patient and then locks together again which is helpful for patients who are hurt badly or cannot be rolled.

- Manta Mat a 6x6 heavy canvas tarp with handles and helps with transport of a patient when in a tight spot.
- Rescue basket used to place patients in when there is a need to haul them up banks with ropes.
- Seat belts used for securing patients to backboards
- Regular flat back board used for stabilizing patients.

