

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 for a wide range of community projects. The funds result from the harvesting operations 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 forest and harvests 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, how to minimize taxes, and how to maximize benefits to the broader community. The resulting changes to the structures of the Society and the Corporation are anticipated to be completed in 2018.

Grants/Loans

As in 2016, the Wells Gray Community Forest Corporation generated higher than normal revenue because of strong log markets, and therefore, in addition to the funds distributed to the community via the Society's normal spring and fall granting cycles (usually approximately \$150,000), the Society made available an additional \$330,000 for large projects.

The top portion of the table below lists the approved small grant applications (27) from the 2017 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 approved in 2017 for distribution.

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

Organization	Project	Grants
Clearwater Fire Department	Fireworks displays	\$3,000.00
North Thompson Back Country Horsemen	Trail restoration (Upper Clearwater)	\$1,000.00
BC Trappers Association	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	Mouldings	\$6,700.00
Yellowhead Community Services	Outdoor stage	\$12,000.00
Yellowhead Community Services	Community garden enhancement	\$2,136.00
Clearwater Senior Secondary school	Special needs tricycles	\$3,000.00
Clearwater Senior Secondary school	Laser engraver & 3-D printer	\$9,000.00
Clearwater Senior Secondary school	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 Girl 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/Self-regulatory equipment	\$2,525.00
Clearwater Senior Secondary school	Outdoor gear	\$4,000.00
Clearwater Senior Secondary school	Family Day	\$700.00
District of Clearwater	Winter Festival	\$500.00
	Total Regular Grants	<u>\$118,721.00</u>

Approved Large Grant Applications in 2017

Organization	Project	Grant (contingent on combining with leveraged funds)
District of Clearwater	Cenotaph replacement	\$30,000.00
District of Clearwater	Sportsplex bio-energy heating unit	\$300,000.00
	Total Large Grants	<u>\$330,000.00</u>

As of December 2017, the total grants/loans approved for distribution since the Wells Gray Community Forest inception in 2006 is **\$1,005,389.66** from the spring and fall regular grant application cycles, plus **\$1,194,000.00** from the large grant application process, for a grand total of **\$2,199,389.66**

Example Grants for 2017

The following examples are but 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 Yes2Know Youth Summit took place on May 10th and 11th, 2017 at the Dutch Lake Community Centre in Clearwater. The Summit was planned with the cooperation and collaboration of many community partners throughout the North Thompson Valley to include all students from Grades 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 could learn 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 was presented over the 2-day period including Internet safety, digital citizenship, and future 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 explained services available, and how students could access these services.

Overall the event was a great success, bringing the communities and youth together to share in a fun event and have a great learning experience. The organizers received very positive feedback and many requests for a follow-up event. At this time 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 how to reduce their stress and anxiety, and how to bolster student mental health.



Park Drive Multi-use Pathway

District of Clearwater (\$180,000 grant)

The District of Clearwater utilized Wells Gray Community Forest funds, in conjunction with Rural Dividend Fund money, to construct the Park Drive multi-use pathway, which links the hospital and the Evergreen Acres seniors housing complex to the library, medical centre, Sportsplex recreation centre, high school, and shopping centre area. This pathway has long been desired by the community to provide a safe walkable (non-vehicle) connection for our seniors, youth, adults of all ages, and tourists.

The project resulted in the construction of 1.6km of paved multi-use 2.5 to 3m wide pathway adjacent to Park Drive.

In addition to being used by walkers, joggers, and bikers, the pathway is particularly important for seniors to ride their electric scooters in safety.



Sensory/Self-Regulation Equipment

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

The Wells Gray Community Forest provided funds towards the purchase of Sensory/Self-regulation equipment for the Raft River Elementary School.

Teachers do many things to help young 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 is able to choose the correct tools to allow them to do all of these things.

The funds were used to equip each primary classroom with a bin containing a variety of self-regulation tools to help students focus and stay regulated. These include Kinetic Sand, Porcupine Balls, Sand Windows, Soft and Spiky shapes, and Squidgie Balls, just to name a few. In addition, the equipment also included wobble stools and rocker chairs as alternative seating for students who need to sit and move at the same time.



