

2025 Annual Report

Celebrating 15 Years of Collaborative
Watershed Engagement (2011 – 2026)



Prepared by the Executive Director
with the support of the Coquitlam
River Watershed Society Board

February 14, 2026



**Coquitlam
River Watershed
Society**

Mission

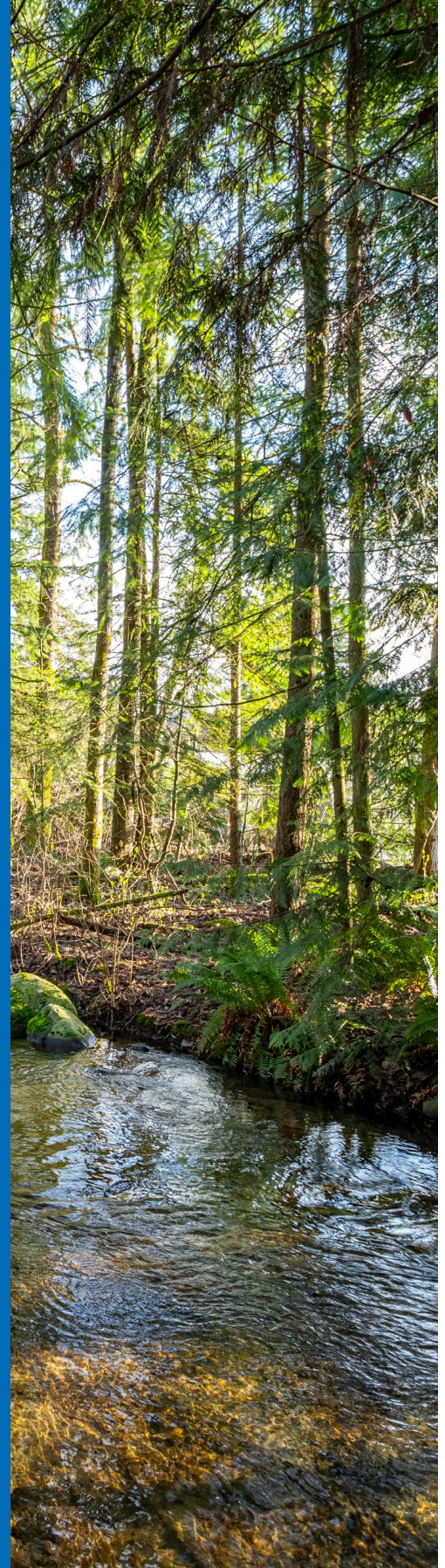
Our Mission is to preserve and enhance the health of the Coquitlam River Watershed through collaboration, education and advisory action.

The Coquitlam River Watershed Society is honoured to operate on the traditional and ancestral lands of the kʷikʷəłəm (Kwkwetlem First Nation). We thank the kʷikʷəłəm who continue to live on these lands and care for them, along with the waters and all that is above and below.



Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Acknowledgments	2
Executive Summary	3
Sector Representatives + Community Partners	4
Community Supporters	6
Staff and Support	6
Board of Directors	7
Operations	9
Outreach Events	11
Watershed Plan Implementation	13
Salmon Habitat + Conservation	15
Website + Social Media	17
Financial + In-Kind Contributions	18
Looking Ahead	22
Conclusion	23
In Memoriam	24



Introduction

Message from

Margaret A. Birch,
R.P.Bio. (retired)

Board Vice-Chair,
Coquitlam River Watershed Society.

As Board Vice-Chair, I am honoured to share this message for the Society's 2025 Annual Report and to express sincere gratitude to the many partners, funders, and volunteers who support the Coquitlam River Watershed Society. With your continued collaboration, we have made meaningful and lasting improvements to the health of the Coquitlam River watershed—for both people and fish.

Our journey began in February 2011 with the formation of the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable. After four years of multi-sector collaboration, the Roundtable developed the Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan, overcoming years of division among watershed stakeholders. That work emerged from a period of crisis, when the Coquitlam River had been listed by the BC Outdoor Recreation Council as one of the province's most endangered rivers. Through collective action focused on improving water quality and salmon habitat, the river was removed from that list in 2013.



In 2026, we will mark 15 years of sustained, community-based watershed collaboration. This milestone reflects the dedication, expertise, and resilience of the individuals and organizations that continue to guide this work. The Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan—developed between 2013 and 2015 through broad consultation—remains our guiding framework. When the Roundtable transitioned into a Society in 2024, its collaborative structure was preserved, ensuring continuity in both governance and vision.

This Annual Report highlights another strong year of stewardship, education, and advisory action. The legacy Demonstration Rain Garden at Lions Park in Port Coquitlam continues to thrive through volunteer care. Updated educational displays, outreach campaigns promoting respect for wildlife, and community-based clean-ups and invasive species removal all contributed to healthier riparian and aquatic habitats. Through sustained public engagement, we are seeing the benefits of long-term municipal, regional, and community efforts to improve water quality and support salmon health.

Reflections captured more than a decade ago from Core Committee members speak to the enduring strength of this collaborative approach:

- > "...the greatest strength of this [organization] is the ability for people to foster relationships with different sectors that they may not normally rub elbows with and to understand where each individual is coming from..."*
- > "...there is quite a bit of talent in the room with respect to knowledge about various aspects of the watershed through the representatives that participate..."*
- > "...we are all concerned about the same thing. There is just the commonality of the river. While the reasons for why we are at the table could differ, the commonality of the river brings us together."*

Excerpts from Fielding, G.B., 2016. Evaluating the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable

As we look ahead, we remain committed to our Mission: to preserve and enhance the health of the Coquitlam River watershed through collaboration, education and advisory action. With on-going support and participation of our partners, this work continues to adapt to an evolving landscape of climate change and development.

To another great year!

Margaret A. Birch

Acknowledgments

Throughout 2025, the Coquitlam River Watershed Society (CRWS) (the “Society”) was grateful for the continued financial support of key partners whose commitment makes our work possible.

We sincerely thank the City of Coquitlam, Metro Vancouver (Greater Vancouver Water District), kʷikʷəłəm First Nation, the Government of Canada, Jack Cewe Construction Ltd., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, and the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program for their ongoing investment in watershed stewardship.

The Society is especially appreciative of the opportunity throughout 2025 to strengthen its relationship with kʷikʷəłəm First Nation through communication and collaboration on shared goals.

The Society’s activities are further supported by significant in-kind contributions of time expertise, and resources from partners and community supporters.

We gratefully acknowledge support from the City of Coquitlam; City of Port Coquitlam; kʷikʷəłəm First Nation; Tri-Cities Off-Road Cycling Association; Burke Mountain Naturalists; Tri-Cities Bear Aware; Wondrous Tree Fellowship; Watershed Watch Salmon Society; Jack Cewe Construction Ltd.; Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Arts Connect; Allard Airlines; Heidelberg Materials; Vancity Savings; BC Hydro; Kwantlen Polytechnic University; Coquitlam Public Library; Originelle Designs Photography; and in-kind support.

Finally, the Society extends its sincere thanks to the many volunteers, stewards, community organizations, and businesses who contributed their time and energy throughout the year. Their dedication remains essential to advancing collaborative watershed stewardship.



Executive Summary

In 2025, the Society established a sound foundation as a newly incorporated Society, while building on its legacy of 15 years of collaboration in support of the health of the Coquitlam River Watershed.

What began in 2011 as a multi-sector roundtable responding to a river in crisis has evolved into a formally incorporated Society grounded in collaboration, shared knowledge, and collective stewardship.



The Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan remains the foundation of the Society's work.

In 2025, the Society continued to implement the Plan through practical stewardship, education, and advisory initiatives that support water quality, salmon habitat, and responsible use of the watershed. Volunteer care of the Lions Park Demonstration Rain Garden, riverside clean-ups, and invasive species removal contributed directly to on-the-ground outcomes while fostering public stewardship and awareness.

Education and outreach were central to the Society's impact in 2025. The launch of the Respectful Recreation campaign responded to growing community concern about recreational impacts on sensitive river habitats. Developed collaboratively with municipal, provincial, federal, and community partners, the campaign delivered consistent, accessible guidance through printed materials and in-person outreach. The Society also strengthened its salmon education capacity through a new outreach display supported by the Pacific Salmon Foundation, enhancing the Society's presence at community events.

The Society's collaborative governance model continued to be a defining strength. The Core Committee brought together representatives from governments, including First Nations, stewardship organizations, industry, education, recreation to guide work planning, share knowledge, and support coordinated action.

Ongoing participation from kʷikʷəłəm First Nation Council reflected a strengthening relationship grounded in respect, reconciliation, and shared stewardship of the watershed.

Operationally, 2025 marked an important year of consolidation. The long-standing contract coordinator role was transitioned to a permanent Executive Director position, aligning with best practices for organizational stability and accountability. Financial management responsibilities were fully transitioned to the Society following incorporation in 2024, strengthening governance alignment and fiduciary oversight. Despite modestly reduced revenues, careful financial management, strong in-kind support, and volunteer contributions enabled the Society to deliver its programs and conclude the year within budget.

Digital engagement continued to grow, with record website traffic and document downloads following the launch of the Resource Catalogue, reinforcing the Society's role as a trusted source of watershed information.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Society remains focused on advancing the Watershed Plan through stewardship, outreach, reconciliation, and partnerships. Prioritizing the renewal of sustainable funding agreements will be a necessary step in establishing the long-term financial sustainability of our organization. With a strong collaborative foundation and committed partners, the Society is well positioned to continue protecting the Coquitlam River watershed for people, salmon, and future generations.

Sector Representatives + Community Partners

The Coquitlam River Watershed Society is grounded in a collaborative, sector-based model that brings together governments, including First Nations, stewardship and community organizations, businesses and industry, who have a shared interest in the health of the watershed. This structure ensures that diverse perspectives contribute to shared knowledge, while supporting coordinated practical action.

Core Committee

The Core Committee is composed of sector representatives who generously contribute their time and expertise in kind to support the work of the Society. Members participate in Core Committee and Community meetings, serve on standing and project-based committees, and contribute to outreach and stewardship activities. These sector representatives elect Board directors, contribute to work-planning and provide expertise and guidance from their sector. Through this leadership, the Core Committee helps shape the direction and priorities of the Society.

A defining feature of the Core Committee is the participation of kʷikʷəłəm First Nation, represented by both Council and staff. This ongoing involvement reflects a strengthening relationship grounded in respect, collaboration, and shared stewardship of the Coquitlam River watershed.

In early 2025, several new stewardship partners joined the Core Committee, including Tri-Cities Bear Aware, Wondrous Tree Fellowship, and Burke Mountain Naturalists. This year also saw new representation from the Tri-Cities Off-Road Cycling Association and Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

Core Committee Presentations and Knowledge Sharing

Core Committee meetings serve as an important forum for learning and information exchange.

In 2025, presentations included:

- > **January 15:** *Community-led Resilience for a Healthy Watershed* – Margaret Birch
- > **March 19:** *Impacts of the Tire-Rubber Chemical 6PPD-quinone on Aquatic Organisms* – Grayson Barke, Simon Fraser University
- > **March 19:** *BC Hydro Water Use Plan Updates* – Katy Jay, BC Hydro
- > **May 14:** *Preliminary Results from the Water Quality and Bacterial Salmon Pathogens Pilot Project* – Layne Myhre, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- > **September 17:** *Salmon Returns, Campaigns, and Policy Updates* – Meghan Rooney, Watershed Watch Salmon Society
- > **November 19:** *Historic and Ongoing Ties of kʷikʷəłəm First Nation to the Coquitlam River Watershed* – Nancy Joe, Cultural Coordinator, kʷikʷəłəm First Nation



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Ozone

Tire Wear Particles

6PPD-Q

6P
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#CBC
B.C. stream watch
salmon kill to tire

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09:19
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Sector Representatives

Local Government



City of Coquitlam
Caresse Selk



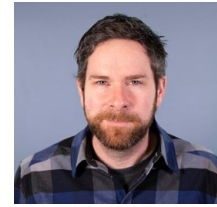
City of Port Coquitlam
Scott Walmsley



kʷikʷəłəm First Nation (Council)
Councillor George Chaffee



kʷikʷəłəm First Nation (Staff)
Lance Myers



Metro Vancouver, Water Services
Jesse Montgomery



BC Hydro
Katy Jay

Federal Government



Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Elan Park



Heidelberg Materials
Sophie Mullen



Allard Airlines
Jim Allard



Tri-Cities Bear Aware
Carla Parr-Pearson



Burke Mountain Naturalists
Helen Howes



Wondrous Tree Fellowship
Nancy Furness

Education



Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Layne Myhre



Arts Connect
Sherry Carroll



Tri-Cities Off-Road Cycling Association
Chris Cook

Industry

Stewardship

Community Supporters

Participants in 2025

16 voting members

8 Board Directors

74 Community supporters and volunteers

Many community members support the Society in an informal capacity as community supporters. These individuals contribute volunteer labour to stewardship projects and share knowledge and expertise through participation in community meetings and task groups. Together, these contributions play an important role in advancing collaborative watershed stewardship.

Staff and Support

The Society has always operated as a lean organization, maximizing impact through a small team. As the only permanent staff, the Executive Director, Georgia Ohm, is supported by part-time contractors as needed.

In 2025, this team included

Executive Director

Georgia Ohm

Digital Communications

Jacqueline Chan

Outreach Coordinator

Melissa Plisic

Graphic Designer

Eila Miller



Board of Directors

In 2025, the Society continued to strengthen its governance framework following the transition in 2024 to a standing board of directors (the “Board”).

This transition marked a significant milestone in the Society’s evolution from a long-standing collaborative roundtable to a formally incorporated non-profit organization with clear fiduciary and governance responsibilities, governed by the Societies Act of British Columbia.

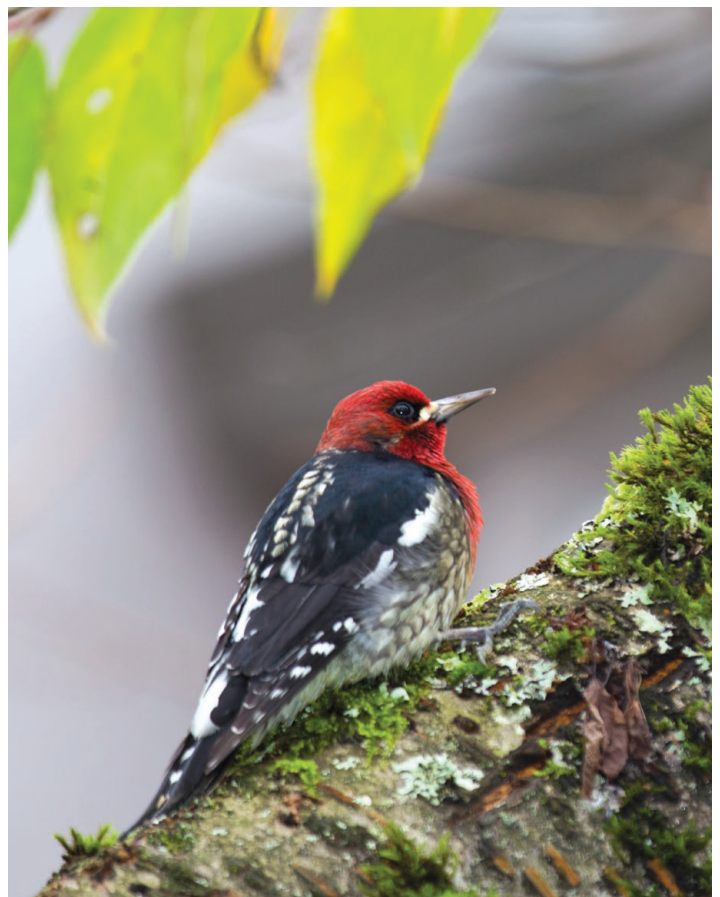
The Board provides oversight and management of the Society’s affairs in accordance with the Society’s bylaws, the Societies Act, and leading nonprofit governance practices. Board responsibilities include strategic direction, financial oversight, supervision of the Executive Director, risk management, and ensuring that the Society advances its mission to preserve and enhance the health of the Coquitlam River watershed.

In keeping with the Society’s collaborative roots, the Cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam, as well as kwikwəx̱əm First Nation, may appoint Directors to the Board. This structure helps ensure that First Nation, municipal, and regional perspectives continue to inform decision-making at the governance level.

The Board meets five times per year and reviews financial statements on a quarterly basis. The Board also support the Society through participation in committees, work planning sessions, and key events. Formal orientation and onboarding are provided to new directors, including access to governance documents, pairing with experienced board members, and ongoing support to ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities.

Through the establishment of a standing Board and continued refinement of governance practices, the Society is well positioned to provide accountable leadership, support staff and partners, and guide collaborative watershed stewardship into the future.

At the Society’s Annual General Meeting, held on June 11, 2025, the full slate of Board Directors was approved by the Society Members to continue in their roles.



Current Board of Directors



Bonnie Razzaghi

Environmental engineer and longtime CRWS volunteer whose experience in conservation, science communication, and project management strengthens strategic oversight and stewardship initiatives. Bonnie contributes to the oversight of Funding opportunities and applications.



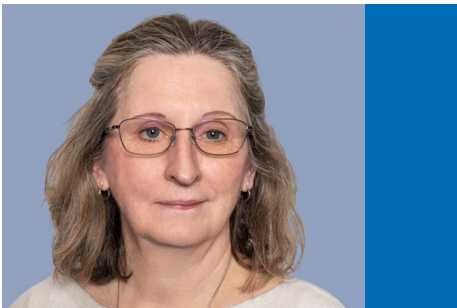
Glynis Karpinsky

Glynis brings expertise in volunteer coordination, human resources, and community based leadership to Board governance..



Kirsten Wilson

Kirsten brings her executive experience to her role as Board Chair, contributing to Board deliberations, governance oversight and supervision of the Executive Director.



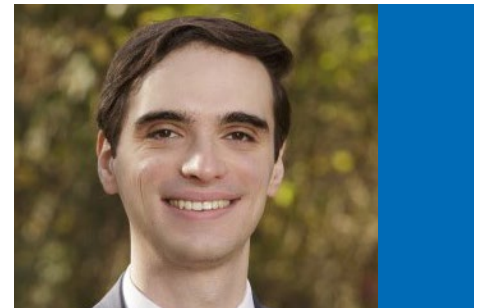
Margaret Birch

Margaret is a foundational leader in watershed stewardship since 2007, providing extensive experience in environmental services coordination, grant writing, budgeting, and policy development.



Marion Lochhead

Finance and property tax law professional who strengthens the Board's financial oversight, risk management, and fiduciary responsibilities.



Councillor Matt Djonlic

Municipal councillor and longtime TriCities resident offering civic leadership experience and insight from provincial and local government service.



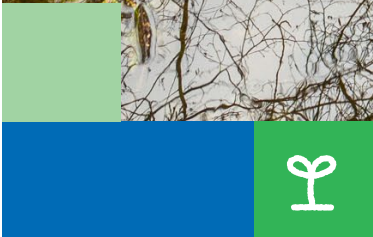
Councillor Nancy McCurrach

Municipal councillor contributing local government perspective and a strong commitment to collaborative, community based watershed stewardship.



Sonya Knechtel

Corporate paralegal with expertise in the BC Societies Act, governance compliance, and records management, supporting strong organizational accountability.



Operations

The operations of the Coquitlam River Watershed Society (CRWS) are designed to support effective governance, sound financial management, and efficient delivery of programs while maintaining a lean organizational structure.

Organizational Systems and Resources

In 2025, the Society transitioned the long-standing contract Coordinator role to a permanent staff position, that of Executive Director, aligning with British Columbia labour standards and recognized best practices for roles that are ongoing, full-time, and central to organizational operations. This change supports transparency, stability, and the long-term health of the organization. The responsibilities of the Executive Director build on those of the former Coordinator role, with expanded accountability for organizational administration, financial oversight, and liaison with the Board, in keeping with the requirements of an incorporated Society.

During 2025, the Executive Director was supported by Melissa Plisic, who worked on contract as an Outreach Coordinator during Spring 2025. Through funding from the Canada Summer Jobs program, Eila Miller supported the Society as a Graphic Designer throughout the summer. In addition, Jacqueline Chan continued to provide invaluable technical support on an ongoing, part-time contract basis.

Together, this small and flexible team enabled the Society to advance its programs, outreach, and governance responsibilities efficiently while maintaining a strong focus on collaboration and stewardship.

Financial Management

Sound financial stewardship remains a core operational priority for the Society. In 2025, the Society continued to strengthen its financial management practices, including budgeting, financial tracking, and regular reporting to the Board.

A significant operational milestone in 2025 was the transition of financial management responsibilities from Watershed Watch Salmon Society to CRWS. For over 10 years, Watershed Watch Salmon Society has provided invaluable support as the Society's financial trustee. Aligning financial operations with governance accountability reflects the Society's growing administrative capacity and organizational

maturity. Payroll, accounting, and tax filing responsibilities are now managed directly by the Society, with contract services provided by CNC Accounting.

Work planning

The Society facilitated two work planning sessions in 2025 with members, board directors, and community supporters. In previous years, work planning sessions have typically been held in the early spring. This year, in order to plan in advance of grant applications for projects, the Society also held a work planning session in the Fall. Going forward, work planning will be held in the fall of the year.

At both Work Planning events in 2025, the Society was grateful to receive strong guidance from the Kwikwetlem First Nation. During the Spring workshop, The Society heard the following themes from members:

- *A strong concern for habitat and species protection, especially in areas where public use and recreation puts pressure on ecosystems.*
- *An identified need for a searchable Resource Catalogue to make watershed information more accessible to the Society members, partners and the community.*

These themes were also emphasized at the Fall work planning session, alongside suggestions to seek out more partnerships with post-secondary students and researchers, develop programs and opportunities that benefit Kwikwetlem First Nation youth and elders. A call to contribute to BC Hydro's Order Review Advisory Committee was also proposed.

Society recognition and outreach material

With funding from the Canada Summer Jobs program, an initiative to support young Canadian professionals, the Society was able to hire a young graphic designer to renew the Society's logo, reflecting the change of name from Roundtable to Society. This work resulted in renewed branded materials including new posters and leaflets, bookmarks, letterhead, and a work plan template, as well as campaign materials for our Rain Garden watering program and Respectful Recreation campaign.

Work planning sessions in 2025 with members, board directors, and community supporters facilitated strategic planning and cross-sector collaboration.



Outreach Events

Community events continue to be an important way for the Society to connect with residents, share information, and encourage stewardship of the Coquitlam River watershed.

Through these events, the Society’s staff, Board members, and volunteers engaged community members in conversations about watershed health, stewardship actions, and the role of collaboration in protecting the river system. Community events provided accessible entry points for learning, relationship-building, and raising awareness of ongoing watershed initiatives.



List of Community Events attended

Organizer	Event	Date
Port Coquitlam Community Foundation	Port Coquitlam Community Foundation Grant Recipient Recognition Event	Wednesday, March 5, 2025
City of Port Coquitlam	Port Coquitlam Earth Day Celebration	Saturday, April 27, 2025
Tri-Cities Offroad Cycling Association	Outdoor Recreation Festival Trails Day	Saturday, June 7, 2025
City of Coquitlam	Coquitlam Environmental Volunteer Celebration	Saturday, June 7, 2025
City of Coquitlam	Park Day	Wednesday, July 23, 2025
Kwikwetlem First Nation, Resilient Waters, Watershed Watch Salmon Society, and UBC's Pacific Salmon Ecology & Conservation Lab	Salmon Day at Colony Farm	Saturday, October 4, 2025
City of Coquitlam and Hoy-Scott Watershed Society	Salmon Come Home	Sunday, October 26, 2025

By maintaining a targeted presence at community events, the Society continued to strengthen public awareness and support for collaborative watershed stewardship while operating within the capacity of a lean organization.

Watershed Plan Implementation

The work of the Society is guided by the Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan, which provides a shared framework for understanding watershed conditions, identifying pressures, and advancing coordinated action. The Plan emphasizes collaboration across jurisdictions and sectors, recognizing that protecting and restoring watershed health requires collective effort and long-term commitment.

In 2025, the Society continued to advance implementation of the Watershed Plan by focusing on practical, community-based projects that support water quality, habitat protection, and responsible use of the watershed.

Through partnerships, stewardship initiatives, and targeted projects, the Society translated planning priorities into on-the-ground outcomes while building capacity for future implementation.



Stormwater Management

Stormwater management remains a priority focus for implementation of the Watershed Plan, building on significant progress achieved in 2024 through planning, partnerships, and on-the-ground improvements. In 2025, stewardship efforts continued at the Rain Garden, where volunteers provided ongoing watering, maintenance and care throughout the summer months. This work was supported by strong community participation, amounting to over 40 volunteer hours supporting the long-term function of this important stormwater feature.

Anti-littering and Dumping

Addressing littering and illegal dumping remains an important component of watershed stewardship, with direct benefits for water quality, habitat health, and community use of river-adjacent spaces. In 2025, the Society advanced this work through targeted clean-up events, strengthened stewardship capacity, and continued collaboration with community, municipal, and corporate partners.

With support from the Pacific Salmon Foundation Community Salmon Program, the Society enhanced its ability to undertake safe and effective clean-up activities through the purchase of essential equipment, including garbage tongs, buckets, storage bins, and a folding wagon. This equipment improved on-site efficiency, supported volunteer safety, and enabled the Society to organize and deliver repeated clean-up events at priority locations while maintaining a well-organized storage locker for outreach and stewardship supplies.

The Society also participated in BC Rivers Day with a community clean-up at Ozada Park, Coquitlam, engaging Society members, community volunteers with support from City of Coquitlam staff.

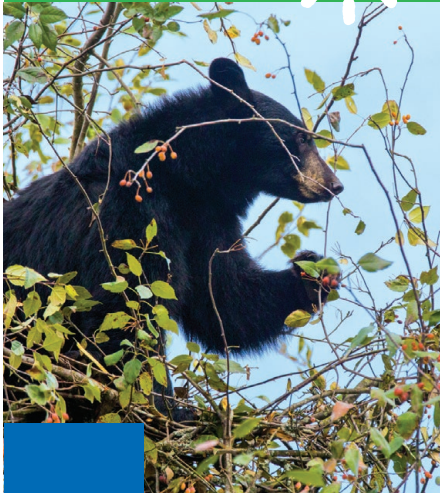
> **“Grateful to the River** and its thriving ecosystem, the accessibility to immerse oneself in nature and for all that provides. Thanks to the CRWS and the City of Coquitlam for organizing and supporting the clean up day - it was massively rewarding and hope the spirit of stewardship efforts continues to grow throughout our community to protect this very special river.”

Comment on the CRWS’ Facebook page regarding the Rivers Day Clean-up at Ozada Park post, September 26, 2025.



Salmon Habitat + Conservation

Respectful Recreation



Respectful Recreation

In 2023 and 2024, the Society received a growing number of public inquiries about recreational activities affecting fish and wildlife habitat along the Coquitlam River. Causes of concern included dogs in waterways during spawning season, rock sculptures and dams, and litter. Through conversations with community members, partners, and media, it became clear that accessible, authoritative guidance on respectful recreation—particularly recreation with pets—was limited, and that people were often hesitant to address harmful behaviours directly. The Society identified public education as a constructive first step.

In summer 2025, we convened an advisory panel that included representatives from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Metro Vancouver, the Cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam, the BC SPCA, Tri-Cities Bear Aware, Burke Mountain Naturalists, Wonderous Tree Fellowship, and the Tri-Cities Off-Road Cycling Association. Through work with these partners, we ensured that educational messages in support of low-impact recreation were aligned with those of our partners and communicated with consistency. With the advice compiled, the Society produced two pamphlets—one for a general audience and one focused on dog owners. Design support was provided by Canada Summer Jobs-funded graphic designer.

250 Respectful recreation pamphlets distributed.

Further funding from the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP), supported the printing, and delivery of Respectful Recreation pamphlets, and associated outreach at community events. Between September and December 2025, the campaign reached community members through stewardship events and public outreach, including clean-ups at Ozada Park and Gates Park, as well as major watershed events such as Salmon Day at ʔəxətəm Regional Park and Salmon Come Home Day at the Hoy Scott Hatchery. Pamphlets were also distributed through municipal offices, animal shelters, and pet-related businesses, extending the reach of Respectful Recreation messaging across the watershed. The campaign was well received by community members and partners, and laid the groundwork for continued engagement in 2026, including further presentations and outreach.

> *“This is great, both pamphlets are very relevant.”*

Michaela, staff at Coquitlam Animal Shelter





Healthy Watersheds, Healthy People

Coquitlam River Watershed Society

Our mission is to preserve and enhance the health of the Coquitlam River watershed through collaboration, education, and advisory action.

All 5 species of Pacific Salmon, as well as Steelhead, rely on the Coquitlam River and its tributaries for instream habitat to lay their eggs and grow.



Sockeye Salmon

- Sockeye rely on freshwater spawning habitat in or near lakes.
- Coquitlam Sockeye populations were historically disrupted by the Coquitlam Dam, but small numbers of Sockeye Salmon are now returning to the Coquitlam Watershed.
- The Kwikwaka'wakw (Kwikwetlem) First Nation will operate a new Hatchery specially designed for Sockeye.



Coho Salmon

- Coho are known for being strong surface fighters when caught on a line.
- Coho juveniles spend their first year in freshwater and migrate to estuaries as smolts before moving offshore.



Chinook Salmon

- Chinook are the largest of the Pacific salmon, and one of the most long-lived Pacific Salmon.
- Juvenile Chinook will spend up to a year maturing in the slow-moving freshwater and the estuary environment before migrating to the ocean.
- Chinook are the primary food source of the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales.



Pink Salmon

- Pink Salmon are one of the most populous Pacific Salmon and least vulnerable to extinction.
- As soon as they emerge from their redds (nests of eggs) Pink Salmon fry head for ocean waters where they grow rapidly.



Chum Salmon

- Chum Salmon head to the ocean as fry and tend to be the last of the Salmon species to return to freshwater in the Fall.



Steelhead Salmon

- Like Pacific Salmon, Steelhead spawn in the freshwater and migrate to the ocean to feed and grow.
- Unlike Salmon, Steelhead do not die after spawning, but return to the ocean. They may spawn up to three times over the course of their life.

How You Can Help

The Roundtable is supported by its member organizations, as well as individuals and groups from within the community who offer time and expertise, materials and financial support to implement projects and raise awareness throughout the watershed.

coquitlamriverwatershed.ca



This display was created with funding from the Pacific Salmon Foundation, and in-kind support from the Coquitlam River Watershed Society and many of our partners.



New Salmon Display

With a grant from the Pacific Salmon Foundation Community Salmon Program the Society enhanced its salmon education capacity with a new salmon outreach display. The new display features two pull-up display banners, new interpretive panels, and salmon egg-to-fry display units designed for use at community events and stewardship activities.

Developed with input from Core Committee members, Fisheries and Oceans Canada staff, and municipal partners, the display provides clear, engaging information on Pacific salmon species, sites of importance within the Coquitlam River watershed, and actions the public can take to support thriving populations of salmon and steelhead in the watershed. The new display strengthens the Society's ability to deliver consistent, high-quality salmon education at events such as Canada Day, BC Rivers Day, Salmon Come Home, and Salmon Day, and will continue to support public awareness and stewardship into future years.

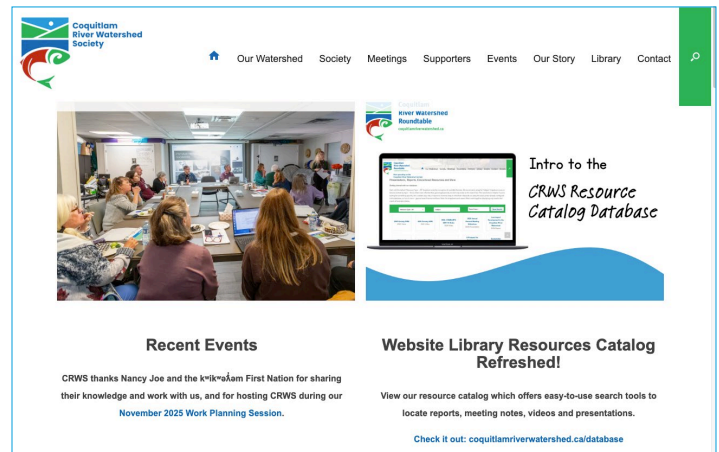
Website + Social Media

The Society’s digital platforms continued to play a central role in outreach, engagement, and information sharing in 2025, with significant growth across key performance indicators. **In 2025 Total website views rose to 26,916, more than quadrupling 2023 levels.**

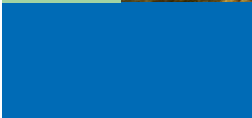
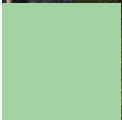
A major contributor to this growth was the launch of the Resource Catalog in August 2025, which quickly became the most visited section of the website after the homepage. This centralized hub improved public access to over 380 reports, plans, and reference materials, reinforcing the website’s role as a trusted source of watershed information. Website stability and navigation were also improved in mid-to-late 2025, reducing downtime and enhancing accessibility and user experience.

Website and social media traffic peaked between September and November, aligning with increased stewardship events and community activities. Content related to fall clean-ups and salmon engagement initiatives generated the highest social media interaction. Facebook remained the Society’s most effective social platform, with a 21.6% increase in content interactions compared to the previous year, supporting continued community connection and event promotion.

Overall, investments in website functionality, content organization, and timely event-based communications resulted in stronger digital engagement and improved access to the Society’s resources in 2025.



Website	2023	2024	2025
Total Views	6,556	16,786	26,916
Total Users	3,146	3,903	9,525
Views Per User	2.08	4.30	2.83
Average Engagement Time (seconds)	44	86	45
Total Downloads	53	181	367
Users who Downloaded Documents	36	89	44
Average Number of Downloaded Files/User	1.5	2.0	8.5



Coquitlam River Watershed Society 2025 Financial Statement

As at December 31, 2025

Coquitlam River Watershed Society 2025 Financial Statement

As at December 31, 2025

REVENUE	2025
Source	
Carryover	3,434.67
Greater Vancouver Water District (Metro Vancouver)	36,070.00
City of Coquitlam	35,000.00
Kwikwetlem First Nation	14,000.00
Jack Cewe Construction	5,000.00
Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program	750.00
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	2,250.00
Government of Canada - CSJ	5,412.00
Pacific Salmon Foundation	560.00
Interest	742.84
Total Revenue Received	103,219.51

EXPENDITURES	
Payroll	
Coordinator/ED	65,839.00
Communications Coordinator	6,600.00
Outreach Coordinator	515.40
CSJ Graphic Designer	6,793.28
Payroll Taxes	4,282.40
Office	378.03
Outreach and Events	6,533.85
Administration	622.35
Interest & Bank Charges	134.14
Membership and Subscriptions	1,037.28
Refreshments	790.78
Recognition	100.08
Advertising and Promotion	615.41
Accounting and Legal Fees	2,901.90
Storage Locker	1,671.09
Equipment Rental	105.10
Insurance	550.00
Communications	1,611.06
Mileage	168.41
Other Expenses	15.62
Professional Fees and Honouraria	250.00
Total Expenditures	101,515.18

Remaining Carryover (Revenue - Expenditures)	1,704.33
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ASSETS	
Remaining Kwikwetlem Funds*	14,000.00
Operating Reserve**	45,000.00
Total Assets	59,000.00

* Remaining funds to be disbursed in January 2026

** Operating Reserve to bridge funding gaps in 2027

Ongoing operational funding is essential to the Coquitlam River Watershed Society’s ability to sustain partnerships, coordinate action, and respond effectively to emerging watershed priorities.

Long-standing, multi-year support from kwikwəłəm First Nation, the City of Coquitlam, and the Greater Vancouver Water District has provided a stable foundation for maintaining core capacity, stewarding collaborative relationships, and translating plans into on-the-ground outcomes. We also gratefully acknowledge Jack Cewe Construction Ltd. for its contribution toward operations, which helps support the Society’s day-to-day effectiveness. In 2025 stable financial contributions through multi-year commitments contributed 82% of the Society’s total revenue. The Society’s multi-year funding commitments conclude in 2026. Active renewal efforts to secure continued operational funding for 2027 and beyond are in progress. In parallel, the Society is exploring new and additional sources of operational support to strengthen long-term resilience.

Project-specific grants remain critical to helping the Society achieve its Mission. In late 2024 and 2025, several grants were awarded that contributed to watershed projects in 2025. Some projects were successfully concluded in 2025, while others will continue into the coming year.

Grants Awarded or active in 2025

Source	Outcome	Project Period	Funding	Matching + In-kind Contribution.	Total
Pacific Salmon Foundation	New Salmon Display	August 2024 – March 2025	\$2,250	\$5647	\$7897
Pacific Salmon Foundation	Purchase of clean-up equipment for stewardship	January – March 2025	\$560	\$567	\$1127
Government of Canada, Canada Summer Jobs	Salary support to hire a graphic designer	May – August 2025	\$5,412	\$1381	\$6793
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Community outreach and engagement	July 2025 – July 2026	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$5600
Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program	Respectful Recreation printing and outreach	August – December 2025	\$750	\$1,070	\$1820
Pacific Salmon Foundation	ipad purchase and programming for data gathering and program	January – March 2026	\$1,152	\$5,048	\$6200

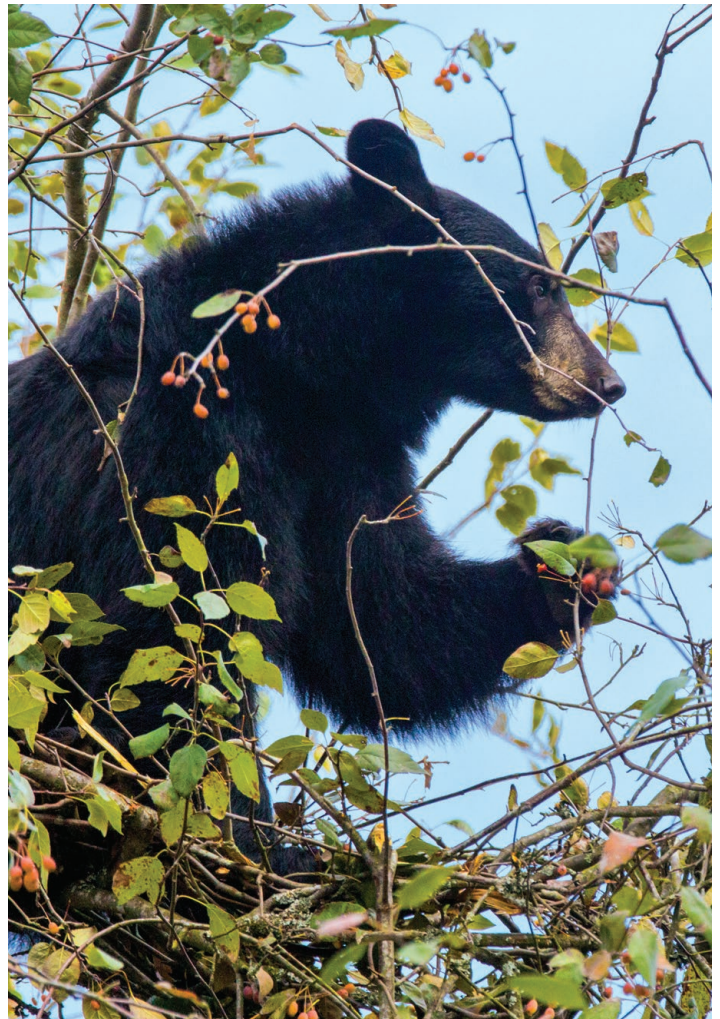
In 2025, the Coquitlam River Watershed Society’s expenses primarily reflected its focus on maintaining core organizational capacity and delivering community-based programs.

In 2025, the largest share of expenditure was directed to payroll and associated taxes, supporting the Executive Director/Coordinator role, communications, outreach, and project-based positions. Program and operating costs—including outreach and events, communications, office and administrative expenses, professional services, insurance, and equipment—supported stewardship activities, partner engagement, and day-to-day operations. Overall expenditures totalled \$101,515.18, aligning closely with revenues received and demonstrating careful financial management while sustaining the Society’s operational effectiveness.

The Society’s project work accounted for approximately 15% of total in-kind and financial contributions:

CRWS Project	Total Cash and In-kind
New Salmon Display	\$7,897
Stewardship Equipment and Storage	\$1,127
Responsible Recreation	\$4,500
Resource Catalogue	\$1,400
Rain Garden Maintenance	\$1,170
Other Outreach and Events	\$1,300
Total	\$17,394

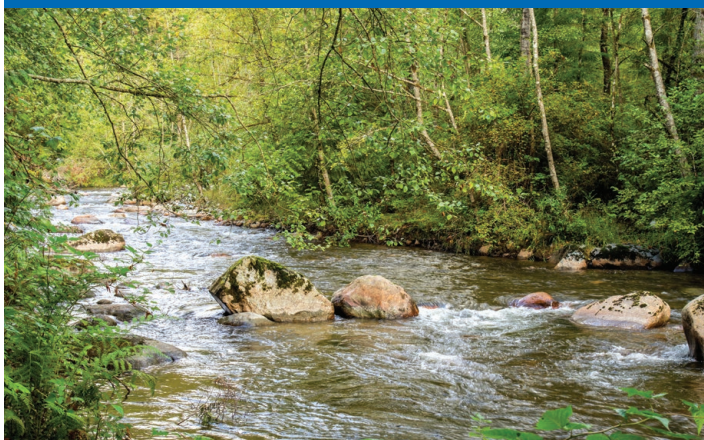
Since 2020, the Society has made annual contributions to an operating reserve, ranging from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00. With the most recent contribution made at the end of 2024, and interest accrued over the past year, the fund balance now stands at \$45,742.00. Given the smaller carryover from 2025 to 2026, the Board will consider the level of contribution to be made for 2025. With current multi-year Financial Agreements up for renewal during 2026, the an operating reserve provides assurance that Society can bridge a temporary reduction in available operational funding.





Looking Ahead

As the Society moves into 2026, its work will continue to advance the goals of the Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan through **stewardship, outreach, advisory action, reconciliation, and strengthened partnerships.**



With several multi-year funding agreements up for renewal in 2026, **significant effort will be required to renew sustainable funding for the Society.**

Stormwater

- Continue to facilitate volunteer stewardship of the demonstration Rain Garden in Lions Park, Port Coquitlam.
- Explore the possibility of installing a Rain Garden in Coquitlam.

Invasive Species

- Facilitate 2–3 stewardship events, including invasive species pulls and riverside clean-ups.
- Develop an invasive species walking tour with and for secondary school students.

Vandalism and Illegal Activity

- Continue to facilitate riverside clean-ups in with community members and partner organizations.

Salmon and Habitat

- Integrate education on the salmon cycle into outreach programs, highlighting connections between salmon, forests, wildlife, and people.
- Plan a visit to the new Kwikwetlem Salmon Hatchery.
- Continue to implement the Respectful Recreation campaign by engaging stakeholder groups and educating the public through outreach.
- Partner with the Kwikwetlem First Nation to provide public outreach in parks.

Communications

- Add a “Report a Concern” page to the CRWS website to assist the public in reporting environmental and safety concerns to the appropriate agency, in response to frequent reported concerns in the watershed
- Maintain and enhance communications with funders, members, partners, and the community.
- Continue to bring informative displays to 5–8 festivals and events in Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam.
- Renew and present the Watershed Atlas to members and the community.

Partnerships

- Participate on BC Hydro’s Coquitlam–Buntzen Water Use Plan Order Review Advisory Committee.
- Participate in other public consultation efforts of our partners.
- Work in regular communication with the Kwikwetlem First Nation to create opportunities for youth and elders to contribute to and benefit from the Society initiatives, linking all activities to reconciliation.
- Partner with municipal parks programs to contribute to and support their stewardship and education initiatives, such as the City of Coquitlam’s series of Watershed Workshops.
- Engage post-secondary students and researchers in enriched stewardship activities such as water and soil sampling.
- Re-initiate the Lower Coquitlam Watershed Tour to support awareness of partner-led projects and sites of importance in the watershed.

Operations

- Develop new funding partnerships and pursue multi-year agreements to support long-term organizational sustainability.

Conclusion

The Society's 2025 Annual Report reflects both continuity and transition — honouring a 15-year legacy of collaboration while strengthening the organizational foundations needed to carry that work forward.

Guided by the Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan, the Society continues to translate shared knowledge into practical action through stewardship, education, and advisory initiatives that support water quality, salmon habitat, and responsible use of the watershed.

As the Society looks to the years ahead, its strength remains rooted in collaboration—among First Nation, federal, municipal, regional, community, and stewardship partners, and through the dedication of volunteers and supporters. With an evolving landscape shaped by climate change, development pressures, and funding uncertainty, the Society is well positioned to adapt while remaining grounded in its mission. Together, we will continue working to preserve and enhance the health of the Coquitlam River watershed for people, salmon, and future generations.



In Memoriam

We pay tribute to two watershed stewards we have lost during 2025.



Glen Joe

Kwikwetlem First Nation fisheries manager, fisher and devoted steward committed his life to improve watershed health in the Coquitlam River watershed and support the return of the Sockeye Salmon, symbolic of Kwikwetlem meaning, “Red fish Up the River,” to the Coquitlam River. As a founding team member in 2007, Glen was instrumental in the formation of the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable in 2011. His memory will continue to live on in our organization’s logo, which Glen was the primary influence in its design. Glen passed away January 4, 2025.



Sandy Budd

President, Maple Creek Streamkeepers, was a community Roundtable member for many years, and served as a Stewardship Sector Representative on the Core Committee from 2022 – 2023. She was a strong voice who tirelessly advocated for the health of the Maple Creek, which traverses through the cities of Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam in the lower Coquitlam River watershed. Sandy passed away on July 2, 2025.

Let us reflect on their decades of stewardship advocacy and profound dedication to improving the health of the Coquitlam River watershed and its tributaries for the benefit of salmon and wildlife.

