



2024 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Prepared By
**Coquitlam River
Watershed Society**

February 28, 2025

**Coquitlam River
Watershed Roundtable**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, the Coquitlam River Watershed Society (CRWS) navigated a year of significant growth, transition, and collaboration. With the generous financial and in-kind support of our partners—including the City of Coquitlam, Metro Vancouver, Kʷikwə́łəm First Nation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Jack Cewe Construction, the City of Port Coquitlam and numerous community organizations—the Society continued its mission to preserve and enhance the health of the Coquitlam River Watershed through collaboration, education, and advisory action.

A major milestone was the successful transition to a formalized Society structure. Following extensive planning, consultation, and governance restructuring, the Interim Society Board finalized new bylaws, elected its first official Board of Directors, and implemented a framework to guide the organization into the future. This shift ensures long-term financial and operational sustainability, while maintaining the inclusive, multi-sector representation that has been the foundation of our organization.

Key Achievements in 2024

- **Governance & Organizational Transition:** The CRWS completed its transition to a Society, culminating in the adoption of new bylaws at the October AGM and the election of a new Board of Directors. The Board will provide leadership in financial and strategic planning while continuing to engage Core Committee members in decision-making.
- **Rain Garden Renewal & BC Rivers Day Event:** The revitalization of the Rain Garden at Lions Park was a standout initiative, combining ecological restoration, public engagement, and artistic expression. Volunteers, community groups, and municipal staff collaborated on native plant restoration, drainage improvements, and the creation of a mural by artist Laura Kwok. The mural unveiling at the BC Rivers Day event was attended by 42 community members, including representatives from Kʷikwə́łəm First Nation, local governments, and environmental organizations.

- **Watershed Plan Implementation:** Several initiatives addressed key pressures on the watershed, including stormwater management, illegal dumping, and salmon habitat conservation. Notable efforts included video productions on stormwater management, clean-up initiatives led by QMC Metering Solutions, and ongoing advocacy for fish-friendly floodgate infrastructure at Léxətəm Regional Park.
- **Expanded Outreach & Communications:** CRWS significantly increased its digital presence, doubling website engagement and launching new educational video content. Outreach activities at festivals and community events, including Canada Day and Salmon Come Home, allowed us to connect with a broad audience and reinforce watershed stewardship messaging.
- **Financial Management & Sustainability:** In-kind contributions for the year totaled \$12,0462, with approximately 390.3 volunteer hours generously contributed by Society Members, staff from partner organizations, and engaged community members. Despite a reduction in operational funding, CRWS secured new grants and increased contributions from existing partners. Revenue totaled \$110,332, and careful financial stewardship allowed the Society to enter 2025 with a stable financial outlook. The successful transition of financial management from Watershed Watch Salmon Society to CRWS marks an important step in long-term independence.

Looking Ahead to 2025

As CRWS moves into 2025, the organization remains committed to strengthening watershed stewardship through targeted initiatives and collaborative partnerships. With a renewed focus on outreach and education, early efforts will include updating our outreach display with a salmon theme. CRWS members and supporters will meet to collaboratively develop in a Work Plan for the coming year on February 26. This session will shape the year's priorities, exploring new opportunities in stormwater management, habitat restoration, invasive species control, and responsible recreation. With continued engagement from sector representatives, local governments, and community partners, CRWS is well-positioned to implement impactful projects that align with the Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan and advance the long-term health of the watershed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Throughout 2024, the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable was fortunate to receive generous financial support from several key partners, including the City of Coquitlam, the Greater Vancouver Water District (Metro Vancouver), Kʷikʷəłəm First Nation, the Government of Canada, Jack Cewe Construction Ltd., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Port Coquitlam Community Foundation, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, and QMC Metering Solutions.

We extend our sincere gratitude to these organizations for their continued commitment to supporting our work in 2024.



Invaluable in-kind contributions of staff and resources were provided by the following partners:

- City of Coquitlam
- City of Port Coquitlam
- Tri-City Green Council
- Kʷikwə́łəm First Nation
- Arts Connect
- Allard Contracting Ltd.
- Vancity Savings
- Maple Creek Streamkeepers
- Originelle Designs Photography
- Watershed Watch Salmon Society
- Jack Cewe Construction Ltd.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Heidelberg Materials Ltd.
- BMP Engineering and Inspection
- North Fraser Salmon Assistance Project
- Morguard Corporation
- Hoy/Scott Watershed Society

We extend our deepest gratitude to the dedicated stewards, organizations, businesses and volunteers who generously contributed their time and effort to support the Society's events and activities throughout 2024. Their commitment and hard work continue to be instrumental in advancing our mission.

Thank you!



**Coquitlam
River Watershed
Roundtable**

Visit us at our website:
coquitlamriverwatershed.ca

