

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Coquitlam River  
Watershed Roundtable



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2023 set the stage for a new phase of growth for the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable.

This year, the Roundtable committed significant effort toward organizational restructuring, resulting in the decision to move forward as a single entity, the Coquitlam River Watershed Society (CRWS).

The transition to legal society status provides greater organizational transparency and efficiency, paving the way for the Coquitlam River Watershed Society to move confidently forward in 2024.

While the members of the Roundtable devoted a great deal of time, thought and effort to the transition to become a fully integrated Society, we continued to advance projects and activities to implement the Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan (LCRWP). The Report on Barriers and Facilitators to Low Impact Development was brought to a successful completion after two years of consultation and development with partners.

Other projects focused on building-up and maintaining existing accomplishments. The Lions Park Demonstration Rain Garden was this year cared for entirely by Roundtable and Community volunteers.



Roundtable members marshalled watering equipment, water access, and an app to sign up for watering shifts over the summer of 2023. The Roundtable's website and digital media presence was updated and enhanced by removing outdated content and plugins, replicated or un-used social media accounts.

Other accomplishments of 2023 are listed below:

- Undertook a work planning process, identifying achievable goals for 2023 and 2024.
- Hired two new part-time contractors: Jenny Zheng came onboard as an engagement coordinator, Jacqueline Chan came on board as a communications coordinator.
- Completed major upgrades our website's structure, and website content was renewed.
- Aligned identity and links across a variety of social media platforms.
- Initiated an outreach program to local Elementary Schools, beginning with a workshop at Castle Park Elementary in Port Coquitlam.
- Undertook an invasive species pull with Lime Bikes and staff from the City of Coquitlam, helping to remove blackberry from a 20 metre section of the Coquitlam River Trail.
- Created a volunteer sign-up system and engaged members and partners of the Roundtable to water and support the Rain Garden from spring through autumn 2023. Volunteers contributed 40 hours over the summer to care for the Rain Garden.
- Undertook a clean-up event with QMC Water metering Inc, removing 15 m<sup>3</sup> of trash from the Coquitlam River in Gates Park, Port Coquitlam.
- Produced a comprehensive research paper on Low Impact Development with UBC's Centre for Law and the Environment and the participation of municipal partners.
- Held a successful Community Roundtable Event, featuring presentations from six environmental professionals and municipal staff on various aspects of watershed health in the Coquitlam River Watershed.
- Participated in 9 events and public festivals within the Community, including Salmon Day at Colony Farm, organized by Watershed Watch Salmon Society (WWSS).
- Completed the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Society Bylaws Task Force review, resulting in an organizational restructuring to streamline the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable as a Society. The Society Board will provide the operational direction for our organization to move forward.

Our received funds this year totalled \$106,250, with a carry-over from 2022 of \$21,661. Cash expenditures totalled \$111,132. Together with a \$10,000 annual contribution to our contingency fund, there was a carry-over from 2022-2023 of \$6,778. The CRWS also gained new funding through the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP), which provided \$1000 toward our Annual Community Event. Generous in-kind support was contributed in 2023 with 403 hours valued at \$10,882.

In January, Georgia Ohm moved into a full-time Coordinator role with support from Margaret Birch, who continued to provide support for specific projects, and invaluable advice to the Coordinator. Jenny Zheng was hired as a part-time engagement coordinator to assist with outreach events and school programs. A part-time communications coordinator role was created and filled by Jacqueline Chan, who brought much needed technical expertise to stabilize the CRWS's website, and align social media accounts.

The CRWS' 2023 Annual Community Event, *Vital Signs: Checking our Watershed's Health* received much community interest and support, drawing 41 participants, as well as attention from local media. As the CRWS moves forward into 2024, the accomplishments of 2023 and the years preceding it provide a solid foundation for future growth and development.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Through 2023, the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable received financial support from the City of Coquitlam, the Greater Vancouver Water District (Metro Vancouver), Kʷikwə́ləm First Nation, the City of Port Coquitlam, Jack Cewe Construction Ltd, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. We wish to thank these organizations for their generous financial support in 2023.



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada



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
- Hoy/Scott Watershed Society
- Kʷikwə́ləm First Nation
- Arts Connect
- Allard Contracting Ltd.
- Heidelberg Materials Ltd.
- Watershed Watch Salmon Society
- Jack Cewe Construction Ltd.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Living Resources Environmental Consultants
- Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program
- North Fraser Salmon Assistance Project
- Originelle Designs Photography

Finally, our deep gratitude is extended to the many stewards and volunteers who regularly contributed their time to support the Roundtable's events activities through 2023.

*Thank you!*

Visit us at our website:  
[coquitlamriverwatershed.ca](http://coquitlamriverwatershed.ca)

