

YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Period of April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

Completed on July 31, 2017



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BRITISH COLUMBIA
MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY
DEVELOPMENT**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Youth and Ecological Restoration Program (YER) has been providing services for Comox Valley vulnerable youth for over twelve years. YER connects youth with the natural world and with community members who are working together to rehabilitate local species and ecosystems. Multigenerational mentoring and guidance is a vital component of YER success, as well as the one on one support and supervision. Caring for and nurturing the youth combined with inclusion in practical and meaningful work stimulates them to feel respected, valued and appreciated.

Ecotherapy is known for its restorative powers with improving moods, decreasing anxiety and stress, and recovering a sense of health, happiness and well-being. YER has documented similar improvements in the emotional and physical health of the youth over the history of the program. Twelve annual reports and one ten year review have recorded progress of YER for two hundred and ninety-eight Phase I (YERI), thirty-seven Phase II (YERII) and one Phase III (YERIII) youth participants. A high youth completion rate remains for all three YER phases (Table 1f).

From April 2016 to March 2017, twenty-six youth participated in YER; twenty-one in YERI and five in YERII (Table 1a). The Community Partnerships list has increased by four groups for a total of one hundred and forty six (Appendix A). YER annual budget includes Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) funds for a biologist on two YERII projects (Table 2). Youth and caregiver comments and feedback verify their YER interactions and experiences. YER has consistently sustained status as a vibrant and successful program for vulnerable youth in the Comox Valley.

2. PROGRESS AND OUTCOMES

YER progress and outcomes require a multitude of elements for success to be ensured. Direct time working with the youth has an equal time commitment for the background work of file maintenance, communication, public relations, administration and program promotion. All of these combined form the essence of YER and are necessary for the program to be available and function as an interconnected and effective system for the youth.

The establishment of community support and partnerships has formed the foundation for YER success. Maintaining connections with local newspapers and social media help endorse the YER community profile. Dialogue with youth and their caregivers provide meaningful expressions to their YER experiences.

Youth Participant Summary

Twenty-six youth were involved with YER from April 2016 to March 2017; twenty-one YERI and five YERII (Table 1a). There were eighteen boys and three girls for YERI; and four boys and one girl in YERII (Table 1). YERI had twenty youth complete and one who was incomplete; four youth completed YERII and one was incomplete (Table 1a). There was no YERIII for this year. YERI has a ninety-three percent completion rate; YERII is at ninety-seven percent; and YERIII remains at one hundred percent completion (Table 1f).

Three main groups referred twenty-six youth to YER (Table 1b). Comox Valley School District #71 referred seventeen youth: nine came from Glacier View Learning Centre; four from Lake Trail Middle School; and four from Cumberland Community School (Table 1b). MCFD referred six youth: two from Probation Services; and one each from Over Twelve, Under Twelve, Mental Health and a Foster Parent (Table 1b). Comox Valley Community Justice Centre referred three youth to YER (Table 1b).

YER youth have interconnections with many other Comox Valley youth services. The twenty-six youth who participated in YER from April 2016 to March 2017 also utilized these community services: twenty-six with School District #71; seventeen had been involved with The Linc; fifteen with MCFD; eight at Wachiay Friendship Centre; six with Comox Valley Community Justice Centre; five from John Howard Society; five had counseling at Pacific Therapy; three at Comox Valley Family Services; three had counseling from unknown sources; one had attended Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club; one with Youth Unlimited; and one at the Central Evangelical Free Church Youth Group (Table 1c).

YERI 2016 to 2017

The twenty-one YERI participants worked with seven environmental organizations for their work experience and training which included helping sick and injured birds, salmon enhancement, planting native plants and water quality monitoring. Twenty youth contributed at Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society; eighteen were involved with Oyster River Enhancement Society; fifteen worked with Millard Piercy Watershed Stewards; eight engaged with Tsolum River Restoration Society; six helped Morrison Creek Streamkeepers; and one each were employed with Comox Valley Project Watershed Society and Comox Valley Regional District (Table 1d).

All YERI youth are required to do an oral presentation on program completion. The highest number of speeches was given within Comox Valley School District #71; eight youth presented to seven different classes (Table 1e). Cummings Home is a seniors assisted living facility that welcomes us to share tea, cookies and conversation after the presentation; six youth spoke to their small and interactive group (Table 1e). Lighthouse Early Learning Centre is a daycare facility for young children; two youth did a speech for them. One youth each did presentations for: Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club, Adventure Club; Wee Care Early Childhood Centres, Royston Elementary School; MCFD, Youth Support Team; and First Comox Scout Group (Table 1e).

YERII Funding History

YERII was initiated in 2007 with funding through the Vancouver Foundation (VF), Robert and Florence Filberg Fund. VF supported ten youth participating in six projects for Comox Valley Project Watershed Society, Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society, Millard Piercy Watershed Stewards, Oyster River Enhancement Society and Tsolum River Restoration Society. From 2011 to 2016 there have been twenty-seven youth participating in fourteen projects funded by Comox Valley Environmental Council, Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD), Millard Piercy Watershed Stewards, Ministry of Children and Family Development, Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society and UNIFOR Local # 3019. There have been a total number of twenty YERII projects and thirty-seven youth have been involved. Details of these projects are provided in the annual reports at <http://youthecology.ca/annual-reports/>.

Starting in 2012, eight YERII projects have been funded by CVRD; four through the Community Services Branch and four with a Grant in Aid. This CVRD support has been significant for YER to provide an advanced YERII experience for youth who have graduated from YERI. All of the finances from CVRD have accomplished ecological inventories in regional parks and ecosystems. Each CVRD funded YERII project supports a biologist to lead the youth with the data collection and then produce a report to assist with park management decisions. These YERII ecological reports can be found at <http://youthecology.ca/ecological-reports/>. All YERII projects end with the youth leading a public tour to share the ecology, history and their experiences of being in the park. This is an incredible partnership between CVRD and MCFD that represents an investment in the social and natural systems of our community, now and into the future.

YERII 2016 to 2017

There were three YERII projects in 2016, two were funded by CVRD through the Community Services Branch and a Grant in Aid, and one was funded by MCFD. CVRD funding supports a Registered Professional Biologist to guide the ecological inventory work and produce a report. Expert services are required so the work is scrutinized by high professional standards. Two youth work with the biologist and YER coordinator for five days to record environmental data and on the final day the youth co-facilitate a public tour. These tours have become very popular in our community with attendee numbers as high as thirty-nine.

One YERII project was done with MCFD funds over several months from February to June 2016 with one youth. The ecological work was for CVRD Trent River Park to compile information on the Trent River canyon that had been amassed over a fifteen year period. The youth was involved with several visits to the study area and assisted with computer data entry. The project was not finished in 2016 and plans include completing this YERII project in 2017 with the youth creating a power point presentation for CVRD, Community Services Branch (Table 1d).

From July 12 to 16, 2016, a YERII project was done for CVRD, Community Services Branch in Driftwood Marine Park. Two youth worked with the YER Coordinator and Biologist to establish a vegetation study plot, sample water quality and fish species. The youth used scientific methods to gain ecological knowledge and document information that was used to produce a report of the findings for CVRD. This report is at: <http://youthecology.ca/driftwood-marine-park-yer-report-2016/>. Following the research the youth led a public tour for seventeen people (Table 1d and 1e).

The third YERII project was conducted from July 27 to 31, 2016 with a CVRD, Grant in Aid in Bear Creek Nature Park and supported by Oyster River Enhancement Society. The purpose of this project was to map Channel One that is used for enhancing Oyster River salmon species as part of the small hatchery facility. Channel One, constructed in 1985 for spawning and rearing salmon, had never been previously charted. The two youth utilized a 50m plastic tape, compass, survey pole, laser rangefinder and GPS electronic equipment to establish fixed reference points and determine the channel length. The report is at: <http://youthecology.ca/oyster-river-channel-one-mapping-yer-report-2016/>. The youth guided a tour for ten participants (Table 1d and 1e).

YERIII History

One youth completed the first YERIII project in 2015, which was a partnership with Comox Valley Project Watershed Society (CVPW) to restore salt marsh grass in the K'omoks Estuary. The youth learned restoration methods and taught them to Royston Elementary School children. Funding came from CVPW, UNIFOR Local 3019 and Comox Valley Red Tent. This project was very successful for the YER youth and for the school children. YERIII is quite specialized and has a strong mentoring and teaching component for the youth participant to pass on their acquired wisdom. Opportunities for further YERIII projects and partnerships will be pursued.

Community Partnerships

Community partnerships have been maintained since YER inception and the total group numbers continue to grow. In the past year the number of partnerships increased by four to a total of one hundred and forty six (Appendix A). Referral agencies have remained the same at ten, as have the thirty environmental groups that provide the work experience for the YER youth (Appendix A). The venues for the youth presentations have increased to one hundred and six (Appendix A). The additions were: Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club, Adventure Club; Courtenay Elementary School, Kindergarten; Cumberland Community School, Grade 8; and Wee Care Early Childhood Centres, Royston Elementary School (Appendix A). Building relationships with these groups keeps the YER profile prominent and provides important exposure and support for the program.

Program Promotion

Marketing and advertising YER is important to ensure the program remains visible and active for the community and perspective youth participants. YERII public tours are publicized through articles in the Comox Valley Record, facebook events and online newsletter Tidechange. Oyster River Enhancement Society requested another article for their 2016 newsletter. YER is promoted through presentations to Comox Valley schools, referral agencies and other community groups. The YER website is a necessity in disseminating information for online Internet users. There have been six hundred and sixty visits to www.youthecology.ca over the past year.

3. YER YOUTH AND CAREGIVER QUOTES

Interviews with youth and their caregivers provide responses and opinions from the perspective of the people who participate in and work closely with YER. They are the ones who are best able to judge how the program is operating for the youth. YERI and YERII quotes are listed below; the YERI Caregiver Quotes section includes feedback from one social worker and one teacher.

YERI Youth Quotes

GOAL #1: BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Cooperation, Support and Compassion; Positive Role Models and Mentoring; Increased Community Capacity and Caring

- I learned the place functions by teamwork because everyone was working together by telling each other where something needed to be done and this person would do that and the other person would do a different thing. (*YERI Participant #289*)
- It was nice hearing everybody else's stories. Some people who have done it for a long time had different stories from other people that had only been doing it for two to three months. Different descriptions. They all might be telling the same story and one person might be saying I saw that fish drag you into the water and the other person might say, no he slayed that fish. I think it was really fun and there were a lot of people that I got to meet who were really passionate about what they did. (*YERI Participant #296*)
- It was really cool just seeing how their life is not really different than ours in some ways. They go through daily struggles just like humans struggle. Just seeing the things they did today. Swimming upstream and trying their spawning area and protecting it by keeping near it, watching over it. It was nice to get away from the drama because I am around it a lot and it was nice for me not to think about it. (*YERI Participant #297*)

GOAL #2: GAINING VALUED WORK EXPERIENCE

Data Collection Methods; Working with Tools; Worksite Safety; Teamwork; Good Work Ethics

- Today we went to the Tsolum River to build up the bank because during the winter the water takes some of the land into the river. We used a piece of equipment to dig small holes into the ground so we can put a branch in the holes. When the branches were in the holes we grabbed other branches to make a wall, then we filled the back of it with dirt. We did that to protect the bank. (*YERI Participant #280*)
- I think I learned a lot of useful skills, like how to identify fish, how to measure and weigh fish and how to properly net fish. I also learned that fish need to be cared for because they need clean water and nature to live in the wild. It felt good to work with the people because I could actually relate with them and some of them were fun because they could take a joke, some of the people I worked with in the past couldn't. (*YERI Participant #282*)

- After that we went to the Royston Wrecks counting the eagles and blue herons in the estuary. We did this using a powerful telescope and scanned from the Air Park to the Hospital every twenty minutes. The numbers surprised me. We got 68 herons and 68 eagles at most. I really liked counting the birds. I found it very interesting and relaxing. *(YERI Participant #286)*

GOAL #3: IMPROVING ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

Ecosystem Cycles and Interconnections; Identification Techniques for Plants, Animals and Fish; Understanding Environmental Impacts

- On the first day we visited Tsolum River and we counted fish on a Rotary Screw Trap or as I called it, the metal spinny thingy. We caught 1228 pink fry and 32 chum fry. I learned the difference between a pink fry and a chum fry. A chum fry has parr marks and they are even in length and the pink fry have no parr marks and the colour is very silver. Instead of playing video games I learned stuff. I learned about nature and animals that some schools wouldn't teach me. *(YERI Participant #279)*
- I liked planting trees because I felt like I was actually helping nature. It was also cool to learn new plants; fawn lily which was called that because it had spots like a fawn and devils club which can be used for dyes and teas. I learned that planting trees too close to the river can make them wash away and I loved being allowed to poke and play with the dead fish because I would have gotten yelled at for being gross if I was with someone else. It feels pretty cool because I actually got something finished for once. *(YERI Participant #292)*
- Everything was about Comox Valley rivers and streams, almost everything we did was with Comox Valley rivers and streams. It was fun getting to meet new people. It is interesting to see what they are doing to help the community. *(YERI Participant #295)*

GOAL #4: INCREASING PERSONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS

Meaningful Participation and Empowerment; Commitment, Respect and Responsibility; Patience and Endurance; Accomplishment, Self-confidence and Success

- I'm really happy I got this opportunity because it opened me up to new experiences and it led to me meeting some very wonderful people. It's hard for me to meet new people because I have social anxiety and I'm just an awkward person, but this was a great experience. This program made me realize there's more to life than Netflix, sleep and staying at home doing nothing. *(YERI Participant #284)*
- I learned a greater ability to work with others, greater learning abilities and a larger margin for learning from mistakes and greater communication and listening skills. I think it happens more with the program because it is more one on one and people in the program have a more controlled situation with me. When its not one on one in a job setting it is easier to get distracted and when it is one on one its harder to not focus because there is always something to do. *(YERI Participant #287)*
- A lot of people do good in this world because a lot of people do bad. It was reconnecting with myself because of what I did a couple of months ago because I was hanging out with the wrong crowd. It's good to reconnect and get a sense of who you are again. I'm listening, being on time, being productive, talking, being there, and being social. My anxiety used to be a lot worse than it is now. *(YERI Participant #298)*

GOAL #5: ENHANCING COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Public Speaking and Leadership; Active Listening and Engagement; Interpersonal Relationships

- I was kind of shaking and then I was “you know what, I don’t need to shake”, and I just want to tell you. I told you so that I can remember. I think they actually learned when I asked what a watershed is. They learned a watershed is a whole bunch of rivers that connect to the other rivers and goes down to the ocean. *(YERI Participant #278)*
- It was awesome, I loved it. It was so much fun, telling them everything and having them put their hands up and tell me questions and answers and stories. Most of them were all wild, but some of them in the back weren’t. I think the quiet ones learned something about fish. *(YERI Participant #285)*
- It was hard because I’m not used to presenting anything to anyone. At first I was pretty anxious, but I really quickly was able to calm down and I had no anxiety. They learned some of the stuff I said about salmon. They were able to learn and listen and help me at the same time. I learned to try harder and try to keep track of my appointments. I learned that I am able to present in front of a crowd of people. I learned for sure that I am able to do what I want to do if I try a little harder. *(YERI Participant #290)*

YERI Caregiver Quotes

- He was happier towards the end and apprehensive in the beginning and you could see the progression. Each time he was more proud and feeling successful. It was really beneficial to him and he was not overwhelmed by the things he had to do. For him to feel proud of an accomplishment is rare. The pride in his voice is heartwarming. *(YERI Participant #285)*
- I think it gave him some confidence and self esteem. He’s a skill building kind of kid. I think the thing for me is the fact he hasn’t completed things at school. He completed all the hours; he can finish and it is confidence building. And just to get to do something not all the kids get to do because he struggles with self esteem. Just to see he can actually work for somebody. There have been little glimpses of not being able to work for somebody. It was nice for me to hear he did everything he was asked. I think he was proud of himself and I think it helped his self confidence. *(YERI Participant #291)*
- I like the program and I could see that he must have learned something from it from the way he was. I liked what I saw. He was proud of what he did and what he learned. I know there are some things he learned that he didn’t know before and that is fantastic. I thought it was wonderful. It gave him a real sense of pride. You could see that in his presentation and in conversation with him after. He was really proud he could finish. *(YERI Participant #295)*
- I guess it’s hard to get kids to commit to a long period of time, but it’s really hard to get to know them in four or five visits. The last two times he opened up and got into it. I think he realized once he committed. This was the first time I saw him commit to something and follow through outside of school. I’m glad he really stuck with it. *(YERI Participant #296)*
- I think it is awesome. I think its great he gets out and does stuff in a non-classroom environment. I bet he learned more in a couple of trips with you than he did any week in school. It helps to open his eyes to non-electronic, non-school, non-social life. It helps to appreciate the beauty and frailty of the world. During the presentation I noticed a lot of self-assurance and leadership qualities. *(YERI Participant #297)*
- I just think she felt so good about herself, the sense of accomplishment. She conquered some fears, meeting new people and trying new things. It’s a precedent to hold onto and whenever she encounters something new and scary, she has this precedent to remember and encourage her to move forward to do it because she has already done this. *(YERI Participant #298)*

Social Worker

- I think what I was most impressed with the program was how he had to work with multi-generational and of course that you were able to facilitate him. When he got big you didn't back down and you didn't get bigger. It's the idea of not matching his energy and not backing down. During the program I got feedback that he had a sense of responsibility because he was able to get up on time and that wasn't a fight in the house. (*YERI Participant #295*)

School Teacher

- The bigger picture is putting hope into these kids because when they are struggling at school it's a community piece like your program that makes a big difference. He smokes marijuana every day. I would love to see you with high risk kids two sessions. It's more the behaviour change that nature brings out in these kids. Nature therapy piece that you do is more a buzz word and it's for kids that are traumatized. It seems like in the last couple of years it's gotten better. So many teachers and counselors would love to do what you do, the one on one with kids with nature. When he was up there presenting he was calm, he was proud and because of that he was confident. Those are three parts of him that have rarely been seen in school. He's been in seven different schools in the valley. He's a kid that wants to be successful. He's not academic and needs to talk one on one. (*YERI Participant #296*)

YERII Youth Quotes

- Stay focused on your job no matter what is in your way and if you work hard than there are good outcomes. I loved guiding the tour, it was a good experience. All the people were really nice and it was a lot easier than I expected. (*YERII Participant #34-271*)
- I learned that it's much quicker to work together than just one person. If I needed help they actually helped me and if I needed to be left alone, they left me alone, sometimes. I think it was if I did the work, if I did the measuring I would stay calm because I knew how to do the measuring. I learned I could stay calm by doing a different job. (*YERII Participant #35-278*)
- I am able to work under pressure better than I thought and I enjoy working with others and I didn't know that. I tried a whole bunch of new stuff towards talking and communication and being with other people because I don't usually do that and I didn't know I could enjoy it so much. I learned communication and teamwork. (*YERII Participant #36-270*)
- I learned how to measure the depth and the wetted width. I learned that it goes quicker and smoother if we all work together. We helped to make an accurate map of it. I helped with the measuring tape. I learned mapping and measuring and working together. (*YERII Participant #37-281*)

YERII Caregiver Quotes

- I think it's the same as last time; he had more confidence about learning ecology. He was happy when he came home every day. It was a really good program and you have it all down pat. (*YERII Participant #34-271*)
- Making him see through things and doing stuff with other kids and how to work as a team. He and the other youth had an altercation a few years ago, but they both stuck it out and got it done. (*YERII Participant #35-278*)
- I thought it was great just to speak in front of everybody was great and both of them were really good. It was just really good to see them do that. I think it helps get his confidence up. (*YERII Participant #36-270*)
- When we did go on the bit of a tour he enjoyed it and seemed quite content. It feels like he knows something we don't and can teach us something. (*YERII Participant #37-281*)

4. BUDGET

YER Budget for April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017

Details of the YER 2016 to 2017 budget are given in Table 2. Revenue of \$41,000.04 included: MCFD \$35,000.04 and Comox Valley Regional District \$6,000.00. Other contributions included \$2,000.00 as donations for training and equipment costs from ecological restoration groups.

This list gives details of YER 2015/2016 expenses of \$39,540.04:

- **Professional fees** included fees, administration costs and program evaluation for \$28,289.31; and biologist fees were \$6,000.00.
- **Honouraria** for youth participants was \$1,200.00: \$50.00 each for twenty YERI and four YERII youth.
- **Program Promotion** was \$422.31 for website updates and maintenance.
- **Transportation** costs were calculated at \$.50/kilometre for a total of \$3,138.00.
- **Supplies** of \$1,680.72 included office, lunches and materials required for YER work.
- **Miscellaneous expenses** in the amount of \$269.70 were: \$134.70 for bank charges; \$50.00 for camera repair; and \$50.00 for Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society and Oyster River Enhancement Society for memberships and benefits.
- **Other Contributions** were \$2,000.00 for YER as in-kind training, materials and support from community members and environmental organizations.

5. SUMMARY

For over twelve years the Youth and Ecological Restoration Program (YER) has assisted and supported vulnerable youth in feeling part of the larger ecological and social community in the Comox Valley. Since 2004, two hundred and ninety-eight youth have participated in Phase I, thirty-seven in Phase II and one in Phase III. An overall ninety-four per cent completion rate exists for all three YER phases. During the April 2016 to March 2017 year twenty-six youth participated in the program: twenty-one were in YERI; five in YERII; and there were none for YERIII (Table 1).

YER offers youth opportunities for work experience and training, intergenerational mentoring, increased confidence and empowerment, and improved personal and professional communication skills. These possibilities for self improvement come through taking the youth out of their regular family and community groups and immersing them into broader ecological and social systems. Spending time away from electronic communication and media contributes to building these positive relationships with people and nature. Each youth is presented with higher standards of responsibility and commitment. They rise to these expectations and achieve abilities and belief in themselves as part of a community where they are accountable for their actions.

The youth are encouraged by their encounters with the natural world as a setting for their personal growth experiences. There is a combination of interactions with nature and people that inspires the youth to have a broader compassion for themselves and others. Increasingly recognized as Ecotherapy, this practice integrates humans and their environment for improvements to mental, emotional and physical well-being. YER is motivated by these principals and applies them for the benefit of the youth participants. Each YER youth is a gift that handled with care and respect presents potential to be shaped into an individual with a hopeful and successful future.

**TABLE 1: YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
YOUTH PARTICIPANT SUMMARY TABLE FOR APRIL 1, 2016 TO MARCH 31, 2017.**

YER for Comox Valley vulnerable youth funded by BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).

YERI had 21 youth - 3 girls and 18 boys; YERII had 5 youth - 1 girl and 4 boys.

YERII numbering: YERII number is first and YERI is second.

Table 1a: YER COMPLETION YERI is 20 hours; YERII is 25 hours.	YOUTH TOTALS
YERI Complete: Participant # 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298	20
YERII Complete: # 34-271, 35-278, 36-270, 37-281	4
YERI and YERII Incomplete: # 288, 33-268	2
TOTAL YOUTH PARTICIPANTS	26

Table 1b: YOUTH ORGANIZATION REFERRALS

YERI and YERII participants were referred by six agencies.

CV School District # 71: # 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 288, 289, 290, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297 33-268, 35-278, 36-270, 37-281	17
Glacier View Learning Centre: Bridgeway # 278, 282, 296, 297, 35-278, 36-270 Key Program: # 283, 293 Senior Alternate: # 290	
Lake Trail Middle School: # 279, 281, 33-268, 37-281	
Cumberland Community School: # 280, 288, 294, 295	
MCFD: # 284, 285, 287, 289, 291, 34-271	6
Under Twelve: # 285 Over Twelve: # 34-271 Probation Services: # 287, 289 Mental Health: # 284 Foster Parent: # 291	
Comox Valley Community Justice Centre: # 286, 292, 298	3
TOTAL 5 YOUTH REFERRAL ORGANIZATIONS	26

Table 1c: YOUTH ORGANIZATION INTERCONNECTIONS

YERI and YERII participants interconnect with other Comox Valley services.

SD #71: # 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 289, 33-268, 34-271, 35-278, 36-270, 37-281	26
The Linc: # 279, 281, 282, 283, 285, 287, 290, 291, 292, 294, 296, 298, 33-268, 34-271, 35-278, 36-270, 37-281	17
MCFD: # 279, 283, 284, 285, 287, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 295, 296, 33-268, 34-271, 36-270	15
Wachiay Friendship Centre: # 278, 279, 283, 284, 288, 296, 297, 35-278	8
CV School District #71 Counselling: # 281, 282, 287, 292, 293, 298	6
Comox Valley Community Justice Centre: # 286, 287, 290, 292, 298, 33-268	6
John Howard Society: # 289, 290, 291, 293, 33-268	5
Pacific Therapy: # 283, 286, 291, 295, 297	5
Comox Valley Family Services: #278, 279, 284	3
Counseling - Source Unknown: # 284, 287, 296	3
Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club: # 282	1
Youth Unlimited: # 279	1
Central Evangelical Free Church Youth Group: # 279	1
TOTAL 13 YOUTH ORGANIZATION INTERCONNECTIONS	

**TABLE 1 (Cont.): YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
YOUTH PARTICIPANT SUMMARY TABLE FOR APRIL 1, 2016 TO MARCH 31, 2017.**

Table 1d: ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION ORGANIZATIONS

YERI work events were attended by 1120 community members.

Most YERII projects have two youth and two adults.

	YOUTH TOTALS
YERI Projects had youth participate with the following organizations:	
Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society: # 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298	20
Oyster River Enhancement Society: # 278, 279, 280, 281, 283, 284, 285, 287, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298	18
Millard/Piercy Watershed Stewards: # 278, 281, 282, 283, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 293, 294, 296, 298	15
Tsolum River Restoration Society: # 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285	8
Morrison Creek Streamkeepers: # 279, 291, 292, 294, 295, 297	6
Comox Valley Regional District: # 296	1
Comox Valley Project Watershed Society: # 298	1
YERII Projects:	
Comox Valley Regional District, Driftwood Marine Park: # 34-271, 35-278	2
Comox Valley Regional District, Bear Creek Nature Park: # 36-270, 37-281	2
Comox Valley Regional District, Trent River Park: # 33-268 (Incomplete)	1
TOTAL 7 ORGANIZATIONS	

Table 1e: COMMUNITY PRESENTATION LOCATIONS

YERI youth give a presentation; YERII youth guide a public tour.

CV School District # 71: # 278, 279, 283, 292, 293, 294, 296, 297	8
Glacier View Learning Centre: Bridgeway: # 296; Key: # 283, 293; Senior Alternate: # 292	
Courtenay Elementary School, Kindergarden: # 279	
Courtenay Elementary School, Grade 5/6: # 297	
Cumberland Community School, Grade 8: # 294	
Ecole Puntledge Elementary School, Grade 5: # 278	
Cummings Home, Seniors Assisted Living Facility: # 280, 282, 284, 287, 290, 298	6
Lighthouse Early Learning Centre: # 281, 285	2
Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club, Adventure Club: # 286	1
Wee Care Early Childhood Centres, Royston Elementary: # 289	1
MCFD, Youth Support Team: # 295	1
First Comox Scout Troop: # 291	1
YERII: Comox Valley Regional District, Driftwood Marine Park: # 34-271, 35-278	2
YERII: Comox Valley Regional District, Bear Creek Nature Park: # 36-270, 37-281	2
TOTAL 22 COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS; 289 AUDIENCE MEMBERS	24

Table 1f: YER COMPLETION RATES

YERI: Total number of 298 youth participants; 278 completed the 20 hour program	93% Completion
YERII: Total number of 37 youth participants; 36 completed the 25-30 hour program	97% Completion
YERIII: Total number of 1 youth participant; 1 completed the 25-30 hour program	100% Completion

**TABLE 2: YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
BUDGET FOR APRIL 1, 2016 TO MARCH 31, 2017.**

This YER budget records expenses, income and other contributions required to deliver the Comox Valley program for vulnerable youth. YER 2016/2017 funds were provided by BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD). Other contributions are provided by Comox Valley groups for training and tools to restore local watersheds and ecosystems.

Expense Item	Expenses	Income		Other Contributions
Program Delivery Biologist	\$28,289.31 \$6,000.00	MCFD CVRD	\$35,000.04 \$6,000.00	Training \$2,000.00
Youth Honouraria	\$1,200.00			
Program Promotion	\$422.31			
Mileage	\$3,138.00			
Supplies	\$1,680.72			
Misc. Expenses	\$269.70			
TOTALS	\$41,000.04		\$41,000.04	\$2,000.00

**APPENDIX A: YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (Page 1 of 4)**

YER partnered with one hundred and forty-six groups July 2004 to March 2017.

Ten groups referred youth clients from July 2004 to March 2017:

- BC Children's Hospital www.bcchildrens.ca
- Comox Valley Community Justice Centre www.cjc-comoxvalley.com
- Comox Valley Family Services Association www.comoxvalleyfamilyservices.com
- Comox Valley School District #71: Cumberland Community School; Glacier View Learning Centre; Lake Trail Middle School; Mark R. Isfeld School; Nalata'atsi
- Comox Valley Youth Resource Society
- John Howard Society of North Island www.jhsni.bc.ca/
- Ministry of Children and Family Development: www.gov.bc.ca/mcf/
Probation Services; Mental Health; Parent Teen Mediation; Over Twelve; Foster Parents
- Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health www.queenalexandra.org
- Wachiay Friendship Centre, Raven Back Youth Group www.wachiay.org
- Vancouver Island Health Authority www.viha.ca

Thirty groups had youth conduct ecological restoration work from July 2004 to March 2017:

- Brooklyn Creek Watershed Society www.bcws.ca
- BC Hydro, Bridge Coastal Fish & Wildlife Restoration Program
- BC Ministry of Environment www.gov.bc.ca/env
- BC Ministry of Environment, Environmental Protection www.gov.bc.ca/env
- BC Ministry of Transportation www.gov.bc.ca/tran
- Comox Valley Environmental Council
- Comox Valley Land Trust www.cvlantrust.org
- Comox Valley Nature www.comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca
- Comox Valley Project Watershed Society www.projectwatershed.bc.ca
- Comox Valley Regional District www.rdc.bc.ca
- Comox Valley Sustainability Network
- Comox Valley Water Watch
- Comox Valley Watershed Assembly
- Courtenay & District Fish & Game Protective Association www.courtenayfishandgame.org
- Cumberland Community Forestry Society www.cumberlandforest.com
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
- Fanny Bay Enhancement Society www.fbses.ca
- Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team www.goert.ca
- Georgia Strait Alliance www.georgiastrait.org
- Hart Watershed Society
- Millard/Piercy Watershed Stewards www.millardpiercy.org
- Morrison Creek Streamkeepers www.morrisoncreek.org/
- Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society www.wingtips.org
- Natural Journeys Society
- Oyster River Enhancement Society www.oysterriverenhancement.org/
- Perseverance Creek Streamkeepers
- Streamside Native Plants http://members.shaw.ca/nativeplants/streamside_home.html
- Sunrise Rotary Club www.strathconasunrise.bc.ca
- Tsolum River Restoration Society www.tsolumriver.org/
- World Community Development Education Society www.worldcommunity.ca

**APPENDIX A (cont.): YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (Page 2 of 4)**

YER partnered with one hundred and forty-six Comox Valley groups July 2004 to March 2017.

One hundred and six community groups had youth presentations from July 2004 to March 2017:

- Airport Elementary School, Grade 1
- Airport Elementary School, Grade 2/3
- Arden Park Elementary School, Kindergarten
- Arden Park Elementary School, Grade 1
- Arden Park Elementary School, Grade 4
- Arden Park Elementary School, Grade 6
- Aspen Park Elementary School, Grade 2
- Aspen Park Elementary School, Grade 3
- Aspen Park Elementary School, Grade 4
- Aspen Park Elementary School, Grade 7
- Berwick Retirement Society www.berwickrc.com/comox
- Brooklyn Elementary, Grade 5
- Casa Loma Seniors Village www.retirementconcepts.com/homes/comox-valley
- Comox Rotary Club www.comoxrotary.bc.ca
- Comox Valley Aboriginal Head Start Program, Pre-School Group
- Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club, Adventure Club www.cvboysandgirlsclub.ca
- Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club, Voices Choices Group www.cvboysandgirlsclub.ca
- Comox Valley Community Justice Centre www.cjc-comoxvalley.com
- Comox Valley Land Trust, Annual General Meeting www.cvlandtrust.org
- Comox Valley Land Trust, Board Meeting www.cvlandtrust.org
- Comox Valley Natural History Society www.comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca
- Comox Valley Senior Peer Counselling
- Comox Valley Project Watershed Society www.projectwatershed.bc.ca
- Comox Valley Regional District, Community Services Branch
- Comox Valley Watershed Assembly
- Comox Valley Women's Resource Society
- Comox Valley Youth for Christ www.comoxvalley.yfccanada.org
- Comox Valley Youth Resource Society
- Courtenay & District Fish & Game Protective Association www.courtenayfishandgame.org
- Courtenay Elementary School, Kindergarten
- Courtenay Elementary School, Grade 2/3
- Courtenay Elementary School, Grade 3/4
- Courtenay Elementary School, Grade 5/6
- Cumberland Elementary School, Grade 5/6
- Creekside Commons www.creeksidecommons.ca
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 1/2
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 4/5
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 5/6
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 8
- Cumberland Junior School
- Cumberland Lodge
- Cumberland Rotary Club www.rotarycc.org
- Cummings Home, Seniors Assisted Living Facility
- Earth Day Festival
- Eureka Support Society and Clubhouse
- Fanny Bay Enhancement Society www.fbse.ca
- Fanny Bay Old Age Pensioners, Seniors Craft Group

**APPENDIX A (cont.): YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (Page 3 of 4)**

YER partnered with one hundred and forty-six Comox Valley groups July 2004 to March 2017.

One hundred and six community groups had youth presentations July 2004 to March 2017 (cont.):

- Glacier View Lodge Society www.glacierviewlodge.ca
- Glacier View School, Brideway Program
- Glacier View School, Independent Learning Program
- Glacier View School, Key Program
- Glacier View School, Senior Alternate Program
- Island Early Education Centre, After School Group
- John Howard Society, Staff Meeting www.jhsni.bc.ca/
- Kidzone Daycare
- Kiwanis Club of Courtenay www.facebook.com/pages/Kiwanis-Club-of-Courtenay-BC
- Lake Trail Middle School, Grade 8
- Lake Trail Middle School, Grade 9
- Lake Trail Middle School, Pride Program
- Lake Trail Middle School, Humanities Program
- Lake Trail Middle School, Youth and Family Support
- Lewis Centre, Youth Program, Day Camp www.courtenay.ca/recreation/programs.aspx
- Lighthouse Early Learning Centre www.cvcdfs.com/
- Linc Youth Centre, Action Committee
- Linc Youth Centre, Staff
- Linc Youth Centre, Youth Council
- Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School, Life Skills Program
- Merry Andrew Day Care
- Miracle Beach Elementary School, Grade 1
- Millard Piercy Watershed Stewards
- Ministry of Children and Family Development, Mental Health Team
- Ministry of Children and Family Development, Over Twelve Team
- Ministry of Children and Family Development, Probation Services
- Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society, AGM www.wingtips.org
- Nala'atsi Alternate School
- North Island College, Human Service Worker Program
- North Island College, Human Services Articulation Conference
- Oyster River Enhancement Society www.oysterriverenhancement.org/
- Puddleduck Daycare
- Pumpkin Patch Daycare
- Puntledge Park Elementary School, Kindergarten
- Puntledge Elementary School, Grade 3
- Puntledge Park Elementary School, Grade 4
- Puntledge Park Elementary School, Grade 5/6
- Queneesh Elementary School, Earth Day Celebration
- Queneesh Elementary School, Kindergarten to Grade 4
- Robb Road Elementary School, grade 4
- Roseberry Pre-School
- Royston Elementary School, Grade 7
- St. Josephs Hospital, Adolescent Support Group
- St. Josephs Hospital, Residential Care Facility
- St. Josephs Hospital, Transitional Ward
- Saltwater Waldorf School
- Scouts Canada, First Comox Scout Troup

**APPENDIX A (cont.): YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (Page 3 of 4)**

YER partnered with one hundred and forty-six Comox Valley groups July 2004 to March 2017.

One hundred and six community groups had youth presentations July 2004 to March 2017 (cont.):

- Scouts Canada, First Tsolum Cubs Group
- Stevenson Place (Seniors Independent Living) www.novapacific.ca/page131.htm
- Tsolum River Restoration Society www.tsolumriver.org/
- Tiger Too Pre-School
- Vanier Senior Secondary School, Counseling Group
- Vanier Senior Secondary School, Grade 8 English
- Vanier Senior Secondary School, Grade 8 Science
- Vanier Secondary School, Little Friends Day Care
- Wachiay Friendship Centre, Elders Lunch www.wachiay.org
- Wachiay Friendship Centre, Raven Back Youth Group www.wachiay.org
- Wee Care Early Childhood Centres, Royston Elementary www.weecareinc.com
- Youth and Ecological Restoration Program, Annual Community Celebration