

YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Period of April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015

Completed on August 13, 2015

PROGRAM FUNDED BY:

**BRITISH COLUMBIA
MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY
DEVELOPMENT**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

**WENDY KOTILLA
4327 MINTO ROAD
COURTENAY, BC
V9N 9P7
250-336-8487
wkotilla@shaw.ca
www.youthecology.ca**

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1. INTRODUCTION

On July 1, 2014 the Youth and Ecological Restoration Program (YER) celebrated ten years of service for vulnerable Comox Valley youth (<http://youthecology.ca/yer-ten-year-review/>). This ten year milestone was the point where 250 youth participated in the program with an overall 95% completion rate. Completing the program creates a sense of accomplishment for graduates. YER has built in a support system for the youth that facilitates them achieving their goals while building a sense of worth, belonging and place within themselves and their community.

From April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015 nineteen youth participated in YER, Phase I (YERI) and six were in YER, Phase II (YERII). YERI is twenty hours where youth work one on one with the YER coordinator to gain work experience and training with four different environmental groups, and for completion speak to a community group. YERII is an advanced twenty-five hour program where two youth work with the YER Coordinator and a professional biologist to scientifically measure local ecology, and then the youth jointly lead a tour of the project site.

This YER annual report documents the fiscal year of 2014 to 2015. The Youth Participant Summary Table 1 represents six categories: youth completion rates (Table 1a); youth referral organizations (Table 1b); youth organization interconnections (Table 1c); ecological restoration groups (Table 1d); community presentation locations (Table 1e); and program completion rates (Table 1f). Table 2 presents the YER budget for 2014 to 2015. Appendix A lists one hundred and thirty seven YER Community Partnerships established since 2004.

2. PROGRESS AND OUTCOMES

The progress and outcomes section gives more details of the Youth Participant Summary Table 1, describing YERI and YERII completion rates, referral organizations, environmental groups and presentation places. Descriptions are also provided for 2014 to 2015 YERI and YERII projects. Community partnerships feature the relationships that are pivotal for the success of the program. Annual program promotion includes advertising and marketing through presentations, website and newspaper articles. Future options reflect on how YER can increase or improve service for vulnerable youth in the Comox Valley. Youth and their caregivers are interviewed about YER experiences and a summary their words are recited here.

Youth Participant Summary

Twenty-five youth participated in YER from April 2014 to March 2015; nineteen were in YERI and six in YERII. Eleven boys and eight girls were in YERI; and three boys and three girls in YERII (Table 1). Seventeen youth completed YERI, with two incomplete; six youth completed YERII (Table 1a). Four Comox Valley groups referred youth to YER: Comox Valley School District #71, Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), John Howard Society and Vancouver Island Health Authority (Table 1b).

Referred youth had connections with thirteen other youth services that include local schools, government agencies, community justice, counseling groups and recreational activity centres (Table 1c). Ecological work was conducted by the twenty-five youth for six environmental groups; nineteen YERI youth worked with five groups on a range of ecological restoration jobs and six YERII youth recorded ecology in the Comox Valley region for two groups (Table 1d).

Seventeen YERI youth completed the program with presentations for eleven groups; and six YERII youth guided three public tours of the end of their project (Table 1e). Fifteen YERI youth received fifty dollars and two completed community service hours; and all received a certificate, letter of reference, a crest and waterproof sticker. The six YERII youth acquired fifty dollars, YER hoodies, a crest and waterproof sticker on completion of the tour; and a photo certificate of them conducting YERII work and letter of reference customized to their ecological project.

YERI Description

YERI is the initial, entry level ecological restoration work where youth learn about ecology and are involved with local environmental groups that do the work of documenting, restoring and raising awareness of Comox Valley watersheds and ecosystems. Five groups continue to provide most of the ecological education and training: Millard Piercy Watershed Stewards; Oyster River Enhancement Society; Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society; Tsolum River Restoration Society; and Morrison Creek Streamkeepers (Table 1d). The environmental group volunteers are the elders, mentors and role models that the youth respect and look up to for knowledge, guidance and support.

YERII Description

YERII is an advanced program for YERI graduates that involve two youth, the YER coordinator and a professional biologist. YER has obtained the services of Ian Moul for nine projects over four years to lead the ecological research and provide a written report for funding agencies. In the 2014 to 2015 fiscal year there were three YERII projects that engaged six youth. YERII is done within a five day format: three days of scientific research; one day of preparation for the tour; and on the fifth day the two youth co-facilitate a guided tour of the project location.

In June 2014, we did Great Blue Heron Foraging and Flight Patterns on the Courtenay River Estuary (<http://youthecology.ca/courtenay-river-estuary-great-blue-heron-report-2014/>) (Table 1d). This research was done to document areas in the estuary where Great Blue Heron need to forage to feed their hatchlings in the spring. Funding for Ian Moul was supplied by Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society via Shell Fueling Change; Comox Valley Environmental Council; and UNIFOR Local 3019. Through telescopes situated on the estuary at a place known as Royston Wrecks we conducted observations of heron feeding and gathering food. We also documented flight patterns at a Point Holmes nesting site. On the public tour, thirty-seven people come out to learn about the herons and estuary habitat from the two youth (Table 1e).

In July 2014, Comox Valley Regional District, Community Services Branch funded Ian Moul to guide two youth in the Ecological Inventory of Wildwood Marsh and Wildwood Interpretive Forest (<http://youthecology.ca/wildwood-marsh-and-interpretive-forest-ecological-report-2014/>) (Table 1d). We established two vegetation study plots to assess and document trees, shrubs and herbs within the park boundaries; and did observations of resident birds, animals, amphibians and fish. On the fifth day, twenty-eight people came out for the youth guided tour (Table 1e).

In August 2014, through Comox Valley Regional District, Grant in Aid funds, a YERII project was performed for an Ecological Inventory of Forest Plant Communities in Bear Creek Nature Park (<http://youthecology.ca/bear-creek-nature-park-ecological-report-2014/>) (Table 1d). This was similar to the July project where we created two vegetation plots in a forest plant community. The project was also done in partnership with Oyster River Enhancement Society, who operates a volunteer based salmon hatchery within the park boundaries. The youth led tour for this project had fifteen participants (Table 1e).

Community Partnerships

Since YER was initiated in 2004 the community partnerships have grown to include one hundred and thirty seven different groups (Appendix A). The program is community based with support from many different factions within the Comox Valley. These groups include: education; social services; community justice; health care; senior services; first nations; family and youth support; regional, provincial and federal governments; conservation; environmental; wildlife rescue; land and water protection; native plant production; day care; and community service (Appendix A).

Program Promotion

Part of the strength of the community based support for YER is due to keeping the program in the public eye through promoting and advertising events, and website maintenance. These marketing strategies help the Comox Valley public know what is current with YER and maintains the profile of the program. There was also a ten year celebration held at Zocalo Café.

During the 2014 to 2015 year there were articles published in local newspapers to announce the YERII youth led tours and the YER Ten Year Celebration.

June 2014

- Comox Valley Record, “Great blue heron tour at Royston Wrecks”
- Comox Valley Echo, “Take a heron tour with youth project”
- Island Word, “Youth program celebrates ten years”
- Comox Valley Record, “Local program celebrates milestone”
- Comox Valley Echo, “Youth program celebrates ten years”

July 2014

- Comox Valley Record, “YER tour through Wildwood Marsh Park”
- Comox Valley Echo, “Discover Wildwood on a youth-led nature tour”

August 2014

- Comox Valley Record, “Final YER youth-led public tour of the summer on Sunday”
- Comox Valley Echo, “Youth Lead Bear Creek nature Park Tour Sunday”

Ten Year Celebration

The power point presentation created last year “Transforming Youth from Learners to Leaders” was presented at the YER Ten Year Celebration held at Zocalo Café. Approximately 45 people came out to celebrate this YER milestone. Keynote speaker, Doug Hillian, MCFD Youth Justice Consultant and City of Courtenay Counselor described YER history and successes. In an open microphone session several people congratulated the ten year achievement (<http://youthecology.ca/yer-ten-year-review/>).

YER Website

Continual Palingensis (CP), Social Media Solutions (<http://continualpalingensis.ca/>) continues to update and maintain the YER website (www.youthecology.ca). CP posts events, announcements and reports to the News and Events, and Annual and Ecological Reports pages through the year.

Future Options

As an important development for YERI and YERII youth graduates, creating a YER, Phase III would allow them to continue to be involved with the program and build on their successes. Another expansion to consider would be to train a YER assistant to work with the Coordinator to build in a succession model.

YER Youth Quotes

YER youth are interviewed for their feedback and comments at different stages throughout their involvement with the program. Some of the best tributes to YER success come from their words. YERI and YERII youth quotes are posted below; one audience comment is posted below Goal #5.

YERI Quotes 2014 to 2015

GOAL #1: BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

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

- It was enjoyed, I loved it, and it was so much fun because I'm very anti-social. I like to hibernate in my room. I was actually out, doing something. I enjoyed it because I like to help the community. Sometimes I do that, but not all the time. That I helped the community more than I thought I would. I thought I would be all snazzy and not do anything, but I did something. I thought it would be boring at first; it was actually lots of fun. (*YERI Participant #244*)
- I helped out with keeping the water safe. Its helping out the people with what they are doing, another body helps. Because it makes people know everybody and the more people you know, you get to know the community and you get to know the people you work with and it helps the situation. (*YERI Participant #246*)
- It's helping the other people who have already started this. Like at Oyster River they had the cabin full of all those people doing different things and helping each other out. It makes it a better place because everybody is helping each other out, being nice and helping each other out. (*YERI Participant #256*)

GOAL #2: GAINING VALUED WORK EXPERIENCE

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

- On the last day we went to Millard Creek to see fish traps. They are there to see if fish are there. We would take the traps out and put the fish in one bucket full of water and I would take one out, put the fish in a bucket of water. The water had less oxygen and that would calm it down. When the fish was calm I would put it on a measuring board and see the length of the fish. The after that I would pick it up and gently dry the fish and push a zero button and weigh the fish, after that put the fish in the last bucket of water. After all the fish were weighed and measured I would put them back in the creek. (*YERI Participant #242*)
- Today we did a water quality test on six areas at the head of Millard Creek. We tested dissolved oxygen, pH, water level and total dissolved solids, among other things. Interestingly, the water, pH and more or less temperature changed in varying degrees, as did the dissolved oxygen. We then tested the water level in a well. All of this data is compiled so that any patterns or changes will be noticed. (*YERI Participant #251*)
- For the least experienced and youngest I caught the most fish, 44 to be exact; 24 pinks, 14 coho, 6 chinook. I learned to work as a team to catch them in the purse. But if we hadn't worked as a team we wouldn't have caught any fish, so the main thing about that day was teamwork. (*YERI Participant #252*)

GOAL #3: IMPROVING ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

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

- I learned that we need to respect nature more and take better care of our ecosystem. That we need to keep our streams and rivers clean so the salmon can spawn. They're getting the youth to understand we need to take care of the Earth. (*YERI Participant #240*)

- Reg also taught me about the energy I give off and how that affects the behaviour and struggling times – you calm yourself and the bird will calm down. We let off waves of energy that almost show the birds our intentions, whether good or bad. It gives the bird a sense of comfort in the obviously stressful life in captivity, even though the bird is no longer in a harmful environment and safer from other predators it is still confused and struggles when trying to feed and clean its wound. (*YERI Participant #247*)
- Helping out and doing different things. Being more smart and walking in the forest and not throwing garbage all around or damaging the forest. Treating the forest with respect like a normal person. Treat the environment like you would treat a person, with respect. (*YERI Participant #255*)

GOAL #4: INCREASING PERSONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS

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

- To get outside every day in any way shape or form. It's important for your mental health, your physical health and I think it's important for the environment. It becomes part of you, so you're more inclined to take care of it, it becomes first nature. (*YERI Participant #241*)
- I felt educational and proud. I learned a lot and felt prideful because I completed this and it is good on my resume, too. To prove I can stick with something, to prove I am dedicated, to prove I can stick with something and finish it. I am a good listener and good learner. (*YERI Participant #248*)
- I like the least what just happened, I stole a necklace. I learned don't steal and make it obvious and don't steal. If I can name all the emotions I felt – anger, joy, nervous, adrenalin. Other emotions I don't want to explain. Your body forces you to feel the emotion guilt, which brings up the other emotions. (*YERI Participant #254*)

GOAL #5: ENHANCING COMMUNICATION SKILLS

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

- Pretty good, you get to see the world twice in one time. You get to see it in a different opinion to yourself. Basically you get to see it again, which is different because when people walk through the forest with a dog or your children. Then when you walk through the forest with someone who knows more about it than yourself, you know about the forest and think about the forest, you actually look at it and look at it again. You actually know more about it because the other person tells you about it. (*YERI Participant #249*)
- Awesome, it's fun and the presentation because you get to pass on what you learned. Its kind of fun to teach them when you get used to it, hey, this is fun when you get used to it. (*YERI Participant #250*)
- It was fun and I learned lots, like how to treat a fish and how to work with other people. I usually work by myself. It's way easier to work with other people because you aren't doing all the work. If you did the egg take by yourself it would take a day. If you do it with other people it would only take a few hours. (*YERI Participant #253*)

Audience comment “There is incredible wisdom and confidence in you and you are teaching us”. (*YERI Participant #251*)

YERII Youth Quotes 2014 to 2015

- It was very rewarding. I got to count herons and see how eagles react. I enjoyed talking with people. They have lots of interesting things to say. I don't have many people in my life like that. The most important thing was I learned to communicate with others. (*YERII Participant #23-229*)

- It was cool, an incredible learning experience. I didn't know I would be so involved. I learned a lot more than I expected about the ecosystem and the chain reaction that happens, like the eelgrass and the herons, their relationship. Looking at things from a nonbiased perspective and questioning yourself. *(YERII Participant #24-247)*
- I learned that it's important to rely on someone, but you actually really rely on yourself. You have to ask for help and you still have to figure it out for yourself as well. *(YERII Participant #25-242)*
- I learned how to work well with others; before I wasn't really good in groups. Most of the time they would tell me to do one little thing so I wouldn't screw it up. It's easier to talk to people now after leading that tour. It felt like people were really listening to what I was saying. It felt pretty good. It was pretty good because you are sharing that thing never heard. *(YERII Participant #26-233)*
- I learned that I'm not as prickly as I thought I was. I just realized that. To initially become comfortable around other people. I am really, really shy at first and then you can't shut me up. I liked the best just being here, getting away from everything. I don't want to be at home with my Mother at all. We always fight and it causes a lot of stress. *(YERII Participant #27-248)*
- It's always good to work as a team. You get better leadership skills working as a team. It helps to learn with another person working with you and you have to learn to work together with one another. It's being nice to one another and them being nice to you. I learned better math skills, also leadership skills, talking with a group. *(YERII Participant #28-213)*

YER Caregiver Quotes

Parents and caregivers of the youth are interviewed for YER feedback and comments regarding their youths' participation in the program. Their words ring with pride in the accomplishments and successes of these young people. Below are quotes from YERI and YERII youth caregivers.

YERI Caregiver Quotes 2014 to 2015

- I thank you for giving her the opportunity. Not only hands on experience, but she learned a lot from you. Another adult she could go to in the community; having the opportunity to connect one on one with another safe adult in the community. She is much better, more connected and has a sense of belonging. It gave her ideas; take what you know and let it grow and make it happen. I was impressed you gave her a reference letter and pictures; that takes time. It gives the kids insight into the bigger picture of where they fit in this world. *(YERI Participant #241)*
- I believe it's a good program and that some kids should do it. It helped her to get out of her shell and work with other people and the environment because she's not used to that. She hasn't interacted with adults because she has been a caregiver herself. It's good to see her develop those skills as she hasn't had a chance to develop them. People skills; normal, social, people skills. She has come a long way. I saw her become a lot happier. A sense of humour came out and laughing. *(YERI Participant #242)*
- It exposed her to nature that she would not have gotten. It sparked her curiosity and it was nice to see her curious about stuff. I've noticed socially she will toss a fact out there for them. She'll mention something that she learned in the program. She does it in a way that she is proud and feels good about herself and is able to make a contribution to the conversation because she wouldn't have known before and she is able to participate. *(YERI Participant #245)*
- I think it was fantastic, more kids should do it. There's not enough programs for these kids, especially kids like him, get him outside, he calms right down, it gives him something to focus on. It's not a structured learning setting where he has to sit and focus and learn book

stuff. It lets him show his ability to learn things in an alternate setting. Its amazing the information he retained in your program. My kid learned things he wouldn't have learned. It gave him self-esteem and it gave him something to look forward to. It starts turning his attention to what a job really means. If you do a good job, you get rewarded. (*YERI Participant #250*)

- The presentation was great, he was articulate, and he spoke and made eye contact with his audience. He was able to field questions and was able to keep it at a good length. He wasn't nervous at all and was really comfortable. Feelings of confidence because it is his area of expertise and he was able to go out and learn a bit more and feel like he had something to bring. It forged some good connections for him. (*YERI Participant #251*)
- The changes in just one kid, I can imagine how many other kids you've helped to be aware of the world around them. He wouldn't have thought about throwing rocks into the gravel and not wanting to disturb it. I loved the photos, he looks really happy. It was a good outlet for him. He loved the reference letter and just lit up and said "I did a good job, Mom". He was proud of himself. He has a good heart and it was good for him to not be judged for having a big heart. Thank you for taking the time to help our kids. He has been easier to handle and has been more caring and loving. (*YERI Participant #254*)

YERII Caregiver Quotes 2014 to 2015

- What you are doing is fabulous. You can just see the pride in them; they get such a boost of confidence. We got a frame for her certificate and she has it on the wall. It gave her some self confidence. She wanted to go each day; you can't drag her out of bed to go to school; a purpose for the day. She really enjoyed the whole thing. (*YERII Participant #23-229*)
- I thought it was a great experience for him, another step up. He moved. I saw the difference between Phase I and II. I saw more responsibility, more like leadership roles. I thought it was cool for him to experience and for him to see he could be a good leading speaker. It was so cool, whatever chances in life as a kid you can get to see yourself. I liked the ages; there were kids and elders; that respect. You guys have all those years and experience and they soak up your journey. He could see that he could do that. (*YERII Participant #24-247*)
- I think its opened doors to knowledge that she may not have otherwise gotten. To have Ian on board and knowledgeable to what's going on in the woods and it opens it up to and might lead her to a job. Most of the kids we work with are underprivileged. Your program and in combination of what we do is really beneficial. We've seen more willingness to communicate. I think you have instilled in her an appreciation for environment. (*YERII Participant #25-242*)
- It definitely showed him some of the more complicated skills he learned in school have simple, practical life applications. He's exemplified his confidence. Before he thought he might be doing things later and now he's setting goals. Much more confident he can achieve goals, much more and bigger life goals. It's almost like he has won a trophy or an award, not just picked to do something and he would do it again. (*YERII Participant #26-233*)
- When she was receptive to talking about it, she was excited about what she was doing. She liked to tell us about it, she liked to explain what she was doing. She seemed quite receptive to explaining what she was doing and why. She doesn't really talk to me a whole lot. It was something different and she was interested in it and wanted to explain. She seemed excited in what she was doing. She was very proud of her hoodie. (*YERII Participant #27-248*)
- He is into taking all sorts of programs if they are available. He liked to learn things. He learned stuff. I don't know what else to say. I wasn't there. He is not a big talker. He said it was good. (*YERII Participant #28-213*)

3. BUDGET

Budget for 2014/2015

The final budget for YER from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015 is in Table 2. YER income of \$38,500.04 came from four sources: Ministry of Children and Family Development \$35,000.04, Comox Valley Regional District \$2,500.00, Comox Valley Environmental Council \$500.00, and UNIFOR Local 3019 from Campbell River \$500.00. Other contributions included training and equipment costs from ecological restoration groups \$2,000.00 and \$240.00 in donations received at the YER Ten Year Celebration to cover the event expenses.

- **Professional fees** included fees, administration costs and program evaluation for \$28,698.83. Biologist fees were \$3,500.00.
- **Honouraria** for youth participants was \$1,090.00: \$50 each for twenty-one youth and \$20.00 each for two youth to present at the ten year celebration.
- **Program Promotion** was \$809.10 for website updates and maintenance.
- **Transportation** costs were calculated at \$.50/kilometre for a total of \$2,697.50.
- **Supplies** of \$1,251.41 included office, lunch expenses and materials required for YER work.
- **Miscellaneous expenses** in the amount of \$453.20 were: \$142.65 for bank charges; \$60.00 in membership fees for Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society and Comox Valley Environmental Council; \$96.71 for equipment; \$134.40 for equipment repair; and \$19.44 for WorkSafe BC.
- **Other Contributions** were \$2,000.00 for YERI in-kind training from community experts; and \$240.00 donations at the YER Ten Year Celebration to cover Zocalo Café expenses.

4. SUMMARY

April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015 was a significant year for the Youth and Ecological Restoration Program (YER). July 1, 2014 was the period in time when YER crossed over the ten year mark of serving vulnerable youth in the Comox Valley. Through the ten years there were many times of uncertainty about the program continuing, but the vision I had in the beginning was big enough for other people to believe in as well. YER has continued and persevered through all of the doubt and fears of lack for funding support. The main YER successes lie in a 95% completion rate for two hundred and fifty youth, and building partnerships with one hundred and thirty seven groups.

This report covers the 2014 to 2015 fiscal year when twenty-five youth participated in YER; seventeen out of nineteen completed Phase I and six out of six completed Phase II. The three Phase II projects were to document Great Blue Heron activity on the Courtenay Estuary and conduct ecological inventories in two Comox Valley Regional District parks. The best part of YER annual reports is the section where words are quoted from interviews with youth and their caregivers to document and give a voice to the people YER serves.

YER was created to help vulnerable youth find themselves through interactions with the natural world and the human community. The program has forged relationships between youth, elders and community members with respect for the people and places that call the Comox Valley home. Through valuing each other and the ecology of this place there is hope for a better world to pass onto future generations. I am honoured to serve our youth and community, and proud to be the creator of this innovative and successful program. I envision another ten years of YER service.

**TABLE 1: YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
YOUTH PARTICIPANT SUMMARY TABLE FOR APRIL 1, 2014 TO MARCH 31, 2015.**

YER for Comox Valley vulnerable youth funded by Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).
YERI had 19 participants; 8 girls and 11 boys. YERII had 6 participants; 3 girls and 3 boys.
YERII numbering: YERII is first and the original YERI number follows the hyphen.

Table 1a: YER COMPLETION YERI initial program is 20 hours; YERII advanced program is 25 hours.	YOUTH TOTALS
Total YERI Complete: Participant # 239, 240, 241, 242, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256	17
Total YERII Complete: # 23-229, 24-247, 25-242, 26-233, 27-248, 28-213	6
Total Incomplete: # 243, 257	2
TOTAL 500 WORK EXPERIENCE HOURS	25

Table 1b: YOUTH ORGANIZATION REFERRALS
YERI and YERII participants were referred by six agencies.

CV School District 71: # 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 247, 249, 250, 252, 253, 255 24-247, 25-242, 26-233, 28-213	16
Glacier View Learning Centre: Bridgeway # 249, 250 Independent Learning: # 247, 28-213 Key Program: # 252, 24-247, 26-233	
Lake Trail Middle School: # 240, 242, 244, 253, 255, 25-242 Vanier Secondary: # 239 Mark Isfeld Secondary: # 241 Nala'atsi: # 243	
MCFD: # 245, 246, 254, 257, 23-229	5
Over Twelve Team # 245, 254 Foster Parent: # 23-229 Probation Services: # 246	
John Howard Society: # 248, 256, 27-248	3
Vancouver Island Health Authority: # 251	1
TOTAL 5 YOUTH REFERRAL ORGANIZATIONS	25

Table 1c: YOUTH ORGANIZATION INTERCONNECTIONS
YERI and YERII participants are interconnected with other Comox Valley youth services.

SD #71: # 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 23-229, 24-247, 25-242, 26-233, 27-248, 28-213	24
MCFD: # 239, 242, 244, 245, 246, 248, 249, 251, 253, 254, 256, 257, 23-229, 24-247, 25-242, 26-233, 27-248	17
The Linc: # 240, 242, 244, 245, 246, 249, 250, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 24-247, 28-213	14
John Howard Society: # 239, 243, 244, 247, 248, 249, 254, 256, 24-247, 26-233, 27-248	11
Wachiay Friendship Centre: # 239, 240, 243, 244, 245, 254, 257, 27-248	8
CV School District 71 Counselling Services: # 240, 241, 250, 252, 256, 28-213	6
Comox Valley Community Justice Centre: # 240, 245, 246, 247, 24-247	5
Pacific Therapy: # 242, 245, 248, 25-242	4
Comox Valley Family Services: # 247	2
Counseling - Source Unknown: # 243, 246	2
Vancouver Island Health Authority (Dr. Coxon; Dr. Lupton): # 251, 23-229	2
Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club: # 249, 257	2
RCMP Victims Assistance: # 244	1
TOTAL 13 YOUTH ORGANIZATION INTERCONNECTIONS	

**TABLE 1 (Cont.): YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
YOUTH PARTICIPANT SUMMARY TABLE FOR APRIL 1, 2014 TO MARCH 31, 2015.**

Table 1d: ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION ORGANIZATIONS

YERI work events attended by 1445 community members; average 76 per youth.

YERII projects were collaborative teams of two youth and two adults.

	YOUTH TOTALS
YERI Projects	
Millard/Piercy Watershed Stewards: # 239, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256	17
Oyster River Enhancement Society: # 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256	17
Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society: # 239, 240, 242, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 253, 254, 255, 256	15
Tsolum River Restoration Society: # 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 249, 250, 257	12
Morrison Creek Streamkeepers: # 239, 241, 244, 245, 248, 249, 250, 253, 254, 255	10
YERII Projects	
Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society, Comox Valley Environmental Council, Unifor (Local 3019), Great Blue Heron Study: # 23-229, 24-247	2
Comox Valley Regional District, Wildwood Marsh and Forest: # 25-242, 26-233	2
Comox Valley Regional District, Bear Creek Nature Park: # 27-248, 28-213	2
TOTAL 7 ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	

Table 1e: COMMUNITY PRESENTATION LOCATIONS

Each YERI youth gives an oral presentation; two YERII youth co-facilitate and guide a public tour.

Community members in attendance are in brackets in the youth total column.

Glacier View Alternate School: # 249, 252, 254	3
Bridgeway: # 249, 254 Key: # 252	(8, 17, 7)
MCFD: # 242, 245, 246	3
Under 12: # 242 Over 12: # 245 Probation: # 246	(23, 9, 5)
St Joseph Hospital, Transitional Ward: # 244, 253	2 (10, 11)
Cummings House: # 251, 255	2 (8, 8)
Wachiay Friendship Centre, Elders Lunch: # 239	1 (32)
Tiger-Too Pre-School: # 241	1 (9)
Lake Trail Middle School, Grade 8 Humanities: # 240	1 (24)
Arden Elementary School, Kindergarden: # 247	1 (17)
Miracle Beach Elementary School, Grade 1: # 248	1 (23)
Aspen Park Elementary School, Grade 2: # 250	1 (22)
Cumberland Elementary School, Grade 4/5: # 256	1 (22)
YERII, Great Blue Heron Study: # 23-229, 24-247	2 (37)
YERII, Wildwood Forest and Marsh: # 25-242, 26-233	2 (28)
YERII, Bear Creek Nature Park: # 27-248, 28-213	2 (15)
TOTAL 17 COMMUNITY PRESENTATION LOCATIONS; 335 AUDIENCE PARTICIPANTS	23 (335)

Table 1f: YER COMPLETION RATES

YERI: Total number of 257 youth participants; 239 completed the 20 hour program	93%
YERII: Total number of 28 youth participants; 28 completed the 25 hour program	100%

TABLE 2: YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER) BUDGET FOR APRIL 1, 2014 TO MARCH 31, 2015.

Expenses, income and other contributions are required to conduct YER work experience and training for vulnerable youth in the Comox Valley. YER 2014/2015 funding was provided by BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD), Comox Valley Environmental Council (CVEC) and UNIFOR Local 3019 funds were for a biologist to work with youth on YER, Phase II projects. Other contributions are provided by Comox Valley groups for training and tools to restore local watersheds and ecosystems; and donations were received for the YER Ten Year Celebration event.

Expense Item	Expenses	Income	Other Contributions
Program Delivery Biologist	\$28,698.83 \$3,500.00	MCFD \$35,000.04 CVRD \$2,500.00 CVEC \$500.00 UNIFOR 3019 \$500.00	Training \$2,000.00 Ten Year \$240.00
Youth Honouraria	\$1,090.00		
Program Promotion	\$809.10		
Mileage	\$2,697.50		
Supplies	\$1,251.41		
Other	\$453.20		Ten Year \$240.00
TOTALS	\$38,500.04	\$38,500.04	\$2,240.00

**APPENDIX A: YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (Page 1 of 3)**

YER partnered with one hundred and thirty-six groups July 2004 to March 2015.

Ten groups referred youth clients from July 2004 to March 2015:

- 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: Lake Trail Middle School; Mark Isfeld School
- Comox Valley Youth Resource Society
- Glacier View Learning Centre: web.sd71.bc.ca/glacier_view/
Bridgeway; Independent Learning; Key Program; Nalata'atsi; Sandwick; Senior Alternate
- 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
- Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health www.queenalexandra.org
- Wachiay Friendship Centre, Raven Back Youth Group www.wachiay.org

Thirty groups had youth conduct ecological restoration work from July 2004 to March 2015:

- 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 Natural History Society 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 3)**

YER partnered with one hundred and thirty-six Comox Valley groups July 2004 to March 2015.

Ninety-six community groups had youth presentations from July 2004 to March 2015:

- 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, 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, 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 Elementary School, Grade 2
- Cumberland Elementary School, Grade 4/5
- Cumberland Elementary School, Grade 5/6
- Cumberland Junior School
- Cumberland Lodge
- Cumberland Rotary Club www.rotarycc.org
- Cummings House
- Earth Day Festival
- Eureka Clubhouse
- Fanny Bay Enhancement Society www.fbSES.ca
- Fanny Bay Old Age Pensioners, Seniors Craft Group
- 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

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

YER partnered with one hundred and thirty-six Comox Valley groups July 2004 to March 2015.

Ninety-six community groups had youth presentations July 2004 to March 2015 (cont.):

- 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
- Lewis Centre, Youth Program, Day Camp www.courtenay.ca/recreation/programs.aspx
- Lighthouse Early Learning Centre www.cvcdcs.com/
- Linc Youth Centre, Action Committee
- Linc Youth Centre, Staff
- Linc Youth Centre, Youth Council
- 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, Grade 4
- Puntledge Park Elementary School, Kindergarten
- Queneesh Elementary School, Earth Day Celebration
- Queneesh Elementary School, Kindergarten to 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
- 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
- Wachiay Friendship Centre, Elders Lunch www.wachiay.org
- Wachiay Friendship Centre, Raven Back Youth Group www.wachiay.org
- Youth and Ecological Restoration Program, Annual Community Celebration