

YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION ANNUAL REPORT



For the Period of April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020
Completed on May 25, 2020

YER PROGRAM FUNDED BY:
BRITISH COLUMBIA
MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY
DEVELOPMENT

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Cover Page Photo – Leo Peters (*Participant #357*) finds huge maple leaf during salmon spawner counts in Millard Creek.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Youth and Ecological Restoration (YER) is in its sixteenth year. BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) has provided core financial support since its initiation in 2004. Two YER, Phase II projects were supported by Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) in 2019; one through Community Services Branch and another with the annual Grant in Aid. YERII projects completed ecological inventories in two CVRD parks: Morrison Headwaters Nature Preserve, and Seal Bay Nature Park and Forest. Arzeena Hamir, CVRD, Area B Director and local organic farmer, made a donation to YER. Local artist, Kathleen Urdahl, auctioned her paintings, jointly contributing to YER and Comox Valley Transition Society in 2019. Comox Valley vulnerable youth benefit from YER by participating in meaningful work and being valued by community members.

1. INTRODUCTION

YER was created to support vulnerable youth through working with them to restore the natural world. Being surrounded by the calming influence of nature has a healing element known as ecotherapy. YER involves youth being with community members who support and mentor them with the ecological restoration practices. The youth flourish under these circumstances.

During the period of April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 twenty youth participated in YER, Phase I (YERI) and four were in YER, Phase II (YERII) (Table 1a). Community partnerships are a core principal of YER and there are many groups and individuals that have contributed to the youths' successes. Appendix A contains a list of one hundred and fifty-eight community partnership groups. Annual budget contributions came from MCFD; CVRD; and two individuals, Arzeena Amir and Kathleen Urdahl (Table 2).

From July 2004 to March 2020 a total of three hundred and fifty-nine youth participated in YERI; fifty-one youth were involved in YERII; and one in YERIII (Table 1f). YER achieves unique individual work with youth who are struggling with personal and social connections. The overall completion rate for YERI, YERII and YERIII is eighty-nine percent (Table 1f). Through a period of mentoring and training, the program is moving into a succession phase to integrate others into facilitating YER and working with the youth participants.

2. PROGRESS AND OUTCOMES

This report contains details of YER accomplishments from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. During that time period twenty-four youth were involved in YER. Specifics are given on completion rates, program referrals, interagency connections, ecological work and presentation places. Relationships have developed with many groups and individuals, contributing to YER successes and building community partnerships (Appendix A). Youth and their caregivers were interviewed to determine what they have learned and quotes are provided in the report to illustrate their recollections. From 2018 to 2020, twelve past participants were questioned about their YER experiences to verify the long-term value of the program. Over the next few years others will be trained to facilitate transferring YER techniques as part of succession planning.

Youth Participant Summary

Twenty-four youth were engaged in YER during the fiscal year from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. Twenty were in YERI (five girls and fifteen boys) with eighty-two percent First Nations ancestry; and four in YERII (three girls and 1 boy) with thirty-three percent First Nations (Table 1). Nineteen youth completed YERI, one was incomplete; all four completed YERII (Table 1a).

Four groups referred twenty youth to YERI: eighteen from Comox Valley School District #71 (Highland Secondary, Lake Trail Middle, Nala'atsi Alternate, Cumberland Community, Glacier View and Huband Park Elementary); MCFD referred four youth from Mental Health; and two came from Comox Valley Community Justice Centre (Table 1b).

YERI youth associated with fourteen other Comox Valley youth services: twenty with School District #71; sixteen with The Linc; eleven received counselling through schools; nine had been to MCFD; six with Wachiay Friendship Centre; five with both Pacific Therapy and Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club; four were linked to John Howard Society; three each with the Transition Society and Community Justice Centre; two participated with unknown counseling services; one with Comox Valley Family Services; and one with North Island Hospital, Adolescent Intake (Table 1c).

YERI 2019 to 2020

Twenty YER youth conducted ecological restoration work with seven organizations in the Comox Valley: nineteen with Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society; seventeen helped volunteers at Oyster River Enhancement Society; thirteen offered services to Millard Piercy Watershed Stewards; ten were involved with Tsolum River Restoration Society; six aided in activities with Morrison Creek Streamkeepers; and one each were with Comox Valley Project Watershed Society and Fanny Bay Enhancement Society (Table 1d).

At the end of YERI, youth prepare and present a mandatory speech about their experiences for a community group. The nineteen youth who finished YERI did presentations for the following groups: seven for School District #71 (Lake Trail Middle, Highland Secondary, Cumberland Community and Nala'atsi); four at Lighthouse Early Learning Centre; four presented for seniors at Cummings Home; one apiece for Wachiay Friendship Centre, Bears and Eagles Groups; and one for both The Linc and North Island Distance School, Navigate class (Table 1e).

YERII 2019 to 2020

Four YER participants finished two YERII projects in 2019. These projects were both financed by CVRD: a Grant in Aid supported work at Morrison Headwaters Nature Preserve; and the Community Services Branch funded the Seal Bay Nature Park and Forest project. Both projects involved ecological inventories to better understand these parks and assist CVRD in making management decisions. CVRD funding employed a registered professional biologist to guide the inventories and deliver a science-based report. YERII goals include teamwork, collaboration and communication skills. Two youth were involved with each project to do hands on data collection over a five-day period and educate the public with a tour on the final day.

The first YERII project occurred in Morrison Headwaters Nature Preserve (MHNP) from July 3rd to July 7th involving youth participants, Ben Chambers and Doreen Rodriguez. Tim Ennis of Latitude Conservation Solutions led the ecological inventory, assisted by YER Coordinator, Wendy Kotilla, and Jim Palmer from Morrison Creek Streamkeepers guided the hydrological research. MHNP is one of the CVRD most recent parks and has been listed as an ecologically significant conservation area for many years. The youth contributed to the baseline ecological information of this small watershed that holds exceptional values, and successfully communicated the information to twelve people. The report is at: <https://youthecology.ca/ecological-inventory-of-morrison-creek-headwaters-nature-preserve-2019/>.

The second YERII project was done from August 7th to 11th with participants, Gem Maximick and Madison Watson, registered biologist Carrina Maslovat and Wendy Kotilla. Seal Bay Nature Park and Forest was jointly selected by CVRD and YER for the team to perform an inventory of plants, trees and wildlife. Three ecological plots were selected to demonstrate the diversity of the park. One was an endangered wetland and the other two were in mature second growth forests with several remnant old growth stumps. Seven people attended the public tour led by the youth, who described the data collection methods, results and history. The report can be found on the website: <https://youthecology.ca/ecological-inventory-of-seal-bay-nature-park-and-forest-2019/>

Community Partnerships

Building broader relationships in the community helps youth learn about the wider social support that exists. It opens their eyes to volunteerism and positive people who are doing environmental and conservation work. Being involved puts the youth in a place of being mentored by elders and mentors who are making a difference on regional and global perspectives. There are currently one hundred and fifty-eight community partnerships. The ten referral places remain the same as

last year, as did the thirty-one environmental groups; there are now one hundred and seventeen places where the youth have presented their speeches. This is an increase of these five groups: Cumberland Community School, Counselor; Cumberland Community School, Grade 9; North Island Distance Education, Navigate class; and two Wachiay Friendship Centre groups, Bears and Eagles (Appendix A).

Program Promotion

Promotion of YER is important so the program can maintain a positive community profile. This ensures youth being referred, environmental groups learning that volunteer labour is available and the youth's ability to deliver public speeches as educational opportunities. The YER website <https://youthecology.ca/> requires maintenance and upgrades every year to keep it current and feedback on its appearance is always positive. The YER video "Ecology Transforms Youth" has been publicly released on the website <https://youthecology.ca/ecology-transforms-youth-35-min-2019-full-film/>. Every year there are newspaper and social media announcements about YERII projects to invite members of the public to attend the youth guided tours.

Follow Up Study 2018 to 2020

From April 2018 to April 2020, twelve previous YER participants were interviewed to learn what informational and personal experiences they had remembered. These young adults ranged from seventeen to twenty-nine and had been in YERI from four to fourteen years prior. Seven of those completed YERI and five had been in both YERI and YERII. For each interviewee, ten questions were asked and four selected to be analyzed for association with the five program goals. The follow up study revealed that forty-three out of forty-eight selected questions indicated that most of YER learning was with personal and social skills; thirty-seven of forty-eight answers reflected skills acquired in communication skills; twenty-seven responses showed that knowledge was gathered in both community relationships and ecological knowledge; and twenty-one illustrated benefits from work skills. The qualitative data results demonstrate YER has been most influential in the category of personal and social skills, which is what you would hope for with a program for youth at risk. The report is on the website at: <https://youthecology.ca/youth-and-ecological-restoration-program-follow-up-study-report-2020/>

YER Succession

A succession plan is being developed to pass on YER leadership roles. For almost sixteen years there has been one main person working directly with youth, organizing work and presentation placements, and generally operating and promoting the program. YER has a proven longevity in the Comox Valley community and a high success rate for vulnerable youth. There comes a time to relinquish the responsibility and pass along the knowledge gained for any organization. There will be a training and mentoring phase of about two years to ensure the integrity of YER remains intact. Part of the plan is to create a fifteen-year review document which will include sections on succession and instruction as a manual to move the program forward with other people in charge.

3. YOUTH AND CAREGIVER QUOTES

YERI and YERII participants are interviewed to determine what they are learning when they start the program, at the end of each day and upon completion. Parents or caregivers are questioned after youth are finished to obtain their reaction and advice. The following section presents youth and caregiver quotes from both phases of the program, as well as one quote from a teacher.

YERI Youth Quotes 2019 to 2020

GOAL #1: BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

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

- I learned about how many kinds of volunteer organizations there are to protect the wildlife species around the area. It was really nice. I really enjoyed it, I'm a social person at heart and it was really cool to see how many people are really trying. I learned about being a team member. I learned how to adapt to situations that I didn't always like. (*YERI Participant #349*)
- I was surprised, I thought there would be more people with us. I didn't know it would be just you. I thought there would be more children. I like it better being with you because I think it would be awkward with more people. With just you, for me it seemed like with one person I learned more than being with a group of people. (*YERI Participant #354*)
- Someone owned the land that now is Bear Creek Nature Park. The town's people did not think it was fair. The local government negotiated and bought some of the land for the park. I liked working with that large group of people because its social, talkative people committed to work and socialize. I like working with old people because of their experience with life. (*YERI Participant #356*)

GOAL #2: GAINING VALUED WORK EXPERIENCE

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

- It does still interest me and gave me work experience. It did help me get up earlier. It teaches you to be busy all day and do something like a job would, like work ethics. I think being ready on time, being up early and working throughout the day are skills this program helped me learn. (*YERI Participant #346*)
- I learned that it's important to keep track and observe the subject you are documenting. In this case it is the herons and eagles and it's important to keep track of the time and given location at one time as that could show significance in population, a rise or decline. I learned to be a little more observant than typical. Looking through the telescope and looking at the depth helped me look at things in a bigger picture with more observation. (*YERI Participant #348*)
- We went to the Oyster River and caught fish and smacked the garbage can lids on water so they get scared away. We caught the fish with gill nets and it was fun. Salmon can give 5000-7000 eggs at a time for one type called the chinook. We use a gill net. We did one egg take and it was cool. I got to kill fish and take their eggs. When they added the sperm and water it bubbles. We worked with thirty people. (*YERI Participant #353*)

GOAL #3: IMPROVING ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

Ecosystem Cycles and Interconnections; Identification Techniques for Plants, Animals and Fish; Understanding Environmental Impacts; Personal Connections with Nature

- It was nice being in the forest. It's really relaxing. People don't really notice how valuable the forest is. Trees help us breathe and leaves fertilize the ground and river when they fall. Also did you know bears help the trees grow. The bears take fish to the trees to fertilize the trees. The forest is like the bear's garden. (*YERI Participant #345*)
- On the first day I went to the Tsolum River to count the salmon and the salmon redds. We had to wear chest waders, it was weird, but cool. It felt like water was sticking to my legs. We walked down the river. We saw redds which can be identified by the clear patch of gravel and the slight dip in the ground. This is caused because the salmon dig a hole in the ground and deposit their eggs in the hole and fill it in, like burying a baby. We counted around one hundred and fifty or sixty salmon that day. (*YERI Participant #353*)

- I learned about how nature works together. The trees help the creek and rivers by giving them shade, nutrients, structure and diversity, and then the rivers help the fish by giving them a place to breed and live. Then the fish help animals by giving them food. Then once the animals take the fish they leave their bones and remains for the trees to get nutrients. So nature helps each other. *(YERI Participant #358)*

GOAL #4: INCREASING PERSONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS

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

- It helps me connect a lot more to nature and helps me step out of the present and kind of go to a more peaceful time. It helped me open up a little more. It helped me come out of my shell. It did help me to learn to ask questions to the group or not be afraid it was stupid or something. Even if they don't like it at least I asked the question. *(YERI Participant #341)*
- The most important thing I learned was that I don't have to be scared of the forest. That it's beautiful and it's safe. When I started, I was really nervous and scared to go into the forest. I still get nervous, but I'm more comfortable with it. I didn't know I was actually brave and strong enough to go into the forest. I thought I would have panic attacks every single time. The program taught me to not be afraid or scared about it. *(YERI Participant #343)*
- It's helped me because I've never really done anything here. I've sat in a house and read a book or I've rampaged in the forest behind my school. That's all the nature I really get. I feel great because it was an accomplishment. I think it is a very good accomplishment. *(YERI Participant #354)*

GOAL #5: ENHANCING COMMUNICATION SKILLS

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

- At the River Never Sleeps festival I learned about many different programs that I never knew existed before. Some of the thirty-six programs include: Fanny Bay Enhancement Society, Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers and Central Westcoast Forest Society and many other groups. These groups support salmon in different ways. At the festival I was asked to get feedback from the groups on how to make the festival more accessible for them. It was nerve wracking for me because I don't often talk to strangers, but I learned to speak louder and assert myself better when talking to people, which will be a good skill when I'm older. *(YERI Participant #347)*
- I went back to MARS to help with an open house they were having. Then we headed down to where we were going to tell people where to park. I was given a counter so that I could keep track of all the people that came. There were over three hundred people that day. When I first started out greeting people and telling them where to park I was quite nervous, awkward and uncomfortable, but the more I did it the more comfortable I became. I had to learn how to create a conversation that made the other people comfortable and feel welcomed. *(YERI Participant #351)*
- I wanted to share nature with people, but if I did that no one would be quiet and it would be wasted. It felt amazing to be there because it was so calm and quiet. It wasn't as quiet as it was calm, mainly because with the water flowing it makes a really nice sound. I was happy just walking through water and it just feels so cool. I learned that nature is beautiful and sometimes setting aside anything you are doing and going to see nature changes you. *(YERI Participant #357)*

YERI Caregiver Quotes 2019 to 2020

- I think that the fact that you were willing to work with her and change things up a bit in order for her to overcome a bit of her trauma. It's more often than not people say they can't do it and that's it, so it kind of closes the door for her. It happens quite a bit when she tries to do things, so it is appreciated when it happens. You validated her fears and acknowledged them and it helps her feel more powerful to overcome it rather than just enabled it to continue. Those messages are so important when they don't come from Mom. *(YERI Participant #343)*
- I thought it was incredible. I was very proud of him. For the most part he was up and ready to go except for a couple of times that you had to give the extra nudge. I was so impressed because I wasn't even home and he was ready to go. Respecting nature. I think he learned personal responsibility for having to get himself ready, accountability. *(YERI Participant #345)*
- For him specifically at this time he needed a break from school and working one on one with you offered him a chance to have a successful relationship with a teacher. At school this one particular teacher is making his life hell and he is making hers. He meets you, you're new and you can forge a new relationship. It's so easy for kids to get labelled in these institutions and it sticks. *(YERI Participant #349)*
- I feel like it taught him responsibility and following through with actions because he made a commitment. I wasn't sure he would follow through with the whole thing. I was a bit nervous about that. The four weeks was a huge thing for him and he learned so much. I feel like it's not generic school, it's more point of interest and one-on-one. That one-on-one leads to success. What he's going through at school, I feel that kids would succeed better in the education system if there was more personalized and smaller group learning. *(YERI Participant #352)*
- I think it was great. It helped him get his self-esteem up and set him up for jobs in the future. I think he just felt like he had a purpose when he was doing that. The only thing done differently was him not always trying to bail and get out of it. I'm just so glad he finished. Thank you so much for sticking around and helping him to continue. *(YERI Participant #355)*
- I just wish it was longer. He was already asking about part two. He really has changed for the better. When we were living in Lethbridge he was a lot more violent and angry all the time. He almost got expelled and was suspended all the time. Coming out here he almost did a one eighty. Once he started the program, he almost became a different kid. I'm so thankful he got to do this program. I hope they re-assign you, you are doing amazing work with these kids. He's raring to go and would hug you back. The principal told us he had found a ten dollar bill and he had two choices – keep it or turn it into the office. He turned it into the office. The principal held onto it and no one claimed it and he gave it back to him. He never would have done that before. I attribute that a lot to your program. *(YERI Participant #357)*
- She had to do something and I think it was more than a consequence. Doing community service hours was a consequence, but getting to work in this environment, in a program to do with nature and the world and our environment, which we really need to be protecting and our kids are learning to protect it. It was well beyond a consequence; it was a really great learning experience for her. *(YERI Participant #358)*

Lake Trail School Teacher Quote – Tim Horner, Grade 8 class (YERI Participant #357)

- It was amazing because everyone got to see him in a different light. For him to have that share out with the big general class. He doesn't do well in a general population. Classroom is torture for a kid like him. He has one on one adult all day and he is the only kid in the district. He is heavily supported by adults the moment he gets to school until he leaves. He has someone with him all the time because of impulsivity and safety issues. He is really unsafe because of his issues, even to himself. We have to keep an eye on him all the time.

He is someone with the most support of his age group, one hundred percent adult support, which is uncommon for someone his age. He is in a general program. He has that degree of support in an inclusive model. Paradigm shift to try to keep kids in the class. It was good for him to research and prepare. Confidence, increased empowerment. A kid who hasn't had a lot of influence or control with his life. He was able to have that re-installed through the presentation.

YERII Youth Quotes 2019 to 2020

- The most important thing I learned was working on my social ability to be able to communicate between you and Tim. Guiding the tour for a lot of people, that's not easy. I learned it's not that hard, it just takes getting used to it. It just takes talking to people. At first, I was nervous and awkward, but once the tour started it started to get easier and more fluent. *(YERII Participant #48-341)*
- I actually learned teamwork because most of the time I work really bad in teams because I want to take control, I want everything to go my way and if it doesn't, I don't like it. I helped with figuring out which plant is which. I like those kind of puzzles. Others helped me with giving an estimate of the per cent levels. I would give a per centage and others would give a per centage and we would meet in the middle. We would decide a percentage based on both of our opinions. *(YERII Participant #49-333)*
- I learned I can do things if I want to. I pushed myself a lot. I was really tired all those five days. As much as I wanted to call it a day, I didn't. I definitely gained more communication skills and how to work respectfully with other people. *(YERII Participant #50-268)*
- I learned that maybe I would enjoy pursuing something in this field of work. It really does capture my interest and I think it would be a good thing for me to learn about. I managed to persevere five days every day from nine to three. I managed to wake up early every day and work through it the best I could. Essentially, I could say I learned plus five perseverance. Waking up on that routine and spending that much time every day doing something. It really puts into perspective a slice of what it would be like to have a job. *(YERII Participant #51-331)*

YERII Caregiver Quotes 2019 to 2020

- I learned that he was better at doing presentations than I thought. I learned that he has a very good rapport with people. It seemed like everywhere he went people liked him and I think it set a good foundation in self esteem and experience that helped him to obtain a job. A good stepping stone into the community and that he was successful in helping others. *(YERII Participant #48-341)*
- I never heard of Morrison Creek and it would have been good for the exposure if more advertisement to reach a larger circle so that they could have been more informed. It's great, especially at the end you have a ceremony for the kids and good for you to get some exposure for the good work you do for the valley. I know that it's a very popular program. It would be great for more people to know what you are up to and trying to accomplish. *(YERII Participant #49-333)*
- From a personal standpoint I really like the person she is when she's out there. She comes home and she's social, she has more things to tell us. It just brings out nice qualities when she was with you. She is more in the now and present. *(YERII Participant #51-268)*
- It's obviously a good cause counting fish and animals and stuff. I think that's great. I like that she has to explain things to people. I think it is good for her, it helps her get out of her shell. Too bad it's not all year round. When does YERIII start? *(YERII Participant #51-331)*

4. BUDGET

YER Budget for April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020

The 2019/2020 budget included income of \$51,500.00 from these sources: MCFD \$42,000.00; CVRD \$9,000.00; CVRD, Area B Director, Arzeena Hamir \$1,000.00 (deferred to 2020/2021); and artist, Kathleen Urdahl \$500.00. There was also an in-kind contribution of \$2,000.00 in the form of training and equipment from Comox Valley environmental groups (Table 2).

This list gives details of YER 2019/2020 expenses:

- **Professional fees** included fees, administration costs and program evaluation for \$34,837.35; biologist fees were \$8,575.00; and assistant fees were \$500.00.
- **Honouraria** for youth participants was \$1,000.00; and \$199.58 for other benefits, such as YER certificates, photos and YERII hoodies.
- **Program Promotion** was \$951.57 for website updates.
- **Mileage** costs were calculated at \$3,572.57.
- **General supplies** were \$1,423.32 for lunches and materials; and office supplies of \$78.97.
- **Miscellaneous expenses** of \$100.00 were \$50.00 for Oyster River Enhancement Society and \$50.00 for Morrison Creek Streamkeepers; and \$261.64 was for bank charges.
- **Other Contributions** were \$2,000.00 for YER as in-kind training, materials and support from community members and environmental organizations.

5. SUMMARY

YER had twenty-four youth participants in the 2019 to 2020 fiscal year; twenty were in YERI and four in YERII. The program is fully supported and funded by MCFD and receives extra finances from CVRD for YERII to implement ecological inventories in regional parks. Two individuals also donated to YER this year. YER involves vulnerable youth with the ecological and social aspects of the Comox Valley community through an ecotherapy and science-based approach.

YERI referrals came from three agencies School District #71, MCFD and Community Justice Centre. These youth mainly did environmental work with the following groups: Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society, Oyster River Enhancement Society, Millard Piercy Watershed Stewards, Tsolum River Restoration Society and Morrison Creek Streamkeepers. Nineteen gave speeches to complete the program and one did not finish. The four YERII participants worked in Morrison Headwaters Nature Preserve and Seal Bay Nature Park and Forest, and then guided public tours.

The community partnerships list increased by five groups in the category of youth presentations for a total of one hundred and fifty-eight. YER promotion occurred via website upgrades, press releases and social media events. The 2019 video “Ecology Transforms Youth” was posted on the website so it can now be openly viewed by the public. Youth and caregiver quotes contained in the report validate the success of the program.

A follow up study was completed in 2020 that interviewed twelve previous YER participants to determine what they had learned. It demonstrated that most learning happened in personal and social skills, which was closely followed by communication skills. A succession plan is being developed to ensure that YER is passed on for others to undertake this work with vulnerable youth. This will include a document with descriptions of the methods and techniques that have been successfully developed and administered over the program’s fifteen-year history. YER has an established record of effectively empowering young people to gain confidence in themselves.

TABLE 1: YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (YER)

YOUTH PARTICIPANT SUMMARY TABLE FOR APRIL 1, 2019 TO MARCH 31, 2020.

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

YERI 20 youth (5 girls and 15 boys; 82% First Nations); YERII 4 youth (3 girls and 1 boy; 33% FN).

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 # 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358	19
YERII Complete: # 48-341, 49-333, 50-268, 51-331	4
YERI Incomplete: # 359	1
TOTAL YOUTH PARTICIPANTS	24

Table 1b: YOUTH ORGANIZATION REFERRALS

YERI and YERII participants were referred by six agencies.

CV School District # 71: # 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 347, 348, 349, 350, 355, 356, 357, 359, 48-341, 49-333, 50-268, 51-331	18
Highland Secondary School: # 340, 341, 343, 355, 48-341 Glacier View Learning Centre: # 342, 49-333, 51-331 Lake Trail Middle School: # 345, 350, 357, 50-268; Huband Park Elementary: # 359 Nala'atsi Alternate School: # 347, 348, 356; Cumberland Community School: # 344, 349	
MCFD: # 346, 352, 353, 354	4
Mental Health: # 346, 352, 353, 354	
Comox Valley Community Justice Centre: # 351, 358	2
TOTAL 5 YOUTH REFERRAL ORGANIZATIONS	24

Table 1c: YOUTH ORGANIZATION INTERCONNECTIONS

YERI, YERII and YERIII participants interconnect with other Comox Valley services.

SD #71: # 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359	20
The Linc: # 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 355, 357, 358, 359	16
CV School District #71 Counselling: # 340, 343, 344, 345, 347, 350, 352, 355, 356, 357, 358	11
MCFD: # 342, 343, 346, 347, 352, 353, 354, 356, 359	9
Wachiay Friendship Centre: # 341, 345, 347, 348, 350, 353	6
Pacific Therapy: # 341, 346, 350, 355, 359	5
Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club: # 343, 345, 350, 351, 359	5
John Howard Society: # 343, 348, 350, 356	4
Comox Valley Transition Society: # 354, 355, 359	3
Comox Valley Community Justice Centre: # 351, 355, 358	3
Counseling - Source Unknown: # 349, 353	2
Comox Valley Family Services: # 343, 355	2
North Island Hospital Comox Valley, Adolescent Intake: # 340	1
TOTAL 14 YOUTH ORGANIZATION INTERCONNECTIONS	

**TABLE 1 (Cont.): YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
YOUTH PARTICIPANT SUMMARY TABLE FOR APRIL 1, 2019 TO MARCH 31, 2020.**

Table 1d: ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION ORGANIZATIONS	YOUTH TOTALS
YERII projects have two youth and two adults.	
YERI Projects had youth participate with the following organizations:	
Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society: # 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358	19
Oyster River Enhancement Society: # 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 348, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358	17
Millard/Piercy Watershed Stewards: # 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 349, 350, 352, 354, 356, 357, 359	13
Tsolum River Restoration Society: # 340, 341, 342, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 353	10
Morrison Creek Streamkeepers: # 340, 348, 349, 352, 355, 358	6
Comox Valley Project Watershed: # 343	1
Fanny Bay Enhancement Society: # 347	1
YERII: Comox Valley Regional District, Morrison Creek Headwaters: # 48-341, 49-333	2
YERII: Comox Valley Regional District, Seal Bay Park: # 50-268, 51-331	2
TOTAL 8 ORGANIZATIONS	

Table 1e: COMMUNITY PRESENTATION LOCATIONS
YERI youth give a presentation; YERII youth co-facilitate a public tour.

CV School District # 71: # 340, 347, 349, 350, 352, 355, 357	7
Lake Trail Middle School, Grade 8/9 - Home Room: # 357	
Lake Trail Middle School, Grade 8 - Science Class: # 350	
Highland Secondary School, Counselor: # 340, 355	
Cumberland Community School, Grade 9: # 349	
Cumberland Community School, Counselor: # 352	
Nala'atsi: # 347	
Lighthouse Early Learning Centre: # 344, 345, 346, 354	4
Cummings Home, Seniors Assisted Living Facility: # 343, 351, 356, 358	4
Wachiay Friendship Centre, Bears Group: # 348	1
Wachiay Friendship Centre, Eagles Group: # 341	1
The Linc: # 353	1
North Island Distance Education School, Navigate - Grade 4: # 342	1
YERII: Comox Valley Regional District, Millard Creek Headwaters: # 48-341, 49-333	2
YERII: Comox Valley Regional District, Seal Bay Park: # 50-268, 51-331	2
YERI 186 AUDIENCE MEMBERS; YERII PROJECTS 11 and 6 TOUR PARTICIPANTS	

Table 1f: YER COMPLETION RATES

YERI: Total number of 359 youth participants; 315 completed the 20 hour program	88%
YERII: Total number of 51 youth participants; 50 completed the 25 hour program	98%
YERIII: Total number of 1 youth participant; 1 completed the 30 hour program	100%
YERI, YERII and YERII combined: Total number of 411 participants; 366 completion	89%

**TABLE 2: YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
BUDGET FOR APRIL 1, 2019 TO MARCH 31, 2020.**

This YER budget records expenses, income and other contributions required to deliver the Comox Valley program for vulnerable youth. YER 2019/2020 funds were provided by BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD), CVRD Area B Director, Arzeena Hamir and artist, Kathleen Urdahl. Other contributions were provided by Comox Valley environmental groups for training and tools to restore local watersheds and ecosystems.

Expense Item	Expenses	Income	Other Contributions
Program Delivery Biologist Assistant	\$34,837.35 \$8,575.00 \$500.00	MCFD \$42,000.00 CVRD \$9,000.00 Arzeena Hamir \$1,000.00 Kathleen Urdahl \$500.00	Training \$2,000.00
Youth Honourarium Youth Benefits	\$1,000.00 \$199.58		
Program Promotion	\$951.57		
Mileage	\$3,572.57		
Supplies Office	\$1,423.32 \$78.97		
Misc. Expenses Bank Charges	\$100.00 \$261.64		
TOTALS	\$51,500.00	\$52,500.00 Defer to 2020 \$1,000.00 \$51,500.00	\$2,000.00

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

YER partnered with one hundred and fifty-eight groups July 2004 to March 2020.

Ten groups referred youth clients from July 2004 to March 2020:

- 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; Glacier View; Lake Trail Middle; Isfeld Secondary; Nalata’atsi; Huband Park Elementary; Highland Secondary
- 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-one groups had youth conduct ecological restoration work from July 2004 to March 2020:

- 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 Conservation Strategy <http://www.cvconservationstrategy.org/>
- 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.fbse.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 fifty-eight Comox Valley groups July 2004 to March 2020.

One hundred and seventeen community groups had youth presentations from July 2004-March 2020:

- Airport Elementary School, Grade 1
- Airport Elementary School, Grade 2/3
- Airport Elementary School, Grade 6/7
- Arden Park Elementary School, Kindergarten
- Arden Park Elementary School, Grade 1
- Aspen Park Elementary School, Grade 2
- Aspen Park Elementary School, Grade 3
- Aspen Park Elementary School, Grade 4/5
- Aspen Park Elementary School, Grade 6/7
- Berwick Retirement Society www.berwickrc.com/comox
- Brooklyn Elementary, Grade 5
- Casa Loma Seniors Village www.retirementconcepts.com/homes/comox-valley
- City of Courtenay, Council meeting
- 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, Counselor
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 1/2
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 4/5
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 5/6
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 8
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 9
- Cumberland Junior School
- Cumberland Lodge
- Cumberland Rotary Club www.rotarycc.org
- Cummings Home, Seniors Assisted Living Facility
- Earth Day Festival
- Euphoria Nature Preschool <https://www.facebook.com/euphoriachildcare/>

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

YER partnered with one hundred and fifty-eight Comox Valley groups July 2004 to March 2020.

**One hundred and seventeen community groups had youth presentations July 2004-March 2020
(cont.):**

- Eureka Support Society and 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, Bridgeway Program
- Glacier View School, Independent Learning Program
- Glacier View School, Key Program
- Glacier View School, Senior Alternate Program
- Highland Secondary School, Counselor
- Highland Secondary School, Grade 11
- Island Early Education Centre, After School Group
- John Howard Society, Staff Meeting www.jhsni.bc.ca/
- Kidzone Daycare
- Kinnikinnik Child Care Centre
- Kiwanis Club of Courtenay www.facebook.com/pages/Kiwanis-Club-of-Courtenay-BC
- Lake Trail Middle School, Grade 6/7
- 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
- North Island Distance Education, Navigate – Grade 4
- Oyster River Enhancement Society www.oysterriverenhancement.org/
- Puddleduck Preschool
- Pumpkin Patch Daycare
- Puntledge Park Elementary School, Kindergarten
- Puntledge Park Elementary School: # Grade 2
- Puntledge Elementary School, Grade 3
- Puntledge Park Elementary School, Grade 4
- Puntledge Park Elementary School, Grade 5/6
- Queneesh Elementary School, Earth Day Celebration

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

YER partnered with one hundred and fifty-eight Comox Valley groups July 2004 to March 2020.

**One hundred and seventeen community groups had youth presentations July 2004-March 2020
(cont.):**

- 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 <https://www.comoxvalleywaldorf.com/>
- 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
- Vanier Secondary School, Little Friends Day Care
- Wachiay Friendship Centre, Bears Group
- Wachiay Friendship Centre, Eagles Group
- 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