

YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION ANNUAL REPORT



For the Period of April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021
Completed on August 27, 2021

YER 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

Table of Contents

Cover Page Photo – Youth and Ecological Restoration, Phase II project at Goose Spit Park with physical distancing practices (left to right): youth participant, Madelynn Borchman; Youth and Ecological Restoration, Coordinator, Wendy Kotilla; Registered Professional Biologist, Carrina Maslovat; and youth participant, Iain Petersen. Photo by Brian Allaert from Comox Valley Regional District.

Table of Contents	2
Acknowledgements	3
1. Introduction	3
2. Progress and Outcomes	4
Youth Completion and Referrals	4
Youth Organization Interactions	4
YERI 2020 to 2021	4
YERII 2020 to 2021	5
Community Partnerships	5
Program Promotion	5
YER Succession	6
3. YER Youth and Caregiver Quotes	6
YERI Youth Quotes	6
YERI Caregiver Quotes	8
YERII Youth Quotes	9
YERII Caregiver Quotes	9
Comox Valley Rotary Club Email	9
4. Budget	9
5. Summary	10
Table 1: Youth Participant Summary	11
Table 2: Budget for April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021	13
Appendix A: YER Community Partnerships 2020/2021	14

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Youth and Ecological Restoration (YER) respectfully acknowledges that the land we gather on is the unceded traditional territory of the K'omoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

YER has provided essential services for Comox Valley exceptional youth since 2004. From the beginning, YER has been primarily funded by BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). Thanks to Curtis Cameron, MCFD, Comox Valley, Community Services Manager for sponsoring this worthwhile program.

Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) has provided funds for YER through both the Grant in Aid and Community Services Branch since 2012. Gratitude to CVRD Directors, Daniel Arbour, Edwin Grieve and Arzeena Hamir, for ongoing Grant in Aid support. Appreciation to CVRD, Manager of Parks, Mark Harrison for funding to allow YER, Phase II projects in regional parks.

In 2015, UNIFOR Local #3019 began annual YER donations to support youth doing community environmental work. Biologist, Carrina Maslovat, has guided YERII ecological projects for two years. YER Apprentice, Graham Hilliar, has been a respectful, patient and committed mentee.

Respect and admiration for the groups and individuals that have continued to support and engage YER youth with conserving and restoring Comox Valley watersheds and ecosystems over the past seventeen years. The youth carry this knowledge forward, sharing experiences with family and friends, and spreading their acquired wisdom to wider community circles.

1. INTRODUCTION

YER continues to train, mentor and support vulnerable youth to connect with and learn about local watersheds and ecosystems. Since 2004, the program has introduced three hundred and eighty participants to the natural world, instilling in them a sense of solace, safety and belonging. Immersion in forests and streams opens them to an interrelated, mysterious and captivating world known for healing isolation, anxiety and trauma. This is where they find and restore themselves.

From April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, twenty-one youth participated in YER, Phase I (YERI) and two in YER, Phase II (YERII) (Table 1a). Since 2004, YERI and YERII has been involved with one hundred and sixty-four community groups (Appendix A). Finances in the 2020/2021 fiscal year came from MCFD, CVRD, UNIFOR Local #3019 and McIntyre Media (Table 2).

In the middle of March 2020, YER youth work was suspended due to COVID-19 lock downs and restrictions. Although WorkSafe BC did not require it, the responsible and safe response was to suspend the program for two months. Program activities resumed around the third week of May and the YER COVID-19 plan (<https://youthecology.ca/covid-plan-2020/>) was implemented to protect youth, youth workers and community members.

During the fall of 2020, the YER succession plan was executed to ensure that the integrity of the program will be passed on through a mentoring process. There is a distinct responsibility for the YER legacy of success to continue so that future generations of Comox Valley youth will benefit.

From July 2004 to March 2021 a total of three hundred and eighty youth participated in YERI; fifty-three youth in YERII; and one in YERIII (Table 1f). There remains an eighty-nine percent completion rate for all three phases. Throughout its history, YER has consistently and reliably delivered an outstanding service to support some of Comox Valley's most vulnerable youth.

2. PROGRESS AND OUTCOMES

YER progress and outcomes are given in this report that cover the period from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. Twenty-three youth participated in the program; twenty-one were in YERI and two in YERII. Details in Table 1 include data on completion, referrals, agency interconnections, ecological work places and locations where youth did their oral presentations. Appendix A lists community partnerships created since YER commenced. Selected interview quotes demonstrate program achievements expressed through the voices of youth and their caregivers. Succession development and progress is also discussed.

Youth Completion and Referrals

In the fiscal year of April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, there were twenty-three youth participants. Twenty-one partook in YERI and two in YERII (Table 1). There were fourteen girls and seven boys in YERI with forty-eight percent being First Nations ancestry; one girl and one boy were in YERII, and neither were First Nations. Twenty youth completed the first phase and one did not finish; the two youth completed the second phase (Table 1a).

The 2020/2021 YER referrals came from three youth agencies. Sixteen from Comox Valley School District #71: five each from Highland Secondary School, Isfeld Secondary School and Cumberland Community School; one youth referred by Lake Trail Middle School. MCFD, Child & Youth Mental Health referred six youth; and one from Community Justice Centre (Table 1b).

Youth Organization Interactions

YER youth associate with more than one and some with multiple Comox Valley youth services. The twenty-three YER participants connected with: School District #71 had twenty-two; sixteen youth went to The Linc; thirteen youth came through MCFD; twelve attended counselling at their school; Comox Valley Family Services had seven youth and two more in their Sexual Abuse Intervention Program; six had counselling from unknown sources; and five had interactions with the RCMP. Other youth group interconnections were: Wachiy Friendship Centre with four; two each went to Pacific Therapy, Transition Society Girls Group, and the Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club. Community Justice Centre, John Howard Society, Lake Trail Middle School Boys Group, and Beaufort Counselling all had one YER youth connection (Table 1c).

The Youth Participant Summary Table also illustrates individual interconnections with several youth services (Table 1c). Youth participant #377 was involved with nine groups: School District #71, The Linc, MCFD, School District #71 counselling, Transition Society, Transition Society Girls Group, Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club, Comox Valley Family Services Sexual Abuse Intervention Program, and Beaufort Counselling (Table 1c). Youth #367, 372 and 378 utilized seven Comox Valley youth services; #360, 362, 376 and 380 connected with six youth groups; #363, 368 and 369 with five each; #364, 366, 370 and 377 used four (Table 1c). This information gives a broader image perspective of which youth services substantiate the issues and concerns of YER participants.

YERI 2020 to 2021

With the COVID-19 onset, this fiscal year has been challenging. There has been a noticeable increase in social isolation and anxiety in the youth. YER activities were suspended for two months, and safe presentation locations for YER youth and their audiences were limited. Youth participant transportation to work locations was in accordance with WorkSafe regulations of youth being masked and in the back seat passenger side to maximize distances. Most work sites required masks and physical distancing so everyone remained safe. A COVID-19 plan was developed (<https://youthecology.ca/covid-plan-2020/>) so all are protected from transmission.

The twenty YERI youth were involved with six Comox Valley environmental organizations to gain work experience and training with scientific data collection and monitoring. Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society saw the most youth involved at twenty; Oyster River Enhancement Society had nineteen youth contribute with their activities; Millard Piercy Watershed Stewards provided work for twelve YERI participants; Morrison Creek Streamkeepers had seven youth help in their watershed; Tsolum River Restoration Society involved five; and one youth contributed to the Trent River Ecological Reserve (Table 1d).

Twenty YERI youth completed the program with educational speeches given for the following groups: seven spoke to Comox Valley School District #71 classes and counsellors (Cumberland Community, Highland Secondary, Isfeld Secondary, Puntledge Elementary, Vanier Secondary); seven youth talked with pre-school kids at Lighthouse Early Learning Centre; three were given for elders at Cummings Home; the Comox Valley Rotary Club members had two youth give Zoom presentations; and another youth presented for the Community Justice Centre (Table 1e).

Lighthouse Early Learning Centre had the youth present to their group through a chain link fence to ensure everyone was six feet apart. Cummings Home took their residents to the deck outside to enable youth to continue with their completion speeches. Zoom presentations were organized by Comox Valley Rotary Club and a smaller group listened to a youth presentation at Community Justice Centre. These were all adaptations to the COVID-19 pandemic so that the program could continue. YER remains cautious and vigilant regarding any updates or changes.

YERII 2020 to 2021

After YERI completion, youth are chosen for demonstrating responsibility and good work ethics. Normally, there are two YERII projects, but it was reduced to one in 2020/2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. CVRD, Community Services Branch, granted funding to support Registered Professional Biologist, Carrina Maslovat leading a YERII ecological inventory at Goose Spit Park. One CVRD requirement was there be an extremely limited audience of their staff and youth family members attending the guided tour, of which there were four in total. The Goose Spit Park YERII project documented the rare Yellow Sand-verbena plant, which is the only home to the Sand Verbena moth whose entire life cycle is dependent on this one plant. The two youth received a personal YER certificate with a photo of them involved in the research, a tailored reference letter for the Goose Spit research project, a YER hoodie and a fifty-dollar honourarium. The report is on the YER website at: <https://youthecology.ca/goose-spit-park-yellow-sand-verbena-inventory-2020/>.

Community Partnerships

Appendix A demonstrates the connections that have been created by YER. The list now includes a total one hundred and sixty-four community partnerships. There are ten referral places; thirty-one ecological work sites; and one hundred and twenty-three presentation places. This past year an additional six groups had presentations given by the YERI youth. They were: Cumberland Community School, Grade 6/7; Vanier Secondary School, Social Justice class; Isfeld Secondary School, Counsellor; Isfeld Secondary School, Life Sciences class; Highland School, Counsellor and the Comox Valley Rotary Club (Appendix A). The diversity of groups that welcome youth to give speeches helps them to realize the broader community surrounding and supporting them.

Program Promotion

YER has maintained a positive public profile throughout its entire seventeen-year history. The core of this positive image is due to an overall ninety per cent completion rate for the youth participants (Table 1f), which travels via word of mouth in the community. Press releases of the

public tours and maintenance of the YER website (<https://youthecology.ca/>) both help to get the information out. Pod Creative (<https://podcreative.ca/>) has managed the YER website for the past twelve years. To present more optimistic wording, one of the recent changes on the YER website was to replace “vulnerable youth” with “exceptional youth” on the header for all of the pages.

Promotion is also done by presenting youth with program completion materials such as crests, waterproof stickers, brochures and YER hoodies. Sure Copy (<https://surecourtenay.ca/>) prints YER brochures and the YERII photo certificates. Brazen Sportswear creates the waterproof stickers, crests and hoodies. Social media via Facebook posts is a good tool for promoting YER.

YER Succession

The YER succession plan was fully implemented in the fall of 2020. That occurred with YER Coordinator, Wendy Kotilla, shadowing YER Apprentice, Graham Hilliar, while both worked directly with the youth. Near the end of the fall season Graham worked with youth on his own. Transferring evaluation procedures, interview techniques and behavioural management skills requires time and patience. Subtle skills are keys to success of any program or business only learned through experiential and practical methods. Apprentice, mentee and practical training are the obvious, most effective ways for successional planning. It is the best method to pass on the abilities and responsibilities necessary for the continuance of YER with its integrity intact.

3. YOUTH AND CAREGIVER QUOTES

Youth and caregiver interview quotes demonstrate YER successes through their expressions and phrases. These citations are powerful messages of support for a program that is honoured and respected in the Comox Valley community. Interview quotations are given below, as well as a supportive email from the Comox Valley Rotary Club.

YOUTH AND CAREGIVER QUOTES 2020 TO 2021

YERI Youth Quotes 2020 to 2021

GOAL #1: BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

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

- I learned that the one thing is that they really love and care for the Earth and the life around them, not just what you look like around other people. They care about the animals and green lands, water. That is what I really loved about the people and their personalities and what they cared for and I loved about they didn't care about how other people see them. They cared about what they were doing in that moment. *(YERI Participant #362)*
- The most important thing I learned is that working together, even in a small group means you still have to work hard. You also get to experience stuff professionals would show you in this program. *(YERI Participant #367)*
- It was really cool being with the other people and doing their job with them and them helping me if I don't understand what I am supposed to do. I don't know because all the jobs are different. All different jobs are different and how to work for them. *(YERI Participant #372)*

GOAL #2: GAINING VALUED WORK EXPERIENCE

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

- We started off the day by arriving at Oyster River Enhancement Society, where they immediately put me to work feeding the coho fry. After that, we quickly regrouped and went to the actual river. Our goal was to catch some Chinook salmon. We used some nets to

group the salmon together while people go in with hand held nets. I went in with them, trying not to get pushed over into the water by many coho. There were more coho than Chinook and it was quite a small space. So there were fish pretty much ramming into me. We then did an egg take, which is pretty self-explanatory, where they take the eggs out of the salmon and put them in the hatchery. *(YERI Participant #370)*

- Well, with Covid right now, you don't get to go out in the community much right now, so it was really fun going out in the community and learning new things. Kinda like how everything is closed down right now because of Covid, and you don't get to do much right now. So like doing this work experience you get to go out, but you are still outside so you get to do things. It's all outside, so you don't always have to wear a mask, but in the car, you do, because you're in a closed space, so you have to because you are closer than six feet. *(YERI Participant #378)*
- I think that they are both pretty great organizations and that they have very agreeable goals, that they work on. To help the earth and to rehabilitate areas of land. They are sending people like us to remove invasive species. They want to help to keep the copper from leaching into the river. They put a cap over the soil of the mine, so the copper didn't leach into the stream and the river. *(YERI Participant #380)*

GOAL #3: IMPROVING ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

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

- As I was outside at Royston Wrecks beach for a few hours I got to experience the tide go out really quickly. I found the tide interesting because it went out a lot quicker than I thought it would. We counted eagles and herons every twenty minutes. A couple of things I learned are that herons are a very shy type of bird. They avoid people and within twenty minutes they moved with the tide. Herons and eagles behaviour change throughout the different times of the year. *(YERI Participant #365)*
- Oyster River Enhancement Society was the second place I went. I learned about the salmon cycle, the different types of salmon and that each type of salmon has a slightly different cycle. I learned mostly about coho fry because that is the type of salmon that stays the longest of them. I fed some coho fry in a side channel they are kept in. I caught some just outside the fry channel to put back in. We also caught some sculpin with the coho fry. By the end of the day I could name all the different types of salmon: coho, chum, Chinook, pink, steelhead, sockeye. The society started in 1983 because people noticed the decline in the salmon population. The salmon were declining because mainly the logging was creating more silt and increasing the flows because the trees weren't there to absorb it. Silt or sediment is dirt. *(YERI Participant #371)*
- Throughout the program, I became aware of nature's differences, as well as how they are all connected. I used to think that animals, plants, and other natural, non-living substances such as water were all separate, existing in their own categories, and they are different, but they need each other to survive. A forest with no animals is just a collection of trees and plants. Likewise, a river with no plants and animal life is simply a stream of water propelled by the laws of physics. In conclusion, I gained a much deeper understanding of the world I live in. *(YERI Participant #377)*

GOAL #4: INCREASING PERSONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS

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

- When we got out of the creek we ran into other people from Millard Piercy Watershed Stewards who were also counting spawning salmon the same day. This helped me be

introduced to the community and bring me out of my shell. I learned way more respect for everything, to respect nature, take care of things and to just be responsible. (*YERI Participant #374*)

- It feels very satisfying and it's putting a smile on my face. It feels really nice to have completed something because I'm really bad at that. I start a lot of things and will not complete them. How attentive I am without realizing it. I didn't realize I retained that much information and so specific. (*YERI Participant #375*)
- That I came today. I was pretty set on not coming and here I am, here. Good knowing that I overcame the fears of it and came anyway. I learned that its OK to have feelings and you need to overcome your fears to learn new things. (*YERI Participant #376*)

GOAL #5: ENHANCING COMMUNICATION SKILLS

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

- It was a good experience for me. I have friends that I can hang out with, but it was a good to learn from people with experience and have the same interests as I do. Communicating well with others; taking orders; helping them out with what they need; following instructions. (*YERI Participant #361*)
- It was nice. I enjoy telling people what I learn and sometimes when I tell people it feels like I relive the moment of the experience. I think they learned about the lamprey and all of the experiences that I have had. (*YERI Participant #364*)
- Frightening! I don't do that very often. It got easier because they weren't paying attention and they weren't looking at me and they were kind of bouncing around. They learned the life cycle of salmon; the life cycle of a creek. Good, I feel great because it was an accomplishment. I think it is a very good accomplishment. (*YERI Participant #369*)

YERI Caregiver Quotes 2020 to 2021

- I'm just really thankful that she had an opportunity to spend time with you and the world has become a little richer for her in the sense of all this beautiful knowledge she has about the animals and the environment. It is incredible. It was probably the best program she has ever been in because she is able to reach out to the rest of the world and see the good things about the life she is living. (*YERI Participant #362*)
- Maybe recognizing more of his, going out and doing things that were different, pushing his comfort zone. By stepping out of his comfort zone he was pushing his anxiety and seeing it in different ways. There are different levels and types of anxiety. He was learning, being more self aware. (*YERI Participant #363*)
- Before she went she was kind of in a depressed state, not a lot of friends. Being out in the forest and streams, she got a lot of fulfillment, solace. She got comfortable being a lone wolf. More comfortable in the woods and streams. She just came home with smiles from her accomplishments. (*YERI Participant #364*)
- You left it up to the parent to look things up. Giving the parent an idea of the program by looking at the website. Like the helicopter parents get too involved and you didn't make that possible. Do you need this? Do you need that? It was a pressure taken off of me to organize everything. As a single parent lunch was made and it was all taken care of. You made it easy for this to happen and it was so appreciated. She looks at things differently now, differently than she did before. She is more into things now. (*YERI Participant #373*)
- It got her out and doing something different. She has a hard time getting out and trying new things. She loves biology, and she was reassured she is going into the right field for her. She seemed a little more confident, and more self-esteem, and was very proud of getting the certificate. It was the first certificate she got on her own, so it was a big deal for her. (*YERI Participant #377*)

- I think I want to thank you for your and Graham's professionalism on how that meeting went. Where you took it and presented it to her as a learning experience for your program. It took every essence off her that this is great and welcome feedback. You did it with such ease. I looked and listened to the both of you. Instead of being negative, it turned into a positive. I was so impressed. If something comes up, I will use that same technique you did. (*YERI Participant #378*)

YERII Youth Quotes 2020 to 2021

- I learned that working with others was easier than I thought it was. It felt good. I learned so much doing this program and I enjoy sharing my knowledge with other people. (*YERI Participant #52-364*)
- I was nervous because I know I studder a lot when I talk in front of people. It was really good. I didn't studder that much. It felt really good because generally adults don't really listen to me and I felt like they listened. (*YERI Participant #53-344*)

YERII Caregiver Quotes 2020 to 2021

- Oh gosh, that was awesome. The amount of confidence that came out of her at the end of it. That is one of the reasons I'm letting her go to Sechelt and the ferry by herself. She just seemed to be strong with her decisions. She was really timid before the course and she is brave now to make decisions. It's a big change. She's really grown this summer. She's done really, really well. It's a big summer of change for her. I feel so fortunate that she was asked to be a part of it. She is, too. (*YERII Participant #52-364*)
- How it's important for the awareness. The idea of working and of collaborating with different specialties. Working with a biologist and all the other specialists, working with the elder and the biologist and ecologist. People with different specialties coming together to address whatever issues. (*YERII Participant #53-344*)

Comox Valley Rotary Club Email

On behalf of the Comox Valley Rotary Club, I would like to extend a warm thank you for your informative presentation at our Zoom meeting last week. It was great to learn more about your personal journey with the Youth and Ecological Restoration Program; what you learned, what you liked, and what you didn't (like all that duck poop 🤢). It is always heartwarming to learn about youth working in nature, especially when it is your happy place! You've gotten a glimpse into a world many of your peers never get a chance to experience. A special adventure for sure.

We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors, whether in school, with the program, or in your own personal pursuit of finding peace and love in nature.

Best, Nicole Gavac, President, Comox Valley Rotary Club

4. BUDGET

YER Budget for April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021

The 2020/2021 budget included income of \$51,504.07 from the following sources: MCFD \$42,000.00; CVRD \$8,950.00; UNIFOR Local 3019 \$500.00; and McIntyre Media royalties for the YER film of \$54.07. Comox Valley environmental groups that provide the work locations annually contribute in-kind contributions of approximately \$2,000.00 in the form of equipment and training (Table 2).

This list gives details of YER 2020/2021 expenses:

- **Professional fees** include: program administration, delivery, evaluation and managerial costs of \$32,911.10; biologist fees were \$4,000.00; youth support worker amount of \$6,300.00; COVID-19 plan preparation for \$250.00; and K'omoks Elder honourarium of \$100.00.
- **Honouraria** for youth participants was \$950.00; and \$99.68 for YERII hoodies.
- **Program Promotion** was \$1,400.65 for website maintenance, and YER brochures and business cards.
- **Mileage** costs were calculated at \$3,415.85.
- **General supplies** were \$1,277.17 for lunches and materials; and office supplies of \$43.85.
- **Miscellaneous expenses** of \$544.68 for a camera purchase; and \$211.09 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 has a seventeen-year history of positive influences and outcomes for some of the Comox Valley's most exceptional and vulnerable youth. The 2020/2021 YER fiscal year began just after the first COVID-19 lockdown at the end of March 2020. YER operations this year had no cases of the disease due to precautionary protocols being implemented, although a noticeable increase was observed in social isolation and anxiety for the youth. MCFD continues as the main financial supporter of the program, with additional funds supplied by CVRD, UNIFOR Local #3019 and from McIntyre Media for YER film royalties (Table 2).

There were twenty-three youth participants; twenty-one in YERI and two in YERII (Table 1a). Referrals came from School District #71, MCFD and Community Justice Centre (Table 1b). YER participants interconnected with seventeen youth organizations and one youth utilized nine of the groups (Table 1c). YERI youth worked with six environmental groups and the YERII project was with CVRD at Goose Spit Park (Table 1d). Twenty youth finished YERI and gave speeches to schools and other community groups; two YERII youth gave a public tour (Table 1e). The completion rates remain high: YERI at 88%, YERII at 98% and YERIII is 100% (Table 1f).

Apprentice, Graham Hilliar, is being mentored as succession plans move forward. There are many pieces that make YER such a successful program and it requires time and patience to pass on what has been learned so the spirit of the program continues to benefit youth participants.

Community partnerships have increased by six presentation locations and now totals one hundred and sixty-four (Appendix A). One of those places gave the youth a Zoom presentation option to maximize COVID-19 safety protocols. Community support for YER youth is phenomenal, which is demonstrated by the annual community partnership list expansion. Through entrusting youth to present to a diversity of groups, they become teachers and educators for our community, which empowers them and builds their personal, social and communication skills.

Since 2004, YER has given three hundred and eighty youth opportunities of interaction with community volunteers to build positive relationships. Through consistent guidance with one person outside in the healing properties of the natural world, they come out of their shells and learn to trust themselves and others. It is a process of unraveling old ways while discovering new understandings of their place within the human community and ecological life forces. The youth and caregiver quotes are a reflection of the teachings they carry forward. YER is part of their journey in overcoming challenges and realizing the power of becoming their best selves.

TABLE 1: YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (YER)

YOUTH PARTICIPANT SUMMARY TABLE FOR APRIL 1, 2020 TO MARCH 31, 2021.

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

YERI 21 youth (14 girls and 7 boys; 48% were First Nations); YERII 2 youth (1 girl and 1 boy; 0% were 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 # 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380	20
YERII Complete: # 52-364, 53-344	2
YERI Incomplete: # 366	1
TOTAL YOUTH PARTICIPANTS	23

Table 1b: YOUTH ORGANIZATION REFERRALS

YERI and YERII participants were referred by six agencies.

CV School District # 71: # 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 369, 370, 371, 373, 374, 375, 378, 379, 380, 52-364, 53-344	16
Highland Secondary School: # 363, 365, 369, 374, 379 Isfeld Secondary School: # 367, 370, 373, 375, 380 Cumberland Community School: # 364, 371, 378, 52-364, 53-344 Lake Trail Middle School: # 366	
MCFD, Child & Youth Mental Health: # 361, 362, 368, 372, 376, 377	6
Comox Valley Community Justice Centre: # 360	1
TOTAL 3 YOUTH REFERRAL ORGANIZATIONS	23

Table 1c: YOUTH ORGANIZATION INTERCONNECTIONS

YER participants interconnect with other Comox Valley youth services.

SD #71: # 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 52-364, 53-344	22
The Linc: # 360, 362, 363, 364, 366, 368, 369, 370, 372, 373, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380	16
MCFD: # 361, 362, 365, 367, 368, 369, 372, 374, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380	13
SD #71 Counselling: # 360, 363, 364, 365, 367, 370, 373, 375, 377, 378, 379, 380	12
Comox Valley Family Services: # 362, 366, 367, 369, 372, 376, 378	7
Counselling - Source Unknown: # 363, 364, 367, 370, 376, 380	6
Comox Valley Transition Society: # 362, 372, 376, 377, 378	5
RCMP: # 363, 367, 372, 378, 380	5
Wachiay Friendship Centre: # 366, 368, 369, 372	4
Pacific Therapy: # 362, 378	2
Comox Valley Transition Society, Girls Group: # 368, 377	2
Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club: # 367, 377	2
Comox Valley Family Services, Sexual Abuse Intervention Program: # 371, 377	2
Comox Valley Community Justice Centre: # 360	1
John Howard Society: # 360	1
Lake Trail Middle School, Boys Group: # 360	1
Beaufort Counselling: # 377	1
TOTAL 18 YOUTH ORGANIZATION INTERCONNECTIONS	

**TABLE 1 (Cont.): YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
YOUTH PARTICIPANT SUMMARY TABLE FOR APRIL 1, 2020 TO MARCH 31, 2021.**

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: # 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379	20
Oyster River Enhancement Society: # 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 377, 378, 379, 380	19
Millard/Piercy Watershed Stewards: # 360, 361, 366, 368, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377	12
Morrison Creek Streamkeepers: # 360, 362, 363, 364, 369, 376, 380	7
Tsolum River Restoration Society: # 361, 377, 378, 379, 380	5
Trent River Ecological Reserve: # 362	1
YERII: Comox Valley Regional District, Goose Spit Park: # 52-364, 53-344	2
TOTAL YERI: 6 ORGANIZATIONS; 596 YOUTH & COMMUNITY MEMBER INTERACTIONS	

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

CV School District # 71: # 362, 369, 370, 371, 375, 377, 378	7
Cumberland Community School, Grade 6 and 7: # 378	
Isfeld Secondary School, Counselor: # 370, 375	
Highland Secondary School, Counselor: # 369	
Vanier Secondary School, Grade 10, Social Justice Class: # 371	
Puntledge Park Elementary School, Kindergarten: # 362	
Isfeld Secondary School, Grade 11, Life Sciences: # 377	
Lighthouse Early Learning Centre: # 361, 363, 365, 367, 372, 376, 379	7
Cummings Home, Seniors Assisted Living Facility: # 364, 374, 380	3
Comox Valley Rotary Club (Zoom presentations): # 368, 373	2
Comox Valley Community Justice Centre: # 360	1
YERII: Comox Valley Regional District, Goose Spit Park: # 52-364, 53-344	2
YERI 192 AUDIENCE MEMBERS; YERII PROJECT HAD 4 TOUR PARTICIPANTS	22

Table 1f: YER COMPLETION RATES

YERI: Total number of 380 youth participants; 335 completed the 20 hour program	88%
YERII: Total number of 53 youth participants; 52 completed the 25 hour program	98%
YERIII: Total number of 1 youth participant; 1 completed the 30 hour program	100%

**TABLE 2: YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
BUDGET FOR APRIL 1, 2020 TO MARCH 31, 2021.**

This YER budget records expenses, income and other contributions required to deliver this Comox Valley program for vulnerable youth. YER 2020/2021 funds were provided by BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD), UNIFOR Local #3019 and McIntyre Media. Other contributions were provided by Comox Valley groups for training and tools to restore local watersheds and ecosystems.

Expense Item	Expenses	Income	Other Contributions
Program Delivery	\$32,911.10	MCFD \$42,000.00	Training \$2,000.00
C. Maslovat	\$4,000.00	CVRD \$8,950.00	
G. Hilliar	\$6,300.00	UNIFOR #3019 \$500.00	
A. Lawrence	\$250.00	YER Film \$54.07	
B. Whyte	\$100.00		
Youth Honourarium	\$950.00		
Youth Benefits	\$99.68		
Program Promotion	\$1,400.65		
Mileage	\$3,415.85		
Supplies	\$1,277.17		
Office	\$43.85		
Misc. Expenses	\$544.68		
Bank Charges	\$211.09		
TOTALS	\$51,504.07	\$51,504.07	\$2,000.00

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

YER partnered with one hundred and sixty-four groups July 2004 to March 2021.

Ten groups referred youth clients from July 2004 to March 2021:

- 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 2021:

- 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 sixty-four Comox Valley groups July 2004 to March 2021.

One hundred and twenty-three groups had youth presentations from July 2004-March 2021:

- 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 6/7
- 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 sixty-four Comox Valley groups July 2004 to March 2021.

One hundred and twenty-three groups had youth presentations July 2004 to March 2021 (cont.):

- Eureka Support Society and Clubhouse
- Fanny Bay Enhancement Society www.fbse.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
- GP Vanier Senior Secondary School, Counseling Group
- GP Vanier Senior Secondary School, Grade 8 English
- GP Vanier Senior Secondary School, Grade 8 Science
- GP Vanier Senior Secondary School, Grade 11, Social Sciences class
- GP Vanier Secondary School, Little Friends Day Care
- GP Vanier Secondary School, Grade 10, Social Justice class
- 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, Grade 11, Life Sciences
- Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School, Life Skills Program
- Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School, Counsellor
- 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.ovsterriverenhancement.org/
- Puddleduck Preschool

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

YER partnered with one hundred and sixty-four Comox Valley groups July 2004 to March 2021.

One hundred and twenty-three groups had youth presentations July 2004 to March 2021 (cont.):

- Pumpkin Patch Daycare
- Puntledge Park Elementary School, Kindergarten
- Puntledge Park Elementary School: Grade 2
- Puntledge Park 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
- Rotary Club of the Comox Valley <https://www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofcomoxvalley>
- 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
- 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