

YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION ANNUAL REPORT



**For the Period of April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024
Completed on September 23, 2024**

**YER ANNUAL REPORT FOR:
BC MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT**

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Youth and Ecological Restoration (YER) respectfully acknowledges and are grateful for mentoring youth on the unceded traditional territory of the Pentlatch, Eiksen, Sahtlout and Sasitla, known today as K'omoks First Nations, the traditional keepers of this land.

YER has mentored four hundred and sixty-three youth with ecological restoration since July 1, 2004. Financial support mainly came from BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) began subsidizing the program in 2013. Comox Valley School District #71 (SD#71) initiated funding in 2022.

CVRD funds assist with YER, Phase II projects (YER II). In 2023, two YER II projects were conducted under the guidance of Registered Professional Biologist, Tanis Gower. The first YER II project was in early June for heron and eagle counts on the K'omoks Estuary from Royston Seaside Trail; the second one provided an ecological inventory at CVRD, Spike Road Park.

YER is work experience and training for youth in environmental employment. Youth are mainly engaged with these Comox Valley environmental groups: MARS Wildlife Rescue, Millard/Piercy Watershed Stewards, Morrison Creek Streamkeepers and Oyster River Enhancement Society. Their volunteers give guidance, support, mentoring and training for YER youth participants.

1. INTRODUCTION

YER is in its twentieth year, having mentored and supported Comox Valley exceptional youth since 2004. Youth aged twelve to eighteen are usually referred to YER from SD#71 teachers, counsellors and other support staff. A total of four hundred and sixty-three young people participated in the program since it started in 2004. This report covers April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 when thirty youth were in YER, Phase I (YER I) and four in YER II.

Qualitative and quantitative research methods are used to analyze and document how the program assists youth and to calculate numbers of youth. These methods combined give a clear image of YER success. The progress and outcomes section provides qualitative results and the youth and caregiver segment give quantitative findings.

YER was initially created to combine ecological restoration and restorative justice. Since then, these two practices have evolved into work experience, ecotherapy and support for participants. Many youths suffer from social anxiety and isolation due to electronic device usage, the lingering impacts of Covid and other issues. The healing and calming effects of nature are increasingly known and even prescribed for emotional instability and depression. Sitting with the natural world to feel that inner tranquility is a strong component of YER.

2. PROGRESS AND OUTCOMES

Thirty-four youth participated in YER from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Thirty youth were in YER I and four youth in YER II (Table 1a). YER I has an eighty-nine percent completion rate and YER II has ninety-eight per cent completion (Table 1f). The list of Comox Valley groups and places that have referred, provided work placements and presentation locations has grown to one hundred and eighty-nine (Appendix A).

Youth Participant Summary

Out of the thirty youth in YER I, twenty-nine completed and one was incomplete; four youth completed YER II (Table 1a). Participants were mostly referred through SD#71: nine from Glacier View Secondary; eight from Lake Trail Community; five from Highland Secondary; five from Vanier Secondary; one youth each from Behaviour Resource Services, Isfeld Secondary, Miracle Beach Elementary and Queneesh Elementary (Table 1b). MCFD referred three youth to YER in 2023/2024 (Table 1b).

YER I had sixteen girls and fourteen boys, and fifty per cent were First Nations; YER II had two girls and two boys with fifty per cent being First Nations (Table 1). YER I and YER II youth utilize and are connected with other Comox Valley youth resources: twenty-nine went to SD#71; twenty-three attended The LINC; nineteen were affiliated with MCFD; fourteen received SD#71 counselling; twelve accessed Comox Valley Foundry; twelve with RCMP; eleven at John Howard Society; six went to Comox Valley Family Services; six to Wachaiy Friendship Centre; five went to unknown counselling services; three at Comox Valley Transition Society; three with Comox Valley Community Justice Centre; two went to Comox Valley Boys and Girls Club; and one each with North Island Distance Education and Step Up Step Down Program Counselling (Table 1c).

YER I 2023 to 2024

Nine local environmental organizations provided work experience for YER I youth participants in 2023/2024. Youth were involved with these nine groups: MARS Wildlife Rescue, Oyster River Enhancement Society, Millard Piercy Watershed Stewards, Tsolum River Restoration Society, Morrison Creek Streamkeepers, Puntledge River Fish Hatchery, Brooklyn Creek Watershed Society, Comox Valley Project Watershed Society and Comox Valley Regional District (Table 1d). Nine hundred and ninety-five community members from the nine groups worked with and mentored the thirty youth, with an average of thirty-three per youth (Table 1d).

Twenty-nine YER I youth gave program completion speeches at the following: seventeen were for SD #71 schools; six at Cummings Home; six for Lighthouse Early Learning Centre; one for Cumberland Lodge; one at Hand-in-Hand Nature Education, Coal Creek Group; and one at Hand-in-Hand Nature Education, Comox Lake Group (Table 1e). There were two hundred and ninety-four audience members with an average of ten per youth (Table 1e).

YER II 2023 to 2024

Two YER II projects were funded by CVRD; one was at Royston Seaside Trail and one at Spike Road Regional Park (Table 1d). From June 5-9, 2023, heron and eagle monitoring was done on the K'omoks Estuary from a location in Royston Seaside Trail, which is a CVRD park. The other YER II project was done August 14-18, 2023 to conduct an ecological inventory in Spike Road Regional Park, a new regional park. YER II projects in CVRD parks support park management and planning to enable good decisions for our regional parks.

Heron counts started in 2013 with MARS Wildlife Rescue to survey heron foraging locations in the Comox Valley. Assigned the K'omoks Estuary, YER identified this location as having the highest foraging numbers. In 2014, a YER II project was initiated between MARS and YER to focus on heron foraging in the estuary with biologist, Ian Moul. Adding eagles to the counts, YER I data collection continued in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. The second YER II foraging project included eagles and happened in 2017 with biologist, Warren Warttig. In 2023, a third YER II project surveyed the estuary for heron and eagle foraging with biologist, Tanis Gower. Twenty-two people came out for the public tour provided by the two YER II youth, Cy Fitzgerald and Hope Kopeck Here is the report from the YER website: <https://youthecology.ca/heron-and-eagle-foraging-monitoring-in-the-komoks-estuary-2023/>

The August YER II project was to document vegetation types and disturbance history in CVRD, Spike Road Regional Park. This park is located on a large wetland that was bisected by fill brought in the early 1900's to establish a railroad for logging transportation. Field work was done with the youth to collect data on water quality, vegetation and soil. Biologist, Tanis Gower, also did historical air photo analysis that contributed to the CVRD report. A public tour was given for forty-two community members that the two youth participants, Greg Hanson and Olivia Neufeld, shared their acquired knowledge with. Here is the YER website link to the report: <https://youthecology.ca/spike-road-park-vegetation-types-and-disturbance-history-2023/>

3. YOUTH AND CAREGIVER QUOTES

YER one-on-one youth and caregiver interviews are based on social science qualitative research methods. Youth interview questions were established when the program started in 2004. Parent and caregiver interviews began in April 2011, after Doug Hillian (former MCFD, Youth Justice Consultant) suggested it would add depth to the existing youth feedback. All interview questions were designed by Wendy Kotilla. The answers given by youth and their caregivers have amassed critical data only obtained by asking questions that are respectful and open to learning from their experiences. Their words and voices can be heard in the following quotes.

YER I Youth Quotes 434 to 463

GOAL #1: BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

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

- Wendy is amazing, I felt very welcome and she gave me lots of knowledge. There is a lot I'm going to take away from this day in particular. I feel like today was like the day I learned a lot like at MARS; it was very hands on and so was Oyster River fish hatchery, but today I got the most knowledge. It didn't feel very rushed and we learned as much as we could from one spot and we didn't have to rush. (*YER I Participant #439*)
- I learned that they are measuring how many fish are coming through to see how healthy the water is and that most of them are volunteer workers. I guess it feels good to know that there are people doing this stuff without getting paid. It was pretty fun because all of them were really nice. They seemed glad that I was there helping out. It's not something I do very often. It is definitely not something a lot of people from my generation do. (*YER I Participant #447*)
- Some of them are helping salmon and some of them are helping out birds. It makes me feel good because they are helping out the earth, the community and nature. It was really cool to see the jobs they do and to see that they volunteer their time to help. It's just good to see people helping the community. (*YER I Participant #456*)

GOAL #2: GAINING VALUED WORK EXPERIENCE

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

- It was very silly because they make jokes all the time and they are super nice people. They helped me when I was netting the fish by moving the fish in the net. It was also hard working with them because I'm not a very talkative person. It helped me learn how to work with people that I don't know. It's helpful to me because I don't really like working with people I don't know, so it was a good change in mindset. I guess I'm just a little more used to it now. (*YER I Participant #441*)
- It's helped me interact with other people because I'm not really one that would go work with a group and being with a group of people that are understanding. If I needed help from a

group, they would help me because there was that group there. When I was helping the gull be tube fed while having someone right there for help. I feel like they trusted me to try new things. *(YER I Participant #449)*

- I had a great time during the program. I'm grateful I was able to learn so much about the environment from really nice people in our community. My favorite part was going to MARS because the volunteers were nice to work with and seeing wild animals up close was kind of crazy. This program is a great opportunity for individuals who are interested in ecology, biology, wildlife and the ecosystem in our environment. *(YER I Participant #454)*

GOAL #3: IMPROVING ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

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

- I learned we were on the Tsolum River and there was a big trap that catches fish. The trap is round and square, the round part spins and it pulls the fish in to the trap and keeps them there. I learned there was a copper mine and water was going into it and copper was leaking out and the salmon were getting copper in their system and were dying. They closed it so that water wouldn't come into it and wash copper into the river. *(YER I Participant #434)*
- The final place we went was the Oyster River fish hatchery. They formed in the late 1980's because of poor logging practices. Poor logging practices are not good because the trees at the river banks provide shade for the salmon. If they get rid of them by logging, the shade would be gone, which would make them warm, which means they could overheat and pass away. The trees do lots for the fish. They feed the fish by dropping bugs off the leaves and the bugs feed the fish, and the roots of the trees keep them in the ground, so if the river floods the trees stay in place. *(YER I Participant #446)*
- On day two we were counting how many great blue herons and bald eagles were in a certain area in Comox Bay. We set up at the Royston Wrecks and used a telescope to see each area, so we could count them all. We saw so many eagles and herons. We scanned around every twenty minutes to see what had changed and where the food was going as the tide went out. We saw twenty herons fly inland, close to Royston. We think they were going to their new rookery because the one in Bill Moore Park was abandoned. A rookery is where herons nest together. They nest together to keep their babies safe from eagle attacks. *(YER I Participant #448)*

GOAL #4: INCREASING PERSONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS

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

- My favorite place was; honestly, I would have to say that my favorite part was standing in the creek catching the fish because I think I was just in a better mood and not as tired and the other place would be when we were sitting on that other trap looking around at the river, it was just nice. I liked standing in the water and feeling the current and it was just really beautiful. I liked the sound of the water; it was just really calming. *(YER I Participant #438)*
- I guess it has kind of enlightened me more that I should get outside more and I guess it has helped me in terms of how it has helped my mental health. Like in terms of getting outside more I could get out more. I have difficulty sticking to a routine and it has rebuilt some of my confidence. It has kind of given my brain a reset and started me on the way of doing more personal work. *(YER I Participant #459)*
- It has definitely given me a break from school which I definitely needed. I wasn't having the best time today at school before I came here. I feel like it has made me a lot more friendly and more talkative and other than my parents it's been nice to talk to someone else. It's just been a nice break from school and it's helped me get out of my comfort zone more and out

volunteering for stuff. It stopped me from feeling so grouchy all the time and made me feel like I have the right to speak up more. I usually am so worried about stuff, but this has been a nice way to learn and have fun and just relax a bit. (*YER I Participant #462*)

GOAL #5: ENHANCING COMMUNICATION SKILLS

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

- I learned a lot today. I learned a lot more today than I would have if I was learning about them in the classroom. I was able to learn this way easier than if it were just on a piece of paper. It worked better for me being able to talk to people about what I was learning. (*YER I Participant #451*)
- It was scary and nerve racking just being in front of the people reading and you screw up and you feel like you totally failed. I just kept reading to get through it and I felt like a million bucks at the end. They learned what I did at each individual location. It feels good; I'm free and I don't have the pressure of the presentation to stress out about. I also don't have to wake up early anymore. I can do a lot more things than I think I can if I put my mind to it. I didn't think I could do all the things I did. It feels amazing. (*YER I Participant #452*)
- It was the most stressful thing I have ever done in my life because they couldn't hear me at all and I had to talk super loud, which was hard for me to do. I just had to keep reading, that's how I got through it. I know I didn't look up as much as I should have. It was rewarding at the end and I felt good about myself. I feel like I'm awful at doing presentations and they said I did a nice job, so that felt nice. (*YER I Participant #460*)

YER I Caregiver Quotes 434 to 463

- I guess the most immediate was he just seemed brighter and in a better mood when he got home from being out with you and probably when he talks about his experience, he has a sense of pride and accomplishment when he talks about it. Since he started the program, he hasn't threatened or tried to hurt himself. (*YER I Participant #435*)
- He has serious problems with authority so for him to be able to get up and go and not be pissed off when he got back with people was great. He definitely had good interactions with adults, that was positive for him. As for the ecological part, I think it helped him see that not everything has to be on a world scale and that you can have a positive impact locally, so I hope that kind of sunk in for him. (*YER I Participant #437*)
- I think it's an excellent program and I really saw her confidence build and even with her challenges I think it was really good for her to see that she is good at things and showed her something she may be able to do in the future. I have had lots of behavior issues with her, but I have really noticed that she has changed in the last couple of months and I don't know if that is all to do with the program but I think it helped her build that confidence up. (*YER I Participant #440*)
- It was amazing. I have never seen him do anything like that in all of his school time. I was amazed to see him do that and that you were able to get him to do that and he seemed confident. I was saying to my partner when I got home, I appreciated how when he was stuck at certain parts of the presentation you were there to encourage him through. I could tell you were doing a bit more than other teachers or work experience has given him. I think he felt like he was part of something and felt appreciated. (*YER I Participant #443*)
- I think it was an amazing experience for her and she was quite happy when she came home. It was something new for her and having this program for her is a new experience which is great and gave her some more work ethics. It was good for her having this one-on-one opportunity and she was excited to go for the next time and I'm just very proud of her for accomplishing what she did. (*YER I Participant #449*)

- Graham was excellent and he is hands on and on the ball. He helped her with her presentation. He called us the day before, which was helpful. Also, when he called, he made a point of making sure her was on board for working the next day. He made her feel comfortable and safe. I think other kids will definitely benefit from him. He was down to Earth and wasn't awkward. There were no notes. They went to Tim Hortens, she used the pictures. It's an all great program. *(YER I Participant #451)*
- I told everyone about it and for the work experience it is great and for the money and the experience and lunch and the transportation was covered which made it doable for us. For the presentation to be held at the elderly care home is great for them to see young people doing these things and being part of the community like that. I just think it is excellent all round but I wish it was longer because it's such an excellent program. *(YER I Participant #461)*
- Before, it was a struggle to motivate him, I think just being exposed to what he was has opened his eyes to the ecological work out there and I think being with another mentor was what got him interested. I just really feel you did a great job with communication and you picked him up and got him back to school and made really great sandwiches. *(YER I Participant #462)*

YER II Youth Quotes 62-65

- The most important thing I learned is respect. Respect for the world around me and people around me. There were a lot of times when we would be taken back, like almost a reality check. It would bring you back into the moment and show you what to be grateful for and also what is happening in real time in regards to what humans are doing to the environment. Taking that and teaching youth how to understand and respect it. *(YER II Participant #62-439)*
- The methodology was that we split the estuary into nine zones, then used a telescope to count the herons and eagles in each zone. We took the highest daily count to find out how many eagles and herons were using the estuary each day. We chose the right time of year and the right low tide to observe the species. The timing was for when the eagles and herons were feeding their babies in the spring at the lowest tides. *(YER II Participant #63-415)*
- It felt good, maybe because I don't necessarily lead all that much. I usually let others take the lead, but by taking the lead for one of the first times outside of school helped show me that I could lead people if I had to. I feel like if I'm ever leading another big group, I will always ask for their attention before I start speaking and make sure I can always be heard. It's useful to maintain people's interest and attention so they may learn what they came to learn in the first place. *(YER II Participant #64-367)*
- Reed canary grass often grows in disturbed sites and this is a disturbed site and it's disturbed for quite a few reasons. Two of those reasons being roads and ditches, which drain water from wetlands and make them dry, which is obviously not good and detrimental to the environment. Some of our recommendations to fix some problems are to fill in the ditches making sure to remove aquatic life before doing so and to plant trees and other native plants along the trail and in the clearcut area to the north. *(YER II Participant #65-422)*

YER II Caregiver Quotes 2023 to 2024

- It was very impressive, I was so, so proud. I was watching her teaching all these full-grown adults about some pretty cool stuff with full confidence. I loved that and they were all fully listening. I took a video of her talking and zoomed over to the line of full-grown adults listening and I almost cried. *(YER II Participant #62-439)*
- I think it was a nice experience for him to work on a project in a really small group with a lot of one-to-one direction. After being out of school for a week and still doing educational

experience, it just showed me that hands on is way more his style than sitting at a desk. One of his strengths, with a more neurotypical strengths, made it easier for him to hyperfocus on things he is interested in. When you are at school and you do forty minutes of tasks and then switch to something else, that doesn't always work for his learning style. (*YER II Participant #63-415*)

- The number one thing was I liked to see him get out of the house and away from the computer and do some stuff outdoors. He was pretty good for getting himself up and out and I think it was good for him to push himself. I think something like this will give him some insight into getting out there and doing things and to get the confidence to do things. He has always been a heavy set kid and got teased a lot, so to see him come out of his shell makes me really happy. (*YER II Participant #64-367*)
- My parents said that she was so good and she stood up straight and used a loud voice and they said how supportive the community was. She also said how comfortable she was around you and the biologist and she really liked working with you all. They also said she could answer the questions the audience was asking and she seemed to think it was an adventure, so that was good. (*YER II Participant #65-422*)

Youth and Caregiver Quote Summary

The youth quotes are taken from files of the longer interviews that occur through daily debriefs, post work and post presentation inquiries. Caregiver quotes are from questionnaires given after youth have completed the program. The youth and caregiver interview questions are designed to reach a deeper level of understanding about their experiences. Some knowledge and experience of interviewing techniques are required to achieve this depth, but what is most needed is taking the time and being patient with their responses.

YER I and YER II youth responses indicated making contributions to the Earth with community members and acknowledging the novelty of this for their generation. They spoke of being trusted to try new things, not being rushed, feeling relaxed and a sense of accomplishment that came from doing previously unknown jobs. Youth learned about alternative career opportunities by gaining experience with human caused environmental impacts, scientific research techniques, identification methods and ecological monitoring. A new perspective emerged on the calming effects of nature for mental health. They enjoyed a break from classroom learning for hands on experiential education. They noted improved confidence from doing unfamiliar tasks, especially giving community presentations and guiding public tours. All youth appreciated the teachings that YER awarded them, even the ones who complained sometimes acquired valuable knowledge.

YER I and YER II caregivers mentioned their young people having less behaviour issues when engaged in YER, with an increase in self pride and decrease in self harm. They discussed a reduction in authority issues through positive ecological experiences and interactions with elders. There was acknowledgement of better motivation, work ethics and improved confidence through community participation. They said their youth felt safe and comfortable while involved with the hands on ecological work in the program. Merit in one-on-one direction and support was discussed. The respectful level of work schedule communication, combined with transportation, completion rewards and the amazing lunch sandwiches were all noted.

4. BUDGET

YER Budget for April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

Total income for the YER 2023/2024 budget was \$66,200.00. Contributions were made to YER from: MCFD \$42,000.00; CVRD \$12,200.00; SD#71 \$10,000.00; deferred from the 2021/2022 budget was \$2,000.00. In-kind from Comox Valley environmental groups was a value of about \$2,000.00 by providing equipment and training (Table 2).

This list gives details of YER 2022/2023 expenses:

- **Professional fees** were: Coordinator, Wendy Kotilla \$13,090.96; Youth Support Worker, Graham Hilliar \$32,592.50; Biologist, Tanis Gower \$9,200.00; and a \$100.00 honourarium for Elder, Sally Gellard.
- **Honouraria** for youth participants was \$1,670.00; and \$580.94 for YER paraphernalia.
- **Program Promotion** was \$1,083.24 for website maintenance.
- **Mileage** costs were calculated at \$5,784.63.
- **General supplies** were \$1,881.83 and office supplies \$33.02.
- **Bank charges** were \$182.88.

5. SUMMARY

YER has had a total of four hundred and sixty-three youth participate in the program from July 1, 2004 to March 31, 2024. During the April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 fiscal year, thirty-four youth were involved. Thirty youth were in YER I and twenty-nine completed; four youth completed YER II. YER is funded by MCFD, CVRD and SD#71.

YER is for exceptional youth struggling with connections. It offers ecological work experience that include mentoring support and ecotherapy practices. Referrals in 2023/2024 came from SD#71 and MCFD, and youth were interconnected with fifteen other Comox Valley support services. Nine groups involved YER I youth with ecological work; nineteen places provided locations for the youth to give public speeches. Under the supervision of a biologist, YER II participants conducted ecological inventories for CVRD at Royston Seaside Trail and Spike Road Regional Park; youth presented public tours at both parks.

Analysis of YER progress and outcomes includes quantitative and qualitative data collection. YER I has eighty-nine per cent completion and YER II ninety-eight per cent completion. These numbers clearly show successful YER youth achievement levels. This is possible through the program's one-on-one support and integration of ecotherapy practises. The youth and caregiver interview quotes demonstrate high levels of success spoken in their voices. YER has consistently provided an extraordinary and unique service for Comox Valley youth for nineteen successive years. The proof is in the completion numbers and the words of the youth and their caregivers.

**TABLE 1 (Page 1 of 3): YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (YER)
YOUTH PARTICIPANT SUMMARY TABLE FOR APRIL 1, 2023 TO MARCH 31, 2024.**

YER for Comox Valley vulnerable youth funded by Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) and Comox Valley School District # 71 (SD#71).

YER I 30 youth (16 girls, 14 boys; 50% First Nations): YER II 4 youth (2 girls, 2 boys; 50% First Nations).

Table 1a: YER COMPLETION:

Phase I (YER I); Phase II (YER II); YER II number first and YER I second.	YOUTH TOTALS
YER I Complete: Participant # 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463	29
YER I Incomplete: # 450	1
YER II Complete: # 62-439, 63-415, 64-367, 65-422	4
TOTAL YOUTH PARTICIPANTS	34

Table 1b: YOUTH REFERRAL ORGANIZATIONS

SD71: # 434, 435, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 62-439, 63-415, 64-367, 65-422	31
Glacier View Secondary School: # 437, 438, 439, 442, 446, 447, 451, 459, 62-439 Lake Trail Community School: # 434, 440, 441, 448, 453, 455, 63-415, 65-422 Highland Secondary School: # 443, 445, 449, 452, 460 G.P. Vanier Secondary School: # 454, 457, 461, 462, 463 Behavior Resource Services: # 458 Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School: # 64-367 Miracle Beach Elementary School: # 435 Queneesh Elementary School: # 456	
MCFD: # 436, 444, 450	3
TOTAL 2 YOUTH REFERRAL ORGANIZATIONS	34

Table 1c: YOUTH ORGANIZATION INTERCONNECTIONS

YER participants interconnect with other Comox Valley youth services.

SD#71: # 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 62-439, 63-415, 64-367, 65-422	29
The LINC Youth Centre: # 434, 435, 436, 438, 439, 440, 441, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 452, 453, 454, 455, 462, 62-439, 63-415, 64-367, 65-422	23
MCFD: # 435, 436, 437, 439, 440, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 450, 453, 456, 458, 459, 460, 461, 62-439, 64-367	19
SD#71 Counselling: # 435, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 449, 454, 457, 458, 462, 62-439, 64-367, 65-422	14
CV Foundry: # 436, 442, 444, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 453, 455, 457, 460, 461, 462, 64-367	12
RCMP: # 434, 436, 437, 439, 442, 445, 448, 450, 458, 459, 461, 62-439, 63-415	12
John Howard Society: # 436, 437, 439, 440, 444, 448, 450, 451, 453, 461, 463, 62-439, 65-422	11
Comox Valley Family Services: # 434, 439, 442, 445, 62-439, 64-367	6
Wachiay Friendship Centre: # 443, 448, 453, 455, 460, 63-415, 64-367	6
Counseling - Source Unknown: # 436, 445, 456, 63-415, 65-422	5
CV Transition Society: # 442, 445, 446	3
CV Community Justice Centre: # 437, 445, 62-439	3
CV Girls and Boys Club: # 439, 62-439	2
North Island Distance Education: # 439	1
Step Up Step Down Program Counselling: #463	1
TOTAL 14 YOUTH ORGANIZATION INTERCONNECTIONS	

**TABLE 1 (Page 2 of 3): YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
YOUTH PARTICIPANT SUMMARY TABLE FOR APRIL 1, 2023 TO MARCH 31, 2024.**

Table 1d: ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION ORGANIZATIONS

	YOUTH TOTALS
YER I youth participate with local organizations; YER II has two youth and two adults.	
MARS Wildlife Rescue: # 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463	29
Oyster River Enhancement Society: # 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 449, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463	27
Millard/Piercy Watershed Stewards: # 434, 435, 436, 438, 439, 440, 441, 443, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 455, 456, 457, 459, 460	20
Tsolum River Restoration Society: # 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 442, 443, 444, 447, 448, 452, 453, 461, 462, 463	16
Morrison Creek Streamkeepers: # 437, 447, 448, 451, 553, 454, 458	7
Puntledge River Fish Hatchery: # 458, 459	2
Brooklyn Creek Watershed Society: # 450	1
Comox Valley Project Watershed Society: # 461	1
Comox Valley Regional District: # 463	1
YER II: Comox Valley Regional District, Heron and Eagle Monitoring: # 62-439, 63-415	2
YER II: Comox Valley Regional District, Spike Road Regional Park: # 64-367, 65-422	2
TOTAL 9 ORGANIZATIONS; YER I-995 COMMUNITY MEMBERS (33 average per youth)	

Table 1e: COMMUNITY PRESENTATION LOCATIONS

YER I individual presentations; YER II co-facilitate public tours.

SD71: # 434, 436, 437, 443, 445, 446, 448, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 458, 459, 462, 463	17
Aspen Park Elementary School, Grade 5/6 Class: # 436	
Behaviour Resource Services: # 458	
Courtenay Elementary School, Grade 1/2 Class: # 446	
Cumberland Community School, Grade 1 Class: # 437	
E'cole Puntledge Park Elementary School, Grade 5 Class: # 455	
G.P. Vanier Secondary School, Environmental Club: # 454	
G.P. Vanier Secondary School, Principal and Counsellors: # 462	
Glacier View Secondary School, Group: # 451, 459	
Highland Secondary School, Advantage Class: # 445, 452	
Highland Secondary School, Indigenous Education Class: # 443	
Lake Trail Community School, Grade 6 Class: # 434	
Lake Trail Community School, Indigenous Education Class: # 448, 453	
Royston Elementary School: Grade 2/3: # 463	
Queeneesh Elementary School, Counselling Group: # 456	
Cummings Home, Seniors Assisted Living Facility: # 435, 438, 442, 449, 460, 461	6
Lighthouse Early Learning Centre: # 440, 447, 457	3
Cumberland Lodge: # 444	1
Hand-in-Hand Nature Education, Coal Creek Group: # 439	1
Hand-in-Hand Nature Education, Comox Lake Group: # 441	1
YER II: Comox Valley Regional District, Heron and Eagle Monitoring: # 62-439, 63-415	2
YER II: Comox Valley Regional District, Spike Road Regional Park: # 64-367, 65-422	2
YER I 294 AUDIENCE (10 average per youth); YER II 22 and 42 TOUR PARTICIPANTS	

**TABLE 1 (Page 3 of 3): YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (YER)
YOUTH PARTICIPANT SUMMARY TABLE FOR APRIL 1, 2023 TO MARCH 31, 2024.**

Table 1f: YER COMPLETION RATES

YER I: Total number of 463 youth participants; 412 completed the 20 hour program	89%
YER II: Total number of 65 youth participants; 64 completed the 25 hour program	98%
YER III: 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, 2023 TO MARCH 31, 2024.**

This YER budget records expenses, income and other contributions required to deliver this Comox Valley program for vulnerable youth. YER 2021/2022 funds were provided by BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD), and Comox Valley School District 71. Other contributions were from Comox Valley groups for training and tools to restore local watersheds and ecosystems.

Expense Item	Expenses	Income		Other Contributions
W. Kotilla	\$13,090.96	MCFD	\$42,000.00	Training \$2,000.00
G. Hilliar	\$32,592.50	CVRD	\$12,200.00	
T. Gower	\$9,200.00	SD #71	\$10,000.00	
Elder Sally Gellard	\$100.00	2022/2023	\$2,000.00	
Youth Honourarium	\$1,670.00			
Youth Benefits	\$580.94			
Maintain Website	\$1,083.24			
Mileage	\$5,784.63			
General Supplies	\$1,881.83			
Office Supplies	\$33.02			
Bank Charges	\$182.88			
TOTALS	\$66,200.00		\$66,200.00	\$2,000.00

**APPENDIX A: YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (YER)
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (Page 1 of 5)**

YER partnered with one hundred and eighty-nine groups July 2004 to March 2024.

Twelve groups referred youth clients from July 2004 to March 2024:

- BC Children’s Hospital www.bcchildrens.ca
- Beachcombers Academy www.beachcombersschool.ca
- Comox Valley Community Justice Centre www.cjc-comoxvalley.com
- Comox Valley Family Services Association www.comoxvalleyfamilyservices.com
- Comox Valley School District #71: Behaviour Resource Services; Cumberland Community School; Glacier View Secondary School; Lake Trail Community School; Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School; Highland Secondary School; Huband Park Elementary School; Nalata’atsi Alternate School; Miracle Beach Elementary School; Queneesh Elementary School
- Comox Valley Transition Society <https://cvts.ca/>
- 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-two groups had youth conduct ecological restoration work from July 2004 to March 2024:

- 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.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
- Puntledge River Fish Hatchery
- 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/

**APPENDIX A (cont.): YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (YER)
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (Page 2 of 5)**

**YER partnered with one hundred and eighty-nine Comox Valley groups July 2004 to March 2024.
One hundred and forty-five groups had youth presentations from July 2004-March 2024:**

- World Community Development Education Society www.worldcommunity.ca
- 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 5/6
- Aspen Park Elementary School, Grade 6/7
- Beachcombers Academy, Grade 6/7 www.beachcombersschool.ca
- Behaviour Resource Services
- Berwick Retirement Society www.berwickrc.com/comox
- Brooklyn Elementary School, Grade 5
- Brooklyn Elementary School, Kindergarten
- 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 1/2
- 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, Strong Start Program
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 1
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 1/2
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 4/5
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 5/6
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 6/7

**APPENDIX A (cont.): YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (YER
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (Page 3 of 5)**

**YER partnered with one hundred and eighty-nine Comox Valley groups July 2004 to March 2024.
One hundred and forty-five groups had youth presentations July 2004 to March 2024 (cont.):**

- Cumberland Community School, Grade 8
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 9
- Cumberland Junior School
- Cumberland Lodge
- 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/>
- 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 Secondary School, Bridgeway Program
- Glacier View Secondary School, Independent Learning Program
- Glacier View Secondary School, Key Program
- Glacier View Secondary School, Senior Alternate Program
- Glacier View Secondary School, Environmental Club
- GP Vanier Senior Secondary School, Counseling Group
- GP Vanier Senior Secondary School, Environmental Club
- 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
- GP Vanier Senior Secondary School, Principal and Counsellors
- Hand-in-hand Nature Education, Coal Creek Group
- Hand-in-hand Nature Education, Comox Lake Group
- Highland Secondary School, Advantage Class
- Highland Secondary School, Counselor
- Highland Secondary School, Grade 11
- Highland Secondary School, Indigenous Education Class
- 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 Community School, Grade 6/7
- Lake Trail Community School, Grade 7
- Lake Trail Community School, Grade 8
- Lake Trail Community School, Grade 9
- Lake Trail Community School, Indigenous Education Class
- Lake Trail Community School, Pride Program
- Lake Trail Community School, Humanities Program
- Lake Trail Community School, Youth and Family Support
- Lewis Centre, Youth Program, Day Camp www.courtenay.ca/recreation/programs.aspx
- Lighthouse Early Learning Centre www.cvcdds.com/
- Linc Youth Centre, Action Committee

**APPENDIX A (cont.): YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (YER)
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (Page 4 of 5)**

YER partnered with one hundred and eighty-nine Comox Valley groups July 2004 to March 2024.

One hundred and forty-five groups had youth presentations July 2004 to March 2024 (cont.):

- 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
- Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School, Queer Ally Club
- Merry Andrew Day Care
- Miracle Beach Elementary School, Grade 1
- Miracle Beach Elementary School, Grade 5/6
- 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 Park Elementary School, Grade 3
- Puntledge Park Elementary School, Grade 4
- Puntledge Park Elementary School, Grade 5/6
- Queneesh Elementary School, Counselling Group
- Queneesh Elementary School, Earth Day Celebration
- Queneesh Elementary School, Kindergarten to Grade 4
- Queneesh Elementary School, Grade 6/7
- Robb Road Elementary School, Grade 4
- Roseberry Pre-School
- Rotary Club of the Comox Valley <https://www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofcomoxvalley>
- Royal Canadian Air Cadets - 386 Komox Squadron <https://386komox.com/>
- Royston Elementary School, Grade 2/3
- 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

**APPENDIX A (cont.): YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (YER)
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (Page 5 of 5)**

YER partnered with one hundred and eighty-nine Comox Valley groups July 2004 to March 2024.

One hundred and forty-five groups had youth presentations July 2004 to March 2024 (cont.):

- Wee Care Early Childhood Centres, Royston Elementary www.weecareinc.com
- Youth and Ecological Restoration Program, Annual Community Celebration