

YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION ANNUAL REPORT



**For the Period of April 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025
Completed on February 27, 2025**

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

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Photo by Graham Hilliar.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

YER passed its twenty-year milestone anniversary on July 1, 2024. Four hundred and seventy-six youth participated in YER Phase I (YER I) and by August 31, 2024 sixty-nine engaged in YER Phase II (YER II). These young people flourished under guidance of YER teachers, supporters and mentors. Sometimes youth are the teachers. I am grateful for everything I learned with them.

BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) has funded YER since 2004. Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) began contributing finances in 2013. Comox Valley School District #71 (SD#71) commenced funds in 2022. Core YER funding from MCFD, CVRD and SD#71 is an essential investment for vulnerable youth in the Comox Valley community.

Two YER II projects were completed in 2024. City of Courtenay provided funds for biologist, Tanis Gower, to conduct an ecological inventory with two youth in Millard Nature Park. CVRD funds supported biologist, Caroline Heim, to lead two youth in an assessment of Yellow Sand-verbena plants in Goose Spit Park.

On September 1, 2024, YER was transferred to Graham Hilliar to carry forward. I met Graham over thirty years ago, when he was younger than YER participants. He approached me in 2015 to volunteer for YER, which started the mentoring process for him to become coordinator. I appreciate his passion and commitment to continue providing this valuable service for youth.

The YER vision first came to me in 2002, funding started in 2004. Over the past twenty years I have been honoured, humbled and deeply grateful for the privilege of working with some of our most exceptional and vulnerable youth. I walked beside them in Comox Valley creeks and rivers and narrated my learned ecological knowledge and lived wisdom. Many times, I was compelled to listen and learn from the deep awareness and insights of the youth. YER has been more than a job; it has been a calling to do good work with the younger generations of the world.

1. INTRODUCTION

Twenty years have passed since YER was initially funded by MCFD. It has been an incredible journey to share these years with Comox Valley exceptional youth. This is my final report and will include some reflection and insights. The main focus will be on the period from April 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024 when thirteen youth participated in YER I and four completed YER II.

YER has always been a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods. Together these provide evidence in quotes from youth and their caregivers, as well as data to demonstrate completion rates, budgets and other factual information. Progress and outcomes of YER can be defined as social science documentation in the discipline of sociology. Initial funding included guidance from a qualitative research professional, who encouraged expanding the scope of data collection. The result has been a richer, fuller, more rounded and complete reporting of YER.

2. PROGRESS AND OUTCOMES

There remains a high completion rate for both phases of the program, eighty-nine per cent for YER I and ninety-nine for YER II (Table 1f). These completion rates are an indication of YER benefits for youth. The program provides transportation, lunch, wet weather gear and check in phone calls that make it easier for caregivers.

The youth and YER support worker work one on one for every environmental placement. Many organization volunteers, usually community elders, work with them and give mentoring support. Preparation for the completion presentation is done with guidance from the youth support worker.

From April 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024, seventeen youth participated in YER, thirteen were in YER I and four in YER II. Table 1 reports on completion rates, referrals, youth organization interconnections, ecological restoration organizations and community presentation locations. Appendix A has a detailed list of the one hundred and ninety-five referral, ecological and presentation groups that YER has partnered with from 2004 to 2024.

Youth Participant Summary

Thirteen youth completed YER I and four completed YER II (Table 1a). All seventeen referrals came from SD#71: five from Glacier View Secondary School, four from Lake Trail Community School, three from Highland Secondary School, three from Vanier Secondary School and two from Queneesh Elementary School (Table 1b).

Out of the total seventeen youth participants, six girls and seven boys were in YER I; two girls and two boys were involved in YER II (Table 1). Fifty per cent of the seventeen youth from both phases were First Nations youth (Table 1).

There were interconnections with other youth agencies and groups: seventeen youth attended SD#71 schools, sixteen went to The Linc, ten with MCFD, seven interacted with the RCMP, six had SD#71 counselling, six went to Wachiay Friendship Centre, five attended The Foundry, two had unknown source counselling, one was with John Howard Society, one with Comox Valley Family Services, one connected with North Island Hospital Comox Valley, Psychology Services and one had Step Up Step Down counselling (Table 1c).

Some youth had connections with multiple youth support organizations. Youth # 464, 468, 470, 471 and 472 were all connected with SD#71, The Linc, MCFD and RCMP (Table 1c). Youth # 464 was involved with a total of nine youth groups; youth # 470 and 472 utilized six groups (Table 1c). This information derives from preliminary questions asked when youth first start YER. It demonstrates a broader image of vulnerable youth and youth service connections.

YER I 2024

Comox Valley environmental organizations provided work experience placements for thirteen YER I youth. Youth obtain support and mentoring from elder volunteers that helps them feel a sense of community belonging, ecologically and socially. Sometimes one on one work with the YER support worker is the best reassurance.

The following seven groups involved the youth: twelve with MARS Wildlife Rescue, ten went to Oyster River Enhancement Society, eight worked with Millard Piercy Watershed Stewards, eight with Tsolum River Restoration Society, three helped Morrison Creek Streamkeepers, one for Ducks Unlimited and one with Comox Valley Regional District (Table 1d). The thirteen YER I youth participants worked with three hundred and sixty-eight community members, an average of thirty-three per youth (Table 1d).

All thirteen youth gave YER I community presentation for completion. Nine presented speeches at SD#71 schools; two for Lighthouse Early Learning Centre; one for Cummings Home; and one for Friendly Port Childcare (Table 1e). One hundred and sixty-six audience members attended the youth presentations for an average of thirteen per youth (Table 1e).

YER II 2024

Two YER II projects occurred in the summer of 2024 (Table 1d). An ecological inventory was done in City of Courtenay, Millard Nature Park from July 29th to August 2nd. Yellow Sand-verbena plants (YSV) were assessed at CVRD, Goose Spit Park from August 12th to 16th. YER II projects have two youth working together with a YER youth support worker and a biologist. The biologist leads the scientific research, trains the youth and writes a report. The youth support worker assists youth with the research and provides other supports. Park managers and other staff benefit from the increased ecological knowledge that helps inform management decisions.

YER has been involved with Millard Nature Park for many years in association with Millard Piercy Watershed Stewards and assisting City of Courtenay staff with homeless encampment clean ups. A 2024 park proposal for Courtenay Mayor and Council requested funding support for biologist, Tanis Gower, to lead a YER II project. Two ecological plots were established in the park, as well as documenting park trails and invasive plant species. Brook Dominey and Elwood Niskasari led a tour for twenty-three people. Here is the report from the YER website:

<https://youthecology.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Millard-Nature-Park-YER-II-2024.pdf>

In 2024, the third Goose Spit Park YER II, YSV project was conducted with biologist, Caroline Heim. A plant of special concern, YSV abundance and distribution was documented for 2020 and 2021 YER II projects. YER participants Kaiden Huber and Sofia Thiesburger-Silva were taught research techniques to document twenty-three YSV ecological plots. They found a twenty per cent decrease in YSV from previous studies. Report recommendations were made with youth collaboration. Twenty-five people attended the public tour. Here is the website link to the report:

<https://youthecology.ca/goose-spit-park-yellow-sand-verbena-yer-ii-2024/>

3. YOUTH AND CAREGIVER QUOTES

Since the beginning, social science research methods have been part of the YER data collection. This happens through youth and caregiver interviews, a standard qualitative research technique. Structured questions were designed to ask youth at the program start, as daily debriefs, and on program completion; caregivers are interviewed after YER completion. Quotes are taken from the youth and caregiver interviews and copied in the report text.

The YER youth and caregiver questions and responses give the best feedback for effectiveness of the program. The interviews provide narrative, anecdotal, descriptive evidence stated in their own words from their own experience. These quotes give core evidence of the value of YER beyond numbers.

YER I Youth Quotes #464 to 476

GOAL #1: BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

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

- “They are trying to help the environment and they are working together and bonding over trying to keep our planet alive. I feel like it’s given me more hope in our community now to know that those people are doing what they are doing helps settle my mind a little bit.” (*YER I Participant #465*)
- “It was kind of scary at first. I have really bad social anxiety, so it was really hard at first being around all those people. I think it has really helped my social anxiety. It was just practice talking with all those people and it kind of pushed me to talk to them because it’s kind of important to be able to talk to people for work and just for life.” (*YER I Participant #471*)

GOAL #2: GAINING VALUED WORK EXPERIENCE

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

- “I’m always nervous because I haven’t had a real job, so it was nice to learn that I can actually go out and work doing something, and not be on my phone, and that I’m not lazy and I can do a job if I put my mind to it. It’s made meeting people a lot easier. My first day I was really nervous meeting new people, everyday it just got easier and easier. So, I think it has helped me with my nervousness around meeting and talking with people I don’t know.” (*YER I Participant #466*)
- “On my first day we were doing water monitoring and we were checking the rain levels. We put the multimeter in the water to check the pH, conductivity, temperature, total dissolved solids and water level. We were at the headwaters of Millard Creek and we check the water every month because we are just looking for changes in the water. My favorite part of the day was observing the waterfall.” (*YER I Participant #467*)

GOAL #3: IMPROVING ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

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

- “My favorite place was the Oyster River hatchery because I got to see so many fish all in one place and the hatchery was built around nature, unlike the Puntledge River one. I learned how to tell a coho apart from other salmon by looking for a black and white leading edge on

the dorsal and anal fin and the orange tail. I had a lot more fun during this program than I thought and everyone involved was super friendly.” (YER I Participant #470)

- “I was surprised how beautiful that marsh was. Usually swamps and marshes are ugly, creepy places, but this was just really beautiful. The way the ecosystem and the habitat was so perfect for so many animals. You could see that so many creatures were thriving there and helping each other, and how the beaver’s flooded areas and all the plants would grow up.” (YER I Participant #475)

GOAL #4: INCREASING PERSONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS

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

- “I learned to treat animals with respect. I could mess up animals a lot and when an animal dies it goes back into things. Like the trees and the grass and that goes into feeding other animals and nature. I think we should treat them with respect because if we treat them bad that will mess them up and they won’t be able to do the things they were meant to do.” (YER I Participant #464)
- “I’m thirteen years old and I was taking part in the Youth and Ecological Restoration Program. I took part because I’m usually in my room or out with friends or sleeping, so I wanted to get out more and connect with nature. You can help fish and other things while connecting with nature. When you’re done the program, you get fifty bucks and twenty hours of work experience and the feeling of success.” (YER I Participant #472)

GOAL #5: ENHANCING COMMUNICATION SKILLS

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

- “It was good working with them. There were a lot of people. There was a lot of team work going on. They were good at helping each other and you had to work together. It was weird because I usually work as me. It was alright, their jokes were not that funny, they were pretty cheesy dad jokes.” (YER I Participant #469)
- “I’m better at talking to people and better with communication and I have less stage fright now. Some jobs you need to talk with people and that is something I’m better at now and it taught me patience.” (YER I Participant #474)

YER I Caregiver Quotes #464 to 476

- “I think it kind of made her step outside the female drama, just for a bit and look outside herself. I think they can be very absorbed with what is going on in their own head. When she first found out there was more to it than she thought we got to have the conversation about the fact that she made a commitment, so she needed to follow through with it. She enjoyed the company and was excited to share her experience with others. It was a pretty big thing for her. She struggles with a lot of anxiety, so it was big. I also don’t think she had as much awareness as to what goes into taking care of the environment. She likes going to the river with her friends, but I think she now realizes it takes work to have that nice place. We came from Prince George and there doesn’t seem to be as many people taking care of the environment, so it was nice to see how many people around here are putting in a lot of effort.” (YER I Participant #465)

- “I think it was a positive experience for him and the program itself helps people understand about the environment and land stewardship. I think that’s a great thing and I think it was a little out of his comfort zone, so it got him out experiencing something new. His preference would just be video gaming. I think he gained positive knowledge and experience from it.” (*YER I Participant #470*)
- “I thought it was good for her. She seemed to really enjoy it. It was nice to see her positive about something. She has just been really down for a long time, but she seemed really enthusiastic about the program. When she came home, she was just kind of excited about being in the rivers and feeding the animals at MARS. She is a bit of a troubled kid, so I didn’t get much out of her. I think the early mornings and the structure really helped her. I hope she can do more things like this and get more involved in positive things and get away from her friends and teenage drama that’s been going on.” (*YER I Participant #471*)
- “It was something. It helped her have a more realistic connection with her dad’s passing and how it may have helped. He spent a lot of time outdoors. Because he spent so much time outdoors with her. He took her fishing and would talk with her about it, quadding, camping. It helped her connect with her Dad, his passing and his teachings for her. She seemed to have a good connection with Graham. Graham even called to check in. He is a pretty awesome guy. He is a compassionate, caring young man.” (*YER I Participant #472*)
- “I just think it’s an amazing opportunity for kids to learn outside of the classroom. Great for there to be a mentor that can show them things they could do in the future and a good way to learn science out of the classroom. Just to be outside and active in the community and to learn about the streams and environment in his community. I think it could be a program that could benefit lots of kids.” (*YER I Participant #475*)
- “I loved it, I thought it was excellent for him, it brought him out and showed him things that he thought he couldn’t do before. He has always been somewhat standoffish about new things like group things or one on one things, so for him to do that has given him a sense of accomplishment. It built his confidence and I just think it’s an excellent program. This was a big step for him.” (*YER I Participant #476*)

YER II Youth Quotes #66 to 69

- “The presentation was a lot more intense than I thought but everyone there was interested in what they were learning, so it was better than doing a presentation at school where the kids are just bored. I was a bit skeptical about working with another teen but I feel like it was nice and collaborative and I didn’t feel scared working with her, it felt welcoming by everyone and by bouncing ideas off each other we both learned something.” (*YER II Participant #66-462*)
- “Very nerve racking during the tour. I wasn’t as bad as before the tour and after the tour it felt pretty good because people were telling me how confident and strong my voice sounded and that I got my points across correctly. It makes me feel good and confident. I have never given a tour before, so I felt pretty good after it.” (*YER II Participant #67-460*)
- “Probably that we definitely need to stop having people walk on the Yellow Sand Verbena and that we need to put up walls to maybe stop them so the plant can grow more. It was fun, but it got annoying at one point so I had to push through it. I got super duper bored and tired and I just wanted to go home, but then I remembered that if I did that, I wouldn’t get my money. I did sign that contract and I wanted to do the presentation, so I just had to push through and I got to teach people about the plant, too.” (*YER II Participant #68-473*)

- “I learned that I’m pretty reliable and that I can do stuff pretty fast and efficiently if I want to. If someone wasn’t cooperating, I feel like Caroline and I would try and get the data collected either way, which I think was pretty helpful. I learned to observe stuff and I also learned how to give people my thoughts and say it out loud. If I had an opinion about something like if I thought we could use a better spot in the polygon for the quadrat I would tell people that, it was easier to say something than to think we were doing something wrong.” (*YER II Participant #69-454*)

YER II Caregiver Quotes #66 to 69

- “In so many ways; for one, in the summer you make it so easy with pickups and to know that he is safe out in nature. I think it nurtures them to become themselves and learn new things and to work alongside you and the biologist is such a great experience. I think doing things like this at that age is a pivotal time to have those experiences and will stick with them for their whole lives. I can’t say enough good things about it, it’s such a wonderful program and at the end when you presented them with their certificate, cheque and their hoodies, it was such a good emphasize and made them feel really proud. He went from having a goal of being a Youtuber and after that week he says his mind has changed. He wants to go into more outdoors work and he seems more nature focused, which is so nice to see. I’m always blown away with what you and Wendy do with this program.” (*YER II Participant #66-462*)
- “I just saw more confidence in her, she just seems to become more and more confident in being able to explain things. I’m just overall impressed and grateful to you guys for pushing her to do that and you guys are good teachers in the ways you ask hard questions to make them think on their feet and for getting them to see how we can impact nature in such a short time.” (*YER II Participant #67-460*)
- “I think it broadened his ideas of all the things that need help out there in the world. He doesn’t get along with a lot of people so to be around people he’s not normally around and to be with them for the whole week and not fly off the handle is a big accomplishment for him. So, for him to be able to cooperate and do things as a team is a big deal for him and I think it helps him to self-regulate and might make it easier the next time he’s in a group.” (*YER II Participant #66-462*)
- “Well, it's good she spends time with you and others that are in that field of work that she is interested in. I mean it’s not every kid that gets to spend a week working with a registered biologist and for her to have to speak in front of those people is a great experience. There is not a lot of people I know that enjoy doing that, so for her to have to push herself to do that is a great thing to do and achieve.” (*YER II Participant #69-454*)

Youth and Caregiver Quote Summary

Thirteen youth were in YER I From April 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024. They worked with seven environmental organizations and made presentations at thirteen schools, daycares and senior’s facilities. Four YER II youth did ecological projects for City of Courtenay and Comox Valley Regional District, and guided two public tours. Youth shared that YER helped: decrease social anxiety, community involvement, job preparation, build confidence, learn scientific research, achieve success, be respectful, work collaboratively, understand commitment and give hope. Their caregivers spoke of how youth: gain positive knowledge, appreciate check-in calls and transportation, learn science outside the classroom, feel safe in nature, step outside themselves, break from technology, self regulate and accomplish goals.

4. BUDGET

YER Budget for April 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025

Total income for the YER 2024/2025 budget was \$40,194.39. Contributions made to YER from: MCFD \$17,500.00; CVRD \$13,250.00; SD#71 \$5,000.00; and City of Courtenay \$4,200.00. The Comox Valley Credit Union, YER bank account under Wendy Kotilla was closed on January 20, 2025. Bank shares and bank interest were \$245.39. 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 2024/2025 expenses from Table 2:

- **Professional fees** were: Coordinator, Wendy Kotilla \$9,494.56; Youth Support Worker, Graham Hilliar \$14,700.00; Biologist, Tanis Gower \$4,200.00 and Caroline Heim \$5,300.00.
- **Honouraria** for youth participants was \$850.00; and \$230.17 for youth benefits.
- **Program Promotion** was \$1,995.00 to upgrade the YER website.
- **Mileage** costs were calculated at \$2,305.17.
- **General supplies** were \$971.08 and office supplies \$36.36.
- **Bank charges** were \$113.05.

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

YER was twenty years old on July 1, 2024. My vision for the original 2004 proposal combined environmental and social sciences. It originated from my own struggles as a youth and how nature liberated and sustained me throughout my life. Over forty years of acquired experience, education and knowledge in ecological restoration and restorative justice has contributed to YER wisdom and mentorship. With wonder and pleasure, I witnessed youth open themselves to feel the solace, serenity and safety within the natural world. As they listened and learned about ecology, they experienced a sense of this place where we live.

Wild Pacific salmon have been the main teachers, the heart, backbone and spirit of youth learning. Just as salmon are the thread, character and strength that binds together the Pacific Northwest, they have been the ultimate theme, purpose and integrity of YER. Funders want numbers and statistics, but the real evidence is bringing youth out into nature to perceive sacred places. To observe them witness salmon spawning for the first time in a quiet place along a creek was genuine magic. To hear them speak heartfelt or painful words from their inner most feelings, surrounded in the safety of Mother Earth, was profound.

From the beginning YER accounts have been a blend of quality and quantity outcomes, officially quantitative and quantitative research methods. Over twenty years, four hundred and seventy-six YER I youth had an eighty-nine percent completion rate; sixty-nine YER II youth had ninety-nine percent completion. These achievement rates are realized by working beside them, respectfully and collaboratively. Sincere caring is shown by giving extra things like providing transportation, making lunch, helping with presentations, listening and mentoring. These program attributes lead to increases in youth confidence, success, relationships and communication.

YER has been more than a profession, it has been a calling, a passion and dedication for the environment and the youth. To take youth from the technological world and introduce them to the natural world is an honourable vocation. The program has sustained funding for twenty years. Graham Hilliar will lead YER into the future, so this critical work will continue. With profound gratitude for the acquired insights and wisdom derived from guiding this good work, it is time for me to go. My wish is for YER to continue for at least another twenty years.

TABLE 1 (Page 1 of 2): YOUTH AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (YER)

YOUTH PARTICIPANT SUMMARY TABLE FOR APRIL 1, 2024 TO AUGUST 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 13 youth (6 girls, 7 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 # 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476	13
YER I Incomplete: # 0	
YER II Complete: # 66-462, 67-460, 68-473, 69-474	4
TOTAL YOUTH PARTICIPANTS	17

Table 1b: YOUTH REFERRAL ORGANIZATIONS

SD#71: # 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 66-462, 67-460, 68-473, 69-474	17
Glacier View Secondary School: # 465, 469, 470, 472, 475	
Lake Trail Community School: # 464, 467, 474, 476	
Highland Secondary School: # 466, 471, 67-422	
G.P. Vanier Secondary School: # 468, 66-462, 69-454	
Queneesh Elementary School: # 473, 68-473	
TOTAL 1 YOUTH REFERRAL ORGANIZATIONS	17

Table 1c: YOUTH ORGANIZATION INTERCONNECTIONS

YER participants interconnect with other Comox Valley youth services.

SD#71: # 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 66-462, 67-460, 68-473, 69-474	17
The LINC Youth Centre: # 464, 465, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 66-462, 67-460, 68-473, 69-474	15
MCFD: # 464, 465, 468, 470, 471, 472, 473, 476, 67-460, 68-473	10
RCMP: # 464, 468, 470, 471, 472, 474, 67-460	7
SD#71 Counselling: # 464, 465, 466, 468, 66-462, 69-474	6
Wachiay Friendship Centre: # 468, 469, 472, 473, 67-460, 68-474	6
CV Foundry: # 464, 469, 470, 472, 66-462, 67-460	5
Counseling - Source Unknown: # 468, 469	2
John Howard Society: # 468	1
Comox Valley Family Services: # 468	1
North Island Hospital Comox Valley, Psychologist: # 471	1
Step Up Step Down Program Counselling: # 471	1
TOTAL 11 YOUTH ORGANIZATION INTERCONNECTIONS	

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

Table 1d: ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION ORGANIZATIONS

YER I youth participate with local organizations; YER II has two youth and two adults.	YOUTH TOTALS
MARS Wildlife Rescue: # 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 474, 475, 476	12
Oyster River Enhancement Society: # 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 473, 474	10
Millard/Piercy Watershed Stewards: # 467, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476	8
Tsolum River Restoration Society: # 464, 465, 466, 468, 469, 472, 473, 475	8
Morrison Creek Streamkeepers: # 467, 470, 476	3
Ducks Unlimited: # 474	1
Comox Valley Regional District: # 466	1
YER II: City of Courtenay, Millard Nature Park: # 66-462, 67-460	2
YER II: Comox Valley Regional District, Goose Spit Park: # 68-473, 69-474	2
TOTAL 7 ORGANIZATIONS; YER I-366 COMMUNITY MEMBERS (33 average per youth)	

Table 1e: COMMUNITY PRESENTATION LOCATIONS

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

SD#71: # 465, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 475	9
Glacier View Secondary School, Outreach Teacher, Counselor and Student: # 469	
Glacier View Secondary School, Grade 10-12 Class # 470	
Glacier View Secondary School, Principal, Counselor and Student: # 472	
Aspen Park Elementary School, Grade 5/6 Class: # 465	
Aspen Park Elementary School, Grade 6/7 Class: # 471	
Cumberland Community School, Kindergarden Class: # 475	
Lake Trail Community School, Indigenous Education Class: # 467	
Brooklyn Elementary School, Grade 6: # 468	
Queneesh Elementary School, Grade 6: # 473	
Lighthouse Early Learning Centre: # 464, 476	2
Cummings Home, Seniors Assisted Living Facility: # 474	1
Friendly Port Childcare: # 466	1
YER II: City of Courtenay, Millard Nature Park: # 66-462, 67-460	2
YER II: Comox Valley Regional District, Goose Spit Park: # 68-473, 69-474	2
YER I 166 AUDIENCE (13 average per youth); YER II 23 and 25 TOUR PARTICIPANTS	

Table 1f: YER COMPLETION RATES 2004 to 2024

YER I: Total number of 476 youth participants; 425 completed the 20 hour program	89%
YER II: Total number of 69 youth participants; 68 completed the 25 hour program	99%
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, 2024 TO JANUARY 31, 2025.**

This YER budget records expenses, income and other contributions required to deliver this Comox Valley program for vulnerable youth. YER 2024/2025 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	\$9,494.56	MCFD \$17,500.00	Training \$2,000.00
G. Hilliar	\$14,700.00	CVRD \$13,250.00	
T. Gower	\$4,200.00	MOE \$5,000.00	
C. Heim	\$5,300.00	City/Courtenay \$4,200.00	
		CU Interest \$245.39	
Youth Honourarium	\$850.00		
Youth Benefits	\$230.17		
Maintain Website	\$1,995.00		
Mileage	\$2,305.17		
General Supplies	\$971.08		
Office Supplies	\$36.36		
Bank Charges	\$113.05		
TOTALS	\$40,195.39	\$40,195.39	\$2,000.00

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

YER partnered with one hundred and ninety-five groups July 2004 to August 2024.

Twelve groups referred youth clients from July 2004 to August 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-four groups had youth conduct ecological restoration work from July 2004 to August 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
- City of Courtenay <https://www.courtenay.ca/>
- 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
- Ducks Unlimited <https://www.ducks.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

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

YER partnered with one hundred and ninety-five Comox Valley groups July 2004 to August 2024.

Thirty-four groups had youth conduct ecological restoration from July 2004 to August 2024 (cont.):

- Sunrise Rotary Club www.strathconasunrise.bc.ca
- Tsolum River Restoration Society www.tsolumriver.org/

One hundred and forty-nine groups had youth presentations from July 2004 to August 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, Kindergarten
- Brooklyn Elementary School, Grade 5
- Brooklyn Elementary School, Grade 6
- 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
- Creekside Commons www.creeksidecommons.ca
- Cumberland Community School, Counselor
- Cumberland Community School, Strong Start Program
- Cumberland Community School, Kindergarten
- Cumberland Community School, Grade 1

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

YER partnered with one hundred and ninety-five Comox Valley groups July 2004 to August 2024.

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

- 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 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
- Friendly Port Childcare Centre
- 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

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

YER partnered with one hundred and ninety-five Comox Valley groups July 2004 to August 2024.

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

- 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.cvcdcs.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
- 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

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

YER partnered with one hundred and ninety-five Comox Valley groups July 2004 to August 2024.

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

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