

News from CCCS

THE CARIBOO CHILCOTIN CONSERVATION
SOCIETY'S BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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Photo: Wreath Making Workshop at Skyline

our team is a well-oiled **MACHINE**

A message from our Board President,
Daniella Gastaldello



Three CCCS Program Coordinators,
past & present, now working together

Hello everyone,

It seems it's that time again, with the Holiday season upon us, to reflect back on the year as 2022 comes to a wrap and we get ready to open the gift of a new year in a few short weeks!

(I know you, of all people, will appreciate the puns, Brianna.)

I would like to start out my reflections by sending out a huge and well-deserved thank you to Amber Gregg. Amber, it was sad to see you leave the Program Coordinator position this year, but I think I can speak for everyone when I say that I am so thankful to see you still a part of the board!

You did an amazing job in the position, and we are all so grateful for how supportive you have been in ensuring the transition went smoothly. Your guidance and help showing Amandah the ropes are so appreciated. Thank you!

Amandah, you have been an absolutely wonderful addition to the society, and I have to say you have done a stellar job already in the time you've been with us.

You are so organized, and have brought some wonderful ideas (such as Forest Fridays) to the society already! We all appreciate your warm and friendly personality, and are so thankful to have you here.

It was also wonderful to learn that the Conservation Society social media presence has grown so well - keep up the great work Vanessa! Social media can be such a valuable tool for keeping the public informed and engaged, but also is a wonderful educational resource; and I think the numbers clearly demonstrate we are utilizing its power well.

I do have to admit, I am especially fond of the Trash Talk Tuesday segment each week, so thank you Mary and Oliver for always finding an entertaining and fun way to bring waste education to the social channels!

Now as much as I would like to continue thanking all of you and your contributions, I have been told to keep it short, and I'm a rambler, so I will send out my last thank-you as a "group thank-you" to everyone else.

This year has been full of so many wonderful events and memories, and it also presented many opportunities to grow across the board. I am very thankful to have the opportunity to continue to be a part of such a fun and awesome group of people. And I'm very much looking forward to what's to come.

So, a very Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones, I hope you all have a warm and happy holiday! We will see you all next year!

Thank you,
Daniella



CCCS Wreath Making Workshop at Skyline



The Return to Normal

Water Wise Update

By Jenny Howell

December again and -20 outside with a foot of snow on the ground, as it should be. Coming from a damp, rainy climate I have never quite adapted to the length and temperature of a Cariboo winter, but it is unsettling when the weather isn't behaving as it should, so I still prefer being cold but reassured.

I am happy to report that we had a full deal, normal fall Gavin program with kids eating spaghetti, racing around camp at night playing man tracker and knocking on our door at 9 pm to make homesick phone calls to parents.

You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone as they say and while the day programs the last couple of years have kept things going, having classes settle into camp for three days is better for everyone, especially the kids.

The modules sponsored by CCCS this year were Wood Wide Web and Aquatic Insects; taught by myself and Sandra Campbell, (a retired teacher from 150 Mile school).

We had 20 classes come through with each staying for two nights and rotating through 6 modules in total; despite some coughing and sneezing kids we had no significant problems with staff sickness and everything went very smoothly.

The Gavin program finished at the end of October and I then had two grade 7 class field trips to the Community Forest on very cold blustery days. Most of the kids were pretty game and with a fire going and keeping them moving it was manageable. I also learned what not to do again with a class in November (like standing still and talking in one spot for too long, or using the watershed module because it freezes on the spot!).

The Community Forest has asked us to take on their education programs, which is a good fit as we were already running our own field trips up there based around the hydrology trail signs. So with some tweaking, I can continue with what we are already doing and then add in some forestry aspects, such as which species at risk they have to manage for. They will cover the busing and give us a fee per class, providing CCCS with another relatively predictable and stable source of funding.

"The Earth (Re)Cycles", the new 6 km trail at Gavin Lake



I have also had a couple of adult presentations; one to the Elder College and one to the Scout Island field naturalists this fall. I decided to let the current wave of respiratory viruses go through the schools without being anywhere near; my mild April Covid infection left lingering muscle aches that have still not resolved completely, and am in no rush to find out what will happen next infection.

Classes also get wrapped up with Christmas busyness through December so it is not a great time for teachers to book Water Wise. I have booked 18 classes so far in January and several in March when I am hoping things have settled down a bit.

We also have ten Grade 7 classes signed up for the Earth Challenge again. In 2022 we had a total of 72 classes reaching about 1534 students and adults.

This December, I am focusing on re- doing some teaching materials, freshening up lesson plans, some preparatory Earth Challenge work and researching and writing more Tribune articles.

We are also reprinting the Earth Challenge booklet in January so have been editing/ updating/ rewriting to keep it current.

Finally, as most of you probably know already, we hired Amandah Cullum to replace Amber as office coordinator.

The transition has gone very smoothly thanks to both of them- Amandah for jumping in full throttle and Amber for volunteering her time to support Amandah as needed.

I have been through three of these hand-offs now and am so appreciative of the way that they have each been handled, with barely a ripple in the slightly mysterious workings of the CCCS office and allowing the rest of us to continue on in our own tracks (thanks Marg, Vanessa and Amber!).

The best of the season to everyone and thanks for all the support.

Jenny

On August 16, the Boitano Day Camp crew hit the streets with CCCS team members Brianna and Amandah to share awareness about summer water usage, handing out door hangers and learning about xeriscape gardens, water drip lines, and rain barrels.



Water is life. Snow is, too.

By Vanessa Moberg & Jenny Howell

We think of snowpack as our winter water storage. During spring and summer, snowpack melts and gradually releases this stockpile which:

- recharges groundwater aquifers (giving us more drinking water),
- replenishes soil moisture (giving us tillable land for food production),
- and fills reservoirs and rivers (generating electricity for many British Columbians).

Aside from the direct benefit to humans, the replenishment of our lakes, rivers, and streams provides innumerable indirect benefits to us via healthy habitats and ecosystems.

Fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, forests, and even the ocean far away from us all rely on the snowpack.

Here's the key: because snow melts slowly, it allows deeper penetration of water into the soil, preventing erosion and runoff. It also provides a steady supply of freshwater to slowly refill rivers which can last through the summer. At least that's the ideal - suddenly high spring temperatures can affect this equilibrium.

So when we're shoveling the driveway - again! - or when the spring is a little cooler than we'd like, we offer up some gratitude that things are working for us in exactly the way that they should be.

Source: [Environmental Reporting BC, Climate Change, Change in Snowpack in B.C. \(1950-2014\).](#)





Waste Audits Paying Off

Waste Wise Update
By Oliver Berger

The CCCS crew has been working side by side with the City of Williams Lake over the past 2 years to prepare and execute an effective audit plan for the curbside recycling bin pick up program.

We completed 4 weeks in total over a period of 4 months walking bin to bin checking the contents. If we found curbside recycling mistakes we placed our lovely 'oops!' stickers on the bin with educational tips for residents on how to improve.

We had many discussions with many homeowners about their waste and what they can do with it, every waste educator's dream ... We love talkin' trash!

One of the beauties of living in a small town is that word seems to travel fast and our valiant efforts seem to have paid off. Comparing stats from our contamination studies in 2021 compared to the results from 2022 we have seen a dramatic improvement in the recycling habits of the residents of Williams Lake!

We saw an increase in the number of "Gold Star" bins along with a huge decrease in the number of heavily contaminated bins. When the households with heavy contamination could be re-audited, there was a noticeable improvement most of the time. It seems that behaviours ARE changing - some good news to end 2022!

We have also been busy with the Potato House Project's latest renovation project which left the house and property closed to the public. Alas we kept the compost program running full tilt and have had many community members continuously drop off their food waste for our diversion program. When on site we always engage to discuss the hurdles of food waste and how people can compost at home themselves. We have seen many new faces use our program which means our new community members have heard of us and want to learn more.

This year we decided to partner up with Vitacore in Burnaby to assist them with their collection of used face masks from around the province.

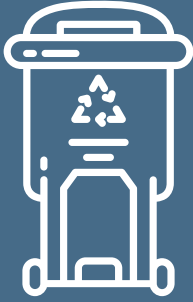
Some Williams Lake businesses took part and we built small unique collection boxes for them. Most importantly when mandates eased the hospital and other larger medical institutions jumped on board and now we have more masks than we know how to deal with. These are problems we enjoy. It reminds us that people out there really want to do the right thing when it comes to managing their waste and we will continue to do our very best to provide all the answers everyone needs!

Follow us on our social media channels to keep up with the latest updates, especially on Tuesdays when bring the #wastewise / #caribooconservation connection to your feed on #TrashTalkTuesday !!!

ig: @ccc_society
fb: Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society



Where TO RECYCLE What



CURBSIDE BLUE BIN

ONLY CERTAIN ITEMS CAN BE THROWN INTO YOUR BLUE BIN:

- ✓ tin cans
- ✓ newspaper
- ✓ cardboard
- ✓ paper products
- ✓ rigid plastic packaging
- ✓ paper cups

- ✗ no styrofoam
- ✗ no plastic bags
- ✗ no glass



RECYCLING DEPOT

DEPOTS USUALLY ACCEPT ALL BLUE BIN ITEMS LISTED ON THE LEFT AS WELL AS:

- ✓ glass
- ✓ styrofoam
- ✓ plastic bags
- ✓ flexible plastic packaging
- ✓ These depots often accept other items for recycling as well.



SPECIAL LOCATIONS

MANY ITEMS HAVE SPECIAL DISPOSAL LOCATIONS SUCH AS:

- ✓ car batteries, oil tires, filters & coolant
- ✓ electronics
- ✓ lightbulbs
- ✓ medications
- ✓ printer ink
- ✓ propane cylinders
- ✓ paints
- ✓ pesticides

When in doubt, find out in the Recyclepedia!
rcbc.ca/recyclepedia/search



Other Waste Wise News

By Vanessa Moberg

Veggies 4 All

We had nearly 60 participants (a new record!) on this year's gleaning day at Soda Creek Sweet Corn, including two SD 27 classes, and volunteers from the Greenhope Society in Quesnel, WLDCU, and CCCS. Approximately 2,000 lbs of veggies were gathered - big thanks, once again, to the Kaufmans! Thanks to Ms. Campsall, Amandah, and Brianna for the photos.



Mitten Matchmaking

Back by popular demand! Mary is collecting single mittens of all shapes, colours, and sizes. She then does her best to make odd, but fairly matched, pairs for donation to people that need them. You'll find the collection box at our office.





12 Tips We Learned From Our Followers During Waste Reduction Week

For the second year in a row, we held a social media contest during Waste Reduction Week, asking followers to share their tips and answer questions. Two lucky participants won our “Experiences Not Things” prize packs which included a gift card to a local restaurant, family passes to Paradise Cinemas, and family passes to the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex. Thanks to all the participants for being so Waste Wise!

Kari-Jo and her family will not re-buy anything before attempting to repair it.

Myrna makes beautiful family quilts out of old clothes.

Melissa reuses heavy zip top packaging (like for oats, nuts, etc.) as freezer bags.

Alex cleans out the fridge every week to make sure nothing goes to waste.

Brenda cuts up old plastic or metal blinds and uses them for plant labels.

Cherisse uses electronics until they die, and then properly recycles them.

Jenny and her neighbours lend tools and equipment to each other.

Pamela freezes or dehydrates any food nearing its prime.

Mrs. Firth and friends share books, puzzles, and “fancy dishes” with each other.

Sandra cans her garden produce and uses worm composting for any waste.

Nikki makes cute kids' nightgowns from thrifted retro pillow cases.

Eva chooses a minimalist lifestyle and has a no new clothing pledge.



Earth Friendly Holiday Fun

Being still a little hesitant to hold the Earth Friendly Holiday event in person, we brought our wreath-making kits to the classroom! CCCS's super awesome volunteer elves gathered natural materials like boughs (fir, pine, juniper, and cedar), pinecones, berries, oregon grape leaves, and burlap. Our team then prepared old bicycle rims, despokeying them and wrapping them with wire, and Amandah delivered the kits and helped teach the classes. Several classes in the area participated including Mountview Elementary and Skyline, both pictured here. All participants were super excited to share their creations with families, caregivers, and loved ones at home.



Earth Friendly Crafting Pays Off

In addition to the classroom wreaths, we held an online craft-making contest. Entrants were asked to make a wreath or other holiday craft primarily with natural materials (fresh boughs, grasses, bark, twigs, berries, rocks, etc.) or from recycled/upcycled materials or from a combination of both. We had lots of creative entries, but the winner by random draw was Cheynna Stephenson of Quesnel. She won a local Christmas dinner gift package, including local meat, local veggies, local preserves, and all the local trimmings all purchased through Long Table Grocery. In the spirit of the season, the prize included another full package to give away. Cheynna chose to give her extra prize pack to her mother which we thought was SO sweet.



Big Year for Skates 4 All

Our Skates 4 All program has been extra busy this year - we've given out 131 pairs of skates and counting! Amandah has been a real trooper! Our thanks to Caribou Ski Source for Sports for sharpening each pair. Thanks also to the three locations housing our collection bins: Total Ice, Delainey's Mall, and the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex.



Grants & Funding Update

By Amandah Cullum

City of Williams Lake:

The City of Williams Lake provides two fees-for-service for our Water and Waste Wise programs. The first allows us to run the Water Wise program in the schools and community of Williams Lake. This funding (\$42,000) assures the continuity of the education program which engages all ages in water conservation and provides tools for easy ways to save water. The second is for our city-based Waste Wise program, an education program focused on reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink (\$35,000). We are working with the City to include regular audits of the Recycling program in Williams Lake, for an additional fee. We have applied for renewal as of September 2022 and have heard news that the Water Wise program funding has been renewed and are awaiting approval for the Waste Wise program.

Cariboo Regional District:

Our CRD fee-for-service is a three-year contract (\$40,465), with a 2-year option to renew, which has come to an end in May 2022. In June 2022, we were direct awarded the contract with the same terms. The three-year term is June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2025, and the two-year option to renew is June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2027. In addition to all of our regular Waste Wise work, this contract allows us wages and kilometres to travel around the region with our classroom Waste Wise Program and to conduct more food waste education and compost coaching.

Community Gaming Grant:

Our annual Community Gaming application (\$25,000) was approved for our Watershed Health program – which includes Water Wise classes for regional schools and other watershed education – and our Sustainable Life Education program – which includes our Outdoor Education modules plus community waste reduction programs such as Bikes for All, Skates for All, Veggies for All, Earth Friendly Holiday Event and more!

Fisheries and Oceans Canada:

We received \$5,500 in funding from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). This fund supports many of our Water Wise initiatives including Classroom Education, Xeriscape Gardening, Shoreline Awareness, Storm Drain Awareness, and many others!

Other Funding Opportunities:

With our BC Parks guide up for reprint this year, we were able to reach out to the community for funding opportunities to cover the cost of the edits and reprint of this very popular guide! We received \$2500 from the Pacific Salmon Foundation, \$1500 from the Ecosystems Restoration Committee, \$500 from the Williams Lake Log Haulers Association, \$1250 from the WL Credit Union Community Grant, and \$1000 from the West Fraser Truckers Association. We were also awarded \$1000 from the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society to run a community photo contest with prizes. This gives us the opportunity to use local talent, create community connections, and freshen up the guide's pages.



Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society

Memberships & Donations

102-197 Second Ave N
Williams Lake, BC V2G1Z5

Our organization runs by the power of thousands of volunteer hours, memberships, and donations.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm!

For an annual membership or donation, please fill out the form below and either mail or drop off to the CCCS office. If a membership is not right for you, please consider passing it along to a friend or making a one-time donation instead!

You can now sign up for a membership or donation online!

DONATE

Circle Membership Type:

Individual: \$15.00 Family*: \$20.00 Senior/Student: \$5.00 Group/Business: \$30.00

*If you checked "family" membership, how many people in your family? ____
(If left blank, we will assume your membership covers 4 people.)

Donations:

\$20.00 ____ \$35.00 ____ \$50.00 ____ \$100 ____ Other amount _____

Name: _____

Contact (for Business only): _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Note: CCCS memberships begin June 1st and run to May 31st. Midterm membership fees will be adjusted accordingly. Membership fees and donations can be made via cash, cheque (made payable to the Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society), or online right here.