



Cariboo Chilcotin  
Conservation Society

SUMMER 2021

# NEWS FROM CCCS

THE CARIBOO CHILCOTIN CONSERVATION  
SOCIETY'S BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER



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a unique year in  
**CONSERVATION**  
A message from our Board President,  
Bill Lloyd



Welcome to summer everyone and continuing easing of pandemic restrictions. Someone was asking me the other day if things were getting back to normal at C.C.C.S. I can't remember how I replied at the time but later I thought "normal" would not be a word that has any relevance when describing any of our five employees or their activities. I can think of hundreds of other adjectives such as ( inspiring, kind, enthusiastic, intelligent, etc.) but somehow normal does not fit and that my friends is a good thing. That is also the very quality that makes our outfit special and I think for some crazy reason why we all seem to like each other. I've been around long enough to know that this is not always the case with organizations like ours and I feel very fortunate to have been a small part of this fantastic group.

The pandemic constraints have challenged everyone in many different ways but it has also inspired us to deliver education differently out of necessity. I think programs like "Trash Talk Tuesdays" and more school field trips have engaged the community and strengthened our role in it . We see a renewed interest in gardening and outdoor activity in general throughout the city. More people seem to be examining their global footprint and although these are all more or less baby steps they are necessary if we are to combat climate change and the many resource issues facing us. I think we should all be inspired by the recent grassroots movement to protect old growth forests in B.C.

Most of us feel powerless to change much with the political and economic concerns that confront us but we are ultimately responsible for our own impact on mother earth. If we all keep making small changes in our lifestyle perhaps we can create a new "normal" that will get us to where we want to go.

Enjoy the summer everyone

CCCS Board President  
Bill Lloyd



# WATER WISE UPDATE

By Jenny Howell

Checking last year's June newsletter, it is nice to report that this school year exceeded predictions! We were able to run all our programs, at close to our usual numbers. The outside Water Wise module (the Water Wise Olympics) was put on hold until warmer spring days after realizing that teaching shivering kids was not that productive, but then it flourished and gained traction. The Gavin winter program went ahead with day trips, and we had 9 schools come out for Snow Science, Animal Tracking (on skis) and a Predator/Prey module on snow shoes.

Then it was time to start in on Earth Challenge. After our online pilot last year we were well prepared to try it on a larger scale. Nine grade 7 classes signed up and most instructors delivered their initial classes in person, outside. Invasive Species made a video that teachers could show their class.

We kept last year's project component, with final marks split between performance on the quiz and project scores. We ran Zoom quizzes individually with each class; the nice thing about this route was that all the kids participated in the quiz compared to our previous in-person 'gym' version. Teachers split their classes into teams for each subject (Water, Waste, Air, Ecosystems and Invasives) and each team then consulted amongst themselves to answer the appropriate questions. With almost 200 kids, there were many projects to go through and evaluate, but it was rewarding to see the kids enthusiasm and there were lots of group projects which made things more manageable. Prizes this year were a mixture of field trips and gift certificates to the Farmer's market and the Bean Counter; classes no longer have to pay for their field trip buses, so some classes already had many adventures booked and preferred the gift certificates.



Through May and June it was back to field trips. With Scout Island short staffed, no access to the river valley and Covid restrictions limiting City tours, this was the year to focus on the Community Forest trail. It is now my new favourite field trip. I had water-based activities, originally planned on the theme of every sign, but soon realized it was better to take more time and focus on 4 or 5 of them. Kids enjoyed just being up in the forest and there was lots of positive feedback. I also got some water-testing trips in with Lac la Hache at their lake and Likely school at Boswell lake. A good chunk of the town also now has freshly painted fish by storm drains, thanks to the Resource Room at Lake City Secondary and Mrs. Neufeld's grade 2 Cataline class.

So for those interested in the numbers, we covered 72 Water Wise classes this year between Gavin programs, class sessions, Earth Challenge and field trips. That compares to a normal year of between 80-100, so way above my initial expectations for the year. The extra time allowed me to continue to research and write regular Tribune articles on a wide range of conservation topics as well as the activities of the Conservation Society and I plan to continue that into the next school year.

Many of us have now had our second vaccines, restrictions are easing and the current covid outlook looks locally promising. Thanks to the CCCS staff and Board for the mutual support and encouragement as we found ways to continue to deliver our programs through a challenging year. Writing this as heat records are breaking everywhere, our education role seems more important than ever and I hope to be back in school classrooms and hallways next year to reach as many kids as possible.

**Jenny Howell**  
**Executive Director**  
**Water Wise Instructor**



# WASTE WISE UPDATE

by Oliver Berger

It has definitely been an interesting year. Hanging on to the aftermaths of a pandemic in our world, our conservation work had been dwindled down from group workshops and classroom visits to pretty much all online. As the months of 2021 progressed restrictions slowly loosened and in turn the waste education sector ramped up big time!

A major new task for us this year in the Waste-Wise sector of CCCS was carrying out recycling audits for the City of Williams Lake. Mary and Oliver are experienced waste sorters and educators and this time we took to the streets of town for 2 weeks opening blue lids. We were geared up with reflective vests, clipboards, garbage pickers and our smiles digging through the curbside recycling carts looking for 'contamination'. Contamination for this type of curbside recycling program would be items like plastic bags, Styrofoam, glass, scrap metal, hoses, ropes, dirty material or unaccepted items like covid masks, 6-pack rings and clothing.

Clean and orderly bins were awarded a 'Gold Star Recycler' sticker. Those who did not make the cut got a friendly 'OOPS' note explaining which items were not accepted and why. We had many personal interactions with many folks during our time on the curbside with mostly positive results. It is always best to explain the ins and outs of any recycling program one on one with the public, it really goes a long way. Inevitably they always have questions, which of course we had the answers for!

The Cariboo Regional District is tasked once again with creating a refreshed Solid Waste Management Plan. In doing so a Solid Waste Advisory Committee must first be created to engage with the public on all issues and source as much public opinion and information as possible to create a plan that works best for our community. Our team is joining full force with Oliver representing the Technical Advisory Committee for Organics and Mary representing the Public Advisory Committee as a voting member. Education roll outs and public engagement has begun. We have developed a survey that was sent out to as many Cariboo Regional District residents as possible and the regional district is currently comprising the recently collected data.



# WLFN Community Clean-Up



# **GRANTS & FUNDING UPDATE**

**City of Williams Lake:** The first of our two Fee for Services assists us in the running of the Water Wise program in the schools and community of Williams Lake. This funding (\$38,600) 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 (\$24,500). We renewed this contract for a three-year term (2020-2022) for both of these programs at the beginning of 2020.

**Cariboo Regional District:** We also receive a Regional Waste Wise Fee-for-Service contract (\$40,465) with the CRD for a two year term (June 2020- May 2022). 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 recently submitted 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!



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**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 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Other amount \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

-----  
Contact (for Business only)

Tel:

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.