

A photograph of a river with a waterfall cascading over rocks, surrounded by dense evergreen forest under a blue sky with clouds.

Annual Report 2020

Report from the Chair

As with every other non-profit, Covid-19 has affected the Rivershed Society of BC (Rivershed); but the pandemic has also really highlighted the resilience and adaptability of the Rivershed Society's board and staff, who have found new, creative and safe ways to continue reaching out across the entire Fraser Watershed. This time has been instrumental in allowing us to explore and build on the work we have achieved over the past 25 years and has resulted in a strong vision for the future.

Rivershed is fortunate to have a highly qualified and engaged Board. Thank you for sharing your expertise and passion, for helping to steer Rivershed in the right direction, for your interesting and relevant conversations during Board meetings, and for supporting staff in working towards a resilient Fraser Watershed.

Thank you to our hard-working Executive Director Justine, and staff: Roberta, Richelle, Miki, Kirstin, Sarah, Jane, Chelsea, Sierra, Lexi, Hannah, Laura, Talon, Brendan and Christopher. Without you, we could not have pivoted during this pandemic to have such a successful 2020.

Thank you to our partners. Working together on various projects allows us all to grow and share resources for the ultimate goal of protecting the health of the Fraser River. Thank you to our donors, members, volunteers and supporters! You enable us to connect, protect and restore the Fraser Watershed.

As the new Chair of Rivershed, I would also like to thank Fin Donnelly for his visionary leadership over the past 25 years and wish him well in his new political endeavours.

Finally, I would like to dedicate our work in 2020 to three Watershed Defenders: Kukuwpi7 Perry Redan, Curtis Culp and Jay Lundy. All were important figures whose extensive knowledge and tireless work, defending the health of the Fraser River, has left us richer and wiser.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim North'.

Kim North
Chair of the Board
Rivershed Society of BC

Dedications in memory of Watershed Defenders

Jay Lundy

Vancouver (Lower Fraser)

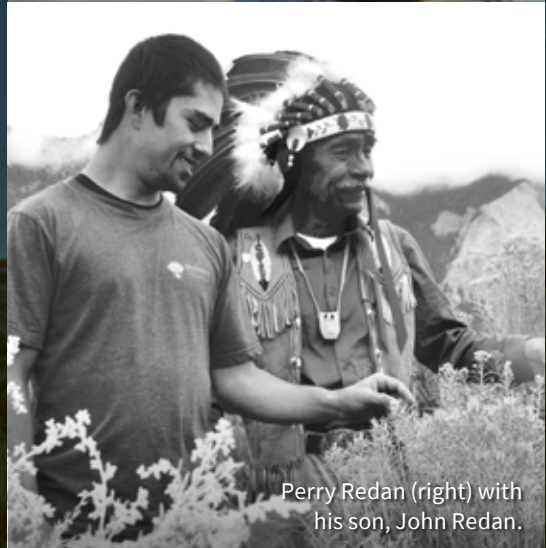
Jay Lundy was larger than life. He was full of energy and ideas. He was a story-teller, trainer and motivational speaker who owned three companies: Voyageur Adventures, Spark Innovation and Eagle Valley Retreat. Jay supplied his 35 foot voyageur canoes to Rivershed's annual Sustainable Living Leadership Program and FraserFEST events. Jay was a huge fan of the canoe, team building and Canada's story. He was in his element with paddle in hand or in front of a ten foot map of Canada – he will be missed.



Perry Redan

Sekw'el'was (Fraser Canyon)

Grand Chief Kukwpi7 Perry Redan was a knowledge keeper of the St'at'imc Nation and Sekw'el'was community—no one knew more about salmon than him. Perry was a quiet fighter and a powerful leader for his nation, for salmon and for the Fraser River. Over the 35+ years he was Chief of Sekw'el'was, Perry attended countless government meetings, royal commissions, hydro negotiations and through them all remained steadfast in his conviction that “we never sold our land - and we were born with the right to fish”. He worked tirelessly and would enter meetings without notes, only the knowledge he carried within. He was a strong supporter of Rivershed and each year came to welcome the SLLP as they rafted into Lillooet. We were honoured to have him act as keynote speaker at many of the Salmon in the Canyon FraserFEST events.



Perry Redan (right) with his son, John Redan.

Curtis Culp

Dunster (Fraser Headwaters)

Curtis Culp was a true gentleman, gracious, kind, knowledgeable, helpful, welcoming, generous, passionate about salmon, hard-working and humble. Curtis was a hummingbird whisperer. He loved his home in the Robson Valley. He loved his family, and he loved his Bonnie. Curtis and Bonnie welcomed our founder, Fin Donnelly, and the Rivershed Society of BC into their lives and home each year since 1995; our Sustainable Living Leadership Program stops at their beautiful farm house in Dunster each summer. Rivershed will truly miss Curtis. Our deepest condolences to his wife, Bonnie, and Curtis' entire family.



Photo by Jeffrey Gibbs

Report from our Executive Director

A Year in Review

2020 was my first year as Executive Director of Rivershed, and what a year it was! Like so many other organizations, COVID 19 affected our programming. However, I am proud to have led a team that faced the pandemic with tenacity and adaptiveness.

While the pandemic presented hurdles, it also afforded Rivershed an opportunity to pivot towards new programs and partnerships focused on achieving our ambitious goal of transforming the Fraser into a resilient watershed.

Watershed CPR

We went back to the drawing board and thought about how our community across the Fraser Watershed could have the most impact. Rivershed is a leader, and one of the ways we lead is by bringing people together to work towards a resilient future.

Our Watershed CPR goals, outlined below, will lead to a resilient future for the entire Fraser Watershed, and I am excited to work with our network, staff and board to make this vision a reality.



Watershed CPR

Vision

Working with partners, by 2030 we will:

Connect 100,000 Watershed Defenders to help conserve the Fraser Watersheds,

Protect 30% of the Fraser Watershed, and

Restore 5% of Fraser Watershed habitat.



A screen shot from our 2020 Winter Social.

Connect

COVID-19 may have forced us to cancel our Sustainable Living Leadership Program, the River Clinics, and our FraserFEST community events, but it did not stop Rivershed from connecting across the Fraser Watershed.

Rivershed Expansion

Rivershed expanded its summer staff through Canada Summer Jobs and welcomed three new permanent staff.

New Partnerships

Rivershed partnered with Raincoast, ACT SFU, and the Georgia Strait Alliance to create the Adapting for Ecological Resilience Network. This network brings relevant groups in the Lower Fraser together to strengthen knowledge and priorities in order to facilitate the implementation of more nature-based solutions in the region.

Strengthened Networks

Rivershed is actively working towards strengthening our community network by developing a Watershed Defender Movement throughout the Fraser watershed. In 2020, we made sure to connect with community members in each region to hear what Watershed CPR projects they are excited about and what their biggest concerns are. At the end of the year, we hosted our annual Winter Social but in a virtual format, which meant we got to visit with our team from across the Watershed and their families – both the human and animal family members!

Protect

Working with our regional partners, Rivershed has begun to identify protected areas and active protection campaigns throughout the watershed.

An active campaign we are supporting is Defend the Heart of the Fraser.

The Heart of the Fraser provides prime spawning habitat for salmon and white sturgeon and serves as a nursery for millions of salmon fry every year. Developers cleared a massive amount of forest on both Herrling Island and Carey Island, then applied to build bridges to bring agriculture to the islands which, if approved, would have led to the destruction of critical fish habitat. In 2019, the bridge permit was denied and the owners of Carey Island withdrew their application.

There is now a major effort to secure, protect and restore these islands by:

Acquiring key private properties with sensitive habitats;

Pushing DFO to consider these islands for protection as Canada's first Ecologically Sensitive Area; and

Working with the Province to create a comprehensive process of collaboration.



Restore

\$27 Million for Watershed Security

Rivershed is playing a leadership role on the coordinating committee of the BC Watershed Security Coalition (BCWSC), a non-partisan, diverse coalition of organizations representing British Columbians of all walks of life. The BCWSC formed in recognition that in every region of the province, healthy watersheds are fundamental to human health, security, prosperity and reconciliation.

The coalition was instrumental in securing \$27 million in funding for watershed restoration projects in BC as part of the provincial government's economic recovery response to COVID-19.

Investing in BC's watershed security puts British Columbians back to work and make BC communities and Nations stronger, safer and better able to prosper. We will continue to see the outcomes of this investment in healthy watersheds through 2021 as restoration projects all over the province are completed.

The BCWSC is working to secure a permanent watershed security strategy and fund for the province to ensure the long-term health, well-being, and prosperity of British Columbians.



Foodlands Corridor Restoration Program

Through the generous support of Dr. Bronners Family Foundation, we were able to start work on an exciting new program. The Foodlands Corridor Restoration Program (Foodlands) seeks to ecologically and culturally restore corridors throughout the Fraser watershed in partnership with local Indigenous communities, farmers and ranchers, and steward continuous care of them. Guided by a decolonization framework and a holistic understanding of environmental and human health, restoration of these corridors will engage both traditional and western knowledge.

At the end of 2020 we were thrilled to receive a grant from the Healthy Watershed Initiative—part of the \$27 Million for Watershed Security—allowing us to plan a Foodlands restoration pilot site. The pilot site will be completed in 2021 and is a full partnership between Rivershed and Seyem Qwantlen, the business subsidiary of the Kwantlen First Nation. This project brings together a private land owner, the Kwantlen Nation, Langley Environmental Partners Society, Salmon River Enhancement Society and Kerr Wood Leidal Consulting to create new off-channel Coho salmon rearing habitat on the Salmon River. The first step to creating the inaugural Foodlands corridor.



Lower Fraser Restoration Story Map

With UBC Sustainability Scholar, Lexi Maxwell, Rivershed developed a report visualizing a proposed restoration project at Sturgeon Bank in Richmond. The report, *A Vision for a Restored Lower Fraser*, presents the potential of restoration work in the Lower Fraser and supports partner organizations in achieving Rivershed’s goal of restoring 5% of the Fraser Watershed.

We aim to expand this tool into all regions of the Fraser to support the protection and restoration efforts of our partners.

Looking to 2021 and beyond

The Rivershed team is actively working to establish a base to achieving our Watershed CPR goals. Developing the Watershed Defender Partner Network is our first step. This allows us to ensure our Protect and Restore efforts are based on Indigenous and community knowledge – helping ensure we reach the resilient future we believe in.

2021 will see the implementation of our virtual Watershed CPR Education platform, our pilot Foodlands Corridor Restoration Site, River Clinics in the Lower Fraser, a beautiful new Rivershed website – and so much more!

A big thank you to all our supporters, board members and staff – our vision of a resilient Fraser Watershed is only possible with an incredible community of Watershed Defenders. That’s you!



Sincerely,

Justine Nelson

Justine Nelson
Executive Director
Rivershed Society of BC

Thank You to Our 2020 Donors

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Thank You to Our 2020 Funders and Sponsors



Canada Summer Jobs



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We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia.



Victoria foundation

Kwantlen Student Association

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Earthwild Consulting
Fraser River Raft
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Lillooet Naturalist
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TuwaneK Hotel

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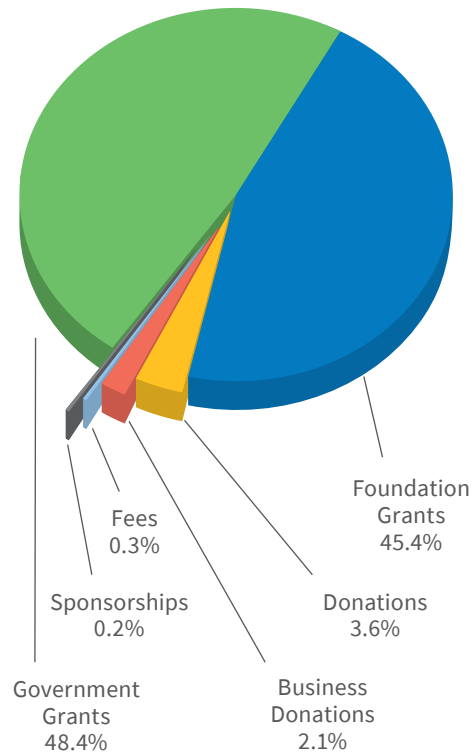
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Simon Zukowski



Financial Summary

2020 Revenue

Business Donations	\$7,500
Fees	\$1,110
Sponsorships	\$800
Government grants	\$170,405
Foundation grants	\$159,789
Donations	\$12,663
Total Revenue	\$352,267



2020 Expenditures

Watershed CPR Education ...	\$44,547
Rivershed Stories	\$45,958
FraserFEST	\$36,487
Watershed CPR	\$145,856
Foodlands	\$22,467
River Clinics	\$17,853
Fraser Watershed Initiative ..	\$21,059
Total Expenses	\$334,227

