



2002
Annual Report



*Dedicated to Cameron Lipp
1960-2002*



Our Vision: Nature, society and *economy* in balance within healthy riversheds.

Our Mission: We prepare people to live sustainably within healthy riversheds.

Through public education and leadership programs, community initiatives, communications and outreach and our Healthy Riversheds Fund we encourage people to live within the ecological limits of riversheds.

2002/03 Board of Directors



L to R: Fin Donnelly, Christopher Seguin, Greg Smith, Lorraine Savage, Naomi Tabata, Janis Olsen, Dave Palidwor and Jim Mattson.

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Fin Donnelly, Executive Director
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Message from the Chair

2002 was a year of both tremendous achievement and great loss for the Rivershed Society of British Columbia.

We continued to offer our popular programs and had many successes.

Some notable achievements from this past year include:

- Further development of the Board Committees, as well as the Executive Director's Education Committee.
- Continued development and delivery of our successful program offerings, including Rivershed Education, ECO Workshops and Paddle Leadership Programs.
- A second annual Riversheds of the Fraser Forum was extremely successful bringing together stewardship groups from around the Fraser River Basin.
- We conducted a Coquitlam Rivershed Eco-Footprint Study – which has the potential to lead to similar studies in other riversheds.
- We initiated the Sustainable Living Leadership Program with great success at training our future leaders in the study of sustainability and stewardship.
- The 6th Annual Spirit of the Salmon Feast held in Coquitlam at the Pinetree Community Centre.

Unfortunately, Cameron Lipp passed away suddenly in November. He was a wonderful friend, and an exceptional Program Coordinator who worked tirelessly for the RSBC. He is dearly missed by all who knew him.

The Rivershed Society of B.C. is dependant on the work of our very capable executive director, Fin Donnelly and to the outstanding service provided by the Board of Directors, volunteers and supporters. Thanks to you all.

As we move into 2003, we take a closer look at our strategic directions and our organizational structure as we continue to strive to educate people how to live sustainably within healthy riversheds.



Naomi Tabata
Chair
Rivershed Society of British Columbia

Executive Director's Report

Over the past year, global events continued to detract Society's energy away from developing a sustainable and just society.

Provincially, cuts to environmental programs and services continued to hinder progress and by the year-end those cuts were already beginning to take their toll.

Unfortunately the immediate future does not look much more promising, finding support for the environment will most likely continue to worsen before it improves.

Although 2002 did not bring much in the way of good news, globally or provincially, there was a positive side to all this dreary news. Many people are questioning the direction we, as a society, are heading – and they are starting to speak out.

It is getting harder for people to deny the real connection of their actions to the impact they are having on their environment. Still, much is needed in the way of educating people so that they fully comprehend these connections.

The Rivershed Society of British Columbia also experienced similar turmoil in 2002. Cameron Lipp, our dedicated Program Coordinator, died suddenly when his heart gave out while playing hockey one evening in November.

The day before his death, Cameron and I were out paddling on Harrison Lake with a group of young leaders – it was a brilliant sunny day – and Cameron and I joked, he at the helm of the large 34' foot canoe, how grand life can be.

Also, in November, I was elected to Council for the City of Coquitlam, which will also have an impact on the Society's operations in the coming year.

However, given this turmoil, I am still very confident that things will begin to sort themselves out. The RSBC has taken on some interesting initiatives and is continuing to build momentum as a strong service provider within the Fraser River Basin.

Thanks to the work of a dedicated Board of Directors, hard-working committee members and volunteers we continue to make progress toward sustainability within the basin.

In spite of this turbulence, last year proved to be a very successful year and 2003 is looking even better.

On a final note, we will all miss the laughter, quick wit and dedication of Cameron – but I believe his spirit will live on in our work.

Fin Donnelly (*Iyim Yewyews*)
Executive Director
Rivershed Society of BC



Rivershed Society of British Columbia

A Year In Review ...

2002, year two of our ten-year Healthy Riversheds Strategy, was our strongest year to date. We have firmly established ourselves as a capable education, stewardship and sustainability service provider within the Fraser River Basin.

Capacity Building - *Strengthening the Network*

- **2nd Annual Riversheds Forum** – 33 Fraser River Basin stewards once again gathered at the Hills Guest Ranch in 108 Mile House to share rivershed stories, learn about issues and strategize regional initiatives.
- A \$3,500 **Healthy Riversheds Fund** grant went to the Fraser Headwaters Alliance to support their conservation and stewardship work.

Communications & Outreach – *Getting the Word Out*

- **B.C. Rivers Day Music Festival** – Over 2,500 people attended this year's festival on the banks of the Fraser and Nechako Rivers.
- **6th Annual Spirit of the Salmon Feast** – was held at Coquitlam's Pinetree Community Centre on the Thanks Giving weekend.
- We continued with our **media coverage** this year, including articles written by Sustainable Living Leadership Program graduates.

Conservation & Stewardship - *Caring for Riversheds*

- **Coquitlam Rivershed eco-Footprint Project** – We hired a student to determine the ecological footprint of Coquitlam Rivershed residents. This project received favourable local newspaper coverage.

Public Education - *Understanding Sustainability*

- **ECO (Environmental Career Options) Works Program** – entered its second year and continued to be well-received by teachers and students. 30 workshops were given to more than 1,000 participants at 20 schools in 16 B.C. communities.
- **Paddle Leadership Program** – was another success! Over 140 student leaders paddled the Lower Fraser River in two sessions, which came together at New Westminster's Fraser River Discovery Centre to go through a series of stewardship activities on the Friday before B.C. Rivers Day.
- **Rivershed Education Program** – 43 presentations were made to 2,844 people in 21 B.C. communities, with the highlight being to group of elders at the Inn at the Quay, part of their Fraser River Bus Tour.
- **Sustainable Living Leadership Program** – 7 students, 2 Facilitators, 29 Community Resource Specialists and numerous Fraser River communities participated in the first ever SLLP.

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2002 Major Accomplishments

Programs

- 33 Fraser River Basin stewards attended our 2nd Annual *Riversheds Forum* in 108 Mile Ranch.
- 148 student leaders took part in this year's *Paddle Leadership Program* paddling the Lower Fraser
- 30 **ECO Workshops** were given to more than 1,000 people.
- 43 *Rivershed Education* presentations were given to 2,840 people.
- Initiated the *Coquitlam Rivershed eco-Footprint Project*.
- Over 2,500 people attended our *B.C. Rivers Day Music Festival* in Prince George.
- 70 people attended our 6th Annual *Spirit of the Salmon Feast* in Coquitlam.
- 7 young leaders graduated from our first ever *Sustainable Living Leadership Program* - they traveled 1,200 km down the Fraser River.
- Issued a *Healthy Riversheds Grant* to the Fraser Headwaters Alliance.

Governance

- Expanded work on Board Development, Communications and Development, Executive and Special Events *Board Committees*.
- Revised the *Healthy Riversheds Strategy* – our ten-year Fraser River Basin Conservation & Stewardship Plan.

Administration

- Sent out a *funding appeal* to over 500 people, eliciting a good response.



Rivershed Society of British Columbia

Board of Directors'

Committee Reports

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

by Dave Palidwor

Committee Members: Dave Palidwor (*Chair*), Greg Smith, Lorraine Savage, Liam Donnelly and Fin Donnelly (*Ex-Officio*).

The Board Development Committee has made good progress on a solid foundation laid by the previous committee members.

Accomplishments in the past year included:

- Development of a template for Committee Terms of Reference;
- Terms of Reference for the Board Development Committee;
- First annual Wine and Cheese recruiting event;
- An internal Learning Plan; and
- Application of the Board Self-Evaluation Tool.

Implementing the Learning Plan has been identified as the Committee's primary goal for the upcoming year. The Ministry of Sustainable Development's representative will be the first in a series of guests that will be invited to dialogue on partnership opportunities for sustainable living in the Fraser River Basin.

Another important initiative that the Committee will investigate over the upcoming year will be the structure of the Rivershed Society of B.C. and how best to network with partners in the Fraser River Basin.

The Committee expresses thanks to the Special Events Committee for the support in hosting in the very enjoyable Wine and Cheese event.

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Rivershed Society of British Columbia

Board of Directors'

Committee Reports

COMMUNICATION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

by Naomi Tabata

Committee Members: Dave Palidwor and Naomi Tabata (Co-Chairs), Christopher Sequin, Jim Mattson, Lorraine Savage, Greg Smith and Fin Donnelly

The Communications and Development Committee made great strides this year by launching new initiatives and setting priorities to set the stage for the upcoming year. 2002 saw the development of a database, from which we produced our first direct mail campaign for support. This resulted in raising \$740 for the Society. Continued development and maintenance of the Rivershed Database has been identified as the committee's primary goal for the upcoming year. The update and launch of the new website will be our secondary priority and is complementary to our new Rivershed Network Mapping Initiative. Additional activities the Committee will investigate include the review of our fundraising strategy and the Healthy Riversheds Fund, and the development of a Media Campaign.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

by Naomi Tabata

Committee Members: Naomi Tabata (Chair), Jim Mattson (Vice-Chair), Lorraine Savage (Treasurer), Greg Smith (Secretary) and Fin Donnelly (Executive Director – Ex Officio).

The Executive Committee met 4 times last year. Policies developed include a Conflict of Interest Policy and a Professional Development Policy. The annual ED review was completed and a formal ED evaluation process was also initiated. The committee is also charged with guiding the strategic agenda for the Society.

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Rivershed Society of British Columbia

Board of Directors'

Committee Reports

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

by Janis Olsen

Committee Members: Janis Olsen (Chair), Carmelle Birtch, Melinda Yong, Lorraine Savage and Fin Donnelly.

Spirit of the Salmon Feast – October 2002

The 5th Annual Spirit of the Salmon Feast was held in October 2002 at the Pinetree Community Centre. Salmon was donated by the Kwikwetlem First Nation, and food preparation and logistics were assisted by the staff at Pinetree. The event M/C was Janis Olsen, Chair of the Special Events Committee and RSBC Board Member.

Cameron Lipp, RSBC Program Coordinator and his daughter provided guests with a synopsis of RSBC's programs and workshops for 2002 including the Paddle Leadership Program (PLP) held in September 2002. A student, who participated in the PLP, gave a short but well-received presentation on her experience paddling with RSBC along the Fraser River.

The Committee has recommended the Feast be postponed for 2003, so we can re-focus our roles and re-strategize in terms of optimum delivery of this and other RSBC events. With the loss of Cameron Lipp in November 2002 and a need to re-focus the Special Events Committee, a board retreat for 2003 to discuss these items is recommended.

Pre-AGM Board Recruitment Event – May 2003

RSBC held its first annual wine and gourmet food event at the Fraser River Discovery Centre on May 13th, 2003. The catered event was compliments of Board Member, Greg Smith, through Lilliget Catering. The event introduced invited guests to RSBC's mission, goals and programs through an evening of discussion, short video clip, and overhead presentation by Executive Director, Finbarr Donnelly. This event was designed to introduce invited board prospects and committee members to meet the current board members and get an introduction to RSBC prior to the AGM on May 27, 2003.

The Committee recommends hosting this event each year prior to the AGM as it is a constructive and positive way to fill Board and Committee skill gaps.

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Rivershed Society of British Columbia

What Lies Ahead ...

Next year, is year three of our ten-year Healthy Riversheds Strategy – A Fraser River Conservation & Stewardship Plan.

2003 Programs

CAPACITY BUILDING

- 3rd Annual Riversheds Forum
- Healthy Riversheds Fund

COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

- 4th Annual B.C. Rivers Day Music Festival
- Media Tools (including updating www.rivershed.com)

CONSERVATION & STEWARDSHIP

- Project Rivershed

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Environmental Career Options (ECO) Works program
- Rivershed Education Program
- Paddle Leadership Program
- Sustainable Living Leadership Program

Future Programs

- Fraser 2005
- Rivershed Heroes Awards
- Rivershed Network & e-Cafe
- Fraser River Corridor Strategy
- Fraser 2010
- Rivershed Education Centre

