



Rivershed
Society of BC

2009
Annual Report





The Rivershed Society of BC was founded in 1996 to protect, conserve and restore the health of BC riversheds in this generation. We have a vision of salmon flourishing in our rivers, and people flourishing in our communities.

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Sockeye salmon spawning in the Chehalis River, a tributary of the Fraser River.

Cover: One of the stunning views of the Fraser Canyon as seen by the 2009 Sustainable Living Leadership Program.

Board of Directors, Staff & Contractors

2009/10



Back Row: Heather Edwards (Board), Fin Donnelly (Executive Director), Sharman Learie (Staff), Christopher Pollon (Board).

Middle Row: Donald MacKenzie (Board), Siobhan Ashe (Board), Bette McLennan (Board), Kim North (Board), Jasmine Mason (Staff).

Front Row: Olga Schwartzkopf (Board), Henrie DeBoer (Contractor), Glenda Newsted (Staff), Sharolise Baker (Board).

Missing from photo: Neal Nicholson (Board), Janis Olsen-Knaupp (Board), Leigh Taylor-Gibbs (Board), Patti Graham (Contractor), Richelle Giberson (Contractor), Doug Radies (Contractor), Jeremy Williams (Contractor).

Message from the Chair

What a pleasure it is to be sending out this message to our team of directors, committees, staff and supporters. The RSBC has grown, from one audacious swim in 1995, to an established organization inspiring positive social and environmental change which contributes to healthy riversheds.

Challenges such as loss of habitat and biodiversity, pollution and climate change continue to threaten rivershed health. These challenges are made more contentious when values are in dispute, stakes are high and decisions are urgent. The RSBC provides its contribution by continuing to focus on rivershed-based conservation.

Last year's highlights included our spring Riversheds Forum, a successful summer SLLP, and a great inaugural fall benefit dinner, organized by SLLP graduates.

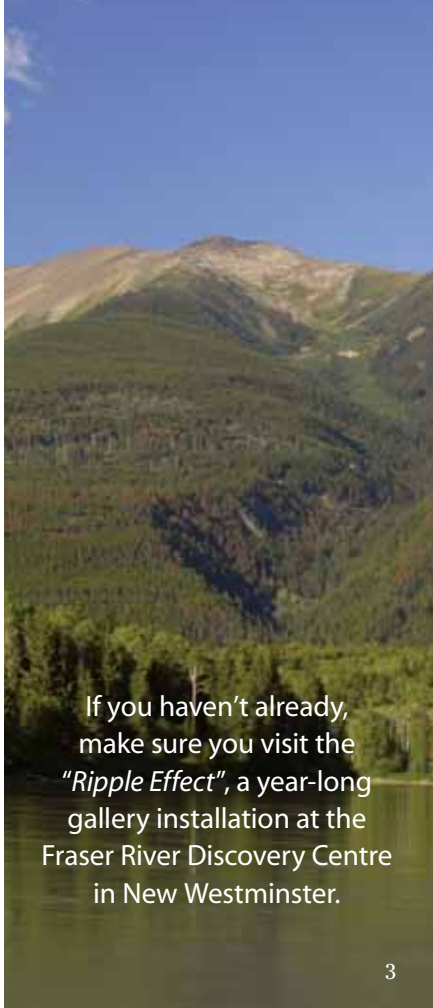
A significant moment came late in the year, when Fin was elected MP for New Westminster-Coquitlam and Port Moody. Fin's entry into federal politics presented an opportunity for us to redesign ourselves; I am thrilled to report we have completed a new strategic plan—a grand achievement we can all be proud of.

Special thanks to Steven Muir for his generous and unwavering guidance through this process.

The cornerstone of our new strategic plan is our three core programs: the Sustainable Living Leadership Program, the Fraser River Salmon & Sustainability Charter and our Riversheds Forum. Each program serves as a catalyst for leadership and collaborative governance. We are looking to expand the SLLP, which is increasingly being recognized as an essential type of learning for resolving complex problems related to rivershed conservation, protection and restoration, as well as lifestyle practices.

The RSBC is brought to life through the unique talents of our directors, committee members, staff, volunteers, donors and supporters. Thank you for the energy and commitment you bring to the RSBC. Finally, a special thank you to outgoing Board members: Heather Edwards, Janis Olsen-Knauff, Donald MacKenzie, Leigh Taylor-Gibbs and Christopher Pollon for your dedication, contribution and years of service.

Sincerely,
Siobhan Ashe, Chair



If you haven't already, make sure you visit the "Ripple Effect", a year-long gallery installation at the Fraser River Discovery Centre in New Westminster.



Healthy Riversheds

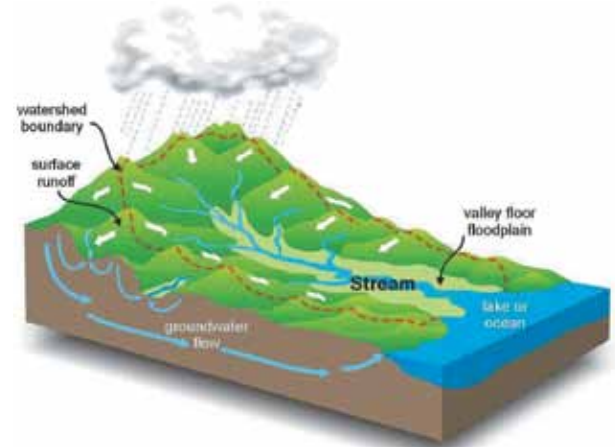
Key to Sustainability

What is a Rivershed?

A rivershed is an area of land bordered by high elevation points. Groundwater and surface runoff within a rivershed flow toward a common destination through a system of streams, lakes, bogs and other watercourses.

Riversheds often contain ecosystems, including a range of interdependent plant and animal species whose diversity is determined by climate, soil, moisture and other biophysical features and functions.

The term rivershed is gaining currency as one of the basic concepts of a sustainable society. Synonymous with watershed, the term is more place specific. It steers attention to a river in a particular geographical location and all activities and phenomena related to that area.



When a sense of place is organized around a river, rather than a town or city, it encourages a mental shift from human settlement to the larger interconnected natural environment.

Being aware of connections—between humans and nature and among all things animate and inanimate—is a prerequisite to conceiving of a harmonious relationship with the earth.

A train passes above an old train wreck.

Executive Director's Report

2009 was a year of recovery and change. While we had to scale back operations, we still managed to have a successful year. Thanks to all those who contributed to our success.

Here are some of the year's highlights:

At our April **AGM** we elected our largest Board ever. Our Board worked hard over the year, re-shaping the organization, developing a new strategic plan and reviewing a new fund development plan.

During the May long weekend, we combined our **Riversheds Forum** with DFO's Stewardship Conference, a bi-annual event for volunteer stewards from around BC. Our Forum took place in the Lower Fraser, with more than 75 people enjoying a scenic paddle from Mission to Maple Ridge. A smaller group then headed to Loon Lake Resort, in the UBC Research Forest, to exchange Rivershed Stories and receive a "Salmon Scroll" presentation from Louise Towell. It was another great weekend of sharing, learning and strategizing.



2009 Riversheds Forum participants.

In August, we ran another successful **Sustainable Living Leadership Program**, which involved ten young leaders, one teacher, three facilitators, three raft/canoe guides, and more than twenty community resource presenters (who joined us at different spots along the river). The trip started in Mount Robson Provincial Park and finished twenty-three days later in Vancouver. We visited an ancient forest, an organic farm, a First Nation Heritage center and numerous significant sites along the river; we hiked Kinney Lake, the Goat River trail, the Cathedrals; and engaged



A waterfall a short way downstream of the train wreck.

Executive Director's Report continued



2009 Sustainable Living Leadership Program participant, Kareen Wong, works on her community sustainability project.



2009 Sustainable Living Leadership Program.

in discussions about sustainable living, stewardship, salmon and riversheds. Participants were challenged to keep their ecological footprint as low as possible and to develop a plan for their sustainability project to implement once they returned home. It was another incredible trip. Special thanks to our funders, volunteers and partners.

We continued to work on the **Fraser Initiative**, sending out a questionnaire which we received input from more than half of our 50 Fraser River

SLLP poster and brochure



conservation contacts. The responses helped form the basis of the Fraser River Salmon & Sustainability Charter, a series of conservation policy recommendations aimed at all levels of government within the Fraser River Basin.

In November, we held a **Board Retreat** to assist with the development of a new strategic Plan. Under the guidance of Stephen Muir of Liberty Quest, we now have a 3-year Development Plan, along with a new Strategic Plan, and a bold new goal, to put a leader in every community within the Fraser River Basin, which will shape future programming.

Overall, the RSBC had another successful year and is working hard to build on its exciting line up of innovative programs.

Thanks are due to our hard working Board of Directors, staff and contractors; as well as our funders, members and volunteers—who continue to believe in our vision, support our mission and engage in our programs.

On a final note, my role with RSBC has now changed. In November, I was elected as Member of Parliament for New Westminster-Coquitlam and Port Moody. Which means my 14 years as your Executive Director comes to a close; I have now transitioned to the Board of Directors, and look forward, with much excitement, to this next chapter of my future with the RSBC.

Sincerely,
Fin Donnelly, Executive Director



2009 Sustainable Living Leadership Program participants hike the Goat River Trail in the Fraser Headwaters.

Communications Committee Report

by Janis Olsen, Chair

Mandate

To develop, monitor, organize and assist with the implementation of external and internal communications for the organization.

2009 Outcomes

- Developed committee work plan
- Updated and maintained database contacts
- Provided input to contractor for new website
- Developed e-newsletter prototype
- Amalgamated Research Committee with Communications Committee

2010 Recommendations

- Implement electronic meeting tool
- Implement project-oriented task groups
- Launch new RSBC website & CRM database
- Complete the Fraser Charter
- Develop a Rivershed Health Index
- RSBC Outreach (create brochure, display, events and SLLP graduate support)
- Implement RSBC e-newsletter
- Develop a process for creating position statements
- Evaluate communications activities that support fundraising

Members:

Janis Olsen (Chair), Kathleen Bertrand, Fin Donnelly (Executive Director), Richelle Giberson (Graphic Designer), Patti Graham (Accountant/Bookkeeper) and Jasmine Mason (Administrative Officer).

Programs Committee Report

by Bette McLennan, Chair

Mandate

To monitor, evaluate and assist with development and implementation of educational programming and outreach strategies.

2009 Outcomes

- Developed Forum agenda and helped prepare logistics for co-hosting with DFO Stewardship Conference
- Developed Forum learning outcomes
- Improved SLLP marketing program
- Assisted with SLLP planning, co-funded by the Stelat'en Nation

Members:

Bette McLennan (Chair), Kim North, Leigh Taylor-Gibbs, Sharolise Baker, Glenda Newsted, Sharman Learie (Programs Officer), Jasmine Mason (Administrative Officer), Fin Donnelly (Executive Director).

2010 Recommendations

- Complete Forum planning with focus on SLLP Grads
- Prepare Forum learning outcomes
- Encourage SLLP funding partnership between Stelat'en Nation and RSBC
- Expand SLLP marketing plan
- Explore idea of 2011 Forum taking place as a rafting trip on the Fraser

Becoming a Committee Member

This committee is the heart of the RSBC. It develops, plans and helps implement the programs that define the RSBC. We need members to help keep the programs current and meaningful.

Contact: Bette McLennan (Program Chair)
250 392 6423 or bette.mclennan@sd27.bc.ca



Research Committee Report

by Christopher Pollon, Committee Chair

Mandate

To assist with the development of the organization's research tools; advise the Board of Directors on issues critical to the ongoing health of riversheds in BC; recommend the approach and execution of public advocacy around such issues.

2009 Outcomes

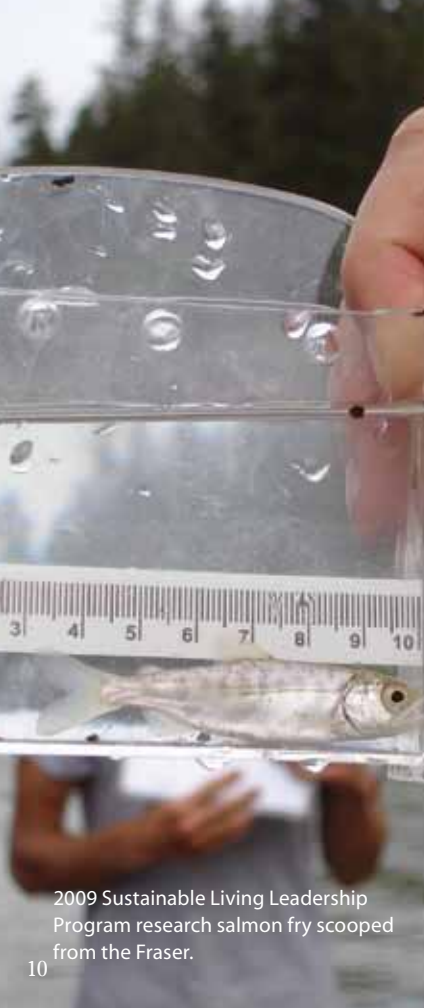
- In March, a letter was sent to two Senators expressing our concerns with the Federal Government's decision to gut the Navigable Waters Protection Act.
- In April, a letter was sent to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Panel outlining our three main concerns with the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway proposal: aboriginal rights and title, ecological threats to salmon and salmon bearing streams in the proposed project area, and the public consultation process.
- We completed the template used for gathering information and developing defensible positions on issues threatening BC riversheds and salmon.
- Committee members selected and researched a chosen topic, and presented current info and constructive solutions using the developed template.

2010 Recommendations

- Merge with the Communications Committee
- Develop a Rivershed Health Index
- Review Fraser River Salmon & Sustainability Charter
- Complete position statements for the following:
 - Fraser River gravel mining
 - BC agricultural run-off issues
 - Salmon aquaculture
 - Bioregional governance
 - Run-of-river hydro/energy development
 - Fisheries Management
 - Urban development/Smart Growth

Members:

Christopher Pollon (Chair), Siobhan Ashe, Donald MacKenzie, David Roscoe, Olga Schwartzkopf, Mike Carr, Colleen Kimmett, Jasmine Mason (Project Administrator), Fin Donnelly (Executive Director).



2009 Sustainable Living Leadership Program research salmon fry scooped from the Fraser.

Executive Committee Report

by Siobhan Ashe, Chair

Mandate

To manage and monitor the governance process and the relationship between the Board and the Executive Director and improve the effective functioning of the Board, Committees and Executive Director.

2009 Outcomes

- High retention rate of Board and Committee members
- Maintained diverse geographic representation of Board & Committee members
- Reviewed Executive Director's new role
- Prepared for AGM
- Discussed strategic plan
- Reviewed new Board and Committee structure
- Reviewed Board recruitment procedure
- Reviewed Honorary Board
- Reviewed Membership policy

2010 Recommendations:

- Monitor strategic plan
- Finalize Board Evaluation—merge with Oath
- Review Healthy Rivershed Fund, including exploring sustainable funding opportunities for committees and programs
- Review Honorary Board
- Recommend board development activities

Members:

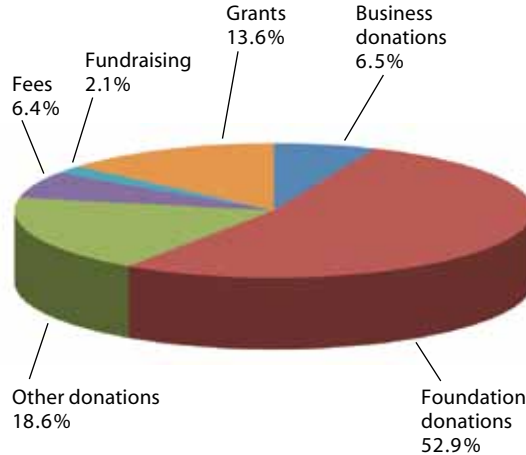
Siobhan Ashe (Chair), Don MacKenzie (Vice Chair), Heather Edwards (Secretary), Neal Nicholson (Treasurer), Fin Donnelly (Executive Director)



A duck on the shore of the Fraser River.

Financial Summary

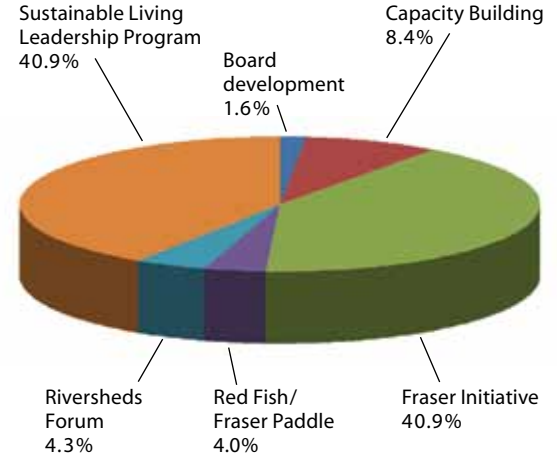
Revenue



2009 Revenue

Business Donations	\$12,250
Foundation Donations	\$99,452
Other Donations	\$34,961
Fees	\$11,950
Fundraising	\$3,885
Grants	\$25,500
Total Revenue	\$187,998

Expenditures



2009 Expenditures

Board Development	\$2,920
Capacity Building	\$15,683
Fraser Initiative	\$76,688
Red Fish/Fraser Paddle	\$7,509
Riversheds Forum	\$8,043
Sustainable Living Leadership Program	\$76,755
Total Expenses	\$187,598

2009 Sustainable Living Leadership Program participants explore a mountainside.

Donors

Rivershed (\$10,000+)

Bullitt Foundation
Vancouver Foundation
Stellat'en First Nation
Vancouver Foundation
Sprott Foundation
North Growth Management Ltd.
BC Hydro

River (\$1,000 - \$9,999)

Pacific Salmon Foundation
Pembina Institute
Fisheries & Oceans Canada
EnviroPOD
Anonymous
Donnelly, Fin
Hamber Foundation
Aaron Gordon Daykin

Creek (\$100 - \$999)

Cora McCoubrey Memorial Fund
Agriculture Canada
Palidwor, Harry & Madeleine
Bocking, Richard
Schwartzkopf, Olga
DeBoer, Henrie
Lower Mainland Publishing
Endisch, Peter
McLennan, Bette
Donnelly, Cy
O'Brian, Helen
Robinson, Selina

Friends (\$1 - \$99)

North, Kim
Grow Creative
Golden Graham Mgmt Ltd.
Wong, Rita
Palidwor, Dave
MacKenzie, Donald
Pollon, Christopher
Williams, Judy
McArthur, Ian

Members

Individual - \$20

Aichberger, Nancy
Bennie, Dave
Davies, Lorne
Doucette, Kirsten
Gordon, George
MacKenzie, Donald
Nicholson, Neal
O'Brian, Helen

Pollon, Christopher
Tabata, Naomi
McNeney, Ray
Taylor-Gibbs, Leigh
Schwartzkopf, Olga
Wong, Rita
Williams, Judy
McLennan, Bette


Family - \$30

Baker
Dupont
Giberson
McArthur
North
Olsen-Knaupp
Ramage
Edwards

A Special Thank You to Doug Radies and Jeremy Williams for the photographs in this report.

Doug Radies photos:
front and back covers and pages
4, 5, 6, 7, 8/9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

Jeremy Williams photos:
inside cover, page 2/3 and
Forum image on page 5.

A photograph of a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt and dark pants, sitting on large, moss-covered rocks in a forest. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a dense forest of tall evergreen trees.

You can help the RSBC
by becoming a member,
donating time or money,
coming to an event,
or by joining an RSBC
committee.

www.rivershed.com

2009 Sustainable Living Leadership
Program participant, Michelle Nickerson,
takes a moment to reflect.



Rivershed Society of BC

c/o 97-100 Klahanie Drive
Port Moody, BC, V3H 5K3

www.rivershed.com

Society # S-36028

Charity # 88731 3237 RR0001

2009 Sustainable Living Leadership Program participants head for shore after a long day.