

2017 Annual Report



**Rivershed
Society of BC**
A river runs through us

Chair's Report



*By Fin Donnelly
Chair and Founder*

Overall, 2017 was a traumatic year. The record-breaking wildfire season caused us to cancel our flagship program (Sustainable Living Leadership Program) for the season and modify our main community outreach initiative (FraserFEST). In addition, a letter from CRA required us to devote an inordinate amount of time, energy and effort toward this unfortunate issue.

On a positive note, our modified FraserFEST went very well, we began planning the new Fraser Watershed Initiative (FWI), the Rivers Clinic for Environmental Leaders (RCEL) and a new "Watershed Solutions" community outreach initiative.

A Year in Review

The **2017 Sustainable Living Leadership Program (SLLP)** had an excellent cohort lined up, eager to participate, but was cancelled because of the wildfires. They were, however, all invited to enrol in the 2018 program. The SLLP, a 27-day outdoor education and leadership initiative, takes participants almost the entire length of the Fraser River by canoe, raft and on foot, from the river's headwaters to the Pacific Ocean. The SLLP's main goal is to put a sustainability leader in every rivershed within the Fraser Watershed.



The SLLP has run 13 times since 2002, producing 94 graduates from 34 communities. The SLLP stops in 21 Fraser River communities and has directly benefitted 48 Fraser communities. SLLP participants have designed 67 community project plans, many of which have been implemented in Fraser Watershed communities over the past decade.

FraserFEST 2017 was also impacted by the interior wildfires. We were forced to shorten it, starting in Lillooet instead of the Fraser Headwaters as originally planned. However, FraserFEST was still an overwhelming success.



FraserFEST is a unique series of river-related educational adventures, outreach activities and community events that take place on the world's greatest salmon river – the Fraser. It includes educational raft trips in the Fraser Canyon, canoe trips and bicycle tours along the Lower Fraser, wild salmon community dinners, eco-tours and watershed walks.

Salmon flourishing in our rivers; people flourishing in riversheds.

FraserFEST activities highlight the importance of watershed health. Participants learn the Fraser's story—its history, culture, and what threatens its health—and are empowered to take action and make a difference in their watershed by taking the Watershed Pledge.

FraserFEST 2017 consisted of 26 community events involving 4,275 participants, supported by 33 funders and sponsors, and sparked thousands of conversations about Fraser River health.



Keely Weget-Whitney swimming during FraserFEST 2017. Photo by Fin Donnelly.

One of the highlights of FraserFEST 2017 was Keely Weget-Whitney's incredible 60 km Fraser Canyon swim. Weget-Whitney is a mother and SLLP graduate from St'at'imc and Gitksan Nations. She swam six hours from her home in Lillooet to Lytton "for the love of salmon!"

Keely's feat was documented by videographer Jan Vozenilek, who created a stunning 4 minute film of the 2017 Fraser Canyon swim. It will be premiered at film festivals this year.

FraserFEST has run four times since 2014, involving more than 13,000 people in dozens of educational river-related activities and more than 15,000 online. Thousands have signed our Watershed Pledge, committing to take action to improve local watershed health; with more than 50 Fraser River communities having participated in FraserFEST.



Photo by Gaetan Royer.

The **2017 Fraser River Sunset Dinner Cruise** was our most successful to-date, raising over \$12,000! This annual fundraiser takes place aboard the MV Native Paddlewheeler. Guests enjoy a great dinner, unique views of the Fraser, and learn about our Leadership Program from SLLP graduates.

Fraser Watershed Initiative (FWI) - In the Fall of 2017, RSBC hired Kevin Scott to develop a framework for a multi-year, large-scale campaign for the entire Fraser Watershed. After a weekend retreat in the Upper Pitt Rivershed and dozens of meetings with key stakeholders, funders and government officials, Kevin submitted a 70 page blueprint providing the way forward on our most ambitious undertaking in twenty years.

We closed 2017 with another successful **Winter Social** at Pasta Polo in Coquitlam. Thank you to all those who attended, and to owner Fred Soofi for hosting.



2017 Winter Social at Pasta Polo.

A Look Ahead

In June 2018, we launched the **Rivers Clinic for Environmental Leaders (RCEL)** - our first regional leadership program in the Fraser Watershed. Designed, developed and implemented by 2016 SLLP alumni Megan Rempel and Petra Markova, the 3-day program in the Lower Fraser engaged 18 passionate university student leaders representing four Lower Fraser campuses.



2018 RCEL participants and facilitators. Photo by Sophie Richards.

After getting to know each other on Friday, they spent the weekend paddling from Glen Valley Regional Park to McDonald Beach Park, participating in leadership activities, and discussing how to strengthen their individual leadership and collective campus efforts. It was a great success!

We look forward to expanding this model to other regions of the Fraser next summer.

Also in June 2018, we launched the **FWI's Regional Gatherings and Mapping Project**, starting in the Fraser Canyon. The 2-day event focused effort on creating a regional map of key restoration areas within Canyon riversheds. By Fall, the map will include all the Fraser's regions to form a large "vision map" of restoration potential within the entire Fraser Watershed.

In the Fall of 2018, we will host a large **Fraser Watershed Restoration Conference** in Kamloops, where this vision map will be presented.

The mapping project and restoration conference are key ingredients in the campaign scoping document, and are part of the first phase of a multi-year effort, called the Fraser Watershed Initiative.

This year, we will launch **Watershed Solutions**, a community outreach initiative that includes the "Watershed Challenge" and "Rivershed Stories".

Rivershed Stories will connect citizens along the Fraser through inspiring media content (video, written, art, etc) and outline positive actions being taken to protect the Fraser, while highlighting important areas where action is still needed.

Examples of media content, include a video highlighting a two-day swim journey by a young First Nations woman, a podcast featuring inspiring work along the Fraser River, an article by a community group with practical tips for how to start your own action group, or a video interview with a community facing a challenge along the River (an industrial spill, for example).

The **Watershed Challenge** will encourage a variety of targeted organizations and governments to commit to practical actions and policies that improve watershed health.

For example, a challenge aimed at a community group might be to help restore part of their watershed, and raise awareness about it's importance to the community. A challenge to the provincial government may be to implement a new policy or amend legislation to increase protection for a specific part of the watershed, and might involve educating staff about the importance of that part of the watershed.

These two strategies will allow us to reach a larger audience, and improve **Watershed CPR (conservation, protection & restoration)** in British Columbia.

Parting Thoughts

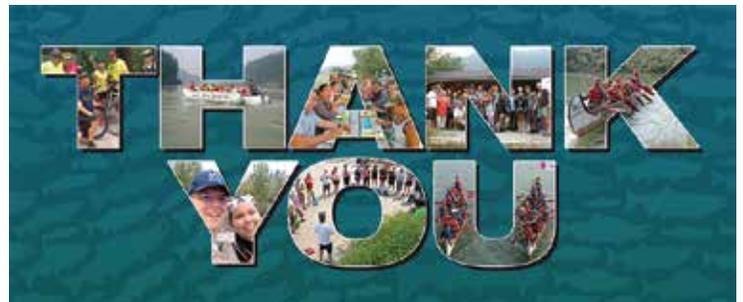
For the past two decades the RSBC has operated on a modest budget while tackling significant challenges.

Over the coming decade, I believe the RSBC is poised to move to a new level of operation in British Columbia. While retaining the same attitude of modesty, we are poised to address, on a slightly grander scale, those very challenges that plague the health of the Fraser's riversheds and the well-being of those who call the Fraser home.

It seems the time has finally come to increase effort on the Fraser Watershed, one of the greatest salmon rivers on the planet. Obviously, we welcome this investment and look forward to continuing to play a small but impactful role in transitioning Fraser Watershed communities toward a sustainable way of living.

Thank You's

To our out-going Board members, thank you for your past year of service; your thoughtful and encouraging input has kept RSBC focused and deliberate. Thank you also to our donors, members, volunteers, contractors and supporters! You enable us to continue doing good work.

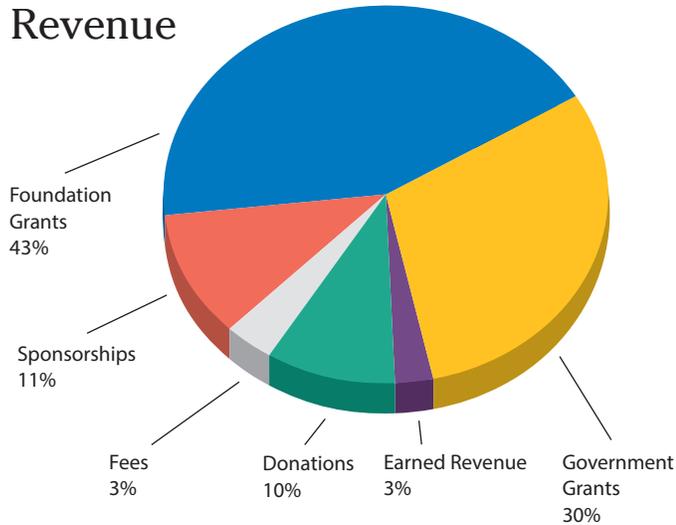


Sincerely,

Fin Donnelly / Iyim Yewyews
Chair & Founder
Rivershed Society of BC

Financial Summary

Revenue

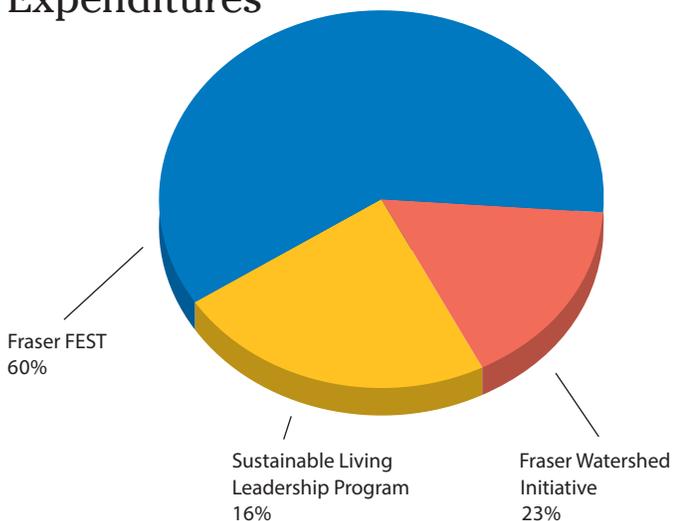


2017 Revenue

Donations:	\$17,824
Fees:	\$6,560
Sponsorships:	\$20,250
Foundation Grants:	\$79,297
Government Grants:	\$55,960
Earned Revenue:	\$4,858
Total Revenue:	\$184,749

We also received In-Kind Donations totalling \$13,116

Expenditures



2017 Expenditures

FraserFEST:	\$103,527
Sustainable Living Leadership Program:	\$28,077
Fraser Watershed Initiative	\$39,661
Total Expenses:	\$171,265

Donors

Rivershed (\$10,000+)

Gainey Foundation
Province of British Columbia
Sitka Foundation
Tides Foundation
Wilburforce Foundation

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

City of New Westminster
Creative Transportation Solutions
David Suzuki Foundation
Fin Donnelly
Linda Donnelly
Fraser River Raft Expeditions
Hard Rock Casino
Michael Hwang
Intercity Appraisals
Jayanel Properties
Move Up / COPE
New Pathways to Gold Society
Bruce Nidle
Pacific Salmon Foundation
Real Estate Foundation of BC
River Rock Casino (Great Canadian Casinos)
Jane Thomsing
UFCW
West Coast Environmental Law
Western Mining Action Network

Creek (\$100 - 999)

Mary Angus
Margaret Birch
Carol Blacklaws
Brook Pooni Associates
City of Coquitlam
Costco
Trevor Habkirk
JAK's Richmond
Otto Langer
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Kim North
Helen O'Brian
Probus Vancouver
Lee Reinhardt
Megan Rempel
Patrick Robertson
Olga Schwartzkopf
Evan Stewart
Coree Tull
Western Canoe Kayak
Westwood Total Health
Don Wiens

Friends (\$1 - 99)

Andrea Araszewski
Hazel Braithwaite
Deirdre Keohane
Simon & Sara Watkins

Members

Family - \$30

Marcus & Erin Brandt
Carla & Steve Brown-John
Hugh Chaun
Jason Carvalho & Kelita Klein
Cy & Valerie Donnelly
Fin & Linda Donnelly
Patricia Fieldwalker
Bruce, Nicole & Charlie Ford
Darlene & Richard Hyde
Susan Jarema
Thomas Kerr & family
Janis Knaupp
Kim North
Karla & Eliza Olson
Clark Perry-Bater family
Gaetan & Zoe Royer, Carola
Adler & Charlotte Knowles
Simon Watkins & Susan Swenson

Individual - \$20

Andrea Araszewski
Hazel Braithwaite
Anne Ladouceur
Bruce Nidle
Cianna Pachal
Brad Percival
Lucy de Pieri
Olga Schwartzkopf
Geoff Scott

Organization- \$50

Grand Manor Guesthouse
Lillooett Naturalist Society
New Earth Marketing
Tri-Cities Community
Television