



Scout Island Nature Centre

2022 Annual Report



Mom and three young ones
photographed by Maryanne
Piller-Leyden Havenstroom
summer 2022

The Williams Lake Field Naturalists respectfully acknowledge that Scout Island Nature Centre and all of Williams Lake are on unceded traditional territory of the Secwepemc Nation and specifically the territory of the T'exelcenc, also known as the people of the Williams Lake Band.

This report was edited by Sue Hemphill and written by Nature Centre staff and others
For more information, you can reach the following by emailing scoutisland@shaw.ca
Margaret Waring, Don Lawrence, and Ordell Steen-Co Presidents
Sue Hemphill, Executive Director, Scout Island Nature Centre
1305A Borland Road 250-398-8532 www.scoutisland.ca
Williams Lake BC V2G5K5

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Scout Island Nature Centre-for wildlife and people!

Bluebird early spring by Bill Gilroy



Be sure to go to our website www.scoutisland.ca and view the new and older videos. They give a great overview of all the new programs at the Nature Centre

Visit our face book page to be kept up to date on what is happening

Message from the Directors of the Williams Lake Field Naturalists

Scout Island Nature Centre is operated by the Williams Lake Field Naturalists (WL Field Naturalists) in partnership with the City of Williams Lake and the Nature Trust of BC.

Co-President Committee of the Williams Lake Field Naturalists--Margaret Waring, Don Lawrence and Ordell Steen



This was a year with as always, projects occurring and changes happening. It was a year with COVID 19 restrictions decreasing and some in person events.

We had some great programs and presentations that also were a mix of zoom and in person. The programs included A Visit to Ethiopia February 8th, Fire History of Flat Rock in Williams Lake March 9th, learning about the Big Bar Slide into the Fraser on March 22nd, Western Rattle Snakes on March 30th and a presentation of Chilcotin Birds along with the AGM on March 25th. These programs have been recorded and can be viewed at any time with the links found on our web site. We are trying to schedule at minimum one event per month. In November we had a presentation about water use in Williams Lake. Go to <https://williamslakefieldnaturalists.ca/research-publications/> for the presentations

2022 included 14 Field trips where members visited local areas such as Fox Mountain Trails, Russet Bluff, Williams Lake, Bird Watching at Scout Island and in the Creek Valley. Some trips were further away going to Farewell Canyon, Beaver Valley and Churn Creek. The traditional first trip of the year was to Alkali Lake in April and the last trip to the Junction Sheep Range in October.

Thank you to the planners and presenters and leaders. The contributions are significant and enjoyed by members of the club.

The Williams Lake Field Naturalists have a contract to manage Scout Island with the City. This year fund raising and permits and materials and volunteer labour were collected to build the beautiful boardwalk on the willow trail where flood damage had destroyed the old board walk. This was a phenomenal effort by many contributors and we thank and appreciate all of them.

The committee putting together The Nature Centre Strategic Plan completed their work and the document can be found on the web site. We thank them for their time and effort and useful guidelines.

We won the city's Accessibility Award for the new front entrance. This was presented at a public city council meeting.

We had a successful Yard and Garden Sale to fund raise for the bursary the Williams Lake Field Naturalists present to a Lake City Secondary School graduating student.

A presentation was made to City Council by Ordell Steen and Sue Hemphill for an increase in our grant for operating Scout Island.

We have a new Blue Bird Route Coordinator (Loyd Csizmadia) and he has gathered route information and created articles for the newsletter. The reins of the Christmas Bird count are now being shared by Phil Ranson, Sean Donahue, and Lubna Khan after Phil doing it solo for 23 years.

A new Web Site for the Williams Lake Field Naturalists was launched and we hope you have all taken a look at it.

<https://williamslakefieldnaturalists.ca>

Many volunteers make many contributions in this organization. We thank them and enjoy working with them.

Year in Review and Scout Island Nature Centre Partners

Scout Island Nature Centre, managed since 1978 by the WL Field Naturalists,

- Provides nature education to all ages
- Conserves the Nature Centre's wildlife habitat, vegetation and other natural values
- Provides a natural place for viewing wildlife and plants, facilitated by a system of walking trails
- Provides community gathering place for natural history programs and research, conservation discussions, and ideas and actions for ecological sustainability

360 children took part in Summer Programs

260 Nature Programs were presented to School Classes and Other Groups

At least 12 000 explored the trails

And wildlife continue to call Scout Island home including some not so wild rabbits (not hares).



The WL Field Naturalists have managed the Nature Centre as volunteers since 1978. Joy in nature is the first step to the care and stewardship of nature. Scout Island's many partners help us provide this joy in nature to our community.

The **City of Williams Lake** provided funding to help maintain staff levels for community programs. The City of Williams Lake also provided in-kind support through maintenance of the Nature House (upkeep, hydro and phone). It is a great partnership –WL Field Naturalists, **Nature Trust of British Columbia**, which owns the land, and The City of Williams Lake. **Fisheries and Oceans Canada** continues to collaborate with Scout Island so that we can provide the Stream to Sea Program to schools throughout the area, the Climate Change and Effects on Salmon to all grade 7 classes, and the Salmon Trip to grade 9-12 students.

The **City and the Cariboo Regional District** together provided a Fee for Service for the Scout Island Trail System. The 2022 increase in the Fee for Service helped fund the repairs to the Willow Trail Boardwalk completed November 2022. Summer staff salaries were paid in part by **School District 27** and the **Service Centre Canada** (Summer Jobs Program). We collaborated with the **Province of BC through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy** to provide Air Quality Education for the residents of the Williams Lake Air Shed and support the popular "Go by Bike" program. The Art in Nature programs and support of artists at Scout Island are made possible with the support of the **Cariboo Regional District and City of Williams Lake via the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society**. **BC Conservation Foundation** provided funding for the Community Bat program in our area. It is thanks to partnerships with all of the above and other community volunteers and donors that the Nature Centre continues to thrive and engage so many with nature as well as protect wildlife and the natural landscape

The Whole Community Helps Support Scout Island Nature Centre

It is amazing how many ways the community finds to help things happen at the Nature Centre. Did you know that you can donate your refundable beverage containers to Scout Island? It's easy. Just bag up your empties and put a tag on the bag clearly identifying it as going to Scout Island Nature Centre and drop it off at the "Return-It" depot (aka the bottle depot) on Mackenzie. No sorting required. Also, Roger Hamilton a longtime volunteer at all kinds of things at Scout Island, also collects the refundable beverage containers put in bins at Scout Island and cashes those in at the "Return It" depot. An account was set up for Scout Island in 2012 and since then almost \$3500 has been "donated". This includes empties that are collected in the bottle bin at the Nature House, and donations of empties. Not bad!

The Garden Club had a successful tour of very interesting and beautiful gardens in July. Instead of charging for the tour they received donations and they have generously donated the proceeds of their tour to Scout Island. On July 28th Deb Radolla (front row) and Nola Daintith (back row) of the Garden Club presented a cheque of \$1200. In the front row accepting the cheque is Amelie Hornburg, one of our Scout Island Summer Students and behind her is Sue Hemphill the Executive Director of Scout Island. The photo includes participants enjoying the Nature Fun Kids Program. Thank you to the Garden Club for their support and donation.

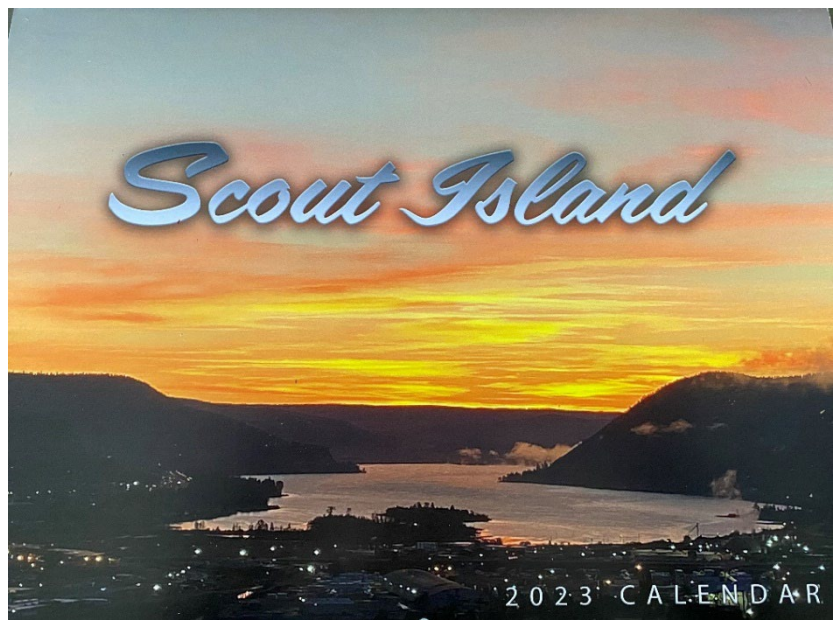


Anne Brown made a stunning calendar with photos from Scout Island and sold it as a fundraiser.

This is a small sample of the wonderful efforts made by so many people to ensure that nature and nature education continues at Scout Island. Donations from individuals and businesses come in throughout the year and are an "essential" part of our finances.

We are grateful for all of the support and I, personally, am grateful for being part of the community of people that take care of Scout Island

Sue Hemphill Scout Island Nature Centre Volunteer
Executive Director



Community Programs

Family Events

We were pleased that more family events were possible in 2022. January started out with a program about tracking animals including finding tracks, making tracks and walking like different animals. In February, families identified birds with nature Educator Martin Kruus using frozen and stuffed specimens then live birds at the feeders.

A group from Cariboo Partners for Literacy Society visited Scout Island in March to learn about birds. It is always fun to introduce new people to the wonder of birds. Our stuffed and frozen specimens make this introduction easy even if there are some language barriers. The good news is that everyone got to see live birds because of the ducks in the water at Otter Point—even a pintail. The children were happy to become squirrels and try to outsmart the Owl trying to catch them as they gathered nuts. Willie, the turtle in the Nature House, who is just out of hibernation entertained everyone as he gulped down worms.

The first day of summer holidays, 14 Nature Kids from the Williams Lake group met Martin at the regional airport. They



were treated to a tour of the fire center operations situated there, led by Owen and his Initial Attack crew. After an introductory FireSmart video (with many questions from the children about whether Ember, the fox, was real...) we had a chance to go inside the “birddog” command plane, and climb

aboard the water bomber out on the runway apron. Afterwards we actually met Ember! Finally, the kids tried a firefighter’s relay race to see how well they could stay safe, quickly carry heavy loads, cooperate as a team, and squirt water accurately

In October families came to learn about the beavers that were still out and about busily caching food for the winter.

In December, we once again gathered to have an Earth Friendly Holiday Present Making Workshop focused on gifts that benefit our local birds. Families made roost boxes for winter birds, suet feeders and bird ornaments.



Nature Programs for Children

Nature Fun --Written by Teacher Naturalists Sydney Miller, Amelie Hornburg, and Adrien Zimmerman

Over six weeks, Nature Fun adventurers explored the diversity of the creatures and ecosystems at Scout Island. The program consisted of morning and afternoon sessions for children aged 4-8. Each week had a different theme, and the themes of this year were: Magnificent Mammals, Plants and Pollinators, Beautifully Bizarre Bugs, The Wonderful World of Water, Egg-sighting Birds, and Don't Take Rocks for Granite. Each two hour and a half session started with a short lesson on the day's topic complete with examples and hands-on specimens or activities. Next, a walk or outdoor activity related to the topic at hand and a craft or experiment. Games were incorporated in the walk.

Art in Nature was a full day program on Wednesdays for older children aged 8-13. Each day went into depth on the week's theme and focused on a larger art project or experiment. Some examples of these big projects were painting mammal silhouettes, painting with watercolours made from plants, creating bugs with pressed flowers, dissecting an owl pellet, and solving mammal crime scenes on the island. . Boitanio Summer Day Camp visited Scout Island on three occasions to participate in Nature Fun lessons.



Not everyone is enamored of leaches

Finding the secrets in owl pellets



Mindfulness and environmental stewardship were encouraged throughout our programming. For younger ages, we focused on the cornerstone of mindfulness: our senses. We utilized the Coyote Wild method of teaching, focusing on our Owl Eyes and Deer Ears. For our older Art in Nature group, we spent solitary nature time, observing and journaling about what we observed

And immersed ourselves in nature!



The **Cariboo Regional District and City of Williams Lake** via the **Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society** help to support this popular program.

Tales and Trails by Naomi Weil

Tales and Trails meets every Wednesday at 10:30 outside the Nature House. This program is for 0-5 year olds along with their caregivers. The morning begins with a song and a story before heading out onto the trails. We often revisit the same trails and “spots” along the way, this creates a connection to place for the children and families. It also allows them the opportunity to witness the many changes happening throughout the seasons. Following the lead and interests of the children we take our time wandering the trails stopping for a rhyme and a story before making our way back to sing our goodbye song, until we meet again.

Naomi Weil
Tales and Trails



Air Quality Education

By Erin Hitchcock

The Spring Earth Challenge took place again, with Kim Zalay leading the Air Quality education lessons for Grade 7 students. Visit <https://breatheasywilliamslake.org/tools-for-schools/> to view lesson materials. The annual Earth Challenge takes place in partnership with the Cariboo-Chilcotin Conservation Society, Invasive Species Council of B.C., Cariboo-Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee, Williams Lake Air Quality Roundtable and School District 27.

Jacinta D’Andrea, Martin Kruus, and Erin Hitchcock helped organize and facilitate GoByBike Week in the spring, which included a Critical Mass Group Ride and various educational initiatives throughout the community to encourage both children and adults to take part. The CCCS also assisted, providing bike recycling at local schools. A second GoByBike event took place in the fall, with Erin coordinating that with help from local volunteers, the CCCS and members of “Streets for All Williams Lake,” a new group that works to improve active transportation in and around the city.

The fall event saw a large increase in participants: 122 registered and collectively logged 4,729 kilometres, saving more than 1,000 kilograms of greenhouse gases from our air shed by choosing to cycle, walk, or use other forms of active transportation. Numerous events were held, including a “bike bus” at Cataline Elementary School, an electric bike demo at the Seniors Activity Centre, a Critical Mass bike ride, bike recycling at local schools, a bike swap, Politician on a Pedal Challenge, and info display at the Williams Lake library. The fall event was well supported by the community, local businesses, and area government representatives. Visit <https://gobybikebc.ca/Williams-lake> for more info.

Other Air Aware topics continued to be shared with the community throughout the year with Erin writing and submitting articles to the Williams Lake Tribune and The Green Gazette and posting those articles on the breatheasywilliamslake.org website and Air Aware Williams Lake Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Air-Aware-Williams-Lake-102147051418834>). Topics included PurpleAir monitors (see below), air pollution affects on COVID-19 and respiratory illnesses and diseases, road dust, heat pumps, lawn equipment, GoByBike Weeks, and winter air pollution as it relates to inversions, woodstoves, and vehicle emissions/idling.

The 14 Purple Air monitors (a citizen science project) have been up and running for more than a year in Williams Lake and area and can assist residents on local air quality as it relates to specific neighbourhoods. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is working on compiling data from the monitors, to be released at a future date.

Each of us can use the information to understand how the air quality changes in our air shed. It can help us focus on what we need to do to keep the air clean. Visit <https://cyclone.unbc.ca/aqmap/index.html#4/56.44/-109.09> to view current data or www2.purpleair.com

Pictures from the Fall Go By Bike Week



Bike Bus lead by Denise Deschene



Electric Bike Demonstration

BC Community Bat Program

By Martin Kruus

Scout Island worked with the BC Community Bat Program (Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation sponsored) to coordinate activities in the greater Cariboo-Chilcotin Region. The “Got Bats?” initiative is a province wide program carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Environment. Bill Gilroy and Martin Kruus oversaw data collection (counting at 8 sites four times per summer) and responding to public inquiries (by phone or e-mail to website).

Information about BC bats was provided along with best practices for timely evictions and bat house design and placement. About 40 requests for advice or assistance were provided last summer by Martin, as well as building and putting up several bat houses and conducting a few site visits.

The summer of 2022 saw several new volunteers try their hand at bat counting, but there is always room for more. The number of bats stayed very similar to 2021, with the most common species being the *Little Brown Myotis*. Public interest and “bat friendliness” seem to be rising gradually. Thank-you to all the bat volunteers that includes the families that host bat boxes that we visit to count and the volunteer counters like Kim Zalay, Don Trim and Verena and Ron Reznek.



School Programs Grades K-12

Nature Kindergarten

After six years, the Scout island Nature Centre Nature Kindergarten graduated its last class and we said good bye to Tanya Johnson who had been the Education Assistant from the beginning of Nature K open to all children in SD 27 at Scout Island September 2016. It has been a great adventure. In September 2022 the format changed and only Marie Sharpe began having both their kindergarten classes at Scout Island-each for about 1/2 the week. The teachers are Kacie Young and Tanya Isnardy and the new Education Assistant is Caroline Treznek. Martin Kruus often works with the classes as they explore nature at Scout Island.



Aspen Place continues to be popular-a great place to hone your jumping skills or your pre reading skills or your building skills.



Can you find all of the children hiding at the end of the Marsh Wren trail?



Hare tracks and a discussion of how many feet a hare has



Trees are easier to climb when they are horizontal



Class Nature School Programs Offered September-April

Mary and Martin provide nature programs for school classes from September -April . Mary traveled to schools all over the region with her suitcases of materials. She led a lively presentation in the classroom and then takes the students outside for related activities. This school year (21-22), Mary provided 64 classrooms with presentations covering Bears, Octopuses, Owls, Sturgeon and Archeology (her real passion)



Most of Martin's programs take place at Scout Island or Bull Mountain and often last the full day. He works with each teacher to provide a program that fits what she/he is working on with the class. He provided 52 classes with programs in 2021-2022. In the fall his "Getting Ready for Winter" covered how plants and animals prepare for winter and then included other related topics the teacher had requested like bird identification.



Bull Mountain. Going onto the ice (after it has been declared safe by Martin) Is favorite exploration in winter.

January-March, he provided winter related programs -- Winter Survival for Humans and other Animals, Tracking, Snow Science at Scout Island and Winter Ecosystems at



Class Nature School Programs Offered May-June By Summer Staff Amelie, Sydney and Adrien

The summer staff could not have led such awesome programs without support from others. Our Environmental Educator Martin Kruus developed and taught programs with the teacher naturalists. Paul Foth helped the summer staff learn bird identification at the beginning of the school lessons, while Leo Rankin educated them on the invertebrates of the area. The Executive Director, Sue Hemphill, mentored the summer staff and aided them in planning and executing school lessons. In addition, we were joined by two UBC teacher candidates who spent three weeks each at the Island, learning about Nature Education. Scout Island also hosted a high school student for a job-shadow opportunity.

The Teacher Naturalists continued to put emphasis on the coyote mentoring platform which focuses on nature and the environment. Kids were encouraged to engage with nature using their owl eyes, deer ears, coyote noses, raccoon touch, and bug tongues in order to experience the outdoors through different points of view and senses. The Teacher Naturalists constantly asked children questions to encourage problem-solving and thought-provoking answers. This technique, along with nature walks, games, and lessons, provided opportunities for all school children to learn about nature while keeping them engaged and confident in their own abilities.

This year we offered six different programs at the Nature Centre to school groups: Bugs, Birds, Marsh and Amphibians, Life in the Marsh and Ocean, Nature Detective, and What's Happening Around the Nature Centre. Additionally, if classes could not come to us, we took Scout Island to them, and showed them the nature in their school yard with our Explore the Outdoors at you School program. We had two very special classes that took the opportunity to sleepover with Willy the turtle. They brought their own sleeping gear and spent a night at the Nature House.

There was a total of 76 programs this year from May 4th to June 28th. Most school days were filled to capacity in terms of staff time, with some days so busy staff were running to keep up.

UBC Teacher Candidates Immerse Themselves in Outdoor Education

Scout Island is a great place for learning and exploring. Sam Howett and Kristy Truell, two UBC Teacher Candidates each spent three weeks at Scout Island. Their time at the Nature Center was spent learning about nature education and how they can implement it in their own classrooms. They really got immersed in the Scout Island experience, enjoying birdwatching, dipping for invertebrates, and leading programs. Sam Howett, upon reflecting on her short time at Scout Island said, "I have just learned so much, there's so many different aspects of outdoor education that I've never had the chance to experience before". It just goes to show that sometimes, the ones learning at Scout Island are not only the children, but the adults as well.



Any place is the right place to hunt for bugs



Stream to Sea Program by Martin Kruus

Scout Island Nature Centre had their three year contract renewed by DFO in 2022 to deliver the Stream to Sea Program. 30 eyed eggs of Chinook salmon are provided in late October to 10 different classrooms along with all the equipment required to raise them in aquariums. Martin visits each of the classes twice during the winter to do learning activities about the lifecycle and importance of salmon, as well as watershed health.

Then classes released their salmon in late May-June. Students say goodbye to their fingerling fry and then take part in stations covering salmon anatomy through dissection, and fresh water and inter-tidal ocean invertebrates. Most classes had an 80-90% survival rate last spring, and this year, so far, looks to be similarly successful, despite early high mortality rates at the hatcheries for this brood (probably due to high river water temperatures in September). Sadly, long-time DFO regional Community Advisor Guy Scharf retired from the Prince George office March 31st 2023. We will miss his support for this program as well as his never ending passion for salmon and all that is related. We welcome his replacement Tyler Thibault, who is based out of Williams Lake.



Children spent the mornings releasing their fry into our river, and learning about the ocean creatures their fry would soon be meeting. Afternoons were spent watching the dissection of a fully grown salmon and learning about the bugs in the marsh that will feed their fry.



Engaging High School Youth in Nature and Stewardship

We have been able to offer nature education programs for youth (high school students) in a variety of ways over the last decade. There are more youth interested in outdoor exploring, natural history appreciation, and stewardship of the environment and we work at providing experiences and courses that interest and engage them as well as really connect them with nature. We provide two intensive nature courses for the grade 7 classes --an introduction to climate change and an introduction to the ecosystems of the Cariboo Chilcotin trying to lay down the foundation of nature literate citizens.

Planting Seeds For the Future by Kim Zalay

Climate change is at the forefront of news, discussions and various levels of the curriculum these days. The grade 7 classes at Columneetza came together with Scout Island to take part in a mini unit on climate change, which is part of the grade 7 science curriculum. Students experienced two sessions in their classrooms, one looking at what climate change is and its causes, and the second dealing with the effects of climate change on weather patterns worldwide. The mini unit wrapped up with each class spending a day at Scout Island touching on the impact to ecosystems and the plants and wildlife found in those ecosystems.

With salmon being a keystone species, and feeling the impact of human actions as well as the effects of climate change, the day finished off with a lesson on the life cycle of salmon, their 4-6 year journey, along with natural and human challenges faced throughout their life cycle.

We, in the Cariboo, are just starting to notice the effects of climate change that other parts of the world have experienced for decades. These young individuals will be tasked with making difficult decisions in the next few decades for the health of the planet and ultimately, the health of themselves and their families. It is hoped that the unit will give students a starting point on which to build their knowledge in regards to climate change, as well as starting points on how they and government can adapt to live a lifestyle which leads to a healthier planet down the road.



Journey
On my way home
Face the raging current
I feel more confident right now
Voyage
-Ini Olawuwo
Mr. Wilson's class

Kim with grade 7 discussing the effects of climate change on Salmon

The second intensive program for grade 7 was Ecosystem Training in preparation for the Earth Challenge. This is the chance for the students to attach field knowledge to what they have been studying about local ecosystems.

The Senior Enviro Club was very small in 2022, but Kim and teacher Jeff Wang were able to involve them with a few activities. They had a ski trip to Bull Mountain. She helped two of the graduating students develop lessons about food chains and amphibian life cycles. They each shared their lessons over two days with two different classes (grade $\frac{1}{2}$ and grade $\frac{3}{4}$). This was a huge learning experience for both students as they are interested into going into teaching after high school.



Summer staff and Martin worked together in exploring the sampling of ecosystems that are represented at Scout island. Adrien is explaining how the marsh, lake and river are connected.

There is no question that the hiatus caused by covid in working directly with students in high school clubs and Independent Studies was missed and we are working hard to get these going again. We were really pleased when in September 2022 we were once again able to carry out a Salmon trip.

Salmon Trip 2022 September 21-22



We planned a full three days of outdoor activities for the students using Gavin Lake as home base (free of charge-thank-you). We had 21 grade 9-12 students signed up to go. The Monday of the trip was declared a non-work day in respect for the Queen's funeral, but after a lot of scrambling and loads more paper work, we shrank the trip to two days. A lot was packed into those 2 days thanks to Guy Scharf (DFO) Nara Riplinger and Kim Nowotny (SD 27 teachers), and Quesnel River Research Centre (QRRC) staff and researchers

Jordon Lindgren worked with the students at the river collecting water and zooplankton samples. This is similar to the work he and others are doing to assess changes in zooplankton and the metals building up in their tissue as a result of mine waste in the sediments since the tailings spill from Mount Polley. This was only one of the activities at the QRRC

Roy Argue lead all of the students in dissecting fish. Each part of the fish inside and out has a story to tell about how salmon have evolved to survive and are dependent on watersheds remaining healthy. Roy is a master at telling this story.



At the Horsefly River, Guy showed them how to beach seine for small fish. Then students learned how to identify the fish they had caught.





Jacob Houtman and Cameron Jope, showed students how salmon are collected to assess numbers spawned. They demonstrated how to collect scales for aging, how to collect otoliths for aging, how to collect DNA sampling (operculum/adipose punch) or , also carcass condition, % spawn, health issues, tissue sampling if issues identified, external damage, sex, and then cut them in half so they don't count them again. They also described how that info is used to manage the fisheries

In the final moments of the trip, student wishes were in concert: "More Time, the trip was too short." All the mentors were impressed with the students' enthusiasm, hunger for knowledge and interest in what they could do to help.

The trip wasn't really at an end there. Many of the senior students asked for information on how they could pursue an independent study with a focus on Nature/Taking Care of the Environment. Kim, Martin, and Sue will be following up with ideas for studies and mentors that would help.

These hands on immersed in nature programs are the basis of the stewards of the future.

As biologist Rachel Carson said, when it comes to guiding children, it would help to remember that it isn't half so important for them to know as to feel. "If facts are the seeds that later produce knowledge and wisdom," Carson said, "then the emotions and the impressions of the senses are the fertile soil in which the seeds must grow."

Nature Interpretation for Community and Tourists

Spring 2022, the Nature House was finally able to be open once again to the general public and 617 people came in the door. People were really happy to be able to view all of the displays and watch the staff feed the animals. Most of our visitors this year were local or from other areas in BC. So many children come in the door “dragging” caregivers to show them all that they know about the Nature House. Most of our local children feel the Nature House is theirs to show off. Besides the estimated 10000-12000 visitors that walk the trails, the nature centre also hosted two family events. Gibraltar Mines held a two day family event for all of their employees June 4 and 11. Our summer staff set up activities along the trails to help every get up close to nature—bug hunting, dipping for invertebrates in the lake and a scavenger hunt. Also in June, SD 27 Strong Start held their “Shipwrecked at Scout Island” family event. Families with young children filled the beach area.



Beulah Munson helping with a treasure exchange.

Pirate Baby



Love of the Nature Centre starts very young!

Taking Care of the Nature Centre Inside and Out

Several significant projects were carried out by volunteers from our club and are described throughout this report. The Scout Island Advisory Committee, made up of Williams Lake Field Naturalist members and City of Williams Lake staff continued to meet every three months to discuss projects and plans for Scout Island Nature Centre related to infrastructure and habitat conservation and restoration. New Council member Michael Moses joined the group in November 2022.

As per the new management plan, we are working with members of the Williams Lake First Nation to include more traditional use information at Scout Island. The first information sign went up spring of 2022 on the new kiosk. It welcomes visitors coming over the Nekw7usem Bridge.



Another major infrastructure project were the major repairs to the Willow Trail Boardwalk. Volunteers worked right up to snow fall in November. It required 663 hours of volunteer time worth \$27268. An additional \$9869 in materials and loaned equipment were donated. The total cost of the project was \$90919.



The plan is that Screw Piles installed by Techno Metal Post will help the new boardwalk withstand the increased flooding expected as a result of climate change.

Next volunteers started working on the timbers. From this to



The Roots of Our Success So much more happened in 2022 lead by volunteers
Duck boxes were built and mounted by Ron and Verena Reznek



So many invasive weeds were dug lead by fearless Weed Warrior, Fred Mc Mechan



Diane Dunnaway took care of the bees.



Local naturalists like Paul Foth helped to train summer staff.

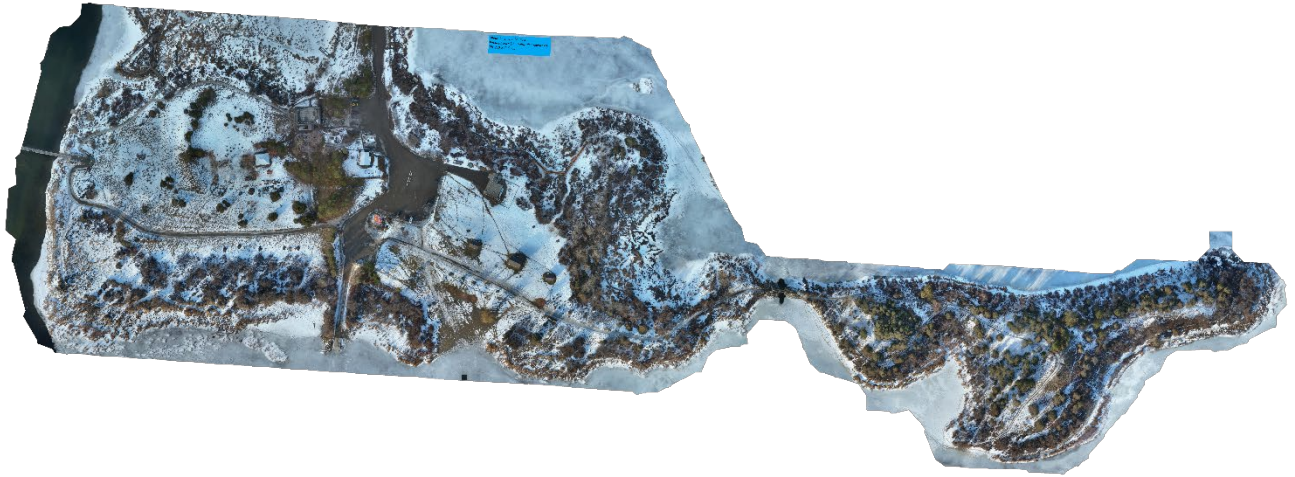
A Motus Wildlife Tracking Station was installed on the roof of the Scout Island Nature House. The station at Scout Island was established on May 12 by Birds Canada as one of their vast networks of tracking stations in North America. For more information on what it is doing go to

Ordell Steen and a group of energetic “planters” worked for 38 hours in May and June planting native shrubs and trees in the area east of the Neku7usem Bridge and then kept it watered the rest of the summer.



Mary Thurow took the picture. Yes, it is beautiful. It also shows the work of more of our “secret” helpers. Two amazing guys came all winter and snow blew trails so people could walk year round. Many other volunteers hand shoveled all of the walkways around the Nature House and kept the bridges clear.

These volunteers continue to be the heart of the Nature Centre. Members of the Williams Lake Field Naturalists are our main contributors of time and energy. Many other members of the community also pitch in –just show up and do what is needed like Rex Sutherland who faithfully weeded and watered the plantings along the causeway and Jim Buckland who showed up nearly every day early in the morning to dig weeks. Volunteer support, material donations, and financial backing make the Nature Centre the lively community centre that it is. Staff and visitors to the Nature Centre are thankful to the volunteers who contributed 4393 hours to the Nature Centre in 2022 worth \$156 524. Materials and Services donated (including City of Williams Lake contributions) are valued at \$33 150 for 2022



<https://renderstuff.com/tools/360-panorama-web-viewer-embed/?image=https://i.ibb.co/qj3QkMM/DJI-20230208151831-0001-W-2.jpg>

An amazing overhead view of Scout Island gifted to us by Steve Laidlaw. If you connect to the above you can zoom in and move around Scout Island from the air all by drone photography.

Looking Forward

Life in all its forms will continue in 2023 at Scout Island Nature Centre -that you can be sure of because of all of the amazing people that support the place. There is a list of projects planned for 2023 including a new boardwalk at Otter Point and covered areas near the Nature House for outdoor work with classes. There will be new volunteers and there is a rumour there may be a new Executive Director. This will be a part time Executive Director who will be paid! We are working in partnership with the UBC Research Forest to provide more Environmental Study programs for high school students. We look forward to what 2023 brings us.



The People that Make Scout Island Nature Centre Work

Williams Lake Field Naturalists

The Directors and members of the Williams Lake Field Naturalists have met the challenge of managing Scout Island Nature Centre since 1978. Through their volunteer efforts, programs and materials are developed, staff hired and trained, funds raised, trails repaired, buildings and infrastructure improved, weeds pulled, boardwalks built, bird boxes installed, habitat restored, and much more.

Directors

Ordell Steen-Co President
Don Lawrence-Co President
Margaret Waring-Co President
Fred McMechan –Past President
Katharine VanSpall – Treasurer
Nola Daintith -- Secretary
Ray Hornby –Director
Peter Opie—Director
Cathie Hamm-Director
Jean Oke-Director
Vanessa Robinson
Lara Roorda
Sean Donahue

Scout Island Nature Centre Staff

Executive Director-Sue Hemphill
Education Coordinator- Martin Kruus
Nature Educators:
Mary Forbes
Erin Hitchcock (air quality)
Kim Zalay
Summer Staff- Teacher Naturalists in 2022 included:
Adrien Zimmerman, Amelie' Hornburg, and Sydney Miller
Teacher Naturalists in Training- Ella Kruus and Claire Munroe
Tanya Johnson, Caroline Trenzek, and Steven Dutil kept everything clean
Sandra Stuart kept the books balanced
Denise Deschene is the caretaker
Arnold Lucier helps to take care of the grounds year round

You also find Kacie Young and Tanya Isnardy the Kindergarten teacher and Caroline Trenzek the Nature K Early Child Hood Educator there every school day.

Scout Island Nature Centre Partners

- BC Conservation Foundation—Bat Project
- Cariboo Regional District and City of Williams Lake - Central Cariboo Recreation and Leisure Services Function
- Cariboo Foundation-Jean Waite
- City of Williams Lake –General Funding
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Gibraltar Mine
- Province of BC through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy—Air Quality Education
- Province of BC through a Community Gaming Grant
- Service Centre Canada (Summer Job Program)
- School District 27
- The Nature Trust of British Columbia
- Williams Lake Community Forest
- Williams Lake Field Naturalists

Scout Island Nature Centre Supporters

- BC Nature (Federation Of British Columbia Naturalists)
- Cariboo Foundation-Anonymous donor
- Cariboo Regional District and City of Williams Lake, through the Central Cariboo Arts & Culture Society
- Fidelity Investment
- Markey Mechanical
- Pacific Salmon Foundation
- Tolko Industries
- Williams Lake and District Credit Union
- Woodlot Education Society

Scout Island Nature Centre could not continue to offer the natural history programs, the tonic of wilderness to our community or the protected space for wildlife in our urban setting without the support of many other individual community members and businesses who donated their time, funding, and ideas

Williams Lake Field Naturalists
1305A Borland Road, Williams Lake, BC V2G 5K5
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for Scout Island Nature Center
for the year ended December 31, 2022


Note: This statement has been prepared using the accrual method of financial reporting.

REVENUE	SINC Chequing Acct.	SINC Investment Savings Acct.	Gaming Acct.	Total
School and Community Programs				
Gaming Grant ¹			\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00
Other Grants				
Federal Summer Student Grant ¹	\$12,920.00			\$12,920.00
Fisheries & Oceans Canada ¹	\$26,879.00			\$26,879.00
City of Williams Lake Operating Grant (in part) ¹	\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00
Cariboo Foundation - Anonymous donor ¹	\$4,000.00			\$4,000.00
Cariboo Regional District & City of Williams Lake Central Cariboo Arts & Culture Society Contribution ¹	\$2,500.00			\$2,500.00
BCCF Bat Project ¹	\$7,700.00			\$7,700.00
Program Fees	\$13,455.73			\$13,455.73
Air Quality Education				
Go By Bike BC Society ¹	\$2,550.00			\$2,550.00
Province of BC ¹	\$6,000.00			\$6,000.00
Nature Center Maintenance & Improvements				
Trails, Signage and Habitat Restoration				
City of WL & Cariboo Regional District - Trail System ¹	\$12,500.00			\$12,500.00
Boardwalk Restoration				
Donations	\$14,800.00			\$14,800.00
City of WL & Cariboo Regional District - Trail System ¹	\$7,500.00			\$7,500.00
Community Gaming Capital Project Grant			\$43,766.00	\$43,766.00
General				
Nature Trust of BC	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00
Pacific Salmon Foundation - Displays ¹	\$2,500.00			\$2,500.00
Sales & Fundraising				
Sales (books, t-shirts, bug viewers, etc.)	\$252.37			\$252.37
Fundraising (chocolate sales)	\$3,166.00			\$3,166.00
General - for use in any of the above programs				
City of Williams Lake Operating Grant (in part)	\$2,500.00			\$2,500.00
Cariboo Foundation - Jean Waite	\$14,683.00			\$14,683.00
Donations (Individuals) ¹	\$17,002.14			\$17,002.14
Donations (Organizations & Businesses)	\$130.00	\$100.00		\$230.00
GST Rebate	\$330.82			\$330.82
Insurance demutualization rebate	\$3,577.09			
Investment Income		\$78.85		\$78.85
TOTAL REVENUE	\$165,946.15	\$178.85	\$64,766.00	\$230,891.00

¹ Externally Restricted funds, see Note #1

Williams Lake Field Naturalists
1305A Borland Road, Williams Lake, BC V2G 5K5
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for Scout Island Nature Center
for the year ended December 31, 2022

EXPENDITURES	SINC Chequing Acct.	SINC Investment Savings Acct.	Gaming Acct.	Total
School and Community Programs				
Wages and Benefits - Summer Staff	\$42,372.52			\$42,372.52
Wages and Benefits - Education Coordinator	\$26,925.78		\$15,610.08	\$42,535.86
Nature Educators (Contractors)	\$14,564.70			\$14,564.70
Mileage	\$3,540.33			\$3,540.33
Miscellaneous	\$3,059.92			\$3,059.92
Cleaning (Contractors)	\$1,871.60			\$1,871.60
Cleaning (Staff)	\$2,495.65			\$2,495.65
Air Quality Education				
Williams Lake Air Quality Program Support	\$6,639.31			\$6,639.31
Nature Centre Maintenance & Improvements				
Nature House Displays & Equipment	\$2,697.34			\$2,697.34
Trails, Signage and Habitat Restoration	\$4,721.06			\$4,721.06
Boardwalk Restoration	\$53,782.32			\$53,782.32
Wages and Benefits - Groundskeeper	\$6,141.65			\$6,141.65
Contractor - Groundskeeper	\$660.00			\$660.00
Library books & magazines	\$56.70			\$56.70
Sales & Fundraising				
Fundraising (chocolate sales)	\$2,802.50			\$2,802.50
Books for sales	\$332.64			\$332.64
Calendars by Anne Brown	\$594.72			\$594.72
General - support of any of the above programs				
Office Supplies & Expenses	\$1,376.78			\$1,376.78
Advertising	\$105.00			\$105.00
Banking Service Charges	\$78.12		\$78.00	\$156.12
Transfer to SINC Investment Savings account	\$100.00			\$100.00
Insurance	\$3,852.00			\$3,852.00
Bookkeeping	\$3,034.03			\$3,034.03
WCB Premium	\$135.85			\$135.85
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$181,940.52	\$0.00	\$15,688.08	\$197,628.60

Prepared by: 
Katharine VanSpall, Treasurer

Thoughts about Finances

Expense	Percent of Total Expenses
School and Community Programs	60
Nature Centre Maintenance and Improvements	36
Administration (book keeping, insurance, office supplies) and general expenses that support all programs, Fund Raising, Executive Director	4

Revenues (\$230 891) for Scout Island Nature Centre in 2022 look very healthy again compared to expenses (\$197 628). This is a result of receiving a BC Community Capital Project Grant of \$43 766 along with other donations towards boardwalk repairs. This money will not be used until fall 2023 when we can start that work on Otter Point.

The School and Community Programs wages continue to be the main expense (60%). This covers Summer Staff, Nature Educators, the Outdoor Education Resource Teacher, and Coordinator wages. The Williams Lake Field Naturalists are very grateful to the City of Williams Lake (\$12,500 fee for service to be increased to \$20000 for 2023-2025), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (\$21,000 fee Salmon Education Coordinator), and School District 27 (\$6,000 School Programs Grant) for their consistent funding for staff wages. This means only 30% of what is needed to maintain programs at the present level is available through regular funding. The rest depends on one-time grants and fund raising. Fees continue to provide 6% of our costs.

