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President's Report September 2013

Personal Comment: It is with great pride that I write this report. In a few short years the NCES has spread our wings to include so many more members of our community. We have more active members now than any time in the combined history of the NCES. It is with wonder that I notice the many things in our community that the NCES is responsible for- from willow tree planting, to programming for youth, to encouraging local businesses to grow food crops outside their businesses. We have events, active research projects, and representation on municipal and regional government committees, and we collaborate with a myriad of other stakeholder groups on initiatives. With that same pride I would say that we are one of the most active non-profit organizations in Revelstoke, and that is quite the achievement in this very engaged community.

Our board of directors is strong, focused, and extremely hard working. I have truly become a figurehead of this incredible organization. I want to give my deepest appreciation to former president Laura Stovel. Her systematic revamping of our governance and organizational systems has successfully strengthened the NCES and created a truly sustainable organization.

To Review:

The North Columbia Environmental Society's Constitutional goals are to:

- Promote the conservation, preservation, & restoration of the natural environment in the North Columbia region.
- Increase community awareness and participation to ensure that environmental health is recognized as essential for community well-being.
- Establish a unified voice for environmental issues.
- Find and share information about environmental issues of concern to North Columbia residents.
- Look for the common causes of environmental and social concerns and involve others in addressing them.
- Assist in developing strategies for ecological, social, and economic stability.
- Represent the environmental interests of the community and the surrounding ecosystem.

Board of Directors Elected September 2012:

Sarah Newton, President
Vacant, Vice President
Melissa Hemphill, Secretary
Jody Lownds, Treasurer
Erin Wilkins, Director of Finance

Rowland Bell*, Director of Conservation
Jennifer Greenwood, Director of Membership
Vacant, Director of Communication
*on leave, position now vacant

Members

98 paid members (honorary, business, families, individuals)
150+ non-NCES members on our event mailing

Sub Committees:

Independent Power Projects	Water Issues	Mountain Caribou
Revelstoke Mountain Resort	Local Food Initiative	Conservation

Meetings

Monthly meetings, as needed committee meetings, AGM

Methods of Communication

Email	Event posters	Sangha Bean Library
Website	Stoke List	Newspaper articles
Facebook page	Eco-Fact sheets	

Contract Positions

Hailey Ross- coordinator of administrative tasks, events, speaker series, completion of NCES Handbook
Matt Kieller- Junior Naturalist and Glacier Stewardship Adventure Program (GASP)
Keenan Way- Revelstoke Community Garden
Heather Hood- takes over Farm to Table Elementary, Garden Guru extension, Harvest Palooza
Jesse Johnston Hill- Farm to Table High School, Food for Thought, Multimedia Project
Sarah Jefferies- Junior Urban Farmer, Kokanee Fish Festival

Issues the NCES is currently involved in:

Food resilience	Independent Power Projects
Sustainable transportation	Columbia River Usage
Climate change adaptation, mitigation	Shelter Bay Development
Conservation of local environment	Revelstoke Mountain Resort
Greeley Creek recreational development	Air pollution industrial sources
Endangered Mountain Caribou	Water quality Williamson Lake

Municipal & District involvement (NCES Representation)

- City of Revelstoke: Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, Advisory Planning Commission (local and CSRD), Environmental Advisory Committee
- Provincial and Regional: Columbia River Drawdown Zone Advisory Committee, Mountain Caribou Project. CBT Environmental Strategic Plan, Columbia River Treaty, Revelstoke Caribou Rearing in the Wild, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society

- NCES Partners on a variety of projects- City of Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce, Revelstoke United Church, City of Revelstoke Museum and Archives, Wildsight, Revelstoke Visual Arts Centre, School District 19, Community Connections, Revelstoke Food Bank, Bear Aware, Revelstoke Caribou Rearing in the Wild, Revelstoke Women's Shelter, Parks Canada, and a myriad of local businesses, most notable Sangha Bean, and Chantilly Kitchen and Bath.

Funding Sources:

Annual membership dues	Hellmans	
Cash donations	New Horizons	Revelstoke Com. Found.
Event revenue	TD Friends of Env.	North Face
CBT Community Initiatives	Evergreen Fund	MEC
CBT Youth Initiative	Revelstoke Credit Union	

In Kind Donations:

Thanks to NCES contractor efforts and a very giving community we have substantial in kind donations of labour, time, materials, and property.

Volunteer Hours:

For contracted events, approximately 700 hours were donated from the community towards the running of these associated activities. For all other events, meetings attended, and activities undergone towards meeting NCES goals in the community, a minimum of 1200 hours volunteer hours were contributed. The ability of the NCES to mobilize Revelstoke citizens is well known and admired in the community. We host a volunteer appreciation event each year. This year it was a Taco Club/dessert potluck that saw about 30+ members come out for.

Major Sept 2012 to Sept 2013 Achievements / Events

(detailed project reports available upon request).

All events have a large volunteer component but if the word coordinator is included, a part-time paid person helped organize. The name at the end reflects the project lead.

-LFI Incredible Edibles Film Fest; January, February (volunteer)

This film series included 4 movies pertaining to relevant local events such as chickens, bees, permaculture and the local food movement in general. Over 200 people attended the films and each one had excellent media coverage. Melissa Hemphill, Sarah Newton, Nadja Lucknau, Jennifer Greenwood, Amy Clarke

-Winterlude Series; February and March (coordinator)

This new series was created to strengthen the NCES conservation component. We provided an opportunity to be part of our amazing landscape and to witness and learn about the natural world around them. Four events occurred with a total of 61 participants. Hailey Ross

-Garden Book; Early Spring to Early Winter (coordinator)

A project funded by New Horizons and partnered with the Revelstoke Museum and Archives, that will spread gardening folklore and expertise from the seniors in our community to the

younger and often inexperienced gardening enthusiasts. This project is in progress and will be finished in time for Christmas. Laura Stovel

-Chasing Ice; April (coordinator)

A film and guest speakers, to highlight the profile of worldwide climate change. 130 people came out to see this award winning film and local guest speakers- Penny Page Brittin, Sarah Boyle and Cindy Pearce. Hailey Ross

-Garden Guru Series; April to September (coordinator)

These garden and food preservation workshops are a growing success each year. Coordinated by Hailey Ross, this workshop series identified local “experts” in gardening and food-preservation techniques to facilitate workshops on these topics. There were 13 workshops with an average of 17 people in attendance. The series has been very successful as demonstrated by great attendance, a diverse demographic appeal, community praise, and generous community donations of time and resources. Hailey Ross and Heather Hood.

-Earth Day; April (volunteer)

Green Time Capsule project, that took place on the greenbelt after school. There were 14 children in attendance and about 6 parents. Turn out was low for this community event. Perhaps in the future we will run lunch time activities in the schools. Sarah Newton

-Willow Tree Plant; June (volunteer)

In conjunction with Wild Voices for Kids, approximately 70 students from SD 19 helped re-vegetate a damaged section of Martha Creek with willow stalks that the NCES harvested, prepared, and stored. This erosion control initiative was the second that the NCES has done in this area. Rowland Bell

-Glacier Adventure Stewardship Program; June to September (coordinator)

In its third year and attracting 14 students in the age range of 15-17, the GASP program was a huge success. Matt Kieller coordinated the students in their volunteering, each doing 15 hours of community oriented environmental stewardship activities in order to participate in a 4 day backcountry educational wilderness adventure. They were taught by a host of local experts about back country skills and photography. The cumulative event is a photo exhibit in October. Alice Weber, Matt Kieller

-Bike Giveaway; June (coordinator)

this event was not as high profile as in years past. Usually it is held in conjunction with Bike to Work Week. This year we had an inadequate number of bikes to refurbish. Instead of a big event to find worthy homes for the 4 bikes, we gave two to the women’s shelter and two to Community Connections. Hailey Ross

Junior Naturalists; July- August (coordinator)

This program we took over this year from the Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks. It was a successful year with 8 weeks of day camps, all filled to capacity. Events focused on local conservation and environmental awareness. This fall we will add an after school component to target more ‘at risk’ children in the elementary schools. Matt Kieller

Garden and Art Tour; August (coordinator)

The NCES hosted a self-directed tour of 18 homes and 20 artists, to celebrate and share strategies for growing your own food in an urban environment. This event was a resounding success with over 80 following our event maps from venue to venue, mostly on their bicycles. Hailey Ross

-Midsummer Night's Green; August (coordinator)

Fundraiser for the community garden organized by Hailey Ross at Terra Firma Farm. Event featured gourmet meal by La Baguette with produce donated from local businesses, organic BC wine, live music, and beautiful décor. This evening was an incredible success and earning approx \$4000 with about 70 people in attendance. Hailey Ross

-Kokanee Fish Festival; September (coordinator)

In late September at Bridge Creek, grade 3's in Revelstoke spend half a day learning about Salmonspawning and other related topics. Booths several organizations and activities include running games, fish prints, fish dissection, art, fishing games, scavenger hunts, bear aware, etc. About 80 students take part in this annual event. An obvious concern for the future is that there are few if any, Kokanee spawning in the last two years. Sara Jeffery

- Harvest Palooza; October (coordinator)

A celebration of local food and local harvests, activities, a potluck, educational centres, contests, live musical and workshops. Located at the community garden. Turn out was low this year, at about 50 people. Heather Hood

-SD 19 schools: Farm to Table; December to March (coordinator)

Education about climate change as it is related to the food issues of processing, transport, and packaging. This annual program takes place in all grade 5 classes, with a about 100 students taking part in four modules and trips to the farmer's market and local grocery stores. (A new round of units are starting up this fall with Heather Hood doing elementary classrooms and Jess Johnston-Hill starting a brand new curricula at RSS). Hailey Ross

-Food at Work; Ongoing (volunteer)

A local initiative to encourage local businesses to plant food instead of flowers outside their businesses. At present we have seven participating locations. The goal is to increase awareness of capacity for food production and capacity in the urban commercial demographic. Nadja Lucknau, Melissa Hemphill, and Amy Clarke

-Food Charter; Ongoing (coordinator)

A local initiative to create a Food Resilience Charter for Revelstoke. A committee of various actors with a stake in Revelstoke's food resilience developed a definition for what "Food Resilience" means for Revelstoke, and drafted a Food Resilience Charter to be ratified by the community, and City Council. This committee will continue to work together towards the development of a Food Action Plan for Revelstoke. Partners include Community Connections, City of Revelstoke, School District 19, the Fair Trade Committee, Terra Firma Farms, and a variety of other individuals representing cultural groups, seniors, First Nations, etc. Hailey Ross

-Downtown Community Garden; Ongoing (coordinator)

In conjunction with the Revelstoke United Church in the downtown core, it supports a number of educational opportunities, ie. Garden Guru series. Funding for garden maintenance and a

series of garden-related educational programming came from the CBT & the New Horizons grant. A garden co-coordinator & Junior Urban Farmer were hired to assist members & ensure food bank donations. We have 13 members; this season we donated 50+ kg of food to the food bank with a lot more produce to come. This year we followed a communal model, & had 365 square feet under production. Keenan Way, Sara Jefferies, Melissa Hemphill

In Conclusion:

I would also like to thank the Board of Directors before you:

Jody Lownds, our treasured treasurer. She is vigilant to the boring and behind the scenes stuff in order to maintain a firm grasp on our finances" and we are in awe of her use of excel spreadsheets. As an organization this gives all directors great confidence and peace of mind.

Melissa Hemphill is our LFI committee head. She has great ideas, time to bring them to fruition and is an amazing source of knowledge. She can take credit for so many of the current projects. She has taken food security, an issue of great importance to many of our members and of primary importance to create community resilience in the face of climate change. Our most active committee is the Local Food Initiative, and as chair she has led the most projects in the recent history of the NCES.

Jennifer Greenwood as membership director has kept our membership numbers growing and organized. Jennifer also offers a high degree of scientific knowledge is intrinsic to NCES success. Her expertise in environmental issues and science background is a vital component of the NCES board.

Rowland Bell is our director of conservation who has led this new committee and led a successful willow tree plant at Martha Creek as part of a rehabilitation project. Rowland is stepping down, but we wish to thank him for his time with the NCES.

Erin Wilkins is our director of fundraising. We are grateful at her ability to find grant sources, organize our various initiatives and to write successful grant applications. All this with two young children.

It would be without criticism that I can speak for the entire board when I say that the current success of the NCES lays at the feet of Hailey Ross. She is our key contractor and it is her vision, skill, hard work, and interpersonal skills that are at the heart of so many successful events. She truly is a gift to the NCES. Thank you Hailey, your handiwork is evident in every corner of this report, which was a pleasure to write.

Thank you all for your contributions to the North Columbia Environmental Society, it is well worth your efforts. With warmest regards,

Sarah Newton, Acting President
North Columbia Environmental Society

Revelstoke BC, September 24, 2013

