

# Camp Koolaree AGM 2020



Dec 18, 2020  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

## **Camp Koolaree Society President's Report**

2020 was something like I have never experienced!! I was at the camp almost all of my days off managing the 2 staff and overseeing the bathroom project. Although I was at the camp a lot, it wasn't the same and I miss our "usual". I am glad we were still able to engage the local youth on a smaller scale and host day camps while trying to socially distance and use a lot of hand sanitizer.

The Board of Directors consisted of Peter Herd, Ray Lundquist, Robin Murray, Juliana Marko, John Marko, Bill Furey, Natalie Plett, Nicole Cameron, Linda Gregory and David Ermacora. It was a great group of humans who faced the COVID challenge head on and rose to the challenge of a global pandemic.

Looking forward, we hope to continue to grow the numbers and abilities of the board members and continue to try and share the workload to ensure burn out is not an issue. The sub-committee's need clear job descriptions and a list of expectations, they would benefit from a Board member chairing the committee and having community members who were not necessarily Society members, but have an interest or experience in the given group. Our paid staff tend to change from year to year, we need to develop daily check lists to ensure continuity for the camps. We worked on check lists for the Groundsman and this proves very effective. We need to continue to seek different grants and hold fundraisers to help with raising maintenance costs and offset the increasing number of camperships.

Personally, I have never experienced a summer when we aren't allowed to operate, here's hoping for next year. This was my 26<sup>th</sup> year at Koolaree I look forward to working with the Board of Directors again and growing the camp. Koolaree has a truly special place in my heart and it would take some deep soul searching if I didn't have the option of returning to this truly amazing place. It's one of the few area's left that one can truly get away from the busy world and enjoy a rustic camp settling. It's nice to have a place to be still and know the Lord.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Herd

## **CAMP KOOLAREE ANNUAL MEETING November 23, 2019**

Present: Peter Herd, Bill Furey, Irene Furey, Gordon Swedberg, Linda Gregory, Ray Lundquist, John Marko.

Peter Called the Meeting to order at 12:53 pm.

### **Reports Included in the Annual Report for 2019 were reviewed:**

**President's Report** was summarized by Peter.

**Minutes of the November 19, 2018 Annual Meeting** were reviewed, and a number of amendments were made. Peter will make the corrections and circulate the revised minutes to those present.

**Treasurer's Report** was summarized by John. Gordon informed us we should have our books reviewed prior to the Annual Meeting rather than after. John will follow up with Bill VanBeek. Gordon suggested we ask those who donated to the Dining Room Pole Fund if we could move their donations into our Build Fund account to simplify our bookkeeping. John will follow up with donors. It was suggested that we explore charging a set fee for those using PayPal to offset our cost. John Will investigate and bring a proposal to the next Board meeting.

**Pacific Mountain Region Report** was not available. Peter will include it when he revises the 2018 Annual Minutes.

**Registrar's Report** was summarized by John. It was suggested that we develop a more formal system of awarding Camperships. Juliana will explore options.

**Communications and Fundraising Report** was not available. It was suggested that Nicole and Muriel explore a grant from the BC Lotteries Corporation. Juliana will explore the cost of putting an ad on Google.

**Boats and Buildings Team Report** was summarized by Ray. John was directed to call Ian Fraser to see if the Pacific Mountain Region will cover the cost of the Geotechnical Report currently being worked on for the wash house project.

**Program/Operation/Staffing Report** was reviewed by Peter.

**Camp Director's Reports** for Teen, Junior Girls, Junior Boys, Novice, and Outpost were summarized by Peter. The Intergenerational Camp had to be cancelled due to low registration numbers. Directors and all volunteer staff were praised for fostering a caring environment to further camper's growth in all areas.

Bill moved and Linda seconded that all reports be accepted as amended. Carried.

**Election of Board Members for 2020:** Juliana Marko, Natalie Plett, Nicole Cameron, Peter Herd, John Marko, Bill Furey, Linda Gregory, Ray Lundquist and John Marko volunteered to serve on the Board next year. Misty Soukchoff, Toni Lynn McKellar, and Robin Murray have resigned and we thank them for their service to Koolaree. They would all be welcome to rejoin the Board whenever they feel they have the time and energy. New members are welcome to join anytime. Juliana will put the word out on social media apps.

Ray moved the meeting be adjourned at 2:44 pm.

Respectfully,

John D. Marko, Treasurer

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Two big factors played a role in Koolaree's finances this past year. Covid cancelled all our regular and rental camps severely reducing our revenue, and the Wash House project got off to a great start depleting our Building Fund and then some. We were able to adapt our camps to Day Camps which kept the Koolaree spirit alive for a number of campers, but we're sure hoping our regular camps will operate again in 2021. Fortunately, we were able to receive the Canada Summer Jobs Grant again this year which covered the salary of the Recreation Coordinator who ran the Day Camp Program, and the Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church has offered to cover the expenses incurred for costs above our normal camp operating budget due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Nicole Cameron has been hard at work all year applying for, and successfully receiving some, grants which will help us finish the Wash House Project next year. Nicole was also successful in securing a \$5,000 Innovation Grant through the United Church of Canada's Embracing the Spirit Program to create a promotional video for the camp, and a Grow Your Idea Grant of \$5,000 to be put towards the construction costs of our genderless Wash House. Grant money is an ongoing need for Koolaree as we try to upgrade our facilities: boats, dock, kitchen, dining room, etc.

Mo Barry of First Choice Contracting did a fantastic job of getting steep discounts and lots of free labour to bring our Wash House Project in under budget so far. Again, we're hoping to get enough grant money next year to complete the project. So far, we've spent about \$107,400. This has used up the donation of \$85,000 from the Beaver Valley United Church to our Building Fund, with the balance coming from our Operating account.

I'd like to thank the Board for their patience and understanding as I struggle to reconcile our finances each month! Gordon Swedburg has again been a tremendous help with recombining the Funds Held in Advance accounts with the regular operating accounts. This should make next year a lot easier! It takes me a while, but so far it always comes out right in the end!

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Marko, Treasurer

**CAMP KOOLAREE  
2019/2020 BALANCE SHEET**

	<u>October 31,2020</u>		<u>October 31,2019</u>	
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>				
<b><u>KSCU Accounts</u></b>				
Maximizer	\$	24,637.76		\$ 47,148.68
Campership		6,255.43		3.54
Building Fund		3,214.31		85,661.62
Dining Room Pole		501.64		500.94
Shares		25.00	\$34,634.14	25.00
				<u>\$ 133,339.78</u>
<b><u>Accts Receivable</u></b>				
GST	\$	2,417.30		\$ 547.41
PayPal		221.58		339.29
Miscellaneous		203.98	2,842.86	-
				<u>886.70</u>
<b><u>Total Assets</u></b>			<b><u>\$37,477.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 134,226.48</u></b>
<b><u>LIABILITES</u></b>				
<b><u>Accounts Payable</u></b>				
Revenue Canada	\$	-		\$ -
Miscellaneous		-	\$ -	-
				<u>\$ -</u>
<b><u>OPERATING EQUITY</u></b>				
Opening Balance	\$	134,226.48		\$ 19,816.97
Current Year		(96,749.48)	37,477.00	114,409.51
				<u>134,226.48</u>
<b><u>Total Liabilities and Equity</u></b>			<b><u>\$37,477.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 134,226.48</u></b>

			Profit/Loss Statement		
			2020	2019	
<b>Income:</b>					
Camper Registrations:			\$2,380.00	\$28,071.50	\$28,071.50
<b>Donations:</b>					
General	\$12,484.33			\$41,313.71	
Camperships	\$8,862.39			\$8,425.00	
Building Fund	\$3,267.47			\$88,300.00	
Dining Room Fund	\$0.70			\$0.00	
Grants	\$12,890.00		\$35,304.89	\$2,541.00	\$140,579.71
<b>Other Income:</b>					
Miscellaneous	\$0.00			\$1,900.00	
Rentals	-\$900.00			\$7,949.00	
Investments	\$114.71			\$553.08	
T-Shirt Sales	\$20.50		-\$764.79	\$110.00	\$10,512.06
<b>Total Revenue:</b>			<b>\$36,920.10</b>		<b>\$179,163.27</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>					
Camps	\$4,718.07			\$10,250.72	
Financil Fees	\$171.21			\$301.53	
Staffing	\$13,815.12			\$27,926.68	
Utilities	\$2,511.52			\$2,554.03	
Maintenance	\$682.80			\$10,739.00	
Building Fund Projects	\$103,897.79				
Dining Room Fund Project	\$0.00				
Miscellaneous	\$883.18			\$3,145.93	
Tax/Insurance/Fees	\$4,318.49			\$4,487.85	
Fuels/Oil	\$860.98			\$1,491.87	
Boats	\$735.92			\$1,891.62	
Mileage	\$1,874.52			\$1,984.55	
<b>Total Expenses:</b>			<b>\$133,669.58</b>		<b>\$64,753.76</b>
<b>Profit/Loss:</b>			<b>-\$96,749.48</b>		<b>\$114,409.51</b>

## REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

The Pacific Mountain Regional Council really stepped up to the challenges Camps were facing this summer with Covid19 closures. The PMRC First Third Ministries provide "Camp at Home" activity packets which were to be delivered by local camp staff to last year's campers. Natalie delivered as many as we still had local contact information for.

The Region also stepped-up making funds available for costs related to providing day camps that we would not have incurred during a regular camp year such as renting the portable toilet for the parking lot and purchasing two canopies for sun and rain shelter. In regards to our Wash House project, they paid for the Geotechnical Survey as well as some corrections to the property title, as these things were of direct benefit to the Region as legal property owner.

There was conversation about the fact that the Camp Futures project has ended except for a few financial promises made to the former BC Conference Camps, Fircom and Pringle. We look forward to

building a new relationship with the PMRC and the six other camps besides Koolaree that are part of it with us.

Nicole Cameron represented Camp Koolaree at the PMRC General meeting in the fall, with Robin Murray attending in her new capacity as Minister for Castlegar United Church.

Respectfully submitted  
Rev. Robin Murray

## **REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

2020 has been a rollercoaster to say the least. I am glad that we were able to adapt, and offer something for campers this camping season. We had 43 registrants for our overnight camps before we had to cancel due to Covid-19 restrictions. Thanks to the Region and our quick thinking we were able to switch gears and offer day camps for all ages in Castlegar and at our parking lot at McDonald's Landing. Unfortunately, we did not have enough registrants for our Teen week or for our Family Campfire nights, so those were cancelled. Our Novice week had 5 children at our 2 Castlegar days and 10 children at our 3 Nelson days. We were able to hold 2 Junior Day Camps that had a total of 14 registrants who attended multiple days over the two weeks and some of whom attended both Castlegar and Nelson. All registrations were by donation (suggested \$20/day).

We were unable to accommodate any renters this year, and therefore had to refund the deposit made for a June wedding.

## **COMMUNICATION & FUNDRAISING**

This year the communication and fundraising team has been working hard to get our name known to the community, and fund raise for our new wash house project specifically. We had a great hand this year in our wash house project contractor, Mo Barry, who was able to help us partner with many in the local business community, who in turn donated materials and hours of their time to help us in the initial phase of the wash house build. We were also able to secure several grants towards our projects. A full list of donors to the project will be appearing on our website, and this committee would like to thank everyone who volunteered or donated so generously this year. We have also focused on learning and making connections this year. We have received two grants this year from Embracing the Spirit (a division of the United Church of Canada). We received initially an innovation grant to help us create video and advertising material to help promote the camp and our new Outpost initiative, and as well use this material in securing further grants. We also received a growth grant towards the new wash house as well. Embracing the Spirit not only grants funds for development, but also includes networking and education to help ensure success – something which we have been actively taking part in. With the restrictions that covid-19 have put in place on us this year, it has been both challenging and easier than ever to make connections. As most funds as now going towards organizations hit hard by covid, or doing direct covid relief, it has been hard to secure funding that we would otherwise have qualified for. However, with new communication methods becoming more prevalent, we have been able to make more connections with more potential partners than in previous years. Overall, we are happy with the progress we have made this year, and unbelievably grateful for the support we have received. We have learned a great deal, and continue to strive to make new connections in the community. Respectfully submitted, Nicole Cameron

## BOATS & MAINTENCE

Another year has sped by since our last annual general meeting on November 23, 2019, and on looking over my notebook, I've found some entries that might be of interest.

In preparation for a January PowerPoint presentation to the Castlegar Rotary Club, I had spent many hours selecting photos. At the club's regular weekly supper meeting on January 21, Bill Furey narrated the slides and I was officially presented with a very nice 5 piece set of Ridgid 18V portable tools for the camp. I thanked the club for their generosity and a few days later a photo of the presentation appeared in the Castlegar News.

SPRING: In March, Don Ellis and I checked out a couple of boats that would have been nice to add to our fleet. One was a nice pontoon boat at Scottie's Marina, and the other was a beautiful Kingfisher 1625 Falcon we took for a spin at Nakusp. Unfortunately, without funding, we had to be satisfied with just looking.

April saw me re-insuring our boat trailers by email due to COVID-19 restrictions. Don and I spent time doing maintenance on the trailers and I had a call from Mo Barry who wanted to get out to the camp before month end. It was April 27 when Jacob Plett and I launched "The Scow" at Lakeside Park. The water level was so low that we had to drag the boat off the trailer. The weather that day was rather nasty with both rain and hail falling from the sky as Jacob disappeared up the lake.

On May 7 I drove out to McDonalds Landing to check on The Scow, and just as well, as I had to bail 90 four-litre jugs of water out of it before sheltering it on the inside of the dock.

It was Thursday May 28 when Don and I undraped the Starchief and took it to his place to get it cleaned up and ready. Two days later we launched it at Lakeside Park. Don ran the boat up to McDonalds Landing where I got aboard and then we took a run across to Koolaree to have a quick look around. I took a few photos and applied the annual seals to our dining room and water system permits before leaving. After dropping off Don, I left the boat trailer at Castlegar United Church and was home by 11:15.

SUMMER: I gave Patrick Sanders a ride out to McDonalds Landing on Monday June 1 with all his supplies for the summer. There we met Jacob who took us across to Koolaree in the Starchief. Aside from putting up some "Boil Water" notices and getting the water treatment plant ready, I didn't do too much before leaving.

That Sunday, June 7, I towed the Starchief's EZ-Loader trailer down to Don's where we installed a new 2-speed winch on it and the next day towed it out to the camp parking lot. I went over to Koolaree to do a couple of plumbing repairs and returned with several fire extinguishers that needed service. I stopped by West Kootenay Fire Safety on Friday June 19 to pick up the extinguishers and was told there would be no charge. Very nice.

Monday June 22 I drove out to Curtis Landing where a barge was being loaded with building materials and then caught a ride across with Patrick in the Scow as the Starcraft was beached at Koolaree loaded

with water. Patrick bailed it out and installed a new bilge pump that I had brought. I spent the rest of the day flushing, cleaning filters, and refilling the contact tanks in the water treatment building.

The next day I got a request for more propane and gasoline. I also got a call from the RDCK Parks Operations Lead regarding the placement of a warning sign at the top of the hill on the road to the parking lot. Mo Barry had placed the sign there as the parking lot was full and there was no more room to park or to turn around. I received two more calls from the Operations Lead the next day and also managed to deliver a tube of caulk, 6 litres of 2-stroke marine oil, 300 pounds of propane and about 150 litres of gas.

On June 29 I picked up Don and towed his trailer with the camp's log splitter to Curtis Landing where it was loaded aboard the barge and taken over to Koolaree.

On July 21 I made another trip out to get more gasoline for the boats.

Herman Manarin and I went to the camp parking lot on August 6 to check out the yard light which had been reported as staying on day and night. Herman switched off the breaker as a temporary fix and said he would check out some new LED fixtures when he had time. I brought back four empty propane cylinders, two of which needed to be recertified before they could be refilled. Ten days later I was able to get the propane cylinders recertified and refilled at JEMS Propane in Crescent Valley and then took them out to Nichawa where Jacob was waiting with The Scow.

On Monday August 17, our assistant groundsman, Patrick Sanders, was in town on days off, so I gave him a set of portable navigation lights for him to take out to camp when he went back to work. In case of an emergency trip across the lake at night, the lights could be installed on either boat to make it legal.

A couple of days later, I went to Mo Barry's residence to help load scaffolding, miscellaneous construction material, and equipment onto his trailers. Mo and helpers were leaving for the camp in preparation for a major work party. I returned to Mo's on August 26 to help unload the trailers.

FALL: With help from Peter Herd and Jacob, who had been at Koolaree on September 2 for some final cleanup, I hauled out the Starcraft Starchief at Lakeside Park. In spite of a stiff wind, that operation went well and I towed the boat back to Castlegar and left it in the United Church parking lot.

It was a beautiful fall day on Friday September 4, so Don Ellis and I went out to Koolaree to winterize the camp water system. While we were busy, we had some visitors from Ferguson's Point drop by. Judy and Bill Ormand and Donna Jones had been wondering about the construction project at Koolaree. Judy (nee Ferguson) said her father had been the minister at Trail United Church at one time. Tim and Dawn Powell also dropped by with another couple to have a look around. At day's end, we hauled out "The Scow" at McDonalds Landing and took it back to Castlegar.

On September 13, Bill Furey and I went to James York's place to pick up all the various parts of the solar system for the new washroom and then took it all to Bill's basement where it will stay until next spring.

The following Friday, Don and I ran the fuel out of the boat motors and changed the oil in their lower units. Don also greased the Bearing Buddys on the EZ-Loader trailer.

I received a phone call from Camille LeBlanc on September 28. She is the Program Manager for the Friends of Kootenay Lake and has been involved with the Shore Spawning Kokanee Habitat Restoration Project at McDonalds Landing. She explained that they had some leftover gravel and had spread part of it in the camp parking lot. She said she would take some photos and send them to me. Before seeing the photos I had told Camille that a bit of gravel probably would be a good addition to the parking lot, but after seeing the photos I realized that some of the gravel had been spread down the hill towards the pier. Considering the size and shape of the stones, I felt that anyone backing down the hill would have a real problem getting traction on the way back up. What was suitable for fish spawning was not what one would want on a roadway. It was November 10 before I got around to emailing her and explaining this. I sent a copy to Jeff Phillips of the RDCK Parks Department as it will be up to him or someone at the Regional District to look into it as it's their property. The FOKL have a very interesting website which I highly recommend checking out.

Finally, on October 2, Don and I covered the Starcraft with a large tarp to keep the snow out of it this winter. When he has any spare time, Don has been removing rust, repainting, and rebuilding our salvaged Mastercraft boat trailer.

Aside from taking some photos, I wasn't really involved in the new washroom construction, so I'm hoping that Mo Barry will send us a write-up. He and all the volunteers have done an amazing job so far.

Considering the turmoil that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused, and the subsequent cancellation of summer camps, I think the year turned out fairly well.

Ray Lundquist, Director  
Camp Koolaree Society

## **PROGRAM / OPERATION / STAFFING**

Koolaree welcomed back Jacob Plett as our primary Groundsman and longtime Koolarean Patrick Sanders as a volunteer for the summer. Although we only had 2 staff, they kept me busy. There were some challenges at times, but on the overall, they were a welcomed part of the camping season. It was a challenge for the boys to adjust to not operating our typical summer camps and it became basically a summer long work party. They were accustomed to our regular operation, which includes down time and a social aspect.

Natalie Plett resigned from the Board and was hired as the camp Director for our day camps, as per usual, she excelled while adjusting to becoming a new mom.

Sincerely,

Peter Herd  
On behalf of the Program & Operations Committee and the Staffing Committee

## **SUMMER CAMPS**

This summer was definitely one for the books. I have been going to camp for almost 20 years and I have never personally been a part of anything like this. Normally I am only in charge of 1 or 2 weeks of camp. So to run an entire summer was intimidating to say the least. At the camp you have so much support and so much more access to the wilderness and the water and the mountain. It made it very difficult to plan activities and keep kids focused on participating in them. I know its generally 1 adult to 10 campers but it was a lot for 1 person to take on. I think in the future if we have to do this again the people who have committed to planning a week of camp should be responsible for that week of planning whether or not they are directing it or have it so the campers can only sign up for 1 day a week so the same day can be repeated a couple times a week and there is more room for other kids to sign up. It was a lot for 1 person. This year we did day camps 5 days a week for the regularly scheduled weeks of camp. It was challenging and fun and amazing to see the friendships bloom. I directed 2 days a week at Castlegar United Church and 3 days a week at the McDonald's Landing boat launch. The days in Castlegar were extremely difficult as it was very hot with little time out of the sun and not a whole lot of ways to cool off. We made do but I think for future reference bathing suits and a sprinkler should be mandatory. The days in Nelson were way better because we had the Forrest to shade and provide us with alternate activities. The campers loved making survival shelters. I highly recommend having an extensive list of activities as there is only so much you can do in a parking lot. We had a good mix of campers throughout the summer however there was 1 week where it was only boys and let me tell you, I was not built for directing an all boys camp. I have always said I could do boys camp, I never said I could direct it and I stand by that haha. The only thing I would want to change about the day camps if we have to do this again next year is to get a lifeguard for the Nelson days because we had several campers choose not to come back because they couldn't go in the water. Overall, it was a wonderful summer and I am so thankful that I got to be the one to take it on and direct it.

Respectfully,  
Natalie Plett