

Camp Koolaree AGM 2024



Dec 19, 2024
Castlegar United Church
Castlegar, British Columbia

Camp Koolaree Society President's Report

2024 was a very busy year, even topping last year, I'm amazed by the number of individuals we reached, 216 campers is most we've had in many years or possibly ever. We finished our new bathroom, took on and trained new staff and worked with the Region to improve our relationship.

The Board of Directors consisted of Peter Herd, Ray Lundquist, Robin Murray, Linn Murray, John Marko, Tim Totten-Prime, Natalie Plett, Michelle Holm and Josh Mack. We had 2 Directors resign for personal reasons. It is a diverse group of people who come with eagerness, passion and a desire to help improve and grow the camp for all.

Looking forward, we hope to continue to grow the abilities of the board members and continue to try and share the workload to ensure burn out is not an issue. Developing productive sub-committees, would benefit a Board member chairing the committee and having community members who are interested or have experience in the given groups. As our paid staff tends to change from year to year, we need to utilize daily check lists to ensure continuity for the camps. We need to continue to seek even more different grants and hold fundraisers to help with raising maintenance costs and offset the increasing number of camperships, while still growing the number of campers and capacity of the camp

This was truly a challenging year because of many events through the camping season. This was my 30th 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 going to this truly amazing place. In times of heightened stress during my life, I will hike out, even in the snow. It's one of the few areas 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 SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Castlegar United Church
November 25, 2023

Present: Linda Mae, Findlay, Diana Mack, Thomas Plett, Jacob Plett, Linda Gregory, Robin Murray, John Pengelly, Irene Furey, Bill Furey, Ray Lundquist, Hanna Sanders, Patrick Sanders, Peter Herd, Gareth Totten-Prime, Tim Totten, Joshua Mack, Emma MacLean, John Marko, Linn Murray (via Zoom).

Robin opened the meeting with prayer.

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves and what their relationship was to Camp Koolaree.

Voting Privileges: Robin moved, Linn seconded that we extend voting privileges to everyone present. Carried.

Minutes from the December 10, 2022 AGM were reviewed. Robin asked that her last name be corrected to Murray. Robin moved, Lina Mae seconded that the minutes be accepted as amended. Carried.

2023 Annual Reports:

Verbal summaries were given by the following for the Reports printed in the Annual Report:

President's Report: Peter

Financial Report: John

Pacific Mountain Region Report: Robin

Registrar's Report: Peter

Communication and Fundraising Report: Linn

Boats and Maintenance Report: Bill and Ray

Staffing Report: Linn

Jr. Girl's Camp Report: Peter

Teen Camp: Peter and Patrick

Jr. Boy's Camp: Josh, noting that he changed the programming this year to better meet the needs of the current campers. The theme was "Patience", and it was the most respectful Jr. Boy's Camp ever.

Novice Camp: Josh.

Intergenerational Camp: Tim

John Moved and Robin Seconded that the Reports be accepted as printed and read. Carried.

2.

Elections of Board Members:

Seventeen people put their names forward to be Board members. Our Constitution and By-Laws limit the Board to eleven members, at least six of which must be United Church members or adherents. A ballot was drawn up and copies of those running were circulated to all those present. Completed ballots were then tallied by Linda Mae (the only person present not in conflict). The result was the following being elected to the Board for 2023 - 24:

Peter Herd, Ray Lundquist, Linn Murray, Robin Murray, John Marko, Natalie Plett, Nicole Cameron, Michelle Holm, Tim Totten, Patrick Sanders, and Josh Mack.

Thanks to the outgoing Board members: Bill Furey and Linda Gregory, and welcome new members: Tim Totten and Patrick Sanders.

Robin closed the meeting with a blessing.

Ray adjourned the meeting at 1510 hrs.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Once again, it was a busy year, but definitely fruitful. The new Washhouse was finally completed in time for the Dances of Universal Peace to use on their Labour Day weekend rental. Once again the Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church of Canada came through with the funds to build a berm to divert any flood water around the new washhouse as required by the Regional District of Central Kootenay before it could be approved for usage.

The proposed salary for a Camp Manager was only minimally taped, as the position was only filled for 10 days. Our camper registration was up significantly requiring more expenses, which was more than compensated for by the increase in registration fees. The Building fund was completely drained, as we had to supplement it from our Reserve Fund to cover the costs of finishing the Washhouse. We purchased a new boat to replace the worn out scow from funds in the Boat Fund, reducing that fund to \$3,346. I would suggest leaving that money in that account for any upcoming repairs which always seem to arise.

We have signed a one year contract with the PMR's Property Development Committee. for a bookkeeper (Christina DeBruyn) starting November 1, 2024 at a cost of \$500/month. The Camping Ministry has agreed to cover \$100/month for the first year to ease the cost burden on our camp. I'm currently in the process of shifting duties over to her. Hopefully, this will take some of the strain on the Treasurer's position. I am resigning from the position after 12 or 15 years. Who's counting? It has been quite the learning situation for me, as our annual expenditures have increased from about \$40,000/year to over \$300,000/year! I hope to continue serving the camp so near to my heart in some other capacity.

Shalom, John D. Marko, Treasurer

CAMP KOOLAREE
2023/2024 BALANCE SHEET

	<u>October 31,2024</u>		<u>October 31,2023</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>			
<u>KSCU Accounts</u>			
Maximizer	\$ 35,472.36		\$ 25,441.21
Campership	354.72		11.29
Building Fund	0.51		56,129.45
Dining Room Pole	507.29		505.50
Reserve Fund	6,710.50		10,244.29
Boat Fund	3,346.01		42,601.76
Shares	25.00	\$ 46,416.39	25.00
			<u>\$134,958.50</u>
<u>Accts Receivable</u>			
GST	\$ 5,008.30		\$ 2,215.26
PayPal	709.58		1,993.04
Canada Helps	(0.01)		1,250.00
Miscellaneous	194.65	<u>5,912.52</u>	<u>203.98</u>
			<u>5,662.28</u>
<u>Total Assets</u>		<u>\$ 52,328.91</u>	<u>\$140,620.78</u>
<u>LIABILITES</u>			
<u>Accounts Payable</u>			
EI:	\$ 123.60		
CPP:	<u>336.56</u>		
Taxes:	323.69	<u>783.85</u>	0
<u>OPERATING EQUITY</u>			
Opening Balance	\$ 140,620.78		\$ 221,907.19
Current Year	<u>(89,075.72)</u>	<u>51,545.06</u>	<u>(81,286.41)</u>
			<u>140,620.78</u>
<u>Total Liabilities and Equity</u>		<u>\$ 52,328.91</u>	<u>\$140,620.78</u>

	18/19 Actual	19/20 Actual	20/21 Actual	21/22 Actual	22/23 Actual	23/24 Budget	23/24 Actual	24/25 Budget
Income								
Donations:								
General	\$41,313.71	\$12,484.33	\$8,775.00	\$32,376.66	\$8,932.85	\$10,000.00	\$8,295.58	\$10,000.00
Camperships	\$8,425.00	\$6,650.00	\$4,413.75	\$3,410.00	\$13,158.00	\$15,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$20,000.00
Building Fund	\$88,300.00	\$2,832.00	\$45,953.83	\$0.00	\$13,276.25	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Dining Room Pole Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Boat Fund				\$33,555.99	\$6,500.00	\$0.00	\$6,500.00	\$0.00
Total Donations	\$138,038.71	\$21,966.33	\$59,142.58	\$69,342.65	\$41,867.10	\$25,000.00	\$43,795.58	\$30,000.00
Other Income:								
Camper Registrations	\$28,071.50	\$2,380.00	\$36,227.50	\$46,755.00	\$56,450.00	\$60,000.00	\$70,795.00	\$72,000.00
Rental Camps	\$7,949.00	-\$900.00	\$0.00	\$4,402.00	\$4,104.00	\$8,000.00	\$5,845.00	\$8,000.00
Grants	\$2,541.00	\$12,890.00	\$243,866.00	\$182,563.30	\$110,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$111,135.10	\$50,000.00
Investment Income	\$553.06	\$563.27	\$159.65	\$701.96	\$1,714.20	\$600.00	\$756.01	\$500.00
T-Shirt Sales	\$110.00	\$20.50	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$140.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Fundraisers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,336.50	\$3,739.35	\$4,000.00	\$1,244.10	\$2,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Other Income	\$41,124.56	\$14,953.77	\$280,253.15	\$240,818.76	\$176,650.09	\$122,600.00	\$189,785.21	\$182,500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$179,163.27	\$36,920.10	\$339,395.73	\$310,161.41	\$218,517.19	\$147,600.00	\$233,580.79	\$212,500.00
EXPENSES								
Koolaree Camps:								
Canteen	\$969.42	\$168.10	\$780.45	\$1,359.36	\$1,234.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,679.40	\$1,800.00
Crafts	\$586.59	\$2,898.97	-\$455.57	\$479.20	\$496.09	\$700.00	\$1,039.51	\$1,200.00
Groceries	\$7,379.37	\$1,651.00	\$7,161.77	\$8,604.78	\$11,940.45	\$13,200.00	\$15,066.09	\$17,000.00
T-Shirts	\$1,218.86	\$0.00	\$1,353.50	\$1,551.17	\$2,200.95	\$2,500.00	\$3,450.62	\$3,700.00
First Aid	\$96.48	\$0.00	\$182.09	\$105.79	\$135.15	\$150.00	\$47.33	\$150.00
Total Koolaree Camps	\$10,250.72	\$4,718.07	\$9,022.24	\$12,100.30	\$16,006.64	\$18,050.00	\$21,282.95	\$23,850.00
Financial Fees:								
KSCU	\$10.00	\$3.00	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$48.32	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Paypal	\$291.53	\$157.71	\$134.28	\$146.33	\$86.91	\$100.00	\$174.62	\$150.00
Benevity		\$10.50	\$43.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Canada Helps				\$81.25	\$140.50	\$150.00	\$110.19	\$150.00
Total Financial Fees	\$301.53	\$171.21	\$177.65	\$232.58	\$275.73	\$250.00	\$294.81	\$300.00
Staffing:								
Wages	\$26,393.12	\$12,723.68	\$27,482.01	\$36,955.92	\$25,333.38	\$125,000.00	\$40,880.71	\$100,000.00
Penalties	\$263.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,314.57	\$0.00	\$481.69	\$0.00
Taxes/EI/CPP	\$1,059.10	\$624.87	\$1,936.90	\$2,776.05	\$1,965.29	\$9,700.00	\$2,984.70	\$9,700.00
WCB	\$210.86	\$266.57	\$125.96	\$274.82	\$336.30	\$1,700.00	\$197.60	\$1,500.00
Total Staffing	\$27,926.66	\$13,615.12	\$29,544.87	\$40,006.79	\$28,949.54	\$136,400.00	\$44,544.70	\$111,200.00
Utilities:								
Electricity	\$212.39	\$173.91	\$138.79	\$160.86	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Propane	\$1,758.05	\$1,399.74	\$1,159.61	\$1,157.62	\$1,660.30	\$2,000.00	\$1,085.86	\$1,500.00
Gasoline	\$342.09	\$654.77	\$136.41	\$891.48	\$1,355.82	\$1,500.00	\$931.54	\$1,500.00
Telephone	\$109.50	\$221.50	\$109.50	\$109.50	\$312.08	\$300.00	\$905.69	\$400.00
Waste Disposal	\$132.00	\$61.60	\$171.30	\$184.60	\$172.25	\$200.00	\$208.49	\$225.00
Total Utilities	\$2,554.03	\$2,511.52	\$1,715.61	\$2,504.06	\$3,500.45	\$4,200.00	\$3,131.58	\$3,625.00
Operations:								
Maintenance/Construction:								
Equipment Purchases	\$568.55	\$300.22	\$8,456.72	\$508.29	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$3.81	\$500.00
Repairs/Installations	\$566.83	\$79.07	\$1,243.14	\$3,488.89	\$228.59	\$1,500.00	\$5,318.84	\$5,000.00
Hardware/Building Supplies	\$2,348.31	\$303.51	\$1,208.63	\$357.15	\$633.67	\$1,500.00	\$2,007.83	\$2,000.00
Misc. Maintenance/Construction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Building Fund Projects	\$7,255.31	\$103,697.79	\$215,171.00	\$91,312.47	\$78,941.50	\$64,000.00	\$196,829.14	\$0.00
Dining Room Pole Project	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
Total Maint/Const	\$10,739.00	\$104,380.59	\$226,079.49	\$95,666.80	\$79,803.76	\$69,000.00	\$204,159.62	\$57,500.00
Cleaning Supplies	105.69	\$48.99	\$546.83	\$68.81	\$179.40	\$200.00	\$810.40	\$350.00
Office Supplies	\$98.23	\$66.60	\$168.31	\$352.54	\$87.60	\$200.00	\$220.53	\$250.00
Misc. Supplies	\$520.05	\$77.33	\$598.99	\$625.90	\$786.05	\$700.00	\$321.90	\$700.00
Fundraising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$83.43	\$1,779.47	\$2,417.84	\$2,500.00	\$100.00	\$2,000.00
Advertising	\$615.29	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$4,451.38	\$174.72	\$200.00	\$414.99	\$500.00

Postage/Shipping	\$88.93	\$17.07	\$66.86	\$134.73	\$11.31	\$100.00	\$113.83	\$150.00
Fire Equipment	\$469.42	\$0.00	\$1,014.93	\$0.00	\$64.06	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Waterfront Equipment	\$409.92	\$0.00	\$232.11	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Misc. Expenses	\$838.40	\$473.19	\$1,749.68	\$529.13	\$2,377.15	\$1,000.00	\$912.35	\$1,000.00
Total Operations	\$13,884.93	\$105,063.77	\$230,660.63	\$103,608.76	\$85,901.89	\$233,200.00	\$207,053.62	\$62,850.00
Taxes/Insurance/Fees:								
BCCA Registration	\$260.00	\$260.00	\$260.00	\$285.00	\$315.00	\$315.00	\$345.00	\$350.00
Society Registration	\$80.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$80.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
Insurance	\$3,986.60	\$3,955.99	\$4,570.74	\$4,970.52	\$4,439.49	\$5,500.00	\$4,972.77	\$5,500.00
Water Act Permit	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Can. Coast Guard	\$78.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Interior Health	\$62.50	\$62.50	\$62.50	\$62.50	\$62.50	\$62.50	\$62.50	\$62.50
Total Taxes/Ins./Fees	\$4,507.85	\$4,358.49	\$4,983.24	\$5,488.02	\$4,906.99	\$5,917.50	\$5,470.27	\$6,052.50
Transportation:								
Fuels/Oils:								
Gasoline	\$1,254.77	\$543.99	\$1,451.54	\$501.86	\$351.84	\$500.00	\$1,556.24	\$1,500.00
Oil	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$62.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Outboard Oil	\$172.06	\$116.97	\$33.93	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$173.94	\$200.00
Other Fuels/Oils	\$65.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$439.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Fuels/Oils	\$1,491.87	\$660.96	\$1,547.77	\$941.14	\$351.84	\$1,150.00	\$1,730.18	\$1,750.00
Boats:								
New Boat				\$12,975.97	\$140,141.30	\$0.00	\$31,378.30	\$0.00
Motorboat Maintenance	\$641.98	\$196.61	\$4,578.82	\$931.76	\$848.21	\$500.00	\$115.36	\$500.00
Other Boat Maintenance	\$15.31	\$0.00	\$119.25	\$221.92	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$107.07	\$500.00
Boat Trailer Fees/Ins.	\$400.42	\$327.51	\$93.00	\$213.51	\$61.00	\$150.00	\$111.58	\$150.00
Misc. Boats	\$833.91	\$211.80	\$113.23	\$74.43	\$15,956.09	\$250.00	\$5,032.98	\$500.00
Total Boats	\$1,891.62	\$735.92	\$4,904.30	\$14,417.59	\$156,956.58	\$1,400.00	\$36,745.29	\$1,650.00
Mileage	\$1,984.55	\$1,874.52	\$1,639.85	\$1,711.55	\$2,954.43	\$4,000.00	\$2,403.11	\$4,000.00
Total Transportation	\$5,368.04	\$3,271.40	\$8,091.92	\$17,070.28	\$160,262.36	\$7,950.00	\$40,878.58	\$5,650.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$64,793.76	\$133,709.58	\$284,196.16	\$181,010.79	\$299,803.60	\$247,067.50	\$322,656.51	\$213,527.50
PROFIT/LOSS	\$114,369.51	-\$96,789.48	\$55,199.57	\$129,150.62	-\$81,286.41	-\$99,467.50	-\$89,075.72	-\$1,027.50

REGION REPORT

In early 2024 the Pacific Mountain Regional Council's First Third Ministries welcomed Blair Odney as the new Regional Camping Minister. He has been actively involved with Camp Koolaree ever since, assisting us with many things, especially strategic planning. In May he came and led a weekend Board Retreat that helped us to develop a new Vision and Purpose Statements.

The Pacific Mountain Regional Council General Meeting was held May 31st to June 2nd however Camp Koolaree was unable to recruit anyone to serve as our delegate this year.

There was also a Regional Camp Gathering for all 7 of our Regional Camps plus the camps in the Chinook Winds Region in Alberta, held in late November. Due to weather related flight cancellation, our delegate, Robin Pengelly, was unable to attend in person. She was able to Zoom in for some pieces of the gathering, but not all. Through that event, we received free customized fundraising materials for soliciting donations from individual donors.

The Regional Camping Ministries was instrumental in getting our Wash House project finished with needed financial support for the construction of the earthen berm for potential flood mitigation and protecting the building. The Region also offered financial assistance in getting a Depreciation Report for our buildings and systems, which will be completed by WSA Engineering in the next couple of months, following a site visit to camp on December 9th. This report will be of tremendous assistance in planning for future facility repairs, replacement, and maintenance.

Submitted by Robin Pengelly

REGISTRAR REPORT

This year was another record year for camp numbers and our first year offering a Junior All-Gender camp, which had full cabins and was a massive success.

Jr Girls camp: 40

Teen camp: 38

Jr. Boys camp: 42

Novice camp: 41

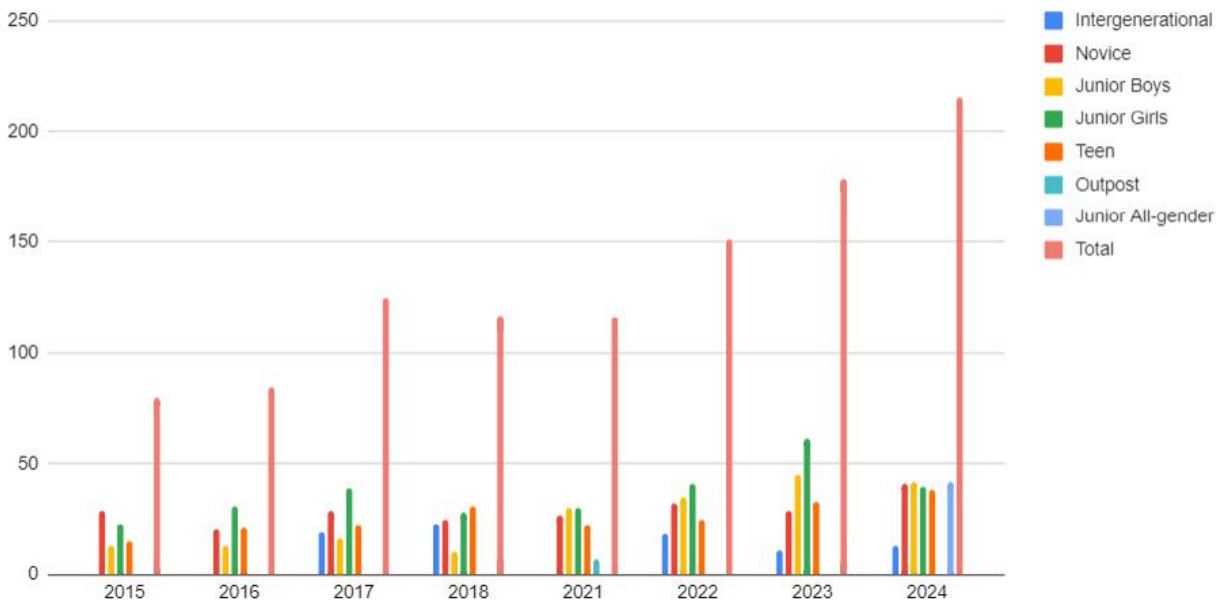
Intergenerational camp: 13

Jr. All-gender camp: 42

Total campers: 216

Camp Koolaree Registration Numbers Comparison from 2015-2024*

*Data not available for 2019 and overnight camps not running in 2020 due to Covid-19



Roughly 21% of our campers needed campership funding this year with 45 campers requiring funding.

Total campership funds used: \$18,300 (last year= \$13,990)

Sustainability fee paid: 16 (last year 9/179 total campers)

In addition to a successful camp year, we had two private rentals this summer. Dances of Universal Peace rented the camp over Labour day weekend for four days, and Wildflower School rented from Sept 20-22.

DUP brought in \$4375 and Wildflower School brought in \$2041.

Total Private rental revenue: \$6416.00

Moving forward, the Jr All Gender Camp was well received and would be a great addition to our children's camps in future years. If campership funding requests continue to increase, we will either have to get creative in fundraising for this, or will have to look at our current campership funding process.

Submitted by Michelle Holm, Registrar.

COMMUNICATION & FUNDRAISING

The Communication and Fundraising Committee has had a productive year with our main projects being completion of the New Boat Project, increasing Campership funding, updating Recreation equipment, and completing Berm construction and Dining Hall repairs.

This year we encountered some challenges with construction of our berm, which was required in order to get the wash house cleared for operation. We also had some additional expenses with repairs to the kitchen/dining hall. These time-sensitive projects would not have come to fruition this season without the support of the Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church of Canada who provided the camp with a \$97,000 grant. We also received a \$10,000 in kind donation from Graham Marine which helped immensely with the completion of our Washhouse project.

With increasing need for campership funding, much effort was made to raise money for this fund. We have had many donors to the campership fund including:

Beaver Valley Thrift Shop (\$7000)
Kalesnikoff Lumber (\$1000)
Private donations (\$5,250)

General Donations:

Beaver Valley Thrift Shop (\$3000)
Castlegar United Church (\$905.75)
Castlegar UC (\$3228.58)
Communities In Faith (Trail United Church) (\$200)
Nelson United Church (\$500)
Tuesday Morning Quilters (\$600)
Rossland Golden City Days (\$500)
Private donations (\$1027)

At the beginning of the fiscal year, we completed our New Boat Project with funding from:

Le Roi Foundation (\$5,000) for our Boat Canopy
Private Donors (\$1,500)

Grants:

Aside from the PMR, we received Grants from the following organizations this year:

Regional District of Central Kootenay (\$1,380.10)
The Loyal Protestant Association (\$7000) for Campership funding
The Le Roi Foundation (\$2000) for Recreation equipment
Canada Summer Jobs (\$10,755) toward the costs of hiring our Cook and Groundskeeper.

Aside from grants and donations, we participated in the Bottle Donation Bin at the Return It Depot in Castlegar and raised \$784.10. This fiscal year, we also sold \$7900 in Ferraro Foods Gift Cards, which earned us \$395.

Our social media now has 1k followers with 6.1% growth this year. We have had no growth on our Instagram account. Our audience remains mostly from Trail, followed by Nelson, then Castlegar.

In 2025, major fundraising efforts will be required to secure funding for upcoming building projects in addition to supporting growing Campership Funding requests. Incorporating some more innovative fundraising efforts such as seeking corporate support in the form of sponsorships or in-kind donations may be useful.

Submitted by Michelle Holm

BUILDINGS AND BOATS

There have been a lot of milestones for Boats and Maintenance this year! From major construction work to the debut of our new boat fleet, to ongoing challenges around water and maintenance, 2024 was a very eventful camping season.

Firstly, the Washhouse is done! After 5 years of construction, the new Washhouse building at Koolaree was completed as of September 2024. We have applied for an occupancy permit from the RDCK. Special gratitude goes out to Mo Barry the project's general contractor and Darryl Furrey the project's engineer who both donated considerable hours of their expertise and labour to this project. Furthermore, thank you to the PMR and the dozens of businesses, local governments, and granters whose contributions helped support this project.

Another major accomplishment of the year was the successful purchase of a new boat to replace the scow, as well as the Pop Smillie II's maiden voyage transporting campers across the lake. Our other new boat, christened "the Finnow" in honour of Finn the camp dog, is a Princecraft Starfish purchased in Vulcan, AB. The Finnow also had her maiden voyage this summer. Both boats are serving the camp well with only minor issues. The new fenders from the Finnow were stolen at MacDonald's Landing, and in May the Scow was mysteriously untied from MacDonald's Landing and set adrift in the lake. But otherwise, we have had minimal issues with crime this year. Storage for these Boats remains a prescient issue, which needs to be dealt with. We need to develop a long-term plan for storing our new, expensive, and important boats.

Thank you to the Maglio family for generously letting us moor at their dock during the 2024 season to keep our boats safe and secure.



Groundskeeper Gareth with the Pop Smillie II and the Finnow at Camp.



Ray Lundquist gives the Vulcan Salute posing with the Starfish in front of a Star Trek Starship in Vulcan AB. Apparently, he and John Marko could not resist.

As for the Camp's water systems, there were some notable issues throughout the season particularly pertaining to water pressure. As long as the creek had sufficient flow, the Healthy spruce saplings planted by Teen Camp 2024. These plants were well cared for, with campers watering them as part of camp morning chores to help the little trees beat the summer heat. new inlet setup and storage tank worked well. Too well actually as we now have an issue with more pressure than the system can handle. A second sand filter that had been donated by John Marko exploded when it was put into service. They are designed to handle 60 psi maximum, not 80 or so! Fortunately, we were able to bypass the sand filter to keep water flowing to the kitchen. Water systems were a persistent struggle through the summer with leaks being continuously identified and patched. The system has seen significant strain the past couple of years and the design needs modifications.



Sadly, Camp Koolaree has seen a significant amount of ecological disturbance caused by the creation of an earth and rock berm to mitigate against flooding for the new Washhouse. Large sections of forest around the Cookhouse and the Water treatment shed were cleared in order to source material for the berm. Work to repair and revegetate this damaged land remains ongoing, however one bright spot came this summer when Linn Murray led Teen Camp and Jr. Boys Camp in tree planting activities to help restore the landscape. In total about 200 trees were planted. Thank you to the PRT- Harrop Nursery for their generous donation of Interior- spruce saplings for this project. In the coming season, more work will be done to revegetate disturbed sections of the berm, forest, and field.

Healthy spruce saplings planted by Teen Camp 2024. These plants were well cared for, with campers watering them as part of camp morning chores to help the little trees beat the summer heat.

Thank you to Ray Lundquist, Patrick Sanders, Don Ellis and Linn Murray for serving on the Boats and Maintenance team this year. Special Thank Yous to Gareth, Kevin, and to Jacob who came out of “retirement”; to volunteer this fall, and to Ray’s son Russ, who helped with boat hauling and storage. Thanks also to John Marko for supplying us with his sand filter and for overseeing the washhouse shutdown done by Micah’s Plumbing.

Going forward, we need to continue repairing the damaged land at camp, to solve our water system challenges, and to invest in the long-term storage and maintenance of our boats.

PROGRAM & OPERATION

We had another successful year, offering 6 weeks of Camp Programming this year:

Intergenerational Family Camp, Novice Camp, Jr. Girls, Jr. Boys, Jr. All Gender, and Teen Camp.

Our Program Directors were: Tim and Nancy Totten Prime, Emma MacLean, Steph Buhler, Josh Mack, Natalie Wasilenkoff, Yvie Gregory, and Patrick Sanders.

Most of the Camp Directors had difficulty finding sufficient numbers of volunteers to staff their camps at the levels they desired, although minimum ratios were always met. It was noted that many volunteers pay more in lost wages to take the week off than campers pay in tuition. Volunteer stipends may help with that going forward and make it easier, particularly for young adults to volunteer at camp.

Our training for volunteer staff was still insufficient to meet BCCA camping standards in terms of hours spent in training, although it would have met standards in several other Canadian provinces, so it was by no means unsafe. Our goal, however, is to meet all BCCA standards for the coming year.

Fire bans meant the use of a propane campfire for all but the very first week of camp. Some later season camps experienced wildfire smoke in the air, but it was better than some years in the past.

In spite of these challenges, campers came, had fun, learned new skills, made new friends, and discovered new things about themselves, community, nature, and spirituality. Our new boats made trips at the beginning and end of camps much easier and faster this year. Our 2024 Camp Koolaree season was an overall success, carrying on our 93 year tradition!

Submitted by Robin Pengelly

STAFFING

Saying 2024 brought significant challenges for the committee, would be an understatement. Chrysalyia Lightburn returned as head cook this year. We unfortunately had to let go our first assistant cook of the summer and brought on Hope May to finish the season. Jacob Mack returned as groundskeeper for a 11th year working at camp, but resigned from his position

early in the summer. Gareth Totten-Prime was our assistant groundskeeper and became our only one after unsuccessfully looking for a replacement for Jacob. Gareth was given days off by myself and amazing volunteers. We had hired a camp manager, who was with us approximately 1 month and then resigned. We didn't have a lifeguard until the last 2 days of our first camp, shared by Grace Cline and Keiran McComb. Keiran stayed on with us for the rest of the summer and was a great addition to the Koolaree family. Grace helped us with a couple more days and returned as the Lifeguard for Dance Camp. Both guards would be more than welcome next summer.

We were grateful to receive the Canada Summer Jobs grant this year as staffing is one of our largest financial responsibilities. Next year we would like to hire another camp manager and look at fee structures for paying some of our cabin leaders and councillors, having them potentially on for multiply weeks of camp.

Respectfully,
Peter Herd

LAND-USE & DEVELOPMENT

In September of 2024, the Board decided that it would be greatly beneficial to create a committee solely focused on both the short-term and the long-term Land-use and Development plans for Camp Koolaree. Before, this work had either been delegated to Boats & Maintenance or more often to the Board at large. With a Land-use & Development committee in place, we can streamline communication, planning, and coordination.

During the 2024 season, concerns were raised over the structural integrity of the existing cookhouse and dining hall building. At the time, the board acted swiftly to get the building inspected by a qualified engineer who determined that short of a few key repairs (mostly sections of flooring), the structure was safe to operate in 2024. Yet addressing the aging infrastructure at camp has long been a priority of the board, and replacing the cookhouse/dining hall has been on the Capital plans in both 2018 and 2022. Thus, the initial focus of this committee has been primarily the insuring that we have a functional and safe cookhouse and dining hall both in the next camping season and in years to come. Additionally, the committee is considering long-term planning for other structures like the lodge, cabins, Ad hut etc., grounded in Camp Koolaree's new values and vision statement.

With invigorated and welcome partnership from the Pacific Mountain Regional Council of the United Church, we are seeing significant investments and support for the long-term revitalization of camp facilities. This has included over \$10,000 in financial support for having an engineer make a comprehensive assessment and make recommendations for all buildings and infrastructure at Koolaree. Furthermore, the introduction of expertise in capital planning from both regional personnel and their associates has been beyond helpful for this little board of volunteers.

Thank you to Barbara Halliday, John Alton, Linn Murray, Rev. Robin Pengelley, for stepping up to volunteer on this committee, as well as Rev. Blair Odney from the PMR for his work with the committee. Moving forward, our mandate is to ensure camp has the necessary facilities to support our camping ministry in a safe and sustainable manner for generations to come.

By Linn Murray

Jr. Girls

Not yet provided

Teen Camp

Teen Camp took place the week of July 15th - 20th, 2024, with 37 campers attending. Campers were welcomed to camp by the Indigenous Canadian Flag and Progress Pride Flag. Once again Teen Camp offered campers the choice of staying in a gender-neutral cabin or one of the two female or two male cabins. This ever-evolving approach continues to help campers feel that camp is a safe and affirming space for all.

This year's theme was survival and abundance which include themed activities that taught the campers some survival and life skills using the abundance of nature. Themed activities included building shelters, a basic rescue exercise, using a compass, solving puzzles, working as a team, and securing a food cache. Feedback from campers regarding the theme

related activities was positive. A senior camper even regarded the compass activity as their favourite activity to date. Other activities included the usual waterfall hike, a morning at Clam Bay, plenty of swim time, watersports, wide games, a treasure hunt, monks night, kangaroo court, tie-dye bandanas, campfire prep, chapel prep, dishes, cabin inspection, and morning chores.

Service projects involved remediating and reclaiming the land from the damage of berm construction (Bermageddon). These projects included picking up garbage and glass, some of which was unearthed from the near century of camps past, removing rocks and brush from paths, and most importantly, Linn Murray brought hundreds of trees for campers to plant in the deforested area along the berm. This also added the chore of watering said trees every day.

Chapel services and group discussions were centered around existing in and appreciating the natural world around us, as well as how to be shepherds living with the land rather than being extractors and taking from it. We even had a black bear visit a chapel service one morning, but it did not stay long and was not spotted again. The campers were very excited to see it. Other discussions included topics like how we can build a more sustainable and affirming camp community as well as taking these ideas into communities beyond camp.

As could be expected with youth, there was some insensitivity and bullying that took place which was addressed through a group discussion on what it is to be an affirming community using Koolaree's affirmation manual as a resource. This was well received and those youth directly impacted by or witnesses to the aforementioned incidents felt that this exercise was productive in addressing the events and creating a more affirming camp community.

There was a closing ceremony Friday night. Campers and volunteers sang from campfire to chapel to gather in an emotional circle and reminisce about their week. From there a light display inspired by Don McCauley was set up along the trail to and in the trees of chapel beach where the cross he crafted was sent out into the lake as campers sang and reflected. This was set up by Patrick, Yvie, and Linda. A dance party took place at chapel beach after closing ceremonies.

The general themes of feedback from the campers were: more swimming, less heat, more community building activities like Rocky Rocky Wasp Nest (ask Peter), more food with healthier options such as a plentiful variety of fresh fruit and vegetables and they say that out at Koolaree the 07:30 wake up is too early for most teenagers.

Thank you to all of the volunteer staff: Camp Nurse, Peter Herd; Chaplain, Keith Simmonds; Cabin Leaders, Alex McCauley, Kim Button, Aiden Armstrong, and Bee; Counselors, Sara and Nicole Cameron and Linda Gregory; Naturalist, Linn Murray; Director's Assistant, Tim Mcteer; Directors, Yvie Gregory and Patrick Sanders, who also tended a cabin.

A special thank you to Thomas Mack for helping with boat operations and to Peter Herd and Keith Simmonds for taking on crucial groundskeeping tasks in place of the sole groundskeeper, who was a camper during Teen Camp. Peter and Keith worked night and day to ensure everything was taken care of, from dealing with garbage bins and sweeping/mopping the kitchen to fixing several pipes and other broken infrastructure throughout the week, all while also fulfilling the duties of their primary roles. Patrick also helped with pipes and infrastructure on several occasions.

As has been a common occurrence for Teen Camp, volunteers were hard to recruit. Particularly with the high number of campers. It was a dynamic and trying time for volunteers. They all went above and beyond what could be expected of any volunteer, but the week was one to remember fondly, nonetheless. Especially for the children.

Submitted by,
Yvie Gregory and Patrick Sanders

Jr Boys

Another year has come and gone! Boys camp this year was one of the hardest I have ever run. We had another record year, over 40 kids! Our staffing situation was a little better than last year in terms of numbers, however the median age was definitely younger, and that created some unique problems.

In order to ensure that I followed the rule of leaders being at least 3 years older, I had to group my cabins by age, and, although it ensured we followed guidelines, it was the thorn that made the whole week more difficult.

On Monday kids arrived, and everything started well. I had Thomas, Quinn, and Linn in charge of the beginning while I was meeting parents, and when I returned, kids were mostly settled into cabins, we played some get to know you games, and the day went smoothly with a tight schedule of learning routines and doing things for the first time. The only minor hiccup was a bed location argument in my oldest cabin (12-13 year olds), which was solved, but would continue to wear down on the offended kid for the remainder of the week as he was labelled an outcast among his peers.

On Tuesday we got our first full day, and problems arose when our oldest cabin decided they were uninterested in joining activities, and would rather hang out together in their cabin (The first major problem related to age separation). Overall it was a good day, the hottest of the week. A few kids mentioned homesickness in our youngest cabin, which would start a chain reaction that lasted until Thursday. (The second major issue).

Wednesday is always a busy day, as we change the schedule we just got used to. Hiking was amazing! It was the first year every single kid made it to the waterfall. At least in my memory. The same issues from the previous day were bubbling quite dramatically, and I played hide and seek with a few kids determined to go home.

Thursday is always the day where things mellow out, but this year was an exception. By the evening, things had calmed. However one of my youngest leaders (running the youngest cabin group) walked in to a cabin chanting they all wanted to leave, which was traumatizing for him and his coleader, but a good wake up call, and they truly stepped up his game after that, and ended as two of the stronger leaders. Kangaroo court had some first timers taking the helm, and while I was disappointed to not be up there, it was relaxing to not have to deal with it, and exciting to give new people a chance.

Friday we were all looking forward to the finish line, and kids had all settled into the groove. I still had two kids who wanted to go home, however both had committed to sticking it out. That's not to say they didn't follow me around all day, but at least they stopped begging to leave. The day went smoothly and we went to bed contented.

Saturday almost felt like the week had come and gone in the blink of an eye! Over tiredness surely played a role. As always, the week was a crazy gong show, that I wouldn't dream of changing. I would love to have more staff, and more time to train them. I look forwards to this upcoming season.

Overall, I am happy with how the week went. I feel like as home life for kids becomes more and more screen centric, the behaviour and desire to do things outdoors is dwindling, and it makes it hard when it feels like I am forcing kids to be somewhere they don't want to be. I'll be honest, I was pretty sure this was my last year, but a couple of awesome kids, and some late night chats, as well as some truly heartwarming moments helped to rekindle the flame.

Josh Mack

Novice

Novice Camp in general went very well this year. We were heavily understaffed last year, and Steph managed to find two adults to come out this year. With the extra adults, as well as being fully stocked with leaders, there was more than enough support, that Steph was able to bring along her youngest son, and we were able to take shifts accommodating his needs.

In terms of staffing, and campers, we ended up with more staff than needed (teenagers) and sent a couple who planned to do back to back camps home to rest, along with pointers and guidance to a more successful follow up year. We had a couple of homesick kids, but they were few and far between, and the few that were had a connection with one or more of the adults and were able to overcome it.

The week itself went pretty flawlessly! Last year we over planned and under delivered, but we learned from our mistakes, planned less, and over delivered! Our crafts and games were engaging for the kids, and the weather was beautiful!

We also decided it was a good idea to follow suit of the previous director and forgo individual punishments, opting instead for leader and cabin punishments. This went much better than last year, and although a few complained in the moment, it was probably the least stressful and most fun morning after Kangaroo court.

Lots of kids left the camp talking about their fond memories and desire to return. Our staff left in a similar manner, much differently to the previous year, where they slinked off in exhaustion.

Overall, it was a good year, and we strengthened our team, next year should be even better!

Intergenerational

This year Interger was neither the first nor last camp of the season, it was the first week of August, and it was quite a time to say the least.

This year Emma MacLean and Josh Mack joined the Interger team as co-directors. Robin returned as chaplain, and we had an old Koolaree alumni, Tricia Prime (Nancy's mom), join us in the first-aid role. Gareth did a great job as the groundskeeper, and we ended up having not one, but two lifeguards on duty!

The theme at this year's camp was environmental stewardship (which I'll admit, I decided upon after seeing the state of the camp site after the berm project was completed.) Robin came up with chapel messages that were beautiful and fit the theme perfectly!

Things got off to a rocky start when we had two families cancel on the Sunday afternoon (a day before the start of camp), after the cooks had already picked up food. That was rather frustrating, and I'm glad we are adopting a more defined cancellation policy for next year. We also had a camper and her young child leave early due to illness.

While the overall camp was a positive and fun experience, there were definitely a lot more issues, many being personality clashes and misunderstandings, but needless to say nerves were running a bit tighter strung this year. At least two of my co-directors had issues with the cooks this year, mostly also personality clashes, but to the extent that one of them has stated they won't be attending in person next year if the same head cook is back.

It was a bit unusual to have the construction crew come out mid-week to work on the wash-houses, but there were no conflicts resulting from that, so it all worked out just fine. The mid-week hike to the waterfall, and Thursday afternoon spent at Clam Bay were particularly great highlights of the week for me personally.

I'm hoping we can take both the positive and negative experiences from camp, and use them to help make Interger 2025 the best camp yet!

~Tim Totten

JR ALL-GENDER

Not yet provided