



Regional District of Central Kootenay  
NELSON, SALMO, E, F, AND G REGIONAL PARKS COMMISSION  
Open Meeting Agenda

**Date:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024

**Time:** 9:00 am

Directors will have the opportunity to participate in the meeting electronically. Proceedings are open to the public.

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Pages

**1. ZOOM REMOTE MEETING INFO**

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

**Meeting Time:**

9:00a.m. PST

**Join by Video:**

<https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/97376420053?pwd=c9bDowj6HBZT7q28RHBEaiFFtpTN4B.1>

**Join by Phone:**

- +1 778 907 2071 Canada
- 855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

**Meeting ID:** 973 7642 0053

**Meeting Passcode:** 562049

**In-Person Location:** RDCK Head Office - Boardroom

202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, B.C.

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Page called the meeting to order at [Time] a.m.

**3. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional

lands we are meeting today.

**4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Agenda for the October 15, 2024 Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting be adopted as circulated.

**5. RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

4 - 10

The June 11, 2024 Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission minutes, have been received.

**6. DELEGATE**

There are no Delegates scheduled for this Commission meeting.

**7. STAFF REPORTS**

**7.1 Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Operations Update**

11 - 20

The Commission Report dated August 27, 2024 from Jeff Phillips, Parks and Trails Supervisor, re: Operations Update has been received.

**7.2 Service No. S202 Regional Parks - Nelson, Salmo and Areas E, F and G August 2024 Financial Statement**

21

The Financial Statement dated August 2024 from Cary Gaynor, Regional Parks Manager, re: Service No. S202 Regional Parks - Nelson, Salmo and Areas E, F and G has been received.

**7.3 Taghum Beach Parking Lot**

Cary Gaynor, Regional Parks Manager to provide the Commission with a verbal update re: Taghum Beach Parking Lot.

**8. CORRESPONDANCE**

**8.1 2024 Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Activity Report**

22 - 50

The email dated October 9, 2024 from, Joanne Siderius, Senior Naturalist at Kokanee Creek Nature Centre, re: 20242024 Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Activity Report, has been received.

**9. PUBLIC TIME**

The Chair will call for questions from the public and members of the media at \_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

**10. IN CAMERA**

**10.1 Meeting Closed to the Public**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

In the opinion of the Board - and, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter – the public interest so requires that persons other than DIRECTORS, ALTERNATE DIRECTORS, DELEGATIONS AND STAFF be excluded from the meeting;

AND FURTHER, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter, the meeting is to be closed on the basis(es) identified in the following Subsections:

90. (1) A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

(i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

## 10.2 Recess of Open Meeting

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Open Meeting be recessed at [Time] in order to conduct the Closed In Camera meeting.

## 11. NEXT MEETING

The next Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2024 at 9:00a.m.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting be adjourned at [Time].



Regional District of Central Kootenay  
NELSON, SALMO, E, F, AND G REGIONAL PARKS COMMISSION  
Open Meeting Minutes

**ZOOM REMOTE MEETING INFO**

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

**Meeting Time:**

9:00 a.m. PST

**Join by Video:**

[https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/97816508628?pwd=BKCGIJZVVTAfDiKz2pMXVnVucByAt3.1&from=a\\_don](https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/97816508628?pwd=BKCGIJZVVTAfDiKz2pMXVnVucByAt3.1&from=a_don)

**Join by Phone:**

- 1-778-907-2071 Canada
- 1-855-703-8985 Canada Toll-free

**Meeting ID:** 978 1650 8628

**Meeting Passcode:** 966203

**In-Person Location:** RDCK Head Office - Boardroom 202 Lakeside Drive

**COMMISSION/COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Commissioner K. Page	Chair - City of Nelson
Commissioner D. Lockwood	Village of Salmo
Commissioner C. Graham	Area E
Commissioner T. Newell	Area F

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Commissioner H. Cunningham	Area G
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**STAFF**

Joe Chirico	General Manager
Craig Stanley	Regional Manager – Operations & Asset Management
Trisha Davison	Regional Manager – Recreation & Client
Mark Crowe	Regional Parks Planner
Cary Gaynor	Regional Parks Manager
Sarah Fuhr	Communications/Community Engagement
Pearl Anderson	Meeting Coordinator

**4 out of 5 voting Commission/Committee members were present – quorum was met.**



**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Page called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOVED** and Seconded,  
AND Resolved

That the Agenda for the June 11, 2024 Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

**4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES<sup>5</sup> -**

The March 05, 2024 Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission minutes have been received.

**5. DELEGATES**

There were no delegates scheduled for this Commission Meeting.

**6. STAFF REPORTS**

**6.1 Regional Parks, Trails and Water Access Strategy Engagement and Communications Update**

Mark Crowe, Regional Parks Planner, provided the Commission with a verbal report re: Regional Parks, Trails and Water Access Strategy Engagement and Communications Update, including the following information:

- ½ way through the process;
- An open house was held with great feedback;
- Discussion re: extending the deadline for input to the end of June as there was some website inaccessibility.

**6.2 2023 Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Activity Report**

The 2023 Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Activity Report was presented at the November 14, 2023 Nelson, Salmo and Areas E, F and G with the following recommendation being carried:

The Commission direct staff to prepare AKBL resolution to request that the province re develop as per the BC Park Interpretive program.

Direction to Staff: The Commission directed to staff to bring a resolution to an upcoming meeting of the Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F & G Regional Parks Commission prior to the due date for the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Government meeting.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1 Potential Boat Launch in Blewett**

Commissioner Graham discussed with the Commission the potential for a boat launch in Blewett. The Commission discussed and identified where the budget will be paid from in the year 2025.

Direction to Staff: The Commission was directed to table discussion of the boat launch unless it is identified as a priority of the Regional Parks, Trails and Water Access Strategy Engagement process which has not yet completed.

**7.2 Contribution Agreements**

A Nelson, Salmo and Areas E, F and G Regional Parks Commissioner advised he is withdrawing the notice of motion, re: Contribution Agreements.

Members of this Commission are to be included with Recreation Commission No. 5 for the workshop discussion on Governance Model changes such as the Community Services Model used in Creston.

**8. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Action Item List from the previous Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F and G Regional Parks has been received.

**9. PUBLIC TIME**

The Chair called for questions from the public and members of the media at 10:04 a.m.

There were no questions from the public.

**10. IN CAMERA**

**10.1 Meeting Closed to the Public**

**MOVED** and Seconded,  
AND Resolved

In the opinion of the Board - and, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter – the public interest so requires that persons other than DIRECTORS, ALTERNATE DIRECTORS, DELEGATIONS AND STAFF be excluded from the meeting;

AND FURTHER, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter, the meeting is to be closed on the basis(es) identified in the following Subsections:

90. (1) A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;

(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality;

**Carried**

**10.2 Recess of Open Meeting**  
**MOVED** and Seconded,  
AND Resolved

That the Open Meeting be recessed at 10:07 a.m. in order to conduct the Closed In Camera meeting.

**Carried**

**11. NEXT MEETING**

The next Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** and Seconded,  
AND Resolved

That the Nelson, Salmo, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission meeting be adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

**Carried**



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K. Page, Chair  
June 12, 2024

**RECOMMENDATION(S) TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**N/A**

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE PROVIDED FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND WILL BE CONSIDERED AT ITS APPROPRIATE MEETING AS STATED.**

***Future Nelson, Salmo, Areas, E, F and G Regional Parks Commission Meetings***

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- 1. Direction to Staff: The Commission directed to staff to bring a resolution to an upcoming meeting of the Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F & G Regional Parks Commission prior to the April 2025 due date for the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Government meeting.*
- 2. Direction to Staff: The Commission was directed to table discussion of the boat launch unless it is identified as a priority of the Regional Parks, Trails and Water Access Strategy Engagement process which has not yet completed.*

## Pearl Anderson

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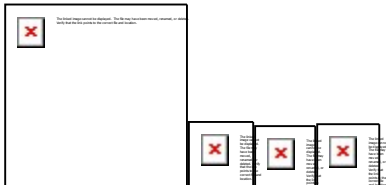
**From:** Keith Page <kpage@nelson.ca>  
**Sent:** June 11, 2024 7:59 PM  
**To:** Keith Page; Pearl Anderson  
**Cc:** Joe Chirico; Angela Lund; Jenna Chapman  
**Subject:** Re: FW: June 11, 2024 Open Meeting NSEFG Commission Meeting Minutes

**CAUTION** This email originated from outside the organization. Please proceed only if you trust the sender.

- 7.1 - Direction to staff was to table discussion of the boat launch unless it's identified as a priority of the the Regional Parks, Trails and Water Access Strategy Engagement process which has not yet completed.
- 6.2 - The resolution should come back to this table sooner then later the April 2025 date is for AKBLG itself. The due date for resolutions is February 2025. I would just drop the date from that action item or flag it for Oct 2024.
- 7.2 - Members of this commission are to be included with recreation commission no. 5 for the workshop discussion on Governance Model changes such as the Community Services Model used in Creston.

Otherwise approved.

**Keith Page (He/Him) | Councillor**  
Suite 101-310 Ward St. Nelson, BC V1L 5S4  
Cell: 250.509.0773



*The City of Nelson acknowledges that it resides and operates within the unceded traditional territories of the Sinixt, the Syilx, and the Ktunaxa peoples.*

*This email may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient or have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and destroy this email. Any unauthorized copying, disclosure or distribution of the information contained in this email is prohibited.*

On Jun 11, 2024 at 1:22 PM -0700, Pearl Anderson <PearlAnderson@rdck.bc.ca>, wrote:

Hi All,

As per my previous email regarding the in camera above captioned minutes, can you please review the attached minutes as soon as possible and approve or advise of any changes by the end of today so they can go to the upcoming Board meeting.

Thank you.

## Pearl Anderson | Community Meeting Administrative Support

### Regional District of Central Kootenay

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[rdck.ca](#)

---

**From:** Pearl Anderson  
**Sent:** June 11, 2024 1:02 PM  
**To:** Keith Page <KPage@nelson.ca>; Joe Chirico <jchirico@rdck.bc.ca>; Jenna Chapman <JChapman@rdck.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** June 11, 2024 Open Meeting NSEFG Commission Meeting Minutes

Hello,

Attached please find the draft June 11, 2024 Open meeting minutes from the NSEFG Commission meeting.

Kindly advise of any changes you would like made.

Thank you.

Pearl Anderson | Community Meeting Administrative Support

**Regional District of Central Kootenay**

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# Commission Report

**Date of Report:** 08-27-2024  
**Date & Type of Meeting:** 10-15-2024 NSEFG  
**Author:** Jeff Phillips, Parks & Trails Supervisor  
**Subject:** OPERATIONS UPDATE  
**File:** 01-0520-50-NSEFG  
**Electoral Area/Municipality** Nelson, Salmo, Areas E, F, & G.

## SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is provide an update to the Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F, & G (NSEFG) Parks Commission on 2024 work projects completed and work projects still in progress for completion in 2024

## SECTION 2: BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In 2024 operations, staff have gone through a significant change in how we provided service within NSEFG parks. In 2023, our maintenance contract expired and we expected a large increase in cost for the contract over the original contract amount from 2018. It was decided to separate out the contract for janitorial vs grounds maintenance in designated parks. We were able to award a multi park contract for janitorial services but unable to fill a grounds maintenance contract for multiple parks, except for a grounds contract for Bonnington Park. The biggest effect to this change was that RDCK staff became responsible for the grounds maintenance within multiple parks, where previously they were more focused on specific projects or capital improvements. As we move towards a 2025 work plan, we will reflect on the successes and failure of this adjustment and provide information to the Commission at budget time accordingly.

### James Johnstone Regional Park

- Ongoing fuel management work occurred within this park in the spring



-



- Trail work included additional cribbed stairs.



- An empty truck from a paving company impacted the park. Thankfully, no one was hurt in this incident. Damage to the park is being assessed in conjunction with ICBC.



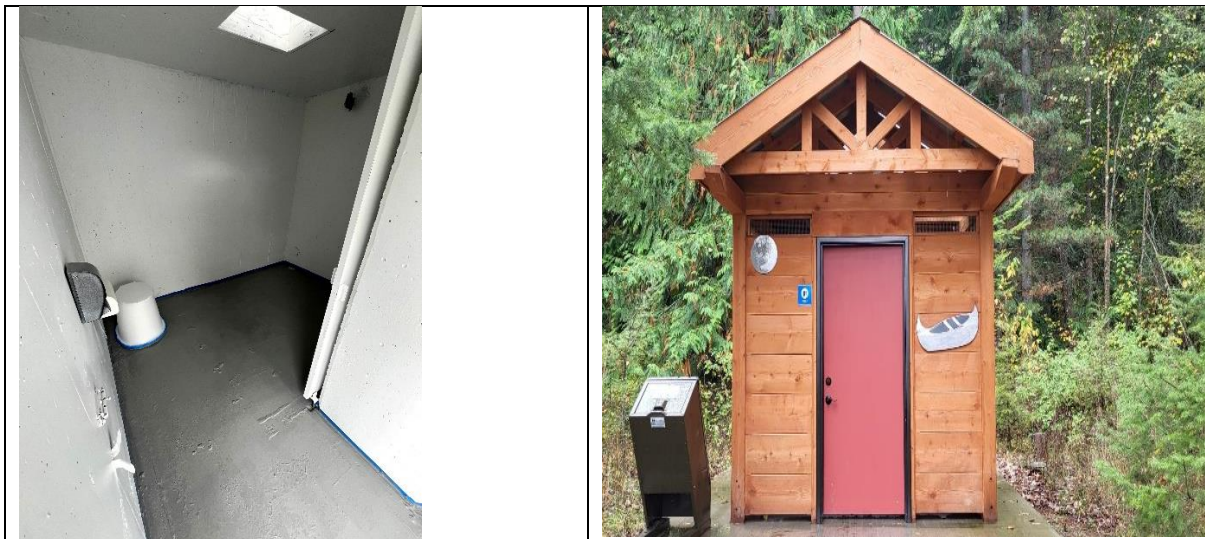


## Bonnington Regional Park

- Grounds keeping at this park has been handled by a new professional contractor in 2024.
- The irrigation controller was replaced in 2024 and includes an improved rain sensor unit.



- The outhouse received a fresh coat of paint. Staff may look at a washroom replacement to a more convenient location and to the RDCK standard. See photo of current outhouse versus our standard.





- The ongoing work of replacing gates, which prohibited accessibility by all occurred at this park.



#### Cottonwood Regional Park

- The Outhouses received a fresh coat of paint



- Example of the grounds maintenance work now undertaken by RDCK staff.



### **Morning Mountain Regional Park**

- The addition of a bear proof garbage receptacle in early 2024. This was a contribution from the Nelson Tourism Society grant for bear proof receptacles. The RDCK was able to receive 10 bins through this program free of charge to the RDCK.
- Reshaping of bike trails in coordination and cooperation with the Nelson Cycling Club.
- Work on invasive weed reduction and xeriscape planting to out compete the reintroduction of invasives.

### **Taghum Regional Park**

- Grounds maintenance activities by RDCK staff.





- After numerous years of struggle, the eradication of a patch of Poison Ivy was successful in 2024. The location of this patch required the use of tarps, and other methods that did not involve the use of herbicide treatments that may have let to quicker eradication.
- Removal of a suspected abandoned homeless camp was necessary at this park, with the assistance of bylaw staff.
- New swim lanes and buoy installation.



- We have experienced an increase in vandalism and or removal of signs related to dog control and other regulations but continue to adjust accordingly.

### **Great Northern Trail (GNT)**

The critical work to brush this trail is ongoing. This task represents a significant amount time spent by staff to complete most sections of this 47 kilometers trail. After an extensive brushing program over the past number of years, yearly brushing maintenance is required for safe sightlines, encroachment and user enjoyment. Additionally, if left to grow, the costs to eventually brush back increases substantially as the brush change to larger and woodier materials. The motorized section, with its numerous roadway crossings, and higher speeds requires more effort and attention to maintain sightlines for users.



- Examples of amenity maintenance on the GNT





- Drainage work



### **Sunshine Bay Regional Park**

The change from a contractor to an employee for the three parts of Sunshine Bay Regional Park has allowed for a marked increase in the quality of maintenance, work accomplished and operational flexibility. This, with the reduced overall costs, has been a major success in 2024.

- A weekly market held at Sunshine Bay this spring/summer has proven to be a success and has allowed many more people to experience the park.
- Two sailboats broke free of their moorings and became lodged on the beach. Notification to the Coast Guard was made and owners were found and notified by RDCK staff. The owners conducted removal of the boats.



- New swim buoys installed



**Work in Progress for Completion in 2024**

- Additional falling and removal of Lombardi poplars at Sunshine Bay.
- Trail of a flail mower for assistance with brushing on the GNT.
- Brush clearing and burning Balfour Beach

**SECTION 3: DETAILED ANALYSIS**

**3.1 Financial Considerations – Cost and Resource Allocations:**  
 Included in Financial Plan:  Yes  No      Financial Plan Amendment:  Yes  No  
 Debt Bylaw Required:  Yes  No      Public/Gov't Approvals Required:  Yes  No

All work completed or planned are within the approved 2024 budget.

**3.2 Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws):**  
 N/A

**3.3 Environmental Considerations**  
 N/A

**3.4 Social Considerations:**  
 N/A

**3.5 Economic Considerations:**  
 N/A

### 3.6 Communication Considerations:

N/A

### 3.7 Staffing/Departmental Workplace Considerations:

Fires, drought and other unforeseen situations will have an effect on the completion of some of the proposed 2024 projects. However, we do continue to work diligently to complete as many of the tasks as possible.

### 3.8 Board Strategic Plan/Priorities Considerations:

N/A for this report

## SECTION 4: OPTIONS & PROS / CONS

N/A for this report

## SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Nelson, Salmo, Electoral Areas E, F, & G Parks Commission receive the Operational Report for information purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeff Phillips*

Jeff Phillips – Regional Parks Operations Supervisor

## CONCURRENCE

Regional Parks and Trails Manager – Cary Gaynor





**Regional District of Central Kootenay**

Unaudited Service Statement

**S202 Regional Parks-Nelson, Salmo and Areas E, F and G**

**Period: August 2024**

REVENUE					Current Month	Year To Date Actuals	Total Year Budget	Budget Remaining	Budget Utilization
Account		Project	Workorder						
41010	Requisitions				1,130,790	1,130,790	1,130,790	0	100%
41020	Grants in lieu of Taxes				0	0	0	0	0%
42040	Rental Income				0	800	0	(800)	0%
42045	Rental Income - Specified				700	1,200	0	(1,200)	0%
43015	Donations - Specified				0	52,500	0	(52,500)	0%
43020	Grants				0	0	21,000	21,000	0%
43035	Community Works Grants - Specified				0	0	25,000	25,000	0%
44020	Investment Income & Interest				0	0	10,000	10,000	0%
45000	Transfer from Reserves				0	0	21,403	21,403	0%
49100	Prior Year Surplus				0	0	185,000	185,000	0%
<b>Revenue</b>					<b>1,131,490</b>	<b>1,185,290</b>	<b>1,393,193</b>	<b>207,903</b>	<b>85%</b>

OPERATING EXPENSES					Current Month	Year To Date Actuals	Total Year Budget	Budget Remaining	Budget Utilization
Account		Project	Workorder						
51010	Salaries				5,359	24,057	60,280	36,223	40%
51030	Benefits				478	2,433	8,200	5,767	30%
53020	Admin, Office Supplies & Postage				0	0	500	500	0%
53040	Advertising				0	0	3,300	3,300	0%
53050	Insurance				0	1,161	9,010	7,849	13%
53080	Licence & Permits				0	270	1,100	830	25%
54010	Legal				18,456	19,047	0	(19,047)	0%
54030	Contracted Services				12,950	71,537	266,500	194,963	27%
54040	Consulting Fees				0	11,951	80,000	68,049	15%
55010	Repairs & Maintenance				668	5,173	66,500	61,327	8%
55020	Operating Supplies				2,096	10,579	21,100	10,521	50%
55030	Equipment				0	908	13,000	12,092	7%
55040	Utilities				74	874	3,250	2,376	27%
55050	Vehicles				330	826	1,400	574	59%
55060	Rentals				96	150	0	(150)	0%
57010	Grants				0	0	407,403	407,403	0%
<b>Operating Expenses</b>					<b>40,506</b>	<b>148,966</b>	<b>941,543</b>	<b>792,577</b>	<b>16%</b>

CAPITAL EXPENSES					Current Month	Year To Date Actuals	Total Year Budget	Budget Remaining	Budget Utilization
Account		Project	Workorder						
60000	Capital Expenditures				0	0	46,000	46,000	0%
<b>Capital Expenses</b>					<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>0%</b>

NON-OPERATING EXPENSES					Current Month	Year To Date Actuals	Total Year Budget	Budget Remaining	Budget Utilization
Account		Project	Workorder						
56010	Debenture Interest				0	1,370	6,275	4,905	22%
56020	Debenture Principal				0	23,065	23,064	(1)	100%
59000	Contribution to Reserve				0	100,000	110,000	10,000	91%
59510	Transfer to Other Service - General Admin. Fee				18,255	18,255	18,255	0	100%
59530	Transfer to Other Service - Community Services Fee				248,056	248,056	248,056	0	100%
<b>Non-Operating Expenses</b>					<b>266,311</b>	<b>390,746</b>	<b>405,650</b>	<b>14,904</b>	<b>96%</b>

<b>Total Service</b>					<b>824,673</b>	<b>645,579</b>	<b>(0)</b>		
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**From:** Joanne Siderius <[siderius@netidea.com](mailto:siderius@netidea.com)>

**Sent:** 09 October 2024 6:14 PM

**To:** Cheryl Graham <[CGraham@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:CGraham@rdck.bc.ca)>; Tom Newell <[TNewell@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:TNewell@rdck.bc.ca)>; Keith Page <[KPage@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:KPage@rdck.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** [siderius@netidea.com](mailto:siderius@netidea.com) <[siderius@netidea.com](mailto:siderius@netidea.com)>; Anne Pigeon <[arpigeon@telus.net](mailto:arpigeon@telus.net)>; Joe Chirico <[JChirico@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:JChirico@rdck.bc.ca)>; Ashley Grant <[AGrant@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:AGrant@rdck.bc.ca)>; Grants <[Grants@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:Grants@rdck.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** 2024 Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Activity Report

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [siderius@netidea.com](mailto:siderius@netidea.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION

This email originated from outside the organization. Please proceed only if you trust the sender.

Good afternoon!

I have attached the 2024 Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Activity Report - we had a great season this year, welcoming over 32,000 visitors and almost 5,000 of those people participated in the 14 outdoor education programs that we offered. We hired three junior naturalists, and six other staff at the nature centre this year. Our programs were very popular with local people and park visitors from all over Canada and international visitors. Many of these people enjoyed visiting the local communities as well as the centre and the park - and they will be back in future years.

I hope you enjoy reading the report. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you very, very, much for your financial support of the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre this season. Thanks to your support we were able to open the doors this summer. We hope to see you out at the centre next year!

Cheers - Joanne Siderius

--

Joanne A. Siderius, Ph.D.,

Senior Naturalist at

Kokanee Creek Nature Centre

Visit us on [Facebook](#)

and watch our wildlife videos on

[Vimeo](#)





## Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Activity Report October, 2024

J. A .Siderius, Ph.D.,  
Head Naturalist



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## Summary

The Kokanee Creek Nature Centre is located in Kokanee Creek Provincial Park, near the communities of Harrop-Procter, Balfour and Nelson B.C., and within the Regional District of the Central Kootenay. Our mission is to offer professional outdoor education programs and activities to the visitors of Kokanee Creek Provincial Park and to our local communities.

The Nature Centre opened from May 17 to September 30 in 2024, welcoming over 32,000 park, local and international visits to the centre (25% more than 2023). We hired three junior naturalists and three visitor services staff with three supervisory naturalist staff. A WKTEP (West Kootenay Teacher Educational Program) student worked with us to offer programs for two weeks. We offered outdoor programming, a discovery room and displays in the Centre and the Redfish Café (offering specialty coffees, books, merchandise from local artists and souvenirs). All our programs are offered by donation.

We offered fourteen programs and activities, worked on a Sturgeon-Burbot Outreach Project, hosted the Kokanee Salmon School Programs and the Channel Guardians during Kokanee Salmon spawning season. Our naturalists also worked on individual projects and developed two bird checklists for Kokanee Creek.

The following report describes our successful operations in 2024.

## Attendance and Programs

We recorded 32,222 visits (not unique visitors) to the Nature Centre in 2024 - 25% more than in 2023, when we welcomed 24,088 visits. Of these, 4,976 people participated in our programs. We collaborated with the Kokanee Salmon School Program that attracted over 1,770 visitors and the Channel Guardian Program that hosted 19,500 visitors to the spawning channel.

We hired three junior naturalists this year, (one more than last year), and as a result were able to offer more programs more often. This is reflected in the greater number of visitors and the increased attendance to programs (Figures 1 and 2).

Jerry's Rangers and our evening programs (guest speakers, naturalist programs and storytellers) accounted for 56% (2,788 of 4,976) of in-house program participants. We were able to offer more programs of Jerry's Rangers this year and invite more speakers to our Summer Speaker series (Figure 5). Figure 1 shows the success of the most popular, most offered programs. We had more naturalists working this year who were able to go out onto the trails and engage visitors – as shown in the increased number of people engaged by "Roving Naturalists". Our evening programs (guest speakers,

naturalist talks and story tellers) attracted more local residents this year as well as international, Canada-wide, and other park visitors. We offered all our programs by donation.

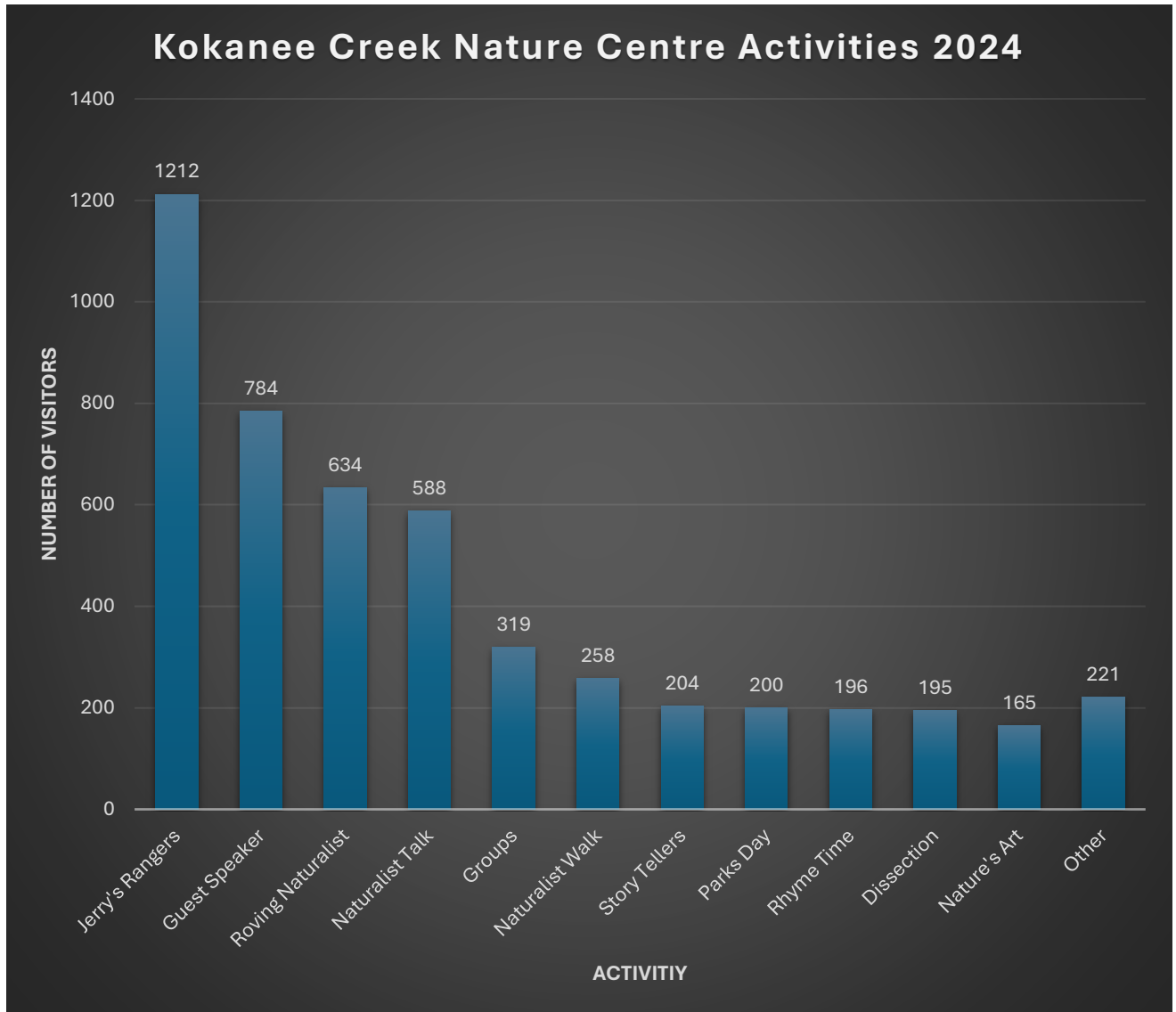


Figure 1 Kokanee Creek Nature Centre: Attendance and Programs

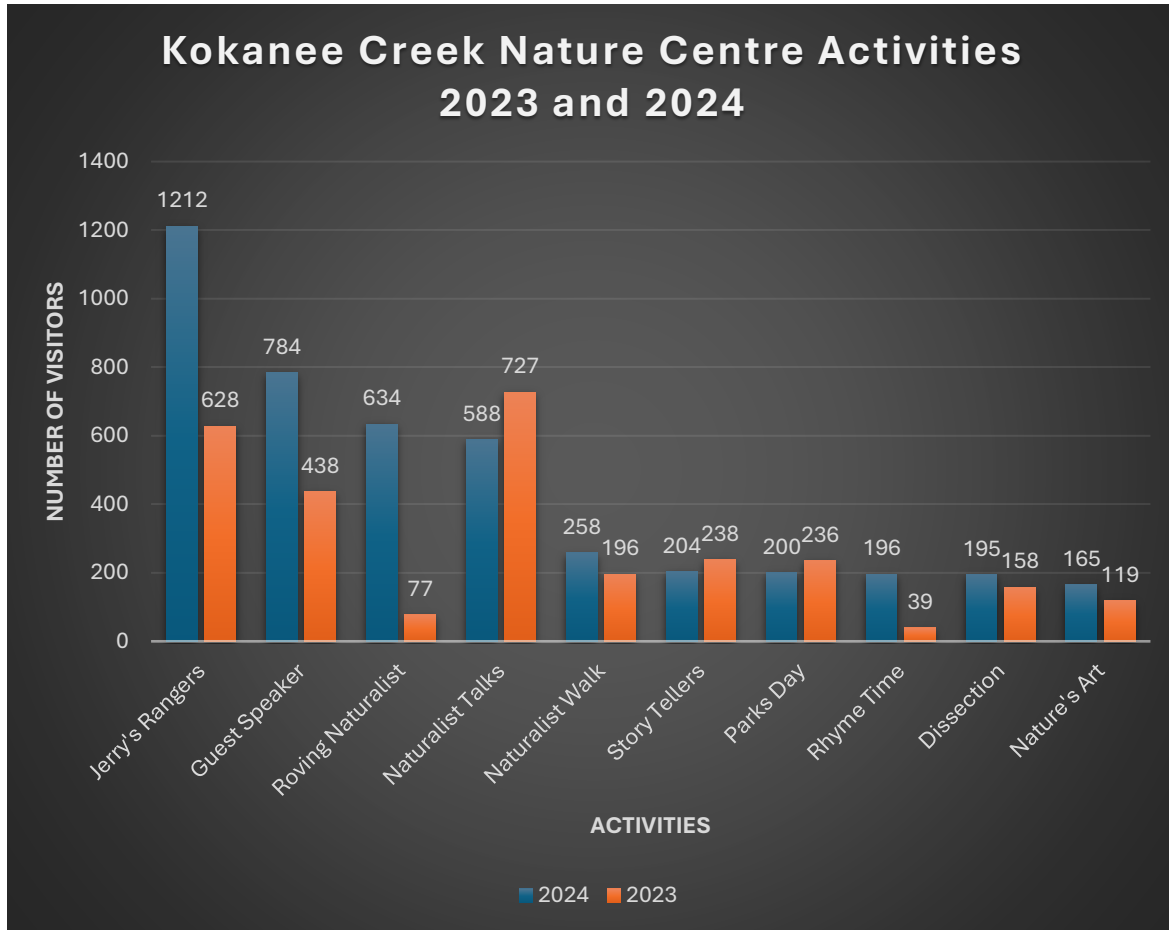


Figure 2 Attendance and Programs for 2023 and 2024

We offered the following programs:

- Jerry's Rangers – A one-hour program offering outdoor activities for 6–9-year-olds (accompanied by an adult).
- Guest Speakers – we invited 16 speakers to the Suzy Hamiton Theatre this summer (Figure 5). Speakers included historians, biologists, geologists, indigenous knowledge keepers, landscape ecologists - speaking on a variety of topics. These talks were well attended this year, and a great number were people from the local area, as well as park visitors.
- Roving Naturalist – our naturalists often walked the trails to engage people in exploring the trails and to interest people in our programs.
- Naturalist Talks – Several talks were given by head naturalist J. Siderius on a variety of topics (Figure 6). These talks used various media including photos and videos (trail cam, go-pro and camera videos) from the park and surrounding area





## **KOKANEE CREEK NATURE CENTRE**

and were well attended by park visitors and the local community. These talks are especially popular with families.

- Naturalist Walks - Scheduled afternoon walks in the park with visitors to show people the plants, birds, animals and other features of the trails.
- Storytellers – Every Saturday evening Barry Gray, Ray Stothers, or another of the Nelson Storytellers engaged visitors with stories. These programs are very popular with families.
- Rhyme Time – Songs and stories for preschoolers offered by Melanie.
- Dissections – We dissect a Kokanee Salmon! We show the parts of the salmon, talked about function and how people are similar – and different- from a salmon. Dissections are held outside the Centre and attract attention from people coming to the centre.
- Nature’s Art – offered by G. Lazier, people are offered the opportunity to experiment with various artistic techniques and activities out on the trails and the beach. These programs are popular with park visitors and locals.
- Botany Walk – Scheduled walks offered by U. Lowery who takes people on a walk to learn about the flowers and plants on the trails.
- Wilderness Survivor Skills – Offered by C. Mann, these programs are for 9–16-year-olds to learn compass skills, how to build a shelter, a proper fire and other outdoor skills.
- Popup displays – people were given the opportunity to learn and talk with naturalists about bears, sturgeon and burbot, and other topics from displays set out on the lawn of the nature centre.
- Other activities included: Bat Walks (2), Bee Walks, making walking sticks and Parks Day were also conducted this summer.



Figure 3 Programs and activities held at the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre in 2024





Figure 4 More naturalist activities and programs held at the Nature Centre





# KOKANEE CREEK NATURE CENTRE

## Kokanee Creek Summer Speaker Series

7PM	Fri	June 28	Greg Nesteroff, Historian	God's Garden - The Busk Estate
7PM	Thurs	July 4	Grant MacHutcheon, Wildlife Biologist	Grizzly Bears in the Kootenays
7PM	Fri	July 5	Bren Beckwith, Biologist	Butterflies
7PM	Wed	July 10	Robin Louie, Yaqaan Nukiy Knowledge Carrier	Culture and Landscape
7PM	Thurs	July 11	Chris Zinkan, Geologist	Geology in the Kootenays
7PM	Fri	July 12	Herb Hammond, Landscape Ecologist	Where the Forest Meets the Lake
7PM	Wed	July 17	James Baxter, Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Research tba
7PM	Fri	July 19	Elodie Kuhnert, Bat Biologist	Bats!
7PM	Wed	July 31	Living Lakes	Research in our lakes
7PM	Fri	Aug 9	Alistair and Cynthia Fraser	Photography adventures in Kootenays
7PM	Wed	Aug 14	Kootenay Native Plant Society	Native Plants of the Kootenays
7PM	Wed	Aug 21	CKISS	Invasive Plants in the Kootenays
7PM	Thurs	Aug 22	Janice Arndt, biologist	Butterflies in the Kootenays
3PM	Fri	Aug 23	Molly Teather, Fisheries Biologist	Kokanee Salmon Management
7PM	Fri	Aug 23	Steve Seymour Inchelium Language & Culture Ass'n	Sn ay čkstx & Salmon: A journey home
7PM	Fri	Aug 30	Jakob Dulisse, biologist	Amphibian/Reptile Research tba

**Speaker Series Sponsored by:**

Figure 5 Sixteen Guest Speakers participated in the Summer Speaker Series at the Nature Centre

## Naturalist Talks at Kokanee Creek

**Amphibians—Of Two Worlds**

**Babies of Kokanee Creek**

**Bats!**

**Bears, Bears, Bears!**

**Beavers and Friends—Animal Engineers**

**Common Kokanee Creek Plants**

**Curious Corvids**

**Keystone Kokanee**

**Kokanee Wildlife in Winter**

**Kokanee Wildlife: Not just a Pretty Campground!!**

**Ospreys and Eagles**

**Otters, Coyotes and Eagles—Oh My!**

**Evening Talks**

**Proudly Sponsored by:**

All talks at 7PM. Check our Weekly Schedule on Facebook for the date of the talks.

**Admission by Donation**

Figure 6 Naturalist Talks on offer at Kokanee Creek Nature Centre.



*Figure 7 We raffled off a beautiful Hellman Kootenay Canoe this summer – these are the happy winners!*

Thanks to the work of B. Bryce of the Friends of West Kootenay Parks and the generosity of the Nelson and District Credit Union who bought the canoe and Hellman Canoes (who gave us a great deal on the canoe), we raised over \$6,000.00 in a canoe raffle this summer.

## Projects

### Sturgeon-Burbot Outreach Project

The Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Society contracted to deliver public outreach about White Sturgeon and Burbot with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (Kootenay Boundary Resource Management). This pilot project was designed to deliver educational outreach materials for White Sturgeon and Burbot and recovery projects on Kootenay Lake. Senior Naturalist L. Murray took the lead on the project with Head Naturalist J.Siderius, and G. Lazier as mentors.

We interacted with 527 people on this project by developing games, crafts, popup displays, a Jerry's Ranger program, and a talk presentation delivered by L. Murray as part of the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Summer Speaker series (Figure 8).



Thank you to Angus Glass of the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program for loaning us White Sturgeon educational materials.



Figure 8 Sturgeon-Burbot outreach activities

## Interpretive Signs

Our two junior naturalists researched and started the layout for display panel projects on the Darkwood and Outlook trails highlighting features such as: the “wood wide web”, mosses, wildlife trees and the hydrology of Kokanee Creek.

These projects will be developed in future seasons (e.g., Figure 9)

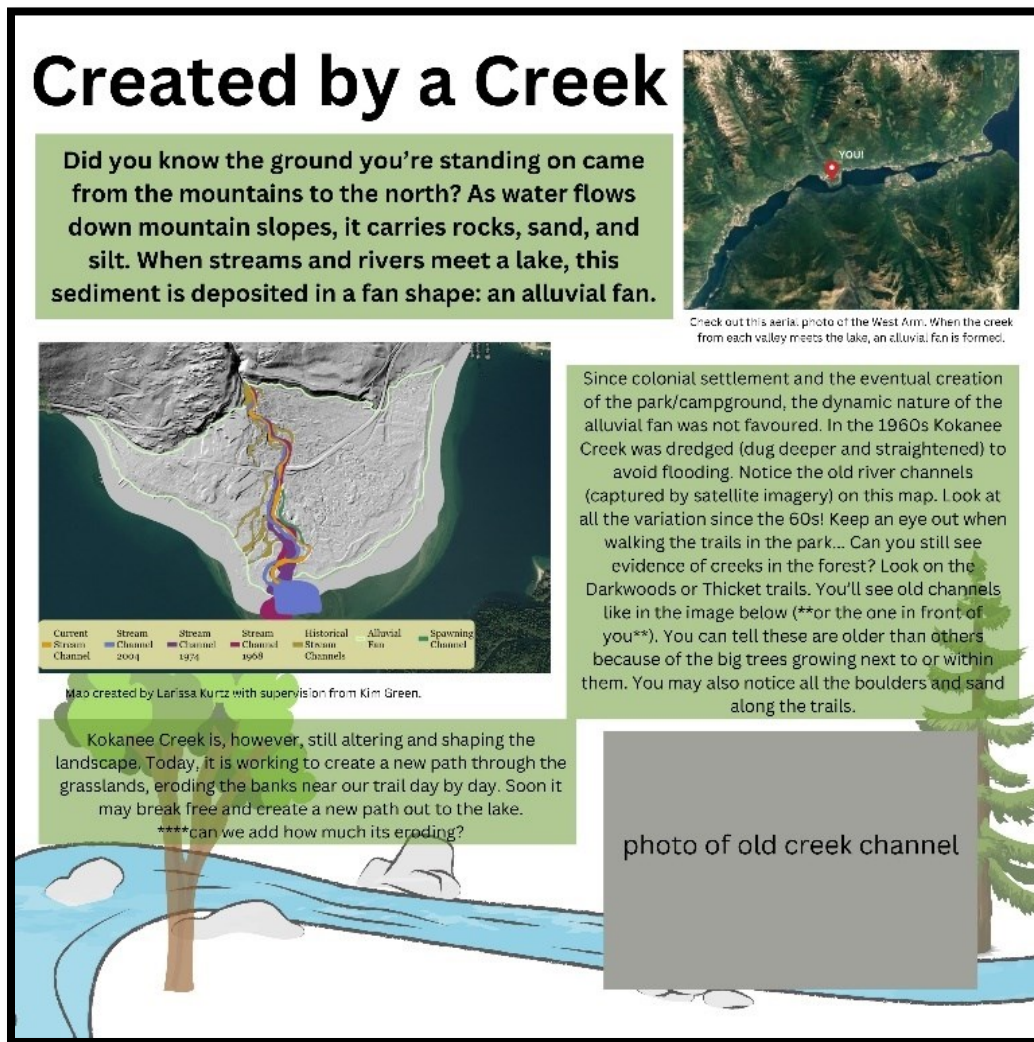


Figure 9 Draft layout for an interpretive sign about the history of Kokanee Creek, designed by R. Dufort

## Bird Guides

L. Murray designed and produced two Kokanee Creek Bird Checklists (original photos by J. Siderius) for distribution (by donation) to visitors to the Nature Centre (Figure 10).



They are also being distributed by the Nelson and District Visitor Centre. Copies of the checklists are provided in Appendix 3.

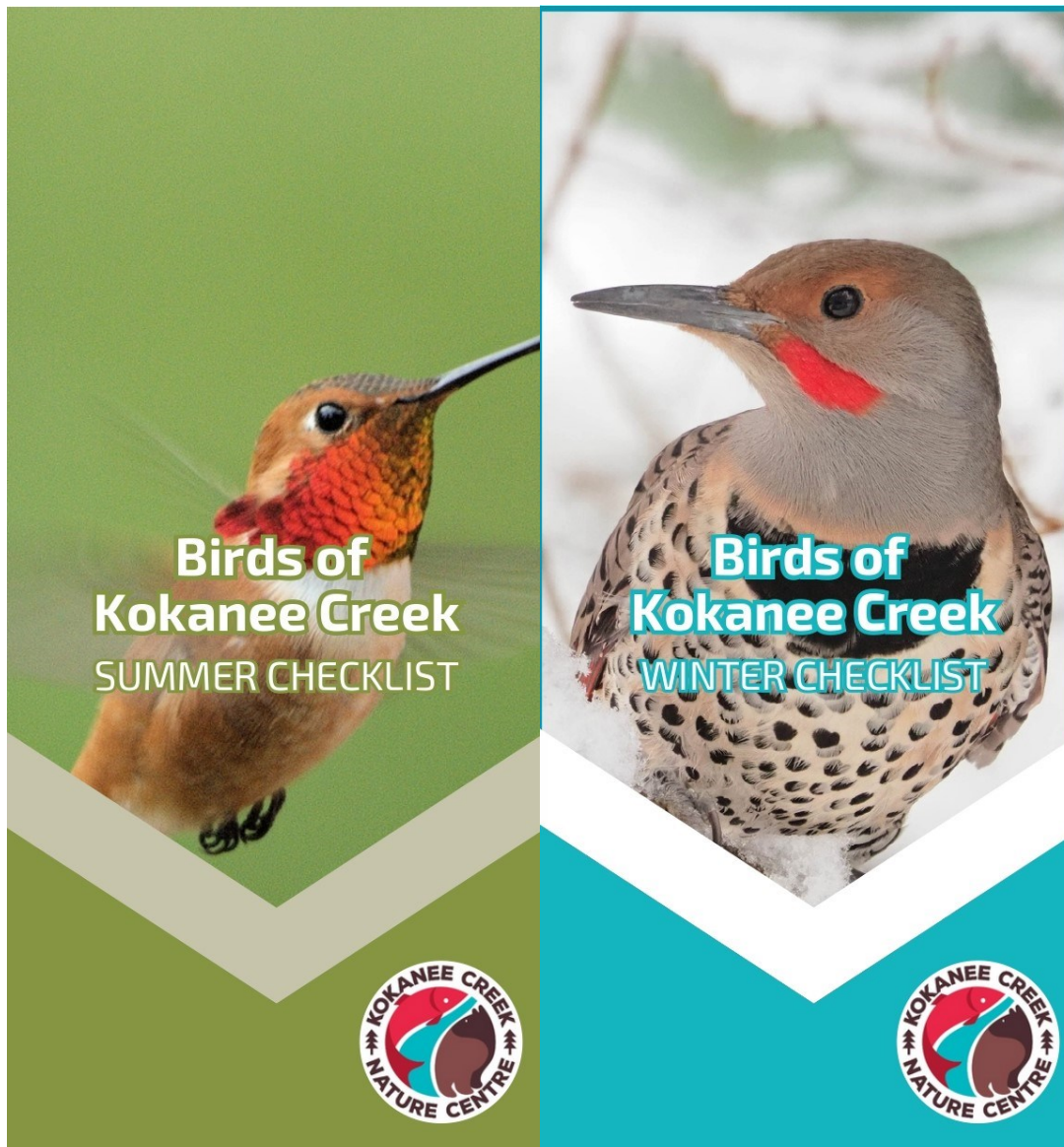


Figure 10 Two checklists to the Birds of Kokanee Creek produced in 2024



## Social Media



*Figure 11 Images from our Go-Pro and Trail Cam videos*

Nature Centre postings of activities, schedules, photos and trail cam videos on Facebook earned us 3.4K “likes” and 4K followers. We are also able to respond to comments about our postings which extends our outreach far beyond our local area. The face book link: <https://www.facebook.com/KokaneeCreekNatureCentre>

We have posted over 540 videos from our trail cam and go-pro videos on [Vimeo.com/kokaneecreeknaturecentre](https://vimeo.com/kokaneecreeknaturecentre) that have attracted 16.1K views and 8,365 unique viewers over the past year on that platform (Figure 11). Viewers are both local, Canada-wide, and international. Several media, educational and government organizations and conservation groups have shared our videos and posts. The Vimeo link: <https://vimeo.com/kokaneecreeknaturecentre>

Some of our most popular videos from the past year are listed below:

<https://vimeo.com/1013732448> (a fish-eye view of the Kokanee Salmon)

<https://vimeo.com/1005889145> (“Being Bear” at Kokanee Creek )

## Collaborations

### Kokanee Salmon School Program



*Figure 12 The Kokanee Salmon School Program attracted 1,775 students*

The Kokanee Salmon School Program invited 1,775 students and adults to the Suzy Hamilton Theatre in the Nature Centre and to the spawning channel. The students took part in a wonderful interpretive play highlighting “Taily Swift”; a dipper, heron and duck ballet; and D.J. Bear Bottom - all activities took their inspiration from the life cycle of the Kokanee Salmon. The students also watched the dissection of a salmon and watched the salmon on the channel. G. Lazier manages, designs and is head interpreter for the Kokanee Salmon School programs. R. Simoni, G. Kloet and N. Mithcell proved to be energetic and knowledgeable interpreters while M. Beaugrand excelled as host and cat herder as the school buses arrived!



## Channel Guardian Program

The Kokanee Creek Nature Centre hosted the BC Parks Channel Guardian Program again in 2024. On Aug 8 eight Kokanee Salmon returned to the Kokanee Creek spawning channel and on Aug 14 we hosted a training session for the guardians, volunteers and student Park Rangers. The program is run under the auspices of BC Parks. Ten guardians worked on the channel and J. Siderius co-ordinated the project. We welcomed 19,500 visitors to the channel in 2024 and talked to over 1,500 of these visitors. There were approximately 4,300 Kokanee Salmon and 8 different bears on the channel in 2024 (Figure 13). The channel guardians monitored visitor behaviour, made sure that there were no dogs allowed near the channel (dogs often initiate unfavourable interactions with bears), that people walked bicycles over the viewing bridge, that no one entered the closed area of the channel, and that people stayed out of the channel.



*Figure 13 One of the bears frequenting the channel in 2024*

## Acknowledgements



Figure 14 Our wonderful sponsors





# KOKANEE CREEK NATURE CENTRE

## The Friends of West Kootenay Parks Society and The Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Society

would like to thank the following persons, businesses and other organizations for their generous support of the operation of the Nature Centre and their support of Environmental Education

**BC Parks Foundation, British Columbia Community Gaming Grants, BC Conservation Foundation** (Kokanee Salmon School Program), Civic Auto Repair (Kokanee Salmon School Program), **Columbia Power Corporation** (Kokanee Salmon School Program), **Cowan Office Supply** (Nature's Art for all ages), DHC Communications Inc (Kokanee Salmon School Program), **Edward Jones** (Kokanee Salmon School Program), **Employment and Social Development Canada, FortisBC Inc** (Kokanee Salmon School Program), **Friends of West Kootenay Parks**, Barry Gray, Hall Printing, **Hellman Canoes & Kayaks, George Heyman**, Hume Hotel (Evening Speaker/Naturalist Talks), IG Wealth Management/Hallam and Associates (Kokanee Salmon School Program), Doug Kaun, **Kelsch Family Green Light Foundation** (Kokanee Salmon School Program), **Kootenay Baker Cafe Cooperative** (Survival Skills for Youth), **Jennifer Lount-Taylor** (Jerry's Rangers), **Main Street Diner** (Evening Speaker/Naturalist Talks), **Masse Environmental Consultants** (Kokanee Salmon School Program), **Nelson and District Credit Union**, Nelson Home Building Supply (Kokanee Salmon School Program), Nelson Remedy's RX (Kokanee Salmon School Program), **Nelson Rod & Gun Club, OSO Negro** (Evening Speaker/Naturalist Talks), **Osprey Foundation - Fred & Audrey Hedde Legacy Fund** (Evening Speaker/Naturalist Talks), **RAP Park Contracting, Regional District of Central Kootenay, SMT Lawyers** (Evening Speaker/Naturalist Talks - Bat Walk), **Spearhead Timberworks** (Kokanee Salmon School Program), **St Joseph's School Walkathon** (Kokanee Salmon School Program/Kokanee Creek Nature Centre), Tribute Boardshop (Evening Speaker/Naturalist Talks), Valhalla Path Realty (Kokanee Salmon School Program).

### Our Super Supporters.

And a big Thank You to the many visitors and supporters of the Nature Centre who showed their support by small donations of cash or supplies or time. We appreciate you all.

Find the Friends of West Kootenay Parks at fwkp.ca and follow the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre on Facebook.



Figure 15 Thank You ad placed in the Nelson Star and on Facebook – Thank you all!

We owe the wonderful people and organizations who supported us in 2024 (Fig 13 and 14) a resounding "Thank You"!! – we had a very successful year thanks to you.



The Friends of West Kootenay Parks have always had our back and did a stellar job of fund-raising for our outdoor educational projects again this year. B. Bryce approached sponsors on our behalf and ran a media campaign that generated even more donations. We could not do this without you Bill.

Thank you to BC Parks for their support- in particular, K. Woods and C. Browne, for their guidance and advocacy for the Centre and its programs.

RAP Park Contracting and the “park-side staff” made sure we could open the doors (literally!) – we were able to present a freshly painted and manicured face to the public thanks to you. We are very grateful for the professional job you do in maintaining this beautiful park. We are proud to be on the same team with you.

Our gratitude goes out to B. Gray and R. Stothers, our storytellers, and U. Lowrey our resident botanist, who offered their skills and expertise to our programming.

The interpreters and compliance staff on the channel during the spawning season did a stellar job of educating visitors, monitoring people and encouraging compliance to the spawning channel management plan: G. Munroe, T. Roos, M. Nelson, K. Roenspiess, D. Healey, N. Dohan, L. Thomson, H. Ackroyd, U. Lowrey, S. Town, and R. Pujos-Michel. Thank you for your patience and for your dedication to the fish, the bears and the visitors to the channel.

The enthusiasm and energy of our naturalists cannot be over-stated - you made our little nature centre fun and a great place to be. Thank you to senior naturalist L. Murray, junior naturalists J. Cherry, and R. Dufort and WKTEP (West Kootenay Teacher Education Program) intern N. Mitchell for your cheerful hard work this summer. You all have a bright future – thanks for sharing part of that journey with us. Exploring and learning with you was a highlight of the summer.

H. Soros, R. Pujos-Michel and M. Veale – you are more than great visitor services people who made great coffee - people loved your helpfulness, great conversation and advice on “what to do” in the area. Thank you!!

C. Mann managed the Redfish Coffee bar and kept the centre organized - all while running the Wilderness Survival Program and other naturalist duties; G. Lazier managed the souvenir and art shop, pitched into naturalist duties and lent her considerable artistic abilities to “Nature’s Art”. J. Siderius, as head naturalist, acted as mentor, managed evening programming and chipped in overall. We are all so very lucky to work here.

A. Pigeon did much more than keep us financially on the rails, and manage overall centre activities - her patience, hard work and “big picture” perspective are inspirational – Thank you!



And of course, thank you to our friends and sponsors. We made it through another year with your support and are eagerly looking forward to another season! You have supported us through 48 years of programming to date. Thank you for walking with us as we built this legacy. See at the Centre!



Figure 16 Thank you, from all of us (even those not in the photo!).





## Appendix 1: Visitor Book Comments 2024

<b>Name</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Williams Family L Carr Ard & Regina	Vernon Vancouver Is Holland	We love it here! Very beautiful & amazing content Beautiful Place! Great service & delicious coffee!
S&J Wyngaart S.Konken Kay Cooleys	Riondel Grand Forks Spokane Wa.	Thank you for your presentation Love the signs naming the plants This is amazing! I love seeing all the animals too!
Eliza Kyle and Shannon Mom & Brandy S Boyd Meara and Isla J&D Laystra S&M Mixer J&J Darcey	Spokane Wa Comox Castlegar Inchelium Wa Kaslo Netherlands Spokane Elkin NC	I love looking at the paw prints! Great displays and lovely hosts! Loved the foot prints in the sand! Beautiful Sinixit (heart) What a wonderful nature centre Great center, beautiful camping wonderful displays Amazing nature centre – plus coffee!!
N D Krista	OK Falls	A throwback to my youth – spectacular
L.Best J Basil A Mason J&D Sutherland	Corvallis Yaqaan Nukiy New Brunswick Kelowna	Sweet taxidermy Nice bears! Gorgeous, informative Great Nice to see programming for the campers great activities for kids
Seboks, Barnsans & Kadimas C Daley R Dezellen Meg & Tim Browning/Dwertha Fearkorics A Archibald Robin & Sebastian Alice	Alberta New Haven Con. Bridgeport Wa. Chicago Il. Nelson Vancouver Is Penticton Salmon Arm Vancouver	Very informative Great exhibits, informative staff! Fabulous displays, helpful staff Loving Rhyme Time! We saw bear poop! Rhyme Time was so much fun! beautiful centre! fun at the nature centre and painting on the beach!
Drysdale S&B Hart	Fruitvale Nelson	So glad for the programs! Loved the Busk presentation



# KOKANEE CREEK NATURE CENTRE

J Morris Azayla Peyton Imri	Cochrane Alb Alberta Alberta Nelson	Great Work Wonderful – and Chai Latte! Theres cool things here I love the nature centre I love all the things at the nature Centre
A Fronteddu Haggerty Family Paul, Will & Sharon	Langley Leavenworth WA Edmonton	Lovely centre. Very informative Great programs and kind staff Great program for Jerry's Rangers
Nerpark/Levie family M Stiltons Hailey S Hart Amber, Ilya V&J Deryko M Echart C Kroening Peterseu family J Kegan & M Russel F Snorvk & R Zongezoel Jace Anderson family	Salmon Arm Nelson Abbotsford Nelson Vernon Edmonton Trail St. Albert Germany Sandpoint Id Holland Vancouver Vernon	awesome programs Great service and displays Nice art! Love the evening programs Really cool centre Great centre! Love it! Great story telling last night! Great Displays! Great Coffee! wonderful art experience! awesome info and displays Very interesting. Nice guide Bear talk was great! Excellent centre for our kids Thanks for keeping it going! great music and songs for littles Beautiful centre! So many programs!
Regan, Austin, Olivia Sanasion Family	Saskatoon Calgary	We love the discovery room 😊 All the animals and stuffies like the food and info on animals Good service! Love the Redfish Café love the activities and talks kids did an wonderful puppet show
The Solaczeks Leo, Phoebe, Keeley & Derek Pauly Emma, Emily Timmy, Gertrude Randon & Vanessa Ezekial Family	Surrey BC Cranbrook Texas California Las Vegas Calgary Calgary	a gem in the forest! love the discovery room Fun! Love the displays First rate, tasteful, educational
Tydemans C Raven Eva & Viola Dokkie/Milton Clan V Clover	Abbotsford Invermere Coquitlam Chetwynd Vernon Trail	



## KOKANEE CREEK NATURE CENTRE

Kinew & Lindsay  
Alex & Kelvin  
Lily  
The Evdus  
H&J Perkerdell

H Olsen  
M. Sterling

Andrea  
Kosaks  
Barry and Gail  
Laura  
M. Carade  
Sharon and Craig  
Arrow, Peyton, Barb  
Sandra and Smith  
N. McMurto  
C.& B. Otto  
M Pettit  
David and Janet

Heather and Ian  
Grieves

A Derube, K Saldur  
Duedoffs  
A. Stauffer  
L. Smit  
A. Fraser

The Whole School

Todd and Jackie  
Colleen and Matt

Winnipeg  
Calgary  
Ladysmith  
Grand Forks  
Rossland

Passmore  
Glasgow

Nelson  
Red Deer  
Penticton  
St. Paul Minn.  
Madison Wis.  
Edmonton  
Cranbrook  
Cleethorpes Eng.  
Gibsons  
Warna AB.

Gathet BC

Bend Ore  
Balfour

Rossland  
Bayview Id  
Olds Alb  
Netherlands  
Stother U.K.

Winlaw

Salmo  
Kelowna

Love the Nature Centre  
Thanks for all the fun learning 😊  
I like Jerry's Rangers  
Great fun and informative  
Great salmon walk  
Great discovery room!  
I love all the animals  
Enjoyed learning about the  
wildlife  
Love the art!  
Fun and interactive!  
Very interesting  
I learned a lot!  
I love the fish - Burbot!  
Well done! Love the coffee!  
We love this nature center!  
Very enlightening  
Lovely display  
Enjoyed the rangers knowledge  
Really kid friendly!  
Lovely discovery room especially  
Puppets and poo drawer!  
Amazing unique facility Thanks!  
Love the activity room – we love  
Coffee!  
Interactive and friendly staff!  
Great program!  
Fascinating Lots of great info!  
Learned a lot. Nice  
Wonderful work you are doing  
and great displays!  
The kids and adults love it here  
and participate in the programs!  
Great coffee!  
Great Display!

## Appendix 2: Naturalist Testimonials from 2020 to 2024

**Jessi Cherry, 2024** This year had many ups and downs. I learned how to overcome my anxiousness around public speaking and how to navigate working as a children's educator. I enjoyed working in and with nature all summer and I loved meeting many people with different backgrounds who all taught me a variety of things. The best part of the day was constantly learning new things almost every day, either about the land I live on, plants, animals, or the people around me. Thanks for a great summer.

**Sarah Town, 2023** As a somewhat discombobulated newcomer to the Kootenays, working at the Nature Centre has been grounding to say the least. There is a certain constant you can count on each day at Kokanee Creek: people at the park want to connect with nature. Although there is endless - at times overwhelming - learning to be done regarding the complex relations among all the inhabitants of Kokanee Creek and the greater Inland Temperate Rainforest ecosystem, the reliable presence of park visitor curiosity provides an excellent foundation for a naturalist to work with. It frames and highlights our job to act as one of the knowledge connectors between the natural world and our human community. There is always something to ponder and talk about with other Kokanee Creek park-goers, whether that is the fluctuations of the Kokanee Salmon return, the happenings of the local bear population, or the identification of bird calls heard throughout the park. These connections may happen over an afternoon Naturalist walk, the brewing of an Americano, a shared moment of appreciation at the spawning channel, or over a Jerry's Rangers arts and crafts session, while making mini Great-horned Owls out of toilet paper tubes. The diversity of tasks was certainly one of my favourite aspects of this job. I am also grateful to my fellow parkies for sharing so much of their knowledge, especially on the Kokanee Salmon return, an event that is integral to supporting life here in the Kootenays. From egg development in the gravel substrate, to predator avoidance in the depths of Kootenay Lake, these creatures are steadfast in their mission to survive, thrive, and reproduce, all while providing sustenance to other beings and nutrients to the surrounding watershed. Observing this famous phenomenon reminds us of our responsibility to appreciate and steward the land, not as though we humans are a separate entity, but as though we are deeply interconnected beings. Thank you for the endless inspiration, connection, and free drip coffee, Kokanee Creek Nature Centre.

**Nicole Sonnichsen 2023** Although this is not my first year working for my current employer, it takes place as one of the most memorable. As a Naturalist for a major BC Provincial Park, I receive valuable mentorship on the fauna and flora of the region, as well as experience in a position of leadership. In my opinion, one of the most valuable skills I have improved since starting in this position is the ability to research and compile information, for the purpose of educating others. These skills will directly transfer to my education when required to synthesize vast amounts of new information and also into my career as an engineering project manager.

**Linn Murray 2021, 2023 & 2024** What an exceptional summer work experience! Working at the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre lived up to all my initial expectations, and much more. The frequent times to experience, learn, and teach about nature make me look forward to going to work in the morning. I love helping kids and adults alike learn and grow in their connection with nature. This summer I have found environmental education one of the most fulfilling jobs I have ever worked. Moving into the future, I think this job has equipped me with an abundance of skills. I have learned so much about Kokanee Creek's ecology, about communication, and about the labour involved in making parks a wonderful experience for visitors. Going into the future, I think my time here will have prepared



me for employment in environmental fields, while also providing a valuable knowledge base for educating myself and others on nature. Ultimately, my long-term goals surround continued activism on the climate crisis, and moving into the planning of nature-based and policy-based solutions. Working here at Kokanee has opened my eyes to on-the-ground realities; both to how forests can be impacted negatively by anthropogenic change, and positively through people working to help ecosystems flourish. Thank you to all the awesome people who make this park happen! You are unforgettable people and it was a privilege to work with such a proactive, uplifting team!

**Jacqueline Van Horne 2021** This summer I had the opportunity to work at the Kokanee Creek Nature Center. It was a full summer creating educational programs for kids age 6-9 and 9-12, helping with the coffee shop and discovering all that the park has to offer for plants and animals. I enjoyed being able to teach people about the topics that I love, like compass work and tree identification, and sharing that excitement with other people. The most memorable days were going out with my fellow co-workers/naturalist and exploring the ecosystems that the park has to offer. I will take forward with me the skills for educating people and engaging with them in an educational situation. As well as barista work in a fast-paced coffee shop!

**Reanna Donald: 2020 and 2021** My position working at the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre as a Naturalist was an experience that I could never have dreamed of. As a first year student studying Recreational Fish and Wildlife I came into the position with a base level of knowledge regarding the local flora and fauna in the kootenays. I was very eager to learn and was met by mentors who were just as eager to converse, teach and guide me. Within weeks of working at the nature centre I was so enveloped in the nature of my job and how amazing it was that I was able to share the love of Kokanee creek, all of its living/non-living residents and the centre with all of the children who attended our programs and all of the people who visited the centre. As I now attend my second and final year, I am able to converse with my professors about knowledge that I gained during my work term at Kokanee that many students would not be able to. I feel confidently that I acquired one of the greatest jobs for someone who is a student in my program. This job provided me with the opportunity to be creative in my lesson plans, learn continuously and feel confident in myself and my knowledge while in the outdoors. It was an incredible experience, one I hope to have again, and also an experience I hope is available for other students like myself for many years to come.














**Kyra Burkart: 2020** I was lucky enough to spend this summer working as a Naturalist at Kokanee Creek Provincial Park.

I grew up in Nelson, so I attended salmon school and would always visit the spawning channel with my family. The park itself is magical, but the naturalist programming is what makes Kokanee Creek so special. Environmental education plays such an important role in connecting people with nature; especially, in the digital age. This summer, I am so thankful that I was able to experience the joy of watching kids explore and fall in love with nature.

I am also grateful for the skills and experience I gained in this position. I graduated with an environmental science degree in the Spring and began an education degree in the Fall, and so this was the perfect position for me. It allowed me to apply my knowledge of the environment in a way that also had me develop new skills I will need to be a teacher. I learned so much through mentorship but also through being given opportunity to try out my own ideas.

## Appendix 3: Birds of Kokanee Creek Checklists

### Summer

FOREST 		FOREST 	
American Robin 	Northern Flicker 	Pacific-Slope Flycatcher 	Ruffed Grouse 
Swainson's Thrush 	Black-capped Chickadee 	Raven 	Red-breasted Nuthatch 
Pileated Woodpecker 	American Dipper 	 <p><b>Birds of Kokanee Creek SUMMER CHECKLIST</b></p> 	




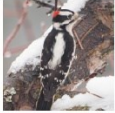







Lake 	GRASSLANDS 	GRASSLANDS 
Osprey 	Yellow Warbler 	Red Eyed Vireo 
Bald Eagle 	Eastern Kingbird 	Spotted Sandpiper 
Common Merganser (female with chicks) 	Northern Rough-Winged Swallow 	Rufous Hummingbird 
Great Blue Heron 	Gray Catbird 	Cedar Waxwing 
Ring-billed Gull 	Belted Kingfisher 	<p>Published by the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Society.</p> <p>Wildlife photographs by: Joanne Siderius Designed by Linn Murray</p>  <p>Prints available at the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre.</p>










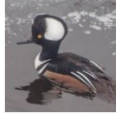
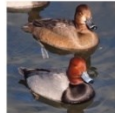
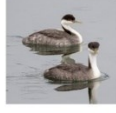

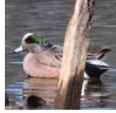




# KOKANEE CREEK NATURE CENTRE

## Winter

FOREST		FOREST		
 Varied Thrush	 Northern Flicker	 Downy Woodpecker	 Dark-eyed Junco	
 Northern Pygmy Owl	 Black-capped Chickadee	 Raven	 Red-breasted Nuthatch	
 Pileated Woodpecker	 American Dipper			

Lake		Lake		GRASSLANDS	
 Trumpeter Swan	 American Coot	 Mountain Bluebird (male)	 Great Blue Heron	 Pine Grosbeak	 Bohemian Waxwing
 Bald Eagle	 Bufflehead (male and female)	 Common Merganser (female)	 Hooded Merganser (male)		
 Redhead (female and male)	 Western Grebe				
 Barrow's Goldeneye	 American Widgeon				

Published by the Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Society.  
 Wildlife photographs by: Joanne Siderius  
 Designed by Linn Murray  
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