



SUMMER/FALL 2020

# NEWS FROM CCCS

THE CARIBOO CHILCOTIN CONSERVATION  
SOCIETY'S BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER



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*a unique year in*

## Conservation

A message from our Board President,  
Bill Lloyd



Hello everyone! The past six months have no doubt been challenging in many different ways for each and everyone of you. Covid - 19 had immediate effects on our organization and no doubt will shape a different future for us and our staff. With school cancelled for roughly half the year our educators were brought to a standstill.

Our Gavin Lake modules were cancelled indefinitely and until the school board sorts out the fall program we won't know what we can really move forward with.

Amber will continue to have the office open on Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the summer. She has a ton of boring and mundane office work ahead of her so feel free drop in for a chat anytime to break up her day and share ideas. We have reclaimed 14 boxes of old office files that have been in storage since an office move some ,20 years ago.



Amber has the unenviable task to determine what we should refile and what should be turfed. Our thanks go out to Daryl Grams for safely storing them all this time. Oliver may have to add a few new worm composting modules to his program before this task is completed.

Covid - 19 has brought the questions of local food security and economic sustainability into immediate focus for a lot of people who hadn't given it much thought in the past. Our volunteer priorities in the next few months will concentrate on expanding our gleaning activities and food storage capability to meet the increasing community need. We are exploring purchasing or building an apple grinder and press to process surplus apples that might normally go to waste . Anyone that would like to get involved in helping out with this can e- mail me and we should be able to put them to work. Our potato patch at Silver Birch Ranch is growing nicely and will be ready for harvest in September.

Pandemics seem to be one way of giving mother earth a bit of a break but it's unfortunate that it has such a huge human cost. Let us all keep that in mind and in the words of Bonnie Henry be kind to one another. Life lived simply is much easier on the planet and creates more time to help one another. Wild berries are incredibly abundant this year so don't miss out on nature's bounty and get out there and get picking.

Enjoy the summer and we will let you know what we are doing when we know ourselves.

CCCS Board President  
Bill Lloyd





# OUR 2020 RCBC ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

by Amber Gregg

To say the least, 2020 has been an unpredictable year thus far. In the midst of uncertainty, the CCCS team received a much-needed boost much in the form of an award for their continued dedication to all topics conservation in the Cariboo region.

The Recycling Council of BC (RCBC) is a charitable organization that facilitates the exchange of ideas and knowledge that enable efficient solutions to eliminate waste. RCBC hosts a Recycling Hotline and Recyclepedia to provide comprehensive information for the province's 17 Extended Producer Responsibility programs, curbside recycling systems, and other waste reduction/reuse options for products and materials BC resident's encounter every day.

Each year RCBC recognizes the valuable contribution that individuals and organizations make towards the preservation and protection of BC's environment. The 2020 award categories included innovation, private sector achievement, non-profit achievement and youth achievement. In May of 2020, RCBC informed CCCS that we had received the award in the Non-profit category, an award given to an organization providing services beyond expectations in environmental stewardship or protection.

The CCCS team has been providing quality, up to date conservation education in the Cariboo for over 20 years and has grown over the years to include more team members and cover more conservation topics. Our educators are constantly researching new ideas and implementing new programs to keep the information up to date and engaging for students and residents.

Providing conservation education is a rewarding experience and CCCS is fortunate to have an amazing team, including a supportive volunteer Board of Directors. There is no doubt that our dedicated crew would continue its work regardless of any award but acknowledgement by an organization such as RCBC is a real feather in our cap.

check out our award announcement via the RCBC online award ceremony [right here!](#)

## 2020 Non-Profit Sector Winner



Cariboo Chilcotin  
Conservation Society



# WATER WISE UPDATE

By Jenny Howell

I just re-read last year's newsletters; so many projects and plans, so much optimism and momentum from us all! I have a sense of nostalgia, affection and slight sadness for the former CCCS staff we all were then, not knowing what was around the corner for us and everyone else in the world in 2020.

Things carried on pretty normally through the early spring; with 24 Water Wise in-class sessions, a record number of Snow Science classes staying overnight at Gavin in Feb (9), and 8 grade 7 Earth Challenge classes enrolled and given instruction by most of the participating groups. A Cataline class and a Nesika class produced some beautiful Water Wise art that was displayed in the Children's section of the library- a river of fish and some lovely posters with Water Wise tips in French. I had Earth Challenge pretty well planned, all the local science groups booked and prepped, classes and teachers revved up and over twenty spring and summer field trips booked, with a waiting list for those we couldn't fit in.

Tours of the City water and sewage system were organized, river valley trips with Scout Island staff and several classes scheduled for my new module on the Water and Forests trail in the Community Forest. The module itself was almost ready; games and activities focused on the content of each sign- we were going to have a water cycle game, find stomata with magnifying glasses, look at how tree branches catch water with spray bottles (that one might have gone wrong on a hot day with kids...), send messages between trees as we pretended to be fungal mycelia and more...

Even as we headed off for a few days for spring break, there was already a sense of foreboding. People were cancelling overseas trips, worrying news stories were spreading and we questioned if we should even be taking a ferry. That was the week in March of course, that everything changed. Schools were closed and it seemed unlikely they would re-open before the end of the school year. We started to become overly familiar with the term 'social distancing';





didn't hug our adult children when we saw them; became wary of everyone else in the world as potential carriers, (while grinning at them awkwardly to show it was nothing against them personally).

Then came a bit of a watching and waiting phase. Amber could carry on with her admin at home, but those of us who spend most of our time with schools and large groups suddenly had a massive hole in our lives. As the picture emerged of what the next few months would look like; online schooling, no large gatherings for the foreseeable future, we got together virtually to start working out the 'What now?' We came up with a plan to continue with an online Earth Challenge, and work as much as possible on education options online and through the newspaper and catch up on admin. Ollie and Mary started their 'Trash Talk Tuesdays', Brianna put together some Water Wise equivalents, I started in on weekly Tribune articles and focused on the Earth Challenge.

The end results were surprisingly successful. We had 5 classes participate in the Earth Challenge and had a large 'project' component, with about 30 projects submitted by kids.

We conducted the actual Earth Challenge by Zoom, over a series of days with individual classes. Admittedly, two classes only had one student at quiz time, but the other teams were bigger and the kids that participated really enjoyed the experience. I have had many comments and positive feedback on the weekly articles, and the 'Trash- talking Tuesdays' seem to be a big hit.

Then in June, schools actually were able to take kids back again; as you know, with many restrictions in place (like no field trips). However two teachers asked me about taking their classes to the creek at the back of 150 Mile school as we could walk and would only have small groups. So we did; classes are split into two groups and attend alternating days. I went twice for each class and we had a lovely time at the creek doing our water quality tests and searching for aquatic insects, linking their survival to water quality and discussing their importance as the foundation of many food chains.

Recording...

# Earth Challenge 2020

	Water/Waste	Nature/Inv	Air/Chance		
	<u>Q 100</u>	<u>Q 100</u>	<u>Q 100</u>		
	<u>Q 200</u>	<u>Q 200</u>	<u>Q 200</u>		
	<u>Q 300</u>	<u>Q 300</u>	<u>Q 300</u>		
	<u>Q 400</u>	<u>Q 400</u>	<u>Q 400</u>		<b>Final Jeopardy</b>
	<u>Q 500</u>	<u>Q 500</u>	<u>Q 500</u>		



At this stage, we are assuming that things may not look that different next school year. It seems probable that schools may stick with some form of 'hybrid' model with some in-class time and some online. My usual fall is teaching a CCCS module at Gavin Lake, but the chance of overnight trips seems almost nil, so Gavin is working on a day option for schools, in which case I am hoping to incorporate my Community Forest module into a Gavin version, and focus on the relationship between trees, forests and water. I may also offer some of my usual spring field trips to classes in the fall, assuming a reduced Gavin program and some extra time. From there we'll just have to see how things progress. It may be possible to offer an outside Water Wise module through the winter, and/or create an intensive Water Wise program focused on a few classes if it doesn't seem prudent to be travelling frequently between different classes and schools. We're also talking about how to rework the Earth Friendly event to maintain distancing and gathering size limits and we'll continue with our higher rate of articles and social media post/videos.

So CCCS will adapt and maybe even flourish as we all live through this period of history. The pandemic has heightened people's awareness of the interconnectedness of all things and there is renewed interest in sustainable local systems as the rest of the world appears more fragile and unreliable. We are lucky to be a small and flexible organization that can make changes quickly; we have strong community relationships and support, and BC has Bonnie Henry; all of which will help see us through to the other side of the current pandemic.

Jenny Howell  
Water Wise Instructor



# WASTE WISE UPDATE

by Oliver Berger

The beginning of this 2020 year was similar to most. The cold weather keeps waste pretty tame and we spend a majority of our time planning the upcoming year and brainstorming new ways to assist folks with their waste diversion tactics, including creating inspiring ways to teach our young ones the ways of garbage.

Mary and I were fortunate to assist two regional First Nation communities: Esketemc and Yunesit'in with their curbside recycling initiative. Using our local networks and knowledge, we would assist the drivers while doing their recycling pick-ups in their neighborhood. Interacting with the community as well as learning about their culture was very exciting and progressive for us as waste educators. To tell you the truth we and the peoples in these communities are happy to finally see recycling options available! We hope there are more opportunities like this to come.

As March rolled around we quickly realized that our workshops, group gatherings and classroom teachings were coming to a grinding halt. Our efforts to educate folks about reusing items and steering clear of single-use plastics also came to an abrupt standstill. We were a little shocked. However, as the saying goes, 'garbage never sleeps' so we decided to keep on keepin' on. Its all about how you adapt right?

We decided this was the perfect time to take our knowledge online! We have discussed making videos for a while, and now we finally had the time. Trash Talk Tuesdays was born! Our social media got a boost as well as our followers. Our indepth knowledge of the recycling industry, garbage collection and compost experience was put out to the world. We went 'live' on many occasions allowing the public to interact with us while we educated. It has been a lot of fun broadcasting from all sorts of locations like the Potato House, atop a landfill, from home or even in the office. Waste is all around us and opportunities to be more waste-wise are as well!





# GRANTS & FUNDING UPDATE

**City of Williams Lake:** The first of our two Fee for Services assists us in the running of the Water Wise program in the schools and community of Williams Lake. This funding (\$38,600) assures the continuity of the education program which engages all ages in water conservation and provides tools for easy ways to save water. The second is for our city-based Waste Wise program, an education program focused on reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink (\$24,500). We have just renewed this contract for a three year term (2020-2022) for both of these programs.

**Cariboo Regional District:** We have just renewed our Regional Waste Wise Fee for Service contract (\$40,465) for another two years (2020-2022). In addition to all of our regular Waste Wise work, this contract allows us wages and kilometres to travel around the region with our classroom Waste Wise Program and to conduct more food waste education and compost coaching.

**Community Gaming Grant:** We have just submitted our annual application for our Gaming contract (\$25,000) for our Watershed Health program – which includes Water Wise classes for regional schools and other watershed education – and our Sustainable Life Education program – which includes our Outdoor Education modules plus community waste reduction programs such as Bikes for All, Skates for All, Veggies for All, Earth Friendly Holiday Event and more!

**Fisheries and Oceans Canada:** We gratefully received \$5,500 in funding from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and we'll continue to put the money to good use to support many of our Water Wise initiatives including Classroom Education, Xeriscape Gardening, Tap to Bottle, Shoreline Awareness, Storm Drain Awareness, and many others!

## Other Funding:

We received a \$2,000 grant from the Williams Lake Community Forest for our Earth Challenge quiz for Grade 7 students. We received the funds prior to the COVID-19 quarantine and with the subsequent school closures, quickly adapted to an online format. Students participated with classmates, and in some cases on their own, in our Zoom Earth Challenge quiz and had the option to submit home projects for additional team points. We also received \$3,500 from Recycle BC to participate in their 2020 Community Champions program. This funding goes toward our waste reduction and recycling objectives for the year and also includes support from Recycle BC to provide the most up-to-date information for students and residents.





# Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society

## Memberships & Donations

102-197 Second Ave N  
Williams Lake, BC V2G1Z5

Our organization runs by the power of thousands of volunteer hours, memberships, and donations. Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm!

For an annual membership or donation, please fill out the form below and either mail or drop off to the CCCS office. If a membership is not right for you, please consider passing it along to a friend or making a one-time donation instead!

You can now sign up for a membership or donation online!



### Circle Membership Type:

Individual: \$15.00      Family\*: \$20.00      Senior/Student: \$5.00      Group/Business: \$30.00

\*If you checked "family" membership, how many people in your family? \_\_\_\_\_  
(If left blank, we will assume your membership covers 4 people.)

Donations:

\$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
\$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other amount \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

-----  
Contact (for Business only)

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Tel:

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: CCCS memberships begin June 1st and run to May 31st. Midterm membership fees will be adjusted accordingly. Membership fees and donations can be made via cash, cheque (made payable to the Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society), or online right here.