

Photo: Tamarack, Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society.



BC Rivers Day

2023 Impact Report

Note from the founder.



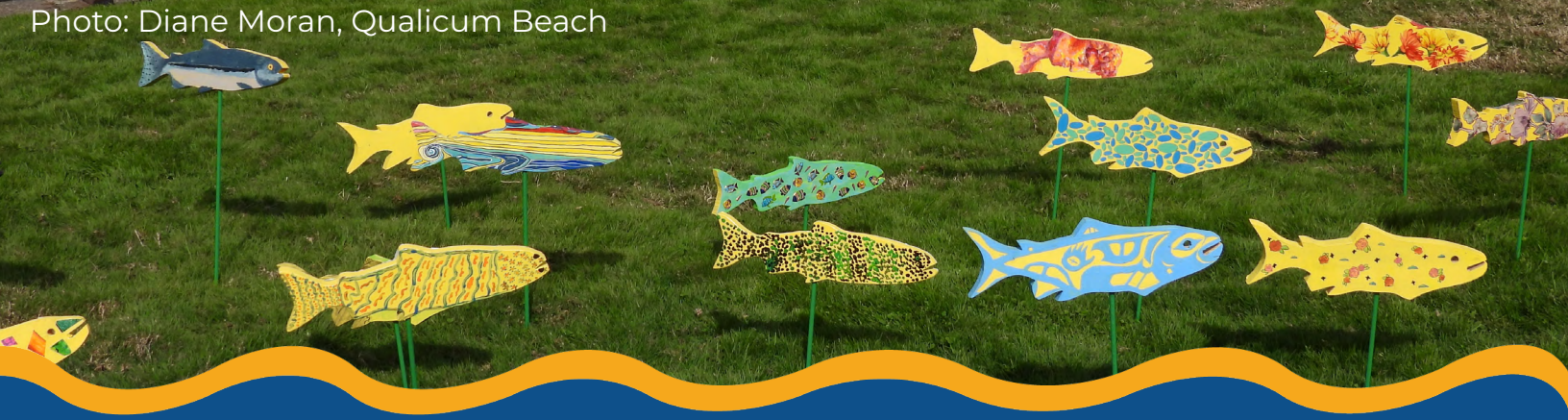
It was wonderful to see the province-wide response to BC Rivers Day this year, which simply highlights just how much British Columbians care about our waterways. The variety of events that unfolded was incredible, ranging from stream cleanups and habitat enhancement projects, to educational outings and community riverside celebrations.

The aim of BC Rivers Day is to increase public awareness of the values of our rivers as well as the pressures that confront them. In addition, it strives to engage people with local waterways and, judging from the response, these objectives were certainly met.

And lastly, it's special to know that the roots of World Rivers Day, now one of the biggest environmental celebrations on the planet, come right back here to British Columbia.

A very special thanks to all those who participated in BC Rivers Day and we already look forward to next year's event!

- Mark Angelo, Founder of BC Rivers Day & World Rivers Day



Stories from the water.

- Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society picked up 68 kgs of waste along the Serpentine River in Surrey—all the while coho salmon were jumping as they worked
- Squamish River Watershed Society hosted a series of events including salmon walks, plantings, riparian education, and community celebrations
- Cougar Creek Streamkeepers and BC Wildlife Federation teamed up to offer a two-day fish habitat workshop
- Hope Mountain Centre facilitated a guided paddle with a team of river scientists, an Indigenous cultural guide, historians, and naturalists who shared their knowledge and perspectives on the Fraser River
- Alouette River Management Society held the 30th Annual Ridge Meadows River Day
- The District of Vanderhoof organized a community paddle down the Nechako River
- The Seymour Salmonid Society hosted a clean-up and replanting event at the Seymour River estuary
- The Thompson-Nicola Conservation Collaborative ran the McArthur Island River Clean-Up Day to celebrate Kamloop's rivers
- And more! There were over 30 events this year with over 5000 participants



Above: Wildsight Invermere paddled down the Columbia River with 18 people from 13 to 75 years old.

Below: Kids enjoy observing dead salmon eggs through a handheld microscope with Squamish River Watershed Society.





To celebrate B.C. Rivers Day, FortisBC employees planned and organized shoreline and trail clean up events across the province. They hosted a total of five events in Langley, Kelowna, Prince George, South Slokan and Langford with around 125 employees volunteering.

Employees expressed that these were great opportunities for them

to be out in their communities and help improve the environment by making these spaces a little cleaner for their neighbours. FortisBC encourages their employees to find ways to be environmental stewards not only at work but also at home so they can continue to find ways to protect and maintain natural spaces.





“I’m glad I participated in the river clean up as part of BC Rivers Day. I think sometimes it can be easy for citizens to take our immediate surroundings for granted which is a shame because they truly are exceptional. The biggest and most important successes we see in life are often chalked up to ‘the little things’ and BC Rivers Day was no different. This was a group of regular people that could have spent their Sunday doing other things, but chose to dedicate themselves to their community.”

- Patrick Watson, volunteer with Neighbours United in Trail

Contests.

Event Host Contest

Events registered on our website were entered for a chance to win a Compact Freshwater Testkit from our friends at Water Rangers. Hope Mountain Centre was the lucky winner with their guided paddle event.



Photo Contest

Thank you to Western Canoe and Kayak, Mustang Survival, and Patagonia for the amazing prizes. And thank you to everyone who participated.





Thank you.

Thank you to our sponsors, partners, and event hosts for helping to make the 43rd Annual BC Rivers Day a great success.



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



Photo: @torrienicholas



Let's do it again next year!

**Save the Date: Sunday,
September 29, 2024**

www.orcbc.ca/bcriversday

#BCRiversDay



**Outdoor Recreation
Council of BC**