

A message from the President

About ARMS

The Alouette River Management Society's (ARMS) mission is to sustain and enhance the integrity of the Alouette Watershed through advocacy, education, collaboration, and stewardship using science-based decision-making.

ARMS is currently advocating for fish passage over the Alouette Dam to reconnect the upper and lower Alouette River system.

Key Priorities

- 1. Develop new connections and deepen existing relationships affecting the Alouette River Watershed.
- 2. Develop and deliver exceptional education and outreach experiences
- 3. Monitor, protect, enhance, and advocate for the health of the Alouette Watershed.

2022 was another challenging year. With COVID-19 winding down in the early part of 2022, ARMS education programming got off to a great start in the spring with over 100 workshops delivered in classrooms. Our staff did a great job balancing competing priorities and programs from our Rivers Heritage Center. Much of the work with BC Hydro on Alouette Watershed issues, delayed by the pandemic, restarted in the second half of 2022. Many ARMS Directors took up specific projects to assist our busy staff and this was a great help.

ARMS goal of fish passage over the Alouette Dam moved a few steps forward and we hope to have a design and pricing by the end of this year. As we look to 2023, we are in a strong position and look forward to offering a wide range of environmental education activities and children's camps. ARMS staff will be out in the field keeping their eye on all things salmon-related along with training and supporting our volunteers in a range of stewardship activities such as salmon spawner surveys and water quality monitoring.

ARMS will continue to support the ALLCO community fish hatchery staff through promotion and grant-writing. In addition, this year we hope to replace our roof at the Rivers Heritage Center along with celebrating ARMS 30th birthday.

I would like to sincerely thank our many financial supporters, donors, members, volunteers and the communities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. Deep appreciation goes to our staff and Directors who have very successfully led us through another year.



Ken Stewart



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Environmental Education

In 2022, our education programs returned full-time in person to the classroom. Our spring programs included Buzzing with Bees, Butterfly Beauties, Wild Water Cycles, and Wildlife Habitat Building. We were incredibly happy to see that schools booked ARMS solid for the Butterfly Beauties classroom program. School hatchery tours resumed.

In addition to our regular education activities, we were also hosted by Harry Hooge Elementary for a school-wide workshop over two full days. We had five fun and educational stations led by ARMS staff and volunteers. Interactive stations included Litter and Forest Safety, Aquatic Invertebrates and much more!

We hosted two successful Spring break camps in 2022, with both camps full! The first week, Lego Batman camp was geared towards ages 5-8. The children had fun participating in daily Lego challenges, from the tallest tower to the house most prepared from a zombie attack, there was lots of Lego fun to be had. Campers also participated in adventure walks, scavenger hunts, and locating where bats and other animals live in the forest. Campers got to spend each day learning about bats as well, from how they fly, echo-locate.

Our second spring camp was Survival Skills for ages 8-11. The children enjoyed running obstacle courses, learning how to build shelters and foraging skills. Campers learned about hatchery salmon along with learning how to be safe out in nature— from what plants to avoid to how to safely interact with animals they may encounter in the outdoors.

In June, ARMS held public tours at the ALLCO Fish Hatchery. We were joined by local day care centres, the 1st Laity View Beavers as well as the public. All groups enjoyed seeing the freshly clipped Coho fry, the rearing ponds, and the fish fence set-up. Attendees released Chinook fry and received salmon life cycle posters and salmon story bead kits at the end of the tour.

We had another successful season of summer Eco-Camps. We hosted 85 youth over five weeks of camps from July 11 - August 19. Camps were held at the Rivers Heritage Centre with many ALLCO Park adventures included. Themes offered were Pixelmon, Nature Detectives, Flip Flop Flap and Get STEAM'd.

We had an amazing team of camp counsellors who provided fun and creative activities and a lot of energy. This year we had to work with a few different obstacles including forest fire smoke and heat waves, however the park provided a safe place for everyone to enjoy. We received a lot of positive feedback from the parents and kids about our camps.





ARMS staff were welcomed into classrooms in the fall. Classroom workshops offered included Night Creatures, Scales and Tales, Forest Explorers, and Wild Water Cycles, These workshops gave students the opportunity to learn about nocturnal animals, salmon species, food webs, and the water cycle. Students participated in a number of activities including games, crafts, salmon dissections, and egg takes. Teachers regularly noted that their students were very engaged during the presentations and enjoyed the crafts as evident by many children showing off their handmade salmon hats.

Testimonials:

"I loved the engaging information, the reallife items for the kids to see and the craft." – Melissa Affleck, **ć**əsqənelə Elementary

"The flow of the presentation, the mix of information and hands on materials, and being able to see live bees. The entire presentation was well timed and engaging for grade one (6 years old) students." – Joanna Tones, **c** esgenele Elementary

"What an amazing experience for all of us. Thank you so much for this experience. It was amazing! A wonderful memory for us." – Michelle Zavaglia, Chartwell Willow 6 community workshops

on site tours

1 in class workshops

3772 youth & public

reached



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Special Events

ARMS held our first free pollinator event on April 10 in Maple Ridge Park and it was a great success! We had some fun activities set-up including seed ball making and chickadee birdhouse building. Over 50 people participated in this event. Many families came out to celebrate local pollinators. We provided education on the season of bees hatching and the spring flowers coming out.

After a two year hiatus due to pandemic concerns, ARMS hosted the ever-popular Father's Day Fish Release in Maple Ridge Park. On June 19, with the support of BC Corrections staff, 10,000 Chinook fry were released into the South Alouette River. We were joined by Adopt-A-Block, Nature Kids BC Ridge Meadows, and artist in residence, Natalie Leduc. We were also joined by amazing volunteer face painters, December, and Grey; their rainbows were a hit with all the kids! Over 100 people came out to release the salmon fry with us.

In the summer, we hosted storm drain marking events in Maple Ridge. The first event was on June 24 in the Rockridge neighbourhood. The events focused on bringing awareness to the residents about storm drains, where they lead, and to remind community members to be careful what they put down drains.

All drains lead to salmon habitat and can create environmental damage to streams and creeks as well as impact water quality for salmonids and other aquatic species in the Alouette River. In late June, with a Pacific Salmon Foundation grant, we hosted four free community workshops in Maple Ridge Park. The workshops focused on salmon and environmental education for all ages. Topics included: Backyard Biodiversity, Summers with Salmon, Wonders of Watershed, Salmon and Sustainability. Over the four days, we had 161 participants stop to ask questions about the river and learn more about summers with salmon!

In mid-summer, ARMS held its second free Pollinator Family Fun Day at Maple Ridge Park. This event provided educational opportunities for the public to learn about the importance of pollinator species, focusing on bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, bats, and beetles.

We were joined at our event by the North Fraser Bee Club and the David Suzuki Foundation's Butterfly Way Project. Approximately 145 people visited the event and everyone seemed to enjoy the information and the activities that we provided. The bee booth was a great attraction!





Ridge Meadows Rivers Day

Environmental Exhibitors

Salmon Cookies

? Volunteers

135 Volunteer Hours

489 people attended

On Sunday September 25th we successfully hosted the 29th Annual Ridge Meadows Rivers Day event in ALLCO Park, Maple Ridge. Over 489 people attended with 24 exhibitors, and 32 volunteers who contributed 135 hours on the day.

We sourced a local bakery, Bella Nonna's, to make 100 salmon-shaped cookies as give aways to event participants. We provided an opportunity for a local small business to offer their wares for sale and bought coffee and treats for volunteers from a new local coffee shop called "The Nut".

We hired local entertainers: Click and Clown, The Well-Worn Trail, and Lisa Rae Simons to provide on-stage fun for kids and their families. Our financial supporters included: City of Maple Ridge Festival Support Grant \$1500, Innergex Renewable Energy \$1000, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program \$1000, and Vancouver Port Authority \$700.

Community Outreach

ARMS was pleased to attend many community events throughout the year hosted by the City of Maple Ridge, City of Pitt Meadows, Ridge Meadows Recycling Society and more. Several of these events were brand new for ARMS to attend and we found them very successful outreach opportunities.

April 22 - Earth Day at Beckett Park with City of Maple Ridge Engagement Team

April 23 - Ridge Meadows Earth Day Celebration, Memorial Peace Park

April 29 - May 1 - Ridge Meadows Home Show, Albion Fairgrounds

June 4 – Pitt Meadows Day, Harris Road Park

July 6 – Nature Days with the City of Maple Ridge (Happenings Series)

July 10 – Summers with Salmon, Maple Ridge Park

July 13 – Summers with Salmon, Maple Ridge Park

July 17 – ARMS in the Park, Harris Road Park

July 20 – Museum on the Move, Maple Ridge Park

July 23 – 24 - Country Fest, Albion Fairgrounds

August 7 - Summers with Salmon, Maple Ridge Park

August 10 - Builders Night, Memorial Peace Park

August 16 - Summers with Salmon, Maple Ridge Park

August 21 – Summers with Salmon, Maple Ridge Park

August 23 - Endangered Species, Harris Road Park

August 25 – Summers with Salmon, Maple Ridge Park

August 28 - Nature Education, Whonnock Lake

September 1 – Summers with Salmon, Maple Ridge Park

September 3 - Past and Present with Maple Ridge

Museum and Wild & Immersive, Malcolm Knapp Research Forest

Research Forest

September 17 - GETI Fest, Memorial Peace Park



Community engagement days

2319 Visitors interacted with at the ARMS booth

















Rivers Heritage Centre Programs

Volunteers & Membership

Research on water-related issues, river, and BC Hydro projects

The work of the Alouette River Management Society would not happen without the ongoing work of many talented volunteers in a variety of areas including education, environmental stewardship, advocacy, and event support.

Volunteer activities:

Bookkeeping and data entry Tree planting Invasive plant removals Event planning Event support – set up, take down Youth camp leaders Storm drain painting Gardening at the Rivers Heritage Centre

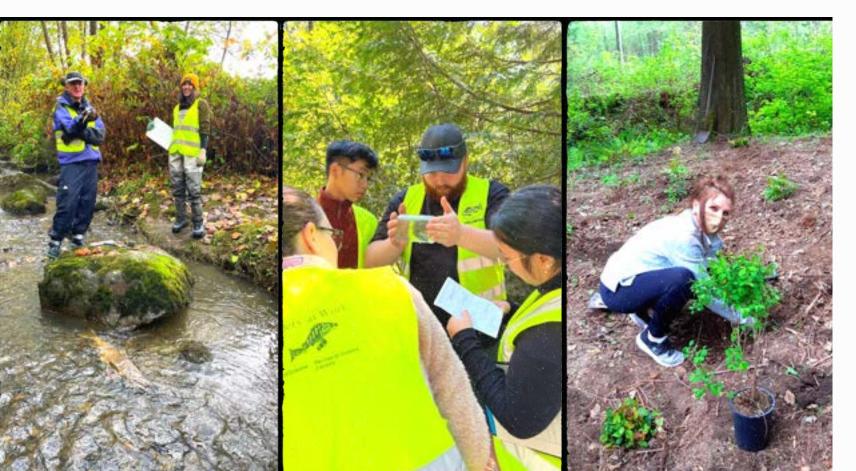
Salmon spawner surveys Water quality testing

Habitat monitoring on conservation property

\$44,872 Total in-kind value

Total volunteer

Members





Grants & Donation Requests

ARMS had a great year with many of our grant applications and donation requests being approved.

Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program - Alouette Watershed Sockeye - Fish Passage Feasibility Project (Year 6) - \$148,804 (Directed contribution agreement)

Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program - Alouette River Salmonid Habitat Rejuvenation Project - \$81,547

Eco Action – Morse Creek Connections Freshwater Initiative - \$50,030

City of Maple Ridge - Education, Rivers Heritage and Stewardship Program and annual Rivers Day event - \$21,500

Stewart Family Foundation - Morse Creek Connections - \$15,000

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation – Prepping for Pollinators - \$10,000

Pacific Salmon Foundation - Morse Creek Connections (\$5,508), ALLCO Hatchery Incubation Equipment (\$2,500), Alouette Watershed Community Workshop Series (\$3536), EnviroScape (\$800)

City of Pitt Meadows - Adopt-a-Program - \$5,000

Envision Financial Community Endowment - Building Resiliency and Sustainability for the Alouette Watershed \$5,000

Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program - Community Engagement - \$1,000

Innergex Renewable Energy Corp. – Rivers Day \$1,000

Port of Vancouver - Rivers Day \$1,000

Rivers Heritage Centre Programs

Alouette Watershed Advocacy

<u>Letter to BC Director of Water Rights and Comptroller and BC Hydro CEO and President, Chris O'Riley regarding Stalled BC Hydro Activities on the Alouette System, 31 May 2022</u>

<u>Letter to City of Maple Ridge Mayor and Council regarding Density Bonusing, 13 June</u> 2022

Letter to BC Hydro CEO and President Chris O'Riley regarding Alouette Headworks and Surge Tower Seismic Upgrade Project and Reservoir Management Options, 20 July 2022





Community Partnerships

ARMS partnered with the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) for another amazing community workshop in 2022. On June 25 and 26, the Fish Habitat Stewardship Workshop took place at the Rivers Heritage Centre, Latimer Channel, and the 232 Overwintering Channel. On day one, we were joined by two Katzie First Nation Elders for a blessing of the weekend and medicinal plant use in the ARMS' demonstration garden. We learned about stream measurement methods with BCIT's Kim Ives and Laurie Stott.

On day two of the workshop, Larissa Lau from the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver provide information about current invasive species concerns, issues, and removal methods. BCWF's Haiden MacDonald led a talk on how to use water quality monitoring tools known as Tidbits or HOBOs. ARMS staff Alex Holmes, along with Tobias Roehr (BCWF) led water quality testing techniques using a YSI, Turbidity metre and LaMotte testing kits.

In the fall BCWF and ARMS completed a native tree planting at the 232nd Street overwintering channel. By increasing vegetation cover for the spawning channel, we hope to reduce the negative impacts to salmon in their different life-stages caused by increased water temperatures, predation and lack of food an nutrients in-stream. Both events were offered to the public.

Stewardship Programs

Alouette River Salmonid Restoration Program

The multi-partner committee for the Alouette River Salmonid Restoration Program continued its annual monitoring of the Alouette sockeye smolt outmigration, adult Sockeye enumeration in addition to new work investigating the potential and number of fish entrained through the north diversion tunnel from the Alouette Reservoir into the Stave Reservoir.

The entrainment study objective was to understand the impacts of Alouette operations (i.e., dam and tunnel) on the ability to facilitate outmigration of Sockeye in the Alouette watershed. This new study was led by LGL Environmental with support from Katzie Development Limited Partnership technicians from January to December.

The adult Sockeye enumeration program ran from mid-June when the ALLCO fish fence went up to maneuver any returning Sockeye adults into the fish trap. ARMS staff sampled and measured all adult Sockeye returns, with BC Corrections hatchery staff transporting and releasing the adult Sockeye into the Alouette Reservoir.

In 2022, a total of four adult Sockeye salmon arrived at the ALLCO fish fence. As part of our enumeration program, we took samples including scales for aging and adipose fin clips for DNA testing. We will be excited to learn what year these fish out-migrated as smolts.

This adult enumeration study is now in its fifteenth year working alongside the other studies to build a business case to BC Hydro for the restoration of all salmonid species in the Alouette with particular focus on the Sockeye salmon and to get fish passage over the Alouette Dam.

The ARSRP committee is a working collaboration between ARMS, BC Hydro, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ministry of Environment, LEQ'Á:MEL First Nation and LGL Environmental. This committee was established in 2008 and has been working tirelessly to achieve fish passage on the Alouette Dam.





Environmental Workshops

With immense support from community volunteers, ARMS hosted several activities alongside Morse Creek at Reg Franklin Park from September to November. These activities included a community art activity, two streamside cleanups, and three native shrub planting and invasive plant removal sessions.

September 28th, 9 dedicated community members participated in a streamside cleanup with the Maple Ridge Adopta-Block Program. Eight garbage bags full of litter were collected.

On October 15th, 48 community members joined forces with the Lower Mainland Green Team to remove over 30 cubic meters or 195 bathtubs of Himalayan blackberry. Participants also planted 50 native shrubs. On October 19th ARMS teamed up with Eric Langton Elementary students who planted 80 native shrubs at more than three sessions ranging from kindergarten to grade 7, totaling in 130 students!

October 21st motivated community members focused on removing the root crowns of the remaining Himalayan blackberry. Approximately five cubic meters or 33 bathtubs of invasive species were removed.

On November 2nd, ARMS launched the first in a series of four community art activities, where Maple Ridge Artist-in-Residence, Aaron Moran, led a temporary nature-based art construction.

21 community members participated in making leaf murals woven into the park fence. November 9th was a streamside cleanup where 42 community members removed five full garbage bags of litter from Reg Franklin Park. A huge thank you to the Maple Ridge Lions Club who provided a BBQ for all the hard-working volunteers!

In total, the Fall 2022 volunteer contribution was 421 hours. A huge thank you to everyone who participated in these activities, as well as EcoAction Canada, Pacific Salmon Foundation, and Stewart Family Foundation for their generous financial support for this project.

421 volunteer hours donated

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Salmon Spawner Surveys & Streamkeepers

ARMS coordinated spawner surveys for the fourteenth year running in the same four tributaries within the Alouette Watershed. Spawner surveys provide information about the number of adult salmonids that reach the spawning grounds, and the proportion that spawn successfully. Fisheries managers use the term escapement to describe the number of fish that escape the various fisheries. The tributaries our volunteers monitor include Coho Creek, Latimer Channel, Millionaire Creek, and the North Alouette River.

Seventeen trained volunteers surveyed the tributaries for three months using provided spawner survey kits. "It has been a great opportunity to learn and volunteer with a great group of people" one volunteer said, "We have learned a lot over the past few months about identifying male and female chum"

ARMS offered a stream-keepers training workshop on September 17 and 18, free to volunteers and ARMS members. This was made possible by the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF). ARMS also received funding from PSF for the Alouette Watershed Community Workshop Series which engaged youth and community through river stewardship. Stream-keepers training provided citizen science opportunities in stream habitat surveys, water quality monitoring, juvenile fish trapping and identification and stream invertebrate studies.





Habitat Restoration

Thank you to the Maple Ridge Community Foundation for providing financial support for our "Alouette Watershed Connections" project. ARMS partnered with the 1st Laity View Scouts, 1st Pitt Meadows Cubs and the public in Maple Ridge Park over 4 separate sessions in April and May in 2022 to remove invasive Himalayan blackberry and to plant native shrubs including Indian plum, vine maple, Oregon grape, and Nootka rose. Volunteers learned from professional forester Cheryl Power about the importance of native vegetation in riparian zones.

In salmonid habitat enhancement, ARMS was approved for a grant from the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program to complete important upgrades and maintenance work to allow the salmon channels to continue to function well into the future. With the help of Fisheries and Oceans engineering technician staff we removed the original beaver box located at Golden Pond and installed a new metal beaver pipe.

ARMS was fortunate to have Fisheries and Oceans Habitat Resource Restoration engineers oversee the work at the site, with their expert knowledge helping to ensure the new pipe was correctly installed and functioning as intended for the salmon migrating up and downstream.

350 cubic feet of blackberry removed

93 volunteer hours contributed

48 native plants installed

Our second enhancement project was to clean out an overgrown Coho overwintering channel, west of 232nd Street. Several invasive plant species were found at the project site including Yellow Flag Iris, Scotch Broom, Himalayan Blackberry, Reed Canary Grass, and Policeman's Helmet.

The upper portion of the overwintering channel was overgrown with reed canary grass, causing the channel to be choked with vegetation and very shallow for Coho fry and other aquatic species use. We removed the clogged-up portion of the channel and regraded it. The channel looks amazing now and ready for high use again by salmon.

Thank you to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for providing continued support in these important salmonid habitat projects.

Adopt-a-Block Programs Maple Ridge

In 2022, the Maple Ridge Adopt-A-Block program signed up 12 new adoptions. As of December last year, there were 168 actively enrolled members in the program. These 168 members monitored more than 206 sections of Maple Ridge, as some adopted more than one section and others chose to extend the boundaries of their adopted locations. The program continued to engage existing members in meaningful volunteer activities throughout the year including litter picking events and community outreach activities.

Maple Ridge Adopt-A-Block strengthened its working partnership with BC Wildlife Federation, Lower Mainland Green Team, Maple Ridge Lions Club and Ridge Meadows Association for Community Living (RMACL) . The Adopt-a-Block Program partnered alongside Lower Mainland Green Team to host a successfully run community event to pull invasive Himalayan blackberry from Reg Franklin Park. The program also partnered with Ridge Meadows Recycling Society for the celebration of Earth Day 2022. These are excellent relationships for Adopt-A-Block to have as it creates strong community ties. The program offers new avenues for individuals to advance Adopt-A-Block initiatives to better achieve community goals as well as the City of Maple Ridge's strategic plans through collaborative efforts.

AjM Disposal Services Ltd remains a major ambassador for the program, collecting members extra garbage free of charge. The RMACL continue to work on orders of reusable bags needed for the program. Our gratitude goes to the City of Maple Ridge for its continued support of this important community program.





Pitt Meadows

In Pitt Meadows, there were 11 active adoptions and 243 volunteers devoting their time and energy to keep Pitt Meadows clean. These amazing volunteers come from schools and families, individuals keen to get out in their community while keeping streets, blocks, parks and trails clear of trash. We recognize all these amazing Adopt-a-Program members in Pitt Meadows! We could not do this work without you.

The Adopt-a-Program was involved in a number of activities and hosted some of its own throughout 2022. On February 9th, ARMS and Adopt-a-Program hosted a community clean up at Shoreline Park. This was a Valentine's themed event. A crafting station was set-up where participants made suet ornaments to hang for the birds in the cold weather. This activity was popular and everyone enjoyed making them. On March 16th, ARMS and Adopt-a-Program hosted a St. Patrick's Day themed community clean up along the CPR Trail in Pitt Meadows. Thank you very much for the continued financial support of the City of Pitt Meadows for this program.

community events

168 members enrolled

206 adopted areas

Adopt-A-Block Programs organized and/or participated in:

- January 21 ALLCO Park Community Clean-up
- February 11 Valentine's Day Community Clean-up
- April 14 ARMS Annual General Meeting
- April 18 Easter Egg Hunt Clean-up
- April 22 Maple Ridge Earth Day Event
- June 10 Retro Day Clean-up
- June 15 Harry Hooge School Workshop
- June 19 Father's Day Fry Release
- July 6 City of Maple Ridge Nature Days
- July 10, 17 Community Engagement Activities
- July 20 Museum on the Move event
- July 24 and 25 Country Fest
- August 4 Pollinators in the Park
- August 3, 7, 16, 17, 24, 25, 28, 31 Community Engagement Activities
- September 17 GETI Fest
- September 25 Ridge Meadows Rivers Day
- September 28 Reg Franklin Park Clean Up
- October 15 Lower Mainland Green Team invasive species removal
- October 21 ARMS invasive species removal event
- November 2 ARTways event in Reg Franklin Park
- November 9 Community clean up with Maple Ridge Lions Club





Other clean up events hosted or attended by Pitt Meadows Adopt-a-Program included:

- May 18 Pitt Meadows Athletic Park
- June 4 Pitt Meadows Day (City of Pitt Meadows)
- June 17 Waste and Recycling Workers Week at Harris Road Park
- August 10 River clean up at Trail Pavilion Park. Participants went out in kayaks, canoes, and other watercrafts. It was a great day cleaning up the Alouette River and shoreline.
- August 17 National Non-Profit Day at North Bonson Park
- August 23 Storm drain marking activities, the Adopt-A-Program promotional door hangers were hung during these activities in Pitt Meadows. Volunteers marked salmon habitat drains in the community as well as leaving helpful information about why these drains were painted with yellow fish.
- October 28 Hoffman Park clean up with Highland Park Elementary

7 community events

243 volunteers active



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2022 Donor Wall of Honor

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ARMS Staff



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Board of Directors



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John Dale Vice President



Doug Stanger Treasurer



Cheryl Ashlie
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Geoff Clayton

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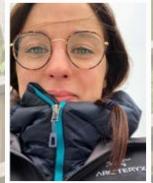
John Kelly



Gavin Roache



Mark Caros



Victoria Farahbakhchian



Matt Adams



Gerry Miller



BC Corrections

Thank You



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"2022 was a year of comings and goings. We welcomed back Sophie Sparrow from maternity leave and said a sad goodbye to Alexandra Holmes who covered for Sophie while she was gone. We also welcomed Marissa Waddell into the new role of Watershed Projects Manager and Layla Haslinger to our Environmental Education Coordinator role. During the spring and summer we were so thrilled to work again with the every-amazing Dan Mikolay as our Camps Supervisor. Thank you to our wonderful summer students Chavon, Hannah and Emily for their dedication and passion to ARMS delivering new camps and getting out to in the community promoting our work in the Alouette Watershed.

To our Board of Directors, thank you for your continued enthusiasm and expertise on the ever-evolving issues we see in the watershed and at the Alouette Reservoir.

To our funders, members, donors,

volunteers and community partners, we would not be able to do this work without you. Thank you! I look forward to celebrating our 30th anniversary with you in 2023!"

Greta Borick-Cunningham

<u>ARMS</u> Executive Director