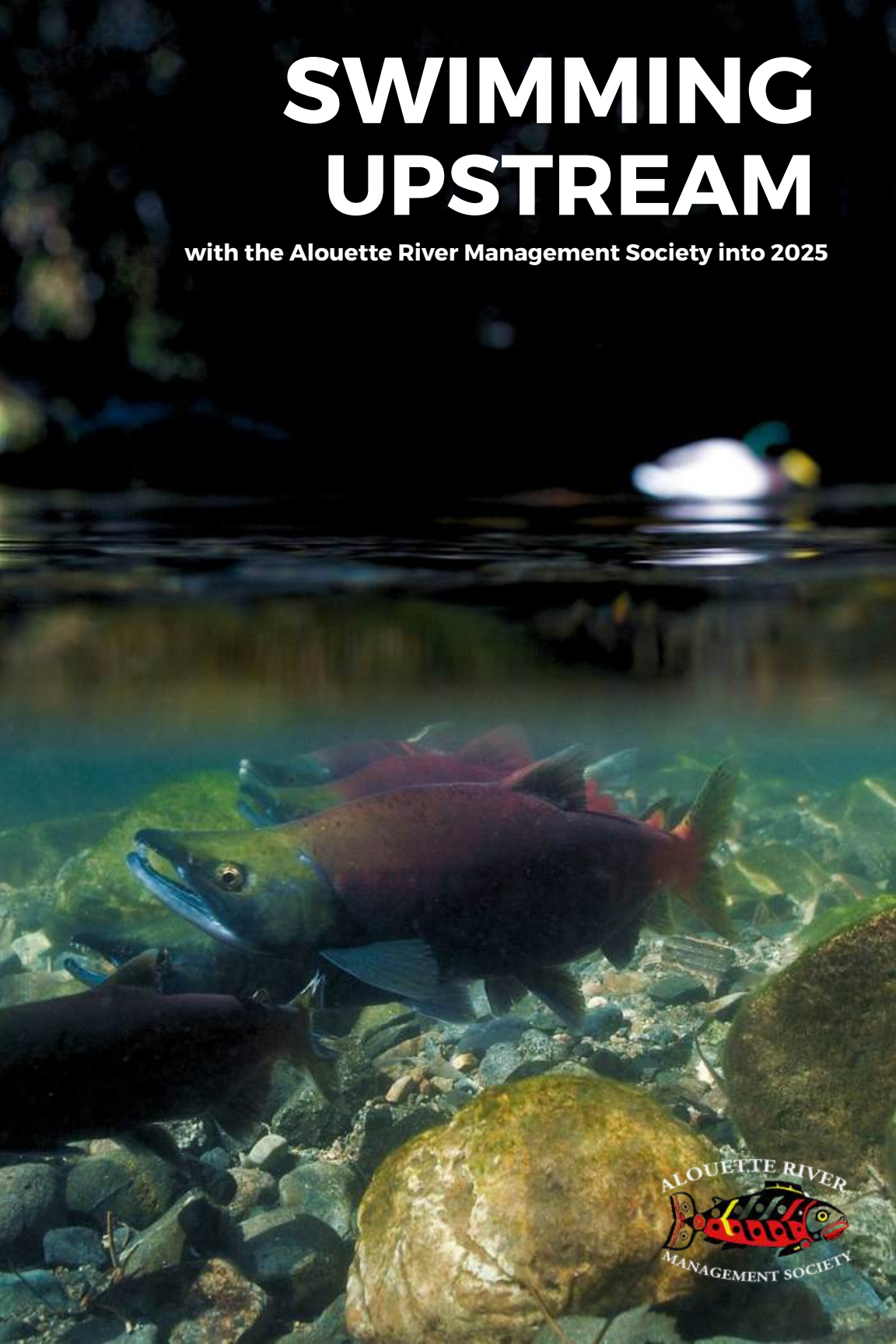


SWIMMING UPSTREAM

with the Alouette River Management Society into 2025



SAVING SALMON, ONE STREAM AT A TIME

As a grassroots registered charitable organization, we envision the Alouette Watershed as a resilient ecosystem rich in **biodiversity**, **culture** and **recreation**.

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the integrity of the Alouette Watershed through **advocacy**, **education**, **collaboration**, and **stewardship** using science-based decision-making. We believe that true restoration requires a comprehensive approach that respects the interconnectedness within ecosystems. By addressing the underlying causes of habitat loss and species decline, we focus on revitalizing the natural processes and relationships essential for these environments to thrive.

ARMS 3 Key Priorities:

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



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, CHERYL ASHLIE:

Looking back on the accomplishments of 2024, the board of directors is reminded that nothing could have been achieved without the tremendous efforts of our staff and volunteers. Through their collective efforts we continue to punch well above our weight in this challenging and ever-changing non-profit world, which allows us to deliver on our mission to sustain and enhance the integrity of the Alouette Watershed.

While this report provides highlights of the year, such as our popular programming for kids, our outreach and education work with the public and various organizations, advocating to government and their agencies, successful fundraising programs, and our important relationship with Katzie First Nation, it still does not do justice to the amount of work the team at ARMS is putting forth and we are extremely proud of the accomplishments of the past year.

As the president of ARMS, I would also like to thank the board of directors for the leadership they have provided. It has been a privilege to work along side such a dedicated and knowledgeable group of caring individuals.

On behalf of all of us, thank you for supporting Alouette River Management Society. We look forward to a successful 2025 with your continued support.

GET TO KNOW OUR TEAM

STAFF

Greta Borick-Cunningham
Executive Director

Sophie Sparrow
Communications & Engagement Manager

Kristen Munk
Acting Communications & Engagement Manager

Jenevieve Chenatte
Environmental Education Coordinator

Dan Mikolay
Camp Supervisor (seasonal)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cheryl Ashlie
President

Matthew Kennedy
Vice President

Ken Stewart
Director (Past President)

Doug Stanger
Treasurer

Geoff Clayton
Founding Member

John Kelly
Director

Craig Speirs
Director

Gavin Roache
Director

Mark Caros
Director

Lance Leger
Director

Gordy Robson
Director

Gerry Miller
Director

BC Corrections



SALMON HABITAT RESTORATION IN THE ALOUETTE WATERSHED

This year, our habitat restoration projects made significant strides in conserving ecosystems and protecting salmon habitats. A major accomplishment included completing the Morse Creek project, where we planted over 139 native plants to enhance the area's biodiversity and improve habitat quality. This initiative is already supporting local wildlife and fostering a healthier ecosystem.

We also began the Trethewey Spawning and Overwintering Channel on Coniagas Farm in Maple Ridge. Activities included cleaning out the encroachment and infill of reed canary grass with a long-reach excavator, placing large woody debris to create more salmon habitat for juvenile salmon, and planting native trees and shrubs. We cleared out large amounts of Himalayan blackberry and policeman's helmet in partnership with the Lower Mainland Green Team.

These efforts have revitalized the channel, creating crucial rearing spaces for young salmon and supporting the recovery of this vital species.



Community education and involvement were key components of our success. We engaged the public by hosting invasive species removals, native plantings, and storm drain painting, all to raise awareness about the impact the urban landscape and invasive species have on aquatic ecosystems.

These activities not only strengthened our projects, but also fostered a sense of stewardship within the community. These combined efforts have advanced our mission to restore and protect critical habitats.

By pairing hands-on restoration with public education, we've laid the groundwork for long-term conservation success. This year's achievements inspire us to continue building on this momentum to ensure ecosystems are thriving for Pacific salmon and the diverse wildlife that depend on them.

739	native plants planted
325	volunteer hours
3,229	cubic meters of reed canary grass removed
2415	square meters of spawning gravel restored
1,914	square meters of habitat restored



AUGUST 2024



SEPTEMBER 2024



OCTOBER 2024



ADULT SOCKEYE ENUMERATION YEAR 8

In 2024, the ALLCO fish hatchery fence and trap intercepted 47 adult Sockeye salmon as part of ARMS annual sockeye enumeration program.

As part of a larger multi-partner project called the Alouette Watershed Sockeye Fish Passage Feasibility Project, ARMS and ALLCO fish hatchery staff set a 75 foot fence across a stretch of the upper South Alouette River every year from mid-June to mid-October to trap any adult sockeye returning to the Alouette system.

Once trapped the adult sockeye are quickly dip-netted into a holding container briefly sampled for fork length, photographed, and DNA and scale samples are taken. From there, Corrections hatchery staff transfer the adult Sockeye into a specialized trailer which is then driven up to the Alouette Reservoir where the adult salmon are released to complete their lifecycle.

In 2024, 45 of the 47 adult Sockeye salmon were transported and released into the Alouette Reservoir. Studies completed as part of the larger project over the years have found that the spawning timing window for residualized sockeye in the Alouette Reservoir is around the beginning of November so these adult Sockeye would typically spend approximately 3-4 months in the reservoir before potentially spawning and completing their lifecycle.



ALLCO FISH FENCE COUNTS

YEAR	CHUM	CHINOOK	PINK	COHO	SOCKEYE
2022	11,140	130	0	305	4
2023	2,527	156	12	794	31
2024	76,814	111	0	707	47

"This Project is funded by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP). The FWCP is a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations and public stakeholders to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams.





SPAWNER SURVEYS AND STREAMKEEPERS TRAINING IN ACTION!

Volunteers and community members trained in Streamkeepers techniques and salmon spawner surveys play a vital role in protecting the Alouette Watershed. By equipping individuals with the skills to monitor and assess local streams, we empower them to collect valuable data on salmon populations, habitat conditions, and overall ecosystem health. During spawner season, these surveys provide critical insights into the abundance and health of returning salmon, which are key indicators of watershed vitality.

In the fall of 2024, the atmospheric river brought large volumes of water, leading to turbid conditions that persisted for over two weeks. These challenging conditions made it difficult to accurately count the number of salmon returning. However, we were thrilled to observe an incredible return of chum salmon, followed by smaller numbers of coho. It's inspiring to see these resilient species making their way back, even amidst such dynamic environmental changes.

SALMON SPAWNER SURVEY DATA	
24	SURVEYS CONDUCTED
840	LIVE SALMON COUNTED
103	CHUM SALMON DISSECTED
91	DEAD SALMON COUNTED



This data supports our conservation efforts by identifying areas needing restoration, informing management strategies, and fostering community stewardship. Together, trained volunteers and community members amplify our ability to preserve and protect the Alouette Watershed for future generations.





BC Hydro Alouette-Stave Ruskin Water Use Plan Order Review

Throughout 2024, ARMS remained actively engaged in the BC Hydro review of the Alouette-Stave-Ruskin Water Use Plan Order, ensuring the Alouette watershed's needs were well represented. Past President Ken Stewart and Director John Kelly participated in multiple meetings and workshops, providing valuable input on behalf of the organization and the river residents.

As part of this process, ARMS directors contributed to discussions on potential reservoir operating changes, mitigation measures, and monitoring programs aimed at protecting the watershed and its ecosystems. Reflecting on the collaboration, ARMS Director John Kelly acknowledged the dedication of Ken Stewart, stating, "A special thanks to Ken for everything he has done and contributed to this undertaking. He has been a stellar leader and representative for ARMS, the community, and the watershed."

This ongoing advocacy underscores ARMS' commitment to ensuring responsible water management practices that support ecological health and community interests in the Alouette watershed.

Addressing Environmental Challenges in the Alouette Watershed

In 2024, ARMS responded to several environmental concerns affecting the health of the Alouette watershed. Key issues included development site run-off along Edge Street and Silver Valley Road impacting Anderson Creek, discoloured inflows into Coho Creek near 124th Avenue and 233 Street, and fire-retardant foam entering North Millionaire Creek following a car fire.

Community vigilance plays a crucial role in protecting our local waterways, and ARMS greatly appreciates the citizens who report concerns, allowing us to take action where possible. Our strong working relationship with the City of Maple Ridge Environmental Department ensures that we can quickly escalate issues and collaborate on solutions to minimize harm to aquatic ecosystems.

By addressing these challenges, ARMS continues its commitment to safeguarding the Alouette watershed for future generations.

“Our Heritage Campaign”

We are profoundly grateful to our incredible donors for helping us achieve a significant milestone in our Heritage Campaign. For over 24 years, the Geoff Clayton Rivers Heritage Centre has been the heart of the Alouette River Management Society.

It has served as a vibrant gathering space for thousands of students in our summer education programs, visitors to our hatchery, attendees at our annual River's Day celebrations, and countless other events. It's also the hub for our dedicated team of staff, volunteers, and directors, providing access to our hatchery and supporting our mission.

As the years have passed, the Center has required critical updates to continue serving our community. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we completed Phase One of our renovation project. In May of 2024, the Centre's aging roof was replaced. The skilled team at Whonnock Roofing installed a brand-new roof in just two and a half days, ensuring the Centre remains secure and weatherproof for years to come.

This achievement could not have been possible without your support. Your contributions have helped us address this essential repair, and we are now focusing on Phase Two of the project, which includes much-needed updates to our bathrooms. We have already accomplished installing the heating system, and air conditioning.

From everyone at the Alouette River Management Society, thank you for your unwavering support and generosity. Together, we are preserving the Geoff Clayton Rivers Heritage Centre for future generations.





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

This past year was an exciting journey of learning and engagement! ARMS had the privilege of connecting with a diverse range of students and community organizations, spanning from Mission to South Vancouver. Thanks to the invaluable support of our Canada Summer Jobs students, we expanded our outreach during the vibrant spring and summer seasons.

Among our most popular programs was the Beautiful Butterflies workshop, where students engaged in hands-on learning about the life cycle of Painted Lady butterflies and had the unforgettable experience of releasing them into the wild. Our Buzzing Bees program was another standout, offering students and community members an up-close look at the fascinating world of honey bees and their vital role in supporting the environment.

Through these programs and more, we've fostered a deeper understanding of nature and the importance of stewardship in our community. Let's carry this momentum forward into the year ahead!

A child wearing a blue jacket, yellow pants, and red boots is walking away from the camera on a forest path. The path is covered in fallen leaves and a large log. The forest is dense with tall trees and green foliage.

IN 2024, WE DELIVERED AN IMPRESSIVE:

1,001 Students Reached

24 Schools Taught

116 Spring & Summer
Camp Attendees

49 Educational
Workshops & Tours

14 Highschool volunteers

10 Community Events





KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES CLEAN WITH ADOPT-A-BLOCK

This year, the Adopt-A-Block program continues to make a remarkable impact in our community! Through the dedication of our amazing volunteers and supporters, we have successfully carried out numerous clean-up events that help keep our neighborhoods and natural spaces beautiful and litter-free.

In 2024, we’ve engaged community members of all ages, fostering a shared sense of responsibility for our environment. Together, we’ve removed significant amounts of litter from parks, trails, and public areas, helping to protect local wildlife and improve the health of our ecosystems. These achievements are a testament to the power of collaboration and the commitment of our community to make a difference. We are so proud of what we’ve accomplished together and excited to see the continued growth of the Adopt-A-Block program in the months to come!

Maple Ridge Adopt-A-Program	
222	Active Adoptions
23	Outreach Activities
193	Members enrolled
1,157	Community reached

Pitt Meadows Adopt-A-Program	
15	Active Adoptions
10	Outreach Activities
247	Members enrolled
354	Community reached



ARMS received many donations from various individuals, businesses, and service clubs. We have been fortunate over the years to develop many relationships with dedicated individuals and supportive organizations that are confident in our ability to advocate for the Alouette Watershed and to help protect and restore salmon habitat, provide environmental education to the communities of Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and in other Lower Mainland school districts. On behalf of the ARMS Board of Directors, we thank each and every donor who contributed financially to the work we do.

2024 Donors and Project Funders

Protect the Environment
In honour of Freddie Hornsby
In honour of Siegfried Emil Schober
Liam Schober
Simon Matthews
Matthew Adams
Nobby Wu
Peter Clarke
Julia Pottinger
Nona Coles
Arif Kassam
Sheryl Pratt
Doug Stanger
Patty Morrison
Ernie Cottingham
Holly O'Carra
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INVERS Mobility Solutions
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Nick Bartlett
Shawna Genio
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Heritage Campaign

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Alex Pope
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Les and Linda Raskewicz
Ineke and Peter Boekhorst
Janice Talbot
Gwen O'Connell
Mary Robson
Lynda Lawrence
G Carryl and Dennis Boileau
Matthew Kennedy
B Laila Virding



A message from our Executive Director, Greta Borick-Cunningham

2024 was a year of changes, saying hello to new faces, learning new ways of doing, and strengthening relationships. ARMS welcomed on board new staff Kristen Munk and Jenevieve Chenatte, we bade farewell to long-time employee Sophie Sparrow who went on her second maternity leave, we hosted three amazing summer staff Sophia Halas, Taryn Anderson and Alejandro Comas.

We ran some amazing kids camps throughout spring and summer with our super Eco Camp Supervisor Dan Mikolay. Our treasured Geoff Clayton Heritage Centre had some restoration work with a new roof build and heat pump system installed all thanks to our very supportive community for financial contributions and in-kind expertise. Our dedicated Board of Directors volunteered in many ways, out in the community at special events, attending BC Hydro meetings about the Alouette Reservoir, to fixing door knobs and picking up trees and shrubs from a plant nursery.

One highlight was being invited to attend the Katzie First Nation's release of their summary report ARMS staff worked for four months with Cedar Fundraising to develop a new three-year revenue development plan to help chart a more sustainable future for ARMS. In the fall, we welcomed the beautiful silver, purple, red flashing colours of Chum, Coho, and Chinook salmon as they returned to the Alouette River.

A shout-out to the ALLCO Fish Hatchery staff and crew who work very hard to maintain the hatchery with limited resources, it is always a pleasure working alongside you in our work to enhance the salmon in the Alouette River and educate the public on the importance of Pacific salmon to our river system. We saw so many salmon in 2024, it truly was a wonderful reminder of why ARMS proudly puts the Alouette River Watershed front and centre of the work it does every day.

2025 is looking to be another wonderful year as we build momentum with our Strategic Plan revisit and more opportunities to get outdoors along the Alouette River. I hope you will join us in our journey to help protect and advocate for the Alouette River for future generations to come.



ADVOCACY. EDUCATION. COLLABORATION, AND STEWARDSHIP.

Alouette River Management Society

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