



2020 - Year in Review



Photo Credit: Colby Spencer

Our goal is to create a generation of knowledgeable, engaged and inspired children who are connected to Nature at such a deep level that they will be empowered and motivated to take action for Nature now and in the future.

Community Impact Report

This past year has been remarkable in the way we have all adapted and grown together. Inspired by the collective goal to keep one another healthy, we have interrupted our program of in-person club gatherings, while still seeking support from nature in ways that are now well-documented to have positive benefits to our minds, bodies and spirits.

Dr. Bonnie Henry: "Please, go outside."

For the past 21 years, NatureKids BC has made it easy for families to reap the many benefits of a healthy nature-oriented lifestyle by making nature accessible and exciting. **Thank you to our many volunteers, donors and members for helping us connect families with nature right where they live through educational events, stewardship activities and wildlife observation.**

We couldn't do this without you and we invite you to join us in celebrating some of the accomplishments your support helped us achieve this past year.

We recognize the reduction in formal club gatherings has resulted in a lower number of in-nature coordinated experiences. On the other hand we do believe small is beautiful, and we KNOW that our community of families and kids were continuously seeking and benefitting from the fresh air to manage their health and well-being through the pandemic.

Exploring and Learning about Nature:

- More than 650 young members aged 5 – 12 years from 22 nature clubs had 1310 individual outdoor adventures
- They sent submitted 22 completed Passports to Nature (132 nature outings) and received great prizes in return
- We enjoyed supporting 482 family memberships representing 2200+ children and adults
- 3,500 copies of NatureWILD magazine were printed and distributed and for the very first time we posted 3 years of back issues online to immediately provide support for parents that were looking for learning materials for their children at home
- 13 Virtual Explorer Days were provided to 440 households through the year to provide greater access to the knowledge our Nature Mentors share and to the cross-province networking of our members
- 650 educators across BC subscribed to our quarterly BUZZ newsletter produced just for them!

Community Involvement:

- Enthusiastic volunteers contributed over 3300 hours to connect children and families with nature
- With an in-kind value of \$50,000, this is equivalent to 2 additional part-time staff members!
- 50 nature club leaders organized 60 in person + 13 virtual Explorer Day adventures in 30 communities across BC
- 64 nature mentors from the community shared their nature knowledge with children and families

Stepping up for Nature:

- The Great Backyard Christmas Bird Count, and multiple tree planting events
- 200m² area was cleaned and pulled of invasive species
- 3000m of beach and streams were cleaned through stewardship activities
- 285 native plants, trees or shrubs planted



President's Report - Leslie Bol

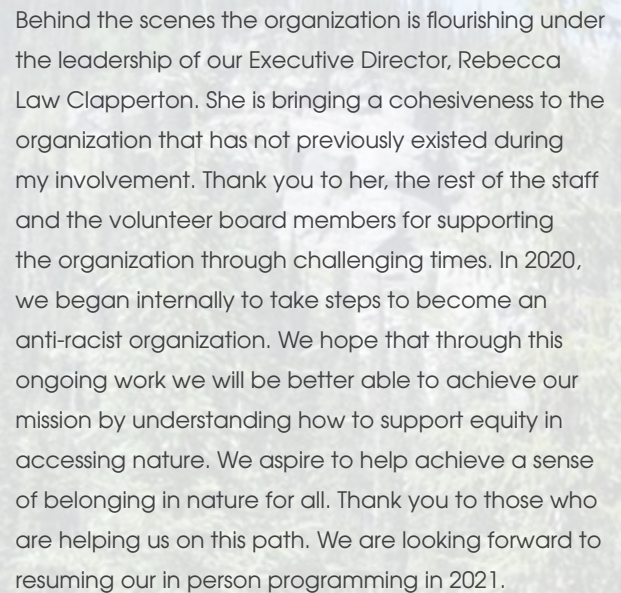
A photograph of Leslie Bol, the President, smiling and holding a baby. They are in front of a bush of red flowers. The photo is set against a blue background with a torn paper effect.

NatureKids BC celebrated its 20th anniversary with an incredible legacy of thousands of hours of families being in nature together and learning, having fun and taking action for nature made possible by countless volunteers, dedicated staff, donors and funders. I am certain that the well-being of the people and outdoor spaces that they cherish have benefited from being involved with this organization. Thank you to

everyone who has made it possible to connect kids and the adults that love them to their nature neighbourhoods.

VanDusen Botanical Garden has been our weekly nature retreat for my little one and me this past year. We have touched the soft bark of sumac, listened to barred owls hooting, smelled the cinnamon scent of flowering Japanese apricot, seen a coyote leave a set of prints in the snow, felt a sense of wonder at the cascading beauty of cherry blossoms, a sense of peace in the meditation garden, and a sense of love in being together outdoors. I hope that you too have been able to draw on the restorative powers of your local nature sanctuaries. This week I noticed that the goldenchain tree is blooming as it was during our first visit to VanDusen last year. And so a year of nature's cycles have completed providing continuity in year full of uncertainties for human kind.

At NatureKids BC we would have loved to have given you greater continuity too with time together in nature during our Explorer Days. However, due to pandemic related provincial health orders not as many of our in person gatherings could occur. Alternatively, we have been tapping into the knowledge of our volunteer Nature Mentors to offer virtual Explorer Days. This has allowed us to broaden the geographic range of our programming and increase our accessibility. Our regular e-newsletters and quarterly publication of NatureWILD magazine have also been full of ideas on how to engage with nature on your own time. Many thanks to the staff and volunteers who organized and participated in the online gatherings and to the children who showed up with their interest and thoughtful questions. And thank you to the volunteer editorial board and contributors to NatureWILD who continually foster curiosity about our natural world.

A photograph of a forest with a thick layer of fog or mist, creating a serene and atmospheric scene.

Behind the scenes the organization is flourishing under the leadership of our Executive Director, Rebecca Law Clapperton. She is bringing a cohesiveness to the organization that has not previously existed during my involvement. Thank you to her, the rest of the staff and the volunteer board members for supporting the organization through challenging times. In 2020, we began internally to take steps to become an anti-racist organization. We hope that through this ongoing work we will be better able to achieve our mission by understanding how to support equity in accessing nature. We aspire to help achieve a sense of belonging in nature for all. Thank you to those who are helping us on this path. We are looking forward to resuming our in person programming in 2021.



2020 Highlights

We celebrated 20 years of impact in 2020! Here are some of the best memories shared by our members:

"Being a NatureKids member in the Comox Valley has helped our family discover new natural spaces to explore and to learn about the amazing stewardship work that is done by various volunteer groups in the valley."

"We were introduced to an owl on one of the Explorer Days which was one of the best experiences ever for my son. Since then he wants to know everything about owls, where they live, what they eat and so on. Amazing! That shows what an impact NatureKids BC has on families and kids!"



*"We planted a tree
in the woods, a
place we spend
much of our time
at and now we get
to see our own
tree grow!"*

*"We love doing
ivy pulls - so
satisfying to get
a huge pile and
help the natural
forest growth
come back!"*



Club Leader Volunteer Profiles:

Hayley Dattoo (spring 2017 - fall 2020)

What is the most surprising part/thing/event of being a part of NatureKids? As I wrap up 3 1/2 years as a volunteer club leader, there are so many amazing memories! From pond dips to intertidal discoveries; from waterfalls and mindfulness in the forest, to alpine picnics - so much variety and so many themes to explore! I joined the club to get my young family out exploring different nature themes and natural places in our community, but I didn't know how much I would learn, and how many amazing people I would meet. I love that this experience has given me an opportunity to connect with knowledgeable and generous Nature Mentors and an incredible network of community stewards all working to protect natural spaces and ecosystem processes. The passion these individuals share is contagious!

What have you learned about your connection to nature as a result of being involved? I've always loved spending time in nature and have appreciated the strength I gain from a forest walk or by breathing in the sea air. Being part of NatureKids helped me to further recognize the interconnectedness of natural and human systems, and I now see myself as more a part of, and not separate from, nature. I'm incredibly grateful for the natural services nature provides, and will continue to look for opportunities to "give back" by showing respect for nature and supporting stewardship efforts in my community.



Photo Credit: Exploring the forest, NKBC photographer unknown

Lyndsay Fraser (started fall 2020)

Why NatureKids BC? What brought you to us over another organization?

Born and raised a nature nut, I've always been eager to share my deep love of the natural world with others. I've worked as an environmental education program developer and science writer for most of my career, but have more recently found myself working in communications for local government. Truth be told, the more time I spend behind a desk the more I miss connecting directly with children and families outdoors! I became familiar with NatureKids BC's programs and resources from my time working at Science World in Vancouver, and knew I wanted to one day join in their efforts to connect children with nature across the province. After moving to the Comox Valley, I learned that NatureKids was looking for a volunteer club leader and I eagerly joined the team. I look forward to the time when we can safely explore local wonders together again!

What is your favorite local nature spot?

I am lucky to live on Vancouver Island where a nature hot spot is always just around the corner. While I might not get to visit this year given the circumstances, spring is the perfect time for visiting one of my favourite places in the Comox Valley, Jáji7em and Kw'ulh Marine Park, made up of a few small islands just off Denman Island! Vibrantly coloured spring flowers, like goldstar, blue-eyed Mary and re-flowering currant, bloom all along the sandy dunes. The best part... you can walk out to the islands at low tide! It's a nice long stroll out which means you can admire all the snails, shore crabs, limpets, and sand dollars along the way. Just don't take TOO much time. Because, you know. Tides.

Donor Profile: John Morton

NatureKids BC could not operate without the support of a wide range of donors and supporters.

John Morton is a long-time supporter of NatureKids BC, having been an early Director of the Board, the Founder of WildBirds Unlimited (WBU) and contributor to Nature Vancouver over the years.

"I was on the Nature Vancouver Board of Directors with Daphne when she received permission from the R.S.P.B. to use any of their materials for the promotion of the Junior Naturalists, and assisted in raising some financial grants to get started. My wife Wendy approved wholeheartedly, and we supported the introduction of NatureKids during our operation of both WBU stores in Vancouver and North Vancouver.

I feel the future is bright for the current millennials who, while they take the electronic age for granted, are eager to foster environmental awareness and protect our natural heritage."



Photo Credit: John presents cheque to Daphne, Martin Ciastko



Photo Credit: Boundary Bay garbage collection, Maria Stavoravdis

Thank You to our Supporters

Thank you to our donors, funders and partners who have made financial or in-kind contributions in the 2020 fiscal year. Your support makes it possible for NatureKids BC to have a real impact when it comes to connecting children and their families to nature through our programming.

Funders:

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia



The Gosling Foundation



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



BC Parks

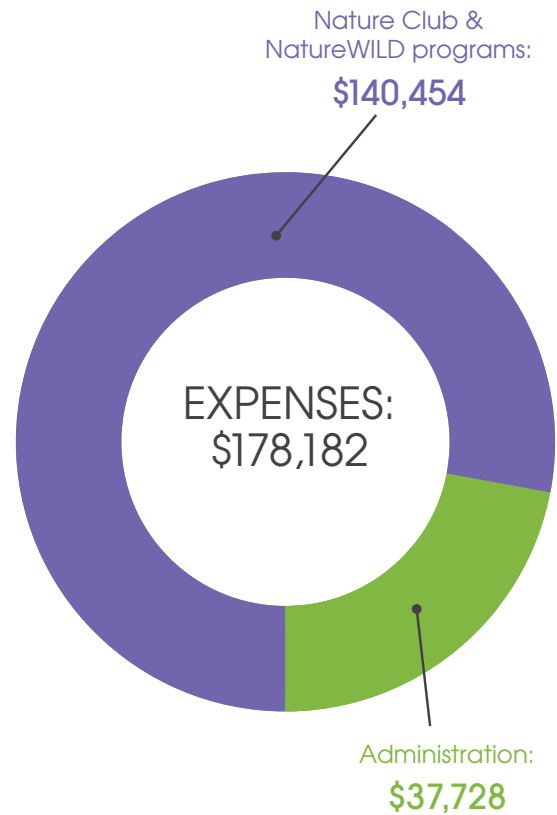
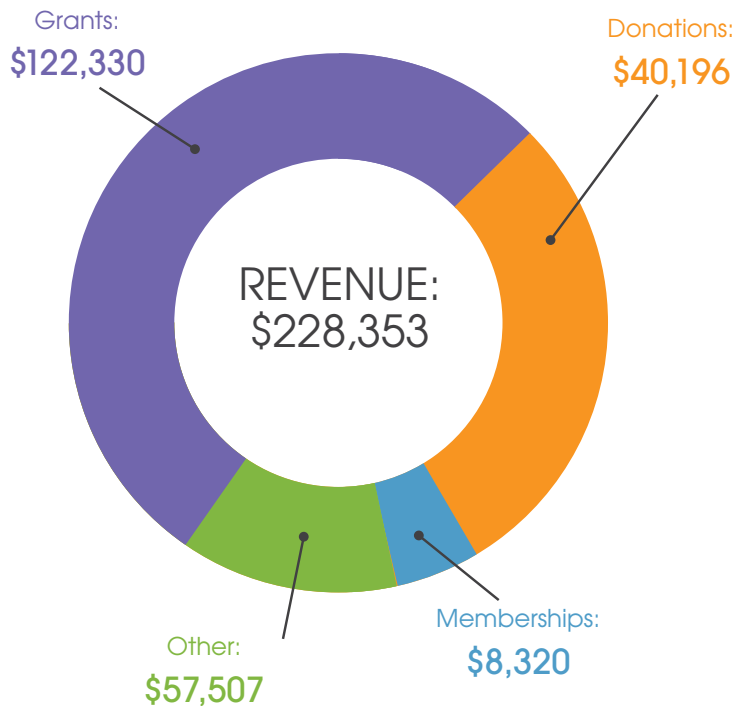


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Volunteers • **Club Leaders:** Alethia Perry, Sarah Wright, Hayley Datto, Katrina Dilley, Lyndsay Fraser, Olena Russell, Jenny White, Maria Stavoravdis, Marla Pitcher, Angie Coolin, Joanna Ogijjuba, Mandy Ross, Kara Lemire, Kate Kutzner, Katie Porter, Nehal Saleh, Rachel Whitehouse, Sarah Desrosiers, Linda Brooymans, Marni Brown, Mary Vasey, Sarah Dafoe, Jenni Stol, Angie Grant, Chantelle DesLauriers, Jennifer Pollard, Mr. Lynn Pollard, Anthea Farr, Megan McMillan, Marnie Williamson, Tricia Edgar, Jackie McQuillan, Courtney Kennedy, Vanessa Elton, Natasha Ewing, Rob Pritchard, Rachel Stevens, Molly Cooperman, Pattie Perkins, Paula Rodriguez de la Vega, Chandra Wong, Carmen Kocsis, Deborah Simpson, Leslie Bol, Britta Bentz, Elena Merritt, Sue Hemphill, Bill Gilroy, Doris Alcantara, Janelle Parchomcuk. **Nature Mentors:** Recycling & Environmental Action Planning Society (Prince George), Ben Pollard, Andi Fischer, Shanon Bennett, Tanya Seebacher, Nada, Richmond Nature Park, Shawnigan Lake Museum, Eagle Wing Tours, Kanaka Education & Environmental Partnership Society (KEEPS), Rick Gee, Malin Christensson, T'uy't'ananat Cease Wyss, Laura Cottle, Christy Wright, Hazelmere Pumpkin Patch, Graham Sorenson, Alyx Coulter, Trevor Christie, Dick Clegg, Sandra Shuffert, John Wong, Joan Lopez, District of North Vancouver, Gary R. Allan, Ella Braden, Tricia Edgar, Eve Layman, Camille LeBlanc, Thompson Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee, Amber Stroeder, Krystal Brennan, OWL (Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society), Capilano River Regional Park, Langley Environmental Partners Society, City of Surrey, Susan Fisher, Irene Carrasco, Still Moon Arts Society, Still Creek Streamkeepers, Alouette River Management Society, David Smith, Interfor, Nick Wong, Corbin Manson, Julia Leropoli, Roy Teo, Caroline Helm, Jaimie MacGibbon, Luci Cadman, Paloma Corvalan, Norm Hann, Fernando Lessa and Allison Kermode, Nature Vancouver, Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre, Jericho Stewardship Group, Metro Vancouver. **NatureWILD Editorial Board:** Daphne Solecki, Susan Fisher, Brian Herrin, Al Grass, Tricia Edgar, Simon Briault, Kristine Webber, Christine Dalton. **NatureWILD Photographers:** Clive Bryson, Rosemary Taylor, David Shackleton, Robert Alexander, Larry Taylor, Todd Carnahan, Nick Baccante, J.G. Polman. **NatureWILD Contributor:** Al Grass. **NatureWILD Artist:** Sara Theuerkauf.

Financial Summary and 2020 Staff and Board of Directors



Visit naturekidsbc.ca/publications to review or download our 2020 financial statements.



Staff and Board of Directors

Staff:

Executive Director:	Rebecca Clapperton Law
Program Coordinator:	Christina Chowaniec
Membership & Office Coordinator:	Niki Dun
Communication Lead:	Colby Spencer
Communications Coordinators:	Nivedan Kaushal, Srijia Chakraborty
NatureWILD Designer:	Alison Garrad

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Vice-President:	Kathy MacKenzie
Treasurer:	Alexander Grant
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Director:	Danielle Durant, Stephane Bowen, Jenni Stol, Andrea Gosling

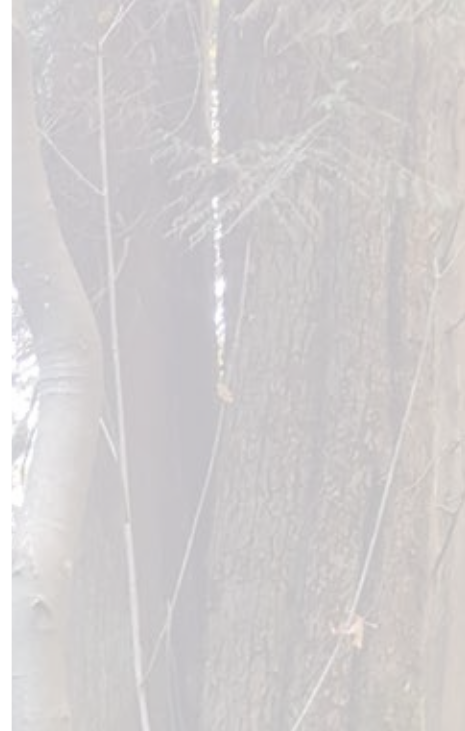
Honourary Directors:

Daphne Solecki (Honourary President) and Dr. Robert Butler (Honourary Director). Both were co-founders of NatureKids BC (then Young Naturalists' Club of BC Society).



NatureKids BC helps children aged 5-12 and their families get outdoors to explore, play, learn about and take action for nature through a network of family nature clubs and through opportunities to engage in citizen science initiatives and environmental stewardship activities.

You can support our work by making a donation, becoming a member or signing up as a volunteer.



NatureKids BC (Young Naturalists' Club of BC Society) is a registered charity. Charitable #: 84961 1926 RR0001.

1620 Mt. Seymour Road,
North Vancouver, BC V7G 2R7
604-985-3059 • info@naturekidsbc.ca
naturekidsbc.ca

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