



Chloe, Ryan, and Julie Wang

For the Wang siblings, Chloe, Ryan and Julie, keeping Coquitlam beautiful is a family tradition. As eight-year veterans of the Adopt-A-Street program, this dependable trio ensures our community remains welcoming by clearing litter from sidewalks and storm drains during their weekly family walks. Their efforts are especially visible near Centennial Secondary School, where they take extra care to maintain the neighbourhood's bus stops and sports fields. For Chloe, Ryan and Julie, these outings are a way to give back to the neighbourhood they love, and they look forward to continuing their stewardship for years to come.

Elliot Van Werkhoven

Elliot is a dedicated volunteer whose passion for the environment makes a tangible difference across Coquitlam. Through his work with the Park Spark program, he is a familiar face in our natural spaces, supporting hands-on stewardship in the Inspiration Garden to urban forestry initiatives. This commitment extends to civic engagement with Elliot serving as a youth representative on the Urban Forest Management Strategy committee. By offering a thoughtful perspective, he ensures the vision of young residents are woven into the City's long-term plans and strategies. From educating the public on invasive species to growing food with the Youth Urban Garden Team, Elliot's reliability and advocacy continue to make a lasting impact.



Emma Ma

Emma is a dedicated contributor to local sustainability through her involvement with the Centennial Secondary Trash Club. By participating in weekly clean-ups around her school and the neighbouring community, she helps maintain a cleaner and more welcoming neighbourhood. Building on this commitment, Emma assisted in launching EcoLink, an initiative that brings environmental workshops to local elementary schools to raise awareness on waste reduction. As an active participant, she has helped her team build partnerships with community organizations to extend their outreach efforts. By bridging the gap between different age groups, Emma is cultivating a lasting culture of environmental responsibility and care.

Alissa Martin

Alissa is a dedicated community member whose deep connection to Coquitlam's natural landscape is a vital line of defense for our local ecosystems. As she walks along the Coquitlam River, Maple Creek or Hoy Creek, Alissa maintains a watchful eye on the waterways, identifying and reporting environmental concerns that might otherwise go unnoticed.

This same spirit carries over into her life as a yoga and wellness instructor, where she focuses on inclusivity and helping others find balance. Whether leading a class or monitoring a riverbank, Alissa's keen awareness helps keep the community and our environment in shape. Her proactive stewardship is a positive example of how the simple act of paying attention can protect our city's most precious natural resources.



Carl Ronka

Since 2018, Carl Ronka has spearheaded Web of Life as an initiative to tackle the often-unnoticed challenge of cleaning forested areas and trails that are out of public view. Using social media to coordinate a diverse group of volunteers, Carl facilitates the removal of accumulated debris from sensitive ecosystems, with a focus on protecting Coquitlam's natural landscape.

These collective efforts have resulted in the removal of over 100,000 pounds of waste across the Lower Mainland. By prioritizing overlooked areas, Carl helps preserve our natural areas and the Coquitlam River watershed. His ability to inspire others has built a community of stewards, allowing Web of Life to act as a primary link within the environmental community. This collaborative approach helps Coquitlam's remote green spaces receive the care they deserve.

Donna Gavin

Since joining the Coquitlam River Community Garden Society in 2011, Donna has become a perennial presence in the garden, blending horticultural expertise with a heart for mentorship. Having served as Vice-President for nearly a decade, Donna helped shape the garden into a welcoming sanctuary. She now focuses on sowing the seeds for the next generation, sharing her wisdom on sustainable practices and hands-on guidance to local gardeners.

Donna's leadership extends beyond the garden plots to community initiatives, like the community's Food Bank Garden program. By coordinating harvests of fresh produce for those in need, she ensures the garden's bounty supports local food security. Whether she is caring for demonstration gardens or welcoming new members, Donna's collaborative spirit fosters inclusion.





Giselle Bonney

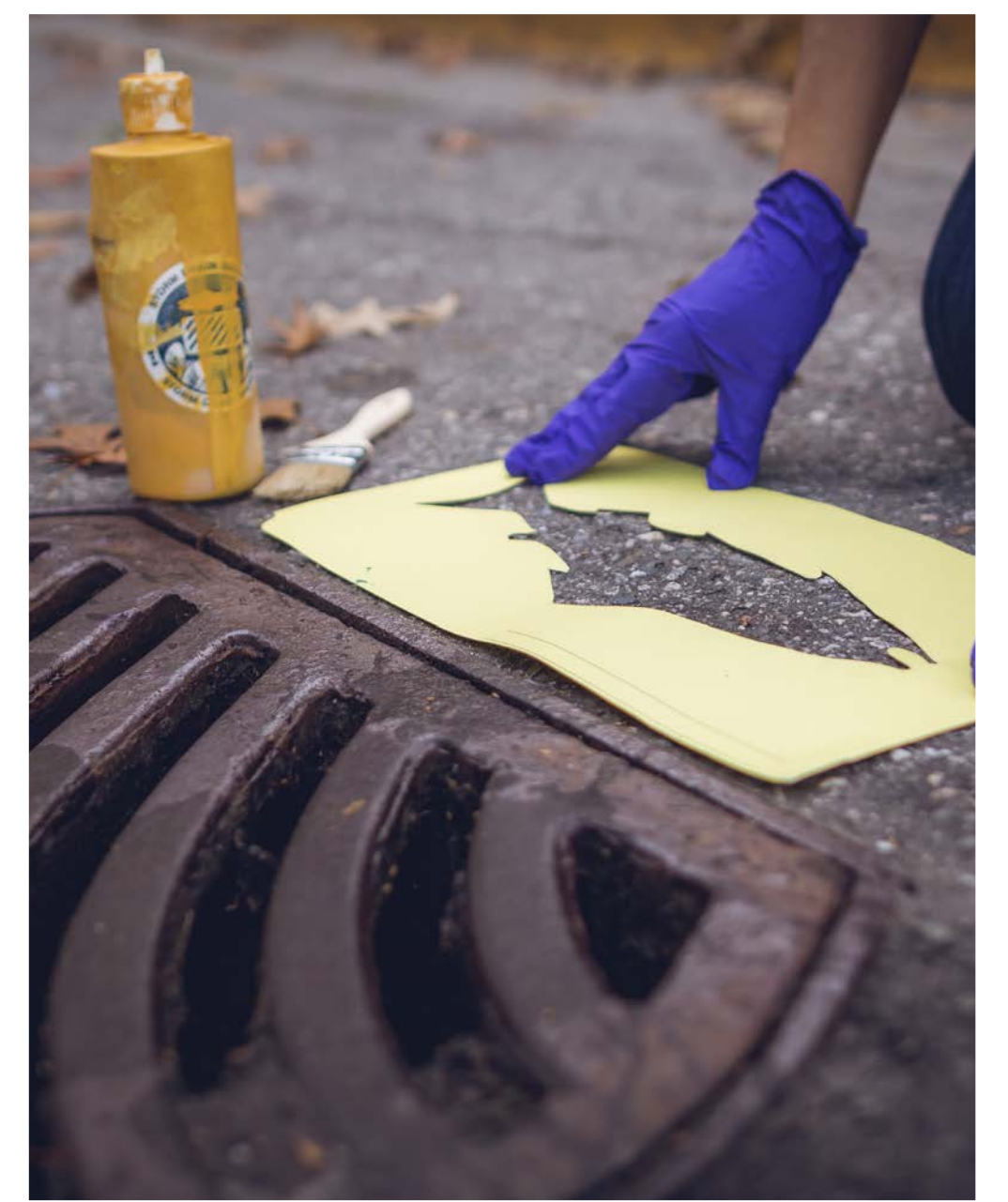
Giselle is a highly valued member of the Minnekhada Park Association, recognized by her peers for her impressive breadth of knowledge and positive energy. She is deeply involved in hands-on conservation efforts, from conducting bat and toad counts to managing invasive species within the regional park. Giselle's willingness to help contributes to Minnekhada's wellbeing as a resilient habitat for wildlife and the community.

Beyond the trails, Giselle contributes her professional expertise in Geographic Information Systems to provide a digital perspective on local stewardship. She applied this specialized skill to the intensive task of mapping the Western Toad migration, helping the association document a natural phenomenon. By mapping these movements, Giselle provides the clarity to safeguard this ecological process for the future.

Greg Lamarre

Greg is an avid participant of Coquitlam's volunteer programs, contributing over 239 hours to the Park Spark program through trail clean-ups, invasive species removal and community garden care. Known for his welcoming smile, Greg doesn't just preserve green spaces, he mentors others. When he noticed fellow volunteers struggling with spring planting, he donated a specialized tool to make the work more accessible and efficient for everyone.

Greg's dedication is equally evident in his role as Coquitlam's first Adopt-a-Catch Basin volunteer and a leader in the Storm-Drain Marking program. By maintaining a visible presence, Greg signals to others that individual action makes a difference for creek protection. His commitment guarantees that Coquitlam's natural beauty is not only preserved but remains a vibrant and healthy space.



Janet Klopp

Janet Klopp is a committed guardian of the Burke Mountain environment, dedicating countless hours to survey local trails, waterways and wildlife. For decades, her stewardship has been defined by a holistic worldview, treating ecosystems as interconnected systems requiring vigilant care. Across her time spent canoeing the Pitt River or observing salmon spawning and local bird nesting, Janet's connection to the outdoors remains a lifelong calling.

As a dedicated leader, Janet's insightful observations have fostered a deeper appreciation for the local landscape. From raising awareness about environmental health to supporting restoration projects, Janet's dedication ensures that stewardship remains a central and celebrated value.

Janet Krgovich

Janet is a dedicated advocate for Coquitlam's long-term livability. With a background in climate action and community engagement from UBC, she empowers residents to participate meaningfully in the city's future. By translating sustainability concepts into accessible information, Janet serves as a vital bridge between her neighbourhood and its evolving landscape. Through local outreach, Janet fosters a culture of respectful dialogue and informed civic engagement. Janet excels at bringing people together to build a connected environment through informational meetings and neighbourhood walks. Driven by her commitment to future generations, Janet's steadfast leadership ensures that thoughtful growth remains at the heart of the local conversation.



Janice McAndrew

Janice is a dedicated steward of the Stoney Creek ecosystem, serving vital roles with the Oakdale Residents Association and the Stoney Creek Environment Committee. She is an active advocate for local waterways, regularly monitoring the area and coordinating with community members and government agencies to ensure the protection of Stoney Creek's delicate habitat.

Janice excels at uniting the community playing a key role in organizing regional events like the annual Streamkeepers Roundtable to encourage thoughtful discussions amongst organizations, stewardship groups and all levels of government. She also helps lead the Great Salmon Send Off to celebrate the release of coho salmon smolts into Stoney Creek. Her proactive spirit helps keep Coquitlam's natural spaces healthy.

Jeff Curtis and Vicky Chen

Jeff and Vicky are dedicated environmental stewards, sustaining the vibrancy of our local landscapes and fostering harmony with wildlife. After moving to Burke Mountain in 2020, they witnessed the impacts of rapid development, inspiring them to elevate their trail adoption and stewardship efforts. Their work centres on protecting local greenspaces, supporting wildlife habitat and encouraging community involvement.

By bringing together residents, businesses and volunteers, Jeff and Vicky have scaled their impact beyond what two people could accomplish. Their efforts have removed truckloads of garbage and over 10,000 cigarette butts from parks and trails, creating cleaner spaces for the community. Through collaboration and education, Jeff and Vicky continue to inspire future stewardship, ensuring Coquitlam's greenspaces remain vibrant and pristine.





Joshua Li

Joshua is an Environmental Science student and sustainability leader who bridges the gap between traditional stewardship and innovative solutions. Grounded in his contributions to local habitat restoration and biodiversity, Joshua's efforts now centre on leading circular economy projects at Simon Fraser University. As a SFU Changemaker award recipient, Joshua is working on transforming organic waste into eco-friendly products and developing compostable alternatives to single-use plastics. His guidance fosters a culture of responsibility, inspiring an environmentally conscious community.

Lorna Ellema

Lorna is a pillar of Coquitlam's volunteer programs, demonstrating a deep commitment to keeping local spaces clean and safe. Since adopting Mackin Park in 2023 through the Adopt-a-Trail program, she has built a routine of walking to the park to pick up litter and care for the trails. Alongside this individual effort, Lorna also looks after several neighbourhood catch basins and volunteers with the Adopt-a-Street program, dedicating her time behind the scenes to maintain clear pathways and prevent localized flooding. Her quiet, consistent actions inspire a sense of pride and respect for our shared public spaces.



Mikhael Magaril

Mikhael is a proactive participant in Coquitlam's Adopt-a-Trail program and one of many stewards overseeing the health of Mundy Park's perimeter trails weekly. Since September 2025, he has contributed nearly 300 hours to monitor trail conditions, pick up litter and report hazard and graffiti concerns. His consistent efforts ensure these shared spaces remain safe and accessible, while his early identification of maintenance issues allows the City to respond with prompt, targeted care. Mikhael's contributions have improved public safety and appreciation of Mundy Park, demonstrating how one person's dedication can inspire an entire community.

Steve Smith

Steve is a cornerstone of the Minnekhada Park Association, serving as Board Secretary and an active force for Minnekhada Regional Park's well being. Steve's contributions include building bat condos, clearing invasive species and coordinating the association's volunteer programs, which have helped cultivate a dedicated core of park stewards.

Striking a harmonious chord between nature and art, Steve was also instrumental in the development of the *Minnekhada As Muse* program. This unique initiative welcomes artists and creative groups to draw inspiration from the park through photography and songwriting, inspiring broader public appreciation for this regional treasure.

Steve's blend of hands-on conservation and creative leadership continues to leave a lasting mark on the park.



Tessa Voykin

An environmental science teacher at Gleneagle Secondary School, Tessa has made hands-on stewardship a regular part of her students' experience for many years. She integrates City of Coquitlam programs into her curriculum, encouraging her students to participate in invasive plant removals and tree planting events through the Bad Seed program. By opening the door to these opportunities, Tessa inspires students to take ownership of their environment and build an awareness of our ecosystems. Her steady dedication shows youth the direct, positive impact they can make.

Outside of the classroom, Tessa practices sustainable gardening at her community garden plot.



Centennial Secondary School Trash Club

The Centennial Secondary School Trash Club is a student-driven initiative dedicated to promoting environmental stewardship within their school and broader community. Rain or shine, dozens of students come together to clean up the school grounds and surrounding neighbourhood, ensuring shared spaces remain clean, safe and welcoming.

Bringing their creative energy indoors, the club also developed custom displays as visual guides to help their peers sort recycling more effectively. Students have also expanded the Trash Club's impact through the student-led EcoLink initiative, allowing them to bring interactive workshops about waste lifecycles directly to younger learners, even offering bilingual presentations to reach a wider audience. Their leadership and dedication demonstrate how consistent, thoughtful actions can inspire a greener and more connected community.



Pinetree Secondary School Environmental Club

Driven by a spirit of innovation, the Pinetree Secondary School Environmental Club is tackling waste diversion through their Waste Sorting Revision project. After discovering that standard signage was ineffective, students secured funding from School District 43 to design and install custom displays to replace the school's existing waste stations. By displaying 3D examples of common waste items, these displays provide a high-visibility solution to sorting confusion. The club is also collaborating with the district to develop a scalable model for other schools. Their goal is to foster a school community that is more mindful of its environmental footprint by transforming their localized project into a district-wide standard.

Broombusters Coquitlam

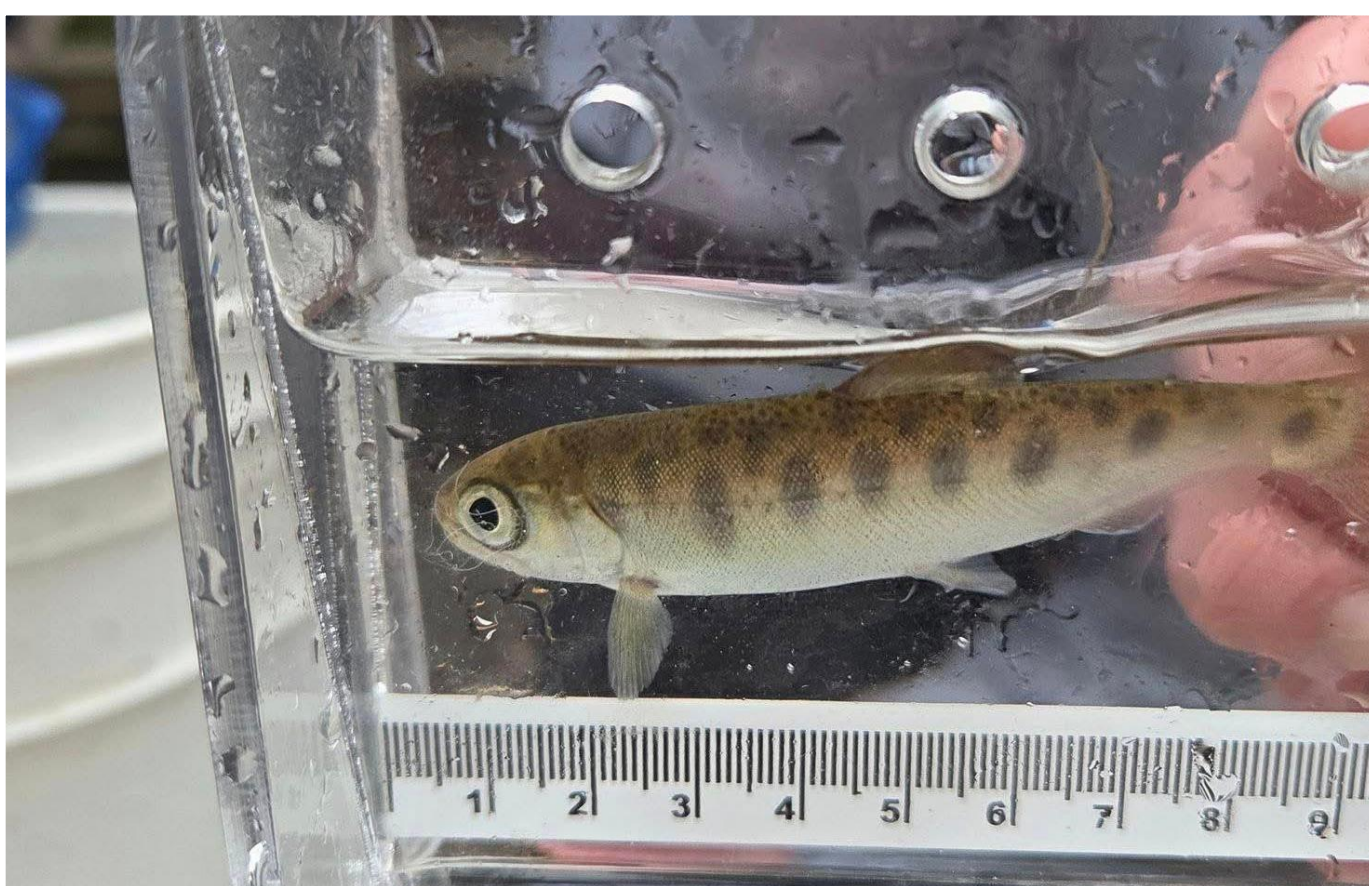
The Broombusters Invasive Plant Society is a registered non-profit dedicated to bringing people together in the fight against Scotch Broom, an invasive species known for quickly overtaking the environments where it grows. Since its founding in 2022, the Coquitlam Chapter has focused on organizing community cuts where volunteers gather for “Broombusting” to prevent its spread. With over 25 successful cuts completed, a growing base of 70 members, and more cuts planned for this spring, the group is doing more than just clearing invasive brush; they are sweeping in a new generation of environmental stewards who care for our natural spaces.



Food Link Society

As a pioneer of food recovery in the Tri-Cities, Food Link Society has spent a decade devoted to preventing waste and strengthening community food security. Operating on the belief that good food should nourish people rather than landfills, the organization rescues high-quality food surplus from grocery stores and redistributes it the same day. These vital resources reach neighbours through a network including 15 local schools, Metro Vancouver Housing communities and non-profit partners.

These daily efforts fill cupboards and create a profound impact on the health of our planet. Last year, with the support of more than 450 volunteers, Food Link redistributed 4.2 million kilograms of food valued at \$32 million, preventing 10.9 million kilograms of CO₂ emissions. While food recovery once carried a stigma, Food Link has spent the last ten years transforming public perception. By proving that redirected food is a practical solution, they continue to demonstrate how compassion and action can build a greener, more resilient Coquitlam.



Hoy/Scott Watershed Society

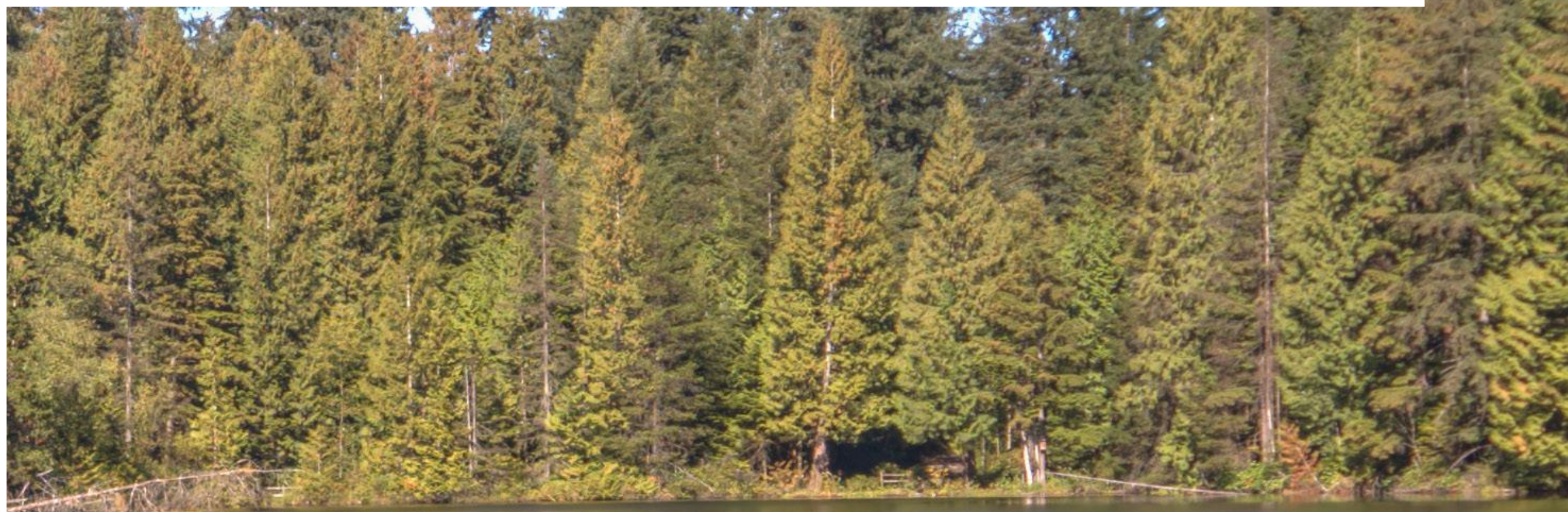
The Hoy/Scott Watershed Society is a non-profit, 100% volunteer-led organization whose goals are to promote the conservation and enhancement of Pacific salmonids within the Hoy/Scott and Coquitlam watersheds. For 24 years, their work at the Hoy Creek Hatchery has been fueled by a love for the environment and a belief in the power of community and environmental stewardship. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds assist with year-round duties including hatchery maintenance, stream health monitoring, egg incubation and riparian restoration, all while supporting the vital work of raising and releasing over 40,000 young salmon each year.

This commitment to the salmon's lifecycle is complemented by recent habitat improvements, including the successful transition to a naturalized spawning channel. By restoring these habitats and tending to the fry, the Hoy/Scott Watershed Society is ensuring the future of our local watersheds remains swimmingly bright.



Red Maple Mountain Friends Society

Founded in July 2025, the Red Maple Mountain Friends Society is a budding community organization dedicated to protecting local ecosystems through consistent volunteer action. The group organizes regular litter clean-ups across trails, parks and rivers, drawing participants from across the Tri-Cities. In their first six months, the society completed six major trail clean-ups, with four in Coquitlam. These efforts mobilized 135 volunteers, including 73 students, who together contributed 300 hours of dedicated service. By fostering this early bond with the outdoors, the society is helping the next generation branch out as dedicated caretakers of the natural beauty in Coquitlam's backyard.



Web of Life Society

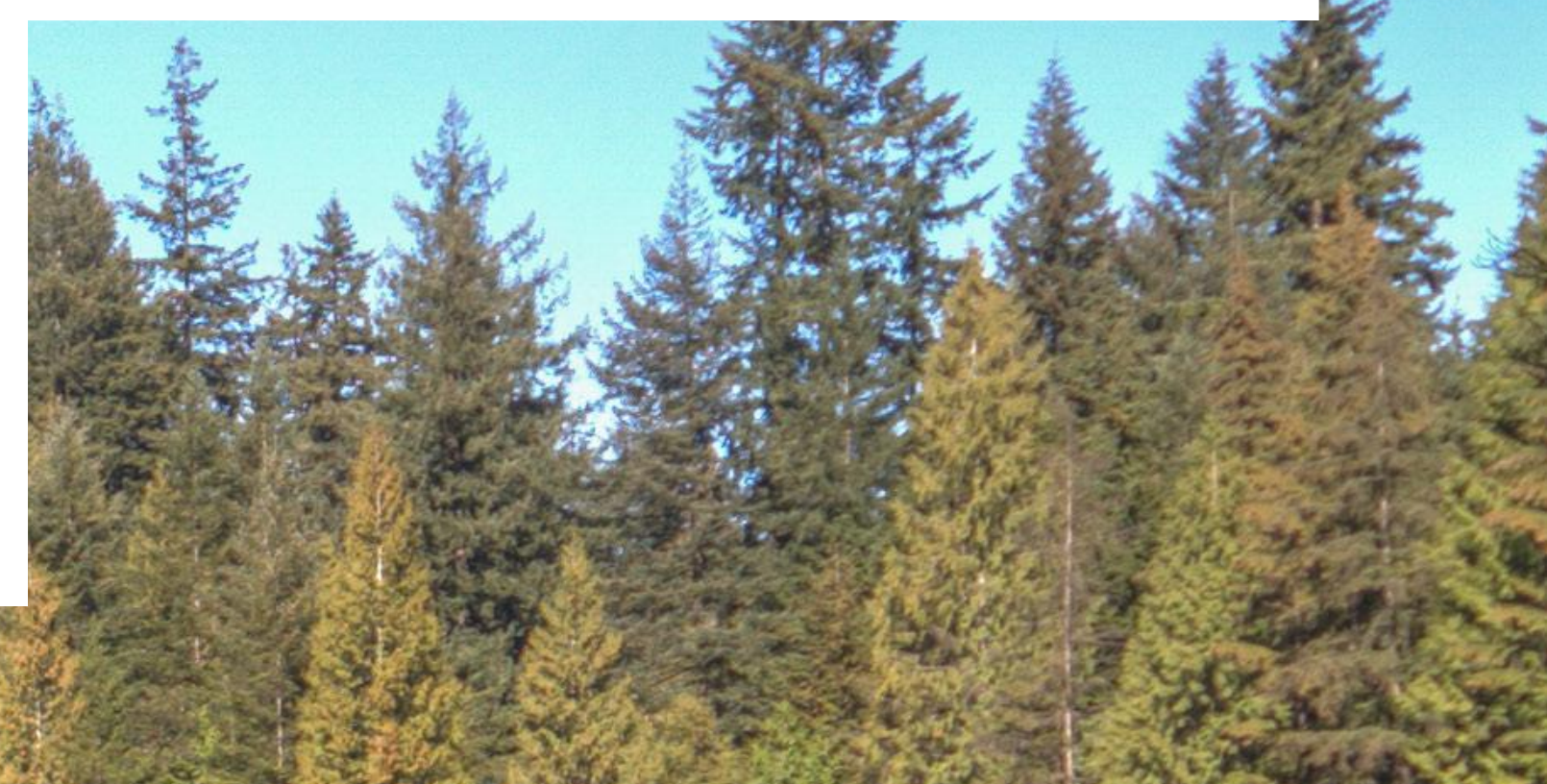
What began as a one-man mission in 2018 has grown into a vast network of stewards dedicated to protecting our local environment. As the visionary behind the Web of Life Society, Carl Ronka has transformed a personal commitment into one of the largest eco-restoration efforts in the region. The society's primary focus is on intensive clean-up projects, successfully mobilizing volunteers to remove over 100,000 pounds of waste and illegal dumping from Coquitlam's forests, rivers and shorelines. Rooted in a philosophy of long-term ecological health, the organization actively supports the revitalization of sensitive habitats by removing invasive species and replanting native trees. By weaving together these massive clean-up efforts with strategic habitat restoration, the Web of Life Society works to ensure that our city's most vulnerable green spaces receive dedicated care.



Ginny Wilson

Since 1997, Ginny Wilson has been a foundational leader of the Coquitlam River Community Garden Society, guiding its evolution from a modest project into one of the region's largest community gardens. Her nearly three decades of service include eleven years as President and a commitment as a mentor, providing the institutional knowledge and leadership that has allowed the society to bloom.

Ginny's impact spans many areas of stewardship. Whether she is coordinating pollinator gardens and demo plots, or acting as a key liaison to the kʷikʷəłəm First Nation, these highlights are just several of the roles she fills. Beyond technical expertise, Ginny's greatest contribution is her ability to inspire and mentor new gardeners, fostering a welcoming space for them to learn. By sowing seeds of connection and sustainability, she has ensured that both the land and the community will continue to thrive for generations to come.



Kerry Lockwood

Kerry's journey with the Salmonids in the Classroom program began during her first year of teaching in 1990, and she has participated every year since. Driven by the belief that education is the foundation for change, she volunteered to become the Coquitlam School District's Salmon Enhancement Coordinator in 1996. Kerry has seen how educating and empowering students creates a ripple effect, influencing families and the broader communities.

Kerry believes that regardless of age, academic level or ability, raising salmon in the classroom provides an interactive way to understand our interconnected natural world. By bringing the environment directly to her students, she helps them become informed, caring and responsible citizens dedicated to sustainable ecosystems. Her peers credit her for her thousands of volunteer hours over and above her teaching duties, which include coordinating equipment and egg delivery, maintaining a rearing tank for salmon release, and mentoring teachers new to the program so they can successfully bring this experience into their classrooms.

After 36 years of dedication, Kerry continues to witness the incredible difference that teachers and students make, helping the next generation become lifelong environmental stewards.