



# 2023 Annual Report

Lifesaving Society  
BC & Yukon Branch



## **BC & Yukon Branch Vision Statement**

The BC & Yukon Branch of the Lifesaving Society is an active member of the community dedicated to preventing death and injury in, on, or near the water. We search out opportunities to include everyone as driven by the needs of our community. We endeavour to collaborate with all groups and individuals with like aims. We are a dynamic organization that celebrates growth, flexibility, innovation, excellence, and proactive leadership.

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## President's Message



Jeffery Holland, President

It has been an honour to serve as Branch President for the past year, and I am pleased to present the 2023 Branch Annual Report.

This past year has been a very successful year for the British Columbia & Yukon Branch. The transition to the Swim for Life® program is complete, and 98% of eligible Affiliates in BC and Yukon have chosen to run the Swim for Life® program as their learn-to-swim model, making the Society the primary provider of swim lessons and water safety education. This is an exciting growth of the Society's reach, allowing us to spread our drowning prevention work to more residents and to support the essential skills of swimming and lifesaving in children and youth.

The Society's Annual General Meeting and Honour and Rescue awards remain cornerstone events in the Lifesaving calendar. We are excited to once again host tomorrow's 112th Annual Commonwealth Awards at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, a location whose history and ambiance are befitting of the storied traditions of the Honour and Rescue awards.

The work we do as a society remains essential to ensure safety in the community. Drowning rates have improved in recent years, however, preliminary data shows there were still 36 water related fatalities in BC and the Yukon in 2023. In 88% of child drownings, under the age of 5, supervision was absent or distracted. The work the Society does to educate and develop strong swimmers, train lifesavers and lifeguards and provide direct lifeguarding services at Buntzen and Hayward lakes is core to our business and our outreach. It is important, however that each of us act individually to educate friends and family on drowning prevention, and act as a water safety advocate when out on the rivers, lakes and oceanfront this year, speaking up when people unknowingly place themselves and their loved ones in danger.

I am very proud to work with all of you and to see the great work the Society, through a strong and dedicated team of staff and volunteers, has accomplished. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the continued contribution and support of our Governor, Nicole Liddell, and for the leadership of our Board of Directors. I look forward to supporting the Board of Directors as Past President, and I am confident that the Branch will see strong leadership from our incoming President, Graham Esplen. Thank you all for your support.

Jeffrey Holland  
Branch President

# Branch Presidents & Governors



Nicole Liddell, Branch Governor

## Branch Governors

Alfred H.J. Swencisky	Dates Unconfirmed
Major-General John M. Rockingham	1990 - 1998
George A. Brown	1988 - 1994
Peter Legge	1995 - 1997
Jon MacKinnon	1997 - 2008
Ian Robertson	2008 - 2017
Nicole Liddell	2017 - Present

## Branch President

Frederick William Burrows	1923 - 1925	Dan E. Moon	1980 - 1982
William Reid Owen	1925 - 1926	Doreen Drysdale	1982 - 1987
Frederick William Burrows Alfred	1926 - 1930	Ellen Lloyd	1987 - 1992
H. J. Swencisky Lestock Charles Reid	1930 - 1932	Julia Oulton	1992 - 1994
George Alexander Burrows	1932 - 1933	Ron Aubrey	1994 - 1996
Gordon Vance	1933 - 1934	Tony Toriglia	1996 - 1998
Thomas M. Galloway	1934 - 1937	Heather Straight	1998 - 2000
Lestock Charles Reid	1937 - 1938	Nicole Liddell	2000 - 2002
John Lawrence Lugin	1938 - 1940	Ian Robertson	2002 - 2004
Rollie S. Henderson	1940 - 1942	Dan Galazka	2004 - 2006
Gordon Vance	1942 - 1945	Sean Healy	2006 - 2008
Edward Frank Forsyth George	1945 - 1946	Craig Amundsen	2008 - 2010
Alexander Burrows John Thomas Kelly	1946 - 1947	Len Manuel	2010 - 2012
H. Douglas Whittle	1947 - 1948	Dalyce Brandt	2012 - 2014
George Alexander Burrows	1948 - 1957	Michael Lawless	2014 - 2016
R. Gordon Edmonds	1957 - 1966	Heidi Ogilvie	2016 - 2018
James Bertram Snelgrove	1966 - 1968	Peter Fox	2018 - 2020
Maxwell E. Gordon	1968 - 1969	Jeffrey Holland	2020 - 2022
Margaret Jean Lathwell	1969 - 1970	Anita Chevalier	2022 - 2023
Nestor Nick Korchinsky	1970 - 1972	Jeffrey Holland	2023 - 2024
	1972 - 1976	Graham Esplen	2024 - 2026
	1976 - 1980		



## Executive Director's Report



Lenea Grace, Executive Director

With a change in executive leadership and the full implementation of Swim for Life delivery, 2023 has been a year of transition and growth for the Branch. As the leading provider of swim lessons in BC and Yukon, we are uniquely positioned to shape the next generation of confident swimmers and future lifeguards. The introduction of Swim for Life has significantly increased our scope and reach, and with that comes the opportunity for necessary operational growth.

We saw exceptional delivery of lifeguarding and lifesaving programs by Affiliates across the province and territory resulting in a tremendous increase in certification numbers. At a time when pools have struggled to fully staff their facilities in recent years, these increases give us hope and inspire confidence in the future. I would like to highlight the leaps made in National Lifeguard award certification numbers, where we saw a 27% increase in NL-Pool awards, a 49% increase in NL – Pool Recerts, as well as an 87% increase in NL – Waterfront and 37% increase in NL – Waterpark. The numbers speak for themselves.

In March, we held the Annual General Meeting in person at the Creekside Community Centre in Vancouver, which saw the induction of Branch President Jeffrey Holland. The event was followed by a well-attended retirement party for outgoing Executive Director Dale Miller to celebrate his career and contributions. The 111th Annual Commonwealth Honour & Rescue Ceremony took place at the Michael J. Fox Theatre in Burnaby, showcasing heroic water rescues and longstanding volunteer dedication.

Branch initiatives included launching the 2023-24 National Lifeguard Instructor Recertifications and Trainer Recertifications, revising the Safeguard program, and raising \$11,662 in our biannual online auction supporting Swim to Survive. I am pleased to say that the spring Aquatics Professional Development Meeting brought 120 in-person and 30 virtual participants together at Langara College. Our team engaged with the public at events like Ripple Effects, BCRPA Symposium, BC Camping Conference, and Education Career Fairs in Kelowna, Vancouver, and Nanaimo. National Drowning Prevention Week brought widespread participation from Affiliates all over BC and Yukon, increased social media reach, and a public awareness campaign in partnership with Taxi Agency.

Once again, the Society provided lifeguard services at Buntzen and Hayward Lakes, ensuring thousands of swimmers safely enjoyed these BC Hydro-owned recreation areas. 2023 also saw the successful return of the WaterWise safety team after a four-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The team travelled throughout BC delivering free water safety education at schools, day camps, beaches, pools, and community events. Highlights included Golden Spike Days in Port Moody, Swim to Survive Day at Eagle Ridge Pool, and Water Safety Day at Crescent Beach.

It was an exciting year for Lifesaving Sport, as BC athletes made waves at the Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships and RLSS Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships, both held in Windsor, Ontario. Abigail Skinder, from Pacific Swim Academy, was the only Canadian athlete to medal at the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships, bringing home a bronze and a new Canadian record in her age group.

Throughout the year, our Branch staff team connected in person with Affiliates across the province and territory, with trips to Vancouver Island, the Yukon, Okanagan, Northern BC, and the Lower Mainland. Our relationship with

# Executive Director's Report

our Affiliates is crucial to the success of our organization. Looking ahead, building on these relationships will be even more important in expanding our reach and meeting our mission.

I sincerely thank the staff, volunteers, Affiliates, donors, and advocates whose contributions are invaluable in helping us move closer to our vision of a Canada free from drownings. We are grateful for the continued trust and confidence placed in us as leaders in drowning and water-related injury prevention in BC and Yukon.

[Lenea Grace](#)  
Executive Director



## Treasurer's Report



Ben Jones, Treasurer

It is with great pleasure that I present the Treasurer's Report for the year ended December 31, 2023. This year has marked a significant milestone in the operations of our Society, as we saw a robust expansion in our programs and services. Our diverse range of lifesaving and water safety programs has driven a substantial increase in our revenue streams this year, largely thanks to the introduction of Swim for Life® to the province. The progress is across multiple categories and reflects the dynamic engagement and commitment of our Affiliates and community partners.

We have experienced an 85% increase from the previous year in our awards and program revenues, soaring to \$1,291,456. This increase is driven by revenues from Swim for Life and heightened participation in National Lifeguard and lifesaving courses such as Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion, and Bronze Cross. Additionally, we observed increased engagement in Canadian Swim Patrol programs, which serve as a natural bridge between Swim for Life® and our more advanced lifesaving programs. This rise is a testament to the growing value our community places on safety and preparedness. In line with the increase in program delivery, literature sales—directly correlated with program participation—have climbed by 79% to \$790,085. Similarly, our merchandise sales have risen by 21% to \$131,841, demonstrating the strong demand for our training supplies, safety products, and branded items.

Management fees totaling \$60,000 represent our contracts for providing Lifeguard Management Services at BC Hydro-owned Buntzen and Hayward Lakes, reflecting our ongoing commitment to top-tier water safety services. Project revenue associated with Lifeguard Management Services has seen a 10% increase to \$192,793, indicative of successful project delivery. It's noteworthy to mention that, following the discontinuation of AdventureSmart in mid-2022, we no longer received any outreach funding, and consequently, did not incur any related costs.

Increased expenditures have kept pace with the surge in program and course participants to meet the growing needs of Affiliates, particularly in the areas of office materials, postage, and shipping. Salaries and benefits saw an uptick corresponding with the addition of new positions, such as Program Coordinators and a new Executive Director. Travel expenditures rose to \$49,171 as the year saw Branch staff and volunteers represent the Society at more events throughout the province, increased National Trainer expenses due to the recert cycle, and planned visits to Affiliates in various regions, including Vancouver Island, the Yukon, Okanagan, and the Lower Mainland.

Donations and royalties have climbed to \$21,866, largely attributable to a successful biannual Online Auction supporting Swim to Survive®. This increase is a testament to the trust and belief in our mission by both individual and corporate benefactors. Despite market volatility, we have recognized a net increase of \$20,145, marking a turnaround from the previous year's losses. This result, incorporating both realized and unrealized gains and losses, affirms the resilience of our investment strategies.



## Treasurer's Report

The Lifesaving Society, BC and Yukon Branch, has ended the year with an operating surplus of \$430,822 which will be strategically reinvested in programs and staffing required to advance our mission and increase our reach. Additionally, it will contribute to replenishing our capital/contingency fund, ensuring the Society upholds fiscal responsibility and secures a stable future in alignment with our strategic plan.

In conclusion, the Royal Life Saving Society Canada - BC & Yukon Branch is on a strong financial footing, with increased revenues reflecting the valuable impact of our programs and services. We are dedicated to building on this momentum and continuing our mission of preventing drowning and water-related injuries.

Ben Jones  
Treasurer

# Statement of Financial Position

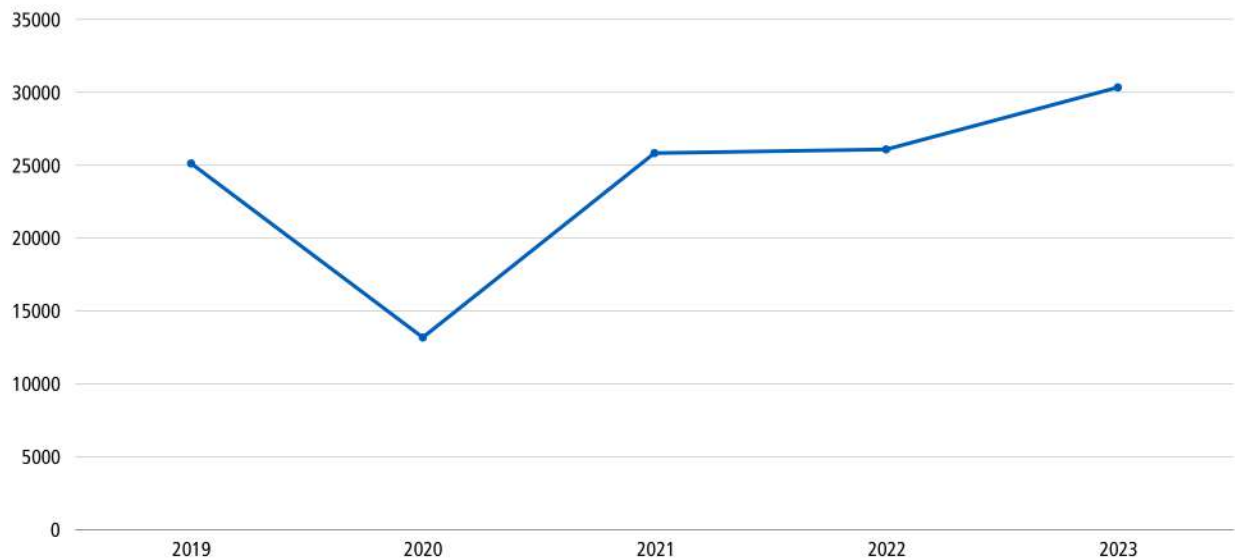
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023		2023	2022
ASSETS	Cash & Equivalents	222,501	---
	Accounts Receivable	218,103	235,027
	Interfund Receivables	34,515	29,047
	Inventory	160,782	103,583
	Prepaid Expenses	1,384	1,481
	Vancouver Foundation	133,537	119,445
	Property, Plant & Equipment	109,274	128,700
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>880,096</b>	<b>617,467</b>
CURRENT LIABILITIES	Bank Indebtedness	---	106,934
	Accounts Payable	29,317	40,679
	GST/HST Payable	19,356	7,765
	Interfund Payable	34,515	29,047
	Current Portion of Long-term Debt	217,616	36,126
	Deferred Revenue	---	---
	Long-term Debt	---	219,537
	<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>300,804</b>	<b>440,088</b>
FUNDS BALANCE	Balance at Beginning of Year	177,379	127,582
	Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	401,913	49,797
	Balance at End of Year	579,292	177,379
	<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Funds Balance</b>	<b>880,096</b>	<b>617,467</b>
RECEIPTS	Administration	114,366	130,183
	Awards	1,291,456	697,607
	Donations	13,520	10,962
	Investment Income	8,653	-4,965
	Literature sales	790,085	441,320
	Management Fees	60,000	64,500
	Project Revenue	192,793	175,729
	Merchandise Sales	131,841	109,160
	Outreach Funding	---	129,272
	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>2,602,714</b>	<b>1,753,768</b>
DISBURSEMENTS	AdventureSmart Expenses	---	116,120
	Advertising & Promotion	25,090	18,680
	Bank Charges & Interest	11,388	8,026
	Committees & Events	115,879	55,582
	Cost of Sales & Awards	611,793	382,335
	Equipment & Repairs	9,049	6,706
	Equipment Lease	23,623	7,821
	Insurance	13,167	14,787
	National Levy	128,296	88,833
	Office & Miscellaneous	125,812	71,991
	Postage & Shipping	32,123	19,197
	Premises	36,187	32,554
	Professional Fees	39,435	13,170
	Project Costs	216,835	138,185
	Salaries & Benefits	699,061	585,716
	Technology Upgrades	26,627	37,206
	Telephone	8,356	6,890
	Travel & Accommodation	49,171	18,181
	<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>2,174,892</b>	<b>1,622,250</b>
	<b>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</b>	<b>430,822</b>	<b>131,518</b>



# Core Program Statistics

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
LIFESAVING	Bronze Star	1,040	706	269	205	1,025
	Bronze Medallion	5,039	4,626	3,360	935	4,043
	Bronze Cross	3,963	3,651	2,653	919	3,401
	<b>Total Lifesaving</b>	<b>10,042</b>	<b>8,983</b>	<b>6,282</b>	<b>2,059</b>	<b>8,469</b>
NATIONAL LIFEGUARD	National Lifeguard - Pool	2,773	2,153	1,459	451	1,834
	National Lifeguard - Pool Recertification	2,492	1,716	2,380	1,821	2,362
	National Lifeguard - Waterpark	326	238	187	64	399
	National Lifeguard - Waterpark Recertification	155	114	330	168	381
	National Lifeguard - Waterfront	131	73	99	20	83
	National Lifeguard - Waterfront Recertification	149	30	130	46	106
	National Lifeguard - Surf	12	11	22	0	23
	National Lifeguard - Surf Recertification	2	0	0	0	2
<b>Total National Lifeguard</b>	<b>6,040</b>	<b>4,335</b>	<b>4,607</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>5,190</b>	
LEADERSHIP	AMOA Instructor	37	55	57	187	---
	Swim Instructor	2,412	3,529	---	---	---
	Lifesaving Instructor	1,324	543	1,275	194	647
	National Lifeguard Instructor	184	52	26	10	27
	First Aid Instructor	33	63	61	5	10
	Trainer	255	32	83	6	81
	<b>Total Leadership</b>	<b>4,245</b>	<b>4,274</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>765</b>
FIRST AID	CPR/AED	1,370	1,075	1,164	1,221	2,390
	Basic Life Support - HCP	701	700	1,217	989	1,117
	Emergency First Aid	2,357	1,905	1,953	1,709	3,408
	Standard First Aid	2,528	2,205	1,837	1,362	3,514
	Airway Management & Oxygen Administration	2,843	2,596	6,404	2,311	n/a
	<b>Total First Aid</b>	<b>9,799</b>	<b>8,481</b>	<b>12,575</b>	<b>7,592</b>	<b>10,429</b>
SAFETY MANAGEMENT	Safety Management	213	16	122	32	274
	<b>Total Safety Management</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>274</b>
<b>CORE</b>	<b>TOTAL CORE PROGRAMS</b>	<b>30,339</b>	<b>26,089</b>	<b>25,834</b>	<b>13,194</b>	<b>25,127</b>

## CORE PROGRAMS



# Education Report



Kimiko Hirakida  
Program Manager



Kyle Kronebusch  
Education Manager



Oliver Nugent  
Education Coordinator

The Education team had an eventful year, full of advanced leadership recertifications, as well as new course and resource development. January brought the launch of the 2023-2024 Lifesaving Instructor/Examiner Recertification. This recertification received great reviews and focused on reflecting upon drowning prevention and the role of the Lifesaving Instructor/Examiner in teaching important concepts of lifesaving and assistant lifeguarding.

We launched the 2023-2024 National Lifeguard Instructor Recertifications and Trainer Recertifications in April. The National Lifeguard Instructor Recertifications focused on the revised National Lifeguard program launched in 2022. The Trainer Recertifications introduced concepts of adult education, the adult educator's role, and how one's values contribute to teaching. A big thank you to our valued National Lifeguard Instructor Trainers and National Trainers who facilitated these recertifications throughout the province and territory.

The extended Canadian Red Cross to Lifesaving Society Swim Instructor Transition ended in June. We are honoured to work with former Canadian Red Cross Water Safety Instructors and Instructor Trainers. Together, we will celebrate our collective experience in teaching water safety and strive towards seeing many swimmers taught at our pools and waterfronts in 2024.

We spent much time connecting with our valued Affiliates this year through seasonal online meetings. Thank you to our Affiliate representatives who attended the meetings. It is from your feedback that we can improve our programs and services. Additionally, our swim, lifesaving, first aid, lifeguarding, and leadership certification numbers have increased significantly this year. We thank our dedicated Affiliates and Instructors/Trainers for their commitment to providing quality instruction to support our drowning prevention mission.

Thank you to our dedicated team of volunteers: our National Trainers and Program Advisory Group and Committee Chairs and members. Volunteerism is the heart of the Lifesaving Society; we couldn't do our work without you.

Kyle Kronebusch, Kimiko Hirakida, and Oliver Nugent  
Education Team



# Aquatic Safety Management Services Report



Len Manuel  
Aquatic Safety Services Manager

## IF IT IS FORESEEABLE, IT IS PREVENTABLE

Aquatic Safety Management Services provided Affiliates with recommendations and training to help ensure safe aquatic environments by foreseeing potential hazards before they occur.

### Affiliate Support:

Aquatic Safety Management Services received 28 requests for clarification of regulations and advice to deal with operational challenges. Research was completed to provide a clear interpretation of regulations, guidelines, and national standards.

### Audits:

Audits provide detailed recommendations to ensure the Affiliate is complying with all governing regulations and help prevent drownings and aquatic related injuries to patrons and staff. Comprehensive and Topical Audits were conducted for 6 Affiliates for swimming pools and waterfronts throughout the province.

### Aquatic Safety Management Courses:

The Aquatic Supervisor Course and Aquatic Supervisor Instructor Course were redeveloped to provide training for deck supervisors to manage the day-to-day operations and provide effective leadership for lifeguards and swim instructors.

The Auditor Recertification Course was launched, providing updates and new information to ensure our auditors have the most up to date knowledge. Additionally, the Aquatic Management Course launched and provided senior staff and supervisors without prior experience in aquatic management the knowledge and resources necessary to oversee aquatic operations.

The Aquatic Inspector Course is in the redesigned phase. This redesigned course will provide staff with critical knowledge and a redesigned checklist to assist them in ensuring regulation compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

Len Manuel  
Aquatic Safety Services Manager

# Lifeguard Services at Buntzen and Hayward Lakes

This season was the fourth year that the Lifesaving Society, BC & Yukon Branch worked in partnership with BC Hydro, Firefin Enterprises, and Parks West Enterprise Inc. to deliver a successful summer of lifeguard services at Buntzen and Hayward Lake Recreations Areas.

Lifeguard Services Coordinators Shanel Feller and Nicole Harrison hired 10 new members for the team and welcomed back 7 returning staff, including head guards Amy Condie (Hayward) and Jewel Feller (Buntzen) which made for very successful team development and mentorship. Lifeguard training took place the weekend of May 13 to 16, which included a full National Lifeguard Waterfront option course as well as site-specific training at both locations. As in previous seasons, weekend only operations began on the Saturday of the May long weekend (May 20) and full service began on June 30. The season concluded on Labour Day (September 4) with the lifeguards providing 80 days of supervision at each site.

Again, the public were pleased to see the return of the lifeguards at the lakes this year. Our Personal Floatation Device (PFD) Loaner Stations at both Buntzen and Hayward Lakes were much appreciated by swimmers, paddleboarders, boaters, and allowed for valuable conversations about water safety. This year the PFD Loaner Stations made over 3,500 loans at Buntzen Lake and over 600 at Hayward Lake. This more than doubled the numbers from last season!

As this is a preventative service, it is difficult to measure how many lives were saved by the lifeguard team's ability to react, educate, and redirect. This season again has proven that the lifeguards have been a valuable asset to both of these waterfront, resulting in thousands of British Columbians safely enjoying family recreation on the water at Buntzen and Hayward Lakes in 2023. We look forward to continuing our wonderful relationship with BC Hydro and park staff to provide lifeguard services in 2024.



Shanel Feller  
Lifeguard Services Coordinator



Nicole Harrison  
Lifeguard Services Coordinator



The PFD Loaner Stations at Buntzen and Hayward Lakes were a hit, doubling last season's numbers and promoting water safety.



The Lifeguard tower overlooking the beach at Buntzen Lake.



## PREPARE IT. SHARE IT. KNOW IT. WEAR IT.



They're baaaack! 2023 marked the successful return of the Branch's WaterWise Team, after a four-year hiatus due to the pandemic. With leadership and scheduling support from Dirk Popen, Child Safety Educator, the WaterWise Team members Grace Zulynik and Will Xie travelled over 4,700 km throughout the province to bring free water and boating safety education to the public.



Dirk Popen, Child Safety Educator

In preparation for the season, the Team updated and revised the WaterWise Wisdom Presentation designed for school and youth groups. Due to some initial hiring challenges, the Team started later this year in June than in previous years, resulting in fewer school presentations. However, they soon made a splash at day camps, community events, beaches, and pools from Vancouver to the Kootenays. Ridge Wilderness Day Camps invited the Team back five times!

Other highlights included kicking off the summer at Golden Spike Days in Port Moody, participating in the Crescent Beach Waterfront Festival, teaching water safety to a crowd of over 200 students at École Kilmer Elementary School, and supporting Swim to Survive® events at various locations, even appearing on Global News to discuss WaterSmart education. A trivia challenge centred around water safety piqued the public's interest and the winners received a paddleboard.

In 2023, WaterWise education and messaging reached 3,400 participants at community events, 1,865 beach and pool patrons, and 575 youth at schools and camps. Will and Grace did an excellent job of navigating unknown waters in relaunching a program under new leadership. They received positive reviews and the proof is in the pudding – the WaterWise calendar is already almost fully booked for spring/summer 2024, with waitlists for several dates.



Grace Zulynik & Will Xie  
WaterWise Team Members



Will smiles with a paramedic at Crescent Beach's Water Safety Day.



A behind the scenes shot of Grace giving an interview to Global News at Eagle Ridge Pool's Swim to Survive event.



# First Aid Committee Report

**Committee Members:** Louise Bishoff, Marie Bisson, Devonne Dylewski, Kristin Hutniak, Riley Huntley, Emma Jacobsen, Cindy Larson, Tina Naveri, Jon Noone, Trevor Sproule, Alison Stevens, Victoria Voth

**Staff Representative:** Kyle Kronebusch & Oliver Nugent



Riley Huntley, Chair

2023 brought expanded support for the Society's first aid programs with the formation of the First Aid Committee and welcoming of Oliver Nugent as First Aid Coordinator. The committee features a blend of first aid experts and regional representatives from throughout the Branch. The time, expertise, and support demonstrated by the committee in such a short time has been incredible.

The First Aid Committee has the unique privilege and challenge of maintaining the Branch's Lifesaving First Aid program. In the year ahead, we are excited to continue our efforts to improve our programs by launching the 2024 First Aid Program Revisions. Although it seems like just yesterday that our OFA level 1 equivalent programs launched, the program is due for its five-year review. These revisions will maintain Occupational First Aid (OFA) Level 1 equivalency for our Emergency First Aid program while seeking approval for Level 2 recognition from WorkSafeBC for our Standard First Aid program. The opportunity to offer OFA Level 2 equivalent courses is a welcomed change and reflects the significant progress that has been made within the first aid industry in recent years.

As part of these revisions, the Basic Life Support (BLS) Responder and Airway Management and Oxygen Administration (AMOA) programs will be overhauled based on the feedback of our trusted Affiliates and instructors. The committee is looking forward to launching a streamlined and competitive BLS Responder program tailored to healthcare providers while strengthening the AMOA program with dedicated course resources designed with BC/YK lifeguards in mind. We look forward to updating our Affiliates and instructors in due time.

The First Aid Committee has made significant progress in 2023 and is well-positioned to elevate our first aid program in 2024 in terms of quality and integrity. The Society is committed to providing high-quality first aid training that fulfils our mission, meets the needs of our stakeholders, and maintains our competitive edge in the market.

A huge thank you to the First Aid Committee's volunteer members for their dedication and contributions. The committee is also tremendously appreciative of the support it receives from subject matter experts throughout the Branch that provide their insight and expertise.

Riley Huntley  
First Aid Committee Chair



# Lifesaving Advisory Group Report

**Group Members:** Amanda Beavers, Stephanie Brown, Richard Friesen, Breann Jauncy, Jessica Jonas, Charlotte Law, Ethan Wheatley

**Staff Representative:** Kimiko Hirakida



Amanda Beavers, Co-Chair



Ethan Wheatley, Co-Chair

The Lifesaving Advisory Group was formed in late fall of 2023 and has swiftly begun working on projects while identifying priorities for the upcoming year. Some of these projects, which we are pleased to share with you, include:

- Revision of the Bronze Medal Delivery Guide and Candidate Workbooks: we acknowledge the need for updates to ensure consistency in style with other Lifesaving Society resources and alignment in language with complementary materials.
- Creation of in-service sessions for Affiliates to further develop and support Lifesaving Instructors, along with an Evaluation Checklist for Affiliates to assess their Lifesaving Instructors, providing regular coaching and feedback for quality assurance.
- Prioritization of the development of the 2025-2027 Lifesaving Instructor Recertification.
- Anticipating warmer weather, the group aims to create and/or edit rescue videos to enhance resources available to Instructors for leading Bronze courses.
- A long-term project involves developing and hosting Trainer Talks specific to Lifesaving Instructors Trainers and Lifesaving Instructors, inspired by the success of initiatives by the Swim for Life® Advisory Group for Swim Trainers.

The Lifesaving Advisory Group is eager to create tools and resources supporting Affiliates, Trainers, Lifesaving Instructors, and candidates in developing knowledge, judgment, skills, fitness, and leadership. We also continue to seek new members for this Advisory Group from Northern BC and the Yukon. If you are interested in joining this motivated team for 2024, please reach out to Kimiko Hirakida.

**Amanda Beavers & Ethan Wheatley**  
Lifesaving Advisory Group Co-Chairs

# Lifesaving Sport & Competition Committee Report



Chris Cordova, Co-Chair



Martin Henderson, Co-Chair

**Group Members:** Chris Cordova, Deniz Erturk, Gail Findlay-Shirras, Martin Henderson, Lauralee March, Sylvia Pearson, Phil Skinder, Wade Thoreson

**Staff Representative:** Oliver Nugent

2023 brought both successes and some setbacks. However, for 2024, we are hoping to build on those successes, and use those setbacks to help gain more momentum with competitions.

BC Athletes saw success at the national and international level. The 2023 Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships (CPLC) were held last June in Windsor, Ontario, and the Pacific Swim Academy based in Vancouver ended up 2nd overall for "Club Scores – Open", while taking 1st place overall for "Club Scores – Youth". This included taking home 11 gold medals, 7 silver, and 4 bronze.

The successes at CPLC continued at the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships, also held in Windsor, with Otis Chan, Caitlyn Fowler, Noah MacDonald, Abigail Skinder, Anna-Marie Skinder, and Ian Wicken selected for Team Canada, and for the National Team Performance Program. Highlights from the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships included Abigail winning bronze and setting a new Canadian Record in the Super Lifesaver Event, while Noah tied a Canadian Record in the 50m Manikin Carry.

We are working on bringing back technical competitions to British Columbia & Yukon for 2024. Plans were in place to host the 2023 Barnsley Lifeguard Championships in Richmond last August, but we were not able to get enough teams registered. We are grateful for those teams that did register, and hope that they can help to continue to build interest so that the Barnsley Lifeguard Championships can be revived.

To help support in these efforts, the Advisory Group's work plan for 2024 includes:

- Providing support for planning and running Lifesaving Sport and Lifeguard Competitions
- Providing support for Affiliates to incorporate competition into staff training, as well as to support coaches
- Creating resources for the creation of clubs

Saanich Commonwealth Place will be the host of the 2024 Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships. In preparation for this, we are planning on hosting a Sport Lifesaving Competition in Nanaimo in April.

**Chris Cordova & Martin Henderson**

Lifesaving Sport & Competition Advisory Group Co-Chairs



# Swim for Life® Advisory Group Report

**Group Members:** Kyla Atkins, Rachelle Harron, Michelle Hebein, Karen Hillmann, Katie Hopp, Paiden Jenkinson, Lauralee March, Gabby Nicholls, Isabel Parkkari, Paula Thulin, Kim Watts

**Staff Representative:** Kimiko Hirakida

The Swim For Life® Advisory Group is a dedicated team of members who actively participate in supporting program development within the Swim For Life® stream of the Lifesaving Society. We have continued to come together on a monthly basis to provide resources and support for the Swim for Life® program. Here are some of our accomplishments from 2023:



Michelle Hebein, Co-Chair



Paula Thulin, Co-Chair

- We worked with the Canucks Autism Network to develop Swim Visuals for Learners, aimed at supporting swimmers who require visual cues for swimming skills.
- We hosted several Trainer Talks this past year, with increasing attendance at each session. We have received positive feedback on the resources and networking opportunities these sessions provide.
- Created the Swim Instructor Transfer Course. For those who hold instructor certifications from other organizations, they can now attend a Swim Instructor Transfer Course, allowing them to seamlessly transfer their skills to align with the Lifesaving Society's goals, mission, and values.
- Further development of the Swim Instructor/Lifesaving Instructor Delivery Guide and candidate workbook, providing trainers with support for the delivery of the Swim Instructor and Swim & Lifesaving Instructor Combination Courses.
- Continued work on developing instructor resources. We updated worksheets, introduced a new swimmer screening form, and made updates to the progressions, drills, and activities for the swimming strokes.
- Initiated the development of the 2024/2025 Swim Instructor Recertification program.

We are very excited for what the next year will bring as we continue to work with Affiliates, Trainers and Instructors to ensure the highest quality of the Swim For Life® program.

Michelle Hebein & Paula Thulin  
Swim for Life® Advisory Group Co-Chairs

# DB Perks & Associates Scholarships



After enjoying his days as a lifeguard in Burnaby and a national level competitive swimmer at SFU, Doug Perks continues to give back to the aquatics field through scholarships to support aquatic staff in pursuing post-secondary education. The three awards of \$1,000 in 2024 mark the 30th year of the scholarship through which Doug has contributed \$61,000 to 101 recipients.

His generosity is evident not only through the Lifesaving Society scholarships, but also through many other initiatives Doug supports with several other organizations. He often expresses his appreciation for what the aquatics field has given him as his motivation to give back to others.

Doug Perks, DB Perks & Associates Ltd

## 2024 DB Perks Scholarship Recipients

### Fred Smith Award

Nick Ostrowka, Surrey

### Mike Powley Award

Leticia Martel, Squamish

### Derek Laverty Award

Jordan Talbot, Victoria

## Previous Scholarship Recipients

### 2023

Iantha Greer, Whitehorse  
Dana Riseling, Whitehorse  
Layla Sadafi, Surrey

### 2022

Kayla Sevensma, Abbotsford  
Aramis St-Gelais, Salt Spring Island  
Jaiden Budhwa, Smithers

### 2021

Rachel DeCicco, Coquitlam  
Jasmin Schlick, Prince George  
Julie Kaufman, Surrey

### 2020

Elliott Gee, Burnaby  
Ceilidh Robertson-Jones, Victoria  
Natalia Lupynis, Richmond

### 2019

Katie Bowers, Port Coquitlam  
Michelle Jun, Port Coquitlam  
Rachel Way, New Westminster

### 2018

Riley Huntley, Surrey  
Jamie Magrill, Richmond  
Sarah Schlatter, Victoria



# DB Perks & Associates Scholarships

## 2017

Martin Chan, Richmond  
Anthony Lee, Burnaby  
Lindsay Munroe, Coquitlam  
Sarah Schlatter, Victoria  
Beck Tomlin, Whitehorse

## 2014

Claire Bruce, Prince George  
Marc Lacroix, Surrey  
Cameron Meldrum, Chilliwack  
Julia Sharma, Burnaby  
Amanda Tuey, Burnaby

## 2011

Veronica Grusnick, Surrey  
Emily Hails, Coldstream  
Cailey Hume, Sparwood  
Ben Tettamanti, Vancouver

## 2008

Lisa Flegel, Bella Coola  
Jamie Lee McSweeney  
John-Jose Nunez  
Adam Pospisil, Burnaby

## 2005

Sven Bellamy, Burnaby  
Jen Brett, Savona  
Lois Moore, Whitehorse

## 2002

Sarah Canning, North Vancouver  
Nicholas Crump, Surrey  
Kaitlin Pasqualotto, Trail

## 1999

Jason Blood, Nanaimo  
Stephanie Eby, Victoria  
James Helliwell, Vancouver

## 1996

Gene Benoit, North Vancouver  
Rob Evans, Vancouver

## 2016

Timothy Bientjes, Kamloops  
Matteo Ferraresso, Burnaby  
Wyatt Henry, Kamloops  
Sienna Joyce, Port Moody  
Ryan Wilmink, Vancouver

## 2013

Vanessa Butler, Surrey  
Sheena Fulop, Pender Island  
Melissa Gillespie, Saanichton  
Colin Pistawka, Kelowna

## 2010

Leo Chan, Coquitlam  
Christian Gotengco, Vancouver  
Brittany Hollett, Kamloops  
Brittany Williams, Surrey

## 2007

Sarah Glenn, Ladysmith  
Yvonne Gomez, Victoria  
Jessamyn Logan, Saanich  
Amanda Lust, Penticton

## 2004

Natasha Files, Surrey  
Janice Newkirk, Hagensborg  
Ryan Radford, Vancouver

## 2001

Christine Anderson, 150 Mile House  
Robert Cousins, Port Alice  
Kim TownSchon, Crescent Beach  
Dave Lyon, Burnaby

## 1998

Michael Lawless, Victoria  
Heather Marshall, Coombs

## 1995

Nicole Liddell, Vancouver  
Dave Lyon, Burnaby

## 2015

Rachel Hennig, Langley  
Julie Kaufman, Vancouver  
Anna Legault, Victoria  
Michelle Lukas, Vancouver  
Rebecca Roy, Kamloops

## 2012

Noel Lai, Vancouver  
Sasha Maleki, Coquitlam  
Amanda Penny, Williams Lake  
David Slade, Delta

## 2009

Natasha Corewyn, Vancouver  
Eric Iadarola, Kamloops  
Jerry Michael, Victoria  
Quinn Yu, Surrey

## 2006

Janet Maxsted, Kelowna  
Ashley Rota, Vancouver  
Christina Smirl, Sooke

## 2003

Candace Brown, New West  
Brian Campbell, West Vancouver  
Trevor Roy, Kelowna

## 2000

Kelly Holman, Victoria  
April Lacheur, Delta  
Ryan Radford, Kelowna

## 1997

Carmen De Menech, Abbotsford  
Carmen Jackson, Victoria

# Joan MacKinnon Memorial Scholarship



Aaron Moldenhauer & Joan MacKinnon  
Joan MacKinnon Memorial Scholarship

Aaron Moldenhauer is happy to present the Joan MacKinnon Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000 in memory of his mother. Joan filled many roles in aquatics as a mentor, instructor, coach, and a friend to many. She was always kind, compassionate, and giving of herself. The new scholarship will support someone looking to start their training and enter the aquatics field.

Remembering his mother, Aaron reminisced, "When I think about my mother, I can't help but think about the water too. She raised me around the water; taught me to swim, taught me lifesaving and first aid, and showed me how to be a good lifeguard and later on a leader too. I hope this passion is something we can continue on for her and I hope to be able to provide an opportunity for others to enter the field that she so enjoyed."

## 2024 Joan MacKinnon Memorial Scholarship Recipient

We congratulate **Elizabeth Hallborg** from Castlegar as the recipient of the \$1,000 Joan MacKinnon Memorial Scholarship.

## Previous Scholarship Recipients

2023

Alli Daniele, Prince Rupert



# 111th Annual Commonwealth Honour & Rescue Awards

The Honour and Rescue Awards celebrate the human spirit of giving. The Honour awards praise the dedicated efforts of the Lifesaving Society's volunteers. The Rescue Awards continue the celebration by rewarding people for unselfishness in putting their lives on the line during a water rescue. The selections are made from rescues reported in the news, from individual recommendations and from police reports. Awards were presented at the 111th Honour and Rescue Awards Ceremony on April 1, 2023.



Nancy Liddell received the President's Plaque, as she has dedicated countless hours compiling award materials and building course kits, providing invaluable support to Branch operations. She also provided great assistance to the Branch during the Swim Transition.



Tony Toriglia received the Honourary Life Governor award for his extensive involvement with the Society spanning five decades. Tony is a past President of the Board of Directors and continues to serve as a Vice-President, as well as the Branch's Member Representative and the Canadian member of the board of the International Life Saving Federation.

## Honour Awards

### Bar to Service Medal

Krista Mueller

### Service Cross

Lauralee March

### Honourary Life Governor

Ron Aubrey

Tony Toriglia

### President's Plaque

Nancy Liddell

# 111th Annual Commonwealth Honour & Rescue Awards



Royal Cash Funk was awarded the Silver Medal of Bravery and the George A. Brown Memorial Gold Medal & Scholarship for his swift action in saving his cousin Ryder's life in the deep end of a pool.



Emilyn Golden received the Silver Medal for Bravery and the Governor's Gold Award for her heroic rescue of an autistic boy swept away and struggling in the ocean under challenging conditions.

## Rescue Awards

### Silver Medal for Bravery

Andrew Schibli  
Emma Baecker, Katie Brook  
Scott Bridge, Dan Coulter  
Royal Cash Funk  
Aiden Godwin  
Emilyn Golden  
Michael Mthandazo

### Silver Medal for Merit

William Chambers  
Daniel Ferrer, Bruno James de Faria,  
& Henry Reis  
Grant Gray  
Rodrigo Menezes  
Trent Schibli  
Seaspan Marine

### M.G. Griffiths Award

Emma Baecker  
Scott Bridge  
Katie Brook  
Aiden Godwin  
Emilyn Golden

### George A. Brown Memorial Gold Medal & Scholarship

Royal Cash Funk

### Governor's Gold Award

Emilyn Golden



# Lifesaving Society - BC & Yukon Branch

2023

<b>Governor</b> Nicole Liddell	<b>Honour Awards</b> Ron Aubrey	<b>Branch Staff</b>	<b>Seasonal Staff</b>
<b>President</b> Jeffrey Holland	<b>Rescue Awards &amp; G.A. Brown Fund</b> Lori-Ann Drew	<b>Executive Director</b> Lenea Grace	<b>Child Safety Educator</b> Dirk Popen
<b>President Elect</b> Graham Esplen	<b>ASM Advisory Group</b> Denise Yoreff	<b>Education Managers</b> Kimiko Hirakida Kyle Kronebusch	<b>Communications</b> Leanne Ngong
<b>Vice-Presidents</b> Gail Findlay-Shirras Lauralee March Tony Toriglia John Woolgar	<b>First Aid Committee</b> Riley Huntley	<b>Education Coordinator</b> Oliver Nugent	<b>Member Services</b> Rose Sekhon Kasey Tewes
<b>Treasurer</b> Ben Jones	<b>Lifesaving Advisory Group</b> Amanda Beavers Ethan Wheatley	<b>Aquatic Safety Services Manager</b> Len Manuel	<b>WaterWise Team</b> Grace Zulynik Will Xie
<b>Members-At-Large</b> Danny Burgi Samantha Bussieres Alyson Dewey Isabelle Taillon	<b>Lifesaving Sport &amp; Competition Committee</b> Chris Cordova Martin Henderson	<b>Member Services Manager</b> Carla Pruner	<b>Lifeguard Services Coordinators</b> Shanel Feller Nicole Harrison
<b>Lifesaving Chair</b> Sheila Polard	<b>Swim for Life® Advisory Group</b> Michelle Hebein Paula Thulin	<b>Member Services</b> Michael Bleaney Francesca Cammarata (to 7/23) Kaelan D'Sena	
<b>Legal Advisor</b> Chris Bennett		<b>Communications</b> Kaelan D'Sena	
<b>Medical Advisor</b> Dr. Adam Lund		<b>Bookkeeper</b> Stephanie Joh	
		<b>Shipping</b> Elianny Colón Duarte	







**LIFESAVING SOCIETY**

*The Lifeguarding Experts*

## THE LIFESAVING SOCIETY IS

A national, independent, charitable organization that works to prevent drowning and water-related injury through its training programs, Water Smart® public education, aquatic safety management services, drowning research and lifesaving sport.

Annually, over 1,200,000 Canadians participate in our swimming, lifesaving, lifeguard and leadership training programs. As Canada's lifeguarding expert, the Lifesaving Society sets the standard for aquatic safety and certifies Canada's National Lifeguards.

The Society represents Canada internationally in the Commonwealth Royal Life Saving Society and we are Canada's Full Member in the International Life Saving Federation. We are the governing body for lifesaving sport – a sport recognized by the International Olympic Committee and the Commonwealth Games Federation.

## MISSION AND VISION

**Mission:** To prevent drowning and reduce water-related injury.

**Vision:** Canada free from drowning and water-related injury.

**Values:** Guided by humanitarian principles.

- We are the Canadian leader in the prevention of drowning and water-related injury;
- We are collaborative, innovative, and ethical;
- We operate with fairness, respect, trust and integrity;
- We value diversity, flexibility, and creativity;
- We seek inclusiveness, driven by the needs of our community;
- We are a dynamic organization that succeeds through volunteerism, pro-active leadership, and the pursuit of excellence.

@LifesavingBCYK



**Lifesaving Society - BC & Yukon Branch**

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"WHOMSOEVER YOU SEE IN DISTRESS,  
RECOGNIZE IN THEM A FELLOW HUMAN BEING"  
- Royal Life Saving Society Motto

LIFESAVING SOCIETY BC & YUKON BRANCH  
[lifesaving.bc.ca](http://lifesaving.bc.ca)