Kootenay-Columbia Discovery Centre Society
P.O. Box 763
Creston, British Columbia V0B 1G0
www.discovery-centre.ca
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2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 27th, 2025, 7pm via Zoom

In Attendance: Phillip Harvey, Jim Kuemper, Signe Miller, Paityn Kuiper, Tanna Patterson, Willie Charles, Caroline Collier, Norm Allard, Laurel Ewashen, HD, Carla Ahern

1. Call to order – Carla Ahern - **@7:00pm**
2. Additions to/Adoption of Agenda – Phil Harvey
    - Motion – To adopt Agenda - **Phil 1st, Laurel 2nd, AIF, Carried**
3. Adoption of Minutes for AGM of November 28th, 2024
    - Motion – To adopt Minutes - **Phil Harvey – Jim 1st, Laurel 2nd, AIF, Carried**
4. Chair Report – Phil Harvey
    - We are a small society but touch the lives of a lot of people
    - Thank our supporters, members and volunteers'
    - Board or Volunteer opportunities – would nice to have an educator/teacher to join us.
5. Financial Report – Carla Ahern
    a. 2024 Financial Statements
    b. 2025 Financial Update
    c. 2026 Budget
    d. Appointment of Auditor for 2025 Financial Review
    - **Motion 1 -** To accept the 2024 Financial Statement and 2025 Income Statement (YEE) as presented - **Jim 1st, Phil 2nd, AIF, Carried**
    - **Motion 2 -** To accept the 2026 Budget as presented - **Jim 1st, Phil 2nd, AIF, Carried**

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- **Motion 3 -** To retain APEX Accounting to review Financial Statement for KCDCS's 2025 Fiscal Year - **Jim 1st, Phil 2nd, AIF, Carried**

KCDCS Financial and Income Statements					
Year end 31-December					
		2024	**2025**	**2025**	**2026**
		Actual *	**Budget**	**YEE****	**Budget**
Revenue					
	Grants	$128,415	$161,197	$150,858	$161,197
	Donations	$4,606	$4,000	$4,000	$4,000
	Gift Shop Sales	$1,046	$2,000	$1,018	$2,000
	Programs	$19,155	$19,500	$17,500	$19,500
	Other	$4,406	$700	$700	$700
	Total	**$157,628**	**$187,397**	**$174,076**	**$187,397**
Expenses					
	Accounting, legal, etc.	$8,571	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000
	Administration	$3,987	$5,500	$3,700	$5,500
	Bank charges	$786	$1,200	$1,200	$1,200
	Gift Shop costs	$1,335	$1,500	$33	$1,500
	Insurance	$4,614	$5,000	$4,382	$5,000
	Management Costs	$88,205	$90,416	$90,416	$90,416
	Marketing and Promotion	$5,153	$9,000	$6,500	$9,000
	Programs/Trail Mtnce	$1,386	$3,000	$2,400	$3,000
	Seasonal Staff Costs	$33,802	$48,781	$44,446	$48,781
	Transitional Building Costs	$11,706	$13,000	$11,000	$13,000
	Total	**$159,545**	**$187,397**	**$174,076**	**$187,397**
	Net Income (Loss)	-$1,917	$0	$0	$0
	Amoritization	$8,706	tbd	tbd	tbd
	***Numbers were taken from the 2024 Financial Statements prepared by APEX**				
	****Year End Expectancy**				

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6. Sr. Manager's Report – Carla Ahern
    a. 2025 Highlights and 2026 Objectives
    - See slides attached below
7. Election of Directors – Phil Harvey
    - Up for Re-election - Jim Kuemper
    - Standing Term (Expires in 2026) - Phil Harvey and Gitte Grover (stepping down)
    - New Appointees - Signe Miller and Paityn Kuiper
    - **Motion -** To re-elect and appoint Jim Kuemper and elect and appoint Signe Miller and Paityn Kuiper as Directors of the KCDCS for a two-year term (2026-2027) – **Phil 1st, Laurel 2nd, AIF, Carried**
8. Q&A – Carla Ahern
9. Special Presentation by Norm Allard
10. Adjournment – **@8:15pm**

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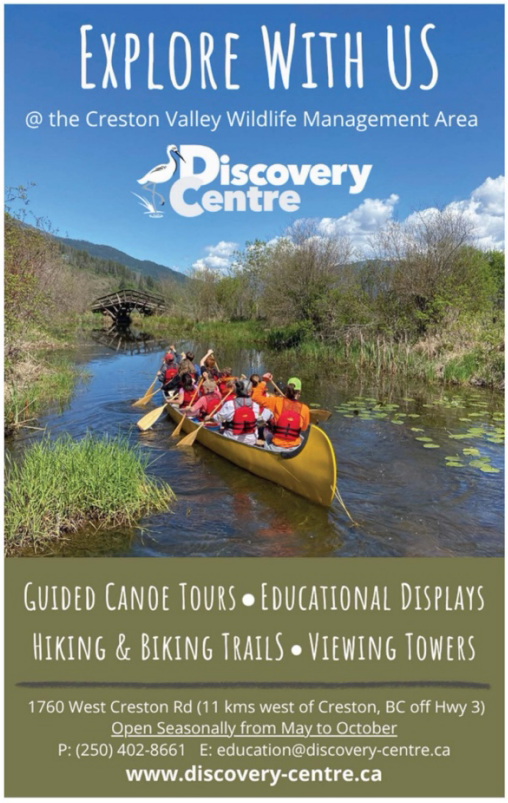

2025 Highlights

Communication and Promotions

- Monthly enewsletters – **1,356** subscribers
- Social Media
  - **856** Facebook Followers
  - **210** Instagram Followers
- Website – keep content updated
- Advertising Print – ISL, CVTS

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PLACE OF ORIGIN STATS						
Year	**2018**	**2019**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
CANADA						
Creston	n/a	n/a	26%	15%	11%	9%
Kootenays	20%	28%	14%	16%	12%	19%
Other BC	13%	16%	14%	14%	16%	14%
Alberta	23%	20%	17%	20%	17%	17%
Other Canada	10%	9%	6%	7%	6%	7%
Total	**66%**	**74%**	**76%**	**73%**	**62%**	**66%**
USA						
Total	**16%**	**15%**	**15%**	**17%**	**24%**	**15%**
Europe						
Total	**14%**	**7%**	**7%**	**8%**	**10%**	**14%**
Other						
Total	**3%**	**4%**	**2%**	**2%**	**4%**	**5%**
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

2025 Highlights

@ the Centre

- The Discovery Centre was open from May 12th to October 11th for a total of **122** days
- We hosted **4,598** people inside the Centre during this time
- Place of Origin Statistics

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2025 Highlights

School Programs

- January-February, offered an **in-class program** to local schools (All About Owls; Getting Ready for Winter) and had **10** classes participate
- May-June and Sept-Oct, offered **onsite wetland excursions** for Grades K-12 and had **71** classes participate
- Overall hosted students from **23** different schools from **4** school districts
- In total, programs were delivered to **2,023** students



Teacher Feedback:

All our guides/naturalists were very knowledgeable. They shared information about the wetlands and animals in a way our students could understand. They were ready to answer questions and were patient with our high energy group. It was our most memorable trip. We feel the program was well run, and the price point made it accessible to our families. We learned a lot from our guides, as did the teachers.

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2025 Highlights

Summer Camps

- Jr Naturalist summer science day camps in July and August; **7** sessions; Ages 4-13
- Hosted **67** kids

Parent Feedback:

"Your program is simply the best summer camp around! We are always so impressed by how much our kid learns and does while he's there."

"Please continue running these programs—they are truly needed and deeply appreciated in our community. Nothing compares to hands-on, outdoor learning and experiences."

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2025 Highlights

Programs and Events

- Guided canoe tours – **310** people for the public tours, **1,003** if add school students
- Had to stop canoeing at the end of July due to low water levels
- Grizzly Bear Encounter
- Updated displays/exhibits
- Self-guided options including:
  - Self-Guided Board Walk Loop
  - Self-Guided Marsh Trail Loop
  - Scavenger Hunt
  - Wildlife and Bird Checklists (New)
  - Kids Adventure Booklet

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2025 Highlights

Staff & Partnerships

- KCDCS hired **three full-time** seasonal summer staff to help deliver educational programs over the summer
  - Excellent feedback on staff from program surveys
- CVWMA – swallow box surveys; bat counts; trail maintenance
- CV Bird Festival (Wildsight)
- Booth at the Bear Fair; Participation in Beer Fest (CV Rotary)

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2025 Highlights

Members & Committees

- **Memberships**
- Have over **1,300** Members

- **Boards and Committees**
- Creston Valley Bird Festival
- Creston Valley Tourism Society
- International Selkirk Loop

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2026 Goals & Objectives

- Secure Grants to cover operational expenses
- Operate Discovery Centre
  - Host 4,500 people
- Deliver Programs
  - School Programs – 2,000 students
  - Summer Camps – 100 kids
  - Public Canoe Tours – 500
  - Special Events – 1,500
- Marketing and Promotions – advertising; website; enewsletters; social media; rack cards
- Increase Membership
- Continue to develop partnerships and working relationships with community groups and organizations
- Continue to build relationship with Lower Kootenay Band
- Continue initiatives related to development of new Discovery Centre