



41ST ANNUAL BC RIVERS DAY

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021



IMAGE CREDIT: BARRY HETSCHKO

QUW'UTSUN STA'LO' SKWEYUL (COWICHAN RIVER DAY)

41 YEARS OF RIVER ADVOCACY, AWARENESS AND CELEBRATION.

Here's to the rivers and communities that connect us:

41+

Events across BC

25,000+

Litres of trash removed

A GLOBAL EVENT WITH BC ROOTS

Mark Angelo started BC Rivers Day in 1980 as a way to commemorate "the immense natural, cultural and recreational values of BC's great river heritage." It all started as a small-scale clean-up on the Thompson River and has since sparked the creation of World Rivers Day: one of the biggest environmental celebrations on the planet. This year, close to 100 countries participated in celebrations across the globe.

CREATIVE AND DIVERSE

In BC this year, events (both big and small) ranged from community clean ups and festivals to educational seminars, ceremonies, art demonstrations and film screenings. 41 events were documented, both virtual and in-person, with many small-scale and private events going uncounted. We saw participation across all major BC regions. There was an especially strong showing in Vancouver and the Tri-City area, as well as on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast, but we also saw a good showing in the Kootenays, Okanagan, and in Northern BC.

HEALTHY RIVERS, HAPPY PEOPLE

Once again, the theme this year was "Waterways in our Communities." Healthy rivers and streams make communities better places to live, and clean ups are always a great and tangible place to start.



IMAGE CREDIT:
EDWARD NELLES
ORCBC

A GREAT "PLOGGING" CHALLENGE

Our feature event was a virtual "plogging" challenge (a term with Swedish roots which refers to running while picking up trash). The intent was to encourage people to explore waterways close to home, even if they didn't have an event to attend nearby.

CLEANING UP OUR ACT

Approximately 12 additional large scale clean-ups were counted in various locations around BC. Between four of those events alone, the equivalent of 25,000 litres of trash were removed from surrounding waterways (imagine approximately 414 garbage bags of trash). A couple big ticket items found included car tires and an old dishwasher!



The importance of clean freshwater has been so essential to the fight against COVID-19 – BC and World Rivers Day is a timely opportunity for literally millions of people around the world to come together to celebrate the importance of healthy, vibrant waterways

RIVERS DAY FOUNDER, MARK ANGELO



TWO SOLD OUT SCREENINGS

The premier screening of "The Last Paddle - 1000 Rivers, 1 Life" was held on BC Rivers Day and showcased founder Mark Angelo's personal journey exploring and advocating for rivers around the world. The event was a big success, with two sold out screenings, one of which was added at the last minute to accommodate ticket demand.

BC PLACE SHOWS ITS COLOURS

River enthusiasts in all corners of the province organized over 41 community events and activities in addition to many riverside outings like clean-ups, walks, strolls, jogs, bird counts, and paddles. At the end of the day in downtown Vancouver, BC Place lit up blue to honour Rivers Day.

IMAGE CREDIT: PAT MORROW -
LAKE WINDERMERE AMBASSADORS



IMAGE CREDIT: BARRY HETSCHKO
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THANK YOU

TO THE PEOPLE AND
COMMUNITIES WHO
CELEBRATED WITH US
THIS YEAR

TO OUR WONDERFUL
PARTNER AND
SPONSOR, FORTISBC

AND TO STRATHCONA
PARK LODGE FOR THE
GENEROUS PRIZE
DONATIONS



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QUW'UTSUN STA'LO' SKWEYUL
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Outdoor Recreation
Council of BC

