

Kiyooka Land Trust Foundation

NEWSLETTER

fall 2024



Roof replacement and workbee

At the end of April 2024, several KLTF board members and volunteers helped local contractor Andy Hagenhuth to replace the 44 year old metal roof on the community spaces building. This much needed upgrade was made possible by the generous donation of Katie Ohe, sister-in-law, of the late Frank Kiyooka.

In addition to the roof replacement this spring, KLTF hired a local arborist to remove some of the old, decaying aspens that surrounded the building as part of our efforts to prevent damage from potential wildfires and wind storms.

Several KLTF members came out to support the land trust for our annual spring workbee at the end of April. Volunteers helped to remove and donate firewood, clear fallen trees/shrubs from the walking trails, tend to the garden beds, and build a new "bridge" over the slough.



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KIYOOKA LAND TRUST FOUNDATION'S 2ND ANNUAL
BIRD WALK

SUNDAY JUNE 2ND
BIRD WALK: 9AM-10:30AM
REFRESHMENTS: 11AM - 12:30PM

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
Rashmi
250-566-1302

Join local bird enthusiasts, Elsie Stanley, for a guided walk through the Kiyooka Land Trust, where we will identify resident and migratory birds, with time for socializing and refreshments indoors afterwards.

Please arrive 5-15 minutes early to ensure the walk begins on time. Bring a camera, mosquito repellent, binoculars, a bagged lunch, and wear appropriate footwear for the wetlands.

COST: BY DONATION OR WITH PURCHASE OF AN ANNUAL KLTF MEMBERSHIP

 **KIYOOKA LAND TRUST**
14717 OLD TÊTE JAUNE ROAD
TÊTE JAUNE CACHE, BC



The KLTF 2nd Annual Bird walk was a great success. Thirty-two people attended the event and with Elsie Stanley as our guide, we identified 18 different bird species including the ruby crowned kinglet, warbling vireo, yellow-rumped warbler, and the northern waterthrush.

Annual community celebration

On **June 22, 2024**, the Kiyooka Land Trust Foundation hosted its second community celebration. The purpose of the annual event is to make meaningful connections with the local community, to inform people of the benefits of land conservation in the Robson Valley, and to celebrate all living things on the land. Roughly 30 people attended over the course of the day. To honour National Indigenous Peoples' Day at the land trust, the board invited three Indigenous people to share their knowledge.

The morning started with two workshops. **Toni Appleby** joined us and gave a workshop on how to make Ponderosa pine baskets. She discussed the basket-making tradition and outlined the process of foraging to collect them (Ponderosa Pines have long needles), dying them different colours, and finally, soaking them to make them pliable enough to bend and secure with embroidery thread. She brought many baskets with her as examples of the craft, and we all admired them greatly. People who participated in the workshops left with rudimentary examples and a strong desire to practice more. It was a wonderful workshop. The tactile nature of manipulating the pine needles into a usable shape was a meaningful connection to how Indigenous peoples found in nature the necessary products to meet their own needs.

Leona Mintz also joined us and gave a guided tour of the property that focused on Indigenous medicinal plants. It was a fine day with sunshine and a slight wind and almost no bugs to speak of. Leona led people, in two separate groups an hour apart, on a walk across the land and shared her knowledge of the plants and told stories of how Indigenous peoples traditionally use them.

And finally, after a shared lunch, the sun continued to shine and all the attendees gathered in a circle that was mowed into the field to share time with some members of **All My Relations Dance Troupe** who had travelled from Kamloops to be with us. Three dancers, Bernice, Tyler, and Junior, each performed traditional dances for us, with Bernice explaining each dance and the significance of each dancer's regalia.

In short, the community celebration was a wonderful event that brought people together to honour both the land and the history of the Indigenous peoples and their skills. We shared food and stories and laughter, and we all came away feeling more strongly connected.

A big thank you to the **Regional District of Fraser Fort George** who supported the event by providing KLTF with a community grant.





Leona Mintz and Indigenous plant walk



Bernice, of All My Relations Dance Troupe



ponderosa pine needle basketry with Toni Appleby

