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NOTES FROM THE FIELD

At the outset of our 15th year in operation, we are grateful to everyone who has supported us, challenged us, and shaped us into the organization we are today. Since our humble beginnings operating a rainforest interpretive centre, we have believed that the best way to inspire a conservation ethic is through education. Now, we work with over 3000 people every year, through programs with local and visiting schools and universities, research and monitoring projects, guided tours, summer camps, courses, speaker series, festivals and much more.

Operating in Clayoquot Sound for a decade and a half has taught us that the most meaningful and transformative programs are those that get people out onto the land and water. That is why we offer the majority of our programs outdoors, whether it's surveying eelgrass meadows with citizen scientists or guiding our field school of local youth up lush rainforest valleys. We've also learned that the need for experiential outdoor learning is growing, and growing up! To meet the increasing demand for adult outdoor education, we've added the Raincoast Institute (see page three) to our roster of programs.

We owe a huge amount of our success to those who stood up to protect Clayoquot Sound's old-growth forests, streams, shorelines, and waters, and put our region on the map as one of the most ecologically rich landscapes on the planet. There is no better place to learn and be inspired by the wonders of the natural world. Please join us.

- Dan Harrison, Executive Director



Raincoast Education Society



RaincoastEducation



RaincoastEd



RaincoastEd



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Our local school programs reach over 1,000 youth per year in an area of BC where little environmental education occurs. We work hard to design and deliver a broad range of high-caliber outdoor education programs that inspire local youth to get outside, think critically, and become actively engaged in building a sustainable future.



RADIATION MONITORING

The Raincoast Education Society has partnered with the University of Victoria and California State University to carry out radionuclide sampling of sea water and kelp, respectively, in Clayoquot Sound. This project is made possible with support from the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust and MEOPAR. In 2014, we were pleased to find no evidence of Fukushima-related radionuclide contamination in Clayoquot Sound.



EELGRASS HABITAT MAPPING

The Raincoast eelgrass monitoring program, in partnership with Parks Canada, Nature Trust of British Columbia, Strawberry Isle Marine Research Society, the Sitka Foundation, and local residents, maps and surveys eelgrass beds in the Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Management Area and empowers local youth through participation in outdoor, conservation-based science.



TOFINO AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

All local residents new and old can participate in these FREE courses to expand their knowledge of the area and increase participation in the community. In 2014, over 350 people participated! In conjunction with the Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, we will continue to offer three Ambassador Program courses to the public: Introductory Course, West Coast Ecology, & Nuuchahnulth Landscape



SUMMER PROGRAMS

Summers at the Raincoast Education Society are busy! From guided interpretive walks and community beach seines to summer camps and plankton discovery days, there are educational programs all summer to engage locals and visitors with the natural world in fresh ways.



New in 2015, the Raincoast Institute offers high-quality continuing education courses that inspire adults and young adults to connect with natural ecosystems. Our field classes are designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the rich natural landscape of Clayoquot Sound. Designated as a UNESCO biosphere reserve, Clayoquot Sound provides a unique opportunity to study the interconnections between the rich marine ecosystems of the Pacific Ocean and some of the largest tracts of old-growth coastal temperate rainforest in the world.



Rooted in the Nuu-chah-nulth philosophy of Hishuk-ish-tsawalk (everything is connected/everything is one), our weekend courses provide opportunities to study natural ecosystems from a holistics perspective, and to engage with specific ecological components through hands-on, outdoor-based learning. Each course focuses on different aspects of the complex ecosystems of the region, from fungi to birds to wolves and more. In 2015, we look forward to offering the following courses:

ANIMAL TRACKING
RAINFOREST ECOLOGY
NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY
BIRDS OF THE WEST COAST
GEOLOGY OF THE WEST COAST
SEaweEDS OF THE WEST COAST
MUSHROOMS OF THE WEST COAST

www.raincoasteducation.org/institute



Raincoast Education Society



RaincoastEducation



RaincoastEd



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FESTIVALS & EVENTS



THE 18TH ANNUAL TOFINO SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL will be held on the weekend of May 1-3, 2015. The Tofino Shorebird Festival celebrates the arrival of tens of thousands of migrating shorebirds with a series of educational birding events throughout the region. We draw on local and visiting experts to participate in the festival, offering guest lectures, birding workshops and much more! For more info, visit raincoasteducation.org.



THE 1ST ANNUAL CAPTURING THE COAST PHOTO CONTEST will be held on February 28th, 2015 at Shelter Restaurant. The Capturing the Coast photography contest is designed to celebrate the natural world, the people, and the unknowns of Vancouver Island's wild West Coast, and inspire people to explore, adventure, and respect the region.



THE 15TH ANNUAL TOFINO LANTERN FESTIVAL will be held on Sunday, August 16th, 2015 in the Tofino Botanical Gardens. This is our signature community event and fundraiser, drawing the young and old with an unbelievable variety of hand made lanterns and local entertainment. Don't miss this magical, candle-lit celebration of West Coast culture!

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Interested in supporting our work? Please visit our website www.raincoasteducation.org, send an email to info@raincoasteducation.org, or give us a call at (250)725-2560. The Raincoast Education Society is a non-profit organization and a registered charity.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marnie Helliwell, Melanie Morris, Jen Pukonen, Sarah Timberlake, Colin Zacharias



The Raincoast Education Society greatly appreciates the generosity of the following organizations for their financial support of our programs in 2014 (>\$1,000): Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, Anonymous Donor, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, District of Tofino, Jamie's Whaling Station, Long Beach Lodge Resort, Nature Trust of British Columbia, Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council, Pacific Sands Resort, Paddle West Sea Kayaking, Sitka Foundation, Services Canada, Tides Canada, Tofino Botanical Gardens, Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTS THE RAINCOAST EDUCATION SOCIETY. WE ARE VERY THANKFUL FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR WORK. WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO IT WITHOUT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU.

PHOTOS: DAN HARRISON, BRADY CLARKE, JEREMY KORESKI, BRIDGETTE CLARKSTON, LUKE STIME



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