



IMPACT REPORT • 2020

Your Home In The Forest



YOUR HOME IN THE FOREST
FROM THE BOARD

60 years. If that doesn't send nostalgia running down your spine I am not sure what will. Evans Lake is one of those places that has the uncanny ability of staying the same while also moving forward.

Tradition and modernity have often been described as opposing forces. But, when advancement is executed with a clear and thoughtful understanding of the past, these forces can co-exist in a mutually beneficial manner. In Evans Lake's terms, modernity is the luxury of being able to focus on those familiar excitement butterflies as you mosey down the camp road, turn the bend and glimpse the lake for the first time; without the jarring neck snap of having survived the latest pothole. It's all the tradition, paired with the innovation and progress of our current times.

In essence, that's the journey Evans Lake has been on for 60 years. How can this treasured place nurture its roots while sending out fresh shoots? There is no question that Evans Lake has nurtured these fresh shoots – from an established photograph-sharing system that allows parents to see their children experience camp in real time, to the high level safety standards that keep all participants at Evans Lake cared for throughout their stay, to the inventive Eco Fun programming that makes connections to our current environmental context. These developments allow us to engage in an ecosystem very different from our humble beginnings. Yet, within those photographs, safety protocols and Eco Funs, still sits the remnants of the soul of those beginnings – Knot Heads, call-back chants and

our feet firmly planted in the creek scooping up skeeters.

Ultimately, being innovative has now become tradition at Evans Lake. This will not stop at this 60-year milestone, as we continue to think about what is in Evans Lake's future. From having deep conversations about adding a new building to the iconic Evans Lake skyline, to actualizing our beliefs of inclusion in the form of an all-gender cabin initiative—our new shoots continue to be supported by our resilient roots to be *Your Home in the Forest*.

Looking forward to what is to come in our next 60 years.

Neschee,

The Evans Lake Board of Directors



We acknowledge that Evans Lake is located near Ch'iyakmesh on the unceded territory of Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation).



CORE FOCUS

FOREST EDUCATION

Evans Lake is **your home in the forest**—where youth are active, outside, and discovering together. It’s a vision we’ve developed since 1960, and one that our community shares. Since 2015 alone, we **expanded by nearly 3000 person/days**¹ of youth experiencing our forest-based programs.

Evans Lake’s multi-day immersive experiences have youth **learning in community**. This style of learning is effective and worth supporting because **campers are proven builders of relationship skills, self-confidence, and an affinity for nature**², and **“experiences in nature are deeply social.”**³ Further, there is a gap between the interest in high quality nature experiences, and the ability to access them.⁴

Our simple logic model is:

If, while at Evans Lake, campers	They are more likely to	Later in life, they will be
Learn interdependency and relationality of trees, water, soils, wildlife, and humans	Repeat observational and recreational activities they are now familiar with	Advocates for the importance of forests
Are immersed in community while exploring our local forest	More confidently participate in discussions about forests	Engaged in forest-related issues
Have role models who are excited about forests	Pursue future educational opportunities related to forests	Critical thinkers with respect to forests
Envision forests as sites of converging uses and values		
Have fun!		

81%

of Evans Lake summer campers are “more interested in spending time in and learning about the outdoors/forest” as a result of their experience.⁵

82%

of Evans Lake summer campers feel that they “know more about forests and the outdoors” as a result of their experience.⁵

CO-OPS AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE FOR EMERGING EDUCATORS

To support the environmental education training of new teachers and educators, Evans Lake has hosted practicum placements and co-op students from schools such as: University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, Capilano University, Queen’s University, and Trent University.

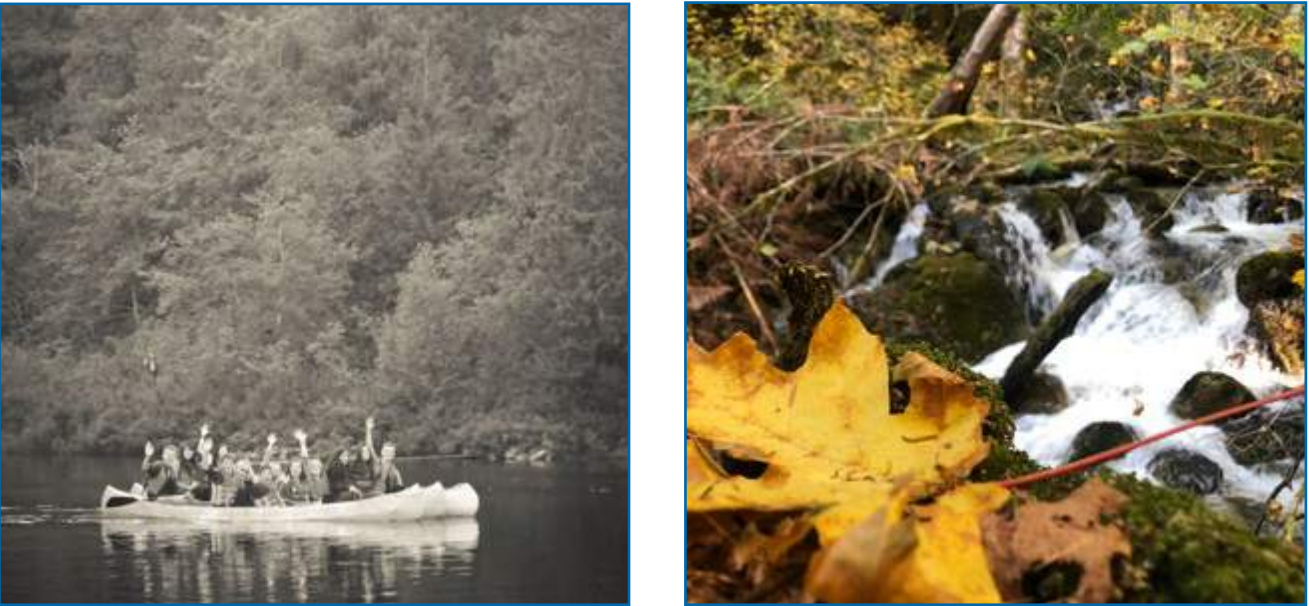
Those students have reported that Evans Lake was a welcoming environment to learn and practice their emerging skills. They especially valued our lesson plans, shadowing our staff for our Eco Fun sessions and outdoor recreation activities, and the salad bar!



MISSION STATEMENT

The Objectives of the Society Are:

1. To advance education by operating a forest education and outdoor recreation centre offering Summer Camp, Winter Camp, and School and Community Group programs, for children, youth, and adults.
2. To provide forest education and outdoor recreation instruction to attendees of the Evans Lake Forest Education Centre in a forest environment suitable for those learning experiences.
3. To build the educational capacity of children, youth and adults by developing and aggregating educational materials, creating partnerships with other like-minded educational institutions, and engaging in public outreach.



¹ One person attending for three days = three person/days

² Youth Impact Study: Canadian Camping Association Oversample (2019)

³ The Nature of Americans: Disconnection and recommendations for reconnection (2017)

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Based on Evans Lake’s 2019 post-camp surveys

EVANS LAKE 2020

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2020, our team tested their abilities to adapt to unprecedented circumstances and make the most of the options available given the important public health guidelines.

Our modest revenue was driven by the new Day Camp program that we launched, sold out (330 spaces), and received positive parent feedback from. 80% of Day Camp families—many of whom were new to Evans Lake—said they would return to the program even once overnight Summer Camp had returned. Future day camps may well be a legacy that adds to our already-strong Summer Camp programs. Due to insurance, government subsidies and shrewd grant-writing, we were able to partially offset our loss of user fees from the public health restrictions on hosting visitors.

By the numbers, the last year is best understood in the context of our last 5-15 years: a downward spike after steady growth and strong interest in our programs.

Table 1 - Public Health guidelines limited us to 11% of our visitors, and in smaller groups

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Person/Days of Visitors	16,700	16,600	18,500	19,500	18,500	2,251
Occupied Days per Year	199	187	204	210	203	58
Average people per occupied day	84	89	91	93	91	36

Table 1 - 2015-2020 Total # of User and Occupied Days
Note: 1 person attending for 3 days = 3 Person/Days

Table 2 - Revenues declined sharply with restrictions on hosting groups due to COVID-19

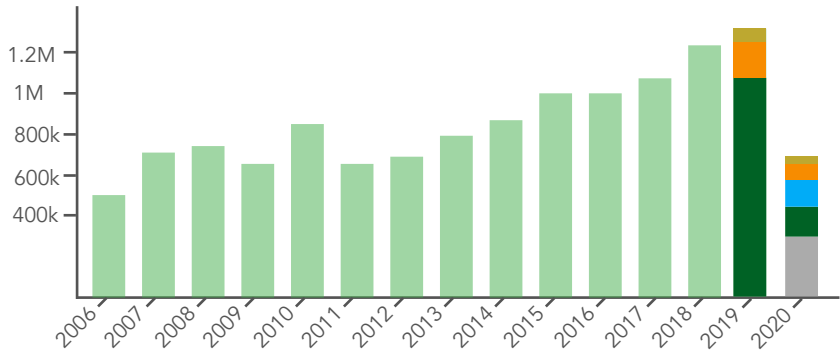


Table 2 - 2006-2020 Revenue (\$)

Table 3 - Strong demand persisted for Day Camp’s limited spaces

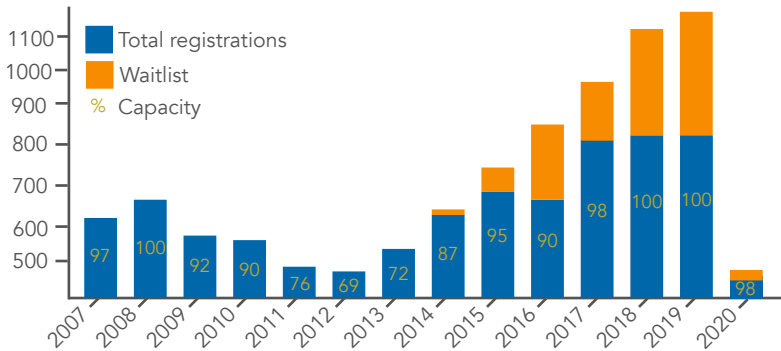
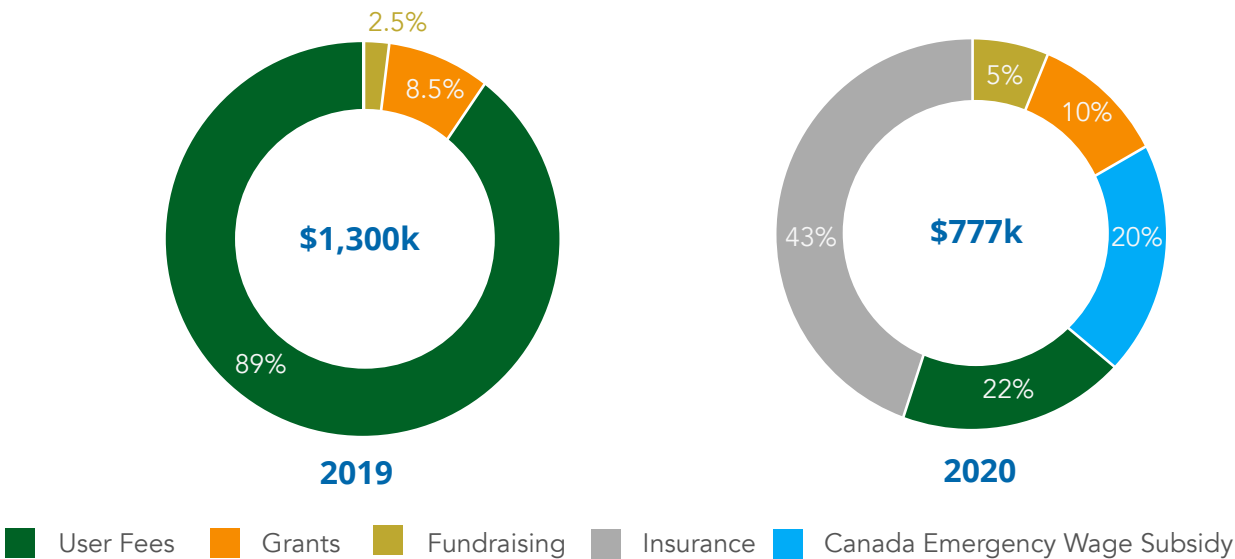


Table 3 - 2007-2020 Summer camp registration #s
Note: Evans Lake expanded it’s capacity from 2007-2018, and limited it in 2020

Chart 4 - Revenue sources shifted from 2019 to 2020 as user fees were scarce



CELEBRATING OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

For 60 years, the Evans Lake Forest Education Centre has provided forest and outdoor education for over one hundred thousand children and youth from all over the world. In the past 10 years, our programs have had record successes and have grown at a steady pace.

Evans Lake has come a long way from our early days as a Junior Forest Warden camp in 1960. What began as overnight camp programs with two cabins, a dining hall, a washroom, and a diesel generator shed, has blossomed into ten cabins, the same dining hall (see *Capital Project* page), three washrooms, staff residences, an office building, a recreation hall, and several outdoor recreation areas.

School groups and other rental groups have been enjoying our site and programs since the mid-1960s and now occupy more of our days than our summer camp. Their stories are our story: students exploring forests with friends, weddings celebrating together lakeside, and campers seeing their first shooting stars. Evans Lake has always been about people—together.

Evans Lake has been its own not-for-profit since 1997, and our community nurtures our growth. As a group, we all believe that connecting with forests and each other is critical and worth supporting. Whether that be in a referral to a teacher friend to check out our programs, a donation of some kind, or sharing the good word on social media, we move forward together.

Due to COVID-19, Evans Lake lost 42% of our revenues and had one of our most challenging years to date. This loss has had a deep impact on our organization as we still carried the upkeep costs for our 60-year-old camp and the planning costs for 2020 groups that unfortunately had to cancel.

But, we're still here and doing things the Evans Lake way! We're still planning the best programs we can given the conditions, already dreaming of the **next** 60 years, and we can't wait to throw open our gates to our normal seasons when allowed to do so.



YOUR SUPPORT - 60 YEARS OF EVANS LAKE FUNDRAISER

Though our plans to celebrate with our community had to change, **2020 was still Evans Lake's 60th anniversary, and we couldn't be any prouder.**

The exclamation point on our year was **our community's contributions to the '60 Years of Evans Lake Fundraiser.'** The fundraiser aimed to collect \$20,000 to support the ongoing costs of camp. We created three donation tiers to drive this campaign and each came with its own unique gift to donors.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
TOTAL RAISED



With your support we raised over \$19,000 of our \$20,000 goal. A special thank you to:

- Gary 'The Bear' for creating the Genuine Bear Tags for all gifts over \$200;
- Davey Biddle, Conor Lorimer, and Amy Siddaway for their artistic contributions for the greeting cards that went to all donations from \$100-\$199; and
- Amy Siddaway for creating the Evans Lake Badge for donations received from \$60-\$99.

We are very proud of our community for their kind words of support and contributions during this difficult time.

Would you like to support Evans Lake? Get more information [here](https://evanslake.com/get-involved/donations/): evanslake.com/get-involved/donations/.

EVANS LAKE
TYPICAL YEAR AT A GLANCE



TESTIMONIALS

FROM OUR CAMPER FAMILIES

My son loved Evans Lake summer camp!! He will be back next year for sure!!

My son had a great time. Loved the chance to come and see the camp at the open house before he went to the actual week long camp.

Our experience this year was amazing! We had a rough first day drop off, my son was very nervous and in tears. After coming home the first day he couldn't have had a bigger smile. All the activities were on point and he loved every minute. Aside from the activities, his camp leader was unbelievable. My son loved him and they connected so well. His leader made him feel so comfortable and was so welcoming! Please ensure to tell him that he is great at what he does and our boy looks up to him. At the end, the staff wrote the nicest and most thoughtful note on the back of my son's certificate. While I'm not sure if we will get my son to a sleep over camp i will definitely try! And if a day camp is offered he will 100% be back! Thank you for an amazing experience.

Just wanted to say how pumped my daughter is when she gets back from camp, it is a joy to get to hear about her time there. She LOVES the staff at camp so much, just gushes about what great people they all are, just wanted you to know.

My child had an excellent time at camp and can't wait to go back :)

Both my wife and I worked as camp counselors and then camp directors. We are both teachers and have run outdoor education programs. We were very impressed by the week. You adapted to the COVID19 restrictions very well. Communication was clear and concise, organization upon arrival was fantastic. Staff were friendly and approachable. My kid had a great time and is excited to return, and every other child I spoke with said the same. Given that you pulled that off with all the chaos of our current world, you should be proud of what you accomplished. Let's just hope next year allows you to return to a more "traditional" camp model!

We appreciate excellent accommodations of food allergies. Thank you.

This was the first time my son joined an Evans Lake Camp and the time he had there was really positive. We'll be back!

It was my son's first year and he absolutely loved it. Can't wait for next year! :) SO many great photos of her this year too, THANKS SO MUCH, means a lot to send these to the grandparents.

Our child had a fantastic time!! Thank you!! :) The cabin/trip leaders are always very positive and cheerful - keep it up!

My daughter had a great time, she will be back! From what my kids said and what I see from the photos, I am very pleased with this summer camp experience. They will be coming again next year and hopefully years to come!!!

The Ultimate Camp Experience

IMPACT STORIES

OUTDOOR SCHOOL PROGRAMS

School groups from all over Metro Vancouver and the Sea to Sky have made Evans Lake their choice for forest education and outdoor recreation. Our staff teams supports their teachers to deliver the programming that's right for their students in a forest that we know so well.

Know a teacher who wants an immersive outdoor learning experience for their students—one that becomes an annual highlight that students in earlier grades look forward to? In the words of teachers, this is what you can expect:

"We really appreciated the emphasis on environmental studies. Our students learned about aquifers, climate change, forest regeneration and animal habitats on our hikes and through many games. These are all areas of the curricula that are so much richer when learned in context. The staff were amazing sources of information. Also, your instructors had excellent group management strategies. Our kids loved their high energy and positive attitudes. Your staff is really the best!"

Evans Lake is a jewel
that enriches
kids lives and allows
them to grow
intellectually,
socially, and emotionally.

Teacher of an Evans Lake school group

"Thank you for all you do to help and support our program. You have been amazing during all the years we have been going to Evans Lake. I cannot thank you enough!"

"Keep up the fabulous work you are doing. Kids commented on how much they loved being away from technology!! Yahoo. That's because of the great job your crew was doing. Thank you for making this such amazing experience for our kids."



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CAMPERSHIP PROGRAM

Evans Lake believes that **all youth should have the opportunity to benefit from our forest education-focused summer camp experience.** For this reason, we actively fundraise and accepts donations year-round for our Campership Program.

The Campership Program makes it possible for children and youth to attend summer camp by removing or reducing the financial barrier. To share the funds with the most families, we ask that families contribute as much as they can towards their camper's experience.

Recently, we revamped our Campership Program. **Our goal was to make the application process simpler for families** while helping us understand how Evans Lake could best help. With that new process in hand, in 2019 we helped **40 campers attend Summer Camp and 100% of it was funded by the Evans Lake community**—through donations at our Trivia Night fundraiser and other Summer Camp families donating at the time of their own registrations. **The average Campership was for \$180, and no family was turned down.** Though our programs were reduced in 2020, **we distributed nearly \$1000 to 9 different families** to help their children attend our Day Camp program.

Are you or your organization eager to support families whose children would like to attend Evans Lake's forest education focused Summer Camp programs? Get more information [here](https://evanslake.com/camp/subsidy/): evanslake.com/camp/subsidy/.



CAPITAL PROJECT

NEW MULTIPURPOSE LODGE

Belief in our mission—forest education and outdoor recreation for youth—has never been stronger. **Evans Lake's community has grown considerably in the last decade** and, as light appears at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel, we are turning our full attention to **a new multipurpose lodge**.

This will be the **largest investment since our inception in 1960**. The lodge will allow us to deliver top-notch food services and provide year-round programming by adding high-quality, comfortable and flexible indoor learning space.

Our first 60 years established Evans Lake as *Your Home in the Forest*. With this lodge as our centrepiece, we're aiming to be **the premier forest education centre for youth in BC**—stay tuned and learn more [here](https://evanslakecapital.campbraingiving.com): evanslakecapital.campbraingiving.com.



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Kevin Berryman

Program Manager
Mollie Winter

Food Services Manager
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Caretaker
Dan Kerr

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Honey Bee Zen
Innovative Fitness
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Nicole Mylnikov
Joel Schellenburg
Aidan Schweinbenz
Lucas Setek
Temma Shandon
Marquita Zollmann

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED:

- Their 2020 Summer Camp fees: 17 donors**
- To our 60 Years of Evans Lake Fundraiser: 117 donors**
- To our Campership Fund: 38 donors**
- Individual donations: 62 donors**

Lash Fabulous
Laurie MacBride (Artist)
Leah Alexandra
Little Champs
Lorna Rod (Artist)
Luxe Beauty Lounge
Mana Jewelry Design
Meadows at Pemberton
Mehran Razmpoosh (Artist)
Michell Rosenthal (Artist)
Modo Yoga
Mountain Home Décor
Natalia Anja Photography
Nita Lake Lodge
Old Spaghetti Factory
Olivia The Wolf
One Under Golf
Origins Parkour

VOLUNTEERS

Dale Caldwell
Gary "The Bear" Haensgen
Randy Paton
Sophie Paton
Tristan Paton
Vicky Paton
Amy Siddaway
Zoe Siddaway
Alexis Tatomir
Brad Techy

Penticton Lakeside Resort
Pollen Sweaters
Purebread Bakery
Rick Etkin Photography
Robert Bateman (Artist)
Sarah Rosenthal (Artist)
Sea to Sky Gondola
Semperviva Yoga
Shearwater Research
Silk Weaving Studio
Stages Doula & Photography
Sugar'd Eco-Sweet Hair Removal
Summit Lodge
Tashu Martial Arts
Tasilla Speer (Artist)
Terminal City Brewing
The Hive
The Wood Shop

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Jukebox Print
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Umbrellatorium
Vancouver Aquarium
Vancouver Canadians
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Wanda Doyle (Artist)
Whitecaps FC
Wings Distillery Liquors

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Passion Sports
Pickering Safety
Proactive ReSolutions
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Sabre Rentals
Save-On-Foods - Squamish
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Vancouver Coastal Health
Veronica Grusnick
Windfirm Tree Services
Yen Brothers
Ziptrek

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Vancouver Hoo-Hoo Club #48

AND TO ALL OTHER FAMILIES, CAMPERS, TEACHERS, DONORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS: THANK YOU FOR MAKING EVANS LAKE YOUR HOME IN THE FOREST

CONNECT WITH US



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