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Wishing you a Happy New Year 2024



ÁTL'KA7TSEM
HOWE SOUND
BIOSPHERE REGION



If you are like Max Wyman, a decades long resident of Lions Bay who took the photo above, you will never tire of the beauty of Howe Sound.

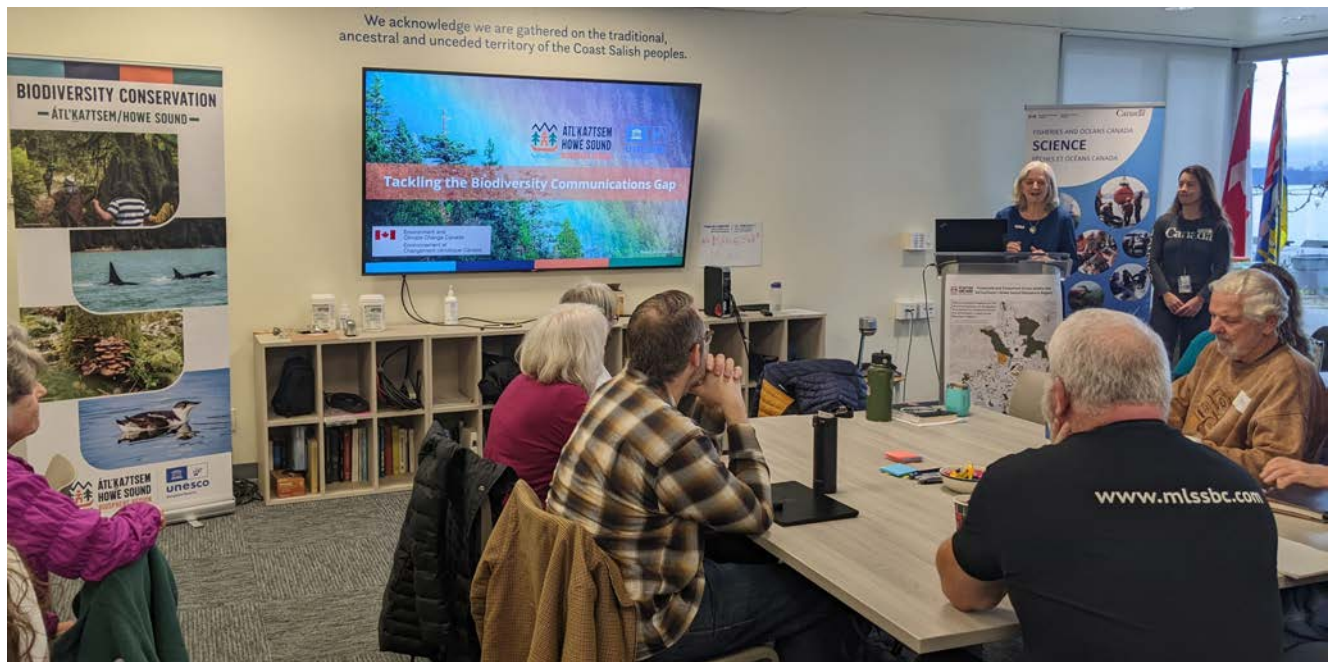
In Átl'ka7tsem / Howe Sound Biosphere Region, we are a community of communities, with many interesting and talented people who draw their inspiration from nature, such as Mr. Wyman. His many accomplishments and service in the Canadian arts earned him the Order of Canada in 2001 and he also served as President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO in the early 2000s.

2024 is about sustaining not only the fabric of life in the Átl'ka7tsem / Howe Sound Biosphere region that nurtures, sustains and protects our lives, our families, our homes and our communities, but also our commitment as an organization to support that work.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We wish you a healthy and happy year ahead.

Ruth Simons,
Executive Director, [Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society](#).

We are Tackling the Biodiversity Communications Gap



In November, we brought together Howe Sound Conservation Network members for a workshop to find ways of communicating meaningful messaging to various audiences in the region. Diane Mitchell of Red Rock Creative is our in-house expert who led us through the workshop. We began the event with Bob Turner's newest film My Adventures of a Wild Home.

Tackling Marine Debris

Thanks to the West Vancouver Foundation's Give Where you Live campaign, over \$10k was raised to support costs of marine debris cleanups. With winter storm season in progress, this funding will support local residents who generously give their time to keep our waters and beaches clean. **Find out more ways to give at the end of this newsletter**



Partnership with Capilano University



Cap U/Howe Sound Biosphere Working Group team meets quarterly to review opportunities and plans.

We are thrilled with Capilano University's purchase of Quest University in Squamish and the opening of the academic year. Our partnership with Cap U aims to connect more youth to nature and bring capacity to our partners in the region. For the past three

years, we have initiated and supported projects for faculty and students in the Howe Sound Biosphere.

Most recently, School of Tourism Management students delivered their project 'Sustainability Toolkit Promotion Strategy'. Four case studies were developed on tourism operators who are striving to meet the [GreenStep Sustainable Tourism certification](#).

As costs of field trips can be expensive, we also encourage donations to the [Capilano University Foundation's Howe Sound Biosphere Fund](#) to help support more students, such as Tom Flower's biology students placing wildlife cameras in support of our projects.

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Biodiversity Conservation in Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound **News from our OECM Project Director Mica Anguita**



Brian Aikens photo and the HSBRS team, Diane, Mica, Joey and Ruth

Mica's first year in the role, with funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada, has been to advance our work strengthening conservation management. With many projects underway, we have been working alongside BC Nature in the pursuit of identifying potential OECMs (Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures) for inclusion in the Canadian Protected and Conserved Area database. The targets are on municipal and private lands.

Mica and research assistant Joey are also producing a Howe Sound Terrestrial Atlas accompanied by story maps. In addition to this work, we are working with community partners on wildlife connectivity, rockfish monitoring and species at risk.

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At the end of February, we will host our BC UNESCO colleagues from the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Trust and Mt. Arrowsmith Biosphere Region for knowledge sharing. We will gather over three days at the Cheakamus Centre in Paradise Valley.



Howe Sound Roundtable

Do you work in the forest sector?

We still seek individuals with forest sector experience and perspective from the region to participate as volunteers in this high-profile, non-profit Roundtable, dedicated to ensuring sustainability and ecosystem protection in the Átl'ka7tsem / Howe Sound region.

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Protecting our Marine Life

Thank you to the RBC Foundation for their contribution of a community grant toward the [European Green Crab monitoring](#). With the support of the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council, the program was expanded beyond upper Howe Sound to include Bowen Island and West Howe Sound this coming season. So far no EGC have been found.

Donate Today for the Future of Howe Sound

Capacity Building - We must build capacity across the four foundational pillars of Management, Governance, Resources, and Administrative Systems & IT. To allow for a strong transition from a mostly volunteer-led organization to an effective and sustainable organization with a living wage standard, developing adequate resources across funding, staffing and governance is our key priority.

Building Networks and Consensus - Together with our strategic partners and collaborators, we bring people together, hold ethical space, bridge divides, and balance perspectives to build consensus and collaboration among First Nations, civil society, multi-sector stakeholders, and all levels of government.

Generating Information and Capacity - Support research & monitoring programs and decision-making tools.

Increasing Connection to People and Place - By educating, sharing knowledge and information, providing support and tools, we can advocate for and highlight best practices and increase belonging and stewardship.

Ways to Give - All gifts are gratefully received.

- Make a one-time or monthly charitable gift through the [West Vancouver Foundation's Howe Sound Biosphere Fund](#).
- Make a one-time gift via e-transfer to ruthsimons@howesoundbri.org. (We are a registered not-for-profit organization awaiting Charitable status from CRA.)

Contribute to ongoing education

- Capilano University Howe Sound Biosphere Fund for Educational programming - we are raising money for field schools and research projects through the [Capilano University Foundation](#) - [read more here](#).



Atl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region is located in the unceded territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) people.



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