



BCHBC North Vancouver Island (NVI) Chapter **Annual Report** **RSTBC Services PA13DCR-01 ; PA24DCR-01** **December 31st, 2024**

Membership	90	NVI is one of 19 chapters with provincial total of over 1000 members. Check out www.bchorsemen.org .
Chapter Executive effective Jan 2025		Congratulations to 2025 NVI executive: Chair: Sonya Edelston Vice-Chair: Amy Zywiecki Secretary: Carol Gjesdal Treasurer: Heather Smith Membership Coordinator: Sarah O'Donnell Alternate to the Board: Deb Oakman and Liaison/Project coordinator RSTBC Partnership Agreement; SRD Liaison, Workbee Coordinator CVRD Liaison – Sharon Pickthorne
Provincial Executive		President: Brian Harder Secretary: Rose Schroeder Treasurer: Ken Matthews
Projects – RSTBC Partnership Agreement: Section 56 Authority	2024 Annual Report Memekay horse camp, Pine Martin horse camp, Brewster Lake Horse camp and Salmon Brewster Trail (approx. 40km) corridor 2024	- General maintenance operations and services provided: - - April opening workbee: firewood, debris, garbage cleanup and outhouse deep clean/sanitize. Opening season work bee completed on Saturday, April 20th, 2024 with 24 volunteers (downed trees bucked up, split/stacked, paddock rails replaced, barb wire replaced with rails for safety, paddocks cleaned, outhouses cleaned. - May to Oct monthly Memekay rec site check, clean outhouses; Pine Marten and Brewster bi-monthly. ACCOMPLISHMENTS/STATS/Challenges - STATS: 2024 Volunteer stat Total: (count each person hours each time they volunteer) Total 97 ;



total hours 402 plus total 236 hrs travelled ; approx. 7400 kms travelled.

- Salmon Brewster trail: March volunteers worked with contract Faller to clear down trees from winter storms approx. 15.0kms, SRD grant funding. May to December monthly checking for issues, clearing debris, flagging/signage.
- Memekay horse camp/rec site: Jan to April and Oct to Dec shoulder seasons, fishers, hunters, atvers pulling kids around, a few horse campers.

Challenge: 1

- 2024 Visitor STATS : Memekay horse camp/rec site: Visitor stats (#dayx#people) 1183; Horses 125. Challenges: incident may longweekend, a family group non-horse campers conduct was in conflict with horse campers and the behaviour/incident outside of recreation site use provincial regulations – RCMP were called. Sept long weekend.

- 2024 Visitor Stats: Pine Marten horse camp/rec site : visits 33 ; horses ?. Note : anticipate increase useage in 2025/26 after significant Pine 100 drainage issue and other trail rehabilitation work is completed. Road access to this remote rec site is very challenging for hauling horses. Significant larger hunter groups using the site spring and fall shoulder seasons.
- 2024 Stats: Brewster hose camp/rec site: visits 18 ; horses ?. It is anticipated use may increase in 2025/26 with the rehabilitation of the Salmon Brewster trail corridor. The biggest challenge for horse owners is the terrible condition of the 17km Menzies resource road into the horse camp. Other challenges is safe water access, some clean up planned for 2025.
- Summary of project funding: Annual maintenance costs \$2300. (NVI fund raising) and labour donations to repair main gate, etc.; ; Salmon Brewster 2024 Trail rehabilitation work completed – Strathcona Regional District grant \$11,970.
- NVI membership approved 10 year renewal of RSTBC Partnership Agreement (effective April 1st, 2024) for Salmon Brewster 3 horse camps and approx. 40km SB Trail Corridor. NVI membership appointed Deb Oakman as RSTBC liaison. (Nov 2023)

2024 Pictures – just a few.....

April 2024 Memekay horse camp season opening Workbee

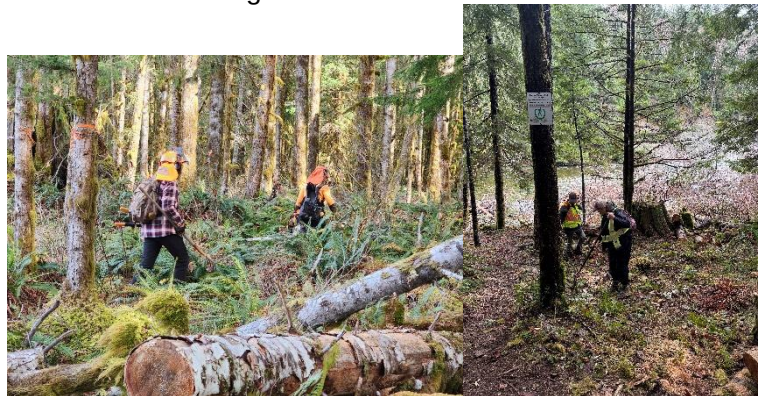


Jan 2024 meeting with Komoks First Nations and Mosaic representatives to review 2024 harvest block. Walked the boundary and representatives identified LT trees (leave it trees). Early 2025, planned for clearing of piles and tree planting.





March 2024 clearing of downfall on the Salmon Brewster trail



June 2024 cleaning/packing out old 'camp' deep in the woods along Salmon Brewster trail corridor – 4 wheelbarrows!





June 2024 Brewster horse camp, clean up. Still old metal showing up – users need to be watchful.



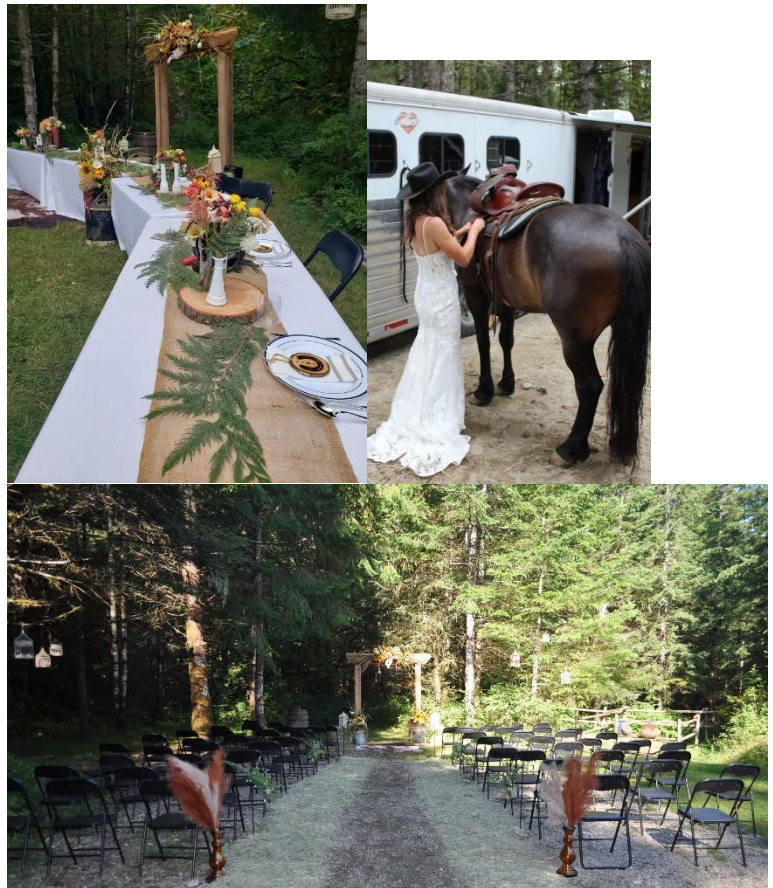
After 13 years of use, the main Memekay horse camp gate weld gave up, a temporary fix and then Volunteer made a special trip with welding equipment to fully repair!

- Provincial Grant awarded through the REDIP program: 2024 included numerous site visits to various sections of the Salmon Brewster trail, in particular the Ravine crossing and horse bridge



replacement project included Environmental assessment. Construction to begin 2025.

- 2024 RSTBC District Recreation Officer approved Permit of Memekay horse camp August wedding – Congratulations NVI members Alisha and Hunter!





See below for other BCHBC NVI 2024 activities.

BC Parks

Denman Island

NVI Chair, BC Parks Agreement Liaison, Sonya Edelston , continued leading the scouting and clearing of trails throughout 2024. Approximately 275 volunteer hours. Hosted BC Trails Day event
See pictures below



Supporting local park improvements and education activities.
Approximately 61 hours volunteered.

Broom busting – Sarah O'Donnell and Sharon Pickthorne lead events;

Share the Trail – introducing dog owners/dogs to horses, professional dog trainer. Sharon Pickthorne and Amy Zywiecki hosts

See pictures below



Broom busting

**Comox Valley
Regional
District**



		
		Share the trail event
Other Events		
Fund Raisers	Annual Calendar (since 1993) Auction (held late Dec 2024)	Thank you! Thank you! NVI volunteers for coordinating these two awesome fund raisers!! 2025 Calendars available for sale Online auction raised \$2,253 towards shower hut at Memekay horse camp (note, it's a 'hut' with bring your own shower bag')
Land Manager Engagements	• RSTBC • Lakwasamuqw Forestry LTD Partnership TFL39 Western Forest Products) (WFP) • Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) • Komoks First Nations • Province of BC – Timber Sale Licence staff	• RSTBC Partnership annual meeting held Jan 2024; various communications throughout the year and Dec 2024 Memekay site meeting re: tree assessment conducted by District Recreation Officer, Graham Cameron. • Liaison meetings with CVRD • Komoks First Nation Economic Development – resource mgmt • Memekay grazing lease holder; • Komoks First Nations and Mosaic (harvest resource contractor) site meeting; • Timber Sale – met in spring 2024 to discuss support to improve Salmon Brewster trail safety, re-route trail off the Memekay main road; •
		THANK YOU THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS! It has been a fun and rewarding time out in the forest and on the trails, whether we are riding or hiking, its all great. We welcome BCHBC members and guests to all our workbees and events. Thanks to all the NVI volunteers that liaison with the different agencies, the more we can connect the better for everyone!!