

Walk through our...



active healthy living through recreation+parks

www.rpay.ca

Serving the Yukon from the traditional territories of Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'an Council



Thank you Mähsi' cho Shāw nithän Gunatch'ish Sógá sénlá' Merci

RPAY extends a deep gratitude to our Board, funders and partners who share our passion for parks and recreation and help us contribute to opportunities for Yukoners to be active and healthy.

We appreciate the recreation practitioners and volunteers, communities, recreation authorities, schools, Yukon First Nations, governments and non-profit organizations across the Yukon, the North, and nationally who help to make the Yukon a better place to live through recreation and parks.



Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability  
 Association of Yukon Communities  
 BC Coastal Health  
 Boys and Girls Club Yukon  
 Cadence Cycle  
 Canadian Parks and Recreation Association  
 Canadian Playground Safety Institute  
 Canadian Trails Federation  
 City of Whitehorse - Canada Games Centre  
 Coast Mountain Sports  
 Cycling Association Yukon  
 ElderActive Recreation Association  
 Fireweed Community Market Society  
 Grant Dunham  
 YG Health Promotion Unit  
 Icycle Sport

Kicksled Revolution  
 Lifesaving Society  
 Local Authorities for Recreation in Yukon  
 Lotteries Yukon  
 Rural Yukon communities  
 NWT Recreation and Parks Association  
 ParticipACTION  
 Physical Literacy Education Coordinator for Yukon Schools  
 Public Health Agency of Canada  
 Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut  
 Sean Healy  
 YG Sport and Recreation Branch  
 Sport Yukon  
 Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club  
 YSPOR Unit, Yukon Research Centre at Yukon University  
 Yukon Schools  
 Yukon Native Teacher Education Program  
 Yukon First Nations Education Directorate  
 Yukon Volunteer Bureau



Prepared by: C.Sparks Consulting



It's been a busy year at RPAY!

On April 19, 2023, we celebrated 30 years of service to Yukoners. Since then, our dedicated staff and contractors have visited almost every Yukon community at least once. During our visits, we deliver programs like Cycle Smart or programs like APE or WAFL. We connect with recreation staff and volunteers, to learn what's working well and what isn't, and to help with whatever the community might need to engage their citizens in active, healthy lifestyles through recreation and parks.

Our Annual Report offers a glimpse into some of the activities and projects that have kept us busy. As well as regular programming, we supported community events with swag, fun games, information booths, and more. You may have seen us at the Carcross Tagish First Nation Health Fair or at Mt. Sima for the International Para-Snowboarding Cup. We were in Haines Junction for the Shāna Nātsāt Spring Ski Celebration, Cul-De-Sac Bike Rodeo, and Career Fair. It was an honour to be invited to the Selkirk First Nation Culture Camp and the Teslin Sports Camp. We offered a Nordic walking leader training with the Canada Games Centre and helped out with the City's Bike Rodeo and the HopOn Cycling Program. Our Spike ball "See it, Try it" activities at the Fireweed Market were a hit, thanks to a ParticipACTION Community Action Grant. We also presented at the Association of Yukon Communities annual conference, at the Yukon Health Summit, during the Northern Dialogues conference, and to the Yukon Native Teacher Education Program.



So, what's new at RPAY?

In July, we welcome a new Special Projects Coordinator. Rebecca Koser, a born and raised Yukoner from Ross River, brings a background in aquatics and outdoor recreation/tourism. Rebecca will help with our new initiative supporting outdoor, unstructured recreation. As part of this project, we have already purchased and installed 9 Bike Repair Stations in communities and are working with Duncan's in Whitehorse to design and produce 'play boxes', a fort-style shelter to house things like balls and hoola hoops.

We are looking forward to partnering with the YSPOR Unit at the Yukon Research Centre on the 2025 Yukon Healthy Living Study research project. This research will explore recreation patterns and preferences as well as food literacy and help us to adapt our programs and services to interests and needs across the Yukon.

On behalf of RPAY...

I would like to acknowledge Lotteries Yukon for their steadfast support of our WAFL (Winter Active for Life) Equipment Library. Since 2018-19, industry standards for cross country skiing have changed and our WAFL equipment has aged. Yet, the demand for free loans of kick sleds, cross country ski, and snowshoe gear to rural and First Nation communities, and to underserved groups in Whitehorse, continues to grow. Last Fall, Lotteries Yukon approved a grant for upgrading the WAFL Equipment Library. The grant will let us retire old equipment and purchase 400 new pairs of boots, 300 sets of bindings, 48 new ski and binding sets, 19 new kick sleds, and some adaptive snow sleds. Watch for these upgrades next winter!

Congratulations from RPAY!

Many amazing people work and volunteer in parks and recreation across the territory. Last year, some of these were recognized for their contribution.

**Cyndy Bekk** received the 2023 RPAY Recognition Award.

**Tina Freake** and **Lindsay Johnston** were presented with the 2023 Government of Yukon Sport and Recreation Award

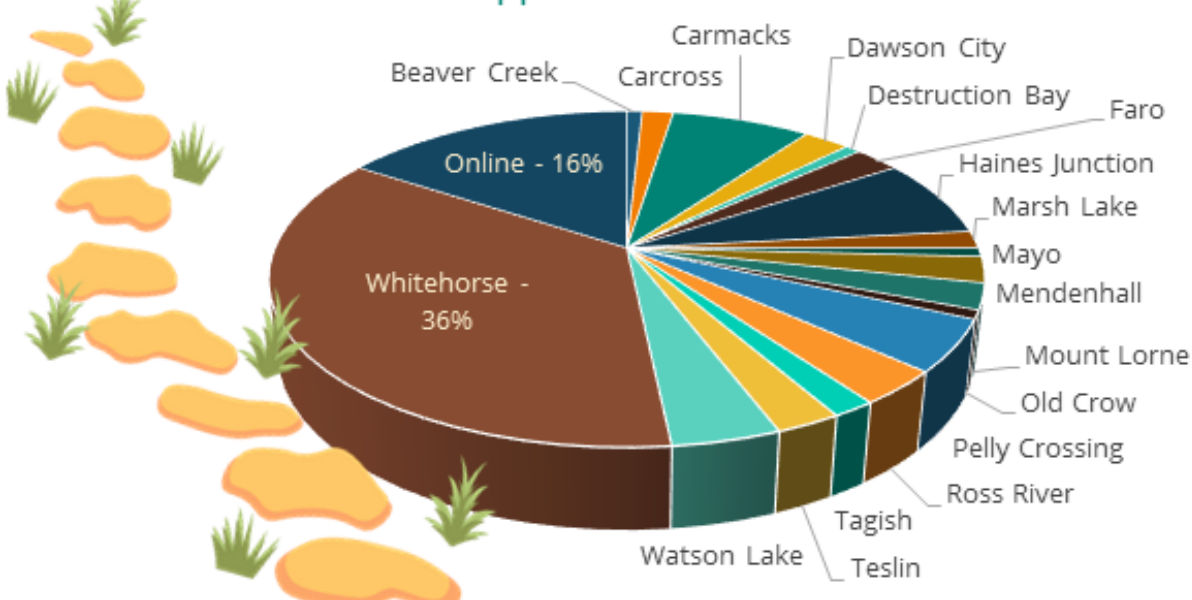
**Caroline Sparks** was recognized nationally with the 2023 CPRA President's Award

**Peter Jacob** and **David Jennings** earned their Certificate in Northern Recreation Leadership as well as their Certificate in Northern Recreation Management along with me, **Anne Morgari**



Thanks for strolling through our report. Please check out our website for more information and connect with us; we love to hear your stories and share ours.

We strive to support Yukon's rural communities





[rpay.ca/wafl](http://rpay.ca/wafl)

**WAFL Communities:**

- Beaver Creek
- Dawson City
- Faro
- Haines Junction
- Marsh Lake
- Mayo
- Mendenhall
- Mount Lorne
- Pelly Crossing
- Ross River
- Whitehorse

**Winter Active for Life Program & Equipment Library**

935 Yukoners used... 321 sets of skis, 388 boots, 214 poles and 144 snowshoes, and 160 kick sled loans.

21 community groups, schools or First Nations from 11 communities borrowed WAFL equipment. 3 communities were visited by the WAFL Programmer.

What I liked best was... Skiing. It was the first time I had ever been able to do that with out the skis so thank you.

You're back! Are we going to play more games at recess cause they're really fun!

**Cycle Smart**

One child learnt to ride a bike today! And another was struggling on the road ride but kept saying out loud, "keep going, don't give up!"

2024 Cycle Smart Program	Rural Schools	Rural Students	Whitehorse Schools	Whitehorse Students
Rural Cycle Smart: in-class & on-bike	6	157	N/A	N/A
Playground on-bike (80-mins)	7	216	8	406
Road Ride (60-mins)	1	30	3	141
Bike maintenance (60-mins)	1	29	7	313

[rpay.ca/cyclesmart](http://rpay.ca/cyclesmart)

**GOAL #1:**  
We promote the benefits of active living, recreation and parks for health and wellbeing.

**GOAL #2:**  
We foster active, accessible, inclusive, and culturally-relevant recreation.

**GOAL #3:**  
We strengthen recreation capacity and leadership... prioritizing our support of rural and First Nations communities.

**GOAL #4:**  
We operate effectively, efficiently and sustainably.

With RPAY, go Nordic walking, repair your bike, borrow a kick sled... Later this summer, RPAY invites you to relax on one of our park benches or get active with one of our Toy Sheds...

[rpay.ca/walk](http://rpay.ca/walk)

**RHEAL Program communities:**

- Dawson City
- Faro
- Haines Junction
- Mendenhall
- Mount Lorne
- Teslin
- Watson Lake
- Whitehorse

[rpay.ca/rheal-leaders](http://rpay.ca/rheal-leaders)

**Rural Healthy Eating Active Living Program**

This year, 485 Yukoners from 8 communities took part in 18 RHEAL programs, such as archery, learning to skate, Let's Get Physical (for Seniors), Rec'in the Hall, Shāna Nātsāt Skiers, and Yoga for not Ready to Quit Men. Many RHEAL programs even included a healthy snack!

It has been the biggest benefit of participating to your joy in my heart to see my children enjoy being outside and playing & other children learning to bring people together to share in a beautiful skill taking. Thank you!

It has been the biggest benefit of participating to you. Got more fit, lost weight, got out of house, developed friendships, become more community oriented.



**Active Play Leader Workshop**

4 workshops were held in Haines Junction, Teslin, Pelly Crossing, and Whitehorse for 44 leaders from 8 communities.

289 students from schools in Haines Junction, Pelly Crossing, Ross River and Whitehorse (5), took part in...

- 10 APE Classroom sessions
- 22 APE Leadership sessions
- 1 APE Recess session

**APE Active Play Experiences**

Being able to be in an interactive, outdoor learning environment was awesome!



**Aquatics**

[rpay.ca/aquatics](http://rpay.ca/aquatics)



Swim to Survive summer camp teaches water safety skills around rivers and lakes in communities without a pool. In 2023, camps were held in Old Crow (16 children) and Teslin (20 children).

**Spring Aquatics Workshop**

At the seasonal pool operator training, in Faro on May 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>

23 leaders and facilitators from Carcross, Dawson City, Mayo, Faro, Watson Lake and Whitehorse participated while 16 earned their BCRPA Pool Operator Level 1 Certificate

**Recreation Leadership**

To date, 26 Yukoners have earned a Certificate in Northern Recreation Leadership and 9 a Certificate in Northern Recreation Management. This past year, 13 from Carmacks, Mendenhall, Haines Junction, Marsh Lake, Watson Lake and Whitehorse took part in training.



Every learning event seems to match up perfectly with the timing of what's going on at our Rec Centre, which has been a blessing.

**GO! Get Outdoors!**

At RPAY, we support Yukon communities to engage their citizens in active, healthy lifestyles through recreation & parks. Our efforts are guided by 4 strategic goals.



**Annual Recreation Gathering**  
"Reconnecting & Revitalizing" was held October 3-5, 2023 in Carmacks with 31 leaders from 10 Yukon communities!