



FRASER VALLEY
WATERSHEDS
COALITION

YEAR IN REVIEW

2020

(JULY 01, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020)





FRASER VALLEY WATERSHEDS COALITION

Registered Society # 810236273 RR0001
#1 45950 Cheam Avenue., Chilliwack BC V2P 1N6
fvwc.ca | 604-791-2235

We Are

A registered charity, governed by a volunteer board of directors.

We Believe

Healthy watersheds provide the foundation for vibrant healthy communities!

We work

On environmental projects designed to conserve and restore watersheds that provide benefits to the community. We have a strong regional focus in the Fraser Valley, British Columbia, Canada.

We Value

- Integration
- Collaboration
- Action
- Conservation & Restoration
- Inclusiveness
- Scientific & Traditional Knowledge
- Respect

Our Team

We are professionals who work with communities, universities, volunteers, Local, Provincial and Federal governments, First Nations and other non-profit organizations.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This past year, 2020, has challenged most of us, like no other year in living memory, and the Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition was no exception. We have discovered a simple truth that sure, we thought about, but this year made us live it. That being, what makes an organization truly good, are the people that care and contribute, our staff, our supporters and our partners. Our staff have been exemplary in following strategies to keep themselves and the broader community healthy during this COVID year. Our supporters got us through our Annual General Meeting with a Zoom and a smile and maybe a laugh or two as we followed our health leader's advice on how to stay safe while socially distant gathering. Our partners found creative ways to keep funds flowing and, on the ground, projects moving ahead, even under difficult circumstances, giving true meaning to that old quote "Strength through Adversity."

Just going fishing is a culturally important activity here in the Fraser River but the drive and creativity of certain supporters have turned this simple act into the "Wally Hall Jr. Memorial Steelhead Derby" which has raised much cherished funds for the FVWC works in the Chilliwack-River watershed, well done, thank you and tight lines to you all. So, what we learned and lived in 2020, was that we are tougher than we know and we all succeed when we succeed together. Looking forward to a good year in 2021, with all the friends we have acquired along this path we have chosen to walk together.

Matt Foy



TREASURER'S ANNUAL SNAPSHOT

The FVWC had a successful financial year (ended June 30, 2020) and even had a few noteworthy firsts. MNP LLP, one of the largest full-service chartered accountancy firms in Canada, reviewed the finances of FVWC that comprise the statement of financial position, statement of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year. MNP concluded that the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Of note, through project funding and donates, the Coalition reached a new record high for revenues. This full organization review was undertaken to ensure transparency and increase efficiencies which are rooted in our commitment to our charitable accountability.

Another first is that the Coalition had a Peach-Salwein Salmon Habitat Restoration audited by way of an independently verified financial accounting report by MNP LLP. The outcome was that the Coalitions agreement with the Ministry of Environment for this project was represented accurately and fairly.

Last year, the Coalition set up a Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs) investing plan which guarantee the original investment while offering a specific rate of return for over a set time. This reliable, low-risk investment allows the FVWC to earn some unrestricted revenue through the GICs' interest to support core organizational functions.

David Urban




Photo: Tom Berry gravel pit in Hope, BC, looking east towards the spawning channel constructed in 2019.

RESPONSE TO COVID-19



Photo: Field staff team at Whonnock Creek and Fraser River (2020).

The health and safety of our team and community are top priority. On March 12, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the global COVID-19 a pandemic.

In light of this pandemic, the FVWC wanted to do our part to reduce the spread of the virus to protect vulnerable people now, so that in future we can get back to enhancing salmon habitat and watersheds.

Following the recommendations and requirements from the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS), WorkSafe (WCB) and Regional Health Authorities, we adopted a [Response to COVID-19 POLICY](#), shifted operations and adjusted our projects to achieve our goals in a safer way.

Volunteer and group activities were cancelled, increased touch-point and safety cleaning were, and still are being conducted, staff carpooling was cancelled and we increased our online technology to stay connected. Thanks to the dedication and adaptability of our staff, directors, teams and partners, we are able to continue working on our Watershed Programs and projects in a safe and effective manner.

ABOUT THE WATERSHED COALITION



Photo: The Fraser River from the Eastern side of McMillan Island in Langley, BC (2020).

Our vision is that healthy watersheds foster healthy and vibrant communities.

Our mission is to foster watershed stewardship in the Fraser Valley through:

- Science
- Collaboration
- Community support
- Active habitat/watershed/ecosystem restoration

Our purpose is to organize and participate in environmental projects designed to conserve, protect, and restore watersheds in the Fraser Valley. Increase community understandings about Fraser Valley watersheds by providing seminars and training on watershed management. undertake activities ancillary and incidental to the attainment of the aforementioned charitable purposes.

A Brief History

- The FVWC was formed in 1997 under the fisheries renewal as a regional delivery agent. During this time, the FVWC facilitated and distributed millions of dollars each year to support regional fish habitat projects.
- In 2005 The FVWC became a registered Society, as a partnership between the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) and the Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition (FVWC) with technical support from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Resource Restoration Unit and the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV).
- In 2010, the FVWC received Federal Charity status and expanded watersheds program and partners to include all levels of government, First Nations, community groups and academia to improve the health of watersheds in the Fraser Valley of B.C.

ABOUT THE WATERSHED PROGRAM

The **goal** of the Watersheds Program is to restore and enhance watershed values and to increase environmental stewardship and understanding on the importance of local watersheds. Valuing a balanced approach, the Watershed Program consists of multiple inter-connected programs that help us work towards healthy watersheds.



**Habitat Restoration
Enhancement & Compensation**
“Improving our rivers, wetlands,
forests and biodiversity”



**Environmental Monitoring, Mapping &
Maintenance** “Taking nature’s pulse”



Environmental Education & Outreach
“Inspiring and training people to care for
watersheds”



Watershed Planning “Strategic planning
of projects and programs to benefit nature
and communities”



Agriculture & Environment “Finding
mutual benefits to support agriculture and
ecological values”

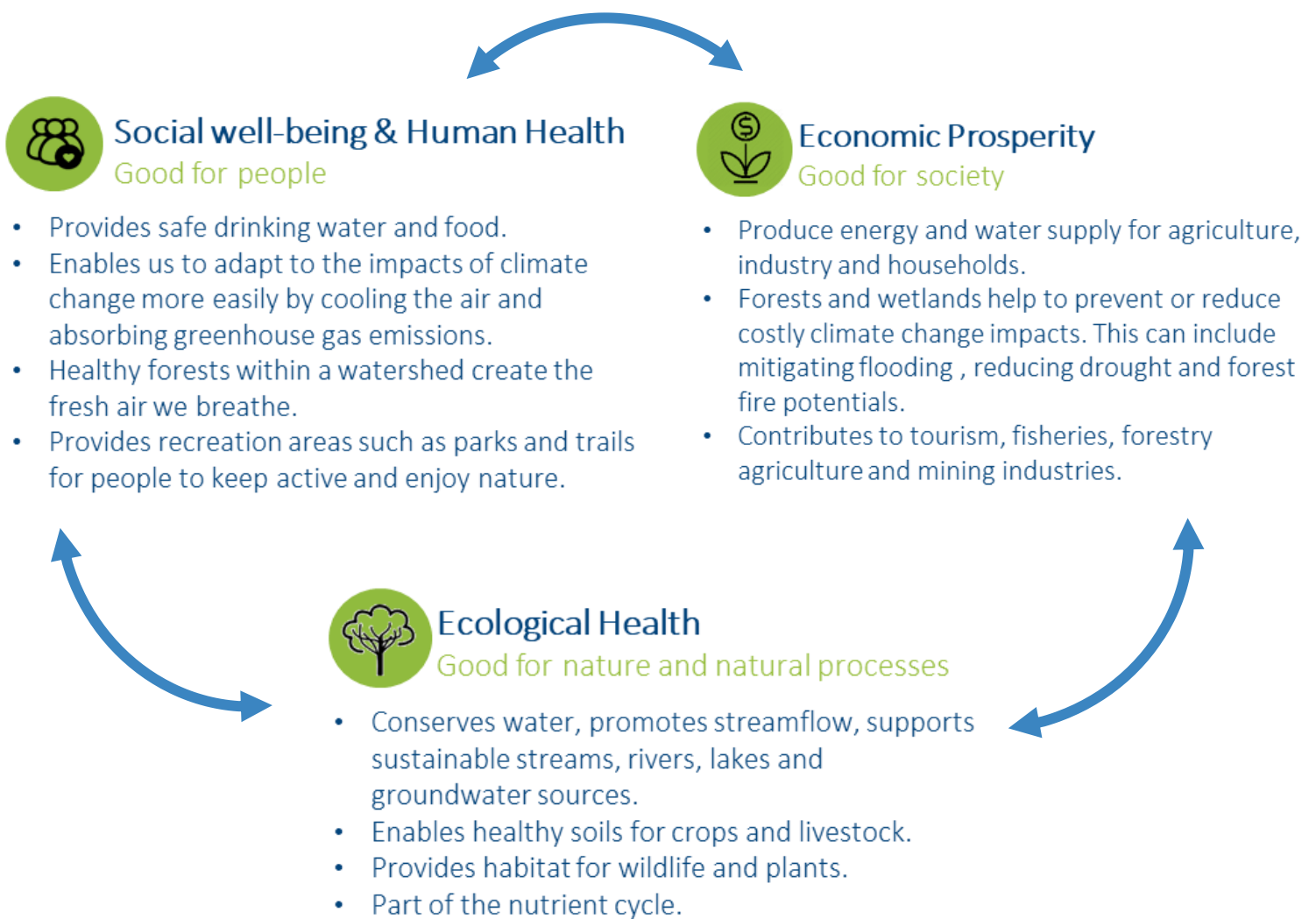


Climate Change & Carbon Offsets “Local
solutions to reduce carbon footprint and
global climate challenge”

WHY WATERSHEDS MATTER

The Fraser Valley is comprised of a mosaic of landscapes. These landscapes include natural areas, such as mountains, rivers and lakes and non-natural areas, such as residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural lands, all with many stakeholders and vested community interests. As such, there are many natural and non-natural stresses placed on our watersheds.

Watersheds offer social, economic and environmental values. We believe healthy watersheds provide the foundation for vibrant, healthy communities. As local leaders in conservation, we take actions to conserve, restore and enhance watersheds and their values to benefit people and nature across the Fraser Valley, British Columbia.



2019-2020 AT A GLANCE



Organization

- Hired Dr. Mark Winston to facilitate Strategic FVWC Workshop (100+ hours of volunteer time dedicated to the process).
- Hired HR West to independently review FVWC Human Resource Capital.
- COVID-19 impacted projects and operations, and caused significant cancellation of volunteer events.
- HR audit and SMART Goal development underway.
- FVWC underwent a project audit and an independent financial review.
- Was able to support extended field staff employment over the summer (for the first time ever!).
- Began discussing the need for a field truck. Received a >\$50,000 donation! (related to Peach Creek Salmon restoration projects).



Photo: Constructed extension of Whonnock Creek in Maple Ridge, BC (2020).

Projects

Received >\$1 million in projects to restore, enhance and monitor salmon habitats in the Fraser Valley.



Completed **16** overarching projects (*all with many sub-activity components*).



Monitored **7** waterways for fish use and water quality. Contracted team assessed **41** reaches for salmon habitat. Assessed Bank Stability in Bedford Channel & Stave River.



Planted **47,284** individual trees and shrubs (**27,137m²**). This is equivalent to **95,275** tons of CO² GHG. Removed/managed **28,580m²** of invasive plants.



Had **614** volunteers lend us their hands. Employed **2** full-time staff and **5** part-time staff.

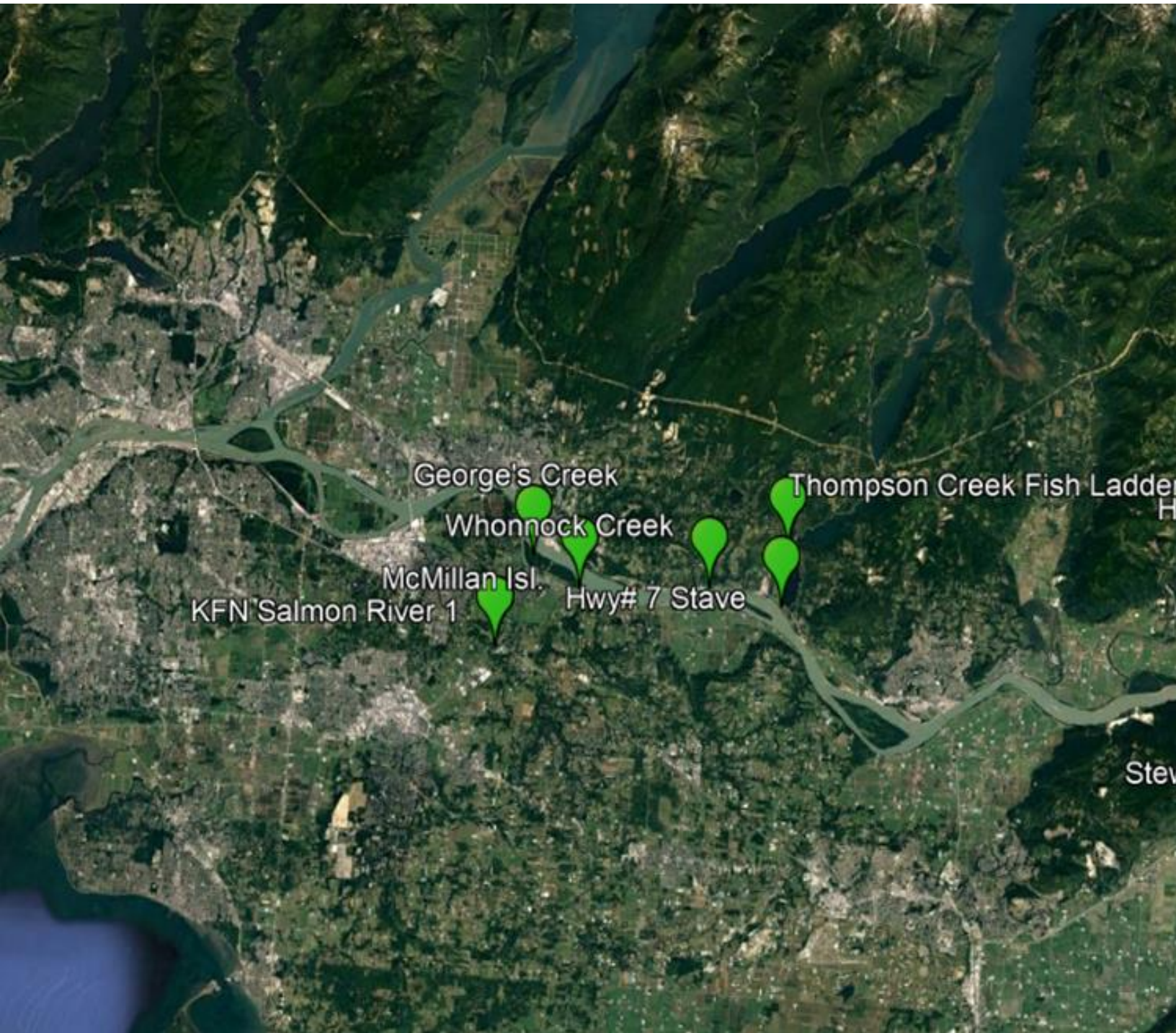


Created and Restored **15,157m²** salmon habitat, upgraded a failing fish ladder, and upgraded an old wood beaver box to steel.



Lead/participated in **6** community/ university presentations/delegations and learning

2020 PROJECTS ACROSS THE REGION



LANGLEY

Salmon River enhancement
George's Creek planting & monitoring
McMillan Isl. riparian area maintenance

MISSION

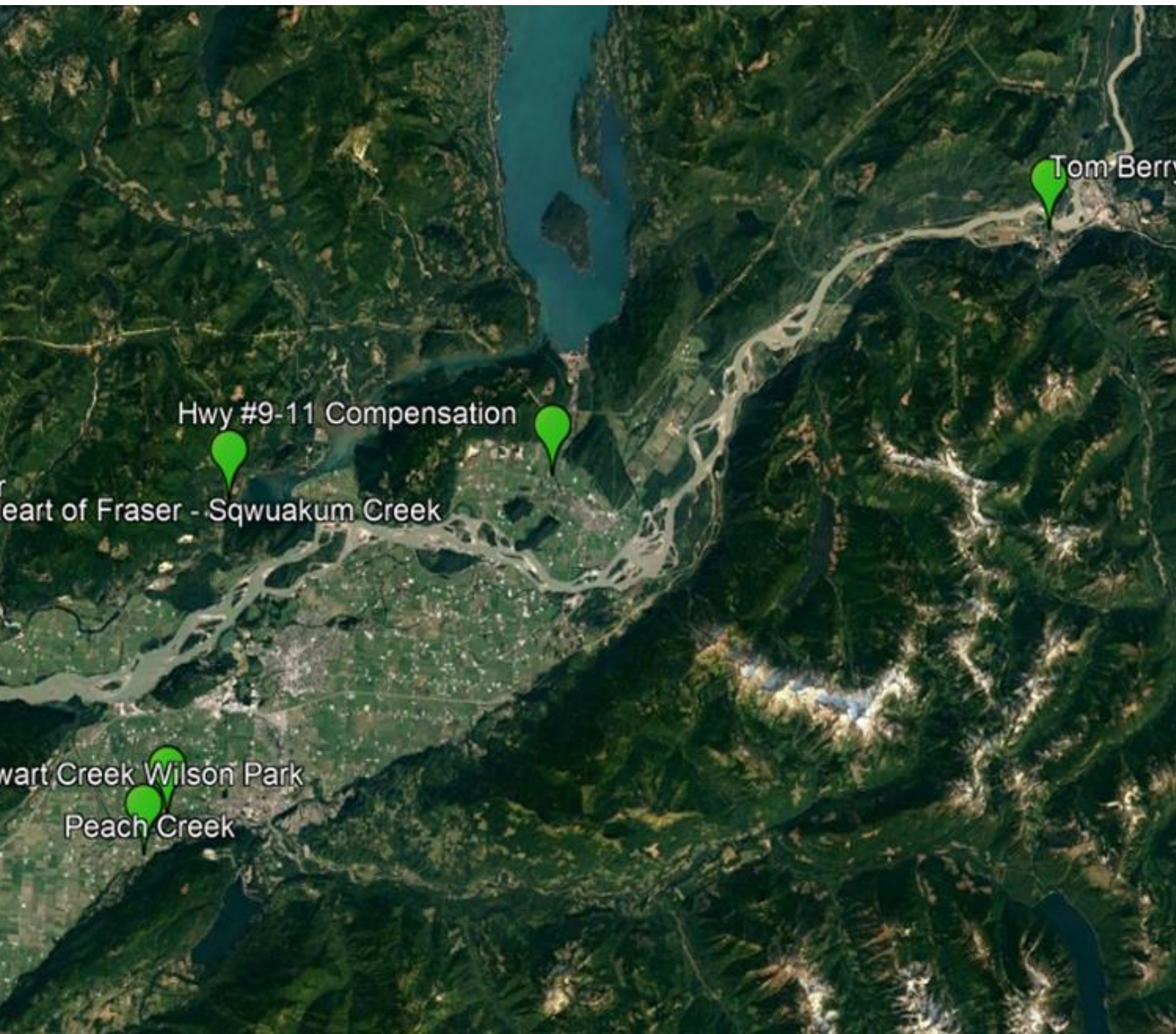
HWY#7 Stave River Compensation
HWY#7 Silverdale West Compensation-
instream project and riparian planting
Thompson Creek Fish Ladder
HWY #7 WSA Restoration Designs
Conservation Securement

MAPLE RIDGE

Whonnock Creek – Bioengineering & Monitoring

ELECTORAL AREA C

- Heart of the Fraser Restoration Project
- Squwakum Creek Gravel Augmentation
 - William & Nancy Phillips Slough
 - WMA LTH...Management Plan
 - Bateson Slough Restoration Assessment
 - Lake Errock foreshore planting and BioE



Hwy #9-11 Compensation

Tom Berry

Heart of Fraser - Squwakum Creek

Wilson Park

Peach Creek

DISTRICT OF KENT/AGASSIZ

Agassiz Slough riparian enhancement
Hwy#9-11 Compensation
Agassiz Slough Riparian Enhancement

CHILLIWACK

Peach Spawning Channel Phase 2
Hooge Wetlands Phase 2
Wilson Park off-channel Creation
Cultus Lake Summit
Stream Enhancement Planning & Designs

DISTRICT OF HOPE

Tom Berry – Salmon Habitat Restoration

2019-2020 PROJECTS

Photo: DFO RRU Staff install updated Thompson Creek fish ladder in Mission, BC (2019)



THOMPSON CREEK FISH LADDER, MISSION

Project Summary: The purpose of this project is to continue building on efforts from previous years to restore, create, and enable fish passage to off-channel habitats in the lower 2km of the Stave River watershed for all Pacific salmon. Works involved replacing and upgrading an outdated and failing fish ladder on Thompson Creek, planting and bioengineering within the floodplain, and planning for future enhancement opportunities.

2019 –2020 Project Goals:

1. Replace the Thompson Creek fish ladder with a new steel fish ladder.
2. Continue bioengineering and replanting efforts along the recently created off-channel habitats to enhance at least 500m² of additional riparian habitat.
3. Complete a follow-up effectiveness assessment on the 2018 right bank stabilization project.
4. Feasibility stakeholder communication for future off-channel restoration options.
5. Conduct water quality monitoring and fish presence surveys.

Funded by Fish Wildlife Compensation Program, and **supported by** Stave Valley Salmonid Enhancement Society, Seyem Qwantlen, Kwantlen First Nation, District of Mission, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Ruskin Hydro Station.

★ [Click here to learn more about this project.](#)



Photo: FVWC staff maintain planted species at FVWC's Stave Site # 3 (Sept. 2019).

MOTI HWY #7 COMPENSATION, STAVE RIVER, MISSION

Project Summary: As a part of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Highway #7 Widening Project, the purpose of this project was to increase, restore, and enhance aquatic habitat and biodiversity. Additional riparian planting was completed along existing off-channel habitat. Work included replanting the banks with native vegetation and implementing bioengineering techniques.

2019-2020 Project Goals:

1. Replant and implement bioengineering efforts in the riparian area of existing channels to increase aquatic habitat and biodiversity.
2. Maintain previous planting and bioengineering efforts and protect plantings against wildlife herbivory.
3. Monitor for water quality and fish presence in the existing channels.

Funded by Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and **supported by** Ducks Unlimited Canada, Stave Valley Salmonid Enhancement Society, District of Mission, Matsqui First Nation, Seyem Qwantlen, and Kwantlen First Nation.

2019-2020 PROJECTS



Photo: Field staff guard planted willow whips from beaver herbivory at the constructed Hooge Wetland in Chilliwack, BC (2020).

PEACH CREEK, CHILLIWACK

Project Summary: The purpose of this project is to continue enhancing and re-watering the Vedder River floodplain to support salmon habitat and create social and recreational connections for the community. Previous work involved excavating a new channel from the Hooge Road parking lot downstream. In 2019 project work included constructing an off-channel pond downstream of the Hooge Road parking lot, extending the Peach creek spawning channel upstream, and replanting the newly constructed channels. In early 2020 planting and bio-engineering efforts were continued at the Hooge Wetland off-channel pond, and the Peach creek spawning channel.

2019-2020 Project Goals:

1. Create an off-channel pond downstream of the Hooge Road parking lot to benefit rearing and overwintering salmon.
2. Extend the Peach Creek spawning channel upstream to increase spawning opportunities in the Vedder River floodplain.
3. Replant the newly created channels to support functional riparian areas and biodiversity.
4. Conduct water quality monitoring, fish presence surveys, and vegetation assessments.

Funded by Environment Canada and Climate Change Environmental Damages Fund, Pacific Salmon Foundation, Wally Hall Jr. Memorial Steelhead Fishing Derby, and **supported by** the City of Chilliwack, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Sto:lo Research and Resource Management Centre, and People of the River.

★ [Click here to learn more about this project.](#)



Photo: FVWC hosts a planting event with Yarrow Elementary to re-plant the constructed extension of Stewart Creek at Wilson Park in Yarrow, BC (2019).

STEWART CREEK, CHILLIWACK

Project Summary: The purpose of this project is to create off-channel habitat to support aquatic species. Restoration work included converting a section of park space into a more biodiverse landscape by creating additional off-channel habitat to support aquatic species.

2019-2020 Project Goals:

1. Create a new off-channel pond.
2. Replant the banks of the pond with native species.
3. Permanently fence the riparian area.
4. Manage invasive plant encroachment.
5. Educate the community on the value of off-channel habitat for salmon and of the importance of biodiversity.

Funded by Pacific Salmon Foundation, and **supported by** the City of Chilliwack, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Wally Hall Jr. Memorial Steelhead Fishing Derby.

2019-2020 PROJECTS



Photo: FVWC technician guards a cluster of willow whips from beaver herbivory along the Salmon River in Langley, BC (2020).

SALMON RIVER, KWANTLEN FIRST NATION, LANGLEY

Project Summary: The purpose of this project was to support Kwantlen First Nation in enhancing and raising awareness for important cultural waterways within their Traditional Territory. This small-scale enhancement project focused on enhancing Salmon River to benefit the Salish Sucker, a rare fish, improve the bank stability and add native vegetation and diversity to the floodplain. Located on the campus of Trinity Western University, Langley BC. The secondary goal was to engage students and staff to learn about ecological restoration in the applied setting and how it relates to cultural assets.

2019-2020 Project Goals:

1. Add native vegetation to the riparian area of the Salmon River along the Trinity Western University campus.
2. Stabilize the streambank and protect the bank from erosion using bioengineering techniques.

Funded by Kwantlen First Nation - Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk Grant and TD Friends of the Environment. **Supported by** Trinity Western University, Seyem Qwantlen.



Photo: FVWC and Kwantlen First Nation field technicians sampling for aquatic invertebrates in Whonnock Creek in Maple Ridge, BC (2020).

WHONNOCK CREEK, KWANTLEN FIRST NATION, MAPLE RIDGE

Project Summary: The purpose of this project is to replant and implement bioengineering techniques along the bank of the newly constructed off-channel that connects Whonnock Creek to the Fraser River. This project is part of Kwantlen First Nation—McMillan Island Bank Erosion Protection Project. This represents year 2 of the offsetting monitoring and maintenance activities.

2019-2020 Project Goals:

1. Implement replanting and bioengineering efforts along newly constructed off-channel salmon habitat.
2. Monitor fish species, benthic invertebrates, plant survivorship, and water quality. The goal is to identify if this habitat is supporting culturally and recreationally important fish species, such as salmon, to spawn, rear and overwinter.

Funded by Kwantlen First Nation—Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

★ [Click here to learn more about this project.](#)

2019-2020 PROJECTS



Photo: FVWC and Kwantlen First Nation technicians measure water quality at George's Creek in Langley, BC (2020).

GEORGE'S CREEK, KWANTLEN FIRST NATION, FORT LANGLEY

Project Summary: The purpose of this project is to plant native vegetation along the recently constructed George's Creek and implement bioengineering using willow, dogwood, and cottonwood to create functional high-value salmon habitat. This project is as part of Kwantlen First Nation—McMillan Island Bank Erosion Protection Project. This project is part of Kwantlen First Nation—McMillan Island Erosion Bank Erosion Protection Project. This represents year 2 of the off-setting monitoring and maintenance activities.

2019-2020 Project Goals:

1. Implement replanting and bioengineering efforts along newly constructed off-channel salmon habitat.
2. Manage riparian areas through physical controls of invasive blackberry.
3. Teach Kwantlen First Nation members bioengineering techniques and how to monitor for plant survivorship.
4. Monitor water quality and fish species.

Funded by Kwantlen First Nation—Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

★ [Click here to learn more about this project.](#)

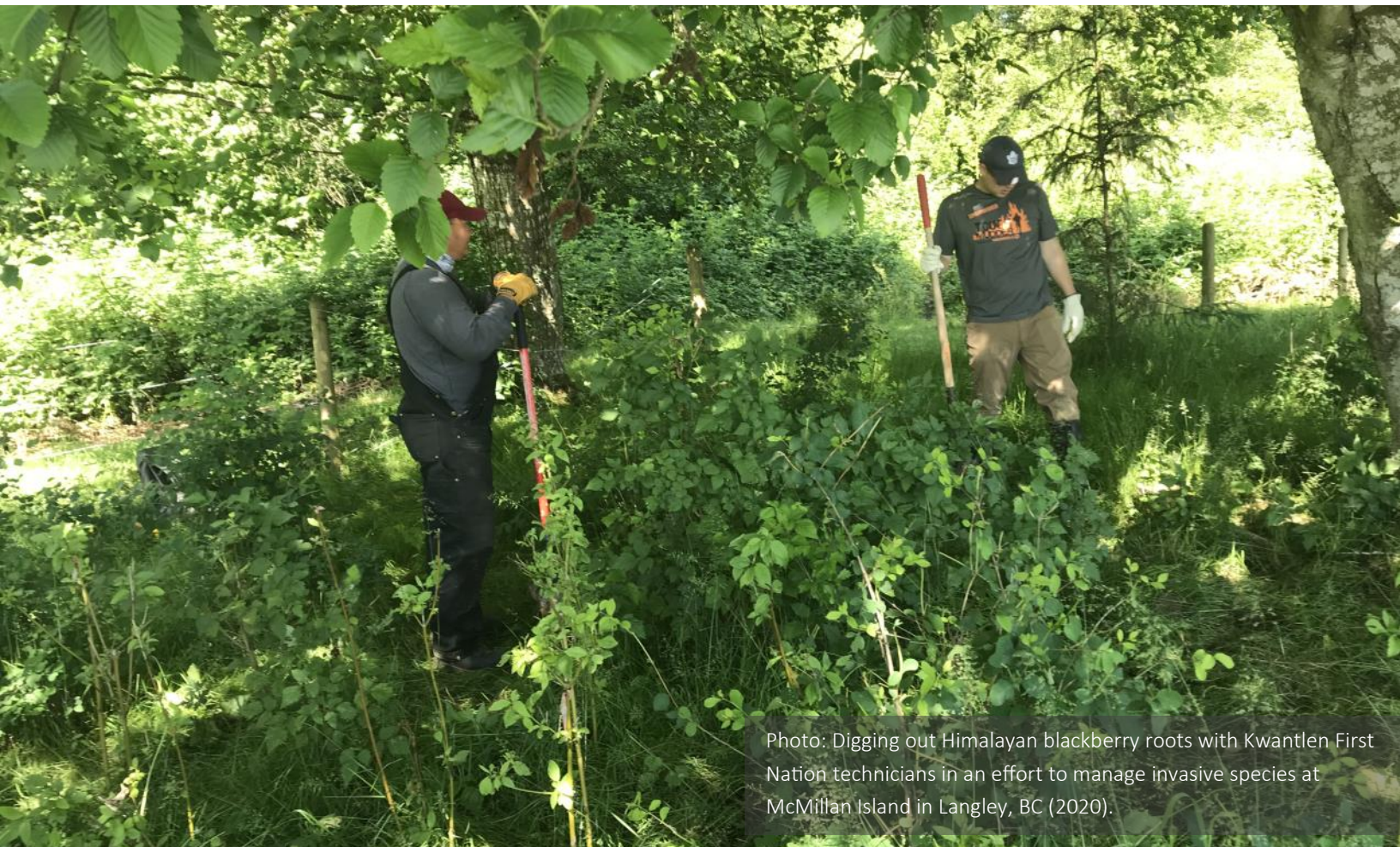


Photo: Digging out Himalayan blackberry roots with Kwantlen First Nation technicians in an effort to manage invasive species at McMillan Island in Langley, BC (2020).

MCMILLAN ISLAND, KWANTLEN FIRST NATION, FORT LANGLEY

Project Summary: The purpose of this project is to support Kwantlen First Nation in replanting and maintaining the riparian area as part of Kwantlen First Nation—McMillan Island Erosion Protection Project. This project is part of Kwantlen First Nation—McMillan Island Erosion Bank Erosion Protection Project. This represents year 2 of the offsetting monitoring and maintenance activities.

2019-2020 Project Goals:

1. Monitor the previously planted native vegetation.
2. Remove invasive Himalayan blackberry.
3. Assess the exclusion fence and reporting any damages or disrepair.

Funded by Kwantlen First Nation—Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

★ [Click here to learn more about this project.](#)



Photo. Looking upstream Bedford channel at low-tide to observe scallop rootwad structures.

SCALLOP 1 ROOTWAD ASSESSMENT, KWANTLEN FIRST NATION, FORT LANGLEY

Project Summary: This project is part of Kwantlen First Nation—McMillan Island Erosion Bank Erosion Protection Project. This represents year 2 of the offsetting monitoring and maintenance activities.

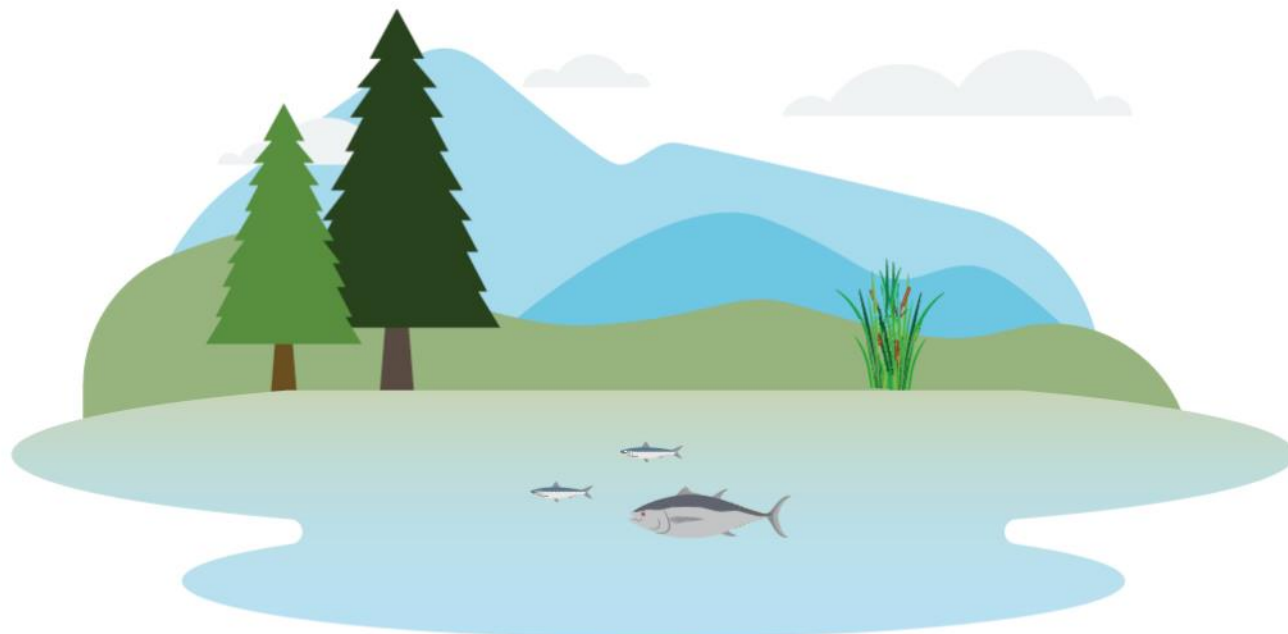
2019-2020 Project Goals:

1. To assess the stability and function of large rootwads installed within the scalloped edge of McMillan Island, and its ability to support out-migrating rearing salmon and culturally important fish.

Funded by Kwantlen First Nation—Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

Cultus Lake – A Lake in Transition

A primer on water quality for a bellwether of environmental change in the Fraser Valley – and opportunities for collaboration on regional environmental stewardship



AN INTEGRATED PLAN TO RESTORE AND ENHANCE WATERWAYS IN THE CITY OF CHILLIWACK

Project Summary:

This project will employ strategies to address threats to species at risk (SAR) and their associated habitats through conservation and watershed planning and the implementation of restoration activities within the municipal boundaries of Chilliwack, British Columbia.

2019-2020 Project Goals:

1. Support Fraser Basin Council in delivering the Cultus Lake Summit to address atmospheric drivers of Cultural Eutrophication—information dissemination.
2. To identify and prioritize opportunities to improve aquatic targeted species at risk, biodiversity and aquatic ecology and incorporate socio-economic landscape values into the design to promote longest project activity viability.
3. To enhance, restore and improve aquatic and riparian habitat conditions to support critical habitats and supporting habitats for targeted aquatic species at risk

Funded by Canada’s Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk, Environmental Damages Fund, and partnered with DFO’s Resource Restoration Unit, DFO Cultus Lake Science Lab, Fraser Basin Council, City of Chilliwack.

★ [Click here to learn more about this project.](#)

2019-2020 PROJECTS



Photo: A stone slinger pours a blend of small pebble to cobble sized rocks for salmon spawning grave into a section of Squwakum Creek in the community of Lake Errock (2020).

HEART OF THE FRASER, SQWUAKUM CREEK, LAKE ERROCK

Project Summary: This is a multi-year restoration project to collaboratively enhance, restore and promote shared conservation values in the Heart of the Fraser. Specifically, this project will enhance and restore juvenile and adult Chum and Chinook salmon, improve ecological resiliency in the area and work to support the recovery of critical food sources for the southern resident orca whale population.

2019-2020 Project Goals:

1. Planning for, Implementation of and Effectiveness Monitoring for Nancy and William Phillips Slough within the Sts'ailes First Nation IR lands.
2. Planning for Bateson Slough and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) with Sts'ailes and Swqe'lets First Nation
3. Complete a Scope of Engagement Process and Draft Framework to Update the Wildlife Management Plan for Lhá:lt/Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
4. Implement Salmon Spawning Habitat Gravel Augmentation at Squwakum Creek (Lake Errock Outlet channel); educating the public on the value of lake foreshore habitat for aquatic species and biodiversity, and assisting residents of Lake Errock in replanting and bioengineering the foreshore habitat with native species.

Funded by Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada — Coastal Restoration Fund, and **supported by** Sts'ailes First Nation, Leq'a:mel First Nation, Sq'ewlets First Nation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Hemmera, Harrison Salmon Stronghold, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada — Resource Restoration Unit.

★ [Click here to learn more about this project.](#)



Photo: Section of Agassiz slough where bioengineering, replanting, and invasive species control was completed (2020).

AGASSIZ SLOUGH, DISTRICT OF KENT

Project Summary: The purpose of this project is to continue enhancing the riparian area along Agassiz Slough to promote shading and support improved aquatic conditions for the rare Salish Sucker, and salmon. Work includes physical management of invasive Himalayan blackberry, bioengineering for bank stability, and guarding native trees and shrubs to reduce the impact from beaver herbivory.

2019-2020 Project Goals:

1. Present as a delegate to District of Kent Mayor and Councilors on the shared benefits of enhancing the slough.
2. Control invasive blackberry on riparian areas.
3. Replant and complete bioengineering efforts along Agassiz Slough.

Funded by District of Kent Grant in Aid and private donors.



Photo: FVWC staff measuring stream velocity in a section of stream as a part of an on-going project to enhance aquatic habitat for Oregon Spotted frog.

MOTI HIGHWAY #7-#9 OREGON SPOTTED FROG AQUATIC HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

Project Summary: As part of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure highway shoulder widening project, the FVWC is enhancing McCallum ditch by re-planting native species to support the critical functioning zone for the Oregon Spotted frog and to increase biodiversity.

2019-2020 Project Goals:

1. Re-plant the banks of McCallum ditch with native species to enhance aquatic habitat for the Oregon Spotted frog and to increase biodiversity.
2. Maintain planting area by removing invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry.

Funded by Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.



Photo: FVWC hosts a volunteer planting event at the Tom Berry gravel pit restoration site in Hope, BC (2019).

TOM BERRY, HOPE

Project Summary: The purpose of this project is to reclaim the Tom Berry gravel pit and turn it into off-channel floodplain habitat, add biodiversity, and add and conserve community and First Nation values. Prior to restoration, the Tom Berry gravel pit stranded salmon once water levels reduced after the spring and summer flood season. This reduced the ability of salmon to complete their lifecycle. Past restoration work included installing an intake channel from Silverhope Creek for permanent flow into the gravel pit. An outlet channel from the Tom Berry pit out to the Fraser River was created in 2019 and the pond in the gravel pit was recontoured to allow for replanting native species and for natural succession to occur.

2019-2020 Project Goals:

1. Reclaim the gravel pit (used to create the Coquihalla Highway) to functional floodplain fish habitat.
2. Design and begin implementing restoration activities to allow permanent movement of salmon into and out of the pit.
3. Continue Archaeological Investigations
4. Ensure restoration activities support First Nation, cultural, and community values.
5. Replant the gravel pit to support natural riparian habitat.
6. Manage invasive species encroachment.
7. Conduct water quality monitoring, fish presence surveys, and vegetation assessments.
8. Raise community awareness for the value of the site for conservation.

Funded by Department of Fisheries and Oceans — Coastal Restoration Fund, and **supported by** Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, District of Hope, AdvantageHope, Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning, Sto:lo First Nation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, BCIT, Hope Communities in Bloom, and FVRD.

★ [Click here to learn more about this project.](#)

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Photo: Program Director explains the "tap, tub, drain" restoration design analogy at Tom Berry gravel pit, as part of the National Coastal Restoration Fund tour.

We believe connecting with our communities through meaningful, fun, and hands-on learning activities is critical for building understanding and appreciation for nature and biodiversity.

COVID-19 posed a challenge to education and outreach in 2020. Education and outreach are important components of our organization and we typically depend on events such as volunteer plantings. 2020 has taught us that education is still possible despite a pandemic and we shifted to more of an online presence through educational social media posts. More online outreach is planned for the upcoming year.



Photo: Operations Manager holds up a viewing container with fish species caught during monitoring at the Tom Berry gravel pit, as part of the National Coastal Restoration Fund tour.

In 2019-2020 (before COVID-19) we were able to:

- Host 3 volunteer planting events,
- Host 2 elementary school planting events ,
- Lead/Participated in 6 community/ university presentations/delegations and learning summits.
- Co-Hosted 1 Estate Planning Roundtable Legacy Planning with Pacific Salmon Foundation

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

- WB Yeats

STRATEGIC WATERSHED PLANNING



Photo: Chair Matt Foy meet with Fishing with Rod to share about key restoration priorities and works completed to enhance critical salmon habitats and watersheds.

To better serve the needs of the region, the FVWC underwent a strategic planning retreat in 2019. With over 100 volunteer hours dedicated to the process, the leadership team identified some key goals to guide the upcoming years:

1. Remain geographically focused within the Fraser Valley Regional District and lower Fraser River region.
2. Value the collaborative partnership building approach.
3. Continue to restore and maintain degraded and/or lost aquatic ecosystems, prioritizing salmon habitats, to improve biodiversity and resiliency.
4. Develop a pilot agricultural ecosystem services consultancy program to support healthy agriculture and watersheds from small to large scale farming.
5. Take action to address climate change, improved air-quality and flood mitigation, efforts include planting native trees and construction of soft-water controls such as wetland creation.
6. Enhance the FVWC education, communication, and outreach program with a goal to inspire, train, and empower people to care for and connect to watersheds.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Photo: School students learn about fish biology through creative drawings and interpretations

In 2019-2020, FVWC retained professional Human Resource consultant (HR West) to assist in strengthening our organization and ensure compliance.

We completed:

- Human Resources and Organization Audit
- Organization-wide SWOT analysis
- Leadership team SMART workshop
- Field Staff Technician Total employment remuneration standards and compensation package – vetted to industry standards.
- Were able to employee a field team year round despite global COVID-19 pandemic challenges
- Began implementing key HR audit recommendations
- Had first ever Financial review engagement and project audit.

And are still working on:

- Human Capital review process
- Strategic Community Plan to set the organization’s overarching strategic goals and objectives.

GET INVOLVED

WE BELIEVE EVERY PERSON CAN CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS POSITIVE CHANGE!

WE HAVE A VARIETY OF WAYS YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED IN OUR ORGANIZATION TO HELP US ACHIEVE OUR VISION OF HEALTHY WATERSHEDS AND COMMUNITIES. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO DECIDE WHAT WORKS BEST FOR YOU.

- **As a Believer** – Supporting what we believe in by taking small actions towards healthier watersheds and communities on your own time. This can include, thinking about your own home/property and lifestyle and modifying or enhancing what you do in your own life! There are many little things you can do that help us and yourself steward our natural, personal and community. Want to know more about why we do what we do -consider reading more about [Why it Matters](#) and [What we are doing!](#)
- **As a Friend** – Supporting us on social media, highlighting our upcoming projects and opportunities and sharing with your friends and family about what we do (and why) and encouraging people to become members is a great way to help us continue working towards and sharing about our goals and relevance. Will you consider liking/following us on [Facebook](#) and [instagram](#)?
- **As a Participant** – If you are an avid angler, we are the recipient of the registration funds raised through the Wally Hall Jr. Memorial Steelhead Fishing Derby.
- **As a Volunteer** – Assisting us when we have volunteer call-outs. There is no cost to becoming a volunteer and all that is required is [subscribing to our mailing online list](#). Once subscribed, you will receive updates through email about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, job opportunities and project updates.
- **As a Member** – [Becoming a member](#) is the next step up from volunteering. As a paid member (\$10 per year per person), you still receive all the volunteer opportunities and emails, however you now have the ability to contribute both financially towards the watershed program goals and at the Annual General Meeting you can elect members to become directors of the governing board and/or elect yourself.
- **As a Director** – If you are a member in good standing, you can become elected to the Board. This is a fantastic way to meet like-minded people and contribute to the strategic direction and internal governance of the organization. This has significantly more time commitment. You can read more about our [Directors and Leadership Team](#) and about our [years in review and accountability](#).
- **As a Donor** – We rely on the contributions made to our organization which we then leverage and apply to meaningful on the ground actions. Will you consider making a single or monthly donation? We have a variety of ways you can donate and, as a charitable organization, you may be entitled to a tax receipt. You can read more about it here: <https://fvwc.ca/charitable-giving/> and you can view our charity profile on [Canada Helps](#). (*If you choose to donate monies – please select 1. FVWC Watershed Program). You can also **Fundraise on our behalf**, using Canada Helps. You can read more about it here: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/fundraise/>
- **As a Professional** – Often, we look to outside team's for specialized skillsets to help us achieve specific aspects of our projects/goals. If you have a professional skillset, which you think may help us, please let us know! We may not have an immediate need for it now, but knowing that we have "friends" that has these unique skills that we can call on- may help us in the future. If you are willing to donate some or all of your expertise, this too may qualify for a charitable tax receipt. You can email your skillset-interest to info@fvwc.ca. You can also stay connected with us through [LinkedIn](#).

WALLY HALL JR. MEMORIAL STEELHEAD FISHING DERBY

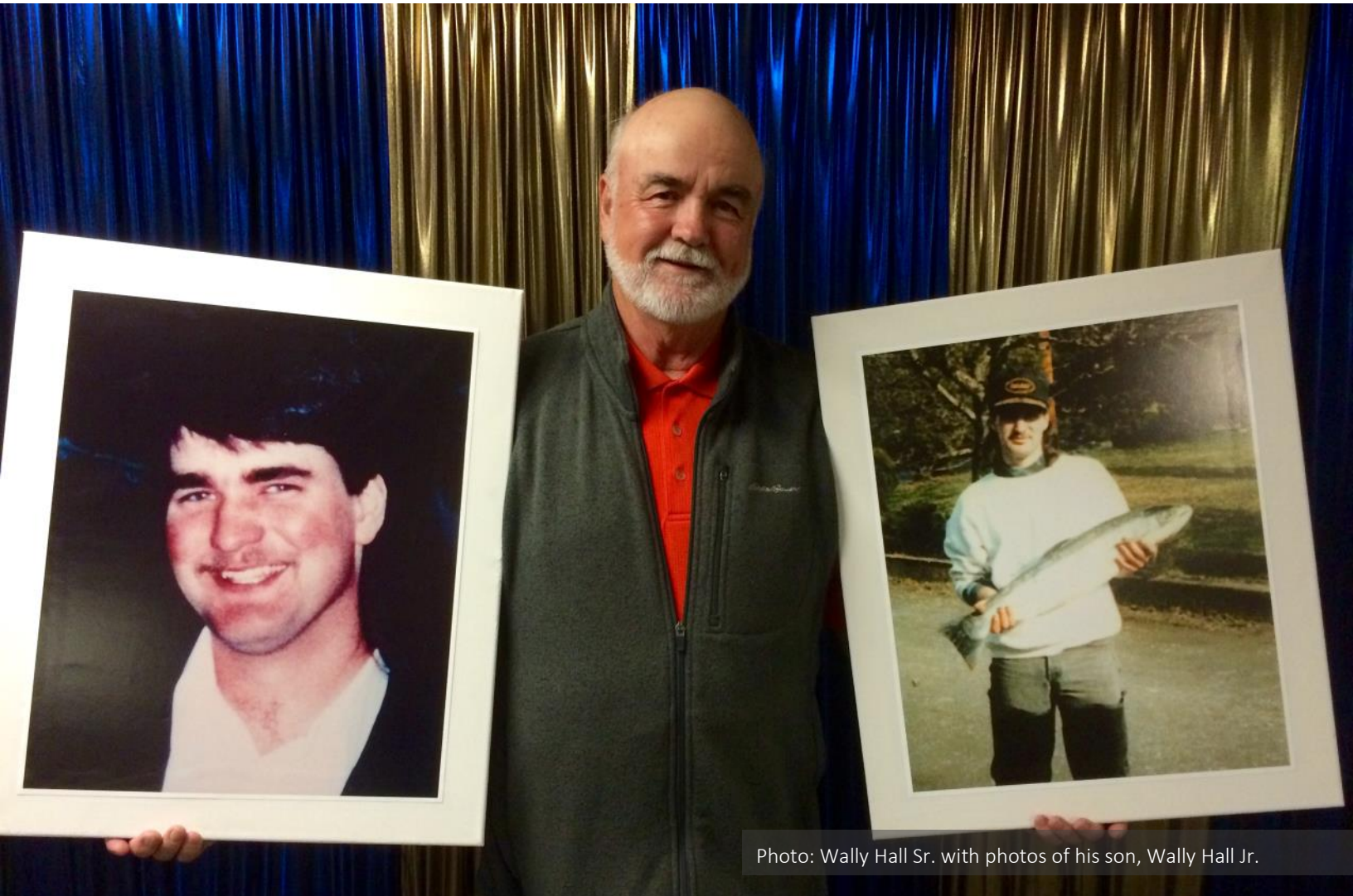


Photo: Wally Hall Sr. with photos of his son, Wally Hall Jr.

The [Wally Hall Jr. Memorial Steelhead Fishing Derby](#) is a tribute to Wally Hall Jr. and his family, who loved to fish and created many memories fishing along the Chilliwack/Vedder River.

The derby is organized and supported by Fred's Custom Tackle, Fishing with Rod, and the Chilliwack Fish and Game Protective Society and typically runs from December 1 to March 15 each year. Anglers pay a registration fee to participate and these fees are generously donated to the Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition to continue stewarding and restoring the Chilliwack/Vedder River and key tributaries. The goal is to encourage our community to get outside, connect with each other and the river, and through fishing, contribute towards the river's conservation and well-being. While the derby started in 2000, donations to the FVWC began in 2014. In May of 2020, participants donated \$8,580.00!

We welcome you to register and continue to fish the Chilliwack/Vedder River system, and become a part of this stewardship and memorial legacy!

LEADERSHIP STAFF



Natashia Cox
Program Director



Rachel Drennan
Operations Manager



Winter Moon
Field Crew Supervisor

2019-2020 FIELD STAFF



Bridgette Knowlan



Tysan Dowdle



Michael Gaultier



Leah Alexis



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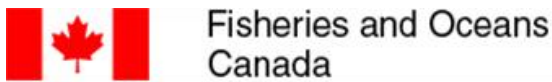
Christina Toth
Director at Large



Geoff Hughes-Games
Director at Large

THANK YOU 2019-2020

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS & DONORS



**Wally Hall Jr.
Steelhead Fishing
Derby**



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Wally Hall Jr. Memorial
Steelhead Fishing Derby

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A.D.S. Bobcat & Excavating Services

Thank you for your support

YEAR IN REVIEW
2020

May 2021 | Issue 12



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