



FRASER VALLEY  
WATERSHEDS  
COALITION

YEAR IN REVIEW

2022

(JULY 01, 2021– JUNE 30, 2022)



**FRASER VALLEY  
WATERSHEDS  
COALITION**

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

## We Believe

Healthy watersheds provide the foundation for vibrant healthy communities!

## We Are

A registered charity governed by a volunteer board of directors.

## Our Team

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

## We Value

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

## We Work

On environmental projects are designed to conserve and restore watersheds that provide benefits to the community. We have a strong regional focus in the Fraser Valley, located within the Traditional Territories of the Stó:lô and Coast Salish People; British Columbia, Canada.

## Diversity & Inclusion

We recognize the Coast Salish and Stó:lô Peoples rich culture and connection to the ecology represented on the landscape. We value scientific, traditional and ecological knowledge and First Nations role in building natural resilience and togetherness for future.

## Non-Discrimination Statement

The Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition (FVWC) provides an equitable work environment for staff, contractors, volunteers, partners and members. The FVWC does not advocate, support or practice unlawful discrimination for all its operational and organizational activities.

# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The past two years have been so hard for so many, but the future waits for no one, so the FVWC got busy in 2022. We are a hopeful and forward looking organization that believes the future can be better than the past, at least in the small part of this world we call home.

This year we doubled down on seeking partners that share this philosophy that want to do positive action that matters to our environment and our communities. We share and learn so much from our many partners, we are truly blessed to work and learn with them.

The world reminded us that idealism alone does not make a difference when the natural world reminds us who is control such as the historic floods of November 2021. However, good planning and design meant that the Hooge wetlands restoration project on the Vedder River, and the off-channel habitats at Silverdale Creek Wetlands, provided peaceful, critical refuge habitat during that chaotic rush of water from the mountains, for many wetland species, including salmon.

Success of restoration projects such as that has affirmed our clear eyed focus on dealing with the world as it is, and to make things better for many living things that make our lives healthier and just more meaningful. We truly look forward to 2023, and the trails to be followed to opportunities and challenges ahead.

**Matt Foy**



# TREASURER'S ANNUAL SNAPSHOT

With the recovery underway related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FVWC was fortunate to have another successful financial year (ended June 30, 2021).

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 by way of an organization level review engagement. MNP concluded that the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Of note, through project funding and donations, the Coalition exceeded last year's revenue to set another record high. This attributed to multi-year projects, and as such a significant amount was shifted to deferred revenues for upcoming years. This full organization review was undertaken to ensure transparency and increase efficiencies which are rooted in our commitment to our charitable accountability.

To support the organizations ability to respond to rising interest rates, supply chain shortages and earn some unrestricted revenue for core organizational functions, FVWC has continued to invest in Guaranteed Investment Certificates. These guarantee the original investment while offering a specific rate of return over a set time. This investment strategy is another mechanism to sustain our capacity and responsibly serve our region and community.

**David Urban**



Photo: Silverdale Creek Wetlands during the Atmospheric River Flooding in Silverdale, BC (2021).

# ABOUT THE WATERSHEDS COALITION



**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.



Photo: Kwantlen First Nation—McMillan Island Offsetting Project; field crew conducting maintenance on guarded plant species.

## 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.
- In 2016 the FVWC won the Abbotsford Environmental Leadership Award - Grassroot Project for Browne Creek Wetland.
- In 2019 won the Mission Rotary Club - Environmental Stewardship Award.
- 2019 – Present: The FVWC completed a strategic workshop and developed a plan for the Watersheds Coalition programs and region. The FVWC also completed an HR audit and Human Capital assessment to build a stronger, more effective team.

# 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”

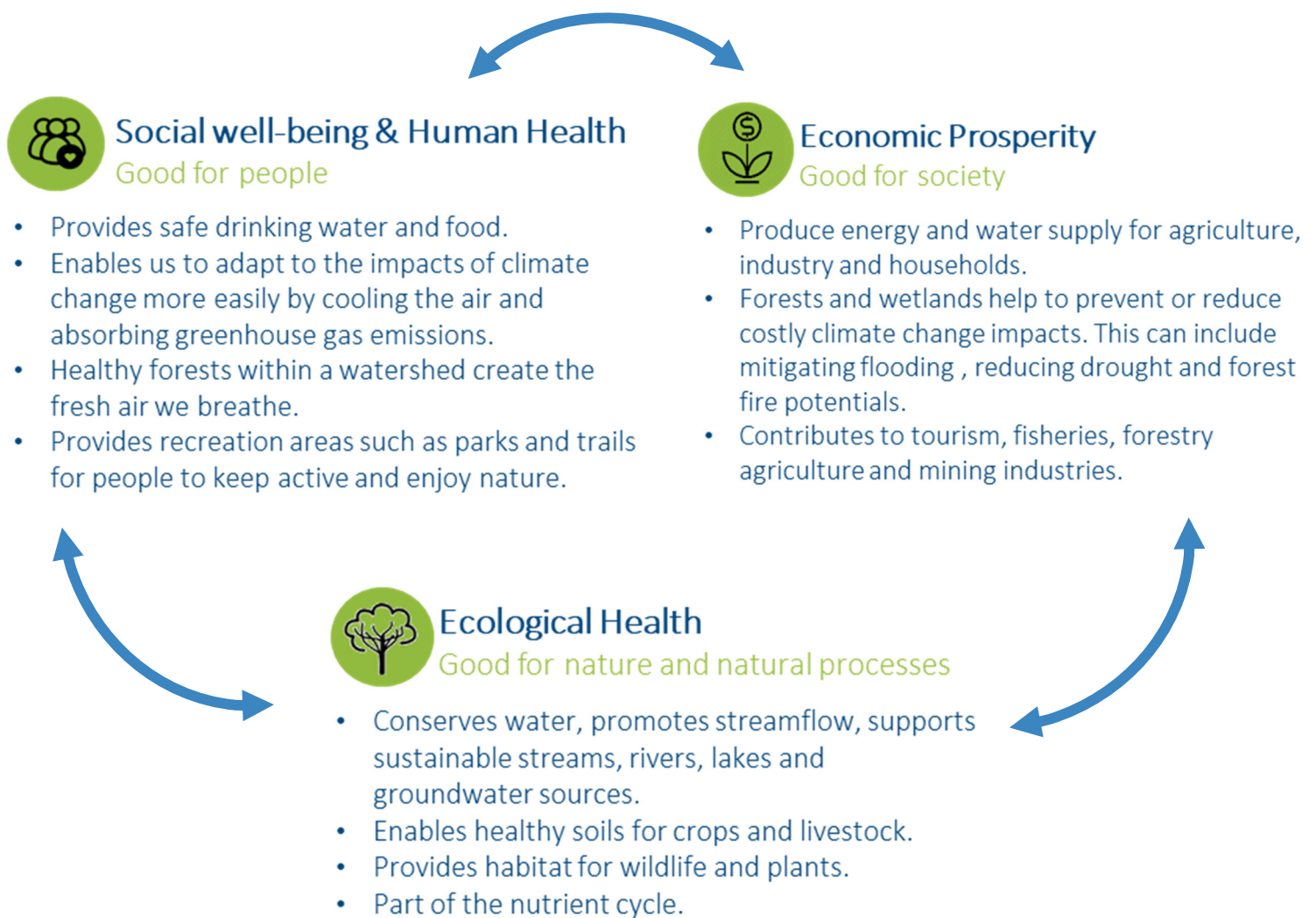


**Climate Change & Carbon Offsets** “Local  
solutions to reduce carbon footprint and  
global climate challenge”

# 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.





# 2021-2022 AT A GLANCE



Photo: Drone photo of Tom Berry Gravel Pit (Starrett Pond) (2022).

## Organization

- Global COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact projects and operations-caused limited volunteer and in-person events.
- Environment and climate significantly impacted FVWC projects and operations. They included many events that reduced our ability to access sites, and/or shifted our activities to respond to these situations. Notables include:
  - July & August 2021 Heat Dome
  - July & August 2021 Wildfires
  - November 2021 Atmospheric Rain Event
  - October 2021 to May 2022 Numerous high streamflow advisories
  - May 2022 into next fiscal, prolonged high Fraser River Freshet water –levels.
- Continued to develop HR Strategic Community Plan.
- FVWC underwent an independent financial review engagement for the 3rd year.
- Continued to maintain and expand a year-round staff field team.
- Received a >\$30,000 donation! Thanks to the contributions from the Wally Hall Jr. Memorial Steel-head Fishing Derby.



## Projects

Were approved for **~\$2.3 million** in projects to restore, enhance and monitor salmon habitats in the Fraser Valley.



Participated in **18** overarching projects (*all with many sub-activity components*).

Developed **4** conceptual habitat restoration plans.



Monitored **9** waterways for fish use and water quality.



Planted **14,279** individual trees and shrubs.  
Equivalent to GHG tons **342,696** CO<sub>2</sub>

Removed/managed **>47,513** m<sup>2</sup> of invasive plants



Had **53** volunteers lend us their hands.  
Employed **2** permanent full-time staff and  
**9** full-time seasonal staff.

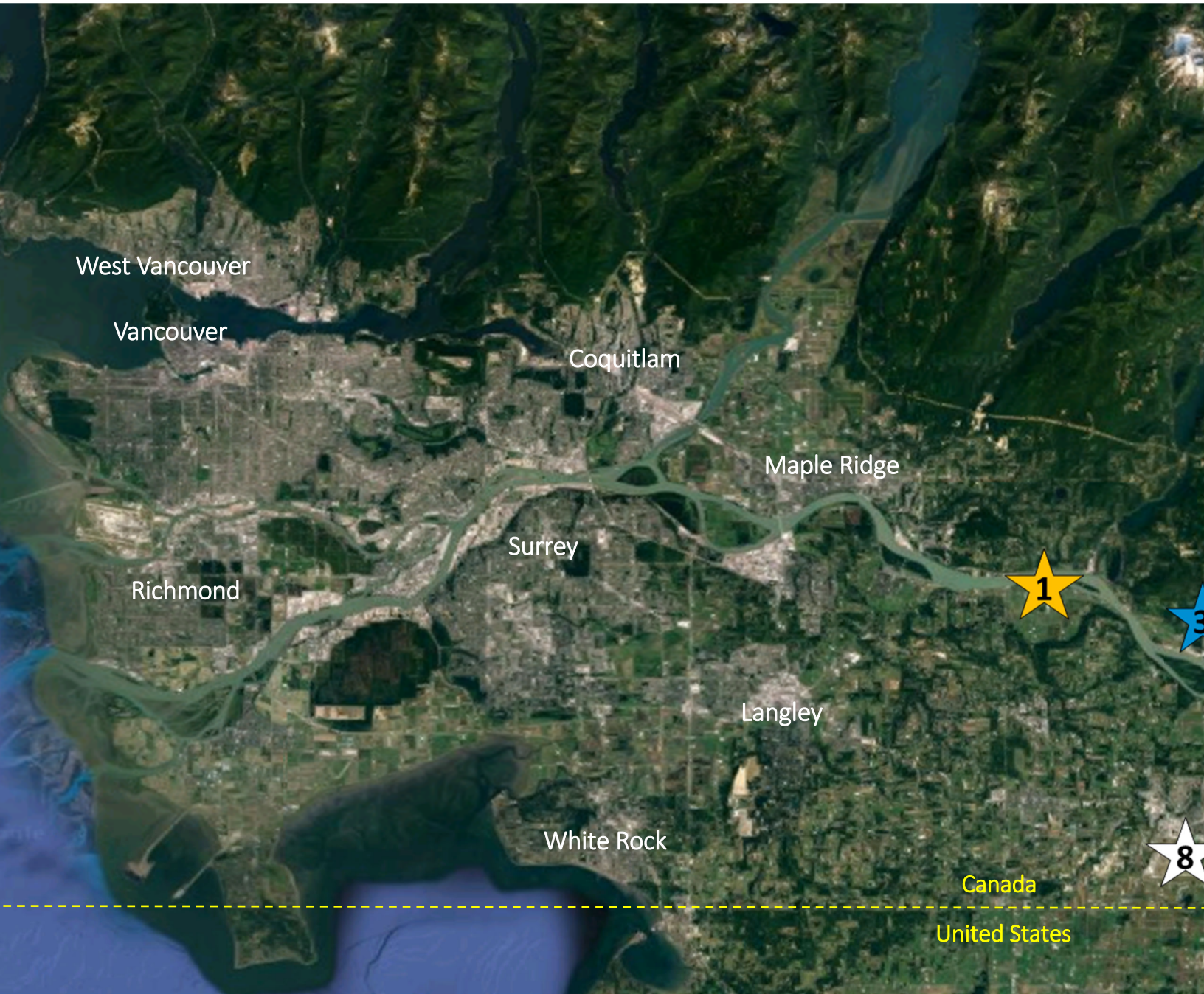


Created and restored **~18,312** m<sup>2</sup> salmon habitat.

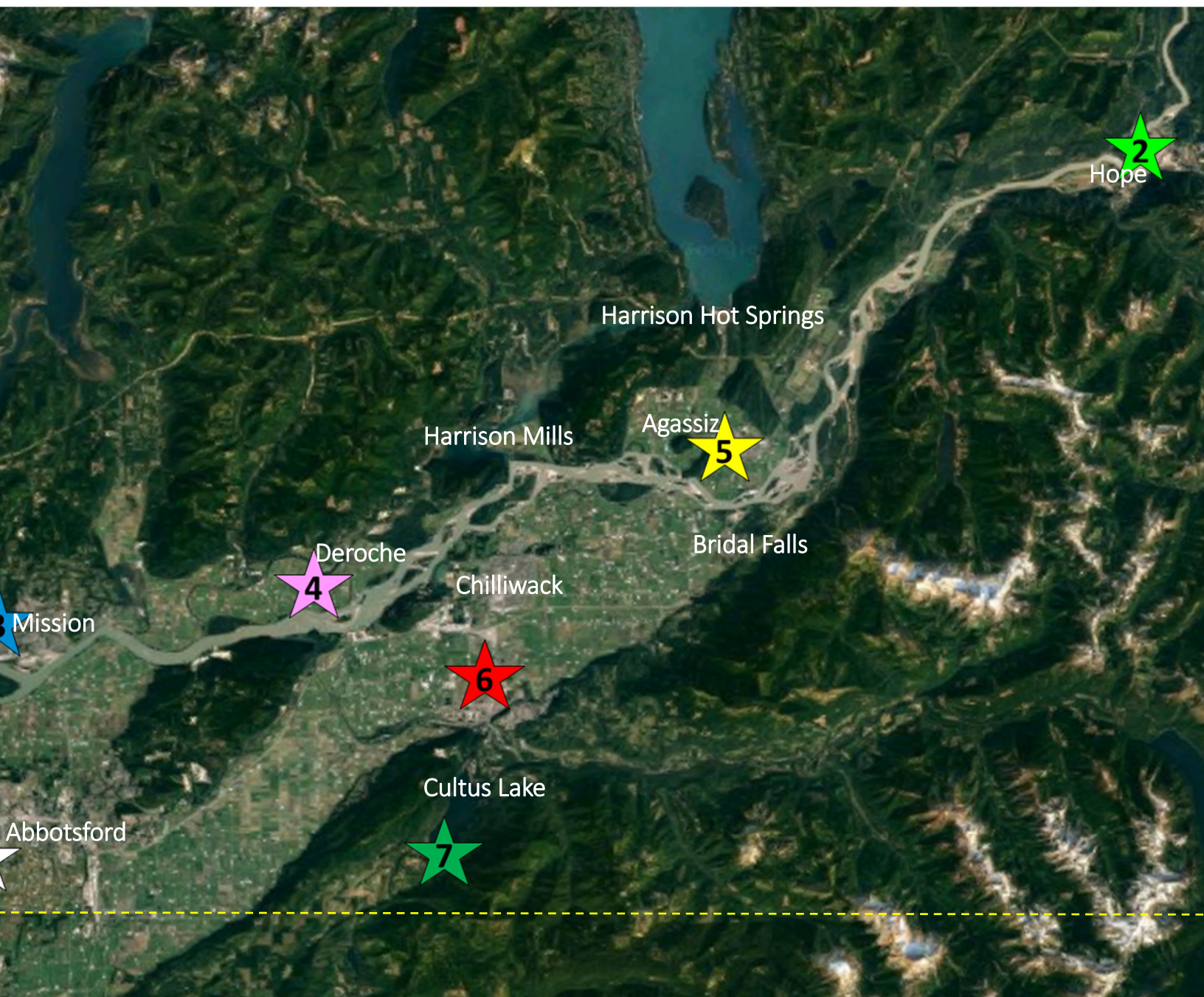


Lead/Participated in **5** # community / university presentations / delegations and learning summits. Hosted **12** Watershed Discovery Education Sessions.

# 2022 PROJECTS ACROSS THE REGION



| LANGLEY  | MAPLE RIDGE   | MISSION  | ABBOTSFORD                                  |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>1. Kwantlen First Nation’s McMillan Island Bank Erosion Protection</b><br/>                     Project—Offsetting Monitoring &amp; Maintenance.<br/>                     a. George’s Creek Aquatic Habitat<br/>                     b. McMillan Island East Riparian Area</p> | <p><b>1. Kwantlen First Nation’s McMillan Island Bank Erosion Protection Project—Offsetting Monitoring &amp; Maintenance</b><br/>                     c. Whonnock Creek Aquatic Habitat</p> | <p><b>3. MOTI HWY #7 Compensation</b><br/>                     a. Silverdale West 1 &amp; 2<br/>                     b. Stave River (Site 3)<br/>                     c. Donatelli Wetland</p> | <p><b>8. Prince’s Trust—Laxton Lake</b></p> |



## CHILLIWACK

### 6. Integrated Plan to Restore and Enhance Chilliwack Waterways for Aquatic Species at Risk

- a. Hooge Wetland
- b. Salwein Creek (Jackson Phillips Slough)
- c. Salwein Creek (East-West)
- d. Stewart Creek
- e. Sinclair Wetlands
- f. Bell Slough
- f. Atchelitz Slough
- h. Sardis Park—Carl Creek
- i. Horse Pasture

## DISTRICT OF KENT/AGASSIZ

### 5. MOTI HWY #9-11 Compensation Oregon Spotted Frog Habitat Enhancement

## REGIONAL / ELECTORAL AREAS

- 4. Heart of the Fraser
  - a. Nicomen Slough/Norrish Creek Fan
  - b. Hobby Farms
  - b. Wetlands Workforce
- 7. BC Parks—Maple Bay

## HOPE

### 2. Tom Berry



Photo: Team monitoring for fish and water quality in Fort Langley BC for Kwantlen First Nation (2022).



## KFN'S MCMILLAN ISLAND BANK EROSION PROTECTION PROJECT—OFFSETTING MONITORING & MAINTENANCE

**Project Summary:** The purpose of this project is to support Kwantlen First Nation with aspects of offsetting monitoring and maintenance to ensure constructed habitats support culturally, recreationally, and aboriginally (CRA) important fish species and floodplain ecology as intended. Offsetting habitats include:

- McMillan Island riparian and cattle exclusion.
- George's Creek riparian and aquatic habitat supporting CRA fish species.
- Whonnock Creek riparian and aquatic habitat supporting CRA fish species.

### 2021-2022 Summary of Works Completed:

1. Continued monitoring for fish, water quality and aquatic invertebrates at George's Creek and Whonnock Creek.
2. Maintained previous planting and bioengineering efforts and protected plantings against wildlife herbivory at all sites.
3. Controlled invasive blackberry from riparian areas across all sites.
4. Continued monitoring McMillan Island riparian cattle exclusion fencing for functionality.

All of these constructed habitats are currently functioning as intended and are achieving  $\geq$  80% plant survivorship and are showing significant signs of natural regeneration.

**Funded by** Kwantlen First Nation through Indigenous Services Canada



Photo: Aerial photo of Tom Berry/  
Starret's Pond Trail in 2021.

## TOM BERRY



**Project Summary:** This restoration project began in 2017 with its primary focus on addressing the stranding of salmonids that enter the pit during the Fraser River freshet. Salmonids remain trapped in the pit when water levels recede in the late summer. No longer connected to the Fraser River, the aquatic conditions in the pit become unsuitable for salmonid survival (with high water temperatures, low dissolved oxygen, and predation from invasive aquatic species). This project aims to restore juvenile salmon connectivity to the Fraser River and support the recovery of the southern resident orca whale population.

### 2021-2022 Summary of Works Completed:

1. The main project goal for 2021 was to construct a permanent outflow channel connecting Tom Berry gravel pit to Bristol Slough and was completed in 2022 which resulted in 2,722m<sup>2</sup> of new aquatic habitat. Essentially, FVWC changed the overall coverage of water from a spotty, discontinuous drying pools into a lake. This increased the available habitat by **233%** compared to pre-restoration.
2. A new archaeological site was found and FVWC is working with Stó:lō First Nation and archaeologists to uncover artifacts and keep cultural heritage intact.
3. Monitored for fish and water quality. Minnow trapping results saw over 1,000 native fish including Coho Salmon, rainbow trout, peamouth chub, redbside shiner and largescale sucker to name a few!
5. Re-planted the spawning channel constructed in 2019 with over 1,800 native plants!
- a. Additionally, a species of dogbane was planted to promote critical habitat for the endangered Dun skipper, a species of moth that has a known population across the Fraser River in Yale, BC.

**Funded by** Department of Fisheries and Oceans — Coastal Restoration Fund and Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and British Columbia Wildlife Federation as part of the BC Government Covid Stimulus Recovery Fund through Healthy Watershed Initiative. **Supported by** Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, District of Hope, AdvantageHope, Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning, Stó:lō First Nation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, BCIT, Hope Communities in Bloom, and FVRD.



Photo: FVWC team collecting water quality data from Silverdale West 1 (2022).



## MOTI HWY #7 OFFSITE COMPENSATION

**Project Summary:** As a part of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Highway #7 Widening Project, the purpose of this project was to foster a collaborative local approach to complete habitat compensation requirements with the goal to increase, restore, and enhance aquatic habitat and biodiversity. Habitat designs aimed to support rearing and overwintering salmon and support improved riparian floodplain forests. This is a multi-year project that has a variety of phases including: Phase 1 Build-Out (Stave Site #3 and Silverdale West 1), Phase 2 Build-Out (Silverdale West 2 and Donatelli), additional offsetting designs, effectiveness monitoring, and future additional offset build-outs.

### 2021-2022 Summary of Works Completed:

1. Silverdale West 1—FVWC constructed a new off-channel habitat on the west side of Silverdale Creek. This portion of the project transformed a seral, reed canary grass field into aquatic channels that were then replanted with native vegetation. This work resulted in **3,388 m<sup>2</sup> of new aquatic habitat** enhanced with **65 large pieces of rootwads** and **2,763 m<sup>2</sup> riparian habitat, with 1,770 individual plants** (of which 460 were trees and represent 1,426 tons of carbon drawdown annually).
2. Stave Site 3 is the lower site. With respect to this compensation project—our objective was to add additional native plants to support the constructed channel, built in 2014, resulting in an additional **5,091m<sup>2</sup> of new riparian habitat and aquatic planting using 8,554 individual native plants.**
3. Enhancement of Silverdale West 1 and Stave Site 3 by planting and protecting native plants.
4. Monitoring Silverdale West 1, Stave Site 3, Chester Creek (reference site) and South Side Channel by collecting water quality data and fish trapping for fish lengths and weight samples.
5. Planning and designing Phase 2 sites: Silverdale West 2 and Donatelli.

**Funded by** Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and **supported by** Ducks Unlimited Canada, Stave Valley Salmonid Enhancement Society, District of Mission, Matsqui First Nation, Kwantlen First Nation, Leq'a:mel First Nation, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.



Photo: FVWC Team planting new native species to prevent erosion on Norrish Farms in 2022 with the new cattle exclusion fence seen in the background.

## HEART OF THE FRASER



**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.

### 2021-2022 Summary of Works Completed:

1. 2021 focused on preliminary investigations, planning and assessments to address risks, benefits and information gaps at 3 locations: Norrish Creek, Nicomen Slough, and Skumulapsh Slough. The question was asked “how far upstream in tributaries do juvenile Chinook Salmon travel to rear and grow before travelling out to the ocean? FVWC and DFO completed multiple beach seines in Nicomen Slough to determine how far upstream juvenile Chinook Salmon could be found.
2. Nicomen Slough at the Norrish Creek Fan is a highly variable system and also has high habitat value for spawning salmon. The original plan was to alter the Norrish Creek Fan in a way that would reduce backwatering in the Nicomen Slough to improve water quality and juvenile chinook access into the upper slough system. After considerable review and discussions, by consensus, it was decided that the Norrish Creek fan is wild, has significant biological and ecological value and should not be altered. Additionally, there was uncertainty whether drawing down Nicomen Slough water levels will attain the improved water quality conditions of the slough.
3. Activities shifted towards working with a local landowner/farmer to address low lying depressed channels, that in their current form were resulting in fish stranding/killing. Restoration activities regraded the channel to allow for water flow, upgraded old culverts to allow for more water passage, removed fish barriers, replanted and fenced the riparian area to support fish habitat and benefit landowner and farmer values.

**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.





Photo: FVWC team monitoring McCallum Ditch at the Moti Highway #9-11 site (2021).



## MOTI HIGHWAY #9-11

# OREGON SPOTTED FROG HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

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

### 2021-2022 Summary of Works Completed:

1. Maintained the planting area by removing invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry.
2. Maintained the planting area by pruning native vegetation to promote healthy growth.
3. Monitored water quality, fish, amphibian egg masses, and stream discharge to ensure the habitat is functioning as intended as critical habitat for Oregon spotted frog.
  - a. Minnow trapping data show that the stream is mostly being used by three-spine stickleback.
  - b. Amphibian egg mass surveys show that this section of McCallum Ditch is being used by Northwestern salamander and red-legged frog.

**Funded by** Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. **Supported by** Mielle's Organic Farm.



Photo: Bioengineering efforts at Salwein Creek in Chilliwack included planting live stakes of willows and cottonwood trees (2021).

## CANADA NATURE FUND FOR AQUATIC SPECIES AT RISK

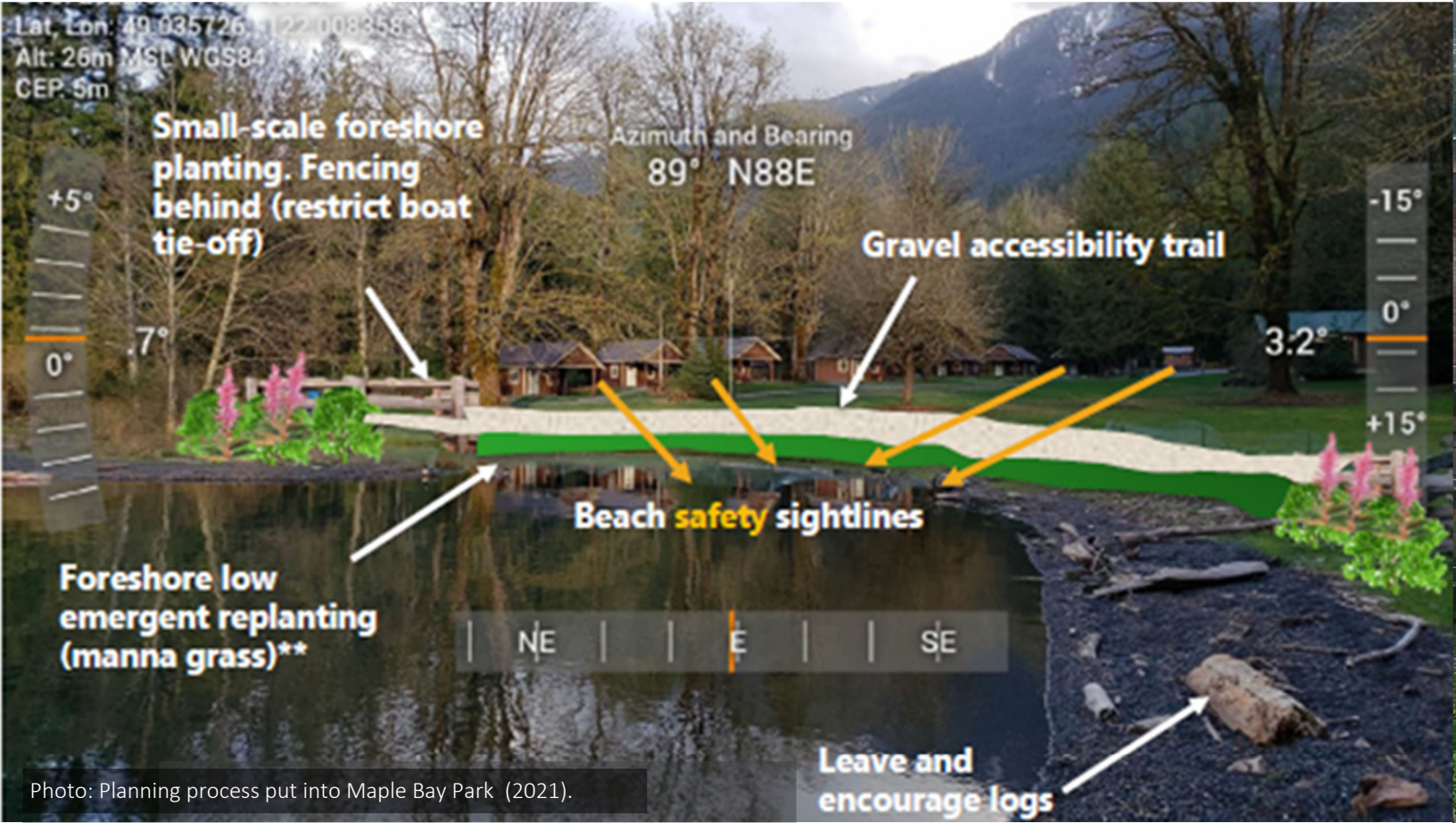


**Project Summary:** This project is a collaborative effort to enhance, restore and promote shared conservation values in the Chilliwack-Vedder River Watershed. Year 3 (fiscal 2021-2022) focused on enhancing Salwein Creek to support salish sucker; and monitoring and assessing waterways throughout Chilliwack for potential enhancement opportunities.

### 2021-2022 Summary of Works Completed:

1. Completed additional conceptual designs and refined assessment matrices creating 15 potential restoration and enhancement opportunities.
2. Completed restoration and habitat improvement at 5 sites in the Chilliwack-Vedder River Watershed including Sinclair Wetlands/Lewis-Lateral Slough, Salwein Creek, Hooke Wetland, and Stewart Creek. Controlled over 3,000m<sup>2</sup> of invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry, white sweet clover, common tansy and canola. That's the size of two hockey rinks!
3. Completed monitoring and assessments at 6 sites in the Chilliwack-Vedder River Watershed to gather habitat information to support adaptive management strategies and future enhancement opportunities. Sites include Bell Slough, Sardis Park—Carl Creek West, Atchelitz Creek, Hooke Wetland, Horse Pasture, Lewis Lateral Slough. Data and information collected includes water quality, native vegetation growth and regeneration, and invasive species extent.

**Funded by** Canada's Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk, Environmental Damages Fund, Pacific Salmon Foundation and donations from Wally Hall Jr. Memorial Steelhead Fishing Derby. **Partnered with** DFO's Resource Restoration Unit and the City of Chilliwack.



## BC PARKS—MAPLE BAY

**Project Summary:** The Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition was invited by the Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society (FVISS) and BC Parks to identify opportunities to enhance areas of Maple Bay to benefit Oregon Forestsnail critical habitat and address historic footprints to restore biodiversity and natural connections.

### 2021-2022 Summary of Works Completed:

1. Analyzed key considerations such as ensuring the balance between nature and park management and operations for safe public use
2. Resulted in a collection of conceptual plans for discussion with FVISS and BC Parks.

**Funded by** Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society & BC Parks through their license plate program which is a partnership between BC Parks and ICBC where all net proceeds are invested back into the Park Enhancement Fund.



Photo: The Hobby Farms Project focuses on identifying if there are limitations, gaps or barriers preventing farm-owners from acting on beneficial practices .

## HOBBY FARMS



**In our Agriculture and Environment Program Pillar we are:**

1. Finding mutual benefits to support agriculture and ecological values.
2. Helping farmers improve on farm practices to reduce environmental risk.
3. Mitigating effects of climate change through some types of on farm improvements

### **Project Summary:**

This project focuses on identifying if there are limitations, gaps or barriers preventing farm-owners from acting on best practices. Farms are dynamic and have specific needs and functions related to their local environment. The long-term wellbeing of farms and animals depends on good quality soil, water and natural resources. To conserve these resources good management needs to include safe-guarding the environment. An effective way to accomplish this broad goal is through successful environmental farm planning and implementing good practices. **We review the Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM Code) and look at three program areas:**

- Water Management
- Waste Management.
- Pasture Management

### **2021-2022 Summary of Works Completed:**

1. FVWC's Operations Manager Rachel Drennan presented at a webinar put on by LEPS this year where she focused on ways small farms can incorporate beneficial practices that reduce water pollution and support biodiversity.

**Funded by** Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. **Supported by** Ministry of Agriculture, Horse Council BC., LEPS.



Photo: BCWF's Wetlands Workforce conducting enhancement and having a site tour at Peach Creek and Hooqe Wetlands (2022).



## BCWF'S WETLANDS WORKFORCE

**Project Summary:** FVWC was one of many host partners of the BC Wildlife Federation's Wetlands Workforce. This workforce is a collaborative effort between conservation organizations and First Nations to provide employment opportunities to young people and minorities affected by COVID-19; improve riparian and wetland habitats through maintenance and enhancement activities; and improve wetland management and inventories by supporting a province-wide wetland monitoring initiatives

### 2021-2022 Summary of Works Completed:

This work spans two FVWC fiscal years (2021, and 2022) - 2021 covers Spring until the end of June.

1. Completed site maintenance and planting at past FVWC restoration sites in Mission (Stave River & Silverdale Creek Wetlands) and Chilliwack (Hooqe Wetlands, Browne Creek Wetlands & Trestle Channel) —maintained over 22,000m<sup>2</sup> of habitat by removing invasive species and garbage.
2. Monitored for fish, water quality, and aquatic invertebrates at past FVWC restoration sites—caught over 4,000 fish across 3 restoration sites.
3. Supported province-wide wetland monitoring initiatives by completing Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol (WESP) and Wetland Predictive Mapping at 4 wetlands including Pike's Pond (Mission, BC), Hooqe Wetland (Chilliwack, BC), Clearbrook Park (Abbotsford, BC), Lower Sumas Mountain Park (Abbotsford, BC) and Browne Creek Wetlands (Chilliwack, BC).
4. Enhancement of Peach Creek and Hooqe Wetland occurred in April 2022 with Healthy Watersheds BC and the help of Council Member Chris Silver, Semá:th First Nation, Minister George Heyman, Fin Donnelly (Fraser Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture), Dan Coulter (MLA), Ken Papove (Mayor of Chilliwack), Harv Westeringh (Councillor), Mavis Underwood, Mark Gifford and Neil Fletcher (BCWF).

**Funded by** BC Government and **administered by** the Real Estate Foundation of BC, in partnership with Watersheds BC. **Supported by** BC Wildlife Federation and Wetlands Workforce.



## PRINCE'S TRUST—LAXTON LAKE



**Project Summary:** Prince's Trust Canada is a national charity that supports youth employment, veteran entrepreneurship, and sustainability. It's "Urban Greening" is a pilot program that was launched in September 2021 to help young people launch their green career. Prince's Trust Canada engaged FVWC to identify opportunities for youth service projects in Abbotsford BC at a privately owned Laxton Lake.

The landowner's utmost wish is for young people to engage with green job and volunteer opportunities in the area using Laxton Lake as a possible nature-learning retreat site.

### 2021-2022 Summary of Works Completed:

1. FVWC staff met with the Prince's Trust representatives and the landowner to identify goals for engaging youth and taking action on the property.
2. FVWC, LEPS, Prince's Trust and community volunteers conducted invasive species removal, community outreach and education the importance of healthy watersheds in the Fraser Valley

**Funded by Prince's Trust Canada Partnership with** Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS).



Photo: Engagement event with leaders of the community at Peach Creek and Hooke Wetlands (2022).



## ENGAGING WITH LEADERS ON WATERSHEDS

During the 2021 to 2022 year, the FVWC engaged with several different leaders to discuss the importance of watersheds in the Fraser Valley.

Some of these events included:

- Peach Creek and Hooke Wetland site tour and enhancement with Minister George Heyman from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; Fin Donnelly from the Fraser Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture; Dan Coulter, Chilliwack MLA; Mayor Ken Papove of Chilliwack and Councillor Harv Westeringh with the City of Chilliwack; Mavis Underwood a Governor from the Real Estate Foundation of BC and Chair of the Indigenous Leaders Advisory Circle, HWI; Mark Gifford the CEO of the Real Estate Foundation of BC and Neil Fletcher, Director of Conservation with the BC Wildlife Federation. Councillor Chris Silver from the Semá:th First Nation opened the event with a welcome ceremony and land recognition.
- Meeting with MLA's Bob D'eith and Pam Alexis to discuss the importance and value of a watershed security fund.
- Encouraged participation and feedback in both Mission's Environmental Charter a Climate and Action Plan 2022-2027 and Port Coquitlam's Climate Action Round Table.
- Director John Vissers interview with Gloria Macarenko from CBC Protecting BC Watersheds and On The Coast to discuss FVWC's project on Hooke Wetlands in the Chilliwack area and the value of "Making Room for the River."



Photo: FVWC attending Mission Environmental Stewardship Society's Green Living even celebrating Earth Day (2022).

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION



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.

As part of FVWC's Watershed Program, the vision of **Environmental Education and Outreach** is to *"inspire and educate people to care for watersheds,"* by connecting with a variety of community and public groups to increase understanding and action towards enhancing watershed stewardship.

Our Environmental Education & Outreach consists of **3 main objectives:**

- Watershed Discovery
- Stewardship Socials
- Professional Development & Watershed Webinars



**Watershed Discovery** consists of 3 main delivery methods:

- a) Virtual exploration
- b) In-classroom
- c) Outdoor learning events



**Stewardship Socials**

- In development



**Professional Development & Watershed Webinars**

- In development





Photo: Community engagement event to enhance the Tom Berry/Starret Pond outlet (2021).

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

### *“INSPIRING & EDUCATING PEOPLE TO CARE FOR WATERSHEDS”*

COVID-19 posed a challenge to education and outreach in 2020 and 2021. Education and outreach are important components of our organization and we typically depend on events such as volunteer plantings. COVID-19 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.

In the Spring of 2021 we hired a **Watershed Educator** for the first time in FVWC history made possible through BCWF’s Wetlands Workforce supported by the Healthy Watersheds Initiative administered by the Real Estate Foundation of BC and Watersheds BC with financial support from the Government of BC as part of their \$10-billion COVID-19 response.

Our Watershed Educator began developing our **Environmental Education and Outreach** with the intention of delivering hands-on, nature-based, outdoor learning modules in the **Fall of 2021**, pending COVID-19 restrictions and protocols.

During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the FVWC has held several volunteer events to help with community engagement and outreach. One of these events was the Tom Berry/Starret Pond enhancement day where the planting of native species was conducted.

The FVWC continued to host Geography and Biology students from the University of the Fraser Valley for real-time applied learning. Furthermore, in April of 2022, FVWC was able to attend the Mission Environmental Stewardship Society’s Green Living Event that celebrated Earth Day. At this event FVWC was able to provide further community engagement and education with the community of Mission.

# 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://fwwc.ca/charitable-giving/> and you can view our charity profile on [Canada Helps](#). (\*If you choose to donate monies – please select 1. FWWC Watershed Program). You can also **Fund-raise on our behalf**, using Canada Helps.

# WALLY HALL JR. MEMORIAL STEELHEAD FISHING DERBY



Photo: Program Director Natasha Cox accepting a cheque on March 27, 2022 for donations raised at the 2021 Wally Hall Jr Steelhead Derby.

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. It typically runs from December 01 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 communities 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 March of 2022, participants donated over \$30,000!

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

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



FRASER VALLEY  
WATERSHEDS  
COALITION  
Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Communities

## Golden Shovel Award

Presented by David Urban

*A recognition of a member, volunteer, partner, staff, contractor and/or director who consistently “digs deep” to sustain and enhance the operations of the Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition.*

2022 Recipient:

Matt Foy  
FVWC Chair

Gift provided by **Mt.WADDINGTON'S**  
EST. OUTDOORS 2012



A life long, lower Fraser Valley resident, Matt's major goal in life was to stay outside as much as he could and always seek out wet places preferably with salmon swimming by. As a self proclaimed, “Salmon Habitat Nerd”, he shares his experiences and knowledge on Pacific Salmon and recognizes the many people who tirelessly work to keep these keystone species in our rivers. He sees this as a mentorship tool for the next generation of salmon habitat biologist. You can watch his videos on [YouTube](#) and read his stories on FVWC website [“Sharing Stories About Salmon People”](#).

Matt was employed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada for 35 years as a salmon biologist working throughout BC in the field of community involvement, salmon enhancement, and habitat restoration. He retired from DFO in 2015 and continues to be involved with issues and projects affecting salmon as a volunteer with both the Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition. He guides FVWC staff with his wealth of salmon habitat knowledge and technical analysis. He joined the Board in 2015 and has been Chair since 2017. 2023, marks his sixth year of service as Chair.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



## Slippery Salmon Award

Presented by Natasha Cox

*A recognition of a member, volunteer, partner, staff, contractor and/or director who, as luck would have, was able to escape from a slippery situation, unscathed and with a story to share! For, it is in these moments that memories are made!*

2022 Recipient:  
Winter Moon  
FVWC Restoration Field Supervisor



Gift provided by



As others tip and fall into the wetlands or fields of reed canary grass, with gliding nimble athleticism, Winter, FVWC Restoration Field Supervisor, who has been working for the organization since 2011, is one who, undoubtedly will avoid all the dips and divots as she hauls plants and field gear, guiding the coalition field team along the many terrain of restoration and enhancement project sites. In essence, we recognize Winter's antithesis in her constant, capable dodging of mishaps and blunders! Well Done, Winter!

# VALUING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS



FRASER VALLEY  
WATERSHEDS  
COALITION  
Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Communities

## Haloed Hemlock

Presented by Debora Soutar

*A recognition of a member, volunteer, partner, staff, contractor and/or director who has demonstrated watershed conservation leadership. This individual has taken actions to support local, regional, provincial and/or federal / international causes to promote, lead or elevate conservation, science and community values.*

2022 Recipient:  
City of Abbotsford - Mayor Henry Braun

Gift provided by  Fred's  
Custom Tackle



The Mayor of Abbotsford, Henry Braun, has demonstrated heroism and extraordinary leadership over the past year, drawing attention to the importance of the wetlands of the Sumas Prairie. He was decisive when tough decisions had to be made quickly during the November 2021 flooding. He was compassionate of the farmers and residents of the Sumas Prairie and worked quickly to provide emergency support. He continues to courageously defend the rights of Canadians to not be flooded by the Nooksack River. He is well-informed about the science of wetlands and specifically the critical value of the wetlands of the Sumas Prairie.

# LEADERSHIP STAFF



Natashia Cox  
Program Director



Rachel Drennan  
Operations Manager



Winter Moon  
Field Crew Supervisor

# 2021 -2022 FIELD STAFF



Bridgette Knowlan



Donovan Toews



Renee Coghill



Paige Smith



Tim Friesen



Tyler Hutton



Curtis McComb



Michael Kavanaugh

# THANK YOU BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Matt Foy  
Chair



Debora Soutar  
Vice-Chair



David Urban  
Treasurer



Christina Toth  
Secretary



Bruce Clark  
Director at Large



John Vissers  
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Geoff Hughes-Games  
Director at Large





# THANK YOU 2021-2022 FUNDERS & CONTRIBUTORS



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CITY OF  
**CHILLIWACK**



WALLY HALL JR  
**STEELHEAD DERBY**



**HEALTHY  
WATERSHEDS  
INITIATIVE**



**Watersheds BC**

# THANK YOU 2021-2022

# COMMUNITIES PARTNERS VOLUNTEERS



# THANK YOU COMMUNITY DONORS

## Wally Hall Jr. Memorial Steelhead Fishing Derby

Adam Bolding-Jones  
Edwin Chu  
Ellison Chen  
Ian Moore  
Steelhead Society of BC  
River Rats Fishing Derby  
Jasen Wright  
Jose Lopez-Garcia  
Lorne Nukina  
Mark Bond  
Rafa Bonati  
Stuart George

## Watershed Program

Anonymous  
Alex Eng  
Aric MacLaren  
Benita Loughlin  
Canada Helps  
Daniel Heffner  
Geoff Hughes-Games  
Hank Roos  
James Zou  
Janne Perrin  
John Vissers  
Kelly Railton  
Lara Volgyesi  
Michelle Rhodes  
Mitch Ferguson  
Murray Brown  
Peeranut Visetsuth  
Tomek Skowronski



# THANK YOU

## ACTIVE AND LIFETIME MEMBERS

Aleesha Switzer  
Alice Roos  
Allan Christie  
Barbara Strachan  
Bethany Zamrykut  
Bob Drinkwater  
Brad Whittaker  
Brennan Yu  
Bridgette Knowlan  
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Roxanna Snook  
Steven Mak  
Sue Gadsby  
Tara Friesen  
Tage Stenner  
Terry Taylor  
*(late)* Tom Cadeiux  
Tracey Scott  
Vanessa Hart



Thank you for your support

YEAR IN REVIEW  
2022

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#1 45950 Cheam Avenue  
Chilliwack BC V2P 1N6  
[www.fvwc.ca](http://www.fvwc.ca)