

February is Black History Month. Did you know that **Deas Island**, located in the south arm of the Lower Fraser River, is named after John Sullivan Deas (1838 - 1880)? This pioneering black man was the founder of the salmon canning industry in BC, with Deas Island being where John Sullivan Deas started his salmon canning business in 1871.

In another first, the labels that graced his canned salmon were the first salmon-can labels used in BC, and were developed by Grafton Taylor Brown, a cartographer, lithographer and painter in San Francisco who is considered the first professional black artist in the Pacific Northwest.

[Read more about this and other remarkable Black History stories here.](#)

Rivershed News

As spring quickly approaches, the Rivershed team is hard at work, planning and preparing for a busy year! Due to the COVID pandemic, we had made some massive changes to our annual programming and could not gather on (or at) the water for the past two years.

We are excited to let you know that in 2022 we are returning to the river and are busy planning visits to communities throughout the Fraser Watershed! We're not quite ready to make formal announcements about our plans today, *buuuuuuuut.....*

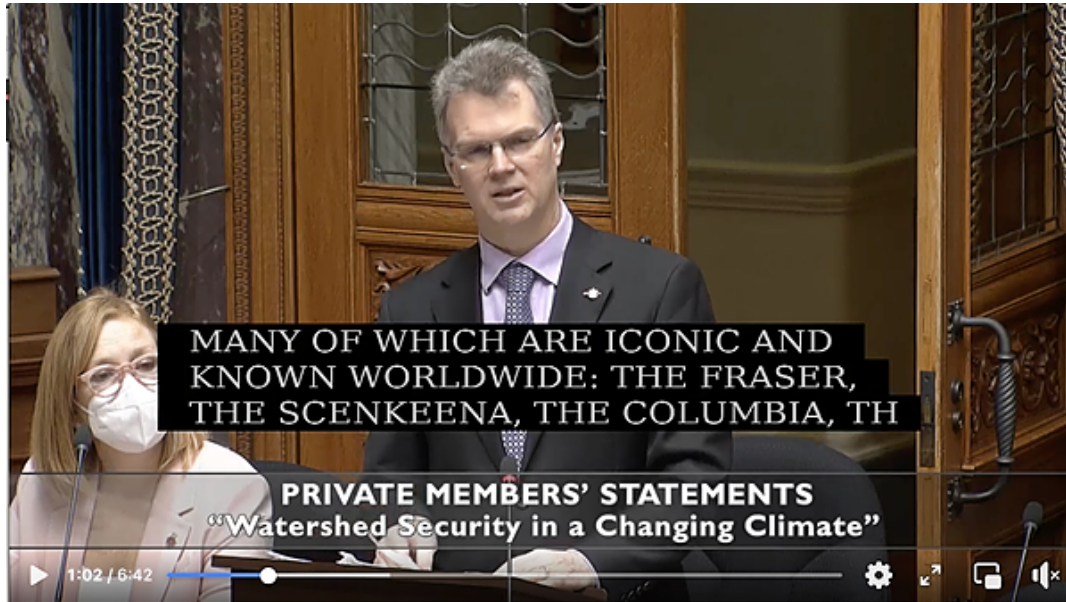
😊 I can give you a little teaser! :



Photo: Fernando Lessa, [Twitter @fgclessa](#)

We are partnering with filmmakers Fernando Lessa and Nate Slaco to document the incredible Fraser River from headwaters to sea both in pictures and on film. Stay tuned to this newsletter for updates on the Fraser Expedition!

Watershed Security in the BC Legislature



On Monday, Feb. 14, Parliamentary Secretary, Fin Donnelly, MLA, spoke about the importance of healthy watersheds in the BC Legislative Assembly and highlighted our Foodlands Corridor Restoration Program!

[Watch it here.](#) (The Foodlands portion starts at 4:11.)

Watershed Heart of the Fraser Strategy Session Update

On January 25, 2022, the Pacific Salmon Foundation and Rivershed Society of BC, under the direction of a coalition, convened the Heart of the Fraser Strategy Session to explore the values, threats and opportunities for a conservation plan in the Heart of the Fraser.

The objectives of the session were to:

1. Support attendees with understanding the significance of the Heart of the Fraser from a variety of perspectives;
2. Identify threats and issues that the Fraser River is facing, from Hope to Mission;
3. Discuss various options for management and protection from federal, provincial and Indigenous Protected Areas perspectives.

This collaborative, multi-sector, multi-agency session was an opportunity to develop a comprehensive list of issues, identify actions and provide recommendations for consideration to a broad audience.

101 people participated in the session with attendance from First Nations groups, federal, provincial, municipal, academic, non-governmental organizations and more.

[You can find the YouTube playlist with recordings of the session here.](#)
[View the report and summarized notes here \(PDF\).](#)

News from the Watershed

Watershed Security Fund

Earlier this month, the Province of BC released a public discussion paper about the BC Watershed Security Strategy and Fund, and is accepting feedback on it until March 18th. We encourage everyone who cares about clean drinking water, fish populations and thriving local economies to submit a comment. It's a great way to take meaningful action to support watershed security in BC!

We share some great resources to help guide your response [in this blog post](#).



Interior Fraser Steelhead Facing Extinction

Fifteen fishery and conservation groups are calling on the federal government to add the unique species of ocean-going trout to Canada's Species at Risk Act. Spawning populations of Interior Fraser steelhead hit the lowest level on record and are facing a "severe conservation crisis".

Read more on this topic [in this CBC article](#) and then [add your name to this petition](#) calling on the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to recommend that Interior Fraser Steelhead are given protection under SARA before it's too late.

Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Can't Offset Extinction of Fraser River Chinook Salmon

More than 100 species that live in the Fraser River estuary are at risk of extinction. Now, they are facing yet another threat. The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority is planning to double the size of the Roberts Bank shipping terminal in the Fraser Estuary, putting further stress on an area that has already lost more than 85% of its floodplain habitat.

The Impact Assessment Agency found that Roberts Bank Terminal 2 will have significant adverse effects on the South Thompson River and Lower Fraser Chinook salmon populations, create a large barrier to juvenile Chinook migrating to eelgrass beds, and adversely affect food availability for Southern Resident killer whales.

[See Seattle Times story *You can't 'offset' extinction of Fraser River Chinook salmon.*](#)

An important nursery and feeding ground, the Fraser River Estuary is a food web that links fish, birds, and marine mammals across thousands of kilometres of the North Pacific Ocean. **It is absolutely crucial that it be protected.** Our friends at the Raincoast Conservation Foundation have made it easy for you to submit a comment for the public input period, which is open until March 15.

[Please take action to protect the Fraser estuary and submit a comment.](#)

Freshwater Stream Podcast

Now in its second season, *The Freshwater Stream* is a podcast about BC's watersheds and the people who care about them. ☐

In the second episode of Season 2, host Danielle Paydli speaks with David Slade, a water well driller in the Cowichan Valley, about the potential groundwater crisis looming for BC's aquifers. [Give it a listen now.](#)

Events

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

This event, administered by Western Washington University's Salish Sea Institute, is bringing together scientists, knowledge holders, First Nations and tribal government representatives, resource managers, community and business leaders, and policy makers to share science and stories of the Salish Sea. The presentations and discussions that occur at the conference are a platform to build shared policies and practices to guide future actions for protecting and restoring the Salish Sea and its watersheds. The outcomes are improved scientific collaboration, data sharing and dynamic discussions on the state of the Salish Sea ecosystem, and collaborative action. [More info / register here.](#)

Climate Action Workshops

Hey, teachers! ☐ The Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC) recently launched FREE workshops geared to students in grades 3 to 9. The Climate Action Workshops cover the science behind climate change, and its impact on communities, renewable energy, and local food and ecosystems.

[Learn more and register your class here.](#)

Webinar: Improving Forest Practices to Protect Water

The BC Wildlife Federation is holding the next edition of their Conservation Webinar Series, *Improving Forest Practices to Protect Water* on Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022, 7:00pm. [More info / register here.](#)

Opportunities

Watersheds BC, a project of **MakeWay**, is hiring a full-time [Program Associate](#) to support the **Healthy Watersheds Initiative** (term position).

The **Community Energy Association** is looking for a [Local Government Climate Network Coordinator](#).

The **Stanly Park Ecology Society** is hiring a [Conservation Technician](#).

Swim, Drink, Fish is hiring a [Digital Marketing & Communications Coordinator](#).

The **BC Wildlife Federation** is now hiring a [Summer 2022 Wetlands Education Program Intern](#).

Thank you for reading and subscribing to Rivershed's newsletter! If you have Fraser Watershed news or events you would like to share with our network, please [send me an email](#). I would love to help you get the word out.



Richelle Giberson
Director of Communications & Design
Rivershed Society of BC

To help connect, protect and restore the Fraser Watershed, please [support our work](#).



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c/o 20484 88A Ave, Langley, BC, V1M 1A1

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