



Hello! This is Martin Melendro, Rivershed's new Watershed Defender Movement Coordinator. From this edition of *Rivershed Stories* onwards, I will be connecting with you through our newsletter. After spending the last few years helping to establish a network of Forest Defenders on Vancouver Island, it is a privilege to be able to build an environmental network once more, this time to connect, protect and restore the Fraser Watershed.

On World Health Day, April 7th, the World Health Organization drew attention to the urgent actions required to keep people and the planet healthy in the face of a pandemic, a polluted Earth, rising diseases, and warfare. They centered their attention on the urgent need to keep humans and the planet healthy by creating societies and organizations **focused on well-being**. Knowing the climate crisis is the world's biggest health crisis, I am excited to join Rivershed's efforts to build a stronger network of Watershed Defenders and respond to this urgent call to action.

I am excited to connect with all watershed defenders right across the province and keep you updated with news events, and opportunities from throughout the watershed. If you have a relative or a friend who might be interested in joining our movement, [please invite them to join!](#)

Rivershed News

Save the Date! - Our AGM is June 4

It has been quite a year, and we want to share it with you! Please mark your calendars for our Annual General Meeting (AGM), taking place virtually on **June 4 at 1pm**.

The AGM is an important opportunity to review and celebrate the past year, and to share our plans for the future. Kim North, Chair of the Board, and Justine Nelson, Executive Director, will discuss Rivershed's vision for a resilient Fraser Watershed. Anyone is welcome to attend the annual meeting, but only members can vote.

[Sign up here to become a member or renew your membership.](#)



Headwaters to Sea Expedition and Documentary

In 2022, documentary filmmaker Fernando Lessa, film director Nate Slaco, and the Rivershed Society of BC will complete a 30-day expedition on the River, following the salmon migration route, to tell a story of resilience in the face of the climate crisis, as they paddle one of the last un-dammed main stem rivers in the world.

Learn more about this exciting expedition: rivershed.com/expedition



▮ Spotlight on Reed Canary Grass

Have you seen our latest blog post? It features audio of Al Jonsson from Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd. describing how reed canary grass was impacting the

sće:łxwǿýǽm (Salmon River). [Check it out](#) and learn about what we have done through our restoration work at the Foodland's Corridor pilot site to replace the invasive grass with species that can improve bank growth and salmon migration paths.

This restoration work was supported by the Healthy Watersheds Initiative, a program that was funded by the Government of British Columbia and delivered by the Real Estate Foundation of BC in partnership with Watersheds BC. Additional funding support provided by Dr. Bronner's.



Do You Have a Favourite Route to Share?

Tell us where YOU love to explore by foot, wheel, or paddle in your region of the Watershed. We are adding regional routes that highlight natural and cultural wonders to our Routes to Explore page for Race the River, and are looking for suggestions! If you know a place we should include, please [send us a message](#).

Take part in this year's challenge (June 11 - July 3) and [register today!](#)

News from the Watershed

Fraser Chinook salmon can now reach estuary habitat inaccessible for 100 years

Huge congratulations to our good friends Raincoast Conservation Foundation and everyone involved in this incredible project. [Read more.](#)

Alliance against open-net fish farms calls for feds to follow through on phasing out commitment

Wild salmon conservation has been highlighted as a critical issue by representatives from five First Nations, who expressed their support for the transition. It would remove open-net cage fish farms from the path of wild salmon, which are often infested with sea lice and disease. [Read the story.](#)

Ducks Unlimited Canada has released a thorough report to guide future restoration work in the Fraser River Estuary

Factors influencing the persistence of created tidal marshes is the focus of a new study. [See press release.](#)

Spraying herbicides from helicopters? Concerns mount over plans for southern B.C. forests

BC Timber Sales plans to do aerial and ground spraying of Glyphosate, Triclopyr and Formula 40 to kill native hard woods and Indigenous medicines and food such as berries, salal, Indian Hellebore, Devil's club, fireweed and more from Squamish to Hope as part of its 5-year Integrated Pest Management Plan. [Learn more.](#)

Glyphosate use in forests could endanger Indigenous plant species, Abbotsford doctor says

A palliative-care doctor in Abbotsford, has raised concerns about the use of a known carcinogen in forest management in the Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland. [Read the news article.](#)

Events

Spring Salmon Eggs-Travaganza (New West)

April 14 –16. Celebrate the arrival of spring salmon into the Fraser River with games, activities, and crafts at the Fraser River Discover Centre. [Pre-registration recommended for some activities.](#)

Super Saturday “Plants Alive” (New West)

April 23. Find out how people have used natural plants for food and medicine and create your own using simple craft items at the Fraser River Discovery Centre. [Learn more.](#)

River Basin Day (Langley)

April 30. Explore the Fraser River Basin with the Fraser River Discovery Centre at Brae Island Regional Park at 12:30 and 2:00 with an hour of activities, experiments, and art projects focused on the river's biodiversity.

[Find more about this event here.](#)

Map Our Marshes (Chilliwack)

April 30. A Learn about the diverse types of wetlands and how to protect them. This free, entry-level workshop will introduce you to the basics of wetlands and mapping, using free software, GPS, and your smartphone. No previous experience necessary. This workshop includes a mix of virtual classrooms and in the field hands-on learning. [Register here.](#)

Opportunities

Vancity is hiring a full-time [Manager of Sustainable Operations](#) living in BC to develop and implement an enterprise-wide sustainable operations strategy.

Greenpeace Canada is hiring a full-time [Senior Researcher and Writer](#) anywhere in Canada.

Fuse Consulting is hiring a remote full-time [Chief of Staff](#).

The **Pacific Salmon Commission** is hiring multiple temporary summer positions including [Port Sampling Technicians](#), [Sampling Coordinators](#), [Test Fishing Observers](#), [Assistant Fisheries Technicians](#) and [Vessel Operators](#). They are also hiring two permanent full-time positions: A [Chinook Technical Committee Coordinator](#) and a [Test Fishing Operations Manager](#).

NatureKids BC is looking for a [contractor to design their 2022 toolkit/resource kit](#) for leaders and clubs.

The Fraser River Discovery Centre is looking for a [Program Coordinator](#) and [Summer Day Camp Instructors](#).

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 do not hesitate to [email me](#). I look forward to hearing from you!



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