

With so much happening in the world right now, it's hard to write a newsletter and not acknowledge the difficulties many people in the world are facing. Our hearts go out to all those struggling with the news of more graves found on residential school sites, and we are saddened by the polarization happening in communities across Canada over vaccine mandates.

Personally, with my late grandmothers being of Ukrainian and Russian heritage, and both of my grandfathers being WWII veterans, watching the news as Russia invades Ukraine has been particularly difficult.

However, even on the hard days, there are bright glimmers of hope ahead. The provincial 2022 budget was recently released - and contained some great news for watersheds! With the days getting longer, and crocus and snowdrops starting to bloom in the Lower Fraser, Rivershed is looking forward to the brighter days ahead, with a return to being on the water and continuing our Foodlands restoration work.

Rivershed News

Now that the weather has warmed and the water table has dropped, we have been able to return to doing on-site work at our Foodlands pilot sites along the s̓c̓e:łxʷəy̓əm (Salmon River).



The mighty clean up crew. Photo by Lara Volgyesi

To get ready for the effectiveness monitoring that will be taking place at these pilot sites, we have been working on post-flood debris clean up, stabilizing beaver cages, and preparing to replace plants that didn't survive November's flood. All things

considered, the traditional plants held up remarkably well through the devastating climate change-related weather events last fall.



We cleaned the flood debris off the cages that we installed last Fall to protect the willow (χeleʔəþ in hə́qəmihəm, Xéltsepelhp in Halq'eméylem) whips from a beaver living nearby. Photos by Olivia Dawson of NERV Productions.

Kelly Yates (Kwantlen First Nation) and Lisa Dreves, with her team from the Langley Environmental Partners Society, have been a great support throughout all of this, ♥ thanks so much, Kelly, Lisa and LEPS!

Chris Currie from Athene Ecological was recently on-site to install bat and screech owl audio recording units as part of our species-at-risk monitoring plan. **There is a lot happening this spring that we are excited to share... Follow us on social media for more updates!**



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*Traditional place and species names provided by knowledge keepers and speakers from the Kwantlen and Katzie Nations.

This restoration work is supported by the Healthy Watersheds Initiative, a program which is funded by the Government of British Columbia and delivered by The Real Estate Foundation of BC in partnership with Watersheds BC.

News from the Watershed

\$30 million for BC Watersheds

[BC's Budget 2022](#) was presented in the Legislature and includes \$30 million in grants to help protect BC watersheds! This is great news for watershed resiliency in BC, and a good first step towards the new Watershed Security Strategy and Fund being developed by the BC government.

BC Government Ministry Restructuring

The BC government's much anticipated [reorganization of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources and Natural Resource Operations was announced last week](#), and included the restructuring of other ministries as well as new Ministers.

[CTV News story - B.C. politics: New ministry created](#)

Concerns about Fraser River Sturgeon heightened after one found eating smaller sturgeon

Cannibalism is not considered normal behaviour for sturgeon. [This story is another example](#) of why it is critically important to connect, protect and restore habitat in the Fraser Watershed.

Diesel spill in Port Coquitlam responsible for death of a beaver

☹️ A large volume of diesel was spilled in a ditch at a CP Rail yard in Port Coquitlam and spread to a creek that feeds the Pitt River and a wildlife preserve where eagles nest. [Read more here](#)

Watershed Security Fund

Don't forget to submit a comment on the discussion paper about the BC Watershed Security Strategy and Fund by March 18th!

It is a great way to take meaningful action to support watershed security in BC. ☐☐

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



Events

2022 Sustainable Communities Awards accepting nominations now

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Sustainable Communities Awards celebrate the innovative environmental initiatives in Canadian cities and communities. **Nominate your municipality by March 31!** [More info.](#)

Salmon Parks film

Looking for something to take your mind off current world events? Check out Salmon Parks, a short film that reveals the fascinating interconnectedness between wild salmon and ancient forests. The story follows an Indigenous led plan to recover wild salmon and restore critical watersheds amidst the looming threat of industrial scale logging.



You can [stream Salmon Parks as part of the Canadian Environmental Show](#) - which is part of the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival - **online until March 27.**

Opportunities

The **Invasive Species Council of BC** is currently hiring teams around the province for [hands-on invasive species management](#).

A [Health and Wellness Coordinator](#) is being sought by the **City of Kamloops**.

The **Environmental Youth Alliance** is hiring a [Fundraising and Communications Coordinator](#).

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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