

Tomorrow is World Wildlife Day! Wildlife plays a crucial role in maintaining healthy ecosystem by providing essential services, such as pollination, nutrient cycling, and water filtration. In return, healthy watersheds provide vital resources such as clean water, food, and shelter for wildlife. By working to connect a Watershed Movement to protect and restore the Fraser Watershed, we are helping to ensure the survival of the incredible species that call this place home.



Clockwise from left: Fin Donnelly (MLA for Coquitlam-Burke Mountain), Mark Gifford (CEO, Real Estate Foundation of BC), Lara Volgyesi (Foodlands Project Consultant) and Emily Pearson (Foodlands Coordinator).

Last week, the Foodlands team attended a symposium hosted by the Healthy Watersheds Initiative and the Real Estate Foundation of BC. It was a great opportunity to connect with organizations and people working to protect and restore watersheds throughout the province.

Some of the incredible speakers at the symposium, included:

- Keynote speaker Anne Haira, Deputy-Secretary of Climate Change/Partnerships & Public Affairs of the Ministry for Environment for the Government of New Zealand discussed watershed management and protection in Aotearoa.
- Fin Donnelly, MLA for Coquitlam-Burke Mountain, Parliamentary Secretary for Watershed Restoration, and Rivershed's founder, spoke on the commitment to establish a Watershed Security fund.
- Tara Marsden/Naxginkw, UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Fellow with the Real Estate Foundation of BC, spoke about implementing UNDRIP and centering Indigenous rights in watershed work.

## News from the Watershed



BC  
WATERSHED  
SECURITY  
COALITION

# \$100 Million

## Watershed Security Fund

BC Budget 2023

### Province pledges \$100 million for watershed security

The provincial budget states that this investment will “enable projects that benefit a range of provincial priorities, including wild salmon health, clean drinking water, biodiversity, flood resilience, economic opportunities, and reconciliation with First Nations”. [Learn more.](#)

### Kiyooka Land Trust Foundation acquires 72-acres of wetland/riparian area in the Robson Valley for conservation

The parcel of land, situated in Tête Jaune Cache, BC is located on the unceded traditional territories of many Indigenous Peoples including the Secwépemc, Lheidli T'enneh, and Rocky Mountain Cree. [Read more.](#)



## Newly-formed coalition wants to save dwindling wild Pacific salmon stocks

The Save our Salmon Coalition says it hopes to be a united front in [advocating for the iconic West Coast fish.](#)

## Government of Canada takes action to protect wild Pacific salmon migrating through the Discovery Islands

After consultations with First Nations, industry and others, the Honourable Joyce Murray, Minister of Fisheries Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard announced her decision not to renew licences for fifteen open-net pen Atlantic salmon aquaculture sites in the Discovery Islands. Read the [news release.](#)

## Canada's environment minister calls for emergency order to protect northern spotted owls

An emergency order would allow Ottawa to prevent B.C. from logging in old-growth forest habitat where the at-risk species live. At this time, it's believed there are only four northern spotted owls in the wild in BC. [Read more.](#)

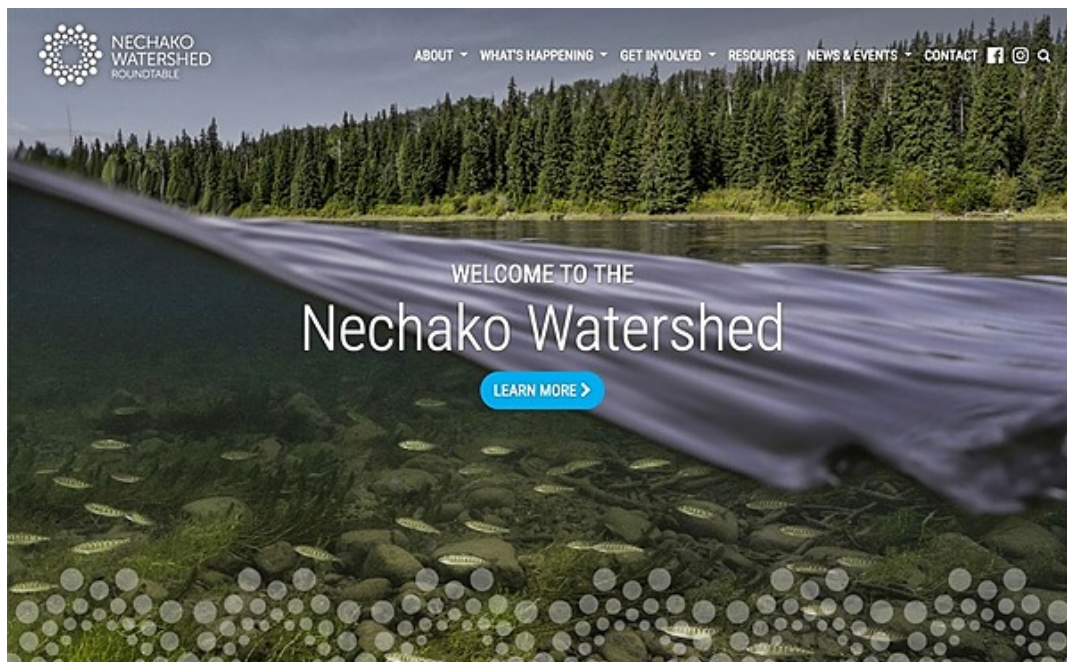


Sturgeon Bank, Photo courtesy of Ducks Unlimited Canada

## Pilot project protects Sturgeon Bank marsh



Richmond's Sturgeon Bank is the site of a new [pilot project](#) aimed at protecting the crucial marsh area through sediment deposits. [Read more.](#)



## New Website for the Nechako Watershed Roundtable

The Nechako Watershed Roundtable is a collaborative initiative to protect and improve the health of the Nechako Watershed for future generations. The Roundtable brings together public sector, private sector, and community organizations having responsibilities and interests in this Watershed. Learn more about this organization by visiting their [new website!](#)

## Events

### Oregon Spotted Frog Professional Training (Agassiz)

**March 9 & 10.** Join the Fraser Valley Conservancy for this training session designed to help environmental monitors accurately identify and distinguish local frog species. [Multiple sessions available for registration.](#)

### Stewardship Work Party (Burnaby)

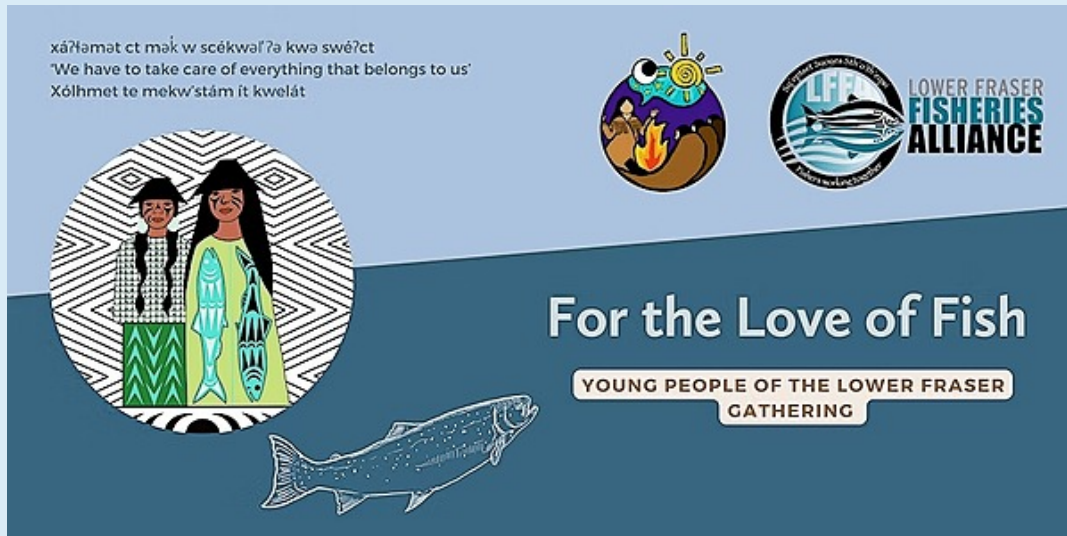
**March 11.** [Join the Still Moon Arts Society](#) as they observe the health of planting done last fall near Still Creek, and practice spot weeding.

### Spring Discovery Days (New Westminster)

**March 11 – 26.** Take a break and spring into the Fraser River Discovery Centre to delve into the many stories that are a part of the Fraser River. There will be self-guided activities throughout the building, a facilitated activity from 10am-12pm, and storytime from 1pm-3pm. [More info.](#)

### River Basin Days: Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park (Burnaby)

**March 18.** Spring is just around the corner and the birds are getting ready! Join the Fraser River Discovery Centre to learn about some of the ways that birds prepare for spring! [Advance registration required.](#)



### **For the Love of Fish: Young People of the Lower Fraser Gathering (Tsawwassen)**

**March 20.** A special event for Guardians and young people from Lower Fraser First Nations interested in fisheries and water protection. [Register by Friday, March 10.](#)

### **Habitat Healers Information Session (Mission)**

**March 25 (in-person) & 27 (virtual).** Are you interested in learning how to support nature and wildlife where you live? The Fraser Valley Conservancy's Habitat Healers Ambassador Team may be for you! [Learn more.](#)

### **Pacific Ecology and Evolution Conference (Vancouver)**

**April 1 & 2.** This student-run, annual conference aims to provide opportunities to early-career scientists to exchange ideas and collaborate. [Register by March 18.](#)

## **Opportunities**

Fraser Valley Conservancy is looking for a [Volunteer Coordinator.](#)

BC Wildlife Federation is hiring [summer internships and full-time contracts.](#)

Watershed Watch Salmon Society is looking for a [Communications Specialist.](#)

Still Moon Arts Society is hiring for [multiple positions.](#)

Surrey's Natural Areas Partnership is hiring numerous [summer positions.](#)

Fraser Basin Council is seeking a [Regional Manager.](#)

This newsletter is full of content provided by **YOU**, and we can't thank you enough for sharing!

Please continue sending us any news, events or opportunities that you would like to promote throughout the watershed as we continue to build a Watershed Movement.



Aleena Oates  
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Rivershed Society of BC

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