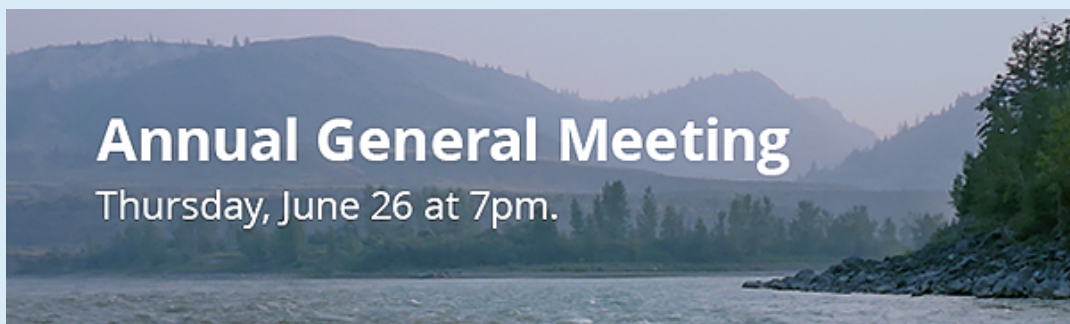


As we welcome spring—a season of renewal and growth—we also recognize the uncertainty many are feeling right now—be it the looming federal election, ongoing tensions between Canada and the United States, or concerns about another unpredictable wildfire, drought, and flood season—and the big emotions that can come with it. In moments like these, the work we do together to protect and restore the Fraser feels even more vital, offering hope and resilience for communities throughout the watershed.



This issue of Rivershed Stories is full of updates and opportunities from across the watershed—including a save-the-date for our upcoming Annual General Meeting and a special film screening, an exciting job opening at Rivershed, and regional events you can attend.

If you have an event or opportunity you'd like us to share in a future issue—published on the last Thursday of each month—please email us at info@rivershed.com.



Save the Date: Annual General Meeting & Special Film

Screening

Rivershed's Annual General Meeting will take place virtually on June 26—and this year, we're offering something special.

We're honoured to be joined by Bev Sellars, former chief and councillor of the Xat'sūll (Soda Creek) First Nation, for a special virtual screening of her award-winning film, *The Spirit Who Swims*.



Co-directed with Garry Tutte and produced with Hemas Kla-Lee-Lee-Kla (Chief Bill Wilson), the film is framed as a love manifesto to salmon. It highlights their spiritual and material importance to Indigenous peoples along the Fraser River, brought to life through vivid underwater cinematography and sweeping aerials. It's a powerful call to rethink our relationship with the natural world.

We're proud to share this important work with communities across the Fraser Watershed in conjunction with our AGM. More details will be shared soon—but for now, mark your calendar for June 26 and [register here](#).



Job Alert: Are you highly organized, detail-oriented, and passionate about making a difference? We are looking for an Executive Assistant / Operations Coordinator to support Rivershed's executive team and help keep day-to-day operations running smoothly. This key role combines administrative coordination with strategic support—

helping our team stay aligned, focused, and moving forward as we work to protect and restore the Fraser Watershed. Learn more and [apply here](#).

News from the Watershed

One of Canada's biggest copper mines plans to expand. B.C. says it won't need an environmental assessment

Xat'sull First Nation asked B.C. to order an environmental assessment of the Gibraltar mine's expansion plans. The provincial government declined. [Read more](#).

Sacred land return, agreement advances reconciliation between Semá:th First Nation and B.C.

Sumas First Nation (Semá:th) and the province are strengthening their relationship through the return of the sacred Lightning Rock site. [Continue reading](#).

Lower Mainland flood prevention work must wait, province admits

A provincial spokesperson says 'competing priorities' mean there is no money for critical flood-planning work. [Continue reading the article](#).

As B.C. consumers see carbon-tax savings, conservation group mourns policy

As B.C. fuel prices plunge, an energy economist says consumers could see other – albeit limited – cost reductions in a post-carbon-tax world. [Discover more](#).

On the Path to 2030: A Report Card on Progress to Protect Land and Ocean Across Canada

Progress report shows BC needs faster action on nature conservation. [Read report](#).

Maple Ridge warns residents about high water this spring

The City of Maple Ridge is taking a proactive approach to emergency management, warning people to be ready for high water this spring, and running emergency preparedness workshops. [Learn more](#).

Nature Trust B.C. successfully protects Lake Errock land

Donors raised more than \$500,000 to protect critical habitat forever. [Read more and watch the video](#).

First Nation plots wastewater plant to process rural residents' poop

Plants in Abbotsford and Chilliwack recently stopped accepting waste from outside communities. [Learn more](#).

Policy brief – supporting freshwater salmon habitat through the Water Sustainability Act

It is important to remember that our water, and the incredible fish that return to our watersheds, are one of our greatest natural resources and are an integral part of strong and resilient local economies. [Keep reading](#).

Are BC's Old-growth Forests Worth More Standing?

Are old-growth forests worth more standing? A report released today by ESSA (Environmental and Social Systems Analysts), and led by Dr. Cedar Morton, suggests

yes. [Full report here.](#)

Move over Peace Corps, meet Climate Corps.

It might not sound like a climate job, but mechanical insulators help make buildings more energy efficient. Laura Lynch heads out to meet a young woman who trained in the trade through a program set up by the Youth Climate Corps BC. The group is training young people around British Columbia for a wide variety of good, green jobs and hopes to expand across the country. [Listen here.](#)

British Columbians are dying from fossil fuel pollution; will BC's Attorney General take on Big Oil?

West Coast Environmental Law and the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) are calling on provincial officials to turn their sights on Big Oil. [Read more.](#)

This is no time to walk away from nature

In the early 1990s, the international community signed the Convention on Biological Diversity. Since then, reports continue to highlight species and ecosystems in decline. [Continue reading.](#)

OPINION: B.C. Supreme Court rules logging company can't claim financial losses due to conservation

Forestry giant Teal sued for \$75 million in compensation after old-growth trees on Haida Gwaii were protected, and lost — a victory for Indigenous Rights and law. [Know more.](#)

First Nation challenges B.C.'s approval to raise Mount Polley mine tailings dam

The Xat'sull First Nation has filed a petition in B.C. Supreme Court requesting a judicial review of the government's decision to approve the raising of the dam by four metres without "meaningful" conversations with the nation. [Get the full details.](#)

A conservation hatchery could give hope to steelhead beset by deteriorating habitat and pinniped predation

A review of the risks and benefits of a conservation hatchery for Interior Fraser Steelhead by scientists at the University of British Columbia suggests there may be a way forward for steelhead runs that are teetering on the brink of extirpation. [Learn more.](#)

B.C. ministers urge residents to have go-bags, insurance before floods and wildfires

B.C. Wildfire Service warns of elevated spring fire risk unless there's sustained rain. [Read more.](#)

Was this newsletter forwarded to you by a friend?

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Events

Fraser Valley Conservancy Native Plant Sale (Abbotsford, Lower Region)

Until May 4. Plants have been specifically chosen and locally grown to be the best fit for your garden and local wildlife. All proceeds help protect nature in the Fraser Valley for future generations. [View the catalogue and place your order here.](#)

2025 Fingerling Festival (Port Moody, Lower Region)

May 3. The Port Moody Ecological Society invites everyone to attend their annual Fingerling Festival. This iconic environmental festival is the largest of its kind in the Lower Mainland and provides an opportunity for children and adults to help release thousands of young chum salmon into Noons Creek. [Details here.](#)

Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society Annual General Meeting (Online, Watershed-wide)

May 7. Join the LRISS for their annual planning meeting and AGM taking place on Zoom. [Register here.](#)

Living Lakes Canada, Annual General Meeting 2025 (Online, Watershed-wide)

May 8. Join Living Lakes Canada's AGM to explore their water science and stewardship achievements over the past year and get a glimpse of what's ahead. [Register here.](#)

Nature Canada, World Migratory Bird Day Webinar (Online, Watershed-wide)

May 8. Showcasing communities across Canada who have been crucial in protecting, restoring and advocating for local bird populations and biodiversity. [Register here.](#)

Watershed Watch Salmon Society, Paddle the Slough Challenge 2025 (Chilliwack, Lower Fraser)

May 10 – June 15. Get ready to explore Chilliwack's hidden gems by canoe, kayak or paddleboard! Join WWSS for the 8th Annual Paddle the Slough Challenge, now featuring a kickoff event to get the paddling season started in Chilliwack's beautiful sloughs and waterways. Sign up for the flotilla, the Paddle the Slough Challenge or both! [More details here.](#)

Nicola Naturalists Society Hosts 2025 BC Nature Conference and AGM (Meritt, Thompson Region)

May 22-25. Full Registration includes all presentations, BC Nature meetings, Thursday night reception, and field trips. [Register here.](#)

Plant ID Workshop for Spring Edible and Medicinal Plants – a Women Outdoors Workshop (Prince George, Nechako Region)

May 24. Join the B.C. Wildlife Federation and Jen Cote from Moose, Mushrooms and Mud as we take you for a walk through a small piece of the abundant land Prince George has to offer. [Register here.](#)

Outdoor Recreation Council of BC Annual General Meeting (Online, Watershed-wide)

June 4. Save the Date! This is an opportunity for members to vote on board positions and to bring issues, concerns, and/or interests up for discussion, resolution, and

action. [Learn more here.](#)

Outdoor Recreation Council of BC 5th Annual BC Trails Day Celebrations (Watershed-wide)

June 7. The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC coordinates and promotes BC Trails Day. Outdoor groups and communities are encouraged to host local events, ranging from recreational opportunities, trail stewardship projects or virtual events. [Learn more and register your event here.](#)

Fraser River Discovery Centre, Fraser River Hall of Fame Ceremony (Vancouver, Lower Fraser)

June 11. This year's inductee in the Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society. [Learn more and purchase tickets here.](#)

2025 Salmonid Enhancement Program Community Workshop (Kamloops, Thompson Region)

June 13 – June 15. Hosted by Simpcw First Nation, hundreds of participants representing various stewardship groups, community hatcheries and other community conservation groups will gather for a weekend that includes hands-on and interactive training, information sessions and field trips. [Register here.](#)

Opportunities

The **Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society** is looking for volunteers to join their Board of Directors and encourage youth to apply. Email info@LRISS.ca for more information.

The **Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC** is hiring a [Restoration Community of Practice \(CoP\) Coordinator](#).

The **Indigenous Leadership Initiative** are hiring a [Social Media Manager](#).

The **BC Society for Policy Solutions** is looking for an [Operations Manager](#).

The **BC Wildlife Federation** is hiring a [C.O.R.E Program Coordinator](#).

The **Nature-Based Solutions Foundation** is seeking a [Communications & Research Officer](#).

The **Northern Development Initiative Trust** is hiring a [Chief Financial Officer and a Financial Analyst](#).

Do you have any Fraser Watershed news, events or opportunities you'd like to share with thousands of people across the watershed? Email them to info@rivershed.com

Thanks for reading!

Until next time—yours in stewardship,

The Rivershed Team



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Rivershed acknowledges our position as a settler-led organization on Indigenous, and often unceded, untreated land in what is today called British Columbia, Canada. Our organization works to understand the responsibilities of this privilege, and we aim to engage, promote, and support Indigenous-led work to connect, protect, and restore (Watershed CPR) the Watershed.

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