

Following are highlights of Fraser Basin Council's current work in the Fraser Valley.

Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy – LMFMS highlights

FBC's flood management strategy team continues to be busy on a number of fronts on this important file. Some of the recent developments include:

- **Orphan Dikes** – The contractor has completed field assessments for three more structures in the Chilliwack River valley, along with quality control and assurance of fieldwork. They continue to work on the hydrology and hydraulics assessments, and the design and cost estimates for upgrading the dikes. They are also assessing the consequences if the orphan dikes fail.
- **Flood Mitigation Options for Sub-Regional Planning** – A sub-regional analysis and evaluation of options will soon begin to better understand the suitability of different flood risk reduction options for different sub-regions, with different local circumstances. The Joint Planning Committee seeks members to advise and take part in the sub-regional process.
- **Assessing Lower Mainland Flood Risk** – FBC has secured grant funding to undertake a Lower Mainland flood risk assessment through the federal National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP), a \$200-million cost share program that aims to reduce the risks and impacts of flooding on Canadians. FBC is working with the Province and the federal government to finalize details. This project will include additional hydraulic model runs, development of flood damage curves, and assessment of flood risk. This will be particularly important to identify regional priorities for flood risk reduction.
- **Provincial Flood Strategies** – Building on its work to date on the Lower Mainland flood strategy, FBC has been retained by the Province of B.C. to undertake a series of investigations from 2019 to 2021 to inform and support flood strategies around the province.
- **Flood and Environment Atlas** – Explore the new online atlas at www.cmnbc.ca/atlasgallery/lower-mainland-flood-and-environment-atlas

Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewards (CLASS)

- CLASS volunteers continue to count **Canada geese** at Cultus Lake for FVRD Area H director Taryn Dixon, including the latest count on July 10, when 208 adult geese and 24 goslings were spotted, (some adults are likely young from this year). The count on June 1 found 74 adults and 18 young. The data will help plan strategies for managing the goose population on the lake.
- FBC distributed **Clean Drain and Dry** signs from the Invasive Species Council of BC at Cultus Lake Park, Lindell Beach, Stave Lake and Lake Errock, to help boaters prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants,
- CLASS volunteers will assist the FV Invasive Species Society with a **yellow flag iris survey** around Cultus Lake and a removal program this summer and fall. CLASS volunteers were out last month to assist FVISS reposition mats used to smother yellow flag iris patches in Sweltzer Creek.
- FBC/CLASS had a well-attended booth at **Cultus Lake Days** (June 22) and at the **Cultus Lake Pikeminnow Derby** (June 15). FBC connected FLNRORD to the Derby organizers, the Chilliwack Lions Club, so FLNRORD staff could provide the public with information about **smallmouth bass**, and request that any bass caught be taken to the DFO research centre for study. The bass was likely introduced to the lake and is an invasive fish. Chilliwack Lions report 200 adults and 161 kids registered for the derby; they caught 1,271 pikeminnow and 28 smallmouth bass, a total of 390 kg of fish. That's more than 2018, when 972 pikeminnow were caught, which was up from 736 in 2017. No smallmouth bass had been caught in previous years. FBC/CLASS is working with FLNRORD to raise awareness about the smallmouth in Cultus, which seems to be the only Fraser Valley lake to date to have the invasive fish.
- Two CLASS volunteers have begun taking **Secchi readings in Cultus** to track lake's water clarity through the year. CLASS recently joined the BC Lake Stewardship Society, which provided the Secchi kit. Earlier this summer, the water was clear up to 5 metres, then in late June it dropped to 4 metres and was reported as 'milky.' CLASS will forward its findings to the BCLSS for its province-wide BC Lake Stewardship and Monitoring Program database.

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