



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

Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy – LMFMS highlights

- **Lower Mainland Flood Forum** – Fraser Valley local governments were well represented by CAOs, staff and elected officials in Vancouver on Oct 8-9, 2019, with 127 people attending. Speakers highlighted work completed. A report on attendees' remarks and suggestions will be at upcoming flood committee meetings.
- **Flood Model and Mapping Tool** – This completed project includes a primer and a video synopsis for non-technical audiences. This tool will be used to: run and analyze flood scenarios; flood risk assessment; and will be used to establish model archives, updates, maintenance and stewardship.
- **Outreach** – Through the summer the LMFMS team met with more than 200 people at various meetings to discuss local issues, including the Upper Fraser Valley Community to Community Forum; MOU signing for flood management between Sumas First Nation, City of Abbotsford and FLNRORD; and Chilliwack Flood Gate workshop. Outreach will continue in 2020.
- **BC Storm Surge Forecast** – This program provides almanac and tide calendars at www.stormsurgebc.ca
- **Flood and Environment Atlas** – www.cmnbc.ca/atlasgallery/lower-mainland-flood-and-environment-atlas

Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewards (CLASS)

- Up to 12 CLASS volunteers helped FVRD Director Taryn Dixon complete a series of 4 Canada goose counts at Cultus Lake from April to September. Visual counts showed geese ranged from 30 in April, to 208 in July and back to 31 in September. The data goes to a consultant who is devising a goose management plan for the lake.
- **Smallmouth bass in Cultus Lake:** Funding for a four-year management program to control smallmouth bass (SMB) in Cultus Lake is on hold. In August, B.C. biologists (ECCS and FLNRORD), DFO and Thompson Rivers University devised plans to control invasive SMB in Cultus, which appears to be the only Fraser Valley lake affected to date. SMB devour young salmon and other native fish species. CLASS members attended the meeting, and will take part when the program proceeds.
- A CLASS volunteer provided **water clarity** (Secchi wheel) readings to BC Lake Stewardship Society's stewardship and monitoring program. Readings taken from June to September showed water was most murky (3.8m visibility) in July, and cleared up considerably in September (10m).
- CLASS will support 24-hour boat check stations on the Alberta border to monitor for invasive quagga and zebra mussels. In 2019, B.C. found 10 boats with zebra mussels entering the province. Mussels are extremely difficult to remove once established in a lake. See bit.ly/2IFBtEZ and dontmoveamussel.ca
- CLASS members observed and provided feedback on Sweltzer Creek weir management to maintain optimal lake water levels from spring to fall, in order to prevent beach erosion, dock damage, property flooding and to maintain habitable levels for aquatic life in the creek itself. The electronic water level gauge installed by FVRD is very useful. CLASS members support and will advise on the creation of a weir management manual.

Fraser Valley Illegal Dumping Alliance (FVIDA)

- Along with FVRD director Orion Engar, FVIDA members drew attention to persistent illegal camps at the Swelter/Chilliwack confluence; FLNRORD authorities hired clean up crews to remove polluting materials from Crown land before rainy winter weather. Next, FVIDA and Engar will make an inventory of other illegal camps in the Chilliwack River Valley. See more at bit.ly/2XviQT5 and bit.ly/330sbn8
- FVIDA members also reported 10 illegal camps along the Fraser River at Gill Road to FLNRORD, RCMP and the City of Chilliwack. The city and the Province are working on a long-term management plan to protect the area.
- In its current secretariat role to FVIDA, FBC will reach out to First Nations, schools and youth, and help devise a data collection plan to assist local governments identify costs of and budgeting for illegal dumping.

Salmon Safe Certification

- The Salmon Safe B.C. Certification program, administered by FBC, is in the pre-assessment stage with a Chilliwack-based hop business. The SSBC program recognizes businesses that follow sustainable methods that protect salmon habitat and water quality in rural and urban lands. FBC is working to add to the 40 farms and vineyards now SSBC certified in the province. The website is at salmonsafe.ca

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