



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

Fraser Valley Illegal Dumping Alliance (FVIDA)

- On March 28, the 2020 Fraser River Clean Up and Celebration could be the largest of its kind in the province. Last year the event drew more than 700 volunteers, who collected 6.5 tonnes from the area. Organizers predict the volunteer numbers could go up to 1,000 people. Since 2007, the total waste collected at Gill Road alone is an estimated 130 tonnes in 12 years. See bit.ly/33cnCaP
- The Chilliwack Vedder River Clean Up Society host their event on April 4 from the Thompson Regional Park. Despite heavy rain last year, CVRCS also drew good turnout of 244 volunteers and collected 4.5 tonnes of waste.
- Both groups and several FVIDA members collect waste from 'hot spots' around the community through the year, and alert authorities to camps and illegal activities. However, FVIDA's main focus is to educate the public about the need to protect green spaces and waterways from environmental damage. FBC continues to provide support to FVIDA as it reaches out to other communities in the FVRD to build its network and identify new dumping sites.

Cultus Lake workshop

With funding from the Canada Nature – Aquatic Species at Risk fund, and contracted by the Fraser Valley Watershed Coalition, FBC is busy organizing a one-day workshop for March 25, 2020 on eutrophication in Cultus Lake, with several regional experts in aquatic ecosystems, and soil and air quality management.

Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy – LMFMS highlights

- **Lower Mainland Flood Risk Assessment** – Team continues to collect crucial data for draft surveys of local government and non-residential properties for flood risk data. The March 5 workshop detailed progress, draft results and explored different weighting models of risk factors within the Risk Profile tool.
- **First Nations outreach** – LMFRA team held workshops with First Nations on Feb. 7 and 12 to explore First Nations flood risks and opportunities to share and integrate data in the Flood Risk Assessment project.
- **Hydraulic modeling and mapping** – Staff provide modeling and mapping results to partners on request. Partners are also exploring the models for their specific needs. Data-sharing and model-use agreements are being drafted to facilitate and track this process.
- **Videos and website** – Video interviews are underway with flood and relevant subject matter experts for this important outreach and education tool, which on track for March 2020 completion.
- **Adaptation Canada 2020 Conference** – FBC staff presented a workshop session on the Lower Mainland and province-wide flood strategies work to date.
- **Outreach and engagement** – FBC staff are preparing a series of meetings and online events on the draft LMFMS for partners in the spring and summer, and for stakeholders and the public in the fall.
- **Ecosystems inventory** – A consultant has been hired and has begun work to classify and map ecosystem areas in the Fraser Valley floodplain. Fraser River sturgeon and eulachon data can be found in the Flood and Environment Atlas, www.cmnbc.ca/atlasgallery/lower-mainland-flood-and-environment-atlas

Adaptation Canada 2020 Conference

Recruited by Natural Resource Canada to organize the Vancouver conference, the FBC team and 60 volunteers created an exemplary experience from Feb. 19-21 for 726 delegates, from every corner of Canada and beyond, who work in climate change mitigation and adaptation. FBC Chair Colin Hansen and Xaxli'p Chief Colleen Jacob opened the event; Pers Stoknes and Sheila Wall-Cloutier were keynote speakers. FBC staff infused the three days with unique new components: all vegetarian meals; two new topic areas of health and youth; an Aboriginal gathering place for Indigenous participants and those wanting to learn about First Nation cultures; five youth observers who reflected on the delegates' work during and at the end of the event. The range of topics and speaker bios can be found at www.adaptationcanada2020.ca

For more details, please contact:

Christina Toth at 604-864-9295, ctoth@fraserbasin.bc.ca | Bob Purdy at 604-488-5355, bpurdy@fraserbasin.bc.ca