



Following is an update of Fraser Basin Council's current work in the Fraser Valley.

Covid-19 pandemic response

The Fraser Basin Council team is very fortunate to be able to continue their work with B.C. communities and numerous initiatives during this very challenging time. Managers and employees are working from home to look after the health and safety of its team, families and communities.

To continue servicing our partners and the many programs in which we are involved, we have adopted virtual meetings, relying more on electronic tools, and we are increasing our online content. We continue to actively connect and collaborate with our program partners, advisors and stakeholders – if you have questions, please contact us by email, social media, or phone: find our contacts at www.fraserbasin.bc.ca

FBC is grateful to fellow British Columbians working on the front lines of health care and other vital services, and we recognize their extraordinary efforts in this time. We sincerely hope everyone at FVRD and your families, friends and community are safe, in good health and good spirits as we move through this experience together.

Fraser Valley Illegal Dumping Alliance (FVIDA)

- Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the 2020 Fraser River Clean Up and Celebration at Gill Road, planned for March 28 was cancelled for the year, as was the Chilliwack-Vedder River Cleanup scheduled for April 4. FVIDA committee members and countless volunteers play vital roles in supporting those events. Last year more than 700 volunteers collected 6.5 tonnes from the area. Since 2007, total waste collected at Gill Road event alone is an estimated 130 tonnes in 12 years. Organizers believe it could be the largest community-organized cleanup event in the province. Despite heavy rain last year, CVRCS also drew good turnout of 244 volunteers and collected 4.5 tonnes of waste. CVRCS has tentative plans for a Rivers Day cleanup in September, pending Covid-19 restrictions.
- FVIDA members continue to collect waste and patrol known hot spots around Chilliwack, alerting authorities to illegal activities and dump sites. Recently our volunteers alerted FLNRORD natural resources officers about an occupied camp with several cars on the Fraser River foreshore at Gill Road. With the freshet rising, it is a dangerous situation for the squatter, and environmentally damaging if the vehicles washed down the river. Many others have been spotted testing their 4x4 vehicles in the increasingly dangerous, rising freshet waters. FLNRORD is monitoring the situation. FVIDA is also reminding the public about the safety risks along the river's edge at this time. FBC continues to support FVIDA with its outreach work to educate and influence behaviour to reduce illegal dumping in the region.

Cultus Lake workshop

Unfortunately, the in-person workshop on Cultus Lake FBC had planned for March 25 was cancelled due to Covid-19. However, FBC adapted its contract with the Fraser Valley Watershed Coalition (FVWC) to create an overview report of latest data on cultural eutrophication in Cultus Lake and the sources of nutrients leading to this, to set the stage for future discussion. The report will go to confirmed participants and other interested groups to provide context, and encouragement for collaborative exploration and sustainable action. At stake are Cultus Lake's unique pygmy sculpin and sockeye salmon, as well as its many ecosystem values so treasured by its residents and millions who visit this beautiful lake every year and enhance the local economy. FVWC and FBC hope to inspire new collaborative partnerships and win-win approaches across the sectors to address this very challenging matter. FVWC received a grant from Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (CNFASAR) for the workshop.

For more details, please contact:

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