



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

#### Covid-19 pandemic response

- To keep staff and partners safe, the Fraser Basin Council team of managers and employees have returned to work from home, in order to align with BC public health directives. Through the summer, FBC staff went to their Vancouver and regional offices in a modified fashion, alternating days and times. The team continues to use and refine virtual meeting options to keep in touch with our partners, clients and other staff members.
- FBC prepared a 2020 Update to Local Government in lieu of a briefing that would otherwise have been made at the 2020 UBCM: [www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/\\_Library/Fraser\\_Basin\\_Council/FBC\\_Update\\_LG\\_July\\_2020.pdf](http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/_Library/Fraser_Basin_Council/FBC_Update_LG_July_2020.pdf)

#### Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy

- **Lower Mainland Flood Risk Governance** – The local government caucus of the Leadership Committee met October 29. The flood strategy governance and leadership caucus meetings will resume in December, after a hiatus during the provincial election period earlier this fall.
- **LMFMS draft report** – A first draft of the Flood Strategy will be provided to the 66 partner organizations for feedback, planned for January 2021, which will be followed by an updated draft for other stakeholders and the public in spring 2021, for their comment through online engagement. The FBC team's goal is to finalize the strategy by June 2021, subject to support by the partner organizations.
- **FloodWise website** – The LMFMS team reminds guests and partner organizations to visit and explore the *FloodWise* website at [floodwise.ca](http://floodwise.ca) launched this fall. The site has many user-friendly features ranging from a pictorial history of the 1894 and 1948 Fraser River floods, to data-rich reports, tool kits, approaches to flood proofing, and a two-part video series called *When the Waters Rise*, which examines flood hazards and LMFMS partner collaboration on their local responses. The site profiles all the Flood Strategy phases to date, which it will be updated as work progresses. Visitors are also invited to sign up for LMFMS updates.

#### Fraser Valley Illegal Dumping Alliance (FVIDA)

- FBC and FVIDA volunteers will meet – virtually – in coming weeks to plan a 2021 Gill Road cleanup on the Fraser River in small, safe groups this March, in accordance with pandemic directives. The 2020 event, which drew 700 volunteers in 2019, was cancelled due to the pandemic. Plans include providing cleanup kits to interested schools and community groups to support their ongoing stewardship in their neighbourhoods.
- A core group of FVIDA volunteers have continued to patrol popular sites and report trouble spots to the RAPP line and to local authorities. Recently the removal of 260 kilograms of trash from the Vedder Canal, a critical fish corridor and a popular fishing destination for local and visiting anglers year round, was featured in the *Chilliwack Progress* ([bit.ly/37tsta6](https://bit.ly/37tsta6)). FVIDA volunteers are working with Conservation Officers to set up trail cameras in order to identify and ticket perpetrators under the *BC Environmental Management Act*.

#### Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS)

- Fraser Valley staff continue to draft the next 10-year monitoring review on the Fraser River for the CHRS program (funded by Parks Canada and BC Parks) – the report will include the Experience the Fraser initiative, and FVRD's Outdoor Recreation Economic Impact Analysis released this summer.

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**Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Strategy (CLASS)**

- A suite of reports on eutrophication in Cultus Lake, created in partnership with DFO lake specialist Dan Selbie for the Fraser Valley Watershed Coalition (FVWC) and funded by Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (CNFASAR), is available at the FBC website for review, at [www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/fvr\\_programs.html](http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/fvr_programs.html)
- CLASS is updating its website with current data on eutrophication and invasive species. Starting in January, CLASS will disseminate brochures to the public on Canada goose control, eutrophication and invasive species.
- CLASS is preparing a series of online workshops and speakers for 2021 for the local community.

**FBC Youth Program**

- A Chilliwack student enrolled in the University of the Fraser Valley's environmental studies is one of the young participants to take part in the second year of FBC's *Co-Creating Sustainable BC* project. The young adults work with community stewardship leaders to learn about climate change and sustainability initiatives in their area, and to identify gaps where action is needed. This segment of the program concludes in April 2021.

**Fast Charger program**

- The Clean Go Electric Public Fast Charger Program, which FBC manages on behalf of the Province, is open for applications to support fast charging for electric vehicles around the province. Additional funding and application support are available for First Nations. A total of \$55 million is available through this program.

**Salmon Safe BC Certification**

- Administered by FBC, this program that accredits businesses or groups that adopt land and water management practices to protect wild salmon habitat is gaining interest from private companies, local governments, schools and others. The team is exploring ways to promote Salmon Safe products with supportive vendors. They are also working to expand the Salmon Safe Agriculture certification program in the Fraser Valley and throughout the province.