



#### Fraser Valley Illegal Dumping Alliance

The Fraser Valley Illegal Dumping Alliance met in Chilliwack on Feb. 16 to discuss plans for upcoming community volunteer cleanup events, and to discuss how to address the increasing illegal waste dumping around the region. The group meets three times a year and is facilitated by the non-profit Fraser Riverkeepers, which promotes water awareness and stewardship of waterways. It also provides FVIDA with web support, at [www.fraserriverkeeper.ca/fvida](http://www.fraserriverkeeper.ca/fvida). Agencies and groups represented at the meetings include Fraser Riverkeepers, Chilliwack/Vedder River Cleanup Society, Fraser Valley Salmon Society, Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, FVRD, City of Chilliwack, Mission Environmental Stewardship Society, Fraser Basin Council, Conservation Officer Service, other dedicated local groups, businesses and individual citizens.

- FVIDA members met Feb. 16 to firm up plans for the **11<sup>th</sup> annual Fraser River community cleanup** and river celebration on **March 24 along Gill Road**, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Around 600 to 700 volunteers are expected – last year drew 350 despite heavy rain. Several groups, agencies and local government will provide in-kind services to the volunteer effort, including pre-event work (Chilliwack city may smooth out potholes, David Elderkin will collect nails, FLNRO will remove trailer(s) and possibly pick up any asbestos/drywall after); Kal-Tire will repair tire punctures on site; tents will be donated; Restaurant 62 will provide post-event BBQ; many others involved. Sponsors and some heavy equipment & operators are required. Carpooling will be promoted; radio station may be on site.
- **Chilliwack/Vedder River Cleanup Society** will host its annual **Earth Day weekend cleanup, April 21**, based at the **Great Blue Heron Reserve**, Yarrow. Strong volunteers willing to scramble down banks and who have pickup trucks required. CVRCS will host another community clean up event on **Rivers Day, Sept. 23, 2018 from the Chilliwack Fish and Game site**.
- FVIDA plans to replace and add up to 10 signs around Chilliwack to remind people not to dump illegally, and to call the RAPP line if dumping is observed. Funds are needed for this.
- Other discussions were about protocols to deal with hotspot clean ups, increasing urban waste dumps that are moving further up the valley into undeveloped areas.
- Rachel Schoeler from Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup will create a template for volunteer groups to track the volume of waste they collect; data is useful to track accomplishments, for advocacy and funding requests.
- FVIDA has received calls from other communities (Richmond) for guidance on how to establish a similar illegal waste cleanup program. FVIDA also aims to develop closer relationships with First Nations communities.
- New Fraser Valley water literacy co-ordinator Megan Reich will visit regional high school grad classes to discuss prevention of illegal dumping, and to encourage youth volunteerism, noting volunteer credits are available to students.
- Mission Environmental Stewardship Society (MESS) staff said they address urban waste and are now moving into illegal dumping in rural areas, with the help of community groups. Abandoned shopping carts are a challenge.

#### Barn owl and rodenticide initiative:

- Work is started on informational videos on vole damage to blueberry bushes and best practices for rodenticide use. The team will also encourage local growers to attracting natural predators to farm sites to control vole numbers, specifically the threatened Western Barn Owl. The team is working with Ministry of Agriculture staff and pest control authorities to develop field protocols to identify vole activity and to advance sustainable responses. Outreach to farmers for nest box installation begins next month.

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

- University of BC researchers provided an interim report on preliminary interviews with Cultus Lake residents and stakeholders for Phase I of the economic analysis of Cultus Lake to determine what values they ascribe to the lake. This information will form the basis for surveys in Phase II of the study. Phase I concludes at the end of February 2018, with a report due within a few weeks; FBC will seek funds for the larger two-year Phase II of the economic analysis in 2018.

#### FBC June board of directors meeting and tour

- FBC staff members are developing details for a June 13 tour for FBC board of directors, with the FBC board meeting to follow on June 14 in Abbotsford. Tour highlights will include regional programs or projects that emphasize sustainability and collaboration, such as the Stave Lake West recreation development vision, and flood mitigation. FBC staff is working with FBC's Fraser Valley-based directors.

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**Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy (LMFMS):**

- The **Joint Program Committee** met Feb. 14 and requires input on the modelling and mapping project. Natural Resources Canada is modernizing its vertical datum system for the country and has recently adopted a new reference system. This has potential ramifications for the technical modelling and mapping projects. Previous studies and data sets such as the 1-D model, Water Survey of Canada gauge data, and as-builts for dike crests are in an older datum (CVGD28). New data, such as the LiDAR that was flown partially in support of this project, is in the new datum (CVGD2013). As systems are updated, this may make the mapping obsolete, or at least require updating. FBC flood strategy staff seek input from partners on which datum they would prefer. More information on the datum shift is available here: [www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geomatics/geodetic-reference-systems/9054](http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geomatics/geodetic-reference-systems/9054)  
The JPC will make a decision on this issue by March. We are working to ensure that the result of the modelling and mapping projects are useable by the majority of project partners – and therefore need to hear from you what you'd prefer. Specific questions or comments should go to Tamsin, at [tamsin@ebbwater.ca](mailto:tamsin@ebbwater.ca)
- **Flood Mitigation Priorities** – Responses from local governments, First Nations and other organizations were drawn from an online survey launched in September to identify flood mitigation priorities. This starting point for further refinement was presented to the JPC at the Feb 14 meeting. The online link is [cs.createstsurvey.com/publish/survey?a=UTDNpX](https://cs.createstsurvey.com/publish/survey?a=UTDNpX)
- **Environment** - Good progress has been made to compile data about environmental values and features as relevant to the Flood Strategy and to present on an online atlas. FBC has had multiple meetings with partners and advisors to advance development of the online atlas.
- **Leadership Committee** – Work continues on establishing the Leadership Committee. Public Safety Canada's Regional Director Andrew Hannan recently confirmed his approval to participate on the committee.
- **First Nations outreach** – FBC met with Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation on the Flood Strategy in October, with the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance in December, and held a teleconference with INAC, LFFA and the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre to discuss coordination of funding proposals and engagement efforts.
- **Flood Mitigation Approaches** – A draft discussion paper on flood mitigation approaches that adapt to a changing climate will form the basis of the next Flood Strategy Briefing Bulletin as well as additional analysis to evaluate what approaches are suited for different local conditions.

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