

July/Aug/Sept

2022

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## Alouette River Management Society Presents...



## Help protect the Alouette River watershed by volunteering with us!

Get outdoors and explore the natural ecosystem during salmon spawner surveys, water quality testing or invasive species removal. Work independently in a quiet, relaxing environment. Enjoy the tranquility of our office location nestled between the banks of the Alouette River and the calm ALLCO Park forest. All while meeting new people, making new friends and learning new skills.

Volunteers are extremely important to the Alouette River Management Society. We are incredibly grateful to have so many dedicated groups and individuals who support our organization by donating their time to us. ARMS is proud to offer a variety of volunteering opportunities to people of all ages!

Whether you're passionate about environmental stewardship, engaging with community members, or office administration we have a volunteer opportunity perfect for you.

Fill out a volunteer application form and submit to communications@alouetteriver.org









Contact the Alouette River Management Society: 604-467-6401

## **Greta Borick-Cunningham**

Executive Director arms@alouetteriver.org

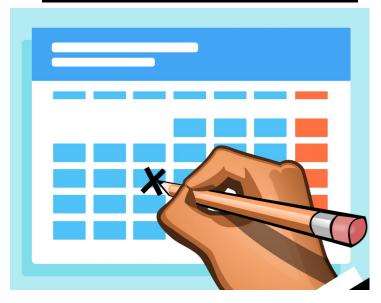
## **Sophie Sparrow**

Environmental Projects & Communications sophie@alouetteriver.org

## **Marissa Waddell**

Watershed Project Manager education@alouetteriver.org

## Mark your calendar!



## **Himalayan Blackberry Removal**

When: October 15th (9:30am - 1:30pm)

Where: Reg Franklin Park, 12155 Edge Street,

Maple Ridge

**What:** Morse Creek riparian restoration: Himalayan

Blackberry removal

## **Native Species Planting**

When: October 21st (12:00pm - 3:00pm)

Where: Reg Franklin Park, 12155 Edge Street,

Maple Ridge:

What: Morse Creek riparian restoration: Native spe-

cies planting

## Freshwater ARTways

When: November 2nd (2:00pm - 4:00pm)

Where: Reg Franklin Park, 12155 Edge Street,

Maple Ridge

What: Create community artwork with Artist in

Residence, Aaron Moran.

## **Community Park Clean up**

**When:** November 9th (2:30pm - 4:30pm)

Where: Reg Franklin Park, 12155 Edge Street,

Maple Ridge:

What: Community Clean Up with the Maple Ridge

Adopt-a-Block Program

## **Environmental Education**

**Eco Camps:** We had another successful season of summer Eco-Camps this summer. We saw 85 campers in five weeks of camps from July 11th - August 19, 2022. Camps were hosted back at the Rivers Heritage Centre this year, with many ALLCO Park adventures of course.

Themes offered were Pixelmon, Nature Detectives, Flip Flop Flap and Get STEAM'd. We had an amazing team of camp counsellors who provided fun and creative activities and a lot of energy at this year's camps. We were able to offer more camp spaces this summer due to demand while still maintaining safety for all participants.

This year we had to work with a few different obstacles including forest fire smoke and heat waves, however the park provided a safe place for everyone to enjoy. We received a lot of positive feedback from the parents as well which is always nice for staff to hear. "Best experience he has ever had at camp!" "Well organized. Amazing teachers. Well thought out!" Planning has already begun for Spring Break Eco-Camps 2023, stay tuned!

**Fall Education:** Booking availability for Fall 2022 are Mondays and Fridays only. We are hosting both in class and on site field trips for classes of all ages. Please email education@alouetteriver.org for inquiries. For details on all of the classes offered visit our website:

Field trips: https://alouetteriver.org/field-trips

Classroom Programs: https://alouetteriver.org/school-programs



# A Single Sockeye!



We had our first (and only) Sockeye salmon on July 20<sup>th</sup> this year. Although we were extremely excited to see this return, we are very sad to see that no more have arrived this season. We speculate that this was because the numbers of outmigrating sockeye smolts from the Alouette Reservoir were 0 in 2019 and 1,473 in 2020, these years being the ones most likely to return adults to the system. The adult salmon was healthy and above average in size for an early return. The salmon was successfully transported to the Alouette Reservoir for spawning in the fall. We are still hopeful to see more sockeye return in October, fingers crossed!

## Salmonid Habitat Rejuvenation Projects

This year ARMS was approved for a grant from the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program for Salmonid Habitat Rejuvenation Projects in the Alouette Watershed. \$81,000 was approved so that important upgrades and maintenance work could be completed, allowing the channels to continue to function well for salmon. So far we have completed half of the work set out in this project. In mid-July, the original beaver box located at Golden Pond was removed and a new metal pipe was installed in its place. Mission Contractors, familiar with DFO and ARMS projects in the Alouette Watershed, were contracted to dig out the old pipe and replace it with a new one. We also had Fisheries and Oceans Habitat Resource Restoration engineer support who oversaw the work at the site, with their expert knowledge of beaver enclosures helping to ensure the new pipe was correctly installed.

Our second enhancement project was to clean out an overgrown Coho overwintering channel, west of 232<sup>nd</sup> Street. Several invasive species are found at the channel site including Yellow Flag Iris, Scotch Broom, Himalayan Blackberry, Reed Canary Grass, and Policeman's Helmet. The Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver (ISCMV) has also been active in the control of the invasive species in this area. Japanese Knotweed has been prevalent in the area, forming large stands through disturbed areas. ISCMV contracted work has reduced the size of these stands and decreased their ability to spread further.

July 21<sup>st</sup>, Mission Contracting Ltd. and DFO senior engineer, Johnathan Bulcock, again helped oversee the excavation work at the channel. The upper portion of the overwintering channel was overgrown with reed canary grass, causing the channel to be choked with vegetation and very shallow for Coho fry and other aquatic species use. Mission Contracting removed the clogged-up portion of the channel and regraded it. The channel looks amazing now and ready for high use again by salmon! Thank you to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for providing continued support in these projects and helping to guide us through the work that needs to be done at these valuable sites.











# Ridge Meadows Rivers Day

We successfully hosted the 29th Annual Ridge Meadows Rivers Day event on Sunday September 25th in ALLCO Park, Maple Ridge. We had 489 attendees, 24 exhibitors, 32 volunteers who contributed 135 hours on the day! We sourced a local bakery (Bella Nonna's) to make 100 salmon-shaped cookies for us to give away to the event participants. We provided an opportunity for a local small business to offer their wares for sale and bought coffee and treats for volunteers from a new local coffee shop called "The Nut". We hired local entertainers: Click and Clown, The Well-Worn Trail, and Lisa Rae Simons to provide on-stage fun for kids and their families. We also recruited mostly local environmental and community groups to attend the day. We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to our financial supporters:

City of Maple Ridge Festival Support Grant \$1500 \$1000 Innergex Renewable Energy \$1000 Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Vancouver Port Authority \$700





PACIFIC SALMON **FOUNDATION** 











ARMS offered a streamkeepers training workshop on September 17<sup>th</sup>and 18<sup>th</sup>, free to volunteers and ARMS members. This was made possible by the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF). ARMS received funding from PSF for the Alouette Watershed Community Workshop Series which engages youth community through river stewardship. Streamkeepers training provides citizen science in stream habitat surveys, water quality monitoring, juvenile fish trapping and identification and stream invertebrate studies.



Program

## Looking for a

# COMMUNITY initiative with a MARKETING twist?

Maple Ridge businesses are invited to join the Maple Ridge Adopt-a-Block Program!





## Adopt-A-Block

## Adopt-a-What?

Adopt-A-Block is a volunteer-based initiative envisioning a litter-free City. The idea behind Adopt-A-Block is to encourage active community engagement and promote proper waste disposal while building neighbourhood relationships.





## How does it work?

Your business or group 'adopts' a section of roadway for a 2-year period. Once a month, your business does a litter pickup of the adopted area. There's a small, annual membership fee that allows us to offer the program to individuals and families in Maple Ridge for free.



## Why should your business join?

A municipal street sign of recognition will be installed at your adoption address, letting the neighbourhood know that your business is to thank for a clean, safe street - a great marketing incentive. The Adopt-A-Block program is a way for your business to give back to the Maple Ridge community and show your civic pride.



Interested? Contact us at 604-463-9699 OR adoptablock@alouetteriveriver.org to register and learn more!

#### **Become a Partner**

The Alouette River Management Society is a small grass-roots group working actively to protect the environment and educate our citizens about the importance of the Alouette Watershed. We can only do this with long-term sustainable funding to staff and build our capacity. While project grants are great, they very often do not provide for staff wages, administrative costs and running the organization all of which are essential to do the work we do. Six levels of sponsorship are available. Please consider supporting local environmental initiatives by sponsoring the Alouette River Management Society. We are a registered charitable non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Be an Event Sponsor: Choose from an ARMS event such as the Father's Day Fish Release, Annual ALLCO Fish Hatchery Tour or the OWLES (owls, wildlife and endangered species) Community Workshop (\$500/event)

Sponsor Projects: Annual projects include Alouette River Butterfly Gardens and Pollinators, Overwintering Coho Fry Habitat Monitoring, Interpretive Signage and Fish Passage Advocacy (\$1000/project).

Sponsor Education Programming: Spring break and Summer Eco-Camps for kids (\$1000/camp). In-class workshops as well as on location tours (\$100/workshop).

Support Operations: Sponsorships are needed for the essential operations of the Rivers Heritage Center, ARMS headquarters, community space and interpretative centre. Take out a Sponsoring Membership!



Alouette River Management Society Sponsorship Levels **Corporate, Business, Family & Individual** Maple Ridge Newspaper









#### ARMS in 100 Words:

acknowledge

recognition post

site location

recognition

ARMS news-

letter

sor page

page

The Alouette River Management Society (ARMS) is dedicated to proactively protecting and improving the Alouette Watershed and surrounding areas by creating a healthy environment connecting parks, trail systems, public centers and waterways.

Volunteer supported, ARMS is involved in watershed inventory and monitoring, habitat restoration, public awareness and adopta-stream, liaising with all levels of government and private land owners, and working towards the protection of aquatic habitat. ARMS offers environmental education programs including fieldtrips, classroom and habitat programs, and day camps.

ARMS is currently advocating for a fish ladder over the Alouette Dam, reconnecting the river and lake since 1928.



Check out our website: www.alouetteriver.org



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