



**Oct/Nov/Dec**  
**2023**

**Alouette River Management Society Presents...**

# Alouette River News

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***Tis' the season of giving, and all through December, ARMS is asking you to donate to the Rivers Heritage Center!***

As we wrap up the year we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the Alouette River Management Society. We have had another very successful year in 2023. We look forward to the New Year with many exciting projects and activities planned! **Donate to Our Heritage Campaign today!**

We are reaching out to see who can offer materials, expertise, or most importantly, cash donations to help us reach our goal of \$100,000. It is only once these critical repairs are made that we can ensure our Rivers Heritage Centre provides a secure, comfortable and safe environment for decades to come.

Of course, like all donations to ARMS, contributions over \$25 are tax deductible. Donations made before December 31, can be deducted on this year's tax return.



***Please note ARMS office will be closed for the holidays from Dec 19th to January 2nd, ARMS staff will return on January 3rd 2024.***

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## Farewell Layla!



Sadly, in this edition, we will be saying our heartfelt good-byes to an amazing staff member who joined us in October 2022. Layla Haslinger was hired as our Environmental Education Coordinator in the fall last year after just graduating from the University of Calgary. Throughout her year with ARMS, Layla delivered over 203 environmental workshops and camp days, helped reach over 3700 youth, and attended many community outreach events including Summer Salmon Series at Golden Ears Provincial Park in August and the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Ridge Meadows Day in September! Layla's genuine enthusiasm for the outdoors, youth, and environmental education was a great addition to the ARMS team and we will very sad to see her leave but excited for her new adventures to come! All the best in 2024 and beyond Layla!



## Environmental Education

**Pro-D-Day Eco-Camp:** ARMS hosted an Eco-Camp for students aged 5-11 during a school district Pro-D Day. Thanks to the two outstanding high school volunteers, the campers enjoyed a day full of art and animals. The activities included playing a multitude of animal-themed games, making art with fall leaves, and learning to identify scats and tracks. The campers even had the opportunity to witness spawning salmon by going down to the river. The eco-camp was a great way for children to learn and have fun on their day off from school.



**Fall 2023:** This fall, ARMS has organized several field trips for students at the Rivers Heritage Center. During these field trips, the students had the opportunity to experience various activities such as visiting the Allco hatchery, learning about the water cycle and its effects on pollution, witnessing a salmon dissection, and participating in a guided nature walk. During the nature walk the students had a great time participating in a forest scavenger hunt activity. A few fortunate students were even able to see a sockeye salmon, bears, eagles, and chum eggs. Overall, more than 220 students had a memorable experience learning about the watershed and having fun. In addition to field trips, ARMS staff have conducted workshops in schools on different topics such, as salmon anatomy, the water cycle, and nocturnal animals. Lastly, ARMS was invited to participate in two SD42 Ignite events, where we provided educational sessions on water quality and birdhouse building for grade 6 and 7 indigenous students.

**Spring 2024:** Bookings for Spring 2024 have already begun. Workshops will be offered on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We are offering both in class and on-site field trips for classes of all ages. Please email [education@alouetteriver.org](mailto: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>



# Chinook, Chum, Coho... oh my!



ARMS coordinated spawner surveys for the fifteenth year running in the same four tributaries within the Alouette Watershed. Spawner surveys provide information about the number of adult salmonids that reach the spawning grounds, and the proportion that spawn successfully. Fisheries managers use the term escapement to describe the number of fish that escape the various fisheries. These tributaries include Coho Creek, Latimer Channel, Millionaire Creek, and the North Alouette River. Twenty trained volunteers surveyed the tributaries for three months using the provided spawner survey kits. *"It has been another great year of salmon counting, it is also nice to see so many returning volunteers"* one volunteer said, *"It is very exciting to see the salmon beginning to return!"* another volunteer said.

## 2023 Sockeye Salmon Update:

Sockeye salmon sampling commenced on July 19 when the 1st adult sockeye salmon arrived to the ALLCO fish fence. The most recent sampling occurred on October 19 when our 31st sockeye returned to the fish fence. For each returning sockeye, the date of capture was recorded along with a unique ID assigned. Fork length was measured, and photos were taken of the left and right side and vent of each returning sockeye. After samples were complete and the salmon were measured, the fish were transported via a specially designed trailer system to the Alouette Reservoir where they were released. Mortalities were recorded and bodies were frozen for further analysis by DFO at a later date. Obvious predation mortalities were returned to the river so nature could continue to take its course. In total, 24 adult sockeye were successfully transported to Alouette Reservoir in 2023. Of the 7 that were not transported, 3 were frozen for further sampling, 3 were returned to the otters that had been preying upon the sockeye prior to our sampling, one was released just upstream of the ALLCO Fish Fence. Sockeye adults showed few signs of wear and tear, and the majority swam off well. Fork length measurements, photographs, scale samples, as well as an adipose fin clip was taken for analysis from each adult. The tissue and scale samples will be sent to the Quantitative Assessment Methods Section of the Pacific Biological Station (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) laboratories in Nanaimo, B.C. for aging and genetic analysis. On average, sockeye adults measured 55.75cm in fork length, with the largest returning sockeye measuring in at 60.96cm (Fish 8) and the two smallest returning sockeye measuring in at 48.26. ***This project is financially supported by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program.***





## **FALL'ing in love with Morse Creek (Year 2)**

With immense support from volunteers in our community, ARMS hosted several activities alongside Morse Creek at Reg Franklin Park this fall. Thank you to our funders Stewart Family Foundation, Pacific Salmon Foundation, and EcoAction Canada as well as our partners and community members for contributing to the enhancement of this riparian area!

**October 7<sup>th</sup>** saw 30 community members join forces with the Lower Mainland Green Teams to remove over 5.5 cubic meters or 34 bathtubs of Himalayan blackberry! Participants also planted 25 native shrubs to the newly cleared spaces. 94 volunteer hours were contributed to this event!

**October 29<sup>th</sup>** ARMS teamed up with Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver and engaged 11 community members from Maple Ridge and beyond. Participants removed 8 cubic meters of onvasive English Ivy or 15 bathtubs full! Everyone enjoyed a hot lunch provided by Panago Pizza. 33 hours of volunteer work was contributed to this event.

**November 15<sup>th</sup>** the Maple Ridge Adopt-a-Block Program hosted a Morse Creek clean up event which saw 5 participants remove a large black garbage bag full of litter.

In total, since the implementation of this project (2022 - 2023) volunteers have contributed a total of 609 hours!!! 61 cubic meters of invasive plants have been removed including Himalayan Blackberry, English Ivy, English Holly and Cherry Laurel, which would fill 349 bathtubs!!! 219 native shrubs and trees were planted in its place. 1141 pieces of litter have also been removed from the riparian area of Morse Creek. A huge thank you to everyone who participated in these activities, as well as EcoAction Canada, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, and the Stewart Family Foundation for the generous financial support provided for this project. If you would like to become involved with these activities or have any questions, please contact Marissa at [watershed@alouetteriver.org](mailto:watershed@alouetteriver.org).



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
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Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada



**The Stewart Family**  
FOUNDATION



**PACIFIC SALMON**  
FOUNDATION

Making a positive impact on people, animal welfare and the environment



# Why it's important to become a member of ARMS



**Education & Outreach**



**Rivers Heritage Centre**



**Adopt-a-Programs**



**Environmental Stewardship**

In order to continue to receive crucial operational funding to keep the organization running, ARMS need to increase our membership. Funders often ask about membership capacity, and this is where you can help. ARMS' vision for the Alouette Watershed is for a resilient ecosystem rich in biodiversity, culture, and recreation. ARMS' mission is to sustain and enhance the integrity of the Alouette Watershed through advocacy, education, collaboration, and stewardship using science-based decision-making.

Grants such as 'BC Community Gaming' consider an organization's membership base as one criteria for eligibility. Grants are very important to ARMS financial sustainability. ARMS applies regularly for grants but most of the time these only cover specific items such as hiring experts to assist in salmonid habitat enhancement or purchasing trees to plant. "Very few organizations will fund operational costs or investment as I like to think of it," said Greta Borick-Cunningham, Executive Director. "Members are important for ARMS to succeed not only in all the volunteer opportunities we can provide as part of our mission but also to our long-term financial stability." Join others who care about their local rivers, streams and surrounding environment.

Join our community! Support ARMS & [become a member today!](#)

## Annual Membership Types:

\$10 - 1 year membership

\$25 - 3 year membership

\$75 - Lifetime membership

**Appreciate where you are! Restore what we have left! Motivate others to join you! Stand up and make a difference!**



## Become a Sponsoring 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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event Banner</li> <li>• Acknowledgement in annual report to municipalities</li> <li>• Maple Ridge Newspaper Acknowledgement</li> <li>• Logo &amp; name on brochure</li> <li>• Website home page</li> <li>• Social media recognition post</li> <li>• Donor wall on site location</li> <li>• Certificate of recognition</li> <li>• Recognition in ARMS newsletter</li> <li>• Website sponsor page</li> <li>• Logo &amp; name on ARMS t-shirts</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: green; font-size: 1.2em;">SUPER SALMON</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: green;">\$10,000 +</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maple Ridge Newspaper acknowledgement</li> <li>• Website home page</li> <li>• Social media recognition post</li> <li>• Donor wall on site location</li> <li>• Certificate of recognition</li> <li>• Recognition in ARMS newsletter</li> <li>• Website sponsor page</li> <li>• Logo on ARMS t-shirts</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: green; font-size: 1.2em;">SOCKEYE PLATINUM</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: green;">\$5,000 +</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition in ARMS newsletter</li> <li>• Social media recognition post</li> <li>• Donor wall on site location</li> <li>• Certificate of recognition</li> <li>• Website sponsor page</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: green; font-size: 1.2em;">CHINOOK GOLD</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: green;">\$2,500 +</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media recognition post</li> <li>• Donor wall on site location</li> <li>• Certificate of recognition</li> <li>• Website sponsor page</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: green; font-size: 1.2em;">COHO SILVER</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: green;">\$1,000 +</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donor wall on site location</li> <li>• Certificate of recognition</li> <li>• Website sponsor page</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: green; font-size: 1.2em;">CHUM BRONZE</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: green;">\$500 +</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificate of recognition</li> <li>• Website sponsor page</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: green; font-size: 1.2em;">PINK PARTNERS</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: green;">\$250 +</div>
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### ARMS in 100 Words:

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 adopt-a-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](http://www.alouetteriver.org)



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