

## Newsletter #103 – Fall 2020

Editor – Rand Rudland

### **AGM 2020**

The 2020 AGM was held as a Zoom meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Your executive and directors for the upcoming year will remain as follows:

Rand Rudland – president

Tony Greenfield – vice-president

Maggie Marsh – secretary

Garry Paulson – treasurer

Katie Caple – membership

Dave Spicer – responsible for salmon-related affairs

Wendy Griffin – website design and maintenance

Heather Newman, Elise Rudland, Jeff Muckle, Rick Walters – directors-at-large.

### **New Website**

Many thanks to Director Wendy Griffin for taking on the onerous task of constructing and maintaining a new website, and to Heather Newman for hosting on her server.

Our website will remain [www.sargbay.ca](http://www.sargbay.ca). Please let us know if there are any errors when you visit it next.

### **Summer Activities - 2020**

**All group activities in BC Parks requiring congregations of people are to be avoided, therefore we will not be scheduling any educational activities for the foreseeable future.**

### **Salmon Monitoring Program**

The Chum began showing up in the Bay during the final week of October and the first attempt at entering Colvin Lake via the fish ladder was witnessed Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. On Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> Mike Perley observed a carcass and eggs of a Chum Salmon along the creek margin below Redrooffs.

Dave Spicer has the volunteers all slotted into the monitoring timetable and the group will maintain a daily vigilance on the beaver dams, keeping

them cleared during rain events and at any times the water is high enough to allow spawning activities in Colvin Creek.

Dave's recent memo to the stream monitors is very interesting, see below:

"One thing I have started doing this year that is working out great and I suggest you guys try it too...is that the assorted medium sized branches that the beaver uses each night to re-build the dam...I have been "recycling" these for the beaver. So when I have opened up the fish ladder dam I pull out those bigger branches and throw them back in the water along the water's edge on either side of the dam. This way the beaver just re-uses those same branches and is not forced to chop down more vegetation in the surrounding area...beaver is happy and makes it easier for him...and for us. I have found this is keeping the branches from building up higher on the sides of the dam. So give it a try .... it works great I think."

Dave was able to film a Beaver working on the dam at midnight using our motion-activated game camera.





### **Capilano Highways Removes Damaged Culvert**

Many thanks to Tyler Lambert and crew of Capilano Highways for removing the heavy concrete section that has been blocking access to the culvert under Redrooffs Road for any salmon that may be inclined to try to reach potential spawning beds above Redrooffs.

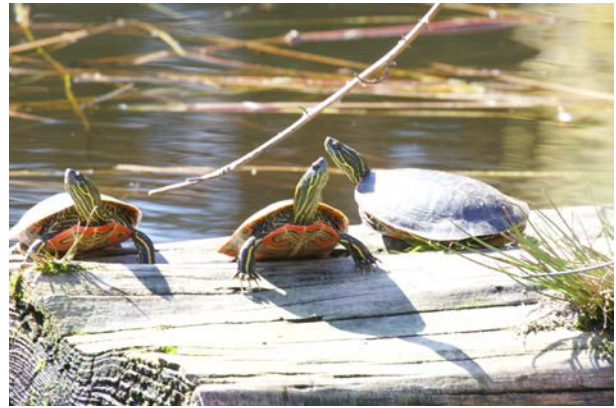


After the section was removed, Dave and Jim Wilson, our DFO contractor, returned at a later date to install landscaping fabric provided by Highways to the exposed and therefore unstable steep bank areas above the culvert in an attempt to prevent future sloughing events into the creek.



### **Turtle Sighting**

Dave also has spoken to some of the regular visitors to the Park who reported seeing a turtle during the summer. To my knowledge this is the first sighting, so I encourage anyone who might see one in their travels to try to take a photo so we can determine if it is the native Western Painted Turtle (photo below) or the introduced



Red-eared Slider (below), the latter meaning someone has released a pet into the ecosystem rather than finding a new home for these reptiles that can live for 50 years and grow to 12”.



A Red-eared Slider Nesting near Beaver Lake (Photo by Tim Bauer)

If the underbelly is yellow and the “ears” are red, this is the introduced species, and they can often carry respiratory disease that can infect the endangered Western Painted Turtles. The larger Sliders can also out-compete the Painted Turtles for basking logs, disrupting their normal warming cycles and interfering with normal turtle metabolism.

If you photograph any interesting events or activities in the Park, please send along for inclusion in the Newsletter, with a short description of what you saw.

Send to: [srgntbay.soc@gmail.com](mailto:srgntbay.soc@gmail.com)

Contact us at 604-885-4642



### **Berm Invasive Species and Trail Cleanup**

Under COVID-19 guidelines a small group of volunteers once again widened the access trails into the various viewing sites to the wetland, attacked the all-too-vigourous Himalayan Blackberries that continue to sprout amongst the Nootka Rose borders, topped some of the roses to allow for view corridors into Colvin Lake and cleared much of last years beaver dam debris from the two beaver dam sites.



The Park contractor provided a large trailer, which was filled, and a second smaller trailer load was also removed.



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### **Phare Lake Clean-up**

Working with Dave Stiles and Isobel Rennie of the Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project, 10 volunteers from the SBS assisted in the clean-up of the unofficial campsite on the shores of Phare (Wormy) Lake. (Photos - SC Wildlife Project).



A significant amount of invasive Scots Broom was also removed.

