

Little Campbell Watershed Society (LCWS) BC Nature AGM 2019 Report
submitted by David Riley, President

LCWS Partner groups continue to work for the Little Campbell River and its watershed through advocacy, enhancement projects, citizen science and education.

On the 29 acre property of the Semiahmoo Fish and game Club we have continued with monthly habitat enhancement work parties each month through the fall and began again in March. English Holly continues to be removed both in the forest and in Surrey Parks acreage adjacent to the property. On March 16th we conducted a major planting along all unsanctioned trails and seepage areas (ephemeral) on the north side of the trail. This entailed one of our volunteers going to a nursery on Vancouver Island to pick up wetland plants and seeds. Project partner A Rocha also sold us a flat of swamp lantern plugs and about 100 trees and shrubs from their native plant nursery. Eighteen volunteers came out to help. We hope to see improved growth of the shrubs and herbaceous plants now that the Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club have reached an understanding with the archery club members that the entire lowland of the property is part of the riparian corridor wetland complex and should not be disturbed.

At this writing, LCWS members are working hard preparing for the 'Get to Know Your River' event on April 27th. Thousands of invitations have gone out to residents, ratepayers, businesses, federal, provincial and municipal government and parks, first nations and NGO's. The purpose of the event is to engage the public in awareness and more knowledge with the hope that they will in turn participate in stewardship of the river. Activities include a fish release, hatchery tour, family activities and displays, silent auction, prizes, a nature photo slide show, environmental songs from the Wheat in the Barley and a fabulous line up of speakers.

The event will also be an opportunity to promote the 'we have a dream' idea for the LCR: land to be acquired and protected as a multi jurisdictional Urban Park Corridor.

Recently 'Smart Shores' partnered with us to map and photograph the shoreline and pollution beginning in the Little Campbell estuary. Water quality and quantity continue to be concerns if we are to continue having five salmonid species in the river.

The ongoing rezoning applications from agriculture to industrial continue to take up valuable volunteer time and we are currently very busy dealing with an Environmental Assessment Board appeal concerning a galvanizing plant that has been placed smack in the middle of the watershed. This goliath is using immense taxpayer funded power and money against a few rural farmers and volunteers trying to protect the watershed from serious heavy metal and chemical pollution, borne from air to water.

And of course, the endless 'dog off leash' issue intensifying. Recently a realtor continued a long local tradition in advertising a house for sale near Semiahmoo beach--- the best dog off leash area in the lower mainland (sic). With a waterfront that services a huge swath of the Lower Mainland, and regularly sees dog owners encouraging their pets to harass both migratory and resident birds we need to get this area designated a no go area for dogs, to us a no-brainer, to bureaucrats a potential pension percussor!!!