

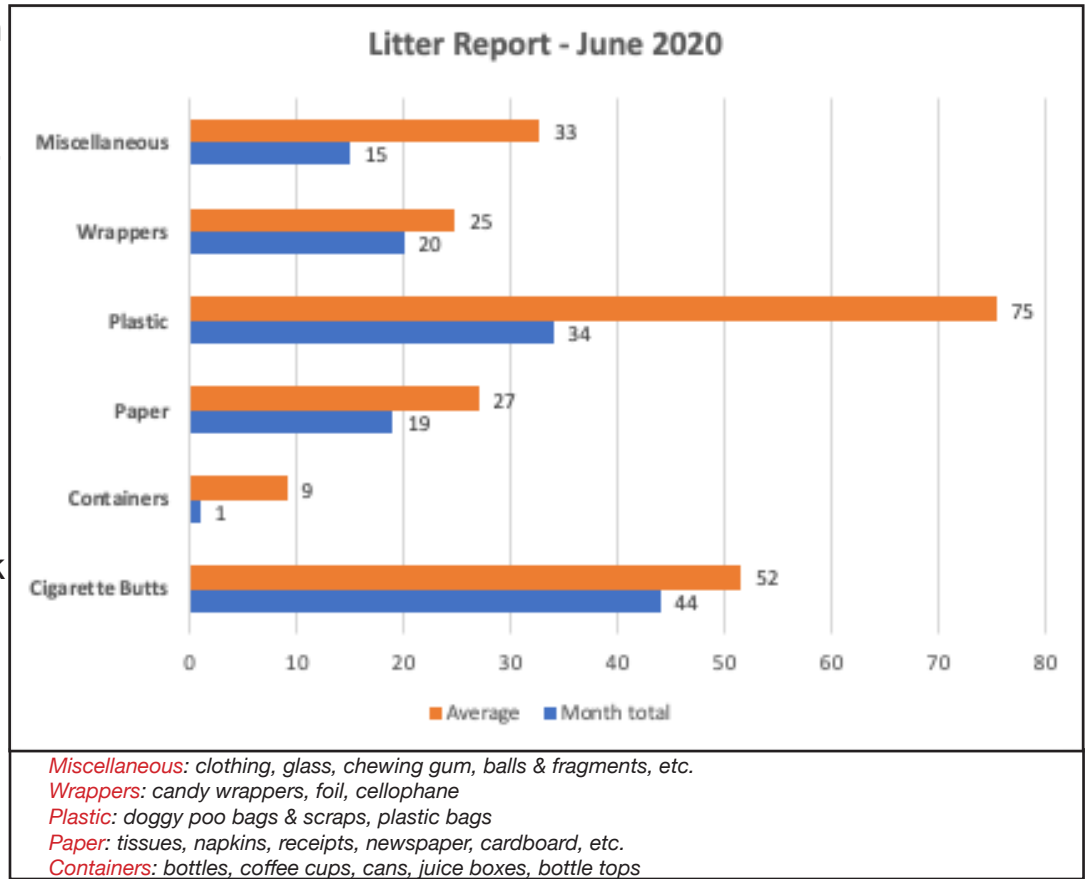
Stoney Creek Trail Report

June 2020

Summer holiday season is upon us now. School is out, families are perhaps holidaying in other parts of BC. Does this explain why the litter counts are much below the one-year average? Your guess is as good as mine....

I am not aware of any other volunteers at work on Stoney Creek trail, but how else to explain the fact that the Trail is looking really good these days?

More pebbles!



By the end of April, I had concluded that the Pebble Festival had come to an end. I was wrong. By my count, over 30 more have appeared since. Here are three of the best:



The pebbles come and go. New ones appear, then soon disappear. Many are beautifully done, so it would not be surprising if they were taken as souvenirs.



Above, as shown near the Forks, the Parks Department crew did a great job of clearing the margins of the Trail with weed whippers. And they did not leave behind any leftover bits of plastic line this year! Above right, this found child's sandal was left on display at the Bridge Two for several days before disappearing.

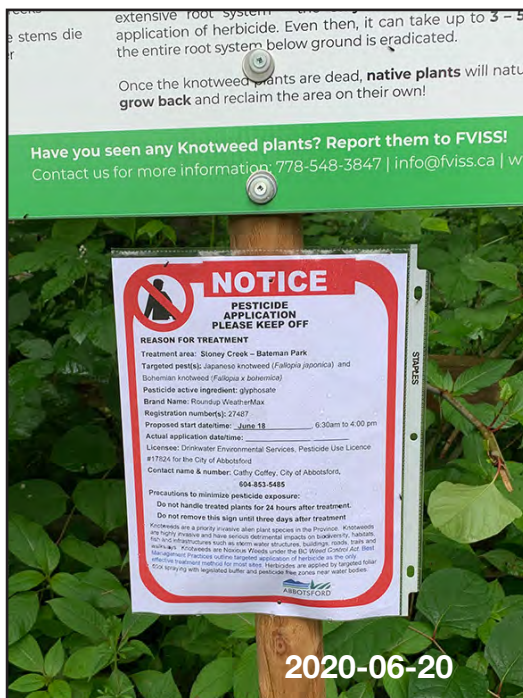
Below, just like everywhere else, the Trail is plagued by the idiots who cannot resist spraying graffiti on available surfaces. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to remove. However, the middle photo shows that it bothered someone enough that they made an effort to obscure the eyesore with paint.





Beside Bridge One, a waterfall created by an old, half-buried log shows off the the clarity of the water. Street run-off from heavy rains will cause the creek to go cloudy, even a coffee-and-cream colour at times, but it soon goes clear again. Near Bridge Three, the rippling of the water surface caused by feeding Coho fry shows that fish can survive no matter how violent or stirred-up the creek becomes.

The notices below show that the City is doing what it can to minimize the spread of Japanese Knotweed with poison along the path bordering the “dog corral.” On the right is a patch of Himalayan Balsam, another invasive species that has taken hold in many places. One thing in its favour—the attractive flowers are very popular with the insects.



And to return to more pleasant sights....

Near Bridge Five, a shelf fungus attached to the side of a huge cottonwood stump is a sign of slow but inevitable decay. Close examination (by those who care to do so) shows the natural beauty of the patterns in the wood.



June has been a month displaying the profusion of flowers that come from great variety of plants growing along the trail, many of which I have pictured in earlier Trail reports. Here are three pink ones: the wild rose, the purple clover and the spectacular foxglove.



Many flowers end up as fruit....



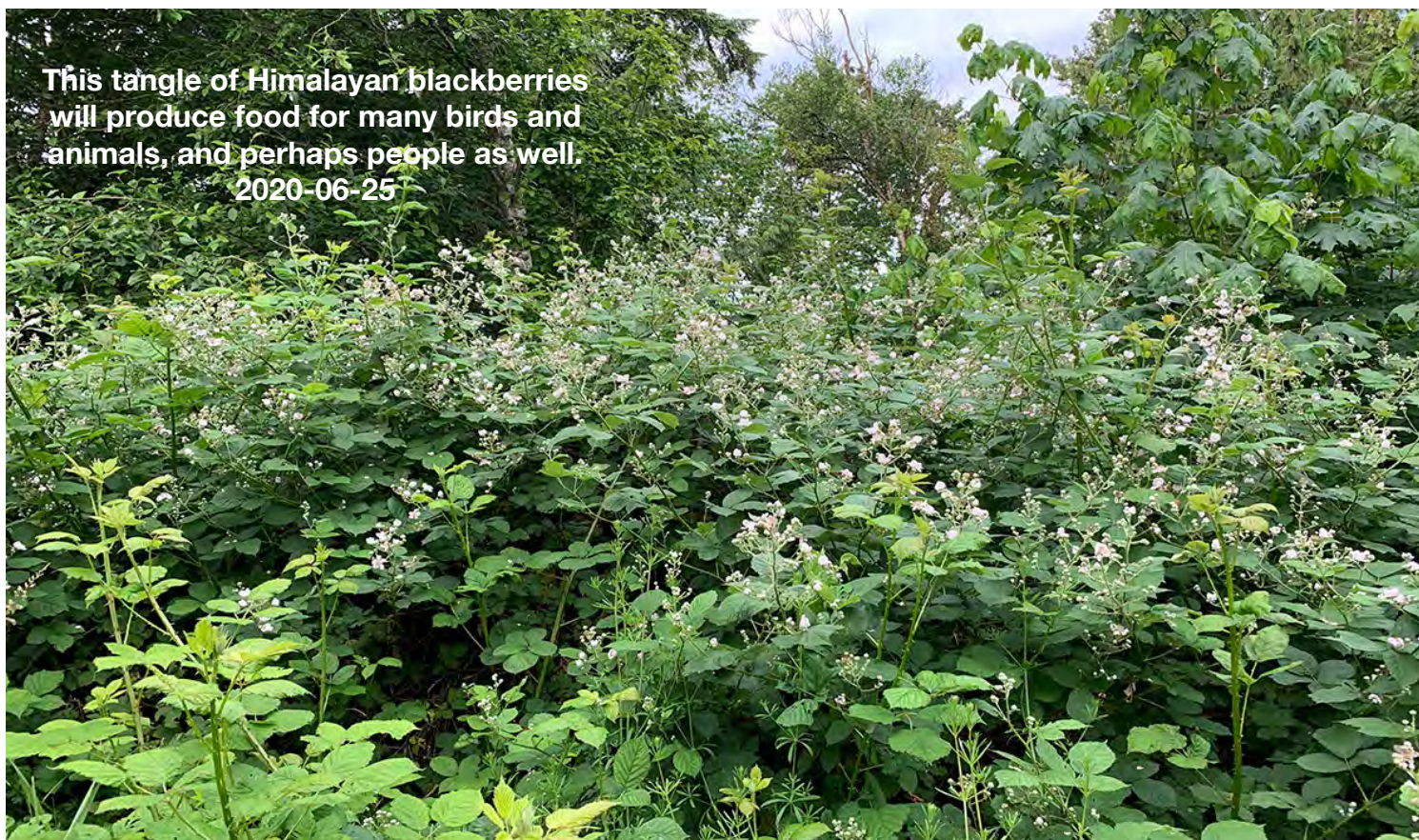
Finally, about blackberries, which will ripen later in the season. There are two varieties:



Split leaf blackberry
2020-06-25



Himalayan blackberry
2020-06-25



This tangle of Himalayan blackberries
will produce food for many birds and
animals, and perhaps people as well.
2020-06-25

by Dave Rutherford, trail volunteer.