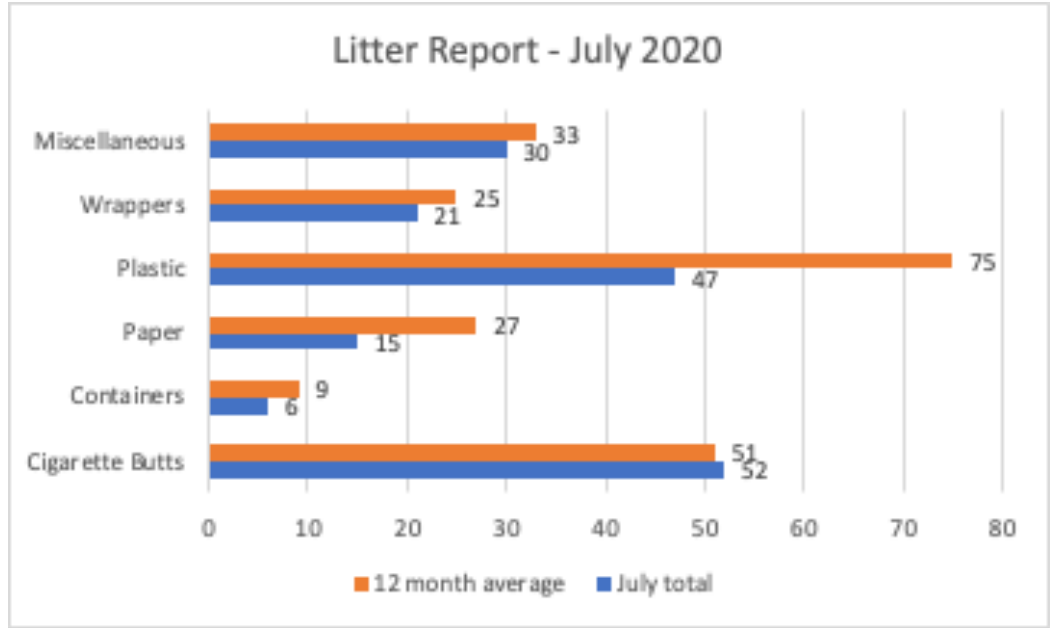


Stoney Creek Trail Report

July 2020

According to the chart, the amount of all types of litter, except plastic and paper, was close to the yearly average. The number of discarded bits of tissues and plastic was much lower. This is a bit of a surprise because there were a lot of people using the trail due to the many warm, dry days.

Apparently dog walkers have continued to be more conscientious this year.



Miscellaneous: clothing, glass, chewing gum, balls & fragments, etc.
Wrappers: candy wrappers, foil, cellophane
Plastic: doggy poo bags & scraps, plastic bags
Paper: tissues, napkins, receipts, newspaper, cardboard, etc.
Containers: bottles, coffee cups, cans, juice boxes, bottle tops

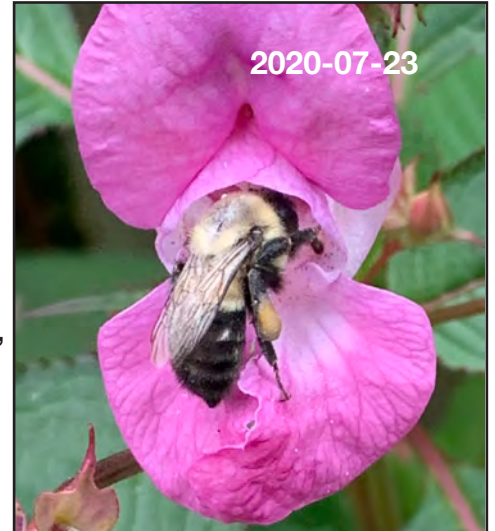
July was a very dry month (I used an umbrella on just three days). Only eight days had any rain. Precipitation (as measured by the Weather Office) was down by about 85% from the May - June average.

Below, odd litter items: this child's sandal first showed up in June and then disappeared for a while. The abandoned cane may be evidence that a miracle occurred on the Trail. Small print on this peculiar item reveals that it is a heel strap from a Crocs sandal.





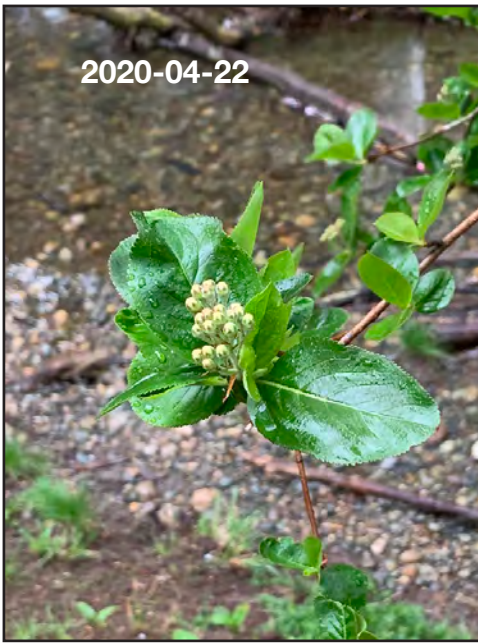
Above: a new housing development at the Nursery Tree (it soon disappeared, though).
Below: does this mean that social distancing is no longer required? Ha!



More pink flowers:

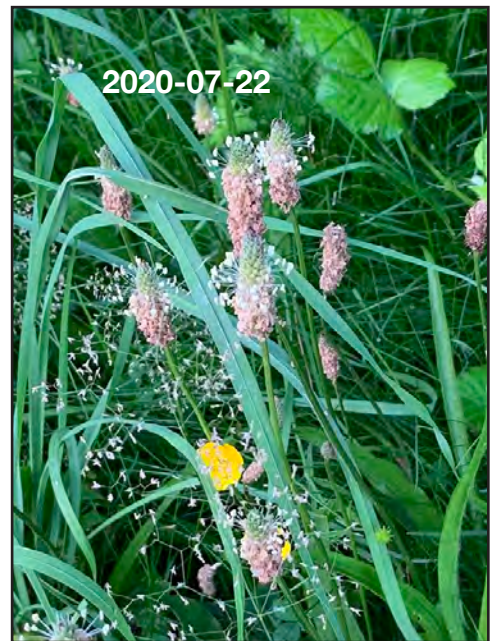
Right: Himalayan balsam
Below: Canada thistle, spirea,
snowberry

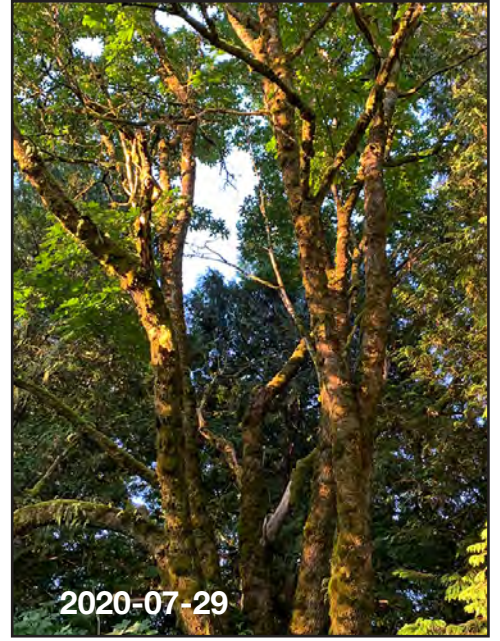




This series of photos, taken over four months, shows the development of berries on a Black chokeberry bush, one of several growing along the Trail.

Below: for those of you who suffer from hay fever, these photos will probably make your nose twinge.





Above left and centre: I reported that blackberry vines were encroaching along the south end of the trail (Hemlock Hill, as per that tall hemlock tree). They were beaten into submission by the Parks crew three days later.

Above right, one of the towering bigleaf maples near the trail on Hemlock Hill.

Left: the lack of rainfall for most of the month has resulted of course in low water flow. A large school of coho fry have found refuge and a food supply in a shady pool just south of Bridge 3.

Finally, an example of a strong will to live....

Last September, a vine maple growing between the buttresses of large redcedar was vandalized. Sawn off at the stump by the Parks crew, it looked totally dead, but this summer new growth shows it's still alive!

Dave Rutherford
Trail volunteer

