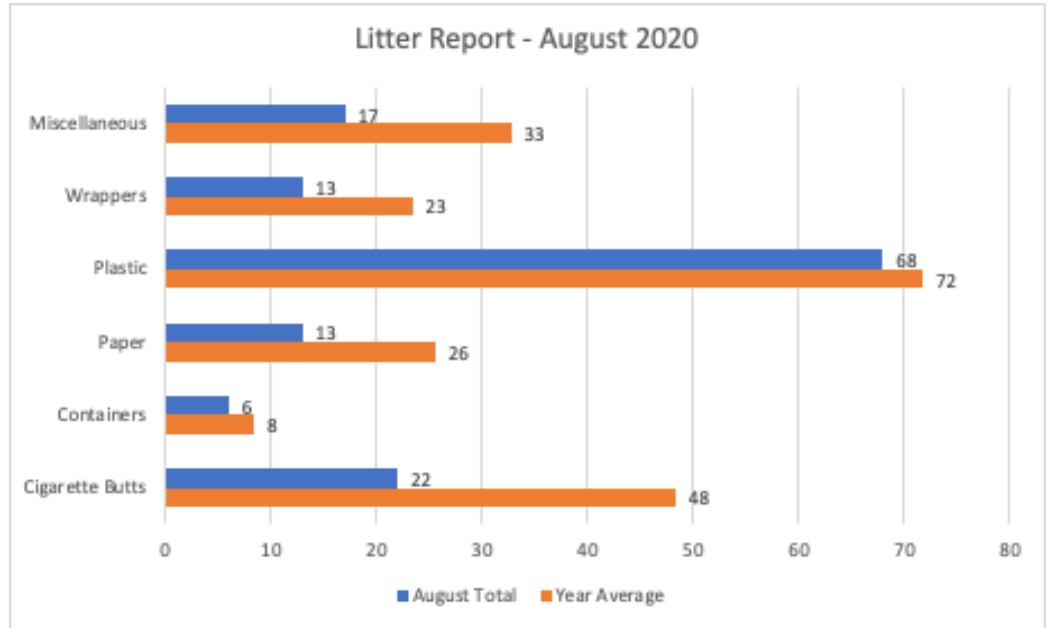


Stoney Creek Trail Report

August 2020

The litter total was down about 32% from July.

The water level in the Creek was very low early in the month. Then, on Thursday the 20th, came the downpour. By the end of Friday, the weather office had recorded 28.7 mm (well over an inch) of rain. However, the total rainfall for the month was still about 12% less than July (and 42% less than June).



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

Below, the photo on the left shows the very low water level early in the month. The other photo, taken the day after the downpour, shows the damage caused by rainwater sluicing down the trail at the Forks, below Hemlock Hill on the steep south end of the Trail.





August is the month when berries ripen. Here is a selection of four kinds found along the Trail.

Above, a mountain ash (a member of the rose family) displays a bounty of berries, a feast for birds.

Above right, Himalayan blackberries and cutleaf evergreen blackberries will attract people—dog walkers and otherwise—to sample their wares.

On the right, snowberries which contain alkaloids and are poisonous to humans.



The Himalayan blackberry is classified as an invasive species in BC. Spreading by both root and stems, it has formed large, impenetrable thickets in many places. It is perhaps the only plant that is capable of dominating the invasive Himalayan balsam. These photographs show how aggressive it is.

If you look carefully, often in the midst of the thickets you can find cutleaf evergreen blackberries, as shown on the previous page.

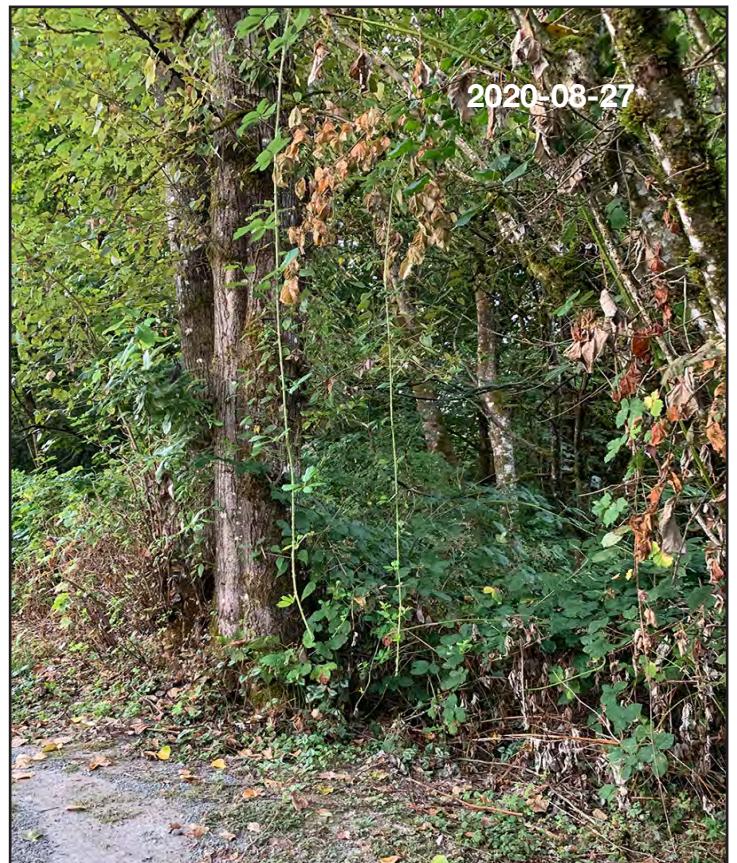
The cutleaf blackberry is native to BC. In my opinion, its berries are tastier than those of the Himalayan variety.



A little red-cedar has managed to keep its “head” above the mass of blackberries.



A juvenile bigleaf maple is also a victim of the bully.



Aggressive blackberry shoots dangle from a hosting hazelnut tree. Watch out!



The City has taken measures to eradicate another invasive species, the Japanese knotweed. The herbicide has had an effect.



Weed vs. weed: a morning glory flower appears in the middle of a clump of Himalayan balsam.

A black bear left its “calling card” on the Straightaway during the night. It has obviously been gorging on blueberries in the adjacent fields. Sightings are rare but thrilling.





It was brought to the attention of the Parks Department that Bridge 3 needed some T.L.C. Part of one handrail was decaying and being hollowed out by burrowing insects. A repair crew soon took care of it. You can see the new cedar 1 x 6 which they installed.

Shortly afterwards, some fresh gravel was laid to improve the approach ramp. Then, somehow, the metal plate was dislodged, requiring a third repair visit.

Hopefully these distinctive wooden bridges will be maintained in good condition and survive for another twenty years.

The green pebble on the handrail of Bridge 1 is a leftover from the Painted Pebble Festival of earlier this year. It's not new, probably rescued from the shrubbery, and may be the last one we will see.

Finally, some unusual litter items found this month: (counterclockwise) a child's sand pail, a baby soother, a pirate's flag made of paper, and a birdhouse. All of these things were found in the vicinity of the nursery tree. You may recall that two birdhouses were briefly mounted on one of the nursery trees last month. This one was returned and, remarkably, survived for at least two weeks, ultimately disappearing on the 30th.

Dave Rutherford, Trail volunteer

