



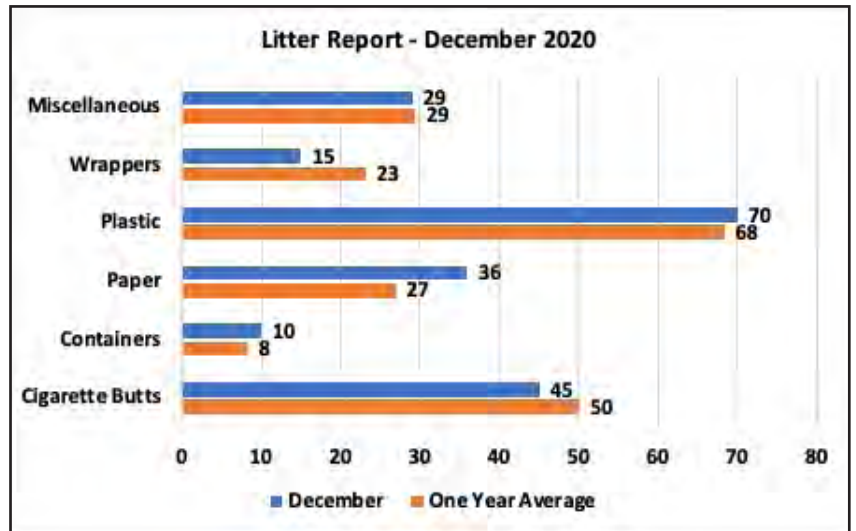
**Stoney Creek Trail Report
December 2020**

Snow on the ground from December 22nd to the 26th did not reduce the amount of litter this month — it just delayed pick-up. The bar graph shows that most categories were close to the year's average.

The seven days of frost in the month provided some interesting sights...



...a spider web, hair ice on a stick, and crisp blackberry leaves.



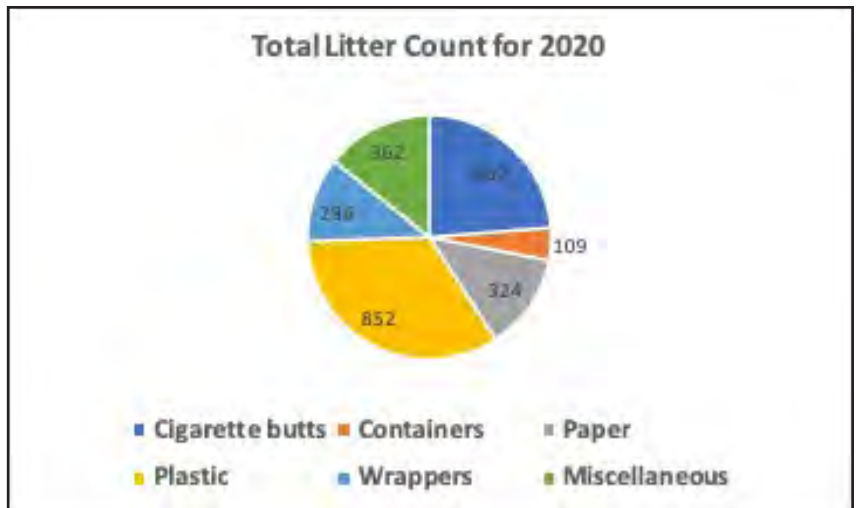
Miscellaneous: clothing, glass, chewing gum, balls & fragments, etc.

Wrappers: candy wrappers, foil, cellophane

Plastic: doggy poo bags & scraps, plastic bags

Paper: tissues, napkins, receipts, newspaper, cardboard, etc.

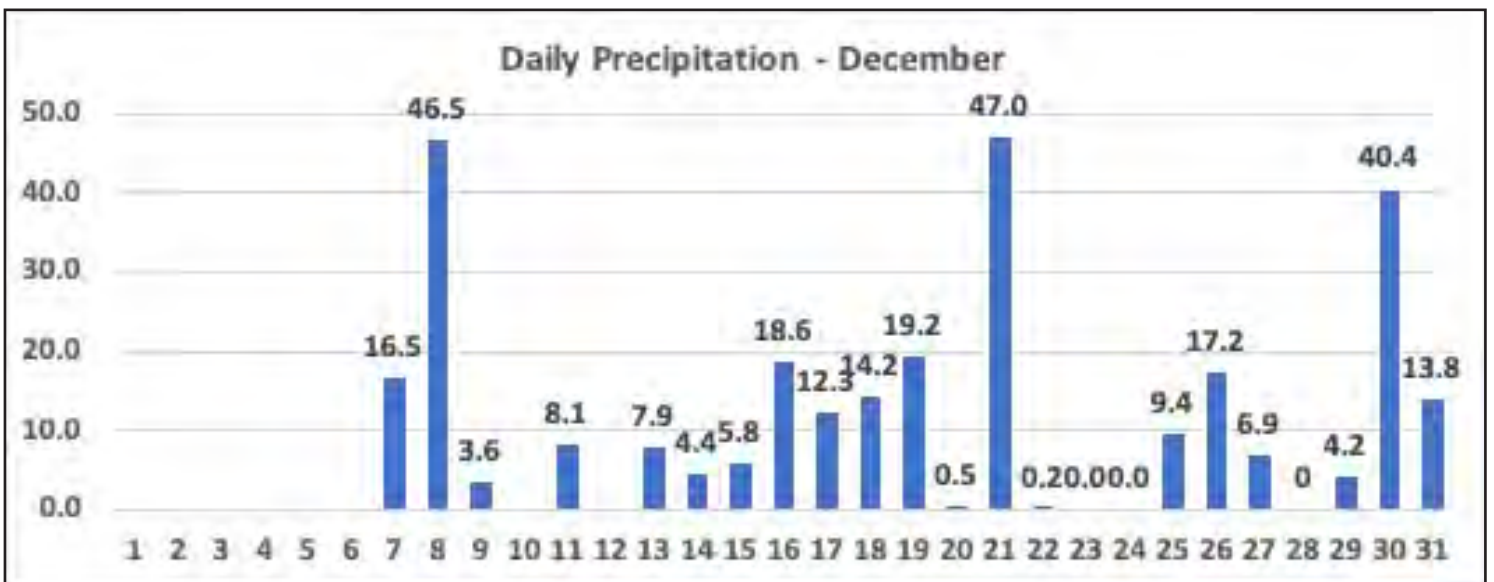
Containers: bottles, coffee cups, cans, juice boxes, bottle tops



Weather...

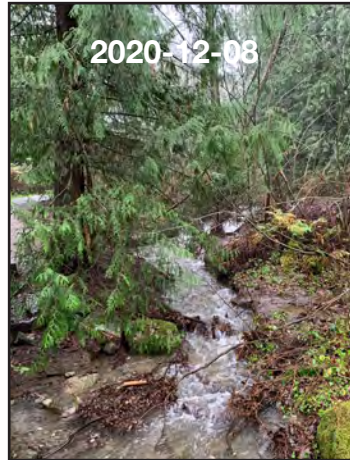


The 8th, 21st and 30th all had over 40mm of rain. The total for the month was 297mm (almost a foot). Wind gusted to over 60 Kph on the 18th/19th. Temperatures went below zero on seven nights, with the coldest being -6.2° on the 24th. In contrast, there were seven days when the temperatures were above 10° , the warmest being 11.2° on the 4th.



Note that the format of this report is optimized for the iPad.

Developments...



Just above Bridge 4, torrential rain last winter created a second channel. It remained essentially empty until the rains came this month. They were so heavy that the new channel was flushed out even further. Now, as shown on the front page, “Stoney Falls” has become a permanent feature of the creek.

Because of the new channel, the reduced water flow in the original channel will probably make it more difficult for the salmon to make their way farther upstream.

Signs of the season...



Repairs...



Oops! At the south end of the trail, a large machine from somewhere went up Hemlock Hill for some reason. It apparently tried to turn around, causing major damage in the soft soil beside the path. However, a pair of shovel-bearing Parks workers did an excellent job of filling in the ruts just before the snow arrived on the 22nd.

A Parks crew also did nice work laying a strip of fresh gravel on the trail near Bridge 4. This will prevent the possibility of stumbling on some rocks that had been jutting out of the old path surface. After a couple of days of rain, the new gravel settled down and firmed up nicely. Notice the newly painted metal bridge ramp, one of several done this month.

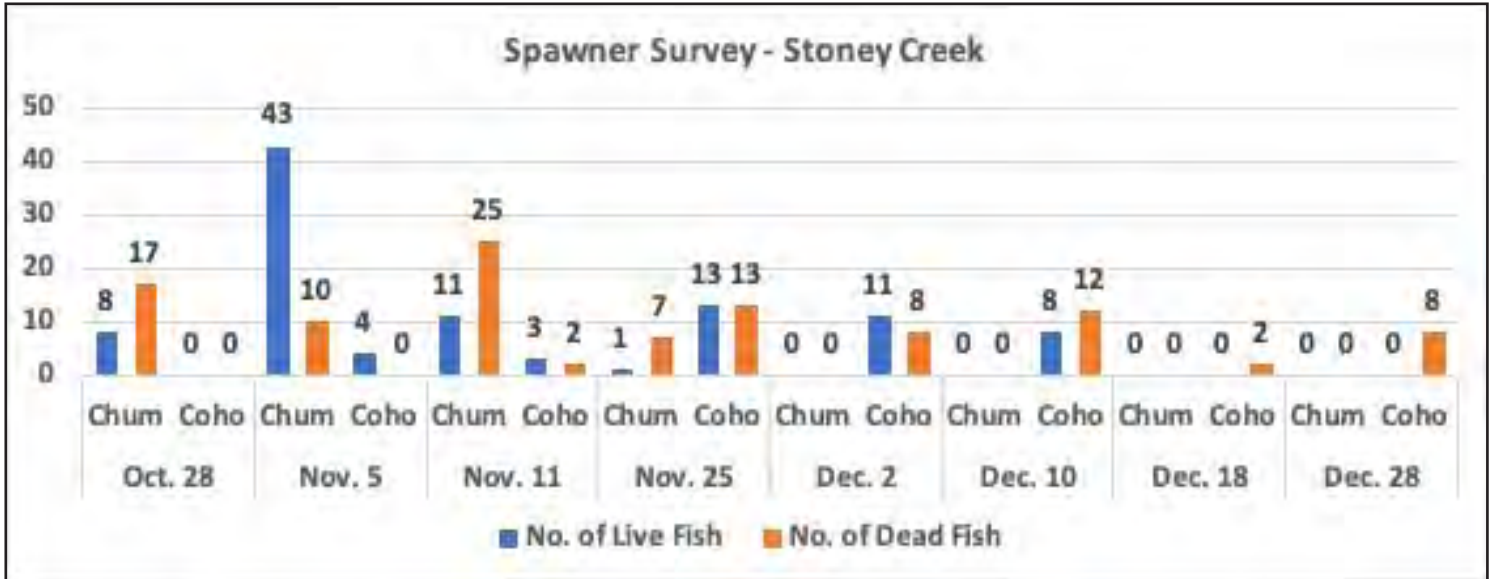
The trail received attention from the Parks Department for a third time after a number of trees fell and shrubs bowed due to the heavy, wet snow during the third week.



ARPSES news...

Dale Taylor, pinch-hitting for **Doug Gosling** for the final three salmon surveys of December, reported that there were no live fish to be seen on the 28th. He thought that some fresh fish would have come in with the rainy weather on the previous three days, but saw only badly decomposed dead ones. Dale says he will be doing at least one more fish count this season, which will extend to the end of January. Doug observed that, so far, it has turned out to be an average year for Coho, but an excellent one for Chum.

The graph below includes all of the surveys done this season.



And finally, I'll let these photos of a decomposing salmon and a reeking, abandoned dog harness tell their own tale!

Dave Rutherford, Trail Volunteer

