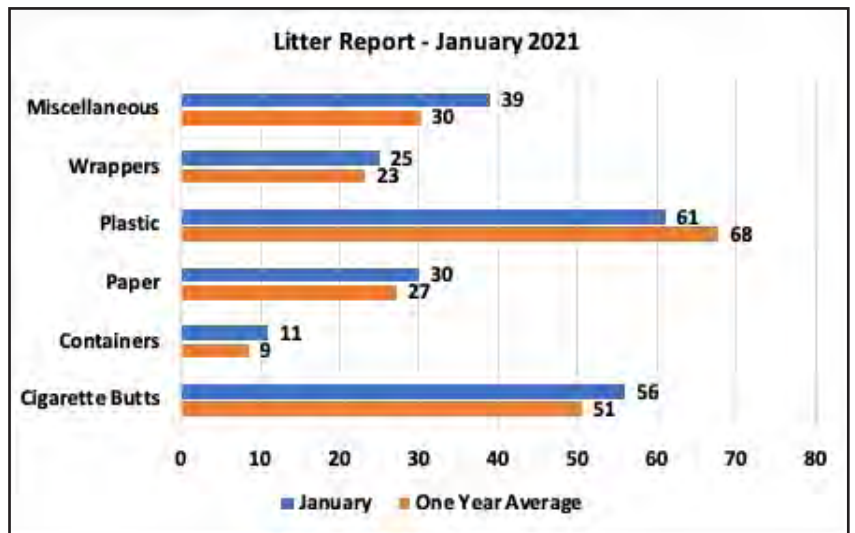




**Stoney Creek Trail Report
January 2021**

Surprisingly, except for plastic scraps, the quantities of litter were above their one-year averages. This was possibly because the favourable weather conditions (and the pandemic rules) brought out more visitors. Only three days of substantial rain, four nights of light frost and no snow made January a very tolerable month. Most notably, there was not the usual arctic outbreak.



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

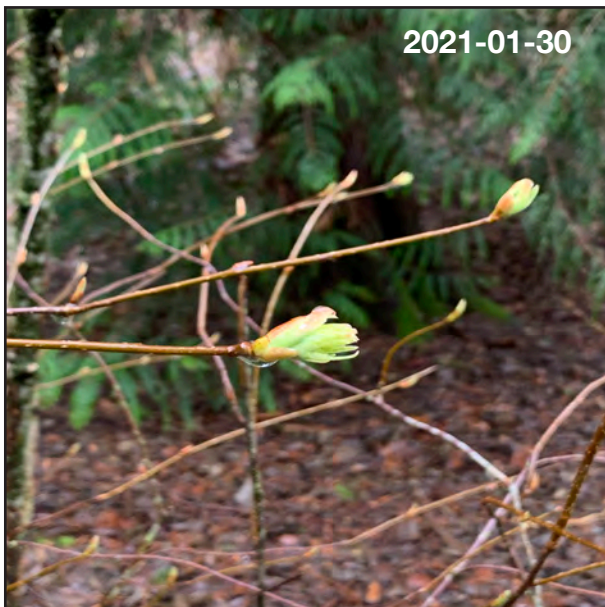
Wrappers: candy wrappers, foil, cellophane

Plastic: doggy poo bags & scraps, plastic bags

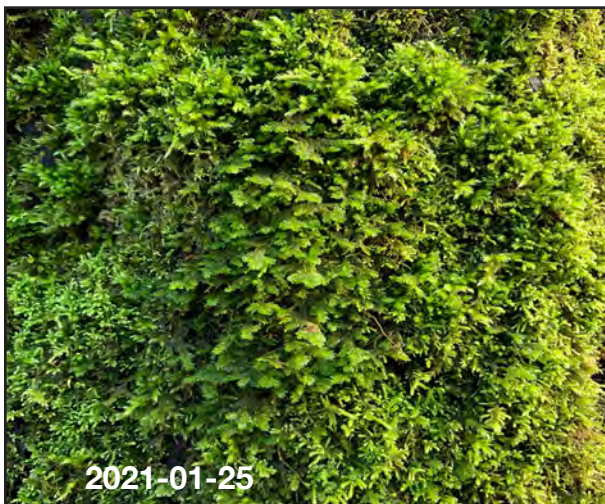
Paper: tissues, napkins, receipts, newspaper, cardboard, etc.

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

These photos show an Indian plum budding already! And it's amazing how the skunk cabbage thrives in a drowned landscape.



Of course, moss on an old maple tree is always lush, even in winter.



Developments...



Hemlock Hill has had a “haircut.” The small trees and shrubs planted in 2018 have finally received some TLC. This will give them a head start when new growth begins in the spring. **Darren Pelland** and his crew from DP Property Services did a marvelous job of smashing the blackberry stems into a coarse mulch which didn’t have to be trucked away. To their credit, they apparently left behind only one piece of whipper cord!

On Hemlock Hill, the singular Chinese willow (also called Corkscrew willow), received some attention as well. Torn limbs damaged by heavy snow and wind over the past several seasons had been laying on the ground.

At “Stoney Falls,” the Parks Department’s anti-erosion strategy is working so far. The boulders placed near the path seem to have halted the undermining of a large red cedar.



More Developments...



Earlier this month, a crew from *Red Cedar Environmental* and surveyors from *Eric Peterson Land Surveying* left strips of coloured tape at many places along the creek.

We understand they were locating the high water mark and top of bank in relation to the legally required setbacks of the building lots bordering the creek valley.

Credit goes to **Remi Masson** and the crew from Red Cedar for removing their tapes afterwards.

On the right, a survey marker spiked into the trail surface acted as a control point or kind of “benchmark.” It will apparently be staying put.



Unusual items...



Above, painted pebbles and wooden disks, echoing last spring's "pebble festival," still show up occasionally.

On the left, a rare find. This Maple Moth (*Falsum acernis insectum*) was seen resting momentarily on the trail.

Below: a BC Transit sign, a chromed steel pipe and an expensive dog collar.



Weather...

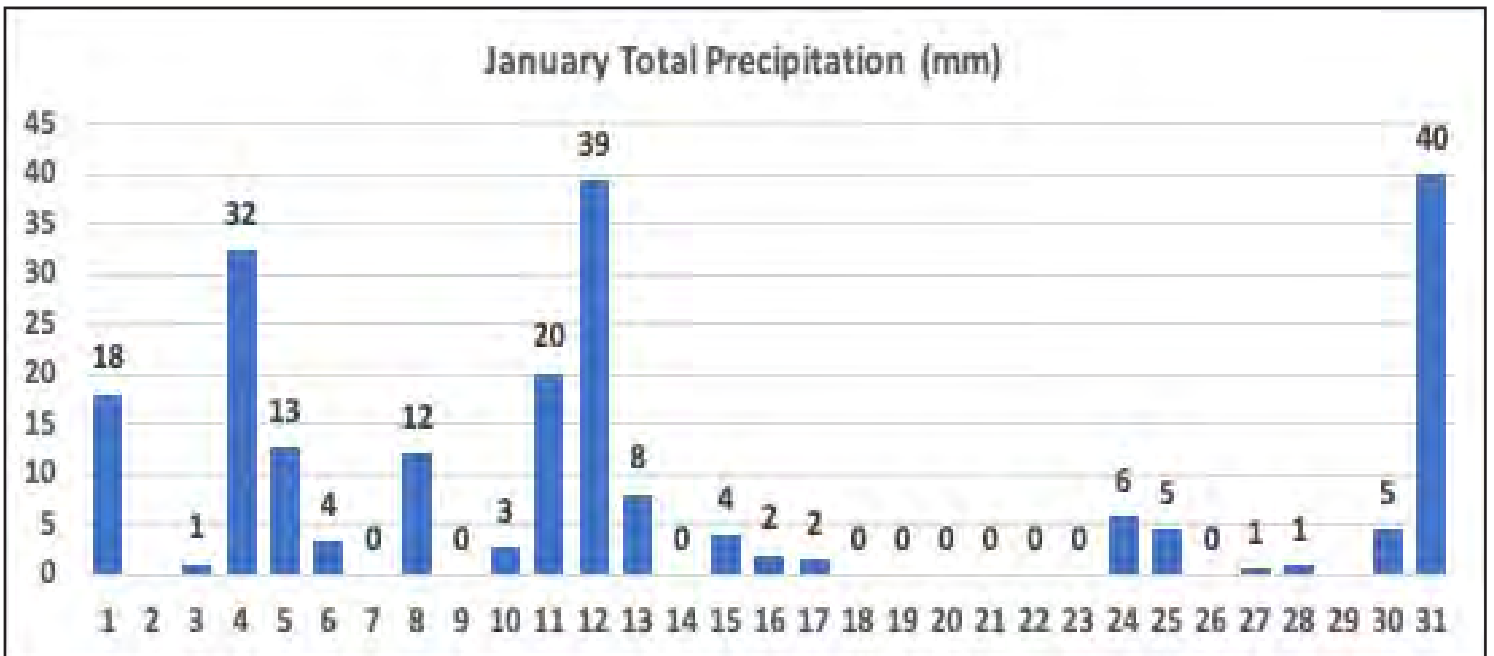


The Straightaway looking south

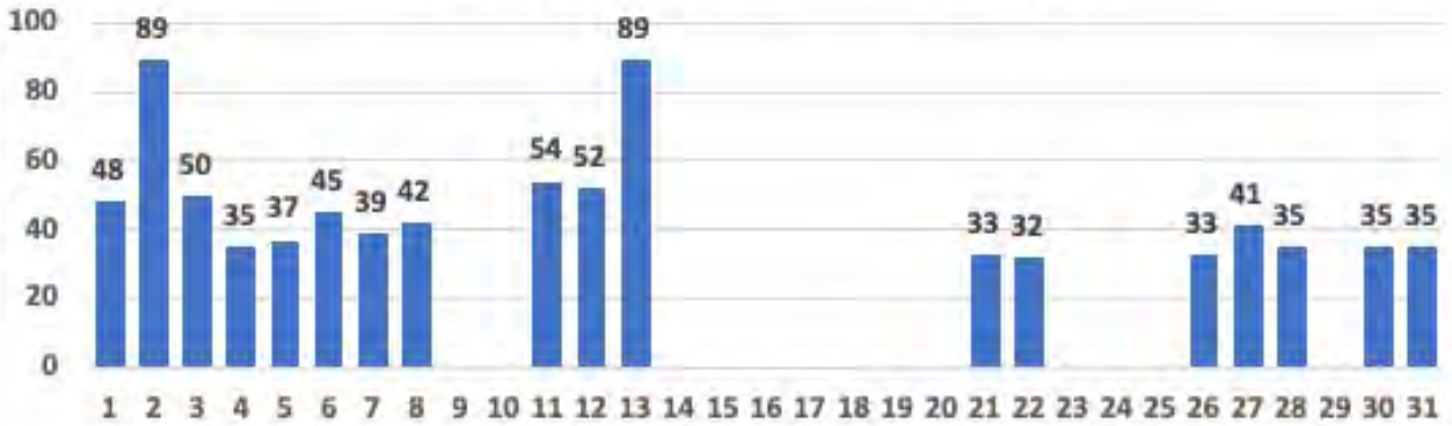


Beside the Dog Corral, looking north

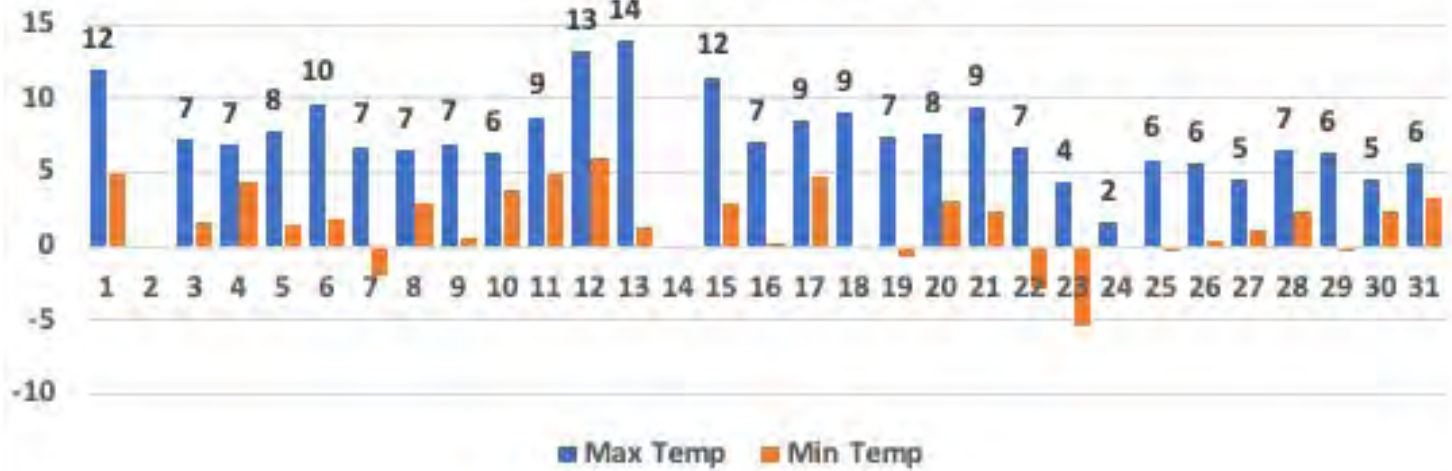
The above photos show a good day and a not so good day. The total precipitation for the month, in the form of rain, was 215 mm. This was 82 mm (3+ inches) less than in December. (The following graphs are based on data from the weather station at YXX).



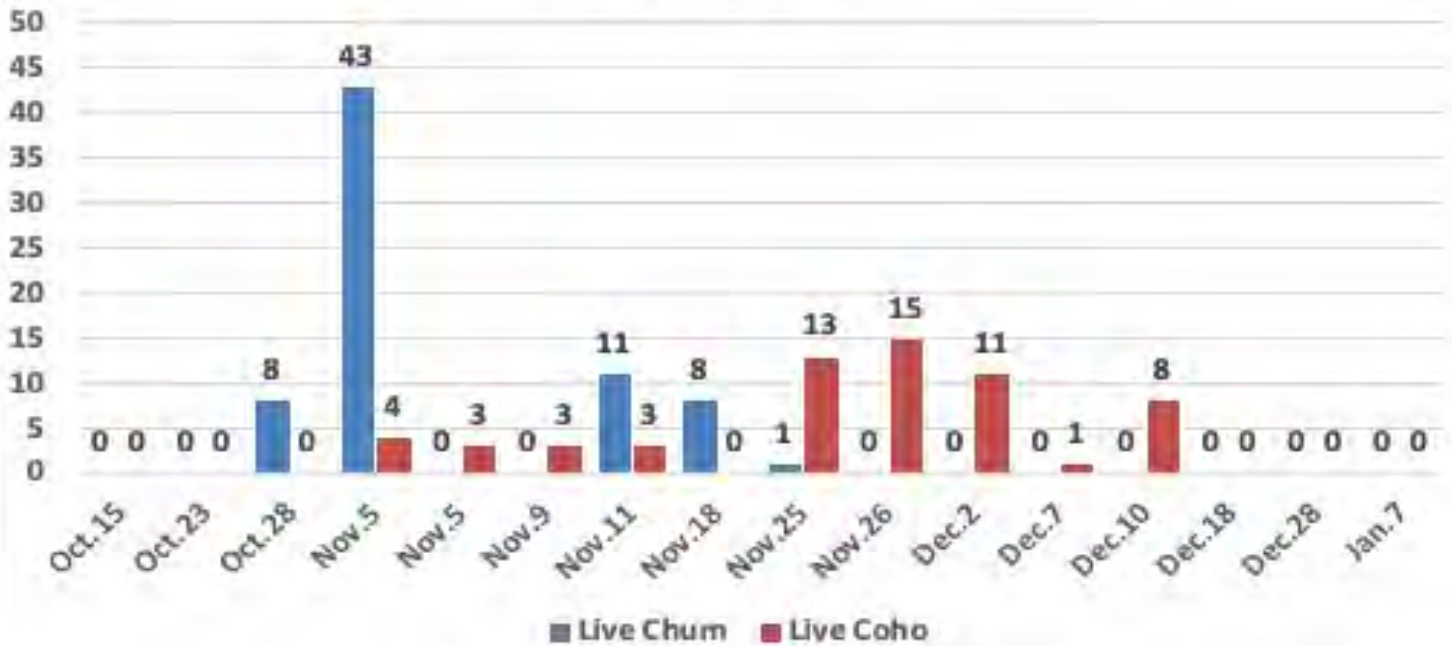
January Maximum Wind Gusts (km/h)



January Temperatures (°C)



ARPSES Stoney Creek Summary 2020/2021
Live Chum and Coho



ARPSES: Due to the absence of a salmon run this month, the material on the following two pages is from earlier dates. Note: **Dale Taylor's** salmon count summary on the previous page also includes the section of creek from Laburnum Ave. to Old Clayburn Rd.



Doug Gosling's comments:

“This is a nice wild Coho with the adipose fin still attached. The silver color, bulging stomach and lack of pronounced hooked snout indicate this is probably a female, possibly still carrying eggs.”

“Coho adults do not always display vivid colors. It’s not uncommon for one of us to find a coho carcass just like this one, looking almost good

enough to eat. Perhaps ‘she’ would color up if she had lived. We always wonder when we find fish this clean, did they die prematurely for some reason... and those reasons can be many, including contamination, stress/harassment by dogs, etc.

“My machete is 27 inches long so I’m guessing this fish was around 24 inches, or 60 cm (estimated to be between 5 and 6 pounds). It is NOT a jack. Coho jacks are usually a lot smaller than this fish. Jack is just a term for a fish that returns earlier than expected, thus so small. They’re typically male but I have heard of ‘Jills’ although never handled one.”

*“I mentioned the adipose fin because we always check to see if this fish is ‘clipped’ or ‘marked’ which DOES tell us it is a hatchery fish. The fact that it still has the adipose does not mean it can’t be a hatchery fish because we release thousands of juveniles pre-smolt stage that are unclipped. **Dale Taylor** explained the other day that they are considered too young to clip prior to current release times on Mothers’ Day.*”

“I was examining the adipose fin of a very rotten carcass on the stretch of Creek beside the Straightaway, just downstream from the Nursery Tree.”

Note: The next step was to remove the head so the fish would not be counted twice.





2019-05-11



2019-05-11

Abbotsford Ravine Park Salmon Enhancement Society



**RAVINE PARK
HATCHERY**
852-COHO

2395 Crescent Way, Abbotsford (Next To Abbey Arts Centre)

ARPSES president **Dale Taylor** is seated with director **Brenda Calnek** at the annual *Mothers' Day Fry Release* at Stoney Creek. They have been doing this since 1995. (Brenda is also coordinator for the Salmon Enhancement Program in Abbotsford Schools).



2019-12-06

The photos on this and the previous page were taken by ARPSES photographer, **Bill Beatty**.

Bill's comment about the one on the left:

"This was taken about halfway between Bridges 2 and 3 (on the Straightaway). I was huddled in some blackberry brambles while Doug was wondering if I'd lost my mind."

This report, optimized for the iPad, was published by **Dave Rutherford**, trail volunteer.