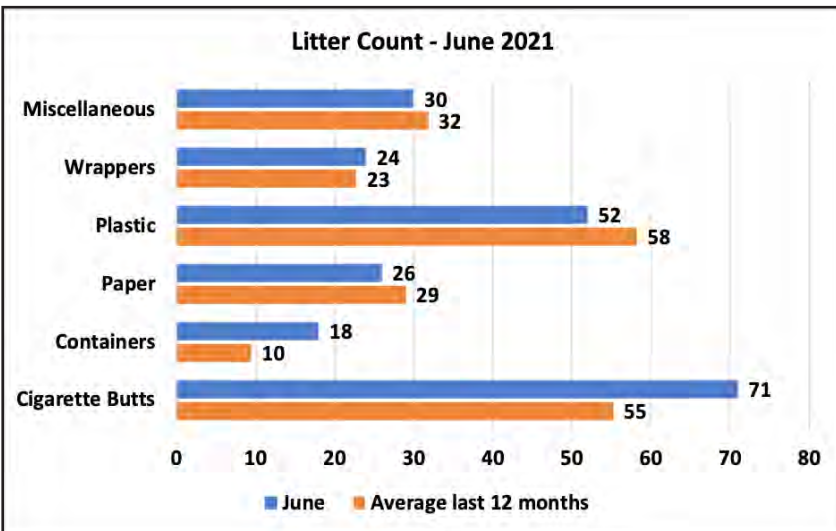
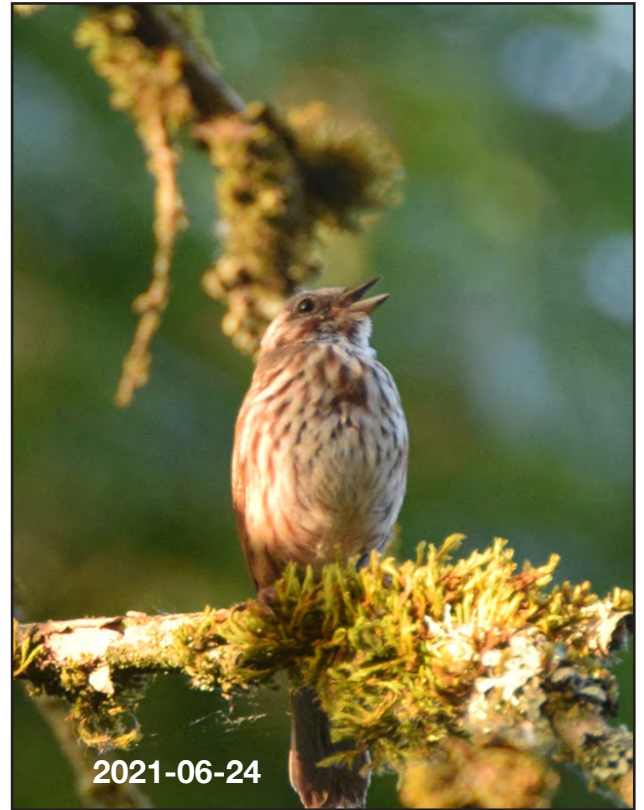


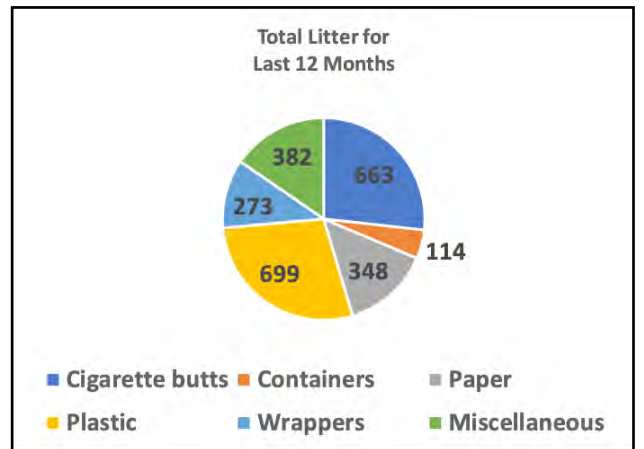
**Stoney Creek Trail Report  
No. 27 - June 2021**

On June 23rd and 24th, volunteers met at the **ARPSES\*** hatchery near Ravine Park for a major event — the **annual clipping operation** of Coho salmon fry. This will enable the fish to be surveyed in the future. Below, left, is one of the 2100 litre Capilano troughs that can each hold over 3000 coho fry (see page 9 for more details).



*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

**Song sparrows** have been singing every morning all month long from prominent locations along the Trail. This one's favourite perch overlooks the Forks.



The **Front Page photo** is a view looking into the ravine from the top of Hemlock Hill. The Trail's big maple trees provided wonderful shady places during our recent heat wave.

\*ARPSES = Abbotsford Ravine Park Salmon Enhancement Society

## Interesting sights on the Trail:



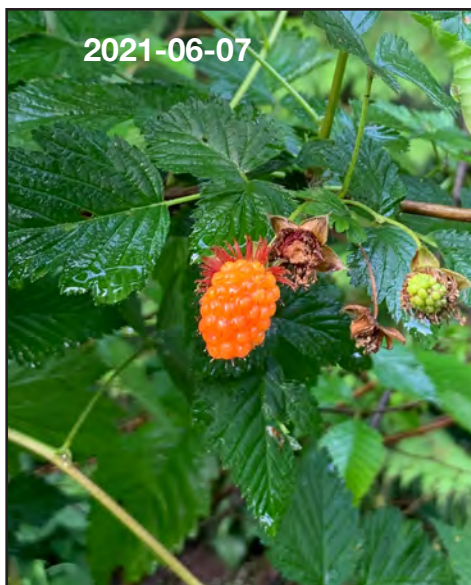
Top: **Grove snails**, like this one, are so common they often get crushed under-foot. A strong will to live: nestled in the buttress of a big red-cedar, this **Vine maple stump** is trying to make a comeback for a second time in two years. The **sieve** was reclaimed in less than a day, probably to the benefit of the salmon fry.



Left: these **sunglasses** were moved to a prominent place to increase the chances of being reclaimed, as was the child's **drink container**.

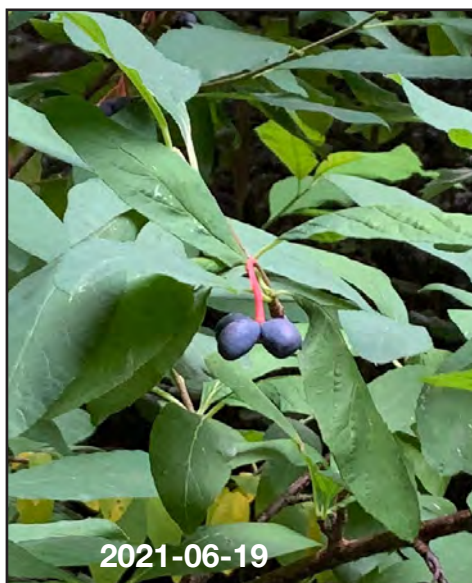
Bottom: an impatient visitor apparently decided, early on, that the Pandemic was already over and the **public notice signs** should be removed. They didn't bother to remove the tie-straps on the fence rails, however.

## More interesting sights:



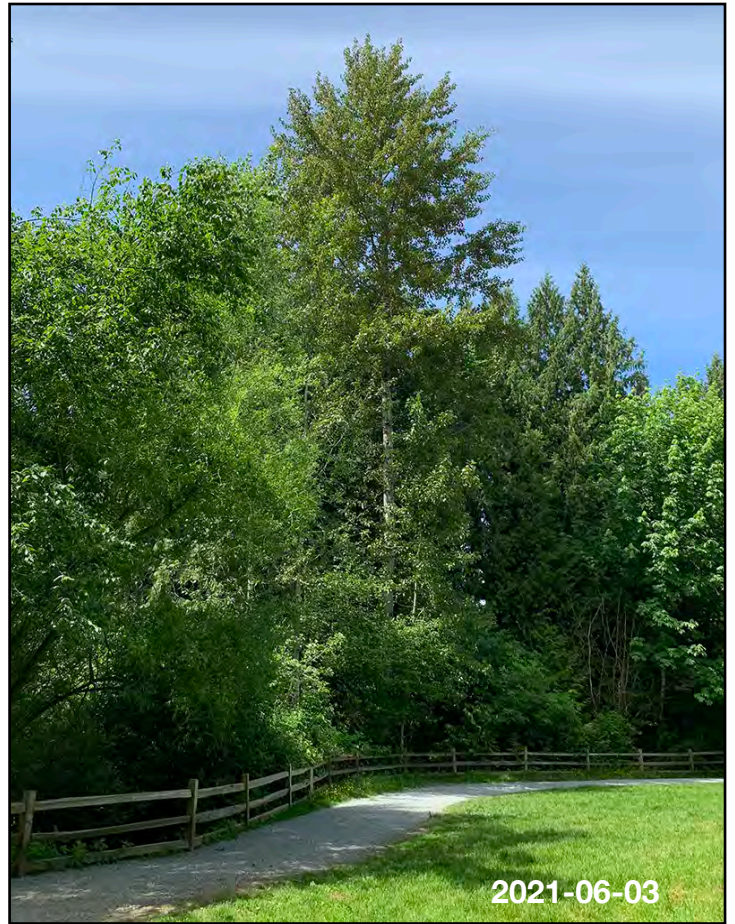
Top: a **Large-leaved Avens**, finished blooming, has formed its prickly seed-heads. The ripe **Salmonberries** will go to the birds. The **Meadow buttercups**, at full height, tower over their “creeping” cousins.

Left: A **Red Elderberry** near the entrance to the Dog Corral. Another shrub found in many places along the Trail, the **Pacific Ninebark**, flowered last month and has now produced colourful seed heads.



Bottom: This early-blooming **Indian Plum** at Bridge 3 has produced its “plums” already. The invasive **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug** (a true bug) was one of many found on the Yellow-twig dogwood at the Bowl.

## The Black Cottonwood tree:



The **Black cottonwood** grows mainly west of the Rocky Mountains. It is named, of course, for the catkin fluff which floats through the air in May and June like wisps of cotton or snow.

The bark on younger trees is a smooth, yellowish-grey, but grows thick, dark and deeply fissured with age. Because they require plenty of moisture and nutrients to grow well, cottonwoods favour floodplains like Stoney Creek vale.

Cottonwood trees can add two metres each year and reach a height of 50 m, making them the fastest growing trees in North America. The rapid growth causes the wood to be brittle, light and soft, but it can be used to make furniture, veneer, and pulp for high-grade paper.

## The Black Cottonwood tree (continued):



Black cottonwoods and trembling aspens are both members of the willow family. They have triangular leaves with long stems and silvery backsides which will rustle and shimmer in the wind. Cottonwood leaves are larger and more heart shaped than those of aspens. In the fall, their leaves glow bright gold, fading to brown.

Historically, the Stó:lō (stah-lo), Salish first nations people of the Fraser Valley, would eat the sweet inner bark and cambium tissues in late spring and early summer. They made friction-fire sets using dried cottonwood roots for the hearth and dried branches for the drill. Cottonwood bark was used to make containers for storing and transporting food, and the wood for small dugout canoes.

The Stl'atl'imc (stat-lee-um), Interior Salish (Lillooet) people of the Fraser Canyon and south Coast mountains, burned cottonwood for smoking salmon. The aromatic gum from the buds was used as a glue for securing arrowheads and feathers to shafts. Young shoots were used to make sweat lodge frames.

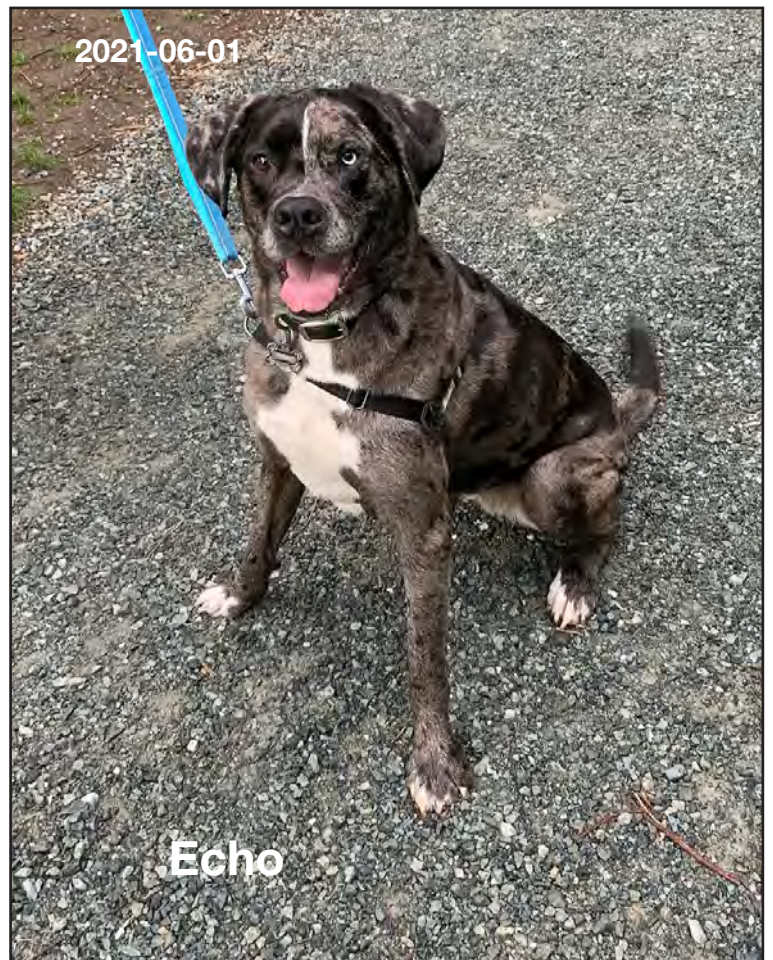
Many of the largest cottonwood trees in B.C. are found along the Fraser River. In the spring, the sticky resin on cottonwood buds and new leaves has a sweet, powerful fragrance that can permeate the whole river valley.

## Dogs on the Trail:



**Rosie** is a three-year-old Bull Mastiff Pit Bull cross. “Since moving to Abbotsford last year, she has been loving her walks around the Trail, eating grass and roughhousing with her friends in the dog park.”

**Echo** is a five-year-old Italian Mastiff Burmese Mountain Dog cross. She’s a big dog, about three feet tall and 100 lbs. “She loves people and other dogs, but some are put off by her big bark. She loves to wrestle and chase balls.”

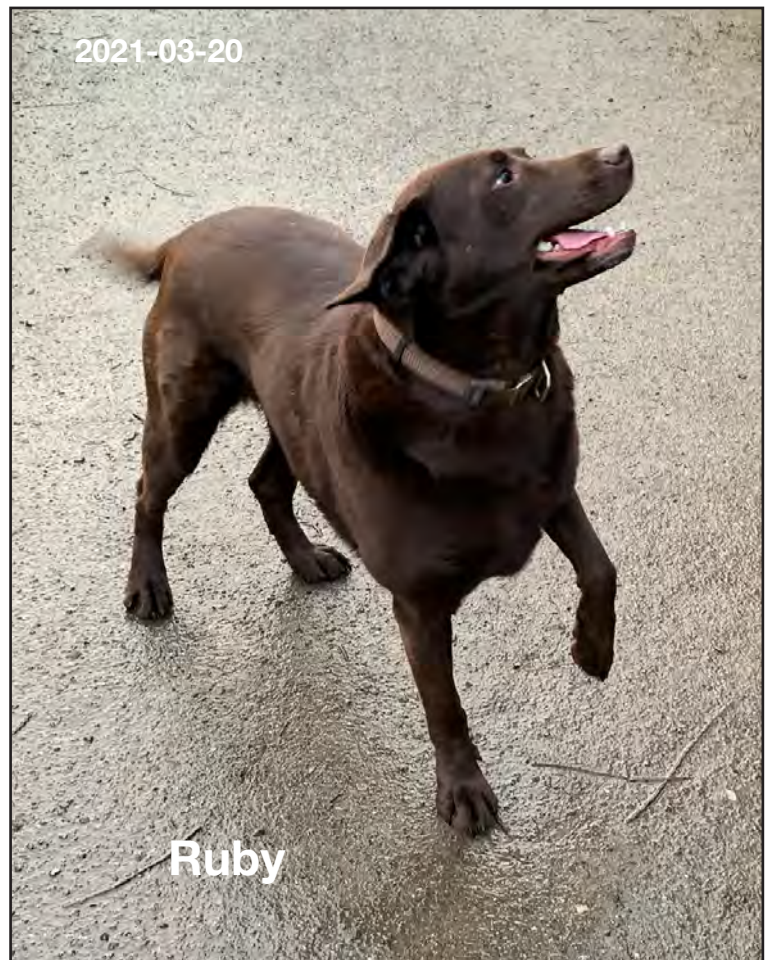


## More dogs on the Trail:



**Meko** “was rescued 10 years ago from a high kill shelter in California. He is a 12-year-old Pomeranian Chihuahua cross. Meko’s favourite thing to do is chase anything that moves and to soak his feet and belly in Stoney Creek when it’s hot out.”

**Ruby** “is a gentle five-year-old Chocolate Lab who we brought into our family on December 23, 2019. She is extremely loyal and loves to play fetch with her favorite ball. You will see Ruby early mornings walking around Bateman Park or trail running with us around Abbotsford and Mission.”



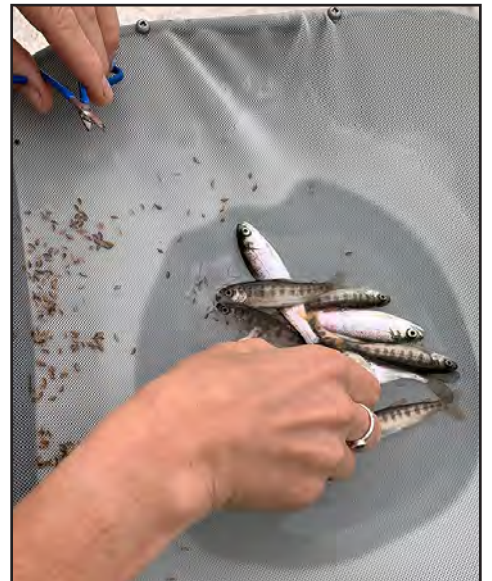
*Note: we have several more dog photos to present, but we’re waiting for e-mail contact by their owners first.*



## The ARPSES Fish Clipping (Tagging) Event:



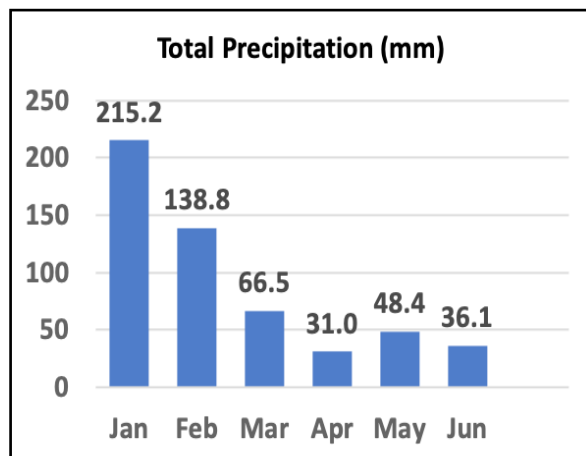
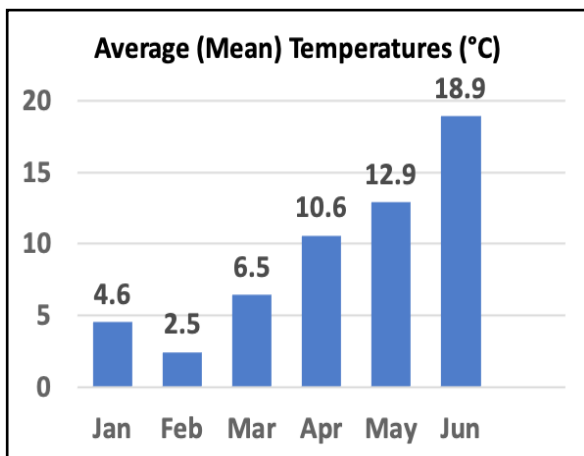
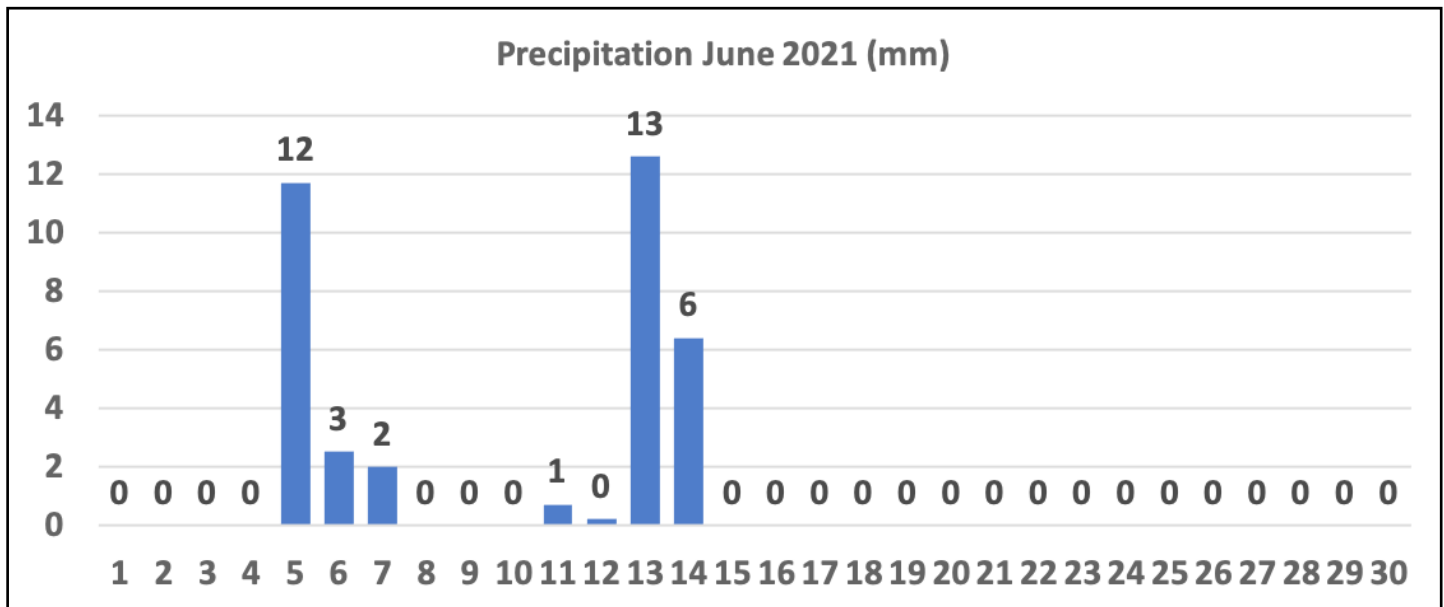
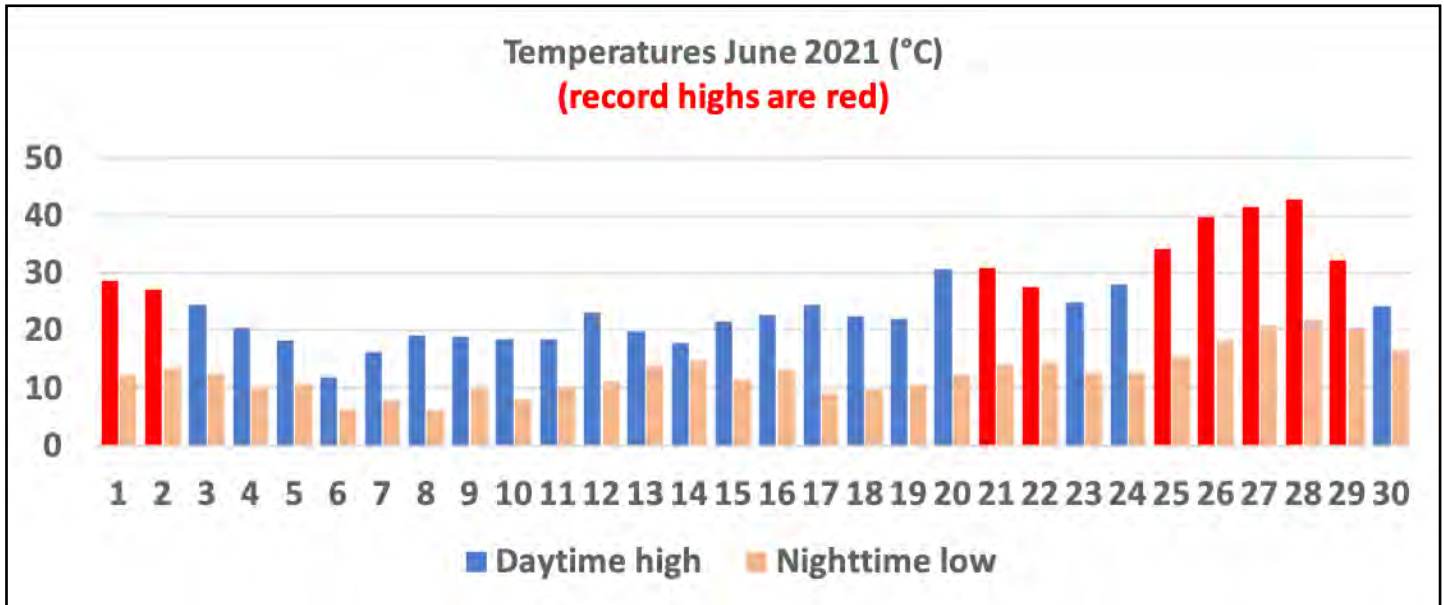
These **Coho salmon fry**, born at the hatchery last December, vary from six cm to nine cm in length. Because they've been generously fed, they're noticeably larger than the fry that were released into Stoney Creek in April. A total of 28 volunteers from Abbotsford, Surrey and elsewhere, including four clipping crews of six people each, processed 14,000 fry in two days.



The fry were first immersed in an anaesthetic solution which quickly immobilized them. Their little adipose fin was then snipped off using special small, curved scissors. The clipped fry went back into the holding tank. In early July they will be moved to a pool in a nearby creek and raised to smolt size. They will be released into Stoney Creek around Mother's Day next year.



**Weather data from YXX:** After experiencing an unusually cold month of May and setting record low temperatures on four days in the first half of this month, we've had a string of nine days with record high temperatures. Note: these data are based on Environment Canada's Almanac of Extremes which reaches back just to 2012.



For convenience, I use these custom place-names:

