



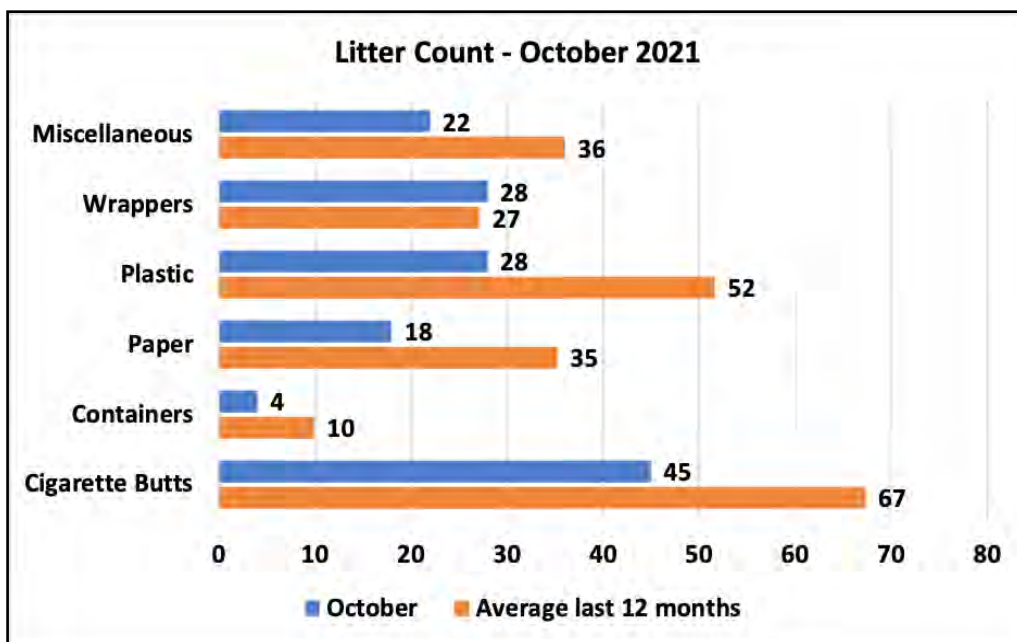
**Stoney Creek Trail Report
No. 31 - October 2021**

The **Front Page photo**, taken at Bridge 3, shows the branches of a **hazelnut tree** killed by the deadly fungus, *Anisogramma anomala*. Its spores are spread during rainstorms such as those that arrive in the fall and winter (more about this on page six). If you look carefully, you might see the fungus lurking along the Trail around Hallowe'en time.

Below: Near the Trail you can find some large stumps from Cedar trees that were logged over 100 years ago. They were possibly felled by the **Hartnell Brothers' Maple Grove Sawmill** (1904-1920) which had logging rights to the west slope of Sumas Mountain. Hartnell's Mill was located in what I call "Whiteley Vale" (after Whiteley Brook, which flows out of the low land east of Latimer and South of Bateman). Their products, high quality timbers and railway ties, were hauled on flatcars pulled by a pair of horses on a wooden tramway along Wright St. up to the railway spur line in Clayburn Village. The finished lumber went out on the CPR while the slabs (remnants) were burned in the kilns of the brick factory.



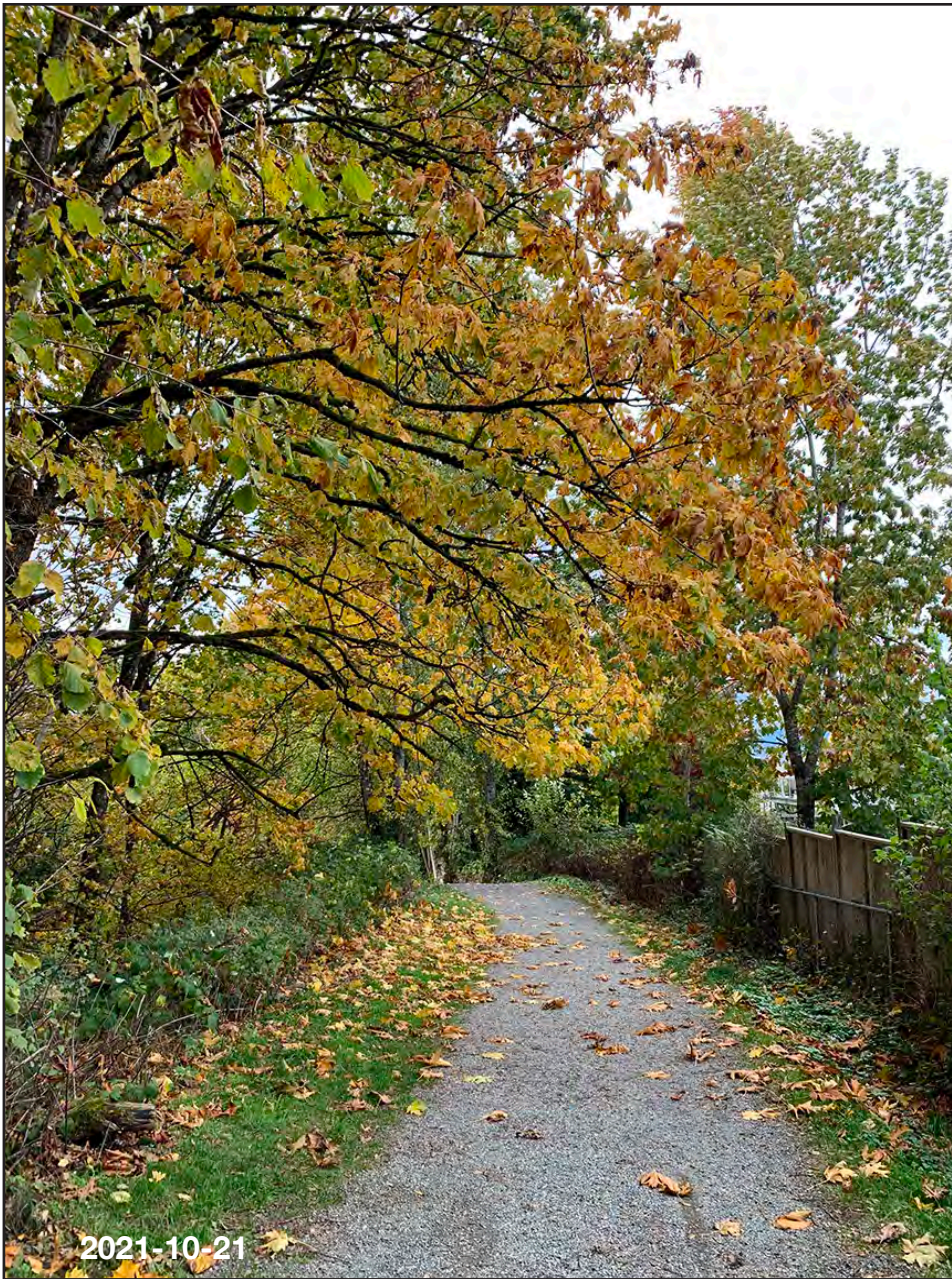
The salmon will be soon be here to spawn. Please **do not let your dog (or kids) walk in the Creek for the next three months**. There will be salmon eggs in the gravel. Any disturbance will dislodge them and they will not survive. The survival rate is very low: perhaps 1 in 2000 will return as an adult to spawn.



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

Note: I've given names to many places along the Trail so I can refer to specific locations. For reference, see the illustration on Page 11.

Autumn sights:



Top: When the **Bigleaf maple** trees display their autumn colours, their warm glow dominates the Trail — as well as the whole countryside. Our other native West Coast maple tree, the small **Vine maple**, really catches the eye this time of year. The red pigment, a type of sugar, is normally masked by the green of chlorophyll, but shows up when the chlorophyll breaks down and the tree moves the nutrients into its roots in preparation for winter.



Bottom: **Banded Woolly bear caterpillars** do not bite, but their stiff hairs can easily break off when touched, which will cause pain and irritation. This **heart symbol** scratched on the Trail beside the Bowl prompted one dog-walker to report that it “made her day.”

Autumn sights:



2021-10-19

Mushroom Season:



October is peak fungi season. Of course, you have step off to the sides of the Trail to find them.

Mushrooms are a challenge to identify, especially by those who wish to eat the non-poisonous ones.

The names of these shown here may not be accurate.



Top: left: an unusual cluster of **Sulfur Tuft** on a dead alder. Middle: a family of slugs gorging nearby. Right: an old **shelf fungus** on a large cottonwood stump near Bridge 5.

Middle: left: a big, sloppy **Poison Pie**. Right: little **Laccaria bicolors**.

Bottom: left: **Brown roll-rim**. Right: **False chanterelle**.

The Beaked hazelnut (a.k.a. California hazelnut):



The Beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*) is a large shrub (4–8 metres tall) that usually grows in clumps. It can be seen in several places along the Trail.

Its nuts are an important food source for squirrels and chipmunks which gather and stash them nearby. Steller's jays will distribute them over longer distances. Bears and deer will also eat them. Those that are not consumed often germinate due to being buried in soil or leaves.

The hazelnut has been popular with orchardists because it is drought resistant, requiring little water or fertilizer. Its roots will sprout and form shoots after the tree has been cut or burned.

Unfortunately, many of our hazelnuts are suffering from a serious disease called the **Eastern filbert blight (EFB)**. Its spores are spread by wind-driven water droplets. EFB has spread widely throughout southern BC. Newly infected trees don't show symptoms for a year or more then experience a sudden dieback of twigs and branches, as you can see in the above photo.



Natural recycling:



Top left: helping with recycling, an exotic (non-native) **Grovesnail**, one of a species that comes in many colours, feeds on fungi and decomposing plant matter.

Top right: a **Black slug**, an omnivorous creature that eats living or dead plants and rotting organic matter. This one is cleaning up a casualty, one of two Grove snails that were crushed underfoot by a careless person walking the Trail on Hemlock Hill.

On the left, a **miniature jungle** of fungi, mosses, and ferns is growing on a wooden arch of Bridge 3, which is of course biodegradable. Hopefully, the bridge will serve us for many more years. It will have to be replaced eventually, probably by a structure with less character.

Dogs on the Trail:



“**Solomon** is a Shetland Sheepdog, also known as a Sheltie. He celebrated his 5th Birthday on the 14th of September. He was born in Merritt, BC. where he lived with his Mom, Dad, Aunt and seven siblings.

“Solomon loves his walks and greeting many people along the way. Especially if they give him a pet. The park is a favorite place for him, chasing squirrels and swooping swallows even if he never catches them.”

“Hi my name is **Bear**. I’m an American Rottweiler and I am 4½ years old. I love going to Bateman Park and seeing all my friends there. Walking along the Trail makes me very happy too.”



Dogs on the Trail (continued):



Rocky is a retired nine-year-old Greyhound. “He came from Ireland where he was a rather unsuccessful racing dog. After coming in second last in one professional race, he was given to a group called Flying Irish Greyhounds who send retired racing dogs to homes all over the world. FIG sent Rocky to Greyhound Pets Inc. in Washington State. I adopted Rocky from them.

“He was the dog I did not want when I went down to adopt. When he walked into the room, he took one look at me, walked over and put his head in my lap. He completely ignored the other people, and my girlfriend’s small dog.

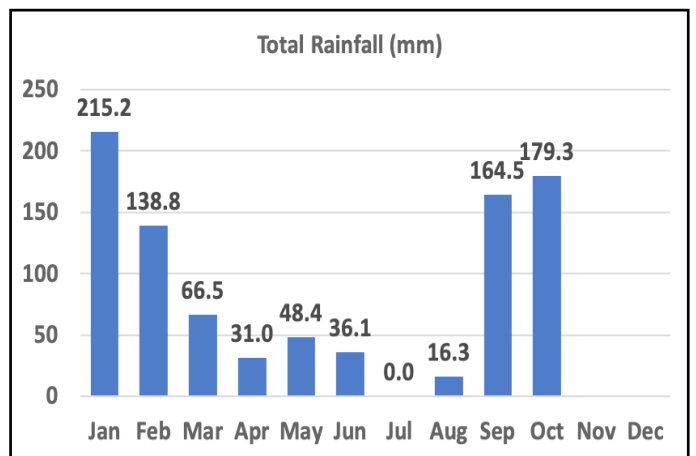
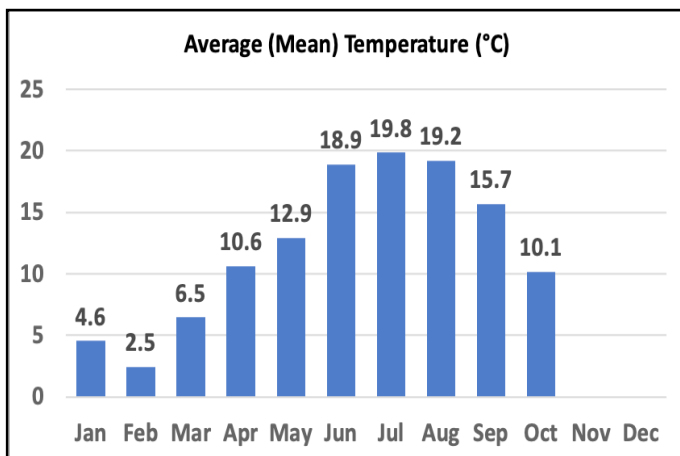
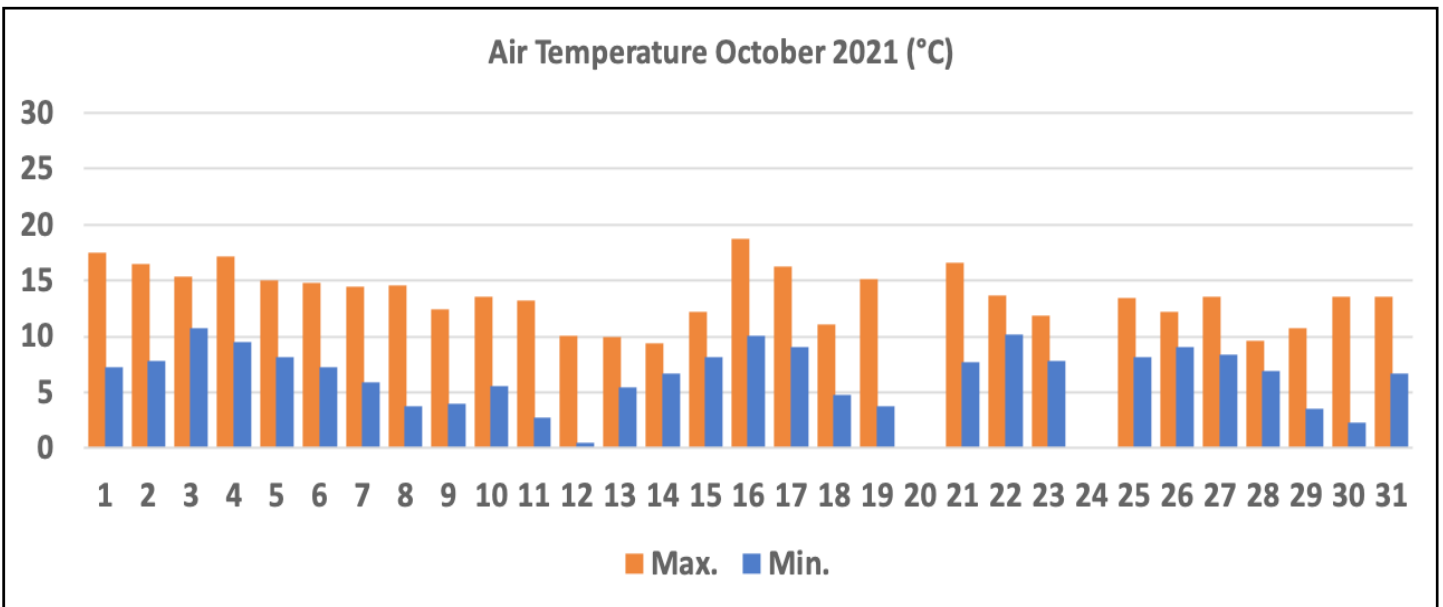
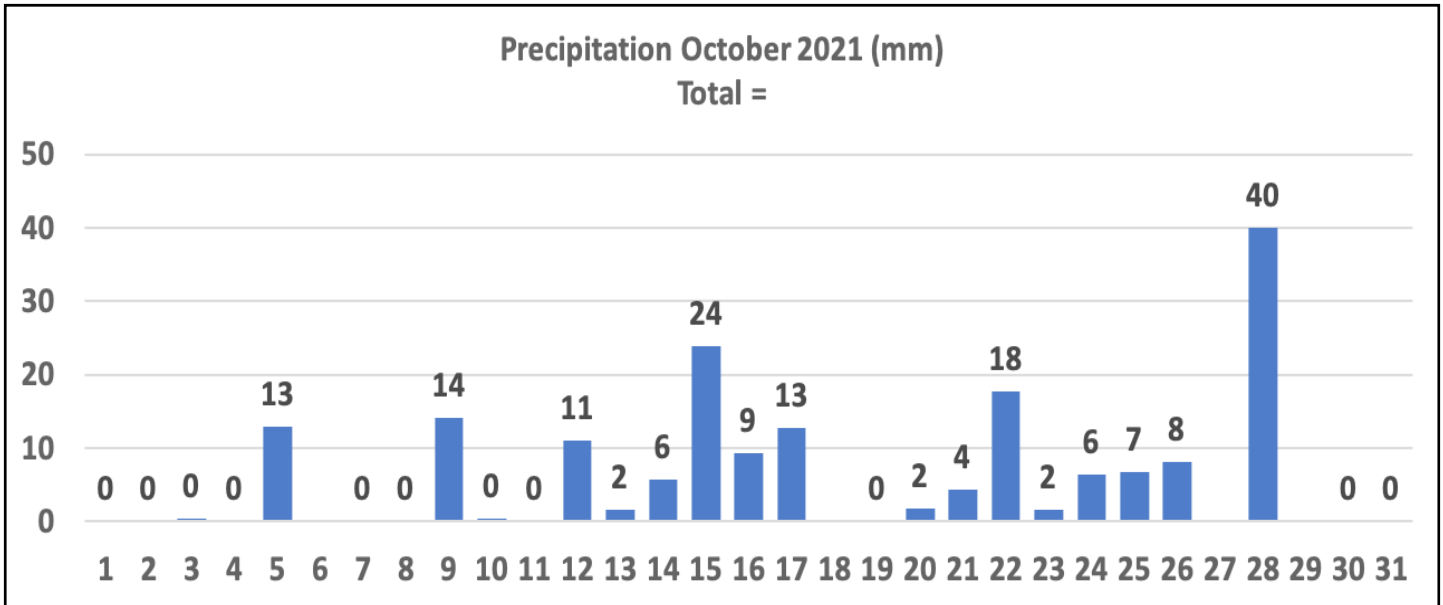
“Rocky does not run anymore.

He is rather arthritic in his shoulders and is on medication to manage the discomfort.

“Like most greyhounds, Rocky likes to sleep — 18 to 20 hours per day! Sometimes he sleeps with his eyes open, upside down. In addition to sleep, he loves treats and meeting people. He is a very cuddly dog and loves to sit on my lap. He almost never barks.”



Weather comments (data from YXX): We've had 50 mm more rain than last October. There was an opportunity for salmon to show up on the 28th due to that heavy rain, but none came. Last year, Chum were first spotted on October 23rd, a day that had only 14 mm of rain. Unlike Coho, they are wild (non-hatchery) salmon. I was told they do not come every year. In 2020, the first Coho were counted by ARPSES on November 5th.



For convenience, I use these custom place-names:

