

Bridge 5: Nov. 11, 2020



Bridge 5: Nov. 15, 2021



Bridge 4: Dec. 15, 2021

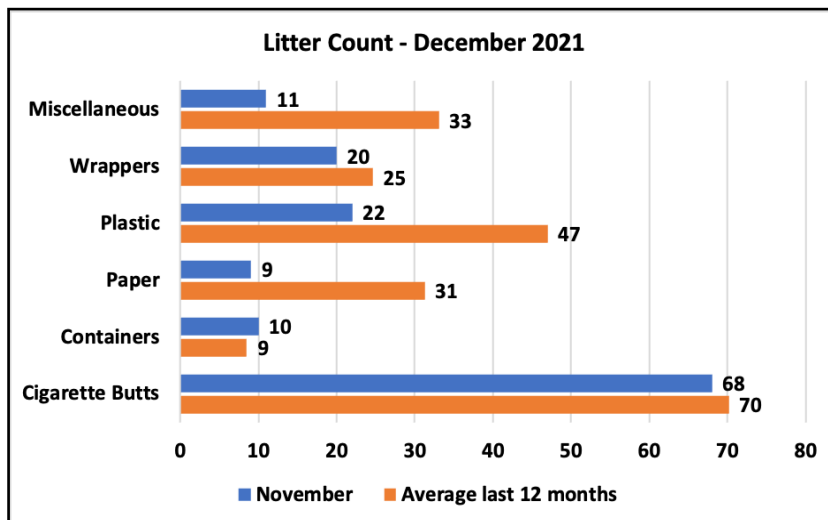
Stoney Creek Trail Report No. 33 - December 2021

The **Front Page photo** shows the catastrophic damage done to **Bridge 5** during the November rainstorms. After the first deluge on the 15th, the City had begun repairs. The handrails and deck had been dismantled and the solid spruce beams were being moved to a more secure location when another 230 mm of rain fell on the final week of the month. Stoney Creek again became a raging, destructive torrent. The worksite had to be vacated and repairs postponed.

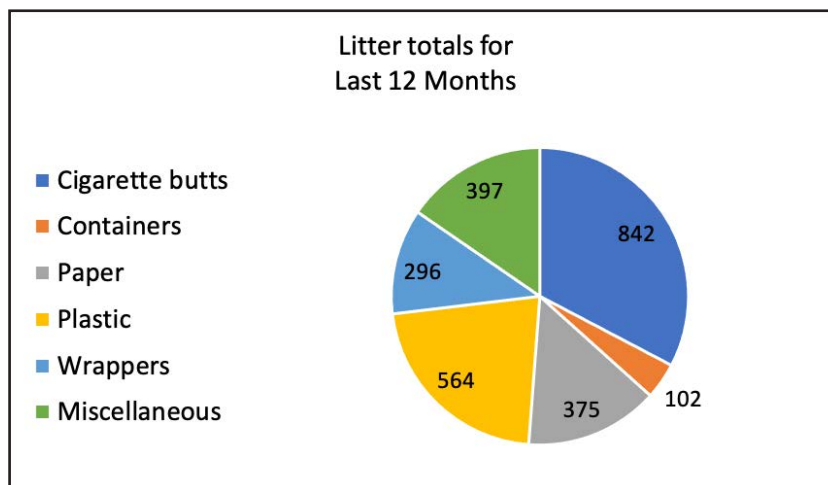
Happy New Year!

This is actually the second bridge at this location. The original one was another of the arched bridges installed by neighbourhood developer, Al Kenny. It had to be removed after suffering damage from a similar deluge in the 1990s. We've been told that the old bridge is serving the public on Discovery Trail.

An abutment of **Bridge 6**, the furthest one upstream, was also undermined by the Creek and for public safety the structure was lifted out of position and set aside. With two bridges out of commission, the Trail has been cut in two. The normal routes followed by most dog owners and other trail users have no doubt been severely affected.



Trail Reports are going on a diet. Due to the condition of the Trail and other circumstances, my reports will be smaller in the coming months. Likewise, due to snowy conditions and fewer visitors, the **litter tally** is much smaller — except for cigarette butts. A calculation shows that the smokers have butted out over \$600 worth of smokes over the past year!



Unfortunately, this month's **Trail Dogs** will be the last to be featured for a while. I have more dog photos, but I don't have any owners' comments to go with them.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This being the year's end, it's a good time for me to clean up the subscription list. So, **if you DO NOT wish to receive these Reports in the coming year, please let me know.**

- 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

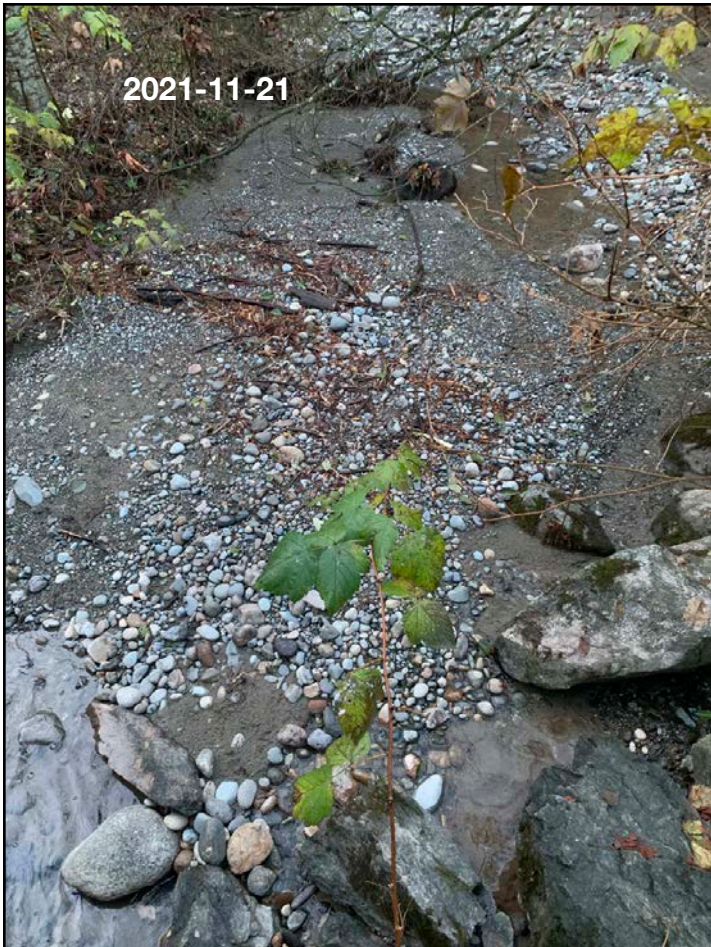
To identify places mentioned in this report, see the "index" on Page 11.

The Creek is Radically Changed:

Left: this shows a secondary channel that appeared above Bridge 5 after heavy rain in January 2020. Because it started to undermine a cedar tree, early this year the City placed boulders alongside the trail to deflect the water flow.

This remedy was effective until the infamous "Atmospheric River" arrived. The original channel plus the new one could not contain the extreme volume of water. The Creek flooded the Trail, washed away the boulders and took down the tree.

At the end of the month, another deluge enlarged the secondary channel even more, such that it is now the primary one. As you can see in the photo below, the original channel is now empty.



Repairs Attempted:

With input from Shawn Gurney, City Urban Forester, here is the Trail's status as of the middle of December.

“After the first deluge in mid-November, the City worked with Arbor Pro Tree Service (who do a whole lot more than tree work) to redirect the water flow, raise and armour the trail, dismantle Bridges 5 and 6 and reinforce the bridge abutments to prevent further damage.

“The second atmospheric river threatened to undo this work but, with the exception of the partial loss of a large cedar tree, the rest of the work held.”

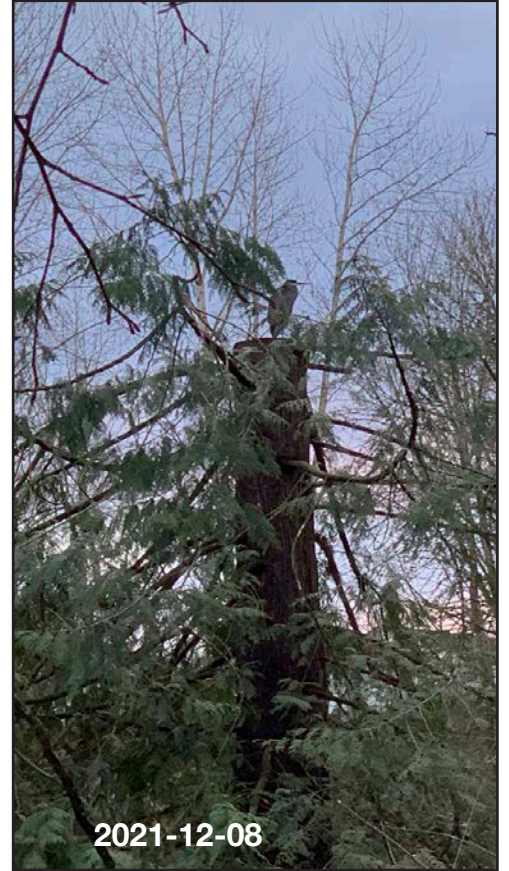
Shawn has told me that all further repairs are temporarily on hold as the City awaits information regarding funding.

“Once funding is understood, work throughout the Parks system will continue. Many of our parks have sustained significant damage, including Stoney Creek, which is high on the City's priority list to repair.”

These photos show the Trail repairs before the second deluge, and afterwards. Notice that the large cedar is missing in the second photo.



The Present Situation:



Top: the repair crew removed the top half of the fallen red cedar and stood it upright in the hope that it will survive. The resident Great Blue Heron is making good use of a new perch.



Middle: because its foundation was undermined, Bridge 6 was lifted out of position and placed beside the Trail.

Bottom: the new channel above Bridge 5 looks impassible for fish, but in a remarkable example of resilience, this coho had found its way upstream the day after the first deluge.

ARPSES activities: (Abbotsford Regional Park Salmon Enhancement Society)



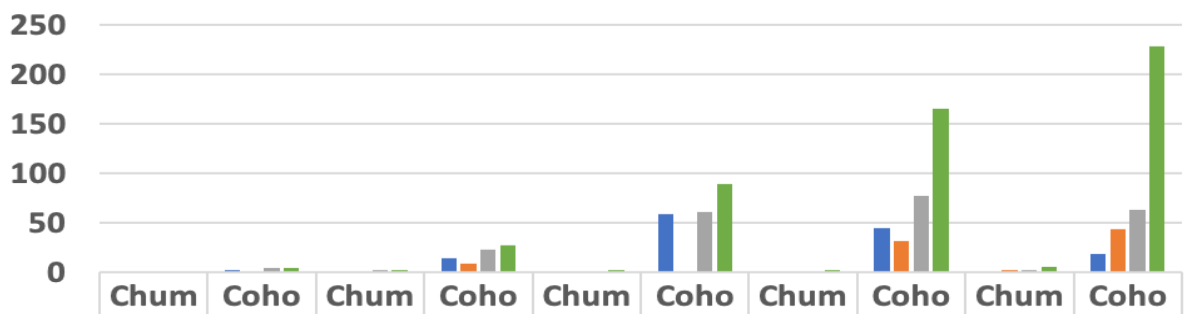
Doug Gosling and **Rob Moynahan** carried out five fish surveys this fall. The third one — done a week after the first deluge — was very encouraging (see the chart). On December 5th and 12th, survey results again were very good. Compared to last year, there were few Chum salmon, but almost three times as many Coho were counted.



Message from **Dale Taylor**, ARPSES president: *“We were amazed to see so many Coho returned to Stoney Creek after the high water events in November! It is unbelievable how resilient and adaptable these salmon are in this urban stream!! Unfortunately we do not expect any of the eggs in the Creek prior to the flooding to survive. Many fish have spawned since then and we hope their eggs are able to survive the winter. The ARPSES will be releasing several thousand Coho smolts into Stoney and Clayburn Creeks this May to be sure that we have a continued return of salmon in these streams for years to come.”*

Many of the fish were observed staying in one place rather than continuing to move upstream. Dale explained that the creek bed had actually been improved by the deluge; most of the sand had been flushed down to the Pond, leaving gravel perfect for salmon redds (nests). There are now several good spawning beds in the lower sections of the Creek. All the more reason to keep dogs out of the water until the eggs hatch, in late March.

Salmon Survey 2021



| | Nov. 6 | | Nov. 13 | | Nov. 20 | | Dec. 5 | | Dec. 12 | |
|--------------------------|--------|------|---------|------|---------|------|--------|------|---------|------|
| | Chum | Coho | Chum | Coho | Chum | Coho | Chum | Coho | Chum | Coho |
| No. of Live Fish | 0 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 0 | 59 | 0 | 45 | | 19 |
| No. of Dead Fish | 0 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 32 | 3 | 44 |
| No. of New Fish | 0 | 5 | 3 | 23 | 0 | 61 | 0 | 77 | 3 | 63 |
| New Total to Date | 0 | 5 | 3 | 28 | 3 | 89 | 3 | 166 | 6 | 229 |

Trail Dogs:

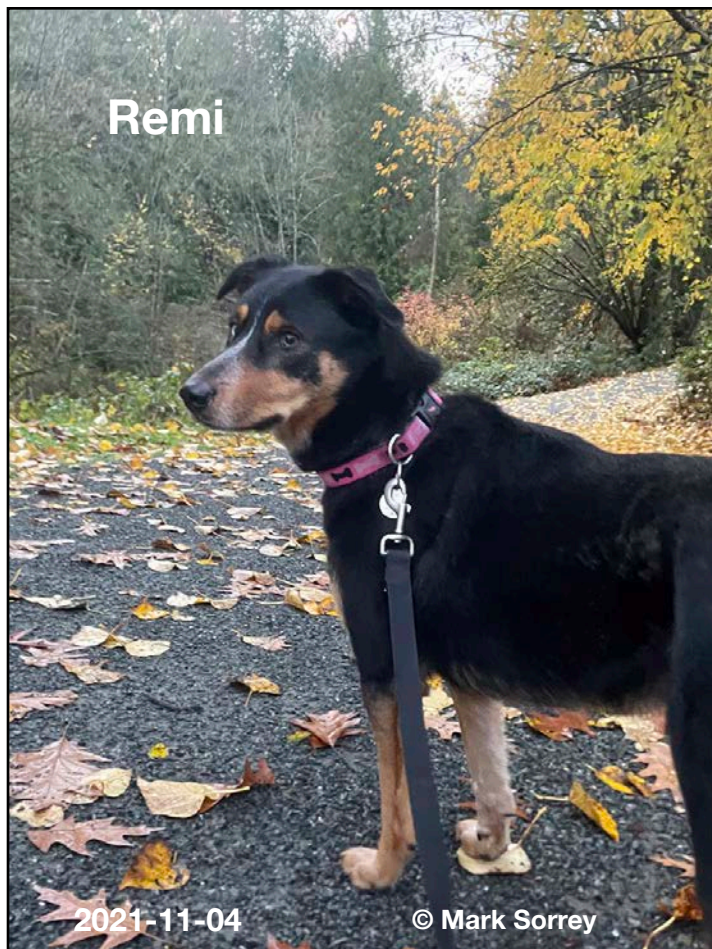


“**Zoey** is an eight-year-old Labradoodle with a loving nature. She came from a breeder in Langley.

“Her favourite pastime is playing with her favourite stuffed toy or retrieving a ball. Since she is constantly losing them under the furniture or outside, there are many balls around the house!

“She is an excellent family dog and a joy to have around.”

Remi is a three-year-old of unknown mixed breeds. When at home in Nelson, BC, she typically goes for trail walks three to four times a day. It’s a special treat for her to visit all the “city dogs” whenever she visits our Trail in Abbotsford.



Trail Dogs (continued):



“Finnegan is a 2½-year-old, 155 lb. Great Dane. He was purchased from a breeder in Spokane, Washington as a puppy. Both his parents were purebred Great Dane Grand Champions registered by the American Kennel Club.

“Great Danes come in seven different color variations. Finnegan is a “fawn” variation, which is known to have the best temperament of all Great Danes. He may be big, but he is consistently sweet and affectionate towards people — and especially kids and animals. Great Danes are nicknamed “Gentle Giants.”

“Just like our previous Great Dane, Rupert, Finnegan doesn’t have much of a prey instinct. While camping, we put dog kibbles on Finnegan’s back while he was lounging in front of our trailer. Chipmunks

repeatedly hopped up to retrieve the food from his back while Finnegan calmly watched them with great curiosity, without attacking. What other breed would do that?

“Many people are surprised to learn that Great Danes are quite low maintenance. Finnegan will sleep up to 20 hours per day. He just needs a good long walk or two to be content. At Bateman Park, his favorite pastime is to play tag with other dogs. He wants to playfully chase or be chased. That game always puts a smile on his face.

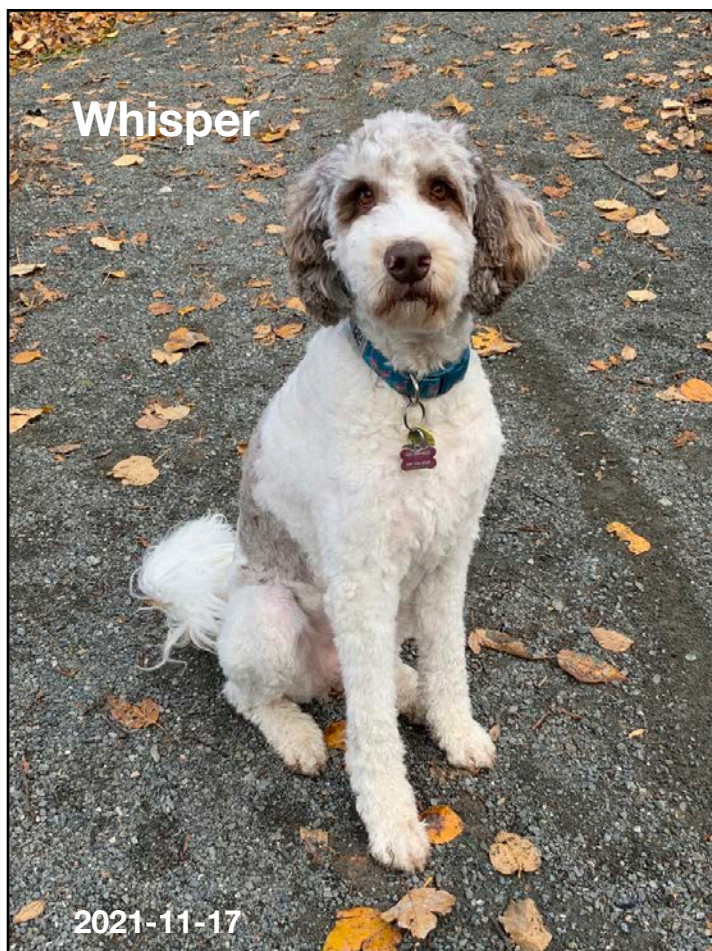
“When you own a Great Dane, you regularly hear variations of, “That’s not a dog. That’s a horse!” As an owner, you have to politely smile and laugh even though you’ve heard it a thousand times. Once I genuinely laughed when someone said, “Hey, nice Chihuahua!”

Trail Dogs (continued):

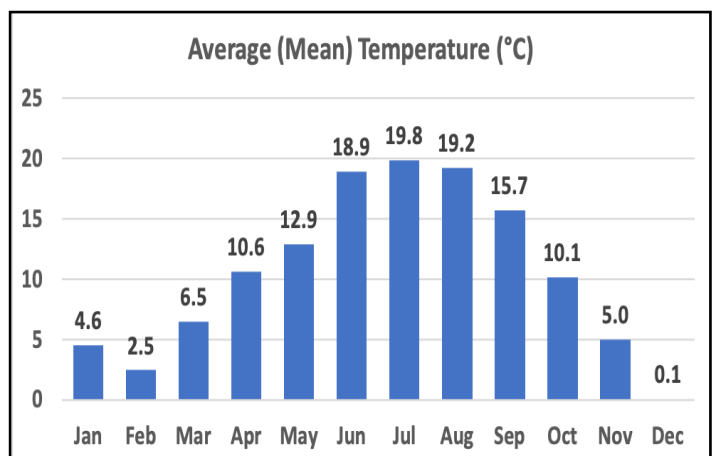
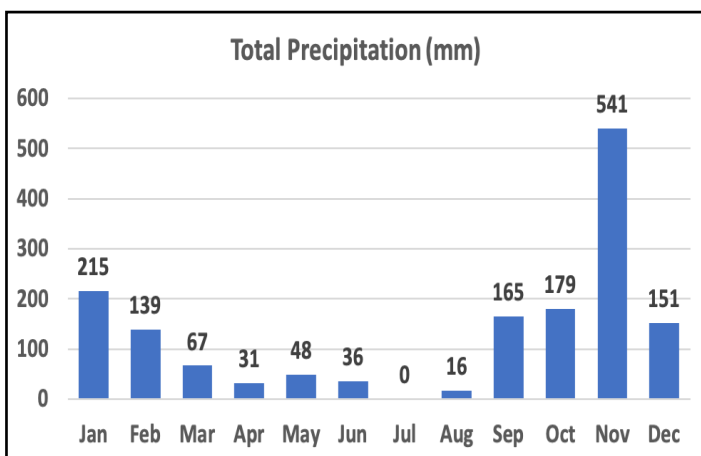
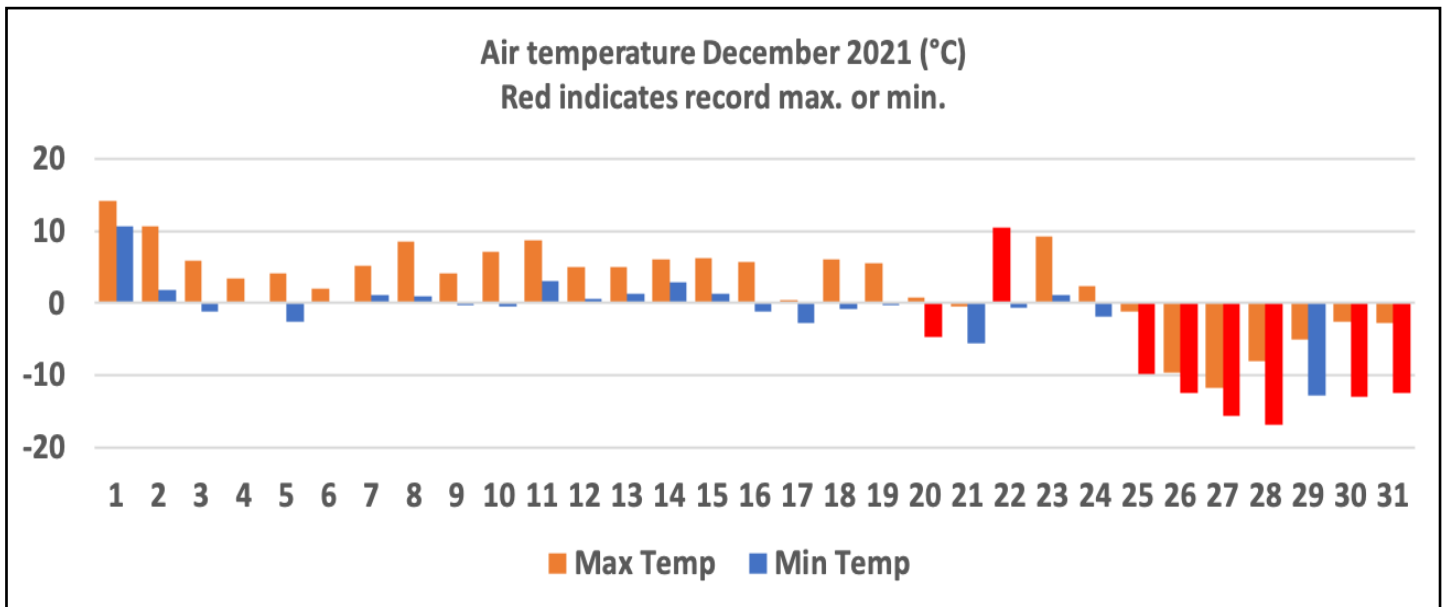
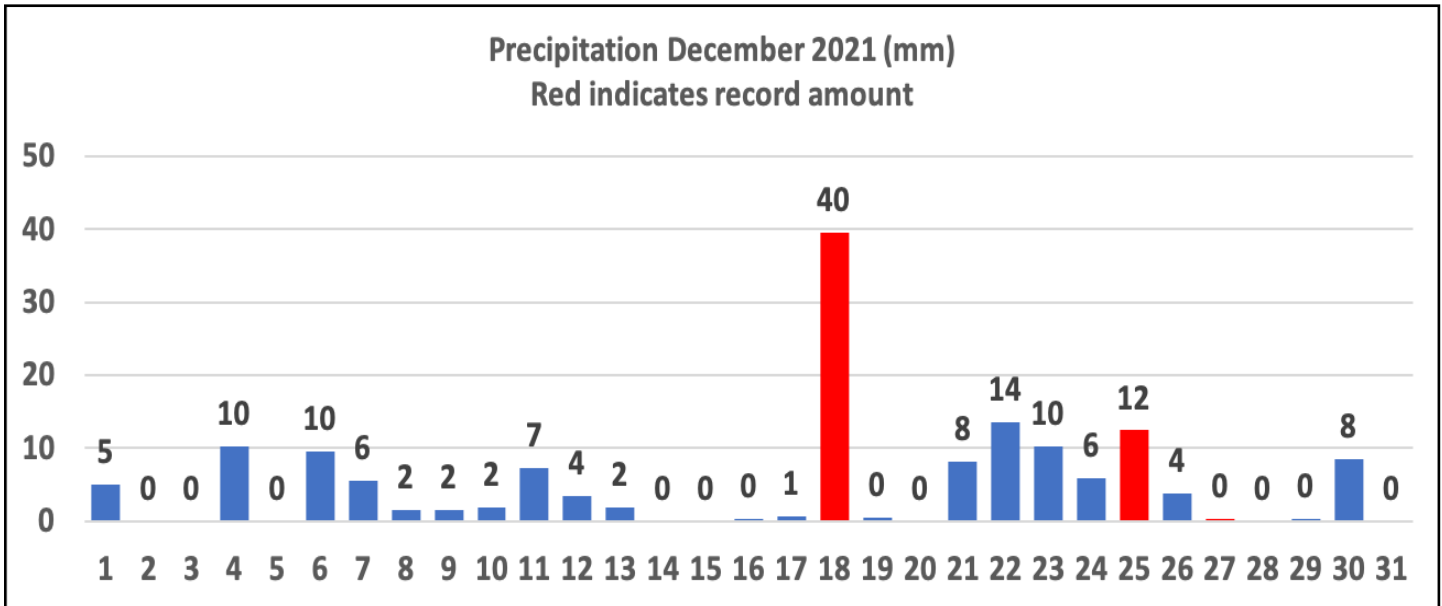


“**Ryder** is a beautiful five-year-old Sable Sheltie who enjoys her midday walks through the trail come rain or sunshine. She is shy with other dogs but enjoys meeting people along the trail. The highlight of her walks is the treat she gets when she gets home!”

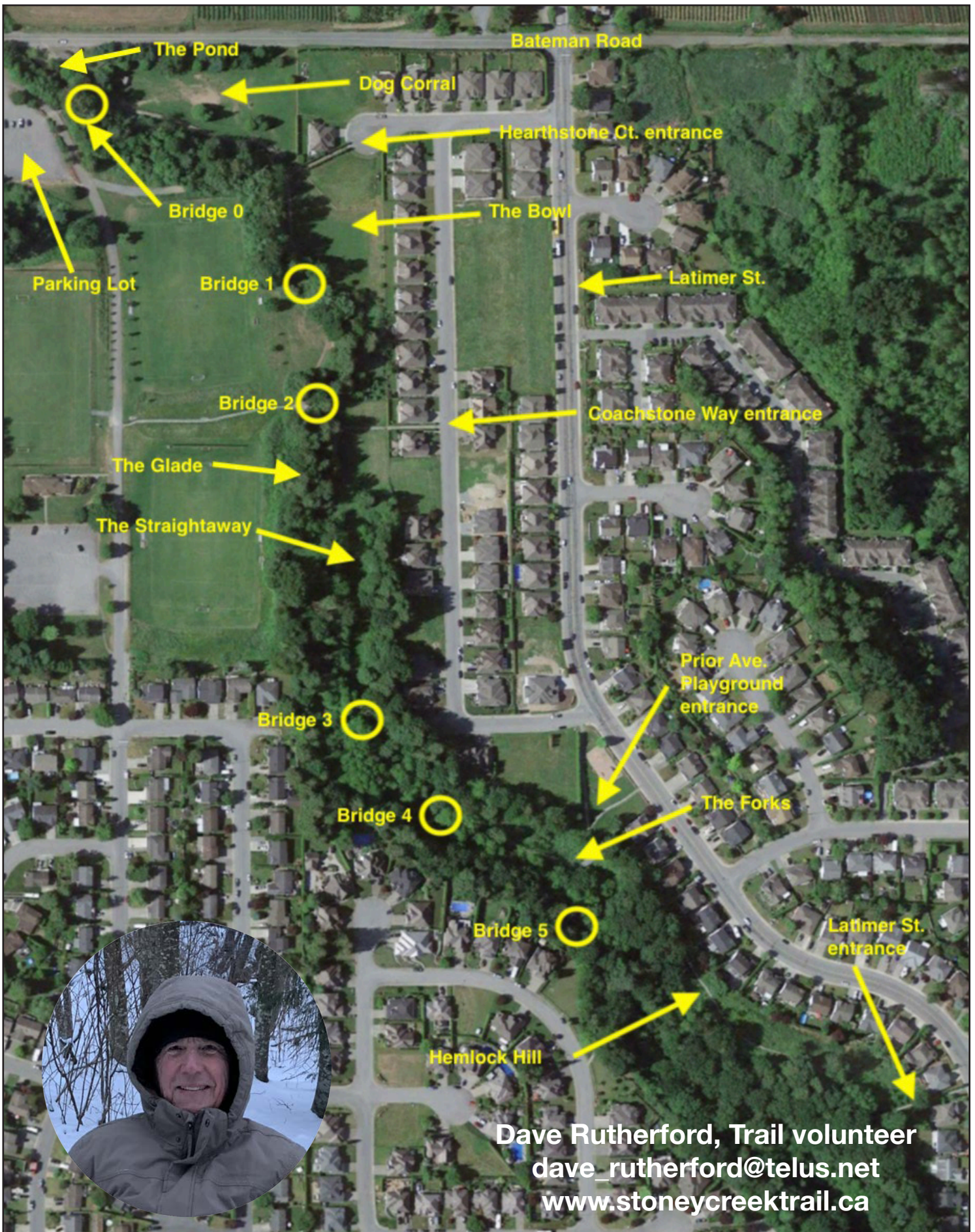
“**Whisper** is a five-year-old Aussiedoodle born in Red Deer, AB who recently relocated here. She is happiest exploring the woods off-leash, but just enjoys being outdoors in any weather, watching out for squirrels. Whisper loves being chased by friendly dogs and getting her head scratched. Several times a week, we walk from Old Clayburn Road to Stoney Creek Trail.”



Weather comments (data from YXX): This month holds the December record for most snow on the ground. As the chart shows, we had record minimum temperatures on 8 days, making it an average of 5 degrees colder than last year. However, we had 145 mm less rain than in December 2020 and surprisingly, in spite of November's huge amount of rain, the total precipitation for 2021 was actually 7% less than 2020.



For convenience, I use these custom place-names:



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