



**Stoney Creek Trail Report  
No. 38 - May 2022**

The **Front Page photo** shows ARPSES volunteers using a net to capture Coho salmon smolts in their pond in Ravine Park. These hatchery-raised fish were featured in the Trail Report last June when their adipose fins were clipped. On the 17th of this month, after having spent a year in the pond, they were transferred to Stoney Creek. A description of the ‘Smolt move’ begins on page Five.



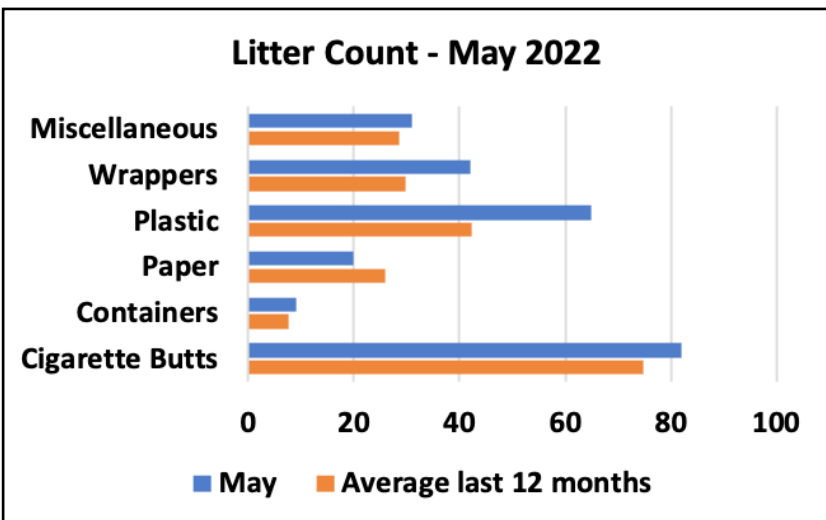
**Stoney Creek Salmon news:** This year’s abundant hatch of wild coho fry can be seen all along the Creek. When you consider the substantial changes in the Creek due to the deluge last November, this is remarkable. In the photo on the left, bright sunlight reveals a school of 50 or more fry in a pool above Bridge 3. Speaking of schools, we’ve been told that 400 students from 13 Abbotsford schools released about 700 classroom-raised fry into the Creek during the past month. This probably explains the differing sizes of the fry.

**Broken Bridges situation:** Two words come to mind: **frustration** and **disappointment**. For those who have been waiting anxiously for six months for repairs to begin, I have no news. City Hall has not responded to my questions about funding problems or provided a schedule of repairs.

**May is the month of flowers and new growth.** In keeping with the purpose of these Trail Reports, photos of many (but not all) of the flora have been taken and are shown, starting on the next page.

*Photos of the Trail Dogs, back issues of the Trail Reports, and a lot more can be viewed on:*

**[www.stoneycreektrail.ca](http://www.stoneycreektrail.ca)**



- 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

# New Tree Leaves and Flowers:

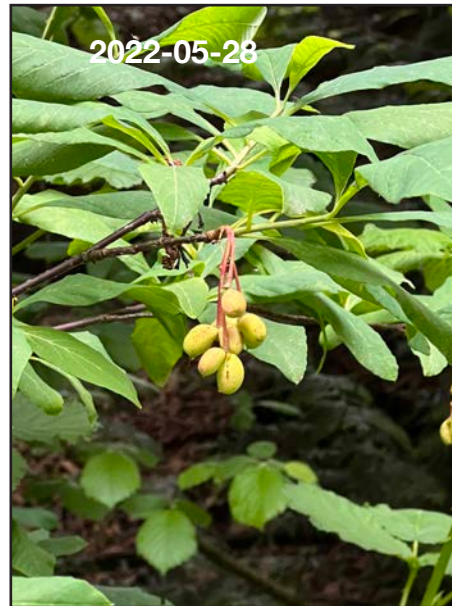
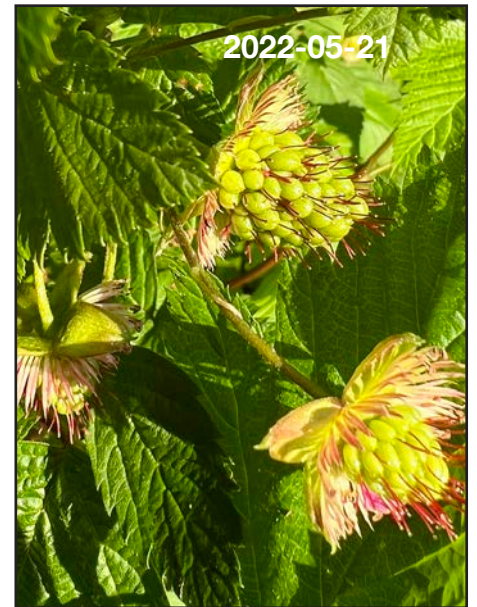


**Top:** Red-cedar cones, Vine maple flowers, Paper birch catkins (flowers).

**Middle:** Mountain ash blossoms, Western hemlock leaves, Black cottonwood female catkins (from which the cotton bursts).

**Bottom:** Corkscrew willow catkins, Black hawthorn blossoms

# Flowering Shrubs:



**Top:** Saskatoon, Black chokeberry, Salmonberry.

**Middle:** Thimble berry, Indian plum, Pacific ninebark.

**Bottom:** High-bush cranberry, Golden-twig dogwood.

# Flowering Plants:



**Top:** Stinging nettle, Wood bittercress, Pacific waterleaf.

**Middle:** Bleeding heart, Creeping buttercup, Herb-robert geranium.

**Bottom:** Large-leaved avens, Forget-me-not.

## ARPSSES' Smolt Move A:



First, water was pumped from the pond to fill the tank in which the smolts would be trucked from Ravine Park down to Stoney Creek. The red gas bottles percolate oxygen into the water for the health of the fish. After the net was untangled, the crew pulled it through the icy-cold water wearing waist-high waders. The net hangs from floats while a lead line on the lower edge keeps it close to the bottom of the pond.



## Smolt Move B:



The long net was dragged around until the smolts were enclosed in a bathtub-sized area where they could be netted. But first, many handfuls of pond algae had to be scooped out and thrown up on the bank out of the way. The crew could feel the fish bumping into their legs as they did this. Afterwards, many trips using hand nets transferred the smolts to the truck. The netting operation was carried out twice more.



## Smolt Move C:

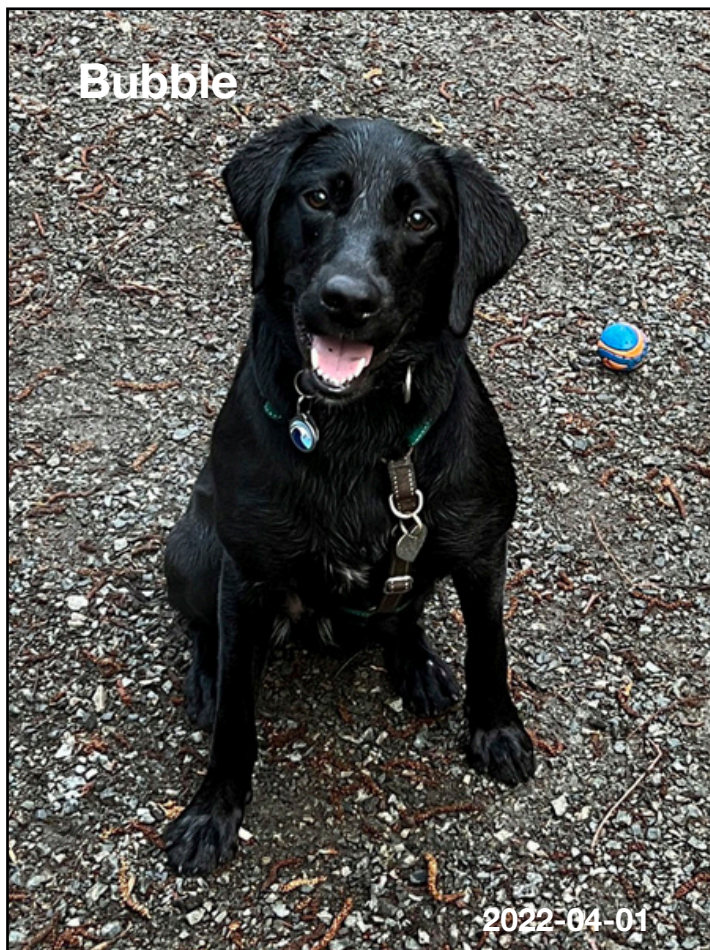


Later, with the tank parked beside Stoney Creek, the operation was reversed. Leaving the nets, the smolts were momentarily disoriented, then quickly scooted off into deeper water. Approximately 10,000 fish were moved, with no casualties. These year-old smolts will make their way downstream via the Fraser River to the Salish Sea. Hopefully most will return within two years to spawn, after which they will die, their life cycle completed.





## Trail Dogs:



“Why the name **Bubble**? Because in 2020, when Dr. Bonnie was talking about staying in your bubble, I said to myself I don’t have a bubble. So, I decided to get my own Bubble and yes!

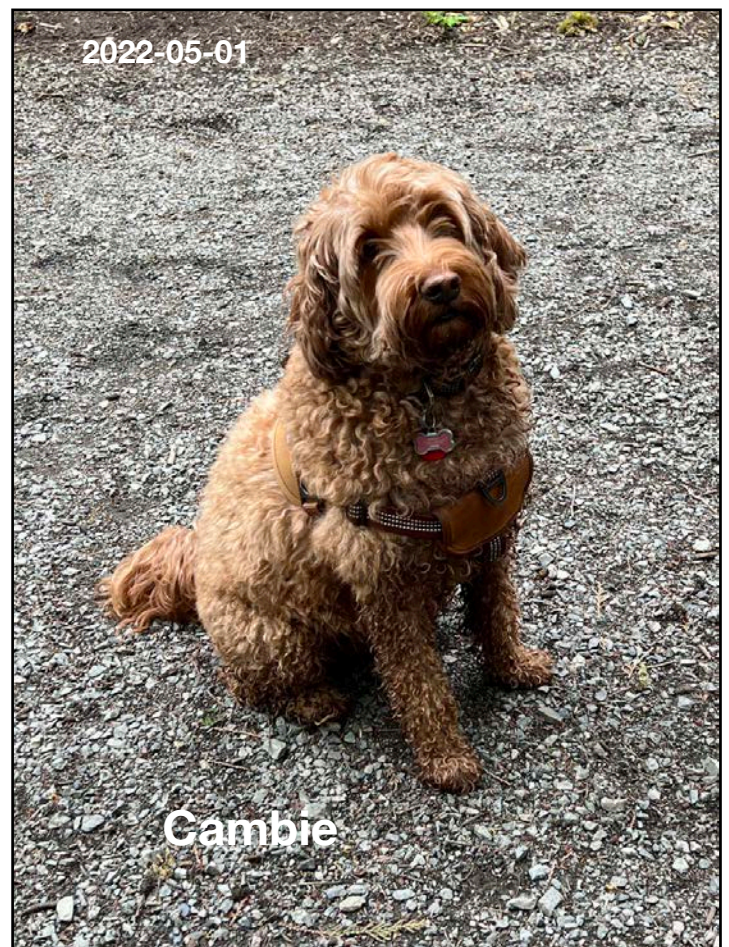
“My Bubble was born in Chilliwack on November 1st, 2020 and they gave her to me after Christmas day.

“Bubble is smart, lovely and full of energy. She loves to play on Stoney Creek Trail, catching or finding her ball, and in the dog area too, chasing with her friends.”

**Cambie** is an Australian Labradoodle born on October 31, 2014. She likes to spend time with her family, swimming, surfing behind our boat, diving, and chasing rabbits.

She has a gentle demeanor, and enjoys kids and treats. She is very good at letting us know when it is time to let her out, feed her or play.

She really enjoys sniffing on trails, and especially likes Stoney Creek.



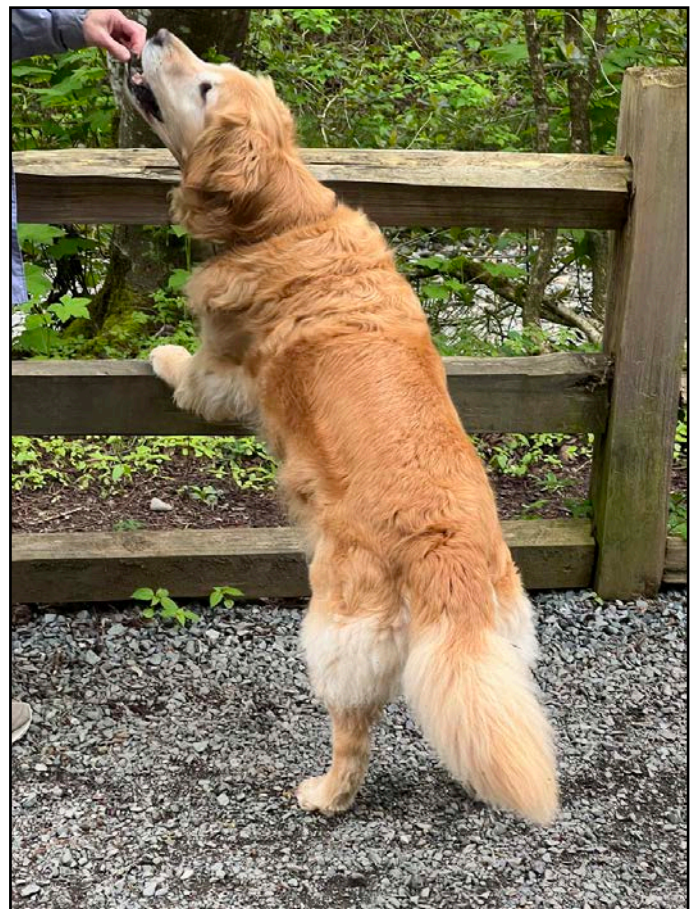
## Featuring Selyca:



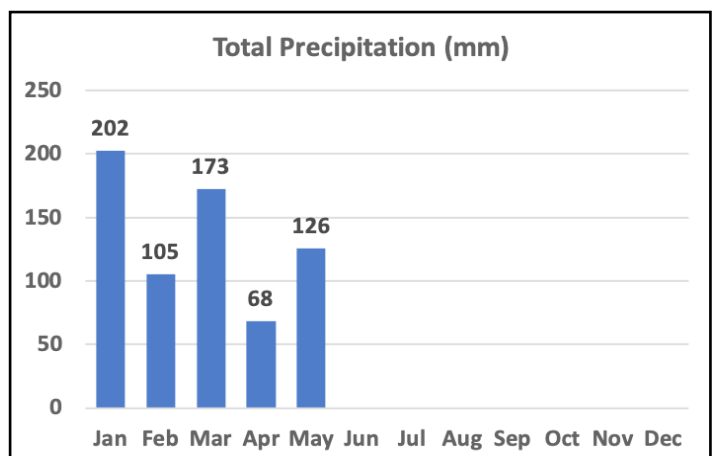
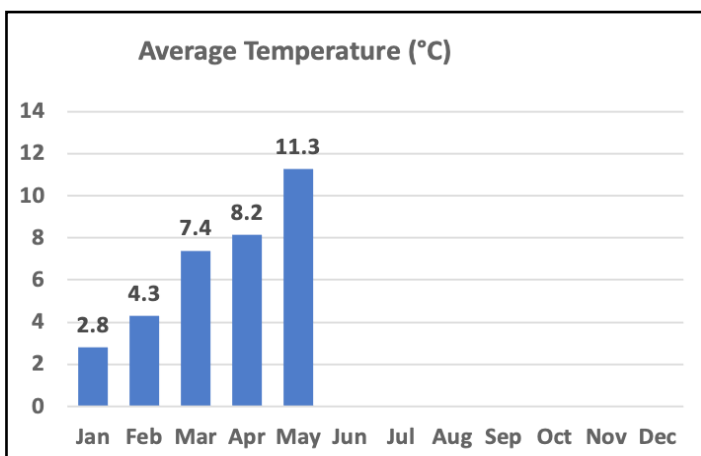
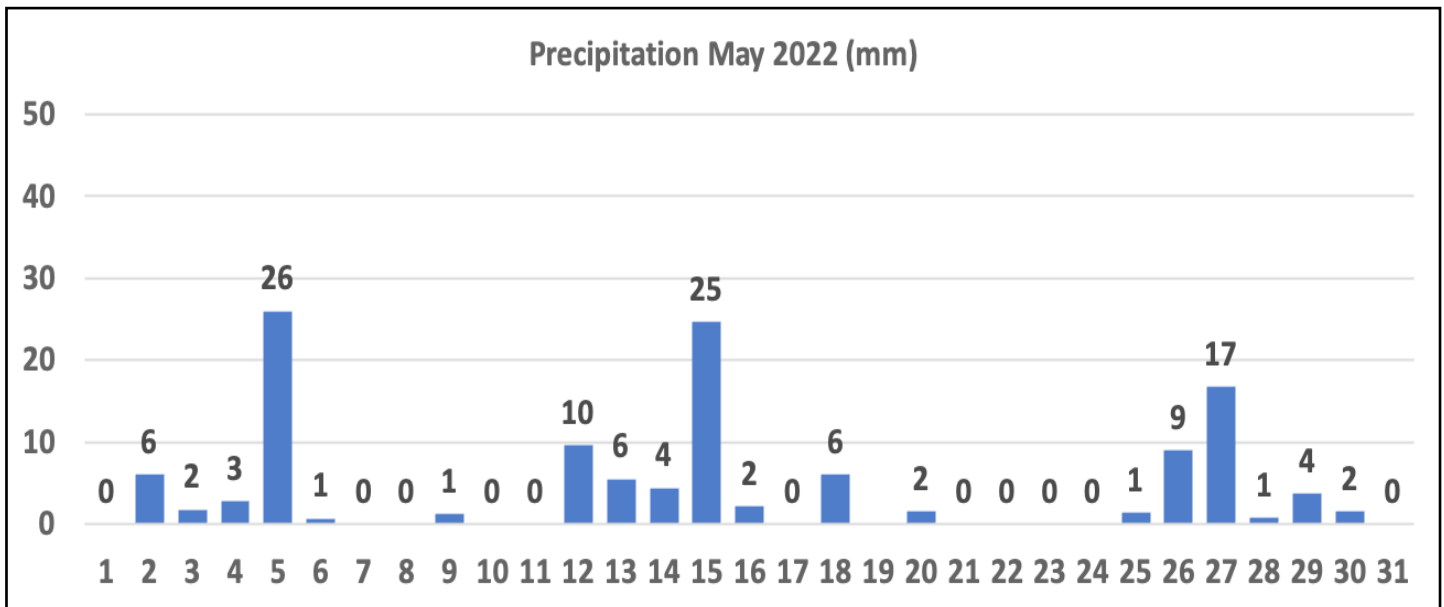
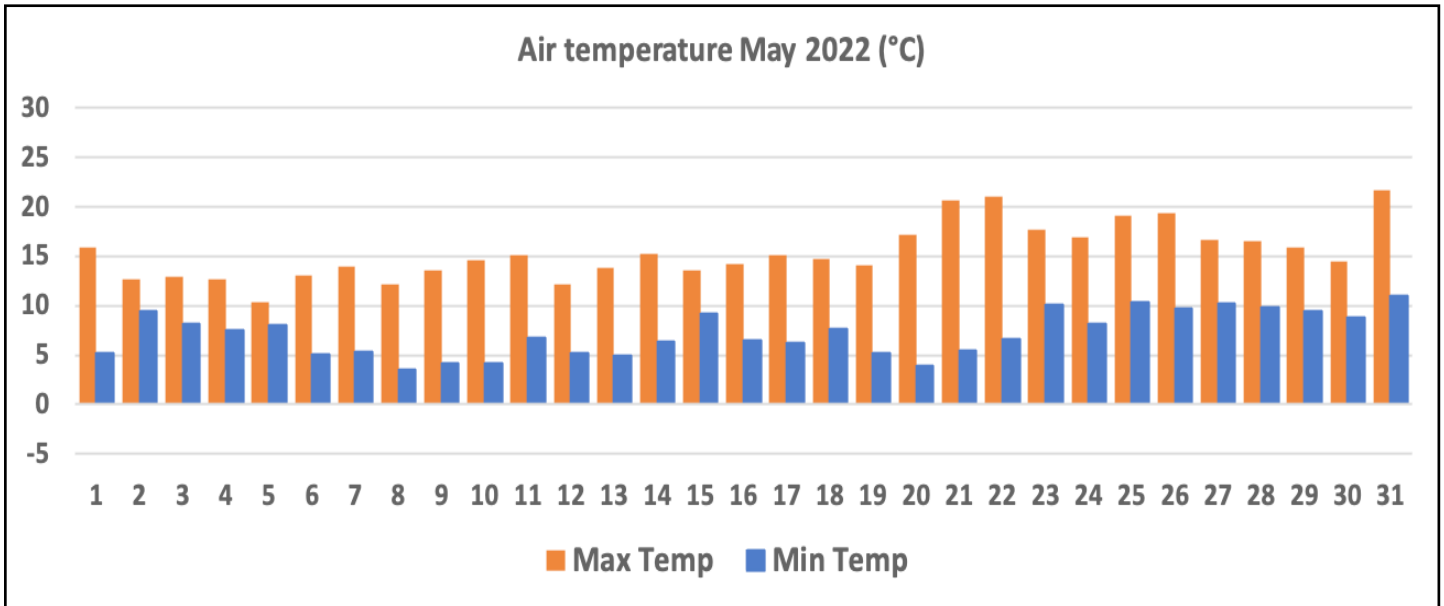
“**Selyca** is almost nine years old and has been walking through Bateman Park the whole time. Dave and Sadie were one of the first dogs/humans we came across on our walks back in the fall of 2013. We have come across many dogs with their humans over the year and hope to see many more in the years to come.

“Selyca is a Saint John Ambulance therapy dog, and as well goes to a school to work with me every day. She spent her first six years in a high school and now in an elementary school.”

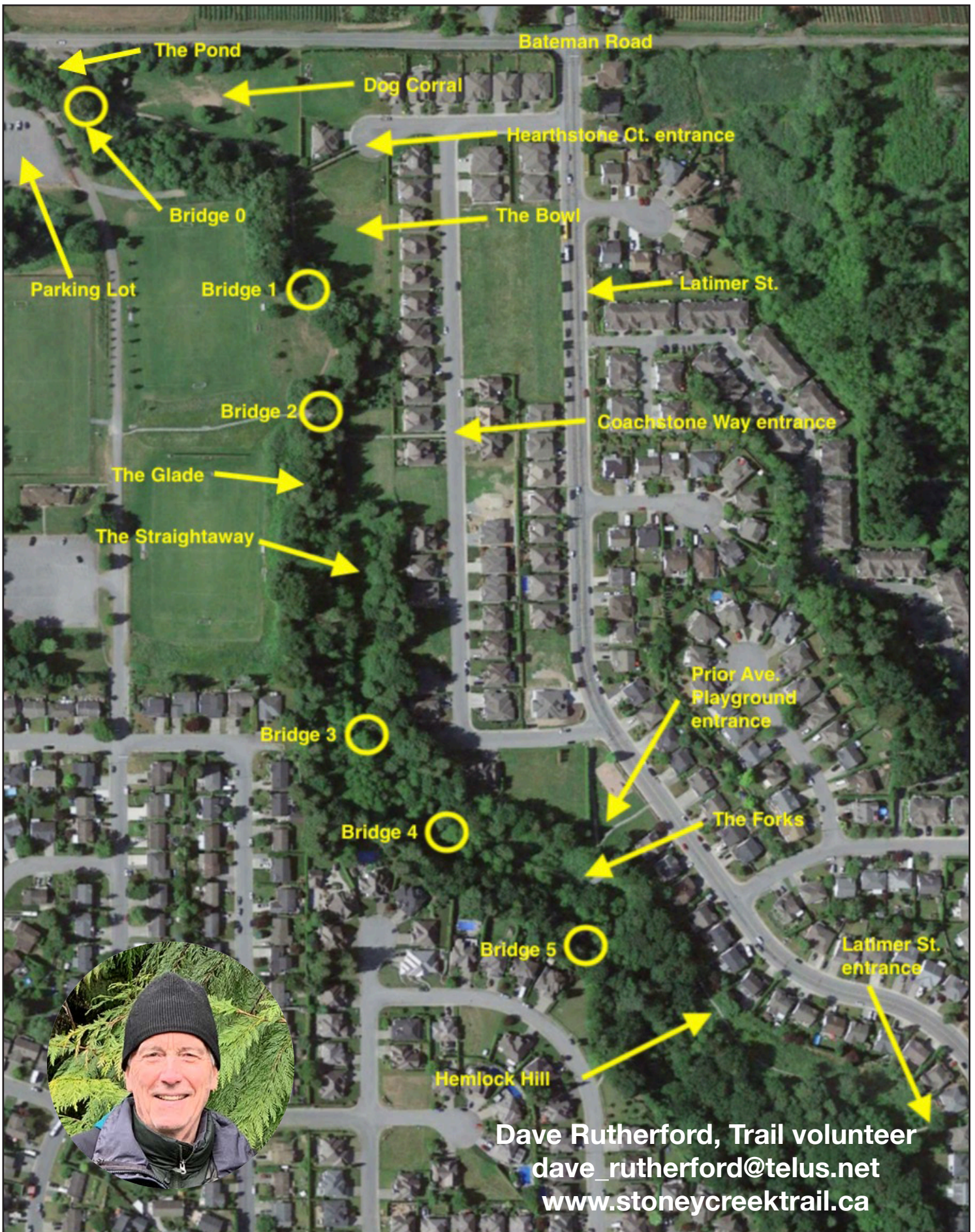
Here, Selyca puts on a performance, holding very still while “Sitting Pretty” (notice the biscuit on her forehead) and “Saying her Prayers,” then getting her reward. Her mom says she’s very easy to train, as she will do anything for a treat!



**Weather comments:** (Chart data from YXX). A colder than normal spring resulted in an above normal snow pack in most of BC. The rate of the melt during the next few weeks is critical. A sudden hot spell could result in a flood. However, cool temperatures and moderate rainfall might continue — earlier this month, the U.S. Climate Prediction Center said there is a 58% chance that the La Niña effect will extend through summer.



For convenience, I use these custom place-names:



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