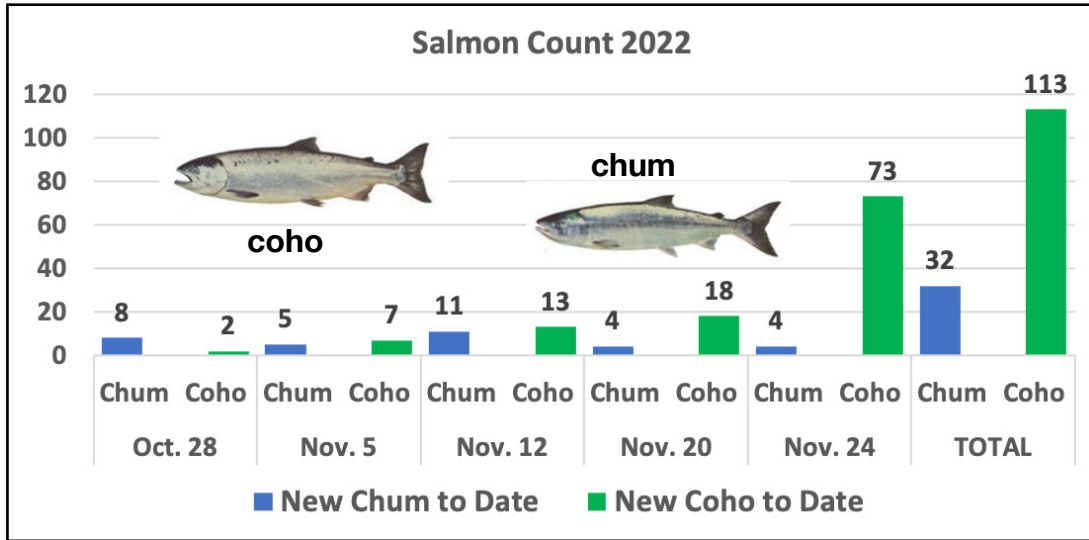


Stoney Creek Trail Report No. 44 - November 2022



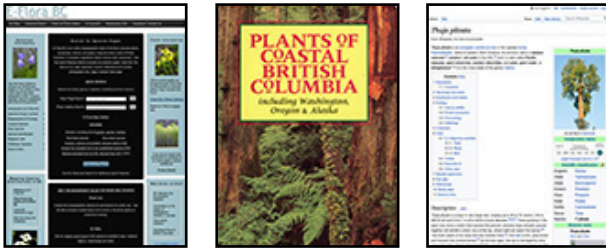
The photo on the Front Page shows a UFV (University of the Fraser Valley) geography class holding an outdoor session at the Creek (see why on Page 3).

ARPSES* volunteers carried out five salmon counts this month. The chart below shows the results. December is normally the busiest month for spawning salmon, so it will be interesting to see if the 2022 total comes close to last year's 229 spawners. In the December Report, there will be a final tally along with a special feature on ARPSES.



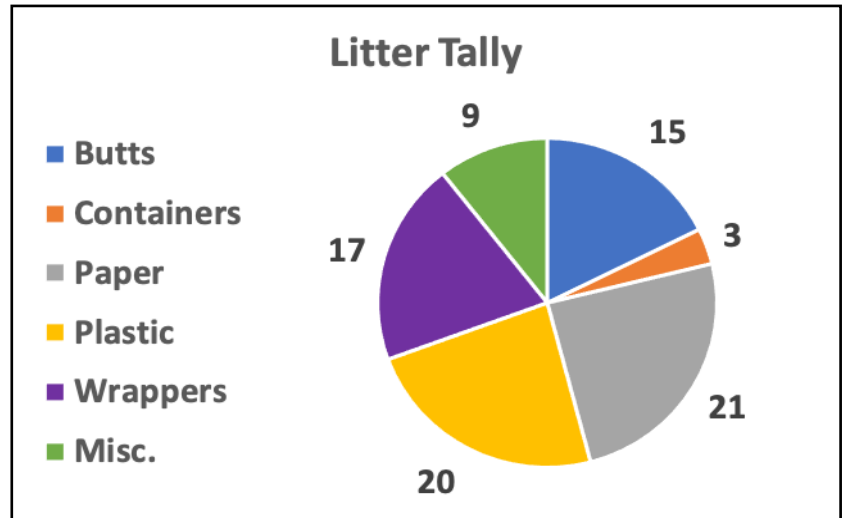
Very likely you were bothered earlier this fall by a plague of **stink bugs**. Learn more about them on Page 7. Also, starting on Page 8 is another Stoney Creek Trail **virtual walk**—southbound this time.

Broken Bridge News: The City is “still working through the insurance claim.”



I give credit to my three main information sources: *E-Flora BC*; *Plants of Coastal British Columbia*; and *Wikipedia*.

Back issues of the Trail Reports as well as photos of Trail plants and animals are available on: 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

*Abbotsford Ravine Park Salmon Enhancement Society

UFV Activity on Stoney Creek (1 of 2)

On October 13, I was invited to observe a UFV geography class on a field trip to Stoney Creek under the supervision of professor **Steve Marsh**. These photos were taken below Bridge 0, one of two locations where the group studied the Creek.

These undergraduate students were there to measure and record several kinds of information about the Creek. For example, they used tapes and survey rods to find the **wetted width and depth** in order to determine the Creek's current water discharge. They also measured the **bankful width and depth**, which is the maximum channel size.

Right: Graduate student Donovan Toews with Steve



To start the session, Steve coordinates the students' GPSs with his own



Measuring the dimensions of the creek channel with tapes and survey rods

UFV Activity on Stoney Creek (2 of 2)

As well as using tapes and rods, the students utilized special instruments for sampling the water. The Lamotte 2020we measures **water turbidity**. The YSI water quality meter has four sensors for measuring **dissolved oxygen, water temperature, specific conductivity, pH** and **turbidity**. (These parameters were explained in my report last August.)

Steve is a UFV associate professor in the School of Land Use and Environmental Change. He collects data on the chemistry of the Fraser River and its tributaries in the Fraser Valley in order to track the movement of carbon. The School is collaborating with the **Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution** which is doing in-depth studies of six major rivers of the world.

Right: Natasha and Tyler are recording the physical dimensions of the Creek



←
The Lamotte
2020we
turbidity meter



→
The YSI ProDSS
portable digital
sampling system

Trail Dogs:



“**Simcha** was born on Purim, the Festival of Joy, February 28th, 2018. Simcha means Joy in Hebrew. He came from Kulalani Golden Retrievers in Cloverdale, one of nine in the litter. His father, Stetson, twice won first place for breed and obedience, while his mother, Jersey, won for breed. He loves to greet you with a toy at the door. At home, he insists on being wherever I am. In the office, he’s at my feet where the register blows warm in winter and cool in summer. Outdoors, when he sees someone to greet, he grabs his leash and pulls me. He barks when he is afraid of something he sees or a noise that startles him. He loves car rides and of course the water.... When he was ten weeks old, I backed up into Rolley lake holding a piece of kibble. He came after it and started his career in dog paddling. He has been retrieving sticks in the water ever since.”

“**McLean** is an energetic, friendly and bouncy 11-month-old petite Golden Doodle. He joined our family to be a companion for our older dog Morley, and he has brought lots of energy into all of our lives since his arrival. He is a curious dog who believes that barriers are just problems to be solved, and he is pretty good at solving them. We’ve lost a few shoes to his belief that everything is a puppy chew toy, but we couldn’t be happier to have McLean in our lives.”



Trail Dogs:



“**Zoe** was a rescue from Washington State just outside of Bellingham. She was a year old. She may have been little but she sure was spunky. I was told she was a Chihuahua/Pomeranian/ Chipperke cross. Sometimes it was hard to get a good picture of her because everything was black including her eyes and nose. She loved her walks and always loved to run in and out of the woods. She loved to snuggle and on cold winter nights, she was happy to climb under the covers with me. She had a few favourite friends but didn’t always tolerate all dogs, however she loved all humans. She was diagnosed with diabetes when she 10 years old and allowed me to give her 3 insulin shots a day without complaining! Eventually, after 3 years from her diagnosis, she succumbed to her illness and she was finally put to rest. She was a great, loving companion and I miss her very much.”

“**Allie** is a rescue from the Middle East. She flew from Tehran to Montreal, spent the night in Montreal, up early the next day and back into her crate and then flew to Vancouver. I picked her up at Air Canada cargo at midnight on a Friday night. She came out in her crate, I opened the door, she jumped into my arms, and covered me with kisses. This is her personality since day one. Through a little investigation we have narrowed down her breed to a little bit of Tibetan spaniel, Jintoo and Spitz. She is full of energy, full of love and I have not yet run into a human or another dog that she doesn’t love. She’s a bit of a hunter—at Bateman Park she has managed to catch two little rabbits and two field mice. She doesn’t harm them, she holds them gently in her mouth and brings them to me. So far so good with her health, she is now three years old. She loves to run free, shake the heck out of her toys and, of course, meet new friends on our walks. She is a very happy loving little girl.”



The Pesky Stink Bug:



The **Brown marmorated stink bug** (*Halyomorpha halys*), came from eastern Asia. It was first detected in British Columbia in 2015 and is now widespread in southwest BC.

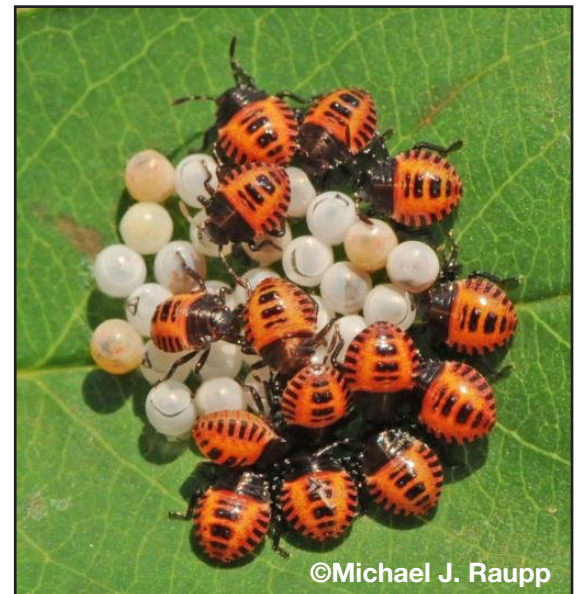
These stink bugs are adept at hitch-hiking in shipping containers, wood, packing material, cargo and vehicles. They are a particular nuisance to homeowners: as adults they seek to survive the winter in warm buildings. They will enter via eaves and crawl spaces, under siding, around window and door frames or any space which has openings big enough to fit through. Once inside, they go into a state of hibernation, but often the warmth causes them to become active and they may crawl or fly clumsily around light fixtures.

Adults can live up to a year. They emerge in early spring and each female can lay hundreds of eggs on host plants throughout the summer. The eggs are round and laid in small clusters on the underside of leaves. In four to five days, immature bugs (nymphs) hatch, then go through five stages of development (instars) to reach adulthood in about five weeks, depending on temperature. Adults are shield-shaped, 13–17 mm long, with a brown, marbled (marmorated) appearance. The white bands on their antennae distinguish them from native stink bugs. Like all stink bugs, they have glands on their underside which produce pungent defensive chemicals.

The Brown marmorated stink bug, although harmless to people, is a serious agricultural pest. It feeds by sucking on a wide array of plants including tree fruits and many other agricultural crops leaving punctures that cause small dead areas on fruit and vegetables, thus spoiling their market value.

Above: one of a number of the critters found on the leaves of the Golden-twig dogwood in the Bowl area.

Right: the nymphs (juveniles) look nothing like the adult.



Walk the Lower Trail southward (Part 1 of 3)



Bateman Road is behind you. Bridge 0 and the Dog Corral are next.



Looking up the stretch with the Dog Corral on the left



Most people visiting the Trail will have come by car. Coming from the parking lot off Bateman Road, Bridge 0 (its handrail can just be seen on the far right) gives easy access to the Dog Corral and Trail. Most of the Trail is “off leash” and there are large open areas like the Bowl and Straightaway for playing fetch with your dog. Starting at Bridge 1 (Photo 4), there are several spots where dogs can access the Creek.



The Bowl section. The Hearthstone Court walkway comes in from the left



Bridge 1 takes you from the Bowl to the open area and the soccer pitches



Walk the Lower Trail southward (Part 2 of 3)



The Bateman soccer pitches are on the right; Bridge 2 is ahead



Bridge 2: the Straightaway is beyond; the Glade is on your right



Owners are encouraged to **keep dogs out of the Creek from November to March**, when the salmon eggs are in the gravel. Many people don't regularly go beyond the Dog Corral, but the walk farther along the trail in the shade of large maples and cedars is very pleasant, especially on a hot day. This northern section of the Trail has two other entrance walkways, from Hearthstone Court (Photo 3) and Coachstone Way (Photo 7), but no parking is allowed on those streets.



The Straightaway. The entrance from Coachstone Way comes in on the left



At the south end of the Straightaway, you'll come to Bridge 3



Walk the Lower Trail southward (Part 3 of 3)



From Bridge 3, Sadie's bench can be seen right at that corner ahead



Next you'll go past some large alder trees, standing and fallen



At Bridge 4 (Photo 12) you can see that the flood damaged trees as well as the Bridge. The southern section of the Trail (described last month), starts at the Forks about 100 m beyond the bridge and continues up Hemlock Hill. There is another damaged bridge, No. 5, which is below the Forks and is not shown. This walk from Bridge 0 covers a distance of about .6 km and you will have climbed about 18 m when you've reach Bridge 4.



Bridge 4, one of the two damaged ones, is just around the far corner

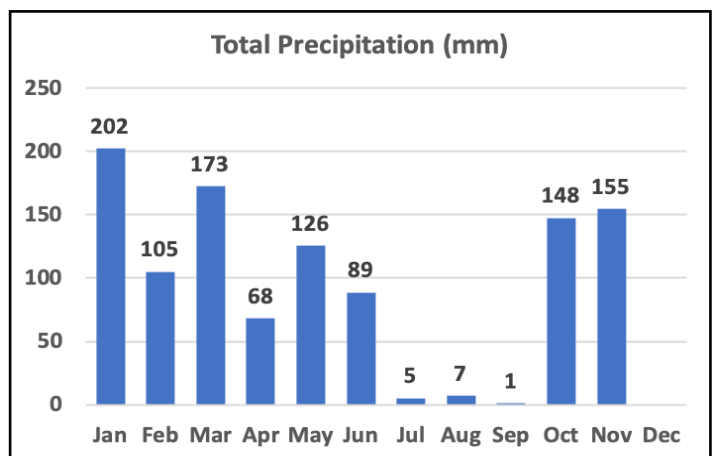
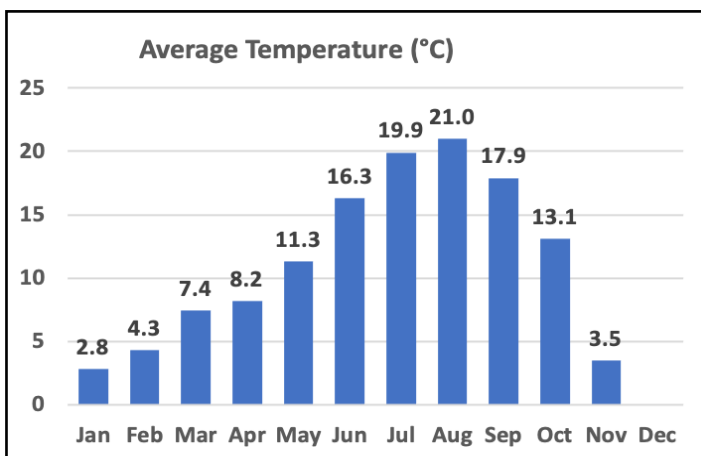
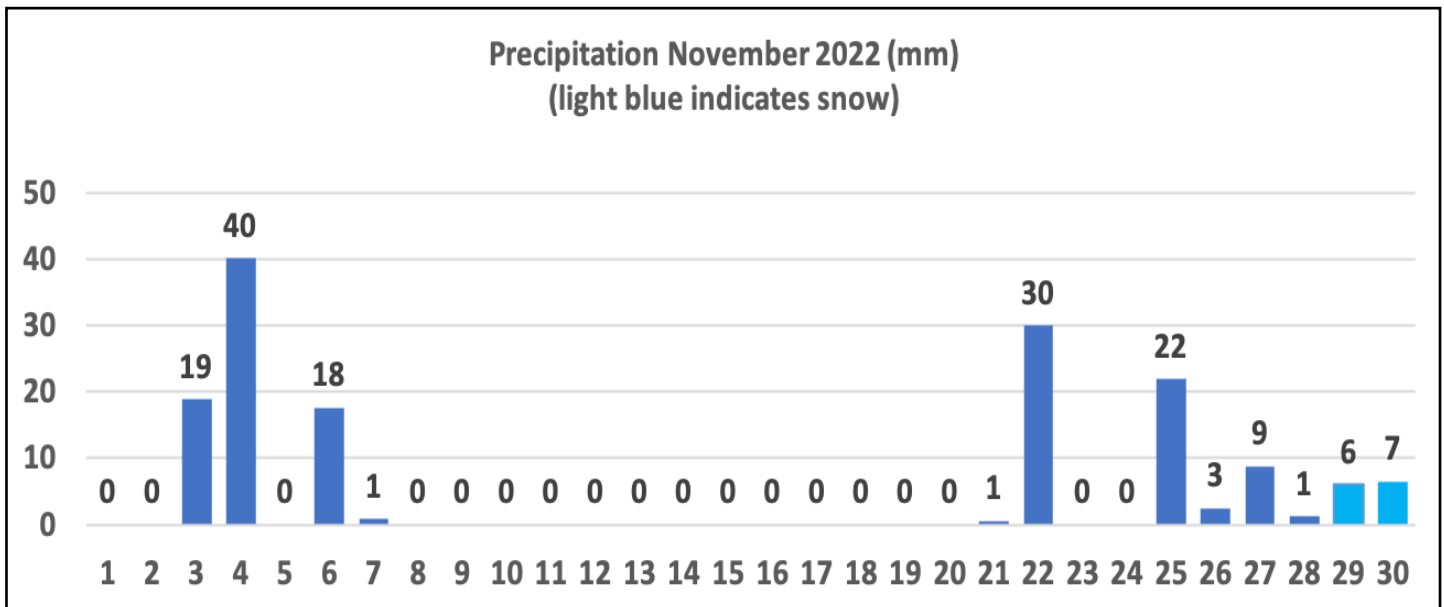
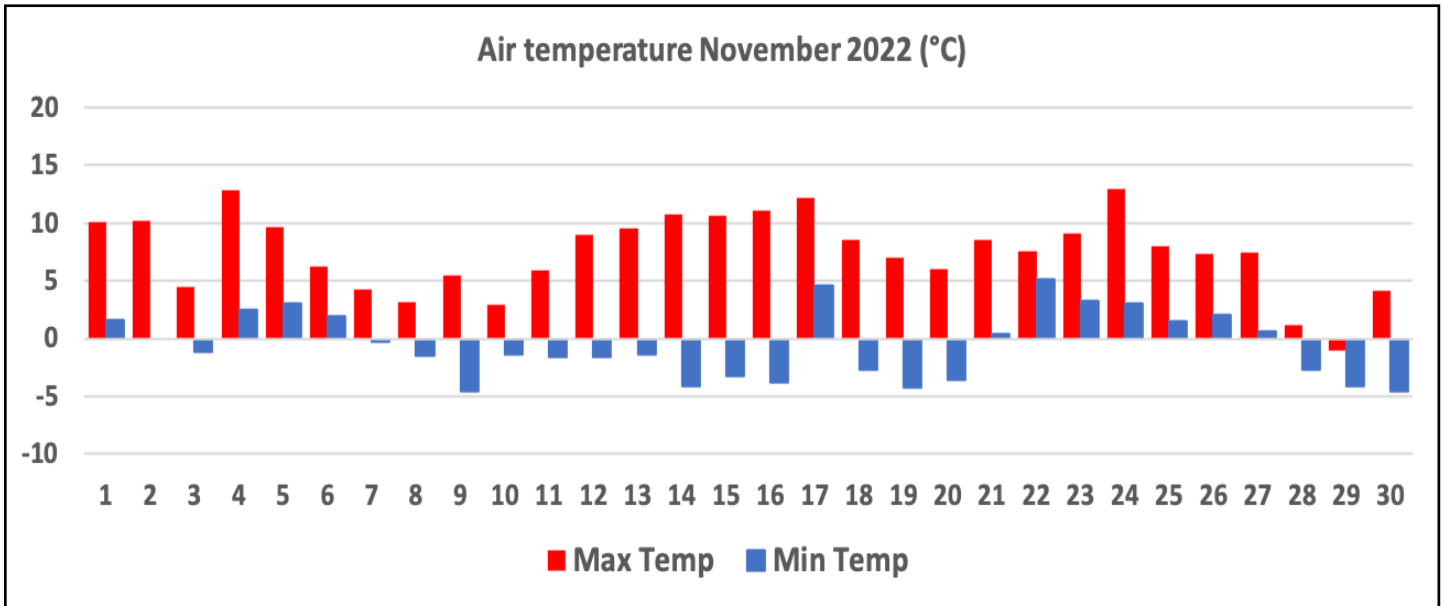


At Bridge 4 there is a barrier. Going past this point is not recommended

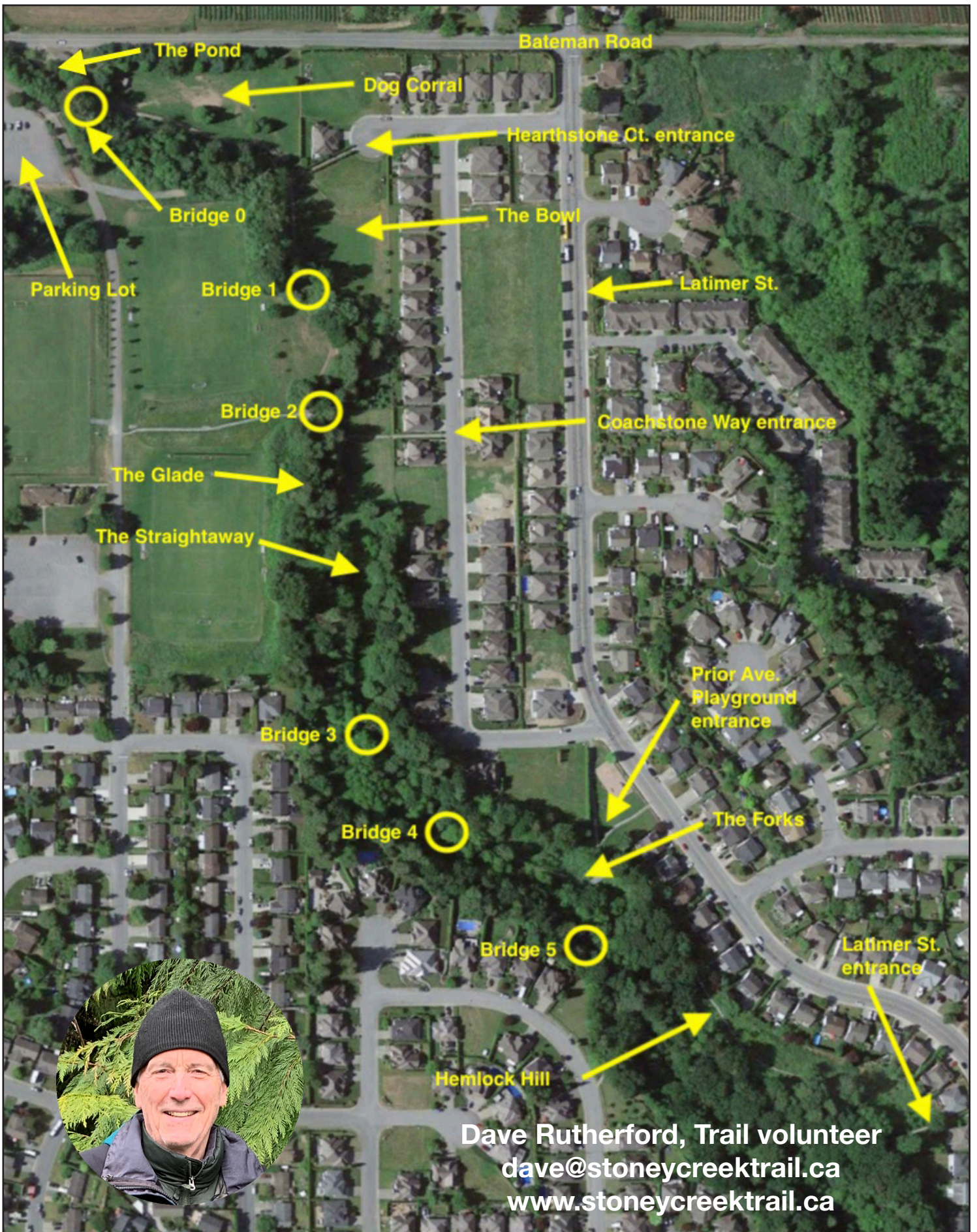


Weather comments: In comparison with November, 2021, the average temperature this month was cooler: 3.8° vs. 5.0° with less precipitation: 142 mm vs. 541 mm. There were fewer windy days: 13 vs. 20 — but with stronger winds averaging 54 kph vs. 45 kph.

Weather prediction: According to the US climate heavyweight, the NOAA, there is a 76% chance of the La Niña effect continuing through to February before becoming neutral. This will give the south coast a cooler, wetter winter.



For convenience, I use these custom place-names:



Dave Rutherford, Trail volunteer
dave@stoneycreektrail.ca
www.stoneycreektrail.ca