



**Stoney Creek Trail Report
No. 46 - January 2023**

The photo on the Front Page was taken in the Glade. The entwined roots of these Red cedars might illustrate the new concept in ecology, the **Wood Wide Web**, in which trees share resources with each other through an underground network of fungi. It's easy to imagine that the trees in this close-knit community are sharing resources.

Features:

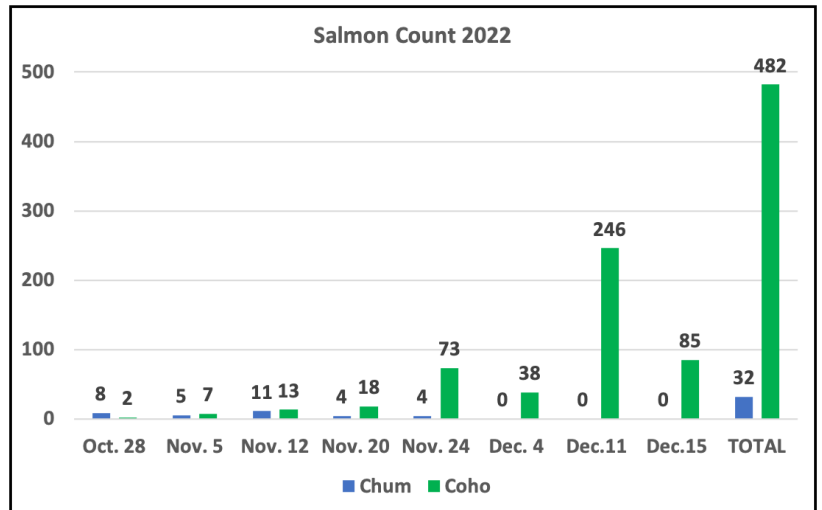
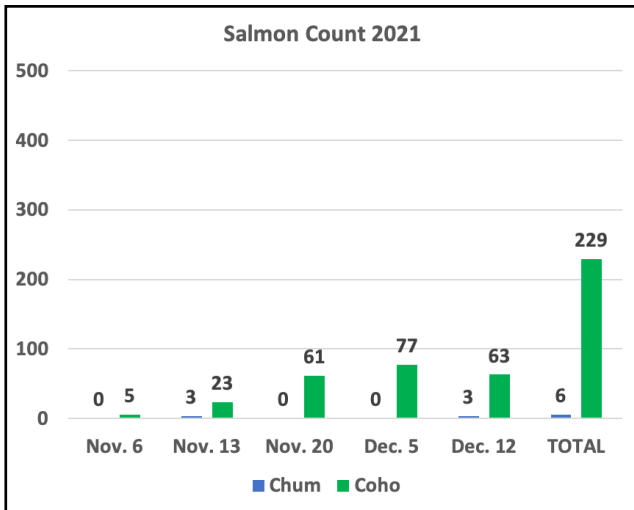
Page 3: The aftermath of Freezing Rain

Page 6: Trail changes

Page 8: Trail Dogs

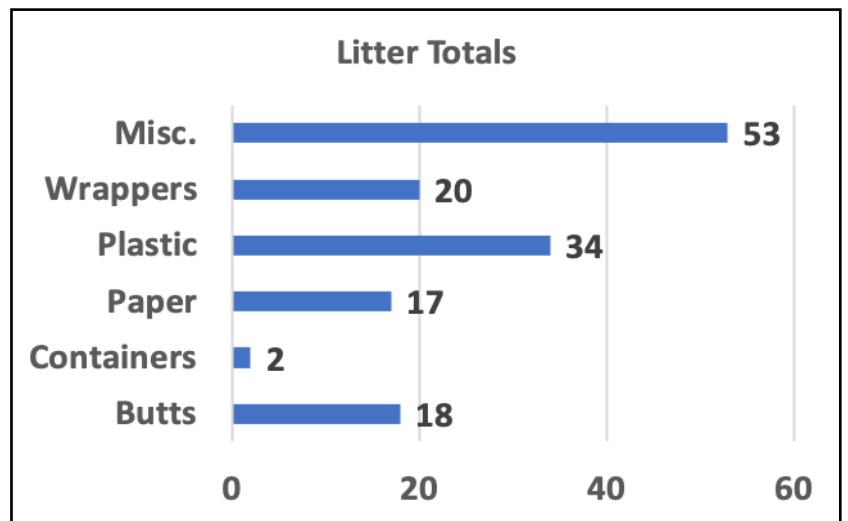
Page 10: The Cedric Saga

I have renumbered all the Bridges for the Reports. As the map on the last page shows, they now go from 1 to 6. This is more logical and matches the City's numbering system.



If you think we had a **very good salmon run this season**, you are right. Note that the final survey was carried out in mid-December by ARPSES members **Rob** and **Dain**, so the chart does not include the numbers of fish that continued to arrive through the rest of December and into January. In case you were wondering, the numbers on the charts represent both male and female salmon, alive or dead (the dead ones were altered so they would not be counted twice). None of the fish were from Hatchery eggs. ARPSES president **Dale Taylor** says: "There were no hatchery marked fish this year because we released unclipped fry 3 years ago as we were unable to have volunteers at the hatchery to clip fish due to the covid restrictions. We are extremely pleased with the returns of coho we have seen this fall returning to Stoney Creek!"

The litter totals are lower than usual again due to snow on the Trail.



Back issues of these Trail Reports 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

Freezing Rain Aftermath:



Bridge 2



Hemlock Hill



Hemlock Hill

Early in the month, due to the freezing rain event as well as vandalism, there were damaged and downed trees and branches from one end of the Trail to the other. Most were eventually pushed out of the way. The Trail did not receive as much attention as you would want or expect for a public park.

Of course, that's relatively minor compared to the flood damage at Bridges 5 and 6. That section of the Trail has remained a **real eyesore** for over a year.



Dog Corral



Near Bridge 5



The shambles at Bridge 5

Notable Items:



Top: Those numerous sticks plugged into the creek bank at the Pond are actually live cuttings from **willows and dogwoods**. This method allows a large number of shrubs to be planted quickly without digging holes. A **spent male Coho** rotting alive in a pool near Sadie's bench. Something new this year, salmon **spawning** right below Bridge 4! Evidently the torrent that scoured out the creekbed in November 2021 was beneficial to the salmon.

Middle: Hanging moss on the branch of a maple tree. The trunk of a **Bitter cherry** tree. You can find several of these trees along the Trail.

Bottom: It's Frosty!

More Notable Items:



Top: a **Pacific ninebark** on Hemlock Hill and a **Black birch** in the Dog Corral in which rests a memorial to a faithful friend.

Middle: Desiccated **Pacific ninebark** seed pods and **Black hawthorn** berries overwintering on Hemlock Hill.

Bottom: **Amur maple** seeds and male **Red alder** catkins are located at opposite ends of the lower Trail.

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Taking photos like these requires me to look more closely at everything, enriching my experience as I walk along the Trail. May I suggest that you stop and look at the small things as well?

Changes to the Trail in a Decade (Page 1 of 2)



The “leashing pen” and water tap are welcome additions.



Changes to the Trail in a Decade (Page 2 of 2)



The Dog Corral is much safer for dogs than it used to be.



Trail Dogs - a Family of Frenchies!



Judge is six years old. **Tiley**, my white dog, is five and loves to play fetch all day long, while Judge is more of an observer.

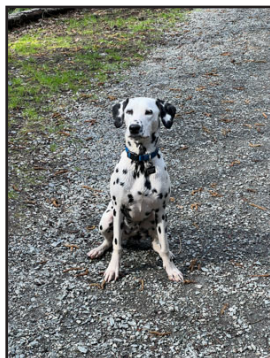
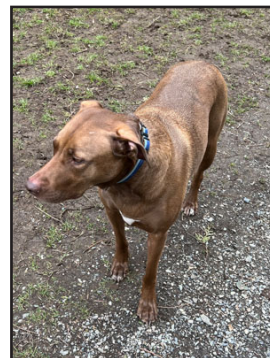
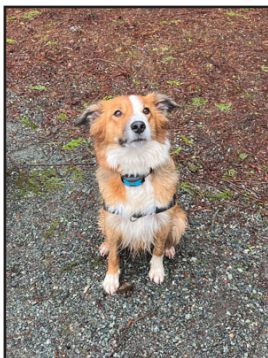
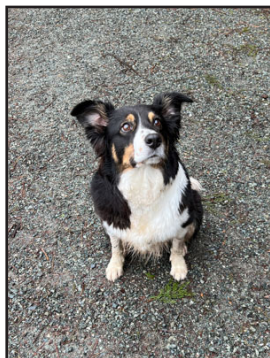
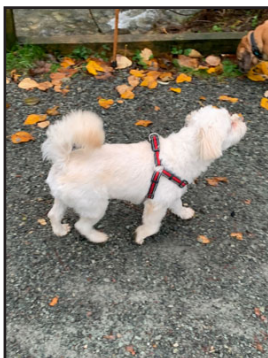
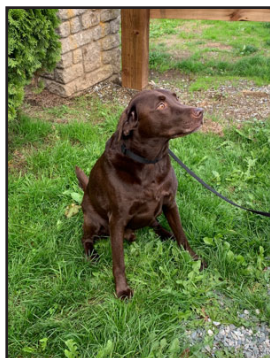
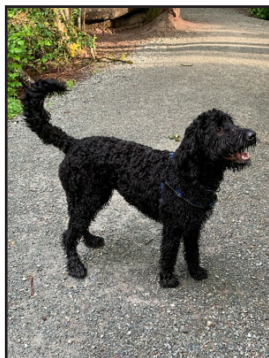
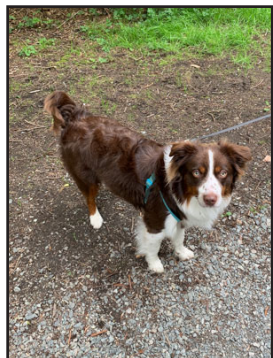
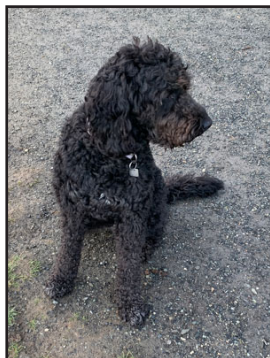
Tiley had one litter with Judge and that produced my black/brindle dog, **Cheswick**.

Cheswick is named after a character in *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*. He is known as the troublemaker who's happiest when he's teasing both humans and animals.

Unpublished Trail Dogs

I have a backlog of dog photos that I took on the Trail over the past couple of years. Do you recognize any of them?

They would have been featured in Trail Reports except their owners forgot—or chose not—to contact me. It is necessary to do so, as owners need to provide me with information about their dogs, as well as give pre-approval of what will be published. Hopefully, showing the dogs here will prompt some of their owners to get in touch.



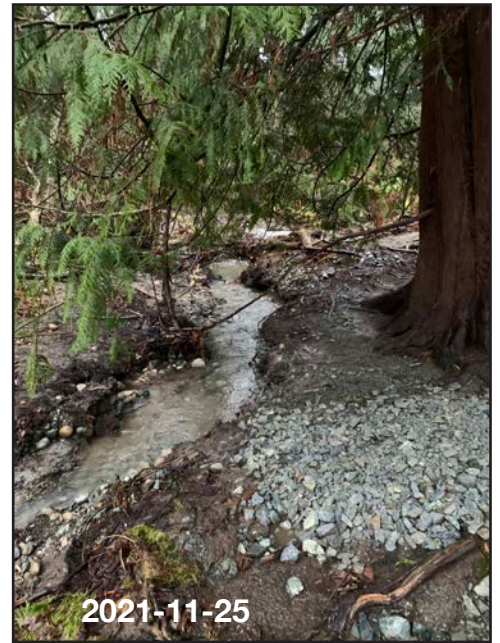
The Cedric Saga:



Cedric near Bridge 5



The first deluge on Nov. 14th brought the beginning of the end.



Because this beautiful red cedar was such a dominant entity beside the Trail, I began calling him Cedric several years ago. He was so big and solid it seemed like he would stand there for several of my lifetimes.

However, Cedric could not withstand the destructive power of the torrents that twice raged down the Creek during the atmospheric river event in November, 2021. Remarkably, Cedric has survived a flood, a drought and a winter so far.

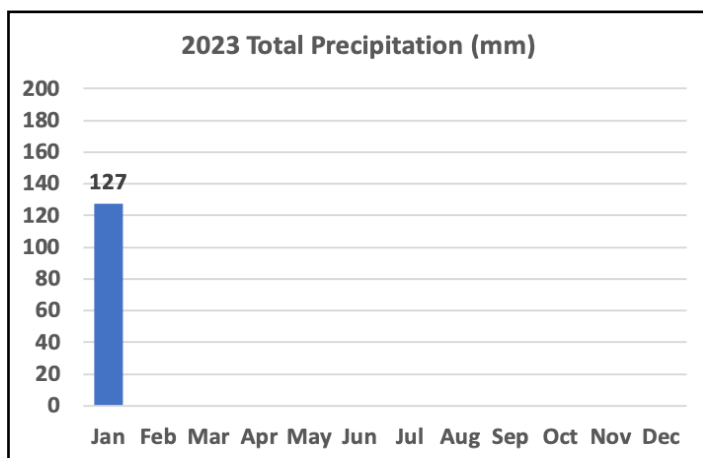
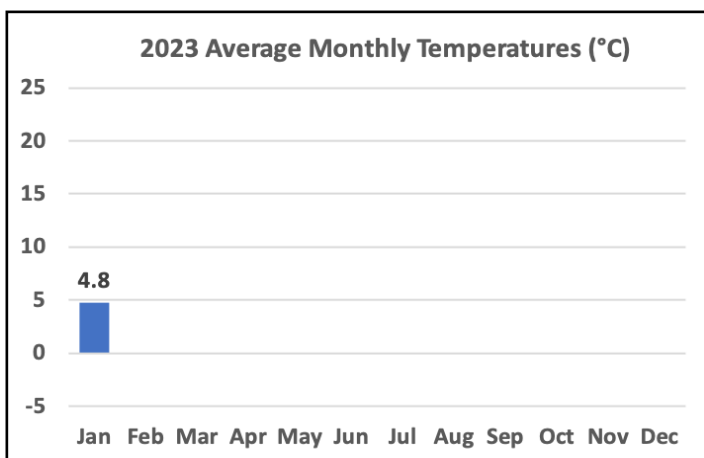
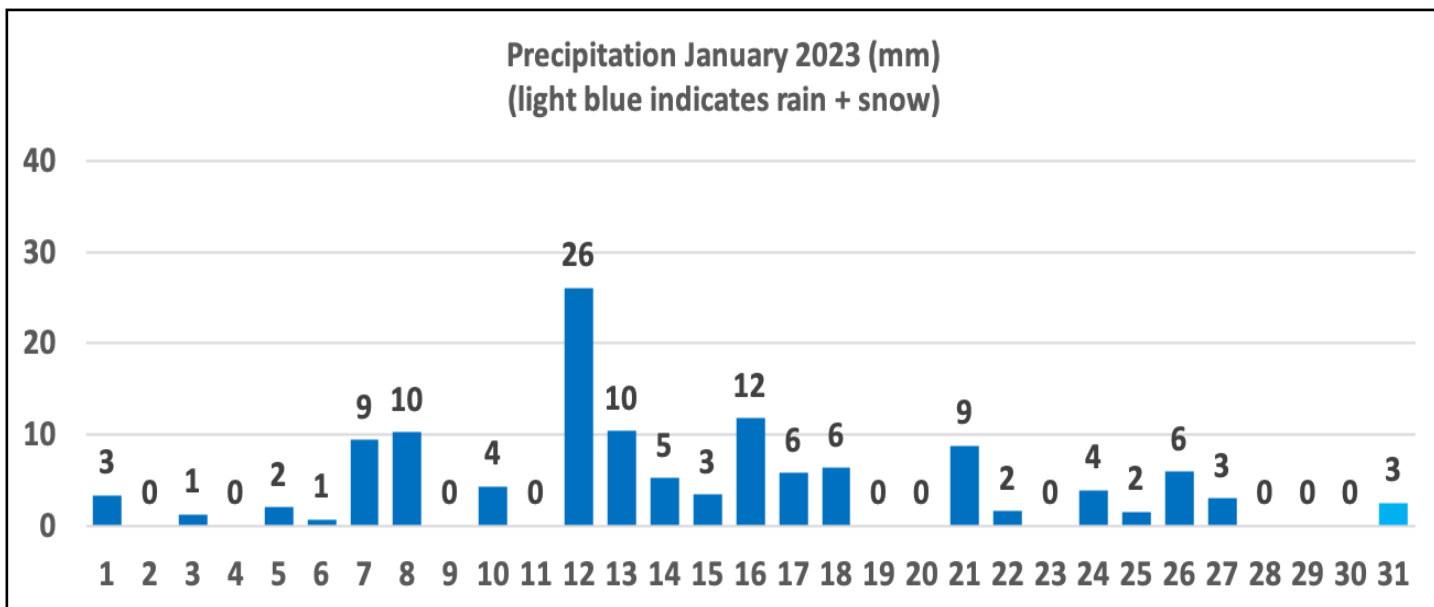
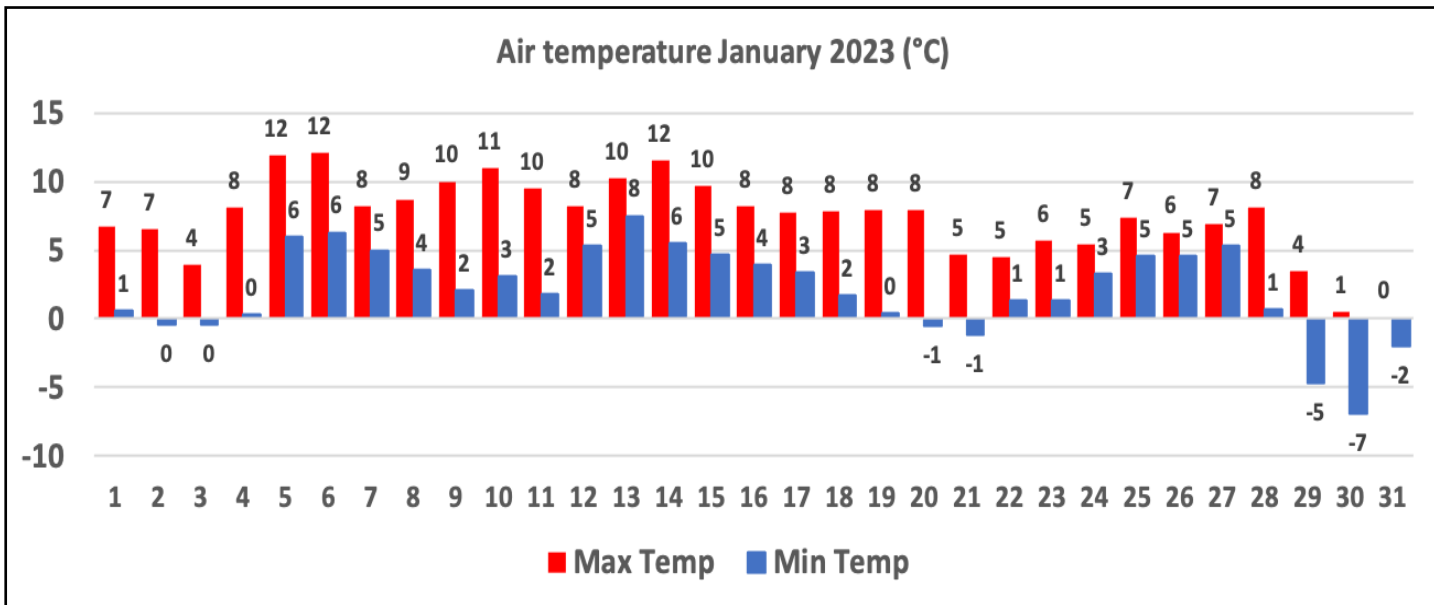


During the second deluge, Cedric toppled. To attempt a rescue, it was necessary to top him before tipping him upright.



Cedric may yet survive.

The monthly [BC snow bulletin](#) states that on January 1st the snow pack was 82% of normal province-wide; for our area, 70%. This could mean potential drought for some regions although there are still three more months of snow and it could change significantly. [The NOAA](#) predicts that “for the next 3 months, the temperature outlook favors below-normal temperatures across the Pacific Northwest. The precipitation outlook depicts elevated probabilities for above-normal precipitation for the Pacific Northwest.”



For convenience, I use these custom place-names:

