



**Stoney Creek Trail Report
No. 50 - May 2023**

The **Front Photo** shows this year's generation of **Coho salmon fry below Bridge 2**. At this location, the water is shallow and slow-moving and the fry are spread out, waiting to catch any edible morsels that happen to drift downstream. The day after this photo was taken (May 3rd), fry were spotted in quiet areas at several other places along the Creek. If some of the fry are larger than the rest, it is because they were raised in school classrooms where the food would have been much more plentiful.

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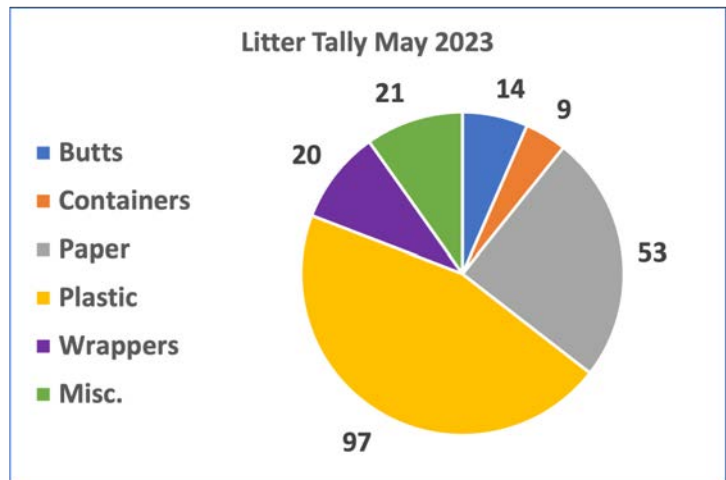
Broken Bridge News (from the Mayor's office, May 29th): *"The geotechnical investigations, survey and environmental investigations have all been completed and preliminary design for the abutment will be completed early June. We are currently on track for the completion of the bridge between Latimer Street and Cobblestone Drive by end of Summer."* This refers to Bridge 6, of course. For some reason, there is no mention of Bridge 5. I will ask again, specifically about Bridge 5.

According to the old saying, **April showers bring May flowers**. It's very true about our Trail—I have photographed 30 different kinds for this report.

On May 15th, ARPSES, supervised by **Paul Neufeld** of the DFO, carried out their annual transfer of hatchery salmon to Stoney Creek. These Coho smolts had been living in a pond below the Hatchery in Ravine Park since last summer (see the [July 2022 Report](#)). They were rounded up (see how in the [May 2022 Report](#)), put in a large trailer-borne tank and towed to a spot below Bridge 1 where they were deposited.



Holding the tube, Bruce directs the gush of water and 10-cm-long smolts out into the Pond. Approximately 5,000 smolts were transferred in about five minutes.



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



Periwinkle



Creeping buttercup



Meadow buttercup

**May Flowers:
1/6**

Saskatoon



Twinberry





2023-05-12

Black hawthorn



2023-05-08

Chocolate vine



2023-05-09

Bleeding heart



2023-05-11

Black chokeberry



2023-05-11

Golden-twig dogwood

**May Flowers:
2/6**



Herb robert



Fragrant fringe cup



Ground ivy

**May Flowers:
3/6**

Oregon grape



Thimbleberry





Pacific waterleaf



Bluebells



Piggy-back plant



Trailing blackberry



Large-leaved avens

**May Flowers:
4/6**



2023-05-16

Cascara



2023-05-17

Chickweed



2023-05-20

Bistort

**May Flowers:
5/6**

Nootka rose



2023-05-21

Amur maple



2023-05-21



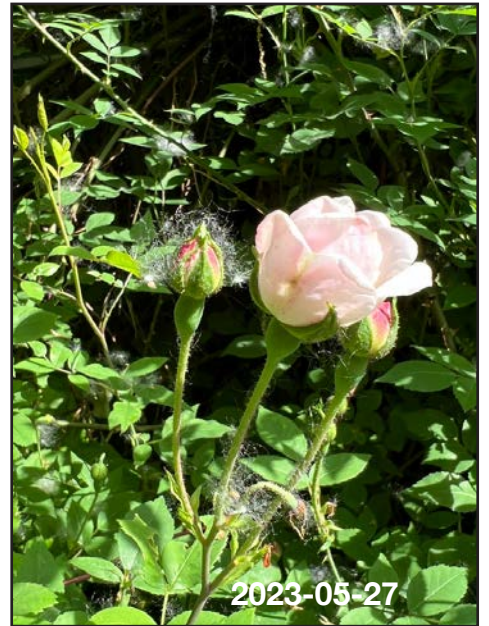
2023-05-19

Stinging nettle



2023-05-25

High bush cranberry



2023-05-27

China rose



2023-05-28

Pacific ninebark



2023-05-28

Snowberry

**May Flowers:
6/6**

Trail Dogs:

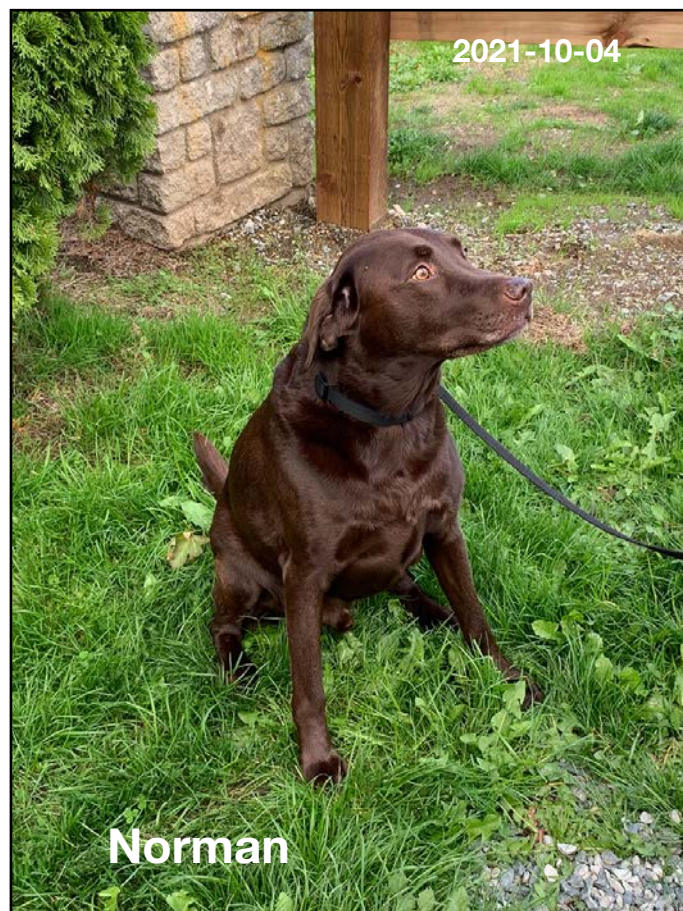


“**Roxie** is 11 years old and we got her from SPCA in Abbotsford. She is fixed but we don’t know if she got some offspring before. She is regular size Dachshund, weight should be 10 kg, but she got a bit more. Like Me.

“She is relatively intelligent but with no special training. This type of dogs are perfect for apartments, because they not stink (like some other dogs), because dachshunds they do not have glands responsible for odor. She is barking a lot and I think that in ‘First Life’ she was a politician or catholic priest.

“**Norman** is an almost 11-year-old Chocolate Labrador. We got him from a breeder in Princeton. He loves swimming though it took him about a year to be really comfortable in the water. Many years ago he used to swim in Stoney Creek with his brother.

“He is a Labrador so his other favourite thing is eating!! He loves to greet people with a toy in his mouth. Even though he is getting up there in age he still gets the zoomies and he loves to play with his little brother, Hershey.”



Changes to the Trail in a Decade



Bridge 5



Plant Species of Concern in Our Area (Fourth installment):

Vancouver Island Beggarticks (*Bidens amplissima*)

This is an annual herb in the aster family. It grows up to 1 m tall, with erect branching stems which may be smooth to slightly hairy. The toothed, opposing leaves are 8-20 cm long and range from smooth-edged to coarsely toothed. The 6-9 yellow petals of the flowers are clustered at the ends of branches. Two rows of short, green, leaf-like bracts (modified leaves) surround each flower head. Numerous tiny single-seeded fruits (achenes) develop on each head after flowering. The achenes are tan or brown coloured, 5-7 mm long and wedge-shaped, each with 2-4 barbed needle-like appendages (awns) that assist in seed dispersal by hooking onto fur, feathers or clothing.



Washington springbeauty (*Claytonia washingtoniana*)

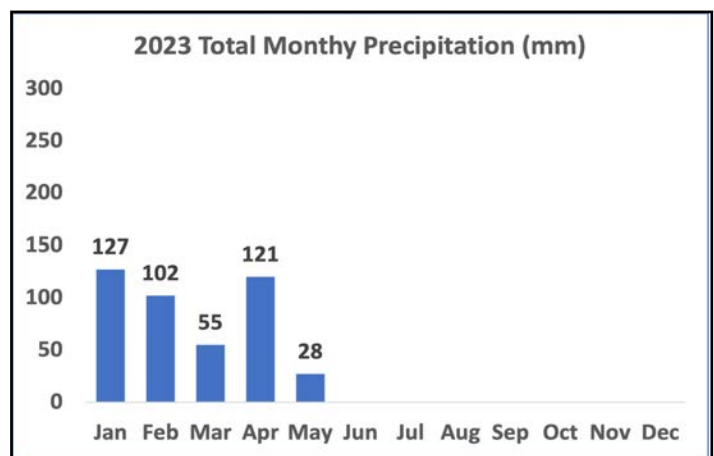
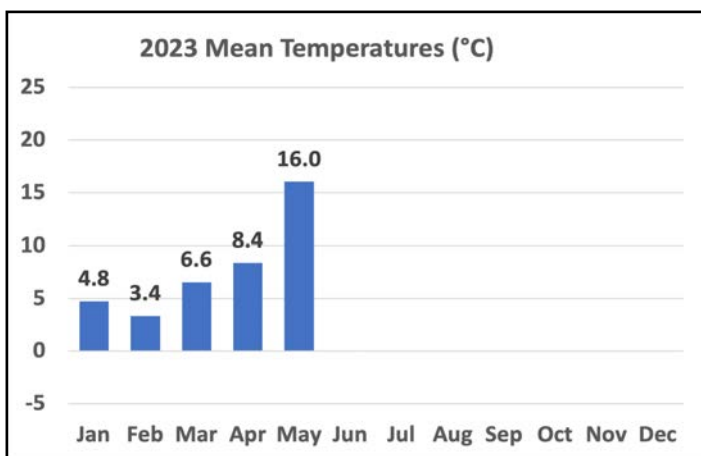
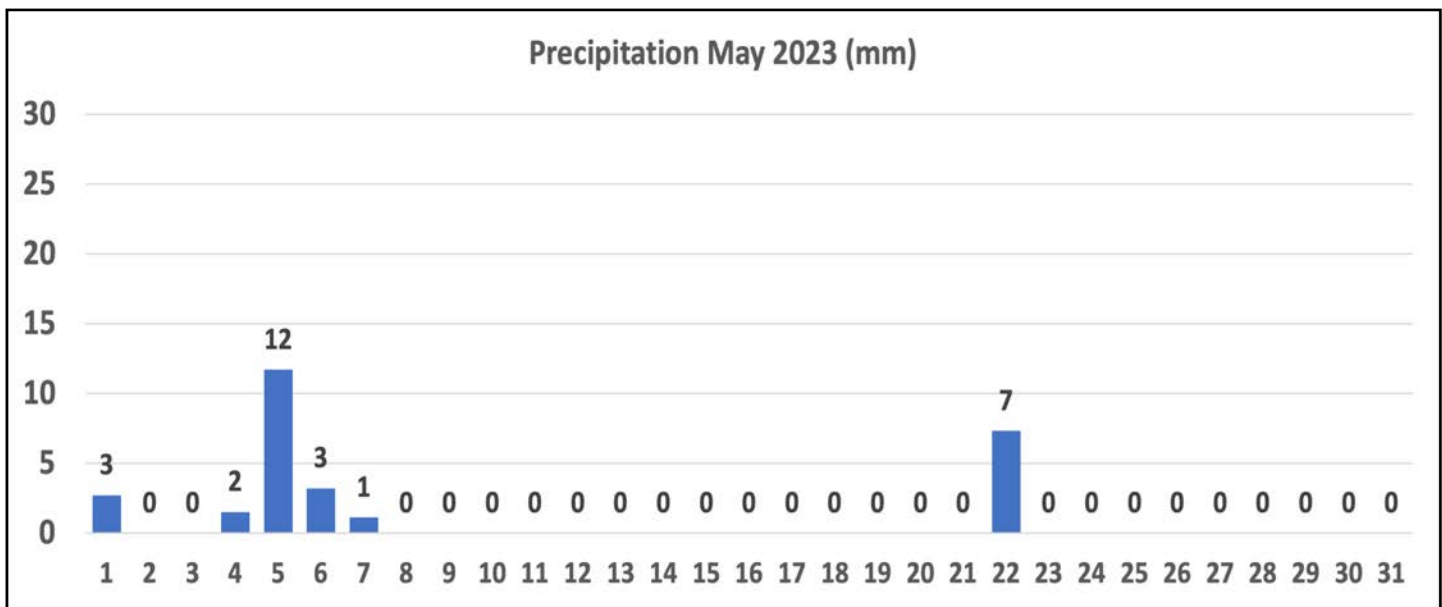
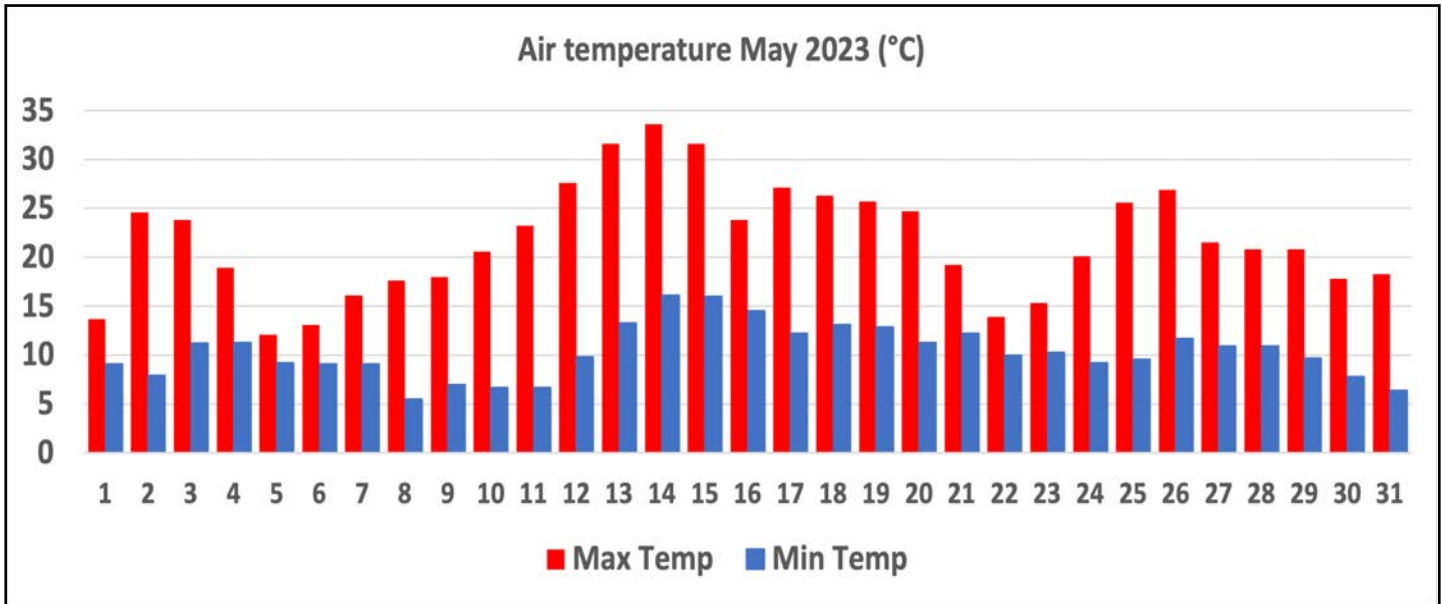


This annual herb is a hybrid between Siberian miner's lettuce (*C. sibirica*) and Common miner's lettuce (*C. perfoliata*). It is found in moist mossy rock outcrops in coastal forests as well as upland slopes. It grows as several stems from a slender taproot or short rhizome (underground stem). It may be spread out or standing erect, 5-40 cm tall. The leaves are numerous and egg-shaped, 1-5 cm in length, growing in pairs from the stalk.

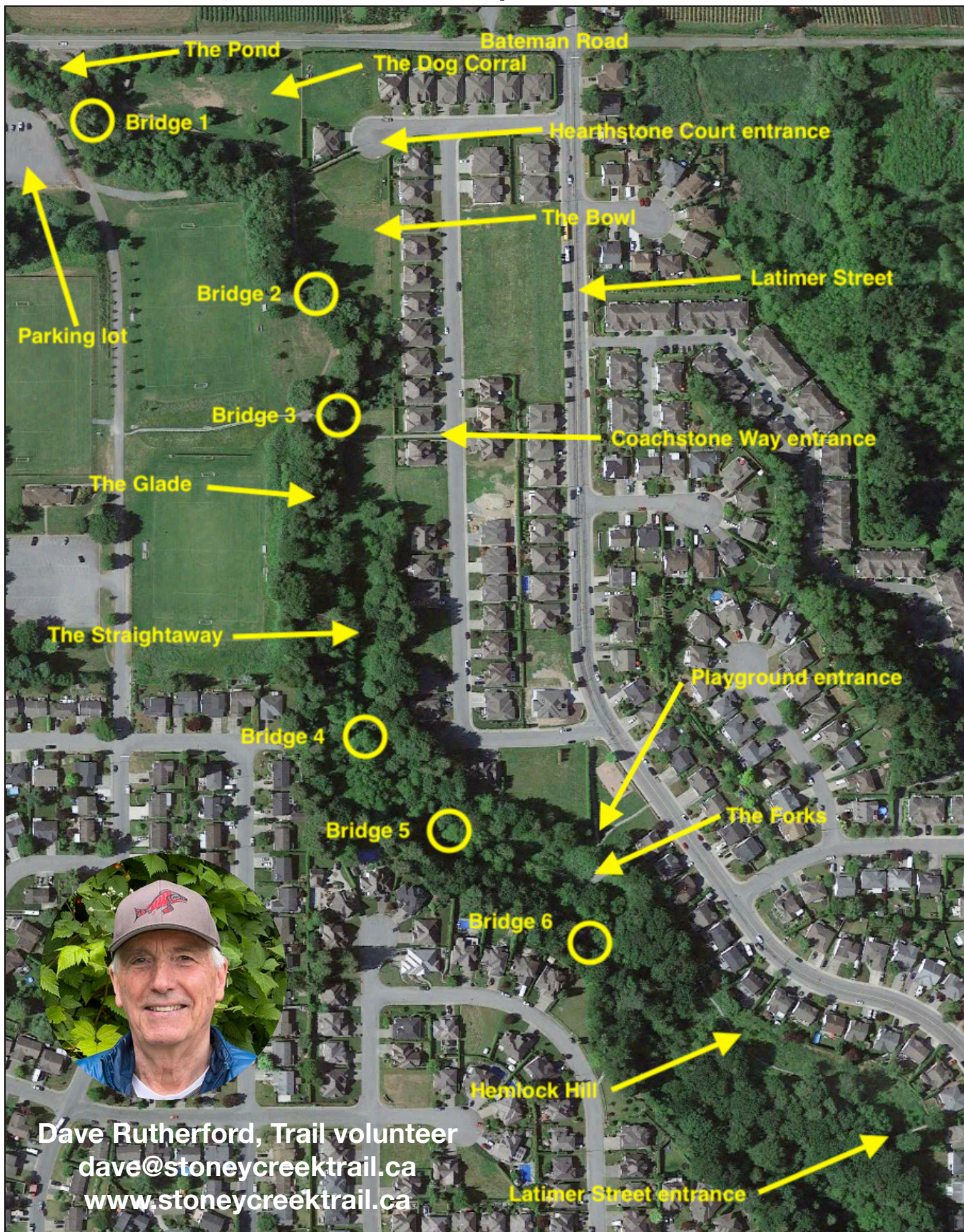
Its flowers may be white or pink and grow in clusters of 5-25 from stalks 1-5 cm in length. When they are buds, they nod, but as flowers they open upwards. The seeds are small, black and oval in shape, held in capsules.

The vitamin-rich leaves can be eaten raw or cooked, and the tubers can be prepared like potatoes.

May was unusually hot and dry: 16.6°/28 mm (compared to May 2022: 11.3°/126 mm). There was a rapid depletion of the snowpack, and yet the Fraser River at Mission received only a high streamflow advisory. The BC automated snow weather stations normally report that about a third of the snow has melted at the end of May. This year, half of them have reported no snow at all. The US NOAA says there will be a 90% chance of an extended El Niño, which usually leads to a warm, dry winter.



For convenience, I use these custom place-names:



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