



**Stoney Creek Trail Report
No. 53 - August 2023**

On the **Front page**: an **Orange Jewelweed** flower. Also called the **Spotted touch-me-not**, this plant is a native annual found in damp, lightly shaded areas. You will see many of them along the streambank on the way up to Bridge 5. The spotted orange flowers are present in the summer through to early fall. After pollination, the plant produces seed

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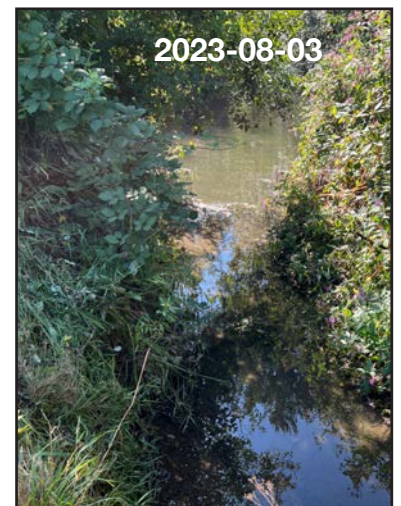
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pods resembling small inflated capsules. When mature, like those of the related Himalayan Balsam, the pods explode when touched, shooting the seeds several metres away. Hence the name “touch-me-not.”

Broken Bridge News: At mid-month, I was told **Bridge 6** repairs were going ahead before Labour Day for the benefit of school kids who need to cross the Creek. As might be expected by now, work has not begun. Over a

span of 19 months, after Insurance approval, environmental permits, geotechnical investigations, budgeting, structural engineering, and public tendering for materials and a contractor, the City apparently still does not have all its ducks in a row. At the beginning, it was predicted that approval under the Water Sustainability Act (WSA) could take anywhere from 3 – 18 months. Due to the larger scale of repairs to Bridge 5, additional approvals are required. ***Bridge 5 will not be repaired this year.***

News flash! (August 31st): “WSA permit approval was received from the BC Government in late August. Once approved, the City of Abbotsford moved forward with a tender and **construction (on Bridge 6) is expected to start in the coming weeks.**”



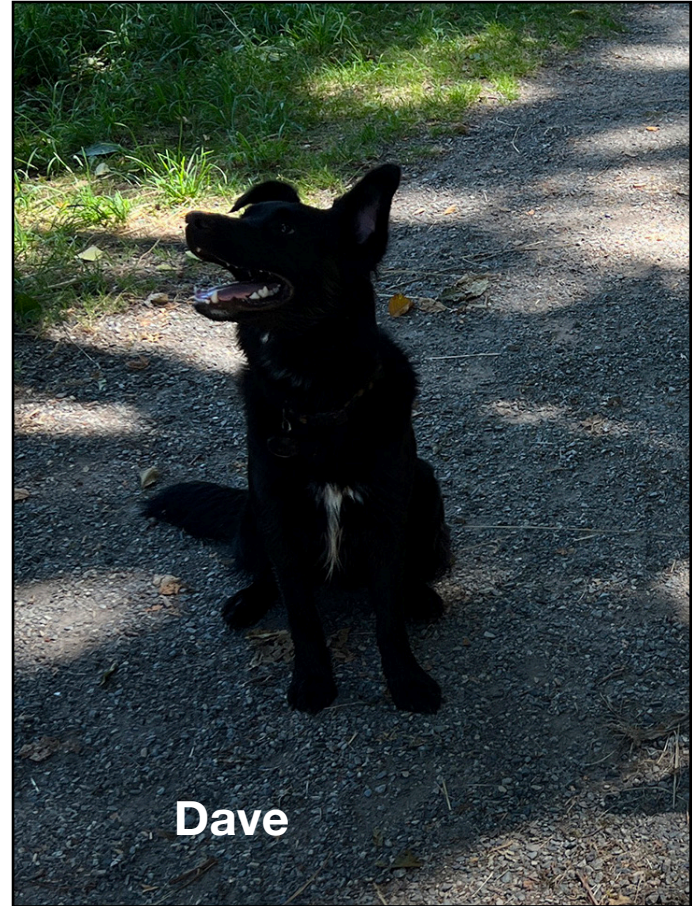
Sediment keeps building up near the culvert under Bateman Road, so again a crew from **AquaTerra** came and “e-fished” in the Pond, relocating salmon fry, trout, lampreys and sticklebacks. Two days later, a large digger did the excavation. The photos show that the water clears in a few days.

Trail Dogs (1/2)



Dexy

Dexy is a three-year-old Aussie Shepherd cross. She came from a veggie farm about nine hours away at the age of eight weeks.



Dave

Bentley accidentally mated with Dexy in Bateman dog park—the day before he was supposed to get fixed! **Dave**, an Aussie Border collie, is the result. He was born 11 months ago.



They are both very energetic and loving dogs. They love long walks in the Park.



**Bentley,
the rascal**



Ruth is a three-year-old Golden Mountain Dog (Golden Retriever/Bernese Mountain Dog cross). We couldn't decide between a Golden and a Bernese, so we googled what the mix looked like just for fun. We came across three female puppies just down the road from us... so we had to go check them out. Ruthie was the only puppy behaving and her given name was 'Buggaboo' which was the name Tyson's mom called him when he was younger. So we knew we had to take her.

She especially likes to sleep, eat, and sleep some more. She loves swimming, but hates being wet. So she immediately demands her face and body to be dried. When you scratch her bum, both her hind legs bounce in the air. It's quite comical. You will often find her pulling the pillows off the couch in order to make herself a nice comfy spot to sleep.

Rosie Cotton is also a Golden Mountain Dog. She is our son's dog and just five months old.

She's lovingly called our "grand fur baby." (She's cuter when she isn't wet!)

She enjoys visiting us and walking on Stoney Creek Trail most weekends. She always greets us with lots of kisses and loves to have her belly scratched; she has such a great temperament.

She is smart, affectionate and fun loving, and has become best of friends with our Golden, Daisy (featured in [June 2022](#)).



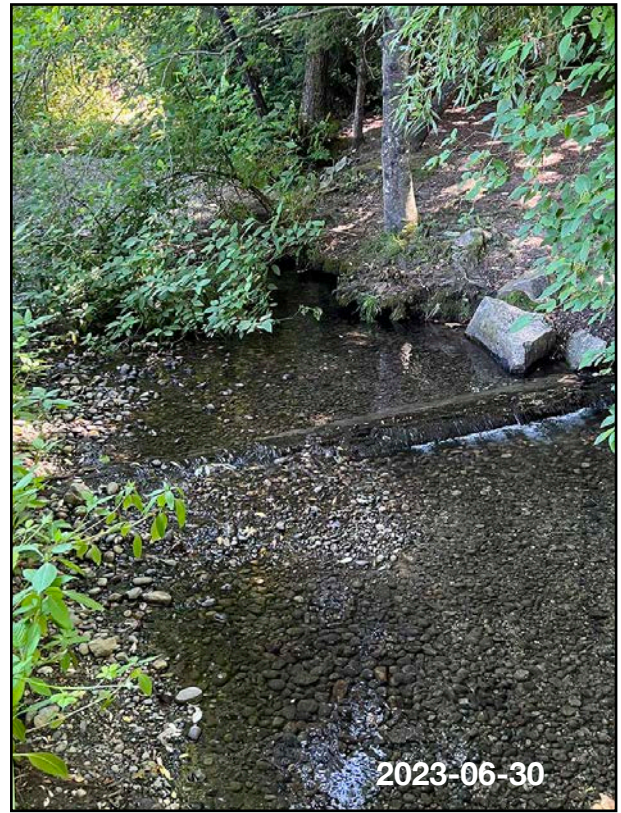
Changes to the Trail in a Decade



The view at Bridge 4.

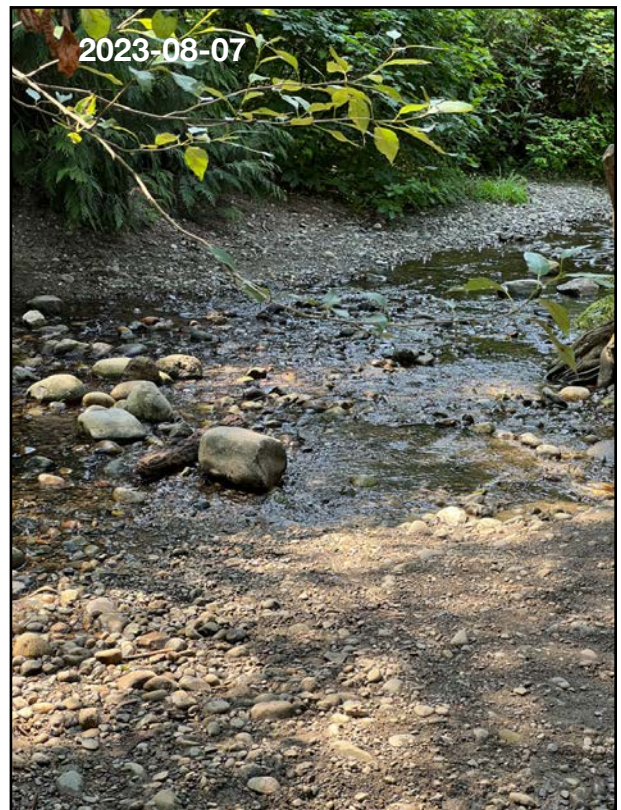


Comparison of Water Levels in a Drought



Above: at Bridge 2, the amount of water spilling over the log dam in June was much less than during the same month two years ago. (The gravel build-up is a result of the atmospheric river deluge in November, 2021).

Below: at the Nursery Tree, the amount of water flowing in early August this year looks to be about the same as last year.



Odds and Ends



Top: a rusty old hand spade, an unusual child's pendant, and a personalized cap.

Middle: there are now over a hundred painted pebbles in a display near Bridge 3. On August 7th, the memorial under Jordan's Giant Sequoia was renewed.

Bottom: an apparently abandoned baby buggy, a doll, and a 10 cm crayfish pincer—the remains of a raccoon's meal?



More Odds and Ends

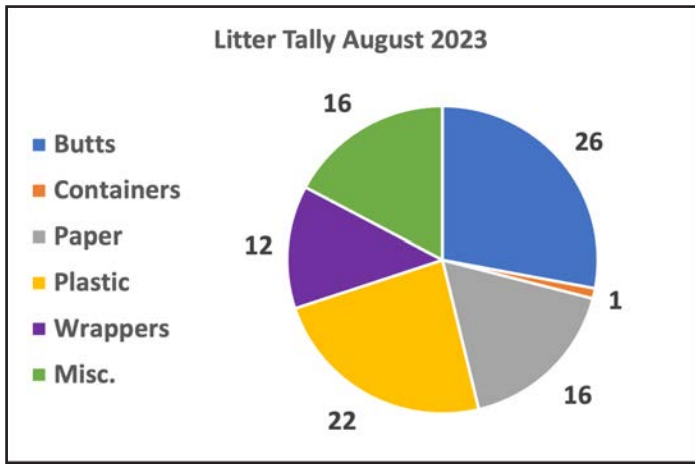


Top: in spite of the drought, a Mountain ash, a Black chokeberry and a Dogwood still produced berries.

Middle: trees I recently discovered across from the Dog Corral: a Poplar (Trembling aspen) and a Yellow birch.

Bottom: this currant bush has not fared well in the drought. A spectacular spider web, built overnight. Bridge 5 is regularly crossed by many Trail walkers. The City should just add hand-rails and be done with it!





Litter items included in this report:

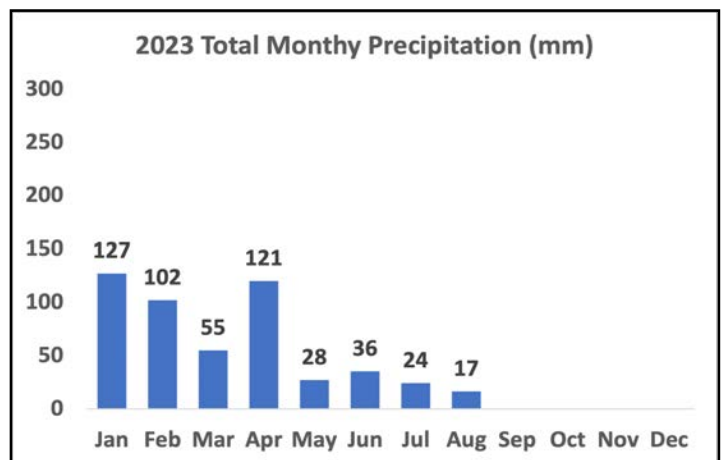
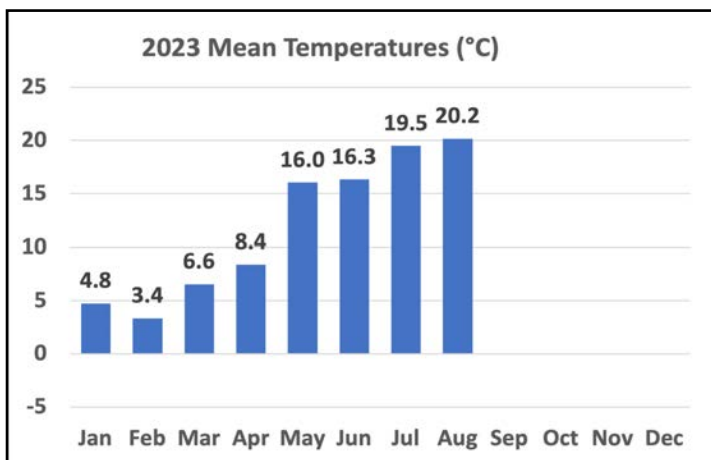
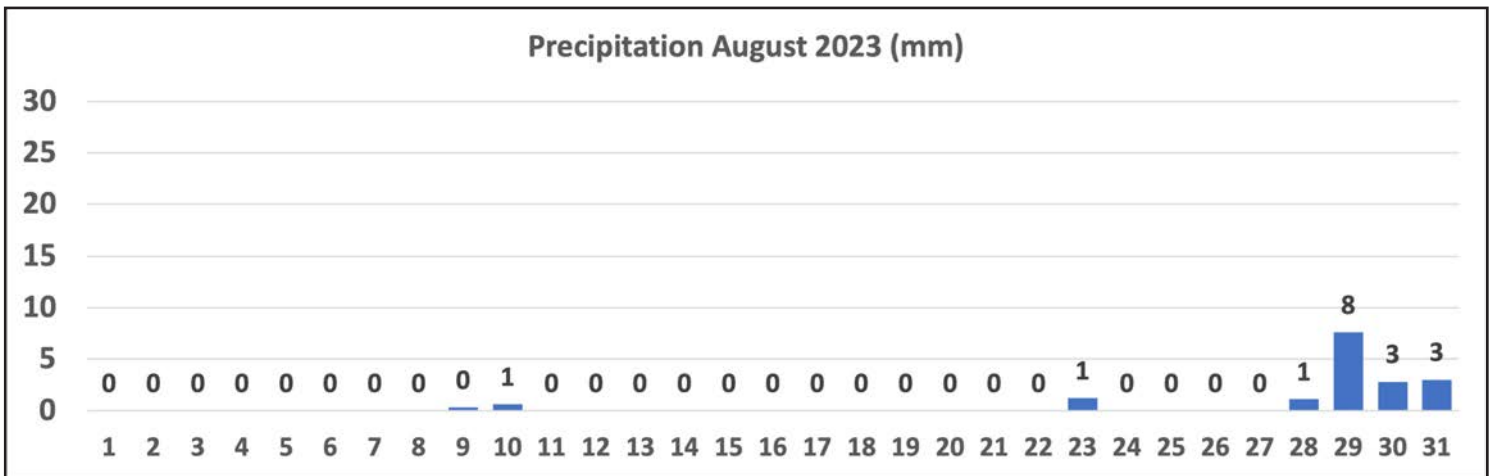
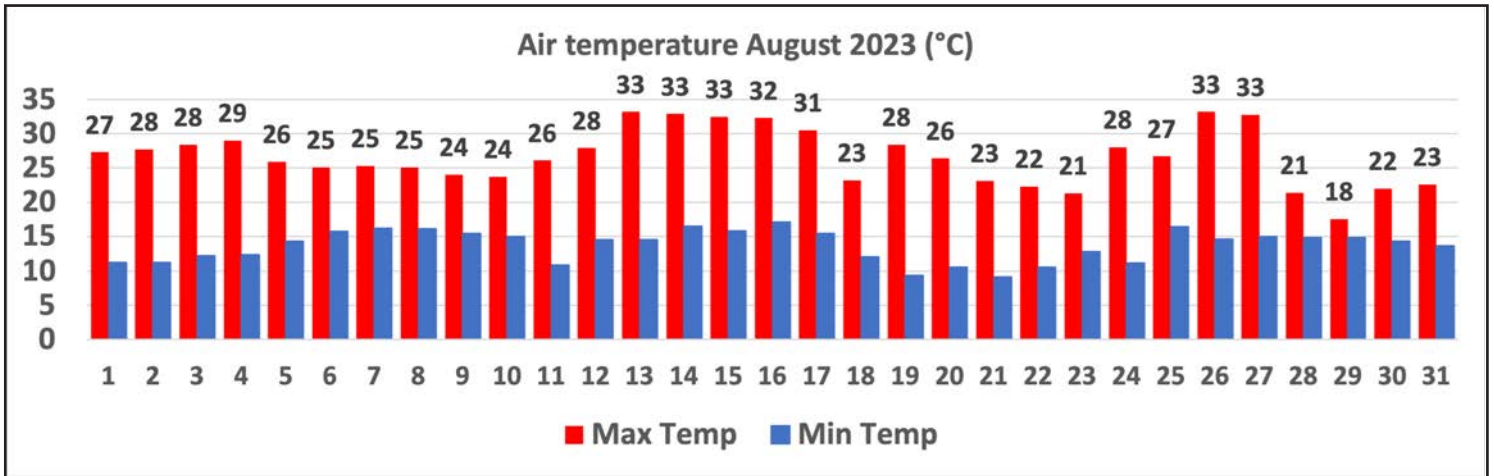
Containers: bottles and bottle tops, cans, coffee cups, juice boxes.

Paper: tissues, napkins, receipts, newspaper, cardboard, etc.

Plastic: dog poo bags & shreds, other items made of plastic.

Wrappers: candy wrappers, foil, cellophane.

Miscellaneous: clothing, glass, chewing gum, balls & fragments, etc.



For convenience, I use these custom place-names

