



**Stoney Creek Trail Report
No. 54 - September 2023**

The **Front page** features Annie and Raymond, a pair of 11-month-old Labradoodles. Their owner is veterinarian **Katz Piller** of the Clayburn Pet Hospital. Katz explained to me, “I c-sectioned them last year and it was ‘love at first sight’! Their favorite pastimes are socializing with other dogs and running and playing with each other. They especially enjoy wide open spaces such as the beach and grassy fields.”

As you probably know by now, we have a sturdy **new Bridge 6**. This is good news for the students who prefer to take a shorter route to school via the Trail. I managed to take photos while work on the bridge was underway. I was also fortunate to obtain an outline of the project from **Nathan Loewen** from **Redcedar Environmental Consulting**. Nathan was responsible for monitoring the project and providing guidance to the contractor to help minimize any environmental impacts. It can be read starting on [Page 3](#).

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The site preparation, abutment installation and bridge construction were all capably done by **Greystone Design Management** (GDM), a local contractor. The project began on September 9th and was completed on September 19th, on schedule. We now have a much stronger bridge than before. ([More photos here](#))

Last spring, \$320,000 was budgeted for repairs to Bridges 5 and 6, the money having come from insurance. The final invoices have not come in yet, but the approximate cost for replacing Bridge 6 was \$137,000 of which \$91,000 was for labour and materials. The unspent balance will be held over to help pay for replacing Bridge 5 next year.

I have been told the **new dog waste bags** are being supplied by a contractor rather than PR&C. These black bags are bulkier than the old white bags, so not as many will fit in the dispensers. This might explain why the dispensers have occasionally been empty. The good thing about them is that they do not leave behind those little strips of torn plastic that used to drive this litter-picker-upper crazy. As a result, there has been a considerable decrease in the litter tally. However, that may change when school kids are crossing Bridge 6 and walking up Hemlock Hill again.



The drought is over! It may be too late to see slugs and snails along the Trail, but keep an eye out for mushrooms.

The Bridge 6 Project (1/5)

From Nathan Loewen, B.A., Dipl.Tech. (September 13th):

“The components of the project include:

- Installation of fish exclusion measures and completion of fish salvage;
- Diversion of flows around/bypass through the worksite and dewatering;
- Construction of concrete footings;
- Placement of riprap around the abutments as per the approved design;
- Placement of the premanufactured bridge on the abutments;
- Removal of flow isolation and fish exclusion measures



Old Bridge 6

“Fish collection techniques included 3 consecutive days of ‘minnow’ trapping as well as electrofishing and dip netting. Minnow traps were baited and placed within the fish exclusion fencing for 24 hours. Any fish captured are released downstream of the exclusion area. We relocated approximately 200 fish from the workspace (it’s a very good habitat for coho and trout). Electrofishing was conducted following removal of the minnow traps to capture any fish remaining within the exclusion area.



Bated minnow traps



The fish exclusion barrier

“The preferred work window per the DFO is prior to September 15, so we have to be out of the channel by Friday [September 15th].

“I recall your interest and question regarding the impact of the riprap on fish habitat at the site.

“This project is expected to have

limited effects on Stoney Creek or the associated riparian area. The proposed works will replace a bridge that was damaged during flood conditions....

The Bridge 6 Project (2/5)

“This project requires use of riprap scour protection around the bridge abutments. The extent of the riprap has been limited to the smallest extent possible. Use of scour protection is supportable under the [Fish-stream Crossing Guidebook](#), provided it does not result in constriction of the stream. The design for this bridge will not constrict the channel.



“Published literature regarding the effects of riprap scour protection at the larger scale have been found to be ambiguous. Effects, either negative, neutral, or positive, depended on a multitude of factors (Gidley et al., 2012; Massey, 2017; Quigley and Harper, 2004). Riprap scour protection can increase habitat diversity and improve

The supply of riprap boulders and concrete lock blocks



values of habitat for fish, but can also reduce the opportunities for natural cover to develop (e.g. undercut banks) (Quigley and Harper, 2004). In the case of this project, the footprint was so small relative to the aquatic habitat available that it was considered unlikely to have either a lasting positive or negative effect on aquatic species either directly or indirectly.

“The greatest risk to the aquatic habitat associated with this project is temporary disturbance during the works. This risk will be mitigated by following the best management practices in the Construction Environmental Management Plan and ongoing monitoring.”

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The water diversion pipe

The Bridge 6 Project (3/5)



Lowering a cap block into place



The abutments and riprap are ready



© Nathan Loewen

Delivering the steel bridge frame



© Nathan Loewen

Lowering the frame onto the abutments

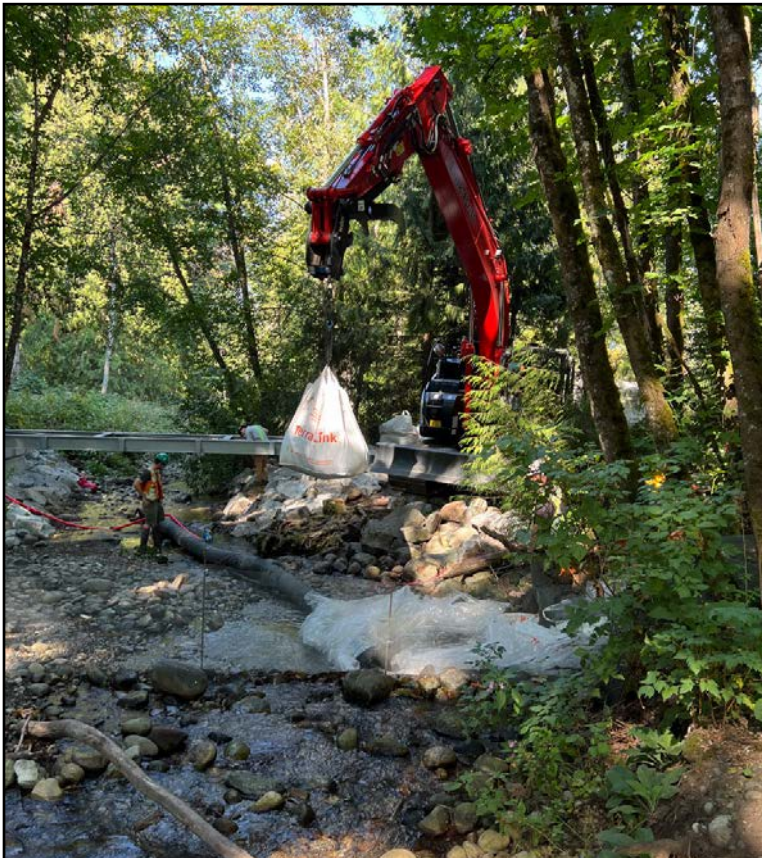
The Bridge 6 Project (4/5)



Placing the frame precisely



Erv, the expert excavator operator

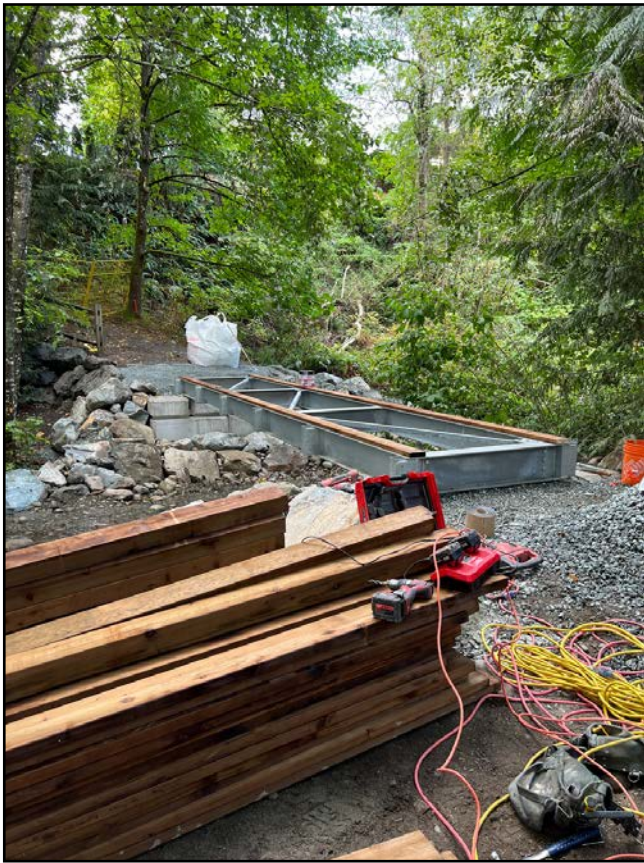


Dismantling the exclusion barrier

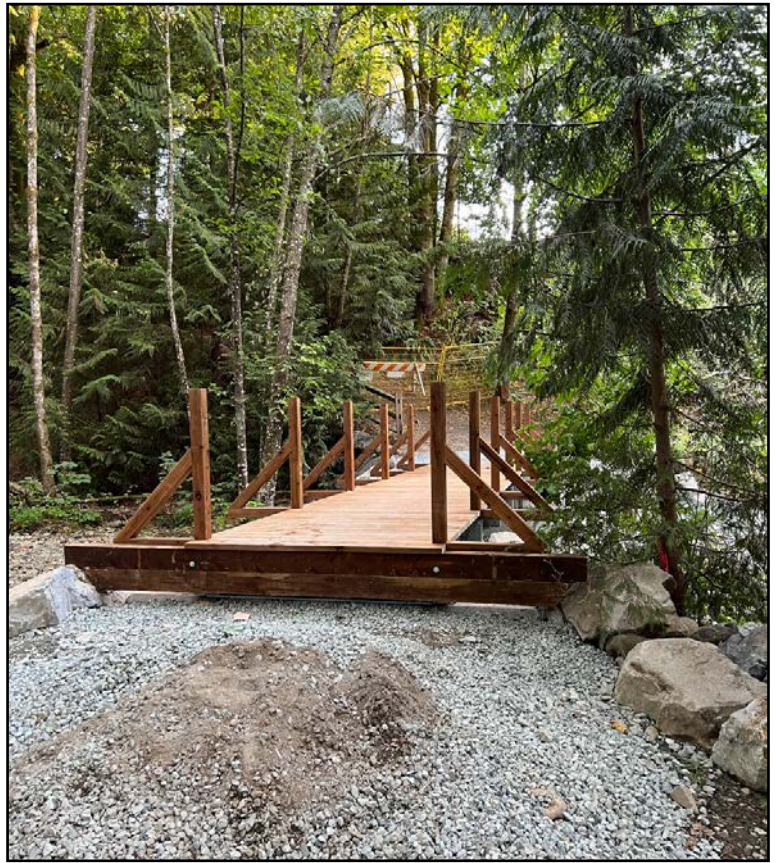


Removing the water diversion pipe

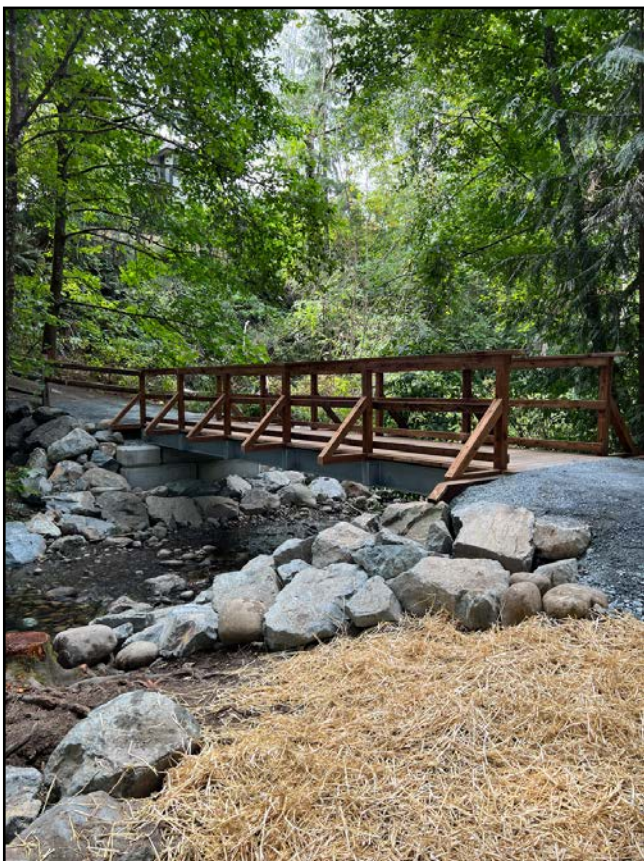
The Bridge 6 Project (5/5)



The final part of the project has begun



The deck and handrail supports are on



The bridge is finished and landscaped

The first stage of construction began on Sept. 8th when **Redcedar Environmental** installed the fish barrier, trapped and removed the fish, and diverted the Creek water through a pipe.

On Sept. 11th, the environmentally sensitive part of the job began: the installation of the abutments. These were constructed of 4200 lb. concrete lock blocks protected by riprap boulders, courtesy of **GeoWest Engineering** and **GDM Construction**.

GDM completed that part of the job by Sept. 15th, meeting the deadline set by the DFO. The fish exclusion apparatus was subsequently removed. Later that day came the installation of the 4000 lb. steel frame of the bridge designed by **ISL Engineering**.

On Sept. 18th, after a weekend break, the wood deck and handrail supports were put in place by GDM.

Finally, on Sept. 19th, the handrails were added. We now have a new bridge, 22 months after the original was destroyed by high water.

Trail Dogs



Louie is a five-year-old purebred Miniature Poodle from a breeder in Washington State. His father was a state champion breed winner.

Our family has always had poodles, but Louie stands out as a bit more independent and stubborn at times—so he’s a bit of an anomaly from his predecessors.

Louie excelled in Nosework classes in which he was trained to sniff out certain odours. He loves to follow scents and is relentless in searching for hidden odour sticks. He delights in finding the sticks and the treats that are attached to them.

Scrumper (my li'l mountain dawg) has been visiting Stoney Creek Trail for all of his nine years, and it's been a great place for meeting and making dog friends.

He's a Yorkshire Terrier and, true to his breed, can be very feisty at times, especially with bigger dogs.

We hiked the local mountains for over eight years. He's confronted bears, coyotes, and even once chased a cougar when he was two...thankfully he didn't catch that poor cat!!

He loves people and kids, but beware when entering his house, as he is ultraprotective.



Changes to the Trail in a Decade



View of Bridge 5 from downstream



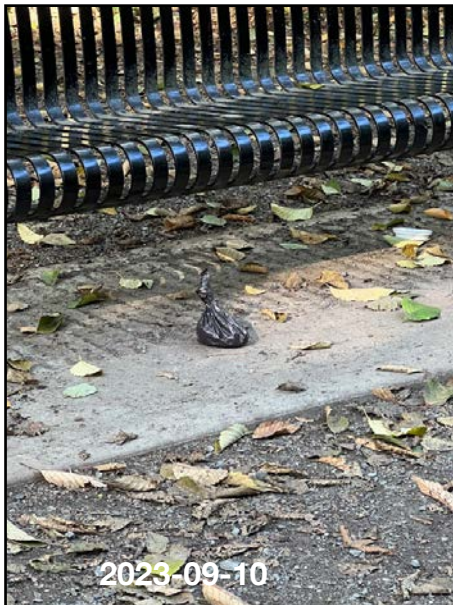
Odds and Ends



Top: found earlier this summer, a plastic sieve and two other children's items.

Middle: A young cutthroat trout is hanging out with the coho fry in Sadie's pool where the food is plentiful. Wild blackberries are very nutritious, plentiful and free, but most people ignore them.

Bottom: a little plastic wrapped gift left under a bench; lost eye-glasses; a wrecked bicycle that was finally removed by the City.



Odds and Ends

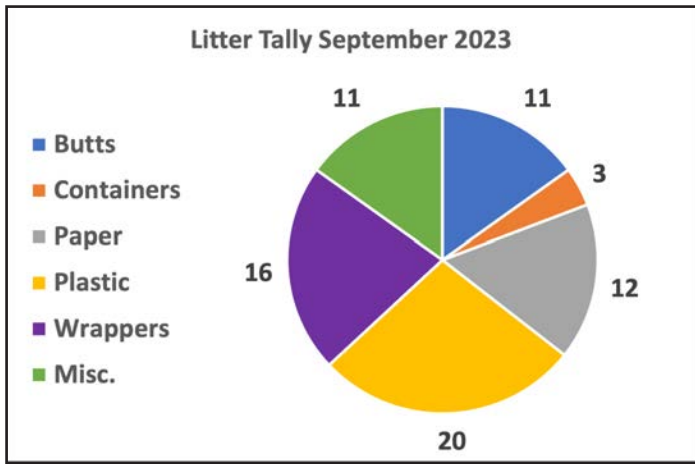


Top: Scaly rustgill mushrooms; another invasive plant on Hemlock Hill, a **Broadleaf helleborine**; powdery mildew, *Erysiphe polygoni*, coating some red clover leaves.

Middle: Nettle bugs and **Red-cross shield** bugs love alder cones.

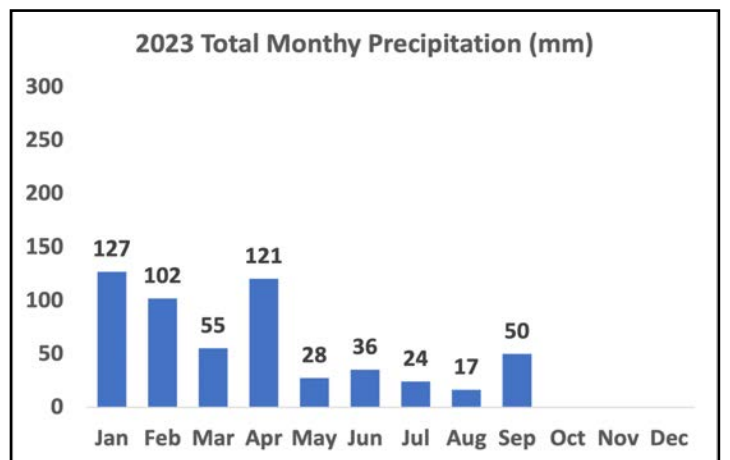
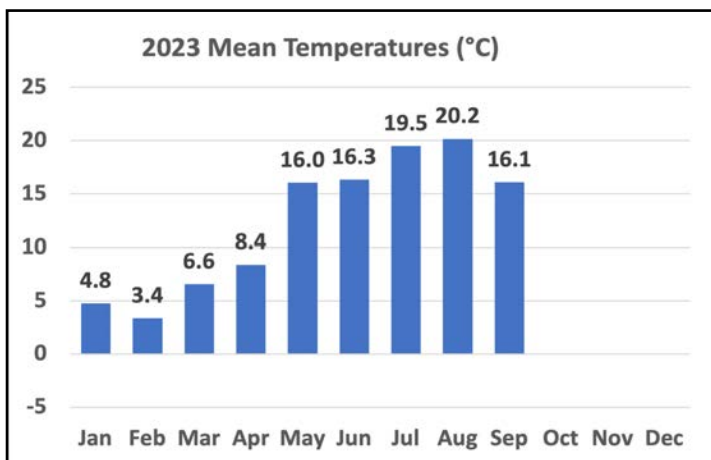
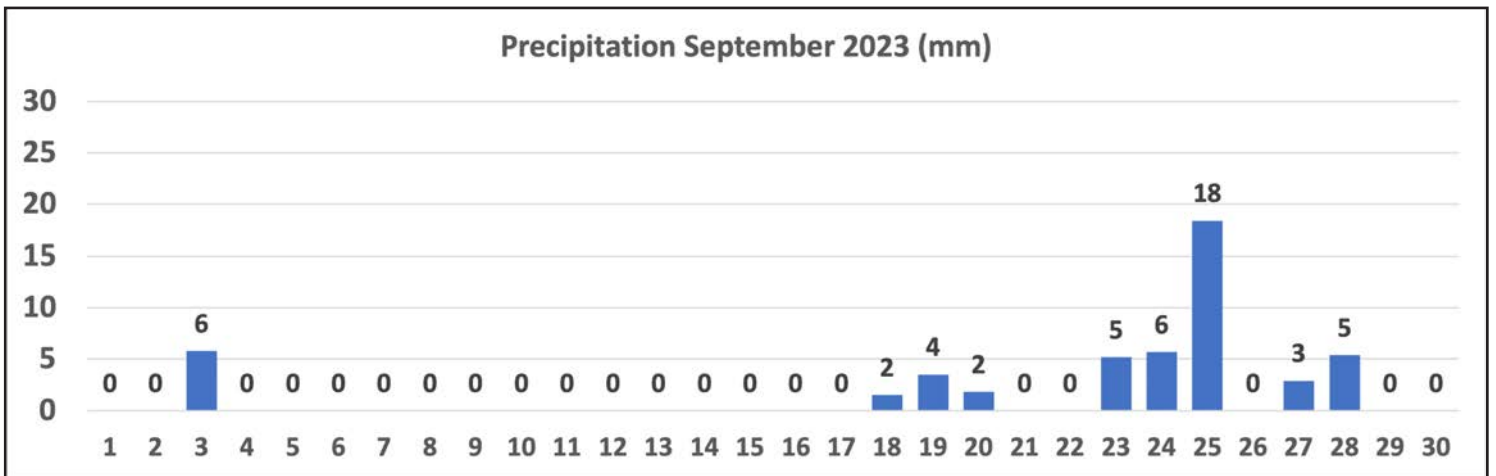
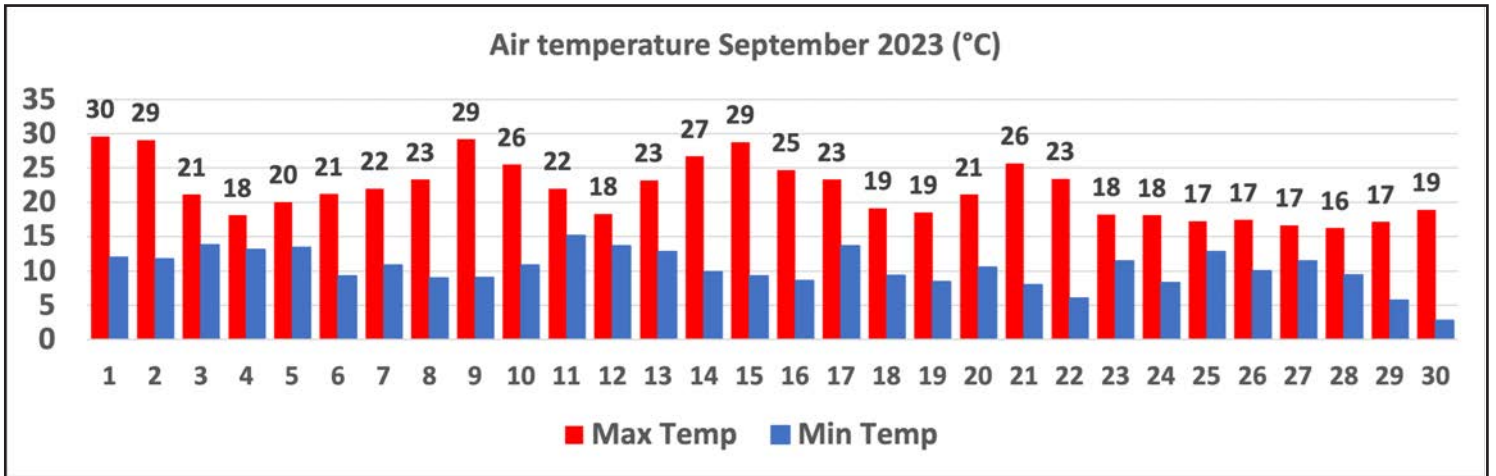
Bottom: Mystery solved: those little plastic “cigarette butts” are from **cannabis pre-rolls**. I have yet to learn what those small white cardboard and black plastic tubes are from. Anyone?





Litter items included in this report:

- Containers:** bottles 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

