

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small, slender fish. The hand is positioned palm-up, with the fish resting on the fingers. The fish has a silvery body with a yellowish tint on its side and a dark eye. In the background, a blue fishing net is visible, partially submerged in water. The water surface shows ripples and reflections.

**Stoney Creek Trail Report
No. 90 - September 2026**

INDEX

Page 3: [Autumn Colours](#)

Page 5: [Dredging Ops](#)

Page 9: [Trail Dog](#)

Page 11: [Odds & Ends](#)

Page 13: [Charts](#)

Page 14: [Photomap](#)

The photo on the front page shows a juvenile coho being held by **Joshua Lee** from AquaTerra Environmental. It is properly called a **coho parr** because of the dark "parr marks" on its sides. (Parr is an old British name for a young salmon). Parr marks develop early, within a few months of the coho fry emerging from the gravel. They fade during [smoltification](#).

The photo introduces an annual event, the dredging of Bateman Pool, in which gravel deposited by high-water events over the previous 12 months is removed. Information about the kinds and numbers of fish temporarily removed from the work area can be acquired only through an FOI application to the City. In doing so, I was able to receive data from the 2025 event. The data from this year's event will not be available until year's end, unfortunately.

Looking ahead to the spawning season... It is thought that the high coho mortality last year was the result of a double whammy. First, because the spawners arrived before the heavy autumn rains, they had to wait for the necessary surge of water in a stagnant slough downstream where they became infested with gill leeches. Second, when the surge finally came, the spawners had to swim in [6PPD-Q](#)-contaminated creek water.

There was very little rain in August and none this month until the last week, when a substantial amount fell. Much of the tire rubber dust that had accumulated over the summer has probably been flushed off the streets, thus lowering the risk that 6PPD-Q poses to the coho. If the "salmon rains" come before the peak arrival of spawners (usually in late November), last year's high mortality shouldn't be repeated

On the right: These bigleaf maple leaves display a wide range of autumn colours. Why some tree leaves become so colourful is explained on the next page.



2026-09-18

Autumn Colours: 1/2



Both of these photographs of **vine maples** were taken on the same day. The tree on the left lives in deep shade near Sadie's bench, while the one on the right stands in another location at the top of Hemlock Hill where it catches direct sunshine. They show how growing conditions can influence the timing and intensity of autumn colour.

[Chlorophyll](#), the green pigment used in photosynthesis, normally masks the yellow and orange pigments (*carotenoids*) also present in leaves. In late summer and autumn, shorter days and cooler temperatures trigger changes associated with leaf ageing. An abscission layer of cells begins to form at the base of each leaf's stalk and will eventually cause it to fall. As the leaf ages, nutrients are withdrawn and chlorophyll breaks down, revealing the yellow and orange pigments. Sugars accumulating in the leaf can promote the production of red and purple pigments (*anthocyanins*), which may help protect the leaf from excessive light as it ages, allowing more time for nutrients to be recovered and transported back into the tree before the leaf falls.

Only those trees and shrubs that can synthesize a sufficient amount of anthocyanins will develop red autumn foliage. Without adequate sunshine, the red pigments do not form, and the leaves are more likely to turn yellow than red. Of course, drought, damage and nutrient deficiency can also cause premature red or yellow colouring.

Autumn Colours: 2/2



More autumn leaves on the Trail, all taken on September 27th:

1. Beaked hazelnut
2. Bigleaf maple
3. Black cottonwood
4. Black hawthorn
5. Indian plum
6. Pacific ninebark
7. Paper birch
8. Red flowering currant



Dredging Bateman Pond: 1/4



Above: An AquaTerra staff member removing branches for better access. Preparing a barrier net to prevent fish from re-entering the pond. **Below:** The upstream barrier net in place below Bridge 1. Baited traps are also used.



© D. Gosling

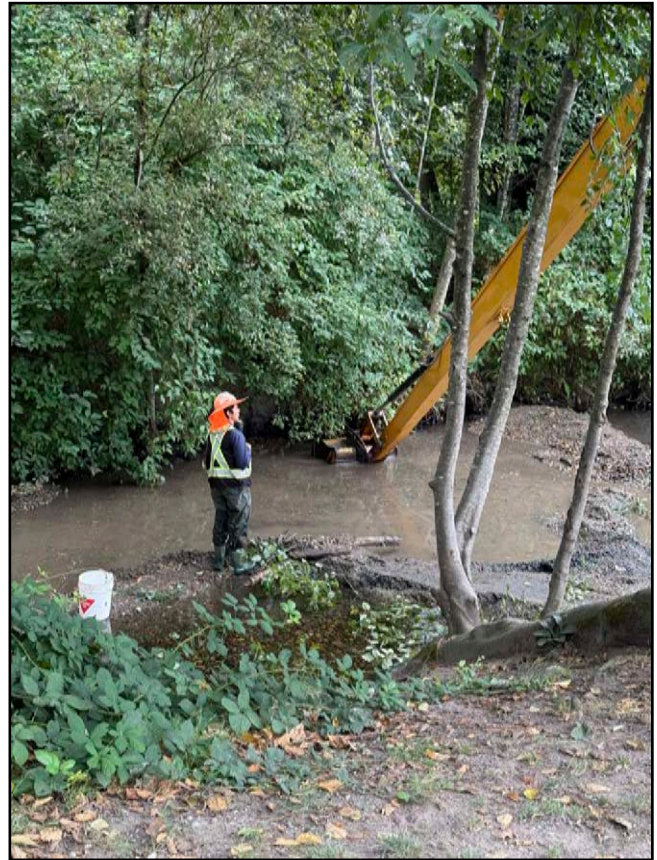
Dredging Bateman Pond: 2/4



Above: Electrofishing with a battery pack and wand temporarily stuns the fish. Assessing the "catch" after "e-fishing." **Below:** Rescued salmon fry and possibly cutthroat trout. The stickleback is a rarely seen resident.



Dredging Bateman Pond: 3/4



Above: The following day, an excavator scoops up a mixture of gravel and soil. The required AquaTerra monitor wears the orange hat. **Below:** Unfortunately, removing soil from the far side will eventually cause trees to topple.



Dredging Bateman Pond: 4/4



Above: This year, 27 truckloads of gravel were removed by the contractor and taken to Valley Road for disposal. **Below:** The water in the pool is normally clear again within 24 hours.



Data from August, 2025:

Sand and gravel removed:

22 truckloads

Fish salvaged:

Coho salmon: 818 (+2 mortalities)

Rainbow trout: 3

Cutthroat trout: 6

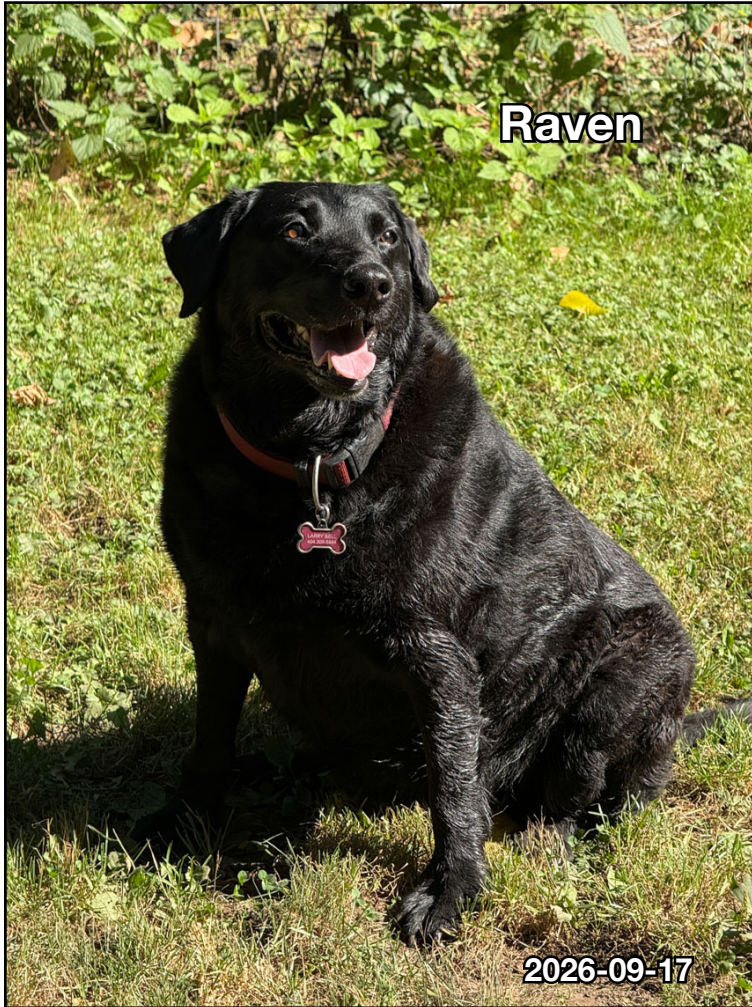
Threespine stickleback: 4

Pacific lamprey: 1

Sculpin: 1

Trail Dog

Born 10 years ago in Chilliwack, **Raven** is the offspring of a Chocolate English sire and a Black American dam. From her mother, Raven inherited her entire head, the last two-thirds of her tail, and the curls and colour of her coat. From her sire, she inherited her body, legs, feet, chest size and wide feet, along with the connection to her mother's upswept tail.



Raven's nature is to protect and play with humans, especially young ones. She acts like a guard dog when adults approach our gated home, but if one of us opens the gate, she immediately wags her tail.

She has hunted squirrels an uncountable number of times, but has never, ever caught one. The same is true of rabbits. Raven swims like a fish, using her tail, which lies flat in the water, as a rudder. She has retrieved her ball thousands of times in streams, raging rivers and windswept lakes. Her ball is the only toy she retrieves; she never steals any other ball or toy.

When Raven was just about 18 months old, her love of retrieving, especially in water, got both her and me into trouble. A group of mothers with pre-school children had decided to start using the

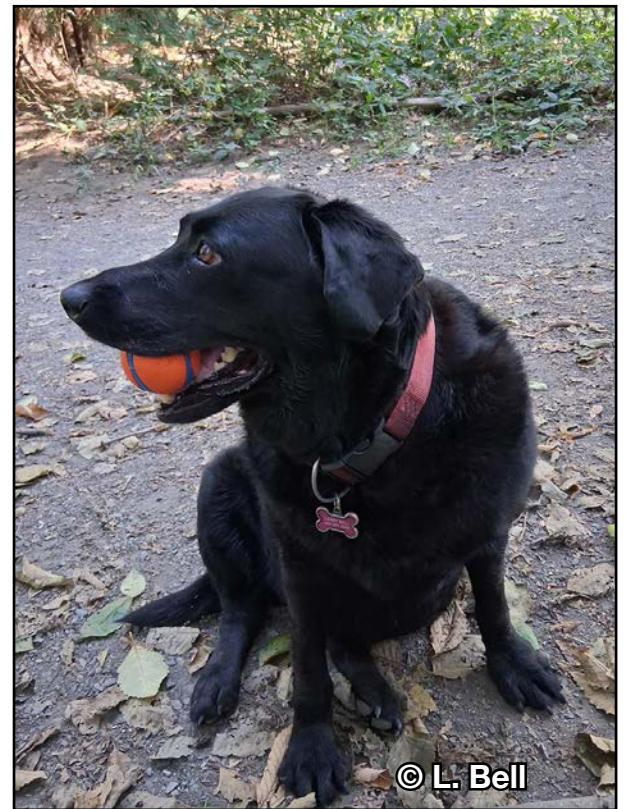
cedars along the stream as an adventure area, and many have continued to use that area for years. One day, I was walking in bright daylight and did what I had done many times before. I used her Chuck-It and her little orange ball as our usual adventure game, tossing the ball at high velocity into the dark area before we entered. The bright sun blinded me from seeing into the darkness. As I kept walking, however, I suddenly saw the shocked faces of the ladies with their children. I was extremely shocked too! I quickly apologized and confirmed that neither Raven nor my fast-thrown ball had hit anybody.

Fast-forward a few weeks, and Raven was receiving requests to play with the very young children because she was so careful not to step on little feet or bump into any child. As the year went by, one little boy always wanted to play continuously with Raven. Whenever we arrived, he would announce, "IT'S THE BALL DOG!" He took great joy in running Raven through her creek-retrieval exercise until she was too tired to continue.

Trail Dog

Believe it or not, I was told that I could simply leave Raven and her ball for a couple of hours rather than having to hang around!

Of course, those children grew older, and that little boy eventually “aged out.” New mothers with new children continued coming for a couple more years. Then, as I arrived on the first day of a new start-up, I heard a small boy’s voice say, “IT’S THE DOG BALL.” Do you see the change? This proved that Raven had been remembered by this boy’s older brother. The little guy had reversed what his brother had coached him to say! By this point, I had spent many, many hours sitting on a stump and had stopped trying to arrive at the time when they were arriving.



Raven still enjoys playing with children and almost always approaches young ones on the trail and in the field. I constantly have to speak quickly, either to call her back or to ask the adult or adults if she can approach their little ones. Most accept her because she is so calm and gentle.

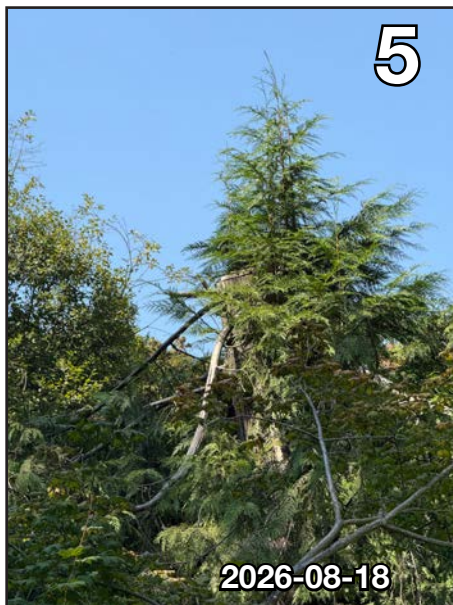
Last May, a school bus arrived with Grade 5 students. They filled the upper trail while gathering information for their projects. I was patiently waiting to move on when a girl tapped me on the arm and asked if she could throw the ball to Raven. Of course I said yes, although I directed her not to throw it into the area where all the children were. After about 15 throws and retrievals, a teacher quietly asked her to proceed with her project. It was very sweet.

Contributed by Larry Bell

Odds & Ends: 1/2



1. A **remote control device**, perhaps for a toy car or truck, was left on Sadie's bench.
2. Someone hung this **lost jacket** over the fence near Bridge 3.
3. A nice little **bicycle and helmet** were left near Bridge 4, with the owner nowhere in sight.
4. Another caterpillar of the nocturnal **elephant hawk moth** was found near Bridge 5.
5. The **secondary growth** atop Cedric, the redcedar damaged by the Atmospheric River, is doing well.
6. A **cedar tree** this size would never be found on the Prairies!
7. An example of **vandalism**.



Odds & Ends: 2/2

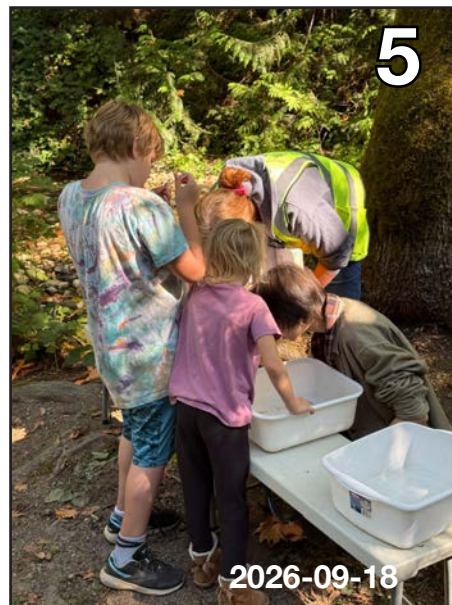


1, 2. Here's a **comparison of the grass** in the Bowl this month with its condition during the drought of August 2021, three months before we experienced the infamous Atmospheric River. At that time, we were in a La Niña weather pattern. This fall, we will be in a strong El Niño which tends toward milder and drier weather.

3. On the bulletin board near Bridge 3, a child's poster with the words "**we need trees**"—my sentiments exactly!

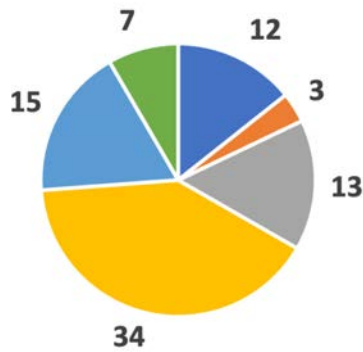
4, 5. **ZoAnn Morten** from the Pacific Streamkeepers Foundation drove out from North Vancouver to guide ARPSES volunteers through a **macroinvertebrate survey**. Our goal was to collect insect larvae from under submerged stones, using the numbers collected to assess the ability of Stoney Creek to support a salmon population. Some passing children also thought the critters found in the creek were extremely interesting!

6. Here is by far the largest one found, a 15-mm-long **stonefly nymph**. Notice the bushy gills behind the legs along its thorax.



Litter Tally September 2026

- Butts
- Containers
- Paper
- Plastic
- Wrappers
- Misc.



Total litter items = 84

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

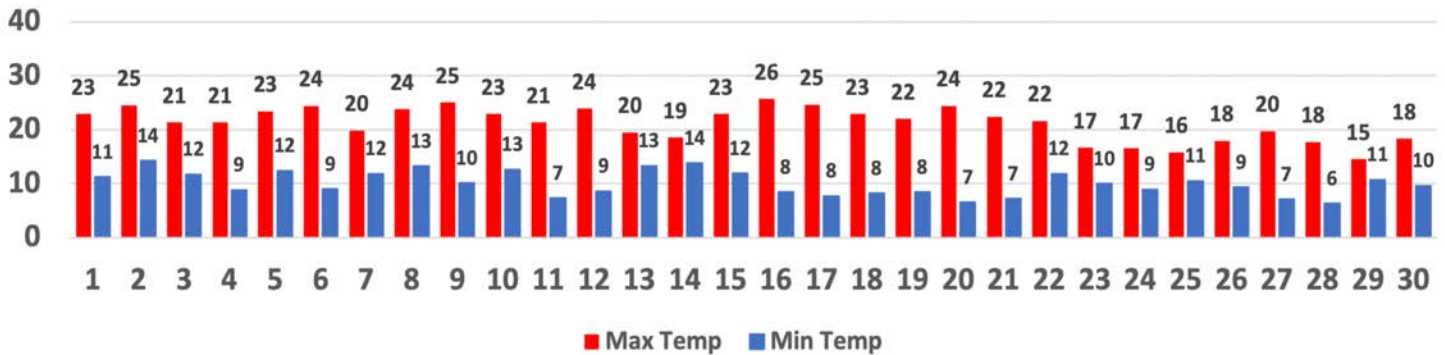
Paper: tissues, napkins, posters, newspaper, receipts, cardboard, etc.

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

Wrappers: candy wrappers, foil, cellophane.

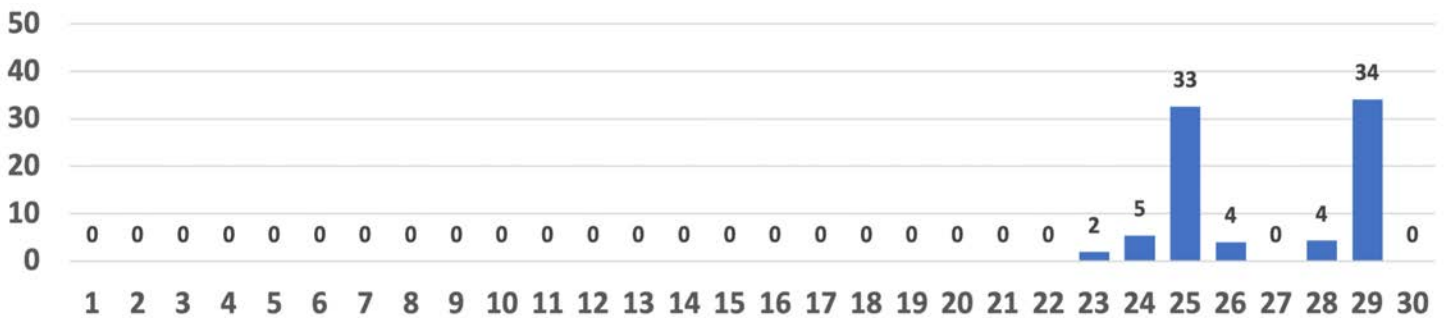
Miscellaneous: clothing, glass, chewing gum, dog balls & fragments, etc.

Air Temperatures at YXX September 2026 (°C)



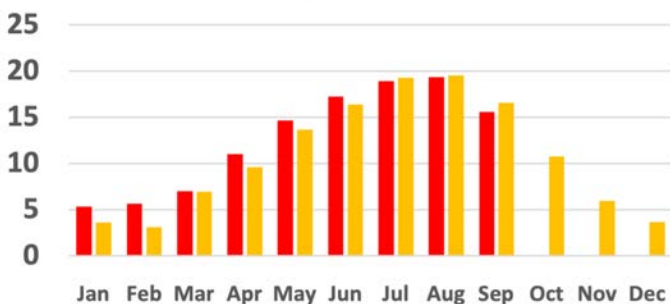
Precipitation at YXX September 2026

Total = 82.3 mm



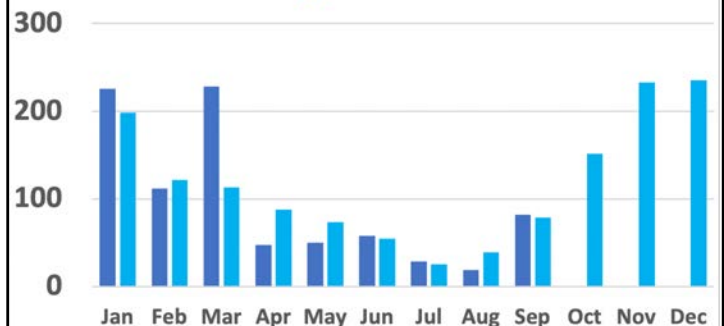
Average Temperatures in 2026

Average: 2019-2025



Precipitation in 2026 (mm)

Average: 2019-2025



For reference, I use these custom place-names:

