



Alouette River Management Society  
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## ARMS Update Spring & Summer 2015



### Hello ARMS Members, Volunteers, Partners, & Friends!

We are happy to share with you our accomplishments & updates during the first part of 015. It has been a busy and exciting few months for us, and we are proud of how far we've come. Here is what we've been up to:

#### **SPRING BREAK & SUMMER CAMPS**

Our spring break camps were fully booked, as anticipated! We had 60 children attend our two weeks of Minecraft-themed day camps, immersed in hands-on learning and outdoor fun! We were able to provide volunteer experience to 9 student Camp Councillors. Dan Mikolay did a phenomenal job managing the camps. As for summertime, we are looking at a jam-packed July and August as we prepare to host 5 weeks of day camps:

*Super Mario Camp: July 6 - 10*

*SPORE Camp: July 13 - 17*

*Pokemon Camp: July 20 - 24*

*Minecraft III: July 27 - 31*

*Minecraft III: August 10 - 14*

#### **WELCOME, SOPHIE & ALEX!**

ARMS is pleased to welcome Sophie Smith as our new Acting Education Coordinator and Alex Bragg as our 2015 Summer Student. Sophie recently received her Bachelor's Degree in Geography from the University of the Fraser Valley with concentrations in Environmental Science. She is currently part of the internationally-recognized Global Rivers Observatory Project, and completed her practicum as a part of this project at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts, USA. Alexandria Bragg is currently completing her Bachelor's Degree in Geography at the University of the Fraser Valley with concentrations in Environmental Studies and Forest Conservation. She is our flora and vegetation expert here and will be assisting with planting prescriptions and other ARMS events and activities during her time with us.

### **KAZTIE SLOUGH BLIND CHANNEL MONITORING**

We have recently begun our seasonal stewardship monitoring of the Katzie Slough blind channel in Pitt Meadows. We do water-quality testing, invertebrate counting, and vegetation surveys of the site regularly between April and August each year to track the health and progress of the blind channel. Thank you to Pacific Salmon Foundation for providing the fourth year of funding for this five year study.



### **CONGRATULATIONS GRETA & DAVE**

We are thrilled to announce the birth of Eoin Borick-Cunningham, born January 18th, 2015 to ARMS Executive Director Greta Borick-Cunningham and her loving husband Dave. We are so happy that Eoin is doing well, and look forward to having Greta return to ARMS in 2016.

### **NEW WATER-QUALITY TESTING EQUIPMENT, NEW FRONTIERS**

ARMS has recently purchased a Lamotte 2020we electronic handheld turbidity meter and a professional-grade YSI multiparameter probe to allow staff and volunteers to test water quality throughout Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows with ease and accuracy. This new digital equipment far exceeds the accessibility of our outdated manual equipment and methods. We are eager to get out in the field and expand our reach as we collect data from local creeks, streams, and rivers, and develop a more comprehensive understanding of nearby watersheds. We are especially thankful to the Pitt River Area Watershed Network (PRAWN), who carried out incredible environmental stewardship in Pitt Meadows and were generous enough to establish a watershed-monitoring fund for ARMS when they dissolved.

### **BEE SATURDAYS ARE BACK!**

That's right, our weekly beekeeping workshops have started! Attend our FREE workshops every Saturday from 12pm - 2pm at the Rivers Heritage Centre. Suit up, get up-close-and-personal with our friendly honeybees, and learn all about these fascinating creatures in a safe, fun way! Contact our beekeeper Loretta Jackson at [thebeelady@outlook.com](mailto:thebeelady@outlook.com) to RSVP, or call 604-467-6401.

### **O.W.L.E.S COMMUNITY WORKSHOP**

ARMS is hosting an exciting FREE workshop on June 14th at the Rivers Heritage Centre as part of our new Owls, Wildlife, & Endangered Species program, funded by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. Raptors Ridge Birds of Prey will be bringing LIVE birds, and attendees will get the opportunity to dissect REAL owl pellets and analyze the skeletons within them while learning about habitats, local ecosystems, and food chains. All ages welcome, space is limited. RSVP by contacting us at 604-467-6401 or [voluncomm@alouetteriver.org](mailto:voluncomm@alouetteriver.org). 11am-2pm.

### **MAPLE RIDGE ADOPT-A-BLOCK-PROGRAM**

Have YOU adopted your block yet? Join the Maple Ridge Adopt-A-Block Program and sign up to look after a section of your neighbourhood. Equipment is provided, and members are eligible for municipal street sign of recognition installed at adoption site. Adopt-A-Block also participates in bimonthly cleanups of the downtown Maple Ridge core with the municipal Community Builders team, and recently hosted its first geocaching litter pickup called a CITO (Cache-In-Trash-Out) cleanup of 256th Street on May 16th. Email [adoptablock@alouetteriver.org](mailto:adoptablock@alouetteriver.org) or visit [www.alouetteriver.org/adopt-a-block](http://www.alouetteriver.org/adopt-a-block) for more information.

### **PROJECT APPROVALS**

Aren't we lucky! ARMS was approved for 4 ongoing projects this year: the Experimental Sockeye Enumeration Project, the Adult Sockeye Enumeration Project, Mud Creek Restoration Project, and the Alouette Side Channel Project. ARMS has been extremely fortunate to receive funding from BC Hydro's Fish & Wildlife Compensation Project for three projects, the Pacific Salmon Foundation for three projects, and Innergex for one project. These groups provide the money we need to design and carry out complex plans in order to enhance, restore, and protect sensitive ecosystems and species that are extremely valuable to the health and strength of natural habitats in British Columbia. THANK YOU!

#### EVENTS ARMS ATTENDED

- Annual Scouts Nite Hike
- Maple Ridge Earth Day 2015
- Pitt Meadows Earth Day 2015

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- OWLES Community Workshop, June 14th 11am - 2pm, Rivers Heritage Centre
- Father's Day Fish Release, June 21st 11am - 2pm, Maple Ridge Park
- Country Fest 2015, July 25th and 26th at the Albion Fairgrounds
- Ridge Meadows Rivers Day, September 27th 2015

Questions? Comments?  
Looking for volunteer opportunities?

CONTACT US at [voluncomm@alouetteriver.org](mailto:voluncomm@alouetteriver.org).



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