

## Summer 2017 Projects! by Angela Spooner/ Wayne White

Work on two of the Tsolum River 'Top 3' priority projects will be starting in August 2017. The Dove Creek bedload trap is being funded by the Habitat Conservation Fund Trust and financial contributions from our Society. The survey and project design report have been completed and work permit is pending. Lower Dove Creek high quality rearing habitat was recovering over the last decade, but new slope failures and bedload influx in the upper portions of Dove Creek are threatening to infill the lower reaches of Dove Creek. Removing this excess bedload is critical to the ongoing recovery of the lower reaches of Dove Creek and the Tsolum River where much of the higher quality habitat is found.

We were successful in obtaining funding from RFCCP (DFO Rec Fish) for gravel bar planting in the mid-elevation of the Tsolum scheduled for 2017/2018. We are very excited to start the field work in August of assessing all the gravel bars. This assessment will allow us to plan the 2018 gravel bar planting at the upper end of the project area; as well as for all the gravel bars in the longer term project vision.

## Events

**July 14, 15, 16 Musicfest**

**Aug 22 Guided walk 10-12  
start at Comox  
Exhibition grounds**

**Aug 25, 26, 27 Comox Exhibition**

**Sept 24 B.C. Rivers Day walk  
and cleanup /BBQ**

**Mid Nov Volunteer  
appreciation dinner**

## Summary of School Outreach Season by Caroline Heim

After the fall field trip season, we focused on our 3D watershed model tours. The fibreglass model proved its worth and withstood many applications of water. The model toured with Caroline Heim, Laura Ann O'Brien and Val Sherriff to Huband, Queneesh, Courtenay, Puntledge, Cumberland, Lake Trail, Isfeld and Arden schools. Over 1,650 students learned about the Comox Valley Watershed and the story of the historical copper mine up at Mount Washington that polluted the Tsolum River for many years.

For most of the school kids, the capping of the mine site happened around when they were born; knowing the past history and the efforts by local citizens to fix environmental problems is an important and positive local history and environmental lesson for the kids that reinforces the message that action can lead to change. The interactive hands on watershed model incorporates learning about point source pollution inputs, and how different land uses can change the watershed hydrology, or how water moves through our watershed.

Look for our watershed model in action, as well as our salmon wheel and display at a variety of summer events including Musicfest on the weekend of July 14, 15 and 16<sup>th</sup>, and at the Comox Valley Exhibition on August 25, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

We are currently designing a school program for the 2017/18 school year that will complement the watershed model program. We will build on the knowledge that the kids gained, and will focus on biodiversity, macroinvertebrate collecting and identification, and riparian habitats.

Like us on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/tsolum.restoration](http://www.facebook.com/tsolum.restoration)



## Trees, trees and more trees...by Dave Morwood

We have the best selection of trees we have ever had thanks to our patrons TimberWest and Fanny Bay Enhancement Society. In our inventory we have 230 Douglas Fir, 230 Red Cedar, 130 Grand Fir, 75 Hemlock, and 50 Sitka Spruce. We also have a limited supply of cones and cages to protect the young seedlings. Most of our trees come as seedlings that we use immediately for our restoration work, or put into pots for future use.

We have given out 150 trees this year so far for riparian planting largely in the Tsolum system but also on the Puntledge River and Comox Lake. Recently we planted 20 cedar trees with help from a local Scouts troop around a memorial bench for Stewart Duncan at Tsolum Spirit Park. Trees have also gone to K'ómoks First Nations for gravel bar planting on the lower Tsolum and to a number of landowners along the river.

We expect most of our present supply to be used for riparian and gravel bar planting this summer and fall; there are also trees available for landowners on the river however we suggest that they wait until the rains come in Sept/Oct. before planting.

An important component of Tsolum watershed restoration is on-going efforts to plant coniferous trees along riparian areas.



*If you are a landowner, live near the riparian areas of the Tsolum River, or tributaries such as Dove, Portuguese, or Finlay Creeks, we can supply you with potted trees and/or people to plant trees for you. We can advise about tree care after planting and can call upon the expertise of a certified arborist in our organization as necessary.*

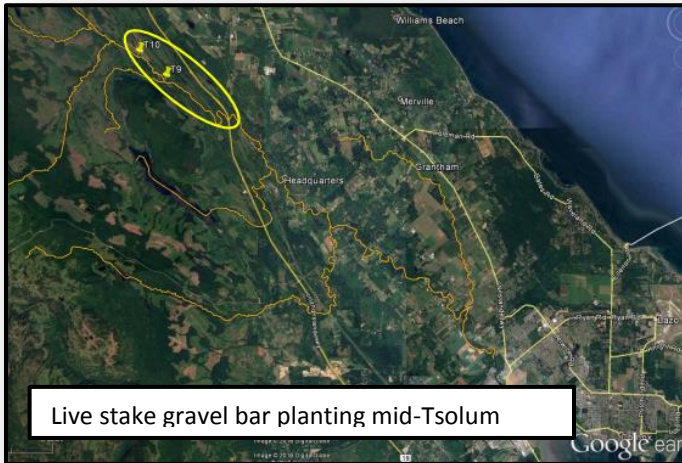
## Rotary screw trap and Outmigration Results are in!



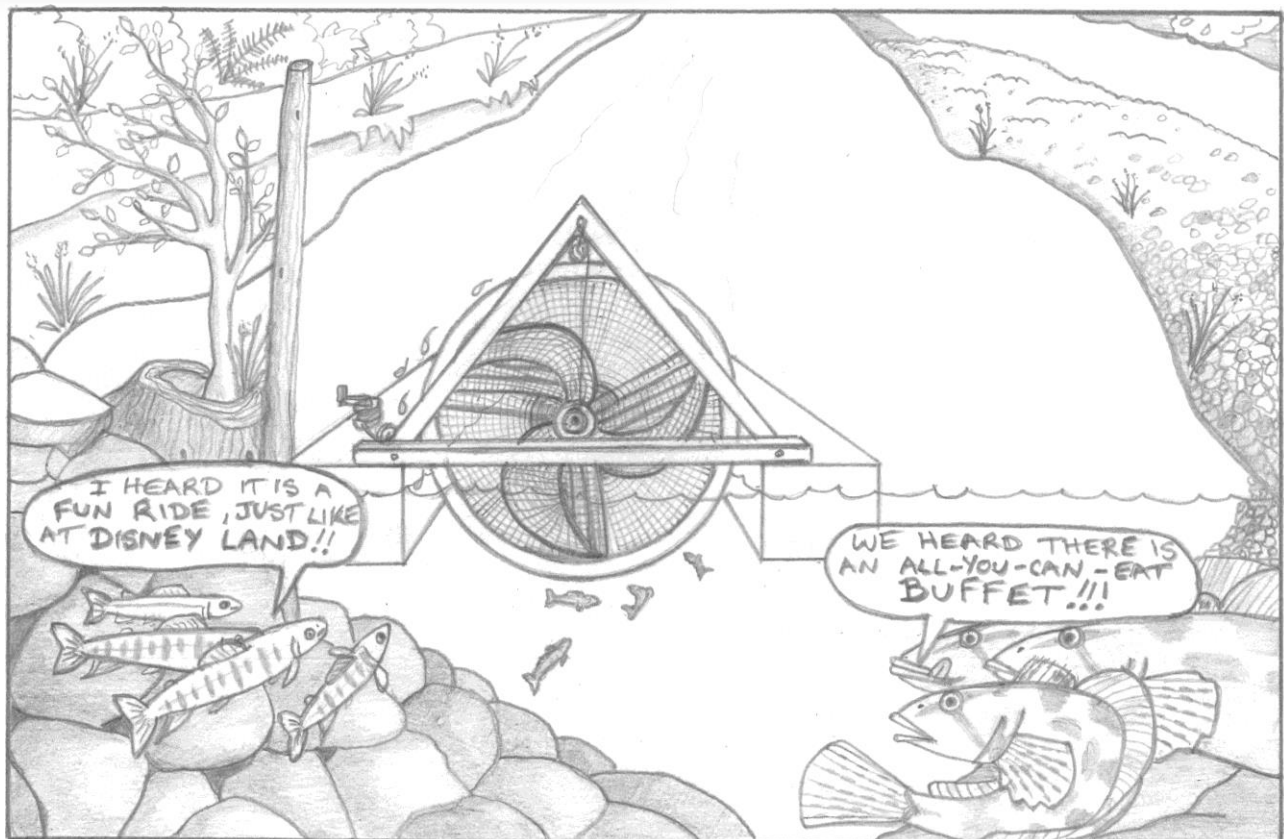
## 'Top 3' Priority Projects Update - by Angela Spooner / Wayne White

As mentioned, the **Dove Creek bedload** trap will be excavated below the Duncan Bay Mainstem this August. After removal of up to 2500 cubic meters of material, the trap edge and outflow will be bio-engineered to enhance rearing habitat using blast rock, locally found boulders and large woody debris. On-going monitoring and regular emptying of the bedload trap will follow. The gravel trap enhances fish habitat as it also provides a low flow rearing habitat for fish as water levels drop in the summer.

With the funding from DFO Rec Fish for **live stake gravel bar planting** in the mid-elevation of the Tsolum, the plan is for a multi-year project with 2018 planting being the first in a series of gravel bar plantings starting upstream and working downstream towards the Inland Island Highway. With methodology set and lessons learned in the first two years, we will be applying for further funding to complete this large scale project past 2018.



We are continuing to work with the K'ómoks First Nation to secure funding for the **lower Tsolum gravel bar removal** project. The project planning is nearing completion and we have scaled it back excluding the diking on the adjacent sod farm. The uncertainties in predicting a design flood level with the rapidly changing conditions in the Tsolum make it too risky to do the diking. The project will be focused on the protection of KFN land which contains archaeological sites of interest to the Nation and they are hoping to secure 2018 project funding.



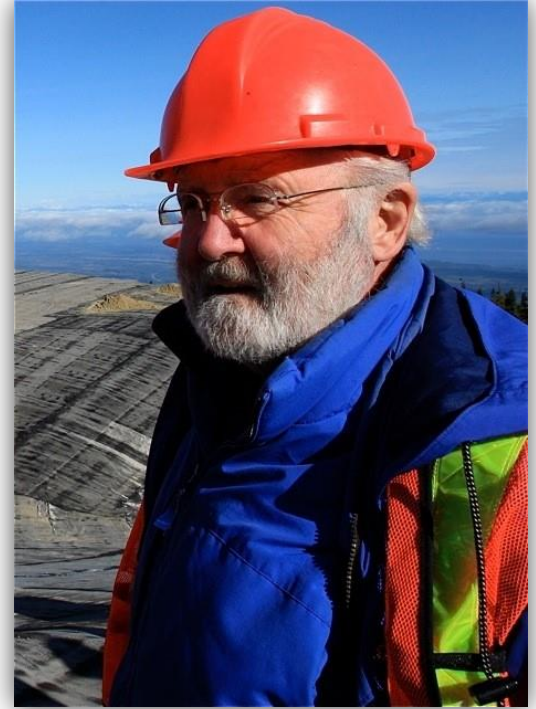
Tsolum Tstories by Stewy McIntosh "Joyride"

## Remembering Stewart Duncan by Laura Ann O'Brien

One of our founding directors, Stewart Duncan, who was profiled in our 2017 Winter newsletter, lost his battle with cancer and passed away on February 25, 2017. We are forever grateful for Stewart's dedication and commitment to cleaning up the mine site pollution that plagued the Tsolum River for decades.

A Gratitude Gathering was held on June 10 to remember Stewart. Here is an excerpt from my speech on behalf of the TRRS that illustrates Stewart's commitment to the Tsolum: "Stewart embraced and embodied the Tsolum spirit. He drank the water, walked on the banks, explored the forests, photographed the natural beauty, learned more about the lack of fish, hosted an experimental coho project on Anne and his land, attended innumerable meetings and field trips of all kinds with government and industry partners, demanded action, guided the Society as president, built bridges - both literally and figuratively - with partners and the community, removed fish barriers, donated artwork and equipment, was a regular financial donor and most importantly contributed his time, which is the most valuable donation anyone can give."

To read more about Stewart please see the entire speech on our website along with short videos made by some of us. We commissioned a bench to honour Stewart and it was installed at Tsolum Spirit Park on June 11, 2017 with family and friends being led by Scottish piper through the forest to the river. One of our other directors, Stewart "Stewy" McIntosh carved a beautiful pair of spawning pink salmon that adorn the top plank of the bench to add a personal touch. It is a fitting tribute to a man who gave so much to the River without asking for anything in return, and a place for us to go to quietly remember his legacy and enjoy the river he loved so much.



**TRRS would like to thank Anne Davies and all the generous caring people who made donations to us on behalf of Stewart Duncan. In total, \$4,000.00 was donated; this money will directly fund our on-going restoration projects, and education outreach programs.**

## Charles Brandt Honoured With Volunteer Award

Father Charles Brandt, recently received a B.C. Community Achievement award from the BC Community Achievement Foundation for his work in helping protect the Tsolum River. He was nominated by the CV Regional District. As Father Charles says "We're all involved in the great work of making a transformation of our society, from a disruptive influence to a benign presence. We do that by falling in love with the natural world, experiencing creation, a sense of wonder and delight, rather than as a commodity for our own personal use. We only save something if we love it. We only love something if we think it's sacred. Only a sense of the sacred will save us." Congratulations Charles!



## Youth in Action

### Change Makers

Three Grade 7 Huband Park Elementary school students, Emmett Allan, Dylan Herman and Aidan Walsh chose to help our Society for their recent Change Makers project. The boys researched what we do, helped count salmon fry in the rotary screw trap, attended the presentation of a BC Community Achievement award to Father Charles Brandt at the CVRD office, raised \$391 for us with a bottle drive, created a PowerPoint presentation, and educated their fellow classmates about our work. A huge thank you to Emmett, Dylan and Aidan!



### Pet Rock Fundraiser

Fae Clarke is a grade 4 student at The NIDES academy of fine arts. While researching a project on rocks and minerals she learned about the old copper mine on Mt. Washington. She decided she wanted to help our society and did so by making and selling pet rocks. She was able to raise \$115.50 for our Society! Thank you so much Fae!

## New Summer Student with TRRS

We are pleased to announce that we have hired a summer student for July and August, 2017. Celesta Buchanan will be helping us with events where we will host the Tsolum River display, on-going water quality and fry distribution sampling in the upper watershed, improvements to our display, a guided walking tour map of CV Exhibition area, bullfrog education, and guided interpretive walks of the Tsolum River.



**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Membership for 1 year: Individual: \$10 Family: \$15

Please complete form and either:

- mail form and cheque to: PO Box 488, Merville, B.C.V0R 2M0
- email to: [tsolumriver@shaw.ca](mailto:tsolumriver@shaw.ca) - please mail cheque
- drop off form and cheque to 2356 Rosewall Crescent, Courtenay, BC (please call 250 897-4670 first)
- or go to [www.canadahelps.ca](http://www.canadahelps.ca) to pay by credit card through an online secure system for membership, lump sum, or monthly online donations. Other monthly option is at bottom of form.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you live in the Tsolum River watershed? If yes, which tributary? \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer interests:

- Outmigration – rotary screw trap – March to June
- In-migration – salmon counting – Sep to Oct
- Monitoring – water quality, flow, temperature, turbidity
- Assessments – habitat, riparian, steelhead, etc.
- Tree Planting
- Projects – mainstem and tributaries
- Projects – your neighbourhood
- Events – Earth Day, VI Musicfest, CVEX, Rivers Day, etc.
- Education – watershed, primary schools, field trips, bullfrog
- Committees – outreach or watershed protection
- Social media – website, Facebook, etc.
- Fundraising – government, corporate and individual

**Monthly Pre-Authorized Donation Payments Using VOID cheque**

I want to become a monthly donor of the Tsolum River Restoration Society ("TRRS"), PO Box 488, Merville, BC V0R 2M0 – Canada Revenue Agency Charitable Tax No. 89402 6921 BC0001

I wish to gift \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month (includes membership)

I, the undersigned, hereby authorize my banking institution to charge my account on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month and pay the TRRS the sum noted above. This authorization shall be the same as if I personally signed a cheque to the TRRS. I may terminate my participation in this program at any time upon written or email notification to the TRRS.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign, print your name and return this form with a VOID cheque by mail or in person. For further information please call 250 897-4670. An annual tax receipt will be issued and mailed to you.