

Tread Lightly and Listen to the Land

THE FOOTPRINT PRESS

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Passages from Silverdale, Mission,
Abbotsford and beyond.

Message from the editorial committee

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Cover photo, Winter Wren - Bruce Klassen

What does it mean to live a sustainable life? Is there a way of living that doesn't destroy the natural foundations on which we all depend? The answer is yes, but simply put, it requires us to break free of the bondage of relying on material wealth as a substitute for happiness. This liberation involves a deep consideration of the values and assumptions we hold about the meaning of our relationship with nature.

The term "Nature Deficiency Syndrome" has been coined to represent a state of being which has become disconnected from nature leading to a willingness to turn a blind eye to destruction of the very foundations on which we depend for our existence. The sheer folly of the endless pursuit of "progress" blinds us to the emptiness of the chase. This chase has allowed us to decimate the world's rain and boreal forests, to pollute our oceans to the point where wild salmon stocks are plummeting, to pave over prime farmland, and to turn our air into brown smog of such a magnitude that we are impacting the very climate of the earth. When we spend more and more of our time in front of the computer or television and less and less in nature, we deprive ourselves of an experience which strengthens the spirit,

decreases stress, and promotes health and wellbeing.

Our relationship with the natural world has not always been like this. The First Nations people knew how to live in and with nature without destroying her. Our grandparents knew the virtue of thrift and employed recycling, mending, and reusing to reduce the costs of excess consumption. In these systems of values, waste was considered an evil, not a status symbol, and sharing with others raised one's standing in the community far more than material possessions. Phrases like "waste not want not," conveyed our grandparent's wisdom of reducing our impact on the environment.

The worldwide recession has become an opportunity to heal our relationship with nature and with each other. The time has come to slow down and reflect on what sustains us spiritually, physically and emotionally and to translate this knowledge into sustainable patterns and habits. Whether that be reducing our car dependency, becoming more aware of and taking action to protect natural habitat in our communities, or learning how to find and eat local foods, the articles in The Footprint Press are intended to help us discover ways in which we can lead a more sustainable, and meaningful life.



SILVERMERE ISLAND, MISSION: BIG DEVELOPMENT

FOOTPRINT THREATENS FISH HABITAT AND SPECIES AT RISK

The Silvermere Island and lower Stave River ecosystem comprise exceptional, rare, and bio-diverse ecological communities and habitats within the lower mainland. Located about 7 kilometres west of Mission, the Stave River estuary is one of the largest spawning concentrations of salmon along the Pacific coast of North America already in direct proximity to an urban environment. Over .5 million chum salmon spawn in the Lower Stave. Other species of salmonoids such as coho, steelhead, and char utilize this aquatic ecosystem and some of these species have been enhanced either through flow considerations, habitat rehabilitation or hatchery stocking. Furthermore, despite its extraordinary fisheries values, the lower Stave River basin also has numerous other biological and ecosystem features that make it exceptional and these are intimately connected to the marine-derived nutrients supplied by the salmon carcasses.

Over the past few decades, the Stave River Estuary has weathered a number of environmental insults including the creation of Silvermere Lake in the downstream floodplain formed by constructing 2 causeways through the Stave to Silvermere Island (which resulted in roughly 50% loss in wetland area of the lower Stave River). Despite this historic disturbance, Silvermere lake and Silvermere Island are currently inhabited by 113 animal species, including several species at risk: endangered painted turtle, red legged frog, bald eagle (active nest), barn owl (active nest), western screech owl, double crested cormorant, and great blue heron. Almost the entire site possesses the potential to contain blue-listed plant communities. The lake is used by a myriad of migratory birds and local residents describe Silvermere Island as an important wildlife refuge.



But this critical ecosystem is under grave threat and the salmon are not the only thing that smells fishy in the area. Genstar Development Corporation has proposed a major housing project along the perimeter of Silvermere Lake (the Peninsula) and on Silvermere Island. The development of this housing project is to be situated within the lower Stave River watershed and is adjacent to, and partially on, its historic flood plain. About 94 houses have been proposed for the Island and 14 more lots are to be developed on the Peninsula, which is part of the northern causeway of Silvermere Lake. Access to the island would require construction of a 2-lane road, through the wetlands to the island.

This lake development constitutes part of the large-scale loss of wetlands (greater than 90%) in the lower Fraser Basin that has occurred over the last 100 years. This project will constitute a further and major impact to these wetlands by increasingly isolating the Silvermere Lake portion of this ecosystem from the extant, relatively intact active floodplain of the lower Stave River, as well as interfering with riparian functions and adding extensive human activities (e.g., vehicle traffic to and from the Island).



It's not easy "bringing land to life"

The devastating environmental impact of constructing a major road to Silvermere island through a wetland area, clearing vegetation to build houses, and the impacts of human occupation in this sensitive area were described by senior scientist Dr. Marvin Rosenau as "one of the most environmentally damaging development projects that (he) had occasion to review" (MWLAP, 2003¹). Shortly after release of his report, the province's deputy environment minister forced him out of his position in the ministry (see full expose cbc go public²). He was told

that there was nothing wrong with his science, but that his report damaged the developer's ability to proceed and therefore he would be given a "time-out" by the ministry. He was told the local MLAs were already unhappy with his reports of impacts to salmon from large scaled aggregate removal in the Fraser (see Parliament session transcript, Standing Committee Fisheries and Oceans Canada June 1, 2006³).

The politically motivated removal of Dr. Rosenau has sent a chill through the provincial environment ministry. A clear message has been sent that scientists could lose their jobs if they criticise development projects, a possibility referred to as being "Marvinized" by those in the ministry.

Even federal scientists from DFO appear reluctant to take a stand to protect the Stave, and have allowed considerable disturbance to the area without laying charges under the Fisheries Act. In Jan. 2004 the developers cleared the peninsula portion of Silvermere to within 15 meters of the lake, and deposited extensive preload without authorization from DFO. No charges were laid, and no reparations were required.

The developer's application for harmful alteration, disruption or destruction (HADD) of fish habitat finally triggered a federal Environmental Assessment (CEAA) by DFO and Environment Canada in 2007 but was put on hold the day it was initiated on request of the developer. On Dec. 22, 2009, the CEAA was terminated by DFO without having been completed. DFO advised residents concerned about species at risk to contact Environment Canada who stated that should species at risk be inadvertently killed by heavy equipment, it is not considered an offence by the ministry.

On Jan. 18, 2010, less than a month after termination of the federal assessment, Mission Council voted unanimously to vary their Streamside Protection Regulation (SPR) Bylaw on request of Genstar. Section 108 of Mission's Zoning Bylaw would have required that a setback of 30 m from the high water mark of Silvermere Lake be protected, making it less available for development. Instead of upholding the bylaw, council voted to allow the use of the Riparian Area Regulation (RAR) method to determine the minimum setback required under federal and provincial legislation despite staff stating RAR

would likely result in reducing the protected areas in half to 15M, opening the door to residential development on Silvermere island.

Political interference in scientific assessments such as Silvermere underlies the current precipitous decline in wild pacific salmon stocks and endangered species and places the financial interests of industry over the public's interest in critical habitat conservation. A perfect storm of damaging development projects, irresponsible aggregate dredging of the Fraser River and open net fish farms spell death by a 1000 cuts to wild Fraser salmon and the wildlife that depends on it. It would appear that DFO has learned nothing from the devastating loss of cod stocks on Canada's east coast. Clearly, the fact that the Silvermere project is even being considered

again by local and senior governments signifies a reluctance, or inability, to ensure the public's interest in the environment is protected.

Tracy Lyster, Chair
CAUSS
Mission

References

1. Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection, 2003.
2. www.cbc.ca/canada/british-columbia/story/2008/09/29/bc-scientist.html
3. Transcript 39th Parliament, 1st session, Standing committee on Fisheries and oceans, June 1, 2006) <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=2243935&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=39&Ses=1>.

Beautiful Silvermere Island



Paddle for Wild Salmon & the Get Out Migration



What began as a small idea to paddle down the Fraser River to raise awareness of Alexandra Morton's 'Get Out Migration' on Vancouver Island grew to be the 'Paddle For Wild Salmon' in solidarity with the 'Get Out Migration'. The ten day paddle began April 28 and finished in Sidney on May 7 where the paddlers met up with renowned biologist Alexandra Morton to walk to Victoria on May 8. The paddlers delivered their message and petitions to a estimated crowd of 4000-5000 people in front of the BC Legislature making this the biggest environmental rally in BC's history. Alexandra Morton is a biologist who has seen the effects of fish farms up close and has a lot to say on behalf of the wild salmon that are affected by fish farm practices.

After years of researching the devastating consequences of the sea lice gauntlet formed by fish farms, Alexandra came to the only possible conclusion; fish farms must get out of our oceans in order for wild salmon to survive. Despite indisputable evidence and scientific studies, government continues to ignore this very serious issue. At her rope's end, Alex chose to do something herself. In her words; "I am going to walk from Sointula to Victoria to try and protect BC's wild salmon. I am doing this to give people the opportunity to stand up from their fox holes and let Ottawa see us - the people of British Columbia who insist wild salmon must trump farm salmon".

Along the Fraser River, there is no shortage of concern for the wild salmon that have dwindled at an alarming rate. Aside from the sea lice, the Fraser's Sockeye Salmon must also survive in a river that is number four on B.C.'s endangered rivers list due to everything from industrial development and agriculture to the chemicals and toxic waste from the average citizen. It is for these reasons, among others, that the Paddle for Wild Salmon emerged as a means to raise awareness to the plight of the wild salmon, to

remind people who live along the river that we must care for this incredible river, not contaminate it, and to encourage people to support Alexandra Morton's brave quest to say to fish farms, "Get Out!"

The Paddle began April 28 at 9:00 am in Hope with members of Sto:lo Nation who sang salmon songs, as the paddlers prepared to embark on a 10 day journey down the Fraser River. On May 7th, we crossed the Georgia Strait with a support boat provided by MP John Cummins and Ernie Crey, who crossed over with the paddlers and joined Alexandra Morton in Sidney. The Cheam Indian Band graciously opened it's arms in support of this battle for wild salmon offering the paddlers a night of entertainment with songs, dancers, and many good meals. The paddlers were honoured to sleep in their longhouse and be part of the first Salmon Ceremony. The paddle then headed for Mission boat launch. On Island 22 they were greeted by people on the shore with signed petitions as well as the local RCMP in their boat. The paddlers then visited the Stave River estuary spawning grounds where members of CAUSS hosted a ceremony in honour of this sacred place in our community.

The paddlers are asking communities all along the Fraser River to show their support for wild salmon by signing and circulating the petition that is asking for the removal of fish farms from our oceans. All stops and gatherings along the river can be found on the facebook events page "Fraser River Paddle for Wild Salmon" and FoolishAprilFish.com website.

Please visit salmonaresacred.org to sign the petition on line and learn about Alexandra Morton and the Get Out Migration, other coinciding events, and how you can be part of ensuring there is a future with wild salmon.

Elena Edwards, Mission



Road Cyclists: If you can't beat 'em, join 'em

Daniel van der Kroon

considerate cyclists taking up their road-space. No more will pelotons of cyclists obstruct drivers at every single-lane bike-laneless roadway. The roads will be negotiable again, and drivers will be able to arrive at work on time without waiting for cyclists to clear the road.

Wait, what's that you say? You didn't see any cyclists? You didn't even know it was Bike to Work Week?! That is unfortunate. It's true however; cycling in the eastern Fraser Valley has not seen the level of uptake that places like Vancouver have, where it's difficult to travel some of the side-streets without seeing people on bicycles.

Why is that? I suspect most would argue that we're simply too busy and harried to be puttering along from one destination to another, but here's a thought: is cycling to the grocery store or the workplace or to school really so challenging? To take Abbotsford as an example, yes, it's 15 kilometres from Whatcom to Mt. Lehman, but most trips are not all the way across town. Most trips would be to nearby easily bike-accessible destinations such as the grocery store, and statistics show that 80% of all the trips generated in Abbotsford stay local (the percentage is a little higher in Chilliwack and a little lower in Mission). It's not difficult to equip a sturdy bike with racks and panniers (bike bags) if your trip involves a little bit of weight either.

To my eyes, the obvious conclusion is that at least 40% of trips in these cities are bike-able, and knowing that cycling is inexpensive, health conscious, and environmentally friendly, why don't we see more bikes? I refuse to believe that we're simply lazy, or that we lack the big-picture thinking to appreciate the benefits. As much as it sounds morally righteous to be saying that cycling is "right" and driving is "wrong," as much as that is an over-simplification of the issues, I simply can't see any way in which driving everywhere can be a positive. Driving some places? Sure. Driving for the enjoyment on

Bike to Work Week will have come and gone by the time that you read this article, allowing motorists to drive efficiently once again without having to swerve around all those annoying, in-

weekends? Sure. Driving to the hospital in an emergency? Definitely. But everywhere, all the time? Isn't that simply evidence that our lives have become so busy that we need to be constantly on the go, without a spare minute to take a step back and not be in a hurry to get somewhere? My conclusion is as usual: living standards in this country are decreasing, not improving, and we need to be involved in democratic processes to discuss why our systems are failing and how we can fix them.

So believing that humans will generally do the right thing if given the options, I lay much of the blame squarely at the feet of the lack of infrastructure to give people the option. Most people simply won't cycle if doing so means taking their life into their hands, and that's what we have to change. One way is by changing how we drive so that we can stop when unexpectedly encountering a cyclist. As Abbotsford Today editor Vince Dimanno writes, "the number one safety feature that any cyclist can employ is to actually get in your way...That's right, my number one goal (as a cyclist) is to have every car on the road notice me, and sometimes this means slowing you (traffic) down a little bit."

A better way is to call for our governments to continue to build the marginally safer bicycle lanes that we've been getting. Yes, they're narrow, and don't prevent an accident from a car swerving into them, but they're certainly better than nothing. Let's not cave to the political expediency that says that because there's not many cyclists now, we should cut the funding (as Abbotsford council recently did). Let's keep building them, knowing from Vancouver's example that one day, the bikes will come: the only question is when.

The UFV Facilities department and Students for Sustainability hosted Bike to Work at UFV this year, inviting people to come make bicycle-blended smoothies and have a good time with CIVL Radio. Once again, it was evidence that where bikes go, good things follow. That's the take-home message from students at SFS. How soon will that attitude trickle into the mainstream?

Only one way to find out. Put some fun between your legs!

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The Real Dirt on Gravel Pits, “When Words Are Not Enough”



Walter Neufeld

What should regular folks do when their government is seen “selling out” good governance to narrow commercial interests at community expense?

Let’s look at the outcome of what happens when BC’s provincial government is hijacked by just-one-industry.

About six years ago the Liberal government’s Ministry of Mines/ Minister of State for Mining began a process intended to reform inappropriate gravel mining practices across BC. That initiative was called the Aggregate Pilot Project. The initiative was an opportunity the Liberals could have used to “make right” the harmful gravel mining practices sanctioned by an archaic Mines Act.

The provincial Liberal government squandered the opportunity for meaningful reform when it chose instead to manipulate the BC publics’ perceptions by simply recasting the old mining practices under a new name. That’s why the Aggregate Pilot Project looks so suspiciously familiar. BC’s Liberal government has simply re-gifted BC communities with the aggregate industries’ old strategies.

The management of public perception, though, was in high gear. Throughout that gravel extraction “reform” process, British Columbia’s Minister of State for Mining, Randy Hawes (Hawes) insisted that the publics concerns were fairly represented by the communities “elected” representatives, but, the contents of the actual APP draft document proves otherwise. Curiously, long before our “elected” representatives were invited to help draft the Aggregate Pilot Project’s initiative, the Aggregate Producers Association of BC (APABC) had already published its industry demands in its “Screenings” newsletter (see years 2002-2004). Virtually all the APABC’s strategically significant demands were later presented as the resultant outcome of consultation between the aggregate industry and our “elected” representatives. Despite that misappropriation of the facts, Hawes had repeatedly asked BC constituents to believe that the Aggregate Pilot Project’s draft was the result of meaningful input from our so-called “elected” participants.

Let’s have a look at some specific cases where the provincial government “sold out” legislations designed to protect our communities and heritage. At the behest of one industry, the Liberals have demonstrated their willingness to abuse power. The negative implications of that abuse are felt in communities across BC.

Public confidence in government is undermined when it is seen employing subterfuge to circumvent the will of the people represented by the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) by permitting a gravel mine on Sumas Mountain in direct contravention of the FVRD’s Land Use Bylaw. Then, when the FVRD threatened to close the illegal mine by court action, the provincial government undermined the will of the people by arbitrarily forcing the Electoral Area H out of the FVRD’s jurisdiction by amalgamating it quickstep into the City of Abbotsford. The city is currently in the process of “grandfathering” that same mine and thereby removing it from legal liability.

Public confidence in government is undermined when representatives from the Agricultural Land Reserve, contrary to their administrative purview, are seen to lobby the City of Abbotsford for approval of a permit application for gravel extraction on prime farmland within the Agricultural Land Reserve

Public confidence in government is undermined when Lafarge is seen offering to make secret payments to a select group of farmers for their public show of support for its successful permit application on the Agricultural Land Reserve in the City of Abbotsford. Not a single “elected” representative raised an eyebrow. Of course that leaves the public worrying about the many potential implications of that practice. How bad is it? Which other companies are doing the same thing? Which of our politicians are being bought? Which legislative policies are also for sale in BC?

And so it goes ….

Although we’re only talking about gravel mining here, the far reaching implications of the Liberal government’s ongoing circumventing of its own Ministries’ mandates and legislation, is very disturbing.

This past March 29, 2010, the City of Abbotsford unanimously passed its own version of the Aggre-

gate Pilot Project against the well documented, legitimate objections of its critics. Whereas hundreds of people used to participate in controversial issues like this, only a few dozen came out. The absentees had come to understand that neither their views nor presence served any real purpose. On the other hand, the gravel industry was well represented. One councilor worried that the massive gravel mines

planned for lands on the Agricultural Land Reserve would be seen by Vancouverites driving on the freeway. Although fretting about the perceptions of those passersby, he voted for approval.

And yet another community's "teeth are set on edge" while on a farm not far away, engorged cows mosey single file to their milking parlour in the cool light of a quiet afternoon. Walter Neufeld

No More Blues: Local Species at Risk

Today, it is no secret, that globally, environmental change caused by a multitude of reasons, is creating havoc on our ecosystems, plant and animal species. Our local wildlife is facing the same threats. So, in my first article, I will discuss what government protections exist, a brief mention of two of the current Risk categories, surprising disclosures of some of the known At Risk species existing in our own area, and a few suggestions of what you, as one individual, can do to bring about healthy change.

A recently passed federal government accord, known as the Species at Risk Act, (SARA) was developed by Provincial, Territorial, and Federal government wildlife ministers, with the intention of providing protection to vulnerable species through legislation and programs.

Since their inception in 1992, two categories in B. C. relating to Endangered Species and Ecosystems currently exist. Their main purpose is to rank threats facing species and their environments, and according to the Ministry of the Environment, "serve as a practical method to assist in making conservation and land-use decisions..." The first category is the Red List which involves those species that are "Extirpated" (extinct in one area, but surviving in another; however, that no longer applies in B. C.'s wilderness). The second category is "Endangered, or Threatened". The third category, being of "Special Concern" includes species that display signs of sensitivity to habitat change through human or natural intervention. Though not considered Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened, they are nevertheless At Risk, and are placed on the Blue list.

In our Mission area generally, and in the forests and wetlands of the Silverdale/Silverhill area of the Southwest corner of Mission specifically, a critically

rare population of the Red listed Oregon forest snail has been found. Important habitat features include the presence of groves of large diameter big leaf maples, deep leaf litter, abundant coarse woody debris, and under storey plant species that require abundant moisture. Potential threats to Oregon forest snail include habitat loss and degradation, competition from and presence of exotic plants and

animals, and pesticide use. Many additional species in the Silverdale area are on the Blue List including the Red-legged frog, Water Pepper, Side Band, Band tailed Pigeon, and Western Screech Owl. Unfortunately, none of these species are protected as SARA legislation applies to government owned land and BC and Alberta do not have legislation to protect endangered wildlife on privately owned lands.

Through learning everything you can about the Ecosystems

and Species appearing on the Red and Blue Lists, through teaching others, including children, what you have learned about those subjects, through discussions with others, and by applying good conservation methods in your own lives, and by modeling that to others, you can accomplish tremendous things to ensure a healthy survival for the ecosystem, plant and animal species, including our own species!

For more information on SARA including concerns about community sustainability and enforcement of the legislation see www.newcity.ca. Another government venture, The South Coast Conservation Program (SCCP) was developed through "shared stewardship" in order to assist those "species and ecosystems" deemed at risk. For further information, their website address is www.sccp.ca

Val Pack, Mission



Strange bedfellows: Be Aware Of Invasive Plants in Your Own Neighbourhood

It's that time of year again when many of us head out to the local nursery to buy plants for our yards and gardens. But did you know that some of those plants or shrubs can be extremely invasive and can have a very detrimental effect on our environment.

First of all, what is an invasive plant? An invasive plant is one that is not native to our region and tends to grow rapidly, spread quickly and can grow in a variety of different habitats. Because these plants are not native to the area, the natural environment lacks the controls to keep them from spreading. Invasive plants will out-compete native plants and can drastically reduce the biodiversity within a natural area, they can also create fire hazards and some are even toxic to animals and humans.

Thousands of dollars are spent each year trying to control and reduce the spread of invasive species. As individuals we can contribute to these actions by following some simple steps. First, be aware, learn which plant species are invasive and choose not to plant them in your garden. Unfortunately at this point there are no regulations to prevent nurseries from selling invasive species. We as consumers need to stop purchasing invasive species in order to show that there is no longer a demand for these plants and hopefully urge nurseries to stop selling them. Secondly, we all need to remember that not all green waste is good waste and that we should be more conscious of our disposal methods. It is common to see landscaping materials or household garden waste dumped along a roadside, ditch or ravine. Many people think that it will simply decompose; unfortunately with invasives this will not be the case. This scenario provides the perfect opportunity for them to spread and disrupt a natural ecosystem. And thirdly, you may discover that you already have invasives growing on your property, so take control. Either remove the species and dispose of them properly or try to keep it contained if too difficult to remove. Even though we may think it is okay to grow it in our own backyard, many species are adapted to escape from your garden into new areas, without you potentially even knowing.

There are many invasive plants that we need to be aware of and that many of us may already have growing in our gardens, however it is never too late to recognize the issue and to hopefully create

a change in behaviour. One species I would like to highlight is a plant called Yellow Archangel "*Lamium galeobdolon*" which is a trailing, evergreen, groundcover with white and yellow heart-shaped leaves. It most often is introduced by dumped hanging baskets and can spread very quickly. Avoid purchasing this plant individually or in a planter or hanging basket. This plant should not be composted and should be either deposited in a landfill or burned.



Yellow Archangel "*Lamium galeobdolon*"

For further information on invasive species go to www.fraservalleyweeds.com, which is the website for the newly formed Fraser Valley Invasive Plant Council.

Zoey Slater, Mission

Notes from the Hinterland

Are Native plants the “0” mile diet?

Tracy Lyster, Siverdale

There is a wealth of wild berries throughout the forests of Mission and Abbotsford. While they are delicious, and fun to collect, edible berries also contain vital nutrients important in maintaining our health. For instance, huckleberries and blueberries contain vitamins E, C & A, as well as small amounts of iron, copper, potassium and calcium. Another member of that genus – cranberries - are high in vitamin C as well as dietary fiber. Planting these drought resistant wild berries in your yard attracts song birds and hummingbirds. The shrubs have beautiful fall colour, and require no pesticides.

Wild berries can be found in many different locations, from the wild, forested mountains to the suburban and rural hedgerows. Huckleberries tend to be found in forested areas throughout the Pacific Northwest. Wild strawberries are often found in woodlands. As with other wild foods, remember to collect them from locations that are clean, and pollution-free. Do not collect from busy roadsides, or near industrial areas where pollutants tend to accumulate. Take care not to harm the plants and they will continue to produce for years.

Here is a list of some of the edible berries found in Mission and Abbotsford

Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)
Oval-leaved blueberry (*Vaccinium ovalifolium*)
Red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*)
Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)
Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*)
Creeping Oregon-grape (*Mahonia nervosa*)
Bunchberry (*Cornus Canadensis*)
Wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)

Kitchen Companions: Oregon Grape “*Mahonia Nervosa*”

Oregon grape is a wonderful find in nature. The blue berries that grow in clumps can be used to make jelly. This plant was widely sought after by First Nations people and is a high quality berry that goes very well with turkey as a natural substitute for cranberry sauce.



The common thread: What on earth is going on in Mission?

New gravel mine proposed for Silverdale.

Walter Neufeld raises serious issues with regard to the process in which gravel pits can be approved in one's community with little or no public consultation. Residents of Silverdale living on and near Shaw Street, found that in the blink of an eye, a third gravel pit was on the books for their neighbourhood. They were told there was nothing Mission could or would do to prevent large transport and gravel trucks from using the narrow winding road to the proposed pit. They were told that there was nothing Mission could or would do to prohibit the pit's noise or dust. Concerns about the safety of school buses sharing the residential roads with loaded gravel truck traffic were also met with the "not our responsibility" response. These residents had been told that a previous gravel pit would be fast tracked into a passive park; a promise which now seems highly unlikely with a third pit opening in the area. As Mr. Neufeld states, public confidence in government is undermined when governments elected to represent the public interest disregard citizen concerns.

Junction sized shopping development near Silverdale Creek Wetlands threatens environmentally sensitive ravines and streams.

At the same time concerned citizens are raising the alarm about plummeting wild salmon and species at risk, Mission council is supporting an application for "harmful alteration, disruption, and destruction of fish habitat" in a sensitive ravine and stream ecosystem near Wren and Lougheed. On April 19/10 Mission council voted 4:2 to reject a recommendation from scientists from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) after telling concerned residents that council varied their own Streamside Protection Bylaw in order to hear what DFO had to say. According to DFO section head Craig Scainkowsky's report March 18/10, the plan to fill two ravine ecosystems and tributaries of the highly sensitive Silverdale Creek wetlands, in order to build a large shopping mall near Wren and Lougheed, would result in the loss of over 65,000 m² of critical habitat. DFO recommends that the plan be redesigned or relocated in order to protect habitat necessary for the health and survival of the

wild salmon and trout of Silverdale Creek. Instead of heeding DFO's recommendation, council voted to write MP Randy Kamp to urge DFO to change the recommendation. Not only is Mission council again failing to stand behind its one and only environmental protection bylaw, they have taken the added step of attempting to override expert opinion by exerting political pressure on the fisheries scientist.

CAUSS hosts welcome for the Sacred Salmon Migration at the Stave River.

Members of CAUSS rallied their support for the Paddle for Wild Salmon by hosting a welcome for the paddlers at the Stave River near Ruskin Friday April 30/10. Throughout the years, the Stave has been subject to extensive development including two hydroelectric dams which led to a precipitous plummet of the once prolific run. CAUSS conducted a ceremony in honour of protecting the Stave, which is again being threatened, this time with a major residential development at Silvermere Island. Paddlers Tracy Lyster and Don Mair, who had paddled with the migration from Hope to the Stave, were met by members of CAUSS and friends with pages of signed petitions asking for the immediate removal of open net fish farms.

Call to Silverdale Residents Interested in a Local Community Market

We all value locally grown foods. Let's have some fun showcasing the bounty of our gardens, veggies, flowers, eggs, and preserves with our community. Meet your neighbours and show people how easy and satisfying it is to eat locally.

If you are interested, please contact Phyllis at 604 826-5185 or Tracy at 604 820-7592

The Footprint Press is published 4 times/year as a non-profit community newspaper. Articles are submitted by dedicated residents wishing to share their vision of a more sustainable and just society and who seek to live harmoniously with nature. Circulation is 2000+ on 100% recycled paper. The paper can also be viewed on-line at FootprintPress.ca. Your support is appreciated and your participation is very welcome.

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