

Like

Message from the Coordinator

Please join us to celebrate, learn and network at the **2015 Celebration of Collective Impact on Thursday November 26th** in West Kelowna. We'll be helping the Okanagan Basin Water Board celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant program. This will be an excellent opportunity to hear about the work of past and ongoing projects and learn about funding opportunities from several water and environmental funders. More information and registration is available [here](#). We hope to see you there!

Carol
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Partner & Conservation News

Expansion of floodplains and riparian areas for Mission Creek is underway

Mission Creek Restoration Initiative

The Mission Creek Restoration Initiative (MCRI) is moving ahead with Phase-1 construction under the watchful eye of its new project coordinator, Steve Matthews. With 38 years of provincial fisheries and related project management experience, Matthews is highly qualified to provide practical leadership that supports MCRI's vision of restoring and protecting Mission Creek to enrich historical, ecological, and recreational values for the Okanagan. Matthews will begin by organizing and overseeing the set back of portions of the south dike between Casorso Road and Gordon Drive. This expansion of floodplains and riparian areas, which began in October, will help to increase fish habitat and populations. Complementary objectives are to expand biodiversity and species at risk, improve flood protection, and inspire and support community stewardship.



Steve Matthews is the new project coordinator for the Mission Creek Restoration Initiative.



Cherry Creek benefits from SHIM mapping and a new hydrometric monitoring station

Cherry Ridge Management Committee Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping (SHIM) is being conducted on Cherry Creek by [Ecoscape](#) with assistance from Natalie Ford. They have found several areas in need of mitigation and restoration work. The SHIM work is a part of a larger Watershed Study that was initially sponsored by WVPAC Community Works (Federal Gas Tax) and since has been augmented with funds from the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (thanks to funding from Environment Canada, the National Conservation Plan and the Real Estate Foundation of BC) and Claude Labine's generous donation of a hydrometric station to scientifically measure water volumes in Cherry Creek. Dr. Natasha Neumann of UBCO has selected a data collection site and the unit will be installed this year just below the Sugar Lake Road bridge.



Rob Wagner from Ecoscape conducting Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping on Cherry Creek to support the Cherry Creek Watershed Study and identify target areas for restoration.

How Do We Get From Here to There? Traveling the Green Highway

RDCO Regional Parks Our new exhibit inside the [Environmental Education Centre for the Okanagan](#) (EECO) focuses on connections between animals and their environment. '**How Do We Get From Here to There? Traveling the Green Highway**' promotes the importance of preserving habitat corridors in our environment. Come follow the lives of a badger, a bighorn sheep, a spade-foot and a gopher snake through the seasons!



The exhibit "How do we get from here to there" is leaving the Allan Brooks Nature Centre in Vernon and is heading to the Environmental Education Centre for the Okanagan in Kelowna.

The EECO is the second stop for the OCCP public education exhibit on "*Keeping Nature in Our Future, A Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Okanagan Region*" about how communities can protect habitat for the benefit of local residents as well as wildlife. The exhibit is funded by Environment Canada's EcoAction Program, TELUS, Okanagan Basin Water Board and Vancouver Foundation with in-kind support from several education centres.

The EECO is located in [Mission Creek Regional Park](#) (Springfield and Durnin Roads). The EECO is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

For more information visit the [Regional District website](#) or contact the EECO at 250-469-6140, email eeeco@cord.bc.ca or drop into the [Centre](#).

The Nature Trailer is heading to Penticton!

Growing public awareness of nature is fun and the [Nature Trailer](#) is no exception with hands-on, all-ages-appropriate and nature-oriented activities designed and delivered to provide experiential learning opportunities for everyone. So far the trailer has been hosted at the 5-day Interior Provincial Exhibition (IPE) in Armstrong, ABNC on-site Fundraiser in Vernon, Vernon New Car Dealers Association Fundraiser, Kokanee Salmon Festival in Kelowna, and River's Day in Vernon. The Nature Trailer is heading down to Penticton for the [Community Stewardship Event at Ellis Creek Basin](#) on November 7th and the [Okanagan River Restoration Initiative \(ORRI\)](#) Restoration Planting at Penticton Channel Spawning Beds 3 on November 8th. See events listing below for more details.



There are over 16 organizations providing either funding or in-kind support for the Nature Trailer. Coordinated in partnership with the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program, the Okanagan-Similkameen Stewardship Society and the Allan Brooks Nature Centre, the Nature Trailer is currently receiving funding from Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Grant program, Telus, the Vancouver Foundation, and the Honda Canada Foundation, among others.

New Pollinator Garden at Okanagan Landing School in Vernon

Okanagan Landing School

On October 27th, students at Okanagan Landing School planted a new Pollinator Garden on their school property. This project helps students understand the important connections between pollinators and a healthy ecosystem as well as increasing student engagement through designing, planting and tending the new garden, contributing to the restoration and enhancement of the hillside on school grounds by removing invasive weeds, as well as growing and planting native species to reduce erosion or provide habitat for caterpillars and bees. The garden has perennials as well as shrubs and annuals to support pollinators. A number of plants that are also important to the local Okanagan First Nations people are among the some 300 plants in this garden area which also has sitting areas and places for students to learn first hand about conservation and environmental stewardship.



Students planting the new Pollinator Garden at Okanagan Landing School in Vernon under the watchful eye of Buffy Baumbrough from Dusty Shovel Gardens

Students will also be creating a variety of artistic representations of their learning and sending Monarch butterfly-themed pieces to be displayed at the [Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History](#) in California as part of the quest to restore western Monarch butterfly populations from Canada to Mexico. This project was made possible through a tremendous amount of community interest and many generous in-kind donations and funding from several sources including the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (thanks to funding from the National Conservation Plan and the Real Estate Foundation of BC). The [Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society](#) will be helping to maintain the garden in the summer months.

Got great photos? Enter the HCTF BC photo Contest!

Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation

The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation's Second Annual Photo Contest is now open! We're looking for spectacular images of BC's fish, wildlife and habitats, specifically:

- Freshwater fish (species native to BC)
- BC Wildlife (excluding marine mammals and those in captivity)
- Landscape photos of freshwater fish and wildlife habitats, including lakes, rivers, wetlands, forests, and grasslands.
- People engaged in activities that connect them with BC's fish, wildlife and habitats.

We've doubled the prize amounts this year, with a \$500 VISA gift card for first place, and two runner-up prizes of a \$250 VISA gift card. For full contest rules and digital entry forms, visit [here](#).

Entry deadline is December 31st, 2015.

You can view a gallery of last year's winners [here](#).

The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) provides money for fish, wildlife and habitat projects in BC. Funding for these projects primarily comes from conservation surcharges on angling, hunting, trapping and guide outfitting licences sold in BC.



Conferences & Workshops

11th annual BC Interior Stewardship Workshop

November 4 & 5 2015

Enderby & Grindrod

The Fraser Basin Council will be hosting its 11th annual BC Interior Stewardship Workshop in Enderby and Grindrod. Together with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans they have prepared an excellent line up of guest speakers and field tours. Registration is required. Contact the [Fraser Basin Council](#) Kamloops Office for more information.

Biodiversity Series: Partners in Flight and Species at Risk

Thursday November 12th 10:30 am- 5:30 pm

UBC-Okanagan

Join the Okanagan Chapter of the BC Institute of Agrologists (BCIA) and the Okanagan Institute for Biodiversity, Resilience, and Ecosystem Services (BRAES) for an informative and inspiring one day workshop on Partners in Flight and Species at Risk. Guest speakers include Tanya Luszcz, CWS, Environment Canada, Josie Symonds, Ecosystems Biologist, FLNRO, and Danielle Prevost, Conservation Project Development Officer, Environment Canada. UBCO Professor Dr. Carolyn Labun will be facilitating a Professional Writing Workshop: Writing that Snaps! Getting your message across quickly and clearly! More information and registration is available [here](#).

Workshop: Planning for Ecosystem Connectivity in the Central Okanagan

Tuesday November 24th, 8:30-2:00 pm

Registration Deadline: Friday November 13th 5:00 pm

Kelowna

The Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program, in collaboration with the Regional District of the Central Okanagan, the Complex Environmental Systems Lab at UBC-Okanagan, and the Washington-BC Transboundary Connectivity Working Group is hosting a workshop on Ecosystem Connectivity. Current research and maps will be shared and participants will have the opportunity to:

- * Learn about ecosystem connectivity planning tools,
- * Identify important potential wildlife habitat corridors in the Central Okanagan,
- * Share your knowledge about which corridors should be prioritized for protection and/or restoration, and
- * Propose an actionable strategy for on-the ground implementation of restoration/protection of corridors.

This workshop is targeted to: municipal planners and staff, provincial and federal governments, First Nations, land trusts, stewardship groups, and others interested in protecting ecosystem connectivity. More information and registration is available [here](#).

Events

Ellis Creek Basin Community Stewardship & Nature Trailer Exhibit

Saturday November 8 9:00-12:00 AM

Ellis Creek Basin

The Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society has done a number of plantings in the Ellis Basin in the past with TD friends of the Environment, The South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program and BC nature kids. We need your help getting all those plants ready for winter so they can flourish next spring. The Allan Brooks Nature Trailer will be making its first appearance in the South Okanagan at this event so come by and check out their fun and interactive displays! [More Information](#).

Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) Restoration Planting & Nature Trailer Exhibit

Sunday November 8th, 10:00 AM
Penticton Channel Spawning Beds

Earlier this fall ORRI completed a third spawning bed in the Penticton Channel downstream from spawning beds 1 and 2 which were completed last year just below the drop from Okanagan Lake into the Channel. The new bed is just south of the hwy 97 bridge near West Bench Hill Road.

Now it is time to plant native species in soil that was disturbed during construction. Volunteers have been wonderfully supportive of ORRI projects assisting us with planting. If you are able to help please bring gloves, a shovel or garden fork. If you do not have a tool but can help we will have a few extra shovels on hand.

The Nature Trailer will also be on-site providing hands-on, all-ages-appropriate nature-oriented activities along with information and resources about the ORRI project and terrestrial and river stewardship.

Park on Riverside Drive close to where it enters hwy 97 or in the parking lot of the shopping mall. Cross the highway, walk across the bridge and enter the site immediately after crossing the bridge. Signage will be in place. Questions or RSVP - Lee, mariposaorgf "at" hotmail "dot" com

Science in Society Speaker Series: *Where the ocean meets the rainforest: exploring Canada's Great Bear Rainforest*

Monday November 9th 2015, 7:30 pm
Okanagan College, Vernon Campus, Lecture Theatre

Join Ian McAllister, long-time Great Bear Rainforest resident, co-founder and Executive Director of the wildlife conservation organization Pacific Wild, award-winning photographer and author of six books including *Great Bear Wild*, as he describe his efforts to generate a more complete picture of the B.C coast from both below and above the water.

This is part of the Science in Society Speaker Series. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. [More information.](#)

HOMEMADE HOLIDAY GIFTING

Saturday November 14th, 12:00-3:00 pm
Schubert Centre, Vernon

Homemade Holiday Gifting- the 4th annual event! Come, bring the kids, and experience (with 'take-home' instructions) short, easy, but cost effective demos for foods, sachets, toys, knitting, kids' toys, candles, soaps and more! Let's get away from consumerism and put the heart back in the holidays! Schubert Centre's Thrift Store and cafe will be open! Sponsors: [Vernon in Transition](#) and [Sustainable Environment Network Society](#).

Science in Society Speaker Series: *Are humans really smarter than insects?*

Tuesday November 24th 2015, 7:30 pm

Okanagan College, Vernon Campus, Lecture Theatre

Join Dr. Jeremy McNeill, from Western University for his informative and exciting talk to explore the question *Are humans really smarter than insects?*

This is part of the Science in Society Speaker Series. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. [More information](#).

Please visit the OCCP website at www.okcp.ca and 'Like' the OCCP Facebook Page.



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