



NEWS RELEASE

Stoney Creek Salmon Set to Prosper Thanks to New Culvert Installation

Abbotsford, October 15, 2007 – Abbotsford continues to demonstrate its leadership and commitment to improving the sustainability of its local ecosystems with the recent installation of a new culvert in Stoney Creek at Bateman Road. This structural enhancement will expand the spawning habitat and contribute to greater juvenile salmon production from the creek.

The City of Abbotsford and various companies, organizations and levels of government collaborated to replace the old culverts which restricted fish passage and negatively impacted spawning opportunities. A significant portion of the project involved salvaging the existing fish population. Crews and volunteers temporarily relocated over 2,000 juvenile coho, cutthroat trout and rainbow trout as well as numerous crayfish and eels by the thousands.

“Protecting and enhancing our local ecology is very important. If we want continued enjoyment of our natural fisheries resources we need to invest in our watercourses,” said Abbotsford Mayor George F. Ferguson. “Abbotsford is fortunate to have several companies committed to environmental stewardship willing to take part in this project.”

The Bateman Road culvert project was a collaborative effort involving the City of Abbotsford, the Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition, the Fraser Valley Regional District, the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, the Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association, the Fraser Valley Conservancy, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Funding for the project was provided by the Pacific Salmon Foundation and the City of Abbotsford, with at-cost or free services and supplies provided by Riverside Equipment, Armtec, Terasen, Telus and DeltaLoc.

The City wishes to thank the area residents for their patience and cooperation while Bateman Road was closed to vehicle traffic from September 10 to 21 as the project was carried out.

To further enhance the fish habitat immediately upstream of Bateman Road, native plants will be added to the stream bank. On October 26, the Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition and the City of Abbotsford will host a public open house and replanting event from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

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