

Stoney Creek

THE GREAT SALMON SEND-OFF

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WITH OVER 200 PARKS, a view of a vast range of mountains, and lush green forests, it's often hard to remember what lies right below our feet in the beautiful city of Burnaby. Crisscrossing Burnaby are streams, ranging from Guichon Creek right by our school, Moscrop Secondary, to little Crab Creek in the upper reaches of Burnaby Mountain. These creeks provide a base for environmental growth and sustainability, and they are natural homes to a large variety of animals and plants. As climate change continues to lead us into unknown territory, it becomes increasingly important to keep an eye on our local creeks. The City of Burnaby has over 90 creeks, many of which have the active support of citizen organizations whose people are committed to keeping these streams viable habitats for native salmon—a keystone species in our ecosystem—and keeping the streams clean. Through their efforts, many Burnaby streams that were once drainage canals and dumping grounds overrun with invasive plants, are thriving biological communities.

In the shadow of Burnaby Mountain, Stoney Creek is home to thousands of returning salmon. Last fall, from the stream bank, chum salmon were clearly visible splashing as they attempted to make their way upstream to spawn on the gravel beds. These spawning salmon signify a healthy ecosystem: 2016 was the best salmon return for Burnaby creeks in 10 years. This is especially significant for Stoney Creek. In October 2015, silt from nearby construction washed into the creek and killed many salmon, unsettled spawning grounds, and threatened the habitat that Stoney Creek stream keepers had worked so hard to restore. Last year, after a great deal of rehab work, locals were excited to see hundreds of salmon returning to Stoney Creek and its tributaries – over 2,400 chum made it back compared to 700 in 2015. However coho salmon, the more endangered of the two types of native salmon, are more indicative of a healthy stream and had yet to make a meaningful return as of November. For-

tunately, work is being done every day to improve the habitats of these species and to bolster chances of survival for the next batch of fish coming in.

The Stoney Creek Environment Committee, a local citizen stewardship group, hosts the Great Salmon Send-Off

each year in May, a community event where families help release young coho salmon into the creek. Many of these salmon return years later when they've matured into adults, which is exactly what stream keepers want. Another event, World Rivers Day, created by BCIT teacher Mark Angelo, has reached out to over 60 countries since its start in 1980, spreading awareness and educating people on the importance of water. The fact is, Burnaby creeks have become





more than just bodies of water in the past century. With the help of enthusiastic community members, the creeks have united volunteers, stream keepers, university researchers and fish alike. The protection of the streams relies on dedicated volunteers who contribute

their time cleaning up the stream, removing invasive plants, replanting native plants, and checking on the health of the creek. Hopefully, with the help of generations to come, streams will continue to thrive in the developing city of Burnaby. ○

SOLAR/LUNAR 2017 TIMES FOR VANCOUVER

(123.1° W, 49.2° N)

Tables indicate peak fish & game activity times

Major.....2 hours F..... Full Moon
Minor.....1 hour N..... New Moon
Q.....quarter >..... Peak Activity

Times will change 1 minute for each 12 miles east (-) or west (+) of longitude 123° W.

	AM		PM			AM		PM	
	minor	major	minor	major		minor	major	minor	major
MARCH 1	7:22	1:09	7:48	1:35	1	10:03	3:48	10:32	4:17
2	8:20	2:07	8:46	2:33	2	11:06	4:51	11:35	5:20
3	9:19	3:06	9:47	3:33	3	Q	-----	5:52	12:06
4	10:19	4:05	10:46	4:32	4	12:34	6:48	1:02	7:16
5	Q	11:16	5:02	11:45	5	1:27	7:40	1:54	8:07
6	-----	5:58	12:12	6:27	6	2:15	8:28	2:41	8:53
7	12:37	6:51	1:06	7:20	7	3:00	9:12	3:24	9:37
8	1:28	7:42	1:56	8:10	8	3:43	9:55	4:06	10:18
9	2:18	8:31	2:44	8:58	9	>	4:25	10:36	4:47
10	3:05	9:18	3:31	9:44	10	>	5:07	11:18	5:29
11	>	3:52	10:05	4:17	11	F	5:51	-----	6:13
12	>	5:39	11:51	6:03	12	>	6:37	12:26	6:59
13	F	6:27	12:15	6:50	13	>	7:24	1:13	7:47
14	>	7:15	1:04	7:37	14	8:14	2:03	8:37	2:25
15	>	8:04	1:53	8:26	15	9:05	2:54	9:28	3:17
16	8:54	2:43	9:16	3:05	16	9:57	3:45	10:20	4:09
17	9:43	3:32	10:06	3:55	17	10:48	4:36	11:12	5:00
18	10:33	4:22	10:56	4:44	18	Q	11:39	5:27	-----
19	11:22	5:10	11:45	5:34	19	12:05	6:17	12:29	6:41
20	Q	-----	5:59	12:11	20	12:52	7:04	1:17	7:29
21	12:34	6:46	12:58	7:10	21	1:38	7:51	2:03	8:16
22	1:20	7:32	1:45	7:57	22	2:23	8:36	2:49	9:01
23	2:05	8:18	2:31	8:43	23	3:08	9:21	3:34	9:46
24	2:51	9:03	3:16	9:29	24	>	3:54	10:07	4:20
25	>	3:36	9:49	4:01	25	>	4:42	10:55	5:09
26	>	4:22	10:35	4:48	26	N	5:34	11:48	6:02
27	N	5:10	11:23	5:36	27	>	6:32	12:18	7:01
28	>	6:02	11:45	6:28	28	>	7:35	1:20	8:05
29	>	6:57	12:44	7:24	29	8:41	2:26	9:11	2:56
30	>	7:57	1:43	8:24	30	8:48	3:33	10:18	4:03
31	8:59	2:45	9:28	3:13					

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