

COQUITLAM RiverWatch

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MARCH 2014

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 186

RIVERVIEW WALKS & TREE TOURS 2014

Riverview Hospital, 2601 Lougheed Highway, Coquitlam

Meet for walks at Henry Esson Young (HEY) Building. For further information, phone **604-290-9910**
The Riverview Horticulture Centre Society offers private tours for those that require more assistance or just can't fit into the dates and times listed below. To arrange a tour call Norma at **604-942-7378**.

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|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| April 27 | Sunday | 1 pm | Spring Tree TOUR |
| May 4 | Sunday | 1 pm | Mental Health Week WALK to Finnie's Garden |
| May 11 | Sunday | 1 pm | Mother's Day Tree TOUR |
| June 1 | Sunday | 1 pm | WALK to Old Orchard area & Riverview Creek |
| June 8 | Sunday | 1 pm | Early Summer Tree TOUR |
| July 6 | Sunday | 1 pm | Linden Tree TOUR & Tea (1) |
| July 17 | Thursday | 7:30 pm | Linden Tree TOUR & Tea (2) |
| August 10 | Sunday | 1 pm | Catalpa & North-end Tree TOUR |
| September 13 | Saturday | 11 am-4 pm | TREEFEST 2014 |
| October 5 | Sunday | 1 pm | Tree TOUR - Last of the Season |



Frozen Archery Pond in Upper Coquitlam River Park in W-2 by Ian



Fresh beaver activity in E-4 by Susan

FEBRUARY RiverWatchers' REPORTS

Ian (W-1) Feb. 23

The River was clear and at a low level. Slade Creek was clear and flowing. Birds included 2 American Dippers, and a Bald Eagle

Ian (W-2) Feb. 23

The River was clear above and below the gravel operations. It was at a low level. The water level at the Galette gauge was .610 metres. Falacea (Fulawka) Creek (#4) was clear & flowing. Mantle Creek (#6) was clear and flowing. Partridge Creek was clear and flowing. Marquart Creek was cloudy & flowing. Goodyear Creek (#11) was cloudy and flowing. Birds included an American Dipper in the Archery Pond, Belted Kingfisher, and 2 ducks. It is always good to see dippers and kingfishers, so you know there is fish in one form or another in the watercourses. Screw fish counting traps have been installed in the River. There is one just south of Partington Creek with warning signs for anyone coming down the River.

Dave (W-3) Feb. 20

One fisherman was at Galette Park and a group was walking between Galette and McTavish Parks on the river trail. We were surprised to see people on the river trail. The weather hasn't been that good and it can be tricky and slick. McTavish Park gets a lot of neighbourhood use. The house building site off Sultan is getting trashy. Some paper litter was around the litter bin at Galette Park but otherwise the rest of the reach was clean. The River was cloudy and at a normal level. The rain had increased the cloudiness and river level but it was not unusually high. The debris at the north end of the little island opposite McTavish Park has finally been washed downriver. Birds seen included juncos, Steller's Jays, crows and gulls.

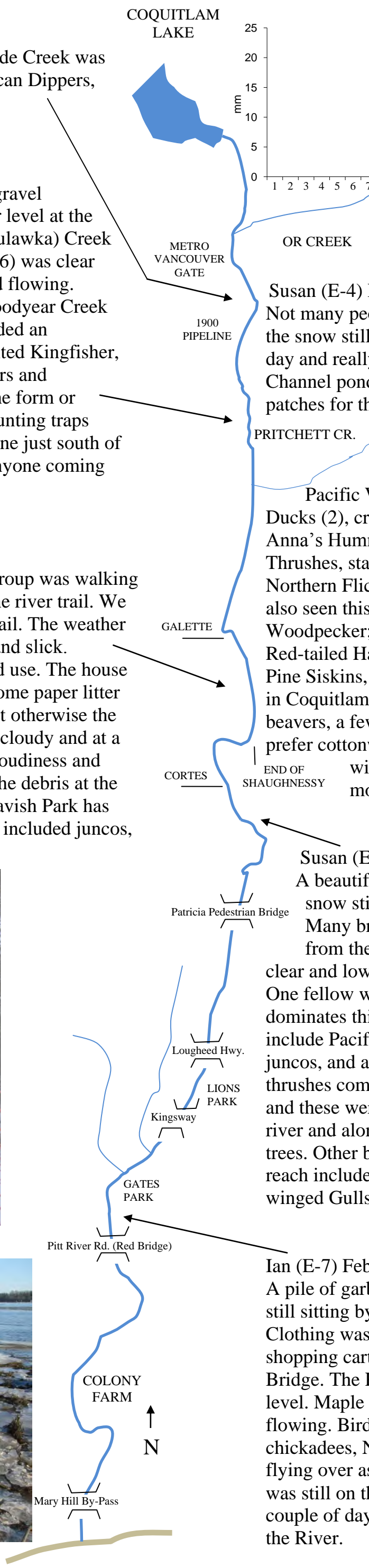
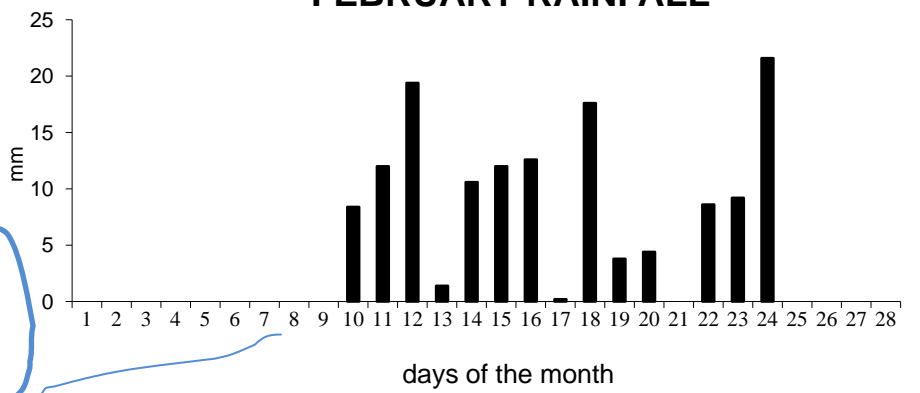


Fencing protecting new pond in UCRP in W-2 by Ian



Ice on Fraser River shore in W-9 by Jeff

FEBRUARY RAINFALL



Susan (E-4) Feb. 25 **Oxbow Side Channels**

Not many people on the paths on this day because of all the snow still on the ground, but it was a bright sunny day and really beautiful in the forest. The Oxbow Side Channel ponds had quite a bit of ice, but lots of open patches for the ducks. They were clear and at a normal level. Birds seen on this day included Black-capped Chickadees, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Downy Woodpecker, Pacific Wren, Mallards, Buffleheads, Ring-necked Ducks (2), crows, Great Blue Heron, Song Sparrow, Anna's Hummingbirds (5!), towhees, juncos, Varied Thrushes, starlings, robin, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Northern Flicker, raven, and Brown Creepers (2). Birds also seen this month along this reach included Hairy Woodpecker; Pileated Woodpeckers, dippers, Merlin, Red-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagles, Common Golden-eye, Pine Siskins, kingfishers. The Merlin was a first for me in Coquitlam River Park. There were also fresh signs of beavers, a few alders being chewed. The beavers seem to prefer cottonwoods but they are nearly all surrounded with wire mesh now, so the beavers are moving onto alders.

Susan (E-3) Feb. 25

A beautiful sunny day with a few centimeters of snow still on the ground and tumbling off the trees. Many broken branches were strewn about the path, from the weight of all the snow. The River was clear and low. Very few people along this reach today. One fellow was fishing, atop the huge boulder that dominates this stretch of the river. Birds seen on this day include Pacific Wren, Black-capped Chickadees, crows, juncos, and a flock of about 10 Varied Thrushes. Varied thrushes come down to lower elevations when it snows, and these were feeding along the mossy rocks beside the river and along the sandy beaches. Lots were also in the trees. Other birds seen thus far this month along this reach include dippers, Common Mergansers, Glaucous-winged Gulls, Mallards, Pileated Woodpecker.

Ian (E-7) Feb. 28

A pile of garbage that had been collected last month was still sitting by the road that leads to the sandy beach. Clothing was left under the Red Bridge. A Target shopping cart was left in the parking lot near the Red Bridge. The River was clear and at a normal to low level. Maple and Scott Creeks appeared clear and flowing. Birds included Spotted Towhees, robins, chickadees, Northern Flicker, crows, and 55 ducks flying over as it was starting to get dark. A little snow was still on the ground with more expected in the next couple of days. It was a lovely evening to be out along the River.

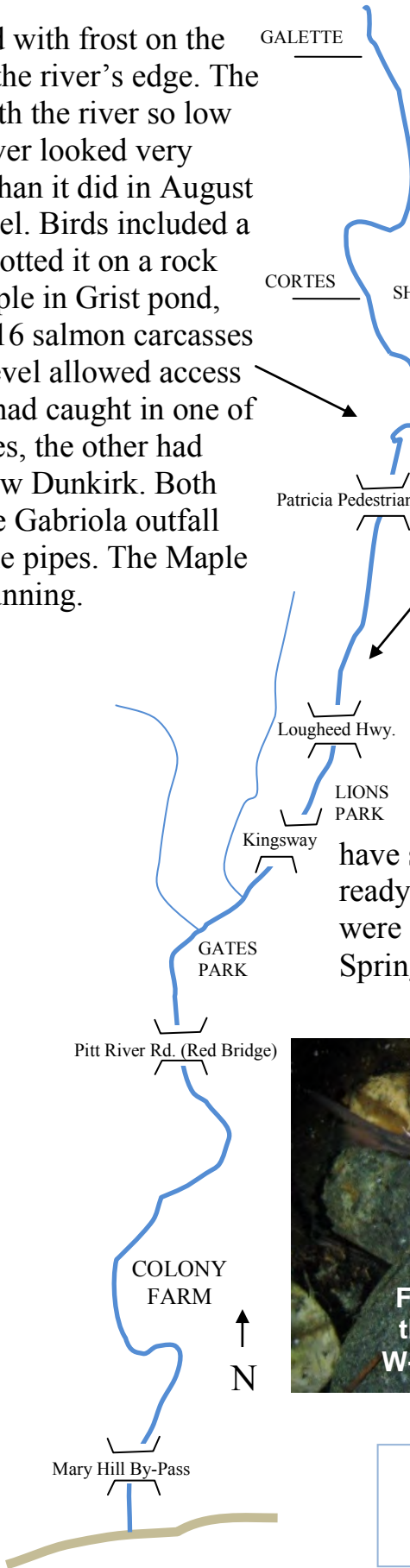
FEBRUARY RiverWatches' REPORT

Jeff (W-4) Feb. 1

The morning was cloudy and cold with frost on the ground and ice on small pools at the river's edge. The River was very low and clear. With the river so low and the trees bare of leaves the river looked very small and narrow, much smaller than it did in August when it was at about the same level. Birds included a dipper – I heard it singing then spotted it on a rock in the river, crows, a Mallard couple in Grist pond, and lots of birdsong. There were 16 salmon carcasses in Grist Channel. The low river level allowed access to two torn rubber rafts, one that had caught in one of the Large Woody Debris structures, the other had caught on a log by the island below Dunkirk. Both had been there for some time. The Gabriola outfall was cloudy with some foam by the pipes. The Maple Creek well and Grist pipe were running.

David (E-5) Feb. 16

The Dog Off Leash Park moderately busy with 5 cars in the parking lot and the Mountain Bike Park was quiet with 1 car and 2 people (father & son). The trail wasn't as busy as I expected for a Sunday afternoon. It was interesting to see that dogs on leash (3) outnumbered dogs off leash (1) for a change! The trail was clean. The Rivers was cloudy and at a normal level. I expected the water to be much muddier but quality not bad considering the recent rains. Birds included Northwestern Crows and 2 American Dippers (singing). It was great to see & hear two American Dippers on the section of the river just south of the Patricia Pedestrian Bridge. They have such a beautiful song. Indian plum ready to burst forth and hazelnut trees were all decked out in their catkins. Spring approaches, if ever so slowly.



Fry under the ice in W-4 by Jeff

Daily Water Quality Checks by Jeff

The River level was very low on the mornings of the 1st to the 11th, high on the 12th, varying between medium and low during 13th to the 21st and very low from the 22nd to the 28th. Water quality was clear from the 1st to the 10th and the 22nd to the 28th. It rained on February 10th with a degradation of water quality during the day. I drove up river doing spot checks - quality was poor at Galette, cloudy at creek 9 and clear at Upper Coquitlam River Park. The river stayed murky or silty from midday on the 10th through to the 20th and was cloudy on the 21st.

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