



The Derby Rag June 2017

Bedford Channel Paddle

Join us Saturday , July 15, 10 am – noon

BRAE ISLAND REGIONAL PARK

Learn to paddle a kayak or be part of a group paddling a 12-seat voyageur canoe. All equipment provided.

Meet at day use parking lot near the park entrance



Environmental Hero's Award Nomination

This is the 11th year that Langley MP Mark Warawa has hosted the Langley Environmental Hero Awards, which recognize a student, an individual and an organization or business, for their contributions toward a healthier environment for all Canadians.

Derby Reach/Brae Island Parks Association was honoured to be nominated in the Organization category.

This is a program offered in partnership with MP for Langley-Aldergove Mark Warawa, MP for Cloverdale-Langley City John Aldag, the Langley Times, Langley Township, City of Langley, The Fort Langley National Historic Site, TD Bank and



LEPS.

Congratulations to all of the winners!

Viewing Platform Grand Opening

May 24, 2017 was a very special evening for Derby Reach Brae Island Parks Association. The wildlife viewing platform off the Houston Trail was officially opened.

A crowd of DRBIPA supporters and volunteers all gathered on the new ramp, the bench and around the platform railings. Joakim Nilsson, chair of DRBIPA, held "centre platform," welcoming everyone and thanking the donors and volunteers who made the project possible.

He was followed by Jeremy Smith, a longtime DRBIPA member and former chair, who outlined the enormous contribution of Bays Blackhall to Derby Reach Regional Park, Houston Trail and indeed all of Fort Langley. He concluded with the suggestion the Langley Bog be renamed Blackhalls Bog in her honour.

Wendy DaDalt, Metro Vancouver division manager East Area, rounded off the official speeches but not before there was an unscheduled flypast by a pileated woodpecker followed by a blackheaded grosbeak just to emphasize this *is* a wildlife viewing platform. The evening ended with wonderfully-decorated cake for all.



Bill Wilde



Roger Bean



Joakim Nilsson, DRBIPA Chair

Corbicula - A Species First for Brae Island and Perhaps Metro Vancouver Regional Parks

While helping build the wattle wall on the shore of Brae Island I came across a small clam half buried in the mud/sand. I took the empty shell home and photographed it. Comparing my photographs to those on E-Fauna suggested it was a fingernail clam. Unfortunately, I was wrong!



Upon contacting the E-Fauna specialist in freshwater molluscs I quickly learned my shell was too big and not found in quite the right sort of place. My supposedly rare find was not only not rare but highly invasive. It was identified as *Corbicula fluminea* (or, in translation, little basket clam of the river, because of prominent ridges on the outer shell and its preferred habitat) which is now entered into e-fauna (<http://ibis.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/efauna/>).

Corbicula fluminea is a small Asian clam living in mud/sand sediment and can achieve prodigious concentrations that can clog intake pipes of water treatment plants or hydro-electric installations. Identification was confirmed on the basis of a distinctive set of cardinal and lateral teeth.

I went back in the following days and found many more shells, all empty. At this point the shells seem to be restricted to a short intertidal section of beach west of the new canoe launch on Brae Island. So far, I have not found any live animals still at home.

There is no evidence of detrimental effects on native molluscs (yet) nor intraspecific competition for food. World-wide, *Corbicula* is an important human food source. Who knew that one could beach comb on Brae Island. Now I'm searching for a freshwater mussel.

For more photographs taken in and around our parks check out Jeremy Smith in e-flora <http://ibis.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/eflora/>.

Joan Martin



Packaged *Corbicula* clams can now be found in the frozen foods sections of larger Asian groceries throughout the United States. These are labeled as "small shell clams" and a product of China. There is also a "baby clam" size available, product of Vietnam. Packages were \$2.79 for the 340 g "12 oz." larger shell size and \$3.89 for a 400 g "14 oz." package of "baby" clams.
Listed nutrition facts:
71 Calories, 1.7 g total fat, 0 g saturated fat, 0 g trans fat, 146 mg cholesterol, 1770.5 mg sodium, 8.9 g total carb, 0 g dietary fiber, 0 g sugars, 4.8 g protein, 10% dv vitamin C, 39% dv calcium, and 11.4% dv iron. The high sodium suggests the addition of salt, even though it is not shown as an ingredient.



Special Access Bog Walk with David Clements



The Freshet Has Come, and (Hopefully) Gone

With a mix of hot days and rainy days, the Fraser River rose quickly in the first days of June. While far lower than the freshet of 2012, the high water forced the closure of the campsite at Edgewater Bar on the June 3-4 weekend.

The path at Marina Park in Fort Langley was underwater, as was the last 50 metres of Tavistock Point on Brae Island. The fast water meant that most rowing and paddling activities were cancelled on the Bedford Channel.

By June 11, the water had dropped 60 centimetres, but it is forecast to rise again around June 15, depending on rainfall amounts.
