

Area H Update. March 7, 2025

1. **FireSmart-** It's spring and time for yard clean up. Please consider limbing your trees, removing dead leaves and such from around the house or under the deck, and removing dead trees and shrubs. If you'd like more ideas of how to FireSmart your home please take a look at their website. <https://firesmartbc.ca/>. If you would like a free home assessment or wish to speak to a person about FireSmart, please contact Andrew Schellenberg at FVRD. firesmart@fvrd.ca
2. **Fire Departments-** Many thanks to Cultus Lake and Columbia Valley Fire Departments. Both departments do an outstanding job of keeping us safe through their dedication and ongoing training. They are currently working with other departments to learn more about Wildland Fire Protection Training. This is good news for our area.
3. **Cultus Lake Waste Water Treatment Plant-**Testing the system has begun and they are gearing up for the raw sewer commissioning, which is scheduled for early April. A grand opening should be happening in May.
4. **Trishaw Ride Program-** I have been asked to share some information about this program that some of you in Area H may be interested in. For more information please read below and check their website.

My name is Owen Swan and I am the Coordinator for UFV's Trishaw Rides Program. I'm looking to promote our program more extensively throughout the Chilliwack community, we seek to enable older adults with mobility issues to access the outdoors, which we do by taking seniors for a 1-hour ride along the Vedder River Rotary Trail in Chilliwack with a three-wheel bike known as the Trishaw. The program is volunteer driven and free of charge. More information on the program can be viewed on our website: <https://www.ufv.ca/aging/ufv-trishaw-rides/>

5. **Lakeside Trail Parking-** The Lakeside Trail is maintained by FVRD using Area H tax dollars. The trail currently runs from Frost Creek Bridge to Maple Bay and from Entrance Bay to Sunnyside Campground. As you know, the road is narrow and it's a tight fit. Part of the trail has delineators especially around the Condo section, there are some sections with a non standard barrier (the fencing) and other sections are left open for a variety of reasons. Recently, parking on the trail has increased. Some of it has to do with gravel trucks dropping their trailers and then dumping fill and returning to pick up the trailer. Sometimes it's just vehicles parked along the trail while they visit or work. Parking on the trail damages it and creates an added expense for Area H taxpayers. It also forces riders and pedestrians out onto the road. If you live in any of the strata developments along the trail please ask your guests not to park on the trail. If you see gravel trucks parking there the proper procedure is to call CVSE 1-888-775-8785. You could also email Ministry of Transportation so they are aware of the trucks. Neal.moulton@gov.bc.ca Thank you for your help and support with this.
6. **Blue Creek-** In Columbia Valley, the Blue Creek project continues. The contractor is making good progress and is currently within the planned schedule. They have completed the stretch of Blue Creek downstream of Kosikar and are now installing plants. They took a "bioengineering" approach for the creek; which means that we don't simply install hard rock

(riprap) to protect the banks, but combine the hard surfaces with "soft" protection = plants; this is a much more natural approach. This week, the contractor is replacing the culvert on Kosikar Road.

Next week, the contractor will continue to work on the creek armoring upstream - from the Kosikar Road culvert towards the US-border. Subsequently, they will move over to the Kettle. More sediment will be removed from the Kettle, which will happen once the water level has dropped and it is safe to do the work. At that time, they plan to replace the Maple Falls Road culvert with a concrete box culvert. Maple Falls Road may be closed for up to one week during replacement. I will provide more information to local residents, as I receive it. The current schedule sees the contractor completed and moved out by the end of April. However, it all depends on cooperation of the weather.

I recently met with another Columbia Valley resident and MLA Warbus to discuss concerns with the potential impact large scale clear cutting may have in the Blue Creek and Frost Creek Watersheds. She is working with us to help raise awareness at the provincial level.

- 7. CLASS-** Cultus Lake Stewards continue to work hard to protect the health of Cultus Lake. We have both been invited by Fraser Basin Council to meet with the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Randene Neill. This will give us all a chance to share some of the work currently underway at Cultus Lake but also, to discuss what type of support is needed from the province to help protect the health of the lake. It is a good opportunity for our area.

CLASS meets virtually at 9:30 on the last Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to attend. <https://cultusstewards.ca/home> to sign up for a link.

- 8. Daylight Savings** Time begins on Sunday March 9th. Remember to spring the clocks ahead one hour.

If you have questions, concerns or need some information, please feel free to connect with me. I'm always happy to help.

Taryn

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