



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

APRIL
2017
—
MARCH
2018

Photo Credit: Darren Robinson Photography

Who We Are

About the Shuswap Watershed Council

The SWC was established in 2014 as a watershed-based partnership to enhance water quality and safe recreation in the Shuswap. There are 17 members that represent three regional districts, two municipalities, the Secwepemc Nation, two provincial government agencies and Shuswap communities. The SWC is a collaborative, non-regulatory group. It works alongside organizations that have regulatory roles in managing the Shuswap watershed, complimenting their work and carefully avoiding duplication.

Staff

The Fraser Basin Council, a provincial non-government organization, provides staff services to the Shuswap Watershed Council.

Our Vision

Enhanced water quality that supports human and ecosystem health and the local economy in the Shuswap watershed.

What We Do

Our Objectives

The SWC's objectives are to maintain and enhance water quality in the Shuswap watershed through collaboration with water quality monitors; to coordinate and report on water quality in the Shuswap; to inform residents and visitors about water quality in the Shuswap, and advocate for good practices to prevent water quality degradation; and to encourage safe behaviour by recreationists on and near water.

The Work

The SWC's work on water quality and safe water-based recreation is guided by its five-year plan.

2017 was the second year of program operations for the SWC. [Here are the highlights of what was done for water quality monitoring, water quality protection, and safe recreation.](#)



Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Shuswap Watershed Council, I'm very pleased to report on the conclusion of another very successful year as part of our five-year plan. Key initiatives for the SWC include a Water Quality Program, comprised of a Water Protection Initiative and Water Monitoring Initiative, a Safe Recreation Program, and Communications and Advocacy on behalf of important issues related to the health of the Shuswap watershed.

This Annual Report for April 2017–March 2018 provides you with a brief overview of the SWC's

ongoing activities. The bottom line is that we achieved or exceeded all of our key objectives while maintaining expenses that were well below budget. This year, a new advocacy initiative will be launched in order to inform and educate the public about the risks that zebra and quagga mussels pose to our watershed thereby reducing the chance of an accidental introduction. To learn more about the Shuswap Watershed Council, please visit our website at www.shuswapwater.ca.

Paul Demenok

Columbia Shuswap Regional District Area C—South Shuswap

Water Quality Program

The SWC completed or continued work on three projects within its **Water Monitoring Initiative**:

- 1 Facilitated meetings of the **Shuswap Water Quality monitoring Group**, which is made up of several organizations that are responsible for monitoring in the Shuswap. This enables **dialogue, information-sharing, and planning**.

17

different agencies are involved in water quality monitoring

700+

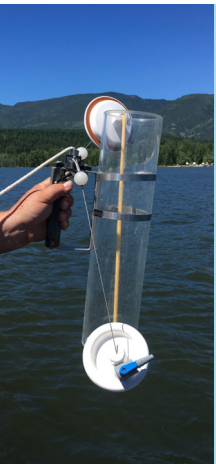
water samples collected and analyzed in 2017

- 2 Provided **\$18,000 in support of an expanded monitoring program** in the Salmon River. This was the second year of a three-year partnership project with the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy to more intensely monitor the water quality of the Salmon River.

- 3 Led a special monitoring project in Salmon Arm Bay to **test for the presence of nonylphenols**, a substance of emerging concern that is not routinely monitored.

The results from this monitoring project are good! Nonylphenols were not detected in lake water quality samples. For more information, visit the SWC's website or see the *2017 Shuswap Water Quality Summary Report* (available June 2018).

This "Van Dorn" sampler is used to collect deep water samples



The SWC continued work on two projects within its **Water Protection Initiative**:

- 1 Facilitated meetings of the **Water Protection Advisory Committee**, whose role is to make recommendations to the SWC on projects related to water quality restoration, education, and partnership opportunities
- 2 Carried out the second year of a **three-year research project with UBC–Okanagan** to determine the sources of nutrients in the Shuswap and Salmon Rivers

Nutrients have long been of interest in the Shuswap because of their importance to lake health and productivity, and their ability to trigger an algae bloom. The SWC is committed to this research project because the results will help to answer the following questions:



Are there excess nutrients in the rivers that are not from the natural environment?

If so, where are they coming from and how are they being transported into the rivers?

Having answers to these questions will help inform better nutrient management to protect our water quality.

Additionally, the SWC entered into an agreement with the Gardom Lake Stewardship Society, and is contributing \$10,000 toward a wetland restoration project the Society is leading. This will improve water quality flowing into Gardom Lake.

Wetlands are exceptional at improving water quality because they capture nutrients and sediment. Size for size, small wetlands—such as this one—are the most effective!

A volunteer with the Gardom Lake Stewardship Society is marking out where a wetland will be established near Gardom Lake
Photo courtesy of Gardom Lake Stewardship Society





The Shuswap—and all of BC—remains invasive mussel-free. The SWC is helping to keep it that way!

Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention



In December 2017, the SWC made a decision to expand their program operations and include education and advocacy for the prevention of a zebra and quagga mussel introduction to the Shuswap. This new program will begin in April 2018, in collaboration with the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society.

#DONTMOVEAMUSSEL

Safe Recreation

The SWC carried out safety campaigns throughout boating and fishing season in 2017, focusing on **lifejacket use, cold water safety, drowning prevention, boating preparedness, and sober boating**. This messaging was delivered through a combination of articles, local advertising and social media, with an emphasis over long weekends to reach a maximum number of residents and visitors.

The SWC's safety messaging reached

50,000 & 45,000

READERS

LISTENERS

through its long-weekend media campaigns.

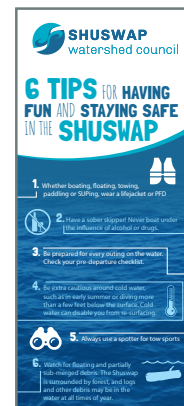
The SWC also:

- **Provided \$1200 to the Royal Canadian Marine Search & Rescue (Station 106 Shuswap)** for a *Kids Don't Float* lifejacket loaner station at Sunnybrae. The RCM-SAR leads this program in the Shuswap. The SWC is pleased to be one of several community sponsors supporting this initiative.
- Updated and distributed *6 tips for having fun and staying safe* in the Shuswap rack card, which features a map of RCM-SAR's lifejacket loaner stations.



1250 rack cards were given out from over 35 locations in the Shuswap

This lifejacket loaner station was built at Sunnybrae in the Spring of 2017 with financial support from the Shuswap Watershed Council



Communications and Advocacy



The SWC strives to be open and transparent about its operations, decisions and achievements. Its communications efforts have included:

- Completed and distributed its first water quality summary, the **2016 Water Quality Summary Report**
- Shared SWC **Meeting Highlights Reports** with local media
- Kept an **up-to-date website** with meeting agendas and summaries, financial reports, and educational articles
- Prepared **media releases** covering various subjects such as lifejacket loaner stations, safe boating during high water, water quality concerns with algae and pollen, water quality monitoring results, and the SWC's viewpoint on agricultural waste control
- Created a **SWC Blog** with a series of entries about water quality monitoring
- Maintained an **active presence on social media**

In addition, the SWC has corresponded with the Province about its viewpoints and concerns about water quality, including the threat posed by invasive zebra and quagga mussels and to express its support for enhanced nutrient management and agricultural waste control measures.

55,000

The SWC's social media activity had more than 55,000 impressions this year



Administration and Governance

The SWC held four Council meetings throughout the year to approve projects and work plans, receive operational updates from staff, and discuss arising issues. These meetings are open to the public.

2017–18 budget and operational expenses

The SWC's work is carried out thanks to contributions from the following local governments:

Contributor	Amount (\$)
2016–17 surplus (carried forward from March 31st, 2017)	81,314
Columbia Shuswap Regional District (Areas C, D, E, F and the District of Sicamous)	155,000
Thompson-Nicola Regional District	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	40,000
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
Revenue for 2017–18	331,214

Operational expenses for the year (April 1, 2017–March 31, 2018) are as follows:

Program	Budgeted (\$)	Expenses (\$)	Variance (\$)
Water Quality Program: Monitoring Initiative	66,250	39,884	26,366
Water Quality Program: Protection Initiative	75,650	64,887	10,763
Safe Recreation	12,800	9,745	3,055
Communications and Advocacy	34,600	38,126	-3,526
Administration and Governance	41,600	41,594	6
Operating Reserve*	100,314	0	100,314
Summary of operational expenses	331,214	194,236	136,978

*The SWC has established a dedicated \$20,000 water quality contingency fund that can be drawn from in case of arising water quality issues that require additional, unplanned monitoring or response. The Fund has not been drawn from to-date, and is held within the Operating Reserve.



SWC Members

as at March 31st, 2018

Paul Demenok—Chair
CSRD Area 'C'

Rick Berrigan—Vice Chair
TNRD, Village of Chase

Rene Talbot
CSRD Area 'D'

Rhona Martin
CSRD Area 'E'

Larry Morgan
CSRD Area 'F'

Nancy Cooper
City of Salmon Arm

Ken Christian
TNRD, City of Kamloops

Todd Kylo
District of Sicamous

Dave Nordquist
Secwepemc Nation,
Adams Lake Indian Band

Herman Halvorson
RDNO, Area 'F'

Tundra Baird
RDNO, City of Enderby

Dennis Einarson
BC Ministry of Environment
& Climate Change Strategy

Laura Code
BC Ministry of Agriculture

Lorne Hunter
Community representative

Ray Nadeau
Community representative

Randy Wood
Community representative