



LEPS

LANGLEY ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS SOCIETY

Sept 2015 Newsletter

Greetings!

*As the days get shorter and the nights grow cooler, LEPS begins to shift our minds to tree planting, classroom workshops, the return of salmon to local streams and excitement for **WaterWeeks 2015**.*

The summer growing season has been bountiful, yet our local waterways have been impacted by the lingering effects of the worst drought in BC since 2003. This past weekend's storm made quite the impact, lifting the coastal fire ban, but not lessening our water conservation needs. We can see first hand the affect our summer had on our forests with trees that came down as a result of dry soils and intense wind gusts. Big thanks to the emergency responders, BC Hydro, and municipal workers, and others who worked tirelessly to restore power and clean up the mess left behind by Mother Nature.

*Looking ahead to a busy September mark your calendar for **BC Rivers Day** and **WaterWeeks 2015**!*

- **BC Rivers Day Community Festival, September 27**
 - **New location** for 2015- [The Derek Doubleday Arboretum](#). This event is sure to be action packed with a FREE BBQ lunch, musical performances by Tony Prophet, and The Genuine Jug Band. Angela Brown, the Ta Daa Lady, will be back with her costume parade and inflatable salmon, there will be insect, turtle and birds of prey displays, the Up-Cycled Boat Build challenge, salmon activities, story time, electric cars, recycling trucks, climbing wall, gold panning and so much more! Don't miss it!
- **Farm Fresh Bus Tour, October 3rd**
- **Dig In! Tree Planting, October 4th**
- **West Creek Wetland Tour, October 4th**
- **Coquitlam Watershed Tour, October 10th**
- **Voyageur Canoe Paddle, October 11th**
- **Invasive Species Pull, October 17th**
- **Dig in! Tree Planting 2, October 17th**

Contact Nichole at 604.532.3511 or exec_director@leps.bc.ca for information on these exciting events.

The Faces of LEPS



Joanna Cheng has worked as a member of our Water Wise team for the past 2 years and has brought to LEPS much enthusiasm and many giggles in her role.

She has always been willing to go the extra mile and has been a valued part of the LEPS team.

It's been swell Joanna!

Quick Links

[LEPS Contacts](#)

[Related Topics](#)

[More On Us](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Look out for our newspaper insert in the Langley Advance and watch our [events calendar](#) for details.

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LEPS is hiring!



We are seeking to hire 2 EI eligible candidates to develop programs to inspire and encourage volunteerism and link citizens with community programs.

Positions open only to individuals currently receiving EI or that have in the past 36 months, or individuals returning to work for the first time following a maternity/paternity leave within the past 5 years.

This project aims to enhance the successful candidate's skills and assist in securing ongoing employment. This position is expected to start ASAP.

Please see full job descriptions by visiting [our website](#).

Canning 101

Are you interested in learning the skills of food canning?

There are several FREE workshops coming up in September that will teach you the basic skills required to safely preserve the summer bounty.

Participants will learn basic skills in kitchen safety and food preparation, how to can safely, and take home a sample of their work.



Intro to Hot Water Bath Canning

September 14 6:00 - 8:00pm, Aldergrove

September 24 6:30 - 8:30pm, Langley

Registration is required for each workshop.

Call Sarah at 604.546.0339 or email education@leps.bc.ca

Thank-you to our funder The United Way of the Lower Mainland.

WaterWeeks 2015

We are busy preparing and planning for WaterWeeks 2015 and encourage everyone to come out and celebrate our most precious resource, water!

This engaging series of FREE community events gets under way on with:

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- **BC Rivers Day Community Festival, Sept 27**

NEW LOCATION for 2015- The Derek Doubleday Arboretum. This event is sure to be action packed with a FREE BBQ lunch, musical performances by Tony Prophet, and The Genuine Jug Band. Angela Brown, the Ta Daa Lady, will be back with her costume parade and inflatable salmon, there will be live insect, turtle and birds of prey displays, the Upcycled Boat Build challenge, salmon activities, story time, electric cars, recycling trucks, a climbing wall, gold panning and so much more! Don't miss it!

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If you are interested in volunteering for BC Rivers Day we would love your help, specifically we are looking for folks to assist with a variety of children's activities including bird box building, salmon life cycle game, information hosts in the Welcome Booth, as well as directing traffic and several other activities, contact Sarah at 604.546.0339 or education@leps.bc.ca.

Thank-you to our program partner The Township of Langley, and our sponsors Vancity Credit Union, BC Hydro, Fortis BC, Virgin Radio, Canada Bread, JD Turkey Farm, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

Water Sampling Program



With the fall weather soon arriving we will be re-launching our water sampling program and are looking for dedicated volunteers who would be able to commit to water sampling one of our local streams once a month.

Call Erin at 604.546.0345 or email water@leps.bc.ca

Thanks to our funder RBC Blue Water Foundation for supporting our ongoing efforts for improving local watershed health.

Rain Barrels for Sale

Despite summer drawing to a close, [Stage 3 Water Restrictions](#) are still in effect, and even when this is lifted it is critical we continue our water conservation efforts.



One way to do that is to capture rain water with a rain barrel! We have several rain barrels that are looking for new homes and new opportunities to help residents conserve rain water. We are selling these for a donation of \$35, and have limited numbers, so act fast.

Call Erin at 604.546.0345 or email water@leps.bc.ca for more details.

For more water conservation tips visit our [Water Wise](#) page.

The Water Wise program is a joint initiative between the Township of Langley and LEPS to educate residents about our drinking water and the importance of water conservation.

Community Harvest Program



Do you have a backyard fruit tree, or a bumper crop of produce? Don't have the time to harvest? Keep good food from going bad, get your fruit or produce picked, and get a share of the harvest too!

LEPS gleaning program organizes volunteers to harvest and donate fresh food to community resources. Spread the word that anyone in Langley or Surrey can sign up as a fruit tree donor (or as a harvesting volunteer).

Contact Ava at 604.546.0337 or agriculture@leps.bc.ca

That's a Wrap: Demonstration Garden

The Demonstration Garden has wrapped up for the summer, but what an awesome summer it was! Thanks to everyone, new faces and familiar friends, who came out to support our many workshops, events and summer camps, plus a huge thank-you to our volunteers, including Frank for tirelessly watering the garden, our weeders- The Stephens, and the many more community members who dabbled there!



Our annual Blackberry Bake-off occurred on August 22nd, and what a fun way to end the summer! Thanks to the Nicomekl Enhancement Society for flipping the burgers.

Here are the winners of Langley's Best Blackberry Creation, as voted by our

judges Councillor Angie Quaale, LEPS canning mentor Sandra Rheames and LEPS' Administrative Assistant Carol Heuman:

1st place: Sharon Crowley and family with their Blackberry Galette

2nd place: Tobias Meier and family with their Blackberry Yogourt Mousse

3rd place: Bev Larson and her Blackberry Crisp

People's Choice: Darlene Sherwin and her Blackberry Glazed Ginger Cream Pie Squares

We've also had a busy, busy summer with 338 kids attending our Eco-Explorers kids camps, and another 387 kids having fun through our pre-k workshops.

Additionally, 60 adults attended our 7 adult workshops, with the winter gardening and pressure canning workshops proving to be the most popular.

The garden will be 'unmanned' until next May, but don't hesitate to stop and smell the flowers, pull a weed here or there, and enjoy the last of the veggie patch.

Thanks to our program partner, The Township of Langley!

Metro Vancouver Request for Volunteers

Our partner Metro Vancouver Parks is looking for volunteers to assist with their fall fair on September 19/20. Shifts are 3-4 hours long and include lunch. There is no transit access to Campbell Valley Park.

If interested contact Metro Vancouver Parks directly at Jeremy.Plotkin@metrovancover.org or 604.224.5739

Feel free to pop in to our Murrayville office for a visit, we are happy to answer your questions, hear your stories, and help you along your stewardship journey.

Sincerely,

Langley Environmental Partners Society