



The GUMBOOT GAZETTE



Volume 10, Number 3

Fall 2019

The Lakelse Watershed Newsletter

As the summer draws to a close we review the busy time we have had this past season!



Follow us on Instagram at [lwss.coordinator](https://www.instagram.com/lwss.coordinator) and check out our Facebook page to keep updated on events and see some pictures from around the lake!



Fish collected on our interpretive walks!

Artifacts and CMT's
Wednesday July 31st at 3 pm at the Amphitheater

Come by the amphitheater at 3 pm to see some cool artifacts provided by Skeena First Nation. Then get for a short walk and learn about culturally modified trees and other traditional uses of the forest. Fun for all ages!

BC Parks | Lakelse Watershed Society | Skeena First Nation

Search and Rescue Interactive Demonstrations
Saturday August 24th From 11 pm - 4 pm at the beach area at Furlong Bay

Join Terrace Search and Rescue on the Beach at Furlong Bay and learn about water and fire safety, wilderness preparedness and survival skills.

With interactive demonstrations it will be fun for the whole family!

BC Parks | Terrace Search and Rescue

All About Bats!

Join us at the picnic area on the beach at Furlong Bay Campground
Thursday July 25th at 7pm

Learn about bats and how to build a bat box!
Fun for all ages!

BC Parks | Lakelse Watershed Society

Sockeye Viewing at Gruchy's

August 30th at 7 pm at Gruchy's Beach parking

Meet at Gruchy's Beach parking lot at 7 pm for a short walk along Williams Creek and to the viewing platform to see the hundreds of spawning sockeye! Learn about their life cycle and the Williams Creek Sockeye Recovery Program. The eagle viewing is amazing too!

BC Parks | Lakelse Watershed Society

BC Day Events

Monday August 5th at 6 pm at the Beach at Furlong

6 pm - "Smores Competition at the Beach"
We've got the marshmallows and marshmallows, you bring a special ingredient! Most delicious looking and tastiest "smores" wins! Everyone gets to see their own creation. *Check for first dibs!* Lots of special ingredients (like marshmallows) available at the Visitor Centre! Enjoy your "smores" and stay for the campfire talk!

7 pm - Campfire Tales with Kitselas First Nation
Sit by the beach and listen to local First Nations legends by the campfire!

BC Parks | Lakelse Watershed Society | Kitselas First Nation

Secret Lives of Lakelse Birds

Thursday August 8th at 7 pm at the Amphitheater

Come learn about our local birds, listen to the call of the newly seen goshawk, and see what the birds get up to around the park!

Build your own bird's nest station for the kids!!!

BC Parks | Lakelse Watershed Society

Learn about the **Watershed and Skeena Salmon**
Join us Saturday July 27th at 10 am at the beach at Furlong Bay Campground

SkeenaWild Conservation Trust

BC Parks | Lakelse Watershed Society

Celebrate Parks Day!
July 20th
All Parks Are Celebrated!

Park Day Events

10 am - Interpretive Walk (meet at amphitheater)
Learn about local vegetation, invertebrates, and fish species!

11:30 am - Beach Seine and Fish ID with DFO

Noon - BBQ (enjoying a free hot dog)

BC Parks | Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Lakelse Watershed Society



Several Events took place this summer in conjunction with LWSS and the BC Parks Licence Plate Program!



AGM

Annual General Meeting

The LWSS Annual General Meeting is being held on Saturday, October 19th at 10 AM. The meeting will take place in the Rich McDaniel Meeting Room at the Terrace Sportsplex (3320 Kalum St, Terrace, BC)





The Lakelse Watershed Stewards Society invites you to:



INVASIVE PLANT AND AQUATIC SPECIES WORKSHOP

June 18 & 19, 2019
Terrace, BC



At the Regional District Kitimat-Stikine Boardroom.
Cost: **FREE** but please RSVP as space is limited.
For more information and to register email
chera.hrem@gmail.com or call 604-388-9779

Learn about common invasives in our area during this 2-day workshop and find out how to identify them and prevent their spread. Open to everyone!



The Invasive Species Council of BC hosted a 2-day workshop educating us on both terrestrial and aquatic invasive plant species! The crew went out and removed 250 kilograms of invasive species from a site near Howe Creek.

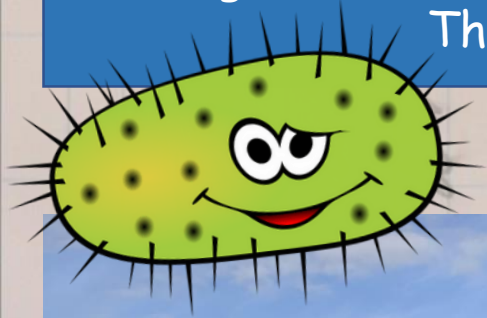


Stop The Spread!

Thanks to the Regional District Kitimat-Stikine, The Pacific Salmon Foundation, MOTI and City of Terrace for helping us put on this event!

Water Quality Collection At Lakelse Lake

Annually, Lakelse Lake is sampled for E coli testing. The average results for the E coli testing were 2 per 100ml. This is exceptionally good!



Summer and Tianna at Furlong and Gruchy's collecting water samples to bring to Northern Health.



Water Quality



Thanks again to Ernie for letting us
use his boat for water quality
sampling on Lakelse Lake!



*"The last time we forgot to tie it down, I swam
out to get it. It's your turn."*



Come on out and join
the fun! We are always
looking for volunteers
to tag along!





The fish fence is installed to funnel fish past the camera. The orange mats prevent sockeye from spawning in front of the camera and blocking our view!



The Scully Camera is back with a new and improved look!

This year the camera was updated, and we are hoping to capture some great footage!



If interested in helping out with camera maintenance contact Summer at summer.hrem@gmail.com

EVERYONE LIKES CRABS



Including Local Wildlife!



**Crab carcasses dumped in the
creek on Westside Road!**

Help protect local wildlife and the safety of our drivers! Dumping waste near roads attracts animals, threatening both the life of the animal as well as people in passing vehicles.

**Don't be a chump,
garbage belongs at
the dump!**

BC Parks Event BC Parks Day!



The day started off with an interpretive walk along the Twin Spruce Trail followed by a beach seine with DFO! There was also a hotdog BBQ lunch and fish printing taking place!



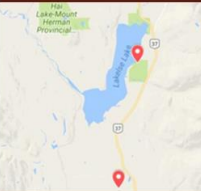
BC Parks Event

All About Bats!



Current Bat Box Locations

There are currently bat boxes near Clearwater Lakes and at Furlong Bay Campground at Lakelse Lake Provincial Park.



White Nose Syndrome

White nose syndrome is a fungal disease that has killed millions of bats. The fungus grows around the nose and wings of bats in hibernation, almost always resulting in death. The disease is rapidly spreading in eastern Canada but has not yet reached this area (as of 2018).

Thanks for Coming to the Event!

Brought to You By:

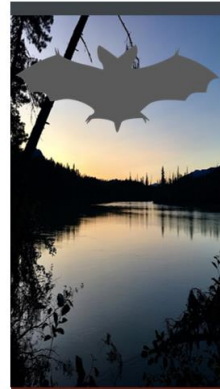
BC Parks

Thanks to BC Parks's License Plate Program for providing the opportunity to get outdoors and learn about bats!



Lakelse Watershed Stewards Society

Lakelse Watershed Stewards Society is a volunteer, non-profit organization which was formed in 2002. The Society aims to preserve and protect the quality and health of the Lakelse Watershed.



ALL ABOUT
BATS!

Pamphlets with bat information, were handed out to people that came to the event.

The Big Brown Bat

- There are 9 different species of bats that live in the Skeena region!
- Their entire diet consists of insects and they can consume up to 3,000 insects per night.
- They are the only true flying mammal!
- Bats are nocturnal mammals, which mean they are active during the night and asleep during the day.
- Since they hunt during the night, they do not rely on their sight to locate their food, instead they send sound waves and use the echo of the sound to locate objects. This process is known as echolocation.



A couple of ideas....

-Leave the entrance free of obstacles; place in a tree or on the side of a building or pole

-Place the boxes at least 4 meters above the ground

-Bats need water; place the box near a water source

-Bats like to be warm; place the box in an open area that receives direct sunlight

Building a Bat Box

- 35 cm x 60 cm or larger
- Grooves or mesh for the bats to climb and hang on
- Dark Stain to help capture heat
- A good location to mount the box



A bat house mimics the space between bark and a tree trunk. They like warm tight spaces, darkness, and a safe place to sleep.

The Bat Event was a huge success with approximately 50 people showing up! Everyone met at the covered area at Furlong Bay to learn about bats and see the new bat box that will be put up at the Park!

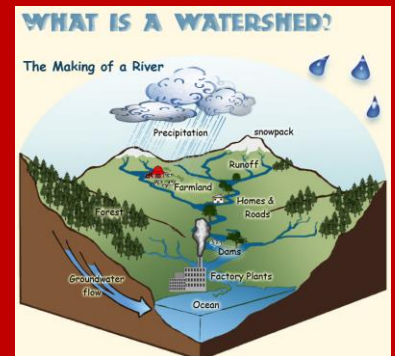
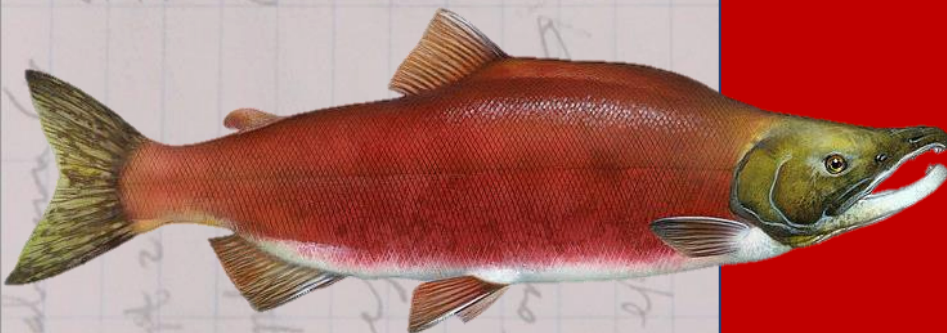
BC Parks Event

Skeena Wild



Thank you to Skeena Wild for coming out and hosting a great event!

Model watersheds were an awesome interactive way of showing how water moves through a drainage basin!



BC Parks Event BC Day!



Competitors were encouraged to bring a special ingredient for their 'smore. They were judged on creativity, looks, and effort.

Participants brought a variety of chocolate bars (Reese Cups were a favourite), gluten free crackers, and even gummy bears!

Thank you to Lorraine for being an amazing judge! Prizes included mugs, t-shirts, and a stuffed moose.



BC Parks Event

CMT's and Traditional Plants with Kitselas First Nations



The Kitselas First Nations came out and taught us about the traditional uses of plants such as cedar, devils club, and skunk cabbage!

Cedar was used to make clothing and canoes, while skunk cabbage leaves could be used to wrap food or hold water. The inner bark of devils club could be used to create remedies for arthritis, and fevers. And the berries could be made into a lather and used as shampoo!

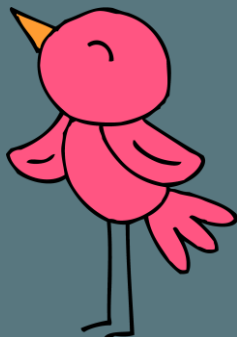


BC Parks Event

Secret Lives of Lakelse Birds



Thank you to Frank Doyle for coming out and teaching us about birds! Fun was also had making nests, just like our feathered friends!



BC Parks Event

Search and Rescue



Over 40 people dropped by for the Search and Rescue event at Furlong Bay!

Tours were given of the mobile command centre, and people were welcome to explore some of the gear and techniques used for water rescue!

BC Parks Event

Sockeye Viewing at Gruchy's



The sockeye were waiting for us in Williams Creek! We talked about how to identify male and female sockeye, as well as how to identify a hatchery fish. We discussed fish habitat and the sockeye recovery program. We even saw two male sockeye fighting!



Interpretive Walks!



Interpretive Walks at Furlong Bay



Meet at the Amphitheater at 10am and come walk along the Twin Spruce Trail and learn about fish species, local **vegetation**, **birds**, and **invertebrates**!



June 22nd @ 10 am
July 6th @ 10 am
July 20th @ 10 am
August 2nd @ 10 am
August 17th @ 10 am



Thank you to BC Parks License Plate Program and the Pacific Salmon Foundation for supporting this event!



Kids enjoyed the fish viewing station and invertebrates at the end of the walk!



New Interpretive Signage at Furlong Bay Campground!

Signage is in the making for the Twin Spruce Trail at Lakelse Lake Provincial Park!

What's that smell?

Skunk cabbage has a similar smell to a skunk. It produces this distinctive smell to attract pollinators, such as flies, bees, and beetles. The insect mistakes the odour for rotting meat and will attempt to lay their eggs on the yellow flower. In doing so they transfer pollen between the plants. Skunk cabbage, also known as swamp pattern, is found growing in wetlands and along stream banks. It is one of the first plants to sprout in the spring because it has the ability to produce heat. The bud of the first plant to sprout in the spring warms up to 21°C and this allows it to develop and bloom even when the ground is still frozen. Skunk cabbage loses its leaves annually, but the plant can live up to 20 years.

Respect Nature

www.bcparks.ca

Grizzly Bears

Grizzly bears get their name from the distinctive white/grey-tipped hairs on their back. This hair makes the appearance of the bear look "grizzled". Their dish face, rounded ears, and shoulder hump help distinguish them from a black bear. Claw marks are also usually visible on tree trunks. The Lakelse Lake area is home to several grizzly bears. The Lakelse grizzly bear, also known as the Klondike bear, also has a distinctive white patch on its snout, but this is not always visible.

Do Bear Aware

Taking action to avoid a bear encounter is the best way to protect yourself and the bear. Look for noises about bears in the area and avoid areas where bears may be active. Skunk cabbage in spring, berry patches in summer, salmon streams in the fall. When hiking, make noise and look for evidence of bear activity, such as fresh scat. If carrying bear spray, make sure it is easily accessible and know how to properly use it. When camping, ensure all food is stored in bear-proof containers away from your campsite. Never approach or feed a bear. If you encounter a bear give it space, back up slowly, and do not stare at it.

Listen to Nature

www.bcparks.ca

The Lakelse Sockeye

Identifiable by their distinct green head and vivid red body the sockeye salmon is an important part of the Lakelse Lake system. The salmon are a staple in grizzly bear, black bear, and eagle diets. The salmon return to Lakelse Lake from the ocean as June approaches. With them they bring fresh nutrients they have collected from their time spent in the ocean. These nutrients then contribute to both aquatic and terrestrial plant life. The salmon will hold in the lake until August, when they will return to spawn in the very same place they were hatched.

Spawning Salmon

Williams Creek and Sook Creek are two tributaries that drain into Lakelse Lake. These two creeks host large amounts of spawning sockeye every year. Williams Creek even provides visitors with a sockeye viewing station, allowing optimal views of the spawning fish. If you look closely you can see some of the fish have a large hooked snout and humped back, just like the sockeye pictured above. This means the fish is male. Females have a shorter, more rounded snout and back.

Nature Lives Here

www.bcparks.ca

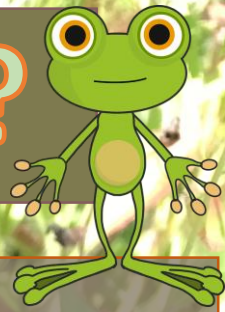
Historical Uses

Skunk cabbage is not a food, but it has a wide range of applications for First Nations Peoples. Medically, the berries, roots, and inner bark were used to create remedies for arthritis, fever, tuberculosis, and other ailments. It is still used today in teas and tinctures. Spiritually, it was used above an entryway to protect from bad intentions. Artistically, the thick stalks could be made into lightweight walking sticks, and its burnt charcoal was used for drawing and dye.

www.bcparks.ca

Stay Safe - Have Fun

Cuddly as a Frog?



The Western Toad is considered a species of Special Concern.

Clear cut logging , climate change, and highways threaten amphibian populations. Highways that cut through toad habitat or migration routes result in a high mortality rate. Annually, toads have three migration periods.

The Life Cycle of the Western Toad

The Western Toad lives in both aquatic and upland habitats. Toads breed in a variety of shallow wetlands. Once the tadpoles hatch, they like to stay together and form clusters. Metamorphosis ends in August. Toadlets form large aggregations and migrate away from ponds.

Check out our Instagram at [lwss.coordinator](https://www.instagram.com/lwss.coordinator) to see a video of the cuddling frogs!



Frogs huddling together along Beam Station road!

Black-Tailed Deer?

Three deer were spotted on the watershed sampling route near the Lakelse weather station! The fawn was only 3-4 months old!

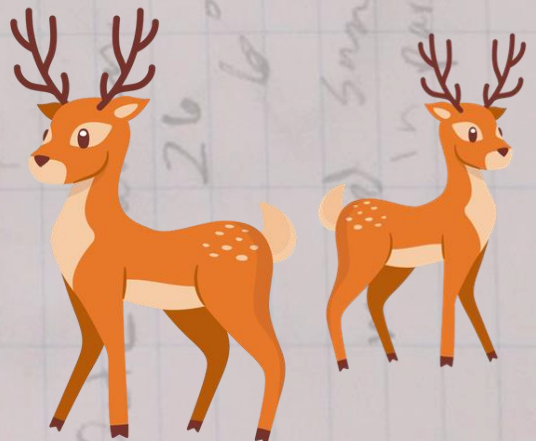


Bucks don't participate in raising the fawns, they form bachelor groups in the summer. Does and their fawns live in a small family group, led by the oldest mother. Males leave at maturity (18 months old), and females at 2 years old.



Black Tailed deer feed along the tree line so that they can disappear into the forest if threatened.

Deer have three stomachs and barely chew their food! Deer enjoy eating plants such as berries, fungi, grasses, lichen and shrubs.



I VOLUNTEER!!



Come Join the Fun!!

We are looking for someone to help maintain the Scully camera and accompany us on the watershed water quality circuit. If you are interested contact Chera at

chera.hrem@gmail.com