



# LEPS

## LANGLEY ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS SOCIETY

Feb 2016 Newsletter

### Greetings!

*We've made it to February! Even though the weather may be gloomy it's always refreshing to head outside and connect with nature. This month it seems we have many volunteer opportunities available and a change to get you outside and be active in one our beautiful watersheds.*

*Also, planning for our summer programs is in full swing working on the details for programming in the Langley Demonstration Garden, as well as finalizing details for our annual Salmon Friendly Gardens Seminar on **Saturday March 12th at 10am**. We have some amazing speakers lined up for this event covering topics such as prevention of European Chafer Beetle to Edible Landscaping and Fruit Tree Pruning.*

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## North Langley Fingered Wetlands



Did you know Langley boasts an unusual series of long, narrow "fingered" wetlands, leftover from glaciers that moved through here before even the Fraser River existed?

Because wetlands are critical habitat for wildlife and sensitive to change, we're taking an afternoon in February to help clean up this unique area, and we need your help!

Join us on **Monday February 15th from 1-3pm.**

Please contact Ava Shannon at [agriculture@leps.bc.ca](mailto:agriculture@leps.bc.ca) or 604-546-0337 to get more details and to sign up.

*Special thanks to The National Wetland Conservation Trust Fund for funding this multi year project.*

## The Faces of LEPS



Erin P. started with LEPS this past fall through a Job Creation Partnership program and has been working closely with our restoration and education staff. In the spring she will take on the role of Water Wise Coordinator spreading the H2O conservation message across Langley.

Welcome to LEPS Erin!

## Quick Links

[LEPS Contacts](#)

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## Blackberry Busters Needed!

Langley has several watershed stewardship groups that work passionately to rid natural spaces of invasive weed species. Beginning this month the [Glen Valley Watersheds Society](#) has a goal to reduce the population of blackberry plants in the West Creek Wetlands.



These fabulous folks will be tackling the brambles **every other Tuesday** through to April.

Next dates: **February 9 & 23, March 8 & 22 and April 5 & 19**

This is a great opportunity to visit this sensitive wildlife area, while working with folks who are passionate about the environment.

Work gloves, tools and refreshments will be provided. Rain or shine so come prepared for the weather, sturdy shoes are highly recommended.

Meet at the gate on the south side of 72 Ave about 400m west of 264 St. Please park on the north side of 72 Ave.

## Blackberry Busters 2!



This February, LEPS will be undertaking an exciting new riverbank restoration project situated in the Derby Reach area. Blackberry removal will be ongoing throughout February at a site on the Fraser River. Volunteers are encouraged to lend a hand on **select week days** and every **Saturday in February**.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Albert at 604-546-0341 or [restoration@leps.bc.ca](mailto:restoration@leps.bc.ca).

## Watershed Restoration Update

The Restoration Crew has been pushing through the January weather and tackling invasive weed species. We have finished all of our 5 restoration sites throughout the Salmon River watershed; removing 2000m<sup>2</sup> of invasive plants and planting 2,500 native plants.



We are now moving into the West Creek Watershed and will begin work on sites along West Creek.

We are always looking for volunteers and if you would like to lend a hand, please contact Carly Stromsten at [conservation@leps.bc.ca](mailto:conservation@leps.bc.ca) or 604-546-0347.

*Thanks to our funders Pacific Salmon Foundation, Habitat Stewardship Program and Environment Canada!*

## Water Quality Data- Now online!



LEPS has partnered with CURA H2O, a Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to increase community capacity for integrated water monitoring and management in Canada and

internationally. This project is run out of the Saint Mary's University Geography Department in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Through the dedication of valuable LEPS volunteers and our partnership with CURA H2O, we are proud to announce that our local water quality data can now be viewed online at <http://curah2o.com/water-quality/>

Check out the health of your neighborhood creek or other waterways across Canada!

*Special thanks to our partner CURA H2O and our funder RBC Blue Water for the LEPS Langley Watershed Sampling Program.*

## Partner News- Langley Community Farmers Market

The Langley Community Farmers' Market is looking for community members with a passion for supporting local food and small businesses to join their Board of Directors. The Market has been growing since its inception in 2007, and it's an exciting time to be a part of this community asset. A wide variety of skills could benefit the Market, including experience with: fundraising, web design, business development, and of course farming in the Fraser Valley.



All interested individuals are encouraged to contact Paige Dampier:  
[paigedampier@gmail.com](mailto:paigedampier@gmail.com)

*Sincerely,*

***Langley Environmental Partners Society***