



Friends of Semiahmoo Bay

www.birdsonthebay.ca

January 26, 2010

Planting trees at Blackie Spit



The estuary at Mud Bay is home to herring, sand lance and surf smelt that feed larger predators such as salmon, birds, seals and whales.

Take a walk through the current restoration project in Mud Bay, the Forage Fish Spawning Restoration Project in the Savenye Environmentally Sensitive Area beside Blackie Spit. FoSB is working in partnership with Leann Graham, a student from the University of Victoria, community volunteers, Surrey Parks, Environment Canada and Department of Fisheries and Oceans to carry out this year-long project.

Invasive plants have been removed on the foreshore and native ones planted to create shaded habitat for forage fish eggs. Spawning gravels have been imported and spread on the beach and creosote logs that wash up onto the beach have been removed. Monitoring for spawning activity is currently underway.

Lydia Graham (left) and Danilyn Stokoe plant trees in the Savenye Environmentally Sensitive Area.

Photo: Marg Cuthbert

Bringing Birds to the classroom

FoSB is also active through the winter in local classrooms introducing kids to creatures and habitats of the coast. Grade 4 students at Green Timbers Elementary recently learned about the migrating and native birds of Boundary Bay. FoSB's educational outreach program brings a knowledgeable naturalist into the classroom to lead a lesson on birds, the local beach or pond ecology and follows up a few weeks later with a field experience. The Seaquarium at White Rock Elementary, a tank of local intertidal sea creatures, also offers students an incredibly close and long-term view of the world just beneath the tideline.



Lynn Pollard presents Birds of Boundary Bay to grade 4 students at Delta Christian school.

Photo: Jessica Alford