



# *Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society*

## **Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society Nature Mural Project on the Little Campbell Forest Trail**

On Sunday, September 30, 2018, Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society celebrated their annual Volunteer Appreciation event and AGM and also with community partners celebrated the opening of the long-awaited Nature Mural in the species at risk area on the Little Campbell Forest Trail at 1284 184<sup>th</sup> St, Surrey, BC.

MP Gordie Hogg and Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club President, Bob Donnelly cut the opening ribbon with Semiahmoo Secondary students and project coordinators Kelly Yang and Jessy Zhu with painterly friends Sophie, Lisa, Gary and Harry. Marg Cuthbert and science teacher Kristy Harrison with the Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society, Phillip Milligan, with the Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club and David Riley with the Little Campbell Watershed Society, all present, had worked closely with the Semiahmoo Secondary students Kelly Yang and Jessy Zhu in coordination and providing materials, refreshments and the occasional driving.

Twenty-one student friends came forth to assist Kelly and Jessy who took on the responsibility, planning and coordination of the Natural Mural project. They contributed over sixty hours of painting through August and September on a 7' high x 30' wide wall, plus an 8' x 10' wall and an upper gable while continuing their other community volunteering, piano exams and special projects for grade 12 and all with good cheer!

“The students were amazing and we are very grateful to them,” says Marg Cuthbert, President of Friends of Semiahmoo Bay. “Though the task was far more formidable than they realized, they persevered and completed while having a lot of fun with their friends. We very much enjoyed and appreciated these two months with the students while they solved the challenges of materials, subject matter and scheduling and believe each of them will be a great success in their chosen paths while being contributing citizens to their community”.

The Nature Mural is on a storage shed wall situated in the ephemeral pond area developed for the red-legged frog, a species at risk, adjacent to the Little Campbell River. The mural provides a focal point and much needed interpretation for over eighty classes of students who visit the site each year through their Salmon in the Classroom program sponsored by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The forest is quiet through the winter and the Nature Mural will provide colour and a gesture of habitat connectivity with the spawning salmon, beavers, deer, birds and wild flowers.

Four years ago, the wall was prepared for painting the mural with the installation of exterior plywood and base painting by volunteers with funds provided by the TD Friends of the Environment, the Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club and Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society. The artist who had previously committed to the project suddenly passed away last year and the students came forward to accomplish this wonderful addition to the Little Campbell Forest Trail upon a query of interest from their science teacher, Kristy Harrison. An acknowledgement sign will be installed shortly naming each of the contributing students.

The Nature Mural and forest trails are open for visitors to enjoy and the lower trail is wheelchair accessible.  
Submitted by Marg Cuthbert

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