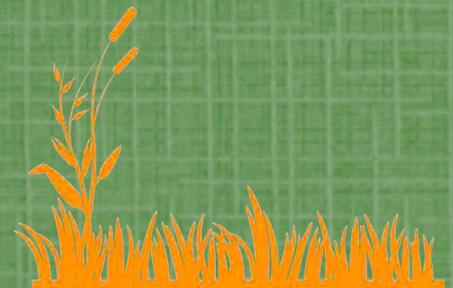


Friends of Dallas-Barnhartvale Nature Park

A group dedicated to the continued well-being of a valued community resource.

SEPTEMBER 2012

ISSUE THREE



The Wetlands Restoration Committee receiving a check for \$5000 from Afton New Gold on September 14. Pictured from left to right: Heather Toles, Wetland Restoration Advisor; Dennis Wilson, Afton New Gold Environmental Specialist; Jim Sloper, Restoration Committee Chairperson; Milt Stanley, Secretary-Treasurer.

Afton New Gold Supports Park Wetlands Project

Dallas-Barnhartvale Nature Park Wetlands Restoration Committee gets a boost from Afton New Gold.

Some regular users of the Nature Park Trails may be unaware of the wet areas near the Eliza Road entrance to the Park. They can hardly be blamed for that as these areas have been so degraded over the years by human interference that they no longer resemble "wetlands."

The Park Wetlands Restoration Committee have been quietly working on a project to restore these degraded wet areas to healthy, fully functional small wetlands to protect a fragile aquifer, to create habitat for aquatic animals and plants, and to provide an educational site to promote wetland values.

Wetlands in B.C. are constantly disappearing beneath urban sprawl and

industrial development. Yet wetlands have an important role in our environment, acting as natural filters for ground water aquifers, providing habitat diversity and controlling run-off, among other benefits.

The Park wetlands have been altered in past years to provide water for irrigation. The alteration included ditching and draining. More recent damage occurred with the clearing of forest cover for Urban Interface Fire Protection. This has resulted in the encroachment of invasive plant species such as thistles, curly dock, hound's tongue, nightshade and Manitoba maple.

The committee's two-phase restoration plan includes repairing four small wetland sites and

protection of a sedge meadow, with one site allowing access for watering horses, and a second educational site with boardwalk and appropriate signage. Currently in fund-raising mode, the committee hopes to begin work in Fall 2013. Aside from the cash donation, Afton New Gold's welcome support includes in-kind use of their hydro-seeder equipment.



The Wetlands Restoration Committee operates under the sponsorship of The Barnhartvale Horse and Hiker Trail Preservation Society (BHHTPS) with the support of the Dallas Community Association, the Barnhartvale Community Association, Friends of Dallas-Barnhartvale Nature Park and the City of Kamloops Parks and Recreation department.

Tom Biebighauser; USDA wetlands expert, consulting with Heather Toles, Committee Advisor, at the endangered Sedge Meadow site, Summer 2011.

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Network Plan.



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