



Carolyn Knight was part of a volunteer crew that weeded a native plant restoration site along Bowker Creek earlier this year. Soren Henrich Photo

BOWKER CREEK INITIATIVE

Community tea party connects neighbours to Bowker Creek

The Bowker Creek Initiative — a coalition of groups and municipalities working to improve the plight of an urban creek — is inviting the public to share their stories and memories of Bowker Creek and to help prepare for a celebratory event to be held next year.

Historically, Bowker Creek was a playground for local youngsters. The creek used to be a rich food source for local First Nations, who relied on the salmon that returned each year. But now it is polluted and more than half of its length is buried underground in pipes.

The volunteers and partners in the Bowker Creek Initiative acknowledge that a return to pristine conditions isn't happening any time soon, but do hope for some positive changes.

"We know that Bowker Creek isn't likely to support fish again unless we make huge changes. We do think that we can make Bowker Creek into a real community asset, and reduce the pollution problems," says Tanis Douglas, coordinator of the Bowker Creek Initiative.

"We have a vision to improve the creek, and we need political and community support to achieve it."

Douglas is working with community artist Carolyn Knight and other dedicated volunteers to host a community tea party on Saturday, Nov. 24, at Sundance Elementary School, 1625 Bank S., from 1 until 4 p.m. This event will encourage community members to share their memories and photographs of the creek for inclusion in a Bowker Stories video documentary, so that the creek's history will not be forgotten.

Other creative and child-friendly activities are planned, including designing mosaics that will mark the lost creek, creating a memory book of reminiscences and creating banners for a Bowker Creek Watershed celebration to be held in June 2008. An interactive watershed model — extremely popular with children — will also be on hand to demonstrate what it means to live in a watershed.

To learn more, contact Tanis Douglas at tdouglas@crd.bc.ca or (250) 360-3302.



Bowker Creek Communi-Tea Celebration

Saturday November 24th
Sundance Elementary School
1625 Bank Street
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

• light refreshments •

Share your stories, photographs, and artwork of Bowker Creek for inclusion in a video documentary and book of Bowker Creek memories.

Creative kid-friendly activities:

design a mosaic • make a banner

• interactive watershed model •

Sponsored by the Bowker Creek Initiative.

To learn more, contact BCI Coordinator,
Tanis Douglas at: tdouglas@crd.bc.ca
or call 360-3302.