

CHAPTER THREE

What will happen to the stories?

The Horsefly Salmon Festival 2009 welcomes a dominant sockeye run on Labour Day weekend. Selected stories arising from this project will be presented as part of that celebration. All the stories will be shared with other rural communities through our website and a social marketing package.

Why a Rural Perspective?

There 's a paradox in rural attitudes to Nature. We treasure the clean air and water, presence of wildlife and sparsely populated landscape. Yet those very treasures can create an illusion of immunity from the degradation we see in cities. Frontier attitudes persist in exploitive behaviour. Small cities like Williams Lake face different challenges from those of tiny satellite villages, First Nations reserves and isolated ranches, and all differ in some respects from those of cities. Options also vary widely; social marketing often overlooks rural realities.

“Spawning Stories, Hatching Change” seeks to foster awareness of human impacts on the web of life and to encourage more conscious behaviour in people like us. The field trips will motivate us to consider watershed health in our daily choices. Learning to tell effective stories will enable us to influence a wider audience. Sharing your stories will hatch more stewards and advocates who see the whole world as “all my relations”.

Spawning Stories

Hatching Change

a story-making adventure
for the rural voice

Our watersheds are alive with stories – human lives, animal tales, ecosystem networks. Telling the world's stories has always been the essence of the arts.

Spawning Stories, Hatching Change is a project of Scout Island Nature Centre, bringing story-makers into the landscape to discover and tell the stories of human impacts on the web of life.

Participants will attend a naturalist-led field trip, then work with artist-mentors to form their experiences into a compelling narrative in the format of their choosing. It might be a poem, a prose essay or short story, a song, a skit or even a comic book. These stories will then be shared with rural audiences in a variety of ways.

*“Only in a deep and inherent feeling for the land can
there be dedication to preserving it”*

~~ Sigurd Olson, wilderness guide

CHAPTER ONE

Watershed Field Trips

You are invited to attend one or more field trips led by Scout Island's Environmental Educator or other trained naturalists to get a feel for some aspect of the Cariboo-Chilcotin's watersheds.

Field Naturalist Field Trip to Becher's Prairie -

June 20 Tour the many waterfowl ponds, aspen stands and grasslands with expert naturalists. (You must be a WLFN member for this one; joining is easy.)

Viewland Mountain, Horsefly - July 4 We will walk up Viewland Mountain (moderate climb that takes about an hour) through a lovely spruce forest. Great views of the watershed from the top. We will also visit Moffat Falls (the brave can go swimming)

Lower Williams Lake River Valley –July 13 The tributary that links Williams Lake to the Fraser River plays a special role in the life of a salmon. Exploring it with a DFO biologist, you may come to see the grassland and forest through a fishy eye.

Xeni Gwet'in Elders' Gathering - July 14 – 15 An overnight visit to Fish Lake, where Xeni Gwet'in Elders are teaching traditional skills: net-making, gaff-making, salmon preservation methods, medicinal and food plants, etc. We will camp out for 2 nights, the 14th & 15th.

CHAPTER TWO

Artist-mentored Workshops

We hope your emotional and sensory experience on the watershed field trips will engender a story that wants to be told. Mentors with expertise in a variety of creative media will hold workshops to help you give it form. You choose which workshop(s) you wish to attend. The Mentors are available to help you develop your story after the workshop, as well.

Our mentors are:

Barbara Bearman English and Modern Languages Instructor, TRU will coach writers in prose and poetry.

Workshop July 17

Pharis Patenaude Romero, a singer-songwriter with extensive formal training and performance experience, will help if you choose musical expression **Workshop July 18**

Sidonie Boll, an experienced stage actress and drama teacher, will produce a performance piece with her WLSS students

Lois Williams, councillor for the Xeni Gwet'in Band, will be our First Nations mentor.

*Thanks to funding from the **Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program**, there is no charge to participate in this project.*

Please register in advance for field trips and workshops – Phone 398-8532 or email neptune.noble@gmail.com