



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 9, 2016

FREE FAMILY FUN AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION OFFERED AT RIVERS DAY

Celebrate our rivers, learn about the importance of protecting the environment, and enjoy some free, family-oriented fun during the Township of Langley's annual BC Rivers Day Community Festival.

"We are so lucky to live in a place that has clean water and lush natural habitat that is enjoyed by both people and wildlife," said Township Environmental Coordinator Meaghan Norton Daniel. "Rivers Day is a chance for the community to get together and enjoy fun activities and entertainment, and to enhance our understanding of the environment and what it takes to keep Langley green, clean, and healthy."

The Festival, which has been a Township tradition for more than 25 years, will be held Sunday, September 25, 11:00am to 3:00pm, at the Derek Doubleday Arboretum. The Arboretum, which is home to the Langley Demonstration Garden, the Nicomekl River, lush natural habitat, trees, and trails, is located at 21200 Fraser Highway.

"This is the perfect spot for this unique festival," said Norton Daniel. "It is in a central location that makes it easy for residents to stop in and explore, and the area is flat and full of sturdy trails that provide access to those in wheelchairs or with strollers."

Free parking is available on site or at the nearby overflow lot at Langley Secondary School, where a free community shuttle will take visitors to the Rivers Day site every 15 minutes. Valet bike parking will be provided to encourage visitors to do something good for their health and the environment by cycling to the festival.

More than 25 interactive displays and activity booths will be featured, and this year, the annual celebration of water and nature will see the return of many favourites, as well as some new additions.

Guests can climb a wall, build a birdhouse, pan for gold with Yukon Dan, have their faces painted, and enjoy an animal costume parade. Live entertainment will be presented by fan favourite Angela Brown (The Ta Da Lady) and her puppets, and Tony Prophet and the Genuine Jug Band. As well, the Red Fox Society will provide circus interactions. Participants can visit a caricature artist and the Urban Safari Rescue, take part in salmon 'egg' races, and enter to win a rain barrel at the Water Wise tent.

A free hot dog barbecue will be offered from 11:30am until supplies last. Guest are encouraged to bring their own reusable water containers for drinks, and a coffee cart will be available for those who would like to purchase refreshments.

The BC Rivers Day Community Festival is held each year on the last Sunday of September to kick off WaterWeeks, a series of educational activities that let the public experience, appreciate, and take action to protect our community's watercourses, watersheds, groundwater, and wildlife habitats.

Presented by the Township of Langley and the Langley Environmental Partners Society, WaterWeeks 2016 activities are designed to encourage environmental stewardship in residents of all ages. They are free and open to the public, but space is limited. To register, contact 604.532.3511 or exec_director@leps.bc.ca.

WaterWeeks events include a Farm Fresh Bus Tour on October 1, a Coquitlam Watershed Tour and Wonderful Wetland Tour on October 2, and an Invasive Plant Pull and Streamside Clean Up on October 8. A Streamside Clean Up will also be held October 9, a Green Wednesday Film Screening will take place October 12, and a Dig In Treeplanting will conclude WaterWeeks on October 15.

For more information, contact Environmental Coordinator Meaghan Norton Daniel at 604.533.6009 or mnortondaniel@tol.ca.