



Winter Solstice

A time for rest & reflection

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Monday, December 20, 2021

Snowy Reflections

by Carolyn Uher

Winter Solstice marks the longest night of the year. Here we are afforded a long pause, before the sun's strength builds. At 7:59 AM Pacific Time on December 21st, 2021, the north pole will be the furthest away from the sun. This darkness can be seen as a time for rest and recovery.

After such a challenging year, what positivity and warm rays can we radiate into the new year? At KICS, we are full of gratitude for the generosity of our community in supporting our education and conservation programs –recognizing the perseverance and dedication of many individuals that has brought us here, and inspires the work ahead.

We wish to extend this gratitude to nature itself, for the gift of salmon, the lifeblood of the watershed. Their resilience is a model to give hope in tough times. As we forge ahead into 2022, let's be mindful of the interconnectedness of all life.

KICS Earns National Award

by Shona Bruce

On November 24, 2021, The Canadian Museum of Nature announced the Kingfisher Interpretive Centre Society (KICS) as the winner of the 2021

Nature Inspiration Award for Community

Action

This is an award that speaks to the power of community, passion and perseverance and belongs to each of the thousands of volunteers, supporters and donors that have been the backbone of the Society and vital to the success of KIC programs over the years. To gain national recognition shows how truly remarkable the work being done at the Centre is. The community of Kingfisher had the foresight and the enthusiasm to start it all. Well done Kingfisher!

Thank-you to everyone for helping the KICS in our mission to inspire the next generation of salmon caretakers and to build an awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural world. Our educational programming has and will continue to have a positive ripple effect into our community and to salmon conservation efforts for years to come.

This award comes with a \$5,000 “pay it forward” donation that the Society will pass on to another nature related program in the area.



Check out other inspiring 2021 Canadian Museum of Nature Award recipients:



Youth
Autumn Peltier , 16
Clean Water for All
Project , ON



Not for Profit (Small)
SmartICE
Sea-ice monitoring, NL



Adult
Lisa Mintz
Creation of 60 Ha
Urban Park, QC



Sustainable Business
Tentree
Sustainable clothing, BC



Not for Profit (Large)
Canadian Wildlife
Federation
Wild Outside, ON



Delivering Schools of Salmon

by Carolyn Uher & Shona Bruce

"It's Mrs. Salmon Claus!" is the greeting Shona Bruce normally gets, as she enters Elementary Schools on cold December days to deliver salmon eggs.

This year Salmon Claus had to adapt to school safety protocols, and made deliveries in secret, but kids are just as excited. They have been learning all about salmon life-cycles in their science curriculum and now can experience nature's wonder first hand –watching the bright eggs develop in their classrooms.

The Stream to Sea program is a rare chance for kids to observe nature close up, and play a dynamic role in salmon conservation stewardship activities by raising Chinook salmon in their home classrooms. The pandemic has limited in-class learning sessions, but KICS continues to provide salmon eggs and teaching tools to a total of 38 classrooms in North Okanagan and Shuswap schools. It's wonderful to see that the enthusiasm of the teachers and students has not changed at all. Now that the eggs have been delivered and are hatching into alevins, they will require feeding in January as they enter the next stage of development as a fry.



The Stream to Sea Program is an experiential salmon education program sponsored by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and delivered through the Kingfisher Interpretive Centre Society for over 30 years. This program provides salmon eggs to schools in three local school districts giving students an opportunity to learn about salmon hands-on and play an active role in salmon stewardship activities. For more information on the Stream to Sea Program follow this link:



Winter Wonderland at KIC

by Carolyn Uher

Whether you take small or big strides on your snowshoes, the Kingfisher Interpretive Centre site trails await you in winter. There is easy access to the site trails via our upper parking lot, which is regularly plowed in the snowy season.

Enjoy a peaceful walk along the frozen banks of the Shuswap, where you may observe whitefish swimming in the clear pools, or resident birds like American Dippers or Mergansers. Kids can search for fresh animal tracks in the forest

Donations for use of the trails is greatly appreciated (donation box near centre)

ARE YOU AN EXPERT TRACKER?

There is always lots of animal activity near the river in winter. Use your detective skills to determine who was here. Check out the next page for clues.

1



2



3

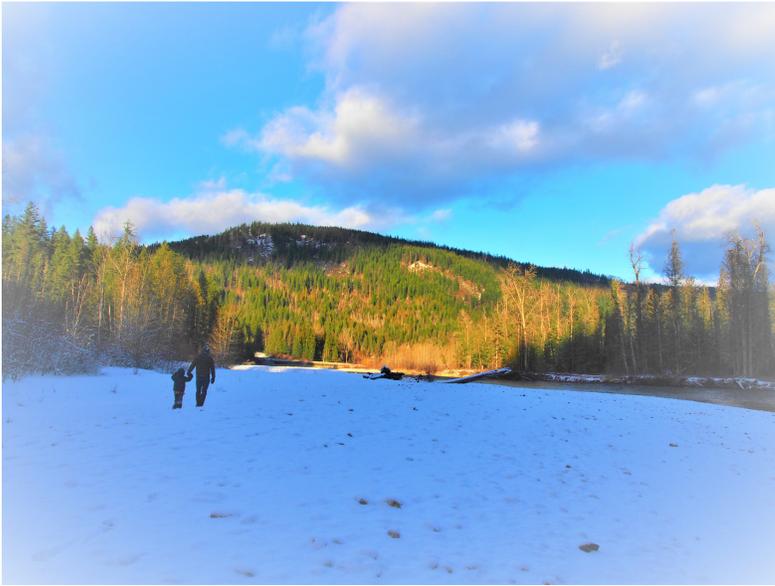


5



4





Tracking Clues:

1. A large ungulate
2. Has armor against predators
3. Has teeth that are constantly growing
4. Makes its home in the river bank
5. Scavenges with long finger-like paws

Answers: 1. Moose, 2. Porcupine, 3. Beaver, 4. Otter, 5. Raccoon

SPONSOR A SALMON



Sponsor a Salmon as a Gift

This year's Sponsor a Salmon program is gaining momentum as the holiday season approaches, and we are thankful for the outreach opportunity it provides. There are few options for eco-minded gifts out there, but Sponsor a Salmon seems to check the boxes:

It provides personalized, fun and educational content for kids with an environmental stewardship focus; helps salmon conservation while being waste-free (no packaging) and free of shipping costs. It's even an option for last minute gift givers, with no wrapping involved.



Local Photography

SHUSWAP SCENES

2021



Wolf Wesle of Grindrod, BC captured the serenity of a winter day on the Shuswap River, from the Kingfisher shoreline.

We'd be happy to share the view through your camera lens in our next newsletter. Please submit jpg or png files of Shuswap River and wildlife theme photos to kicsexecutive@gmail.com before January 15th, 2022

