

Gabriola Streamkeepers—Water levels and quality

Observations at Coats Marsh, Gabriola Island

—with notes on Coats Marsh Creek, East Path Creek, and Stump Farm Streams.

References:

[RDN Coats Marsh Regional Park](#), 2011–2021 Management Plan, Appendix A.

[RDN Coats Marsh Weir Assessment](#), June 1, 2020, SRM Projects.

[Gabriola Riparian Areas](#), February 24, 2012, Madrone.

[RDN Berm Report](#), September 12, 2013.

[RDN Water Level Management](#), September 14, 2021, Madrone.

[RDN NHC/EDI Weir Replacement Study](#), April 12, 2023.

[RDN/NTBC Coats Marsh Weir Management Proposal](#), May 2, 2023.

[RDN NHC/EDI Decommissioning Plan](#), December 18, 2023.

[RDN NHC Beaver Dam Risk Assessment](#), January 10, 2024.

[RDN Coats Marsh Weir Pool Mitigation Plan](#) October 2024.

[RDN NHC Weir Demolition Plan](#) May 2025.

[RDN Final Weir Demolition Plan](#) May 2025.

For an up-to-date complete list see [here](#). For pertinent Gabriola Streamkeepers notes see [here](#). There is a [GSK Glossary](#).

[Coats Marsh hydrogeology](#) .

Water-levels' [summary](#).

Coats Marsh RP and 707 CP Trail [Maps](#): Maps Y and Z.

Gabriola Stream and Wetlands [Atlas](#) .

Coats Marsh Species [Checklists](#) .

Freshwater [fish](#) on Gabriola Island, BC

Coats Marsh – human disturbance of breeding and migratory [ducks and geese](#).

Coats Marsh – [beaver dam stability](#).

Coats Marsh Management - [paper on](#), [weir decommissioning](#)

Coats Marsh brief [history](#).

Long-term precipitation (1944-2025) – [statistics](#). Updated every month and used as the “normal” meaning average precipitation at Coats Marsh.

Field observations—2026 (Aug.—)

THIS FILE ([Field Observations 2026](#)) IS A SUPPLEMENT TO:

“[Observations at Coats Marsh, Gabriola Island](#)” File: 673.

For an up-to-date list of supplements see [here](#) . Previous file: [673zj](#).

August 7, 2026 (day 4038,4018+20):NGRG cum. 9.9 mm (norm. 25 mm).
Cistern -240 mm SCB. [cal. datum: cistern +0.127 m].

Woodland skippers and green darners; high smoke from distant wildfires masquerading as a grey ceiling of cloud.



A small cistern (1800L) has appeared in the RDN's weirpool garden.

Is this bringing the habitat to the plants? In a nature reserve, I thought the

idea was to do the reverse.

Several more wildflowers in the garden; some common intrusive weedy ones but not common in the park; others intriguingly hard to identify even if they aren't too tiny to be classed as wildflowers.





Rosebay willowherb (*Epilobium angustifolium*). Common, but not in the park or in the vicinity of the old weirpool where this is now growing.



A real mystery in the RDN's weirpool garden. Family likely *Montiaceae*, possibly *Lewisia triphylla* [8 petals pencilled mauve, linear lvs, no basal lvs,] but that couldn't have got here on its own.



Photo taken May 25, 2026 in the RDN's weirpool garden. Repeated here with leaves, because it still has not been identified.



August 15, 2026 (day 4046,4018+28):NGRG cum. 11.9 mm (norm. 28 mm).



It seems like the end of summer already. The woods very still and quiet.

Crisp brown leaves litter the trail. The berries ripen and moss crunches like snow underfoot. The bracken is turning yellow, even tawny, signalling lack of moisture rather than lack of sunlight.

It seems that, except for the thousands of red-capped ants building their mounds, and the newly-fledged woodpeckers tap-tap-tapping-away, it seems that all life is waiting for the season to change. Life's summer-tasks completed.

Weirpool Creek (left) at recovering after the chemical and biochemical curfuffle of the past few months. The showpiece in this corner, a musk-flower (*Erythranthe moschata*), a known native inhabitant of the marsh.



Meanwhile in the garden, the intrusive, dreaded, impossible-to-eradicate reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) is settling in, as it has already done in the marsh and near-by wetlands on the island.

"Lake" level normal, no leakage through the beaver dam. Only 1 or 2 mallards in residence.

◇ [previous file](#)