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www.miamiriverstreamkeepers.ca

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Annual Report

With the worldwide Corona virus pandemic, the Miami River Streamkeepers (MRSS) have faced a challenging year since our last AGM held March 2, 2020. Our Society continues to operate within the framework defined in 2012 when we registered our organization as a non-profit society but to achieve goals set at our AGM we operated electronically. We meet regularly as an Executive using Skype.

Stewardship of the Miami River and its Riparian Area remains the primary focus of the Society. The weekly "Walk and Weed" activity along the Miami River Greenway is accomplished by group members in pods. This allows us to monitor the progress of shrubs, trees, and aquatics we have planted. Invasive or noxious plants and any dumped materials are removed. It also allows us to interact, following covid-19 health protocols, with local residents whose properties border the riparian area, and with tourists and locals walking the trail. MRSS members planted a number of donated native shrubs along the Greenway trail in 2020 and installed donated beaver guard wire on birch, willow and alder trees.

In summer 2020 members stenciled fish on storm drains through the Village of Harrison Hot Springs. Replacement membranes for Water Monitoring equipment and paint for Storm Drain Marking was provided by our DFO Community Advisor.

Public Education and Involvement is an important focus for our group. Unfortunately we had to cancel our April Gardening with Native Plant Program with Fraser Valley Conservancy and our booth at the United Church's Earth Day event. Interpretive and directional signs along the riparian area promote community and visitor awareness of the greenway path. MRSS maintains an active [web site](#) but are in the process of obtaining a grant to purchase a new hosting platform to enable us to update the site.

A hallmark of our small but dedicated group is our collaboration with numerous agencies and partners. With Fraser Valley Conservancy (FVC), we completed, in July 2020, a water quality monitoring project on the Miami at the Earthwise property. In 2021 we hope to send new members to training workshops with

the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation (PSkF) and to access the Zoom video conferencing service through PSkF for our meetings.

The Village of Harrison Hot Springs awards us operational financing through “Grants to Groups” for which we are very appreciative. Due to COVID restrictions on gatherings and public events, our group did not use the full amount of grant funds made available for the 2020 year. We had sufficient funds in our account to meet our expenses.

We will be holding our AGM on March 15, 2021 by conference call. We look forward to exploring ideas and establishing goals for 2021. We have had inquiries from both individuals and organizations about our group via our website with two new people taking out membership. We aspire to establish an improved profile on social media and to become more proficient with virtual conferencing tools to keep our Society functioning for the duration of the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Janne Perrin

President

Miami River Streamkeepers Society