Cyclists look at slough reclaim project



Join HUB for a bike tour of the Katzie Slough July 19.

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Together with Pitt Meadows resident Scott Magri, Watershed Watch Salmon Society and HUB are organizing a bike tour of the Katzie Slough on Saturday, July 19.

Scott has ambitious plans for restoration of the slough, which has been degraded over the last few decades with the encroaching development in Pitt Meadows.

In the 1970s, when the slough was still full of salmon, Scott spent many hours fishing there. He was bullied as a young boy, and at the slough he found a peaceful escape from his tormentors. After going down the wrong path, doing drugs and crime, he eventually picked himself up and he's at the point now where he's an inspiration for many. He wrote a book about his troubled life, and is now in demand as an anti-gang motivational speaker.

At several stops along the tour, Scott will explain what his plans are for the slough, and how he hopes to see it turned from a drainage ditch, choked with weeds and shopping carts, back to the healthy salmon habitat it once was.

As part of the tour, we're planning a picnic along the waterfront in Osprey Village. To top up the fun, Pitt Meadows Cycle has generously donated some prizes for a draw.

To make it easier for residents from both Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge to participate, we will have two starting points:

- Memorial Peace Park (bandstand) in Maple Ridge at 4 p.m.
- Meadowtown Mall (eastern parking lot at Jungle Jac's) at 5 p.m.

The ride from Memorial Peace Park and back will be about 22 kilometres. From Meadowtown Mall and back will be about 11 km. Both routes are rated easy.

Estimated arrival back at Meadowtown Mall is about 7:30 p.m., and Memorial Peace Park 8 p.m.

Please send an e-mail to Lina lina@watershed-watch.org to register for the ride, so we can make sure we have enough food for everyone.

Jackie Chow is a member of the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows chapter of HUB.