

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.

[Coats Marsh hydrology](#) .

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

Gabriola Stream and Wetlands [Atlas](#) .

Coats Marsh Species [Checklists](#) .

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

Field observations—2017 (October—December)

THIS FILE ([Field Observations 2017-3](#)) IS A SUPPLEMENT TO:

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

For an up-to-date list of supplements see [here](#) .

October 2, 2017 (day +807, 731+76):

A flock of ring-necked ducks, resting, and a lone, American widgeon. Earlier arrivals still here.



October 9, 2017 (day +814, 731+83):

Very quiet, almost silent.

There are probably over twenty species of grasses in the park, many introduced. One of my favorites is bentgrass (*Agrostis capillaris*). It catches light like a mist and has a touch that's lighter than that of any feather. In some parts, "bent" was once a word for



dried-out, bleached, ungrazed grass, or a landform covered with same. I'd like to think that bentgrass is so named because it's so easily flattened by wind and rain in the fall, but it isn't.

October 11, 2017 (day +816, 731+85): Cistern level -214 mm SCB. Weir -145 mm WPB (scale). NanRG cum. 55.3 mm.

Banded-woolly-bear caterpillars. Everybody more vocal after autumnal showers—flickers, jays, frogs, squirrels, towhees, sparrows, juncos, wrens. Families of American widgeons foraging together on the lake. ◇

