

An aerial photograph of a city, likely New York City, showing a river (the Hudson River) flowing through the landscape. The city is densely packed with buildings, and there are green spaces and parks visible. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

Day One – Sustainable Stream Restoration

- A. KEYNOTE: Science Behind Whole-System Approach
- B. PANEL & TOWN-HALL: Watershed Health & You
- C. MINI-WORKSHOP: Closing the Data Gap
- D. REFLECTIONS: Lessons Learned Over a Generation

Day Two – Restorative Land Development

- A. PARTICIPATION: Creating an Actionable Vision
- B. PANEL & TOWN-HALL: Improving Where We Live
- C. BEACONS OF HOPE: **Bowker & Brooklyn Success Stories**
- D. REFLECTIONS: **We Can Create the Future We Want**



Eric Bonham

former Director in the BC Ministries of
Environment and Municipal Affairs

A PERSPECTIVE ON CITIZEN SCIENCE IN ACTION:

“Engagement of community through stewardship is a credible formula to be encouraged and mainstreamed at every opportunity.”

“Stewardship operates under a different dynamic than the private sector or government. Stewards are drawn together for a common cause, like-minded individuals with a vision for the greater good....and passion to make a difference.

“When this combination of citizen talent is aligned with a local government that is both visionary and focused, outstanding achievements are not only possible, but realistic.”

A satellite map of the Pacific Northwest coast of Canada. The map shows the coastline from the Strait of Georgia in the north to the Gulf Islands in the south. Two red dots are placed on the map to indicate specific locations. The first dot is in the Comox Valley, near the Campbell River and the town of Courtenay. The second dot is in the Capital Region, near the town of Bowker. The map also shows major cities like Vancouver, Surrey, and Whistler, as well as Garibaldi Provincial Park. The text 'Brooklyn Creek, Comox Valley' is overlaid in yellow on the first dot, and 'Bowker Creek, Capital Region' is overlaid in yellow on the second dot. The text 'BEACONS OF HOPE: Bowker & Brooklyn Restoration Success Stories are Inspirational' is overlaid in large yellow letters across the center of the map. The Google logo is visible in the bottom left corner.

**Brooklyn Creek,
Comox Valley**

**BEACONS OF HOPE: Bowker & Brooklyn
Restoration Success Stories are Inspirational**

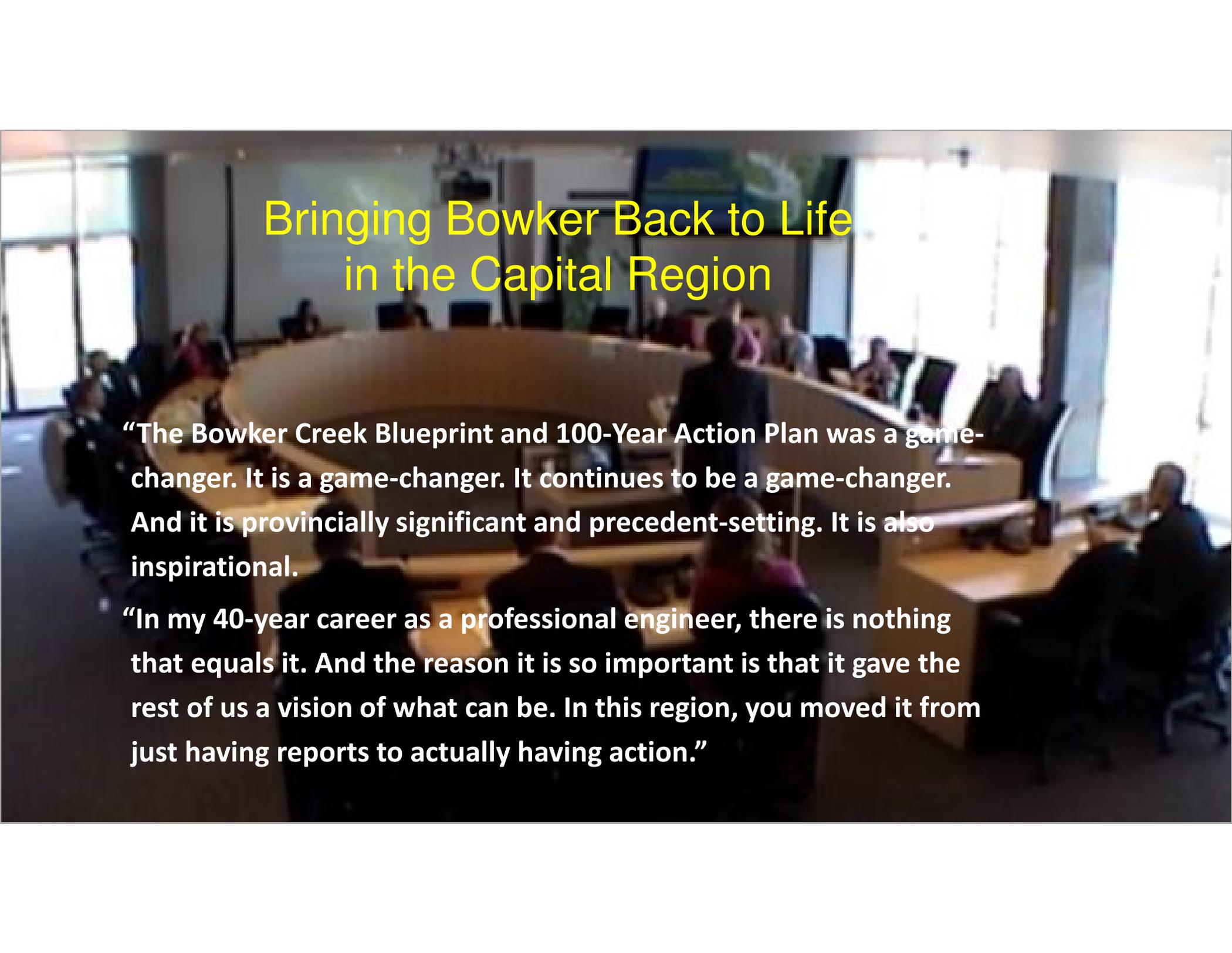
**Bowker Creek,
Capital Region**

A satellite map of the Vancouver region in British Columbia, Canada. The map shows the city of Vancouver on the west coast, with the Fraser River flowing through it. Two red dots are placed on the map: one in the urban core near the Campbell River and another in the suburban Comox Valley. The map also shows surrounding areas like Nanaimo, Richmond, and Surrey. The text is overlaid on the map in yellow.

Bowker and Brooklyn are provincially significant precedents.

- Bowker in the urban heart of the Capital Region
- Brooklyn in the suburban Comox Valley.

Each demonstrates how local government partnerships with stewardship groups can *'improve where we live'*.



Bringing Bowker Back to Life in the Capital Region

“The Bowker Creek Blueprint and 100-Year Action Plan was a game-changer. It is a game-changer. It continues to be a game-changer. And it is provincially significant and precedent-setting. It is also inspirational.

“In my 40-year career as a professional engineer, there is nothing that equals it. And the reason it is so important is that it gave the rest of us a vision of what can be. In this region, you moved it from just having reports to actually having action.”

Bringing Bowker Back to Life in the Capital Region



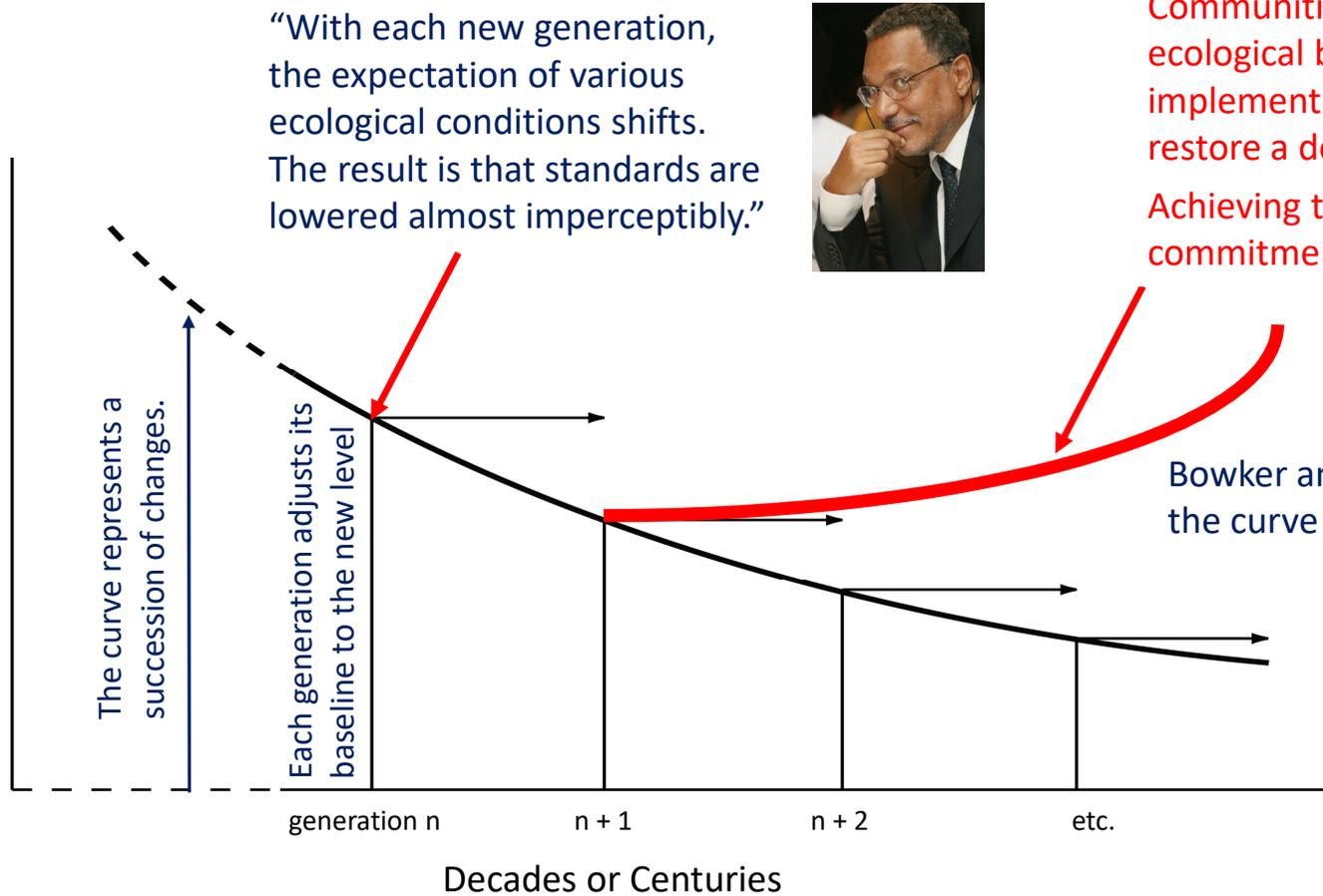
Jody Watson

“Our collective ‘baseline’ or memory of what a healthy creek should look like has shifted significantly.

“(In Bowker Creek) we are changing the way we develop our land by attempting to re-engineer the hydrological function back into our urban landscape. We are, in some ways, cultivating a new land ethic.”

In 1995, Dr. Daniel Pauly coined the phrase
“Shifting Baseline Syndrome”

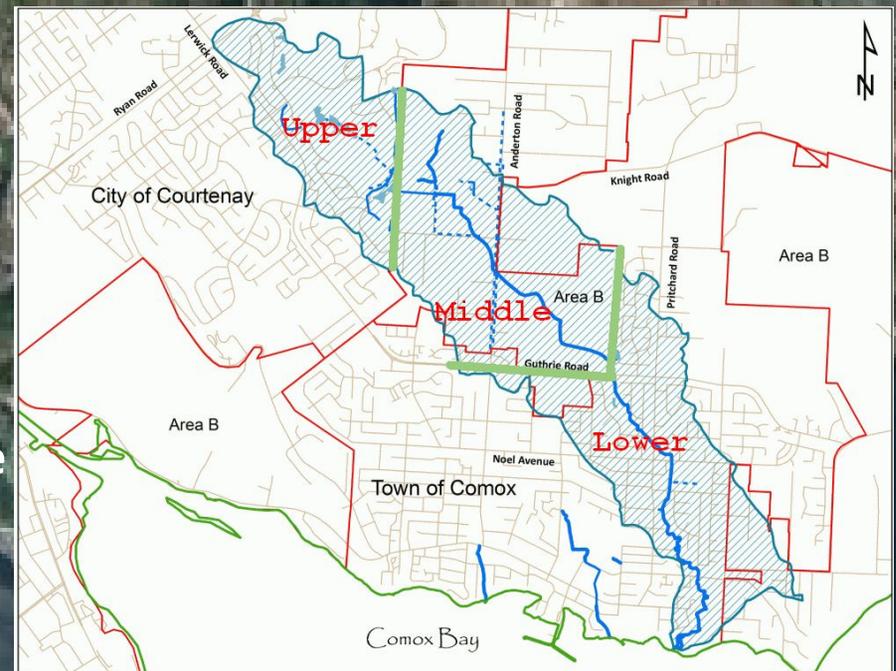
Some Good Thing = Driver for Action
(Aquatic Habitat, Salmon, Clean Water or...)



Communities could re-set the ecological baseline IF they would implement ‘standards of practice’ that restore a desired watershed condition. Achieving this would take time, commitment and perseverance.

Three Jurisdictions. Three Lenses

- Upper creekshed – ecology subordinated to engineered drainage systems
- Middle creekshed – reactive regime
- Lower creekshed – extensive investment by stakeholders



Brooklyn Creek in the Comox Valley



The “Comox hour” – blending three perspectives to showcase the long-term value of collaboration guided by a shared vision for creekshed restoration.



- Al Fraser provides context for the Comox journey, with a focus on partnerships.
- Christine Hodgson follows with an overview of how the volunteer work fits with the goals of the Town, thus making the creek a better place.
- Marvin Kamenz elaborates on three building blocks in the evolution of the Town’s incremental process for implementing changes in development practices.





Bowker and Brooklyn reflect a new form of governance:

- First the vision
- Then community involvement
- Then support from municipal decision makers
- Then apply 'Design with Nature' as a consistent future approach to restorative development

So, what can streamkeepers do?



1. Educate yourselves on why & how the “water balance approach” would reduce erosion and protect your creek.
2. Expand your involvement and your influence beyond the creek channel to restore the water balance.