

I r w i n P a r k U p d a t e b y J e r e m y C l a r e

Look at this, it is not the best picture. It was fluke that I got it. It is a bit blurry but it shows there are still fresh water sponges at Irwin Park. The green is it - zoom in. That is



me (my boots stirring up the mud) looking down the bank. But look at the other picture, it could be bad. We need to ask Langford to put some planks in the dam. If the dirt and branches wash out then the water will go down one and a half feet before summer. That is bad as it will be devastating to the pond because the

water will evaporate too and if it is not deep enough, it will get too warm. It is already six inches lower then last year and that was after a hot summer. We need to do something.



But back to the good stuff, my friend and I got a bit of the fresh water sponge and looked at it under a microscope. It was crazy and freaky and cool it looked like the sponge was made of fibres and the algae were all over it. That is why it is green and it looks alien like. If that was not cool enough there is more. We cut into

some and found a microscopic worm you could barely see by eye. It was smaller then a little red pen line but we accidentally cut it in half when we cut into the sponge. There

were what might have been microscopic eggs with algae growing around them. They were a translucent yellow. The best was the proto-stage mussel. They probably have a better name but I don't know it yet. They are little shells shaped like clam shells but with different lines not ridges like clams. These were different from class. I don't know how to describe it but I could draw it.

They were a translucent yellow and they were open. It was cool to see and there was like 20 of them. We had one of the tiny micro shells and I looked with my eye instead of the microscope. It looked like a speck of dust, one that you can hardly see. How could it be so cool? Something had cleaned them out as there was nothing inside the shells. Maybe the worms had eaten them? And this all came from a piece of sponge that was 1½ inch by 1/8 of an inch. When we cut it in half, most of the cool stuff was on only the one piece. I might have to get a microscope now. That was so neat.

Hey, I was thinking earth day is coming up. Ian told me he was trying to get Langford to do a Bilston Creek cleanup. I was thinking that the Westshore Learning Center could do something at Irwin Park. We could cleanup the far side of the upper pond. There is some garbage and maybe we can cut through the blackberries on the dam. We could tell Edward (Ted) Hill, reporter at Goldstream News Gazette as he told me if we needed some help with Irwin Park to let him know. This could be good for our favourite park.

Mussels help filter your water biologically. Each mussel will filter around 25-40 Litres of water per hour.