

Carpet roll, sleeping bag among Bow River litter

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Divers take break during a cleanup of the Bow River.

(CBC)

Navy divers who usually patrol Canada's ports have plunged into the Bow River to pull up garbage.

Divers with HMCS Tecumseh naval reserve in Calgary cleaned up the river Tuesday as part of the annual TD Great Canadian Shoreline efforts.

"In this type of area we've found shopping carts in the past," said diver Kimball Bishop. "There's hundreds of beer cans under there, pieces of rafts, other garbage that has been thrown away."

Divers plunged more than five metres down, he said. "A lot of people don't think that the Bow is that deep," he said.

Another diver, Julie McDonald, said they spotted a roll of carpet covered by logs. They pulled up a nearby sleeping bag, but their dive time was up and the next crew couldn't find the carpet roll again.

"The stuff that was there you can tell has been there for years and years. I was expecting more. But maybe the current is sending it downstream," she said.

The divers usually work in the waters of cities like Victoria and Halifax, removing objects that might cause problems for ships and looking for illegal materials stowed on ships beneath the water.