

**Newsletter #30 – July - September 2016**

**1) Next Streamkeepers Meeting:** The next meeting of the members will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at St. Stephen's Church starting at 7:30 p.m.

**2) New Director Appointed:** Mike Akerly, who has served as director since 2010 and carried the role of Secretary for the past four and a half years, has decided to step down. We thank Mike for his hours of dedicated service in these positions. He will continue to assist with the transition to comply with the new Societies Act and will continue as a Creek Monitor on McDonald Creek as well as lead a team of students during the annual spawner salmon surveys.

In his place, Mike Perley has been appointed as director and has agreed to take on the duties of Secretary. He presently assists the organization in many volunteer activities including temperature logging on Brothers Creek, as Creek Monitor on Rodgers Creek, leading a team of secondary students surveying Hadden Creek, as well as assisting with Hatchery duties and fry releases. We welcome Mike Perley to the board and look forward to his participation.

**3) Community Events:** The annual Coho Festival held on September 11 was a great success. The sunny weather saw large crowds of visitors coming to the Sustainability Zone where our display was located. Streamkeeper volunteers answered questions and provided information on our activities. There was considerable interest in the recently completed Rodgers Creek estuary enhancement project. It was a good opportunity to show pictures of the completed project. As in years past, kids loved to spin the "Wheel of Death" roulette wheel and also play our new Bingo game. A big thank-you to all Streamkeeper volunteers who came out to help.

**4) Herring Spawn Program:** The talk by Jonn Matsen in January 2015 has created considerable interest within the Society. Early in the coming year, we will be installing a total of 24 nets at Thunderbird Marine and West Vancouver Yacht Club. The nets measure approximately three feet in width and ten feet in length and will be suspended from the floating docks at both locations. It is estimated that each net can hold up to 1,000,000 herring eggs. This new initiative will be coordinated by Keith Pelletier who has been working with Jonn. We are most appreciative of the cooperation and support of the two marine facilities where the nets will be installed.

**5) Citizen Science:** Another new initiative is the expansion of the Citizen Science program. In addition to the on-going Temperature Logging, we will now be adding two more elements of aquatic insect sampling and water quality testing (for dissolved oxygen, pH and turbidity). We expect to build this program to include all 8 creeks where we now have a history of water temperature data. This new initiative will be coordinated by Leslie Shuparski.

**6) Spawner Salmon Surveys:** It is that time of year when Streamkeepers start looking for returning adult salmon in many local creeks. Dave Reid is coordinating the thirty or so Creek Monitors who will do a weekly check and report their findings. Elizabeth Hardy made a

presentation at the last Members Meeting on the process of surveying creeks. Results will be sent to both Dave and Elizabeth and summarized and published on our website in January.

**7) Secondary Students Performing Salmon Surveys:** Teams from all five secondary schools are presently being formed. Surveys will commence the week of October 17 and continue for a seven-week period. The purpose is to enumerate returning adult salmon.

**8) Fish ladder on Lawson Creek:** Construction of the new fish ladder was completed in early September. The project was fully-funded by contributions from Pacific Salmon Foundation, West Vancouver Community Foundation, the Province of B.C., Earth Day Canada, BC Hydro and the Coho Society of the North Shore. We thank Sartori Environmental for the design, CREUS Engineering for their civil engineering expertise and North Construction for building this more robust, concrete fish ladder. The District of West Vancouver provided the in-kind contribution of the Project Management during the six-week construction period.

**9) New Hadden Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Project:** In collaboration with Capilano Golf and Country Club, we have confirmation of one-half of the project funding from Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Future grant applications by Streamkeepers as well as contributions by the Golf Club should see this project fully funded. The enhancement work will allow adult salmon to gain access into and through the golf course to reach excellent spawning and rearing habitat. Included in this project will be the creation of a new, naturalized creek path between ponds 4 and 5, with a lower gradient providing easier passage through Hadden Creek in this area. The project should be completed in mid-2017.

**10) Larson Creek Estuary Enhancement Project:** Working with BC Hydro and the District of West Vancouver, we are proposing a fourth estuary enhancement project ó this one at the foreshore of Larson Creek, downstream from Gleneagles Golf Course. We are hopeful that the estuary work could be undertaken at the same time as other work by BC Hydro thereby reducing costs of this project. There will be a Larson Bay Park Visioning Open House hosted by the District on October 27 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m., at the Gleneagles Clubhouse.

**11) Restoration of Lower Lawson Creek:** Water quality testing is presently underway in the small park adjacent to Navy Jack Nature House to ascertain the water table, flow rate and salinity. A test hole was hydro-excavated in early September. Groundwater will be monitored over the months ahead before any detailed design work commences.

**12) Viewing Platform:** In the coming weeks members should consider a visit to the Viewing Platform on Brothers Creek at the Keith Road crossing, east of Taylor Way. There will be chum and coho salmon present to observe. Many thanks to Dave Martin and his team of ötidy-uppersö who work diligently to keep this area clean and welcoming.

**13) American Bullfrog:** This 20 cm invasive creature is evident in both Elveden lakes and has moved into the ponds in the Capilano Golf and Country Club. Attempts to eradicate this unwanted animal are proving difficult and containment seems to be the best hope. They are extremely harmful to other aquatic life including insects, other frogs, snakes, ducklings and fish.

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