

Newsletter #32 – January - March 2017

- 1) Streamkeepers Meeting:** The next gathering of the members will be the annual Streamkeepers Seaside Social on Thursday, April 20 at Hollyburn Sailing Club starting at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing everyone at this festive event.
- 2) Annual General Meeting:** The AGM of the West Vancouver Streamkeeper Society will be held on May 4 at St. Stephen's Church starting at 7:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Shaun Hollingsworth, President of the Seymour Salmonid Society, who will talk about the slide that almost completely blocked the river and how this is being remedied.
- 3) Spawner Salmon Surveys:** Elizabeth Hardy presented the results of the spawner salmon surveys at the January members meeting. There were some gratifying observations from these surveys. The results for 2016 can be seen on the website under "Activities", then "Salmon Surveys". Thank you to Dave Reid for coordinating these surveys and to all those members who participated.
- 4) Delegation to Council:** In addition to the surveys by members, students from the five secondary schools also conducted surveys on eight streams, each team led by a Streamkeeper Sponsor. Mayor Smith invited West Vancouver Secondary students Cindy Zhou, Fumika Noguchi and Jordan Gumuchian and Secondary School Programs Coordinator, John Barker to present the results of the surveys to the community. On January 23 this group appeared before Council as a delegation and gave the presentation. Seventy students participated in this program last fall.
- 5) Nelson Creek Hatchery:** The 102,000 chum salmon eggs received last fall hatched on January 5. The fry were recently ponded and will be fed for a few weeks then released into local streams. The 30,000 coho eggs from the Capilano Hatchery arrived on February 7 and hatched on March 23. Cold water temperature has slowed the development of the eggs and alevins of both species. We expect the coho fry release, into approximately twelve streams, to occur in mid-June.
- 6) Temperature Logging:** After three years of coordinating the temperature logging volunteers, Alyson Fretz has now joined the Citizen Science team. Her final task was working with Rich Ketchen to prepare temperature graphs for all years on the eight creeks being monitored. This is now available on the website under "Our Creeks". Charlie Cochrane, a second year UBC student, will now take over the temperature logging coordinator duties. Many thanks to Aly for a job well done and welcome Charlie to our team of Coordinators.
- 7) Cypress Liaison Committee:** Nancy Henderson, Creek Monitor for Cypress Creek, will be our representative at these meetings which are held twice a year. The members of the committee include stewardship groups, the District, Cypress Mountain Resort and British Pacific Properties,

all of whom have an interest in this, the largest watershed in West Vancouver. Thank you to Hugh Hamilton who has been the Streamkeepers representative for several years and will continue to represent Old Growth Conservancy at these meetings. The next meeting will be held on June 7.

8) Herring Spawn Pilot Project: The twelve nets that have been in place at Thunderbird Marina and West Vancouver Yacht Club since early January have been checked weekly by Keith Pelletier and his team. To date, we have not observed the presence of herring eggs although the herring runs in Squamish and False Creek have been fairly strong. As agreed with the marinas, the nets will be removed by mid-April. We will now be looking into expanding the program to other locations for next winter. A special thank-you goes to Thunderbird Marina for the donation that covered the cost of materials to make this program possible.

9) Restoration of Lower Lawson Creek: Water quality testing continued through the fall from a test hole in the small park to the west of Navy Jack Nature House to assess the water table, flow and salinity. A report has been received from Sartori Environmental Services recommending the construction of the proposed new creek path and pond that will serve as rearing habitat for juvenile coho salmon. The District will be reviewing the proposed creek path for pedestrian pathways and creek crossings, following which we will be working with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to complete a detailed design of the proposed new creek path.

10) Hadden Creek Habitat Improvement Project: Developed in partnership with Capilano Golf and Country Club, this project will remove barriers on Hadden Creek that limit access into the Capilano golf course area for returning coho salmon. The objective is to also improve spawning and rearing habitat along 600 metres of Hadden Creek within the golf course. We have confirmed funding for nearly 90% of the cost and have filed grant applications for additional funding. Pending approval of final funding, it is expected the work will be completed within the Fisheries window in July and August of this year.

11) Larson Creek Estuary Enhancement Project: The design and work plan have been approved by the District and funding is in place to complete the project. Thanks go to Jordan Sturdy, MLA for assisting with a \$15,000 grant from the province. Our work will be undertaken in June this year in conjunction with a BC Hydro project in Larson Bay.

12) Early Coho Arrival: On a recent survey looking for emerging chum salmon fry, it was a surprise to find two bright adult coho in lower Brothers Creek, just upstream from the crossing near Clyde Avenue. These are most likely early run Capilano River fish that are one of three distinctly separate run timings, the first of which start entering the river in April. These two coho were spotted on March 23. This is certainly an indicator of how diverse the coho populations are throughout the coastal waterways.

13) Membership: The membership total for 2017 so far is 180. Thank-you everyone for continuing to support the volunteer work of our Society.