

Newsletter #33 – April - June 2017

1) Annual General Meeting: The AGM of the West Vancouver Streamkeeper Society was held on May 4 at St. Stephen's Church. The nine existing directors were re-elected and the officers remain unchanged - John Barker (president), Bill Chapman, Elizabeth Hardy, Don Harrison, Rich Ketchen, Dave Martin, Bill McAllister (treasurer), Mike Perley (secretary and vice-president) and Dave Reid. The President's Report on behalf of the directors can be seen on the website under News.

2) Seymour River Rockslide: The guest speaker at the AGM was Shaun Hollingsworth, President of the Seymour Salmonid Society. He provided a most interesting talk about the slow but determined process of removing the 50,000 cubic metres of rock that collapsed into the Seymour River. The rockslide, which occurred on December 7, 2014, continues to obstruct the passage of salmon.

3) Transitioning from the Society Act to the Societies Act: A big thank-you to Mike Akerly and Barrie Adams, both past secretaries of West Vancouver Streamkeepers, for all the time they contributed to update our Constitution and Bylaws. This was a required process to reach compliance with the new Societies Act. The amended Constitution and new Bylaws were approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

4) Next Streamkeepers Meeting: The next meeting of the members will be held on Thursday, October 5 at St. Stephen's Church starting at 7:30 p.m.

5) Streamkeepers Seaside Social: The ever-popular Seaside Social was held on Thursday, April 20 at Hollyburn Sailing Club with about 80 members in attendance.

6) Nelson Creek Hatchery: The 100,000 chum fry raised at the hatchery were released on April 19 into Rodgers, McDonald and Lawson creeks. The 30,000 coho fry were released on June 7 into Larson, Nelson, Eagle, Wood, Cypress, Rodgers, McDonald, Lawson and West Brothers creeks.

7) Emerging Fry Surveys: The main focus was to observe coho fry that emerged from the gravel from natural spawning and to do so before the hatchery-raised coho fry are released. Thanks to all who participated in these surveys.

8) Cypress Liaison Committee: Nancy Henderson attended a meeting of stakeholders on June 7 focusing on information sharing on activities in Cypress Provincial Park and the headwaters of Cypress Creek.

9) Community Events: Three events were held this spring starting with Adopt-A-Fish on April 22, then Community Day on June 3 and finally, the Open House held at the Centre for

Aquaculture and Environmental Research (the West Van laboratory) on June 10. At this event Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced the formation of the Pacific Science Enterprise Centre.

10) Pacific Science Enterprise Centre: The process of transforming the West Vancouver laboratory into a world class research centre is now in the planning phase. Our Society has been invited to serve on two committees – the Science Partners Team and the Community Leadership Team. Dr. Greg Weary has joined the former and John Barker will serve on the latter. MP Pamela Goldsmith-Jones is the co-leader with the Fisheries Minister for this exciting initiative.

11) Citizen Science Program: This relatively new endeavour resulted in water quality testing at 8 creeks last fall and again this spring and will be undertaken once more in August when creeks are at their lowest levels. The tests being conducted are for dissolved oxygen, pH levels, temperature and stream turbidity. Aquatic insect sampling is expected to commence in late summer when more of the team have completed training.

12) Weed Pull Completed: On June 11 a team of Streamkeepers completed the annual invasive plant weed pull in Hay Park, adjacent to the rearing pond. Interestingly, a large area that has been cleared annually is steadily being reclaimed by native species, most notably salmonberry.

13) Storm Drain Marking: Six outings were completed in June - two classes of students from Ridgeview Elementary School and two classes from Irwin Park, as well as a Streamkeeper team at the Eagle Harbour Sunday Funday and an event by employees the 17th and Marine Drive branch of the Royal Bank. In total these teams painted 383 yellow fish adjacent to storm drains.

14) Hadden Creek Habitat Improvement Project: The project is now fully funded with grants received this spring from Pacific Salmon Foundation, the Coho Society of the North Shore and West Vancouver Community Foundation. Removal of barriers which presently restrict fish passage as well as naturalizing sections of the creek will result in adult salmon having access to upstream spawning and rearing habitat where Hadden Creek flows through the Capilano Golf and Country Club. The project will be completed this summer.

15) Larson Creek Estuary Enhancement Project: A letter of understanding was recently executed with the District detailing the project. The work will be managed by the District with on-site direction provided by Balanced Environmental. The project will be completed during favourable tides in late July.

16) DFO Cuts Rescinded: A cut to programs and departments in mid-May by Fisheries and Oceans Canada was thankfully rescinded. The result would have been the elimination of the “salmonids in the classroom” program in which 35,000 elementary-aged students participate annually throughout the Province as well as the closure of the Resource Restoration Unit which is key to receiving approval of our proposed projects. A big thank-you goes to the efforts of our Member of Parliament, Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, for helping to bring about the reversal of this most unfortunate decision.

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