

**Newsletter #35 – October – December 2017**

**1) Next Streamkeepers Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at St. Stephen's Anglican Church starting at 7:30 p.m. Our guest speaker is Brittany Visona, a research assistant with the Coastal Ocean Research Institute, who will talk about the local populations of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises).

**2) Nelson Creek Hatchery:** Operations are underway with just over 100,000 chum salmon eggs received from the Alouette River Hatchery on November 29. We will be receiving 30,000 coho eggs from the Capilano Hatchery in late January. Elizabeth Hardy is coordinating a team of seven volunteers to oversee the development of the eggs to fry, including a feeding period in the outdoor troughs. The fry will be released into local streams in mid-to-late spring.

**3) Eagle Creek Culvert Upgrade:** In September, a contractor working for the District completed the repair of a 50-metre culvert carrying Eagle Creek under two private-property driveways to the point where the creek discharges into Eagle Harbour. Unfortunately, the baffles, a requirement of the contract, were not completely, nor correctly installed. An emergency meeting, prompted by Society members, brought the contractor together with District Engineering and Environment Department representatives to find a remedy. One week later, the contractor set up the creek bypass system and proceeded to install the baffles. We are pleased to report, that in two days the baffles were properly installed and working well.

**4) West Brothers Creek Diversion:** With the support of the District, the diversion on West Brothers Creek, which takes about half the creek water into a storm water culvert under the Upper Levels Highway, has now been reduced allowing most of the flow to remain in the creek.

**5) Work Plan for 2018:** On December 14 representatives from the District's engineering and environment departments made site visits with Streamkeepers to Rodgers Creek, Brothers Creek and West Brothers Creek where proposed projects for 2018 were reviewed. When the Work Plan is finalized it will be posted on the website as well as the project summary for 2017.

**6) Spawner Salmon Surveys:** The surveys of local creeks started in earnest right after Thanksgiving and continued through to mid-December. The creeks being watched were Larson, Nelson, Eagle, Wood, Claymore, Willow, Cypress, Rodgers, McDonald, Lawson, Brothers, Macbeth, Hadden and West Brothers. Dave Reid coordinated surveys and the reporting of data by the Creek Monitors. Elizabeth Hardy received the reports for each survey and will be preparing a summary which will be presented at the Members Meeting in January. A big thank-you to everyone who participated. To summarize - pinks were observed in lower Brothers Creek only, chum numbers were below average, coho were slightly above average and chinook salmon made their "hoped for" appearance after spawning in Brothers and Hadden Creeks in 2014.

**7) Secondary School Participation in Spawner Salmon Surveys:** Now in its eleventh year, 14 teams with 65 students participated, representing four of the five local secondary schools.

Each team was led by a Streamkeeper sponsor. At the end of the survey period a Wrap-Up Celebration was held on December 12. Mayor Smith and School Board of Trustees Chair, Carolyn Broady presented tee-shirts to the students for their contribution to salmon stewardship. We would like to thank corporate sponsors British Pacific Properties for assisting with the cost of the tee-shirts and Park Royal Shopping Centre for hosting the “pizza feast” at the end of the event. The students will be going before West Vancouver Council as a Delegation with Streamkeepers on January 22 to present the results of the spawner salmon surveys.

**8) CBC News story:** On November 5, CBC featured West Vancouver Streamkeepers with an excellent story on the return of chinook salmon to Brothers Creek this year. This was the return from the run of 100 or so chinook that entered Brothers and Hadden Creeks in 2014 and were observed spawning. And offspring of those chinook have now returned. The television report also featured a Rockridge Secondary School team and Streamkeeper Mike Perley conducting a survey and talking about the survey program and this remarkable run of chinook salmon.

**9) Herring Spawn Enhancement:** Construction of twelve new nets were completed in October for Sewell’s West Marina dock in Horseshoe Bay. This brings the total to twenty-four nets which will be installed in January at Thunderbird Marina, West Vancouver Yacht Club and Sewell’s. Over a three month period the nets will be monitored for attached herring eggs.

**10) Citizen Science:** Water quality testing of eight creeks was completed during low water conditions in August. The tests being conducted are for dissolved oxygen, pH levels, temperature and stream turbidity. There were no negative findings from this testing. The next testing will occur during high water conditions in January. In the spring the teams will conduct sampling of macro-invertebrates, the food source for cutthroat trout and juvenile coho salmon.

**11) Membership:** The membership total for 2017 was 251 and of that number 100 members are volunteering in some area of Streamkeepers activities. A big thank-you to everyone for your continued support. If you have not done so, please renew your membership for 2018. A copy of the Membership Application form is available on the website.

**12) Volunteer help:** All the following administrative functions are currently managed by members of the Society. We welcome professional assistance from time to time to provide guidance. If you have worked in any of the following areas, would you be willing to act as a resource and offer your expertise in an advisory capacity? These administrative functions include insurance, legal, environmental science (salmon, creek habitat, aquatic life), environmental regulations (federal, provincial and municipal), accounting, record keeping (e.g. membership), construction and repair (hatchery and other locations), fund raising (both project funding and sustained annual funding), communication (writing skills for newsletters, announcements, etc.) and social media (Facebook page). Please contact John Barker if you can assist.

**13) Reminder:** If you have occasion to shop at Whole Foods Market at Park Royal, please use you own bags and request that the bag donation be directed to our Society for the Lawson Creek restoration project. We are one of three recipients for this funding which runs until March 31.

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