

Newsletter #1 – September and October 2010

- 1) **Board of Directors:** A new Board was elected at the AGM on September 16 consisting of Barrie Adams, Mike Akerly, John Barker, Bill Chapman, Sandi Dix, Nora Gambioli, Elizabeth Hardy, Bill McAllister and Jim Torry. Officers were elected at the first Board meeting held on September 30 and they are John Barker, President, Barrie Adams, Secretary and Bill McAllister, Treasurer. A list of committees was established and Coordinators assigned to each (see the attached List of Committees).
- 2) **Members' Meeting:** The meeting scheduled for November 18 has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20 at which time the results of the spawner surveys will be presented along with the Work Plan (project list) for the coming year.
- 3) **Spawning Salmon Surveys:** Spawner surveys began in earnest on all West Vancouver creeks in early October. Elizabeth Hardy will collect the data and compile findings by creeks and tributaries. A listing of Creek Coordinators is included with this newsletter. This survey data will be shared with the membership on completion of the spawning season.
- 4) **Brothers Creek Viewing Platform:** The project was completed in late 2009 and is an ideal location to view returning adult coho and chum salmon. Located east of Taylor Way on Keith Road, the platform is accessed via a trail from the northwest side of the bridge.
- 5) **Environmental Protection Network:** A presentation was made by John Barker to EPN students at West Vancouver Secondary on September 23 in preparation for the salmon surveys with Streamkeepers. Sixty-seven students have been assigned to 14 teams that will survey zones on Brothers Creek, Macbeth Creek, Hadden Creek, West Brothers Tributary, Westcot Tributary, McDonald Creek, Lawson Creek and Rodgers Creek. Salmon surveys commenced right after Thanksgiving.
- 6) **Salmon Returns:** The first coho was seen in Brothers Creek on October 2 – an unspawned male of about four pounds. The first chum was spotted on October 14, also in Brothers Creek.
- 7) **Storm Drain Marking:** The next elementary schools to be invited to participate will be St. Anthony's, Cedardale and Eagle Harbour. Due to the lateness of the season, we may have to postpone this activity until spring. So far 750 storm drains have been marked with the painted "yellow fish" during nine separate school outings over the past four years.
- 8) **Cypress Creek:** Seven pink salmon were observed in mid-September. A DNA sampling kit for "off-year" pink salmon in Cypress Creek was received from DFO to take operculum (gill plate) samples. The kit is being held by creek coordinator, Noel Murphy. Cypress Creek was checked regularly in hopes of finding pink salmon carcasses but none were found.
- 9) **Cypress Creek:** We are re-visiting a proposal to install a fish ladder at the small falls that would allow pinks to access upstream spawning habitat. Streamkeepers will be working with staff at the DFO laboratory who are committed to working on this project.

- 10) Eagle Creek:** The replacement of the culvert under Marine Drive was completed by the municipality in September. This new and unique culvert, with an open bottom that holds gravel and provides habitat, should enhance the passage of returning adult salmon under Marine Drive. The construction has been a two-year project and we look forward to seeing salmon spawning further upstream this year.
- 11) Lawson and McDonald Creeks:** At the request of Streamkeepers, the municipal Parks Department cleared some brush on lower Lawson Creek and lower McDonald Creek. This will provide walkers on Argyle Avenue a clear view of Lawson Creek and the ability to report any observed salmon. (The sign has been re-installed asking for the public's assistance to report any salmon in the stream.) The clearing on McDonald Creek will allow access for the salmon survey team to conduct their in-stream surveys.
- 12) McDonald Creek:** Continued cleaning of gravel around the intake pipe at the Hay Park rearing pond has been necessitated by the steady rainfall during the last six weeks. This has been attended to by Mike Akerly and Bill McAllister. Earlier the pipe was modified by Jim Torry who removed the end of the pipe and re-installed the mesh sock that has successfully allowed a constant flow into the pond since being installed in February. The rearing pond has an excellent population of coho juveniles that found their way into the pond following the fry release at Queens Avenue in late May.
- 13) Nelson Creek Hatchery:** The municipality have completed repairs to the intake dam, replaced the equipment to measure water flow and improved the trail to the intake. Our Community Advisor, Rob Bell-Irving has confirmed that chum and coho eggs will again be provided to the Nelson Creek Hatchery. Streamkeepers will participate in the Tenderfoot Hatchery chum egg-take scheduled for November 13. Those members interested in attending the egg-take, please contact Elizabeth Hardy at nelsoncreekhatchery@gmail.com
- 14) Cypress Creek Liaison Committee:** The committee met on October 6. Hugh Hamilton and Barrie Adams attended.
- 15) Capilano and Seymour Water Use Meeting:** Elizabeth Hardy attended the meeting on October 12 that focused on the possibility of power generation from these watersheds.
- 16) North Shore Environmental Network:** Elizabeth Hardy will attend the NSEN meeting on October 16.
- 17) Municipal Meetings:** The regular morning meeting with the municipal Environment Protection Officer was held on Sept. 27, chaired by Elizabeth Hardy.

October 15, 2010