

Newsletter #2 – October - November 2010

- 1) Members' Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2011 at St. Stephen's Church on 22nd Street starting at 7:30 p.m. Two items on the agenda will be a report on the results of the 2010 Spawning Salmon Surveys and a presentation on the Work Plan detailing the habitat improvement and enhancement projects to be undertaken in the coming year.
- 2) Spawning Salmon Surveys:** The highlight of every year is the salmon survey period as we enumerate returning adult salmon. Surveys began in earnest on all West Vancouver Creeks in early October. Elizabeth Hardy is collecting the data and compiling findings by creeks and tributaries. Surveys will continue until mid-December and on some creeks until the end of December.
- 3) Environmental Protection Network:** The EPN students from West Vancouver Secondary are in their fifth week of the Salmon Surveys and the students' participation will continue until the end of November. Sixty-seven students on fourteen teams, each with a Streamkeeper sponsor, perform weekly surveys on 8 creeks and tributaries in the community. The results on Brothers Creek are comparable with 2007 and 2008 and this is rather gratifying considering the extremely poor chum year on most coastal river systems. In addition to a good population of chum and coho in the Brothers Creek system, there have been number of chinook, up to 20 pounds, observed. A Wrap-Up Celebration to recognize the contribution of the students and their Streamkeeper sponsors will occur on December 9.
- 4) Lawson Creek:** For the first time since the installation of baffles and two fish ladders on the lower sections of the creek up to The Legion, evidence of salmon was found above The Legion. Coho eggs had been laid in a gravel section in an area above Duchess Avenue and three carcasses were found further downstream.
- 5) Hadden Creek:** A pair of coho salmon, having passed through the Alaska Steep Pass fish ladder and the baffled culvert, was observed on the north side the Stevens Drive. It is clear that these two stream enhancements have now made it possible for returning salmon to access spawning habitat as far upstream as Hadden Drive.
- 6) Other Creeks:** We are still awaiting the arrival of salmon in Eagle Creek and will be interested to monitor their passage through the new open bottom culvert installed by the municipality under Marine Drive this year. Eagle Creek has consistently produced a good return of salmon (55 chum and 5 coho in 2009). No salmon have been observed yet in any creek in the west of the municipality.
- 7) Salmon Spawner Survey course:** Zo Ann Morten of Pacific Streamkeepers Federation taught a salmon survey course on October 9 at Brothers Creek. Eight Streamkeepers and ten West Vancouver Secondary EPN students attended. Students with this training will also be able open and inspect salmon for evidence of spawning.

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8) Storm Drain Marking: Jim Torry and John Barker made a presentation to the Grade 2 students at St. Anthony's Elementary School on October 15 about painting storm drains with "yellow fish". Due to wet weather both scheduled painting dates were cancelled and the painting has been postponed until next spring. After working with St. Anthony's, the next schools to be invited to participate will be Cedardale and Eagle Harbour.

9) Shoreline Cleanup: Hugh Hamilton assisted EPN students in their first shoreline cleanup on October 10, followed by another cleanup on November 6. The students work in two groups, one at Ambleside and the other at Dundarave, doing a beach cleaning along the high tide mark.

10) Westcot Elementary: Hugh Hamilton organized two outings with the grade 4 students. The first, on October 19, was a trip to the pond at Westcot Tributary that was built by Streamkeepers some years ago. This was followed by a walking trip on October 29 to Brothers Creek and included sights of chum and coho at Inglewood Avenue bridge and the Newdale Road footbridge.

11) Nelson Creek Hatchery: On October 20 the directors attended a tour of Nelson Creek Hatchery. Elizabeth Hardy explained the difficulties the hatchery has faced over the past few years – primarily the provision of a dependable supply of water from Nelson Creek. We will be seeking to establish an emergency source of water that might be taken from a tributary of Nelson Creek that would be used for the fry trays in the event of a blockage in the main water intake. Following the damage from the debris flow that came down the creek in late 2009, the municipality has now rebuilt the intake area, repaired the Skada that measures the water level in the creek and repaired the trail from the Hatchery to the intake.

Although the Hatchery is in a position to receive eggs this winter, our Community Advisor, Rob Bell-Irving, on November 5 advised us that there insufficient chum at the Tenderfoot Hatchery to provide us with eggs this year. The run of chum salmon is less than 10% of normal. We will, however, be receiving approximately 50,000 coho eggs from the Capilano Hatchery in early January.

12) Cypress Creek: A meeting will be held with DFO personnel at the Centre for Aquaculture and Environmental Research (DFO Laboratory) to review the proposal by the Centre to install a fish ladder at a small waterfall near the water intake on Cypress Creek. This would allow pink salmon to access some excellent upstream spawning habitat. Alex Sartori, the principal of Sartori Environmental Services, visited the site on October 14 to offer his suggestions.

13) Regular Municipal Meeting: The meeting scheduled for November 3 was postponed and will be rescheduled shortly. These meetings with the Municipal Environment Protection Officer and other staff members help keep Streamkeepers informed on a number of Municipal activities, including property development that will occur in the vicinity of creeks and the riparian area. These meetings also provide Streamkeepers with the opportunity to advise the Municipality of our issues and objectives. Bill McAllister <jacmcallister@telus.net>, a Streamkeeper director, is responsible for organizing and chairing these meetings. Other Streamkeeper directors participate in these meetings and they welcome input from the membership on stream issues you would like to have brought forward to the Municipality. Please contact any director to discuss your issues.

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14) Other Meetings Attended: Streamkeeper directors and members attended the following meetings and presentations:

- Cypress Creek Liaison Committee – Barrie Adams and Hugh Hamilton
- North Shore Environmental Network – Elizabeth Hardy
- John Weston's Fisheries Roundtable Meeting in Squamish – Mike Akerly
- Presentation to North Shore Streamkeepers – John Barker
- Urban Agriculture Dialogue – Nora Gambioli, Elizabeth Hardy and Bill McAllister
- Tour of the CAER facility (DFO Laboratory) on Marine Drive – Several Board members

15) Membership Renewal: Notices will be sent before the end of the year. Jim Torry <jaytee2@shaw.ca> will be looking after the renewals. Membership cards will be provided to members upon receipt of payment of the annual dues. Membership is for one calendar year and the cost is \$10 per person.

November 15, 2010