

Newsletter #3 – November – December 2010

1) Members' Meeting: The meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2011 in the Pavilion Room at St. Stephen's Church on 22nd Street, starting at 7:30 p.m. An agenda will be circulated in early January.

2) Spawning Salmon Surveys: All of our West Vancouver creeks are being surveyed weekly by Streamkeepers and this will continue at least until Christmas, and later on some creeks until after the last live salmon is observed in the creeks. The chum run is finished but recent heavy rainfall is allowing coho to continue to return to a number of creeks. A summary of the entire spawning salmon survey results will be presented at the Members' Meeting in January.

3) EPN Students: A Wrap-Up Celebration was held on December 9 to recognize the contribution made to our salmon surveys by the Environmental Protection Network (EPN) students of West Vancouver Secondary School. Councilor Trish Panz and Board of Education Chair Mary-Ann Booth presented tee shirts to the students as a thank you for their participation. Sixty-eight students participated this year. Twelve Streamkeepers served as sponsors that helped make this program such a success. Jim Torry, Sandi Dix, Mike Akerly, Sherry Parrott, Hugh Hamilton, Barrie Adams, Noel Murphy, Ben Russell, Nora Gambioli, Elizabeth Hardy, Bill Chapman and John Barker. Students and Streamkeepers will make a presentation to council on January 24 about the results of their surveys and the value of the program to students.

4) Streamkeepers Work Plan: A committee comprised of Elizabeth Hardy, Hugh Hamilton, Bill Chapman and John Barker met to review a lengthy list of potential stream projects and will be recommending several key projects to the Board of Directors that will in turn become the lead items of the Work Plan for the coming year. These, and future projects, will be presented at the Members' Meeting in January.

5) Website Construction: Barrie Adams led the finalization of the website with Pat Morten, the designer. The new website, www.westvancouverstreamkeepers.ca, is now active.

6) Nelson Creek Hatchery: Approximately 60,000 coho eggs will be delivered from the Capilano Hatchery to the Nelson Creek Hatchery in mid-January. There are no chum eggs available for us this year but plans are being finalized to obtain eggs from two other sources in 2011 so our Hatchery will not be totally dependent on the Tenderfoot Hatchery in future years.

7) Hadden Creek: Led by Barrie Adams, it was arranged for Alex Charanin from the Parks Department to help remedy a log jam on Hadden Creek. They were able to open a permanent clear passage for salmon, while at the same time creating a good holding area in the creek.

8) Larson Creek: Bruce McArthur and Alex from Parks decided on a course of action to remove sections of logs on the beach that would open access at the mouth of Larson Creek for returning salmon, without creating unnecessary channelization. This work was completed in early December.

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9) Eagle Creek: A large male coho was observed near Daffodil Lane on December 10th. This is the first salmon observed upstream of Marine Drive in decades and indicates that the new gravel bottomed culvert at Marine Drive will allow passage of even the largest salmon.

10) Cypress Creek: On November 16 a significant slide occurred just downstream from the water intake that supplies the DFO laboratory sending soil, rocks and trees into the stream. Noel Murphy, Coordinator for Cypress Creek, was interviewed by Global TV about the potential impact of this event. District crews have removed some of the trees to clear the stream and it is hoped some of the large woody debris can be left in Cypress Creek for gravel catchment as a way of increasing spawning habitat.

11) Cypress Creek Fish Ladder: A meeting was held on November 16 with the DFO Research Laboratory personnel about the installation of a fish ladder at the weir near Morgan Crescent where the laboratory takes their water. This ladder will be designed to assist returning pink salmon gain access to upstream spawning habitat. Approval of this installation must be obtained from other DFO departments and the objective is to have the ladder in place for the return of the pink salmon run in August 2011.

12) MP John Weston joins salmon survey team: On November 19, MP John Weston and two of his children joined Mike Akerly and his team of EPN students doing the weekly salmon survey of a section of Brothers Creek. They observed a total of ten salmon, mostly chum. This event was reported by articles and photographs in North Shore News and North Shore Outlook.

13) Upper Lands Development: On November 24, British Pacific Properties provided Streamkeepers Sandi Dix, Hugh Hamilton and John Barker a tour of the Upper Lands and the current property development activity. Also attending were Geoff Croll, British Pacific Properties and Alex Sartori, Sartori Environmental Services. Sandi presented a list of issues and all of our concerns were addressed. Recommendations made by Streamkeepers were acknowledged and will be attended to by BPP.

14) Meeting with District Staff: On December 7, the regular monthly meeting was held at the Operations Centre. Stephen Jenkins and Andrew Vander Helm represented the District. At these meetings, property developments requiring an Environmental Development Permit will be reviewed as well as other creek and habitat-related matters. Members who would like to have a particular item brought forward should contact Bill McAllister <jacmcallister@telus.net>.

15) Zoning Amendment Bylaw: On December 13, West Vancouver council held a public hearing on the Zoning Amendment Bylaw. Bill McAllister attended the meeting and presented questions to council with regard to maintaining creek protection measures.

16) 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. Membership is for one calendar year and the cost is \$10 per person.