

Newsletter #6 – May - August 2011

1) Annual General Meeting: At the AGM, held on May 12, all the board members from the prior year agreed to stand and were elected for the coming year. The Treasurer's Report was received and the President's report given, capturing the Society's activities since September 2010. At a subsequent meeting of the board of directors, the following officers were appointed: John Barker as President, Barrie Adams as Secretary and Bill McAllister as Treasurer.

2) Charitable Status: We have been advised by Canada Revenue Agency that our application has been received in good order and an agent will be assigned in the next month or so to help complete this process.

3) Nelson Creek Hatchery: After hatchery volunteers had raised coho fry from eyed-egg stage to fry, ready for release, maintenance on the water supply system by the District accidentally interrupted the flow resulting in a loss of approximately one-quarter of the coho fry in early June. We have been working with the District to upgrade and modify the infrastructure that should ensure a constant water supply.

4) Fry Release: Coho fry raised at the Nelson Creek Hatchery were released to Eagle, Nelson, Willow, Cypress, Lawson, McDonald and Wood creeks on June 10 and 12. There were no chum raised at the Nelson Creek Hatchery this year due to the very poor return of adult chum last fall. We normally receive chum eggs from the Tenderfoot Hatchery near Squamish. Surplus coho fry from the Capilano Hatchery were released to West Brothers, Brothers, Marr, Godman, Pipe, Caulfeild, Larson and Hadden creeks in late May. A small number of coho smolts from the Capilano Hatchery were released to McDonald Creek in late April.

5) Metro Vancouver Sewage Spill: A considerable quantity of raw sewage spilled into Wood Creek and Eagle Creek on June 23 from a Metro Vancouver lift station on Gallagher Place. Elizabeth Hardy did fry trapping and aquatic invertebrate sampling upstream and downstream of the spill to determine its impact on the creek. A few fish in distress had been observed but many cutthroat trout, coho fry and sculpin survived the spill, and while there was a definite decrease in the number of bugs below the spill, there were still ample for fish food. Streamkeepers attended a meeting with Metro Vancouver and the District on August 9 to review the spill, procedures afterwards, response capability and ways to mitigate the impact in the aftermath. We have offered our capability and will be setting up lines of communication with Metro Vancouver.

6) Emerging Fry: Monitoring of emerging fry resulted in evidence of wild spawning in some creeks where fall spawner surveys did not see adult salmon, as well as successful spawning in creeks where adult salmon were observed. See the spawning salmon report on the website under Spawner Surveys at www.westvancouverstreamkeepers.ca

7) Hay Park Intake Pipe: The volunteer team continues to clean the intake pipe that feeds the rearing pond in McDonald Creek in Hay Park: Linda Windibank, Brock Mackenzie, Franz Lefort and Peter Gaskill. The coho smolts departed for sea in late June and a new population of coho fry has taken up residence in the pond from the fry release in mid-June.

8) Meetings with District Staff: Monthly meetings continue with the District to review Environment Development Permit applications and other issues involving local streams. Members who have particular concerns and would like to have an item brought forward at these meetings should contact Bill McAllister <jacmcallister@telus.net>.

9) Community Events: Led by Nora Gambioli, Adopt-a-Fish occurred on April 30 with the largest student and public turnout ever. Community Day, on June 4, featured our display booth, a storm drain marking exercise, an aquarium with coho smolts and cutthroat trout and our map of the creeks which helps to familiarize residents with their nearby streams. The next event is the Coho Festival that will occur on September 11 at Ambleside. If you would like to volunteer please contact Nora at <noragambioli@hotmail.com>.

10) Temperature Loggers: Downloading of the seven temperature loggers located in Hadden Creek and Brothers Creek continues. If you are interested in joining the volunteer team please contact Assunta Detels <adetels@gmail.com>.

11) Storm Drain Marking: Two schools participated in the spring storm drain marking - St. Anthony's and Westcot Elementary. We expect to be working with Eagle Harbour and Cypress Park schools in late September. There will be a call for volunteers prior to these events.

12) Work Plan report:

- The Nature Centre ó A team consisting of Barrie Adams, John Barker, Bill Chapman and Bill McAllister are working toward the objective of developing a Nature Centre in West Vancouver. Site visits to other Nature/Interpretive Centres have been and will continue to be undertaken during the summer with a more definitive plan prepared by year-end.
- Cypress Creek fish ladder - The fish ladder has been constructed and installation was completed on August 10 in time for this year's pink salmon run. Contributors to the fish ladder were DFO, the CAER laboratory, the Coho Society and Streamkeepers. Creek Coordinators for this project are Noel Murphy and Barrie Adams <adaco@telus.net>
- Nelson Creek baffles ó The District will be undertaking a feasibility study of naturalizing the creek rather than modifying the existing baffles. This section of the creek is adjacent to Marine Drive just above Telegraph Trail. Above and below this section of Nelson Creek is natural stream bed.
- Lawson Creek fish ladder at The Legion ó The lowest section of the fish ladder has been repaired and debris removed from the boxes in readiness for returning salmon this fall.

13) Awards: Jim Torry was recognized by the Coho Society of the North Shore for his volunteer work with West Vancouver Streamkeepers. Jim received a 2011 Watershed Stewardship Award along with Vic Elderton of the North Vancouver Outdoor School.

14) Funding: Financial support is always welcome and we would like to recognize the contributions of those that have been of assistance. In addition to our Public Involvement Program (PIP) grant from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, we have also received funding from the Coho Society, Park Royal Shopping Centre, British Pacific Properties, Pacific Harbour Retirement Communities, Earth Run and BC Hydro. In addition, in-kind support continues to be received from the District of West Vancouver and Sartori Environmental Services.

John Barker, President
August 2011
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