

**Newsletter #7 – September 2011**

**1) Spawning Salmon Viewing:** Members are reminded that spawning salmon can now be seen from the Viewing Platform on Brothers Creek. Access is by a trail from the north-west corner of the Keith Road Bridge. A new sign, funded by Streamkeepers, has been installed to advise the public that the salmon are in. This is one of the few locations on the North Shore where adult returning salmon, mostly coho and chum, can be observed in their natural habitat.

**2) Committees and Creek Coordinators:** At a recent meeting, your directors approved the Committee structure and Creek Coordinators for the coming year. Lists of each are attached, including contact information.

**3) Charitable Status:** We have received confirmation from Canada Revenue Agency that we have received charitable status. Tax receipts can now be issued for donations made to the Society. This will become an important instrument when fund-raising for our larger, more costly projects.

**4) Streamkeepers Meeting:** The primary focus of the September 29 meeting was to introduce a larger audience to the spawner salmon surveys program. We are very much in need of more volunteers monitoring our streams more frequently. Several members have offered their time and will be instructed by the Creek Coordinators on these surveys. All streams now have coverage by at least two members allowing greater frequency of surveys.

**5) Coho Fry in the Creeks:** Although our spawner salmon surveys are targeted at finding returning adult salmon, it is gratifying to observe successful fall spawning with the emergence of wild fry in the spring. Salmon fry were found on a number of streams, including some locations where no adults were observed. This reinforces the elusive nature of mature salmon, particularly coho. Creeks where we observed wild fry, prior to the release of the hatchery fish, were Eagle, Caulfeild, Claymore, Willow, Rodgers, Lawson, Brothers and Hadden creeks.

**6) Community Events:** Warm weather and sunny skies resulted in a large turnout for the Coho Festival on September 11 at Ambleside Park. In addition to our display booth and activities organized by Nora Gambioli, Elizabeth Hardy and Sigrid Bailey covered Station #9 on the Coho Walk on Brothers Creek.

**7) Nelson Creek Hatchery:** Repairs at the Hatchery this summer included new lids for the tubs, protective covers for the valve and piping system and upgrades inside the incubation room. Many thanks to Kurt Peiffer, Ross Lauder and his son, Nick for their volunteer time in doing this work.

**8) Sampling of Five Creeks:** Streamkeeper member and environmental consultant, Thibault Doix, has collected aquatic invertebrate samples in five streams (Larson, Cypress, Rodgers, McDonald and Lawson creeks) as part of a complete stream evaluation under the CABIN (CANadian BIomonitoring Network) protocol. This Environment Canada ecological assessment may help us understand why these streams under-produce in terms of salmon returns compared to other streams in the community. Thibault will present his findings at a future meeting.

**9) Storm Drain Marking:** St. Anthony's and Westcot Elementary schools participated in the storm drain marking program this spring. We recently spoke to the students at Eagle Harbour primary school and hope to perform the storm drain marking before the end of October.

**10) Cypress Creek Fish Ladder:** The fish ladder was installed on August 10 in time for this year's pink salmon run. With low water conditions from the latter part of August until mid-September, pinks were staging along the shoreline but did not enter the creek until we had a significant high water event. To date, a number of pinks and one chinook have been observed upstream of the new fish ladder. The ladder will be removed in late October to protect it from the heavy water flows over the winter and will be re-installed in July next year.

**11) EPN Students:** Students from West Vancouver Secondary who are members of the Environmental Protection Network (EPN) will once again join with Streamkeepers in our annual spawner salmon surveys. Fourteen teams will be surveying sections of Brothers, Hadden, Lawson, McDonald and Rodgers creeks. Sixty five students have been placed on teams, each led by a Streamkeeper sponsor.

**12) School Stream Talks:** Hugh Hamilton continues to provide Stream Talks to school children, most recently at Westcot Elementary, which includes a walking tour of the local creek as well as a field trip to the viewing platform on Brothers Creek.

**13) Road Signage:** The yellow fish signs have now been placed on McDonald Creek (on the seawall), Willow Creek, Caulfeild Creek and Claymore Creek. The funding was provided by BC Hydro under the Community Champions Award thanks to the successful nomination of Streamkeepers by the EPN students at West Vancouver Secondary.

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