



Newsletter #8 – October – November 2011

1) Members Meeting: The next meeting will be held on January 19, 2012 in the Pavilion Room at St. Stephen's Church on 22nd Street starting at 7:30 p.m.

2) Spawner Salmon Surveys: Currently twenty local streams and tributaries are being surveyed twice a week for returning adult salmon by Streamkeeper volunteers and students. Surveys have been conducted since early October and will continue until the end of December. At this point the returns of pink salmon and chum salmon were quite good in Brothers Creek. Cypress Creek experienced a weaker than expected return of pink salmon. The return of coho salmon, although evident in Brothers, Hadden and Lawson creeks, has been generally slow or late arriving. Coho will continue to return until year end and recent surveys have shown more promising results. Hear all about the spawner salmon survey results at the January meeting.

3) EPN Students: This is the fifth year of the spawner salmon surveys by West Vancouver Secondary School students who are members of the Environmental Protection Network (EPN). This year seventy-six students participated. Fourteen teams, each with a Streamkeeper sponsor, have surveyed zones on five key streams and tributaries since mid-October. A Wrap Up event is planned for December 9th to recognize the contribution of the students in this rewarding salmon survey experience.

4) Shoreline Clean-Up: Led by Hugh Hamilton, Sigrid Bailey and Peggy Keane, EPN students are continuing their program of shoreline clean-up. Two events have been held this fall with thirty-two students, all wearing yellow Streamkeeper vests, participating in beach clean-up at Ambleside and Dundarave.

5) Storm Drain Marking: On October 19 students at Eagle Harbour Primary School painted the yellow fish adjacent to storm drains in the vicinity of the school. The number of storm drains painted by students throughout the community now totals 935. Nearly all elementary schools in West Vancouver have participated over the past five years and we will be running the program with Cypress Park and Cedardale schools this spring.

6) Nelson Creek Hatchery: Following the fry release in June, repairs and upgrades were completed at the hatchery and we are now in readiness for the coho eggs to be received from the Capilano River Hatchery in January 2012. These eggs will be raised to fry stage and the fry released into numerous local streams in late May or early June. Unfortunately, for the second year in a row, we will not be able to obtain chum eggs. These normally come from the Tenderfoot Hatchery near Brackendale but due to the poor chum return in the Squamish River system there were not sufficient adult chum salmon to provide us with eggs this year.

7) Cypress Creek Fish Ladder: The new fish ladder was operational during the pink salmon season. Schools of pinks were observed along the beach and in the lower sections of Cypress Creek, but only a small population ventured upstream in the low September water conditions. However, it is promising to note that a few pinks were observed above the fish ladder in early October. To prevent damage to the ladder in the heavy winter flows, Fisheries personnel and

Streamkeepers removed the ladder in late October and it was taken to the CAER facility for storage. It will be installed again in late July in time for next year's pink salmon run.

8) Work Plan Update: Some significant projects have been completed this year including the Hay Park improvements on McDonald Creek, the upgrades to the baffles on Lawson Creek, the fish ladder on Cypress Creek and several more. We are presently preparing the Work Plan for 2012. Please come to the Members Meeting in January and hear about the projects completed in 2011 and those planned for the coming year.

9) Awards:

- Hugh Hamilton, on October 26, received a Community Services Award from the British Properties Area Homeowners Association.
- John Barker, on November 28, received an Environmental Community Contribution Award from the District of West Vancouver.
- Joseph McDaniel, our past EPN student leader and avid Streamkeeper, will, later in December, be receiving the Governor General's academic medal for having achieved the highest scholastic average for the last two years of high school. Joseph is now attending university in Pennsylvania.

10) Parks Master Plan: The draft of the Parks Master Plan has been completed and will be reviewed and commented on by Streamkeepers. Earlier this year three of our board members made a presentation to the Parks Working Group with a focus on stream care in park areas.

11) Website: Please check our website from time to time for announcements and updates on our activities. Go to www.westvancouverstreamkeepers.ca for the latest information.

12) Membership: Renewal notices were sent out on December 1st. The membership application form for 2012 is available on the website under Contact Us. The annual fee is \$10.00. If you are not already a member, please consider joining the Society in 2012. We welcome your support.

13) Thank You: A big thank you to all Streamkeeper volunteers who make this such a vibrant organization. Of our 120 members, an ever-increasing number are actively participating in various activities of the Society. On an on-going basis, our volunteers are:

- Operating the Nelson Creek Hatchery
- Monitoring and cleaning the intake pipe that feeds the rearing pond in Hay Park
- Downloading temperature loggers in Brothers and Hadden creeks
- Assisting at Community Events ó Adopt-a-Fish, Community Day and the Coho Festival
- Painting the öyellow fishö alongside storm drains with elementary school students
- Sharing Streamkeeper activities with EPN high school students
- Working with the District on several Work Plan projects
- Monitoring property development in sensitive creek areas
- Planting native vegetation and removing invasive plants alongside our creeks
- Assisting with fry releases in the spring each year
- Surveying all streams for returning adult salmon

From the board of directors, many thanks to all those who have assisted during the past year.

John Barker, President
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