



Newsletter #9 – December 2011 – January 2012

1) Members Meeting: The next meeting will be the Seaside Social to be held at Hollyburn Sailing Club, on March 22, 2012, starting at 7:00 p.m. Please come and enjoy an informal evening, meet other Streamkeepers, view displays and talk to committee coordinators about Streamkeeper activities. Appetizers and beverages will be served. Mark your calendars and come and enjoy this event.

2) Board Appointment: After an outstanding two terms as a director, Nora Gambioli, now a Councillor for the District of West Vancouver, tendered her resignation on January 26th. We thank Nora for her valuable contribution to the Society and for serving as the coordinator for our three main Community Events over the past year. Your board of directors has now appointed Celia Utley as a director of the Society to fill this vacancy on the board.

3) Spawner Salmon Surveys: Elizabeth Hardy presented the results of the fall 2011 surveys at the Members meeting on January 19th. Brothers Creek had a strong year for chum, pinks and coho, but two salmon bearing streams were below expectations, namely Eagle Creek and Hadden Creek. A more detailed summary can be found under Salmon Surveys on our website at www.westvancouverstreamkeepers.ca

4) Nelson Creek Hatchery: On January 27th we received 60,000 eyed coho eggs from the Capilano River Hatchery to be raised to the fry stage at the Nelson Creek Hatchery. We expect the fry to hatch in mid-February, be ponded into the troughs in early April and to be ready for release into local streams in late May or early June. The hatchery volunteers, led by Elizabeth Hardy, are Roger Fox, Taylor Hunt, Dave Mortimer and others.

5) EPN Students: We just completed our fifth season with the EPN students from West Vancouver Secondary School, who assisted Streamkeepers with our spawner salmon surveys. Seventy-six students participated in these surveys this past fall. Three special events have occurred since the completion of the surveys with the EPN students:

- On December 9th there was a Wrap-Up Celebration and Mayor Mike Smith and Councillor Mary-Ann Booth presented tee shirts to the students and Streamkeeper sponsors.
- On January 11th, Federal Fisheries Minister Keith Ashfield attended a forum with the EPN students and Streamkeepers at the school. The event, organized by our Member of Parliament John Weston, featured presentations on environmental initiatives, spawner salmon surveys and surf smelt beach sampling by four of the EPN students.
- On January 23rd a delegation of Streamkeepers and EPN students made a presentation to District Council on the results of the spawner salmon surveys for the fall of 2011.

6) Shoreline Clean-Up: The EPN students continue their monthly clean-up of Ambleside and Dundarave beaches in cooperation with Streamkeepers led by Hugh Hamilton, and the most recent outing occurring on January 28th.

7) Storm Drain Marking: We plan on working with Cypress Park and Cedardale primary schools this spring. There will be a call for volunteers prior to these events. During the five years of offering the painted yellow fish program, almost all elementary schools in the District have now participated. To date a total of 935 storm drains have been painted throughout West Vancouver.

8) Work Plan 2012: The Work Plan was presented at the Members meeting on January 19th. Key projects completed in 2011 included the Cypress Creek fish ladder, repairs and upgrades at the Nelson Creek Hatchery, Hay Park fencing, signage and a water intake remedy, estuary improvements through shoreline preservation work, plus the yellow salmon road signs to raise creek awareness. Work Plan 2012 is a mixture of immediate, imminent and long term projects plus on-going monitoring activities. Attached you will find a copy of Work Plan 2012.

9) Parks Master Plan: On January 13th, Streamkeepers submitted comments in response to the preliminary draft of the Parks Master Plan. This was prepared by Barrie Adams, Elizabeth Hardy and Hugh Hamilton and stressed the importance of protecting creeks and riparian areas in public spaces that are enjoyed by many users throughout the community. The initial presentation by Streamkeepers was made to the Parks Working Group on January 26th last year, which was followed by a public forum in May.

10) West Vancouver Shoreline Preservation Society: Streamkeepers were invited to comment on The Shoreline Preservation Plan 2011 to 2014 that was prepared for the District by the consulting firm, Balanced Environmental. With a particular eye to the connectivity between foreshore work and the importance of creeks, Hugh Hamilton and John Barker prepared a seven point response that recognizes the value of creeks in the success of shoreline preservation, and the benefits to salmon and habitat as a result of this work.

11) Website: Please check the website for updates. We continually use the banner on the home page for recent announcements. The current one features Fisheries Minister Ashfield's visit with Streamkeepers and EPN students.

12) Membership: Renewal of memberships has been particularly strong, for which we thank you. If you have not renewed your membership for 2012, please do. If you have never been a member, please consider joining the Society. The cost is \$10.00 for the calendar year. Membership application forms are available on at www.westvancouverstreamkeepers.ca under Contact Us.

13) Annual General Meeting: The 2012 Annual General Meeting of West Vancouver Streamkeeper Society will be held at St. Stephen's Church on Thursday, May 10th starting at 7:30 p.m.

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