

Newsletter #12 - June – August 2012

1) Next Members Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 27 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's Anglican Church. In addition to presentations in preparation for the spawner salmon surveys and student outreach programs, Dianne Ramage, Director of Salmon Programs for the Pacific Salmon Foundation and Zo Ann Morten, Executive Director, Pacific Streamkeepers Federation, will be our guest speakers. They both bring extensive experience in working with salmon stewardship groups. Their topic will be "How can you help?"

2) Federal Fisheries Act: Attempts to urge the Fisheries Minister and the federal government not to weaken the habitat protection provisions of the Fisheries Act were unsuccessful. The legislation was passed in June and now there is a consultation process underway to review the regulations that will flow from these changes to the Act. Our MP John Weston was helpful in our efforts to discourage these changes and met with Streamkeepers to hear our concerns and took this message to Ottawa, and in particular, to Fisheries Minister Keith Ashfield.

3) Black Creek – Old Growth Forest: In November 2011, a section of old growth forested area, in the Upper Lands, was cut down to make way for a new access road to a weir on Black Creek. This was to allow for an upgrade to a diversion pipe that feeds water from Black Creek to the Eagle Lake reservoir. This most unfortunate cutting of the old growth area, by a contractor working for the District, was described in the Engineering Department Report to Council as "inadvertent" and "regrettable". A subsequent meeting on July 5, arranged by the District, included Engineering staff, their contractors and seven members of two stewardship groups (Old Growth Conservancy and Streamkeepers). At the July 9 Council Meeting, five recommendations were presented by West Vancouver Streamkeepers in an effort to reduce the likelihood of this ever happening again. These recommendations are provided as an attachment to this newsletter. In a subsequent meeting with Mayor Smith on July 30, OGCS and Streamkeepers were assured that these five recommendations will be adopted.

4) Signage: Several more "yellow fish" roadside signs will be installed throughout the community to raise awareness of the presence of salmon and trout in our local streams. In addition, new small signs (yellow fish on a blue background) will be installed along trails adjacent to creeks that will inform the walking public of the presence of fish habitat. Both of these signage initiatives are produced and funded jointly by the District and Streamkeepers.

5) Coho Festival: To celebrate the community's Centennial year, the Coho Society of the North Shore will be staging the Coho Festival over two days this year - on September 8 and 9 at Ambleside Park. Streamkeepers will participate with other stewardship groups in a Sustainability Zone. More volunteers are needed. If you can assist for two hours on either day, please contact Celia Utley, Coordinator, Community Events at utley@telus.net

6) Memorial Park Coho Salmon Rearing Pond: Streamkeepers and District staff made presentations to municipal Council on June 18 and received approval to proceed with several steps leading up to the construction of the proposed rearing pond in Memorial Park adjacent to McDonald Creek. These included an Open House describing the project for the community, digging test holes, the permitting process and a fully-funded Phase 1 budget. Streamkeepers have now raised \$81,000 plus in-kind donations which include site survey, concept design, civil engineering and the provision of boulders and large woody debris to construct the pond. This includes a \$4,000 donation from our Society. On July 9 Council gave approval to proceed. The District of West Vancouver has now contracted with North Construction Ltd. to construct the coho salmon rearing pond. Work commenced on August 9 and should be completed by the end of August. Phase 1 of the project ensures the rearing pond will be built and operational, in this, West Vancouver's Centennial year.

Phase 2 of the rearing pond project will be undertaken early in 2013 and will include construction of the pathways, cedar rail fencing, a bridge crossing the outlet end of the pond, planting of native vegetation and a kiosk providing creek interpretive information and donor recognition signage. Streamkeepers have committed to the District to continue our fund raising efforts leading up to Phase 2.

Any person willing to donate to this project may do so, by sending a cheque payable to West Vancouver Streamkeeper Society. Bill McAllister, our rearing pond project leader and treasurer, will issue tax receipts for all donations jacmcallister@telus.net

7) Storm Drain Marking: In September we are planning storm drain marking events with Cedardale and Irwin Park elementary schools. Over the past five years a total of 1,095 storm drains have now been marked with the "yellow fish" throughout the community. Sherry Parrott, Coordinator, Storm Drain Marking will lead these two outings slp@sentinel-hill.com

8) Temperature Loggers: Fifteen temperature loggers are now installed in six more creeks - Larson, Eagle, Cypress, Rodgers, McDonald and Lawson creeks as well as continuing the creek temperature data collection from Brothers and Hadden creeks. Each of these creeks will have a two person team who will check the loggers monthly and download data every three months. Anyone willing to assist in this task, please contact Assunta Detels, Coordinator, Temperature Loggers at adetels@gmail.com

9) Property Development: Streamkeepers continue to monitor all near-creek property development. Sandi Dix, Coordinator, Property Development is now being assisted by Doug Scarlett and Greg Harder in reviewing all properties requiring an Environmental Development Permit (EDP). These applications are reviewed at our monthly meetings with the District and are followed by site visits and later, by monitoring during construction to ensure creek protection regulations are being followed.

10) Streamkeepers Course: Nine more members took the Streamkeepers Course in mid-July (modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 11). Any member interested in taking the course should contact John Barker at jrbarker@shaw.ca The full range of Streamkeeper training modules can be seen at www.pskf.ca

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