

### Newsletter #13 – September - October 2012

- 1) Next Members Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's Anglican Church. The focus of this meeting will be the spawner salmon surveys, the fall 2012 EPN student program, hatchery operations and the Work Plan for 2013.
- 2) Awards:** On October 29, Elizabeth Hardy received an Environmental Community Services Award from the District for her sixteen years of volunteer service at the Hatchery, as coordinator for Eagle, Nelson, Wood and Larson Creeks and her continued education initiatives with students at Eagle Harbour Primary School. Congratulations Elizabeth!
- 3) Road Signs:** We continue to work with the District on the installation of the roadside yellow fish signs which name creeks and the presence of salmon and cutthroat trout. Ten signs have been installed so far this year, with another eight to go. Most of these signs are on Brothers, West Brothers, Hadden, Lawson, McDonald and West McDonald Creeks.
- 4) Storm Drain Marking:** Two events were held with grade 2 students from Irwin Park Elementary; the first on September 28 and again on October 1. A call for volunteers will occur next spring when we will be performing this activity with Cedardale and Ridgeview Elementary Schools. The total storm drains marked in the District through this student outreach program now totals 1,233.
- 5) District Meetings:** The District/Streamkeepers Meetings have resumed after a break over the summer. Streamkeeper issues are discussed at the monthly meeting with representatives from Engineering, Parks and Environment. Members wishing to have an item brought forward for discussion, please contact the chair of these meetings, Bill McAllister, at [jacmcallister@telus.net](mailto:jacmcallister@telus.net)
- 6) Nelson Creek Hatchery:** The final upgrade will be the replacement of a valve in the settling tank which brings water to the hatchery. Preparations will soon be underway for the receipt of approximately 200,000 chum eggs from the Tenderfoot Hatchery in late December and 60,000 coho eggs from the Capilano Hatchery in late January. This is encouraging since the low return of chum salmon into the Squamish system resulted in no chum eggs being available for our hatchery in 2011 and 2012. This year there has been a noticeable improvement in many south coast chum streams, as witnessed by the strong run into Brothers and Hadden Creeks.
- 7) Centennial Coho Salmon Rearing Pond:** It is gratifying to report the new rearing pond in Memorial Park is operating exceptionally well having passed two critical steps of the first being the drought period through the summer until early October. The pond maintained its water level throughout this time and the intake pipe provided a constant flow. The second step was the ability of the intake pipe to continue a steady, uninterrupted feed of water throughout the heavy rain period which has continued on and off since October 12. The team of Streamkeeper intake

pipe cleaners have added the pipe at Memorial Park as part of this monitoring and cleaning program. On October 15, District Council gave approval to proceed with most of the second phase of the project ó the fencing, surfacing the pathways, construction of the bridge and planting vegetation. This should be completed in early December. The remaining work, being the kiosk, interpretive signage, benches and donor recognition signage, will be completed in early 2013. This has been a most rewarding project, supported by many in the community through in-kind contributions, cash donations and general encouragement for this most worthy fish habitat project. Many thanks to the many who have made this possible.

**8) Nelson Creek Baffles:** Another 2012 Work Plan project was completed at Telegraph Trail on Nelson Creek, adjacent to Marine Drive, where old baffles have been modified and upgraded to a design prepared by environment consultant Alex Sartori. This work, led by Dave Reid and Elizabeth Hardy, was completed and the baffles working as intended, in time for the arrival of chum and coho salmon into Nelson Creek.

**9) EPN spawner salmon surveys:** This is now the sixth year of West Vancouver Streamkeepers working with EPN (Environment Protection Network) students from West Vancouver Secondary School. The program has continued to grow and has involved more students each year. From 76 students on 14 teams last year, we now have 104 students participating on 19 teams this year. The surveys are conducted weekly by each team, mostly on Brothers and Hadden Creeks plus one team on McDonald Creek. So far the chum salmon numbers are well above normal, with coho just starting to arrive.

**10) Spawner surveys:** In addition to the EPN surveys, Streamkeeper volunteers are conducting spawner surveys on creeks throughout the municipality. Even if you are a casual walker and pass by streams in your daily routine, you may have information to share on streams observed and evidence of returning adult salmon. Please contact Elizabeth Hardy [eahardy@shaw.ca](mailto:eahardy@shaw.ca) to share your observations or to volunteer for more regular monitoring. Note that our typically late-arriving chum and coho will continue to enter a number of local streams well into December.

**11) Membership:** Our membership for 2012 is presently at 158 with approximately 50 members contributing volunteer time on behalf of the Society. If you would like to participate in one of the many activities and tasks conducted by Streamkeepers, please contact Jim Torry at [jaytee2@shaw.ca](mailto:jaytee2@shaw.ca). Membership renewal forms for 2013 will be sent out in early December.

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