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## Newsletter #14 – November – December 2012

- 1) Next Members Meeting:** The next Members Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2013 at St. Stephen's Church, 885 - 22<sup>nd</sup> Street starting at 7:30 p.m.
- 2) Seaside Social:** The third annual Seaside Social will be held on Thursday, April 4 at Hollyburn Sailing Club starting at 7:00 p.m. There will be displays, a few speeches and time to socialize with fellow Streamkeepers. Come and join in the fun and learn more about our creeks and projects for 2013.
- 3) Centennial Coho Salmon Rearing Pond:** We are pleased to report that Phase 2 of the Coho Salmon Rearing Pond in Memorial Park was completed in early December. The pond is exactly as envisioned by West Vancouver Streamkeepers with plenty of large woody debris providing protective cover for juvenile salmon and cutthroat trout, plus lots of native plants, shrubs and trees planted nearby. This will be all the more impressive in the spring as this vegetation ögreens upö and the pond continues to take on the natural look of juvenile salmon habitat. Phase 3 will be undertaken in early 2013 and will include a kiosk, interpretive signage, viewing benches and signage recognizing the donors to this project. The official opening is planned for late April 2013 which will coincide with the annual Adopt-A-Fish event.
- 4) Work Plan:** Committee Coordinator and director Dave Reid has been preparing the Work Plan for 2013 and several projects will be the focus of Streamkeepers efforts in the coming year. The Work Plan will be presented at the Members Meeting on January 24.
- 5) Spawner Salmon Surveys:** Surveys have been conducted on many of our creeks this fall and those surveys came to an end just prior to Christmas. Elizabeth Hardy will present a summary of the results at the Members Meeting.
- 6) EPN spawner salmon surveys:** The sixth year of the program of West Vancouver Streamkeepers working with EPN (Environment Protection Network) students from West Vancouver Secondary School was concluded at the end of November. The Wrap Up celebration took place on December 13 where Mayor Mike Smith and School Trustee Carolyn Broady presented tee shirts to the students. The spawner salmon survey program has continued to grow and this year 104 students participated on 19 teams, each with a Streamkeeper sponsor. Many thanks to British Pacific Properties and Pacific Harbour Retirement Communities for their contributions to assist funding the tee shirts.
- 7) Nelson Creek Hatchery:** The Nelson Creek Hatchery received 190,000 eyed chum eggs from the Tenderfoot Hatchery north of Squamish on December 22. This is positive news, since we have not been able to obtain chum salmon eggs for the past two years due to the low returns of adult chum salmon into the Squamish River system. The hatchery will also take delivery of 60,000 coho eggs in late January.

**8) Foam into Capilano Golf Course:** On November 17 a house fire on Kildonan Road in the upper British Properties resulted in fire-fighting foam entering the north tributary of Hadden Creek. Streamkeepers were alerted to this by staff at Capilano Golf and Country Club where two ponds were filled with this toxic substance, a distance of over one mile from the scene of the fire. A meeting was held with Fire Chief Jim Cook on November 29 addressing ways to minimize the impact on the environment when using foam to fight fires. Fortunately there was no evidence of fish kill from this event. We checked the large population of coho fry that reside in the pond on Hadden Creek above Stevens Drive and they do not seem to be affected, due in part to the heavy rain and high creek levels at the time of this incident.

**9) Invasive Plant Species Strategy Working Group:** The District has formed a Working Group to advise Council and Staff on a strategy to manage and control invasive plant species in the community with a specific focus on Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed. We are pleased that our treasurer, Bill McAllister, has been appointed to the Working Group along with long time Streamkeeper member, and past president, Hugh Hamilton. Councillor Nora Gambioli and Parks Manager of Planning and Community Partnerships, Corinne Ambor, will be the District representatives. The objective will be to guide the development of and public consultation for an Invasive Plant Species Strategy.

**10) Invasive Plant Inventory:** Streamkeepers will participate in an invasive species mapping project on Brothers Creek to locate and inventory hogweed and knotweed. Dan Henegar, the District Manager of Parks Arboriculture and Horticulture, will provide a training session for Streamkeepers in advance of this survey planned for June 2013. A call for approximately twenty volunteers will be forthcoming.

**11) Manager of Environment and Sustainability:** The District has posted the position of Manager of Environment and Sustainability. This is good news since the position was vacated over a year ago and it appeared for some time that it was not going to be filled. Following the loss of an old growth forested area adjacent to Black Creek, stewardship groups came together and filling this position was one of five recommendations (see Streamkeepers website under News) that were presented to Council and senior District staff in early July. Since then we have had a number of meetings with Mayor Smith and CAO Grant McRadu on this item and know the amount of effort that has gone into the job description, title and reporting structure. We are pleased to see this finally settled and that the community will once again have a manager responsible for matters concerning the environment. The job description of Manager of Environment and Sustainability can be found on the District website.

**12) Road Signs:** Installation of 18 roadside yellow fish awareness signs, naming creeks and the presence of salmon and cutthroat trout, has now been completed on road crossings at Brothers, West Brothers, Hadden, Lawson, McDonald, West McDonald and Cypress Creeks.

**13) Membership:** The membership renewal notice went out in early December. If you have not yet renewed for calendar year 2013, you can download the Membership Application form from the website under Contact Us ([www.westvancouversteamkeepers.ca](http://www.westvancouversteamkeepers.ca))

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