

Newsletter #15 – January - March 2013

- 1) Annual General Meeting:** The Annual General Meeting of West Vancouver Streamkeeper Society will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2013 at St. Stephen's Anglican Church at 885 22nd Street starting at 7:30 p.m.
- 2) Board Appointment:** Peter Gaskill was appointed to the board of Streamkeepers at the beginning of January replacing Sandi Dix, long standing board member and coordinator of property development activity. A big thank-you to Sandi for outstanding service to Streamkeepers and the community over an eleven year span. Peter is president of Pacific Arbour Retirement Communities. He has been volunteering in various capacities with the Society ó temperature logging, intake pipe cleaning and as sponsor for an EPN spawner salmon survey team. For a complete listing of your board of directors look under "About Us" on our website.
- 3) Seaside Social:** The third annual Seaside Social will be held Thursday, April 4 at Hollyburn Sailing Club starting at 7:00 p.m. There will be several displays, a few speeches and plenty of time to socialize with fellow Streamkeepers. Come and join in the fun and learn more about our creeks and projects for 2013.
- 4) Adopt-A-Fish:** This event, held jointly with the Coho Society, will occur on April 27 starting at 10:30 a.m. It will be held in conjunction with the Official Opening of the Centennial Rearing Pond. Celia Utley (utley@telus.net) will be coordinating this activity. We look forward to seeing many elementary-aged children ready to receive their certificates and release their "adopted" coho smolts into McDonald Creek.
- 5) Centennial Rearing Pond:** The Official Opening will take place on Saturday, April 27 starting at 11:30 a.m. Memorial Park Enclave resident Don Dunbar will be the master of ceremonies and Mayor Mike Smith will be cutting the ribbon declaring the rearing pond officially open. Thibault Doix has been monitoring the development of bug activity (macro-invertebrates) in the pond which will provide a food source for the fish. Cutthroat trout are now evident in the pond and we look forward to the arrival of coho fry, either those emerging from the gravel in McDonald Creek or coho fry raised at the Nelson Creek Hatchery which will be released further upstream, a number of which, we expect, will migrate downstream to the pond.
- 6) Nelson Creek Hatchery:** The fry from the 190,000 chum eggs are now ponded and we expect to pond the fry from the 60,000 coho eggs in late April. The chum fry will be released at the end of April and the coho fry released in mid-May. Thank-you to all the volunteers at the Hatchery.
- 7) Emerging Fry Surveys:** All Creek Coordinators will be on the look-out for evidence of emerging chum and coho as the alevins depart their winter habitat in the stream gravel and enter the next stage of their life cycle ó as fry ó the chum heading for sea almost immediately and the coho remaining in fresh water for one year.

8) Property Development: We continue to monitor property development led by Doug Scarlett (dwscarlett@telus.net). 11 properties are presently under observation. Unfortunately there have been two incidents of excavation material not being contained by contractors and material has flowed, in both cases, into Rodgers Creek. One was on Rosebery Avenue (February 22). The other, on Chelsea Close (March 21), was the result of a landslide of imported excavated material being used to build up the owner's site. This occurred in the face of a District stop work order placed in early February. This is particularly distressing due to the potential harm to juvenile salmon which will be emerging from the gravel further downstream and cutthroat trout that are spawning at this time of the year. We understand that the District is taking legal action against the property owner and has now ordered a remediation plan to stabilize the slope and the cleanup of the site to eliminate further deposition of material into Rodgers Creek. The latter event was reported in the North Shore News (March 27) and the Vancouver Sun (March 28).

9) Manager of Environment and Sustainability: This District position is expected to be filled shortly following a lengthy review and selection process of 180 applicants. The manager will report to Deputy CAO, Brent Leigh.

10) Invasive Plant Species Strategy Working Group: Members Bill McAllister, Hugh Hamilton and Mike Evison are participants on this District working group along, with the Council representative Nora Gambioli. The District staff representative is Corinne Ambor. Giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed are key challenges.

11) Invasive Plant Inventory: Streamkeepers will participate in an invasive species mapping project on Brothers Creek to inventory giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed. Dan Henegar, Parks Department, will provide a training session in advance of this survey planned for June or July 2013. A call for volunteers will be forthcoming.

12) Ivy Pull: An Ivy Pull is scheduled for May 4 on the east side of Memorial Park which will be organized by the District Parks department. A call for volunteers will be forthcoming.

13) Temperature Logging: Assunta Detels has turned over the leadership of this committee to Alyson Fretz (alyfretz@gmail.com). Volunteers continue to download temperature data from loggers on 8 streams. A presentation will be made at the Seaside Social showing comparative temperature changes on each of the creeks. Thank-you Assunta for having led this project and expanding the program from the original two streams being monitored.

14) SEHAB: Elizabeth Hardy has accepted a position on the Salmon Enhancement Habitat Advisory Board (SEHAB). This board is comprised of volunteer representatives from across the province whose purpose is to advise Fisheries and Oceans Canada on priorities and to recommend action in areas of salmon stewardship. Elizabeth will represent the area that includes West Vancouver, Bowen Island, Howe Sound, Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton, coordinated by DFO Community Advisor Rob Bell-Irving.

15) Nature Centre: Led by Liz Leduc (liz.leduc@shaw.ca) and Bill Chapman (sandy@chapmansurvey.com), the objective is to create a nature centre that will provide display space for six stewardship groups in the community. On February 22 the first meeting was held and attended by representatives of West Vancouver Streamkeeper Society, Old Growth

Conservancy Society, Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society, Lighthouse Park Preservation Society, West Vancouver Shoreline Preservation Society and North Shore Wetland Partners Society. The District contact person for this initiative is Anne Mooi, Director, Parks and Community Services.

16) Work Plan: Committee Coordinator Dave Reid (davidtreid89@gmail.com) has prepared the Work Plan for 2013 which is posted on the website. Key items in this plan will be making the long culvert between Eagle Creek and Wood Creek fish passable and the need for a fish ladder and baffles on the Hadden Creek crossing at Hadden Drive.

17) Membership: Renewals continue to arrive and we are pleased to report quite a few new members have joined the Society. Our roster presently stands at 138 members.

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