

Newsletter #16 – April - July 2013

1) Annual General Meeting: At the Annual General Meeting held on May 9 all the directors currently serving agreed to stand and were subsequently re-elected. The directors and officers for the coming year are Mike Akerly (secretary), John Barker (president), Bill Chapman, Assunta Detels, Peter Gaskill, Elizabeth Hardy, Bill McAllister (treasurer), Dave Reid and Jim Torry. The President's Report can be seen on the website (www.westvancouverstreamkeepers.ca).

2) Next Members Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 26 starting at 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's Anglican Church at 885 22nd Street.

3) Adopt-A-Fish and Centennial Rearing Pond: On April 27 we co-sponsored the Adopt-A-Fish event with the Coho Society of the North Shore. We also celebrated the official opening of the Centennial Rearing Pond. Mayor Mike Smith and a number of youngsters participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony. The master-of-ceremonies was local resident Don Dunbar.

4) Emerging Fry Surveys: Creek Coordinators were active in searching for emerging fry this spring, prior to the fry releases from the Nelson Creek Hatchery, indicating successful wild salmon spawning. A report on these findings can be seen on the website under Salmon Surveys.

5) Fry releases: The chum and coho fry raised at the Nelson Creek Hatchery were released by mid-May. About 190,000 chum fry were released into six streams in late April. These juvenile salmon go to sea almost immediately. Approximately 60,000 coho fry were released into twelve creeks in mid-May. They will remain in the streams for a year before going to sea. See the detailed report on the website under Nelson Creek Hatchery.

6) Storm Drain Marking: Ridgeview and Cedardale Elementary Schools participated in the storm drain marking program this spring and for the first time Streamkeepers worked with the Girl Guides to paint storm drains in the vicinity of Marine Drive and 29th Street. A total of 1447 storm drains have now been marked since the inception of the program 6 years ago. This fall we will work with Hollyburn and Gleneagles Elementary Schools. In July we received a donation of \$1,000 from the RBC Foundation for our leadership in this activity.

7) Work Plan 2013: The key projects underway this summer are:

- an assessment by the District to modify the culvert under Keith Road on Wood Creek by the addition of baffles to create resting areas to assist returning adult salmon
- improvements to spawning and rearing habitat upstream from the culvert on Wood Creek and to maintain and improve the wetland areas in Parc Verdun
- improvements to the intake pipe on McDonald Creek in Hay Park
- additional baffles on Lawson Creek
- consider options to improve adult salmon access into Larson Creek and a possible rearing pond for juvenile coho

8) Upper Lands Working Group: Stewardship groups were asked to provide comments on the goals and policy direction covering the environmental considerations contained in the 2001 Upper Lands Report and the amended 2004 Official Community Plan. Streamkeepers made a presentation to the Working Group on June 11.

9) Ivy Pull in Memorial Park: On Saturday, May 11 a Streamkeeper team removed more than a truck load of ivy and periwinkle from areas adjacent to McDonald Creek in the park. On June 15 a similar event took place in Hay Park to remove weeds that over-shadow native species that were planted a few years ago near the rearing pond. Thanks to all who came out to assist.

10) Community Day: Led by Celia Utley our participation included a water quality kit demonstration that has led to a new team of young adult Streamkeepers undertaking a creek monitoring initiative. The StreamTeam assesses water quality on Brothers, Lawson and McDonald Creeks recording dissolved oxygen and pH levels, conducting invertebrate and habitat surveys and building the Streamkeepers Database online.

11) Nature Centre: This exciting initiative, led by Bill Chapman and Liz Leduc, continues to gain support in the community. Meetings have been held with the six stewardship groups supporting the concept, as well as meetings with Anne Mooi, Director Parks and Community Services and Bob Sokol, Director Planning, Land Development and Permits. On July 8, Anne Mooi made a presentation to Council in support of this initiative which was favourably received. An assessment of the still-occupied Navy Jack House, the preferred location for the Nature Centre, will be undertaken later this year. Streamkeepers have offered to contribute 50%, up to a sum of \$2,500, for this assessment.

12) Garden Debris in Creeks: Streamkeepers are working with the District to produce a brochure that will be directed toward property owners and gardening contractors in an effort to eliminate the practice, in some areas, of dumping lawn clippings and garden cuttings into creeks and creek corridors.

13) Meeting with MP John Weston: A meeting was held with MP John Weston on July 9 to discuss new funding opportunities being offered by the federal government to stewardship organizations. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the invited Streamkeeper board members and past board members to express their concerns over the direction of government in amending legislation that previously protected fish habitat and to discuss other policies with respect to the environment.

14) PIP grant approved: Bill McAllister has successfully completed the "new process" application for our annual funding by DFO for the PIP (Public Involvement Program) grant. We have been advised will be receiving \$4,000 for the coming fiscal year.

15) Membership: Our roster presently stands at 177 members. Just a reminder that there are volunteer opportunities available. Please contact Jim Torry (jaytee2@shaw.ca) if you can offer time to assist.

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