



PO Box 91166
West Vancouver, BC V7V 3N6

Newsletter #17 – August - September 2013

1) Next Members Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2014 starting at 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's Anglican Church at 885 22nd Street.

2) Spawner Salmon Surveys: We encourage all Streamkeepers to play an active role in searching for returning adult salmon this fall. Surveys of our local creeks typically commence at Thanksgiving. We need this information for all creeks in West Vancouver. All observations should be reported to Elizabeth Hardy (nelsoncreekhatchery@gmail.com). Even if you look over a stream and see no salmon, that is still information that needs to be collected. Several creeks contain wild fry in the spring indicating spawning has occurred, after we observed no adult salmon. Spawning events may be of short duration in the smaller creeks. Please help in this important data collection exercise. A weekly walk of a stream near your home will be of great help. Elizabeth will be sending out procedural information in the next week or so.

3) Storm Drain Marking: This fall we will be working with students from Hollyburn and Gleneagles Elementary Schools with class presentations on October 2 and 3 and storm drain painting (the yellow fish) soon after.

4) Student Outreach – Senior Secondary Schools: Teams at West Vancouver Secondary (EPN) and Mulgrave School are being organized for the spawner salmon surveys. This seven week program will focus on Brothers Creek, Hadden Creek and McDonald Creek and commence the week of October 14.

5) Coho Festival: On September 8 the annual festival was held at Ambleside Park. Led by Celia Utley, Streamkeepers provided a booth with displays of our volunteer work. An aquarium had coho fry and cutthroat trout collected from the rearing pond in Memorial Park. There was also a display of the information being collected by the young adult StreamTeam, formed earlier this year by Celia, to scientifically study the health of our creeks, with the main focus on McDonald Creek. Streamkeepers also had a display about Brothers Creek on the Coho Walk.

6) Work Plan 2013: In late September the first stage of the Wood Creek project was completed. Forty nine baffles were installed in the culvert that runs underneath Keith Road, to allow passage of salmon up Wood Creek from Eagle Creek. A few days after completion of the installation, pink salmon were observed in Parc Verdun, upstream of the enhancement work.

7) Nature Centre: Work progressed throughout the summer preparing for the proposed Nature Centre. In addition to Bill Chapman, Liz Leduc and John Barker as project leaders, an advisory team has been assembled for the work ahead comprised of Streamkeeper members Margaret Roy, Frank Musson, Al Thompson, Roy MacRae and Bill Ireland. As we move forward, the intention is to produce a memorandum of understanding that will link the six stewardship groups together in a united effort to bring this concept forward. Provided the District is supportive of this initiative, the group will be forming a Society and seeking charitable status.

8) Invasive Plant Species Strategy Working Group: At the September 26 Members Meeting, Dan Henegar (District Parks Manager, Arboriculture and Horticulture) and Hugh Hamilton, both members of the Working Group, provided a most informative presentation on invasive plants in the community. Of the ten varieties reviewed, the main focus for removal will be Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed. Both require separate solutions and carry attendant risks if not dealt with properly. More information can be obtained on the District website (www.westvancouver.ca) ó search òinvasive plantsö.

9) Pink Salmon returns: With the abundance of pink salmon in southern BC rivers and streams, it is no surprise that Brothers Creek and Cypress Creek have shared in this wealth of salmon. Surveys of Brothers Creek have shown them throughout the system and many above the Upper Levels Highway in Brothers Creek (main branch), West Brothers Creek and Hadden Creek. In the latter, a large number of pink salmon have progressed above Stevens Drive making this the third species of salmon to have reached upper Hadden Creek spawning habitat in recent years. On Cypress Creek, the fish ladder is operational and pinks have been observed above and below the intake pipe weir; however river otters have resulted in some loss of pink salmon in this creek. MLA Ralph Sultan was recently taken on a tour of Hadden and Brothers Creeks to view the pink salmon returns.

10) Pink Salmon egg-take: A team of Streamkeepers participated in a pink salmon egg-take at the Tenderfoot Hatchery north of Squamish. The fertilized eggs from the sixty pairs of pink salmon will be raised at the Capilano Hatchery and the fry will be released into the Capilano River which will benefit Brothers Creek on their anticipated return in 2015.

11) Integrated Stormwater Management Plan: Several of our members attended an information session on September 30 held by the District, including the consulting team that prepared the plan for Godman, Turner, Cave, Westmount and Pipe Creeks. This is in anticipation of the future development of the Upper Lands in these watersheds and the need to properly manage rainwater runoff.

12) Property Development: Peter Gaskill will take on the task of Coordinator, replacing Doug Scarlett who moved from the community. All Environmental Development Permit applications are reviewed by Streamkeepers with the District Environment Protection Officer and site visits arranged, where appropriate, to review proposed near-creek development.

13) Hugh Hamilton recognized: At the recent Members Meeting, Hugh Hamilton was presented with a framed photograph of Hugh seated at a dedication bench at the rearing pond in Memorial Park. The bench dedication was organized by Streamkeepers to recognize Hugh for his many years of stewardship service in the community. The plaque reads òHugh Hamilton ó Outstanding Volunteer ó Streams, Forests and Shorelinesö.

John Barker, President
604-922-5780
jrbarker@shaw.ca