

Newsletter #18 – October – November 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) Nelson Creek Hatchery: We expect the same production this winter as last year of 60,000 coho eggs from the Capilano River Hatchery and 120,000 chum eggs from the Tenderfoot Hatchery located near Squamish. The chum eggs will arrive in late December and the coho eggs a month later.

3) Storm Drain Marking: This fall students from two elementary schools painted yellow fish adjacent to local storm drains. Gleneagles completed 91 and Hollyburn 82 bringing the total to 1,620 storm drains marked in the community over the 7 years of this Streamkeeper-led program.

4) Student Outreach – Senior Secondary Schools: The spawner salmon surveys conducted with Environment Protection Network (EPN) students from West Vancouver Secondary has just come to an end for this season. This year we had 71 students divided into 13 teams surveying for a seven week period; each team is led by a Streamkeeper sponsor. A Wrap Up celebration will be held on December 12 when students will be presented with tee-shirts for their participation.

5) StreamTeam: The StreamTeam has been monitoring local creeks, testing water quality, doing invertebrate surveys and counting returning spawning salmon since early July. This group was formed at the Streamkeepers exhibit tent on Community Day. Members are mostly university students who expressed their willingness to spend time learning more about our local wild salmonids. The time commitment is 2 or 3 hours on Sundays. In the summer they meet on Wednesday evenings as well. If you'd like more information check out the Facebook page www.facebook.com/westvanstreamteam or contact Celia Utley, Community Events Coordinator at utley@telus.net.

6) Work Plan 2013: Some key projects completed this year were:

- baffles were added to a 120 metre culvert under Keith Road on Wood Creek and pink salmon traveled through this pipe to Parc Verdun within days of completion and recently coho have been observed upstream having also passed through the culvert.
- the lower baffles in the culvert on Nelson Creek were adjusted to improve stream flow.
- yellow fish road signs of seven were installed in the western part of the community along Marine Drive and three in newly developed areas in the Upper Lands.

Under review for further salmon enhancement opportunities are:

- improvement to the intake pipe on McDonald Creek in Hay Park that feeds the off-channel rearing pond and our pipe cleaning team steadily monitor and clean this pipe.
- considerations to improve access for returning adult salmon into Larson Creek and potentially create spawning habitat.
- explore the possibility of removing a culvert (daylighting) on West Brothers Creek South to allow access for spawning coho salmon.

We are also pursuing funding through the new federal funding initiative, Recreation Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program, and in collaboration with West Vancouver Shoreline Preservation Society we expect to make an application in December for funding that will enhance the estuary of McDonald Creek. The intent is, that over time, rock placement as part of the Shoreline Preservation Plan being undertaken by the District, could be incorporated into an improvement that makes the creek entry more salmon friendly, similar to that of Lawson Creek.

7) Spawner Salmon Surveys: Special thanks to everyone who responded to the call for assistance in our spawner surveys in mid-October. We have certainly had more eyes on our streams. It is not too late to take time to search. Coho can be expected to continue entering streams until late December. A presentation will be made at the Members Meeting in January summarizing the results of the spawner salmon surveys for all creeks in West Vancouver.

8) Recap on Pink Salmon: The strong run of pink salmon on the south coast of BC this year benefitted several of our creeks - Brothers, Hadden, West Brothers, Macbeth, Lawson, Cypress, Eagle and Wood Creeks. The unusually strong run into Brothers Creek was also due in part to the 2009 enhancement when 60,000 pink salmon fry were introduced from the Seymour River Hatchery. This two-year life cycle salmon returned favourably in 2011 and this year even bigger numbers were observed. Pinks were found well above Stevens Drive on Hadden Creek and also in West Brothers Creek, adjacent to Wildwood Lane, both creeks being located above the Upper Levels Highway and both are tributaries of Brothers Creek.

9) Nature Centre: The District called for Expressions of Interest on October 9 for the future use of the District-owned Navvy Jack House located at the mouth of Lawson Creek. Streamkeepers, in partnership with four other stewardship groups (Lighthouse Park Preservation Society, North Shore Wetland Partners Society, Old Growth Conservancy Society and West Vancouver Shoreline Preservation Society), submitted a proposal on November 15. Our vision is to create a nature centre in West Vancouver featuring all the natural amenities in the community. Our objective is to inform and engage citizens in the protection, preservation and, where appropriate, the enhancement of our park lands, forests, streams, wetlands and the shoreline and all the animals, birds and aquatic life that also live in this community. District Staff will be reviewing this submission and we hope to learn about the status of our proposal early in the new year.

10) Creeks Clear brochure: Working with the District, Streamkeepers have helped create a single panel brochure requesting residents not to use creeks and the riparian area to dump their garden waste and also to direct hired gardeners to follow proper disposal practices. The brochure is currently being printed and will be available at all municipal card rack locations.

11) Environment Award: Bill McAllister, our Treasurer, recently received a District Environment Award. Bill was the co-lead in developing the Centennial Rearing Pond in Memorial Park in 2012. The presentation by Councillor Soprovich took place in Council Chambers on October 28. Among his other volunteer activities for the community Bill is also a member of the Invasive Species Strategy Working Group. Congratulations Bill!

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