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## Newsletter #21 – May – July 2014

- 1) Next Members Meeting:** The next meeting of the members will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2014 starting at 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's Anglican Church.
- 2) Streamkeeper Course:** The Streamkeeper training course held on May 24 and 25 was fully subscribed. Another training course, focusing on Spawner Salmon Surveys, will be held on the morning of Saturday, September 27. If you would like to participate in this training session please contact John Barker at [jrbarker@shaw.ca](mailto:jrbarker@shaw.ca) to book your place. There is no prior training required.
- 3) Community Day:** Celia Utley and Don Harrison organized our participation at Community Day on June 7. Thanks to a strong contingent of Streamkeeper volunteers our display booth was well received and visited by many from the community.
- 4) Coho Festival:** On September 7, Streamkeepers, in collaboration with other environment groups, will participate in the festival's Sustainability Zone. Come and visit the display at Ambleside Park starting at 11:00 a.m. which will be coordinated this year by Don Harrison ([jdharrison@telus.net](mailto:jdharrison@telus.net)). Streamkeepers will also host a booth on the Coho Walk featuring Brothers Creek.
- 5) Student Outreach:** Storm drain marking events were completed at Pauline Johnson and West Bay elementary schools in May. A total of 178 storm drains were marked at these two events bringing our community total to 1,798 storm drains painted with the yellow fish over the past seven years. At the senior secondary level, EPN students performed beach clean-up at Dundarave, John Lawson Park and Ambleside during the month of May.
- 6) Nelson Creek Hatchery:** 120,000 chum salmon fry were released in late April and 40,000 coho fry in late May-early June - 1,000 into Hadden Creek ponds at the Capilano Golf Course, 1,000 into Wood Creek at Parc Verdun and the remainder into eight other streams across the community. Fence repairs were recently completed at the Hatchery and a new metal roof will be installed in early August. These upgrades have been coordinated by our newest board member Dave Martin.
- 7) Nature Centre:** The Navy Jack Nature House project continues to move along favourably. The West Vancouver Nature House Society has now been registered and charitable status is being sought from Canada Revenue Agency. A productive visioning session was held with representatives of each stewardship group, the Project Advisory Team and three members of the District staff. The session was led by Phil Aldrich, former principal of AldrichPeers, specialists in interpretive planning and exhibit design. The sustainable business plan continues to be refined and will be tabled with District staff. Continued care of Navy Jack House by the District is evident with a replacement roof having been completed in the last few days.

**8) McDonald Creek Estuary Improvement Project:** Funding totalling \$135,000 was raised for the estuary enhancement project at the mouth of McDonald Creek. Major donations have been received from the DFO Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program and Pacific Salmon Foundation. Additional funding has also been received, including grants from the Coho Society of the North Shore, West Vancouver Community Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment, CN Rail, Fortis BC and Seaspam, as well as in-kind donations by Balanced Environmental, British Pacific Properties and the District of West Vancouver.

An on-site public information session was held on early June and temporary signage at the estuary was funded by Streamkeepers providing details of this important salmon enhancement project. Work commenced on June 9 and the project was completed on June 20 creating a new estuary resulting in a defined creek path of 80 metres through the intertidal zone, which will provide ready access for returning adult salmon into McDonald Creek. This phase of the project was completed on time and on budget with sufficient funds held in reserve to complete the remaining work. Still to be completed are large rock placement along the north perimeter of the stream bank, planting of dune grass, Nootka rose and beach pea, log features and permanent informative signage explaining the purpose of the project and recognizing the donors.

**9) Cleaning Rearing Ponds:** Unwanted stream debris was pumped out of the rearing ponds at Larson Creek (Gleneagles) and Hay Park in late May after the coho smolts had departed for sea. There are now good numbers of coho fry being observed in all three rearing ponds (including Memorial Park) as these juvenile salmon commence their one year of residency in fresh water.

**10) Other Work Plan Projects:** Several key projects are moving along, some still in the planning and engineering stages, including:

- a) Improvement to the culvert to allow fish passage in McDonald Creek beyond Fulton Avenue.
- b) New water intake box on McDonald Creek in Hay Park to improve water flow to the rearing pond. The District recently constructed a new footbridge in the same location.
- c) Habitat improvements to Wood Creek in Parc Verdun which will expand spawning and rearing habitat. Large woody debris and boulder clusters are being placed in the creek.
- d) Monitoring of Larson Creek ó water quality testing, macro-invertebrate sampling and fish trapping to determine the health of this stream and the potential for a future enhancement project.

**11) Invasive Plant Mapping:** A pilot project will be initiated for Streamkeepers to assist the District in mapping invasive plants (Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed) along Brothers Creek from Hollyburn Country Club at Cross Creek Road to Millstream Road. We require 12 volunteers to assist on Sunday, September 21 for two hours starting at 1:00 p.m. to do the mapping in these areas. A training session on Thursday, September 18 will take place for one hour starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Seniors Activity Centre. If you can assist, please notify Bill McAllister at [jacmcallister@telus.net](mailto:jacmcallister@telus.net)

**12) Membership:** Presently at 190 members. This exceeds the roster of last year. Thanks to all for this support.

John Barker, President

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