

Newsletter #22 – August – October 2014

1) Next Members Meeting: The next meeting of the members will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2015 starting at 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's Anglican Church. Our guest speaker will be Jonn Matsen who will report on the success of the pile wrapping program in Squamish and False Creek which has provided new habitat for spawning herring.

2) Environmental Award - Jim Torry: On October 27, 2014, Jim Torry, past director and current member of Streamkeepers, was presented an Environmental Award by the District of West Vancouver. See the home page of the website (www.westvancouverstreamkeepers.ca) recognizing some of Jim's many contributions to the Society. Congratulations Jim!

3) Streamkeeper Course: A Streamkeeper training session focusing on Spawner Salmon Surveys was held on the morning of Saturday, September 27. The introductory two-day Streamkeeper training course may be offered again in the spring. Please contact John Barker at jrbarker@shaw.ca if you are interested in taking this course.

4) Coho Festival: Celia Utley and Don Harrison organized our participation at the Coho Festival held at Ambleside Park on September 9. Perfect weather and a great turnout made for a most enjoyable day. A big thank-you to those who assisted at our display booth in the Sustainability Zone. This marks the last event to be organized by Celia for Streamkeepers due to her recent move from West Vancouver to Whistler. We are indeed indebted to Celia for many successful and innovative events organized over the past three years. She now hands this responsibility to Don Harrison who worked with Celia during the current year. Don will be looking for volunteers for the next community event, Adopt-A-Fish, in April (jdharrison@telus.net).

5) Student Outreach – Elementary Schools: We had planned to work with two schools this fall but due to the slower start to the school year and quickly deteriorating weather, these events were postponed and will be undertaken next spring. Earlier in the year we completed four outings with two schools (Pauline Johnson and West Bay) and painted a total of 178 storm drains bringing the total to 1,798 throughout the community at 23 events.

6) Student Outreach – Senior Secondary Schools: Spawner salmon surveys commenced in mid-October with excellent results for the first three weeks. Ideal high water conditions saw many coho and chum salmon moving into Brothers and Hadden Creeks. Quite a number of chinook salmon (many in pairs) have already been seen well upstream in both Brothers and Hadden Creeks. We have 9 teams from West Vancouver Secondary's EPN group as well as 2 teams from Sentinel Secondary this year. Rockridge students, who are members of the Girl Guides (Rangers), are also participating by surveying Larson, lower Eagle and Wood Creeks.

7) Spawner Salmon Surveys: Aside from the student program, the broader spawner salmon survey effort is being handled by a team of 24 Streamkeeper volunteers. All 14 salmon bearing

streams and tributaries across the community are being surveyed twice a week. Elizabeth Hardy is collecting the data and will report on the results at the Members Meeting on January 29.

8) Nelson Creek Hatchery: Operations will get underway later this year when we receive chum salmon eggs from the Alouette River Hatchery. On October 29, six volunteers headed out to Maple Ridge to participate in a chum egg take at this hatchery. We spawned forty-eight pairs of chum and those eggs will be divided among several hatcheries. During the summer, several repairs and a new metal roof was installed at the hatchery. A big thank-you to Dave Martin for coordinating this work along with his team of capable assistants.

9) 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 through discussions with senior District staff. Continued care of Navy Jack House by the District is evident with a replacement roof having been completed during the summer.

10) McDonald Creek Estuary Improvement Project: At present the weather is settling the site prior to any further work. The new defined stream path is functioning perfectly. We have seen coho and chum salmon in the creek already and calls are coming in from residents who have observed salmon in the estuary and are responding to the call Streamkeepers sign at the mouth of the creek. Still to be completed is the large rock placement along the north perimeter of the stream bank. Planting of this area will proceed early in the New Year and the permanent signage is in the production phase. We are working on plans, approvals and funding to create a similar enhanced estuary at the mouth of Rodgers Creek in 2015.

11) Wood Creek Habitat Improvement: Last year with the completion of the baffles to the Wood Creek culvert under Keith Road, several pink and coho salmon worked their way through the culvert and into Wood Creek at Park Verdun. This year, working with District staff and Sartori Environmental, this section of Wood Creek was enhanced by the placement of several boulder clusters and large woody debris in several locations. British Pacific Properties provided the rock and large woody debris. This complexing of the stream will improve both spawning and rearing habitat.

12) New Water Intake Box: Working with the District's engineering and parks personnel a new self-cleaning, water intake box was constructed to feed water into the McDonald Creek in Hay Park rearing pond. This replaces the old 4 inch pipe with screening which required constant cleaning. The new water feed is working extremely well. The park has also been enhanced by the construction of a new footbridge which crosses the creek immediately above the intake box.

13) Membership: Presently we have 195 members. Thank you all. The Membership Application form for 2015 will be coming your way in early December. Be sure to consider volunteer opportunities when submitting your membership application.

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