



## Newsletter #23 – November – December 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 productive habitat for spawning herring.

**2) Streamkeepers Seaside Social:** This popular annual event will take place at Hollyburn Sailing Club on Thursday, April 16 starting at 7:00 p.m. Come and enjoy a social evening with fellow members, view the displays and chat with the Coordinators of the Society's committees who help make this organization run so smoothly.

**3) Alyson Fretz Awarded Bursary:** Aly coordinates the temperature logging teams that collect data on 8 creeks in the community. An accomplished performer with Ballet BC, Aly has now turned her focus to the study of environmental sciences and is in her second year at UBC. On November 13, she was presented a \$1,500.00 bursary by the Pacific Salmon Foundation. Congratulations Aly!

**4) 84 Millimeter Rain Event:** On November 3, West Vancouver recorded a significant rain event which, in addition to causing flooding in the community, also created problems for five of our stream projects. The intake box in Hay Park became detached from its foundation. The intake pipe at Memorial Park had boulders enter that area which impeded the water flow into the rearing pond. There was significant wood blockage in the fish ladder on the north side of Stevens Drive on Hadden Creek. The fish ladders at The Legion on Lawson Creek and on Cypress Creek became completely filled with rocks and woody debris making them impassable for salmon. These problems have all been addressed and have either been remedied or temporarily fixed until permanent repairs can be completed during a low flow period. It is a reminder that man-made enhancements do require constant surveillance and maintenance.

**5) Spawner Salmon Surveys:** This year we had the largest turnout of members assisting in the survey of 21 creeks and tributaries in search of returning adult salmon. Twenty-seven members went weekly to certain creeks for a two month period. This provided two surveys a week on all potential salmon bearing streams. Unfortunately, the results reported this year were generally below those of prior years for both coho and chum salmon, with the exception of Brothers and Hadden Creeks. These two creeks had a strong year for coho and an average year for chum salmon and, of course, an unusual chinook salmon event which is described below. Elizabeth Hardy will report on the 2014 salmon returns at the Members Meeting in January.

**6) Chinook Salmon In Brothers Creek:** Highly turbid, low quality water in the Capilano River as a result of landslides in the upper watershed is the probable reason a very large number of chinook salmon, likely destined for the Capilano River Hatchery, changed course and decided to enter the clean flow of Brothers Creek. Many carried on into Hadden Creek, and traveled well

upstream, above the Upper Levels Highway. The spawner salmon surveys put the population in Hadden Creek at well over 200 chinook salmon. Also unusual is that these were three year olds (normally they spawn at 4 or 5 years of age) which weighed between 9 and 12 pounds. These fish were observed spawning and it is possible the offspring will return as mature fish and perhaps establish a permanent run. DNA samples taken by Capilano River Hatchery staff will likely confirm these chinook salmon originated from that Hatchery.

**7) Wrap Up Celebration – Student Spawner Salmon Surveys:** On December 10, secondary students, Streamkeepers Sponsors and members, as well as a list of distinguished community leaders, joined in the celebration of the completion of the spawner salmon surveys for 2014. This is the eighth year of this program and 47 students serving on 12 teams surveyed several creeks throughout the community looking for returning adult salmon. This year the program, in addition to West Vancouver Secondary, included students from Sentinel, Rockridge and Seycove (North Vancouver). Mayor Michael Smith and Councillor Nora Gambioli presented the tee-shirts to the students and the Mayor invited Streamkeepers and the student leaders to come before Council as a delegation to provide the community with the results from these salmon surveys. This presentation will take place on Monday, January 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**8) Storm Drain Marking:** We will be working with three elementary schools this spring - St. Anthony's, Westcot and Caulfeild - painting the yellow fish adjacent to nearby storm drains.

**9) McDonald Creek Estuary Enhancement:** The new estuary worked as anticipated this fall with improved access for returning salmon. The project received some expected natural impact from nature ó several high flow events from the creek as well as a period of strong westerly wind that coincided with a very high tide. The structure stood up well and other than movement of a considerable amount of rock and gravel through the estuary and movement of some of the fill on the north side from wave spray and heavy rain, the structure remained sound and the estuary enhancement continues to work extremely well. The project still requires placement of large perimeter rock, more beach sand and topsoil, planting of native vegetation and the installation of permanent interpretive signage. The remaining work will be completed this spring.

**10) Nelson Creek Hatchery:** Just over 100,000 chum salmon eggs from the Alouette River Hatchery were delivered to the Nelson Creek Hatchery on December 15. We anticipate the arrival of 30,000 coho salmon eggs in mid-to-late January from the Capilano River Hatchery.

**11) Membership:** The membership renewal notice went out in early December. If you have not renewed for calendar year 2015, you can download the Membership Application form from the website under Contact Us ([www.westvancouversteamkeepers.ca](http://www.westvancouversteamkeepers.ca)). Our membership total for 2014 was 196. A big thank-you goes to Liz Leduc, our Membership Coordinator, for so capably managing this responsibility as well as helping match volunteer interests with the Committee Coordinators.

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