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## **Newsletter #24 – January - March 2015**

**1) 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 that help make this organization run so smoothly.

**2) Annual General Meeting:** The AGM will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2015 starting at 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's Anglican Church.

**3) New Board Member:** Peter Gaskill resigned from the board and Don Harrison was appointed by the board on January 22. We thank Peter for his years of dedicated service volunteering in many capacities of intake pipe cleaning, temperature logging, spawner salmon surveys and as the Coordinator overseeing Property Development. Don Harrison joins the board following a career in environmental consulting. He has assisted Streamkeepers by working alongside Celia Utley, coordinating the three Community Events last year and will continue in this capacity as Coordinator, Community Events. Welcome aboard Don!

**4) Nelson Creek Hatchery:** Just over 100,000 chum salmon eggs were received in the middle of December from the Alouette River Hatchery. The eggs hatched in mid-January and the fry were ponded a month later. We also received 30,000 coho salmon eggs from the Capilano Hatchery in early February which are currently at the alevin stage. We expect the chum fry to be released soon and the coho fry in late May or early June.

**5) Delegation to Council:** On January 26, at the invitation of Mayor Michael Smith, a delegation of Streamkeepers and three students from West Vancouver Secondary School went before Council to present the results of the 2014 spawner salmon surveys. The students reported that 1,033 salmon were observed, mostly in Brothers and Hadden Creeks, by the 12 survey teams comprised of students from West Vancouver Secondary, Sentinel and Rockridge.

**6) CreekTalk:** We have launched a new program for elementary school students. It is called CreekTalk and will be headed by board member and biologist Assunta McCullough (nee Detels). This started with two classes last year led by Hugh Hamilton. Assunta and Hugh will be working with school teachers in West Vancouver this spring to bring the story of creeks, fish and habitat to the school children.

**7) Adopt-A-Fish:** We will be working again with the Coho Society and West Vancouver Memorial Library to present the annual Adopt-A-Fish event for elementary-aged school children. Coho smolts will be provided by the Capilano Hatchery and children will be given a smolt to release into McDonald Creek adjacent to the Centennial Rearing Pond in Memorial Park. This festive activity will take place on Saturday, April 25. It starts at 11:00 a.m. and runs until 1:00 p.m. Don Harrison ([jdharrison@telus.net](mailto:jdharrison@telus.net)) is organizing this event.

**8) Storm Drain Marking:** We plan on working with three elementary schools this spring ó Westcot, St. Anthony's and Caulfeild. The students will be painting öyellow fishö on streets adjacent to storm drains in the vicinity of these schools. The program is led by Sherry Parrott ([slp@sentinel-hill.com](mailto:slp@sentinel-hill.com)) and assisted by Sigrid Bailey. We expect to be working with a team of RBC Dominion Securities volunteers who will also be marking storm drains in early May.

**9) Streamkeeper Course:** If there is sufficient interest, an introductory two-day Streamkeeper training session will be offered in June. Please contact John Barker at [jrbarker@shaw.ca](mailto:jrbarker@shaw.ca) if you are interested in taking this course which will run both days one weekend. It is taught streamside in West Vancouver and is a öhands-onö training session.

**10) Repairs to damaged facilities:** The water intake box on McDonald Creek in Hay Park was re-installed on March 4 during a low water period. The flow into the rearing pond is working exceptionally well, providing a continuous supply of creek water to the large population of juvenile coho salmon and cutthroat trout that reside in the rearing pond.

**11) McDonald Creek Estuary Enhancement Project:** The final touches on this most successful project will occur in April. This will include the placement of large perimeter rock along the north side of the new creek path, adding beach sand and topsoil, planting native vegetation and the installation of permanent interpretive signage. We are pleased to report the project came in on time and on budget, with all the required funds raised by the Society.

**12) Rodgers Creek Estuary Enhancement Project:** Following the success of the McDonald Creek Estuary project, planning and fund raising for a similar enhancement project is underway for the estuary of Rodgers Creek. Funding has been confirmed by West Vancouver Community Foundation, the Coho Society of the North Shore, the Environmental Damages Fund (Environment Canada), citizens and corporations in the community and the provincial government (thank-you Ralph Sultan, MLA). A big thank-you to member, Rich Ketchen, who helped greatly with the funding applications. If full funding of \$147,000 (plus in-kind donations) is achieved, construction is expected to take place in August this year.

**13) Nature Centre:** The Navy Jack Nature House project continues to move forward favourably. An agreement has now been concluded with the West Vancouver Community Foundation to establish an endowment fund as part of the initiative to generate sustained funding. The Project Advisory Team has submitted funding applications for pre-planning costs. These requested funds will be used to develop a marketing and branding strategy, audio/visual and electrical requirements for the exhibit space, determine design needs for the exhibit stands, host relevant workshops/seminars and cover some of the administrative costs. The Society now has its website up and running. Please visit the site at [www.westvancouvernaturehouse.ca](http://www.westvancouvernaturehouse.ca).

**14) Membership:** Thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership for 2015. We are tracking nicely toward last year's total membership of 196. We are currently at 166 members for 2015 and well ahead of the membership total at this time last year.

John Barker, President  
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