

Newsletter #25 – April - June 2015

- 1) Annual General Meeting:** The AGM was held on Thursday, May 7. The existing board was re-elected, as were the officers ó John Barker, president, Bill McAllister, treasurer and Mike Akerly, secretary. The guest speaker was Alex Sartori of Sartori Environmental, who provided an historical perspective of local stream enhancement projects over the past twenty years.
- 2) Fall Streamkeepers Meeting:** The next meeting of the members will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at St. Stephen's Church starting at 7:30 p.m.
- 3) Nelson Creek Hatchery:** Just over 100,000 chum salmon eggs were received in the middle of December from the Alouette River Hatchery. We also received 30,000 coho salmon eggs from the Capilano River Hatchery in early February. The chum fry were released on April 7. The coho fry were released on two occasions ó a small release into Hadden Creek at the Capilano Golf Course on May 28 and the main release into seven other local streams on June 2.
- 4) Oil Spill:** Following the oil spill on April 8 from a freighter in English Bay, Streamkeepers were asked by the District to assist at three beaches ó Ambleside, John Lawson Park and Dundarave. The purpose was to provide information to the public to remain away from the inter-tidal area due to the presence of oil. Streamkeepers assisted (wearing yellow high-vis vests) for a three day period while these areas were cleaned by qualified contractors.
- 5) Youth Appreciation Awards:** Three Environment Protection Network (EPN) students from West Vancouver Secondary School were recipients of the District's Youth Appreciation Awards. Minjae Kim, Eric Wei and Cindy Zhou were nominated by West Vancouver Streamkeepers for their leadership and statistical preparation during the spawner salmon surveys last fall.
- 6) Regular Meetings with District Staff:** Streamkeepers continue to meet with management from four municipal departments on a monthly basis. Representatives from Engineering, Parks, Planning and Environment attend each meeting which is held on the first Tuesday each month. If you have a particular item or question you would like to have brought, please contact Bill McAllister who chairs these meetings (jacmcallister@telus.net).
- 7) CreekTalk:** This spring we launched a new program for elementary school students. It is called CreekTalk and has been run by board member and biologist Assunta McCullough and past-president Hugh Hamilton. They have been working with school teachers in West Vancouver bringing the story of creeks, fish and habitat to the school children.
- 8) Adopt-A-Fish:** This annual event, in partnership with the Memorial Library and the Coho Society, was held on April 25. Thirty Streamkeeper volunteers assisted in the release of coho smolts into McDonald Creek and the issuing of certificates to over 300 children.

9) Community Day: Streamkeepers participated in the parade and had a booth showcasing our volunteer work in the community. A big thank-you goes to all the volunteers.

10) Storm Drain Marking: Two elementary schools participated this spring ó Westcot and St. Anthony's - with students painting the õyellow fishõ on streets adjacent to storm drains in the vicinity of these schools. We also worked with a team of RBC Dominion Securities volunteers who painted storm drains in early May and made a donation of \$1,000 from RBC Foundation.

11) Streamkeeper Course: The introductory two-day Streamkeeper training session was held on June 27 and 28. Attended by several West Vancouver Streamkeepers as well as members of the Bowen Island Fish and Wildlife Club, this õhands-onõ training took place this year at McDonald Creek in Memorial Park. We expect the course will be offered again in spring 2016.

12) Repairs to damaged facilities: The water intake boxes at the rearing ponds on McDonald Creek in Hay Park and Memorial Park have been working well. During these critically low-water periods, the rearing ponds have proven to be a safe haven for salmon and trout. The Cypress Creek Fish Ladder has been repaired and is ready to be installed in late July for the pink salmon return.

13) Hadden Creek Culvert Replacement: The District will be replacing the culvert at Hadden Drive which is good news for coho salmon. Last fall the upper pools had a good number of coho that might have moved further upstream except for the impassable culvert at Hadden Drive. The design of the new culvert will accommodate passage of adult salmon giving access to spawning and rearing habitat further upstream on Hadden Creek to areas below the Capilano Golf Course.

14) McDonald Creek Estuary Enhancement Project: The final touches on this most successful project were completed in late April. This included 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 budget with all funds and in-kind contributions being raised by the Society.

15) Rodgers Creek: Following the success of the McDonald Creek estuary project a similar enhancement initiative is underway for Rodgers Creek. Full funding of \$152,000 has been achieved including contributions from the West Vancouver Community Foundation, the Coho Society of the North Shore, the Environmental Damages Fund (Environment Canada), Pacific Salmon Foundation, British Pacific Properties, as well as the provincial government (thank-you Ralph Sultan, MLA). Construction, under the guidance of the District, will take place in August.

16) McDonald Creek at Fulton Avenue: Work will commence this summer to improve salmon access beyond Fulton Avenue by raising the height of the pool on the outflow side of the culvert.

17) Road Signs: Twenty of the õyellow fishõ creek signs (with the new blue background) have been installed, half of the cost being paid by Streamkeepers in partnership with the District.

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