

Newsletter #26 – July - September 2015

- 1) Next Streamkeepers Meeting:** The next Streamkeepers Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at St. Stephen's Church starting at 7:30 p.m.
- 2) New Director Appointed:** At the October 1 board meeting, Rich Ketchen was appointed as a director. He will replace Assunta McCullough who recently resigned from the board. We thank Assunta for her time on the board and assisting with the Facebook page, CreekTalk at elementary schools, expanding the temperature logging program and working on the Larson Creek assessment. Rich brings skills as a business writer and fund raiser evidenced by another successful funding effort raising \$150,000 for the Rodgers Creek Estuary Enhancement project.
- 3) Pink Salmon Arrivals:** After the heavy rain event in late August, which raised the creek levels, pink salmon that were holding at sea along the West Vancouver shoreline, suddenly started entering many of our creeks. In fact, there were pinks observed in several creeks that have not experienced pink salmon previously (at least in recent memory). They have been seen in Willow, Rodgers, McDonald and Lawson creeks. Pinks are evident in Cypress Creek and, as expected from the strong return in 2013, big numbers have been recorded in Brothers and Hadden creeks - with one large pool on Brothers, immediately below the Upper Levels highway, having around 200 pink salmon.
- 4) Spawner Salmon Surveys:** Thirty Creek Monitors (Streamkeeper volunteers) will be performing weekly surveys on many of the West Vancouver streams and tributaries looking for evidence of returning adult salmon. A number of surveys started early due to the arrival of the pink salmon. The full survey program, including the secondary student participation, will be underway by Thanksgiving and continue until mid-December. This initiative is being managed by Dave Reid ó Coordinator, Spawner Salmon Surveys (davidtreid89@gmail.com).
- 5) Secondary Student Program – Spawner Salmon Surveys:** This year we will have students participating from all five secondary schools ó West Vancouver, Sentinel, Rockridge, Mulgrave and Collingwood. Each team is led by a Streamkeeper sponsor and records are kept by the students and a summary of their findings is published weekly from mid-October to the end of November. This is the ninth year of this very successful program.
- 6) Community Events:** Streamkeepers had a display booth at the Coho Festival held on September 13. A big thank-you to those members who have regularly assisted at community events ó Sigrid Bailey, Greg Weary, Ben Harrison and the Martinez family (mom Kathy and daughters Mila and Sybil). These events are managed by our Events Coordinator, Don Harrison.
- 7) Hatchery Buildings Spiffed Up:** Dave Martin and Stefen Elmitt took on the task of cleaning and painting both buildings at the Nelson Creek Hatchery. A new coat of brown stain was applied to the exteriors of both buildings as well as white paint applied to the interior of the main hatchery building.

8) New Intake Box: The new intake box was installed in McDonald Creek at the Memorial Park rearing pond in August. We now have two incredibly successful water intakes at both rearing ponds in Hay Park and Memorial Park which now require little in the way of maintenance. Thanks to everyone who helped keep these intake pipes working over the years by constantly cleaning away leafy debris and the accumulation of sand and gravel.

9) Cypress Creek Fish Ladder: The fish ladder was repaired in early summer and installed in early August in time for the pink salmon run. It will be removed in early October.

10) Hadden Creek Culvert Replacement: The District is presently completing the replacement of the culvert at Hadden Drive. The design of the new culvert will accommodate passage of adult salmon. Work commenced in mid-July and will be completed in late October. This will open new spawning habitat from Hadden Drive upstream to the Capilano Golf and Country Club. Four zones on Hadden Creek will be surveyed this fall ensuring a good accounting of the salmon returns and our hope is for some salmon (probably coho) to move further upstream to spawn in previously unused habitat.

11) Rodgers Creek: Streamkeepers went to Council on July 27 as a Delegation to present information on the two estuary enhancement projects ó the completion of McDonald Creek and the planned work for Rodgers Creek. Construction on the Rodgers Creek estuary commenced on August 25 and the work was completed in 12 days. For these major projects, the District looks after the management and logistics of rock procurement, trucking and construction. The story of the estuary enhancement is told on two display panels on display in the kiosk at Dundarave Pier. Thanks goes to British Pacific Properties for donating all the rock needed for the project (approximately 300 truckloads) and to Scott Christie, principal of Balanced Environmental, for the estuary design and oversight.

12) McDonald Creek at Fulton Avenue: Work was completed in August to improve salmon passage upstream from Fulton Avenue. On the outflow side of the culvert, placement of large boulders stabilized the banks as well as heightened the pool. Approximately 20 pink salmon reached this pool and hopefully with fall rain and increased creek flow, salmon will be able to move further upstream.

13) Communications: The Streamkeepers website was overhauled this summer to make it more user-friendly and easier to navigate around the site. We continue to use the cost-effective services of Pacific Streamkeepers Federation to maintain the site. A new Streamkeepers brochure has been produced. Thanks to Sharon Gramchuk, a graphic designer, for her assistance and to Rich Ketchen who looked after both projects.

14) Observing Salmon: If you would like to observe spawning salmon, consider visiting the Viewing Platform at the Keith Road Bridge on Brothers Creek (four blocks east of Taylor Way).