

Newsletter #28 – January - March 2016

- 1) Next Streamkeepers Meeting:** The next Streamkeepers gathering will be the Seaside Social on Friday, April 15 at the Hollyburn Sailing Club starting at 7:00 p.m. This annual event is a festive affair with an opportunity to view various displays and meet with committee coordinators, event organizers, your board of directors and fellow Streamkeepers.
- 2) Annual General Meeting:** The AGM will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at St. Stephen's Anglican Church on 21st Street starting at 7:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Dr. Brian Riddell, President and CEO of the Pacific Salmon Foundation. He will provide a talk on the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project – a collaborative initiative between the US and Canada with 150 scientists and technical staff studying the myriad of possible causes for the decline in coho and chinook salmon in the Strait of Georgia, Juan de Fuca Strait and Puget Sound. Forty organizations are participating in separate studies trying to establish the cause of this decline.
- 3) Spawner Salmon Surveys 2015 – Results:** At the Members Meeting in January, Elizabeth Hardy presented the results of the spawner salmon surveys conducted by members and secondary school students. It was noted in Elizabeth's presentation that, based on historical results, we could be witnessing an increase in chum salmon in 2016 and 2017. [Read more here.](#)
- 4) Nelson Creek Hatchery:** The 100,000 chum fry raised at the hatchery were ponded (moved from the incubation trays to the outdoor troughs) on March 2 and were released into local streams on March 23. The 30,000 coho eggs received on February 23 are at the alevin stage in the incubation trays. We expect they will be ponded in May and released in June.
- 5) Emerging Fry Surveys:** A big thank-you to those who took time to survey local creeks for emerging pink and chum salmon fry. We received a fair number of reports from Creek Monitors and some promising results. In the next month or so we will start to see coho fry after they emerge from the gravel. Looking for coho fry is a less onerous task, since they will stay in the creeks for a year compared to the pinks and chum fry which head to the ocean almost as soon as they emerge. These surveys will once again be coordinated by Dave Reid (davidtreid89@gmail.com) and he will be encouraging you to report any findings to Elizabeth Hardy (nelsoncreekhatchery@gmail.com).
- 6) Tour of the CAER Facility (Centre for Aquaculture and Environmental Research):** Dr. Steve Macdonald, the Designated Senior Officer at the Fisheries and Oceans Canada CAER facility, organized a tour for Streamkeepers where several of the scientists provided on-station presentations explaining the research work being undertaken. Dr. Macdonald also attended the Streamkeepers Meeting in late January and provided a most informative talk about their research.
- 7) Adopt-A-Fish:** This annual event will be held on April 23 in Memorial Park where children "adopt" coho smolts and release them into McDonald Creek. The event starts at 11:00 a.m. Notices will soon be delivered to all elementary and pre-schools in West Vancouver.

8) Storm Drain Marking: This year we expect to organize painted “yellow fish” events with students from Caulfeild and Cypress Park elementary schools as well as groups from local Girl Guides and Boy Scouts.

9) District Weed Pull and Planting: A number of Streamkeepers responded to a call by the District for volunteers to assist with ivy pull events at Ambleside Park in early March and the planting of native species in the latter part of the month.

10) Rodgers Creek Estuary Enhancement project: This work was completed in early September last year. In the next few weeks the site will be re-visited bringing more large rock to raise the outside wall of the creek channel. Additional work will be to re-configure some of the in-stream boulders to improve flow through the intertidal zone. These adjustments were anticipated after a winter of ocean storms and elevated creek levels; no different than what was experienced last year with similar adjustments required to the McDonald Creek estuary. No additional funds will be required above those raised in 2015 to construct this new creek path.

11) Fish ladder on Lawson Creek: Funding applications were submitted on February 15 to the Pacific Salmon Foundation, West Vancouver Community Foundation and TD Friends of the Environment – each of which have supported our projects in the past. These funds will pay for the replacement of the damaged fish ladder on Lawson Creek near the Royal Canadian Legion. The more robust, concrete fish ladder will once again enable returning adult coho salmon to access favourable spawning and rearing habitat further upstream. The projected cost is \$85,000. To date we have had confirmation of funding from West Vancouver Community Foundation (\$10,000), Earth Day Canada (\$10,000) and BC Hydro (\$5,000). Successful funding from our other applications plus in-kind donations, including the District for project management, will result in the project being fully funded. The construction will take place in August.

12) Navy Jack Nature House: The proposal to develop a nature house appears to have been well received during the recent Ambleside Waterfront Concept Plan information sessions. This initiative figured prominently in the presentation panels and the survey results would indicate good public support. Included in the display material was the proposed restoration of the lower stretch of Lawson Creek. This will be the subject of further study in the coming months with representatives from Fisheries and Oceans Canada who provided concept sketches last fall. The Nature House Society recently received a grant from the West Vancouver Community Foundation which will be used to develop branding, a logo and communications plan.

13) Membership 2016: We are still pursuing a few membership renewals. If you have not already done so, could you please send in your 2016 membership application form and fee.

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