

Newsletter #29 – April - June 2016

1) Next Streamkeepers Meeting: The next Streamkeepers meeting will be held on Thursday, September 29 at St. Stephen's Church starting at 7:30 p.m.

2) Annual General Meeting: The AGM was held on Thursday, May 5, 2016. The directors elected were Mike Akerly, John Barker, Bill Chapman, Elizabeth Hardy, Don Harrison, Rich Ketchen, Dave Martin, Bill McAllister and Dave Reid. The officers appointed by the board following the AGM were John Barker, President, Mike Akerly, Secretary and Bill McAllister, Treasurer. The guest speaker, Dr. Brian Riddell, President and CEO of the Pacific Salmon Foundation, provided a most informative talk on the scientific initiatives being conducted by the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project. More can be found at the PSF website www.psf.ca

3) Nelson Creek Hatchery: In addition to the 100,000 chum fry released in late March, there were also 30,000 coho fry raised at the hatchery. In late May 2,000 coho fry were released into Pond 5 at the Capilano Golf and Country Club by students from Westcot Elementary School and 1,000 were released into Wood Creek by students from Eagle Harbour Primary School. On June 8, the majority of coho fry were released into 7 creeks (Larson, Eagle, Nelson, Rodgers, McDonald, Lawson and West Brothers).

4) Hay Park Weed Pull: A weed pull was held in late May, the removal of which has helped the growth of native vegetation planted by students from West Vancouver Secondary School.

5) Community Events:

Adopt-A-Fish: This annual event was held on April 23 in Memorial Park where children adopted coho smolts and released them into McDonald Creek. This is a collaborative event sponsored by the Coho Society, West Vancouver Memorial Library and Streamkeepers. In spite of the weather, there was a very good turnout of elementary-aged school children and families.

Community Day: On June 4 Streamkeepers had a booth displaying the work undertaken by volunteer members of the Society. In keeping with the "Games Day" theme, interactive games were added to attract more students and families, the purpose of which was to broaden their knowledge of streams, fish, aquatic insects and care of creek habitat.

Eagle Harbour Fun Run: This event sponsored by Thunderbird Marina took place on June 5. A display similar to Community Day was provided for the Eagle Harbour community.

6) Storm Drain Marking: Five events were completed this spring, involving painting the yellow fish beside storm drains. One class from Cypress Park and two classes from Caulfeild elementary schools plus events with Brownies and Girl Guides resulted in 80 students painting a total of 246 storm drains. This brings the total drains marked to 2,271 in the 9 years of this program.

7) Rodgers Creek Estuary Enhancement project: The project was completed in early September last year. In mid-April this year, the site was re-visited to make anticipated adjustments following a winter of ocean storm events and elevated creek levels. This work included raising the outside wall of the creek channel and reconfiguring some of the in-stream boulders to improve flow through the intertidal zone. The District's Engineering Department provided the project management during the construction phase and we acknowledge the support of Balanced Environmental (design, oversight and reporting), British Pacific Properties (rock supply) and North Construction (trucking and construction), as well as the waterfront property owner who permitted delivery of the necessary rock through his property.

8) Fish ladder on Lawson Creek: This project is close to being fully funded with \$28,000 recently being approved by the Pacific Salmon Foundation. Work will commence in August this year and it will take just over one month to complete. This more robust, concrete fish ladder will again enable returning adult coho salmon to access favourable spawning and rearing habitat further upstream. The District's Engineering Department will provide project management during the construction phase.

9) Streamkeeper Training Course: On June 11 and 12, eleven West Vancouver Streamkeepers completed the six module course taught by Zo Ann Morten, Executive Director, Pacific Streamkeepers Federation and Dianne Ramage, Director, Salmon Recovery Programs, Pacific Salmon Foundation. If you have interest in taking this course in 2017 please contact John Barker.

10) Navy Jack Nature House: The proposal to develop a nature house continues to move steadily forward. Meetings with the District's senior staff have proceeded well as the West Vancouver Nature House Society develops a sustainable business plan. Favourable public support was evident during the Ambleside Waterfront Concept Plan process and it is hoped this initiative will be presented to Council for approval this fall.

11) Restoration of Lower Lawson Creek: Also scoring well with the public is the restoration of lower Lawson Creek, adjacent to Navy Jack Nature House. Fisheries and Oceans Canada have offered to produce the design, civil engineering work and to provide oversight during construction. A new creek path will be developed which will flow from the existing open box culvert, through the small park area to the west and loop back to rejoin the existing creek bed at the footbridge near the estuary. This new creek path will provide spawning habitat for chum and pink salmon, as well as rearing habitat for juvenile coho, from the adults that are expected to spawn further upstream.

12) Membership 2016: A big thank-you to everyone who has renewed their membership for 2016. The current roster now totals 235 members.

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