

Newsletter #31 – October – December 2016

1) Next Streamkeepers Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at St. Stephen's Church starting at 7:30 p.m.

2) Nelson Creek Hatchery: Operations are underway with 102,000 chum salmon eggs received from the Alouette River Hatchery on November 28. We will also be receiving 30,000 coho eggs from the Capilano Hatchery in late January. Elizabeth Hardy is coordinating a team of seven volunteers to oversee the development of the eggs to fry, including a feeding period in the outdoor troughs. The fry will be released into local streams in mid-to-late spring.

3) Chapman Creek Hatchery – Fin Clipping: Organized by Bill McAllister, on October 26 five of our members visited Chapman Creek Hatchery near Sechelt to assist with clipping the adipose fins on juvenile coho salmon.

4) Tenderfoot Hatchery Chum Egg-Take: On November 2, seven of our members joined the Bowen Island Fish and Wildlife team and DFO staff at the Tenderfoot Hatchery, north of Squamish, to assist with the annual chum salmon egg-take.

5) Herring Spawn Enhancement Program: This pilot project, coordinated by Keith Pelletier, will see the installation of twelve nets suitable for spawning herring. The nets measure 5 feet in width and 8 feet in depth. They will be installed at Thunderbird Marina and West Vancouver Yacht Club for the spawning season from mid-January to mid-April. The weighted nets will be suspended from mooring floats at each marina and checked weekly during the spawning season.

6) Citizen Science: Another initiative is the expansion of the Citizen Science program to include water quality testing and aquatic insect sampling at the same eight creeks where we have been gathering temperature data. Water quality testing kits have been purchased and will be used to measure dissolved oxygen, pH and turbidity. A training exercise, using the kits, was conducted this fall by Zo Ann Morten. Aquatic insect sampling will commence in the spring. A team of seven Streamkeepers will be assisting Leslie Shuparski who is coordinating this program.

7) Spawner Salmon Surveys: Mid-December marked the completion of the volunteer work by 23 Creek Monitors enumerating returning adult salmon. Dave Reid, who coordinated the program, collected the data from these weekly surveys, which focused predominantly on thirteen streams that have a record of returning salmon. A big thank-you to all who participated. Special thanks to those who surveyed low-production streams requiring a certain determination to continue the search well into December. At the Members Meeting in January, Elizabeth Hardy will report on the number of adult salmon that were observed in local streams this fall.

8) Secondary Students Performing Salmon Surveys: Additional Spawner Salmon Surveys were conducted by secondary school students. This year 70 students, from the five secondary schools, participated for seven weeks of surveys on 18 teams. At the conclusion of the survey

period, a Wrap-Up Celebration was held on December 8. Among the community leaders attending were MLAø Ralph Sultan and Jordan Sturdy, Mayor Michael Smith and the Chair of the Board of Education, Carolyn Broady. All students and Sponsors were presented Streamkeeper tee shirts in recognition of this contribution. Thank you to British Pacific Properties for assisting with the cost of the tee shirts and to Park Royal for hosting the pizza feast following the event. In addition, special thanks to the Streamkeeper Sponsors who led the teams for each of the surveys. On January 23, we will go with the students as a delegation before Council to present the results of the spawner salmon surveys. This year was the second largest chum salmon run recorded in the ten years of this program. In total, seven local creeks were monitored, with two other salmon species being observed ó coho and chinook.

9) Viewing Platform: The chum salmon run started in earnest the week of October 17. The Viewing Platform located on Brothers Creek on east Keith Road provided the perfect location to see these and other species of salmon. Thanks to Dave Martin and the team who keep the site clean and welcoming to the community throughout the year.

10) Cypress Village Advisory Group: Rich Ketchen has been our representative on an environmental stakeholder group for British Pacific PropertiesøCypress Village project. Comments from the group were incorporated into three conceptual plans for the village. The objective is to preserve existing wetlands and creeks and, where possible, restore areas affected by past logging and road building.

11) Restoration of Lower Lawson Creek: Water quality testing continued through the fall from a test hole in the small park to the west of the proposed Navvy Jack Nature House to assess the water table, flow rate and salinity. A report, including recommendations, will be forthcoming from Sartori Environmental Services in early 2017.

12) Hadden Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Project: This project is aimed at removing barriers to access into Capilano Golf Course for returning coho salmon and to improve habitat on stretches of Hadden Creek in this area. At this time we have confirmed funding for about half the costs and we will be filing more grant applications in early 2017. It is anticipated this work will be undertaken in mid-2017.

13) Larson Creek Estuary Enhancement Project: We received favourable support from area residents at an open house hosted by the District in October to consider Larson Bay Park improvements. We are now finalizing our work plan and budget and expect the project to get underway in May or June, in conjunction with a BC Hydro project in the park.

14) Volunteer Contribution: The strength of the Society is the coming together of many volunteers. If any of the foregoing activities are of interest and you wish to participate, please contact Liz Leduc, our Membership Coordinator, at liz.leduc@shaw.ca or 604-926-5013.

15) Membership: Members, if you have not already done so, please renew your membership for 2017. The membership application form is attached.

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