

Newsletter #34 – July – September 2017

1) Next Streamkeepers Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 5, 2017 at St. Stephen's Anglican Church starting at 7:30 p.m.

2) New Board Member: With the resignation of Rich Ketchen, who recently moved to Victoria, the board has now appointed Keith Pelletier to take this position. We thank Rich for several years of helpful contributions to the Society – grant writing, financial advice, spawner salmon surveys, website and social media coordination and project oversight. We welcome Keith to the board with his background in sales, advertising and broadcasting.

3) Community Events: The Coho Festival, held on September 10, was the fourth community event of the year. Coordinated by Don Harrison and with the support of several volunteers, we enjoyed good weather and an excellent turnout from the community.

4) Streamkeeper Course: Eight members of West Vancouver Streamkeepers completed the two-day introductory Streamkeeper course. It took place on July 8 and 9 at Mackay Creek in North Vancouver. The members are Jan and Keith Moger, Charlotte and Patrick McLaughlin, Finn Ganske (youth), Scott and Liam Tupling (father and son) and Dan Rhodes.

5) Storm Drain Marking: Additional storm drains were marked during the summer by the Eagle Harbour team bringing the total drains marked this year to 416. This includes the four elementary school outings and three RBC bank branches this spring. The cumulative total over the 10 years of this program is now 2,687 storm drains painted (or re-painted) at 40 events.

6) Hadden Creek Habitat Improvement Project: The contractor bids received for this project would have exceeded the budget substantially. Consequently, the work was not undertaken during summer as hoped. There is still a possibility that a portion of the project could be undertaken. We are presently working with the environmental and civil engineering consultants to see if this could be carried out over the winter months. Additional work through the golf course is under review.

7) Larson Creek Estuary Enhancement Project: The project was completed on August 9 with oversight by Streamkeeper Greg Weary, Scott Christie of Balanced Environmental and Matt MacKinnon, the Environmental Manager for the District. We were on budget for the project that required delivery of large boulders by barge and working with an excavator to place the boulders in the upper intertidal zone.

8) Pink Salmon Returns: The pink salmon run, which should have peaked around Labour Day, has turned out to be a disappointment. Some larger watersheds on the BC coast are reporting only 10% of the abundant return that occurred in 2015, the cycle year. We have had not observed any pink salmon in any of the local creeks this summer.

9) Spawner Salmon Surveys: Although Creek Monitors have been visiting the creeks looking for returning pink salmon, the water levels have been extremely low throughout the summer months. We turn our minds now to the return of coho and chum salmon that typically takes place starting in mid-October. Dave Reid is coordinating the recording of salmon sightings and would appreciate hearing about any observations. Please send information to davidtreid89@gmail.com.

10) Secondary School Participation in Spawner Salmon Surveys: This program is now in its eleventh year. Teams of students are presently being organized to assist Streamkeepers with the enumeration of returning adult salmon. We hope to have representation from all five secondary schools in the community.

11) Rodgers Creek obstructions: Removing boulders from the fish ladder and from the baffles in the culvert under Marine Drive on Rodgers Creek was completed in August during the prolonged dry spell. Led by Keith Pelletier and Dave Martin and assisted by Parks Department staff, two days of hard work were required to remove the boulders. This will improve the opportunity for returning salmon to gain access to spawning habitat further upstream.

12) Navy Jack Nature House: Discussions with the District will resume this fall to develop the nature centre at Navy Jack House on Argyle Avenue, just east of 18th Street. Also involved in this planning stage is the restoration of lower Lawson Creek by creating a new creek channel from the culvert that will flow through the small park to the west of the Nature House.

13) Cypress Liaison Meeting: The next meeting will be on October 4. This meeting focuses on information sharing involving activities in and around Cypress Provincial Park and the headwaters of Cypress Creek. Those groups invited by the District of West Vancouver include West Vancouver Streamkeeper Society, North Shore Trail Runners, North Shore Hikers, Hollyburn Heritage Society, Hollyburn Ridge Association, Friends of Cypress Provincial Park, North Shore Mountain Bike Association, Cypress Mountain Resort, Old Growth Conservancy and British Pacific Properties. The Streamkeepers' representative is Nancy Henderson.

14) Herring Spawn Enhancement: Although there was no evidence of herring spawn on the nets placed at Thunderbird Marina and West Vancouver Yacht Club last winter, the program will be repeated this winter. As well, approval by Sewell's Marina will result in 12 new nets being installed at the West Marina dock in Horseshoe Bay bringing the total to 24 nets under the coordination of West Vancouver Streamkeepers.

15) Viewing Platform: When the salmon arrive after mid-October, remember to visit the viewing platform. This is located on Keith Road about three blocks east of Taylor Way.

16) Membership: The membership for 2017 now totals 244 and of that number 93 members are volunteering in some area of Streamkeepers' activities. A thank-you to everyone for contributing to the volunteer work of the Society.

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