

NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS

Minutes – Meeting of November 8, 2005

Volunteer Opportunities

Up-to-date opportunities are listed on the message board of Streamkeepers website, www.nssk.ca. To receive these on your e-mail, visit the website and sign up.

Spawner surveys: Hastings Creek – Call Hagen Hohndorf; Coleman Creek – Call ZoAnn Morten (E-mail addresses and phone numbers on information sheet)

Present (15): Karen Munro (chair), Johanna Kendall, R J Gelling, Terry Bragg, Joyce Mathieson, Dick Pearce, Pat Morten, ZoAnn Morten, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Hagen Hohndorf, Bonnie Gosse, Blair Jarvis, Stefen Elmitt, Richard Boase, Lee Montgomery

Regrets: Mike Hunter, Mike Gosnell, Jan Lander, Doug Hayman

Municipal Report – North Vancouver City (Mike Hunter by e-mail): **Keith Creek:** The existing passive treatment system for removing the iron oxides in groundwater entering Keith Creek is unsustainable. The feasibility of pumping the discharge into the sanitary system is being studied. **McKay Creek:** With Terry Bragg and Karen Munro, opportunities for the enhancement of McKay Creek in Heywood Park were identified: bank stability improvements, removal of invasive species and the restoration of native habitat. A comprehensive redevelopment plan will not receive City funding for a number of years. However, a series of smaller scale projects in partnership with Streamkeepers and, perhaps, seeking community stewardship grants may be feasible. The new incubator box is an excellent opportunity for community education through interpretive signage. **Wagg Creek/Mission Creek:** The majority of the next phase of the Mahon Park Rehabilitation Project involves trail and riparian enhancements during the spring of 2006. Some instream work on the Mission Creek branch will be done during the 2006 fisheries window.

Municipal Report – North Vancouver District (Richard Boase): The DeltaLock system installed in **Hastings Creek** seems to be functioning well. Signs will be installed in Hunter Park emphasizing that dogs may be off-leash only on the major trails. Fencing will be installed to discourage access to planted areas where dogs must be on-leash. Fencing will also be placed on **Lower McKay** near Capilano Mall to protect vegetation.

DFO Community Advisor's Report (Sandie Hollick-Kenyon): Pink egg collection from the Indian River for Seymour River and Vancouver Aquarium went well. Pink egg collection from the Chilliwack River for Seymour was somewhat less successful. Lower than expected adult returns resulted in fewer eggs taken than were hoped for. The collection of chum eggs from Indian River was impeded by the recent snowfall in the mountains and will be attempted again this week. Concerns for consideration by the **Salmon**

Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board should be forwarded to Brian Smith, manager of the Seymour Hatchery (see information sheet). To learn more about SEHAB, visit their website at <http://www.sehab.org/>. The incubation box on McKay Creek in Heywood Park is now complete. The North Shore Fish and Game Club will be monitoring the chum eggs in the box throughout the winter and early spring. If you are in the area, please stop and have a look at the site; any irregularities can be reported to Terry Bragg or myself.

To streamline projects in and around waterways, DFO has prepared a series of National **Operating Statements**, covering some common developmental procedures. Any project falling within these defined guidelines may be undertaken without a permit if the recommended practices are followed.

Pacific Streamkeepers Report (ZoAnn Morten): The **Fisheries Act of 1868** is to be modernized. Stakeholders have met to recommend changes but the proposed content has not been publicized. The federal **Wild Salmon Policy**, developed with input from a wide range of stakeholders, will be implemented soon. The provincial **Riparian Area Regulations** will take effect on March 31, 2006. These have been devised to balance the protection of fish with the needs of developers and will apply mainly to urban settings. Municipalities are expected to either adopt the Regulations or establish bylaws that meet or exceed these standards. The emphasis is on fish protection, not watershed based. Courses are being given to qualified environmental professionals on the application of the regulations. A more detailed presentation will be available for the January meeting. Since virtually all our streams have adjacent trails, one problem for the North Shore is the treatment of trails as permanent structures. The chair agreed to write a letter to the Ministry of the Environment and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to draw attention to this problem.

Financial Report (Terry Bragg): The current balance is \$3230.97. Insurance covering up to 50 volunteers has been applied for at a cost \$150. A cheque for \$200 from the GVRD for the Streamkeepers' contribution to the Coho Festival will be split with the West Vancouver group.

Hastings Creek (Hagen Hohndorf): A successful training session was given by ZoAnn Morten on October 28. A new book has been developed for recording results. DNA samples from hatchery fish will be separated from those for wild fish. A jack was found on the first survey. Surveys will be conducted weekly from November 6 to the end of December. Eight volunteers and 2 alternatives are available. With the number of volunteers available, Coleman Creek could be included in the surveys. The surveys have now continued for 8 years.

McKay Creek (Terry Bragg): Tree planting has been completed on Upper McKay. The banks of the outlet creek from Duncan's Pond have been breached. The Community Advisor offered to view the site and recommend remediation.

Morten Creek (ZoAnn Morten): After the disastrous freeze-up last January 18, new plumbing and an emergency re-circulating pumping system powered by solar panels

have been installed. The panels were installed under a skylight to reduce opportunity for theft. As well a patio and sidewalk were built to make the site wheelchair accessible. Contributions by DFO, Ballard, Coho Festival and our volunteers have made all this possible.

Maplewood Creek: A red-legged frog sighting has been reported by a citizen and one Seymour Hatchery fish was identified. While no formal spawner surveys are conducted, members reported seeing pink, chum and coho returns. The importance of leaving dead spawners in the water for nutrition was emphasized.

Seymour River (Joanna Kendall): The Annual General Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 15. The steelhead hatchery project will be continued as a pilot project.

New Business

Meeting Dates for 2006 (Dick Pearce): Room B at the District Hall has been reserved for January 10, March 14, May 9, September 12 and November 14 by Richard Boase.

North Shore Streamkeepers Website – www.nssk.ca (Dick Pearce): Pat and ZoAnn Morten have been working to maintain and improve this site as an efficient means of communication with group members and the community. Volunteer opportunities will be kept up-to-date on the Message Board and Agendas and Minutes under Meetings. The posting of messages is open to all. Any member may register at the website to obtain updates by e-mail. An annual payment of \$60 will be made to eliminate ads on the Message Board. Links will be added to Stewardship Centre BC and to Salmonopolis. The District website, the environmental section of which is managed by Richard Boase, will contain general information about North Shore Streamkeepers and its various activities, to be drafted by Karen Munro, with links to the appropriate sections of the North Shore Streamkeepers website. Please forward any suggestions to ZoAnn and Pat.

Mailing List Management (Dick Pearce, Richard Boase): The development of the website has altered the need for the mailing of agendas and minutes for each meeting. To assess the need for continuing these mailings and the effectiveness of our communication with members, those on our mailing list of about 120 will be surveyed. Several members volunteered to assist with this survey.

Error in Minutes (Dick Pearce): The September 18 minutes stated incorrectly that North Vancouver City had installed baffles in culverts on Keith Road, West Third Street and Bewicke Avenue. Rather, these culverts have been assessed preparatory to designing baffles if needed.

Next Meeting

**January 10, 2006 – 7:30 pm
North Vancouver District Hall**

IMPORTANT AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Fisheries Violation Reporting: 604-666-3500

General Coordinator: Karen Munro 604-988-4072, karen-munro@shaw.ca, www.nssk.ca

Secretary: Dick Pearce 604-987-9604, rhpearce@interchange.ubc.ca

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation: ZoAnn Morten 604-986-5059 or pskf@direct.ca or www.pskf.ca

Community Advisor: Sandie Hollick-Kenyon 604-666-0743, HollickSa@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Hastings Creek: Hagen Hohndorf 604-708-9094, fnh@shaw.ca

McKay Creek: Terry Bragg 604-985-7272, terrybragg@shaw.ca

Maplewood Creek: Blair Wilson 604-929-2025

Morten Creek: ZoAnn Morten 604-986-5059, zmorten@shaw.ca,

<http://members.shaw.ca/mortencreek/index.html>

Roche Creek: David Cook 604-924-0147 cookeco@hotmail.com

Seymour River: James Weger 604-640-9690, jamesweger@shaw.ca

<http://www.seymoursalmon.com/>

Mosquito Creek Stewardship Society: 604-986-6715

www.mosquitocreek.org; www.urbanstreams.org

West Vancouver Streamkeeper Society: 604-925-0507

District Information Phone (for details of activities): 604-990-2410

North Shore Streamkeepers Web Site: www.nssk.ca

District Web Site: www.dnv.org/Services/Environment/