

NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS

Minutes – Meeting of September 12, 2006

Volunteer Opportunities

Up-to-date opportunities, agenda and minutes are listed on the message board of Streamkeepers website, www.nssk.ca. To receive e-mail notice of their availability, visit this website and join our email update list . <http://disc.server.com/Indices/232171.html>

Rivers Day, Saturday September 23: Planting project at Hunter or Princess Park 10am - noon. Contact Karen Munro at karen-munro@shaw.ca or call 604-988-4072

Workshop 2007, Saturday May 19 – Monday May 21, 2007: Williams Lake. Stewardship in Transition. Impacts and Adaptations in a Changing Climate

Present (13): Karen Munro, chair, R J Gelling, Hagen Hohndorf, Joyce Mathieson, Dick Pearce, Ron den Daas, Jim Marshall, Brian Comey, Terry Bragg, Bob Parrot, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Lee Montgomery, ZoAnn Morten.

Regrets: Mike Gosnell, Doug Hayman, Jan Lander

DFO Community Advisor's Report (Sandie Hollick-Kenyon): **Ugly Bug Ball II**, a volunteer recognition event held in June 2006, was a great success, well attended with much useful networking. The concrete salmon which attracted so much attention is constructed with a mould; the latter is available with instructions for a modest donation which goes towards a salmon bursary for students. The **Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board** (SEHAB) met in May and will meet again October 13 to 15. Brian Smith of the Seymour Hatchery (bdsmith67@hotmail.com) is the North Shore representative and should be contacted if any member has concerns which should be discussed by the Board. To see more information on SEHAB go to www.sehab.org. A meeting on aquatic invasive species was held in Sidney in June. Discussion focussed mainly on threats to aquaculture. The first coho fry release into the recently rehabilitated Still Creek in Vancouver (near Renfrew and Grandview) was eagerly noted by local children. The creek restoration on Spanish Bank has been very successful. The **Coho Walk**, held September 10, was attended by 1600 participants. Both the Coho walk and the Coho Festival were very successful thanks to the many volunteers (see below).

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation (ZoAnn Morten): Planning for the province-wide **SEP/Streamkeepers volunteer's workshop**, which will be held in Williams Lake May 19 - 21,

2007, is beginning. Members with suggestions for topics for sessions of special interest are invited to contact ZoAnn. Streamkeeper's comments are also needed about the federal government's **Wild Salmon Policy** (http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/publications/wsp/default_e.htm) and the **Environmental Process Modernization Plan** (http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/canwaters-eauxcan/epmp-pmpe/index_e.asp). Your thoughts will be presented at an upcoming consultation process in Ottawa and also to our local DFO. Volunteers are needed to assist with the tour of the North Shore by delegates from the Food Safety and Security Conference on October 8th. Meet at Morten Creek at ~ 10:00 am. The Pacific Salmon Foundation grant application deadline is Oct.15. (www.psf.ca) The spawner survey method the NSSK has piloted for last 10 years is now being proposed for the **Streamkeepers Handbook Module 12** as a standard method for community volunteers to collect returning adult numbers. Training in the method is planned for several areas of BC. BC Hydro, DFO and PSkF have agreed to provide survey kits.

Financial Report (Terry Bragg): The current balance is \$2831.51.

Hastings Creek (Hagen Hohndorf): Annual fry trapping in Donovan's Pond during August recovered 10 coho and 30 cutthroat trout. Spawner counting is planned for Oct 15 to Dec 15 or until the run ends. Eight volunteers are needed each Saturday morning. Training will be provided if required.

McKay Creek (Terry Bragg): The hatchery has been inspected and is intact but overgrown. Between Marine Drive and Welch Street, Seaspan has planted native plants and trees and the District has erected a fence. Seaspan has completed its rerouting of the mouth of McKay Creek to its original outlet and estuary, away from the ship basin, and has constructed a spawning channel nearby as habitat compensation. There is interest in doing spawner surveys on McKay Creek given the number of volunteers. ZoAnn suggested that spawning surveys be undertaken at different sites for chum and coho. The camping of squatters along the creek is a source of pollution and discourages access by the general public.

Morten Creek (ZoAnn Morten): With financial help from the Coho Society, and hard work by volunteers, improvements have been made to the hatchery. Insulation for the interior was supplied with labour contributed by ANTA Sprayed Foam Insulation. United Rentals gave a discount on rental equipment as well. An awning will facilitate handling of eggs and milt during fertilization by protecting the area from rain, which damages egg fertility. An up-welling incubation box being fabricated will simplify greatly the cleaning of eggs and the movement of newly hatched coho. Squatters have encamped on the west bank of Lynn Creek producing problems similar to those encountered on McKay. A safari to Indian River is planned for mid-November to collect eggs and milt from the chum spawners.

McCartney Creek (R Gelling): The stream is dry except for seepage from a storm drain interceptor; bleach has contaminated this water killing a number of cutthroat trout. DFO, MoE and DNV have been notified. The source may be an improperly connected washing machine in the neighbourhood, given the sporadic nature of the fish kills. Local residents are keeping their eyes open.

Coho Festival (Karen Munro): A display on invasive plants was featured on the walk along the Capilano River. Streamkeepers and three Air Cadets assisted at the booth. As usual, the walkers were most interested since the growth of invasive species in the area has increased steadily over the years. With DFO, a “**Circle of Stewardship**” was set up at Ambleside. Photos of the display can be seen at www.nssk.ca under events. This event communicated well the variety of creatures living in our oceans and streams and how each of us can contribute to their protection.

Posters (ZoAnn Morten): A series of posters on the theme ‘Making a Difference’ was shown; each described a volunteer’s personal comments and accomplishments as a streamkeeper. They were prepared originally for the Ugly Bug Ball II and have been shown since at several venues, including the Valuing Nature conference in Newfoundland. Some can be viewed at <http://www.pskf.ca/mod10/>. They have been well received at every showing. We will be looking for venues in North Vancouver.

Rivers Day – Saturday September 23rd (Karen Munro): An extension of native planting in Princess Park is planned. Karen agreed to organize this project. Volunteers will be needed.

Keith Creek (R Gelling): **Iron-rich leachate** has accumulated to a depth of 60cm. No one was aware of the plans to continue to correct this. A subsequent e-mail for Mike Hunter, Environmental Officer for the City of North Vancouver, indicated that the City has installed pipes leading from the deposit to a nearby sanitary sewer. Permission to connect these is needed from the GVRD and has not been given yet because of a policy review.

Mailing List Survey (Dick Pearce): Joyce Mathieson, Lee Montgomery and Terry Bragg have polled the 110 member mailing list: 41 are registered or plan to register on the web site to receive timely notices of group activities, 7 preferred to receive copies of agendas and minutes in the mail, 38 could not be contacted by phone (but may have registered on the web), 13 were no longer able to remain involved with the group, and 11 were privy to the District’s internal web site and will be contacted there with the assistance of Richard Boase. Thus our minutes and agenda will appear on the DNV intranet where any DNV staff member may view them.

Next Meeting

**November 14, 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
pskf@direct.ca or www.pskf.ca

North Shore Streamkeepers Web Site: www.nssk.ca

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

DNV Streamkeepers Phone Line: 604-990-2410

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

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