

NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS

Minutes – Meeting of January 10, 2006

Volunteer Opportunities

Planning winter and spring activities – Karen Munro

Conducting Phone Survey of Members – Dick Pearce

Present (18): Karen Munro (chair), R J Gelling, Terry Bragg, ZoAnn Morten, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Suzanne Thorpe, Hagen Hohndorf, Bonnie Gosse, Richard Boase, Doug Hayman, Jan Lander, Mike Gosnell, Janet Dysart, James Weger, Bob Parrott, Graham Knell, Hanne Schueddekopp, Horst Schueddekopp

Regrets: Dick Pearce, Joyce Mathieson

Municipal Report – North Vancouver District (Richard Boase): The DeltaLok system installed in **Hastings Creek** have continued to work well during high flows. New fencing has been installed by the eastern trail junction in Hunter Park and signs have been installed designating on- and off-leash areas. Results of a **pilot study to map terrestrial habitat of Hunter Park** were presented (power point) – D.A.Blackwell and Associates conducted ecosystem mapping (sensitive habitat, invasive plants, disturbed areas, restoration opportunities). The report will be used to support park planning and public education and involvement in improving park habitat. For example, the maps clearly show clumps of invasive plants (ivy, blackberry, etc.) near park perimeters backing onto residential lots. NSSK asked that a copy of the report be available to post online on either the district or streamkeeper website (should be available soon). Richard asked the group to submit a letter of support for a grant application the District is making to Tree Canada for urban forest improvements.

DFO Community Advisor's Report (Sandie Hollick-Kenyon): **Egg collection** was successful; chum eggs were obtained from Indian River, with help from volunteers, to supply Seymour, MacKay and Morten Creek facilities. The road was impassable due to snow so a smaller crew went up by boat. On **MacKay Creek**, the outlet to Duncan Pond was overflowing, and was repaired by Graham Knell. **Thain Creek** was walked in December before the rain started; three or four significant blockages, impassable to fish, were found and removed. The areas haven't been checked since, due to holidays and high water. The ravine area would probably benefit from a clean up (lots of shopping carts, etc.), which can be arranged for spring. LWD that had been anchored just below the Queens/Westview culvert had come loose and moved downstream (the

District will follow up on this). **Ugly Bug Ball Two:** due to popular requests, a volunteer recognition event is being planned for June 2006 (likely to be the same place as in 2004, with an afternoon of groups sharing strategies for data collection and data management and an evening of fireside entertainment and carrying on). Sandie introduced Suzanne Thorpe, DFO Habitat Biologist for the DNV area.

Pacific Streamkeepers Report (ZoAnn Morten): ZoAnn discussed linkages between DFO, Environment Canada and Ministry of Environment, including the many confusing acronyms we run across, and the call in numbers for water quality problems (EC) 604-666-6610 and fish kills 604-666-3500 (DFO) – see [page 4](#).

Financial Report (Terry Bragg): The current balance is \$3332.11. A \$100 cheque will be sent to West Vancouver Streamkeeper Society (splitting of the Coho Walk honorarium).

Hastings Creek (Hagen Hohndorf): **Spawner surveys** were conducted weekly to December 19 (eighth annual survey). Water levels have been too high since then to walk the stream. There were so many volunteers that a waiting list was established. Only three coho have been counted to date (much lower than previous years), perhaps due to difficulties migrating through the fish ladder at low water and to the lateness of the run noted elsewhere in the lower mainland. A potential blockage (debris jam) near Hoskins was reported and R. Boase said the District will follow up. Smolt trapping will be conducted in April and surveys of this years emerging fry will be conducted in August.

McKay Creek (Terry Bragg): A total of 39 chum were observed on the creek (Welch Street to Duncan's Pond). One resident reported a 20 inch fish at Ridgewood in early December (probably coho). Someone reported seeing fish bones in bear droppings near the creek. The incubation box at the new hatchery received 27,000 chum eggs. Volunteers from North Shore Fish and Game Club attend daily. Eggs are starting to hatch. The City (Mike Hunter) is looking into the problem of invasive plants in Heywood Park, as follow up to earlier NSSK meeting on site.

Morten Creek (ZoAnn Morten): There are 15,000 chum eggs at the facility plus eggs from two spawned coho. As a result of two landslides over the past fall, the silt and debris in the pools will need to be cleaned out when there are no fish in the stream. The District may supply a "vacuum" truck.

Seymour River (James Weger, Seymour Salmonid Society): **Preliminary escapement figures** include 3000 coho (well below average) and 46 steelhead (16 wild, 30 hatchery). A count of pinks in two indicator sections yielded much lower than normal numbers (perhaps influenced by GVRD instream work for the waterline crossing in September). In Mapelwood Creek, 262 chum were counted in a one day survey. The Society is raising funds to purchase and install a **flow gauge** at Twin Bridges that will provide real-time flow data on the internet. To date, DFO, GVRD, MoE, kayakers and the Society have donated money. All donations are welcome. Upcoming projects include installation of LWD in the upper river, to provide steelhead habitat, and a steelhead monitoring study, to be conducted by [BC Conservation Foundation](#).

Roche Point Creek (Karen Munro): David Cook advised the Chair that he is raising issues of habitat and hydrology on the creek and forest land again with the Parks and Natural Areas Advisory Committee, and requested an update on the status of the letter NSSK sent to the District in 2005. R. Boase provided a very brief update at the meeting, stating that some changes were made at the golf course two years ago that were expected to result in improvements to the hydrological regime.

Mailing List Management Additional assistance with the phone survey to assess the need for continuing mailings of agendas and minutes and the effectiveness of our communication with members is requested.

New Business

Mount Seymour Resort / Francis Creek Water Quality (Karen Munro): Mike Younie of the Ministry of Environment contacted the Chair to provide information about discharge of treated sewage effluent from the Mount Seymour Ski Area into Francis Creek and to ask if NSSK is interested in this issue from a technical or community perspective. This was follow-up to news reports and community meetings in fall 2005 related to permit compliance issues on the part of Mount Seymour. A monitoring program is in place to collect samples during period of heavy park use, but heavy rains and lack of snow have kept skiers away so far. R. Boase described municipal concerns, including the presence of drinking water intakes on Francis Creek downstream of the effluent discharge. NSSK discussed options, including accepting an invitation from Mr. Younie to speak at the March 2006 meeting, opening the March meeting to the wider public to discuss the issue, or holding a separate meeting on issues related to Deep Cove water quality, including Francis Creek and work being conducted by the Port Authority and Environment Canada to resolve the ongoing problems of coliforms in the cove during summers. A decision will be made about meeting format and topics by mid-February

Next Meeting

March 14, 2006 – 7:30 pm
North Vancouver District Hall

IMPORTANT AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Reporting Violations:

Fisheries (Fish Kills, DFO): 604-666-3500

Deleterious / Hazardous Substances Discharge (Environment Canada): 604-666-6100

Municipality: 604-990-2480 (DNV Building Dept – construction-related issues)

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 www.pskf.ca

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

Watersheds:

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/>

Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board: Brian Smith www.sehab.org

Mosquito Creek Stewardship Society: 604-986-6715 www.mosquitocreek.org; www.urbanstreams.org

West Vancouver Streamkeeper Society: Hugh Hamilton (president) 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/Calendar of Events