

NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Rivers Day 2007, Saturday September 29, 10 am to noon Heywood Park (McKay Creek, near Capilano Mall) The workshop will feature instruction in the identification and removal of invasive plants, a work party for adults, bird house building for children. Contact Karen Munro or ZoAnn Morten

Rivers Day 2007, Sunday September 30, An information booth will be set up at Capilano Hatchery with Rivers Day founder Mark Angelo. Watch the web site www.nssk.ca for exact times. To help, call ZoAnn Morten

Repel the Aliens, October 13 Heywood Park on McKay Creek, 9:30 am to noon. Riparian planting of native species of trees and shrubs to replace invasive plants Call Karen Munro

Spawner Surveys, Hastings Creek, Saturdays October to December: Meet at Fromme and Chaucer at 10:00 am. Training will be provided. Call or e-mail Hagen Hohndorf.

Meeting secretary needed for November meeting. Contact Karen Munro

Minutes - Meeting of September 11, 2007

Present (16): Karen Munro, chair, Iris Yong, Ese Ero, Joyce Mathieson, Dick Pearce, Terry Bragg, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Doug Hayman, Jan Lander, Hagen Hohndorf, Janet Dysart, R J Gelling, E Stanton, Ron den Daas, ZoAnn Morten, Richard Boase

Regrets: Hugh Hamilton, Bob Parrott

DFO Community Advisor's Report (Sandie Hollick-Kenyon): The Community Workshop held in Williams Lake May 18 – 20 was very successful. Several members of the NSSK attended. The training sessions were excellent. The District has expressed an interest in a Beachkeeper programme for Cates Park supported by the Park Rangers. This had begun before the strike. The talk by Mark Angelo May 31 was well attended and very successful. Thanks to all of you who helped out at the Coho Festival Sunday September 9. With the

weather cooperating, the festival was a huge success. Our 'fish' area looked particularly fine and really showcased the best of Community and DFO working together. Without everyone's commitment, our display area would not have been what it was. Work has commenced on Mosquito Creek just above the entrance to the Griffin channel (for more detail, see below).

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation Report (ZoAnn Morten): Sanitary wastewater was found to be draining into SwayWey Creek near Park Royal. Improper drainage by the shopping centre was suspected. However, after using the Reporting Line, 604-666-6100, investigation by Environment Canada suggested that the pollution arose from someone emptying a camper's holding tank. An on-site meeting has been arranged.

The PSkF has arranged for volunteer work by UBC civil engineering students in February 2007. The students will assist with data management for the McKay Creek water quality project and assist the PSkF with construction of models of fish ladders and a number of devices, e.g. fish food dispensers and fish counters, described in the DFO 'blue book'.

Finances (Terry Bragg): The present balance is \$7095.46. A cheque from the GVRD for the 2006 Coho Festival has been split with the West Vancouver Streamkeepers. Grants have been received from Evergreen (\$3000) and the Pacific Salmon Foundations (\$1000) for the invasive plant programme on McKay Creek. Expenses have included design of a poster (\$300), advertising in the North Shore News (\$534) and speaker's fee and associated costs for Mark Angelo's talk on rivers(\$300).

Municipal Report - North Vancouver District (Richard Boase): The intensiverain in late 2007 and early 2006 produce large amounts of runoff which has created many problems with District streams and drainage infrastructures. In Lower McKay, the extensive sediment deposits again limited the capacity of the channel and created a danger of flooding properties. Log jams and trees felled by beavers have aggravated this problem. The dredging of Lynn Creek completed in 2005 and expected to last for 5 years, required more dredging this year due to high runoff and sediment deposition. Bank erosion on Mosquito Creek near the William Griffin Community Centre has destroyed half the width of the walkway and obstructed the water inlet into the off-channel salmon habitat project (this is being corrected currently). Stabilization of the creek bank is currently underway and will be completed this year. Permanent repair and restoration work will await the capital planning and the availability of funds.

Proposed modification to the tree bylaw is being developed and will be presented to Council Monday, September 17. Relevant technical documents to support the revision of the Environment Bylaw, describing procedures in riparian areas, are available on the District's web site,

<http://www.dnv.org/article.asp?a=3775>. Public input is still welcome and you can contact the District to obtain a comment sheet. Please note the online comment sheet is no longer available. First reading of the By-laws by Council will be this fall.

North Shore Streamkeepers can arrange with the District (Richard Boase 990-2365) to view current District mapping to help identify small streams that may not be mapped or documented.

Hastings Creek (Hagen Hohndorf): Fry trapping this summer recovered no coho fry; no spawners were seen last fall. However, cutthroat trout and crayfish were abundant. ZoAnn Morten pointed out that 2006 was a bad year for coho returns throughout the area, and that surveys in 2007 will document any trend. Volunteers are needed for spawner surveys Saturday mornings from October through December.

Hagen has been working with Richard Boase to develop a list of useful contributions the Streamkeepers can make to the development of an Integrated Stormwater Management Plan for Hastings Creek. A meeting with the engineering department plus environmental and hydrological consultants is planned to provide input to the plan.

Janet Dysart noted that the fish ladder and other features near Donovan's Pond need attention and that a fallen tree is interfering with stream flow. Attention was drawn to the need not to interfere with the natural maturing processes in the forest. The annual walk of the creek should determine whether fallen trees may block flow or fish passage or rather enhance the habitat

Morten Creek (ZoAnn Morten): Morten Creek has required the removal of sediment. Many thanks go to Graham Knell and his department for organizing and paying for this vital service. Thanks also go to Richard Boase for arranging the permits and to DNV for waiving the fees.

McKay Creek (Terry Bragg and Karen Munro): Many chum spawners were seen during last fall's surveys. Trapping identified cutthroat trout and juvenile coho in the upper watershed. The Heywood Park hatchery yielded 29,000 fry, which were added to the stream. The annual cleanup by the North Shore Fish and Game Club was completed in early May as usual. Much garbage has accumulated on the east bank between Marine and Welch Street. The group, with the District and DFO, will send a letter to area businesses asking them to halt disposal of waste in the riparian area.

The programme to remove invasive plants from the riparian area in Heywood Park has been active during late spring and summer. Three ivy pulls have been organized. A poster has been designed and printed. Advertisements have appeared in the North Shore News. A videotape promoting invasive plant removal has been prepared and can be seen on the

NSSK website, <http://www.nssk.ca/projects/07-heywood.html>, and YouTube. A workshop will take place in Heywood Park on Rivers Day, September 29 which will feature instruction in the identification and removal of invasive plants, a work party for adults, bird house building for children, with the objective of informing the community how to control invasive plants on their own property.

Our application to the Environment Canada Environmental Damages Fund has been successful. A monitoring program will take place at four locations in MacKay Creek to assess water quality and hydrology, with monthly sampling. Karen Munro will offer trainings sessions for the collection and handling of water samples. The District is donating the use of an instrument to measure temperature, pH, conductivity and dissolved oxygen.

New Business

Streamkeepers Phone Line (Richard Boase): All phone contact with the District will pass through a line – 604-990-CALL – which will have the capability of many options. All environmental matters will be approached through the Environment option which is #7. The previous number used by the Streamkeepers 604-990-2410 - will become redundant, although the new system will forward calls directly from the 2410 number into the new system. The group was asked to indicate what stream-related options they recommended. Since detailed information is available on the web site, only minimal general information about the group and its activities were felt to be needed. Methods of reporting major in-stream disasters and less pressing problems are both needed: the former could be forwarded directly to the provincial emergency number and the latter could be left as a message for District staff. Emergency reporting lines need to be on the DNV web site as well. The Streamkeepers were asked to consider and discuss with Richard the best plan for this service.

North Shore Multicultural Association: Two members of the attended the meeting. They are looking for volunteer activities for their youth group and mentoring programme.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 13, 2007 - 7:30 pm
District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver

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/ District Information

Phone: 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

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 cokeco@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