

NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS

Volunteer Opportunities

Spawner surveys Hastings Creek weekly (Saturdays at 10 am) – contact Hagen Hohndorf

Spawner surveys MacKay Creek weekly – contact Ron den Daas and Sandie Hollick Kenyon (upper creek) or Brian Comey and Terry Bragg (lower creek)

Water surveys MacKay Creek (once a month, Sundays) – contact Karen Munro

Training session, water quality (December 9 at 1:30) – contact Karen Munro

Minutes – Meeting of November 13/07

Present (12): Karen Munro, Chair, Jan Lander, Doug Hayman, Brian Comey, Richard Tak, Bob Gelling, Bob Parrott, Zo Ann Morten, Ron den Daas, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Hagen Hohndorf, Terry Bragg.

Regrets: Dick Pearce, Joyce Mathieson, Caroline Jackson

DFO Community Advisor's Report (Sandie Hollick-Kenyon):

- 1.5 million pink eggs collected for Seymour Hatchery from Chilliwack Hatchery and Centennial Channel over a 3 week period.
- Rivers Day event at Heywood Park in North Van Sept 29, drew about 40 people for invasive plant removal and bird and bee house making.
- Follow up planting event in Heywood Park on October 13, 2007.
- Began chum egtakes for Burrard Inlet streams from South Alouette River. This is a change from collecting from the Indian River at the top end of Indian Arm. Hopeful that a change in the stock may improve survivals to our local streams. Collected just under half a million eggs in total.
- Spawner surveys began on MacKay Creek last week for coho in the upper reaches and chum lower down.

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation Report (Zo Ann Morten)

- Went to Ottawa for Environmental Process Modernization Plan meetings. BC planned the first of the National EPMP ENGO/DFO Regional meetings and the recommendations from these meetings will be incorporated into the national recommendations. Revisions to the Fisheries Act will be tabled soon, you can find the documents and how to make comments at http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/infocus/2007/20071129_e.htm
- The PSkF has worked with a variety of groups to do pilot spawner survey projects. NSSK was the first group to begin this pilot project. Collecting spawner survey data that is inline with Federal and Provincial standards allows for the information to be used broadly.

- Jim McCarthy, founding member and Past President of the Coho Society of the North Shore has retired after many years of organizing the annual Coho Festival and working to keep salmon in the streams of West and North Vancouver. A retirement party was held Nov. 7, with several NSSK members attending. He is a good friend and heart of salmon conservation, one of the early visionaries, who made the North Shore a priority. Karen Munro will send a note of thanks on behalf of NSSK. Due to so many wanting to show appreciation to Jim and his works there is another celebration planned for Jan 25th at the Ambleside Youth Centre, this will be open to all and additional information will be posted at <http://disc.yourwebapps.com/Indices/232171.html>.
- PSkF has organized projects for UBC engineering students for reading week in February 2008, with several groups working on stream engineering issues (producing models of several types of fish ladders, fry feeders and other equipment). Students will also assist NSSK with the water monitoring project in February. Two groups will visit the North Shore to look at fish ladders on Hastings Creek Nov. 17. Students will appreciate volunteer drivers for the tour (Doug, Bob and Mike volunteered transportation).

Finances (Terry Brag)

The present balance for our Regular Account is \$3814.20 and Special Account (Environmental Damages Fund for MacKay Creek water quality) is \$13,562.00. Quite a few cheques have been written this month, with more to come for the Heywood Park invasive plant project (Evergreen grant and Pacific Salmon Foundation grant). Since last meeting money has been spent on advertising, plant purchase and park permits. Grant moneys have made funds available for purchase of equipment. A GPS and digital camera, both of which could be used in many areas of streamkeepers' projects and surveys, were put on our shopping list.

Hastings Creek (Hagen Hohndorf)

Coho Spawner Surveys started Oct 20 this year. Results are posted weekly on the NSSK bulletin board. Two fish have been spotted so far, one still alive and the other dead (at Chaucer & Fromme bridge, a female, dead about a day, partially spawned). Three years ago was the peak in spawner numbers - there were about 20 fish recorded and there have been less and less each year. Good to see the fish back. Viewed some photos taken by Jan and Doug that point out their concerns of stream erosion around one of the largest Spruce trees in North Vancouver and 4 large cedars on Hastings Creek by Argyle School. Currently the undercuts around the trees provide good habitat but it looks like increased erosion over time will result in trees falling down. There was discussion about management strategies, and concern that fish habitat be protected (i.e., avoiding premature tree removal in a managed park). Sandie Hollick Kenyon will ask Matt Foy (habitat engineer, DFO) to have a look and assess what may need to be done, or what can be held off. Pat Morten can show how we can put a photo on a map and post photos on the website. Hagen is still working with Richard Boase to set a date for NSSK to meet with District and consultants on Integrated Rainwater Management Plan.

McKay Creek (Terry Bragg, Karen Munro, Brian Comey)

Spawner surveys (Brian Comey): Surveys started in the lower creek (North Shore Fish and Game Club, various days, mostly chum) and upper creek (NSSK, Thursdays, mostly coho) the week of November 10. The lower creek survey area starts from Roger's Video (Marine Drive) and ends at 3rd footbridge in Heywood Park (likely the upper limit for chum). No fish were seen in the survey area, but Terry and Brian spotted 12 chum downstream of Marine Drive on Saturday and 3 live plus 2 carcasses on Tuesday. Some debris was removed. Will continue surveys weekly (contact Brian Comey or Terry Bragg). There is a lot of sand build up which the District of North Vancouver removed.

Invasive Plant Programme, Heywood Park (Karen Munro): There have been several workshops in Heywood Park over the summer and fall. At Rivers Day, 40 people attended to pull ivy and build bird and Mason bee houses. In mid October, 20 people came to plant a variety of native trees, shrubs and ferns. Several members have helped prepare a 10 minute Power Point presentation describing the project and plans to present it to City Council and other interested groups. Karen and ZoAnn gave a run through of the presentation to the NSSK meeting. In conversation with Mayor Musatto of the City at the Coho Society meeting, we were encouraged to bring a delegation to Council to present the project and describe how the City can be of help. We will try to get a date when Council will be televised. Also, Pat Morten has done a 5 minute video on the project (see www.nssk.ca).

Invasive Plant Programme, upper MacKay Creek (Ron den Daas): The second annual habitat restoration project in upper MacKay Creek (ravine below Handsworth School) will be held Saturday November 17, 10 to noon. The District will supply dumpsters, tools, plants and the assistance of Graham Knell. In amongst the invasive plants, we are seeing some of the beautiful native plants like trilliums.

Water Quality Surveys: (Karen Munro): Funding from the Environmental Damages Fund arrived late October. Monthly water sampling and flow measurements will take place over the next year, and started November 12. North Shore Fish and Game Club (Sean Fleming and others) will measure flow and all volunteers are welcome to work on water sampling. The District will donate use of a water quality meter. A water sampling program was done about 8 years ago, with 12 to 15 streams across the North Shore, including MacKay Creek (October – first big rain after a dry spell, samples taken at top, middle and bottom of streams, reflecting effect of land use on water quality). This project will be MacKay Creek only, four sites monthly and will provide information on bacteria (coliforms), nutrients, and metals (common toxins). Results will be a good indicator of conditions of many North Shore streams. A training session will be held December 9, 1:30 (contact Karen). Volunteers are needed once a month (two or three for water quality, two for hydrology), about 2 hours total on a Sunday, weather permitting. This allows us to get sample to the laboratory within 24 hours.

Morten Creek (Zo Ann Morten)

Much mud and sand was removed from Morten Creek this July with assistance from the District of North Vancouver. Graham Knell was instrumental in commencing and completing this project. We purchased new windows for our hatchery from funds received from DFO. Usually we go to Indian Arm for chum eggs, but due to road

washouts blocking road access, Sandie arranged for permission to get them from Alouette River Hatchery. We did this on Oct 18 and Oct 31 from two different times in the run (30,000 eggs ??). Broodstock fishermen (which include a girl) have just started fishing in Lynn Creek for coho. We now have 3 male and 3 female coho in our trough at Morten. Our permit is for 6 female and 12 male. On Friday, Nov 16, at 9 a.m. we will be checking to see who is ready for spawning.

Discussion of other Creeks and Concerns

Maplewood (Doug Hayman): No chum so far this year, but spotted one coho. Doug talked to someone who works at Maplewood Farm and they haven't seen any chum either, but saw a few pinks a couple of weeks ago. In the past, there were high numbers of chum in the system in mid October, a result of Tom Young's chum restoration project several years ago. Sandie indicated elsewhere in lower mainland, Hyde Creek good but generally chum numbers down; Stoney Creek has a few chum but not the numbers as in previous years.

Event Co-Ordinator: Tricia Edgar was hired as event coordinator for Rivers Day and Heywood Planting event, and was a great asset. She has produced a resource list of who to call, press release, and list of e mail addresses for organizations for events. These are now all in one place for reference and will be useful for all the watersheds.

NSSK Phone line (Joyce Mathieson): there has been no progress to report on functioning of the new phone line the District provides. Will follow up with Richard Boase.

ZoAnn noted that many NSSK projects and ideas get spread around the stewardship community and the province (and we get ideas from others). She has incorporated ideas from the North Shore activities for PSKF presentations (storm drain protection, storm drain marking kits, posters) at provincial, national and even international conferences (e.g., Union of BC Municipalities, Citizen Science conference in New York state, etc.).

New Business:

MacKay Creek: Will organize another Ivy pull in January or February, and will conclude the project with a Spring Wrap-up event / celebration.

Some discussion about getting sign boards to put up at events (Streamkeepers @ Work) and hats to identify volunteers (ZoAnn and Karen will check into options).

Karen and ZoAnn will attend a Rotary meeting in North Vancouver to present on NSSK activities.

We have started a little local history section on the bulletin board ... "When I was a kid"... as a way to reflect on some of the changes we have seen in the watershed. Karen recalled local fly fishing expert and writer Don MacDonald telling us that the last trout he ate from a North Shore stream tasted like crankcase oil (quite a comment on urban stormwater, as trout are used in professional "tainting" experiments).

Adjourned 9:40

Next Meeting: January 15, 2008, 7:30

IMPORTANT AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Website: www.nssk.ca

Fisheries Violation Reporting: 604-666-3500

General Coordinator: Karen Munro 604-988-4072, kamunro@shaw.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

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

District Information Phone: 604-990-2410

DFO 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