

## **NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS**

### **Minutes – Meeting of January 9, 2007**

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**Present (20):** Karen Munro, chair, Bob Gelling, Joyce Mathieson, Dick Pearce, Doug Hayman, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Michael Gosnell, Bruce Tennant, Matt Casselman, Brian Comey, David Knee, Terry Bragg. Mike Hunter, Suzanne Thorpe, Ron den Daas, Bob Parrott, Richard Boase, Graham Knell, ZoAnn Morten, one guest

Regrets: Hagen Hohndorf, Jan Lander

**Municipal Report – North Vancouver City** (Mike Hunter): A plan for 2007 projects will be available within two months. The GVRD permit is expected shortly for pumping into the sanitary sewer the iron-oxide deposits leached from Loutet Park into Keith Creek. Mike provided planting plans and mapping information for the group's grant application for removal of invasive species from the riparian areas of McKay Creek and their replacement with native plants.

**DFO Community Advisor's Report** (Sandie Hollick-Kenyon): Plans for the biennial Streamkeepers' conference at Williams Lake in May are progressing. Group transportation will be arranged. Details of the programme and registration forms will be available soon on the Pacific Streamkeepers web site, <http://www.pskf.ca/workshop/>

**McKay Creek** (Terry Bragg): At the hatchery, recent heavy rains have resulted in the accumulation of much silt in the incubation system. This has been cleaned out by volunteers from the Fish and Game Club and DFO staff. The bulk of the 29,000 eggs hatched between January 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Adopt-a-Fish programme for school children will be repeated this year. Spawner surveys in November and December found 42 chum. The removal of invasive plants is planned between Heywood Park and the District of North Vancouver land near the mouth of the creek.

**'Habitat Remediation near Mouth of McKay Creek', Bruce Tennant, Seaspan:** McKay Creek empties into Burrard Inlet in an area used by Seaspan for its ship construction and repair operations. The boat basin fills continually with sediment deposited at the outlet of the creek. The outlet was moved west from its original location to the boundary between the City and District in 1971 when the Fullerton fill area was created along the foreshore. After considerable

consultation, Seaspan obtained approval to move the creek mouth further east away from the boat basin. A fish-friendly outlet was constructed separate from the area used by the industry and a portion of the old channel was developed into a rearing area for juvenile fish, with connection to the new channel. Seaspan will be responsible for monitoring the restoration works and fish populations in this area for ten years. This should be enough time to determine that the creek is functioning according to the design; if monitoring shows a need for change monitoring will continue longer. Public access to the area will be limited until the native plants have become established, but much of the project can be viewed from the west end of the seawall south of the Automall.

**Upper McKay** (Ron den Daas): Eight weekly spawner surveys between Sunset Drive and Montroyal Road found some cutthroat trout and fry but no coho. The plant restoration project held November 18, 2006, attracted a number of local residents. Invasive plants were removed and native species planted.

**Pacific Streamkeepers Federation** (ZoAnn Morten): The impact of changes in the Fisheries Act and SEHAB activities will be reviewed at a meeting to be held at the Holiday Inn, 700 Old Lillooet Road, February 16<sup>th</sup>; detailed information will be posted on the message board at <http://disc.server.com/Indices/232171.html>. The local impact of global warming was discussed at a recent meeting including local governments, GVRD and business. The adaptation of development to changes in weather patterns was discussed. The apparent decline in fish stock in Hastings Creek (see below) requires careful review. DFO has expressed concern about the under use of its phone line for incident reporting. Its protocols are being reviewed and changes in procedures are underway. The operational statements issued by DFO can be used for stream work not requiring a permit. Additional information on changes to the Fisheries Act and about the Environmental Process Modernization Plan can be seen at <http://sehab.org/>

**Finances** (Terry Bragg): \$1597 has been received from the Blueridge Community Association arising from Gerry Leering's work on the culverts on McCartney Creek. The funds are designated for work on McCartney Creek. The North Shore Streamkeepers' balance is now \$3429.23.

**Hastings Creek** (Hagen Hohndorf by e-mail): No spawners were seen this year. The data from their brood years was compared - 3 spawners were recorded in 2003 and 7 in 1997. Fry surveys planned for spring should indicate whether or not any spawners were missed due to water conditions.

**'Scenes from the Rusty Bridge'** (Bob Parrott): Pictures of Lynn Creek, taken weekly during 2006 from the same site on the bridge, were shown as a continuous video. These showed beautifully the effects of the passage of the seasons and the weather on the creek. The project was conceived by ZoAnn Morten and completed by Bob and his dog Scottie.

**Morten Creek** (ZoAnn Morten): After removal of dead eggs, 33,988 viable chum eggs are incubating in the hatchery. In the absence of coho eggs, 361 eggs were placed in 3 of the 9 chambers of the new coho incubation box. The goal was to monitor the box to ensure that it functioned as designed. The chum should be able to move from egg to alevin to swim-up fry without human intervention. Thanks to DFO, Pacific Salmon Foundation, the Coho Festival and to hatchery volunteers for their contribution to the development of this box. Two landslides are expected to enter the creek shortly. Removal of the resulting sediment from the rearing pools is planned during the next fisheries window. Three trees have fallen onto the storage building.

**Seymour River** (Matt Casselman): Habitat enhancement for steelhead, comprising logs and boulders, has been installed at 13 sites along the river. Twelve summer- and five winter-run steelhead have been tagged for radio-telemetry to monitor their movement and help establish population estimates. 240,000 coho eggs from the Seymour River and 620,000 chum eggs from the Indian River were collected this year. Staff continue to combat a fungus outbreak in incubation trays with the use of Parasite-S drips. Approximate coho escapement is around 1500 adults for this 2006 season.

**Municipal Report – North Vancouver District** (Richard Boase): In response to an enquiry about in-stream work planned by the District during 2007, Richard said he would not be aware of 2007 projects for several months. He agreed to report to the May meeting.

### **New Business**

**Fire foam in streams:** Firefighters add a Class A foam to water to fight certain types of fires. This water-foam mixture, sometimes used to extinguish car fires, is carried into the creeks through storm drains although such use is not always necessary. The possible toxic effect of this and additional types of foam will be explored and reported to a later meeting. Means of discussing the issue with the Fire Department and finding solutions will also be explored

**Invasive plants** (ZoAnn Morten): Some members are applying to the Evergreen Foundation for funds to remove the invasive plants that have overtaken our creek corridors. The goals are threefold: to educate the public on the impact of invasive plants on our wild spaces, to recruit volunteers to participate in the removal of these plants, and to fund their replacement with native plants.

### **Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 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](mailto:karen-munro@shaw.ca), [www.nssk.ca](http://www.nssk.ca)

Secretary: Dick Pearce 604-987-9604, [rhpearce@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:rhpearce@interchange.ubc.ca)

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation: ZoAnn Morten 604-986-5059  
[pskf@direct.ca](mailto:pskf@direct.ca) or [www.pskf.ca](http://www.pskf.ca)

North Shore Streamkeepers Web Site: [www.nssk.ca](http://www.nssk.ca)

District Web Site: [www.dnv.org/Services/Environment/](http://www.dnv.org/Services/Environment/)

District Information Phone: 604-990-2410

Community Advisor: Sandie Hollick-Kenyon 604-666-0743, [HollickSa@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:HollickSa@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Hastings Creek: Hagen Hohndorf 604-708-9094, [fnh@shaw.ca](mailto:fnh@shaw.ca)

McKay Creek: Terry Bragg 604-985-7272, [terrybragg@shaw.ca](mailto:terrybragg@shaw.ca)

Maplewood Creek: Blair Wilson 604-929-2025

Morten Creek: ZoAnn Morten 604-986-5059, [zmorten@shaw.ca](mailto:zmorten@shaw.ca),  
<http://members.shaw.ca/mortencreek/index.html>

Roche Creek: David Cook 604-924-0147 [cookeco@hotmail.com](mailto:cookeco@hotmail.com)

Seymour River: James Weger 604-640-9690, [jamesweger@shaw.ca](mailto:jamesweger@shaw.ca)  
<http://www.seymoursalmon.com/>

Mosquito Creek Stewardship Society: 604-986-6715

[www.mosquitocreek.org](http://www.mosquitocreek.org); [www.urbanstreams.org](http://www.urbanstreams.org)