

# NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS

## Minutes - Meeting of January 15, 2008

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**MacKay Creek Water Sampling:** Feb. 18 and March 16. Contact Karen Munro.  
**Streamkeeper Training :** Two days during April. Contact ZoAnn Morten

**Present (22):** Karen Munro (chair), Frank Poulson, Hagen Hohndorf, Bob Gelling, Graham Knell, Joyce Mathieson, Cory Hryhorczuk, Dick Pearce, Kenji Miyazaki, Matt Casselman, Brian Comey, Doug Hayman, Jan Lander, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Ron den Daas, Michael Dowling, Caroline Jackson, Richard Tak, Bob Parrott, Greg Wilson, Andrew Appleton, Jan Dysart, ZoAnn Morten

**Regrets:** Terry Bragg, Richard Boase

**Municipal Report- City of North Vancouver** (Caroline Jackson): A master plan is being developed for improvements to **Heywood Park** on McKay Creek from Marine Drive up to the third bridge. Recommended improvements include trails, playground, bridge and washrooms, and a new entrance from Marine Drive; a geotechnical study is included also. Implementation is expected in 2009. The development of a '**Spirit Trail**', running close to the shore line from the Auto Mall to the Sea Bus Terminal is planned as well. Negotiations relating to crossing the CN rail bridge and through the Squamish Nation land are both underway. An updating of the **Parks Map** for the city has been undertaken. **Signage** to protect stream habitat, particularly from dumping, is planned; suggestions about suitable areas would be welcomed at [CJackson@cnv.org](mailto:CJackson@cnv.org). Bodwell School is planning an **EcoFest** on February 28. Renewal of the GVRD permit to pump the **leachate** from Loutet Park into the sanitary sewage system is being sought.

**Municipal Report - North Vancouver District** (Graham Knell): Invasive plants, particularly hogweed and knotweed, are being removed and trails improved on Lower McKay and Lynn Creeks. A member expressed concern that the bucked-up remains of fallen trees from the 2007 winter storm are interfering with stream habitat in Hunter Park. DNV policy is to cut the logs to a size suitable for easy removal for firewood. Following discussion, NSSK requested either that longer pieces of wood be left or that contractors bring the wood to the road to discourage the practice of dumping the wood into the streams, where they interfere with flow and fish ladders.

**Special Presentation** (Kenji Miyazaki, Fisheries Technician, B C Conservation Foundation): Habitat assessments on Lynn Creek and Upper Seymour River and restoration prescriptions were described. Habitat quality for salmonids within the lower reaches has been ranked as poor due to small pools and lack of large woody debris (resulting from land use and loss of riparian habitat ). In Lynn Creek, BCCF proposes to install woody debris structures stabilized

by boulders to mimic the natural habitat; funding and approvals are in place.

This work could occur in summer 2008 if

**DFO Community Advisor's Report** (Sandie Hollick-Kenyon ): Weekly spawner surveys on **Upper McKay Creek** were completed December 20 with involvement of Ron den Daas and Richard Tak; no adult fish were seen. Ron den Daas and others undertook **invasive plant removal** on Upper McKay. Thain Creek was walked from its outlet to Westview and Delbrook; one blockage needing removal was found and no adult fish were seen. The large woody debris at Wesbrook and Delbrook, washed out in 2006, had not been replaced. The **2008 Salmonids in the Classroom Program** is underway in North Vancouver schools, with 44 classrooms participating in rearing chum eggs. A 20 year anniversary award was presented to the **Seymour Salmonid Society** at its annual general meeting November 22, 2007. A '**green water event**' on McKay Creek was traced to fluorescein used by the District of North Vancouver to check for pipe leaks.

**Pacific Streamkeepers Federation Report** (ZoAnn Morten): **Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board** (SEHAB) will be meeting February 1 to 3 to discuss its future focus. Any concerns about streams and salmon should be passed on to ZoAnn to be included in roundtable discussions. Details of past roundtables can be found on the web site [www.sehab.org](http://www.sehab.org); focussed topics for Feb meeting will include communications, riparian area regulations, stock assessment, and enforcement. Our North Shore representative, Brian Smith, is retiring; a volunteer replacement with experience in the field is needed. **UBC civil engineering students** are involved in three stream-related projects with the Federation; details are given [www.pskf.ca](http://www.pskf.ca). A 2-day **Streamkeeper training** program will be given in April; to register see [www.nssk.ca](http://www.nssk.ca). under the message board or email ZoAnn. The District of North Vancouver is developing a **watershed plan for Lynn Creek** to assure coordination of any compensation works due to expected applications for redevelopment in the lower reaches.

**Finances** (Dick Pearce for Terry Bragg): The current account has \$3814.53 and the environmental damages fund \$12316.33. The latter fund is to be used for a special project on McKay Creek as outlined in the funding proposal.

**Hastings Creek** (Hagen Hohndorf): The **spawner surveys**, conducted during the fall, found 4 coho (3 dead and 1 live), 2 of which were hatchery fish (fin clipped). These results were better than the two previous years, but not as good as 2004, the brood year for 2007. DNA samples were taken from the gill plate of the wild fish. **Smolt trapping** will be undertaken during April and **fry trapping** during the summer; permits will be obtained. A meeting with Richard Boase is being sought to contribute to the Hastings Creek stormwater watershed planning process. Janet showed beautiful photos of resident heron; these will be posted on our website.

**MacKay Creek** (Brian Comey & Karen Munro): Twenty-one chum **spawners** were counted in 2007 compared with 42 during 2006. They were located primarily below Marine Drive, but in previous years were found above Marine Drive. The incubation box has 30,555 viable alevin which will be released in March when they mature.

The monthly **water quality surveys** are continuing using the District's meter and with grab samples. Funding come from the Environment Canada Environmental Damages Fund. Volunteers are needed to help with sample collection. To date, the coliform counts have provided the most striking data, being elevated at all four sites. A camera and GPS instrument will be purchased to improve the quality of the records.

The November event to remove invasive plants from Upper MacKay was poorly attended because of bad weather, but seven people came out to pull Lamium out and plant native shrubs. Graham Knell from the District organized plant material and logistic support and Sandie Hollick-Kenyon from DFO assisted. The campaign to continue the plant removal and plant native stock will occur during 2008, and will include test methods such as mulching. A major effort will be made to enhance community involvement. A biology teacher who attended the 2007 event expects to involve some of her students in the programme.

**Seymour River** (Matt Casselman ): Extensive spawner surveys were conducted from October to January. Initial results of the hatchery's mark-recapture program estimated the coho population at ~3000 adults. Pinks were seen for the first time spawning near the hatchery. No chum were seen by hatchery staff. Chinook present in low numbers. Steelhead radio-tracking program continues for the second year.

**Morten Creek** (ZoAnn Morten) We are experiencing great survivals with our chum and coho eggs. Chum are mostly at alevin stage and coho at eyed egg stage. Our footbridge needs to be improved for safety. Mike Gosnell, long time volunteer, is back home with his new hip.

### **New Business**

**Evergreen Foundation** (Andrew Appleton): This national foundation has a grants programme which supports work of the sort undertaken by the North Shore Streamkeepers. Evergreen was successful in obtaining Environmental Damages Funds for organizing invasive plant removal programmes in Mosquito and McKay Creek watersheds and wants to liase with NSSK, City and District to have a coordinated approach. They will present the project at the March meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2008- 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 [cokeco@hotmail.com](mailto:cokeco@hotmail.com)

Seymour River: Matt Casselman 604-640-9640  
[www.volunteering@seymouradministration](http://www.volunteering@seymouradministration)