

NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS

Minutes - Meeting of November 18, 2008

Present (20): Karen Munro (chair), Bob Gelling, Graham Knell, Thibault Doix, Matt Casselman, Richard Tak, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Bonny Brokenshire, Michael Gosnell, Ron den Daas, Brian Comey, K Paterson, Hagen Hohndorf, Caroline Jackson, Mike Rae, Doug Hayman, Jan Lander, Michael Ritter, Richard Boase, Dick Pearce.

Regrets: Terry Bragg, Joyce Mathieson

Municipal Report - North Vancouver District (Richard Boase): Maplewood Creek Park has been mostly completed but some work remains until next year to satisfy provincial requirements. The development of the Integrated Storm Water Management Plan is underway; input from the Streamkeepers will be needed for the consideration of items related to preventing impacts on streams. The review and update of the District Official Community Plan is underway. The present version does not provide enough specific detail relating to the protection of fish and fish habitat. DNV staff, at the appropriate time, will request input from the Streamkeepers for consideration and possible inclusion in the plan. Richard B has agreed to draft a memo to the Planning Department on behalf of the Streamkeepers to indicate that the group is willing to contribute. The recent survey by the District confirmed the importance of trees in rainwater management; a summary of the findings will be presented at the next meeting. Britta Ng's report on the contamination of streams and Deep Cove with faecal organisms is nearly complete and is expected to lead to a review of sewage related infrastructure. The District Council is supporting the enforcement of the Streamside Protection Bylaw in some difficult situations.

(Graham Knell): The District has restored and re-vegetated two waterways – one on Forest Hill Road (Fairmont Creek, a tributary of Mosquito Creek) and the other on Thames Creek, Dovercourt Road, in Lynn valley. Two ocean front projects included the on-going removal of knotweed, more planting of native species at Lowry Lane Park and the planting of a small pocket Park at the end of Panorama Road in Deep Cove. The Save Our Shores group volunteered for the ocean front projects.

Municipal Report – North Vancouver City (Caroline Jackson): The riparian area about the retention pond on Wagg Creek near Jones and 19th has been freed of invasive plants and planted with native species. A similar invasive removal and native planting has been completed on Grand Boulevard at Keith Road. The rejuvenation of Mahon Park is now the responsibility of Shirlene Koch of

Evergreen. A master plan for Heywood Park is being developed; input from those interested in McKay Creek would be welcomed. A city wide survey of invasive plant distributions is planned. The possibility of insect control of Japanese knotweed is under consideration. A similar approach to hogweed has not been developed. Following gravel removal from lower McKay Creek, the stream is being watched for signs of recovery. A report should be available by next summer.

DFO Community Advisor (Sandie Hollick-Kenyon): Rivers Day was celebrated September 27th at Morten Creek. The Morten Creek Hatchery was congratulated on completion of 20 years service with the Salmon Enhancement Programme. The fish in the Fell Channel off Mosquito Creek have been endangered by blockage of the inlet with leaves; anyone walking in the area is encouraged to check the inlet and to clear it if necessary. Chum eggs collected in the South Alouette River have been used to supply several hatcheries in North Vancouver. A visit to Baker Lake, near Mount Baker power station, showed a large scale high tech method of improving survival of fish travelling downstream through a dam (trapping fish and transporting them around the dam); recoveries over 90% were reported. Workshop 2009, for streamkeeper and SEP volunteers, is being planned for Maple Ridge. Details will be available in Stream Talk and at future NSSK meetings (call Joanne Day at 604-666-6614 to be on the mailing list or look online)

Finances (Dick Pearce for Terry Bragg): The balance in the general account is \$12,890.68 and in the Environmental Damages Fund is \$770.00.

Seymour River (Matt Casselman): Summer-run steelhead return was estimated to be about 250 (best return in 20 years). Two chinook females were spawned and eggs are incubating at the hatchery (first in 2 years). Six hundred and twenty thousand chum eggs from the Alouette River are in incubation; their collection was aided by volunteers and BCIT students. Over 80 chum have been counted to date in Maplewood Creek. Coho return was estimated to be less than 1500 compared with an average return of 4000. The bank stabilization work in the lower Seymour has been completed.

Hastings Creek (Hagen Hohndorf): The weekly spawner surveys began for the 13th year on November 1st. To date, 2, and possibly, 3 coho have been seen. First timers can meet experienced surveyors at Chaucer and Fromme at 10 am Saturdays. More volunteers are needed.

McKay Creek (Brian Comey): The Heywood Park hatchery is incubating 32,000 chum eggs which will be monitored by members of the North Shore Fish and Game Club. Spawner surveys have found no fish in the Heywood Park area. A

possible obstruction exists near Welch Avenue. A survey has revealed two chum and 6 small coho adults below Marine Drive. Volunteers would be welcomed to assist in the periodic spawner surveys (contact Brian).

Upper McKay Creek (Ron den Daas): One, and possibly two, adult coho have been seen in MacKay ravine spawner surveys. The third annual Fall Upper McKay Creek Restoration works (invasives removal, planting) occurred Nov. 8 under the usual heavy downpour. Several new volunteers came out to help as a result of a mailout to 900 residents of the upper watershed. The Fall 2008 McKay Creek News (newsletter), included in the mailout was shown at the meeting. Any other watersheds wishing to develop a similar brochure should contact Karen Munro and consider applying for funds to distribute it (approximately \$300 for 900 households).

McKay Water Quality Study (Karen Munro): Monthly water surveys have been continuing, aided by the use of a meter supplied by the District and hydrology work by Sean Fleming of the North Shore Fish and Game Club. No further surveys are planned. Data of this quality (year round study at four sites) should be useful for the District's Integrated Storm Water Management planning, as the study has characterized conditions in the watershed.

Morten Creek (Doug Hayman): The hatchery has started 15,000 chum eggs. One male and 2 female fish have been caught in Lynn Creek for brood stock.

West Vancouver Streamkeepers (Michael Ritter): The extensive current activities of this North shore group were summarized.

Meeting Dates for 2009 (Dick Pearce): Rooms in the District Hall have been reserved for January 13, March 10, May 12, September 15 (Labour Day is September 7) and November 10.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 13, 2009- 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. Message board is at
<http://disc.yourwebapps.com/Indices/232171.html>

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

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

Hastings Creek: Hagen Hohndorf 604-465-6305, 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: Matt Casselman 604-288-0511

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