

NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS

Minutes - Meeting of September 15, 2009

Present (16): Karen Munro, chair, Brian Comey, Terry Bragg, Ed Walls, Jan Lander, Doug Hayman, ZoAnn Morten, R J Gelling, Ron den Daas, Jennifer Wurtz, Caroline Jackson, Richard Tak, Janet Dysart, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Joyce Mathieson, Dick Pearce.

Regrets: Graham Knell, Thibault Doix

Municipal Reports - North Vancouver City (Caroline Jackson): A master plan for Heywood Park on Mackay Creek is being prepared. Replacement of washrooms, hatchery and playgrounds is anticipated, perhaps in two phases. Meetings for public input are planned. The development of an interpretative centre was recommended. The park is to be the site of a Community Art Ecology Festival on Rivers Day, September 26th, organized by Ron den Daas and the North Shore Streamkeepers. A general Parks Master Plan for the City is being planned as part of a general review of park needs. Changes to Wagg Creek Park near Carson Graham School (19th and Jones) is underway, with a constructed stormwater retention pond, bioswales for stormwater infiltration and a wheel-chair accessible viewing point. The footbridge across Mackay Creek near Capilano Mall is being rehabilitated. A bylaw prohibiting the use of pesticides for lawn care will be presented to Council in the fall.

DFO Community Advisor (Sandie Hollick-Kenyon): Jennifer Swanson (Young Naturalists of Canada) and Ron den Daas have made presentations on stream care at four schools situated near streams in the North Vancouver District as part of the Mackay Creek Ecology Community Art Project. Further presentations are planned. Attendance at the Coho Festival was good this year; volunteers from the North Shore Streamkeepers made important contributions to the program at Ambleside and on the Coho Walk. A scholarship for post secondary students is available from the Pacific Salmon Foundation; applications are due before October 30.

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation (ZoAnn Morten): The North Shore Streamkeeper plantings in Princess Park are thriving and are being protected by the District. Eight smolt traps in Lynn Creek recovered 107 coho fry as well as trout and bullheads. Federal Fisheries Minister Shea visited Vancouver recently to discuss the current scarcity of sockeye with local stakeholders; no clear plan for restoration was developed. Yellow vests to identify Steamkeepers

undertaking outdoor work are available from the Federation. A device for the vacuum removal of fine debris from streambeds will be demonstrated on Lynn Creek September 17.

Finances (Terry Bragg): The current balance in our general fund is \$9,912.18 which includes funding for the Community Art project. The balance in the Environmental Damages Fund is \$2276.30. The 10% holdback from the water quality project will be transferred to the general account, which had covered the laboratory charges in the interim.

Seymour River (Ed Walls, Volunteer Coordinator, Seymour Salmonid Society): Around 85,000 coho have been clipped and about 40,000 fry were released above the dam. Four seines in the river, three in the hatchery pool and one in the old dam pool have been completed for adult fish. The numbers of coho have been good, those of the summer run steelhead are low relative to the bumper run last year. Coho are being taken for broodstock. Some adult pink salmon from lower in the river are being radio tagged and tracked to see when and where they move. Clipping of steelhead will be completed this coming weekend. In June two groups of 5000 steelhead were released, part of our normal release of around 35,000. One group was given a left maxillary clip and the other a right maxillary clip. One of these groups was released out of a tanker truck into Burrard inlet near the West Van labs; the second group was put on a barge at Cates Park and, as it was towed out to Lighthouse Park, salt water was introduced into the tank to give the fish some imprinting. A similar study will be done with another group of 5000 fish already given a ventral clip. Results from the POST tagged fish in the Georgia Strait have shown high mortality before reaching Point Atkinson after their entry into Burrard inlet. Around 500 coho were held until the end of July to determine whether longer holding affected their health and improved marine survival. The fish looked very healthy before they were released. We are looking at the potential of treating a larger group similarly next year.

Hastings Creek (Doug Hayman): Doug was thanked by the chair for undertaking the coordination of the group's Hastings Creek activities. Hagen Hohndorf had moved out of town making his continuation as coordinator difficult. Those present were unanimous in recognizing the important contributions Hagen had made to the group. Doug indicated that the spawner surveys will be continuing in November; volunteers welcome. Bob Gelling noted the development of log jams that could hinder spawner migration. Janet Dysart and Bob agreed to plant the remaining trees near Chaucer. Bob also reported that raw sewage is draining into Hastings Creek. Attempts by the District staff to locate the source has been unsuccessful to date.

Morten Creek (ZoAnn Morten): The hatchery is to be stocked with chum from the Alouette River. Egg takes will be in November. Watch the message board for dates; all are welcome.

Mackay Creek (Karen Munro): A group of residents near the Mackay Creek ravine have worked with the District and DFO to restore off-channel habitat originally developed by former North Shore Streamkeeper Al Jonsson. Instream work occurred the week of Sept. 14, with some hand digging of the channel and gravel placement.

Coho Festival and Coho Walk (Karen Munro): NSSK volunteers worked at Ambleside Park and at the invasive plant station on the Coho Walk. There were many opportunities to talk with the public about streams.

Rivers Day (Ron den Daas): NSSK will host a public event at Heywood Park Saturday Sept. 27 from 10 to 4 pm. This is the official launch of the Mackay Creek Ecology Community Art Project that Ron has developed and for which he has found funding. During the day, there will be habitat restoration workshops (shrub planting), a welcome with representatives of the Squamish Nation, City and District, puppet shows by the Young Naturalists of Canada, a costume-making workshop to create outfits from invasive plants, live music, displays from NSSK and other groups, and more.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 2009- 7:30 pm
District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver

North Shore Streamkeepers Phone Line: Call District system at 604-990-2255, go to Environmental Services under option 7, and then to North Shore Streamkeepers under option 4.

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](http://www.dnv.org/Services/Environment/District%20Information)

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

Hastings Creek: Doug Hayman 604-987-0434 pastoys@shaw.ca

Mackay Creek: Terry Bragg 604-985-7272, terrybragg@shaw.ca

Morten Creek: ZoAnn Morten 604-986-5059, zmorten@shaw.ca or ,
<http://members.shaw.ca/mortencreek/index.html>

Roche Creek: David Cook 604-924-0147 cookeco@hotmail.com

Seymour River: Ed Walls 604-288-0511

seymoursalmonidvolunteer@hotmail.com or www.seymoursalmon.com/