

NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS

Minutes - Meeting of January 12, 2010

Present (18): Karen Munro, chair, Sandie Hollick Kenyon, Don MacKay, Ed Walls, Ruth Anderson, Go Kono, Tacha Hyde, Terry Bragg, ZoAnn Morten, Bob Gelling, Jan Lander, Doug Hayman, Janet Dysart, Bonny Brokenshire, Bob Parrott, Brian Comey, Joyce Mathieson, Dick Pearce

Lynn Creek- Through 2009 (Bob Parrott): For the fourth year, Bob's weekly pictures of the creek, taken from the bridge near Mount Bell, demonstrated the varying flow and changes in the creek bed and surrounding landscape through the seasons. Congratulations, Bob!

DFO Community Advisor (Sandie Hollick-Kenyon): The Salmon Enhancement Program has been evaluated to show the effectiveness of its programmes. The conclusions are summarized in a report <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ae-ve/evaluations/08-09/6b105-eng.html>.

The SEHAB will be meeting January 22-24th (www.sehab.org). Our representative is Brian Smith, the manager of the Seymour Hatchery, who should be contacted about any relevant concerns at bcsmith67@hotmail.ca or 604-761-5335. After the removal of three blockages above Heywood Park, spawner surveys of Upper Mackay were conducted with Ron den Daas through to December. No spawners were seen this high up in the watershed.

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation (ZoAnn Morten) Conference participants will spend a half-day contributing to streamkeeper projects on the north shore; specific plans are being developed. The PSKF is working with UBC civil engineering students and will be focussing on an area bounded by Ronayne & Harold and Baird & Fromme for rain water management / BMP's for existing and new developments.

Working with DFO's Habitat Compliance team we will be drawing up a reporting form for works being done under operational statements http://www.heb.pac.dfompo.gc.ca/decisionsupport/os/operational_statements_e.htm to assist in evaluating their effectiveness.

Finances (Terry Bragg): the balance in the general account is \$1958.48 and in the environmental remediation account is \$770.40. Accurate accounting has been difficult because of delays in cashing cheques. Terry resigned as treasurer and the chair thanked Terry for his years of service and asked for a volunteer to undertake this responsibility. As a result of Terry's comments a lengthy discussion

of the pros and cons of formal society status followed. No consensus was reached and the issue was left for later discussion. The group's policy of supporting members wishing to attend meetings related to its goals was also discussed at length. The secretary agreed to prepare a list of decision points for presentation at the next meeting.

Seymour River (Ed Walls): More than 1000 pinks were seen in the upper river above the canyon, a first for us. The fish hatched from Chilliwack River eggs seem inclined to pass through the canyon. Pink eggs were collected from Chilliwack again in October. Around 1.2 million of these eggs, have almost entirely hatched already, in the hatchery. Chum eggs were collected from the Allouette River.

The coho return was around 3,300 fish, about double that of last year. The first early run coho were spawned in mid-October and have been ponded; - these fish were incubated in ground water which was warmer than reservoir water. Normally 65,000 coho smolts weighing 20g are released. To improve survival rates and establish adult coho in Georgia Straight, the release of smaller numbers of larger coho is planned. In 2011, around 20,000 coho at 30-35g will be released in early June and around 10,000 coho at 60-80g in mid to late July. The 2010 release is a pilot project for this program. Around 8,000 coho, identified by a left maxillary clip and already weighing over 20g are hoped to reach 60+g before release in mid to late July.

Our **Gently Down the Seymour** programme is due to start again in the spring. The lack of snow will facilitate student participation this year. Funding for this has been much more difficult to acquire this year.

Hastings Creek (Doug Hayman): Eight spawner surveys were completed; no coho were seen. Their absence was due probably to blockage of the channel. In some sections blockage may be due to short sections of tree stems which have entered the creek after parks clearing works; long stems would be preferable. According to the District, stems must be shortened to permit safe handling by staff. In other sections, access to the creek to check for blockages was sufficiently limited due to this falls high waters.

Mackay Creek (Brian Comey): After removal of three beaver dams near the railroad bridge, 40 live fish and 26 to 30 large carcasses were seen above the dams. Although no mature coho were seen in Heywood Park, coho fry and adult chum were seen there. The Adopt-a-Fish program in Edgemont village was not organized by the Coho Society last spring. Girl Guides and students at an elementary school near Heywood Park will be asked to help release chum fry; about 90% of which have hatched at this time.

(ZoAnn Morten) Extensive videos were taken at the Community Art Ecology programme on Upper Mackay. A Pacific Salmon Foundation grant has been approved to finance editing of this footage into a 30 minute documentary.

Morten Creek (ZoAnn Morten): The insulatiaon of our hatchery plumbing avoided freezing during the November cold spell. The eggs are doing well and have begun to hatch. A release involving students, guides, brownies and community is planned for April in Bridgman Park.

New Business

Random Musings on Future Projects (Karen Munro): On behalf of the group Ron and Karen have supported an application for funds from the Pacific Salmon Foundation for our documnetary. A plan is needed to further the development of a wetland habitat at the mouth of the Seymour River in partnership with several other groups which have suggested a cooperative undertaking. The contacts with the Squamish Nation which occurred at the Community Art Ecology project on Rivers Day has suggested the feasibility of future collaboration. An invitation to a speaker from the Nation at a future meeting was suggested.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 9, 2010 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/