

NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS

Minutes - Meeting of March 9, 2010

Present (17): Karen Munro, chair, Jane Paddon, Joyce Mathieson, Bonny Brokenshire, Bob Gelling, Michael Gosnell, Bob Parrott, Tacha Hyde, Go Kono, Julie Nielsen, Ron den Daas, Janet Dysart, Terry Bragg, Ed Walls, Richard Boase, Dick Pearce.

The chair introduced **Tristan Lefler**, a graduate student from the University of Guelph, who is visiting volunteer groups at various Canadian sites to evaluate their community-based monitoring programs.

Regrets: ZoAnn Morten, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Doug Hayman, Jan Lander, Brian Comey, Caroline Jackson.

Municipal Report - District of North Vancouver (Richard Boase): Community meetings about the Official Community Plan (OCP) continue to be held. Residents are encouraged to attend these meetings and contribute their views. The tree bylaw may be reviewed by Council since its application to private lands has been questioned. A trial of mixed silviculture on Mount Fromme will begin shortly. Trees will be cut to permit widening of Capilano Road, and invasive ivy will be removed. Provincial law requires that trees with nesting birds be spared until the nests are vacated; the District has developed contingency plans to manage that concern. Capilano Road upgrades will include bike lanes, sidewalks, and priority bus lane.

Finances (Karen Munro): A volunteer to serve as treasurer is needed badly. Terry Bragg was thanked for his years of service in this role. The balance in the general account is \$7,662.57 and in the environmental account is \$770.50. A grant of \$6100 has been received from the Pacific Salmon Foundation to help develop a 30 minute film describing the work of the North Shore Streamkeepers.

Policy regarding Support for attendance at meetings and conferences (Dick Pearce): As requested, a draft policy was written after the January 12 meeting and reviewed by several senior members of the group. The amended draft is given below:

'The North Shore Streamkeepers encourages its members to become informed about the preservation of fish-friendly stream habitat and to acquire the skills necessary to achieve this goal. To this end, active members of the North Shore Streamkeepers may be funded for up to one-half the cost of registration at any conference or meeting related to these objectives. The recipient will be expected to make a brief report of the event at a following North Shore Streamkeepers' meeting. Application should be made to the coordinator in time for discussion at a meeting prior to the intended event. The coordinator will consult with the treasurer

regarding the availability of funds and notify the applicant of the decision. Members are reminded that many relevant events are free.'

After discussion, those present agreed unanimously to accept this statement as group policy.

Seymour River (Ed Walls): Two pairs of summer run **steelhead** have been spawned to date. Few winter run fish have been seen in the river. At the moment only one small male is on site. Around 80,000 **chum** have been ponded; they are fed a little to get them started and will be released in late April. About 30,000 **coho** are presently ponded; these were incubated in the warmer ground water supply. The rest of the coho are reared in the water from the dam so are a long way from getting ponded. The **Gently Down the Seymour** education program starts this month; it is fully booked. Funding this program is an issue.

Hastings Creek (Doug Hayman by e-mail): Several Hastings Creek streamkeepers met with Tristan Lefler on Saturday, March 6, to introduce him to monitoring programs in the watershed (spawner surveys, native plantings, removal of invasive plants, and trapping of smolt and fry). They visited the fish ladder at Hoskins Creek and the Morten Creek hatchery as well. The new sign erected in Hunter Park at the foot of the stairs was welcome. A dead **coho smolt** was found at the drain pipe located on the south side of the park just below Laura Lynn. This pipe has drained a cloudy effluent of unknown origin on various occasions. **Smolt trapping** is scheduled for Friday, March 26, at 6 pm with retrieval of the traps, Saturday, March 27, at 10am. A notice will be posted on the bulletin board and sent to members for whom we have e-mail addresses. A **walk on Hastings Creek** from Lynn Creek to Lynn Valley Road, looking for blockages, is scheduled tentatively for April; the absence of adult fish this past year is worrisome.

Lower Mackay Creek (Terry Bragg): **Fry trapping** in the Mackay ravine below Handsworth Road recovered about 50 cutthroat trout and 20 coho in 8 traps. Sandie Hollick-Kenyon and Scott Ducharme (DFO) were joined by several North Shore Streamkeepers and Fish and Game Club members for the trapping. **Chum** fry are being released by the hatchery as they mature, about 300 to date. Many more are expected before the end of March, and there are plans to contact interested school groups, Cubs, Beavers and Girl Guides to help with the releases. The **clean up** of the creek below Marine Drive is planned for April 24.

Upper Mackay Creek (Ron den Daas): The Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) has funded the development of a **documentary film** by the Mackay Creek Ecology Community Art Project with a grant of \$6,100. Ron and representatives of the West Van Streamkeepers and Langley Environmental Partners met with the PSF and officials of HSBC Vancouver (who donate to PSF) to discuss volunteer opportunities and summarize their projects. Shinkowski (PSF) characterized these projects as some

of the most exciting and effective community stewardship programs in the Lower Mainland. With the assistance of Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Scott Ducharme, and a DFO water craft, filming has begun on Burrard Inlet, and also, on Upper Mackay Creek to show a fish trapping survey. A **habitat restoration workshop** will be held on Earth Day, April 22nd, with Highland Elementary School at Fairmount Park, supported by Graham Knell (DNV) and Sandie Hollick-Kenyon (DFO). Tentatively a second habitat restoration workshop around Heywood Park is planned for July 21 St or 22nd for interested HSBC employees. Streamkeepers interested in helping please contact Ron ecosystem@shaw.ca.

Heywood Park Master Plan: Karen Munro, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, and Ron den Daas recently presented NSSK priorities to Dimitri Samardis, (CNV project manager and landscape architect), and an environmental consultant:

Heywood Park is an interface between the community and a natural area, a unique space that needs our protection

Instream

- Continue to support the North Shore Fish and Game Club's incubation box.
- Investigate potential for off-channel habitat.
- Investigate and identify bank stabilization, situation points and erosion issues within the park.

Riparian

- Sensitive redevelopment of trails and new footpaths away from the creek.
- Invasive plant removal (professional help is needed to deal with Japanese knotweed and blackberry)
- Creative planting along the creek with native plants to limit access to the creek itself and to discourage re-growth of invasives. This will improve the function of the riparian area, protect the creek from high dog activity and allow interested public to get up close and personal with the creek

People

- Consider the possibility of refitting the current washroom for salmon enhancement and community outreach initiatives. This could complement the existing community art project and build on the central location of the park and the City's commitment to sustainability
- Remove the parking lot on the west side of the creek behind the daycare and return it to riparian area. -
- Increased opportunity for a variety of partnerships within the park.

A walk along Upper Mackay Creek was undertaken with the environmental consultant for Heywood Park from CNV (Kevin Connery), Sandie Hollick-Kenyon and Ron to introduce Kevin to the wild habitat that supports the Mackay Creek ecosystem and, in turn, the return of salmon populations.

Morten Creek (Doug Hayman by e-mail): The **coho** eggs are doing well. Eggs from one fish have had a higher than usual mortality rate, about 50% of the eggs having

died at time of shocking and 171 others up to Mar 7. Eggs from the other three females have had very low mortality rate. The last egg take was Dec 22; eggs first eyed on Jan 25 and hatched Mar 3. Most alevin have made their way through the slots. The **chum** are just about 'buttoned up'. Large numbers remain in the incubation boxes. Total dead from the trough up to Mar 7 is 486, 345 of these on one day, which was alarming, but overall mortality is considered normal (of 30,000 chum eggs). Everything appears well now; the cause of the loss is a mystery. Scott Ducharme kindly checked the alevin on two occasions.

New Business

Storm Drain Filters (Bob Gelling) : Filters have been left in the drains after road work at many sites in the Lynn Valley area. Bob has been reporting these to the District engineering department and usually they have been removed. There has been an increase in construction activity and road work in Lynn Valley this month.

Report on Conference on Invasive Plants (Janet Dysart): Speakers from throughout BC, the rest of Canada and Australia reported that aggressive species are threatening native plant species everywhere. The characteristics of invasiveness, the species that create problems, and the methods of control were emphasized. Bonny Brokenshire also attended this conference and added commentary to the report. Janet's power point presentation will be posted on our website.

Official Community Plan - District of North Vancouver (Richard Boase): The OCP is intended to set guidelines for development in the District for the next 30 years. Previous plans have paid relatively little attention to detailed requirements designed to address watershed ecological concerns. Thus it is critically important that criteria for the maintenance and improvement of watershed health be developed that include non-riparian land. Richard presented information that shows how current redevelopment of the single family land base is threatening watershed health because of the absence of more sustainable water efficient design for landscape and water use. Richard went on to emphasize that the DNV's current zoning bylaw for residential lands undermines other programs designed to restore watershed health. In this context, the experience of the Streamkeepers is particularly relevant and could assist greatly in formulating practical goals for the District.

After much discussion, the group agreed to hold a special meeting on April 13 to discuss its recommendations in detail following the next public meeting on April 6. Preliminary documents relating to ecological concerns are available from Richard Boase by e-mail to rboase@dnv.org or 604-990-2365.

Special Meeting- re. Official Community Plan

**Tuesday, April 13, 2010
District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver**

Next Meeting

**Tuesday, May 11, 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-bbb-3500

General Coordinator: Karen Munro 604-988-4072, karen-munro@shaw.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, terrybra_gg@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/