

NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS

Minutes - Meeting of November 9, 2010

Present (16): Karen Munro, chair, Ron den Daas, Bob Gelling, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Ed Walls, Doug Hayman, Jan Lander, Tacha Hyde, Michael Gosnell, Wayne Poole, John Barker, Bonny Brokenshire, Joyce Mathieson, Dick Pearce, Brian Comey, Miles Hogan.

Regrets: Richard Boase, Terry Bragg

Municipal Report – North Vancouver District (Richard Boase, by e-mail): At a Council workshop, District staff was instructed to prepare a draft bylaw whereby removal of a tree larger than 0.75 m diameter would require replacement with 1 to 3 new trees or pay a fee unless the tree cover is greater than 20%. A member enquired whether a permit would still be required to remove a tree. The District will remove a log and debris barrier in Mission Creek. The chair noted that the group's comments on the Official Community Plan will be presented to Council at their November 15 meeting.

DFO Communiy Advisor (Sandie Hollick-Kenyon): Fish returns (chum) this fall have been low in all North Shore creeks. Chum egg takes are now complete. The District has cleared a blockage in Thain Creek. The plans for the upgrade of Heywood Park continue to be developed. The washroom to which the hatchery is attached is no longer slated for removal. A list of the recommendations of the NSSK for inclusion in the Park will be prepared at a meeting of interested members to be held November 11 and will be forwarded to the planning group. A policy change by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans requires that any facility in which fish are cultured must have a licence. A Streamkeepers Community Workshop will be held in Courtney/Comox the weekend of May 21-23, 2011.

West Vancouver Streamkeepers (John Barker): John summarized the outstandingly successful programme of WVSK involving elementary and secondary school students in streamkeeping activities. Participation of older students, mainly from West Vancouver Secondary School, has grown from 28 to 67 over four years. Groups of four to six students with a streamkeeper, for expertise, and a parent (not sure – I think that is for storm drain making?), for safety, undertake weekly spawner surveys for seven weeks and meet with mayor, council members and district staff for celebratory wrap-up and T-shirt awards in late December. The activity began in an environmental club but was soon managed by activist students minimally mentored

by John. Many activities other than spawner surveys are undertaken by the students: invasive plant removal, native planting, stormdrain marking, bank cleanup and so on. Recently, some elementary students have become involved in storm drain marking and the programme will be extended to other secondary schools.

Finances (Karen Munro): The current balance is \$1112.34 with a donation from the Metro Vancouver for the Coho Walk expected. A volunteer to act as treasurer is still urgently needed.

Seymour River and Hatchery (Ed Walls) Eighty pairs of coho have been collected for broodstock; about 15 pairs have been spawned. Four pairs of chinook have been collected and spawned. Chum were not as abundant as expected in the Alouette River; only 450,000 of the desired 600,000 eggs sought were collected. Only 3 pairs of summer steelhead have been collected; more are being sought. The annual general meeting of the Seymour Salmonid Society will be held on Thursday November 25 at 7:30pm in the Canlan Ice Sports Centre on Seymour Parkway.

Hastings Creek (Doug Hayman): Three or four spawner surveys have been completed with no fish seen. The stream and fish ladders have been checked for blockages; none were found. Six volunteers have been involved.

Lower Mackay Creek (Brian Comey) On November 3, 30,000 chum eggs from the Alouette were placed in the Heywood Park Hatchery. Two regular spawner surveys found no fish. However, seven spawn-ready chum have been seen on three recent occasions. North Vancouver City staff have photographed five chum. Many fry have been seen. The beaver dams are not currently a problem for fish passage.

Upper Mackay Creek (Ron den Daas): Spawner surveys have seen no fish.

(Jessica Bratty, by e-mail): The residents group had a successful McKay Creek clean up Saturday Oct 23. We had quite a number of people turn up (~30?), including two from Streamkeepers who were really great to connect with. Dean trapped fry and his fisherman's touch came through with quite impressive catches in both the mainstem and off-channel areas. The kids followed him around like the Pied Piper - such a great sight to see so many heads peering down into the bucket. And always impressive to catch over 30 fish in one trap! Graham Knell and Tom Bell went above and beyond as usual - coming early and staying late lugging plants, rebuilding signs, pulling ivy, etc. etc. etc. Minnow trapping results for Upper McKay Creek, near June Smith trail: Mainstem 35 cutthroat and 4 coho in two traps. Offchannel 6 cutthroat, no coho in two traps. One trap was placed high up in channel near culvert under trail so evidence fish using entire length of channel

Morten Creek (Jan Lander): On October 27, 10,800 eggs were placed in the hatchery and, on November 5, 21,000 more. On November 8, a coho jack was

collected for brood stock. The hatchery holds a licence for three females and six males. The facility has a new floor and trough covers installed this year.

New Business

Society Status (Karen Munro): The North Shore Streamkeepers is now an official society. The current members, who signed the application, are now the interim Board of Directors. An annual meeting and election of officers must take place within one year.

Meetings in 2011 (Dick Pearce): The dates are January 11, March 6, May 10, September 13 and November 8

Next Meeting

**Tuesday, January 11, 2011 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

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 <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

Upper Mackay Creek: Ron den Daas, ecosystem@shaw.ca

Morten Creek: ZoAnn Morten 604-986-5059. zmorten@shaw.ca