

## NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS

### Minutes - Meeting of March 8, 2011

#### Volunteer Opportunities:

**Hastings Creek- Smolt Trapping, April 8 and 9:** See details below

**Invasive plant pulls and native planting :** See Friends of Huner Park

**Present (22)** Karen Munro, chair, Joyce Mathieson, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Richard Tak, Lea Carpenter, Erika Nessichuk, Angela Negenman, Brian Comey, Rodger Burnes, Michael Gosnell, Bob Parrott, Terry Bragg, Wayne Poole, Ron den Daas, Janet Dysart, Greg Jovick, Roger Thompson, Dick Pearce, Tasha Hyde, Jan Lander, ZoAnn Morten, Richard Boase.

**Regrets:** Bonny Brokenshire, Doug Hayman.

**Municipal Report – North Vancouver District** (Erika Nassichuk): Gravel is being removed from Lynn and lower Mackay Creeks. A number of sites where work by the District Engineering Department might impact streams was presented. A detailed list is being prepared.

**Municipal Report – North Vancouver City** (Angela Negeman): A second open house 'Dogs in City Parks' will be held March 29 5 – 7:30 pm at the John Braithwaite Community Centre, 145 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The city's plans for four proposed off leash areas will be reviewed. Plans are underway for the 2011 Environmental Stewardship Award; details are available on the city's web site, [www.cnv.org/ESAward](http://www.cnv.org/ESAward), and nominees are welcome. The City is preparing an inventory of invasive plants and Invasive Plant Management Plan . The plan for the repurposing of the Heywood Park washrooms has been revised. The washrooms will be refurbished, and the City is offering expanded space south of the washroom for the North Shore Fish and Game Club hatchery.

**Action item** – NSSK to submit a letter to the City regarding dogs in parks.

**DFO Communiy Advisor** (Sandie Hollick-Kenyon): The joint Seymour-Capilano Water Use Plan initiated by Metro Vancouver Water Board is now underway. Information on its status is available on the web at

[www.metrovancouver.org/services/water/planning/Pages/JointWaterUserPlanSeymour-CapilanoWatershed.aspx](http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/water/planning/Pages/JointWaterUserPlanSeymour-CapilanoWatershed.aspx). The Salmon Enhancement Habitat Advisory Board (SEHAB) met in January. The province-wide group passes fishery concerns from the public to Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Our local representative is Brian Smith, Manager at Seymour Hatchery; Individuals and groups should pass their concerns on to him for presentation to SEHAB meetings. Minutes are published at [www.sehab.org](http://www.sehab.org). The biennial Salmon Enhancement Program Volunteer Workshop will take place in Campbell River on the weekend of May 20 – 22. This is an excellent opportunity to network with fellow volunteers and learn what other Salmon Enhancement Program volunteers are doing throughout BC. Details at [www.workshop.pskf.ca](http://www.workshop.pskf.ca)

**Free the Trees Program** (Lea Carpenter): Over the past three years a group of parents, teachers and children (K-7) from Cleveland Elementary School has cleared a three hectare forest of invasive plants and are busy trying to establish native plants in the area. The area has been used as a public walkway and play space for many years; now it is much more attractive and accessible. Substantial funds have been raised, many children have experienced the need for sustainable forest maintenance and the local citizens are enjoying the improved space. An adjacent streamside area (tributary of Mackay Creek) is being cleaned up now.

Braemar School completed a similar project that was fenced, then neglected for several years; this space now needs rehabilitation. At the Cleveland site, sustained effort is being devoted to avoiding this type of setback.

**Society Status** (Karen Munro): The committee has met via email to begin setting out ideas for recommendations to full group.

**Action Item:** The committee will meet to prepare a series of recommendations for presentation at the May meeting.

**Finances** (Karen Munro): The current balance is \$981.07. A \$1500 donation was received from last summer's restoration project involving the participants at a Conference of International Event Planners. The funds were sent to PSKF, and are available for priority projects in Hunter Park. The Pacific Salmon Foundation contacted the NSSK coordinator to advise that a grant specific to the NSSK is available upon submission of project proposal(s). The annual membership to the Streamkeepers Federation and Streamkeepers insurance policy come due April 15<sup>th</sup>. A treasurer is needed badly.

Action Item: a group of interested members will meet to draw up a project proposal.

**Hastings Creek** (Doug Hayman, reported by Jan Lander): Smolt trapping is planned: setting traps at 6pm Friday April 8 and retrieving them at 10am Saturday April 9. Open to all, meet at the corner of Chaucer and Fromme. Seven coho fry were trapped in 2010 but no spawners had been seen the 2009 fall. The main project for 2011 is repair of the fish ladder exiting Donovan Pond in September. Leaks at the ladder and pond wall need blocking, and the bank upstream of the pond needs further repair. Funds are available. Planning and assistance with heavy work is needed from the District staff. Volunteer help is needed for both these projects; please contact Doug with your offers of help. Several people attended an open house March 8 regarding a proposal for four homes on School Board property (the unused parking lot at Argyle Secondary School). The development is proposed to extend into the riparian area of Hastings Creek.

**Action item:** there is a public comment period to March 15 and members are encouraged to submit their comments. The coordinator will submit a response on behalf of the group.

**Friends of Hunter Park** (Janet Dysart). Conditions in the park are being assessed, including the installation of fencing and graveling paths in wet areas. Invasive plant pulls and native planting events are planned for May and September. The group will pursue partnering with a local school to improve vegetation in the schoolyard, similar to but much smaller than the Cleveland School project.

**Lower Mackay Creek** (Terry Bragg): Eggs at the hatchery have been checked daily by North Shore Fish and Game members; no eggs have hatched to date, presumably due to cold water this year. Fry release with various groups is planned for April. This has been done every year since 1981 – 30 years, first with coho, now chum!

**Upper Mackay Creek** (Ron den Daas): No coho juveniles and 18 healthy cutthroat trout were trapped overnight. The hatchery in Heywood Park will be expanded and the attached washroom will be refurbished (see note above). The film Wild Chance was shown at Cleveland School and much appreciated by 400 elementary students. It will be shown to the Coho Society and at another community resource event, and is being submitted to film festivals around the world. North Shore Streamkeepers worked with North Shore Wetland Partners and Graham Knell to restore habitat on lower Mackay Creek. Ron, as the North Shore Streamkeepers representative, has enrolled the group in the North Shore Environmental Network.

**Morten Creek** (Jan Lander): Of the 26,800 eyed chum eggs, 97% have reached alevin status; yolks are absorbing well. Of the 7500 coho eggs, 97% have also survived. Grants from Fisheries and Oceans, Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Coho Society permitted the purchase of a new generator to replace our old one.

**Pacific Streamkeepers Federation** (ZoAnn Morten) ZoAnn is chair of a small SEHAB committee that is reviewing the new Aquaculture Licenses proposed by DFO. A group of hatchery volunteers will meet to discuss the implication of the new policy. The District's Riparian Area Regulations and streamside permit area guidelines will be compared with provincial standards. Both community opinion and the NSSK findings on the streams affect decisions taken at a variety of meetings.

### **Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 10, 2011 - 7:30 – 9:15 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](mailto:karen-munro@shaw.ca)

Secretary: Dick Pearce 604-987-9604, [rhpearce@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:rhpearce@interchange.ubc.ca)

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation: ZoAnn Morten 604-986-5059

[pskf@direct.ca](mailto:pskf@direct.ca) or [www.pskf.ca](http://www.pskf.ca)

North Shore Streamkeepers Web Site: [www.nssk.ca](http://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](mailto:HollickSa@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Hastings Creek: Doug Hayman 604-987-0434, [pastoys@shaw.ca](mailto:pastoys@shaw.ca)

Lower Mackay Creek and North Shore Fish and Game Club incubation facility: Terry Bragg 604-985-7272, [terrybragg@shaw.ca](mailto:terrybragg@shaw.ca)

Upper Mackay Creek: Ron den Daas, [ecosystem@shaw.ca](mailto:ecosystem@shaw.ca)

Morten Creek: ZoAnn Morten 604-986-5059, [zmorten@shaw.ca](mailto:zmorten@shaw.ca)

<http://morten-creek.pskf.ca>

Seymour River: Ed Walls 604-288-0511

[seymoursalmonidvolunteer@hotmail.com](mailto:seymoursalmonidvolunteer@hotmail.com)

or [www.seymoursalmon.com/](http://www.seymoursalmon.com/)