

NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS SOCIETY – 2012 SEP 19 MINUTES

Present (16) Karen Munro, Chair, Richard Boase, Angela Negenman, Graham Knell, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Ed Walls, Miles Hogan, Richard Tak, Bob Gelling, Brian Comey, Terry Bragg, Dick Pearce, Joyce Mathieson, Tacha Hyde, Doug Hayman, Jan Lander

Regrets: Richard Boulton, ZoAnn Morten, Janet Dysart, Wayne Poole

Municipal Reports – North Vancouver City (Angela Negenman)

- **Kings Mill Walk** project construction was completed this summer.
- **Bewicke trail** (from Copping Street to Bewicke Park) completion anticipated by March 2013.
- **Lynnmouth Park** Evergreen-MEC stewardship initiative in Lynnmouth Park has begun, consisting of six stewardship events per year for 3 years.
- **Invasive Species Management Strategy** ongoing treatment over the summer by contractors for hogweed and knotweed, with a coordinated effort of stewardship and internal crew efforts on other priority species.
- **Phase 2 of Heywood Park Project** wilderness trail loop is complete pending deficiencies, decommissioning of old trail through the fall.
- **Rivers Day Celebration at Lynnmouth Park** on Sunday, September 30 from 10 to 2 pm. The City would like to invite the PSKF, NSSK, DFO and other community groups to participate in the Rivers Day celebration at Lynnmouth Park. Come meet your neighbours, help remove invasive plants and plant local species in the park. Tools, plants and light refreshments will be provided and there are great prizes to be won! Learn more at www.cnv.org/RiversDay.

Municipal Reports – North Vancouver District (Graham Knell, Trail and Habitat Co-ordinator)

- **The Mackay Creek planting** and Invasive pull happens **9.00 a.m.** meeting behind the Indoor Tennis Club on Corner of 3rd and Lloyd Streets on the **20th Oct.** I am hoping for a good turn out – there will be lots for all to do.
- **Donovan's Pond** – it is the District's full intention to use the funds available to fix the fish ladder and use the balance to upgrade the other outlet. We will be using the permit issued last year (Permits last for two years). I am waiting for the go ahead; however the District is aware that the fish window is running out of days. Just to what extent this effort will be a shared one between the District and Streamkeepers is still to be decided.
- **Inoculating Knotweed** - found out that it is no closer than 1 metre from a creek edge high water mark.

Municipal Reports – North Vancouver District: (Richard Boase)

A power point of first comprehensive draft of ecological assessment of Hastings Creek and all tributaries in the watershed was given. Study was taken to prepare for Lynn Valley Town Centre

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(LVTC) and area growth with regards to 1) fish and habitat, and 2) storm water management, already in the works at LVTC. Barriers to fish passage were identified, fish presence trapping done, and water quality sampling completed. Preliminary findings suggest that areas with reduced buffer width and reduced areas of healthy riparian forest cover, such as Hunter Park, which are experiencing more adverse impact associated with a wide range of stressors; from recreational use to hydrological impact. Sampling at the LVTC outfall to Hastings Creek showed that the concentrations of a number of pollutants, possibly originating from the paved surfaces of the Lynn Valley Mall are significantly elevated.

Sampling of a number of creeks in the watershed also revealed high fecal coliform counts, and more work is needed to identify possible sources. NSSK asked if any enquiries were made to the Town Centre about this problem. DNV responded that high fecal coliform numbers are not necessarily limiting fish production, but are a health concern, and the District is investing in further analysis of the sanitary system in advance of the growth around the LVTC. The **Ecological Opportunities Report** will allow the District to be ready with ecologically based projects for improvements to fish habitat to be discussed when determining use of community amenity money associated with development.

The Report presents opportunities in three distinct time frames;

- 1) **Long term** – improving riparian forest index, widening riparian buffers, land acquisition
- 2) **Medium term** – improve fish passage, construct off channel habitat
- 3) **Short term** – improve water quality with LVTC development, complete Hastings Creek Watershed Plan (ISMP)

DFO asked how this report will make its way to Council. DNV responded that the paper will assist in the preparation of the watershed plan (ISMP) which will undergo a formal public consultation process. **The DNV also advised that NSSK will be provided a copy of the draft report and be asked formally for their comment as soon as the entire report has been received by the District.**

NSSK commented that the report seems to indicate that Hastings Creek is healthier in areas with wider buffers and setbacks, consistent with watershed science. However, NSSK continues to be concerned about new development that they feel is not being setback far enough from the streams and creeks. Both NSSK and DFO continue to have questions and concerns about the review process for re-development of land next to streams. DNV responded by saying that the process can be complicated depending on a number of factors including land tenure and historically authorized development. DNV suggests that more time is needed to discuss the review process with NSSK to membership. **The District further suggests that a formal request from the NSSK to do this would most likely be received favourably.**

The District expects the report to be finished in the next couple of months.

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DNV has hired a new Section Manager – Environmental Sustainability, Ms. Julie Pavey, R.P. Bio. Formerly the Manager of Parks & Environment with the City of Port Moody, she comes to the DNV with a wealth of experience in environmental planning and development. Ms. Pavey would like to introduce herself to the North Shore Streamkeepers at the next meeting.

DFO Community Advisor (Sandie Hollick-Kenyon)

Coho Festival was very successful this year thanks to all the volunteers who participated in the "Stewardship Zone" on Sunday September 9. This year the Festival was held over two days, which turned out well for them. Dates are being set now for chum egg takes at the South Alouette this fall. Aquaculture licences have been distributed to groups producing fish. DFO's Best Management Practices draft document has been distributed to all groups involved with fish culture. The hope is that people will spend time reviewing it over the fall winter and spring and give comments back to me by May 2013.

Seymour River (Ed Walls)

- Released 30,000 coho smolts end of June

- Coho pond reconstruction, old wooden weirs were removed and replaced with new concrete block construction that should last forever.

We are seeing the **largest run of summer run steelhead** we have seen on the Seymour River in over 20 years. We swam the river in early August and counted around **260 adult steelhead**, the majority of these are hatchery marked fish (<10% are wild). In the previous 3 years the whole run has been around 50 fish. The majority of these adults seen this year are from our 2010 release where fish were barged to Lighthouse Park or released at the CAER dock near Lighthouse Park.

Finance Treasurer's Report (Miles Hogan)

Miles expressed regret that he is having to leave the board and does not have a finance report for the meeting. Financial Records were returned at the meeting and are reconciled with the last bank statement. A spreadsheet was enclosed for membership list also. The bank statement showed a balance of \$6,221.61 on August 31. Karen Munro will act as treasurer temporarily until a new treasurer is found.

Friends of Hunter Park (Janet Dysart by email)

- 1) **Sept 8 Weed Pull** – we worked from 10 a.m. – noon with only a few showing up, but included 6 children, which was good. Some saplings and native flowering plants added to the park near Chaucer entrance. Some dumped items and weeds removed also.

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Day camp group at Hastings Creek – about 10-15 children with fishnets came about 3 times to catch water bugs and learn about streams. There is concern about stress on creek habitat at low water. I contacted Sue Macdonald (Community Recreation Program planner at Harry Jerome) and she will bring the topic up for discussion. She did suggest we prepare an article for NS News about our local streams and protection of habitat, and a program for summer day camps about streams using knowledge of NNSK to guide camp leaders and children.

Hastings Creek (Doug Hayman)

Results from July 28, 2012 **fry trapping**: Coho – 16, Cutthroat – 53. Some fry trapping history. 2011 – Coho 5, Cutties 47 and 2010 – Coho 7, Cutties 59. **Hoskins and Mount Hwy Ladders** – Mike and Doug checked the ladders this week. Hoskins was in need of cleaning. There were a lot of fish in the big pool above the ladder which we left undisturbed. The Mountain Hwy and Lynn Valley Road ladder had a big fire extinguisher and mattress bedspring along with one shopping cart which Doug removed. **Bear** in Hunter Park was tranquilized and removed. I heard from a dog walker that there was a cleanup done around Hastings Creek behind Argyle School and Hunter Park on Sept 17 by W.W.F. (Western Wildlife Federation)

Impromptu spawner survey planned for after the first good rain, at Hastings Creek.

Mackay Creek (Terry Bragg)

Spawner survey planned as soon as there is water in the creek. Looking forward to getting eggs and starting up hatchery season.

Upper Mackay Creek (Karen Munro for Ron den Daas)

The Community Art Project for Mackay Creek has finished the mural in Heywood Park, around the entire washroom and hatchery building. Ron will provide a full list of all the groups who contributed to and participated in the project. A teacher from Handsworth approached us at the Coho Festival to ask about potential links between the school and NNSK. Spawner surveys in the Mackay ravine will start after water levels rise.

Morten Creek (Jan Lander)

We did a small impromptu planting along the pond with ZoAnn, Tacha, Doug & Jan. An opportunity arose shortly after to have the pond dug out by a District backhoe. After a week of preparation of trapping for any smolts that may be left, and some mud puppies, newt, frog eggs; and, redirecting water intakes to back of pond on the day -- on June 12/12 the pond was dug out. This was done with assistance of Scott, from DFO, with putting up a fence so that fish would not return or enter pond, and draining with DFO pumps to prepare for the backhoe. All went well, the pond filled up again, and on June 21, 5100 coho fry were released into it.

“Fall approaching and next cycle of life returning to Lynn Creek” – an email from ZoAnn to meet at **Bridgman Park on Friday, September 28 at 10:00 a.m.** to discuss the coming year at Morten. Numbers, interest in capture, new fish husbandry techniques to review/try out, comment on.... ZoAnn will bring the coffee, we bring our mugs, and all interested welcome.

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New Business:

Annual General Meeting – Discussed that it may be better to have our AGM in May, the end of our busy season, rather than in November when we are all very busy with surveys and projects. Dick Pearce made a motion that the AGM and election of board be post-poned to May 2013 meeting. Joyce Mathieson 2nd, all in favour and carried. The board members present agreed to stay on until May 2013 meeting. March notice to go out and nominating committee to be formed.

Marine Drive Project – by Roger's Video – At public meeting at District Hall, Karen Munro gave message for NSSK stating we did not like 5 metre only setback and though followed all the law, did not offer support on this. The habitat gain was big with commitment developer made in planting and the removal of blackberry. No mention of knotweed.

Terry Bragg spoke for North Shore Fish and Game in support and Miles Hogan spoke as a resident and gave strongest opposition to development because of setback.

The Developer offered to meet with the group (an example of how to get the best that can be).

Rivers' Day – talked about doing a NSSK display along with the city, but down the creek a bit at Bridgman Park where there is a nice fish pool. Karen and ZoAnn were thinking of a theme around "salmon friendly" dogs and some information about, and how to care for, fish habit.

NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, November 21, 2012 – 7:30 to 10:00 pm

District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver

DFO VIOLATION REPORTING: OBSERVE, RECORD, RECORD (ORR) 604-607-4186

A SPILL OF ANY TYPE Environment Canada – 604-666-6100 (24 hr)

PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY PROGRAM – 1-800-663-3456

President: Karen Munro 604-988-4072, Karen-munro@shaw.ca

Secretary: Jan Lander, #109 – 1155 Ross Road, 604-904-8708, in_the_canyon@yahoo.ca

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation: ZoAnn Morten 604-986-5059, 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

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

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

Lower Mackay Creek and North Shore Fish and Game Club incubation facility: Terry Bragg 604-985-7272 terrybragg@shaw.ca

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

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

Seymour River: Ed Walls, 604-288-0511; volunteering@seymoursalmon.com or
www.seymoursalmon.com