

THE CREEK CRIER

WINTER EDITION

JANUARY 2002

A PUBLICATION OF THE PORT MOODY ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY
300 IOCO ROAD, PORT MOODY, B.C. CANADA, V3H 2V7

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The publication of this newsletter is sponsored by PACIFIC COAST TERMINALS CO. LTD., The Port in Port Moody.

Thank You and Good Luck Rick

Editor's note: This is excerpted from Elaine Golds' nomination letter for the Spirit of Community Award- I think it expresses the appreciation we all feel for our outgoing President.

Spirit of Community Awards, 2001

Nomination of Rick Simpson for BC Gas Environment Award

It is our pleasure to nominate Rick Simpson on behalf of the Burke Mountain Naturalists and the Port Moody Ecological Society. Rick has been a member of both for many years. However, it is his volunteer work on behalf of the Port Moody Ecological Society and the Port Coquitlam and District Hunting and Fishing Club for which he is best known in the Tri-Cities area. Rick has also been extremely active beyond the borders of the Tri-Cities. He serves on Advisory Committees for both B.C.I.T. and Douglas College as well as for the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Pacific Stream Keepers Federation, the Steelhead Society of BC, the Vancouver Natural History Society and the Colony Farm Park Association. His memberships in other organizations and committees are too numerous to list.

When one tries to summarize Rick's volunteer work, three words come immediately to mind - **salmon...youth...networking**. Rick has been an extremely effective advocate for salmon habitat preservation and the promotion of public awareness. Through his wide-ranging networking, Rick sets "good things" in motion and unleashes the power of volunteers.

In 1989, Rick was the founding President of the Port Moody Ecological Society, which operates the Noons Creek Hatchery. Rick worked tirelessly to move the hatchery from a tiny backyard operation to a new site on leased city land, assemble a Board of Directors, and construct a marvellous new hatchery building through largely volunteer donations and labour. He helped create the province's first volunteer-operated water quality testing laboratory at the hatchery. Innovative educational programs for elementary school groups were also developed at the hatchery under Rick's leadership. Rick has always been aware of the importance of bringing children and salmon together and has also been instrumental in developing volunteer programs for youth seeking work-related experiences. The PMES owes much of its success over the past twelve years to Rick, who served as president for 6 of those years.

Rick's contributions as President of the Ecological Society would be enough to merit his nomination for this award. However, Rick has always understood the importance of connections with other groups. He knows that all stakeholders, including industry, must be engaged to solve problem. Largely through Rick's leadership, Pacific Coast Terminals and Reichhold Chemical Co. Ltd. have become partners in keeping Port Moody's streams full of salmon. Rick has also served on several committees for the City

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

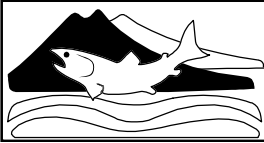
All members welcome!

Place: Room 'C', Port Moody Social Rec Centre, 300 Ioco Road, Port Moody.

Time: Wednesday, February 6, 2002 at 7:30 PM

Information Contact: Dr. Elaine Golds: 604-937-3483 or: egolds@sfu.ca

Or: Hatchery/Lab: 604-469-9106 or: pmes@vcn.bc.ca



of Port Moody such as the Environmental Protection Committee.

In summary, Rick's contributions to the environment in the Tri-cities over the past 2 decades has been substantive and sustained. He has always excelled at thanking others for their volunteer contributions. We believe that the time is long overdue for us to acknowledge his efforts and accomplishments.

From the Editor

This issue of the newsletter is really for Rick Simpson, whose term as President of the Port Moody Ecological Society is ending. I can only applaud and echo Elaine's sentiments on page 1.

I have not known Rick for long, but it is clear to me that he is a powerhouse wherever he chooses to apply his astonishing energy. The local populations, human and salmonid, have much to thank him for. Seeing Rick in action has brought home to me the value of dogged persistence and a long-term outlook that sees change as an incremental process. His generosity in giving credit to his comrades-in-arms can't obscure his extraordinary contributions in marshalling people and resources to accomplish great things.

Our incumbent President, Brooke Marshall, has big shoes to fill. Brooke has her own array of unique talents which, I believe, will serve the society well. With Kirsten Doucette as her assistant, the PMES can't go wrong. I look forward to working with Brooke and Kirsten, and seeing the society evolve as it goes through what Brooke describes as its "adolescence".

Thank you Rick and best of luck. Welcome to a new adventure, Brooke!

The Creek Crier is published quarterly by the Port Moody Ecological Society, 300 Ioco Road, Port Moody, B.C., Canada, V3H 2V7

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Submissions on any related topics are welcome! The editor reserves the right to edit for length, spelling and grammar. Reprinting of articles appearing in The Creek Crier is by permission of the editor.

The Port Moody Ecological Society engages in community-directed education fostering ecological awareness among all ages. We operate a hatchery and a water quality testing laboratory on Noons Creek in Port Moody, and conduct nature interpretation programs for elementary school students.

Regular meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (except summer) at the Port Moody Social Rec.. Centre, Room "C", at 7:30 pm. The meetings provide an update on PMES happenings and usually a speaker on any of a variety of interesting topics.

New members are always welcome. Membership fees are:

\$5/yr. Student \$75/yr. Patron

\$15/yr. Individual \$150/yr. Corporate

\$20/yr. Family \$150 Lifetime

For more information about the Port Moody Ecological Society call the Noons Creek Hatchery at 469-9106.

2001 PMES Officers

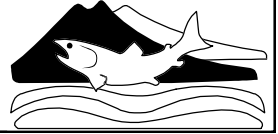
President	Rick Simpson	604-937-5300
	e-mail : rls@telus.net	
Vice Pres.	Elaine Golds	604-937-3483
Treasurer	John Andrew	604-941-9257
Secretary	(vacant)	
Hatchery		
Manager	Nancy Aichberger	604-524-5967
Lab Director	Brooke Marshall	604-985-4341
School		
Programs	Nancy Aichberger	604-524-5967
Community		
Outreach	Kirsten Doucette	604-930-8653
Fund-raising		
Director	(Currently Recruiting)	
Special		
Events	Dave Bennie	604-942-6167
Membership	Andy Redberger	604-469-2343
Newsletter	Lesley Fell	604-939-5874
Past Pres.	Jutta Hauerland	604-469-2845

Other Key Volunteers:

Scholarship	Lesley Fell	604-939-5874
Website	Colin MacGillivray	604-469-7370
(e-mail: colin_macgillivray@telus.net)		

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Winter 2002

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Rick Simpson

Volunteering with Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Salmonid Enhancement Program

My second three-year term as volunteer president ends at the February 6, 2002, Port Moody Ecological Society Annual General Meeting.

Since 1981, I have had the privilege to volunteer with the Fisheries & Oceans Canada Salmon Enhancement Program. In 1989, I joined with Brian, Margaret and Gavin Waite and others to work on enhancing Noons Creek, which flowed through the Waite's property. This project evolved into the volunteer Port Moody Ecological Society operation at Noons Creek, with the salmon (and trout) hatchery, lab and school.

Coaches and Mentors:

In the past 20 plus years, many people have helped me with various salmon and trout conservation initiatives. These extraordinary people have patiently and generously shared their knowledge and wisdom. I have been an appreciative, if sometimes slow, student. In my defence, having moved here from points as diverse as New York and Edmonton, I had never even seen a wild Pacific salmon, much less pondered the often impenetrable complexities of these wondrous and beautiful creatures. Each of the following are teachers I shall long remember for their sage and timely advice. I owe a great personal debt to:

Ruth Foster, Matt Foy, Dr. Elaine Golds, Gary Taccogna, Dr. Jutta Rickers-Hauerland, Eric Olsen, and the late Al Grist.

I have also consulted with the following talented and committed P.M.E.S. Lifetime Members as an informal "council of elders". They have contributed profoundly to our successes over the past three years. I salute:

Nancy Aichberger; John & Helen Andrew; Joanne Bartlett; Douglas Bennie; Dave Bennie; Holly Butterfield; Marg Carr-Hilton; John Dunn; Cliff Gilfillan; Dr. Jutta Rickers-Hauerland; Tom Howie; Jacob Klaver; Jane & Trevor O'Neil; Eric Olsen; Donna Otto & Reverend Dr. David Spence; Jim Spurr & Teresa Mittendorff; Brian & Margaret Waite; Heather Washburn. And soon to become official members of this honourable company on February 6, 2002: Mike Bender, Joe Zazzi, Bill Nicol, and Brooke Marshall.

P.M.E.S. Accomplishments in the Past Three Years- We Should All Be Proud!

Focus on Fish - Hatchery

The hatchery is thriving. For the past two years all the Coho eggs we needed have come from Noons Creek alone. Over 15,000 chum eggs came from Noons Creek this year, a bumper crop. Thanks for these achievements to hatchery manager and "Mom" Nancy Aichberger, chief fish nurturer Eric Olsen, fish sampler Eldon Clegg, and others. Fry releases in each of Noons Creek and South Schoolhouse Creek continue at about 35,000 chum fry each year. Coho smolt are released into Noons Creek at about the 20,000 - 25,000 level each year. Fisheries & Oceans Canada and community donations fund these efforts.

Our Future

Focus on Young People - School & FRY Programs.

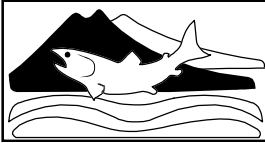
The school program serves impressive numbers of District # 43 elementary students. Nancy is coordinator and Ross Davies and Debbie Wilkinson are inspired and enthusiastic instructors/naturalists. In school year 2000/2001, an estimated 1500 elementary school students, 50 teachers from 30 elementary and middle schools, and 300 parents, guardians or drivers participated in one of three courses. This year should be just as busy. Since its inception in 1995 by Dr. Jutta Rickers-Hauerland, the school program has reached a total of about 6,000-7,000 elementary students. Grant funding enables us to keep course fees low to maximize participation. This year funding was provided for a pilot program called Fisheries Reaching Youth (FRY), to facilitate stream stewardship initiatives in schools.

"Putting Our Money Where Our Mouth Is" - Scholarships

P.M.E.S. offers two annual \$500 scholarships to deserving young people. Funding is secure thanks to enlightened individuals and initiatives like "Bill's Bottle Bursary". Past scholarship winners are working in their chosen fields helping salmon. One of the P.M.E.S. core values is to encourage and help youth. Clearly we have invested well.

Water Quality Lab

The P.M.E.S. water quality lab begun by Dr. Jutta Rickers-Hauerland in 1994 continues its work. For more than two years this initiative has been led



by Brooke Marshall B.Sc., B.Tech. Besides working full-time as an independent environmental consultant, Brooke oversees the volunteer efforts of a talented lab and field "Saturday" team, primarily post-secondary students. The team also includes Jim Mattson B.Sc., a retired chemistry instructor, whose interest lies in investigating the sources of fecal coliform contamination in seven local streams. Jim is aided by Eldon Clegg, a retired chemist, and by Chris Chambers, who works with the GVRD/GVWD. Water quality reports go to the appropriate agencies for follow-up and corrective action where warranted. Similarly, agency reports are now shared with the P.M.E.S. and are kept in the lab library. Watershed tours held every three weeks are well attended by students and the public alike. The lab, along with Brooke's dynamism, draws many young volunteers interested in the environmental sciences. We also have a project with Peter Eredics, Douglas College Habitat Restoration Program GIS instructor, to map Noons Creek.

Partial funding for lab equipment comes from Fisheries & Oceans Canada, TD Canada Trust, Friends of the Environment Foundation, Tri-Cities Chapter and others.

"BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME" - Fish Habitat Restoration & Enhancement

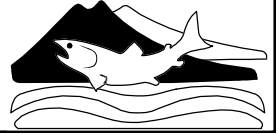
I've watched in awe as Eric Olsen and a group of volunteers built in stages, by hand, over five years, 150-200 metres of new off-channel fish habitat. "BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME" - Eric counts every fish that exits from this area from about February to April. About 3500 fry are now coming from habitat that didn't exist five years ago. "BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME" - Eric has also dug out by hand a silted-in, twenty-five metre side channel which has since filled with spawners. "BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME:" - Eric and Bill Nicol have also yearly recontoured the streambed in lower Noons Creek. Again, spawners have moved right in. The projects completed by Eric and Company are spectacular examples of what can be achieved by dedicated volunteers at little or no expense, for the long term benefit of fish in heavily urbanized watersheds.

Ross Davies and an E-Team also completed several fish habitat restoration projects during the 2001 "Fisheries Window" from August 1 to September 15, 2001. They built a rock weir at the junction of Noons

Creek and the BC Hydro service road to establish access to about a kilometre of good rearing and spawning habitat. In addition, they created a water diversion around an old abandoned wood and rebar coffer dam in Noons Creek. Fish can now pass a formerly impassable obstacle to colonize about three kilometres of potential rearing and spawning habitat. The third project Ross and the E-Team tackled was on lower Suter Brook. A lot of chain link fence and about 75 tires were removed from the channel and blind channels were built. "BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME" - Ross walked this area recently and saw a number of chum redds and about 20 spawned-out carcasses. This work was funded by a \$10,000 court award from Imperial Oil by way of the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and Environment Canada. Thanks to Ross, these projects were completed safely, on time, and under budget.

Mike Landiak, a DFO habitat engineer, supervised the creation and completion by mid-August of 50-60 meters of new chum spawning habitat, immediately downstream from Ioco Road bridge. Headwaters Management Ltd. constructed the habitat, and riparian replanting was by Shady Creek Native Plants & Environmental Contracting Ltd. P.M.E.S. volunteer treasurer, John Andrew administered the finances. Funding came from a \$12,000 Andres Wines court award via Environment Canada, and a \$3,000 donation from Labatt's Breweries of BC Ltd. via the Pacific Salmon Foundation. Mike ensured that the project was brought in safely, under budget, and early. This endeavour also illustrates the partnership and coordination routinely needed to complete a larger fish habitat restoration project. "BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME" - Chum and coho spawners have been using the new habitat since the beginning of the fall rains.

We have surveyed many of the local streams to narrow the list of potential habitat enhancement projects to three to five worthwhile projects that can be completed in the 2002 "Fisheries Window". We have also identified other projects, like riparian planting, that school and/or community groups might take an interest in doing. Several projects for Noons Creek and other nearby watersheds stand out as priorities. Among these are fixing the dysfunctional man-made wetland immediately upstream of Panorama Drive in Coquitlam in Noons Creek. In West Noons Creek the cement culvert at Panorama Drive in Port Moody needs to be replaced



with something fish-friendly. Lower Noons Creek downstream from Heritage Mountain Boulevard bridge should also be regraded.

The ultimate goal, as I perhaps naively see it, for all our fish habitat restoration and enhancement work, is to let Mother Nature take over and eliminate the need for our hatchery. A dream maybe, but you never know.... "BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME".

The Folks Who Make It all Happen - Membership & Volunteers -Lifeblood

Andy Redberger, a P.M.E.S. volunteer since the beginning, is now our membership director. The Society casts a wide net via the newsletter and website. We are registered with the SFU Volunteer Resource Centre; the Coquitlam Volunteer Bureau; Volunteer Burnaby and Volunteer Vancouver. Andy's latest P.M.E.S. membership list shows 80 individuals, companies and families. New members are guaranteed a warm reception!

The newsletter and website both feature rewarding volunteer opportunities. I am grateful to the volunteers for egg-takes, pond cleaning, attic clean-outs, fry and smolt releases, the Fingerling Festival, or other sundry tasks. We have been blessed with talented, dedicated volunteers, notably: Nancy Aichberger, Eric Olsen, Jeremy Smith, Anita Hendrickson, Kirsten Doucette, John Dunn, Dr. Jutta Rickers-Haunerland, Jake Klaver, Cliff Gilfillan, Dave Bennie, Ron Simpson, Doug Bennie, Heather Washburn, Teresa Mittendorff, and Tom Howie. Also Jim Spurr, Joanne Bartlett, and Ruth Foster (all among the six founding board members).

Come in, check us out and stay awhile!!

Finances - Community Support Strong and Growing.

The P.M.E.S. has established an excellent reputation with its funding partners because of our consistent track record and fiscal conservatism. A no-nonsense approach to financial management has imbued successive volunteer treasurers: Joanne Bartlett, Paul Bethel CA, and current treasurer, John Andrew CA. The frugal and entrepreneurial mind-set of the society's early core of volunteers persists today.

Web Site - Under Continuous Construction

For the past two years, a gifted team of volunteers, Colin MacGillivray, Ms. Gaetane Claude, and Jim Spurr have maintained and improved the P.M.E.S. website following in the footsteps of Jim Mattson. Our presence on the internet has brought us many inquiries about volunteering, especially from young people. Please visit the site at www.vcn.bc.ca/pmes/ -and stay tuned; there's much more to come!

Getting Out and About - Community Outreach

Kirsten Doucette coordinates our presence in the community, including participation in local events like the Tri-Cities Environment Fair, hatchery and watershed tours, presentations to community groups, participation in media events, the school programs, submissions to public hearings and panels, some print advertising, and the annual Fingerling Festival. The PMES also serves on many committees and boards.

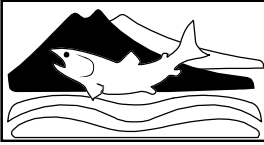
Another important part of our outreach activities is the help we give to students with "fishy" assignments and projects. Students with these kinds of assignments are encouraged to contact us for direction and guidance. Where feasible, PMES volunteers also continue to help students involved in career preparation programs of all types.

More Outreach - A Focus on Families - Fingerling Festival - Special Events

Dave Bennie is our director for special events. He is also our chief scrounger, probably saving PMES hundreds of dollars each year with his practical suggestions and finds. Dave handles our very successful Fingerling Festival in May of each year. Last year, about 1500 people, mostly families with children, attended. Funding for the Fingerling Festival comes from generous corporate sponsors, Burrard Clean Operations, Reichhold Ltd., and Pacific Coast Terminals Company Ltd.. An event raffle; event food sales, and money from the PMES operating funds round out these contributions.

Kudos/Awards

In 1999 the PMES was awarded the first City of Port Moody Environmental Award. And thanks to the commitment of many volunteers, letters of support from other volunteer groups, and an exceptional nomination letter from Elaine Golds, I was awarded



the 2001 Spirit of the Community BC Gas Environment Award. I am humbled by the honour.

Puzzling Demise of General Meetings

Because of poor attendance the PMES BOD decided to cancel further general meetings. Anyone interested in reinstating general meetings with dynamic speakers and appealing topics, please come forward. In the meantime, the informal gatherings of PMES volunteers and civilians each Saturday morning at the Noons Creek hatchery partially compensate for the lack of regular meetings. Drop by for a visit. Refreshments are always available!

Working with Community Partners - Cities of Port Moody and Coquitlam

Liaison with the City of Port Moody on ecological issues has improved markedly in the past three years under Julie Pavay and lately Rick Saunier's direction and guidance.

The City of Port Moody Environmentally Sensitive Areas reports are welcome and praiseworthy. The pending Phase Three report should provide inspiration for environmental remediation projects for years to come. We are also heartened by the efforts by the City of Port Moody to map its watercourses. The initiative to erect stream awareness signs acknowledging the various stewardship groups responsible for a particular stream is exemplary. The City of Coquitlam is embarking upon a similar project in the Noons Creek watershed.

Beginning in 2000, the City of Port Moody generously approved a PMES operating grant application to cover our insurance costs. Each year the city also donates an enormous number of flower bulbs, which we sell to cover operating expenses.

In closing I wish to thank you all for your phenomenal commitment, focus, and your encouragement. You have all inspired me and made the last three years worthwhile. I leave the society in the hands of some of the community's best people.

And now I've got to get back to some very neglected and not infinitely patient business clients.

That's a wrap.

Rick Simpson, Volunteer President and Lifetime Member PMES



RICK RECEIVING THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD, OCTOBER 11, 2001

PMES Student Scholarship Sponsored by Reed Point Marina Ltd.

An award of \$500 is offered to a School District # 43 student currently engaged in an environmental studies discipline at a post-secondary institution.

PMES Volunteer Scholarship "Bill's Bottle Bursary"

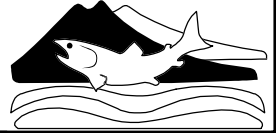
The PMES Scholarship Committee seeks nominations for the Volunteer Scholarship. Eligible candidates will have demonstrated a consistent commitment to the PMES through volunteer work. Nominees must be nominated from outside the Scholarship Committee and will be invited by the committee to apply for the scholarship. Awards must be used for continuing education or student loans and will be deposited directly to an institution.

If you have any questions about either scholarship, please contact:

Lesley Fell:

Phone: 604-939-5874 or

E-mail: tsunami@pacificcoast.net



Winter 2002

The Annual Pilgrimage to Indian River

By Kirsten Doucette

On the beautiful morning of Friday, November 9th, a crew of PMES volunteers went on an annual PMES pilgrimage, all in worship of the mighty salmon. Unlike some pilgrimages, this was not a “go and look” affair, this was a “get yourself wet and dirty affair”. And so we did.

The trip up to Indian Arm has been an annual event for the past number of years. Chum salmon don't return in enough numbers to Noon's Creek to produce enough eggs for the hatchery. Abundant Indian River chum make up the deficit.

Transmountain Pipeline provided the boat to take us up Indian Arm from Belcarra to Indian River. Our skipper was Ken, who also joined in on the actual eggtake. The PMES volunteers who joined in the fun were: Kirsten Doucette, Nancy-Anne Rose, Dave Bennie, Lesley Fell, Denise Marasco, Rodger Lizee, and Melissa Baker.

On arriving at the Indian River estuary, we clambered out of the boat onto the slippery dock and lugged out our gear. We hiked to the road to meet our chauffeurs, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon (DFO Community Advisor) and Brian Smith (Seymour Salmonid Society) who arrived within minutes. We loaded their trucks and bounced our way up the road to the “staging area” near the spawning channel.

Seymour River Hatchery also had a crew out to gather chum eggs, and Tseil-Waututh First Nation members were on hand to help out as well.

Volunteers in chest waders trapped the salmon between two nets strung across the spawning channel. The fish could then be caught fairly easily with dip nets. Eighty females were caught, bonked (killed) and bled in preparation for the egg take. They were brought up to the eggtake area and laid out on tarps. Then the eggs were carefully stripped out into buckets. We collected about 107,000 eggs.

The amazing summery warmth and vigorous activity soon led to a universal shedding of heavy outdoor clothing. T-shirts were the order of the day.

In the meantime, down at the water's edge, males were being rounded up, and milt (sperm) taken from them. It was collected into small “whirlpack” baggies while the fish were alive, making for some comical moments. There are about 1 million sperm in a tablespoon of milt! After collection the males

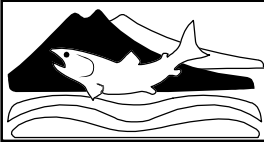


are killed so they don't get caught again.

The teamwork worked amazingly well... the eggtake was completed in record time. After all was done the bloody pile of females were distributed throughout the forest near the creek. This ensures the nutrients are redistributed to the forest. After a quick, slightly fishy-tasting lunch in the sunshine, the gear, eggs, and milt were packed up. We parted ways with the Seymour crew, and headed back to Port Moody.

On the return trip we had some time to check out the harbour seals basking in the fall sunshine on the logs in the estuary. They were unfazed by our attention.

Back at Noons Creek, Eric Olsen and Rick Simpson were on hand waiting for the fishy treasure. Eggs were fertilized, counted, disinfected, and placed in trays. Pizza seemed to quell the hunger of the hard-working volunteers where doughnuts had failed. Over all it was a successful and entertaining expedition. Thanks to all, and if I have failed to acknowledge any of the volunteers, I am sorry. Best Fishes to all!



Water Quality Lab

by Brooke Marshall

Activities in the PMES lab have diversified over the last few months - almost too much. Water quality testing continues both around the hatchery and in several places upstream between the hatchery and the hydro right-of-way. In addition to the long standing water quality baseline data collection, a new water quality initiative has been started. Jim Mattson, a former PMES lab director, has initiated a biweekly e-coli sampling regime in 6 local streams. Grab samples are collected from South Schoolhouse, Slaughterhouse, Pigeon, Noons, Mossom, North Schoolhouse Creeks with additional sampling by Centennial High School students on a less regular basis.

The weekly water quality data and the biweekly e-coli data will be graphed and available this spring. Summary graphs will be published in the next newsletter and more detailed graphs will be available for reference on the PMES web site.

Mapping the Noons Creek watershed has become a priority for the upcoming season. Two mapping projects are being initiated. One is a GIS based project, which will incorporate: past research information, administrative boundaries, roads, water bodies, historical points and other points of interest, elevation contours and watershed boundaries, utilities and transportation areas, recreation areas and many other relevant data as they are available for inclusion. This project is a cooperative effort between Douglas College, the City of Port Moody and the Port Moody Ecological Society. The second mapping project will focus specifically on hydrological data in the Noons Creek system and will be conducted by PMES volunteers.

NOONS CREEK WATERSHED TOURS

Hands-on experience!

Water sampling in Noons Creek watershed.

Tours every 3 weeks,

Next tour: **February 2, 2002**, RSVP

Information: Karey Buday:

Phone: 604-939-6771,

E-mail: karey_10@hotmail.com

The Hatchery Report

by Nancy Aichberger

Coho

2001 was our best year yet for coho returns. The first coho returned as usual during a wet period in early August and trickled in throughout September. The middle of October through to December brought the bulk of the spawners. Many of the adult coho were bigger than any we have ever seen in Noons Creek. The early fish that we netted out of the flume were put into Pond 3 of our off-channel habitat system. In total between 750 and 1000 coho returned this year. We collected about 60,000 eggs. Because of warm water cause by the unusually balmy fall weather, the eggs eyed early.

Pond 4 was brought into use in October. Many thanks to our tireless excavators: John Dunn, Mike Bender, Joe Zazzi, Bill Nicol, and mastermind of the project, Eric Olsen.

Chum

This year's chum run wasn't too bad. We collected some eggs from the creek fish and, if we had known that the chum would keep on coming in through November, we might not have gone to Indian River for the balance of the 120,000 that were collected.

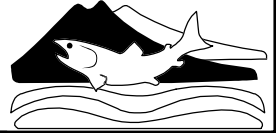
School Programs

The Fall school program was overbooked, which is great news. We extended the programs into late November to try to accommodate more classes. I hope the classes that didn't get in will book for the spring. Ross Davies has been working with me as a naturalist teaching these programs. At times it would be hard to tell him from the kids if it weren't for his size! We are awaiting feedback from the schools to use when applying for grant money to keep our programs running. In January we will be engaged in the FRY (Fish Reaching Youth) program, going into the schools, and taking students out into nearby creeks.

Fish Reaching Youth

by Ross Davies

The PMES and Port Moody Secondary School students will be working together on South Schoolhouse Creek from February to May. The students will be involved in bank stabilization, water quality monitoring, biophysical inventory, and mapping. They will learn about data sharing among agencies and will document their experience on the Internet.



“Vision” for the Port Moody Ecological Society

by Brooke Marshall, Incumbent President

Since its inception in 1989, the Port Moody Ecological Society/Noons Creek Hatchery has created a successful grassroots stewardship program. The successes of the spawning and rearing habitat for a resident salmon population, environmental education program for local school children, water quality lab, community education and outreach services attest to the commitment, passion and vision of the founding members of this society.

The PMES as it exists today is a tribute to the hard work and ability of the diverse group of people who found purpose in the creation of the fish and human habitat of the hatchery. Their work created the core programs which provide opportunity and continuity for an ever-changing group of volunteers and have increased ecological awareness in the community. This society is entering a difficult phase, almost as though organizational adolescence has been reached. The most necessary and most obvious tasks have been completed successfully. The care and feeding of core programs has become routine. The society has a recognized place in the local fisheries and environmental community.

Perpetuating these successes and sustaining involvement of society members constitute the new challenges facing us. To spark the imagination and drive of long term and new volunteers we need new initiatives. Establishing these new directions will require commitment and communication among all members of the society. New developments are already shifting volunteer efforts away from a sole focus on Noons Creek. Through the water quality lab, a partnership to provide additional testing on samples taken from Mossom Creek is ongoing. An e.coli sampling program initiated by Jim Mattson includes 5 additional creeks around Port Moody Arm. Discussion of habitat enhancement on other streams in Port Moody has begun, including work towards restoring viable habitat in Slaughterhouse Creek. Volunteers have joined the society from municipalities through out the north and central sections of the GVRD, and through cooperation with Simon Fraser University and Douglas College, this trend is likely to continue.

The Port Moody Ecological Society/Noons Creek Hatchery is in a position to join with other established fisheries and environmental organizations, and to provide support to new stewardship groups. By sharing resources and knowledge with other societies, the PMES will become stronger. And new stewardship groups will not have to struggle through the same growing pains that were encountered during the first years of the Society.

The PMES has the skilled volunteer base and tools to expand its focus to encompass the watersheds which feed Port Moody Arm. The commitment and drive of the habitat enhancement team could be directed to other local streams which have the potential to be fish-bearing. The tools and skilled volunteers who make up the water quality lab can contribute to additional sampling initiatives and train volunteers from other groups to establish their own water quality monitoring program. There are new environmental education initiatives in neighbouring areas, which would benefit from the experiences of those who run and manage our oversubscribed school program. We could demonstrate the spawning and rearing expertise which has made us so successful to those who wish to improve their own rearing systems or create similar systems.

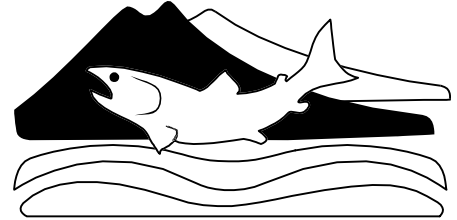
As a society we have the luxury to choose which direction we will take from here. By taking advantage of the wealth of knowledge, skills, tools, and passion that the Port Moody Ecological Society possesses, the society will continue to thrive. As the PMES thrives so will the interests of fish and the ecosystems which support them be enhanced.

FINGERLING FESTIVAL COMING UP! MAY 4, 2002

Volunteers needed:

If you can help out with setting up or taking down or any other aspect of the event, please call Dave Bennie, Special Events Director at home: 604-942-6167, or Noons Creek Hatchery at 604-4699-9106 (phone and fax)

PORT MOODY ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY



RETURN TO: P.M.E.S. Attn. Membership
300 Ioco Road, Port Moody B.C. Canada V3H 2V7
Phone/Fax 604-469-9106 E-mail pmes@vcn.bc.ca
SOCIETY NUMBER S27189

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP DUES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00/year Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75.00/year Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00/year Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150.00/year Corporate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00/year Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150.00/year Lifetime |

All donations are gratefully received. We are a Canadian Registered Society and as such Donations in excess of \$10.00 qualify as Income Tax Deductible. If you would like a tax receipt, please forward your cheque with a note clearly stating that you wish a Tax Deductible Receipt.

Please indicate which volunteer activities are of interest to you.

PUBLIC EVENTS

- FINGERLING FESTIVAL
- GOLDEN SPIKE DAYS (ANNUAL)
- SPECIAL EVENT DISPLAYS
- HATCHERY HOST (WEEKENDS, MAY-NOV.)

COMMUNICATIONS

- CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (MONTHLY)
- NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
- NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION
- TELEPHONE

NATURE EDUCATION

- CHILDREN
- ADULTS

HATCHERY WORK

- FISH FEEDING
- HATCHERY MAINTENANCE
- POND CLEANUP
- STREAM CLEANUP
- DIG SPAWNING CHANNEL(S)
- TRAIL/ENVIRONS MAINTENANCE

WATER QUALITY TESTING

- REGULAR CREEK TESTING
- DATA ENTRY

YES NO

I would appreciate periodic phone calls regarding upcoming events

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____
Day time _____ Evenings _____ E-Mail / Fax _____

Comments: