

# THE CREEK CRIER

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SPRING 2006

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

Web Site Address: <<http://www.noonscreek.org>>  
Email Address: <[hatchery@noonscreek.org](mailto:hatchery@noonscreek.org)>

*Attention all Past, Current, and Future Members*

## 2006 Annual General Meeting

The Port Moody Ecological Society's 2006 AGM will be held on Wednesday, February 1st at 7:00 PM in Room C of the Port Moody Rec Center.

Please attend: we have many important matters to discuss:

- elections to the Board of Directors
- Fingerling Festival in May
- recognition of donors and volunteers
- there will also be time to chat and catch up with old and new friends

We have a dedicated core group of volunteers, but we need more help to reach the full potential that our facilities, our community influence, and our various expertise provide. We'd love to see some new faces: please join us!

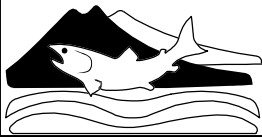
### Guest Speaker

Ian Jones, the "Naturalist Deckhand" from Bluewater Adventures will be on hand at the AGM to give a 30 minute presentation on the great blue heron

*photo by Gene Oleynik*



Publication of the Creek Crier is sponsored by Pacific Coast Terminals-  
The Port in Port Moody



## Note from the Editor

I apologize for not sending out a newsletter this fall. I spent August through October working in Pemberton / Mount Currie for the Lil'wat First Nation and DFO. I started my own business when I returned in November, which has been a real distraction from my duties as Creek Crier editor.

The New Year finds us in a state of flux, which is a condition that we are used to by now. A volunteer organisation is dependent on the time and money that its members can donate, and the time and money available are never stable. It is only thanks to the extraordinary dedication of our core volunteers (many of whom are listed in the adjacent column) that we are able to maintain our cohesion and purpose. New volunteers always breath fresh ideas and energy into our group, and the work-experience students also keep things interesting. Our new website will allow more people to learn about our group (see new info on top of page 1), and hopefully bring in more volunteers.

Donations and fellow volunteers are not all that keep us going. We appreciate recognition by the community (see page 4) to know that hard work does not go unnoticed. It is also gratifying to see the salmon and the students return to Noons Creek every year (see page 3). Whatever it is that fuels a community group, we seem to have it here. Let's not take it for granted!

Our Annual General Meeting is a chance for all of us to meet and assess the state of PMES and where we want it to go. We hope that all of our members will join us to check in and thrown in their suggestions, concerns, and companionship. See you on Wednesday, February 1st!

## Streamkeeper Training Weekend

February 25-26, 9:30AM - 4:30 PM

Princess Park, North Vancouver

Contact ZoAnn Morten

604 986 5059 or [zmorten@shaw.ca](mailto:zmorten@shaw.ca)

more info at [www.pskf.ca](http://www.pskf.ca)

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. We also offer work/study experience to interested high-school students.

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.

## 2005 PMES Officers

Acting President Tess Longdale 604-936-3928

Past President Kirsten Doucette

Treasurer John Andrew 604-941-9257

Secretary Jess Urquhart

Hatchery

Manager Nancy Aichberger 604-524-5967

Lab Director Jim Mattson 604-469-0833

School

Programs Nancy Aichberger 604-524-5967

Community

Outreach Dave Bennie 604-942-8059

Fundraising

Director (currently recruiting)

Special Events Dave Bennie 604-942-6167

Membership Melissa Mukai 604-421-1417

Newsletter Matt Townsend 604-253-4704

Director at Large Elaine Golds 604-937-3483

## Other Key Volunteers:

Scholarship (currently recruiting)

Website Jim Mattson 604-469-0833

(e-mail: [Jim\\_Mattson@telus.net](mailto:Jim_Mattson@telus.net))

## 2006 Fingerling Festival

Saturday, May 6 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Port Moody Rec Centre

**Bobs and Lolo will be performing!**



## Hatchery News

### *what's happening around the hatchery*

#### **COHO:(2004 Broodyear)**

Our coho fry in the over wintering pond that originated from Capilano Hatchery are doing fine and growing nicely. They will stay in the pond until May or June 2006: when they turn silver and start schooling (indicating that they are ocean-ready) they will be released to Noons Creek.

#### **COHO: (2005 Broodyear)**

2005 was a peak year in the four year coho cycle. Our hatchery biologist Eric Olsen was out in the river almost every day this season, and he estimates that 150-200 coho returned to Noons Creek. We captured 40 of these adults for hatchery broodstock, and were able to collect about 40,000 eggs. Of the 40 captured adults, 15 of these were hatchery fish that we had released 2 1/2 years ago, while 25 of them were wild coho which had reared in Noons Creek or a neighbouring stream on their own. We are excited to see so many wild fish returning to Noons Creek, and are hopeful that careful stewardship will maintain or increase the number of wild coho.

#### **CHUM:**

We captured 30 adult chum from Indian River and 4 adults from Noons Creek, collecting a total of 100,000 eggs. DFO allows us to rear Indian River chum because chum are notorious for "straying", often returning to different streams than those they were hatched. Therefore, chum from Noons Creek and nearby Indian River are genetically indistinguishable. The eggs we collected are being reared in our hatchery for release in early May during the Fingerling Festival.

#### **SUTER BROOK:**

We started conducting fish counts in Suter Brook this fall in order to monitor the effects of the high-rise development being constructed on the corner of loco and Murray. At least 50 chum returned to Suter Brook this year, and habitat quality in the stream appears to be holding steady due to the large riparian vegetation buffer that is in place. The developer will be engineering some off-channel habitat improvements over the course of construction, and we hope to have some more spawning gravel added to the stream as well.

#### **SCHOOL PROGRAMS:**

The fall teacher's strike played havoc with our school programs, but we were able to re-schedule and conduct 21 school programs this fall. We are lucky to have a pool of knowledgeable and experienced naturalists to conduct these programs: despite lots of last-minute changes, we were able to pull off the programs, with nearly 500 students learning about salmon and having a ball!

#### **NEW WEBSITE:**

Jim Mattson has been working hard to create a new PMES website. You can view the fruits of his labour at [www.noonscreek.org](http://www.noonscreek.org). The new site offers information about our organisation, photos, and past issues of the Creek Crier! We also have a new e-mail address: [hatchery@noonscreek.org](mailto:hatchery@noonscreek.org).

#### **NEWCOMER:**

In addition to all of the fry rearing at the hatchery, we have one more fry to report on. PMES Past-President Kirsten Doucette gave birth in November to a baby boy, making our Hatchery Manager Nancy Aichberger a grandmother! Congratulations to the whole family!



## Bear Awareness: It's Our Responsibility

*As our neighbourhood continues to expand...*

This fall, a black bear mother and her two cubs were destroyed by provincial conservation officers in Port Moody. This family had been sighted several times over the summer in the Noons Creek Area of Heritage Mountain, frequenting trash bins and bird feeders. The conservation officers came to the conclusion that the bears posed a hazard due to their habituation to human contact, and had no choice but to kill them.



The bear cub pictured at left was sighted at the Noons Creek Hatchery in Spring of 2004. The cub was orphaned when its mother was hit by a car earlier in the week. Conservation officers found this cub dead (probably of malnutrition) a week after this photo was taken.

The loss of several black bears in our community over the past two years should give us all reason to reflect. Our community has continued to expand up Heritage Mountain, and our neighbouring communities of Anmore and Coquitlam have also been expanding. As we encroach wildlife habitat, it is our responsibility to minimize conflict.

The City of Port Moody had several suggestions to "bear-proof" your home:

- Don't put out garbage containers until 7:00 AM on the morning of collection.
- Put bird feeders up between December and March (when the birds really need them) and take them down for the rest of the year. Bears will investigate even empty birdfeeders.
- Keep compost bins tidy, and do not put animal products (meat, dairy, fish) in your compost.
- Feed your pets indoors.
- Keep barbeque grills clear of food residue by burning it off after cooking.
- NEVER FEED A BEAR!

For more information on bear-proofing your home, visit [www.cityofportmoody.com](http://www.cityofportmoody.com).

## PMES Volunteer Recognized by City

Eric Olsen, our dedicated hatchery biologist, has been awarded Honourary Mention for the 2005 City of Port Moody Environmental Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize environmental initiatives and encourage environmental accomplishments and awareness in the community.

In case some of you don't know Eric (pictured at right in dry clothing), he is the engine that drives our hatchery operations. From the beginning of the salmon run in fall to the release of the final fry in spring, Eric is a daily fixture at the hatchery. He harvests eggs, rears larvae and fry, and maintains the hatchery. When he is not in the hatchery, he's outside the hatchery, working on one of several habitat improvements around Noons Creek. Somehow, through all of this, he finds time to impart some of his vast knowledge to the rest of us.

Almost any day of the week, Eric can be found at the hatchery, dressed in various articles of rubber clothing, covered with unidentifiable bits of organic matter, and soaked with cold water by ungrateful fish. For this we pay him nothing, but we thank him profusely.





## Salmon News

*We read the scientific journals so you don't have to!*

### **Bears help salmon feed the forest**

Researchers working in Alaska determined that the ecosystems surrounding salmon streams absorb more salmon-derived nutrients when there are bears present than when there are not. Salmon killed by bears are more valuable to the surrounding ecosystem for two reasons: 1) they are higher in nutrients because they have not spent all of their energy spawning, and 2) bears break apart the carcasses, allowing for quicker decomposition and dissemination of nutrients

*Winder, M. et al. 2005. Do bears facilitate transfer of salmon resources to aquatic macroinvertebrates? CJFAS 62: 2285-2293.*

### **Coho use constructed side channels**

Researchers working in Washington state compared artificially constructed side channels to natural side channels. They found that coho preferred the constructed channels for rearing because they were deeper on average than the natural side channels, making them cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. Other salmonids did not show a preference for either natural or constructed side channels.

*Morley, S., et al. 2005. Juvenile salmonid (Oncorhynchus spp.) use of constructed and natural side channels in Pacific Northwest rivers. CJFAS 62: 2811-2821*

### **Global warming bad news for Fraser River sockeye**

SFU, UBC, and DFO researchers studied the effects of a common parasite (*Parvicapsula*) on migrating sockeye. Adult sockeye often become infected with *Parvicapsula* as they migrate through the mouth of the Fraser River towards their spawning grounds. The effects of infection were more pronounced with longer exposure to warmer water, significantly reducing the ability of fish to recover from periods of exercise. Under current conditions, early-run sockeye (those exposed to warm river water for the longest period of time) are already suffering significantly from what historically was an inconsequential parasite. Increased river temperatures in the future may affect later runs as well.

*Wagner, G. et al. 2005. Metabolic rates and swimming performance of Fraser River sockeye salmon (Oncorhynchus nerka) after a controlled infection of Parvicapsula minibicornis. CJFAS 62: 2124-2133.*

### **Endangered coho?**

DFO has proposed listing interior Fraser River coho as "endangered" due to overfishing, changing marine conditions, and habitat perturbations. A decision will be made in April regarding official status.

*Canada Gazette 139:50. December 10, 2005.*

## Water Quality Lab

Learn about water quality, aquatic ecology, stream, estuary, watershed stewardship and more!

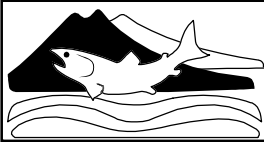
### **Noons Creek Watershed Tours**

Hands-on experience water sampling in Noons Creek watershed

Meets every Saturday at 10:00AM at the Noons Creek Hatchery

Everyone welcome rain or shine!

Information: Jim Mattson 604 469 0863



**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**

- \$5.00/year Student
- \$15.00/year Individual
- \$20.00/year Family
- \$75.00/year Patron
- \$150.00/year Corporate
- \$150.00 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
- TRAIL/ENVIRONS MAINTENANCE
- POND CLEANUP
- STREAM CLEANUP
- DIG SPAWNING CHANNEL(S)

**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