

**Roundtable Report**  
**2022/11 SEHAB meeting**  
**Paul Cipywnyk, North Side Fraser Burnaby to Mission**  
**CA: Isaac Nelson**

**Summary**

**1. Any issues that are affecting groups and their projects that are directly related to DFO**

Ongoing issue of coho prespawn mortality.

Ongoing issue of discharge of deleterious substances down storm drains into creeks. Construction site sediment, sewage, road salt, milk bottling spill, etc.

Development projects are having negative impacts on watersheds and creeks, and there is frustration at getting rain gardens installed. Some municipalities mandate stormwater management for private developers, but do little or nothing for civic projects.

**2. Any positive things that are directly related to DFO**

Groups report good communication and relations with their CA.

Spawner returns are variable, with returns looking good in some watersheds but poor in others. Have visited and walked many creeks in the area, and also monitor groups on social media. (Byrne, Scott, Hoy, Brunette, Stoney, Cariboo Dam fishway, etc.)

**3. Any things coming up that DFO should know about**

Nothing in particular.

**4. Any issues that are affecting groups and their projects that are related to other agencies.**

Have had some great invasive plant removal projects in partnership with municipality and Lower Mainland Green Team. Still having trouble getting infiltration projects such as rain gardens going in Burnaby.

## Group reports

### ARMS

Here is a quick update regarding the Alouette River Management Society's fall 2022 activities within the Alouette Watershed!

- Hosted a 2-day Streamkeepers training session with ZoAnn Morten and Dianne Ramage in September
  - Certified 13 new Streamkeepers
- Celebrated River's Day with nearly 500 community members in ALLCO Park
- Organized and trained our 4 spawner survey teams for this fall
  - Teams on Coho Creek, Latimer Channel, Millionaire Creek, and the North Alouette
  - Teams are continuing to conduct weekly surveys
- Started work at Morse Creek in Reg Franklin Park
  - The 6 activities to date included a cleanup activity (1), invasive species removals (2), native species plantings (2), and a community art activity (1)
  - These activities focused on the importance of freshwater and restoring the riparian area surrounding this creek
  - Participants included both volunteers from the community as well as 6 classes from Eric Langton Elementary School (participated in one of the planting events)
  - Partnered with the Lower Mainland Green Team for our largest invasive species removal
- Continue to lead community cleanups through the Adopt-a-Block Program in both Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows
- Hosted a 1-day planting workshop with BCWF
  - Installed native species to the riparian area along the South Alouette River
- Lead 11 classes (both at the preschool and elementary school level) in environmental education workshops with a salmon focus
- Began participating in the Road Salt and Salmon Project
  - Selected a site to install the conductivity logger along the South Alouette River

- Attended a full day workshop with 12 other Streamkeepers groups for a project orientation and knowledge sharing opportunity

### **Byrne Creek Streamkeepers Society**

Ongoing issue of 6PPD killing Coho before they spawn. The first two female Coho seen in the creek this autumn both died unspawned. Good to have DFO doing water quality testing.

Chum returns started late this autumn and there have been only a few fish so far.

There were ongoing problems of developers pumping out construction sites into storm drains that connect to the creek. This happened many times this year, though City of Burnaby staff were informed and visited sites. There was also a milk spill from a bottling plant.

The group has attracted several volunteers this year by leading tours for the City of Burnaby Parks Dept (“A Salmon Oasis in the City” and “Nature Photography”), and through partner projects removing invasive plants with the Lower Mainland Green Team.

On the other hand, a lack of volunteers led to cancelling participation in events such as Rivers Day that the group had joined for many years. While we have gained some new volunteers, it is still difficult to get people to step up into leadership and organizing roles.

### **Stoney Creek Environment Committee**



### **BC'S MOST ENDANGERED RIVERS: 2021/22 URBAN STREAMS EDITION**

BC's Most Endangered Rivers: 2021/22 Urban Streams Edition New urban streams category profiles Stoney Creek and the Little Campbell (Tatalu) River highlighting major deficiencies in the protection of urban streams. [...]

2



**Increased redevelopment is negatively affecting  
Stoney Creek**

That was even before the rapid redevelopment around the Burquitlam Skytrain station in Coquitlam (Photo by Luka Kovasic)

3



Rapant  
redevelopment in  
the Burquitlam area  
without the needed  
infrastructure

In addition to the 10,000 residents in UniverCity on Burnaby Mountain, in the Burquitlam area, there will

be an additional 80,000  
tower dwellers.

4



Many dumps of 'deleterious substances'  
prohibited in the Fisheries Act

Grease at Rathburn Culvert  
October 6; Unknown  
substance January 28  
at confluence with Trib 3.

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Sapperton **FISH & GAME CLUB**

P.O. BOX 40099 ROYAL CITY POSTAL OUTLET  
NEW WESTMINSTER B.C. V3M 6J7

This  
is  
not  
new!

January 23, 1999

Bruce Reid  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Habitat  
600 Derwent Way, Annacis Island  
Delta B.C. V3M 6P8

Dear Mr. Reid

re: Silted water leaving construction site at Lougheed Highway and  
Gaglardi Way, Burnaby, and running into Stoney Creek.

The Sapperton Fish and Game Club is greatly concerned about the amount  
of muddy water that has been allowed to leave this site and pollute  
Stoney Creek for the last several months.

We have been struggling to  
save Stoney Creek since 1995,  
but sometimes it feels like we're  
losing the battle.

## Raw sewage spills, too



The many cumulative stressors were the several raw sewage spills from manholes during the heavy rains in mid November 2021. Clearly the lack of infrastructure upgrades before the massive building boom was approved is the major cause.

It's still too early to tell if all the work of streamkeepers and residents can move up the date for the Stoney Creek Sanitary Trunk Sewer Realignment Project as sewage spills are a problem throughout the Lower Mainland.

However, the **good news** is that despite all this, there are currently lots of Coho fry in Tributary 3, which is



away from the current pollution from the Rathburn culvert.



# **SCEC Road Salt and Salmon Project**

Update October 2022



## **Experiments**

Our in-stream citizen science study showed abnormalities in juvenile Chum salmon in a salty part of the Creek.

Zoologists at UBC will duplicate this study in the laboratory, adding Coho. SFU toxicologists will do similar studies with stream bugs.

Streamkeeper monitoring will provide the data to guide the experimental design of this study.



## Progress

"The Impact of Road Salt on Pacific Salmon Success" is a 5-year project that was recently awarded more than \$500,000 via an NSERC Alliance grant



## Progress

Initial workshop with the 13 streamkeeper groups who are supporting the UBC and SFU researchers will be held on October 29.

DFO is supporting streamkeepers by providing space and catering at the Pacific Science Enterprise Centre (PSEC)