

# StreamTalk

The newsletter for stewards of salmonids and their habitat • Volume 20 • Number 2 • Autumn 2013

## Celebrating our rivers

*Having evolved from its B.C. roots, World Rivers Day is a time to reflect on the many values of our waterways*

By Mark Angelo

As final preparations were being made for this year's World Rivers Day (Sunday, September 29), I found myself thinking about the origins of this important and timely event. And while this global celebration of rivers has an eight-year history, its beginnings go back much further.

I've been drawn to rivers since childhood, and as long as I can recall I've been captivated by moving water. I wasn't very old, however, before I gained an appreciation of the many threats that confront our waterways.

Living beside the Los Angeles River as a boy, I spent a great deal of time along this once productive stream, now almost lifeless and entirely encased in a massive concrete culvert. I also remember a family trip to Arizona in the early '60s when I witnessed the completion of the Glen Canyon Dam, flooding one of America's most beautiful canyons. Then, moving to Montana, I lived close to the Milltown Dam on the Clark Fork River, an area widely known at the time as a toxic site due to accumulating contaminants from an upstream mine.

During my years in Montana, I became an avid paddler and fly-fisher, exploring many of the state's rivers in the process.



Mark Angelo and assistants releasing fry in Guichon Creek. Photo: Larry Wright.

So when I had the chance to move to British Columbia in the early '70s, I eagerly anticipated living in a province renowned for its waterways.

Yet, despite its abundance of incredible rivers and streams, I was surprised that there wasn't a provincial event of some kind celebrating their significance. In an effort to address this, I and some like-minded friends approached the Province in 1980 about endorsing an inaugural Rivers Day event that would take place on the last Sunday in September.

To start, we organized a cleanup on the Thompson River. On that day, with the help of the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, a flotilla of rafts and a large group of volunteers collected a massive amount of garbage and debris, and worked with local towing companies to remove a number of abandoned cars that sat on the rocks above the river. The event was a great success!

That evening, participants gathered to reflect on how rewarding the day had been. Eager to do it again, more activities and cleanups were planned for the following year. The event soon took on a life of its own.

Initially known as BC Rivers Day, the celebration grew to include festivities around the province involving up to 75,000 people. Events ranged from stream cleanups and habitat enhancement projects to educational outings and community riverside celebrations.

Given the success of this initiative in B.C., I couldn't help but imagine the possibilities for a similar international event. When the United Nations announced the "Water for Life Decade" commencing in 2005, a program aimed at increasing awareness of the importance of our global water

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# Promoting a culture of care for our freshwater resources

by *Natashia Cox and Rachel Drennan*

We are connected to and supported by our natural environment. We rely on our natural infrastructures like streams, wetlands, and riparian corridors to support community needs like agriculture and industry as well as our ecological processes. When challenges to our watersheds occur, not only does the immediate stream suffer,

but so do aquatic, amphibian, reptilian, avian, mammalian and human species.

Addressing these challenges includes managing invasive species, monitoring water quality, reducing destruction of riparian habitat, removing blockages to fish passage (such as reed canary grass) and increasing habitat connectivity. After all, a healthy watershed is a healthy community.



Bioengineering workshop participants build a wattle fence along Silverdale Creek.  
Photo: Natashia Cox

We are the Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition (FVWC), a not-for-profit registered charity and society that promotes healthy watersheds in the Fraser Valley. 2012 proved to be a very successful year thanks to our many partners. We co-hosted a Wetlandkeepers Workshop with the BC Wildlife Federation's Wetlands Education Program, to teach people how to identify and steward local wetlands. We hosted two bioengineering workshops about resolving ecosystem challenges using natural methods. We mapped over 17 hectares of wetland habitat with support from Pacific Salmon Foundation and DFO.

With our partners we completed over 8,080 m<sup>2</sup> of in-stream habitat restoration within the Fraser Valley and re-planted 5,218 m<sup>2</sup> of riparian areas with native vegetation; and we continue to monitor water quality and fish usage along certain waterways. We have also joined with the University of the Fraser Valley and local high school students to give them hands-on experience. 2013 is looking like it will make for another very successful year!

If you want to learn more about who we are, what we do, and how you can get involved, please contact our Outreach Coordinator, Rachel Drennan, at [Rachel@fvwc.ca](mailto:Rachel@fvwc.ca). You can also visit our website at [www.fvwc.ca](http://www.fvwc.ca).

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resources, I thought that establishing a formal World Rivers Day would be a complementary fit.

We broached the idea with various agencies of the UN and received their blessing. In September 2005, the first World Rivers Day was celebrated. After formally partnering with the Water for Life Decade initiative, the event grew by leaps and bounds.

This year, millions of people in more than 60 countries participated in Rivers Day celebrations. Events took place from Canada to South Africa; from England to Austria; from Poland to the United States; and from Australia to China.

The growing interest in World Rivers Day is timely in that rivers around the globe are facing increasing pressures, ranging from pollution and urbanization to the excessive extraction of water and the building of dams. Climate change is also increasingly taking its toll on many rivers. If events like Rivers Day can help profile these issues while engaging the public and creating a greater appreciation of the importance of our waterways, that can only be positive.

Every Rivers Day, my hope is that people around the world will take time to think about their local rivers and how they might be better cared for.

In our own province, many attend a Rivers Day event. For others, Rivers Day is a wonderful time to simply get out and enjoy a nearby stream and contemplate how much they contribute to the quality of life we enjoy in this breathtaking part of the world.

*Mark Angelo is the Chair and Founder of both BC and World Rivers Day and is Chair Emeritus of the BCIT Rivers Institute. He has received the Order of Canada, the Order of British Columbia, and the UN Stewardship Award for his river conservation efforts. He has travelled on close to 1,000 rivers around the world.*





# Toward a wreck-less coastline

By Dennis Horwood

Abandoned wrecks have made news many times in the past several months. A B.C. ferry, capsized fishboats, and abandoned vessels of all kinds dot our picturesque coastlines.

There seems to be no agency in charge of purging these environmental hazards and eyesores. Yet it is still possible, with time and effort, for dedicated groups to remove them. The Kitimat Valley Naturalists decided to remove two wrecks beached on the foreshore of Minette Bay, a key part of the Kitimat River estuary.

Our first step involved several discussions with Rob Dams, our DFO community advisor. He directed us to several government agencies that would need to grant approval. These included the Prince Rupert Coast Guard, DFO, Environment Canada, and the BC Ministry of Environment.

We soon realized this would not be cheap. Funding would be needed. We contacted the former owner and insurance broker of the most toxic vessel. After numerous e-mails and conversations, an agreement was reached. The insurance company agreed to cover the cost of removal.

The next step followed a detailed plan. First, a close inspection of the wreck was conducted by the Kitimat Valley Naturalists in order to confirm the absence of hydrocarbons. The time of year was important as DFO wanted the removal done before the estuary flats began to green up in the spring. Rio Tinto Alcan required official papers, an independent environmental construction monitor, and guarantees of safety procedures being followed before granting access across their land. The Kitimat city landfill officer needed official notice before accepting the crushed wood and fiberglass from the wreck. DFO needed details about how the craft was to be removed, estimates of impact to the foreshore, and disposal of toxic fuels or contaminated mud. Lastly, Oviatt Contractors required



Beach cleanup on a large scale. Photo: Dennis Horwood.

several weeks' notice in order to have their excavators and dump trucks available to crush and remove the wreck.

This all took time. From the initial idea to the disposal date, well over a year went by. Nevertheless, persistence paid off. On March 20, two excavators appeared just after high tide, attached a towline, and waited while the tide dropped. Then, as one excavator "tugged" on the line, the second, perched on some log supports, dragged the wooden craft high enough onto the shoreline to begin an expeditious removal. In a few hours the wooden craft was nothing more than a pile of rubble being loaded into a dump truck.

Unfortunately, the second wreck – curiously named *First Try* – proved beyond our reach. The heavy concrete hull could not be dragged, and crushing it on site would have meant considerable estuarine damage. The excavator crews also envisioned getting stuck in the thick mud and possibly being swamped by the incoming tide.

How can we remove *First Try* with as little damage, cost and effort as possible? We are floating two ideas, which, after consultation with the Coast Guard, Environment Canada, and DFO may result in the vessel being removed before the year ends. If so, we hope this will signal an end to our valuable estuary being used as a dump site for unwanted watercraft.

## Kicking off year 6 of the BC Green Games

DFO's Stream to Sea Education Program is proud to promote a partnership with Science World's BC Green Games. We encourage students in grades K to 12 to document and share their environmental action stories.

Showcase your school's achievements around Salmonids in the Classroom, Storm Drain Marking, and Streamkeepers! Science World awards prize money to winning entries.

Visit <http://www.bcgreengames.ca/> and view entries from last year. Projects can be submitted in video format or in PowerPoint with photos and text. It's a great opportunity to get youth involved in the technology of capturing the story. Register your project now until November 30. The submission period for completed projects is February 1 to March 1, 2014. Winners are announced in April.

Science World can send you promotional materials such as posters, postcards, and buttons. You can also print off your own BC Green Games poster from the website.

Best of luck to our Stream to Sea classrooms!





## Streamkeepers Update

# Tweet, tweet, tweet...

by Zo Ann Morten

For years I thought this was the call of the western tanager. Now am told it is short, insightful one-liners that your followers are eagerly awaiting from you. We have become communications junkies, hands poised over smartphones, anticipating the next bit of news. But what are we to do with all this information?

Each bit of information we take in helps us to define our thoughts, our beliefs, our actions. I believe it is important to read e-mails that come from “like-minded” people but it is also important to read and understand where others are coming from. Hence the value of something like the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation (PSkF) online messageboard at <http://www.pskf.ca/message.html>. Some of the e-mails I receive are meant to be shared and the messageboard provides the means. It has become a treasury of information and has served well as a filing cabinet of sorts. When I need information on a particular subject, I often find myself doing a search of past posts as well as the standard Google search of the world’s knowledge banks.

But beyond that, I believe that we all need to “do something” with the knowledge and understanding we have garnered from all that information we have digested. I like the quote attributed to Abu Bakr: “Without knowledge, action is useless, and knowledge without action is futile.”

Just such an opportunity arose recently. I had the most amazing summer this year! It was so fun getting out into community and sharing the “how to’s” of the Streamkeeper protocols, as well as how to enter data into our new Streamkeepers data-entry tool.

I enjoyed myself so much that I found myself posting work days onto my personal Facebook account.



I posted pictures of our Pacific Streamkeepers Federation regional “offices”, like this one in Nanaimo. Photo: Pat Morten.

Pictures of streams, sunshine, smiling faces, Hach kits, bugs, clipboard, all very visual and engaging. It was these posts that got me thinking that this is how we share our lives and what is important to us with family, friends, and long-lost school mates – we do it online, on Facebook.

Great days monitoring out on the streams need to be shared. The data we collect on these outings also needs to be shared. And they have been. It’s just that they have been shared in different places.

The technical data is available at <http://www.streamkeepers.info/>. Just click on reports: the list of streams, modules covered, and volunteer hours donated is growing as more groups log on. This information is available to all to view, to use, to better understand what is happening in a particular watershed.

For the personal stuff, there is Facebook. Streamkeeper groups across the province have constructed Facebook pages. It’s a great recruitment tool. Post your photos of a day out on the streams, and then others can tag themselves on your pictures to have

them show up on their own page, allowing their moms, grandmas, aunts and uncles to keep up to date on their activities. Not to mention all those friends who always wondered what you were up to on the streams but had never asked in case you were one of those “tree huggers” with an extra piece of rope with their name on it.

I love volunteering with our local Streamkeepers group for tons of reasons, and one is so I can try out new things, to check and see if they work out before adding to my PSkF repertoire. So I took the sort of Streamkeepers Facebook page that many groups have constructed and married it with the new Streamkeepers data-entry tool. Now people can see what the North Shore Streamkeepers did out on the stream, and can link to the data we collected at the same time. Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/nssk.ca> and scroll down to our spawner survey ([or click here](#)).

While it will take time to post all our past surveys, at least now we can share our amazing outings and findings in a way that our friends can appreciate and in an easy-to-share format.





# Jet boaters please take note

by Marg Evans

The Horsefly, Mitchell, Chilko, Chilcotin, and Quesnel rivers, and their tributaries, provide critical spawning, rearing, and foraging habitat for many fish species. These include kokanee, sockeye, chinook, coho, and large rainbow and bull trout.

Surveys have shown that juvenile fish are dying in large numbers after being washed up and stranded on sandbars and mud flats. The disturbance is caused by the passage of large boats, including jet boats.

Wake and bottom pressure from boats also increase streambank erosion, disrupt spawning adults, and increase the mortality of incubating eggs. Boat wake stirs up sediment, which can smother incubating eggs and food sources, and even damage gills. One large wake can kill extensive numbers of fry and/or eggs in just one pass,

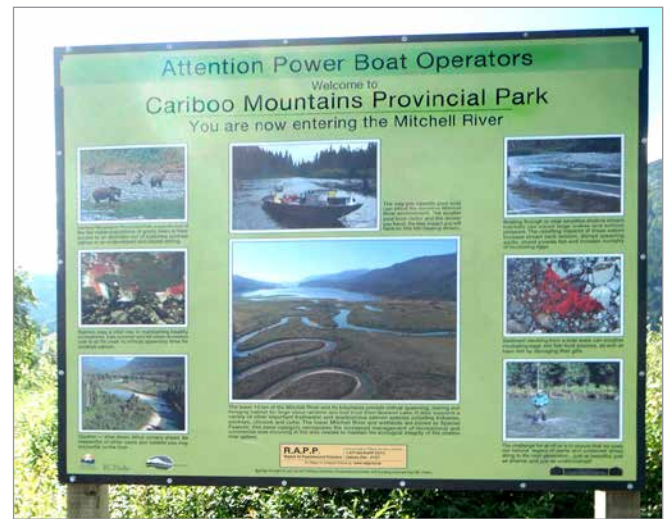
resulting in extremely reduced future runs.

Keeping jet boats away from sensitive river areas seems to be the only answer.

The Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society has been working over the past year and a half to raise public awareness about the impacts on fish from jet boats travelling over sensitive habitat.

We have put advertisements in the *B.C. Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis* and the *Cariboo-Chilcotin Fishing Guide*.

Through a BC Parks Centennial grant, we also placed site-specific signage in critical areas at the mouth of Mitchell River and at the docks in Likely and the Elysia Resort from which most boaters head out onto Quesnel Lake. The Georgia Strait Alliance has also



Strategically placed signs may increase awareness among jet boaters. Photo: Rob Dolighan

come on board and included the issue in its Green Boating classes, a wonderful support.

With increased awareness, we hope to get boaters involved in protection of these rich waterways.

## The Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program

DFO launched its Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program (RFCPP) in June. The RFCPP is a two-year, \$10 million program to support restoration activities through partnerships with local groups who will undertake a variety of projects to restore and/or create recreational fisheries habitat throughout Canada. The long-term goal is to enhance the sustainability and ongoing productivity of Canada's recreational fisheries.

To date, 28 projects have been approved in British Columbia. The Government of Canada will provide as much as \$1.9 million to support these projects, which include:

- Restoration of Lower Stave River Salmon Habitat – Pacific Salmon Foundation

- Restoration and Enhancement of Critical Fish Habitat in Cowichan Region Creeks – Cowichan Land Trust
- Little River Habitat Restoration – Little River Enhancement Society
- Fish Access Improvements at Nash Creek – Trout Unlimited Canada
- Campbell River Mainstem Chinook Gravel Placement – Campbell River Salmon Foundation

Eligible recipients are established recreational fishing and angling groups and conservation groups. Four million dollars was allocated for 2013, with the remaining six million dollars being made available next fiscal period.

Applications will be taken this November for projects that are planned to take place between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015. Visit the RFCPP website regularly for more details on the next call for proposals.

Applications within the Pacific Region are to be submitted to RFCPP-PPCPR. [Pacific@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Pacific@dfo-mpo.gc.ca). Information on the RFCPP, including the Application Form and Guidelines, is available [here](#).

The RFCPP program is being managed through the new Fisheries Protection Program (FPP). Should you have questions, contact Adam Silverstein: [adam.silverstein@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:adam.silverstein@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).



# The Coho Festival at Snootli Creek Hatchery – a Good Catch!

by Sandie MacLaurin

Lots of folks braved cold weather and the threat of rain on September 29 to “migrate” to Snootli Hatchery, near Bella Coola, for the semi-annual Coho Festival jointly hosted by the Central Coast Fishermen’s Protective Association (CCFPA) and DFO staff.



A ring-toss contestant with exceptionally fine form. Photo: Michael Wigle.

held rod. The top fisher of the day was Aaron Schieck with 2075 points. He took home a lucky fishing hat and a couple of Kitimat Lures (barbless, of course) to use on real coho right here in the Bella Coola River.

Everyone took an interest in the chinook salmon egg-take demonstration by Haakon Hammer, Marshall Hans, Croydon Lansdowne, and Kaila Willis (a very able volunteer using her skills from several years as a Snootli Hatchery summer student). The egg-take is a perfect tool for teaching about the physiology and life cycle of salmon. It is also a great opportunity for some “small fry” to fertilize the eggs by mixing them with sperm, knowing that “their” eggs will become fry in late February or early March of next year. The crowd was quite impressed with the fact that each of the chinook salmon females had approximately 5,000

Duck Race, held just above the Snootli Creek Bridge. A tote of numbered model ducks is released into the water and they head downstream. Race fans see how river hydrology can mess up a sizable lead, and how the winner cannot be determined until the finish line is crossed. Congratulations to lucky ducks Morgan Boileau, Vera Robson, and Gary Radstack, who took home the prizes.

The CCFPA want to let folks know that any proceeds from the fundraising activities go to local coho salmon enhancement and assessment work. They welcome new members – contact Shirley Willson at [saswillson@xplornet.ca](mailto:saswillson@xplornet.ca).

Festival organizers would like to thank all the DFO staff, CCFPA and BCWCS members, BC Parks staff, and community volunteers who contributed their time and energy to make it such a fun day, and our thanks as well to all the local residents and visitors that came by.

Participants could enjoy a delicious lunch of barbecued troll-caught coho donated by Croydon Lansdowne and take in the many fishy activities offered. There were informative displays by the Bella Coola Watershed Conservation Society (BCWCS) and BC Parks, plus games for small fry and adults alike. Everyone got three spins on the “Wheel of Death” salmon survival game that illustrates the challenges facing Pacific salmon, and then could “eggstimate” the number of eggs in a dish, with a prize for each lucky winner. The pre-festival colouring contest posters were displayed for all to admire.

For little fisher folk there was the Fishin’ Pond, where every cast was a lucky one. The more avid sport fishers tried their hand at a fishing simulator. They could hook and play an on-screen coho salmon with a real hand-

held rod. The top fisher of the day was Aaron Schieck with 2075 points. He took home a lucky fishing hat and a couple of Kitimat Lures (barbless, of course) to use on real coho right here in the Bella Coola River.

As always at the Coho Festival, there was a Leaky Wader Fishermen’s Relay. The relay had four parts. First, teams geared up in rather oversized waders, wading belts, fishing vests, and lucky hats. They then transported fertilization eggs to “incubators”. While the eggs were incubating, the teams sorted out a bag of letters to make the name of a local stream (very impressive how the teams came up with Nuxalk and Snooka!). The final task was to head back to the egg incubator to “shock” eggs, pick out the “dead”, and count the “live”. This year we had four enthusiastic teams; it was such a close race that the top team won by only one point!

The finale of the Coho Festival is always the Merganzer Eggstravaganzer



[Collecting broodstock on YouTube](#)

See how it’s done! Over 50 volunteers took part in pink broodstock collection on the Oyster River this year.

[Stonefly Creek restoration on YouTube](#)

This video features volunteers and DFO staff explaining the art of stream restoration at Stonefly Creek. Stars a handsome stonefly!

[ARMS Newsletter](#)

Catch up on the latest news from the Alouette River Management Society in Maple Ridge.





## A Squamish Thanksgiving

### The bounty of nature and 50 years of work bring pink salmon home again

by Matt Foy

As summer slides into fall, the phenomenal 2013 pink salmon run to the Squamish River is winding down. It exceeded all expectations. Such an abundance had not been observed in 50 years. For many people, this year's return would seem to have come out of nowhere, but others understand the hard work and dedication that has contributed to this remarkable recovery. In this season of giving thanks, it seems fitting to reflect on the path that has led from the great run of 1963, through the years when pinks were almost absent from the watershed, to this great year.

From the 1950s to the 1970s, a booming logging industry, rapid industrial and urban development, dam construction, and an exuberant commercial fishery put increasing pressure on pink salmon populations around the Georgia Basin.

In the Squamish River watershed, a series of weaker returns followed that of 1963. Fewer than 50,000 pinks spawned in 1975. That year, a storm tore at the land and reshaped river banks recently cleared of their timber. Channels shifted, gravels were scoured and tossed downstream. By 1977 it was a rare sight to see a pink salmon spawning, and this would be case for over a generation.

In 1985, a pink salmon recovery program was initiated. Salmonid Enhancement Program (SEP) biologists and engineers developed a plan to restore critical Squamish River and tributary spawning grounds by developing protected side-channels.

Tenderfoot Creek Salmon Hatchery collaborated with groups such as the Seymour Salmonid Society. From 1985 to 2013, many millions of pink salmon eggs were collected in

the Indian and Squamish rivers, incubated at the Tenderfoot facility, and then planted into protected and restored side-channels within the Squamish River watershed. By the 1990s, Squamish River returns had noticeably strengthened, and pink salmon could once again be seen spawning in the Cheakamus, Ashlu, Shovelnose, and Mamquam rivers.

Community partners such as the Squamish River Watershed Society worked with SEP to acquire funds for more extensive protected side-channels and improvements to Squamish estuary rearing grounds. In 2013, CN Rail installed a fish-friendly culvert crossing under their rail line. For the first time in living memory, pink salmon entered Tenderfoot Creek, at a count of over 10,000.

The federal Habitat Restoration and Salmonid Enhancement Program, the Forest Renewal BC Watershed Restoration Program, the BC Hydro Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, and the CN Rail Cheakamus Ecosystem Restoration Program contributed to the effort.

The Squamish Streamkeepers and Squamish River Roundtable provided more voices for environmental recovery programs in the region.

Squamish Nation lands on the Cheakamus and Ashlu rivers and Mamquam Island were made available for more habitat restoration. The North Vancouver Outdoor School gave access to their extensive property along the Cheakamus River, which now has the most restored side-channel habitats in the Squamish River watershed. The District of Squamish offered lands along



the Mamquam River and Mamquam Blind Channel. BC Rail and later CN Rail gave access to their holdings in the Squamish Estuary, to allow for tidal channel re-connection, installation of fish passage culverts through dykes, and marsh restoration.

BC Hydro assessments of pink fry migrations in the Cheakamus River recorded lows of 1.4 million in 2004, rising to over 29 million in the spring of 2012.

The stage was set for a strong return of pinks to the Squamish River watershed in the fall of 2013, but no one would have predicted how bountiful the ocean would be over the months these fish were at sea. From Alaska to southern B.C. and into Puget Sound, pink salmon returns in 2013 have approached record levels in many watersheds.

Photos: Matt Foy, Steve Rochetta (Squamish grizzly)



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## Seymour Hatchery Open House

by Sandie Hollick-Kenyon

Heavy rain and wind wasn't keeping visitors away from the Seymour River Hatchery Open House on Rivers Day, September 29, 2013. Over 400 people hopped on shuttle buses at Rice Lake Gate to travel the 10 km to the hatchery. Tours of the hatchery and surrounding forest went on all day, with a salmon barbecue and games and crafts for kids.

The day was made even more special by this year's return of pink salmon. Pinks returned to the Seymour River in greater numbers than experienced since before enhancement. Hundreds of pinks have made it to the upper Seymour River, with some of them putting on a spawning show for Open House visitors in the tributary below the hatchery.

This Rivers Day was also a great opportunity to celebrate the many



improvements that took place at Seymour River Hatchery over the summer. The Society received a total of \$170,000 in funding from Western Economic Diversification Canada, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, Newalta, and other supporters. These much-needed funds went toward a new roof and skylight, a new storage shed and repairs to semi-natural rearing channels.

All in all, a great day was had by everyone who visited the hatchery for the Open House. Kudos to everyone

from the Seymour Salmonid Society and Hatchery who worked so hard to make this such a successful occasion.

To receive StreamTalk by e-mail please contact Joanne Day at [Joanne.Day@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Joanne.Day@dfo-mpo.gc.ca), with the subject line "StreamTalk by e-mail."

### **StreamTalk**

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**Canada**

...*Thanksgiving*, from page 7

Once in a while, perhaps once in a lifetime, nature will conspire to surprise, inspire, and humble those who believe that paradise lost can never be recovered. Once in a while we get a glimpse of the way it was – to witness a great run that reminds us all how little we really know. And then we give thanks.

Thanks to all those who make a contribution to salmon recovery, whether in their workday or through their personal efforts.

Thanks, too, that the great brown bear that comes down from the hills each fall to rule over the Ashlu River Flats, will eat many pink salmon and grow fat. He will emerge from his winter den high on the slopes of Mount Jimmy Jimmy, healthy in next spring's sunshine.

Thanks that the Squamish floodplain cedar tree will grow a metre next year, as nitrogen and phosphorous brought up from the ocean depths by the pink salmon of 2013 will seep through the gravel beds into the aquifer that feeds its roots. The tree will be harvested 50 years from now, part of a sustainable

wood supply supporting the local community and housing families in places far and near.

Thanks that Kos, Chief of the Salmon People in the village under the sea, has not forgotten to send his youths in pink salmon form to feed his relatives on the land: a promise honourably kept, to be acknowledged and respected.

Thanks that the grandmother transient killer whales, using old memories, have led their pods to a place of abundance.

Thanks that the skippers and crews of the seine boats caught Squamish River pink salmon for three memorable days, with nets so full that even seasoned veterans were impressed. Their hard work provided for their families and those of Fraser River processing plant workers, and sent wholesome and sustainable meals of pink salmon to a million people across the world.

People who cherish pink salmon know that the season came early this year: a Squamish River Thanksgiving.

