



Presidents Report



Cold Spell Volunteers

I would like to thank the many volunteers who continue to work around the hatchery and the Club grounds during the recent cold spell. The parking lot needed clearing of snow and the roads salted while the time consuming task of cleaning the outside rearing channels had to be completed regardless of the conditions. It should also be noted no less than twenty volunteers were on site on Christmas and New Year's Eve.



Watershed Developments Update

Over the past few months we have continued monitoring the growing development within the river watershed. Club Vice President, Ron Meadley, Club Director (and President of the Little Campbell Watershed Society) Phillip Milligan and I spend a considerable amount of our time in this endeavor. During the last few months attention has been paid to two planned residential developments. These developments had the potential to undo previous restoration work carried out in the river's tributaries by Club volunteers.

The first development was on the property owned by the Hazelmere Golf & Tennis Club at 184th Street and "0" Avenue. This development application calls for the rezoning of agricultural land to residential to accommodate 136 single family lots. Our concern focused on storm water management and the risk to Kuhn Creek that runs through the property. Club volunteers, with the cooperation of the Hazelmere Golf and Tennis Club, had restored the creek a number of years ago.

We raised an objection to the development since we felt the development plan did not adequately address our concerns as outlined above. At the request of the developer, follow up meetings were scheduled, including a tour of the property. When we felt the developer had a full understanding of our concerns and had agreed to modify the development plan accordingly, we withdrew our objection. This development application continues through the approval process at the City of Surrey.

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Left to right: Randy Hay, Peter Reid and Danuta Malarski working on the salmon/trout rearing channels on a very cold Saturday afternoon

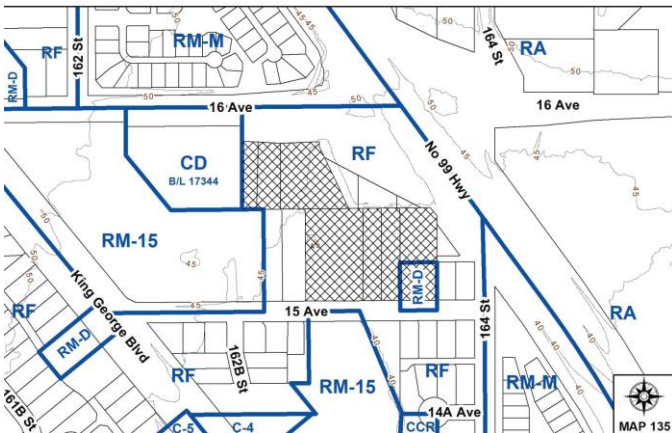
Thank you is also due to Norm Taylor and his crew who rebuilt and extended the split rail cedar fence along the north side of the Fire Pond. The extension became necessary after a young visitor slid into the pond. Though the pond is not deep it was an unpleasant experience. See following photo.

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The second development that consumed a considerable amount of our time was the residential development known as "Dawson's Creek". This development called for the rezoning of seven single family properties (4 1/2 acres) to accommodate the construction of 79 townhouse units. The development is located between 15th and 16th Avenues with Highway 99 to the east.



Hatched area indicates the seven properties to be rezoned

This development had already reached third reading in the City of Surrey Council and will be approved despite the high density. It did, however require a Variance Permit due to its close proximity to Carlson Creek (more commonly known as Fergus Creek) that flows through the centre of the complex. This gave us the opportunity to challenge a number of aspects of the Development Plan as it related to the creek.

Our primary concern was that the developer was marketing the complex as "creek side homes". The creek was being viewed as an appealing water feature and not a "Class A" salmon and trout stream. I wrote a letter to the Mayor and Council highlighting our concerns including the fact the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans; the provincial Department of Highways; the City of Surrey Engineering Department, as well as local companies and club volunteers had worked for four years to restore the creek both upstream and downstream from this development.

It is fair to say the three levels of governments had expended close to two million dollars in this effort. For our part, the Club had campaigned for many years to have this creek restored after the City had terminated its use as a storm water outlet. We were also instrumental in getting agreement to place 88 tons of spawning gravel in the creek to restore the original gravel scoured out during the time the creek was used as a storm water outlet.



Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program (SHaRP) summer students, overseen by Club volunteers Neville Dearsley and Roy Thomson place spawning gravel in Dawson (Fergus) Creek at 14th Avenue in 2012

Thankfully our concerns were recognized and in not one, but on two separate occasions, the City Council referred the Variance Permit back to the City Planning Department to address our concerns. Ron Meadley, Phillip Milligan and I attended a meeting at City Hall with the developer and his engineering consultants, as well as City Planning Department staff. We prepared a 20 minute photo/video presentation highlighting the Club's 60 years of dedication to the restoration of the Little Campbell River and its tributaries. The presentation also emphasized the level of effort and cost already expended in restoring the creek. In conclusion, we made several recommendations to maximize the protection of the creek; the salmon and trout that would be spawning within the condominium grounds, as well as those passing through to spawn further upstream.

Later in the day we were notified the developer had agreed to meet our recommendations. This was confirmed in writing in a follow up conference call with the City Planning Department. We asked the setback from the creek be increased; a public walkway be removed; a steel link fence be installed to protect the creek and the creek bank be left in a natural state. We also asked we be allowed onsite during construction to monitor storm water management and soil erosion. Thank you to those City Councilors who respect the work we do and support us in our ongoing effort to protect the watershed.

If we do not persist – *"profits will overshadow people and property developers will shape our community"*

Bob Donnelly, President

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Historic Prospective

Each year when we guide the thousands of Elementary School students along the nature trails (as part of their participation in the Salmon in the Classroom Program) we point out signs of the logging that took place during the 1890's. The one obvious sign is the numerous large cedar stumps that can be seen from the trail. If you look closely you will see notches on both sides of these stumps.



Cedar stump at the south end of pedestrian bridge – note notch

These notches were made in the trees by the loggers over 125 years ago. Into these notches the two loggers would place what are called "spring boards". They would stand on these boards set a number of feet above ground level at a more comfortable level to cut down the trees. Large axes and two man saws were the tools of the trade during these early days.



This brings us to a wider discussion on the history of the area including our 29 acre property. The Club grounds are located in what is historically known as "Hall's Prairie". While the First Nations people have moved up and down the Little Campbell River (known as the Tahtaloo to the First Nations) for hundreds of years, the area is called Halls Prairie, after the first white

occupant of the area. Sam Hill, a trapper, and his First Nations wife lived on this small prairie from 1845 until the early 1860's when they were forced out by wolves in a particularly cold winter.

The first settlers came to Hall's Prairie in the mid 1870's. At the time there were no roads and the only practical method of transportation were carts pulled by oxen. Mrs. Margaret Stewart, one of the first settlers who arrived in 1878 with her family, recorded some early memories. Her father, originally from Ontario, came north from the Blaine area and had to build a bridge across the Little Campbell River to reach his new homestead just west of 184th Street near 16th Avenue. He cleared a forested area to build a cabin for his family and at the time she recalled the trees were over 300 feet tall.

The Club's property at that time was owned by a family by the name of Heintz who had homesteaded a two section piece of land on the west side of 184th Street between 16th and 8th Avenues. The original settlers purchased most of their goods in Blaine since the closest town on the Canadian side was New Westminster. There was a reference at the time the Little Campbell River was full of trout but residents from Blaine had crossed the border and "cleaned most of them out".

The first roads were not constructed until 1880. 184th Street at the Club's entrance was called Hall's Prairie Road, while 8th Avenue was called Campbell River Road and 16th Avenue retained the name North Bluff Road. "0" Avenue which was originally a trail used to maintain the iron posts that marked the boundary with the USA was named Boundary Road. It was at this time a post office was established in a settler's home and stage coach service was introduced between Blaine and New Westminster along Hall's Prairie Road.

As the number of settlers increased there was a need to build a school in the area. The first temporary school, built in 1884, was constructed of logs and stood near the entrance to the Club grounds on the east side of Hall's Prairie Road. A more permanent school was built on the same site and opened in January 1885 with 12 pupils up to grade five. This school was named "Hall's Prairie" school. This school was replaced in 1892 by a larger one room school by the same name built on Campbell River Road site where it continues today on what is now 8th Avenue opposite the Hazelmere Golf and Tennis Club.



Hall's Prairie School students and teachers circa 1900

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A second school, called East Kensington School, located on Hall's Prairie Road, at what is now 28th Avenue, was opened in 1898. The building was a 10 x 12 x 7 foot abandoned shack left on the property by the Royal City Mills Logging Company. East Kensington School continues to this day on the same site.



East Kensington School students in 1900 with teacher Miss Phoebe McLinnis who was 16 years old

The reference above to the logging company brings us back to the significant level of logging that took place on the Club's grounds and elsewhere in the neighbourhood between 1890 and 1910.



A team of ten horses pulling logs close to the Club grounds

Initial logging operations in the early 1880's used oxen to move logs from the forest but within a year or so the use of horses became the mainstay of operations until the railroads were built around 1890. As late as 1892, however, early settler Ted Thrift recalled seeing a string of twelve oxen pulling three very large logs in the vicinity of the current Peace Portal Golf Club grounds.

There were some short railways built by the logging companies between 1887 and 1889. However, it was not until 1891 when the New Westminster and Southern Railroad (NWSR) was completed that logging operations switched primarily to railways to transport logs to the Fraser River. In addition to meeting the needs of the logging companies, the NWSR provided passenger and freight service between New Westminster and Blaine. There are strong indications the rail line crossed the Little Campbell River at Hall's Prairie Road at the entrance to the Club's grounds. See following photo.



*2 spot
Hall's Prairie Road*

Photo of construction crew likely taken at the entrance to the Club



Logging camp within a few kilometers of the Club grounds



Passengers and conductors from a NWSR train awaiting the removal of a tree that has fallen across the tracks. Train smoke stack can be seen in the background

We wish to thank Club Director Norm Taylor for uncovering the photos in local archives and Club President Bob Donnelly for the research and text.

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ARCHERY

The new year is upon us. The Mail-in Match has started and is held on Saturday mornings at 9:30am. You should try to be there by 9:00am. This year it is set-up more like a tournament.

The February Valentine Shoot is being held on February 18 and 19th at the Cloverdale Agriplex. Setup will be on Friday, February 17th. Volunteers welcome! For those of you who have never seen the Valentine Shoot, we encourage you to come and check it out. It's quite impressive. Spectators are welcome and it's free to watch. Anyone who wishes to help can contact Stan Jones at grizz660@shaw.ca or Rob Reynolds at cslr11@telus.net. This is the third year for this event.

Outdoor keys are now available, \$40 for new keys, \$30 if you return your old key. The best time to pick up keys is Monday and Thursday from 7:00pm to 9:00pm on Archery night. You can also pick them up on Saturdays from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Cash or cheques are accepted. If you are also paying for your membership, please do so separately—one cheque for membership and one for keys.

Any questions about Archery or upcoming events, please email jz1952@telus.net

John Zawada

MEMBERSHIP

Please note John Zawada is now the SFGC Membership Director. Please mail all memberships to the club address as indicated on the application form, not to John or Jim Helsdon (previous Membership Director). **Please do not send cash in the mail**, this is for your protection.

You may have noticed we have a new application form (see attached), which now includes an emergency contact person and number. It also includes the original start date when you first became a club member, if you can't remember the exact date, give your best guess of the month and year you first joined. In the Primary Reason for Membership section, please **check only one box** (the activity you are most interested in). For those of you who sent in the old application form, these will be processed as usual.

Printing of membership cards has been delayed. We will start sending them out by the end of January. If you have a suggestion to improve the form, or have any questions or concerns regarding membership, please email me at jz1952@telus.net

John Zawada, Membership Director

FROZEN SPLENDOUR



(Club member James Wilkins took this photo during January's cold snap)

EAGLE EYE



James Wilkins also took this photo of a perched bald eagle on club grounds – January 12, 2017

Important Member Notice

Though the club maintains volunteer liability insurance club members are reminded that volunteer activities are undertaken at their own risk. Members are also reminded to:

- Not to undertake tasks for which they are not physically fit or are not qualified to do.
- To observe all safety codes and procedures
- Not to operate machinery or equipment without proper training

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RANGE CODE OF CONDUCT

All SFGC members who are granted Range status must comply with the established Club policies and bylaws, as well as all applicable regulations.

Violation of the Range Code of Conduct can result in revocation of Range status for three months or expulsion from the SFGC. Penalties will be relative to the infraction!

Safety violations will result in the maximum penalty!

You Must Carry Required Documentation

All SFGC range members must have appropriate firearms documents with them and be prepared to show them to Club officials.

- For non-restricted firearms these documents include: PAL/POL
- SFGC membership card displayed on a lanyard worn around the neck

For restricted firearms these documents are required:

- PAL/POL
- Firearm Registration Certificate
- Authorization to Transport a Firearm
- SFGC membership card displayed on a lanyard worn around the neck

You Must Follow Canada's Firearms Laws

Transport, uncase, and handle firearms using procedures outlined in the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Student Manuals.

Approved Range Activities

The Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club has an indoor approved range. This range must be used in accordance with provisions of the Firearms Act, SFGC bylaws and policies, and general firearms safety procedures.

The operation of SFGC Range falls under Provincial and Federal guidelines for indoor range use. Any violation of the Range Operating Approval (ROA) could result in immediate closure.

SFGC Range: The Range is open to all SFGC members and guests during regular operating hours.

Legal Requirements

The Canadian Firearms Centre operates a toll-free information line. The purpose is to provide information about the law to individuals, business or others who may be affected by its provisions.

Possessing or Acquiring A Firearm in Canada

In order to possess or acquire a firearm in Canada, you must take the Canadian Firearms Safety Course for long guns and the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course for handguns.

It is your responsibility to ensure you are compliant with all applicable firearms regulations.

Transporting Your Firearms as a Range Member

Non-Restricted: You require the following pieces of documentation before you can bring your non-restricted firearm(s) to SFGC.

- Your firearms license (PAL/POL)
- Club membership (our club or another club, if you are a paying guest)

Non-restricted firearms (rifles) must be transported unloaded.

Restricted: You require the following four pieces of documentation:

- Your firearms license (PAY/POL)
- Registration certificate for each firearm you are bringing with you
- Club membership (our club or another club, if you are a paying the guest fee)
- An Authorization to Transport (ATT)

Restricted/Prohibited (pistols and some rifles) must be transported unloaded. In addition, they must have a trigger lock and also be locked in an opaque case that cannot be easily broken into or opened.

The SFGC range is approved for .22 rifles and handguns up to .45 ACP, target loads only, no magnum loads.

Authorization to Transport (ATT)

There are two kinds of ATT's available to Canadian shooters: a Short-Term ATT, good for a few hours or days, that authorizes you to bring a new firearm from the place of purchase to your home, and a Long-Term ATT that usually covers all travel to and from approved ranges, gun shops, and the U.S. border, and is good for up to five years, expiring on your birthday, the same as your PAL/POL. You must have a Long-Term ATT before you can apply for a Short-Term ATT.

Pointing A Firearm

In Canada it is illegal to point a firearm at anyone, for any reason, even if it is unloaded. Keep this in mind as you move about the range, join the other shooters at the firing line, and leave the firing line at the end of your session. Even an incidental "sweep" of other shooters with unloaded firearm is absolutely unacceptable.

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RECORDS FOR GUEST USERS OF RESTRICTED OR PROHIBITED FIREARMS

RECORDS: FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS MUST BE RECORDED AS PER SECTION 14. SEPARATE BOOKS FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS.

Records:

.14(i) The operator of an approved shooting club shall keep records, with respect to the following users of restricted firearms or prohibited firearms, that include:

(a) with respect to a member or officer of the club

(i) his or her name, address and phone number,

(ii) his or her membership card number, and

(iii) the number of his or her license to possess firearms, or if one does not exist, his or her date of birth; and

(b) with respect to a guest of a member or officer of the club

(i) the information required in subparagraph (a)(i), and

(ii) the number of his or her license to possess firearms if one exists.

(2) Every record made under subsection (1) must be maintained for at least six years.

(3) At the chief firearms officer's request, the operator of the approved shooting club shall submit to the chief firearms officer a report containing all or any request part of the information described in subsection (i).

Participation of Officers, Members and Their Guests

.15(i) The operator of an approved shooting club shall, on the request of a chief firearms officer, supply a written description of the participation, if any, of a current or past member or officer of the shooting club or his or her guest, in target practice or target shooting competitions within the previous five years, where subsection 67(2) of the Act applies to the member, officer or guest.

(2) The operator of an approved shooting club shall, on the request of a current or past member or officer of the shooting club or his or her guest supply to the requestor the description referred to in subsection (1) that concerns the requestor.

Wayne J. Wright, Range Officer

PLEASE NOTE: "Any person shooting on club property must be able to understand English range commands or provide their own translator who must be at the bench with him/her at all times."

BCWF CONSERVATION LOTTERY

SEMIAHMOO FISH AND GAME CLUB

BCWF
BC WILDLIFE FEDERATION

CONSERVATION Lottery

Grand Prize
2017 Yamaha Wolverine R-Spec EPS Camo Side X Side
Grand Prize valued at over \$15,000!

1st Prize
Early Bird Prize (Draw Feb. 28th)
Italian Sporting Goods \$500 Italian Sporting Goods Gift Card

2nd Prize
BCWF \$3,000 CASH

3rd Prize
Pacific Coastal Round trip airfare for 2 between Vancouver & one of 5 BC locations

4th Prize
Cabela's \$1,000 Cabela's Gift Card

5th Prize
Outdoor Outfitter \$1,000 Wholesale Sports Gift Card

6th Prize
Husky \$1,000 Husky Gift Card

7th Prize
Yamaha PW 302B Pressure Washer (valued at \$999)

8th Prize
Bradley Original Smoker & Apple Smoking Bisquettes (valued at \$475)

9th Prize
Rapala Float/drift rod and apparel package (valued at \$300)

Buy Your Tickets Today!

JIM HELSDON
604-533-7922
jhelsdon@shaw.ca
www.bcwfbf.bc.ca

\$10 PER TICKET

Know your limit, play within it. 19+ to play!

EDITOR'S DESK

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Thanks again to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter. If you have a story or photos you'd like to share, I'd love to hear from you. The deadline for articles is the **first Tuesday** of every month.

THE SEMIAHMOO TRADER



Just a reminder if you have started your spring cleaning early and found some items you'd like to buy, sell or trade (i.e. hunting, fishing, archery, camping, etc...).

You might consider posting an ad in the Semiahmoo Trader. If you are interested, contact Cheryl Zawada at sfgcnewsletter.cmz@gmail.com or 604-888-3794. Please include the name of the item, a brief description, price, if applicable, and your contact information. Deadline for ads is the **first Tuesday** of the month. Ads will only appear in that month's newsletter. **Please note The Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club is not responsible for any items posted in the Trader.**