



Presidents' Report



On Monday, March 12th Larry Pynn, the environmental / special projects reporter for the Vancouver Sun, visited the Club. Larry is the recipient of 25 journalism awards including eight Jack Webster Awards and has recently been chosen as one of three Vancouver Sun / Province reporters nominated for a national award.

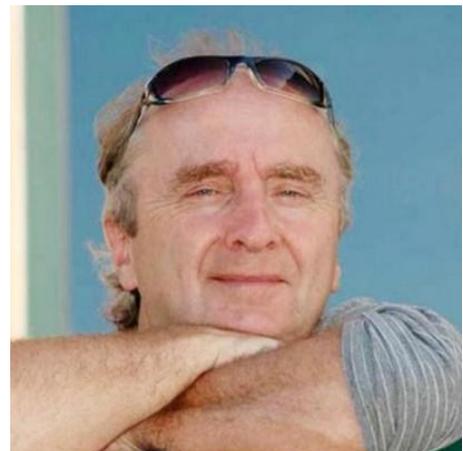
Larry had recently written an article on the issues associated with the proposed Hazelmere Golf and Tennis Club residential development on 0 Avenue at 184th Street. This development, located just three kilometers south of the Club, has been seen as a threat to the Little Campbell River. Since he hadn't had the opportunity to visit the river he contacted me to arrange a tour of the river. During his lengthy visit, aside from touring the river, I took the opportunity to show him around the hatchery and make a presentation on the Club's 60 years of dedication to restoring and protecting the river.

Larry was very interested in the impact the unprecedented level of industrial and residential development in South Surrey would have on the Little Campbell River. He was especially interested in the impact on the marine and the wildlife which depend on the river and the associate forests for their habitat.

Two Notable Visits to the Club

In recent weeks I had the pleasure of hosting two important visitors to the Club. On March 8th the MP for South Surrey / White Rock, Gordie Hogg, accompanied by his Ottawa office assistant, David Small, spent close to two hours visiting the Club grounds. During that time they toured the hatchery and reviewed a presentation highlighting the reasons behind our need to upgrade the hatchery infrastructure. The planned approach to the upgrade and the associated costs were also discussed. In this meeting we were joined by key hatchery volunteers.

Mr. Hogg, a lifelong resident of White Rock, has a long association with the Club reaching back to his time as Mayor of White Rock and his many years as a Provincial MLA. As I have mentioned in last month's Newsletter, Gordie and his Ottawa staff are looking into possible federal government funding for the hatchery upgrade. He requested the visit so as to gain a more detailed understanding of the issues and to show his support.



Larry Pynn



Gordie Hogg MP

The full article and an associated video were published on the Vancouver Sun online site and the front page of the Vancouver Province. A link to this very well written article and the related video is included below.

<http://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/development-threatens-productive-little-campbell-river-in-south-surrey>

Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter

Start of School Tours

While most school tours of the hatchery and the nature trails do not start until after the school Spring Break, there are always a number scheduled in early March. Though the school tours mean a large commitment on the part of the Club volunteer guides it is always a pleasure to see the children return to the grounds. For one of the early March school visits this was the 31st year their teacher has participated in the Salmon in the Classroom Program.

This is a testament to the program and the benefits it brings to elementary school students. During the visit, Club volunteers impress upon the students the role the iconic Pacific salmon plays in the history of our Province. The importance of salmon to the survival of other wildlife such as the bears, Orca whales, eagles and othe marine animals is also highlighted during the presentation to the students.

More than 90 classes will again be visiting the club this year to release their classroom raised Coho salmon into the river.



Grounds Improvements

In last month's newsletter I mentioned the Club had entered into an agreement with the Construction and Specialized Workers (CSW) Union Training Society. The agreement, among other benefits to the Club, included the option for construction trainees to complete their training on Club grounds. If the instruction included the laying of concrete then this work would be for the benefit of the Club.

At the end of February, the trainees under the instruction of CSW trainer Robert MacRae, (who is also a Club member) completed concrete work at two locations on the grounds selected by the Club. This included a sidewalk between the hatchery and the river bridge to the hall as well as a base for a portable toilet beside the outdoor archery range.



Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter

Trail Fencing Completed

The extensive project to construct fencing along the main trail on the south side of the river has been completed. This initiative was undertaken to make the trails safer for the thousands of visitors who walk the nature trails each year. The use of split Cedar railings were deemed the best material to lessen the impact of the fencing on the natural setting.

Thank you to Jim Wilkins and Norm Taylor for undertaking this project.



While the main trail functions well, there is now a need to review the access to the many side trails in an effort to lessen the impact on the wildlife. This will be a topic at the March Directors Meeting.

Chinook Salmon Release

The annual release of the Chinook salmon fry into the river is scheduled for Saturday, April 21st between 10am and 2pm. This year over 45,000 fry will be released as part of the wider City of Surrey Environmental Extravaganza event. For a small donation to the hatchery children will be provided with a pail of Chinook fry to release into the river from the gravel bars by the fish counting fence.

The Use of the Trails

There has been a growing concern within the Club that the increased use of the trails is having a negative impact on the wildlife. The trails were cleared soon after the Club purchased the property in 1978. The aim was to provide an opportunity for Club members and visitors to observe the salmon in the river and the wildlife in the forested portion of the Club grounds.

Through time it became apparent the main trail would require an upgrade. This decision was driven by the need to accommodate the increasing number of school tours and to provide handicap access.



Surrey Teachers Association

As part of the **Surrey Teachers Association Professional Development Day** teachers will be visiting the Club on May 4th to get an understanding of what students will experience as part of the Salmon in the Classroom Program. This will include a review of the Club presentation on the importance of the salmon to our province; tour of the trails and release of a salmon fry into the river. Over the past three years close to 150 teachers have taken the opportunity to review the Program.

Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter

Yes, He is Still With Us!



There has been a lot of interest and debate on this little fellow on our website and Facebook page since he was highlighted in our February newsletter. It has been agreed he (or she) is in fact a white mink. The video link below was provided by Club hatchery volunteer, Roy Thomson.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHW2agO6UxI>

Bob Donnelly, President



Photo courtesy of Fred Koch

Listening Bowl Babble Ramble

On Sunday, March 18 at the Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club, Celina Strachan (VG PlayRoom project) hosted a Listening Bowl Babble Ramble along the forested trails. It was an easy ramble along the lower trail as Poet Musician Enrico Renz used a melodic mixture of random sounds to evoke imagery to silent listeners. It was a silent walk with no talking, no shuffling of feet but a time for artistic reflection along the riparian banks of the river to just enjoy the sounds of nature.

A much different walk than the school tours we lead as this was a time to stop, look, listen and reflect on the beauty of the wildlife ecosystem we have helped to create and maintain in the ever increasing onslaught of urban development at the cost of precious trees and native wildlife.

March 2018

At the end of the walk hot tea was available and the melodic strings of the guitar floated around the gazebo with the harmonious sound of a voice without words.

Impressions of the walk were shared with words, ideas and poetry. We were all thankful for the work the SFGC has done to preserve the Little Campbell forest trail and keep it in a natural state.

Check out VG PlayRoom Project at
ListeningBowl.<http://ListeningBowl.wordpress.com>

Phillip Milligan

SHOOT FOR THE CURE

We are holding our annual Shoot for the Cure on May 5th and 6th, so be sure to put those dates on your calendar archers! There is a potluck dinner on Saturday night, May 5th. Everyone is welcome to come.

Semiahmoo Archers
Shoot For The Cure
Proudly Supporting
CROHN'S AND COLITIS CANADA
CAMP GOT2GO
FOR KIDS WITH CROHN'S AND COLITIS
May 5-6
WIN DOOR PRIZES
Limited Camping Onsite
Silent Auction
Start Time 8:00 am
Awards 3:30 pm
Breakfast & Lunch Available
30 Targets
All Rinehart Targets
CROHN'S Awareness
RINEHART TARGETS
For More Information Email Stan
griz660@shaw.ca
SEMIAHMOO FISH & GAME CLUB

Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter



ARCHERY

The Mail-In Match continues until the end of March. We have had a good turnout this year. The BC Provincials are being held in Victoria this year from March 31st to April 1st (Easter weekend). Good luck to everyone!

The indoor range continues to be very busy. Demand for the outdoor range keys is very high, especially with the sunny days we've had this past month. Outdoor keys are \$40 if you return your old key, otherwise it's \$60 a key. We will be installing new targets outside once the weather improves. A large number of members use the outdoor range and the targets take a beating.

2018 High Performance Archer Funding Program

The club has run various programs in the past regarding funding for athletes who attend out-of-town championship events but due to increasing interest over the past few years, the process for funding application has been formalized for 2018. Funding for 2018 will only apply to out-of-town travel events necessary or required for participation in either a provincial or national team; local or 'fun' events will not qualify for funding.

Club members who choose to apply for funding will be required to declare their intentions to apply for funding before July 1st. Once members have declared their intention to apply for funding, they will be required to track their volunteer hours and travel costs for the club to review when making final funding decisions. In order to maintain impartiality, funding decisions will be made by a committee of club directors and senior archery club members. The cut-off date for 2018 funding applications will be November 1st, 2018. Please contact Paul Van Tassel (pvantassel@gmail.com) to declare your intentions to apply for 2018 High Performance Funding.

Stan Jones
Paul Van Tassel

ARCHERY TRAINING SEMINAR

On September 28, 29, and 30, 2018 SFGC will host an advanced compound archery workshop. The workshop is a mix of presentation and shooting, going in-depth into the technical and mental aspects of shooting as well as the tuning of equipment. This will be the third year in a row the club will host the workshop and it has been a great benefit to the participants who have attended over the last couple years.

The instructor of the workshop, George Ryals, is a professional archer from the United States who is considered to be one of the top instructors in the world. George hosts these workshops around the world every year and is also the head coach of a team of local youth archers at his own club. His archery team

has won over 26 national titles and multiple world titles. As a result of his team's success, he was the recipient of the 2014 US Olympic Committee National Developmental Coach of the Year Award and was named the 2014 USA Archery Developmental Coach of the year.



Since the workshop has been hosted at the club, the response from the participants has been overwhelmingly positive and in the past few years, this workshop has drawn participants to our club from all over BC, Alberta and Washington state. If you are interested in participating in this workshop, please contact Paul Van Tassel (pvantassel@gmail.com). SFGC club members will be given the first chance to register in the workshop but registration will be open to non-club members in June. If you are interested in the workshop, sign up early so you don't miss out on your chance to participate.

JUNIOR OLYMPIC PROGRAM

Our classes have continued to be quite busy throughout March and all of our students have been working hard to complete their class levels. As we move closer to the end of indoor season, we move closer to the BC Archery Association Junior Indoor Championships. Last year we had one student from our program attend the event, but this year we have a much larger group of students from our classes who will be participating. This event will take place in early April in Maple Ridge and we wish all of our students good luck in this tournament!



Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter

Here are this month's class award recipients:

Hawk Team Awards:

Ethan Lemire: 15m level
Noah McNulty: 8m level
James Morrow: 8m level
Amilya Mason: 6m & 8m levels

Owl Team Awards:

Nysa Agarwal: 12m level
Ethan Batic-Woloschuk: 12m level
Isabelle Bergen: 12m level
Emma Bergen: 8m level
Rhys Lee: 10m level
Griffin Boutillier: 10m level
Josh Mesa: 8m level
Kyle Wisla: 8m level
Aisha Wilson: 6m level
James Scott: 6m level

BC Archery Association Awards:

Andrew Cook: Olympian 270
James Morrow: Master Archer
Logan Rix: Bowman Level
Ryan Gao: Bowman Level

Junior Archery Program Year-End

This has been an extremely busy school year for the junior archery classes and we have run at class capacity while maintaining a wait list to get into class since August. As we move into April, we will move into our last set of weekly classes for this school year. We are being forced to wrap up class earlier this year than we have in past because it will be hard to find enough free weekends in a row to hold classes due to out instructors' extremely busy tournament schedule. Since we have not been able to fit everyone into class who has been on the wait list, we will plan on holding one or two "Try-Archery" classes for those students so they do not completely miss out on the opportunity to participate in our archery classes.

Paul Van Tassel

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



RANGE REPORT

Greetings members! I wasn't sure what topic to go with this month, until the recent Handgun Night. Once again, the club members here brought a smile to my face.

It was a very busy night in the range, with plenty of new faces and lots of smiles. Our volunteer range officers were being amazing, as usual, and I had club members come to me to offer to share shooting lanes so we could fit more people in. Some dear friends even brought me dinner, since they knew I often don't get a chance to eat before coming to the range. 😊

I love the feeling in the range, where we're all working together to have a safe, and fun, evening. Great people like you make these evenings much more than target practice. Thank you for that. We may have a range closure coming up, so be sure to check the website, under the 'Range' section, to see if we'll be open.

Allan Johanson, Range Director



HUNTING

Hello Hunters!

You must purchase hunting licenses and tags online and will now have to wait for them to arrive in the mail. There is no hard copy of your hunting license, just your copy of your tags to carry with you. You **must** carry picture ID and your PAL. The system is quite friendly, although you do have to add everything to the shopping cart one at a time, then complete the purchase. You can go back and add an animal later if you wish.

Next date to look forward to will be when the LEH opens to put in for our group animal hunt. Talk around the hunting forums is animal sightings are low for the areas north of Prince George and west to Vanderhoof. We will have to wait and see if rumours are true about total closure for last year's burnt out areas when the LEH is posted. Remember, if you have an ATV you **must** carry a valid driver's license too.

James Wilkins, Hunting



EDITOR'S CORNER

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Thanks again to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter. If you have a story or photos our members would be interested in, please contact me. Submissions are due the **first Tuesday** of the month. Happy Easter Everyone!

Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter

Tunkwa Annual Ice Fishing Event

Baby it's cold outside was the refrain at -22 as we stood around a six inch hole in the ice waiting for the big bite, any bite, even a little nibble, as how could we not be successful fishing in a lake that has thirty thousand trout lazily swimming around looking for choice morsels of dew worm or meal worm or tasty shrimp or even that shiny silver lure.

Our destination was the great Tunkwa lodge at Tunkwa Lake Resorts and the lodge is a real beauty. Warmth from an electronically programed propane fireplace kept the lodge cozy and warm no matter what the temperature plunged to outside at night. A well-equipped kitchen had all the things needed to make great meals from the food we brought up. The lodge slept eight burly guys quite nicely as we all had our own beds and with two washrooms there was no fear of a late night run to the outhouse. The main table easily sat eight for dinner and no one sat on the four bar stools at the counter. Two comfortable sofas and two easy chairs suited us just fine while we watched the Olympic Games. Jim Wilkinson was a fountain of information about the ice-skating and we all learned more than we knew before.

We prepped our fishing gear the night before or just before going out on the ice. We had to be very careful with the live bait and worms or they could freeze and die if not kept warm. Ice fishing rods are not very long and the person fishing stands right beside the hole or sits in a chair. Concentration is necessary when handling the fishing rod and baited line. Fish in the cold water do not lunge at the bait but nibble or just suck it in. That is why everyone stays alert waiting for the tug no matter how light. More about the fishing later but first the big surprise.

Somehow a small but well stocked bar appeared at one end of the counter and at the other end to counter balance the weight, a huge stockpile of life sustaining junk food was heaped up in a glorious display imitating a Las Vegas buffet. We had our priorities right from the beginning.

The cold was brutal but we were prepared with new boots and some new cotton lined pants to keep us warm on the ice. Armed with two augers, chairs, fishing gear and bait, we headed out on to the thick ice. Unfortunately, it had recently snowed so it was hard trudging through the soft snow and when we arrived to our designated spot to fish, we were overheated. Since there were eight of us and only two augers, someone had to stand around feeling the icy fingers of winter reaching into sensitive spots. Drilling holes into the 30 centimetres of ice certainly warmed us up. Finally, all the holes were drilled and we started to fish.

Dinners in the lodge were a lively affair. After we removed the layers of clothing, had a drink and could freely talk about the ice fishing and Hawaii. Barbequed chicken, potato salad, coleslaw and all the fixens made a good meal with the leftovers going to make a soup the next day. Cheese lasagne, meat lasagne and garlic bread made a great meal after fishing. The counter top was starting to be cleared off.

We had this idea the further we went out on the lake, and the furthest we got away from the warmth of the lodge, the greater the chances of catching bigger fish. We bit the idea and marched across the lake and started to bore holes in many different places looking for the schools of big fish.

We decided to cook up our venison dinner stew for lunch so it was put in a slow cooker at twelve o'clock at night. Unfortunately, the slow cooker was too quick and the cooking aromas wafted up into bedrooms, which made it difficult to sleep. Upon checking the stew at four o'clock in the morning it was considered done but it was left on anyway just because it smelled so good.

The one thing about fishing is the great expectations of catching something. Even a bite would be encouraging but there were no bites and no fish except for one lucky person and he gave the prize away to a hungry eagle that swooped down and claimed it as his own. You know it is time to go home when the counter top is empty. **Phillip Milligan**

