



Summer 2019

Presidents Report



I join the Club Directors in wishing our members and their families a safe and enjoyable summer.

The most serious issue facing our Club today, and it is a very critical issue, is the lack of Club members that are prepared to volunteer their time to help keep our Club in operation. The Club cannot continue without members being prepared to serve as Club Directors or to assist in the maintenance of the Club facilities/grounds and to help with Club activities. This is not new, but as time goes by the few volunteers that we have relied upon for many years are getting older.

This situation was driven home recently when the Club was forced to cancel our annual Salmon BBQ due to a lack of volunteers. This traditional Club event attracts hundreds of local residents and has been held every year since 1958. Many of the Club members who volunteer each year to help with the BBQ are now in their late 70's or 80's and are no longer capable of continuing their volunteer support for the Club. Replacement volunteers from within the Club membership could not be found. A worrying outcome considering the fact that several hundred individuals hold membership in our club.

The Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club, since its incorporation in 1957, is a "not for profit" all volunteer organization. We are unique in many ways because of our extensive facilities, grounds and activities. As a consequence, we rely heavily on Club volunteers. Unfortunately, for the past decade or so, the vast majority of Club members have shown little interest in stepping forward to help keep the Club in operation.

It may be that there has been a change in our "culture" and volunteering is no longer popular or practical. Regardless of

the reasons, our Club cannot continue to operate without dedicated volunteers. In recent years many organizations similar to ours have terminated operations due to the same issue. A prime example of this would be the Burnaby Fish & Game Club. Many will recall this club recently donated \$20,000 to our Club as part of their wind up process.

At the Club General Membership Meeting in June it was announced that Ron Meadley, the Club Vice President (and acting Hatchery Director); Fred Koch, the Club Treasurer and I would not be running for re-election at the end of this year. Combined, we have served over 45 years as Executive members of the Club Board of Directors. It should also be noted that the lack of Club members prepared to volunteer their time has required Ron and I, in particular, to take responsibility for multiple Directors positions over the years. Like many of our dedicated volunteers we are now in our late 70's and are challenged to maintain the level of effort need to carry out our extensive Club volunteer duties.

It is now time for other Club members to come forward and share the responsibility for managing the Club. We are only one short step away from suffering the same fate as the Burnaby Fish & Game Club. Remember that all our buildings, roads, grounds and bridges are maintained by a small group of volunteers. So, if you enjoy using the Club grounds or range facilities and would like this to continue, please give some thought to volunteer some of your time. Beside the Board positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Hatchery Director there will likely be more openings on the Board as well as a wide range of other volunteer opportunities.



If you feel you can help please leave a message on the Club phone (604 535-8366) or speak to a Club Director. We would like to set up a time to meet. You can be assured of a lot of support from our current Directors and volunteers.

Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter

Bob Oswald Visit



To the great pleasure of many, on Saturday July 13th, long time Club member and past Hatchery Director, Bob Oswald, made a surprise visit to the hatchery. Bob, who lived on the Club grounds, held the position of full time Hatchery Director (in addition to other Club Board of Director roles) from the time the hatchery was built in 1984 until he retired in 2013.

Bob, who now lives at 108 Mile Ranch in the Interior, spent considerable time viewing the recent hatchery upgrades and touring the nature trails.

Hall Upgrades

Though there are now few Club events held in the hall it is essential that it is maintained to a high standard to attract groups prepared to rent the facility. Without the rental revenue generated from weddings, other events and cadet activities it would not be possible to keep the building open. The cost of insurance, taxes, utilities and general maintenance of the building have increased to the point that they exceed the Club revenue (after expenses) from Club memberships and range user fees.

In recent years there have been suggestions that due to the high costs and the ongoing inability to attract Club volunteers to supervise rental events, that the facility should be closed.. This of course would lead to the termination of the downstairs range operation – something we are not prepared to do.

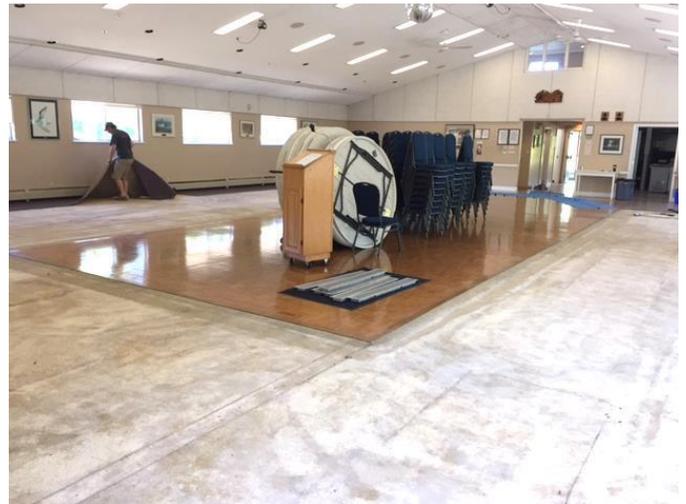
The Club now finds itself in the unenviable position of being the operator of a commercial hall. A task that places great stress on a small group of Club volunteers. We need to attract more rental income to cover the funds necessary to maintain and upgrade the 25 year old building. In the past year alone, aside

from the operating costs, the cost of upgrades have exceeded \$25,000. These Club funds were expended to cover the cost of replacing the original window coverings; upgrading the audio/video system and more recently replacing the hall carpets. Unfortunately it does not end there. The septic field has exceeded its planned life and there is a growing concern with the building plumbing.

we are all very proud of this great facility we must continue to generate rental revenue and find sufficient Club volunteers prepared to supervise the rental events. I know that nobody joined the Club to help operate a commercial hall but that is where we find ourselves.

So if you enjoy using the downstairs range please recognize the extensive effort that is necessary to keep the facility open. And, please volunteer to help supervise hall rental events.

If you are prepared to help please leave a message on the Club phone (604 535-8366).



The hall carpet, initially installed in 1994, was fraying at the seams and was badly stained after 25 years of heavy use



New carpet and refinished parquet dance floor

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Bridge Repairs

What was considered to be a significant but relatively simple project to replace the deck on the river pedestrian bridge turned out to be a major project that has yet to be completed.

The marine plywood deck of the bridge was beginning to disintegrate and was identified as a project to be undertaken by the core group of Club volunteers. If you look closely at the bridge you will see that, in fact, it is an old semi-trailer flatbed. The original marine plywood was installed over the trailer timber bed when the bridge was put in place over 15 years ago.



Bridge being lifted into position around 2003

When the marine plywood was removed it was discovered that much of the original semi-trailer flatbed timbers had rotted due to their exposure to many years of high river levels. The destruction was so extensive that it was necessary to remove all the timbers before the new plywood deck could be installed.



Rotting deck timbers under the original marine plywood deck



Club volunteers Bill Ridge, John Sparett, and Kent Hillman working on the bridge deck

During the removal of the old deck it was discovered that the foundations on the south side of the bridge had been dangerously undercut by the river flow. Identifying the best approach to restoring the foundations and seeking approval to proceed has just made this a major and complex undertaking.

As a salmon river any work on the banks of the Little Campbell River must be approved by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). Furthermore, since the river is also classified as critical habitat for a "Species at Risk" (Salish Sucker), any bank stabilization requires a "Change Approval" from the Provincial Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development.

Representatives from the DFO have visited the Club grounds, viewed the bridge foundations and discussed approaches to carrying out repairs. A Change Approval request has been submitted to the Province based on the recommendations from the DFO. Since a response from the Province may take up to five months and due to the potential safety issues Club volunteers will be installing and monitoring a temporary fix.



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Hatchery Trout Rearing Channels Repairs

Major repairs are underway in the hatchery trout rearing channels in anticipation of the delivery of this year's Steelhead trout fry from the Provincial Abbotsford Hatchery.

Unlike the Pacific salmon, trout do not die after they spawn. As a result the eggs and sperm, from the trout brood stock selected at the Club hatchery fish counting fence, is extracted by staff from the Provincial Abbotsford Hatchery. The staff have specialized equipment to remove the eggs and sperm without harm to the fish. The eggs are fertilized and taken to the Abbotsford Hatchery to be raised to the "fry" stage. The fry are then returned to the Club hatchery in June or July. The Club hatchery volunteers then raise the trout until May of the following year when they are transported to the river estuary in White Rock and released.

For some time it has been obvious that the valves at the east end of the channels was leaking and in need of replacement. Replacement of the valves, originally installed in 1987, was seen as a difficult task due to its depth and the need to locate a suitable replacement. Aside from the valve replacements it has been necessary to repair or replace the predator screens.



Club members constructing trout rearing channels in 1987

A big thank you is due to the Club volunteers who continue to devote their time and energy to the maintenance of the hatchery infrastructure and the Club grounds. The following volunteers, under the direction of Ron Meadley, Club Vice President and acting Hatchery Director, have contributed to the bridge and rearing channel repairs.

Bridge – Bill Ridge, Kent Hillman, Lloyd McKay, Tom Craig and John Sparett

Valve Replacement – Kevin Boeglin, Lloyd McKay, Kent Hillman, Dan Kelly

Predator Screen Repair - Bert Fraser, Barrie Richardson, Peter Reid, Kent Hillman,



Club volunteer Dan Kelly inspecting valve after excavation

Summer Students

The Club was fortunate this year in getting approval and funding to hire two students under the Federal Government Summer Student Program. The local students, Isaac Drots and Matthew Malczewski will be focussing in grounds maintenance and other jobs around the Club until the end of August.



Matthew, left with Isaac working on the bio-filter pasture



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Rotary Club of White Rock Donation



The Rotary Club of White Rock has been a strong supporter of the Club. This includes our 63 years of dedication to the restoration of the Little Campbell River and the protection of the marine and wildlife in the river's watershed. Of particular interest to the Rotary has been the Club's 35 year commitment to educate Elementary school students on the life cycle of the iconic Pacific salmon and the importance of protecting the environment.

The Rotary members have visited our grounds and I have had the privilege of making a presentation to their membership on our Club activities including our efforts to protect the Little Campbell River from irresponsible development.

As a sign of their support for our Club activities the Rotary Club of White Rock has kindly donated a wheelchair especially designed to allow handicapped visitors to tour the Club trails.

Thanks to Club member Bill Haymond for accepting the wheelchair on behalf of the Club.



New wheelchair donated by the Rotary Club of White Rock

Seeking Historical Club Photographs

In an attempt to document the history of the Club we continue to seek photographs from the Club's past. If you have old photographs that you would like to share please contact me at bobdonnelly@telus.net or leave a message on the Club phone. Any information on the photo such as when it was taken and who is in the photo would be greatly appreciated.

All photographs will be copied and returned.



Club handgun members practicing on the Club range in the 1970's or 80's. The range was located in the gravel pit north of 16th Avenue and west of 192nd Street



Club volunteers constructing the Club's first 'broom handle' fish counting fence in 1983.

Critical General September Meeting

The next Club General Membership Meeting will be held in the Club hall on Tuesday, September 10 at 7:30pm.

This is a critical meeting and we encourage everyone to be present. The last General Meeting, held in June, was well attended with close to 40 Club Members participating. It was at this meeting that the three senior executive members of the Club announced they would not be seeking re-election. The impact of the departure of these executive and the chronic lack of volunteers prepared to serve as Club Directors, or to help around the Club, was also discussed in depth.

The September meeting will be the last before the Annual General Meeting in December when the election of the 2020 Board of Directors will be held. We must get an indication at the September meeting that there is sufficient interest within the membership to fill the openings in the Board. If not, then consideration will have to be given to how best to reduce Club activities or, if necessary, explore the options to terminate the Club. *We cannot continue to depend on a few to keep the Club in operation.*

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Early Club Member Celebrates 100 Birthday

I had the pleasure of spending some time with Mary Beales during her 100th birthday celebration at the Club hall on Sunday, August 25th. Mary and her late husband Sid, who for many years was the White Rock train station manager, are "life" members of the Club.

Mary, who remains very active, could not recall the year they joined the Club but was confident that it was in the 1950's.



Mary Beales 100th Birthday tribute at a full Semiahmoo Fish and Game club with her daughter's Brenda and Maureen and South Surrey / White Rock Member of Parliament Gordie Hogg

School Hatchery and Trail Tours

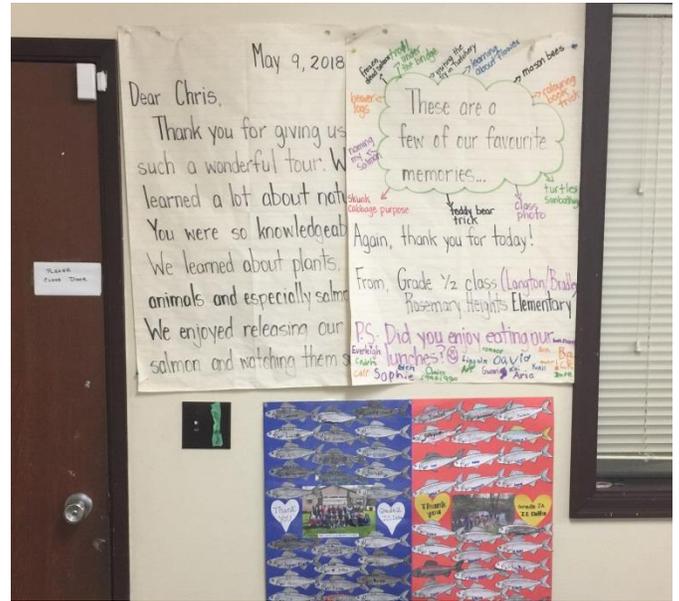
The annual school hatchery tours were concluded in May. This year over 105 Elementary School classes from Surrey, Delta and Richmond toured the hatchery and nature trails. The tours also include a slide/video presentation but the highlight of the tour is always the release of the Coho salmon fry the students raised in their classrooms

This year we also had an increasing number of "special needs" students as well as Secondary School "students at risk". It is a pleasure to host these students. The teachers are consistent in their feeling the exposure to nature and the tour of the hatchery has a positive impact on the students.

Thank you to the dedicated hatchery volunteers who served as tour guides and supervised the salmon fry release. A special thank you is due to Darryl Day for scheduling the tours. It is no

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small task to coordinate and supervise over 2,500 students and several hundred teachers and parents who participate in the program. Since the Club started our association with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Salmon in the Classroom Program over 100,000 students have participated.



Student thank you posters from Rosemary Heights Elementary in Surrey and Immaculate Conception School in Delta

Power Pioneer Salmon BBQ

On Thursday afternoon, August 22nd the Club hosted the annual Power Pioneer's Salmon BBQ. The "Power Pioneers" are an association of BC Hydro retirees. The Club has been hosting this event for over 20 years. In addition to the BBQ the Power Pioneers rent the hall for their monthly meetings and luncheon.

Thank you to the core group of Hatchery volunteers who gave up their day to make this event a success.



Bob Donnelly, President

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Air Cadet 907 Squadron Nationals Team



Once again the 907 Black Knights range team that trains in the Club range on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings qualified for the Canadian National Cadet Marksmanship Competition.

After winning the Regional and Provincial Cadet competitions the 907 Black Knights Squadron travelled to Victoria B.C. on Saturday May 4th to represent British Columbia in the Cadet National Marksmanship Competition for the 5th year in a row. The shoot started Sunday morning with an Opening ceremony where all teams were led into the Gymnasium by a cadet carrying their Provincial Flag. There were 20 Provincial Unit teams, and the next ten top Individuals from across Canada not on a Unit team. This consisted of 110 competitors overall and 46 in the Junior Category.

On Sunday and Monday each competitor shot 14 targets in the Prone Position. At the end of this part of the competition, 907 Squadron was Second place, behind the same team that won the prone competition in 2018. Teresa Liao was 4th place, Dai 15th and Cui 18th place in the prone portion of the Shoot. Ruby Liu shot the first of 9 perfect 100 targets shot at the competition.

On Tuesday the teams had the day off of shooting, and visited the Hatley Castle, Royal Roads University, and Fort Rodd Hill Park in the Morning. In the Afternoon went to the Royal BC Museum and other sights around Victoria.

On Wednesday and Thursday Morning they shot 7 Standing targets to complete the main competition shooting. Although they came first in 2018, they were 6th place in 2019. Liu was 22nd, Lebl 24th, and Liao 27th of the 110 competitors.

When you add the scores for Prone and Standing together, 907 Squadron was 3rd place of the 20 teams, just 6 points behind the second place team.

In the Junior category Ruby Liu of 907 was first place, and Jacob Lebl 7th place. As a result of this each got to shoot in a Juniors Finals Match against the top 10 Junior shooters. The match consisted of shooting 10 rounds prone, 5 rounds standing, and the lowest competitors were dropped from the Summer 2019

shoot. They then shot one standing target with the next lowest dropped until only one shooter remained. Jacob Lebl placed second in this competition.

Below is a photo of the team with Coach Verne Brown, Ruby Liu with the Prix Clement Tremblay Award for the Top Junior, Ruby Liu and others receiving their 100 targets, and Jacob Lebl getting his Silver Medal for the Junior Finals Match.



Ruby Liu with the Prix Clement Tremblay Award for the Top Junior

**Verne Brown, Coach, Range Safety Officer
907 Black Knights Squadron**