

What's up at ARMS?



Alouette River Management Society

24959 Alouette Road, Allco Park, Maple Ridge, BC

Tel: 604-467-6401 Fax: 604-467-6478

Website: www.alouetteriver.org Email: arms@telus.net

Fall 2008

ARMS is a Charity

Your donation will help enhance the environment in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

All donations receive a charitable tax receipt. Phone ARMS to donate today.

Upcoming Events

September 28:
15th Annual Ridge Meadows Rivers Day
Allco Fish Hatchery
24959 Alouette Rd.
11 am to 3 pm

October to December:
Salmon Surveys
For more information see page 2

November 16 –
Hyde Creek Salmon Festival at the Hyde Creek Rec. Centre
Port Coquitlam
11 am to 3 pm

May 15-17, 2009 –
Salmon Enhancement Program Workshop
"Sustaining the Spirit"
Maple Ridge
For more information see page 2

54 Sockeye Return to Alouette

Last year saw the return of Sockeye Salmon to the Alouette Watershed for the first time since they were extirpated after the Alouette dam was built in the 1920s.

This spring ARMS, Fraser Regional Correction Centre's Allco Fish Hatchery and Alouette stakeholders were preparing for the 2008 run of Sockeye by constructing a new fish



trap (more on the new trap on page 3). 52 Sockeye were stopped at Allco Fish Hatchery, transported above the dam and released into Alouette Reservoir. One sockeye was caught at the BC Hydro trap at the dam and one, unfortunately, died at the dam. All 54 Sockeye had genetic and scale samples taken which will be analyzed by the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo.

Spring surface releases of water from Alouette Reservoir, where land-locked Sockeye, previously thought to be kokanee, left the lake for the Pacific, has resulted in the return of the Sockeye.

Introducing NEW Fall Camps for Kids

To follow our popular summer eco-camps, come two new nature-based camps for children aged 6-12. All camps are located at the Rivers Heritage Centre, beside Allco Park.

Animal Explorers

Discover the incredible world of our forest friends. Each day will focus on a different animal and participants will take home their own crafty creatures to enjoy. Join us as we experience the fascinating and ferocious using interactive games, stories, and activities designed to ignite the animal adventurer. Snack is provided. Dates: Tuesdays, Sept 30 to Oct. 21
Time: 4:00-5:30pm
Cost: 4 sessions for \$45

Eco Adventures

Step away from the ordinary and enjoy the wonders of adventure and environmental learning. Eco Adventurers will investigate the natural world using games, crafts and activities that challenge imaginations and reveal the mysteries of the wilderness. Snack is provided.
Date: Saturday, Oct. 25
Time: 12:00-4:00pm
Cost: 1 session for \$20

Contact ARMS for info: 604-467-6401 or armseducation@telus.net

Register with MR/PM Parks and Leisure
Tel: 604-467-7322 or 604-465-2452
Web: www.mapleridge.ca

Fun, Adventure and the Great Outdoors

ARMS hosted a wide variety of summer camps this year with new ideas, adventures and fun! With the addition of single day camps on top of the annual Wildlife Week and Bugs & Slugs camps, ARMS summer programs were filled with eco-enthusiasm for children.

Bugs & Slugs campers took part in activities such as scavenger hunts, bug box building, and slug races during the 3-day camp. They also enjoyed making their own mini worm composts with the help of special guest, "Captain Compost", and donations by Judy Vaughn, of *Compost Worms*.

Wildlife Week participants created their own recycled paper with the *Ridge Meadows Recycling Society* and became endangered species in habitat activities led by a *Fox Trax Environmental Education* leader. To learn about creatures in streams,

forests, and the air, campers went on hatchery tours, planted trees in the forest, and went on nature walks during the jam-packed week. All took home crafty creations such as mini aquariums and bird feeders to remember the daily theme.

Single day camps were pleased to welcome guests *Raptors Ridge Birds of Prey* during Owl and Rodent day, as well as the *Maple Ridge Fire Department* and *St. Johns Ambulance* for some basic safety activities during Outdoor Adventure camp. The children participated in games and activities in neighbouring Allco Park and became more familiar with the British Columbian wilderness.

Thanks to the Fraser Regional Correction Centre for contributing the wood products for the camps and thanks to the volunteers and special guests who really made the ARMS summer day camps possible this year.

Sustaining the Spirit in 2009

The Salmon Enhancement Program biennial workshop is coming to Maple Ridge on the May long weekend in 2009. The workshop brings together and recognizes the thousands of volunteers throughout British Columbia who devote many hours of work into increasing fish stocks and enhancing fish habitat. The event provides volunteers with a chance to learn new skills, share ideas and meet other volunteers from across the province.

There will be a wine and cheese meet and greet on Friday, May 15. Information workshops and sessions will take place Saturday, May 16 as well as a dinner and campfire. Sunday, May 17 will include tours of

local environmental projects and groups.

We are currently looking for volunteers for the workshop. Call Amanda at 604-467-6401 to find out more.

All members of ARMS are invited to participate in the workshop. To become a member of ARMS, fill out the last page of this newsletter and send it to ARMS.



Captain Compost and campers dig for worms.

Salmon Surveys

Starting in October, ARMS is conducting the second year of salmon spawner surveys on Alouette tributaries in Maple Ridge.

The surveys are done weekly by volunteers. The volunteers count live and dead salmon. The dead salmon are also dissected to determine the sex of the fish and to see if they have any abnormalities, lesions or diseases.

With funding from HSBC through the Pacific Salmon Foundation's Community Salmon Program, ARMS has been able to buy supplies for four survey kits and waders for volunteers to conduct the surveys.

Sockeye have Safer Trap

Sockeye are a determined species of fish and when they encountered the fish trap at Allco Fish Hatchery in 2007, they tried to force their way out of the trap. This left the Sockeye beaten up and used up much of their energy reserves. To make sure future runs of Sockeye would not get hurt by the fish trap, ARMS successfully applied for funding from BC Hydro's Bridge Coastal Restoration Program. Under DFO project management, the old trap was excavated and new

blocks were placed in May and June 2008. With completion on July 3, the hatchery saw the first Sockeye in the trap on July 9.

The old trap had a strong current of water flowing through it but the new trap now has water flowing up from the floor of the trap therefore the sockeye cannot distinguish a direction of flow and will not try to swim out of the trap. The trap succeeded in keeping the Sockeye healthy. We look forward to more Sockeye in 2009.



Engineers carefully place blocks that make up the sides of new fish trap.

Hatchery gets a Facelift



Construction of the new Allco Fish Hatchery office.

It has seemed like the face of Allco Fish Hatchery has been changing almost weekly. In the past year, the electrical building has a new roof, a new fish trap was built, and the children's fishing pond was expanded. Currently, a new hatchery office is being built as well as a rain garden (more below on rain gardens) and

the near future will bring the construction of a new workshop and lunchroom.

ARMS and FRCC's Allco Hatchery would like to thank the Pacific Salmon Foundation for the funds to cover costs for the new roof for the electrical building and hatchery office. PSF is also funding a new pump for the hatchery this year.

Constructing a Rain Garden

The majority of urban areas have surfaces water cannot penetrate. The water is captured in storm drains leading to nearby streams. Any oil, litter and other pollutants are also carried by the water and dumped in the streams.

A rain garden is an area that takes runoff from areas water cannot infiltrate and directs it to permeable ground. The water can flow into the gravel and soil where pollutants are filtered.

A rain garden is now being

constructed at the hatchery and will incorporate runoff from the Alouette Correctional Centre for Women and the hatchery. A pond will be created with native vegetation and we hope it will become a small sanctuary for animals from the surrounding forest.

**2008-2009
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***"Through partnerships and education,
empower the community to take ownership and
responsibility of the natural environment"***

Join the
Alouette River Management Society

If you would like to become a member of ARMS, please complete the following registration and return it by mail or drop it off at 24595 Alouette Road, Allco Park, Maple Ridge.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Annual Membership Type:

- Individual - \$10 Corporate - \$100

Area of Interest:

- Rivers Heritage Centre Environmental Education
 Watershed Projects Native Plant Nursery
 Stewardship Issues Habitat Protection
 Nature and Wildlife Fish and Hatchery Projects
 Urbanization Issues Other: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____