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## Alouette River Management Society Newsletter

Fall 2014



### Return of Sockeye to the Alouette Reservoir

The Allco fish fence went up in June, as it has each year since 2008. Allco Hatchery staff and inmates have been on the lookout for returning sockeye as 2014 is estimated to be a record run for the entire Fraser River stocks. Unfortunately, there have been no reported sockeye caught in the Allco trap so far. Dennis Roberge, a retired BC Hydro employee, also checks another trap at the base of the Alouette Dam and to date has seen no sockeye. Many ideas have been posited as to why we haven't seen any Alouette sockeye back this year, including higher temperatures in the ocean, the possibility that fish may have been caught in a group while returning to the Georgia Strait or Fraser River, and lower water levels in the

Fraser and Alouette due to an unusually dry spring and hot summer.

Last year, the Allco Fish Fence saw a very low return of sockeye: only 10 adults returned and only 7 were transported up to the Alouette Reservoir. Generally, these salmon have a four year cycle, and recent figures reported in the Vancouver Sun (July 2014) for the Fraser run of sockeye have been put at anywhere from 7 million to as high as 72 million. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans estimates that there is a good possibility of reaching 22.8 million. Overall, it will be very interesting to see how many salmon make it up to the Allco Fish Fence in 2014.

This spring ARMS submitted a draft report to BC Hydro for consideration for building fish passage over the Alouette Dam. This report was compiled and authored by Elmar Plate and Bob Bocking of LGL Limited and represents close to seven years of scientific studies on the South Alouette sockeye. BC Hydro's Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program generously provided \$20,977 in funding for this project.

BC Hydro's Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program also approved ARMS for \$32,426 for the experimental release of hatchery-reared sea-run Kokanee into the Alouette Reservoir. This is to evaluate the feasibility of reestablishing sockeye salmon in greater numbers.



## Early Risers Community Cleanup

Every second Friday at 7:00 am, the City of Maple Ridge Community Builders team met at Memorial Peace Park to do a one-hour litter pickup of the downtown core, removing items such as food wrappers, cigarette butts, cardboard, and small pieces of scrap wood and metal. ARMS and dedicated Maple Ridge citizens joined the team for the cleanups; anyone and everyone was welcome to participate and equipment was provided. This initiative was a great way to engage locals, show civic pride, and start the weekend off on a positive note!

The morning cleanup with Community Builders runs from May to September. It is now finished for the 2014 calendar year and will resume in spring 2015.

## Allco Fish Hatchery Receives PSF Funding

ARMS, the Allco Fish Hatchery, and Fraser Regional Correctional Centre work together to help educate the public about the importance of salmon in the Alouette watershed and beyond. To date, the Allco Fish Hatchery has reared 58,286,464 salmon over 35 years. This year, with \$6,857 from the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the hatchery will install 2 new river valves and an interpretive sign and kiosk telling the story of the Allco Fish Fence and the Alouette sockeye salmon.

Part of the hatchery's maintenance plan in 2014 was to replace two 15 year-old discharge valves which were broken after many years of ongoing use. The new discharge valves are vital to hatchery operations as they are needed to allow water to run from all the hatchery ponds and other holding areas back into the South Alouette River or through the Allco fish trap. BC Corrections staff and inmates will work on the project during the dry season, excavating and removing the old discharge valves and replacing them with new ones.

The Allco Fish Fence Interpretive Sign and Kiosk will be an important part of the annual count of returning sockeye to the Alouette River system. ARMS has been working with many different agencies including the DFO, MoE, Katzie First Nations, and other industry

experts to monitor the number of returning sockeye salmon and to assess their parentage and age. As this program has been running since 2008, ARMS is now at the stage of submitting a business case to BC Hydro to build fish passage over the Alouette Dam.

The other extremely important part of this project is to gather public support behind the importance for building fish passage over the dam so that sockeye and other salmonid species can access the upper Alouette system which has been cut off to them for almost 90 years.

Pacific Salmon Foundation representatives and Pitt Meadows / Maple Ridge / Mission MP Randy Kamp (also Fisheries and Oceans Canada parliamentary secretary) visited the Hatchery on August 18th, pictured below.



Allco Fish Hatchery Fish Fence



Pacific Salmon Foundation representatives and MP Randy Kamp are joined by ARMS staff, board members, and volunteers, Fraser Regional Correctional Centre representatives, and Alouette Correctional Centre for Women representatives.

Photo credit: Pacific Salmon Foundation, 2014

## Recent Hires at ARMS

Emily Gutenberg is our new Volunteer & Communications Coordinator. We would like to thank Eco Canada's International Environmental Youth Corp. for \$7,000 in funding towards Emily's new position.

Steve Freeman, our 2014 Summer Student, just concluded his term with us over the summer months as the Adopt-A-Block Assistant Coordinator. Steve is returning to the University of Victoria in September to begin his second year as a biochemistry undergraduate student. We would like to thank Human Resources Development Canada for \$4,300 funding towards Steve's summer position, and wish Steve the best of luck with his academic pursuits!



### Rivers Day Celebration

ARMS is eagerly preparing for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Ridge Meadows Rivers Day celebration which will be held on Sunday, September 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This free annual event will feature exciting environmental exhibitors, great musical entertainment including Two Tall Woman, Gord & Trish, and Chico & Tim, Click and Clown, the Emerald Pig Society face-painting, and the ever-popular trout-fishing pond for kids with the BC Federation of Drift Fishers. Nature walks and birdhouse building with DonCol Nature Products will also be available to kids and their families. BC Corrections management will host the BBQ and Maple Ridge Lions will generously donate the use of a popcorn machine with all funds raised from food sales going to our 2015 Rivers Day event. Local MLA's and representatives from the City of Maple Ridge and the City of Pitt Meadows will also be on hand to welcome the public.

Ridge Meadows Rivers Day is made possible with funding and support from Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Parks & Leisure Services and BC Hydro. Goodies will be supplied by Tim Horton's Community Cruiser for the first time this year. RE/MAX is donating the use of their stage tent, the Maple Ridge Agricultural Association is providing additional tents, and Bob's A-Z rentals is supplying tables. Silent auction items have been donated by Fraser Regional Correctional, Hatch Match'r Fly and Tackle, the Bee Lady, Redl Sports Group, local Maple Ridge artist Liz

Hancock, RONA, Triple Tree Nursery, and Canadian Tire.



### THANK YOU TO OUR RIVERS DAY SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS!



### DonCol Nature Products Abbotsford, British Columbia Canada



## The Bee Ladybuzzes into Allco

Loretta Jackson, aka "the Bee Lady", has had a great spring and summer with the ARMS bee hives and many keen enthusiasts who attended our free honeybee workshops to learn more about beekeeping, the challenges bees face, and what can be done to help bees flourish in our community. Thanks to generous funding from TD Friends of the Environment, ARMS received \$5,000 to continue this very popular program. Funds allow us to offer the beekeeping workshops to the community for free and to purchase beekeeping equipment and other necessary items to keep the bees happy and healthy. ARMS' Pollinator program also received \$1,000 funding from the Maple Ridge Neighbourhood Small Grants to enable us purchase a new honey extractor and bee suits for children, and plant bee and butterfly friendly plants around the Rivers Heritage Centre where the hives are located. For questions and inquiries, e-mail: [thebeelady@outlook.com](mailto:thebeelady@outlook.com)

### #BeeSaturdays



Loretta Jackson, the Bee Lady, shows off a honeycomb from one of the hives at the Rivers Heritage Centre



## Redl Sports teams up with Adopt-A-Block for their annual Make A Difference Day

Every year, Redl Sports gives back to the community by volunteering their time as part of their annual Make A Difference Day. This year, Redl partnered up with the Maple Ridge Adopt-A-Block Program, an initiative managed by ARMS and funded by the City of Maple Ridge. All afternoon, over 40 Redl employees put their best 'grabber' forward and collected litter and debris along a 4km stretch of River Road (from Miller Street to the Haney Bypass) and surrounding side streets. Not even when the hot sunny weather turned to drizzle was their enthusiasm extinguished; they did a remarkable job cleaning up the area.

Adopt-A-Block is a volunteer-based initiative envisioning a litter-free City. The idea behind Adopt-A-Block is to encourage active community engagement and promote proper waste disposal while building neighbourhood relationships. Individuals, families, groups, and businesses can 'adopt' a section of roadway for a 1 or 2-year period. Once a month, they are required to do a litter pickup of the adopted area. With the consent of participants, a municipal street sign of recognition is installed at the adoption address, letting the neighbourhood know that a certain individual or group is to thank for clean, safe streets. The Adopt-A-Block program is a way for citizens to give back to the Maple Ridge community and show civic pride.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about the Adopt-A-Block program, contact us at: 604-463-9699 or [adoptablock@alouetteriver.org](mailto:adoptablock@alouetteriver.org)



Did you see ARMS at Country Fest this summer? We had a fantastic time engaging with the Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows community. We had a chance to educate the public about watershed awareness and our ongoing projects and programs. We also had Frisbee-colouring and salmon cycle activities for kids. Thank you to the volunteers who supported us and to the countless smiling faces that made the Country Fest weekend so special!



## Recent & Upcoming Events

- 7 June – Pitt Meadows Celebration Day at Harris Road Park
- 7 June – The Bee Lady hosted community workshop at ARMS
- 12 June – McKenney Creek postering for Adopt-a-Block cleanup
- 12 June – ILM site visit with BC Hydro
- 13 June – The Bee Lady hosted community workshop at ARMS
- 15 June - Maple Ridge Park Fish Release
- 19 June – Katzie Slough blind channel monitoring – native vegetation id session
- 19 June – McKenney Creek postering for Adopt-a-Block cleanup
- 20 June – Community Builders Downtown Maple Ridge Clean-up (ARMS in attendance)
- 21 June – The Bee Lady hosted community workshop at ARMS
- 24 June – McKenney Creek Clean-up
- 28 June – The Bee Lady hosted community workshop at ARMS
- 4 July - Community Builders Downtown Maple Ridge Clean-up (ARMS in attendance)
- 5 July – ARMS at Haney Farmer’s Market
- 5 July – The Bee Lady hosted community workshop at ARMS
- 10 July – Katzie Slough blind channel monitoring – water quality survey
- 12 July – The Bee Lady hosted community workshop at ARMS
- 15 July – Katzie Slough blind channel site tour with Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
- 16-18 July – ARMS Camp Leaders training
- 17 July – Communities in Bloom Competition site tour – ARMS and Allco Hatchery
- 18 July - Community Builders Downtown Maple Ridge Clean-up (ARMS in attendance)
- 22 July – Redl Sports Day of Service River Road Cleanup – ARMS hosted
- 21-25 July – ARMS MineCraft Summer Camp #1
- 26 & 27 July – ARMS at Country Fest
- 28 July–1 Aug – ARMS MineCraft Summer Camp #2
- 31 July - Katzie Slough blind channel monitoring with project biologist, Mike Pearson
- 1 Aug - Community Builders Downtown Maple Ridge Clean-up (ARMS in attendance)
- 9 Aug – ARMS at Haney Farmer’s Market
- 9 Aug – The Bee Lady hosted community workshop at ARMS
- 11-15 Aug – ARMS Construction Summer Camp
- 16 Aug – The Bee Lady hosted community workshop at ARMS
- 15 Aug - Community Builders Downtown Maple Ridge Clean-up (ARMS in attendance)
- 18 Aug – Pacific Salmon Foundation and MP Randy Kamp Allco hatchery tour
- 28 Aug – Meadowridge Welcome Back Fair – ARMS in attendance
- 29 Aug - Community Builders Downtown Maple Ridge Clean-up (ARMS in attendance)
- 2 Sept – Ridge Meadows Rotary Presentation – ARMS presenting at monthly luncheon
- 4 Sept – ARMS board meeting
- 9 Sept - Katzie Slough blind channel monitoring – juvenile fish trapping
- 11 Sept – Alouette River Sockeye Reanadromization Project Fall meeting at RHC
- 12 Sept – BC Hydro meeting with ARMS at RHC – Alouette Sockeye Synthesis report
- 12 Sept - Community Builders Downtown Maple Ridge Clean-up – 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.
- 13 Sept – Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup with 1<sup>st</sup> Laityview Scouts – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m
- 16 Sept - Katzie Slough blind channel monitoring – vegetation survey
- 20 Sept – GETI Fest at Memorial Peace Park – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 20 Sept – ARMS at Osprey Village – cleanup event with local yoga studio
- 28 Sept – 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Ridge Meadows Rivers Day – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 4 Oct – Lower Mainland Green Team – Allco Park Invasive Plant Pull
- 11 Oct - Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup with West Coast Fish'n Chicks Club
- 16 Nov – Hyde Creek Salmon Festival – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.