

QISES 2020 PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This year 2019/ 2020 has been another busy one for Quadra Island Salmon Enhancement Society. We have been busy with a variety of projects old and new. Our most ambitious project and one we are most proud of was the Drew Creek Restoration. Drew Creek as you know passes through the interior of southern Quadra and emerges from the cedar forest at the beach opposite the We Wai Kai campground in Drew Harbour.

Permission to work on the We Wai Kai land was given by the band.

Money exceeding \$20,000 was received from both the Pacific Salmon Foundation and Campbell River Salmon Foundation

Lawrie Bowles, the resident biologist for QISES, designed the Drew Creek plan. It involved moving and placing logs and rocks and then putting in 8 yards of washed gravel which will provide more spawning territory for the salmon. We now have a healthier place for salmon fry to thrive.

Grant Hayden provided the equipment and know-how to engineer the gravel drop, 60 feet down into the creek using a high line system used in forestry practices.

Grant also moved old logs and placed new ones and rocks into the estuary with the help and guidance of many volunteers.

Another part of the project was to enhance some of the trails in the area with John Barclay , Quadra's trail and bridge expert ,who worked tirelessly to develop the bridge and trail that is already being used by the public school for access and studies of the creek ecosystem. We now have a magnificent bridge and revised trail system that creates a park like atmosphere for public use and education.

To top the new park off, a series of signs explaining the streams history and ecosystem were installed along the pathway near the culvert.

We need to thank Barry Hatelt for installing 2 sturdy cedar benches, one near the bridge and another in the estuary.

Quadra Salmon hopes you will enjoy this short but beautiful trail through the Drew Creek estuary and forest.

Much thanks to the We Wai Kai band for permission to do this project and for their contribution of the huge logs for the bridge

Other projects QISES undertook this year were;

- monitoring Village Bay lakes oxygen and temperatures monthly at various places and depths
- placing of spawning gravel in Granite and Hyacinthe creeks
- holding a Streamkeepers course for the general public
- salmon spawning fish counts in four of Quadra's most accessible streams
- monitoring Mosaic's (Timberwest) cutblock proposals
- ongoing Hyacinthe creek droughtproofing monitoring and work

Another speaker's night was organised by Eileen Sowerby .This year Dr. Kristi Miller of the DFO genetics and virology labs gave a fascinating presentation on her departments efforts to follow the genes and viruses effecting salmon.

Kristi held a lengthy Q and A session after her talk trying to answer questions from the audience, mostly regarding fish farms and viruses.

Quadra Salmon's efforts in all of these projects could not be possible with out the community support we receive.

Special mention to Tru-valu Stores for their points system and to Campbell River Salmon Foundation for their helping with the Drew Creek money and for the \$2500 donation we used for the purchase of a new Honda out board motor for our boat. We use it on the Village Bay Lakes for various projects including the automatic video counting system.