

2021 President's Report

The purpose of the Quadra Island Salmon Enhancement Society is to protect, maintain and restore Quadra Island salmon and their watersheds. To this end, the Society's two main roles include 1) maintaining, monitoring and enhancing watersheds and fish habitat, and 2) providing public education and raising awareness. Our last AGM was held on May 13, 2021. Since that time, our group of hard-working volunteers have contributed time and effort on many projects to support our mandate. It's easy to overlook how much this group of volunteers accomplished in a year, so the following review is a good reminder of our achievements.

We spent a good deal of time working on Hyacinthe Creek in 2021. Lawrie Bowles headed up a stream restoration project below Hyacinthe Bay Road, installing a handful of new structures which will contribute complexity, meanders and pools to the stream bed. This work is ongoing in 2022. Board members spent many hours in roadside meetings with DFO, Walcan representatives, provincial specialists and Mosaic staff, in an attempt to resolve the issue of the deteriorating triple culverts at Little Morte Creek under Walcan Road - all to no effect to date. Doug Richardson and Mark Zimmerman started constructing three platforms along the stream for viewing spawning salmon. This project was delayed due to permitting, but will be finished this spring, along with an upgraded trail by the John Barclay and trails volunteers. A handful of volunteers removed small woody debris and blockages above Hyacinthe Bay Road, along with several bags of garbage and miscellaneous debris along the bank.

As usual, the drought-proofing program on Hyacinthe Creek was active, and again proved useful in helping to maintain at least minimal flow during the summer for both coho fry and cutthroat trout. Due to the active beaver dams at Reed Lake and the large wetland, we were able to access that water during the heat and drought conditions of last summer. Volunteers kept the two dams open until the coho smolts had migrated out of the system by late spring, left the dams intact for the dry months, and then opened them up for returning coho. Unfortunately, approximately 100 feet of waterline was stolen, along with a brass valve, at the wetland site.

Maintenance was ongoing at the camera and counting fence at the outlet of Village Bay Lakes and Lawrie continued monitoring temperature and oxygen levels at the lakes. During the fish window, fry trapping was carried out in Hyacinthe Creek, Drew Creek, Open Bay Creek and Granite Creek. Volunteers were out in October and November to count chum and coho returns on these same creeks and Village Bay Creek, as well as returns at the counting fence at Village Bay Lakes.

At the EcoCenter, volunteers removed the old gutters and repaired some rot after which new gutters were installed, and the last of the debris from the shed demolition was disposed of. The society entered

into an agreement with Sheldon Etheridge from Quadra Elementary School, to use the EcoCenter for indoor/outdoor nature activities. Lauren Miller began working on a new website with Sarah James.

Good rapport was maintained with other relevant agencies regarding issues of mutual interest. We continued to review and comment on any Mosaic blocks that may have stream issues. We were particularly interested in Block 12-49 at Granite Bay, and met with Mosaic field crew on site to ensure good forestry practices. We entered into discussions with Mosaic Forest Management about watershed concerns in Hyacinthe Creek. These talks are still ongoing. DFO continued to support the society with an annual grant, as well as giving us on-the-ground support. Shannon Anderson from DFO advised the Society on investigative work that could be done on Drew Creek to determine the reason for low returning chum numbers. DFO Community Advisor Stacey Larsen's help has been invaluable.

Thank you to Board members Frank Gleeson and Eileen Sowerby who, after many years of working for the society, resigned from the Board in 2021. I'd like to thank our volunteers, and particularly the board of directors, who gave many hours of their time attending meetings and stepping up when work needed to be done. Total volunteer time given to the society was well over 1000 hours. We are always looking for new volunteers and those interested in becoming board members. A thank you is also in order to Perry Johnston for acting as QISES Accountant. We are grateful to both Island Tru-Value stores for their generous Spirit Board Points system, to all shoppers who donate their points to the Society, and to individual donors. We also recognize the generous support of Pacific Salmon Foundation through their grant process. Donations may also be mailed to Box 413, Quathiaski Cove, BC V0P 1N0.

Janis McLean
President