



Presidents Report



Celebration of Life Well Attended

I would like to thank the many Club members who attended the recent Celebrations of Life for long-time Club members Archie McNair and Derek Uren. At the request of the families, I had the privilege of speaking on behalf of the Club at both memorials. As a special tribute to Derek and his position as Club Hatchery Director, the family requested those who attended his Celebration of Life be allowed to release a salmon in the Little Campbell River beside the hatchery. Despite the cool damp weather many of those who attended took this unique opportunity to honour Derek.

As I mentioned in last month's Newsletter these two fine gentlemen will be missed.



Friends and family release a salmon fry into the river

School Tours Now Underway

I would also like to thank the Club members who responded to our request for weekday school tour guides. We continue to see an increase in the number of school classes who wish to participate in the spring tours. While most of the classes are part of the Salmon in the Classroom Program, we are finding many more classes outside the program are contacting the hatchery to schedule tours. Each class makes a \$50.00 contribution to the hatchery so it does generate over \$4,000.00 towards the hatchery operation.

Since the Club started our participation in the Salmon in the Classroom Program in 1984, over 100,000 elementary students from Richmond, Delta and Surrey have toured the hatchery and released their classroom raised salmon fry into the river. Aside from the teachers, many of the classes are accompanied by a large number of parents who also find the tours very informative and enjoyable.

This year the heavy rains have resulted in the river levels being too high to allow the students to walk down to the gravel bars to release their salmon fry. Since this is a highlight of the tour, the hatchery volunteers have had to find an alternative location to release the fry.



Students preparing to release their salmon fry

Chinook Salmon Fry Release

Remember the Chinook salmon fry release at the hatchery on Saturday, April 22 between 10am and 2pm.

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Dawson's Creek Revisited

In the January newsletter I reported Club representatives had come to an agreement with the developer and the City of Surrey Planning Department on the high density townhouse development known as Dawson's Creek. The agreement allowed for a deeper setback between the residences and Carlson (Fergus) Creek that runs through the centre of the development. Among other conditions, the developer agreed to keep the creek banks in a "natural" state and to preserve a number of mature trees within the property.

During the week of April 9th (accompanied by representatives of the developer) Club Vice President, Ron Meadley and I visited the site. The tree removal had been completed and we wished to confirm that the creek bank area was being protected as agreed. We are pleased to report the developer's environmental engineer and the project staff have been thorough in living up to the terms of the agreement. We will continue our visits to the site as construction commences.



West side of creek in the development - Club Vice President, Ron Meadley in yellow



East side of creek

Club's 60th Anniversary

Though the Club was formed in 1956, it was not until June 24, 1957 that the Club was officially incorporated. At the March, 2017 Directors Meeting it was decided the 60th anniversary should be celebrated on Sunday, June 25th. The club will host an event on the grounds for current and past Club members. More details will be provided as they are finalized.



1957 SFGC Executive
BR. L- R: Jack Berry, Harold Hadden, Ted Scriven, Ted Herchfeldt, Gordon Lee.
FR. Dr. Louis Biro, Louis Laronde.

The Club History – 1955 to 1992

In the following two pages you will find the first installment of the Club's history from its beginning in 1956 until 1992. The history was written by the late Ruth Kendall. Ruth was a long time Club Director which included two terms as President and her husband Ed was one of the founding Club members. The May newsletter will include the final portion of the history.



Ruth in November 1984 when she was asked to christen the Canada Fisheries patrol boat "Banjo Reef"

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THE FOLLOWING IS OUR CLUB HISTORY

WRITTEN BY ED KENDALL'S LATE WIFE, RUTH

FROM THE BEGINNING

The Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club was organized in 1956 by a group of conservation minded outdoorsmen. Since most of them were fishermen, their first objective was to try to help the Little Campbell River recover from several years of industrial gravel operations near its headwaters.

Several years were spent collecting information on the status of the runs of fish in the river. Stream bank creel surveys were compiled and sent to the provincial Fish and Game Branch. This and a successful bit of lobbying brought about a transplant of cutthroat and steelhead to the stream.

Many of the Club's activities centered around the river. Members cleared debris, built trails and constructed stiles over landowner's fences. The Club members made themselves guardians of the little Campbell River.

For the first 28 years, Club meetings were held in rented space wherever it was available. Many of the buildings no longer exist. First it was the White Rock Hotel off Marine Drive at Balsam. Next it was in the White Rock Yacht Club meeting rooms in the Dolphins at the east end of the pier. Then we moved above Midway Motors on Johnston where Kentucky Fried Chicken sits. Next we were farther out Johnston and 20th in the Rotary Youth Centre premises (where Kessler Motors is now). The old Sunnyside Community Hall at the corner of 156th and 24th housed us for a while as did the Centennial Pavilion on White Rock arena and the Earl Marriot School library.

The aims and objectives of the Club always focused on a place of our own, hopefully near the river. A property building committee was appointed every year to search for a suitable site. Fundraising became a major concern.

The first major fundraiser was the Annual Game Banquet and Dance. This was held for many years at "Tara" the popular supper club on King George Highway at Crescent Road. It was one of the social events of the year each February, competing only with the local Nurses' Valentine dance for clientele. One banquet that remains in memory was in 1961 when someone broke into the Tara kitchens a couple of nights before the banquet and made off with all the thawing game and fish. We scrambled to members' freezers for more fish and game but I think we had to purchase beef and pork that year. The first of these banquets made a profit of \$263.00. When the charges at Tara grew to \$2.00 per plate including the orchestra, it was decided to try for the "Panda" dance hall on Marine Drive at Keil Street. That year, 1963, we sold 350 tickets and the profits enabled \$500 to be put to the building fund. From there we moved to the Elk's Hall on Thrift at Stevens St. and finally to the Catholic Center on Pacific.

The "Building Fund" kitty grew very gradually but the search for an appropriate property, which had explored the Indian reserve, the old Crescent Oyster Company and many other private locations had come up with nothing. A group of active pistol enthusiasts in the Club went ahead with their activities anyway, practicing in a range at Blaine.

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The Club had taken on the Provincial Junior Firearms Safety Training Program and needed a range for practice and testing. For a short time in 1961, the basement of the commercial buildings at the west end of the newly constructed Central Plaza Shopping Centre was made available to us for a temporary indoor range. The popularity of the program inflated the junior membership to 50 with their own bylaws and executive. Enquiries were made into the use of abandoned gravel pits and that year we obtained permission from Surrey to lease an old pit on 16th at 192nd. We hauled an old building to this site, remodeled it and we were in business.

This new site and the range activities brought many new members into the Club and the Dominion Marksman Association target competitions earned bronze, silver and gold badges for many who had never before fired a gun. Some of our juniors became very proficient provincial competitors. This was where we started our annual "Turkey Shoots" for fun, sometimes being invaded by hot shots from other clubs who must have thought we were pretty rustic hicks. We stayed at this range until vandalism, theft and neighborhood complaints about unauthorized shooting chased us out in the late '70s. With the opportunity for shooting gone, we started an archery program to keep our juniors interested. Ted Hirschfeldt had been the Chief Archer since the beginning.

The Club always organized events for fun and recreation too. We held salmon derbies and steelhead derbies in our own river for the seniors and the juniors. We took to the interior hills at the opening of grouse season. We started annual camp-outs with the juniors that provided some interesting challenges for their senior advisers and finally grew to the family camp-outs we still enjoy.

In about 1960 we started an annual Club picnic with a steelhead barbecue. Fish were donated by the luckiest fishermen and salads provided by each family. In the big open farm field off Pacific at 162nd Street we were serving up to 100 members and friends each year at no charge by the time we decided to open it to the public about 1963 and charge admission. This event has become part of our tradition too and has seen several different locations. When the fish barbecue went "public" we adopted smaller beef barbecues for Club members' socializing.

In 1965 the property search came to a head with three possible sites proposed. Two acres on Bergstrom Road (136th) right across from Ray Shepherd School was finally purchased for \$3,500. Work parties moved in to clear brush, fall dead trees and plant grass. We held our 1966 barbecue on our own property with the cars parked in the school playground. It was soon apparent that the residential zoning could not lend itself to a clubhouse and certainly not a range but it was hoped it would be a good investment. Development was beginning to flourish in South Surrey.

In the next ten years we expanded our fundraising to include an annual beef barbecue with two hind quarters cooked over an open pit fire at the 136th Street site. At least one of these was deluged with a downpour that put us all under tarps and our guests into their cars to eat. These barbecues were a lot of work for small profits but kept the members interested and involved and having fun. Especially the times that we included a midnight crab feed and corn roast for the volunteers that had been assigned the "spit turning" duties to keep the beef browning evenly for the required 18 hours of cooking.

To be continued in our May newsletter

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ARCHERY

It was another busy month at the Indoor Range. We saw quite a few new faces.

The BC Provincials took place in Armstrong over the Easter Break—April 14th to 16th. We had a strong performance from 12 individuals who attended,

bringing in ten medals. A list of medal winners and photos can be seen in next month's newsletter.

The Cloverdale Hunting and Fishing Show, formerly the BC Gun and Rod Show, will be held in Cloverdale from April 28th - 30th. The Semiahmoo Archers are helping Coast Wholesale run an archery shoot demonstration booth and we are in need of volunteers to help out on all three days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday. If you'd like to volunteer, please email Johnny Zawada at jz1952@telus.net for more information. If you are planning to go the Gun Show, be sure and stop by our display!

Our first outdoor 3D Shoot will be held at the club on May 7th. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate. If you have any questions about the shoot, please contact Stan Jones at griz660@shaw.ca Outdoor archery range keys are available for purchase Monday and Thursday nights, 7:00pm to 9:00pm or Saturdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

JUNIOR OLYMPIC PROGRAM

The Junior Archery program continued to have a very busy month in March. Both classes continued to have very strong attendance and we also had a few more new students join. Thanks to Kyle Bedard for helping out on March 18 when we were short on instructors to run the class!

Event Results

Archery Canada Regional Indoor Championship

Emma Chylinski 2nd Place: Cadet Female Compound

SFGC Eagles Awards

Owl Team:

Congratulations to Noah Pekarek for graduating to the Hawk team by achieving his 6m & 18m levels.

- Ethan Lemire: 12m, 18m Level
- Amilya Mason: 15m Level
- Ethan Batic-Woloschuk: 10m
- Evan Pekarek: 8m
- Andrew Cowan: 6m
- Xavier Champion: 8m
- Zachary Johnson: 12m
- Kiara Bedard: 6m



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FIN CLIPPING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



All the fish raised at our Hatchery must be marked, by clipping a fin, before release into the river on their way to the ocean. This can be a tedious job but also rewarding as it builds a sense of camaraderie among the volunteers and gives the satisfaction of contributing to our goal of keeping salmon running in The Little Campbell River.

We are always glad to have people volunteer as more hands make this work go faster. To clip 60,000 fish takes about 120 hours and it helps if those hours are shared. Even if you can only spare 1/2 to 1 hour it all helps and is very much appreciated! We will start on April 24th, Monday night at 7:00pm, for those attending archery, come over to the hatchery and give it a try! We will also be clipping on Saturday, April 29th between 10:00am to 2:00pm. For more information, please contact Johnny Zawada at jz1952@telus.net



RANGE REPORT

Greetings members! As I mentioned before, if you'd like to arrange a group shooting event, just let me know. In the near future we'll be hosting a couple of groups who want to do some .22LR rifle shooting. One is a youth group who would like to try this out, and on the other end of the "experience" spectrum, we have a group of ex-military friends coming here for a private session.

Due to the popularity of the range with activities and regular bookings, and noise issues with other hall uses, scheduling can be challenging. You may need to wait a month or two. However, we will always try to make something work.

On another note, I love it when members come out and ask for advice on their shooting. We love to help! Recently we had a member who learned a lot about shooting in a fairly short time. The smile on his face at the end of the night was incredible! If you haven't shot in a while, and are looking for some tips, come on by.

...and finally, due to a community event in the hall, **Wednesday Handgun Night is cancelled on May 10th**. Please mark that in your calendars. I'm sorry for any inconvenience.

Allan Johanson, Range Director

MEMBERSHIP

Please be reminded membership extends from January 1st to December 31st of this year and not from the time you applied (i.e. from May to May). I am finally caught up on membership cards. If it has been more than a month since you sent your application, please email me at jz1952@telus.net

Johnny Zawada, Membership Director

Important Member Notice

Though the club maintains volunteer liability insurance club members are reminded that volunteer activities are undertaken at their own risk. Members are also reminded to:

- Not to undertake tasks for which they are not physically fit or are not qualified to do.
- To observe all safety codes and procedures
- Not to operate machinery or equipment without proper training