Presidents' Report

Last Remaining Founder of the Club Passes

I am sad to report the passing of the last of the Club's founding members. Jack Berry passed away on February 4, 2018 at his home in Crescent Beach just three months short of his 100th birthday. Jack was one of a small group of Club members honoured with "Life Time Membership" by the Club.

Jack is survived by his two sons John and Robert.

Jack Berry
May 3, 1918 – February 4, 2018

Jack arrived in Crescent Beach as a young boy on February 14, 1925 with his parents who emigrated from England to help with the operation of the Crescent Lodge (128th Street and Crescent Road) and the Crescent Hotel located on the beach. The two businesses were owned and operated by the Williams family who were related to Jack's mother.

Crescent Beach was home for much of Jack's life. A reserve member of the 2nd Battalion of the Westminster Regiment since 1939, Jack enlisted in the regular forces in 1942. He was a member of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, Field Medical Unit and served in England, France and Germany during WWII. On his discharge from the army in 1946 Jack joined the Federal Government Civil Service and settled in Cloverdale with his wife, Gladys (whom he met and married in England). The family moved back to Crescent Beach in 1972. At that time many local federal employees were avid fishermen, and with a number of community residents, they formed the Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club in 1956. Jack became Secretary and unofficial photographer of the club and provided news on Club activity to the Surrey Leader for many years.

He was also a volunteer photography specialist for Surrey Museum and Archives; President of the Surrey Historical Association; photo specialist for a number of local history publications and a significant contributor to the web site on Surrey's History.

Photograph of Club Executive in 1957

With the passing of Jack a link to the founding members who had the foresight and vision on the creation of our Club has been broken.

Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter

Hatchery Modernization Status Update

As has been discussed at a number of regular Directors Meetings and in General Membership Meetings over the past year, the Club is looking at a significant upgrade/replacement of much of the hatchery infrastructure. The need is driven by two issues. The first is the ongoing failure of a number of the aging components of the complex hatchery system pumping water from our deep well and distributing it throughout the fish rearing areas - both inside and outside the hatchery building. A good example was the emergency replacement of the inside “head troughs” and wall paneling reported in recent newsletter articles.

The second issue is the continuing concern, expressed by both The Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, with the original design of the hatchery sharing water between multiple species of fish. The fear is an infection in one species will spread to the others in the hatchery. The hatchery raises Chinook and Coho salmon, as well as Steelhead and Cutthroat trout.

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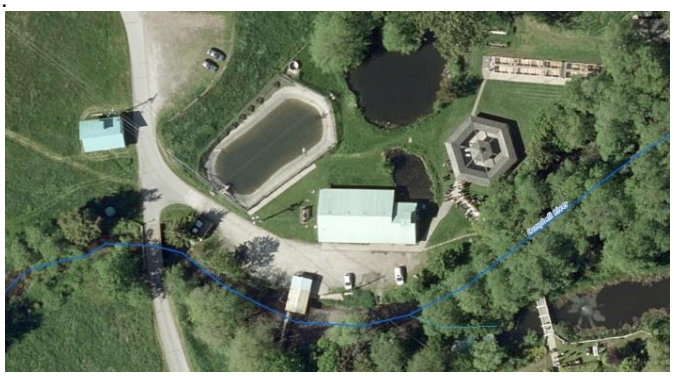


The hatchery was designed and built in in 1984 before many of the issues and concerns with the spread of disease were identified and new regulations were introduced to address the problem. To provide a separate flow of water to each species will be very expensive and require a complete overhaul of the hatchery as we know it today. The projected cost could reach $500,000, though the amount could be reduced by donations of equipment, such as a larger back-up diesel generator.

Senior members of the Club executive are looking at a number of approaches to fund the upgrade which will be spread over two or three years. These include corporate donations; possible federal government assistance and support for current partners such as the Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC.

To familiarize our supporters with the issues and the proposed solution, meetings have been held in recent weeks with senior Directors of the Pacific Salmon Foundation and staff from the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC. In addition, we are working with the City of Surrey to determine if they can provide tax exempt status for personal and corporate donations. A meeting was also held with recently elected Member of Parliament for South Surrey / White Rock, Gordie Hogg. Gordie has a long association with the Club and his Ottawa office staff are looking into possible sources of funds.

It is worthy of notice the Pacific Salmon Foundation has provided over $80,000 in grants to the hatchery over the past five years. Most of these funds have been associated with the construction of the new isolated incubation room and repairs to the hatchery infrastructure.

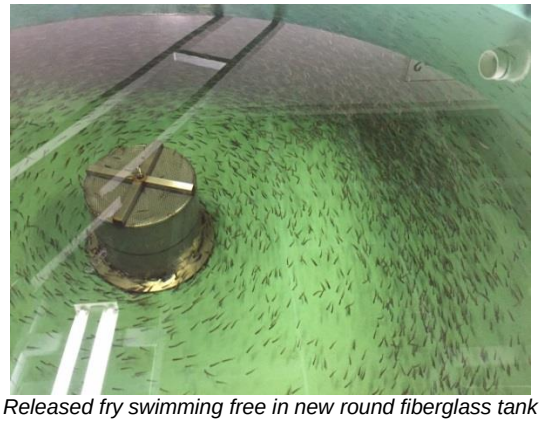
PACIFIC SALMON FOUNDATION

Without the generous support of the Foundation, other donors and the dedication of our hatchery volunteers, it would have been very difficult to continue the hatchery operation over the past few years.

Incubation Period Draws to an End

During the October and November spawning season eggs were taken from the Chinook and Coho salmon. These eggs were fertilized with sperm acquire from the males and placed in incubation trays and jars in the new incubation room. By the middle of February these eggs have completed their 120 day incubation period and the “fry” have now been moved to the rearing tanks in the hatchery. This year 46,000 Chinook and 37,000 Coho fry will be raised in the hatchery. Thank you to volunteers Danuta Malarski and Susan Day for managing the incubation room operation over the past four months.

Coho fry in incubation tray being released into rearing tank



Released fry swimming free in new round fiberglass tank

Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter

Trail Fencing

There has been a growing apprehension with the safety of a section of the main trail on the south side of the river. This piece of the trail has a steep drop off to the river and could place walkers at risk during high water conditions.

The Club's main concern is the 90 or so elementary school hatchery tours which start in March. Most tours consist of 25 students, teachers and frequently a large number of parents. Groups that large can be difficult to manage while they are on the trail, especially with the pushing and jostling of an excited group of children.

It was decided to install a secure split rail cedar fence along this section of the trail. Cedar was selected so as not to detract from the natural beauty of the area. Club grounds volunteers Norm Taylor and Jim Wilkins took on the job of constructing the fence.

Grounds Improvements

Last May the Club signed an agreement with the Construction and Specialized Workers (CSW) Union Training Society to permit them to store some of their equipment (trailer and Bobcat) and material on the Club grounds. In addition, it was agreed the final phase of the training of apprentices could take place on the Club grounds at a time acceptable to the Club. All appropriate safety procedures would also be observed.

Included with the annual fee was the provision that if the training included cement work (the preparation of forms and the pouring of concrete) this work would benefit the Club.

The first Lower Mainland CSW training session, under the agreement, started at the beginning of February. The three week classroom training will be followed with "hands on" training on the Club grounds. The trainer engaged by the CSW to run the course is long time Club volunteer Robert MacRae.

The work done to benefit the Club will include the replacement of the existing stepping stones between the hatchery and the river pedestrian bridge with a new sidewalk. The pouring of a concrete base under the garbage containers in the hall parking lot is also planned.

What's This?

This little fellow was photographed on the river banks and swimming in the river in recent weeks. Our resident experts are unsure of its identity. Is it a weasel or some other wild animal or is a domestic pet abandoned on the grounds?

Encouraging News in Steelhead Returns

As of the middle of February, 35 Steelhead have been counted at the fish fence. Though we expect the returns will be low this year there is still a few weeks remaining in the spawning season. The brood stock has been selected to ensure next year's production in the hatchery and hopefully the seals will have limited impact on the returning trout.

Unique Hatchery Fish Fence

Between October and March one of the most popular attractions around the Club grounds is the fish counting fence located on the river beside the hatchery. Every year hundreds of local residents visit the Club to observe the salmon and trout returning to the spawning grounds upstream from the hatchery.

The fence restricts the fish in their movement upstream from the ocean and directs them into a trap. They are individually removed from the trap by hatchery volunteers, counted and released upstream to spawn. A limited number of Chinook and Coho salmon, as well as Steelhead and Cutthroat trout, are retained for hatchery brood stock. The spawning salmon and trout are usually held in Semiahmoo Bay until heavy rains raise the level of the river.

This unique fence serves a number of very important functions and has an interesting history. After the Club purchased our 29 acre property in 1978, and before consideration was given to the construction of the hatchery, the need to build a fish counting fence was identified. After twenty years of restoring the Little Campbell River the Club members did not know how many salmon and trout were actually using the river to spawn.

The building of a fish fence to trap and count the fish was the solution. However, there were no models in existence in the Province that could be copied. Some suggestions were put forward in discussions with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans including using broom handles driven into the bottom of the river. The broom handle approach showed some promise until the beaver in the river took a liking to the broom handles.

Broom handle fish fence, trap and walkway in 1980

A decision was reached by Club members to design, build and install the steel fence as we know it today. The components of the fence were constructed by students in a local Secondary school under the direction of the late Club Director, Lorne Halliday. Lorne taught metal work at the school. When the components were completed, the river was diverted around the site and a sturdy foundation put in place before the fence and trap were installed. Over 2,000 hours of volunteer labour was needed to complete the job,

The fence is unique to the Club and it has provided a wealth of information which is used by a number of agencies. Since 1982 the hatchery volunteers have been able to physically count, **not estimate**, the number of salmon and trout returning to the spawning grounds each year. The information is recorded and is an invaluable tool to groups studying the health of the salmon and trout species over the past 35 years. Nowhere else in the Province has such accurate information been collected for such a long period.

Aside from a straight count of the numbers of returning salmon, there is another critical piece of information made possible by the fence. This information highlights the survival rate of the Coho and Chinook salmon from the time they leave the river, as young salmon, until they return to the river to spawn and die a few years later. The hatchery volunteers clip a fin of the Coho and Chinook salmon while they are being raised in the hatchery. These hatchery clipped fish are counted and released when they are ready to move down river to start their long journey in the Pacific Ocean. When they return a few years later they are identified and counted. The returning count is compared to the number of salmon release, thus providing the priceless data on the survival rate of salmon during those years at sea.

The fence is also used to stop hatchery raised Steelhead trout from moving upstream beyond the hatchery to spawn. Under an agreement with the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC any hatchery trout is returned downstream when trapped at the fence and only “wild” trout are released upstream.

Many thanks are due to the hatchery volunteers who maintain the fence and continue to operate it frequently under some very dangerous river conditions.

Bob Donnelly, President.

ARCHERY

2018 VEGAS SHOOT

A number of club members competed at the 2018 Vegas Shoot from February 9th to 11th in Las Vegas. Over 3500 archers from around the world attended the event. If you're into archery, you should put this event on your bucket list. The weather is great, lots of sun and fun, temperatures were 20+ this year. It's a great way to meet archers from all over the world and make new friends. There is also a huge archery vendor show showcasing all the latest gear.

Larry Moyer, Tammy Moyer, Paul Van Tassel, Johnny Zawada, Steve Flaming, Jonathan West, Emma Chylinsky, Cecilia Flaming

2018 VALENTINE SHOOT

The annual Valentine Shoot was held February 17 and 18 at the Cloverdale Agriplex. As always, the event was well attended. Stan Jones and his crew did an outstanding job of setting up an impressive shoot. Over the years he has acquired a large collection of 3D targets and background scenery which was on display making this a very colourful experience. Lester Lightstone made a video of the event. Click on the link https://vimeo.com/256483534 and watch the fun!

JUNIOR OLYMPIC PROGRAM

February marked the start of the busy season for archery with a few major events taking place. Due to the busy schedule for February, we had a break from our regular classes for most of the month. Even though our regular classes were on a break for most February, we still had a lot going on!

To start the month, we held our first SFGC Eagles Mini-Tournament on February 3rd (see photos below). This was our first mini-tournament to help give our students who have expressed interest in participating in tournaments, which can be a bit intimidating, the chance to participate in an "official" tournament so they could experience the more formal procedures to reduce some of the anxiety factor. For the mini-tournament, we also included everyone's favorite part of a tournament: door prizes!! Thanks to everyone who supplied door prizes for class: Just Shooting Arrows, Hoyt Archery Inc, Black Eagle Arrows, FedEx, Steve & Cecilia Flaming, and Paul Van Tassel.

After the Mini-Tournament we took a two week break from classes because of a couple major events on the archery calendar. For the Family Day long weekend, a group of our instructors went to the NFAA Vegas Shoot. This is the largest archery tournament in the world and all of our instructors did a great job at the event and everyone who attended can't wait to go back next year!

Vegas Shoot Instructor Results

Cecilia Flaming: 843 points: 28th place in Compound Flight #25
Emma Chylinski: 857 points:32nd place in Compound Flight #19
Steve Flaming: 877 points: 27th place in Compound Flight #12
Paul Van Tassel: 888 points: 13th place in Compound Flight #7

On February 17th and 18th, SFGC held its annual Indoor 3D shoot. This is one of the biggest events of the year and is always a great weekend for everyone who attends. This year we had another strong showing from our JOP students and hope more students can attend next year.

JOP Student Results

Ethan Lemire: 1st Place Cub Boys Compound (Saturday)
Amilya Mason: 1st Place Cub Girls Compound (Saturday and Sunday)
Andrew Cook: 1st Place Cub Boys Compound (Sunday)

At the SFGC Indoor 3D, we were also able to debut our long-awaited JOP class shirts! Along with being a stylish fashion statement, these shirts will act as team jerseys for students and instructors who attend tournaments. These shirts will be available in class for $20 and we have a full range of sizes from Youth Small to Adult XXXL.

… **Junior Olympic Program** continued…

After the very busy month of February, we will return to our regular class schedule on February 24th. For parents who have students in class, please note our next set of classes will take place on February 24th,

Monthly Awards

Congratulations to all of our award winners this month, especially to Amilya Mason who graduated from the Owl team to the Hawk team!

BCAA Regional Mailmatch

Ethan Lemire: 1st Place, Master Archer
Andrew Cook: 4th Place: Olympian 265-280
Emma Chylinski: 1st Place: Olympian 285-300

Eagle Team

Andrew Cook: Eagle 270, BCAA JOP Olympian 260 & 265

Hawk Team

Ethan Lemire: Hawk 12m & BCAA Master Archer
Noah McNulty: Hawk 10m
James Morrow: Hawk 10m

Owl Team

Amiliya Mason: Owl 18m
Ethan Kennedy: Owl 15m
Isabelle Bergen: Owl 10m
Emma Bergen: Owl 10m
Georgina Collias; Owl 8m
Griffin Boutelier: Owl 6m, 8m
Josh Mesa: Owl 8m
Kyle Wisla: Owl 8m
Dane Jansen: Owl 8m
Nicolas Henry: Owl 8m

Paul Van Tassel

Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club Newsletter

RANGE

Greetings members! It has been busy at the range lately. I'm glad many of you have been able to come out for some fun. The work we did last month on the range backstop update is holding up well. No 2x4s need replacing...yet. ☺

Club member Lloyd secured more rubber backstop material for us, and we picked it up today. We now have a great supply to last us a long time. With the 2x4 vertical posts, we can replace pieces as required.

I've now had several people ask me about prescription safety glasses. Either showing me what they are using, or asking me if I've found something. Thank you for the feedback and interest. There are quite a few different options out there, and since I like research, I've been checking out the pros and cons of different products. One product looked great! Then I found out it's limited to +/- 3 diopters of correction. Myself, and one of our range officers, need something stronger.

During all this, I finally went for my eye exam. The cool part is I told my eye doctor I was looking for two prescriptions. One for distance, and one to see the front sight post of my pistol. I brought in a small piece of wood with a sight taped to it, so I could focus on it while she did her thing and made sure I could see it. If any of you are in a similar situation, you can try it.

The much more important takeaway from my visit is this: please don't delay this exam, especially if you notice any changes in your vision or are approaching 50 or beyond. My eyeballs need further testing. Don't be like me! ☺

Allan Johanson, Range 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

HATCHERY SCHOOL TOURS UPDATE

To date, all of April mornings and part of the afternoons are booked for school tours with 70 tours so far. I am also booking teachers who are dropping off fish frys before spring break. It's been very busy answering phone calls and emails. Many thanks to Sue MacRae, Ron Medley and Roy Thomson for all their invaluable help and answers to all my questions. It's greatly appreciated. Thanks to Bill Ridge, Phillip and Kate Milligan we have three more tour guides eager to volunteer and lend a hand, which really helps to take the load off the other tour guides. I am still looking for one or two more tour guides. If you are interested, please contact me.

Darryl Day, Hatchery Tour Coordinator
dalyday@telus.net | 604-866-5111

MEMBERSHIP

You may or may not have been aware a SFGC membership includes a BCWF membership. This means your membership information is also sent to the BCWF, which includes names, phone numbers, addresses, and emails. If anyone has an any concerns regarding this, please notify Johnny Zawada at johnny2012@gmail.com

EDITOR'S DESK

Cheryl Zawada

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Thanks so much to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter. If you'd like to share a story or photos with club members I'd love to hear from you. The deadline for submissions are the **first Tuesday** of the month.