**FANNY BAY SALMONID ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY (FBSES)**

**July 2017**

By Judy Ackinclose

Stating the obvious – fish depend on water! Streams mirror weather trends. Too wet and streams are in flood and too hot, the streams dry up as they are starting to do now. The Union Bay volunteers are salvaging fish in Hart, Hindoo and Emily Creeks, transferring them down to the Rosewall hatchery to enjoy clean cool water and plenty of food. Volunteers in Fanny Bay are also doing the same at McNaughton and Cook Creeks. Rosewall Creek, so far, is still flowing but that could change quite quickly. The volunteers are out daily scooping up the stranded coho fry and moving them to our hatchery to reside until the fall when they can safely be returned to their natal streams. This is one of the most satisfying jobs – A ‘Fish Search & Rescue’ operation!

This year we didn’t have just one smolt counting fence but three: Cook Creek (Relic Channel), Mud Bay Creek and Wilfred Creek Side Channel. Fish, frogs, salamanders, you name it, if it was in the trap it got counted. Daily our volunteers stopped by the traps to clear them out and record information that will be sent to DFO as part of the research of East Coast Vancouver Island creeks and the movement of juvenile coho in the spring. Cook Creek had 1061 coho smolts, Mud Bay Creek, 908 and Wilfred Creek 2,161. Notably, Wilfred Creek has a considerable sized side channel which is great habitat for coho.

I’m sure most people have heard of the sudden cuts to the Salmon Enhancement Program a few weeks ago: loss of the education program to the schools, technical support for volunteers and Community Advisors and loss of DFO Engineers. It was potentially a huge blow but thanks to the amazing number of people in BC sending letters, emails and voice mails to Ottawa, the tide was turned and the cuts rescinded. Gratifying to know that when enough people pull together the government does listen!

Come and join the ‘search’ crew on a Wednesday or Saturday work party and learn more about what our volunteers do. Our hours of operation are 9 am to 12 pm, Rosewall Creek on Berray Road. For more information, visit our website **www.fbses.ca**.