

FANNY BAY SALMONID ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY (FBSES)

By Judy Ackinclose

May has proven to be an extremely busy month for our volunteers at the Rosewall Hatchery. On May 3rd, we held our 2nd Annual Festival the “River Never Sleeps”, presented by Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society, Nile Creek Enhancement and Hart Watershed Society. This year turned out to be just as incredible as last year. Approximately 350 to 400 people enjoyed the festivities and the children had a wonderful time with the fish painting, face painting, learning about and touching all the bugs and releasing our coho smolts into Rosewall Creek. The concession was expertly run by our own Terri Matheson and was a hit with all families as the prices were kept to a minimum. There were lots of displays from various salmon enhancement groups as well as many ecologically oriented groups. The hatchery was beautifully decorated by students from various schools in the area adding a festive look. Truly a very entertaining day for the family and highlighted by tours of our hatchery and the fish release. The winner of the Margaret Selkirk print for guessing the closest number of coho fry in one of our tanks was Amanda from Comox. Congratulations! This event, of course, could not have happened without our great sponsors and contributors:

Union Bay Credit Union

Island Timberlands

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Quality Foods, Qualicum Beach

Tomm’s Market

Natural Glacial Water

Macs Oysters

Fanny Bay Oysters

Baynes Sound Oysters

Students from Vanier High School and volunteers from the Katimavik Program.

With all of these activities our volunteers have still had time to release 216,000 chum and later the remainder of our 60,000 coho smolts. We have a very diligent crew working at the Waterloo smolt trap and just lately have seen the peak of the run go through. A number of volunteers helped Frank at Wilfred Creek dismantle a beaver dam before the road was awash.

Also this May we had a huge donation of trees from the Ministry of Forests. Lise and crew potted up 900 trees and whatever we could not use went to good homes. Many trees went to the Cowichan area, Port Alberni and also to Zeballos.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on May 14th and elections were as follows:

President – Judy Ackinclose

Vice President – Pam Lengyel

Secretary – Lise Laguë

Treasurer – Dave Sands

Directors:

Finn Keim, Doug Mole, Nelson Eddy, John Bradbury, Rosemary Sparham and Frank Lines.

The Board of Directors would like to thank our past Vice-President Jim Burgess for his hard work.

Hatchery hours are Wednesday and Saturday from 9 am to 12 pm at the Rosewall Hatchery on Berray Rd; please feel free to drop in for a coffee and a tour. For more information call Judy at 335-0010 or Dave at 757-9807. Also, check out the ‘Photo Gallery’ of the River Never Sleeps Festival on our website: www.fbses.ca. Great pictures!