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

**February 2018**

By Dave Sands

By the time you read this item in the Flyer thousands of new lives will have begun in the streams that we live near, cross on the highways, or worry about when the rain doesn’t stop and the water starts to rise. Those streams and the water they carry to Georgia Strait are the incubators that raise the wild salmon that are the symbol for all of us of nature’s bounty and of her harshness; thousands will be born, dozens will survive to return to those streams and renew their lifecycle.

At the hatcheries your friends in the Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society operate on Berray Road, conveniently located next to Rosewall Creek, and on Wilfred Creek, those same lives start in stacks of plastic trays constantly flooded with creek water, and continue in large fibreglass tanks. Not quite as romantic as a wild stream but considerably more nurturing for the occupants.

The new year starts for salmon about the same time it does for us, and the drive to live that salmon possess is stronger than most resolutions. For the salmon in the hatcheries, the chance of survival is greater. That survival happens under the care of volunteers who are now and everyday spending time and effort in feeding, cleaning, repairing, building and watching over the salmon and their home on the creek.

Fanny Bay’s volunteers will be raising about 50,000 salmon from the returning brood stock we harvested in 2017, and most of them will be released in the spring of 2019 as ‘smolts’, salmon averaging about 3 or 4 inches (75mm) in length and half an ounce in weight (15 grams). Between now and then, they will get a lot of kind attention from FBSES volunteers. After their release, the attention will no doubt continue, but it won’t be kind.

This spring, we’ll be releasing about 70 thousand smolts from 2016’s incubation and before they’re gone, you’re welcome to come and see them Wednesday and Saturday mornings when we get together to work as a group, and of course you’re also welcome to return and discover the joy of salmon with the rest of us.

For more information, visit our website; [www.fbses.ca](http://www.fbses.ca)