

QUALICUM BEACH STREAMKEEPERS – PRESIDENT’S UPDATE – SPRING, 2018

The past few months have been productive, with both planning and project activity in several areas. The highlights were:

- Construction is well underway on the Faye Smith Memorial project on the Qualicum Beach waterfront. Earth Day celebrations on April 22 provided an opportunity for visitors to see progress on the project to date, including not only the platform but several of the interpretive signs planned for installation on the site. While considerable work remains to be done, the pavilion is now complete and signage should be ready and the site open for public use within a couple of months. Planting of several hundred native species will be done during more suitable weather conditions in the fall, at which time an official opening will take place. Fundraising for the project is continuing, and more donations are welcome.
- The second annual salmon smolt counting fence was installed on Grandon Creek in late March and was operated for two weeks until a partially fallen tree positioned close to the fence required its closure. The Town of Qualicum Beach recently succeeded in removing the tree and the fence is now back in operation. Results in the short period it operated were encouraging, with significant numbers of coho smolts and cutthroat trout, including several spawning seagoing cutthroat, which were a pleasant surprise.
- 2017/18 Annual General Meeting - held on March 3, the AGM was fortunate to have a notable speaker in Dr Kristy Millar.
- Little Qualicum River estuary tour – as part of the Brant Festival, a tour of the estuary and spit took place on April 5.
- We participated in the May 6 River Never Sleeps Festival at Rosewall Creek.
- Board members participated in a number of consultative and planning meetings, including Project Watershed, an initiative to strengthen community stewardship of watersheds and shorelines in the Comox Valley; a March 27 meeting with the Regional District of Nanaimo to discuss long term plans for the LQR estuary; and an April 11/12 regional watershed workshop in Nanaimo.

Upcoming activities include:

- Continued work on the Faye Smith Memorial project;
- Family Day in Qualicum Beach on May 28;
- Beach Day in Qualicum Beach on July 15;
- Continued work on the LQR estuary in spit over the summer months.

- Water monitoring of the Little Qualicum River, and Grandon and Beach Creeks later in the summer
- Installation of a more permanent base for the salmon counting fence in Grandon Creek, during the low water flow levels in August.