

Press Release June 21st, 2017

For immediate release

Subject: Correcting False Information on Salmon in Prospect Lake

Peninsula Streams Society (PSS), a local group working hard to restore salmon and salmon habitat, is concerned that false information is circulating about proposals to bring Coho Salmon back to Tod Creek Watershed, which includes Prospect Lake.

The Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS) circulated a notice for their June 26th AGM with confusing and incorrect information regarding salmon enhancement in general and Prospect Lake in particular: *“Coho Salmon are coming to Prospect Lake! Significant risks with little consultation” ... “There is a push to release coho salmon fry in Prospect Lake with little consultation and little consideration for the potentially devastating impacts to the lake, to the lake users, and to lakeside residents.”* Peninsula Streams Society (PSS) would like to state clearly that salmon fry would in no way ‘devastate’ the lake, lake users or lakeside residents. “I can’t quite understand all of the PLPS concerns but it appears to me that they and an associated group, the Prospect Lake Water Users Community, mistakenly believe there is not enough water in the lake for both salmon fry and human uses such as docks and water extraction,” said Ian Bruce, Executive Coordinator of Peninsula Streams Society.

“Further, we have been clear and consistent in our messaging that we wish to work WITH local residents,” notes Bruce. This includes a public open house in October, with no further action being taken before then. “We welcome open discourse with the PLPS and anybody else who has concerns about the watershed. We invite them to share their concerns with us and the appropriate regulatory agencies.”

However, during the week of June 12- 16th, 546 households in the Prospect Lake area were mailed a notice of the PLPS AGM together with information on the CRD “Septic Savvy Workshop” to be held at that event. CRD staff have since apologized for the perception that CRD endorses the PLPS position. CRD staff state that the workshop is intended as a separate event from the PLPS annual general meeting and adjustments have been made on the CRD website regarding the specific time of the Septic Savvy Workshop.

“Coho salmon enhancement is not new in the Tod Creek Watershed—DFO stocked Coho in the Tod Creek watershed in 1982 and the DFO Stream-to-Sea program in local schools has also released Coho fry almost annually for the past 20+ years,” said Bruce. “The difference now is that with the new fishway (installed in 2015) at the lower end of the Creek in Gowlland Tod Provincial



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Park, fish are now better able to access the upper reaches, including Prospect Lake, for spawning and juvenile rearing.”

PSS, in coordination with the Friends of Tod Creek Watershed and SeaChange Marine Conservation Society will be holding several outreach events to which the community is invited to learn more about freshwater and near-shore restoration and salmon enhancement in Tod Watershed. Following up on the popularity of last fall’s watershed tour, PSS is holding bus tours on Saturdays Oct. 7th and 21st (more details at www.PeninsulaStreams.ca). Additionally, PSS and SeaChange will hold an Open House and Panel of Experts Discussion on Saturday Oct. 14th, from 1–4 pm, at the Unitarian Church on West Saanich Road. All are welcome to attend this Open House to learn more about the history of Tod Watershed, current activities and future plans.

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