

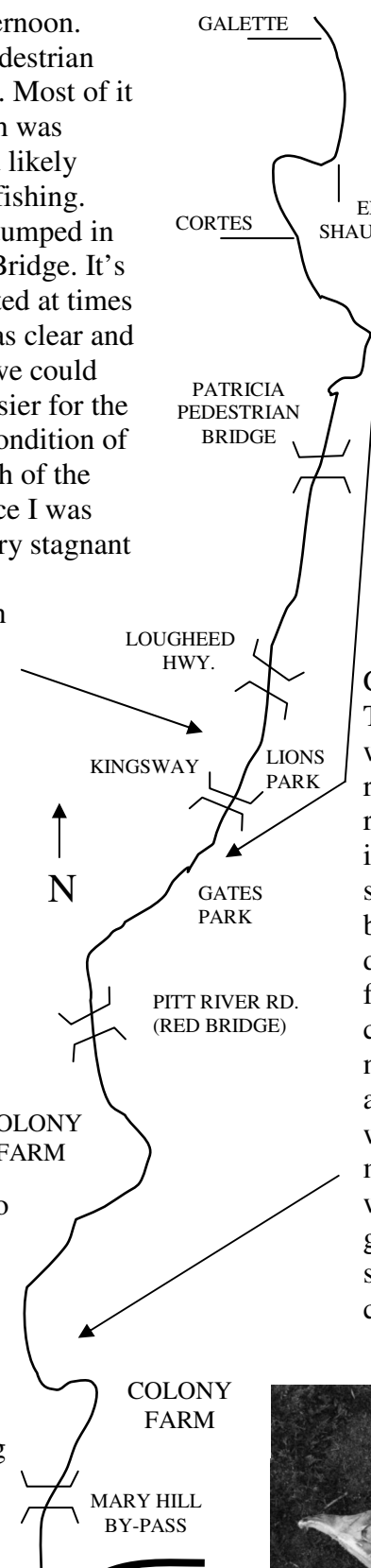
OCTOBER RiverWatcher's REPORTS

Murray (W-6) Oct. 19

It was quite quiet despite a pleasant fall afternoon. Most of the traffic was at the McAllister Pedestrian Bridge. I picked up about 1/2 bag of garbage. Most of it came from 2-3 pieces of clothing. The reach was considerably clean considering the area and likely heavier traffic in the last few weeks due to fishing. There were some large pieces of furniture dumped in the parking area just east of the Kingsway Bridge. It's too bad that this area looks so badly neglected at times as it is an entrance into PoCo. The River was clear and at a normal level. It looked good although we could likely use a day or two of rain to make it easier for the chum coming up the River to spawn. The condition of Maple Creek at the mouth (at least just north of the culvert) showed deteriorating condition since I was down in September. The water appeared very stagnant with a quite slimy rusty-oily surface where the Creek widens just before the culvert. On the other side of the dike, there was something badly decomposed (something straight out of CSI) – hard to tell if it had been a salmon spawning in the Creek and brought up on the bank. There was no evidence of any other fish in the creek. Water level at the grate was approx. 6-8" below the unofficial high water mark. The gauge just south of the Lougheed Bridge was measuring 2 meters. What a difference one day or one mile can make. Yesterday a mile up the River there was no evidence of any chum spawning. Today, there were dozens in the River, which were highly visible at the McAllister Pedestrian Bridge right up to Lions Park. As I said earlier, we need some rain (or for BC Hydro to let some water out of the Lake) as it would appear that the chum are going up to sub-channels where it appears less difficult to get up the River where it's really low. A little surprised there were no fishermen, even at the very popular spot under the Kingsway Bridge. The coho will be running soon but likely need some rain to bring them into the River.

Newsletter editor
 Ian McArthur
 (604-939-4039) Fax: 604-931-4453
 Email: imcart@telus.net

FRASER RIVER

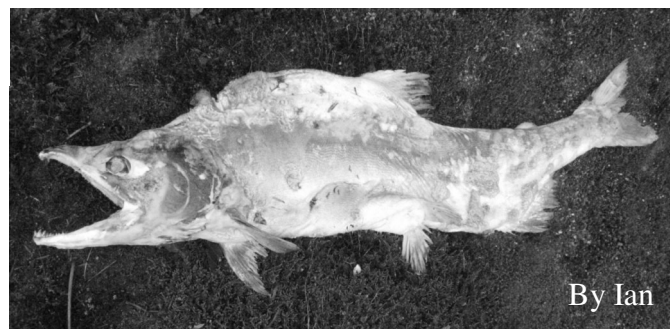


Ian (E-7) Oct. 7

The River was clear and flowing at a normal level. It had been flowing high only a couple of days before. Maple Creek was obscured by vegetation. Scott Creek appeared clear & flowing. Birds included Spotted Towhee, chickadees, and a crow. There was splashing of spawning salmon throughout the reach. The mouth of Scott Creek was a busy area for returning salmon. Medium sized logs that were in the River have been taken somewhere downstream by the recent high flows. The days are certainly getting shorter. By the time I got to Reeve Slough (7pm), it was too late and dark to see any wildlife.

Charlene & Roger (E-8) Oct. 16

This reach was good for dogs on leash as well. 12 on leash and only 2 off leash. The river was very low. Operation "habitat restoration" continues. Booms were placed in the river at the "habitat rehabilitation" site. It looks like the Wilson Farm has been scraped away, like the field has been dredged. The pipes and gates to enable fish/water movement look to be near complete. We could see that, along the north end of the Wilson Farm, lots of trees and shrubs have been planted. A makeshift works yard has been resurrected to contain machinery, tools, plants, etc. in this area as well. Wildlife activity included hawks, geese, gulls, frogs (croaking) and two snakes. Loads of people, especially cyclists, were enjoying this reach today.



By Ian

COQUITLAM RiverWatch



940 Stanton Ave. Coquitlam, B.C., V3J 4V2
 imcart@telus.net

NOVEMBER 2011

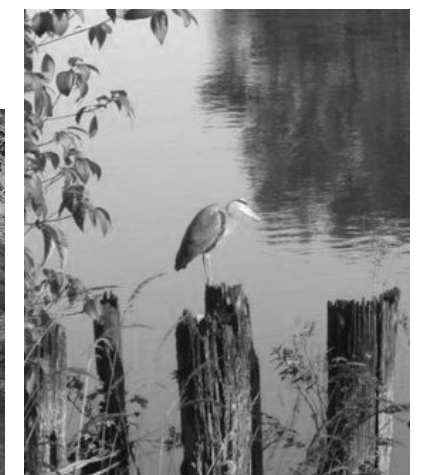
NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 158

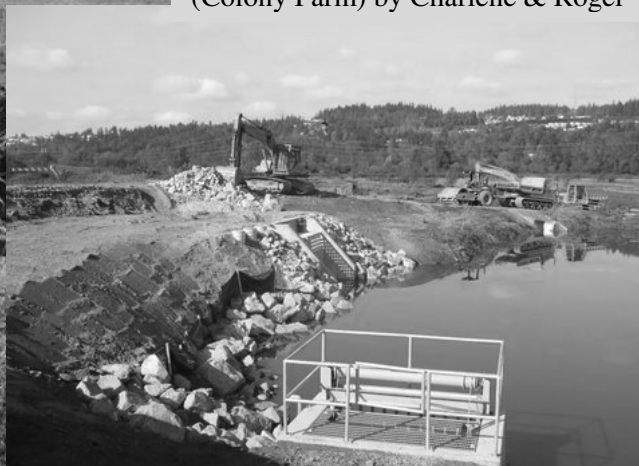
UPDATE ON THE COOPER PROPERTY (1388 GABRIOLA DRIVE)

As described in last month's RiverWatch newsletter a draft application to develop the 13.4 acre property at 1388 Gabriola Drive has been filed with the City of Coquitlam. The application requires an amendment to the OCP to allow building houses between Gabriola Drive and the Coquitlam River. We have started a petition to urge the City of Coquitlam not to amend the OCP for this property and to state that we support NO development between Gabriola Drive and the River. We have approximately 120 signatures so far, from residents in New Horizons subdivision, users of the Trans Canada Trail that runs by the property, participants in the Hoy Creek Salmon Festival and other concerned people.

For more information about the property or to sign the petition please contact Jeff at 604-472-9883 or by email at rudd1328@gmail.com



Clockwise from top left:
 Hi-rise in PoCo by David
 7 salmon in UCRP by Ian
 Heron in W-9 by Charlene & Roger
 Fish passage and gate in E-8 (Colony Farm) by Charlene & Roger



12th Annual Hyde Creek

Salmon Festival



Come join us in celebrating the return of the salmon to their spawning grounds

11:00am - 3:00pm on Sunday, November 13th, 2011
 Hyde Creek Recreation Centre
 1379 Laurier Avenue in Port Coquitlam

FREE EVENTS AND PARKING - REFRESHMENTS - NATURE WALKS
 WILD SALMON BBQ - KIDS ACTIVITIES - FUND-RAISING RAFFLE
 EDUCATION CENTRE & HATCHERY TOUR

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 604-803-0483 or 604-942-4946
 OR CALL THE CENTRE AT 604-461-FISH
 Presented by the Hyde Creek Watershed Society and Co-Sponsored by the City of Port Coquitlam

OCTOBER RiverWatcher's REPORTS

Ian (W-1) Oct. 23

The River was clear and at a normal level. Slade Creek was clear and flowing. The only birds I was were a couple chickadees. There was at least one spawning salmon and one dead salmon on the rocks near the Metro Vancouver gate.

Ian (W-2) Oct. 23

The River was clear above and below the gravel operations in the late afternoon. It was a normal level for this time of year at both. The water level at the Galette gauge was .760 metres. Falacea Creek (#4) was clear & flowing well. Mantle Creek (#6) was clear and flowing well. Partridge Creek was clear and flowing well. Marquart Creek was cloudy and flowing well. Goodyear Creek (#11) was clear and flowing. Murray was at the River around 10am on this day, just off Dunkirk, and the River was perfectly clear. Around 10:20am, the River started to get cloudy and within 10 minutes it was unbelievably muddy – worse than when Hydro was letting the water out of the dam for the 5 days earlier this month. He then took a drive up Pipeline Road and the River was perfectly clear at the Upper Coquitlam River Park. There were about 100 spawning salmon in the UCRP area. The River must have had salmon the complete length of the reach. It was great to see the River clear and alive with spawning salmon.

Dave (W-3) Oct. 28

3 fishermen were at Galette Park. A stash of refundable pop bottles was down the trail from Galette Park. Some household trash was found over the riverbank at the end of Galette. The River was running fast and clear and was still a little high after the BC Hydro release. Birds included some towhees, juncos and a complaining Steller's Jay. Lots of gulls and one Bald Eagle looking for salmon cast-offs. Salmon were noticeable at Galette Park but the best spot was McTavish where the water is shallow and the fish more abundant. The sun was out, the air was crisp, the trees were colourful and the water was clear and running fast. There was a fair amount of new sand left from the high water on the way from Galette to McTavish. Not as much as in the old days.

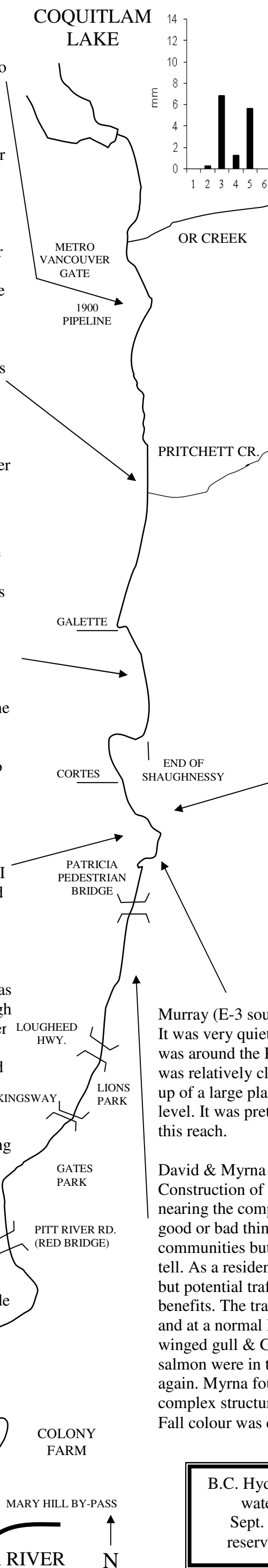
Jeff (W-4) Oct. 1

On September 26, BC Hydro started spilling water to lower the level of the reservoir. At 7am, the river level was low and at 6pm, the river was very high, as high as I can recall seeing it, muddy and roaring. The level stayed high for almost two weeks. This month's walk was five days after the start of the spill. Water quality was a bit better than when the spill started with the river being cloudy instead of muddy. Usually I walk the Trans Canada Trail south to Patricia and follow the riverbank as closely as possible on my way back. On this day, the high water level allowed only a few short sections by the river to be walked. I made side trips from the trail to check – all beaches were submerged, side channels were full and water surrounded many trees along the river's edge. All 12 dogs I saw were off leash (none were in the river!). A grey squirrel was on the trail and a cyclist reported seeing a bear near Patricia. I have been watching the water striders lately and was interested to see some on quieter water at the river's edge where they were getting a rough ride from the high water. There were still lots of fry in Grist Creek and in the outfall at the north end of Gabriola Drive. The Trans Canada Trail storm sewer outfall had a low flow, soapsuds below the main fall, water had bluish cast from soap. Litter pickup was on October 30, both the trail and the riverside being reasonably clean.

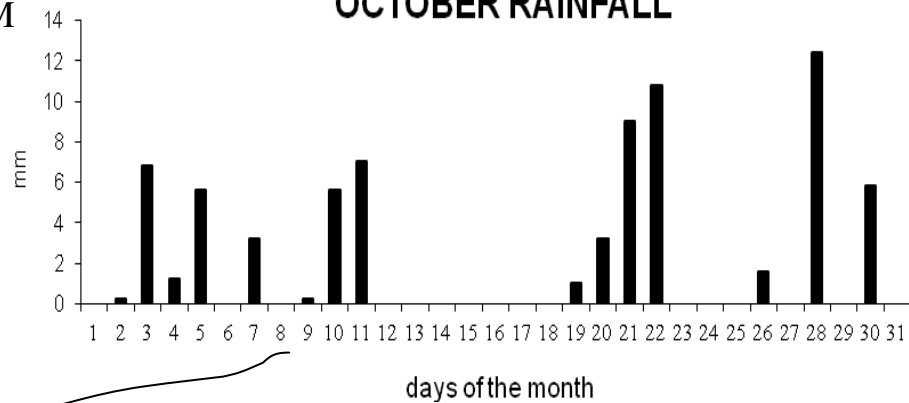
Charlene & Roger (W-8 & W-9) Oct. 23

Bird activity included hawk, chickadees, thrush, gulls and heron. We also saw 2 herons fishing in Mundy Creek. 8 fishermen were at the mouth of the Coquitlam River. Lots of people buying fireworks in anticipation of Halloween. It was great to see so many dogs on leash! 18 on leash and only 1 off leash. The autumn leaves were gloriously red, yellow and orange. The River was the lowest we had seen in quite some time, especially striking, as it has been high for quite some time.

COQUITLAM LAKE



OCTOBER RAINFALL



Murray (E-3 north) Oct. 17

I called to the two fishermen on the west side of the River. One indicated nothing; the other was in the process of cleaning a 6-8 lb salmon. He indicated it was a chum he caught with a fly?? I indicated my surprise that he would keep a chum. I also advised him that only one salmon per day could be kept. I've seen other so-called fishermen on the river the last couple of weeks who are more intent on trying to snag and bag fish whether edible or not or within limits. It's too bad there aren't more DFO available to check licensing, etc. The River was clear and at a normal level. The River looked good but likely could use a day or two of rain to improve on the fishery. Last week the River was full of pink, spring and some chum but has become quite quiet. While a few chum have been caught (and usually released), again it looks like a poor season for chum unless it's still very early. Only time will tell. It still appears to be early for the coho as I've only heard of one being caught (but not brought in) to date. You know fishermen tales however. There were a few gulls, always a sign of salmon in the River spawning and saw a few kingfishers late last week. Nice day to be along the River and it continues to look good. Despite my annoyance with BC Hydro letting water out of Coquitlam Lake for almost a solid week 1-12 days ago, they seemed to be doing a good job of monitoring the water level of the River. Hopefully the Coquitlam River Watershed core and roundtable groups will start doing some strategic planning and project development soon for the continuing restoration of this River as it has all the potential to be a great recreational facility when government spending will no longer be there to support other more costly recreational endeavours.

Murray (E-3 south) Oct. 18, 2011

It was very quiet for a lovely Tuesday morning. Most of the activity was around the Patricia Pedestrian Bridge as expected. The reach was relatively clean. I picked up a ¼ bag of garbage mostly made up of a large plastic float. The River was clear and at a normal level. It was pretty hard to spot any chum spawning where I walk in this reach.

David & Myrna (E-5) Oct. 27

Construction of Port Coquitlam's first hi-rise apartment building is nearing the completion of the exterior, not sure whether this is a good or bad thing. Like the idea of higher density cores to our communities but not sure if this is the best location, only time will tell. As a resident, you would be close to shopping, transit and parks but potential traffic issues on Shaughnessy might offset these benefits. The trail has been quite clean lately. The River was clear and at a normal level. Birds included Northwestern crow, Glaucous-winged gull & Golden-crowned kinglet. A good number of chum salmon were in the river. Amazing to see the salmon returning once again. Myrna found a partial fallen wasp nest, no wasp evident; the complex structure is quite wonderful. Many leaves on the ground. Fall colour was everywhere. Lovely fall day!

B.C. Hydro spilled 38 cubic metres per second extra water from the Coquitlam Lake Dam from Sept. 26 to Oct. 6. This was done to lower the reservoir level before the heavy fall rains start.