



Byrne Creek Streamkeepers

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—PRESS RELEASE—

For Immediate Release

October 20, 2003

2003 Salmon Run Starts In Byrne Creek

Volunteer monitors spotted the first returning salmon of 2003 in Byrne Creek on Burnaby's south slope on October 18, 2003, the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers group reports. Volunteers counted at least eight chum salmon by Oct. 19, including several pairs of spawners building nests.

Eight fish? Why is that exciting when thousands of salmon can be seen on other runs?

By the 1960s, Byrne Creek was dead and no longer supported fish. Volunteers began cleaning it up in the 1980s, and began stocking coho salmon in 1989, and chum salmon in 1997. Hundreds of children from many area schools have had the thrill of releasing chum fry and coho smolts into Byrne Creek in cooperation with the Vancouver Angling and Game Association, the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Streamkeepers counted 50 returning spawners in 2001, 72 in 2002, and we're off to a great start this year! Watch the count increase at www.byrnecreek.org.

Volunteers managed to get the attention of an amorous pair of chum long enough to get a quote.

When asked how they felt about all the fuss, they answered: "We don't mind if people watch us, but please stay out of the creek so you don't frighten us, or damage our nests of eggs. Our little ones could be in the gravel until as late as April."

The Byrne Creek Streamkeepers group was established in 1999, following a tragic toxic spill in 1998 that entered storm drains and flowed into the creek killing over 5,000 fish. The group monitors the creek and artificial spawning habitat, and does environmental restoration and protection work with the support of the City of Burnaby's Engineering, Planning and Parks departments. For more information see www.byrnecreek.org.

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