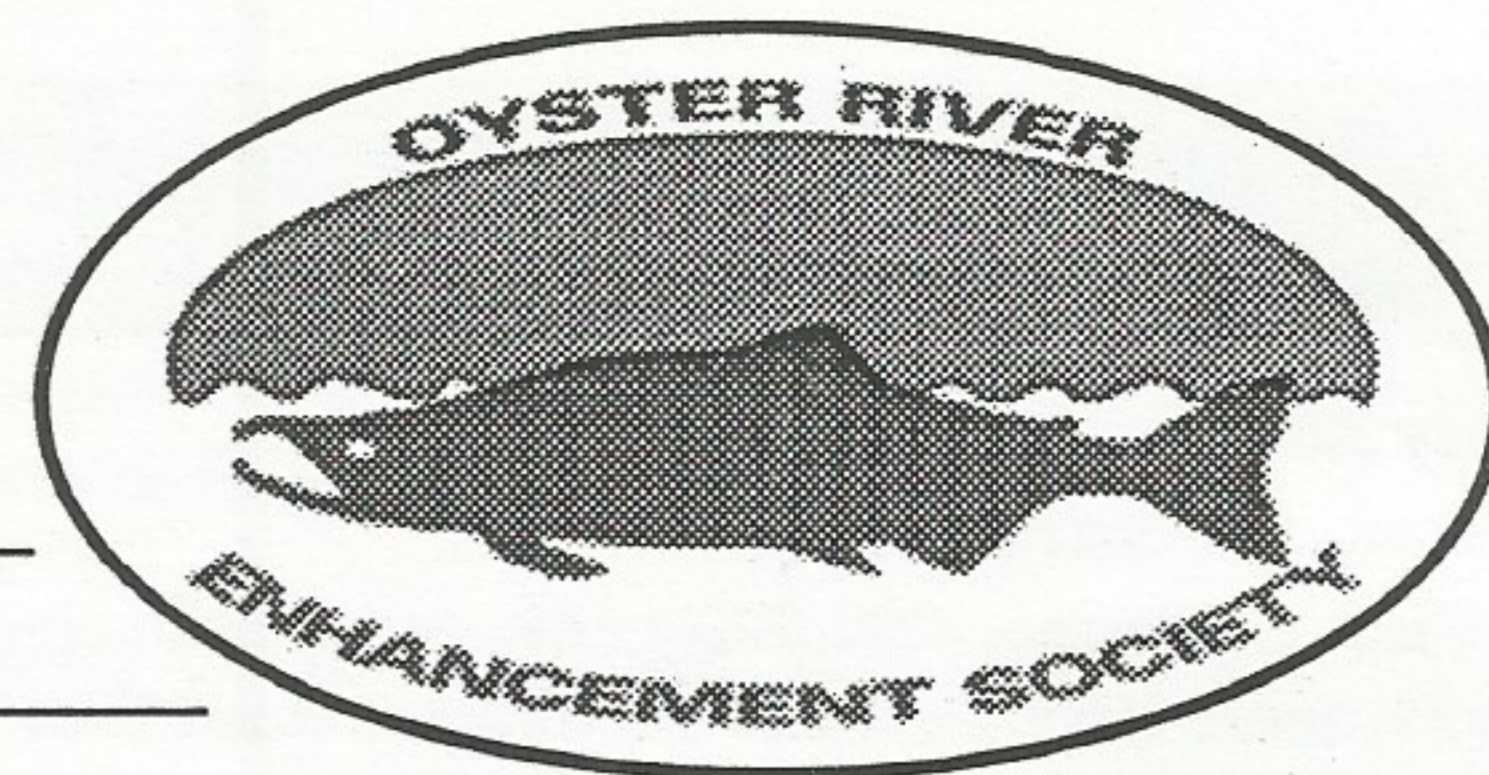


# NOYSTER RIVER ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2000



## ... President's Message

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to brief you on ORES' plans for summer 2000. We filed funding applications for three projects this year, and all were granted!!! Now we have a busy summer in front of us! And what are the projects?

**Project #1, South Oxbow Side-Channel Restoration:** The "South Oxbow Side-Channel" (Arthur Mayse Channel) is to be constructed on the south bank of the Oyster, between the Island Highway and the old wooden bridge near the Fisherman's Pub. The channel will be 600m long and supplied with water from the Oyster River via a river intake installed below the Island Highway bridge. Project objectives are to increase overwintering habitat for coho, chinook, steelhead and cutthroat; to provide stable spawning habitat for coho, chum and cutthroat; to prevent the stranding of juvenile salmon in adjacent wetlands; and to provide a spawning, rearing and juvenile overwintering demonstration site which has good public access. This project is to be funded by "Interfor Ltd.", "DFO-HRSEP" and the "IWA".

**Project #2, Raven Channel Extension:** In 1995, ORES, together with DFO, constructed the 2km Raven side-channel. Since then, erosion has lowered the elevation of the Oyster River's gravel bed, rendering the channel intake ineffective at times of low flow. To improve the viability of Raven channel, a new intake is to be installed; the channel is also to be extended 500m to provide additional spawning, rearing and overwintering habitat for coho, chinook, pink, steelhead and cutthroat. This project is to be funded by "DFO-HRSEP", "FsRBC" and the "Pacific Salmon Foundation".

The Raven channel location itself, has been donated by "Raven Forest Products Ltd."

**Project #3, Assessment and Comparison of Coho Smolt Production:** The main stem of the Oyster River suffers from flooding, siltation, and poor habitat complexity. Overall coho production is limited by these factors, and by the scarcity of desirable off-channel habitat for coho spawners and juveniles. Over the last ten years, ORES has focused on the creation of off-channel habitat and has constructed several side channels in the lower watershed (Channels #1&2, the Raven Channel and the Rippingale Complex).

Now the ORES is to carry out a two year study to provide an estimate of the coho smolt outmigration from these man-made channels together with an estimate of coho smolt production by the watershed as a whole.

Project objectives are to determine man-made side-channel coho smolt production as a ratio of the whole; to determine coho smolt production by the watershed as a whole; to compare production between channels of low, moderate and high complexity; and to demonstrate to the public the importance of habitat restoration. This project is to be funded by "DFO-HRSEP", "MOELP-USHP", "FsRBC" and the "Pacific Salmon Foundation".

As you can see, all three projects are co-funded by federal, provincial and private sectors. We feel that it is very important to bring these parties together to help us work on the common goals of watershed restoration and salmon enhancement. We thank them for their funding and appreciate their confidence in our work.

I also want to thank our volunteers, who will spend hundreds of hours working on these projects through the summer. We welcome newcomers, every Tuesday is an open-house volunteer day! We not only work hard, we have lots of fun, so come along and join us!

Jitka Petruzelka,  
PRESIDENT, O.R.E.S.

**THANK YOU** ~ to our new friends at **SURE** print and copy centre, Cliffe Avenue, Courtenay for the great job of copying mailing advice and half of the credit to this new look.

With the long winded members we have... we just had to go to bigger paper.

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# Environment Protection Report



There has been considerable activity in the upper Oyster River watershed these past several months. Both O.R.E.S. and O.R.W.M.C. (Oyster River Watershed Management Committee) have been involved.

Perhaps the most singular event was the heli-logging on the part of Weyerhaeuser that took place down stream from the old First Aid station, just below the confluence of Adrian Creek and the Oyster, in the Mile 26 area. Heli-logging offers many environmental advantages over traditional logging practices. It is especially advantageous on very steep slopes, minimising harm to the environment. But ORES was concerned with heli-logging in the riparian zone of the Oyster River. Logging in the riparian zone allows soil input into the river from logged land on higher slopes, soil which clogs spawning gravel and suffocates eggs. Such logging also removes shade cover, promoting increased water temperatures. ORES

would like to see the discontinuance of any logging in the riparian zone, and has respectfully requested that Weyerhaeuser voluntarily maintain that standard on their private lands which has been set out in the Forest Practices Code for non-private lands. ORES was disappointed that this issue was not resolved before logging began.

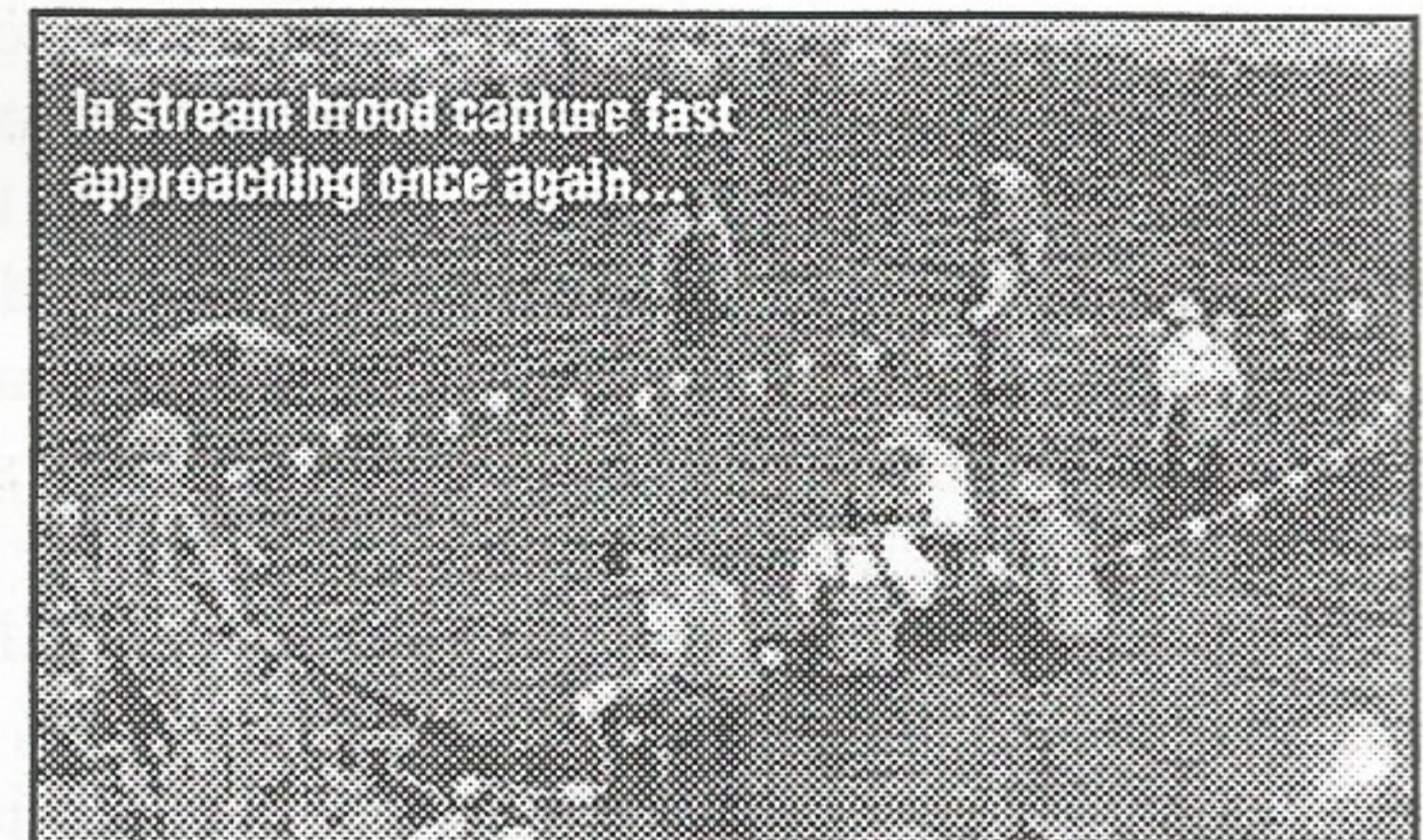
Another important event, after several years of waiting, was the partial release to members of ORWMC of Dr. Bob Willington's study, "The Oyster River, an evaluation of Watershed Sensitivity". This has not yet been released to the public, but soon will be. In recognition of the fisheries resource in the lower Oyster River and the requirement for a water quality that is consistent with potable water standards, a review of the forest land use in the upper Oyster River was conducted. This study considers the accumulated effects of forest land use practices by both Timber West and Weyerhaeuser and will include an

evaluation of hydrologic regeneration recovery, slope stability, sediment sources associated with roads, riparian zone stability and channel stability. The document will deal specifically with increased peak flows that impact water quality, as brought about by run-off from logging roads and rain-on-snow events.

ORWMC is to be congratulated on their receiving a grant of \$7,900 from this year's Salmon Habitat Program recently announced by the province. The water subcommittee of ORWMC has done good work in the past year preparing for the work that this grant will allow, implementing a baseline water-quality monitoring program, to assess potential agricultural and urbanization impacts. This work will cover primarily the section of the Oyster downstream of the Duncan Main Bridge to the Estuary.

**Father Charles A.E. Brandt**  
CHAIR: WATERSHED PROTECTION COMMITTEE, ORES

~ CHECK OUT THE OYSTER RIVER - WEB SITE <http://maxpages.com/oysterriver> ~



## NOTICE

TO ALL MEMBERS CURRENTLY RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER. HOUSEKEEPING TO OUR PRESENT MAILING LIST WILL OCCUR BEFORE DECEMBER, 2000.

(Memberships unpaid since 1998 will be removed)

- we do appreciate your past contributions, THANK YOU!

**DON'T WAIT FOR THE LAST MINUTE ~ YOU CAN RENEW OR MAKE A DONATION TODAY!**  
CONTACT GORD IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL - [millertymegraphics@home.com](mailto:millertymegraphics@home.com)

MAIL APPLICATION FORM TO:

Oyster River Enhancement Society P.O. Box 93, Black Creek, BC, V9J 1K8

I wish to apply for membership in the Oyster River Enhancement Society.

NEW  RENEWAL  INDIVIDUAL  FAMILY  CORPORATE/GROUP

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### Yearly Dues

Individual.....\$10.00  
Family.....\$10.00  
Corporate.....\$100.00

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I am Available To Do Volunteer Work  Enclosed is my cheque

We will contact you prior to the next general meeting. One year memberships are renewable on January 1st. All dues and donations are tax deductible. Receipt issued on request.