



# TROUT POND

Presented by Spruce City Wildlife Association  
John Irving, Director

Nechako River

Area: 1.78 ac  
Perimeter: 1,346.62 ft



# 50 Years....

**Spruce City Wildlife Association** is a non profit society. As such, we rely on the generosity of our sponsors and donors to provide educational programs, conservation work, and promote outreach to visitors, our community and local youth.

**Spruce City Wildlife Association** is a conservation club that was founded in 1970, and is made up of hunters, anglers, trappers and various outdoor enthusiasts, who provide a broad base of talents, interests and willingness to get involved in putting something back into the natural resources we all make use of.

**Conservation:** We safeguard the interests of fish, wildlife, park and outdoor recreational resource values in all natural resource developments, and promote the true appreciation of Sportsmanship and Sports Safety in the light of fish, and wildlife regulations, and all the fair and accepted rules of hunting and fishing. Our mandate is to ensure the sound long term management of BC's fish, wildlife, park and outdoor recreational resources in the best interests of all British Columbians

**Hatchery:** The SCWA has operated a Salmon and Trout Hatchery located on the banks of the Nechako River since 1987. Ongoing projects include support of the Learn to Fish Program, Ferguson Lake and Shane Lake Enhancement Projects including installation of new fishing docks and day use areas in association with the Freshwater Fishing Society of BC.

Our most recent project of note is the Brood Capture Program. In August and September of 2019 the SCWA harvested over 10,000 "functionally extinct" Chinook eggs from the Endako, in partnership with Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and 14,500 "threatened" Chinook eggs from the Nechako. The survival of these highly "at risk" salmon were seriously compounded as a result of the Big Bar Slide.

For the brood program, Fisheries and Oceans had set a multi year timeline to meet the high demands of the local endangered stocks. SCWA was able to meet all of those demands in only a few months.....SCWA has over 500 volunteer hours into the brood capture alone! THANK YOU to the SCWA volunteers for making this happen!



Brood Capture



SCWA Hosted Speaker Forums



SCWA on site Salt Water Tanks

# 50 Years....

## Community Involvement:

The SCWA does 2 fish releases annually. We encourage the public to come out to the SCWA sponsored barbeque and release both trout and salmon stocks into the local water systems.

As of July 2019, SCWA volunteers have performed both city and backwoods clean ups totalling over 2600 kg of garbage, with 3-4 more locations identified for this year.

We have seen 200% growth in membership so far this year and have a goal of 500 members for our 50th Anniversary in the Spring of 2020. SCWA currently has a membership of over 200 people.

## Future Programs:

The SCWA has taken the initiative to appoint a teenager as one of our 12 Directors. The purpose for this is as a starting point to create Outdoors / Conservation mentorship programs focusing specifically on children and women, supported by the volunteers of the SCWA.

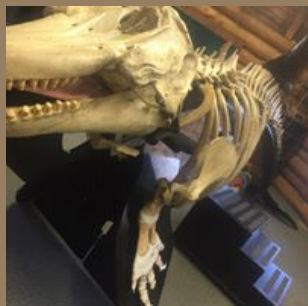
In addition to the existing fish releases, SCWA will be hosting a Chinook release in the Nechako and coordinating another Chinook release, along with the Sturgeon release in Vanderhoof, creating truly regional partnerships.



Back Country Fishing



Trout Release – Shane Lake



Specialty Presentations



Class Tours



Back Country Clean Up



Kidz Camp



Family Winter Events

# SCWA Investment:

Like others in the community, SCWA hatchery was affected by the flood in the Winter of 2007-2008. The flood damaged a corner of the building, creating a significant drop in the floor. It took the City of Prince George several years to determine that SCWA could renew their lease.

Since then, SCWA had put a new roof on the building, upgraded the wheelchair ramp, replaced the North window and re- leveled the corner of the building.

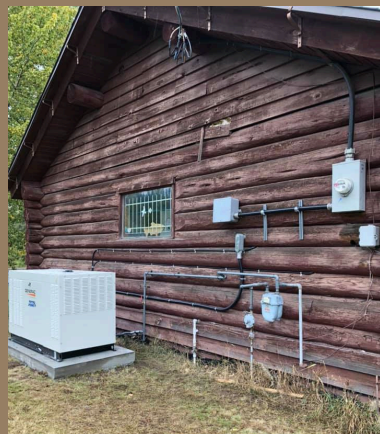
The total exterior renovation investment was \$49,600.00. This was accomplished with a grant from Northern Initiative Trust totaling \$30,000.00, a donation from A.L. Sims & Son Ltd. of \$4,000.00 and a donation from Allwest Glass of \$400.00. The balance was paid by SCWA. There are plans in place to refurbish the exterior of the log structure this within the next 9-12 months.

Interior, hatchery upgrades also undertaken this year include a \$25,000.00 back up generator to keep the fish alive in a power outage, \$25,000.00 in larger aluminum troughs for rearing and catch basins for our egg raising, \$2,000.00 in plumbing and water sterilization equipment and \$1,000.00 in electrical upgrades inside.

It is important to point out that all these funds, including the N.D.I.T. funds, were spent with local contractors and local businesses.



Foundation Repairs



New Generator



New Roof



Wheelchair Ramp Repairs

# SCWA Resources

The Hatchery is located adjacent to the Cottonwood Island trail, on the Nechako River, 1 km West of the Train Museum, and 300m West of the Cottonwood Island Park boat launch. There is no bus service, however, it is an easy walk or bike ride from the Downtown core.

The SCWA has operated a Salmon and Trout Hatchery located on the banks of the Nechako River since 1987. Ongoing projects include support of the Learn to Fish Program, Ferguson Lake and Shane Lake Enhancement Projects (including installation of new fishing docks in association with the Freshwater Fishing Society of BC) as well as countless other projects.

With a 1,000 sq. foot expansion to house hatchery operations, the SCWA offers in depth hatchery tours, supported by volunteers.

Its goal is to facilitate collaboration, partnership building, education and conservation of our natural resources both regionally and provincially.

We strive to ensure that every person that passes through our facility leaves with a better appreciation and determination to make a positive change for the future generations.



# The Proposal

**To create a “Learn to Fish” trout pond on the vacant property on the West side of the hatchery.**

To support our fish stocks, the hatchery pumps 1,000 liters of water, per minute, from our 3 registered wells, through the hatchery troughs then discharges the water into the Nechako. SCWA would like to divert this water into a seasonal trout pond to be located on the City of Prince George property adjacent to our existing facility.

SCWA has been working with the City’s real estate division on this project. SCWA is looking for a 10 year tenure on the hatchery lease and the pond. City of Prince George Parks Department will maintain the grounds after the project completion, including garbage and an outhouse facility.

In return the SCWA intends to develop what will amount to a new City Park adjacent to the Cottonwood Island trail. We believe we will be able to obtain support throughout the community for the project and have already received offers of equipment and operator donations from various construction contractors in the city. We hope also to obtain donated engineering and other services to make this project a reality.

The pond facility will be seasonally operated and will be drawn down in the winter to reduce the risk of people or their pets falling through the ice during the non-operational season. SCWA is prepared to provide maintenance of the pond as part of the maintenance of the Hatchery.



Learn to Fish Pond, Abbotsford BC

# Additional Benefits:

This pond will promote outdoor physical activities, will provide an opportunity for learning and will enhance the amount of usable, vibrant and sustainable, leisure oriented green space...in a park like setting.

We see this location as a prime opportunity for sponsored benches and picnic tables, which, will encourage families to opt to spend some of their outdoor time here.

SCWA will be providing a supportive environment that encourages participation from all members of the community. The pond will be a natural gathering place, close to the downtown core, for seniors, youth and those with mobility challenges to experience and have the opportunity to fish rainbow trout for their own sustenance.

As part of its annual volunteer work, this is an area where SCWA already performs an annual clean up.



It is also an excellent opportunity to provide additional habitat for birds and mammals, encouraging the biodiversity of the area.

SCWA has also had conversations about a Community Garden area, as a part of the pond development.

The trout will be provided by Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC.

