

**2014** was a busy year with many projects on the go. Starting at the top of the Peninsula, here is a snapshot of some of our activities:

### ***Chalet (Tatlow) Creek***

We released 800 Coho salmon pre-smolts (~10cm length) into several locations of the creek, and 500 fry (~5cm) with the help of Deep Cove Elementary School students. The creek and its biota continue to suffer from extremely low summer flows, particularly with the hot dry summer we've had. We still are seeking ways to provide supplementary summer flow with wells or enhanced storage in Gardeners Pond.

### ***Tseycum (Wsikem) Creek***

We are involved in a major, multi-year project (>\$500,000) with Ministry of Transportation and Highways on restoration of the beach at Patricia Bay, including backshore stabilization, restoration of Tseycum Creek estuary and beach nourishment for forage fish spawning.

### ***TenTen Creek***

Peninsula Streams continues to work closely with the Victoria Airport Authority on the restoration of the creek with special consideration of reducing downstream impacts on Patricia Bay. Erosion control and mitigation of framing and other impacts continue and further stream restoration is planned in the near future. In recent years sea-run cutthroat trout juveniles have been found residing in the creek so there is great hope for an eventual return of Coho salmon.

### ***Reay (Kelset) Creek***

In 2013 we undertook sediment sampling of Reay Creek Pond, a former duck pond that had become full of sediment. In 2014, sediment data analysis has continued, as well as liaising with stakeholders, including the municipalities, province, Victoria Airport Authority (VAA), Transport Canada and Sidney Anglers Association (SAA). In March we organized a smolt counting workshop, worked with SAA to construct a counting fence, and conducted a very successful counting program in April and May. Over 450 healthy Coho salmon smolts were counted on their way to sea. In October, we will plant the riparian zone of the Reay Creek diversion channel, helping complete an important initiative undertaken by VAA in 2012 on airport property.

### ***Hagan/Graham Creeks***

We consulted with the District of Central Saanich on implementation of their Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP) through their Healthy Watersheds Committee, including their end-of-pipe solution to deal with water pollution originating in the Keating Industrial Park. We were involved in monitoring and clean-up of the spill of 2000L of asphalt product into Graham Creek last September. We support monthly water quality monitoring by volunteers at six locations, which has contributed to the ISMP process and its solutions to watershed problems. An annual volunteer workparty is scheduled for October to further plant and remove invasive species on the 400m stretch of Hagan Creek that we restored in 2010.

### ***Tetayut (Sandhill) Creek***

This year we worked with the Saanich Historical Artifacts Society to restore a section of Tetayut Creek. We also worked with the District of Central Saanich on the plans for creek restoration and wetland construction in Adam Kerr Park and will be involved in that project in 2015.

## *Tod Creek*

We are supporting the Friends of Tod Creek Watershed in their proposed restoration of Tod Flats, in which the creek will be moved to the west side of the Flats for the improvement of farming as well as for fish and wildlife. Workparties were held to remove invasive Yellow Flag Iris and to plant trees along Prospect Lake. This year we also started supporting stewards of Maltby Lake, a pristine and ecologically sensitive water body that feeds Prospect Lake whose integrity could be compromised by potential development.

## *Colquitz River*

We were very active in the Colquitz Watershed this year, supporting stewards in multiple sub-watersheds, including Goward, Swan, Blenkinsop and on the Colquitz mainstem. We supported creation of the Colquitz Coalition, which is a umbrella group for all groups with stewardship mandates in the watershed. We are currently working to create stewardship groups for both Blenkinsop Creek and the mainstem. We continue to liaise with the municipality to develop an ISMP for the Swan/Blenkinsop Watersheds, which will help guide future restoration plans. We recently partnered with the Golden Rod and Reels Club to develop a stewardship initiative around Elk Lake with the aim of improving poor lake water quality.

## *Swan Creek (sub-watershed of Colquitz)*

In 2012 we engendered the creation of the Friends of Swan Creek Watershed, and have helped support their stewardship and restoration activities. This September we built six riffle/pool structures and salmon spawning habitat in three sections of the creek. We anticipate helping this active group with their extensive plans for stream restoration and salmon enhancement for this urban stream.

## *Water and Sediment Quality Monitoring*

In Tetayut, Hagan/Graham and Tseycum Creek Watersheds, our water and sediment quality monitoring programs continued, with data collected and analyzed monthly. We report quarterly to the municipalities about our findings, and on several occasions have notified them of pollution “hot spots” so that they are able to deal with them in an expedient manner.

## *Stewardship Opportunities*

In addition to financial support, we rely greatly on another pillar of our organization: our volunteers. Since January, volunteers have contributed over **2000 hours** to projects, programs and organizational activities. Volunteers contribute in many ways, including water quality monitoring, as active board and executive members, fundraising, planting, building stream structures with rock and gravel, removing invasive plant species, and mentoring students through our education programs.

## *Environmental Education Programs*

Volunteers helped us deliver our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Gr. 6 environmental education program, “**Creatures of Habitat**” over four days in April. 600 students took part in workshops, interactive theatre and hands-on environmental restoration activities on their school grounds or at nearby parks. We deliver these programs to the schools free-of-charge, and it is only with your help that we can do so! Similarly, our popular and long-running “**Watershed and Salmon Lifecycle**” education program is delivered free-of-charge to all Gr. 3 students in SD63.

*Visit our website at [www.PeninsulaStreams.ca](http://www.PeninsulaStreams.ca) to learn more about us!*