

Peninsula Streams Society Newsletter January – May 2009

Happy spring everyone and thanks for picking up this edition of the Peninsula Streams newsletter. We've had a very busy start to 2009, with organizing the first ever Creatures of Habitat conference, our AGM, our SD63 Environmental Education program, fry releases with Deep Cove Elementary, and several physical restoration projects in the planning phases. Please read on for an update on all of our exciting activities and visit our website at <http://www.peninsulastreams.org/> for more. --Francesca, Stewardship Coordinator

Creek and Project Updates

Annual General Meeting – Our AGM was held on May 9th and we had an excellent turn-out, with many members and some municipal representatives attending. Our annual report was also circulated and is available for viewing on the 'Technical Reports' page of our [website](#). Some highlights: we have changed our bylaws so PSS is now an organization of individual members as opposed to groups of members. Membership is open to anyone at a low cost of \$5/year. 2008/2009 deemed as the “year of the conference” for PSS, with involvement in three conferences: the **Round Square** conference gathered educators from 70 schools around the world to learn about educational programs and projects; **Headwaters to Deepwaters II** involved scientists and concerned public and generated a list of indicators of Saanich Inlet health; **Creatures of Habitat** made eco-superheroes of 500+ Gr. 6 students (see below for more details).

Chalet Creek – 25,000 Chum salmon fry from Goldstream Hatchery and Deep Cove classroom incubator were released by Deep Cove elementary students on May 8th 2009. Expecting chum returns from this year's release. Future plans: install a headwater well to supplement summer flow. The estimated costs are \$60,000-\$80,000 for installation and ongoing operation costs. There is great potential for community buy-in for this project.

Hagan/KENNES Creek – This group experienced revitalization this year, with great turn-outs and participation at the meetings. Restoration on Tabor's property was done in the past few years; now the focus will be on the Waterhouse portion of creek. PSS will be working with the Creating Homefulness Society, the purchaser of Woodwynn Farms as this land has a big influence on the Hagan Watershed. We are also still looking for a volunteer to conduct maintenance on the signs in Centennial Park. Please call Ian or Francesca if you can spare a few hours for this project.

Reay (Kelset) Creek – Lots of work has been done in the past by the Sidney Anglers Association. There are plans to approach VAA and their tenants to help restore a portion of the creek above Canora Road. We are optimistic for returns of Coho this year.

Tetayut (Sandhill) Creek – The old creosote wooden stave culvert at the mouth of Sandhill (Tetayut) will hopefully be removed this summer. PSS received funding from Pacific Salmon Foundation and District of Central Saanich this year for restoration work in Adam Kerr Park, with plans of breaking ground in late August. We hope this project helps to rejuvenate the Friends of Sandhill Creek stewardship group, and we plan on involving Keating elementary students in aspects of the project. Tetayut Creek is a very productive cutthroat trout stream.

Tenten Creek – Water quality monitoring is being done by Victoria Airport Authority and they are sharing the data with us. There is interest in forming a Stewardship Group and this will be nurtured in the months to come.

Tod Creek – The Tod Creek Flats project is unfolding as planned. The consultant, Scott Murdoch of Murdoch de Greeff Inc., has worked over the winter and is ready to lead the landowners and other experts including Tom Beibighauser, a wetland specialist, in a design charrette at the end of the June. Plans for the land will flow from that event.

Fry Releases – This year we released fry in Chalet Creek on two occasions in May and June. In May we accompanied Deep Cove elementary school students as they released their classroom incubator-grown fry, supplemented by 25,000 fry from the Goldstream Hatchery. In June we released an additional 10,000 fry into the same creek.



Creatures of Habitat, Days of Action 2009 – The Earth Day conference for SD63 Gr. 6 students was organized by PSS, along with organizing partners Roy Group, SIWCS and Riverbank Design, and implemented with the help of many dedicated and skilled volunteers. A contest among the Gr. 6 students to create an Eco-SuperHero culminated in the birth of the EcoLeaf and AcornLad superheroes, who made their first public appearance at the April 22nd conference, and also visited

several Thrifty Foods stores on the Peninsula. Community School Interviews (CSI) also took place prior to the conference, with a long list of local “eco” superheroes visiting the Gr. 6 classes to be themselves interviewed by the students. These superheroes included our own Ian D. Bruce, environmental advocate. The conference involved theatre presentations and skits, an EnviroJeopardy game and interactive exhibits from CRD, Lifecycles, and the Ministry of Environment, to name only a few. Students also spent half the day at one of twelve local restoration sites doing ivy removal, tree planting and garbage pick-up. A group of Royal Roads University students, as part of their practicum, were hired to assist the conference planning process and produce a comprehensive report on the conference (to be completed August 2009).



Environmental Education Program – The spring phase of the 2008/09 program is now complete. Ian and I gave presentations to 460 Gr. 3 students from the following SD63 Peninsula schools: Kelset, Sidney, Prospect Lake, Brentwood, Keating, Cordova Bay and Deep Cove. The students participated in the 1-hr interactive and fun-filled lesson which focused on learning about the salmon life cycle, watersheds, water pollution and pollution prevention. All students received an alder seedling to take home and nurture over the summer, to be returned to the school in Fall 2009 for planting at a local restoration site. Feedback about the program, from students and teachers alike, was overwhelmingly positive and we had a great time presenting it! On a side note, a second watershed model was constructed this year. This one is of the Tetayut Creek Watershed and was successfully demonstrated at several of the schools.

Many thanks to model-builder Don Buskirk for all of his hard work and expertise!

How you can help...there are lots of ways!

- **Become a Member.** For the price of a latte, you can become a valued member of PSS, which entitles you to vote at our AGM. You will also gain access to our e-newsletter and volunteer call-outs.
- **Volunteer on our Public Display Committee** This group attends public events, markets etc. to raise the profile of PSS, hand out informational pamphlets, sign up new members, etc.
- **Volunteer on our Fundraising Committee** Fundraising to support our programs is an ongoing project for us and we are always interested in your ideas and assistance. Introductions to businesses are particularly appreciated.
- **Donate** on our [website](#) through Canada Helps, a secure online donation system. You can use the “donate now” button on the website to securely and electronically donate to the society. You will then receive a charitable receipt for income tax purposes.
- **Shop at Tru-Value Foods** (Brentwood Bay) and quote #46 from the Spirit Board when you make your purchase. Tru-Value Foods donates a sum of goods to PSS equal to 1% of your bill, at no extra cost to you!
- **Shop at Thrifty Foods** and use our pre-programmed Thrifty Foods Smile Card. Thrifty Foods donates 5% of your bill to our education programs. Please remember us at the till; it doesn’t cost you a penny to support us! If you would like smile cards to give to your friends, please contact Francesca at 250.363.6480.

Please support Peninsula Streams Society’s sponsors and donors:

Canoe Cove Marina	Clace Holdings	Coast Capital Savings	Jacques Whitford Axys
Rhys Davis Ltd.	RITM Mineral Corp	Sherwood Marine Centre	United Way
Judith Cullington & Associates		Victoria Airport Authority	Village Gallery Ltd.
Westport Marina	Trenditions Strategy Management		Thrifty Foods
Port Sidney Marina	VanCity Credit Union	Haig-Brown Fly Fishers Assoc.	NSERC
Slegg Construction Materials Ltd.	Tru-Value Foods – Brentwood Bay		Several Skills Production
Bowker Family	Mrs. G. Bruce	Ms. D. Chown	Dr. J. Clearihue
Mr. B. Drury	Mrs. M. Haig-Brown	Mark Hobson	Mr. P. Chandler
Ms. P. McAvity	Ms. A. Scoones	Mrs. S. Guy	Mrs. S. Irving
			Mr. C. Mearnes

Foundations, Associations, & Governments:

District of Central Saanich	Town of Sidney	District of North Saanich
Pacific Salmon Foundation	Capital Regional District	TD Friends of the Environment
BC Ministry of Advanced Education	Victoria Foundation - Environment Fund, Woodsome Fund	
Sidney Anglers Association	Sidney Lions Club	Victoria Airport Authority
Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association	Dee M. Bailin Family Fund	Environment Canada
CRD Environment - Stormwaters, Harbours and Watersheds Program	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	
Tsawout First Nation	Tseycum First Nation	Tsartlip First Nation

Contact us at:

Peninsula Streams Society
9860 W. Saanich Road
North Saanich, B.C. V8L 4B2

Ian D. Bruce 250.363.6596 Ian.Bruce@df0-mpo.gc.ca
Francesca 250.363.6480 Francesca.Loro@df0-mpo.gc.ca
 Check out our website for updates at www.PeninsulaStreams.org

The Peninsula Streams Society newsletter is published up to six times per year. Do you have something to add to the newsletter? Submissions are accepted on a continual basis, inclusion is subject to space availability and content appropriateness. Please contact Francesca.