

Millstream Creek

In 2017 we initiated a project to build a fishway on the Atkins Road Culvert on Millstream Creek. Currently salmon and trout passage is blocked by the presence of a ~4 m. high 'perched' culvert ~2km upstream of the estuary. If fish were able to ascend past this culvert, an additional 8+ kilometers of fish habitat would be available to fish returning from the sea. Goldstream Hatchery volunteers and local municipalities have spent over 20 years improving fish access upstream from tidewater to Atkins Road culvert with 2016 returns of 700+ coho adults. 2017-18 is the planning phase for the project, with fishway construction slated for 2018-19. DFO has committed 50% of the funds for this project (\$245,000) and we are currently fundraising the other half. Visit our [website](#) for more details!

Reay (Kelset) Creek

The Reay Creek Detention Pond Project with the VAA kicked off in August 2017 with the goal of improving water quality in Reay Creek. Located at the Air Museum, the project involved clearing the creek of debris and some contaminated sediment. The detention pond was then dug over a period of about one month with a headwall built at the downstream end of the site. The pond area was planted with native aquatic plant species. PSS staff acted as biological monitors on this project.

Water and Sediment Quality Monitoring

In Tetayut and Hagan/Graham Creek Watersheds, our water and sediment quality monitoring programs continued, with data collected and analyzed monthly. We report our findings quarterly to the District of Central Saanich, and on many occasions have notified them of pollution "hot spots" so that they are able to deal with them quickly to resolve sources of pollution. Monitoring also takes place on Swan Creek, Goward Springs, O'Donnell Creek, Tod Creek and has been initiated at Maltby Lake. Thanks to Denis and all our volunteers. If you would like to volunteer with our water quality team, please contact us!

Education & Outreach

PSS recently received a generous donation from Angus Stewart (Stream Team): a trailer full of watershed models and supplies! Thanks Angus! This will allow us to deliver more tailored presentations to schools on the Saanich Peninsula and beyond. In November, PSS visited John Stubbs Elementary School in Colwood for the first time, to deliver our Gr.3 program to four classes.

Stewardship Opportunities

We rely greatly on our volunteers. In 2017, our volunteers contributed over **1,800 hours** to projects, programs and other Society activities. Volunteers contribute in so many ways, including water quality monitoring, as board and executive members, fundraising, planting, building stream structures with rock and gravel, removing invasive plant species, and mentoring students through our education programs.

Thank you to our sponsors! (see all @ <http://peninsulastreams.ca/about-us/donors-list>)



Newsletter ~ January 2018

An Important Milestone - 2017 was an incredibly busy and productive year for us. In addition, we celebrated **15 years** since we incorporated. Thank You to all our volunteers and supporters, for your passion and dedication towards the protection and improvement of streams and habitat on the Saanich Peninsula and beyond. Please read on for a recap of our 2017 activities. We wish you all the best in this New Year~!

Chalet (Tatlow) Creek

Volunteer Mary Cully continues to monitor the water level at Gardner's Pond. A small workparty/creek tour was held on Sept. 28th at the Robertson Property. Yellow Flag Iris is becoming an issue along this section of creek so we are planning workparties in 2018 to address it. Subscribe to us at <http://peninsulastreams.ca/subscribe-to-our-mailing-list> to hear about upcoming workparties.

Tseycum (Wsikem) Creek

Surf smelt eggs have been found in the gravel at the beach on Patricia Bay! This comes after the multi-year beach restoration project undertaken in partnership with Tseycum First Nation, Peninsula Streams Society (PSS) and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure which involved backshore stabilization, restoration of the estuary and beach nourishment (adding beach rock/gravel) for forage fish spawning.

TenTen Creek

The TenTen Creek Project continued in 2017 with the Victoria Airport Authority (VAA). As a result of a pipe collapse downstream of Willingdon Road (Nov. 2016), the creek back-flooded, flooding the (South) creek site that had been restored in Summer 2016. After the pipe collapsed, VAA decided to daylight the creek section downstream of Willingdon Road (North Site). In August 2017, existing riffles were improved and replenished with spawning gravel. In addition to this, a new riffle was built. As well, the area was replanted with native species as some plantings had drowned in 2016 due to the flood. Creek daylighting was undertaken from Sep-Nov 2017. About 100 meters of creek was exposed as excavators dug down to the pipe and removed it. Once daylighted, stream banks were stabilized with rip rap, and sediment control matting was secured to mitigate erosion. Three large riffles were built along this section of creek. PSS Staff were on-site as biological monitors, ensuring no fish were harmed and that water quality was maintained. The North Site will be replanted in 2018.



Tod Creek Watershed

From July to August 2017, Tod Creek mainstem was enhanced between Lohr and Prospect Lake Roads. Obstructions were removed from this section of creek and vegetation was left intact as much as possible to keep the creek shaded. Six riffles were built along this section of creek and spawning gravel was added. Unlike the Flats, this section of creek has the gradient necessary for riffles to function properly. We hope to see salmon spawning here in the future.

Restoration of Tod Flats continued in September 2017 with reconstruction of stream bank that had been eroded the previous winter. As well, blockages were removed in Tod Creek mainstem along the Flats and additional headwalls were built onto the three main culverts to control water and fish migration to and from the Flats with the insertion of screens.

Immediately downstream of the Flats, there is a tributary called Ward Creek which we enhanced in October over the course of three workparties. In total, six riffles were built, three pools dug (by excavator) and spawning gravel added. This off-channel habitat will provide much needed spawning habitat in the mainstem of the creek.

The Tod Fishway Camera System was re-installed in October to monitor anadromous fish returning to the Tod Creek Watershed to spawn. Check out our YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/user/PeninsulaStreams> for videos from the fishway camera.

We held two **Watershed Bus Tours** in October and November with 75 stewards participating. We traveled to five sites to showcase current restoration projects in the watershed. Sites included: Maltby Lake, Whitehead Park, Tod Creek Flats, Tod Fishway, and Tod Inlet. We also held an **Open House** in October to provide the community an opportunity to learn about the different groups and restoration projects in the Tod Creek Watershed. A panel of experts including representatives from DFO, Tsartlip First Nation, Saanich, Freshwater Fisheries and PSS answered questions from the community about water use and salmon in the watershed.

In September, we lost one of our Board members and volunteers, Lin Callow. Lin was a dedicated volunteer, especially in the Tod Creek Watershed. His guidance and friendship are missed.



Ian Bruce (Exec. Coordinator) talks to Stewards about the Tod Flats Enhancement Project.

Colquitz River Watershed

We continue to support stewardship groups in Goward Springs (Viaduct), Swan, Blenkinsop and on the Colquitz mainstem. With the **Friends of Swan Creek Watershed (FoSCW)** we built three new riffles, refurbished three others, replenished spawning gravel and planted native species. The FoSCW also hold regular invasive species removal workparties through Saanich's 'Pulling Together' Program. As well, Saanich undertook a project to remove sediment by Columbine Way to improve creek flow and make it more passable to fish. Work on this project is scheduled to continue in 2018. The riparian area of the project site was replanted in November by volunteers, including the FoSCW. The Friends of Colquitz Mainstem (FoCM) had an ivy removal workparty in July. A planting workparty with Goward Springs and PSS volunteers was held at VITP in December to stake the riparian area of Viaduct Flats. 30 stakes each of red-osier dogwood, willow and cottonwood were planted. Plans are underway to create a Garry Oak meadow beside Blenkinsop Creek by the George Trip Substation.

The annual Colquitz Coalition meeting will be held early this year. Please visit <http://colquitzcoalition.com/> for more information. If you are part of a group in the Colquitz Watershed and are not on our list, please contact us!

Hagan/Graham Creeks

In September 2017, a large section of Himalayan blackberry bush was removed by excavator and piled for burning at the Waterhouse property along Hagan Creek. Stayed tuned for Waterhouse workparties in the coming months!

Help us reach our 2017-2018 Thrifty Foods fundraising goal of \$2,000!
Contact us for a Free card and for more information.



Our 15th Anniversary Fundraiser held Nov 25th at Prospect Lake Hall was a 100% sold out success! Click photo for Online Album.

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