

Peninsula Streams Society Annual General Meeting Minutes

May 6th, 2017 • Brentwood Bay Lodge • 3-5pm

Attendees (45)

Alice Finall, DNS, Mayor	Jean Callow
Alice Fowlow	Jenny Hebb
Art Crouse, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed	John Coates, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed
Bob Mitchell	Judith Kirchner, PSS Board
Brian Koval, PSS Assistant Coordinator	Julie Kirzinger
Carmel Thomson, Friends of Maltby Lake	Leta Kenney
Colin Dower	Lin Callow, PSS Chair
Cosmo Pessoa	Marjorie Garside, PSS Board
Craig Elder, PSS Board, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed	Martin Chambers
Dave Larsen, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed	Mary Cully
Debbie Oostland, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed	Michael Derry, PSS Board
Denis Coupland, PSS Treasurer	Michael Simmons
Dick Beamish, Guest Speaker	Mick Collins
Doug Hamilton, Healthy Watershed Committee, Chair	Newton Hockey, PSS Board
Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada and Member of Parliament for Saanich, Gulf Islands	Nicole Callow
Farrell Boyce, PSS Board	Patrick Kerfoot
George Harper	Paul Boughen
Gwen Curry	Penny Boyce
Ian Bruce, PSS Executive Coordinator	Ray Yole
Ian Downman	Ron Estey
Jamie Disbrow	Sheila Irving, PSS Board
	Sunny Johnson
	Tobi Gardner, PSS Vice Chair
	Wendy Wilde, PSS Board

Regrets

Francesca Loro, PSS Stewardship Coordinator
Mary Haig-Brown, PSS Board

1) Welcome and Introductions – AGM called to order at 3:07pm.

Chair Lin Callow welcomed everybody to the AGM, PSS 15 year anniversary and recognized that the meeting was being held on traditional Tsartlip Territory. He thanked Brentwood Bay Resort & Spa, Peninsula Streams Society staff, all members and attendees of the AGM.

2) Agenda approved.

Denis Coupland moved approval of agenda and was seconded by Tobi Gardner. CARRIED.

3) Minutes from 2016 AGM approved.

Newton Hockey moved approval of the minutes and was seconded by Judith Kirchner. CARRIED.

4) Chair's Report – Lin Callow (report attached).

5) Treasurer's Report – Denis Coupland

2017 Core Report presented. (Separate budgets for programs and projects are available for viewing upon request – contact Francesca.)

Revenue

Carryover from 2016 - \$3,500

Business – Received \$2,000 to date.

Organizations – Local Environmental Action Divas donated \$210. Their group is wrapping up this year.

Foundations – Received \$3,000 of budgeted \$15,000.

Individuals – Received \$1,200 of budgeted \$15,000.

Grants

- District of North Saanich (DNS) - \$15,000 requested for 2017
- District of Central Saanich (DCS) - \$10,000 requested for 2017. Water Quality grant will be increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000.
- Saanich - \$9,500 requested for 2017 (\$500 to education programs).
- Sidney – We will receive \$0 from Sidney. In the past we have received up to \$2,000 and have received less and less over time.
- DFO - \$2,000 requested.
- Vancity Credit Union - \$200 branch grant received.

GST rebate – \$2,130 received

2017 Dinner and Silent auction fundraiser – Budgeted for \$5,000.

Memberships – Budgeted for \$1,000. \$210 received to date.

Water Quality Monitoring Program – hope to transfer \$5,750 to Core in 2017.

Institute of Ocean Sciences – Upwards of \$30,000/year in-kind donation since 1998 for use of office space, meeting rooms, printing, etc.

Expenditures

Executive Coordinator – Budgeted for \$36,000.

Stewardship Coordinator – Budgeted for \$39,600. Francesca’s hours have been increased in accordance with 2016 hours.

Assistant Coordinator – Budgeted for \$7,200.

Total budget expenditures are \$101,800. Slight deficit of \$2,150.

Denis moved adoption of core report as presented. Seconded by Tobi. CARRIED.

6) Election of PSS Board

No new nominations. Board remains the same.

Alice Johnson	Grant MacPherson	Mary Haig-Brown	Sheila Irving
Craig Elder	Judith Kirchner	Michael Derry	Tobi Gardner
Denis Coupland	Lin Callow	Newton Hockey	Wendy Wilde
Farrell Boyce	Marjorie Garside	Rick Brand	

7) Executive Coordinator’s Report – Ian Bruce

Thanks to Brentwood Bay Resort & Spa for use of room for today’s AGM. Thanks to Dr. Dick Beamish (guest speaker), volunteers, board, members and staff (Francesca and Brian).

PSS Volunteer of the year goes to Colin Dower for his tireless efforts volunteering across the peninsula. Honourable mention goes to Michael Derry for his volunteer time and expertise. Michael built the headwalls and screens for the Tod Creek Flats Project.

Looking to expand education programs to Millstream, Sooke, etc. using EcoAction grant.

Programs

Environmental Education

Grade 3 Program – The salmon life cycle and watershed model program will begin at the end of May.

We are looking into changing the timing of the education programs. If the Gr. 3 program takes place in April, it can be coordinated with each school's fry release. Creatures of Habitat would be pushed to May, where the weather would be more amenable to the outdoor activities.

Grade 6-7 Program – The Creatures of Habitat (CoH) program was a success in 2017. Upwards of 4,000 children have been through the program. Thanks to all the volunteers, teachers and students. There was a good story on CoH on Chek TV with a great cameo from Mary Haig-Brown.

Grade 5 Program – Cool Carbon Connections gets kids to understand climate change concepts like the carbon cycle. It was delivered to 4 schools in 2016 and will take place again in Fall 2017.

Water Quality Monitoring

Thank you to the many groups that undertake volunteer water quality monitoring activities. Water quality reports on Hagan and Tetayut Creeks are available for 2016. Monitoring will continue this year on Tetayut, Hagan, Swan, Goward and Tod.

Continuing to monitor Keating Industrial Park. Ian had meeting and gave presentation at DCS Healthy Watersheds Committee meeting. Could get EcoAction grant for stewardship at Keating Industrial Park to improve water quality and support better water management in the Park. It worked back in 2006-7 but poor water quality returned in 2011.

Projects

Chalet Creek

- workparty held in August 2016, found salmon skin.
- coho release with Deep Cove students on April 25th
- thanks to Mary Cully for continuing to provide water level data at Gardner's Pond. The data show trends related to climate change.

Tseycum Creek

- surf smelt eggs have been found on Tseycum Beach after the beach restoration project. This could lead to more RFCPP funding to continue restoration of beach.
- SIPS organizes a Shorekeepers program which monitors the beach. Tseycum First Nations were first involved. Funding for the program was cut this year so program may not happen.

TenTen Creek

- not a PSS project but Ian and Brian were involved with the Victoria Airport Authority. The project aimed to reduce sedimentation and protect the creek. Shot rock, soil and cocomating were placed on top of old landfill material and banks. Creek was moved away from the bank. Riffles were built and ponds dug. A culvert downstream of the works collapsed in November 2016 which caused flooding of the works. Large woody debris floated away but was salvaged. The culverted creek downstream was daylighted, which will provide better fish and other wildlife habitat.

Hagan/Graham Creek

- lots of work previously done to improve function of a low gradient creek. Potential to improve another section of creek this year.
- sediment was removed from Skip's pond in September using an excavator and vacuum truck.
- Water quality monitoring program will continue

Tod Creek

- The fishway project in 2015 was a great success. Raised funds for project but The Butchart Garden's (TBG) refused the money and paid for the project itself. Fishway allows fish access upstream for first time in ~80 years.

- video tunnel system was installed in March which shows cutthroat and coho using fishway. Hopefully get smolts going downstream soon. In fall, camera will film returning coho.

- The Tod Flats project was started in 2015 and will continue this year. In 2016, culverts were installed and channels dug/improved. Footing was poured for headwalls (thanks to volunteer Michael Derry). Fish traps were installed to monitor fish leaving Flats. Planting events with kids, volunteers and Green Team undertaken. Signage was installed which was funded by Saanich. In 2017, channels will be improved.

- Bus tour was a huge success; we visited several sites in the watershed. Stay tuned for 2017 bus tour later this year (maybe July).

- released 800 unclipped coho parr into Flats in January and 3,000 clipped parr into the mainstem in February.

- In 2017, the Tod Flats fish traps only caught 3 fish (1 unclipped, 2 clipped). We are currently evaluating stomach contents. The unclipped fish grew 30% since they were released in January.

-thanks to Tobi for continuing to collect water level data in the Tod Creek watershed (including at the Flats). The graphs show water draining efficiently on the Flats.

- the beach project at Tod Inlet with Seachange was a success. ~3,000 tonnes of sand and gravel were added to the beach after contaminated material was moved.

- the Tod Creek Streamkeepers program was a success in April.

- Maltby Lake has been protected with recent land sale to help protect the lake. Thanks and congrats to Carmel Thomson and friends of Maltby Lake.

Colquitz River

-the Friends of Colquitz River went on several creek walks including to Swan Creek where they saw spawning coho.

-Wilkinson road project happened in 2016.

Colquitz Coalition

- The Colquitz Coalition is made up on 21 groups in the watershed.

Swan Creek

- in 2016, riffles were built, pools dug with an excavator, large woody debris added, etc.

-In 2017, gravel will be added at several locations, two riffles will be built and areas planted. Saanich will be replacing the Columbine footbridge and enhancing the creek with support from PSS

- Smolt traps are set up at Mike Besler's property. Only four coho have been caught. More expected with next rainfall event

- In 2013-15, 40 tonnes of rock and gravel were added to the stream by hand. The Capital City Allotment Gardens (CCAG) project was a success.

- Restoration in 2016 will involve building new rock crests, deepening pools, and adding large woody debris and rock to the stream.

- Signage has been posted in the CCAG pertaining to the 2015 project

Goward Springs

- thanks to Sarah Hudson-Gray, Lynn Husted and others for collecting water quality data. Thanks to Sarah for providing graphs and other data. Fecal coliforms have been an issue at site 4 (Conway creek)

Elk Lake

- Victoria Golden Rods and Reels Fishing and Social Club and other lake users want to improve water quality. CRD part-time coordinator was hired in 2016.

- a project on Haliburton is in the works.

Blenkinsop

- want to create a Gary Oak meadow by Lochside with support from BC Hydro.

Gabo

- Gabo creek goes through Rithet's Bog. Fish have gotten here before.

Tetayut Creek

-Water quality monitoring program will continue

Reay Creek and Pond

- Reay Creek Pond has been designated a class 1 contaminated site by Transport Canada thanks to the community and in particular Bill Collins. Restoration will be determined by consultants.
- the Reay Rally in June was a big success with several politicians and the news present

Millstream

- have submitted a proposal to build fishway to open 8km+ of useable fish habitat. Volunteers have fixed fish passage and other problems downstream from here.
- We successfully fundraised our goal of \$2,500 from the Thrifty Foods Smile Card Program.

8) Guest Speaker Dr. Richard Beamish C.M., O.B.C., Ph.D, D.Sc., F.R.S.C., DFO, Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo

“We know a lot about Pacific salmon, but what we need to know most, we mostly do not know”

- We do not know how Pacific salmon populations will respond to the changes in their freshwater and ocean ecosystems because we do not understand enough about what controls their production.
- We need this information so we can manage salmon for the future
- ice core sampling shows accelerated climate change
- Bering Sea is warming, sea level is rising, pH is decreasing rapidly
- Up to 2.6 billion juvenile salmon may have entered the Strait of Georgia in 2008
- In the 1960s and 1970s we thought we know what controlled the abundance of salmon.
- “In brief, there seems to be lots of headroom for expansion of salmon populations before the rearing areas of the ocean become a limiting factor.” –Larkin 1973
- On May 30,1977... federal government approved the salmonid enhancement program which will eventually result in a doubling of the annual catch of Canada’s Pacific salmon from 25 to 50 million fish per year.
- It is known that salmonid stocks on Canada’s Pacific coast were once capable of producing catches of 300 to 360 million pounds per year. By the beginning of the 1930s, major losses through environmental damage and overfishing had reduced production to about one half of this potential.
- If production were to be returned to its full potential, gross commercial fishing industry revenues could be increased from \$194 to \$468 million dollars annually (in 1976 dollars) annually by the year 2007.
- This all happened because we thought that climate related changes in the ocean ecosystem would be random. It was not until the 1990s that we found out that the declining trend in survival was caused by climate changes.
- In fact, declining trends in survival probably started about the same time as the hatchery program started.
- Coho and Chinook salmon in the Strait of Georgia are good examples of not knowing what regulates abundance.
- Fish that grow faster, quicker, survive better.
- The better survival results from more abundant food that maximizes the energy for growth and reduces predation mortality.
- It was agreed that the extremely poor production of sockeye was caused by ocean conditions but the reasons for the declining trend that led to the extreme was identified as “no smoking gun”. However, there is evidence that the trend in sockeye production was also a result of a trend in ocean and climate conditions.
- Pacific halibut may be one of the best managed fisheries in the world and there is agreement that halibut production follows trends that are entirely related to climate and the ocean. The production trends from the mid-1970s to the beginning of the Cohen Commission are similar to the production trends of Fraser River sockeye.
- After 3 years and a cost of probably around 40 million, the smoking gun is that the abundance changes of Fraser River sockeye salmon most likely were natural and not from overfishing or mismanagement. The most important conclusion could have been that we need to invest in developing reliable forecast models if we are to manage Pacific salmon in a future of climate surprises.
- The research we need to do is difficult.
- The fastest and least expensive way of getting the needed information is a coordinated, international research effort that could start with an “International Year of the Salmon”.

- We will eventually understand the mechanisms that regulate Pacific salmon production and this understanding will produce reliable forecast models.
- The faster we get the needed information, the better we will manage our salmon in a changing climate.

9) New Business/Other

No new business.

10) Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.

Peninsula Streams Society
Board Meeting Minutes
 May 6th, 2017 - Immediately following AGM.

Attendees

Craig Elder	Judith Kirchner	Michael Derry	Tobi Gardner
Denis Coupland	Lin Callow	Newton Hockey	Wendy Wilde
Farrell Boyce	Marjorie Garside	Sheila Irving	

Regrets

Alice Johnson	Grant MacPherson	Mary Haig-Brown	Rick Brand
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1) Meeting called to order at 5:10pm.

2) Election of Executive Committee:

Lin Callow – Chair
 Tobi Gardner – Vice Chair
 Newton Hockey – Past Chair
 Mary Haig-Brown – Secretary
 Denis Coupland – Treasurer

3) Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm

Chair’s Report

2016 was a productive year for the Peninsula Streams Society. I will touch on a few of the highlights from last year, and Denis and Ian will provide you with more details.

In 2015 Ian worked with Butchart Garden’s contractors to design and complete construction of a fishway around the Tod Creek dam. With our continued stocking of coho in Tod Creek, we look forward to the return of a coho salmon run, which was extirpated in the 1930’s. This year I am pleased to announce that migrating fish are using the fishway and that we have video evidence, which Ian will describe for you. (and will show you in his report)

In 2016, Reay Creek Residents group continued to press responsible parties to control storm water runoff and decontaminate the sediments of Reay Creek pond. I am pleased to note that this summer the Victoria Airport will be constructing a new storm water detention pond and that Transport Canada has determined that Reay Creek Pond in Sidney is a high priority site for remediation. We believe that continued pressure on responsible parties by local residents and other supporters will result in construction and decontamination proceeding.

We continued our long-term water quality monitoring programs in the Hagan-Graham and Tetayut Creek watersheds, as well as supporting water quality testing in Swan Creek and Goward Springs.

Thank you to Denis Coupland and his team of dedicated volunteers who work hard to ensure the success of these programs.

This is the 11th year of our Grade 3 education program, which includes watershed and salmon lifecycle lessons. . We have delivered this program to upwards of 5500 students, to date, and this month it will again be delivered to 10 schools on the Peninsula. Our Grade 6-7 program, titled Creatures of Habitat, celebrated its 9th year in April and 3600 students have participated to date. In 2015, we piloted a new Grade 5 program with Deep Cove students; it was well received and is scheduled to continue this year at four schools. Ian will provide more details in his report; however, I would like to encourage you to visit our website and view the many teacher endorsements these programs have received, so that you can appreciate how important it is, that we continue to be able to fund these valuable long running programs for Peninsula students.

Executive Coordinator's Report

Good afternoon...thank all for coming out this lovely afternoon...we've had too few this spring. Each year I stand up here and thank people that make all of this happen...kind of like an annual Golden Globes Award! The gratitude that Pen Streams should behold is that of the membership...because it is the membership that fuels the 'bus' Members volunteer, serve on the Board, raise funds and awareness, and just 'be'. I urge you all to take a 'membership' envelope before and attempt to enlist 5 members in the next few months. This will sustain and strengthen the organization.

Personally I would like thank Lin, Denis and the rest of the new and old board for your guidance and support. As well, the volunteers that come out time and again for water quality and other activities. Volunteer of the year goes to Colin Dower who seems to be everywhere- Tod Inlet, Swan Creek, Hagan...basically everywhere he's needed...and Colin bikes to these events more often than not...Please accept this tee-shirt and hat as a token of our appreciation...

Special mention should be made of new Board member and volunteer Mike Derry who spent many hours out at Tod flats constructing our culvert headwalls ... here is a tee shirt – I believe you have your hat.

But how could I not thank my staff – assistant coordinator Brian Koval who continues to thrive in his position and excel in each new task he is assigned. And of course Francesca Loro who along with many of you stalwarts has been instrumental in building a solid foundation for Pen Streams..

Let's look ahead for a moment...we have requests to expand stewardship west to Millstream, Sooke and beyond...ditto for our educational programs all over greater Victoria – retirement of people like Stream Team founder Angus Stewart and Classroom Incubator Guru Don Lowen will require people and organizations to step up. However we are still in a human capacity conundrum – we can't commit to hire a person until we have funding in place – this may change by this time next year via an Eco-action grant.
