

Peninsula Streams Society  
9860 West Saanich Road  
North Saanich BC, V8L 4B2

Charitable Status # 865001457RR0001

**Media Advisory** For immediate release: March 2, 2020

Peninsula Streams Society Moves Ahead with \$800,000 Millstream Fish Ladder Project: Coho Salmon and Cutthroat Trout will soon have access to an additional seven km of habitat in Millstream Creek.

Peninsula Streams Society (PSS) is working with the Goldstream Volunteer Salmonid Enhancement Society volunteers and others to create a “fishway” that will allow fish to move up to and through a large culvert under Atkins Road near Mill Hill Regional Park. This fishway will consist of 14 step-pools up to the culvert and 12 steel baffles within it. The baffles will aid fish passage through the culvert, and the concrete will improve the culvert’s longevity.

Work will begin on Monday, March 9. Several trees will be removed to create site access, but at least four trees will be planted for each one removed. Prior to the work, PSS will engage with neighbours and members of the community to discuss the project, its benefits, and any potential concerns that residents may have. During construction, there may be some traffic disruptions along Atkins Road at Mill Hill Regional Park, and public access to this area of the park may be restricted. The construction phase of the project will be completed in September with plantings and site restoration to follow.

This project was originally set to proceed in 2018 but fell short of construction funds due to other development pressures. More than 80% of the funds have now been secured, and the Society continues to fundraise for engineering, biological and other support costs.

Coho Salmon stocks have been impacted by a long history of fishing pressure, changes in prey availability and oceanic conditions, and the degradation and pollution of freshwater habitat. Expanding and enhancing spawning and juvenile rearing habitat will help recover populations of some of B.C.’s most iconic species, and highlight their resilience in response to restoration and conservation initiatives. By working with local volunteers, PSS helps to foster community-based stewardship and spread public awareness of salmon conservation and threats to their recovery. Opening up habitat that was previously inaccessible is ten times more effective than restoring degraded habitat.

This project is funded and supported by the B.C. Salmon Habitat & Infrastructure Fund (DFO/BC), B.C. Gaming-Capital Project Grant, Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF),

EcoAsis/Bear Mountain Resort, City of Langford, Town of View Royal, Goldstream Volunteer Salmon Enhancement Association, Ralmax Group Holdings Ltd., Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association, Esquimalt Anglers, Trotac Marine, Keycorp, Market on Millstream, Rotary Club of Westshore, A.R. Gardner & Associates Ltd., and Victoria Golden Rods and Reels.

For more information on the project or to donate, visit <https://peninsulastreams.ca/millstream-fishway-project> or contact the Society at [PeninsulaStreams@gmail.com](mailto:PeninsulaStreams@gmail.com); tax receipts issued for donations.

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