

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

Charitable Status # 865001457RR0001

Media Advisory

Further project information in media release below.

- **Media Release** For immediate release: July 27, 2020

Colquitz River is home to both Cutthroat and Coho Salmon. In recent years, the number of coho spawners migrating upstream has been declining. However, even a few spawning salmon shows their incredible resilience and gives us hope that with proper habitat restoration, these fish can recover and succeed in an urban watershed. For decades, dedicated volunteers and community stewardship groups have worked to help rebuild these fish populations and improve the health of this watershed. Peninsula Streams Society (PSS), a non-profit organization, works with volunteers and supports community groups to restore and conserve natural areas and ecosystems.

In the summer of 2019, Peninsula Streams Society (PSS) and the District of Saanich (DoS) partnered to restore and enhance habitat in the Colquitz Watershed. With the help of our volunteers and the Friends of the Colquitz Mainstem group, PSS and DoS restored 120 m of riparian and instream habitat in the Colquitz River off of Eastridge Crescent and Copley East Park. Following the success of the 2019 phase of the project, this summer PSS and DoS will restore an additional 90 m of habitat to provide roughly 200 m of continuous high quality habitat for Cutthroat and Coho Salmon in the Colquitz River.

The downstream 80 m section of creek is lacking in-stream fish habitat, with eroding banks and compacted clay soils. To restore this section of creek, we will be adding new rock-crests with spawning gravel and anchoring large rocks and woody debris to complex fish habitat and provide protection against erosion. Clay soils will be de-compacted, replaced with healthy clean soil, and replanted with native plants. Newly restored areas will be protected by installing split-rail fencing

between the stream and trail. Construction will occur August 4th - 14th so public access to this area of the park may be restricted.

Following the 2020 in-stream work, the District of Saanich, aided by PSS and the Friends of Colquitz Mainstem group will work together to coordinate and implement stream monitoring, riparian planting and maintenance. We believe that this project builds on the success and public popularity of the 2019 work to engender future restoration projects in the Colquitz River and its overall watershed. Project funders and supporters include the District of Saanich, Pacific Salmon Foundation, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, Victoria Fish and Game Protective Society, Portage Inlet Cutthroat Trout Initiative, and the Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association.

For more information on the project or to donate, visit peninsulastreams.ca/watersheds/colquitz-watershed or contact the Society at PeninsulaStreams@gmail.com; tax receipts issued for all donations.

Ian Bruce, Executive Coordinator
Peninsula Streams Society
Email: PeninsulaStreams@gmail.com
Work: 250.363.6596
Cell: 250.888.2191