

Shoreline Stewardship Spooktacular: Celebrating the Ecological Importance of Victoria's Urban Waterways

September 26, 2024 - [Peninsula Streams and Shorelines](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring and protecting local watersheds, is joining forces with [Early Career Ocean Professionals \(ECOP\) Canada](#), [Ocean Wise](#), and [Trash Panda Brigade](#) for **Trick or Trash**, a Halloween-themed shoreline cleanup focused on Victoria's waterways. Join us on **Saturday, October 26th, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM** at Regatta Point Park for a morning of community science, where participants will contribute to important environmental research while donning their best sustainable Halloween costumes.

The event highlights the ecological significance of **Portage Inlet, the Gorge Waterway, and Victoria Harbour**, a vital urban waterway network that supports diverse species and productive estuarine habitats. Participants will collect shoreline cleanup data for Ocean Wise, conduct a microplastics survey with ECOP Canada, and help with a forage fish egg survey alongside Peninsula Streams.

This event also follows **Surf Smelt Day** (October 25th), a coast-wide initiative to raise awareness about these poorly understood forage fish, which are crucial to coastal food webs. Peninsula Streams has identified over 55 beaches from Sidney to Sooke where surf smelt and other forage fish species spawn, including Victoria Harbour. Under threat from pollution and coastal development, these species rely on community efforts to protect their habitats.

This urban waterway is also home to coho salmon and sea-run coastal cutthroat trout, keystone species supporting marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Peninsula Streams recently launched a catch-and-release acoustic tagging program to better understand cutthroat trout. With the help of volunteer anglers and transboundary partnerships, this project tracks migration and habitat use, guiding future conservation and restoration strategies.

Given the significance of the waterway as a biodiversity hotspot, Peninsula Streams is committed to restoring and protecting Portage Inlet, the Gorge Waterway, and Victoria Harbour. Ongoing projects include stream and shoreline restoration, monitoring, public education, and advocacy for nature-based solutions. Together with our many partners, we invite the community to play an active role in safeguarding Victoria's urban waterways by joining local conservation efforts and learning how every individual can make a difference.

For further inquiries or information, please contact:

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