

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Peninsula Streams Society Honored with 2025 Conservation Organization of the Year Award**

**Victoria, BC – April 22, 2025** – The Peninsula Streams Society (PSS) is thrilled to announce its nomination and subsequent recognition as the recipient of the prestigious **2025 Conservation Organization of the Year Award**. This honor, nominated by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC and supported by the American Fisheries Society, celebrates PSS's exceptional contributions to the conservation and restoration of key fishery resources and habitats on southern Vancouver Island.

Peninsula Streams Society has long been a trailblazer in environmental stewardship, particularly in its efforts to restore salmonid habitats. PSS's work has been integral in the rehabilitation of the **KENNES Watershed**, one of the largest watersheds on the Saanich Peninsula, which is home to native resident coastal cutthroat trout. Despite challenges posed by a 7-meter waterfall that prevents the migration of anadromous fish, the KENNES Watershed has shown remarkable potential to support large-bodied fish populations. PSS has worked tirelessly to ensure this potential is realized.

The watershed restoration efforts were sparked by a collaboration with the Tsartlip First Nation, who reached out to PSS for assistance. Known for its exceptional ability to bring together diverse groups and resources for a common goal, PSS spearheaded a multi-partner initiative that included removing invasive plants, creating rearing and spawning habitats, and restoring riparian areas. The results have been nothing short of inspiring. Within just one year of initiating restoration activities, large wild cutthroat trout were observed thriving in the restored habitats.

"We are deeply honored to receive the 2025 Conservation Organization of the Year Award," said Kyle Armstrong, Executive Director of Peninsula Streams Society. "This recognition reflects the collaborative efforts of our dedicated staff, volunteers, and partners. Our work is far from over, but the success in the KENNES Watershed is a testament to what can be achieved when we come together to protect and restore our local ecosystems."

To celebrate and support this important work, Peninsula Streams Society is inviting the community to their **Smolt Soirée** on **April 26th from 5-8 pm** in Central Saanich. The event will feature food, music, awards, and stories of resilience from local restoration efforts. This will be an evening to celebrate the victories and ongoing efforts to protect and restore vital habitats on southern Vancouver Island.

Running alongside the event is the **Online Silent Migration Fundraiser**, from **April 18th - 27th**, where all proceeds go directly toward stream and shoreline restoration projects across Greater Victoria and the Saanich Peninsula. The online auction offers a unique opportunity to contribute to local conservation and environmental stewardship.

**Come support local restoration work and help protect the vital habitats that coho, sea-run cutthroat trout, and countless other species depend on.**

Learn more and donate at: [www.peninsulastreams.ca](http://www.peninsulastreams.ca)

Online Auction: <https://can.givergy.com/2025silentmigrationonlineauction/?controller=home>

Smolt Soirée Tickets: <https://peninsula-streams-society.tickit.ca/events/28903>

For more information on the Peninsula Streams Society's conservation projects or to get involved in their efforts, please visit [www.peninsulastreams.ca](http://www.peninsulastreams.ca).

**About Peninsula Streams Society:** The Peninsula Streams Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat on southern Vancouver Island. Through community engagement and partnership-driven projects, PSS works to restore critical watersheds, enhance biodiversity, and ensure the health of local ecosystems.

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