

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Celebrating the Silent Migration: Peninsula Streams Society Tracks Coho Smolts on Their Journey to the Sea

Victoria, BC – As spring unfolds across the region, thousands of young coho salmon are beginning a remarkable, but often unseen, journey from their freshwater birthplaces to the vastness of the Pacific Ocean. Known as the “silent migration,” these juvenile coho—or *smolts*—make their way through urban waterways, including the Colquitz River, navigating culverts, pollution, and development on their path to the sea.

To shine a light on this critical phase of the salmon life cycle, Peninsula Streams Society is operating a smolt trap on the Colquitz River for its second year. Staff and dedicated volunteers are out daily, carefully counting and identifying juvenile salmon and sea-run cutthroat trout as they pass downstream. The information collected helps assess the health of fish populations and the broader ecosystem, guiding ongoing habitat restoration efforts.

“This invisible migration is a powerful reminder that even in the heart of our cities, wild salmon are still trying to survive and thrive,” says Kyle Armstrong, Executive Director of Peninsula Streams Society. “Through this work, we can create awareness about our local waterways while measuring their health.”

To celebrate and support this important work, Peninsula Streams Society is inviting the community to their **Smolt Soirée (April 26th 5-8 pm)** in Central Saanich, an evening of food, music, awards, and stories of resilience. Running alongside the event is the **Online Silent Migration Fundraiser (April 18th - 27th)**, where all proceeds go directly toward stream and shoreline restoration projects across Greater Victoria and the Saanich Peninsula (links below).

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

Online Auction:

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

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

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