

PENINSULA STREAMS & SHORELINES

NEWSLETTER
FALL 2025 ISSUE



LATEST UPDATES

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- COLQUITZ SPAWNER SURVEY
- BEACH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
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- OUTREACH EVENTS
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

*Streams
&
Peninsula
Shorelines*

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." - Jane Goodall (1934-2025)

Greetings to the PSS Community,

I'm proud to share this edition of our quarterly newsletter, highlighting just a few of our recent efforts in the streams and shorelines of Greater Victoria—along with a sneak peek at what's ahead! This past summer, our staff and volunteers have been hard at work across a wide range of projects—from tracking invasive green crabs and cutthroat to installing post assisted log structures—making large strides towards a healthier and more resilient coast.

We can't wait to see you out at your favourite stream or shoreline as we remove invasive species, host planting parties, and welcome back the salmon to spawn.

Thank you for joining us!

Kyle Armstrong
Executive Director



COLQUITZ RESTORATION AND MONITORING

GABO CREEK RESTORATION

Salmon Return to Restored Gabo Creek!

In July & August 2025, PSS and the District of Saanich restored another 170 metres of Gabo Creek, a key tributary of the Colquitz River. The team rebuilt deep pools, added spawning gravel, and installed large woody debris to bring back habitat for coho salmon and cutthroat trout. Before restoration, crews carefully relocated fish and recorded their numbers to track recovery over time. Last year's restored site had no recorded coho fry, but this year—just downstream—nearly 270 young coho were found, showing salmon are already using the new habitat for spawning.

This restoration of Gabo Creek highlights over a decade of collaborative partnership between PSS, Saanich, and the community to restore the Colquitz Watershed, ensuring that salmon continue to spawn right in our backyards for generations to come.

SPAWNER & REDD COUNTING SURVEYS

This fall, PSS staff and volunteers will walk along the streambanks of the Colquitz River to count returning salmon and their redds (nests). These surveys help us track salmon populations and assess how restored habitats are supporting spawning success. Each redd represents the next generation of salmon that will re-enter the Colquitz Watershed in years to come—an encouraging sign that our local restoration and stewardship efforts are working.

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers and partners who make this community-based monitoring possible!



Scan here for more information on our work in the Colquitz Watershed



DESTINATION GREATER
VICTORIA

BEACH PROGRAM

BEACH EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION OF HABITAT

FORAGE FISH BEACH SPAWNING

From June to September, PSS volunteers continued monthly sampling across shorelines from Metchosin to North Saanich, collecting a total of 52 sediment samples. 12 of those samples were positive for surf smelt eggs, 9 of which came from Tryon Beach in North Saanich, this region's year-round hotspot beach for surf smelt spawning. These results help inform conservation planning, policy, and restoration.

We are in search of volunteers to assist in these beach surveys, both as team leads and as general team members.

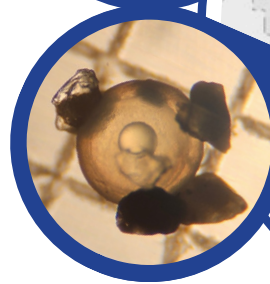
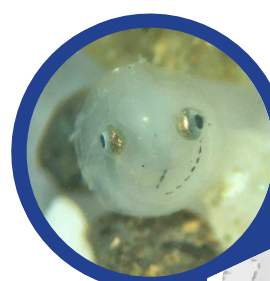
Interested in helping out?! Reach out to:
chloe.kraemer@peninsulastreams.ca

EUROPEAN GREEN CRAB

This summer, PSS continued supporting coastal monitoring for invasive European green crabs (EGC), which threaten eelgrass and native crabs. Under contract with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, staff and volunteers completed five trapping events in Portage Inlet and one at Millstream Estuary—finding no EGC.

PSS also piloted a new snorkel-based removal method with Bottom Dwellers Freediving at Billings Spit in Sooke. This innovative, dive-supported approach expands monitoring capacity and adds valuable underwater observations to guide future control efforts. The collaboration showcases how community partnerships and creative methods are strengthening regional efforts to protect coastal habitats on southern Vancouver Island.

SURF SMELT EGG



PACIFIC SAND LANCE EGG

NUMBER OF POSITIVE SAMPLES SINCE MAY

12

SURF SMELT

&

0

SAND LANCE



Scan here for more information on the BEACH Program and how to get involved



Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Pêches et Océans Canada



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



NYMPH POINT PARK SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT

WHAT'S GOING ON?

North Saanich's shorelines and WSIKEM (Tsehum Harbour) are recognized as regional hotspots for forage fish spawning, providing vital habitat for surf smelt and other species that sustain coastal food webs. However, these sensitive habitats are increasingly at risk from shoreline development, erosion, and sea level rise.

Nymph Point Park has been identified as a priority site for restoration. Peninsula Streams & Shorelines, Project Watershed, the District of North Saanich, and partners are developing a plan to restore and enhance spawning conditions by removing invasive species, planting native marine riparian vegetation, and adding beach nourishment to improve sediment quality. This project will not only restore important habitat but also raise community awareness about the value of protecting our region's spawning beaches.

PROJECT DELAYED

The Nymph Point Park shoreline restoration project has been delayed after the province removed its Nature-Based Shoreline Protection permitting pathway—previously designed to support coastal restoration. This unexpected change has significantly increased project approval times. Peninsula Streams is working with local representatives to find solutions and to help shape a future BC Coastal Strategy that prioritizes shoreline protection and restoration. Meanwhile, more and more beaches are destroyed as property owners resort to armouring and seawalls without any incentives to take a Nature-based approach.



Scan here for more information on the Nymph Point Shoreline Restoration Project!



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR WRAP-UP

Over the past year, PSS delivered hands-on watershed and shoreline education to nearly 3,000 students across the Capital Region. Through programs like Creatures of Habitat, Shoreline ED, Streamside ED, and Rains, Drains & Gardens, students explored local ecosystems, worked on restoration projects, and learned how their everyday actions impact salmon and shoreline health. Environmental Education Programs also expanded youth community science opportunities by offering workshops in water quality monitoring, forage fish habitat surveys, and identifying critical habitat features for aquatic organisms. Goals of these experiences is to foster environmental stewardship, curiosity, and community connection.

A heartfelt thank you to the teachers, volunteers, and partners who make these programs possible. Together, we're inspiring the next generation of watershed guardians!

LAND-BASED LEARNING

We are gearing up for a busy fall season with Creatures of Habitat! This program engages hundreds of students in stewardship action with hands-on learning about local ecosystems and the impacts of invasive species.

Land-based learning helps youth move beyond the classroom to learn directly from the natural world around them. By engaging with local ecosystems, traditional knowledge, and hands-on stewardship, students gain a stronger sense of place and responsibility for their environment. These experiences build confidence and problem-solving skills while nurturing emotional well-being through time outdoors.



Scan here for more information on our education programs and how to book your own session today!



VICTORIA FOUNDATION



BC Parks
Licence Plate
Program



STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

WHAT'S NEW?

We've been restoring streams across the region! Our field team have been hard at work in the KÉNES (Hagan-Graham), Colquitz, KÉL,SET (Raey), TETAY,ET, and Millstream watersheds, focusing on invasive species removal and instream habitat restoration to support salmon and cutthroat trout recovery. Recent highlights include building new riffle structures in KÉL,SET Creek to enhance spawning habitat and installing Post-Assisted Log (PAL) structures in TETAY,ET Creek to increase channel complexity and flow diversity.

PALs are simple, nature-based stream restoration features made by anchoring logs into the streambed with posts. They slow water flow, trap sediment, and create pools and riffles—improving habitat for salmon, trout, and aquatic insects while stabilizing streambanks naturally.

These on-the-ground projects improve water quality, create refuge for juvenile fish, and strengthen the resilience of our local streams—thanks to the dedication of our incredible volunteers and community partners.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Staff, partner groups, and dedicated volunteers continue to collect water quality data from streams across the Saanich Peninsula and Greater Victoria. These long-term datasets help us track trends in watershed health and guide restoration priorities. You can explore our results on the open-source DataStream website!

With fall rains, we're also ramping up 6PPD-q sampling to better understand how stormwater runoff interacts with local salmon habitats. 6PPD-q is a toxic chemical from tires that's found in urban stormwater runoff and is highly toxic to Coho salmon.



Scan here to learn more about DataStream and explore open source water quality data for your local watershed!



STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

FALL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As the Pacific salmon return with the rains, we are shifting from instream restoration to riparian and shoreline stewardship—and we need your help! No experience needed—just enthusiasm and a love for the environment and your local watersheds!

This fall, volunteers can get involved in a variety of activities, such as: Salmon Spawning Surveys to count returning salmon and monitor redds; Forage Fish Surveys to search beaches for sand lance and surf smelt eggs; Riparian Planting with native species and Invasive Species Removal to help protect streamside habitats; Education Program Delivery to support place-based learning in local schools; and Beach Clean-ups to keep our shorelines healthy and litter-free.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Millstream Creek – Log Jam Removal

- Thursday, October 14th from 10:00 – 12:00PM

TETAY,ET Creek – Ivy Removal at Heritage Acres

- Monday, October 20th from 9:00 – 12:00PM

SNIDÇEL Resiliency Project with PEPAKEN HÁUTW

- Thursday, October 23rd from 10:00 – 2:00PM
- Thursday, November 13th from 10:00 – 2:00PM

Gabo Creek – Riparian Planting (Phase 2)

- Saturday, October 25th from 10:00 – 12:00PM

UPCOMING MÁWUEĆ EVENTS

- Friday, October 10 from 9:00 – 12:00PM
- Friday, October 17 from 9:00 – 12:00PM
- Friday, October 24 from 9:00 – 12:00PM

To register for any of the MÁWUEĆ events, please email Marleah at: stewardshipadmin@tsartlip.com



Scan here to join learn about our stewardship programs and how to get involved in your local watershed!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Our team was out in full force this summer hosting booths at community events, leading guided walks, and sharing the good work we do across the region. Staff and volunteers connected with hundreds of people at markets, gatherings, and festivals, raising awareness about salmon habitat, shoreline health, and local volunteer stewardship opportunities. From youth activities and watershed models to forage fish demonstrations and restoration site tours, our outreach brought science, ecology, and stewardship to life.

A huge thank you to our volunteers and partners who helped inspire new watershed champions throughout the summer!

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

October 14th - Shared Waters of the Salish Sea - 7:00 to 9:00 PM

- film screening and discussion panel at the Vic Theatre, hosted by Pacific Salmon Foundation

October 18th - Biodiversity Celebration - 1:00 to 4:00 PM

- free, family-friendly event at Royal Roads University (Colwood Campus) in the Dogwood Auditorium

November 4th - Early Career Ocean Professionals Mixer - 5:00 to 7:00PM

- casual, in-person gathering co-hosted by ECOP Canada and Blue Futures Pathways, in collaboration with COAST

PSS MERCH AVAILABLE

Check out Robinson's Outdoor Store to get your own Peninsula Streams swag, including custom hats, t-shirt, and stickers.



Scan here to join our volunteer network and get updates on new and upcoming events



MAKING WAVES!

SHARING GRATITUDE

We recently celebrated our amazing volunteers at our annual Volunteer Appreciation BBQ! Volunteers make our work possible, and we are grateful for those who continuously share their skills, passion, and dedication to community stewardship with Peninsula Streams. Thank you to all who continue to support our vital work!

We were deeply honoured to have Robert and Tammy Sam from Tseycum Nation share some beautiful words to open the day, and Mattias Sam, Peyton Siah, and Alicia Peter for their songs of welcome, prayer, and thank you.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Greg Burgess, the recipient of Peninsula Stream Society's 2025 Denis Coupland Volunteer of the Year Award!

This award acknowledges a volunteer's outstanding dedication in supporting our mission to build a legacy of healthy streams and shorelines, and for their extraordinary contributions in our three foundational pillars: Ecological Restoration, Environmental Education, and Community Stewardship.

Greg has been an incredible asset to Peninsula Streams, contributing countless volunteer hours to community stewardship. Greg's steady commitment and field expertise have strengthened projects across the region. His enthusiasm and reliability embody the spirit of community-based restoration. On behalf of our whole PSS Team – thank you, Greg!

RIFFLE RAFFLE 50/50 WINNER

Congrats to our Riffle Raffle 50/50 winner, who won over \$2,000!



Follow us on social media to get updates on how we're making waves in the community!



OUR LEGACY IS YOUR LEGACY

LEAVE A LEGACY OF IMPACT

Did you know that by including us in your estate plans, you can provide long-term financial support for our restoration, conservation, stewardship, and education programs?

The Peninsula Streams and Shorelines Fund is a planned giving program established in partnership with the Victoria Foundation, which hosts and independently manages the fund on our behalf.

Your donation will be pooled with others in our permanent endowment fund. Income from the fund will be distributed annually to us by the Victoria Foundation to support our various programs.

By giving even a small portion of your estate to our fund, you can leave a lasting legacy to your community and still support those you love.

You can make cash donations to the fund, bequests in your Will, or gifts of assets such as stocks and insurance. You may also be able to save on taxes.

Please contact us to learn more. Alternatively, consult your estate planning advisor, or visit the Victoria Foundation website for more details.



VICTORIA FOUNDATION

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER®

Scan here for more
information on the
Victoria Foundation's
Giving Legacy Program



WORKING TOGETHER

Peninsula Streams and Shorelines is honoured to work within Coast and Straits Salish Territory, the territories of the Lekwungen peoples, known today as Songhees and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) Nations, the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples, known today as W̱JÓŁEŁP (Tsartlip), BO̱KEĆEN (Pauquachin), STÁUTW (Tsaywout), W̱SIKEM (Tseycum), and MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nations, and T'Sou-ke (Sooke) First Nation. We are deeply grateful for our partners and collaborators and look forward to our continued work, achieving our shared goals and strengthening our bonds as stewards of the environment.



TSARTLIP
FIRST NATION



Songhees



Esquimalt



TSEYCU M FIRST NATION



PAUQUACHIN
FIRST NATION

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FROM HEADWATERS TO DEEP WATERS
Building a legacy of healthy streams and shorelines
since 2002

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