

PENINSULA STREAMS & SHORELINES

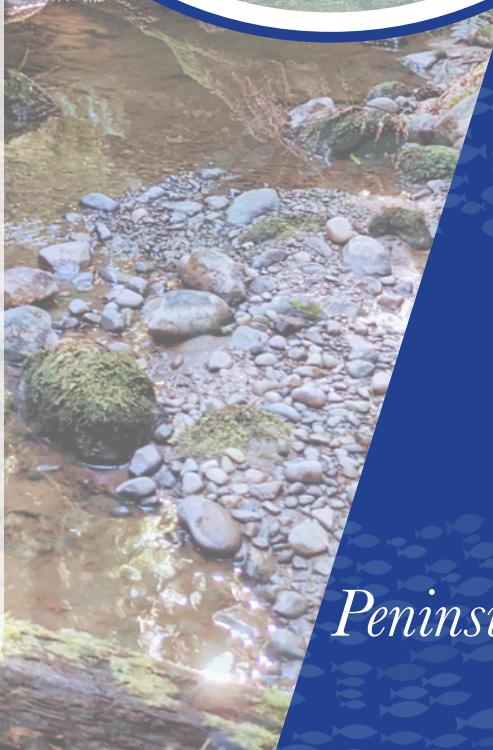
NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2026 ISSUE



LATEST UPDATES

- MAWUEC RESTORATION
- COLQUITZ SPAWNER SURVEY
- BEACH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
- NYMPH POINT PARK UPDATE
- EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS
- STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES
- OUTREACH EVENTS
- AND SO MUCH MORE!



Streams
Peninsula & Shorelines

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings to the PSS Community,

PSS continues to make strides toward a legacy of healthy streams and shorelines across our region, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our talented staff, committed volunteers, and supportive partners. Our programs continue to evolve, expanding both geographically and in scope. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together over the past few months, and of the many initiatives that are setting the stage for an exciting transition into spring.

Thank you—for all that you do to make this important work possible. If you are new to our organization, I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome. I encourage you to get involved with PSS in the streams, on the beach, or in the community in whatever way suits you—you won't regret it!

Kyle Armstrong
Executive Director



Streams
Peninsula & Shorelines

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

MÁWUEĆ RESTORATION

KÉNNES WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT

Led by WJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip First Nation) in partnership with Peninsula Streams, this multi-phase project is restoring riparian, wetland, stream, and Garry oak habitats across the MÁWUEĆ property (formerly Woodwynn Farms). The work supports coastal cutthroat trout, improves watershed resilience, and reconnects WSÁNEĆ peoples with ancestral lands, foods, and medicines in the KÉNNES Watershed.

PHASE 2 IS UNDERWAY

Phase 2 of the MÁWUEĆ Restoration began in summer 2025 and continues expanding riparian and wetland restoration to enhance stream habitat in KÉNNES (Hagan Creek). This work improves water quality, supports native species, and builds climate resilience while strengthening land-based learning and stewardship. Since the fall, volunteers have planted nearly 4,000 native trees, shrubs, herbs, and forbs, contributing hundreds of hours to restoring this important site—thank you to all our dedicated volunteers and partners!

KESTREL NEST BOXES COME TO MÁWUEĆ

Kestrel nest boxes were recently installed at MÁWUEĆ in partnership with Special Bird Service and South Island Bird Research Network, who will provide their expertise and guidance in establishing a bird monitoring program for the site.

Across the province, American kestrels are experiencing significant population declines due to habitat loss and reduced nesting opportunities. Installing nest boxes helps replace lost natural cavities, supports local breeding populations, and contributes to healthier ecosystems by maintaining natural rodent and insect control.



Scan here for more information on our work at MAWUEC and in the KÉNNES Watershed



COLQUITZ RIVER WATERSHED

VICTORY FOR LOCAL CONSERVATION

The District of Saanich has taken major steps toward designating Panama Flats as a full bird and nature sanctuary, comparable to Swan Lake and Rithet's Bog. Council has unanimously endorsed a new Concept Plan that prioritizes biodiversity conservation while creating opportunities for the public to learn about and enjoy wildlife.

Council has approved rezoning the wetlands to P-5 Conservation Area status, with surrounding lands designated as Natural Park (P-4N)—placing Panama Flats among the region's most protected natural areas. Council has also supported updates to the Animal Bylaw, requiring dogs to be on-leash on designated trails and prohibiting dogs from the remainder of the sanctuary to better protect wildlife.

These actions mark an important milestone in safeguarding biodiversity and advancing long-term stewardship of the Colquitz River Watershed, made possible through strong community collaboration.

SPAWNER & REDD COUNTING SURVEYS

This spawning season, Peninsula Streams staff and volunteers walked the Colquitz River to survey returning Coho salmon and document their redds (spawning nests). Over 180 hours, volunteer teams recorded 77 Coho spawners and 21 redds, generating valuable data on where salmon are successfully reproducing. These surveys help guide future restoration by identifying priority areas for spawning gravel nourishment and habitat improvements.

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



BEACH PROGRAM

BEACH EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION OF HABITAT

FORAGE FISH BEACH SPAWNING

Over the fall and winter, PSS volunteers continued monthly sampling of beaches from Metchosin to North Saanich, collecting over 70 sediment samples and finding evidence of surf smelt spawning 26 times and Pacific sand lance spawning 3 times. Positive beaches included Esquimalt Lagoon, Cordova Bay, Tryon Beach, Roberts Bay, and many more.

Over this time, our program also saw some exciting collaborations and events:

TEAM EXPANSION

- We conducted 4 training sessions for new volunteers throughout November across the Saanich Peninsula, successfully training 24 new volunteers, including 3 new team leads.

SAMPLING COLLABORATION WITH PARKS CANADA

- In December, we joined Parks Canada for rapid sampling of 5 different beaches across the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, finding sand lance at Shell Beach on Portland Island. We hope to conduct more sampling in February!

FORAGE FISH EGG MICROSCOPY WORKSHOPS

- In collaboration with Moira Galbraith, DFO Zooplankton Taxonomist and PSS program collaborator, we hosted two workshop sessions in the zooplankton laboratory at the Institute of Ocean Sciences. These sessions brought together our program microscopists for a review of forage fish egg identification, staging embryo development, and microscopy best practices.



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



Fisheries and Oceans Canada
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TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



BEACH PROGRAM

BEACH EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION OF HABITAT

FORAGE FISH SOCIAL WITH GWAS

- In collaboration with the Gorge Waterway Action Society (GWAS), who are undertaking a forage fish spawning habitat suitability and egg toxicology project, we hosted a forage fish social event at the Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club. We brought together 17 community members for presentations, egg viewing, mingling, and a demonstration survey. Big thank you to PSS Sustainability Scholar Lily Charette for coming out to present on her stormwater policy work she did for us this summer!



PROJECT UPDATE: NYMPH POINT PARK BEACH

The Nymph Point Park Shoreline Restoration Project is ready to move forward this spring! Due to provincial permitting and funding timeline constraints, the scope of beach nourishment has been reduced; however, we are happy to announce that key backshore restoration treatments will proceed. These include invasive species removal, creosote log removal, boat clean-up, slope stabilization through bioengineering and targeted sediment nourishment, public pathway upgrades, native species planting, and installation of interpretive signage.

Careful preparations have been made to respect the ecological and cultural sensitivities of this important site. We are excited to work alongside our partners at Project Watershed and the District of North Saanich, with support from the Oak Bay Marine Group, WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council, and Hatchet & Seed.



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



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SMUS GETS A RAIN GARDEN

The St. Michaels University School (SMUS) rain garden project is now underway as students help to dig the drainage depression, add mulch, and plant native vegetation – transforming turf to a ephemeral wetland. The rain garden captures and filters stormwater runoff before it reaches Bowker Creek, helping improve water quality and build watershed resilience.

This project is many years in the making working with students, teachers, and staff to plan and build this garden. This project is part of PSS' Rain Gardens for Headwaters program, which partners with schools and communities to create green-infrastructure while empowering students through hands-on, place-based learning.

CREATURES OF HABITAT

Middle school students supported riparian restoration by removing invasive species and planting native vegetation along streams near their schools. This hands-on program gives students the opportunity to take meaningful action to help heal their local streams while learning how healthy riparian areas support fish, wildlife, and clean water.

BIG YEAR OF OUTDOOR LEARNING

In 2025, PSS' engaged 3,900 youth throughout our place-based learning experiences, with the goal of fostering environmental stewardship, curiosity, and strong connections to community and place.

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!



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



STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

WINTER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As the land rests for the winter, our staff and volunteers are still busy with riparian and shoreline stewardship—and we'd love to get your help! No experience needed, just enthusiasm and a love for the environment and your local watersheds!

This winter, volunteers can get involved in a variety of activities, such as: Forage Fish Surveys to search beaches for sand lance and surf smelt eggs; Riparian and Shoreline Planting with native species; Invasive Species Removal to help protect streamside and coastal habitats; installation of exclusionary split rail fencing to reduce stream bank erosion; and Education Program delivery to support place-based learning in local schools.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EVENTS

TETAY,ET Creek - Ivy Removal at Heritage Acres

- Wednesday, February 11th from 10:00 – 1:00PM
- Wednesday, February 25th from 10:00 – 1:00PM

MILLSTREAM - Riparian Work at Cedar Vale Park

- Thursday, February 19th from 10:00 – 1:00PM

KÉL,SET (Reay) Creek - Split Rail Fence Installation

- Thursday, February 26th from 10:00 – 1:00PM

MÁWUEĆ Wetland Restoration - drop-in anytime!

- Friday, February 6th from 9:00 – 3:00PM
- Friday, February 13th from 9:00 – 3:00PM
- Friday, February 20th from 9:00 – 3:00PM
- Wednesday, February 25th from 9:00 – 3:00PM

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



Scan here to become a volunteer and learn how to get involved in your local watershed!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Stormwater Symposium – From Rain to Resilience

February 12 | Doors at 6:30 pm | Event from 7 – 8:30 pm

Location: Gorge Park Pavilion (1070 Tillicum Road, Esquimalt)

Join a diverse panel of local stormwater leaders for a fast-paced evening of lightning talks showcasing innovative stormwater threats and solutions, with a panel discussion and audience Q&A.

Presenters include PSS' own Executive Director, Kyle Armstrong, speaking to Stormwater Policy Ratings Guide and Rain Gardens for Headwaters. Along with presenters from Georgia Straight Alliance, CRD, City of Victoria, and Surfrider.

Register now with QR Code below to save your seat!



Join local experts

Thursday,
February 12, 2026

7pm-8:30pm

Gorge Pavilion, Esquimalt BC

Traditional Territories of the
xʷsepsəm or Kosapsəm
(Esquimalt) Nation and
Songhees Nation

GET YOUR SWAG TODAY

Support local restoration—buy PSS merch at Robinson's!

Every purchase helps fund community-based stream and shoreline conservation across Greater Victoria.

We have all bunch new offerings of merch, including long-sleeved shirts and bumper stickers!

Now you can choose even more ways to represent Peninsula Streams in your neighbourhood!



Peninsula Streams & Shorelines merch price list

LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT (NEW!)	\$50
ANIAN HAT	\$65
TOTE BAG	\$20
SMALL STICKER	
LARGE BUMPER STICKER (NEW!)	\$9
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	\$10

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Scan here to register
to the Stormwater
Symposium!



MAKING WAVES!

SHARING OUR WORK!

Check out our staff presentation recordings on our website to get a glimpse of the amazing work happening across the organization and the impact being made throughout our local watersheds.

Staff work tirelessly to uphold PSS' mission and to deliver on its three foundational pillars throughout all projects and programs!

ROYALS HOCKEY 50/50 FUNDRAISER

We started the year off strong in our fundraising efforts! On January 9, staff and board members volunteered to sell 50/50 raffle tickets at a Victoria Royals hockey game, raising **\$2,750** to support the organization in our continued efforts in community.

Thank you to the Victoria Royals and to everyone who purchased a ticket—your support helps fund hands-on conservation work across our region.

EDUCATION PROGRAM FUNDRAISER

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated and helped us exceed our \$15,000 goal! Environmental education plays a vital role in connecting youth to the land and water around them, building knowledge, curiosity, and a lifelong sense of stewardship.

Your generosity directly supports hands-on learning experiences that help foster the stewards of tomorrow and empowering students to understand local ecosystems, protect salmon habitat, and care for the watersheds they call home.

Thank you for investing in the next generation of environmental leaders!



Check out PSS' Staff Presentations from December 2025 on YouTube!



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.



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 WSÁNEĆ peoples, known today as W̱JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), BOḰEĆEN (Pauquachin), STÁUTW (Tsawout), WSIKEM (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.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS



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and join our community**

