



SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

*Streams  
&  
Peninsula  
Shorelines*

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# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings to the PSS Community,

It's our pleasure to share this quarter's newsletter with you. I'm continually blown away by the quality and quantity of programs and initiatives being carried forward by our incredible staff and volunteers.

There's certainly a buzz this time of year, and not just from the pollinators! From bringing our education programming into summer outreach, completing final counts of emigrating coho smolts, shifting field efforts from forage fish to green crab, and preparing irrigation systems for summer heat, we're working hard to deliver impactful environmental programming to the region.

Through all of this, we're buoyed by our amazing partners, volunteers, and dedicated Board of Directors. At this year's AGM, we saw some changes at the board level. We extend our sincere thanks to Jocelyn Gifford, Kim Trace, and John Macdonald for their years of dedicated service. I would also like to offer a warm welcome to our incoming Directors as well as our two Canada Summer Jobs technicians. We're grateful to have you join PSS and look forward to the contributions you'll bring.

Kyle Armstrong  
*Executive Director*



**FROM HEADWATERS TO DEEPWATERS**

# MÁWUEĆ RESTORATION

## KENNES Watershed Restoration Project

Led by WJOLEEP ([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 People with ancestral lands, foods, and medicines in the KENNES Watershed.

### Restoration sites in full bloom

The KENNES restoration sites at MÁWUEĆ are coming to life! Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 areas are now green and lush, with native wildflowers blooming, pollinators buzzing, birds nesting, and other wildlife returning. Since January, volunteers have contributed over 800 hours helping with planting, staking, weeding, and maintenance. We've also welcomed many school groups to take part in hands-on restoration and land-based learning.

### Bird nesting research updates

Nest boxes for American kestrels and violet-green swallows were installed at MÁWUEĆ in partnership with [South Island Bird Research Network](#), who are helping establish a bird monitoring program for the site. We're already seeing exciting signs of success, with five kestrel chicks in one box overlooking the main restoration area and one violet-green swallow box also in use. These beautiful birds are still not well-studied locally, making this monitoring an important opportunity to learn more while supporting nesting habitat.



[Click here to learn more about this project](#)



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Canada



REAL ESTATE  
Foundation  
OF BC



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

# COLQUITZ RIVER

## Improving fish habitat in the lower Colquitz River

This summer, in partnership with the District of Saanich and supported by the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and other funding partners, we'll be undertaking the Highway 1 Colquitz River Bridge Habitat Restoration Project. The project will restore approximately 400 m<sup>2</sup> of instream habitat and 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> of riparian habitat through the installation of large woody debris, boulder riffles, spawning gravel, invasive species removal, and native planting.

Building on recent highway and stormwater infrastructure upgrades, the project will improve habitat complexity, water quality, and watershed resilience while contributing to PSS' long-term vision of restoring the Colquitz River corridor reach by reach. Community members will also have opportunities to participate in planting, monitoring, and stewardship activities throughout the project!

## Smolt trapping

From April through May, and with the help of an incredible team of volunteers, we completed our third year of smolt monitoring on the Colquitz River. Volunteers contributed more than 200 hours checking the trap everyday and collecting valuable data on juvenile salmon migrating to the ocean. This year, we recorded 2,660 coho salmon smolts and 42 coastal cutthroat trout. Over the past three years we've observed significant fluctuations in smolt numbers, highlighting the importance of long-term monitoring to better understand salmonid populations and watershed conditions. Thank you to everyone who helped make this important community science project a success!



[Click here to learn more about this project](#)



Ministry of  
Transportation  
and Transit



# BEACH PROGRAM

## Forage fish beach spawning

Spring brought the end of our peak forage fish spawning season, and we'd like to extend a huge thank you to our community scientists for dedicating their time and energy to conducting surveys! From March to May, they collected 74 samples across Saanich Peninsula beaches, 45 of which were positive for forage fish eggs.

In partnership with the District of North Saanich and the Town of Sidney, we installed signs at our top spawning beaches in North Saanich and Sidney notifying the public of the important spawning habitat on the beach. Check out our signs the next time you're out at Tryon Beach, Nymph Point Park, Lillian Hoffar Park, Roberts Bay, Goddard Beach, Amherst Beach, and Tulista Park!

## European green crab monitoring

Our European green crab monitoring program has hit the ground running for the season! Teaming up with the [Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association](#), we're conducting monthly trapping events in Witty's Lagoon to monitor for and remove invasive green crab in response to an uptick in population numbers observed last summer. We'll also be collaborating with the [Friends of Shoal Harbour](#) for two trapping events in Roberts Bay later this summer.

Our snorkelling removal program with [Bottom Dwellers Freediving](#) continues to grow, with a May event seeing 33 green crab removed from Billings Spit in Sooke. Monthly events for the summer will continue to remove green crab and build community capacity for invasion detection. We're excited to announce that the program received \$9,000 as the beneficiary of [Swallow Tail's Eat the Invaders](#) chef tasting event in Vancouver in May!



[Click here to learn more about this program](#)



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada



**BOTTOM DWELLERS** 

# BEACH PROGRAM

## Nymph Point Park shoreline restoration complete

We're excited to share that the Nymph Point Park Shoreline Restoration Project is now complete!

This project marks an important step forward in restoring coastal habitat in Tsehum Harbour and demonstrating how Nature-based Solutions support resilient shorelines.

In partnership with the District of North Saanich, Project Watershed, Hatchet & Seed, the Oak Bay Marine Group, AllTerra Spider Excavating Ltd., GRT Regenerock, and cultural monitors from the Tsawout First Nation and the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council, restoration works included the removal of a long-standing creosote log ramp, marine debris cleanup, ecocultural backshore stabilization, installation of a new cedar staircase, pathway realignment, invasive species management, native planting, and a small test section of beach nourishment material for ongoing monitoring.

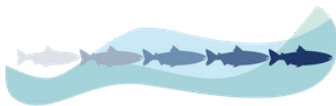
In total, approximately 2,250 m<sup>2</sup> of native planting area was restored and 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> of invasive species management was completed. The site will now undergo regular monitoring and maintenance to track forage fish use, vegetation establishment, and shoreline stability.

A huge thank you to the partners, funders, contractors, cultural monitors, and community members who helped bring this project to completion!



[Click here to learn more about this project](#)

BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund



# RAIN GARDENS FOR HEADWATERS

## Sioux Place Workshop

We hosted a collaborative workshop to explore the proposed Sioux Place rain garden, an important piece of green infrastructure at the estuary of Gorge Creek. Workshop stakeholders included representatives from Songhees Nation, Xwsepsum Nation, the Township of Esquimalt, CRD, and stewardship partners, who joined us for shared learning, design discussion, and a site visit.

Participants reviewed early design concepts, discussed site constraints, native planting, monitoring needs, and identified opportunities for education and community engagement. A follow-up survey will help refine the next design phase as the project moves toward archaeological review, permitting, and final planning.



## Millstream Creek

Exciting restoration work recently took place at Cedar Vale Park in the Millstream Creek Watershed, where we, alongside the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and the BC Conservation Foundation, installed a new stormwater treatment system. For the past several years, PSS volunteers have been monitoring highway runoff at the site and documenting elevated levels of 6PPD-quinone (6PPD-Q), a tire-derived contaminant that can be lethal to coho salmon and coastal cutthroat trout.

The project features a series of stepped filtration pools designed to slow and treat stormwater before it enters Millstream Creek. Supplemented with biochar, spawning gravel, and native plants, the system will help filter contaminants from runoff. This project would not have been possible without the data collected by volunteers, demonstrating how years of monitoring can turn data into action.



[Click here to learn more about this program](#)



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BRITISH COLUMBIA  
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

# STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

## Small watersheds restoration

It's been a busy and rewarding few months for our volunteer stewards! Across the region, crews have been out caring for local creeks by installing split rail fencing along Millstream Creek and KEL,SET Creek, helping to protect sensitive riparian areas as they recover. On Tetayut Creek, volunteers rolled up their sleeves to remove invasive ivy, plant a variety of native species, and mulch newly restored areas, giving young plants a strong start and helping bring healthier streamside habitat back to life.

Millstream Creek has seen plenty of action, including brush bundling and a garbage cleanup with FortisBC, along with ongoing riparian remediation to improve habitat along the creek corridor. Looking ahead, late summer will bring more exciting instream restoration work, including post-assisted log structures (PALS), additional brush bundling, boulder runs, and other habitat improvements.

## Invertebrate monitoring in Colquitz

We recently hosted a volunteer benthic macroinvertebrate sampling survey across several sites in the Colquitz watershed, including lower Colquitz, Copley Park, and Gabo Creek. Participants collected and identified a variety of aquatic insects and other stream-dwelling invertebrates, which serve as important indicators of water quality.

Using the species found at each site and their varying sensitivities to pollution, volunteers were able to generate water quality scores for each stream section. These findings provide valuable baseline data that will allow us to monitor changes in water quality over time and assess how restoration efforts are influencing watershed health.



# EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## Streamside Education

This spring, we delivered Streamside Education to grade schools across Greater Victoria, giving students a hands-on opportunity to connect with their local watersheds and learn what makes a healthy stream ecosystem. Students explored stream habitat conditions, made observations about whether their local stream could support juvenile salmon, and worked together to identify aquatic invertebrates found within the stream channel. These aquatic bugs are an important food source for young salmon and can also help indicate water quality. Through this interactive program, students learned about the connections between salmon, stream health, and community stewardship, while building the skills and curiosity needed to become future watershed stewards.



## Saanich Biodiversity Day

On May 22nd, we brought our Colquitz River watershed model to Cuthbert Holmes Park for Saanich Biodiversity Day—a fun, hands-on celebration of the incredible life that thrives in our community. This annual event invites people of all ages to discover local species, explore the importance of biodiversity, and learn how everyday actions can support healthier ecosystems. Throughout the day, we delivered interactive lessons on the Colquitz Watershed, showing how our choices on the land influence water quality and how pollution can harm critical salmon spawning and rearing habitat.



[Click here to learn more about this program](#)

Thanks to the District of Saanich event, we engaged over 450 participants, including 385 students from Colquitz Middle School and Tillicum Elementary School—an inspiring turnout that reflects the growing commitment of our community to protecting local waterways and wildlife.



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



BC Parks Licence Plate Program



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Ocean Week Victoria

From May 30th to June 8th, [Ocean Week Victoria](#) brought together organizations, businesses, community groups, and ocean champions across Greater Victoria to celebrate coastal waters, inspire stewardship, and connect people with the marine ecosystems that make this region so special. We were excited to take part in several events, including the Gorge Splashtacular Ocean Festival, World Ocean Day at Fisherman's Wharf, the Ocean Opportunities Fair, and World Ocean Day at Beacon Park. We also hosted a Gorge Beach Clean at Regatta Point Park with support from the City of Victoria, where 15 community volunteers came together to help remove an impressive 368 lbs of debris from the Gorge Waterway (61 lbs of glass)! Thank you to everyone who stopped by, asked questions, joined the cleanup, and helped show some love to our local shorelines.



## Upcoming outreach events

Peninsula Streams will be in the community throughout the summer, sharing information about local streams, shorelines, restoration projects, and ways to get involved.

Come say hello, ask questions, and learn more about how you can help care for local watersheds!

You can find us at:

**June 21st:** Heritage Acres Summer Fair

**July 1st:** Canada Day at Fort Rodd Hill

**July 18th:** BC CrabFest at Ship Point

**July 25th:** Central Saanich's 75th Anniversary Celebration

**August 8th:** Heritage Acres Children's Day



# MAKING WAVES

## 2025 Impact Report

We're proud to share Peninsula Streams & Shorelines' first-ever [Impact Report](#). This is an important milestone that helps tell the story of our work across restoration, education, stewardship, and partnerships.

The report highlights the collective impact made possible by our staff, volunteers, partners, funders, and supporters. As PSS continues to grow, it will help us celebrate successes, track progress, and share the value of this work with the broader community.



## Smolt Soirée a success

This year's Smolt Soirée was a memorable evening celebrating community, stewardship, and local streams and shorelines. Together, the silent and live auctions raised an incredible \$24,000 to support our restoration, education, and stewardship programs. Congratulations to this year's PSS Watershed Warriors: Jan Cox and Robinson's Outdoor Store. A special thank you to Finest at Sea, our auction donors, and everyone who attended and contributed. We're so grateful for this community and your continued support!



## Cutthroat Trout Symposium

In March, our Cutthroat Trout Symposium brought together researchers, community stewards, First Nations, anglers, and more to share knowledge, stories, and ideas about this remarkable and still little understood fish. Through thoughtful presentations, lively discussions, and plenty of great questions, the event created space for learning, connection, and collaboration across the many communities working to better understand and protect cutthroat trout and their habitats.



# 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 with your estate planning advisor, or visit the [Victoria Foundation website](#) for more details.



**Victoria  
Foundation**

[Donate](#)



# WORKING TOGETHER

Peninsula Streams and Shorelines is honoured to live and work within Coast and Straits Salish territory, the territories of the ləkʷəŋən People, known today as Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) Nation; the ƵSÁNEĆ People, known today as ƵJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin), SƆÁUTƵ (Tsayout), ƵSIKEM (Tseycum), and MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nations; and the T'Sou-ke 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

# THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

## Platinum



## Gold



## Silver



## Bronze



A photograph of a heron standing in a shallow stream, surrounded by dense green foliage and ferns. The water reflects the surrounding greenery. The scene is captured in a natural, slightly overcast light.

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&  
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