



SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Streams & Peninsula Shorelines

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To the PSS Community,

It's been a busy summer in the streams and on the shorelines! Our instream restoration work continues through the end of September, while we're already preparing for a busy fall of monitoring, planting, and education.

There's lots to celebrate. Our BEACH Fundraiser raised more than \$27,000, exceeding our \$25,000 goal—an incredible show of generous support from our community. We're also looking forward to celebrating our volunteers at our upcoming World Rivers Day Volunteer Appreciation BBQ. Don't miss out!

As PSS moves through a leadership transition, we want to extend a special thank you to Acting Director Katrina Adams for her leadership, PSS staff for their hard work, and the Board and volunteers for your support. And, as always, thank you to our broader community, partners, funders, and supporters for helping make this work possible.

As Outgoing Director, I look forward to supporting the transition in leadership and following PSS' work from Portugal!

With pride and gratitude,

Kyle Armstrong
Executive Director – Outgoing



FROM HEADWATERS TO DEEPWATERS

MÁWUEĆ RESTORATION

KÉNNES Watershed Restoration Project

Led by WJOLEŁP ([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 KÉNNES Watershed.

Upcoming Phase 3 Restoration

Phase 3 of MÁWUEĆ restoration will begin in mid-September, continuing efforts to restore and reconnect this important WSÁNEĆ wetland and stream system. This next phase will restore an additional 3,800 m² of habitat through reed canary grass removal, the creation of off-channel habitat, and extensive native planting throughout the fall. These improvements will help expand habitat for coastal cutthroat trout, support wetland biodiversity, and strengthen the ecological and cultural values of the site. Stay tuned for volunteer planting parties!

Cutthroat trout habitat use

A recent fish presence survey at MÁWUEĆ confirmed that coastal cutthroat trout are using both the mainstem and the new channel habitat created during the 2024 restoration work. Survey crews captured 32 trout in total, including 12 within the restored channel—an encouraging early sign that the new habitat is functioning as intended by providing rearing, refuge, and foraging habitat for trout! Ongoing monitoring will help track how fish use the restored area as native vegetation establishes and the habitat continues to mature.



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



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COLQUITZ RIVER

Lower Colquitz instream work complete

This August, in partnership with the District of Saanich and with support from the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and other funding partners, PSS completed a major phase of the Highway 1 Colquitz River Bridge Habitat Restoration Project.

More than 20 tandem loads of natural river rock were used to rebuild the previously dredged channel, creating three riffles, three new spawning areas, and three refuge pools with added cover. The project restored approximately 400 m² of instream habitat, improving habitat complexity and conditions for salmonids.

Extensive native planting across roughly 3,000 m² of riparian habitat will take place this fall, with plenty of opportunities for volunteers to get involved in planting and ongoing stewardship efforts.

Adult salmon counting camera

This summer, we installed a new camera box on the Colquitz River to help quantify returning coho salmon and better understand adult salmon returns to the watershed. Built by [InStream Fisheries Research](#) with support from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the system funnels salmon in front of a camera against a high-contrast background, providing consistent, high-quality footage for identifying and counting fish. The system will also use motion-detection software to help streamline footage processing, while allowing community members to view and engage with the recordings. We're hoping this new tool will strengthen our long-term monitoring of salmon populations on the Colquitz and provide valuable data to support our restoration efforts.



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



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Transportation
and Transit



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PACIFIC SALMON
FOUNDATION

BEACH PROGRAM

European green crab monitoring

Our European green crab (EGC) monitoring program has been busier than ever this summer! In partnership with the [Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association](#), we've been conducting monthly trapping in Witty's Lagoon, where 34 EGC have been removed so far. We also completed two trapping events in Roberts Bay with the [Friends of Shoal Harbour](#), with no EGC detected. Our snorkelling removal program with [Bottom Dwellers Freediving](#) continued at Billings Spit, with 3 events removing a total of 116 EGC. Thank you to all the volunteers who braved the mud with us to complete this monitoring and help limit the spread of EGC across Greater Victoria!

Beach seining

This summer, we launched a new beach seining and nearshore monitoring program in the Gorge Waterway and Sooke Basin. Working with First Nations and local partners, the project explores how sea-run coastal cutthroat trout and Pacific salmon use nearshore habitats throughout the year. By combining beach seining with PSS' ongoing acoustic telemetry and forage fish monitoring, we will be able to better understand where fish are feeding and moving, how long they remain in key habitats, and whether enough prey is available to support their growth and survival. The program will help identify important nearshore "hot spots" and movement corridors, while linking fish use to shoreline condition, eelgrass, freshwater influence, and other habitat features. Ultimately, this information will help guide shoreline protection and restoration, support Indigenous-led fisheries stewardship, and build a stronger understanding of the interconnected food webs that sustain salmon and other coastal species.



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



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada



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**BOTTOM
DWELLERS**



PACIFIC SALMON
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RAIN GARDENS FOR HEADWATERS

Sioux Place rain garden coming soon

This fall, PSS is partnering with the Township of Esquimalt (TOE) to build a new rain garden in Esquimalt Gorge Park near the Sioux Place parking lot. The Sioux Place rain garden will use Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) to capture, slow, filter, and infiltrate road runoff before it reaches Gorge Creek.

Planning for the project has included a workshop with stewardship teams from Songhees Nation and X^wsepsəm (Esquimalt) Nation, TOE municipal Parks and Engineering, the CRD, Gorge Waterway Action Society, and South Island Aquatic Stewardship Society, who shared perspectives on the site and highlighted opportunities for stewardship, learning, and community connection.



Monterey volunteer work party

We continue our monitoring, maintenance, and education efforts at the Monterey Middle School rain garden in partnership with the Greater Victoria School District (SD61) and the [Friends of Bowker Creek Society](#). In August, twelve volunteers joined us for a summer work party to remove invasive species like Canada thistle and prevent weedy species from spreading throughout the garden. Removing invasive and weedy species is an important maintenance step in preparing the garden for mulching this fall. Thank you to everyone who helped!



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

Looking ahead to this fall, we plan to launch a seed-saving program to support native plant expansion within the garden and provide propagation material for other restoration sites. Stay tuned for details on our upcoming fall workshop on seed-saving and propagation!



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STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

Stream restoration on the Peninsula

We're right in the middle of our summer instream restoration season, with exciting work underway across several local watersheds! At Tetayut Creek, we've recently installed new habitat features including a boulder run and Post-Assisted Log Structures (PALS), designed to increase stream complexity, create cover, and improve habitat for fish and other aquatic species.

Restoration is also underway at Tenten Creek, where our team is carrying out both instream and riparian improvements to strengthen aquatic habitat and restore the surrounding streamside ecosystem.

And there's more to come! On September 9th, volunteers will be joining us at KEL,SET Creek for another hands-on instream restoration event, helping us continue to improve habitat and build healthier, more resilient waterways across the region.



Ecocultural salt marsh fencing

This summer, we worked with partners and restoration crews to protect and restore tidal marsh habitat using ecocultural fencing—goose-specific barriers woven from alder and willow that help native marsh vegetation recover while supporting birds, waterfowl, and fish. In late July, we partnered with Aestuarina Research, Planning, and Management Solutions Ltd. and Guardians of Mid-Island Estuaries to install more than 250 m of fencing at the Craigflower Creek estuary in View Royal Park and over 130 m along Duffus Trail in the Millstream Creek estuary. A special thanks to the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council for lending a hand, and to the Town of View Royal, Pacific Salmon Foundation, and Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund for supporting this work!



SUMMER TECHNICIANS

This summer, we welcomed four Watershed Stewardship Technicians through the Canada Summer Jobs Program, who joined our team to support a wide range of stewardship, restoration, monitoring, and environmental education initiatives across Greater Victoria. Over the course of the summer, they gained hands-on experience in stream and shoreline restoration, invasive species removal, water quality and habitat monitoring, community science, education programs, and public outreach events. Their energy and dedication made a valuable contribution to our work and helped strengthen local efforts to protect and restore healthy watersheds.

Read their work term quotes below:



Amelia Nimmon

"The highlight of my work term was participating in Saanich Biodiversity Day. Held at Cuthbert Holmes Park, the event welcomed students from neighbouring schools as well as community members. We delivered watershed talks to roughly 20 classes of varying ages, giving me the chance to demonstrate strong communication skills and quickly learn the material. The information we shared felt meaningful, and I hope the students enjoyed exploring our watershed model as much as I enjoyed teaching it."



Cole Mark

"Working with Peninsula Streams over my eight week work term was incredibly rewarding, both professionally and personally. The opportunity to contribute to meaningful watershed restoration and fisheries conservation while gaining hands-on experience in environmental fieldwork made this one of the most valuable experiences of my education. I only wish the work term had been longer!"

SUMMER TECHNICIANS



Helena Jacobsen

"I'm incredibly grateful for my summer with Peninsula Streams. I learned so many hands-on skills, including fish, crab, and plant identification during beach seining; Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration techniques like beaver dam analogues and eco-cultural fencing; and photo-point monitoring for restoration sites. I also loved connecting with community members along the way. One of my favourite moments was banding a violet-green swallow chick with the South Island Bird Research Network at MÁWUEĆ."



Aislyn Adams

"My summer with Peninsula Streams has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I had the chance to see the full scope of PSS' work across many sites and projects, and I learned a wide range of skills, from beach seining and electrofishing to eco-cultural fencing and beaver dam analogue construction. I also loved collaborating with partner groups and community members at volunteer events. It's inspiring to see so many people working toward the same goal: leaving a legacy of healthier ecosystems."

Peninsula Streams & Shorelines is deeply grateful for the support of the Government of Canada's Canada Summer Jobs program. This funding made it possible for us to offer meaningful, hands-on experience to early-career professionals and strengthen our capacity across projects, programs, and community partnerships. We extend our sincere appreciation to our four Watershed Stewardship Technicians for their dedication and enthusiasm, and we look forward to growing this work experience program in the years ahead.



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of Canada

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du Canada

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Environmental Education Wrap-up

This school year, 3,247 students joined us for hands-on, place-based outdoor education that brought local ecosystems to life! From modeling how water moves through a watershed, investigating salmon habitats, to exploring nearby streams and shorelines, students learned how their actions can make a positive difference for the environment.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped inspire the next generation of watershed stewards. We're grateful to our volunteers, educators, and community partners for supporting another successful year of experiential learning and stewardship action.

Heritage Acres Children's Day

On August 8th, we brought our KEL,SET and Ten-Ten Creek watershed model to Heritage Acres for Children's Day, a lively community festival that was, as you might expect, full of kids, energy, and just a little bit of chaos! Throughout the day, we used our interactive watershed model to help children explore how water moves through our communities and how everyday actions can affect local aquatic habitats. We ended up connecting with over 400 children, sharing the importance of protecting our local waterways!

In addition to the watershed model, we had the opportunity to share more about the work happening right in Heritage Acres' own backyard. We talked with children and families about our restoration work on Tetayut Creek, which runs through Heritage Acres, as well as the water quality monitoring we conduct in the creek to better understand and protect its health.



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



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Central Saanich 75th Anniversary

On July 25th, PSS joined the celebration for the District of Central Saanich's 75th anniversary. The celebration was a free, family-friendly event that brought local organizations, businesses, and the community together with live local music, food vendors, activities, and more. We were proud to participate by showcasing our Central Saanich stewardship work and water quality monitoring program within the KĒNNES (Hagan–Graham) and Tetayut watersheds, highlighting how local stewardship supports healthy creeks and thriving salmonid habitat.

Peninsula Streams is grateful for the chance to work alongside the District of Central Saanich to protect vital habitats and deepen our collective commitment to creating a lasting legacy of healthy, resilient watersheds.

Accessibility in Stewardship

We're working to make our stewardship activities more accessible, and we'd love your input! Our new *Seniors in Action for Watershed Stewardship* program, funded by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program, aims to create opportunities that help make environmental stewardship more accessible for older adults while fostering social connection, knowledge sharing, and intergenerational learning.

If you can spare a moment, we'd appreciate you completing our preliminary engagement survey. Your insights will guide the development of a program that fosters connection, learning, and healthier local watersheds.

[Survey link here!](#)



MAKING WAVES

BEACH Program Summer Fundraiser

This summer, we set out to raise \$25,000 to support expanded monitoring, research, restoration, and community stewardship of our local shorelines. We're thrilled to announce that with the incredible support of our community and partners, we surpassed our goal with a total of \$27,257 raised! **A huge, heartfelt thank you to all of our donors—your support means everything.**

We're especially grateful to **Eagle Wing Tours**, which matched donations up to \$5,000, and **Philbrook's Boatyard Ltd.**, which matched donations up to \$2,000. Funds raised will help support important initiatives like forage fish contaminant research, beach seining surveys, shoreline restoration, invasive species removal, volunteer training, and more.

Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

Join us on **Saturday, September 26th** for our annual Volunteer Appreciation BBQ & World Rivers Day Celebration! We'll be gathering at Centennial Park to welcome salmon home and celebrate the incredible volunteers who help care for the watersheds across Southern Vancouver Island.

Come enjoy a free BBQ, our much-loved cornhole tournament, and our Volunteer of the Year award as we celebrate the rivers, salmon, and community members who make our work possible.

When: Saturday, September 26th, 12:00–2:00 PM

Where: Centennial Park, Shelter 2 (7526 Wallace Dr)

[Register here!](#)



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.



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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), BOKEĆEN (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.



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