

Peninsula Streams Society Newsletter November – December 2008

Thank you for reading our final newsletter of **2008**. We have sadly bid goodbye to the dog days of summer, and are gearing up for a brisk, crisp fall and winter season. Here is a taste of what we've been up to over the last few months, and what we are currently working on. Read on!

Creek and Project Updates

Blue Heron Creek Applications to the Victoria Foundation, Van City and the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) were made to help fund restoration of Blue Heron Creek in Blue Heron Park. This plan would involve the drilling of a well and the creation of a headwater pond which would be a reservoir for coho rearing, as well as providing irrigation water for the soccer fields. Soccer field stormwater would be passed back through the pond as a treatment strategy.

Chalet Creek With the help of Deep Cove students, parents and community volunteers, alder saplings were planted alongside Chalet Creek. These fast-growing trees will provide shade for the creek species. Similar to the Blue Heron project, applications for grant money to drill a well and provide supplementary summer flow have been made.

Hagan-Graham Creek We are looking for a volunteer to conduct maintenance on the signs in Centennial Park. Please call Ian if you can spare a few hours for this project. Alder saplings grown by Kelset elementary school students were planted alongside Hagan Creek in mid-October. Native plants planted last year were tagged and we hope that they will continue to grow and out-compete the invasive species in the riparian area.

Reay (Kelset) Creek Volunteers showed up to help us out with invasive species removal on October 11th. A load of gravel was also deposited at several spots for future addition to the creek. At the end of October we will be restocking spawning areas with gravel for the coho that we hope to see back soon! We are still on the lookout for adult Coho and cutthroat trout in the creek (with a free Peninsula Streams hat to the person with the first reported, confirmed sighting!)

Sandhill (Tetayut) Creek The well is still providing a good flow for the creek downstream of Keating Cross Road but will be turned off for the winter soon. Plans for Adam Kerr Park stream restoration continue and another Pacific Salmon Foundation grant has been applied for. The old creosote wooden stave culvert at the mouth of Sandhill (Tetayut) was going to be removed this summer, but these plans have been postponed until next year.

Tenten Creek Victoria Airport Authority, in conjunction with Pendray Farms and Watershed Eco-logical Services, has recently undertaken repairs to the treatment wetland on VAA property. One stretch of the wetland was excavated with blackberry and other invasive species removed and berms repaired. Although the wetland has been operating and successfully treating stormwater over the past several years, the repairs will make operation better through flow control and hydraulic integrity.

Tod Creek The Friends of Tod Creek Watershed and their partners have been very busy. Their major project focuses on Tod Creek Flats, the floodplain behind the Red Barn on West Saanich Road. The purpose of the project is to use an integrated approach to make the land economically viable for agriculture, to preserve and improve flood plain function, and to create a healthy habitat for fish and wildlife. Working with the landowners and partners from the District of Saanich, TLC, DFO, Peninsula Streams, SeaChange and Highlands Stewardship Foundation, they envision a place where a meandering stream winds its way through raised fields and past irrigation ponds. They have received grant support from the District of Saanich that will be used to hire a consultant to do a project feasibility study this winter and spring 2009.

Tseycum Creek District of North Saanich staff held an informal meeting with Tseycum Creek area residents to discuss the hydrological study that was conducted by Delcan in 2005. Some believe that the study did not provide solutions to flooding, pollution and hydrologic dysfunction issues in the watershed as was hoped.

Goldstream Hatchery We traveled out to the Goldstream Hatchery one day in early October to learn about and help with spawning of Coho salmon. The hatchery is operated almost completely by a volunteer group, the Goldstream Volunteer Salmonid Enhancement Association. For information on volunteering visit their webpage or search for them on Facebook.

Shoreline Mapping Field data collection for the Saanich Inlet & Peninsula Atlas of Shorelines (SIPAS) project is now underway. The following areas will be studied first: Deep Cove, Ardmere, Central Saanich East, and Central Saanich West, north of Brentwood.

Environmental Education Program Collection and planting of alder and cedar saplings given to Peninsula elementary schools is now completed. Grade three students from Kelset, Sidney, Prospect Lake, Brentwood, Keating and Deep Cove took part in planting events at Reay Creek Park, Gowland Tod Provincial Park, Adam Kerr Park, Hagan Creek and Chalet Creek. Thanks to all the students and parents who returned trees and helped to plant them. We had especially great turn-out by Keating and Deep Cove schools, with over 50 participants in total helping us to restore and enhance Saanich Peninsula parks and wild spaces.

Parkland High School Ivy Removal Ivy was removed from trees on the Gowing Property near Parkland High School. The Grade 10 students and Ian spent two mornings learning about restoration projects and programs on the Peninsula and then getting their hands dirty pulling ivy. Another ivy removal date is planned for this fall, with biology students from Parkland.

Upcoming Events

November 7th – 9th: The Headwaters to Deepwaters II 2008 Conference will be held at Dunsmuir Lodge and the Institute of Ocean Sciences. Headwaters to Deepwaters I was a forum of Saanich Inlet art and stewardship displays, speakers, panel discussions and tours that was held in November 2001.

Headwaters to Deepwaters II is a follow-up conference bringing together scientists, stewardship conservation groups and communities to address the urgent need to inform the surrounding communities about the present health of the entire Saanich Inlet and what we can do to improve it. The conference will entail a science symposium, art show, stewardship fair (with watershed models, marine touch tank, trips aboard the ship Vector and VENUS – the world’s most advanced seafloor observatory!!) and field trips. Registration information for the symposium and the art show is available on our website or you can call Judith at 250.391.8772 for more information.

December 6th: We will be heading back out to Hagan Creek to continue restoration planting activities. We will be planting more willow and red-osier dogwood stakes. These species were planted in recent years and more need to be planted to counteract browsing by neighbourhood deer.

Did you know that...? Kelset (pronounced kwol-sit) means ‘bailer’ in SENĆOŦEN (language spoken by the Northern Straits Salish First Nations). It is an historical reference to the time when canoes were brought ashore for bailing following ocean-going journeys. TenTen also means ‘bailer’ in Hulquminiw (Cowichan language). TenTen Creek on the Victoria airport lands used to be known as Timber Creek but was recently renamed to respect its original First Nations name.

Creatures of Habitat Peninsula Streams has partnered with the Sidney Integrated Wellness Community Society (SIWCS) to develop and deliver a speaker series and conference directed at middle school students in SD63, planned for Spring 2009. The conference will feature local “sustainability celebrities,” an opportunity for students to create and showcase art, speeches, poetry, music and creative projects for prizes, and a day of fun, entertainment and fieldtrips on the theme of environmental sustainability. The event will involve inter-generational mentorship, with the grade 6 students learning from secondary school students, who are themselves mentored by Royal Roads and UVic students. For more information, contact Britta Frombach, SIWCS President at 250.655.0515 or Ian Bruce, Peninsula Streams at 250.363.6596

Clean Marine BC We are proud to have Westport Marina in Tsehum Harbour as a supporter. Westport was the first marina in B.C. to voluntarily take part in the Georgia Strait Alliance’s Clean Marine environmental audit. They were granted an eco-rating certificate, which is a sign of their dedication to environmentally sound practices. Hopefully other marinas will follow suit and do their part in cleaning up the waters of Saanich Inlet and peninsula.

Fundraising

We would like to thank all of the businesses, organizations, foundations and individuals who support PSS. Fundraising to support our programs is an ongoing project for us and we are always interested in your ideas and assistance. Introductions to businesses are particularly appreciated. A special thank you to Diana Chown, our one-person fundraising committee. She has been doing a great job and we are so glad to have her on board! PSS is also registered with Canada Helps, a secure online donation system. You can use the “donate now” button on our website to securely and electronically donate to the society. You will then receive a **charitable receipt** for income tax purposes.

Peninsula Streams Society takes part in the Tru-Value Foods (Brentwood Bay) and Thrifty Foods Smile Card fundraising programs. Tru-Value Foods donates a sum of goods equal to 1% of your bill, while Thrifty Foods donates 5% of your bill to our education programs. Please remember us at the till! If you would like smile cards to give to your friends, please contact Francesca at 250.363.6480.

Please support Peninsula Streams Society’s sponsors and donors:

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Check out our website for updates at www.PeninsulaStreams.org

The Peninsula Streams Society newsletter is published six times per year (January, March, May, July, September and November). Do you have something to add to the Peninsula Streams Society newsletter? Submissions are accepted up to the 25th of the month prior to the newsletter release (i.e. June 25th for the July edition). Acceptance of submissions is subject to space availability and content appropriateness. Please contact Francesca.