

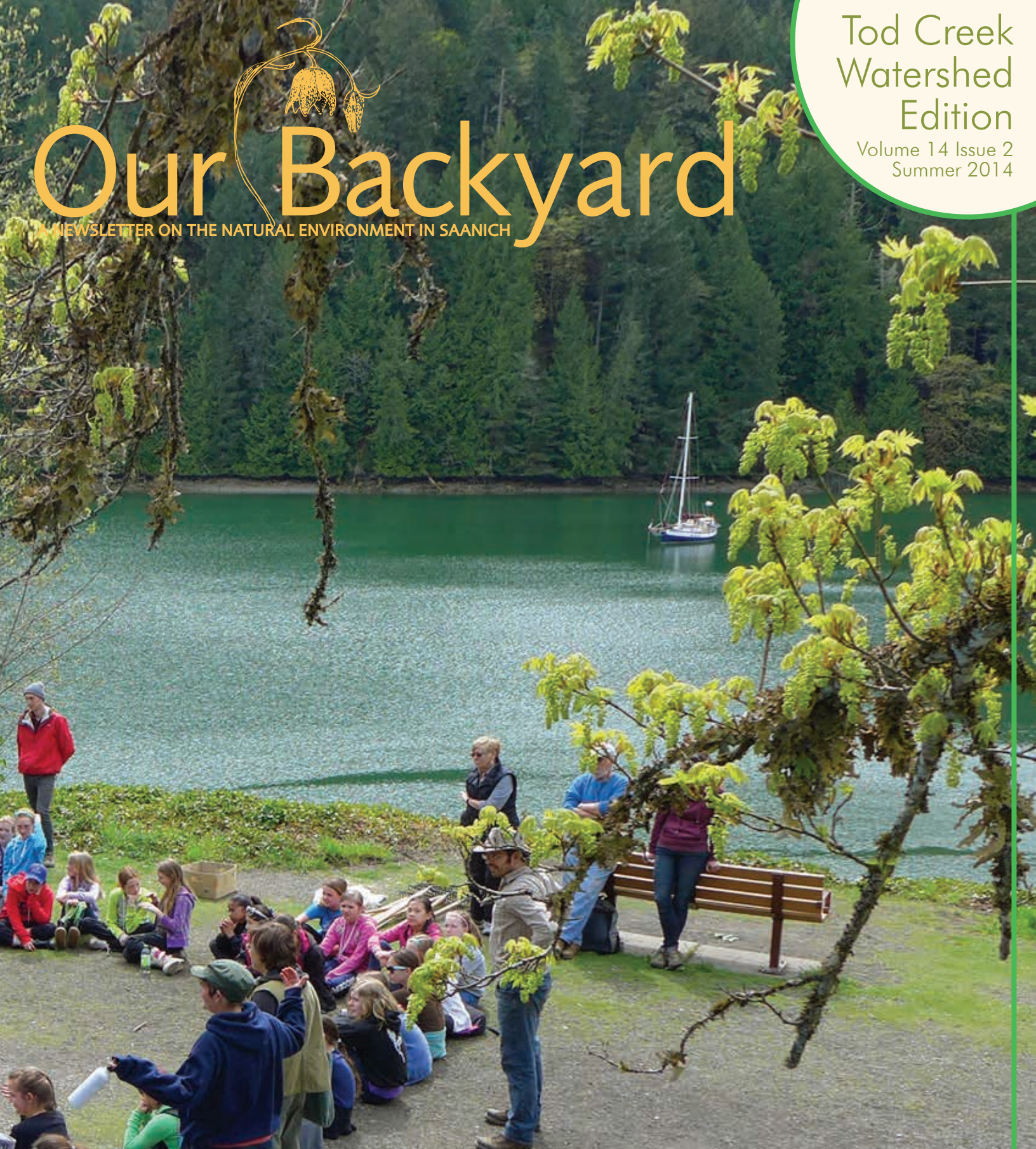
Tod Creek
Watershed
Edition

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Our Backyard

NEWSLETTER ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN SAANICH



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NATURE FLO

By Adam Taylor, Habitat Acquisition Trust



Landowners can protect the Provincially Blue-listed Coastal Cutthroat Trout of Tod Creek by following the stewardship tips on page 4.

About Habitat Acquisition Trust

Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) is a regional land trust that helps people understand and care for nature in Greater Victoria and the Southern Gulf Islands. HAT protects natural areas permanently through covenants and acquisition, such as the Matson Conservation Area on Victoria Harbour.

HAT also delivers education and stewardship programs like Good Neighbours, providing resources and education to residents that help conserve our community's unique ecological heritage. Our Green Spots and Goldstream Chums Programs help connect children and youth to nature through outdoor learning and experiences. Visit our website at www.hat.bc.ca for resources on ecologically friendly gardening, information on our programs, or to support our work by becoming a member.

Habitat Acquisition Trust is working in the Tod Creek area to help residents understand and care for streams, wetlands, and natural areas of the watershed. "Residents around Tod Creek love the rural setting and natural habitats that make this place special" says HAT's Land Care Coordinator Todd Carnahan, "but few are aware of the natural values that are disappearing despite our many parks and protections for waterways."

Ecosystems don't follow property and park boundary lines: creeks, streams, watersheds, and ecosystems are divided by private land, parks, farmland, and roads. The integrity of an entire ecosystem can be harmed by activity on adjacent private land, while wise land stewardship on privately owned land can enhance habitat protection. HAT helps landowners to be "Good Neighbours" of threatened habitats by providing specific information and practical advice for enhancing wildlife habitat and the viability of our ecosystems over time.

"There are simple ways that residents can keep native fish, bird, and other wildlife populations healthy despite increasing development and intensive farming. Through a property walkabout with homeowners we reveal the value and functions of natural lands. We invite local residents to request our free information package with practical ideas on landscaping, invasive species, saving on water bills, and attracting songbirds," says Carnahan. A HAT biologist meets with residents to look at the unique challenges and opportunities of the property and follow up with science-based recommendations.

Visits and land care prescriptions by HAT are free of charge and strictly confidential. The Good Neighbours Project has assisted and recognized more than 600 "Habitat Steward" families throughout Greater Victoria and the Gulf Islands who are caring for nature and building sustainable community. Through the efforts of many concerned watershed residents, we can protect wetlands and streams that are home to fish and other wildlife.

Contact HAT at 250-995-2428 or by email at hatmail@hat.bc.ca for your free information package or to book your visit today. Look for us at community events in the Tod Creek area this summer.



HAT

Helps Residents Protect Habitat in the Tod Creek Watershed

By Todd Carnahan, Habitat Acquisition Trust

Audrey Barnes lives near Tod Flats in her rural home surrounded by forest. For seven years now she has enjoyed nature at her door step - squirrels, hummingbirds, deer, and lizards live around her yard. The more she learns about her new home, the more she wants to protect the rare plants and animals in her neighbourhood. That's why Audrey invited HAT over for a free and confidential land care visit.

"A staff person from HAT came to the property and showed me all kinds of plants I'd never noticed, including some that I should prevent from spreading into the woods."

She also found out that the native Alligator Lizards living under her deck were being overrun by an introduced species, the European Wall Lizard. Although there wasn't much she could do about that, Audrey got excellent advice on the best ways to eliminate other exotic species like Fuller's Teasel, Scotch Broom, and English Hawthorn from her property. HAT Land Care Coordinator Todd Carnahan found ways to save her money, too. By leaving dead tree trunks standing in her woods instead of cutting them down for removal, she could enhance nesting bird habitat and pay less for tree maintenance in natural areas of her large lot.

A self described nature-lover, Audrey Barnes applies what she learned from her HAT visit to her stewardship efforts both at home and at Prospect Lake with the Friends of Tod Creek Watershed. Removing a patch of Himalayan Blackberry from Whitehead Park to reveal a section of Tod Creek and restoring the area with native trees and shrubs was a highlight of her volunteer efforts last year.

"Creating a useful area for children to play and admire the previously overgrown Tod Creek was very satisfying" she said of her project with neighbours including: Mary Haig-Brown, Lori James-Derry, and Winona Pugh. "Caring for natural spaces is a great way to connect with the community and leave an enduring conservation legacy for future generations".

If you would like to learn more about your land and how to care for its natural features, call Habitat Acquisition Trust today (250-995-2428) or email todd@hat.bc.ca. www.hat.bc.ca

Landowners can be recognized as Habitat Stewards through a free and confidential property visit with a HAT biologist. HAT signs a non-binding agreement with the landowner to provide ongoing support for the conservation activities the landowner pursues based on a land care prescription developed on the visit.



HABITAT STEWARD

HAT

Tod Creek

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia.

HABITAT ACQUISITION TRUST 250.995.2428 www.hat.bc.ca



Northern Alligator Lizard

UNCOVER YOUR CREEKS IN THE TOD CREEK WATERSHED

By June Pretzer, Evergreen BC | jpretzer@evergreen.ca

Evergreen is a non-profit organization that makes cities more liveable. Uncover Your Creeks is a watershed education and restoration program that brings people and nature together to deepen their understanding of local streams and watersheds and improve biodiversity. This program will arm community members with the tools they need to take care of their local waterways.

Volunteers will learn to:

- Collect water quality samples and understand the results
- Identify native and invasive plants
- Plant native plants and remove invasive plants
- Understand the local ecology

Tod Creek flows from Prospect Lake to Tod Inlet through residential and agricultural lands. It provides important habitat for wildlife, and its waters nourish farmers' fields and food crops in the valley. It is an important connecting thread in the community.



We'd like to invite you to two upcoming events. On Thursday, July 17, Evergreen will host an evening workshop where stakeholders in the watershed can share their stories, perspectives, and concerns for the watershed. On Saturday, July 19 you're invited to kick off the summer at the Tod Creek Open House at Whitehead Park from 10am-1pm. Bring your family and friends to remove invasive plants, learn about upcoming projects, and help to restore your watershed! Tools, gloves, and refreshments will be provided. Visit the Uncover Your Creeks website – www.uncoveryourcreeks.ca to learn more about times and locations of volunteer events. Come and be a watershed champion!

RSVP at jpretzer@evergreen.ca. Please include your name and the number of people attending.



Homeowners Guide

For A Clean Tod Creek *What Every Watershed Resident Should Know...*

The drains in your yard and in the streets of the Tod Creek Watershed carry rain water away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Untreated storm water, and the pollutants it carries, flows directly into Tod Creek and from there to the ocean. Keep reading for suggestions on how you can help keep Tod Creek clean.

What you can do

Automobiles

are a major source of water pollution. Oils, brake and tire dust and exhaust particles are deposited on the streets where they are washed by rainfall into the storm drains and nearby creeks. Motor oil and other fluids such as antifreeze that have leaked or are dumped into storm drains cause downstream pollution. The fluid from one oil change can pollute up to a million gallons of fresh water.

- » Recycle used motor oil (see www.myrecyclopedia.ca).
- » Use an automated car wash or wash your vehicle on the lawn where the grease, dirt and soaps will be absorbed.
- » Use alternative forms of transportation such as walking, biking, or transit.
- » Repair leaks in your vehicle quickly.
- » Clean up driveway spills with kitty litter and dispose of it in the garbage.
- » Call Provincial Emergency Program (P.E.P.) 1-800-663-3456 to report a spill (www.pep.bc.ca).

What you can do

Chemicals

such as solvents, pesticides and fertilizers are toxic to fish and aquatic plants and animals in large quantities. Smaller amounts of pesticides can also accumulate in stream organisms over time. Pesticides sold for moss control on roofs contain zinc sulphate which is toxic to aquatic animals. Working with new concrete can produce toxic results for fish.

- » Use only approved pesticides under the Saanich Pesticide Bylaw or their non-toxic alternatives to control pests.
- » Control moss on your roof by wet sweeping or judicious use of zinc strips, not chemicals.
- » Plant native trees and shrubs which are more resistant to disease and pests and which do not require as much water.
- » Attend a free Naturescaping workshop at Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary. Call (250) 479-0211 for more information.
- » Cans of paint and other household hazardous wastes can be disposed of for free at the Hartland Landfill.
- » Inspect your oil tank for leaks on a regular basis. www.environment.saanich.ca
- » Never allow concrete washwater to enter stormdrains or waterbodies.

What you can do

Nutrients

are required by all living organisms, but there can always be too much of a good thing. Livestock manure, sediments, and on-site septic systems can stimulate algae growth, lowering oxygen levels in streams and ponds.

- » Locate livestock and their waste away from lakes and streams (store manure under cover and on a concrete pad).
- » Leave a 30 metre buffer zone of native plants alongside lakes and streams.
- » Check the operation of your septic tank and dispersal system annually. Look for signs of failure.
- » Have your septic tank pumped regularly (2-5 years), combining it with a professional inspection.
- » Make sure your system has an effluent filter to reduce the amount of solids in your drainfield.
- » Reduce your water consumption and use environmentally-friendly cleaning products.
- » Protect your drainfield by leaving it as undisturbed as possible. Do not drive or park on it. Landscape with grass rather than plants with roots that can damage your system.
- » The CRD offers free workshops on how to care for your septic system. Attend a workshop and learn how to protect the environment, and save money. www.crd.bc.ca/septic

Central Saanich

GRAHAM CREEK WATERSHED

SANDHILL CREEK WATERSHED

Ongoing restoration and land stewardship work support salmon re-introduced to Tod Creek

Tod Creek flushes into Tod Inlet, a rich marine ecosystem with eelgrass beds that rely on the stream's clean water to support crabs, young salmon, and forage fish.

Metres of Stormdrain
31,000

Metres of Open Creek Channel
23,000

800 shrubs planted to restore creek at Whitehead Park
1,600 volunteer hours

Saanich

Tod Creek Flats

Killarney Lake

MOUNT WORK REGIONAL PARK

MOUNT WORK REGIONAL PARK



Highlands

CRAIGFLOWER CREEK WATERSHED

Only a small number of the endangered Western Painted Turtle still live in the Tod Creek Watershed, although reports of this species from Durrance Lake were common in the 1990s. Please report all turtle sightings to Habitat Acquisition Trust at 250.995.2428 or hatmail@hat.bc.ca



View Royal



Legend

- Watershed Boundary
- Parks Boundary
- Open Creek Channel
- Municipal Boundary

1,930 ha of the 2,300 ha Tod Creek Watershed is within the municipality of Saanich. Tod Creek, which drains this catchment area, empties in the Saanich Inlet at Tod Inlet. About 4.5% of the watershed is impervious surfaces, such as roofs, driveways and roads, compared to 33% of a more developed watershed like Mount Douglas. The stormwater runoff from these surfaces is all conveyed to Tod Creek which eventually drains into Tod Inlet.

For more information:
Saanich Environmental Services - www.environment.saanich.ca

Tod Creek Watershed



Friends Of Tod Creek Watershed

By Mary Haig-Brown, Friends of Tod Creek Watershed

Friends of Tod Creek Watershed formed in 2000. Our mission is to protect and enhance the integrity and biodiversity of the Tod Creek Watershed. Early projects involved informing ourselves by taking Streamkeepers training and then assessing water quality and quantity throughout the watershed. Protecting the flow of water into Prospect Lake from Killarney Lake, Meadowbrook Creek and reservoir, and Maltby Lake is very important for our group.

The outlet of Prospect Lake in Whitehead Park was in great need of help, and we began clearing blackberries from the flood plain. Saanich Parks took on the monumental task of clearing the 60 or so invasive Golden Willow trees that were choking the outlet and spreading their seeds downstream. We then spent many months picking up twigs and brushing sprouts off the remaining stumps in order to prevent regrowth. With the help of the newly formed Saanich *Pulling Together* Program we have continued working on the restoration of both sides of the creek. Removing invasive Himalayan Blackberry, Yellow Iris, Reed Canarygrass, and assorted other non-natives has been ongoing. Grants from the District of Saanich, Fido-Evergreen, and TD Friends of the Environment as well as muscles from Saanich Parks staff have enabled us to develop a plan, clear, and replant much of the area. This work will continue for several years to come.

A source of the Yellow Iris is Killarney Lake. The seeds float downstream and plants were choking the Killarney Creek fan. We held several work parties to clear this area and will continue to monitor the special spot.

Another ongoing project is the restoration of Tod Creek Flats, the area behind the Red Barn. Tod Creek was ditched by 1860 in order to provide farm land. The area has now subsided so that it no longer drains soon enough to allow planting. A plan to reroute the creek to the west side of the flats and restore a functioning riparian area was developed through a grant from the Provincial Government. Maintenance of the flood plain capacity and restoration of the farm land are part of this exciting project. It is the dream of this restoration project as well as a few refinements downstream that keep us going while pulling blackberries!

Pulling Together Volunteer Profile

Mary Haig-Brown

By Jenny Eastman, *Pulling Together* Coordinator

Mary Haig-Brown is rather like a wayward salmon. Growing up beside, on, and in the Campbell River, with well known conservationist parents Ann and Roderick Haig-Brown, the river ecosystem became a life-long part of who Mary is. Of the Campbell River she says, "It draws me back often and the sound of it stays in my ears. It is the measure to which I compare the sound of all the other rivers I have ever heard."

Mary didn't return to her native river as an adult, as most salmon do, but return to a river she did, this time to the Tod Creek Watershed in Saanich. Tod Creek drains Prospect Lake, heads north and empties into Tod Inlet near Butchart Gardens. This creek has become Mary's native stream and the focus of her dedicated conservation efforts with the Friends of Tod Creek Watershed Society and Saanich's *Pulling Together* Volunteer Program. See article on page 7 for more on this restoration work in Tod Creek.

A retired teacher, Mary and husband Bernie raised four children on the banks of Killarney Creek and are now engaging their nine grandchildren in stewardship activities. Mary grew up volunteering, but doesn't see it as a separate activity. She notes, "My parents volunteered always. My father as magistrate, Fish and Game Club, Board of Trade, etc. and my mother on the School Board, Parent Teacher Association, Catholic Women's League, Women's Centre, John Howard Society, etc. We children were involved with Brownies, Guides, and Scouts, as well as teaching swimming, gymnastics, and being on school councils. We did not think of it as volunteering, so much as just what a person did."

As her own children grew, Mary taught at Esquimalt Secondary School and volunteered with the Esquimalt Neighbourhood House. She is now on the Board of Peninsula Streams, part of Saanich's Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee, and the CRD Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Of the many hours she has given to ecosystem stewardship efforts, she says, "If your feet touch the earth, how can you not do something". Thank you Mary for your leadership in the Tod Creek Watershed. We're so glad you chose to swim up Tod Creek to make a riverside life.



Prospect Lake School Outdoor Learning Project

By Jenny Eastman, Parent

Situated beside Wray Creek in the Tod Creek watershed, Prospect Lake Elementary has embarked on an innovative new learning project for the whole school. The "Outdoor Learning Spaces Project" encourages students to become more engaged and self-directed in their learning and teaches environmental stewardship through hands-on action. The school is creating many diverse outdoor learning spaces for classes to use in non-traditional ways. These include: eight food garden plots, a natural playground, outdoor sitting areas, opportunities to plant native trees and shrubs, and a hiking trail that leads to a forest where teachers can convene classes at the base of a majestic, lichen-covered Douglas-fir. This trail will soon continue through the forest along the edge of a Wray Creek, a fish-bearing stream. The students will also restore the school rain garden, a feature that collects water from the school roof and releases it gradually, preventing surges of water from damaging Wray Creek. Classes have been involved with salmon fry rearing and release and tree planting along the banks of Tod Creek. "I love to get to learn outside, especially when I get to go near the creek to see and hear it", says one student. To learn more, or to donate to our project, please visit www.prospectlake.sd63.bc.ca/ or contact the Principal, Mr. Mark Guiguet at 250-727-3314.

SNIDÇEŁ (Tod Inlet) Place of the Blue Grouse

By Judith Lyn Arney | SNIDÇEŁ Restoration Coordinator
SeaChange Marine Conservation Society | seachangesociety.com | seachange@shaw.ca



SNIDÇEŁ (Tod Inlet) is an incredibly rich and diverse place, revealing breathtaking layers of history, culture and ecology to those who visit there. The name SNIDÇEŁ, meaning "Place of the Blue Grouse" in SENĆOŦEN, describes an ecosystem that was abundant enough in food resources that this small docile bird species could easily survive. The Blue Grouse, now actually Sooty Grouse (*Dendragapus fuliginosus*) is an indicator species for the WSÁNEĆ peoples, and its presence assured residents that their needs would be met. Therefore a key aspect of our restoration activities is to promote appropriate traditional food ecosystems and their associated species at SNIDÇEŁ. We also prioritize attracting pollinators to SNIDÇEŁ with native plants that are favourites of hummingbirds, butterflies, and native bee species.

Volunteers in the restoration work at SNIDÇEŁ have the opportunity to share in this vision of SNIDÇEŁ and participate in invasive species removal, native plantings, soil remediation, and native plant propagation. It is such a pleasure to see the community of volunteers growing, with participants including members of WSÁNEĆ First Nations, Garth Homer Society, students from local schools and universities, staff from local businesses, and dedicated local residents who love this wonderful place. Our work at SNIDÇEŁ has touched the wider community and created a community of its own, dedicated to restoring the abundance and ecological prosperity back to this special place.

Working on Contour:

Holistic Water Management for a Changing Climate

By Natalie Bandringa, CRD Integrated Watershed Management Program
nbandringa@crd.bc.ca 250-360-3149

This past spring, the CRD's Integrated Watershed Management Program hosted a rural workshop with Peninsula Steams Society and Hatchet and Seed. The workshop explored innovative integrated water management (IWM) practices for broad-acreage and looked at techniques for recharging groundwater and decreasing surface contaminant runoff into our rural waterways and marine environment. The workshop focused on using Keyline Design, a permaculture technique that works with the natural contours of the land to capture rainwater and direct runoff into areas for storage or infiltration. Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation travelling over the land and impervious surfaces picks up contaminants and carries them to the local waterways. Runoff in rural areas can carry manure, fertilizers, and pesticides which harm our creeks, lakes, and the marine environment.



Ollie the Otter
CRD Watershed Warden

Keyline Design methods explore working with the contours of the land in order to:

1. Slow, spread, and sink stormwater runoff into the landscape
2. Create low-carbon solutions for water management
3. Reduce soil erosion, flooding, and runoff
4. Improve nutrient retention
5. Produce windbreaks with fruit and nut-tree systems which serve multiple functions (reduce soil erosion, sequester carbon, and create food security)

Taylor Krawczyk of Hatchet and Seed taught the workshop and will continue with a CRD pilot project at White House Stables in North Saanich this fall. There is opportunity for those interested to assist with this pilot project doing site reclamation, planting a water-harvesting swale, and creating a pond system, using the Keyline Design perspective. If you would like to volunteer for this opportunity or future rural IWM workshops, please see contact above. This work was made possible in-part by RBC Blue Water grant received by the CRD.



Making a difference...together



Upcoming Events

Saanich Recreation Trails & Treks

www.saanich.ca/parkrec/parks/trails/index.html

250-475-5408

Sunday Hikes (FREE Drop-In)

Sundays, 1 pm - 3:30 pm

With Penny Stevens & Robert Newell

Discover the beauty of Saanich Parks right in your backyard. These FREE guided hikes are open to adults of all ages. No registration necessary just drop in at the appropriate time and meeting place. Although these hikes follow mainly chip trails and pavement, there may be some rough or steep sections, so please wear sturdy and supportive footwear. Carry adequate drinking water. Walks go rain or shine.

July 20 - Beckwith Park to Rithet's Bog

Meet outside of Don Mann Excavating, 4098 Lochside Drive, by the Lochside Trail

Aug 17 - Cuthbert Holmes Park/Colquitz Cr./Gallopig Goose Colquitz Cr. trailhead by Silver City, behind Tillicum Mall.

Gentle Walk & Talk (FREE Drop-In)

Thursdays, 9:30 am – 11 am

With John Henigman

Enjoy fresh air, beautiful scenery, a friendly chat and gentle exercise as we walk through our Saanich parks & trails. Suitable for all walking abilities, but wear suitable footwear. Dogs not permitted.

July 10 - Glencoe Cove

Meet at Vantreight Park, off Ferndale Rd

July 17 - Prospect Lake Centennial Trail

Whitehead Park at intersection of Prospect Lake & Goward Rd

July 24 - Lochside Trail to Beckwith Park

Lochside Trail in parking lot by Don Mann Excavating, off McKenzie at Borden

July 31 - UVIC Alumni Chip Trail

Henderson Rec Centre, at entrance, 2291 Cedar Hill X Rd

Aug 7 - Panama Hill Park

Meet at Hyacinth Park, parking lot, off Marigold at Interurban

Aug 14 - McMinn Park - Kentwood - Outerbridge

McMinn Park parking lot, 4820 Maple Grove St, off Lochside

Aug 21 - Arbutus Cove To Hollydene

Arbutus Cove Park, end of Arbutus Cove Lane

Aug 28 - Lower Trails of Mt. Douglas Park

Washrooms, main parking lot off Cordova Bay Rd. at Ash

CRD Parks & Environmental Services

Our naturalists lead guided walks, hikes, canoeing, and drop-in events for all ages. Most are free, all are fun! The Parks Summer Nature Outings and Events brochure is now out:

www.crd.bc.ca/parks 250-478-3344

Hawk Watch (Drop-in Event)

Saturday, September 20, 11 am - 3 pm

East Sooke Regional Park (East Sooke)

Have you ever seen turkey vultures 'kettling'? Join CRD Parks and the Victoria Natural History Society for this annual migration event complete with live raptor demonstrations and activities at Aylard Farm. Experts with spotting scopes will be at the viewpoint above Beechey Head. The hike up to the viewpoint requires sturdy footwear and a 20-minute trek up a steep and rocky trail. Bring binoculars, water and a lunch.

Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary

www.swanlake.bc.ca 250-479-0211

Guided Bird Walks (Drop-In)

Every Wednesday and Sunday, 9:00 am

Bring your binoculars and walking shoes and meet in the parking lot for this walk.

Reptile Day (Drop-in Event)

Wednesday, July 9th, 12 pm - 3 pm

Scales, slithers, snakes and smiles! Come and join us for our annual reptile celebration as we learn about all those who are scaly. Observe our fabulous reptile friends, play games, make crafts, and get your face painted.

Christmas in July! (Hike)

Wednesday, July 16, 7 pm - 9 pm

Come share the magic of Christmas Hill during a guided evening hike. Listen to the chorus of birds while watching the sun set from a spectacular vantage point. Sit under Garry Oak trees and learn the legends of Christmas Hill. Suitable for families and children over 7 years. Pre-registration required.

Creatures of the Summer Night

Friday, July 25 OR August 15, 8 pm – 9:30 pm

Sharpen your senses to look for owls, bats, and other nighttime creatures. With a grab bag of tricks we'll discover how these animals have adapted to nocturnal life. \$4 each for Members/\$6 each Non-Members. Pre-registration required.

Animal Grossology (Drop-in Event)

Wednesday, August 20, 12 pm - 3 pm

Are you oozing to learn about the disgusting science of animal grossology? Find out about slug slime, owl barf, and even the scoop on poop. Check out worms, slugs, spiders, and scum as you learn about the secret world of the revolting. Activities and crafts that will gross you out!

Victoria Natural History Society

Visit www.naturevictoria.ca for more programs

Victoria Butterfly Count

Saturday, July 19 to Sunday, July 27

We are always looking for keen-eyed volunteers to submit butterfly records. If you would like to participate, please contact Aziza Cooper at tanageraz@yahoo.com.

Evergreen BC: Uncover Your Creeks

www.uncoveryourcreeks.ca

Understanding the Tod Creek Watershed

Thursday July 17, 6 pm – 9 pm

Prospect Lake Community Hall, 5358 Sparton Road

Join us for a workshop that will explore issues, opportunities and stakeholder perspectives.

RSVP: www.todcreekwatershed.eventbrite.com

Stewardship in Whitehead Park

Saturday July 19, 10 am – 1 pm

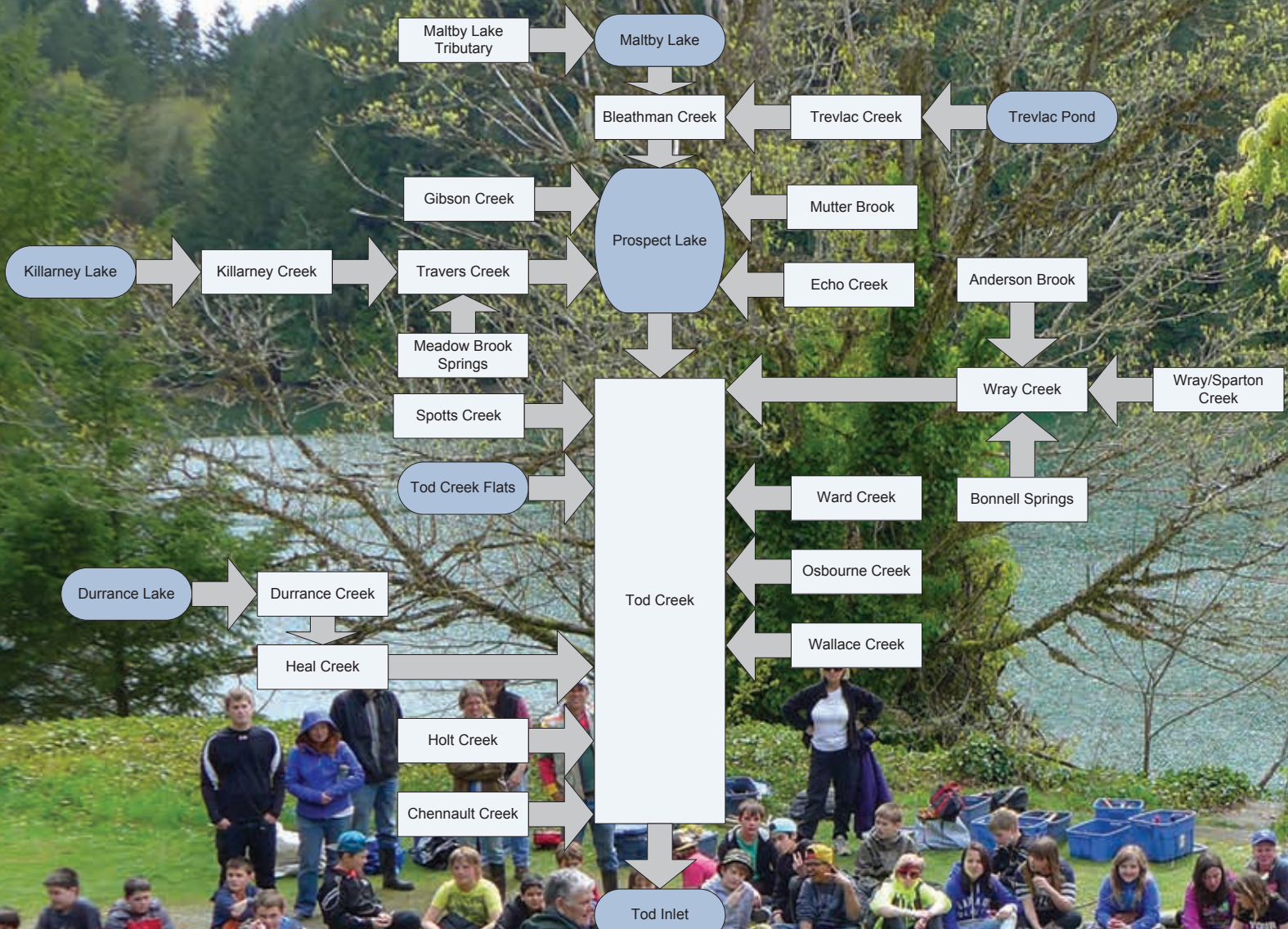
Whitehead Park, corner of Prospect Lake and Goward Roads

Learn about the ecology and help restore Whitehead Park! We'll be removing invasive plants and taking water quality samples from Tod Creek. Tools, gloves and refreshments provided. Please dress for the weather.

RSVP: www.todcreekwatershed.eventbrite.com

CRD "flow diagram" for the Tod Creek Watershed

Here is a sneak-peek at a "flow diagram", part of a project that the CRD's Integrated Watershed Management Program is currently developing as an online community resource (crd.bc.ca/watersheds). The project will create a series of "flow diagrams" for over 40 local watersheds, along with maps featuring land use and basic facts about each watershed.



Bayside Middle School students at Tod Inlet for Creatures of Habitat Day, an ecological restoration event held on April 15th. This annual event was co-hosted by SeaChange Marine Conservation Society and Peninsula Streams Society.

Join the Our Backyard mailing list!
Be kept up to date on local community stewardship projects and environmental issues. Subscriptions to this quarterly newsletter are free and available in electronic or paper version. To subscribe, please send your contact information to the editor or visit the following website www.ourbackyard.saanich.ca