



*Ocean Spray (Holodiscus discolor) bursting into bloom against blue skies....summer has arrived in PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park)!*

## **PKOLS-Mount Douglas Conservancy**

[pkols-mountdouglas.ca](http://pkols-mountdouglas.ca)

## **Summer 2024 Newsletter**

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PKOLS - Mount Douglas lies within the traditional territories of the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples, represented by the W̱JOĹĹP, BŌKÉĆEN, STÁUTW̱, W̱SIKEM and MÁLEXEE Nations; as well as the the lək wəŋən peoples, represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. The W̱SÁNEĆ and lək wəŋən peoples have been here since time immemorial, and their relationship with the land and water is long and rich.

## PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) Radio Tower Replacement Project Updates

Success! The tower will be located at the eastern summit near the existing tower. It will not be in the middle of the parking lot as originally proposed. This was the decision at the May 27<sup>th</sup> Saanich Council meeting:

***MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Harper: “That Council request staff move forward with Option A – New Tower Adjacent to Existing Tower as outlined in the report of the Director of Legislative and Protective Services/Corporate Services dated May 16, 2024.”***

A special thanks to all those that wrote letters in support of this summit location. We heard Councillors say there were zero letters supporting the parking lot location. Also, an even bigger thanks to those that attended the Council meeting. The letters and attendance was really important.



While re-listening to the May 27<sup>th</sup> Saanich Council meeting, we made several notes:

- The only decision (motion) was to direct staff to locate the tower adjacent to the existing tower.
- The installation contractor stated he would do the entire installation using cranes, no special road to the summit would be required.
- There was minor discussion around the extensive tower size, but no related decisions.
- There was significant misinformation concerning environmental impact including the mention of loss of four to six Douglas Fir trees. We do not see any such loss. There might be one Arbutus branch cut.

At a June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Mayor, Saanich CAO and Director of Legislative & Protective Services, we discussed our Society's role in relation to several visual impacts this installation will have on the Park. The fundamental difference of opinion is that Saanich views this as an “operational” project not requiring any public consultation or input, whereas we feel decisions (pass-through access of the area during construction; the location and design of new stairs to the summit; and the location plus visibility of cables connecting the parking lot building with the summit tower) should have earlier public discussion. Time will tell how this is handled.

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## Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Environmental Policy Framework: Endorsed!

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, Council unanimously endorsed the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) drafted by Diamond Head Consulting, and the Environmental Policy Framework (EPF) developed by the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee with support from Saanich staff.

From the District of Saanich: ***“The EPF outlines eight guiding principles and two goals to assist District staff in aligning environmental policies and programs to support a Sustainable and Resilient Saanich. The BCS features seven theme areas, and more than 130 actions that will be implemented incrementally over the next ten years, with a focus on the stewardship of private and public lands and park management and restoration in the first three years.”***

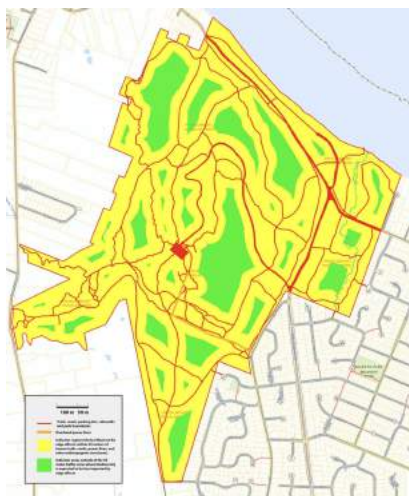
The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy recognizes PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) as one of the municipality's "largest and most biodiverse areas" with "opportunities to enhance and expand existing ecosystems." PKOLS is also identified as a *Core Habitat Hub* under the newly-developed Biodiversity Habitat Network Framework.

An extraordinary amount of work, expertise, and dedication went into the development of the BCS and EPF over the last several years. Our Society is grateful to all who contributed to the process, and to everyone who continues to advocate for the intrinsic value of PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) as a natural area. We fully endorse the guiding principles of the Environmental Policy Framework, and are committed to supporting the District of Saanich in achieving these goals in PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) in the decades to come.

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### Edge Effects, Habitat Fragmentation, and the Impacts on Biodiversity in PKOLS-Mount Douglas

PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) has fifteen officially designated trails, but the creation and use of rogue trails continues. This has led to ecological degradation and increased areas where biodiversity may be negatively affected by edge effects. In ecology, *edge effects* describe the changes in population or community structures occurring along the boundaries of two or more different habitats. While naturally-occurring edge effects can result in increased biodiversity along these zones (eg. the unique composition of transitional zones between Douglas fir forests and Garry oak meadows may result in an overlap of species associated with both habitat types), edge effects caused by human activity can have a negative impact on biodiversity and overall ecosystem integrity.



Trails, roads, parking lots, and power lines all contribute to edge effects in PKOLS-Mount Douglas. These effects can result in *habitat fragmentation* (large expanses of habitat reduced to smaller, fragmented patches due to ecological degradation), as well as altered hydrological patterns and microclimates, increased predation and competition from introduced or invasive species (which frequently thrive in disturbed conditions). Any and all of these factors can lead to an overall reduction of native biodiversity in the affected areas, and are often co-occurring.

This map of PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park), *left*, conceptually illustrates the impact of human-caused edge effects and habitat fragmentation. **Official trails, rogue trails, roads, parking lots, and park boundaries are marked in red. Power lines are marked in orange.**

**A 50 meter buffer zone alongside park infrastructure is denoted in yellow. This indicates the areas likely to be influenced by edge effects.** The 50 m measurement is modelled after a study on habitat fragmentation due to recreational trails in urban protected areas (Primack, et. al, 2020). One study of edge effects on forest wildlife across seven biogeographic regions suggests measuring with a 100 meter buffer zone. (Pfeifer, et al. 2017). Some edge effects, particularly in endangered species, may be detectable 200 - 400 m from the forest edge (Sher, 2022).

**Areas outside of the 50 m buffer zone are marked in green.** This indicates areas where biodiversity is less likely to be impacted by edge effects.

Primack, R. B. et. al (2021). New social trails made during the pandemic increase fragmentation of an urban protected area. *Biological conservation*, 255, 108993. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2021.108993> // Pfeifer, M. et. al (2017). Creation of forest edges has a global impact on forest vertebrates. *Nature*, 551(7679), 187-191. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature24457> // Sher, A. (2022) *An introduction to conservation biology*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press/Sinauer Associates.



# The Annual Douglas Creek Salmon Carcass Transplant

Bridging the gap between marine and terrestrial ecosystems with the help of the community



The annual Salmon Carcass Transplant took place on March 16th, slightly later in the season than usual. The annual event was postponed from its original date due to the freezing weather in January. It's hard to thaw frozen salmon carcasses when it's  $-12^{\circ}\text{C}$ ! Our Society presented a \$1,000 cheque to the Goldstream (Howard English) Hatchery in appreciation of their many years of support in restoring Douglas Creek. This year, the Hatchery provided us with Coho salmon carcasses instead of the usual Chum, due to last year's extremely low returns of Chum salmon.

Transplanting salmon carcasses into Douglas Creek simulates the ecological process that would naturally occur in a healthy stream ecosystem when salmon return to their natal creeks to spawn en masse, complete their life cycle and die, leaving behind carcasses that are incredibly nutrient-rich. This natural process is how marine nutrients find their way back into terrestrial ecosystems, through the breakdown of these returning salmon carcasses that have spent years feeding in the Pacific Ocean. Although Douglas Creek has seen returns of salmon each year since restoration work began, the numbers have not (yet!) reached their full potential, so the annual Douglas Creek Salmon Carcass Transplant continues. The transplanted carcasses also attract scavengers like river otters, racoons, eagles, and ravens, who help distribute the nutrients deeper into PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park), enriching the ecosystem further.

A remarkable study published last year by researchers at Simon Fraser University looked at the impact that nutrients from salmon carcasses had on the growth of native coastal plants. The research showed that wildflowers (including *Douglas' aster*, *Common red paintbrush*, *Common yarrow*, and *Silverweed*) in areas where salmon carcasses had been dispersed grew larger leaves and bigger flowers, directly benefiting the pollinators dependent on these plant species.

Western science is beginning to recognize the insights of Traditional Ecological Knowledge that Coast Salish Nations have held for millennia. These findings underscore the vital connection between marine and terrestrial ecosystems, reminding us that salmon are a keystone species working to bridge the gap between land and sea even after death.

Dennert, A.M., Elle, E. and Reynolds, J.D. (2023) 'Experimental addition of marine-derived nutrients affects wildflower traits in a coastal meta-ecosystem', *Royal Society Open Science*, 10(1). [doi:10.1098/rsos.221008](https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.221008).

## Stream to Sea/Salmonid in the Classroom Program

### Chum salmon released into Douglas Creek will spend the summer in estuarine waters



A great big “*Thank You*” to all of the students and teachers who successfully raised chum salmon eggs in their classrooms and released hundreds of healthy fry into Douglas Creek this spring.

These young chum will spend the summer in the estuarine waters just off of PKOLS (Mount Douglas) Beach before heading out to explore the far reaches of the Pacific Ocean. After three to four years at sea, a lucky few will migrate back to complete their life cycle in Douglas Creek.

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## The Douglas Creek Watershed Model Gets A Makeover

### Peninsula Streams Society’s Educational Program makes a splash in local classrooms

Our friends at the Peninsula Stream Society run an excellent Watershed & Salmon Life Cycle Education program for local elementary schools. After 20+ years of use, the “well-loved” Douglas Creek Watershed model was in need of repairs and updates in order to reflect the changes the watershed has seen over the decades.

Conservancy volunteers and artists Corina and Michelle volunteered to renovate the model, meticulously painting land features, roads, 3D buildings, and placing trees and other intricate details to bring the Douglas Creek Watershed to life in 2024!

The newly renovated model was presented at a workshop at Torquay Elementary School in April, where it was met with enthusiastic feedback from the students. We look forward to future presentations with the Douglas Creek Watershed model in the community.

Teachers interested in bringing this engaging program and model to their school are encouraged to get in touch with Deborah at Peninsula Streams Society: [deborah.deacon@peninsulastreams.ca](mailto:deborah.deacon@peninsulastreams.ca).

**Do you have room in your garage or shed to store the Douglas Creek Watershed Model in between educational outreach events? If so, please email [michelle@pkols-mountdouglas.ca](mailto:michelle@pkols-mountdouglas.ca)**



*Friend of PKOLS and talented artist Corina poses with the newly-renovated Douglas Creek Watershed Model. (Photo courtesy of Deborah Deacon)*



## Celebrating World Migratory Bird Day with Saanich Parks

Our Society was happy to partner with Saanich Parks to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day on May 11<sup>th</sup>, with educational displays and activities taking place in the Park. Saanich's Environmental Education Officer and Biologist Darren Copley led attendees on a guided bird walk where the following birds were observed:



*Pacific Great Blue Heron, Common Raven, Bald Eagle, Dark-eyed Junco, American Robin, Bewick's Wren, Song Sparrow, Bushtit, Warbling Vireo, Spotted Towhee, Anna's Hummingbird, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Pine Siskin, Orange-crowned Warbler, Brown Creeper, Wilson's Warbler, Surf Scoter, Common Loon, Glaucous-winged Gull, Varied Thrush, Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow.*

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## Test Your Tree Identification Skills

Can you identify these commonly sighted trees in PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) by their bark?



Answers on Page 13

## People, Pets, and Parks / Animal Bylaw Updates:

On April 18, Council approved the Implementation Plan for the People, Pets, and Parks Strategy alongside a one-time funding resource request of \$972,250 between 2024 and 2028. Key aspects of the plan (including new signage, fencing in leash-optional areas, and a commercial dog-walking permit system) will provide an opportunity for the endangered Garry oak and Douglas fir ecosystems of PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) to recover, while improving safety for park users with and without dogs. We are pleased to see the Implementation Plan aims to provide improved waste management services, educational programs, as well as a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation program to guide a successful outcome of the strategy. We are hopeful that the educational opportunities provided through improved signage and community outreach will foster a sense of ecological stewardship and appreciation for the cultural and ecological significance of PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park). Fencing for the leash-optional areas in the Park is expected to be designed and implemented this year.

### Seasonal Beach Restrictions In Place (May 1st - August 31st)

As of May 1st, seasonal restrictions are in place and dogs are prohibited from PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) beach, as well as the playground and lower/beach parking area (EXCEPT the asphalt road surface lying to the northwest of the picnic area between the two gates). There has recently been some misinformation regarding which areas of the beach are affected, and this has been clarified by the amended animal bylaw. From the District of Saanich:

*Q: I understand the beach area below the high tide mark is federal government land, not municipal property. How does this affect Saanich park/beach restrictions?*

*A: All levels of government play a role in managing coastal shores. Local governments hold the authority to plan and regulate land use within their respective boundaries, which may extend over foreshore and nearshore areas. They do this through a variety of ways, including bylaws. The map image (right) shows the extent of Saanich's boundary, which does extend into the water.*



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## Seeking a Volunteer with Storage Space

Do you have a bit of extra room in your garage or another easily accessible storage area? Our Society is looking for a place to store the following items:

- One tent canopy (in a carry case)
- Two stand-up banners (in carry cases)
- One folding table
- One folding chair
- One medium-sized storage tote

You won't need to lift or transport anything, and you'll be notified several days in advance whenever the items are needed for an event. We are ideally looking for a minimum one-year commitment, but short-term arrangements are also possible. **Could this be you? Please get in touch with [michelle@PKOLS-MountDouglas.ca](mailto:michelle@PKOLS-MountDouglas.ca)**



## Invasive Species Updates

### Pulling Together “Flying Squads”

Throughout the Spring months, Pulling Together volunteers from various Saanich Parks assembled “Flying Squads” to combat the infestations of Garlic Mustard and Shiny Geranium in PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park). While these species are among the easiest invasives to pull (at least they don’t fight back like Holly and Blackberry!), they are also some of the most prolific spreaders, and it takes diligent work to stay on top of them.

Each plant can disperse an enormous number of seeds each season, making spring the ideal time for removal, just before they flower. Despite the regrowth of these invasives this year, returning volunteers were encouraged to see the positive impacts of previous removal efforts. Many native species (such as Vanilla Leaf, Western Trilliums, Woodland Buttercup, and Mountain Sweet Cicely) are now thriving in areas once dominated by these invasives.

### Bye-bye, Broom!

Saanich Parks and Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT)’s field crew have been working to remove large amounts of Scotch broom near the summit. This is a job that requires careful planning, as Broom removal needs to be timed and executed very precisely to prevent the prolific regrowth this invasive species is known for.

Of course, removing the Broom is only the beginning, there’s the follow-up management, too: replanting with native species, removing seedlings that sprout from the (often extensive) seedbank, and ensuring cleared and restored areas are protected from off-trail use and trampling.



**Shiny Geranium**  
(*Geranium lucidum*)



**Garlic Mustard**  
(*Alliaria petiolata*)



**Scotch Broom**  
(*Cytisus scoparius*)

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### How Can You Help?

Volunteering for Saanich Parks’ *Pulling Together* program is a great way to get involved with removing invasive species in PKOLS (Mount Douglas). To learn more about the program, or to sign up as a volunteer, visit <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-community/parks/natural-areas/volunteer-for-pulling-together.html>. Another way you can contribute is by uploading photos of your plant observations to iNaturalist while you walk the trails of PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park). This helps volunteers and Parks staff monitor the spread of invasive species and identify areas in need of restoration. Every observation you share can make a big difference in protecting the park's ecosystems.



## Shh...Herons are Nesting!

### Pacific Great Blue Herons have returned to the rookery in PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park)

The presence of broken eggshells on the ground this May was a sure sign that heron hatchlings have arrived. On average, herons lay approximately 3-5 eggs, although Pacific Great Blue Herons typically have smaller clutch sizes. Eggs hatch in approximately one month, and within two months after hatching the juveniles will be able to fly. Both parents will help to incubate the eggs and care for the chicks. It has been observed that males take the day shift and females take the night.



Unfortunately, fewer than half of the eggs will make it to fledging, and those that do have less than a 25% chance of making it through their first winter. In recent years, predation by Bald Eagles has been a primary cause of mortality for heron chicks in PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park). The survivors will leave the nest around eight weeks old and will follow their parents to the feeding grounds. Those that survive their first winter have increased survival rates of about 75%.

Great Blue Herons are considered vulnerable and are protected and designated as a species of Special Concern. This means they are not on the endangered list however are highly sensitive and may end up there if precautions are not taken. Canadian populations of Pacific Great Blue Herons are estimated to be as low as 4,000 to 5,000 nesting adults, approximately 3,300 of which live near the Salish Sea. Globally there are fewer than 11,000 nesting Pacific Great Blue Herons remaining. Great Blue Herons have seen a significant decline in the rate of reproduction since the 1970s as a result of habitat destruction from urban growth and logging, and increase in bald eagle populations.



Heron population size is directly correlated with the habitat. Where there is more foraging available there are larger populations of herons, such as extensive mudflats, or eelgrass beds. Prime coastal areas in Southern British Columbia have seen a decline in nesting herons because of the growing human population impacting the quality and availability of foraging and nesting habitats. Quiet areas with suitable trees to nest in are becoming rare. Herons can tolerate some human presence however they are sensitive to human activities and easily disturbed. Human presence as far as 200 meters away can cause a heron to abandon a nest. Studies have shown that herons nesting near populated areas have a much lower rate of fledgling survival compared to those in isolated areas.

**So, if you see signs in the Park asking for quiet in the heron zones, please respect them!**

# Tire Wear Toxin (6-PPDQ) Monitoring Project Results

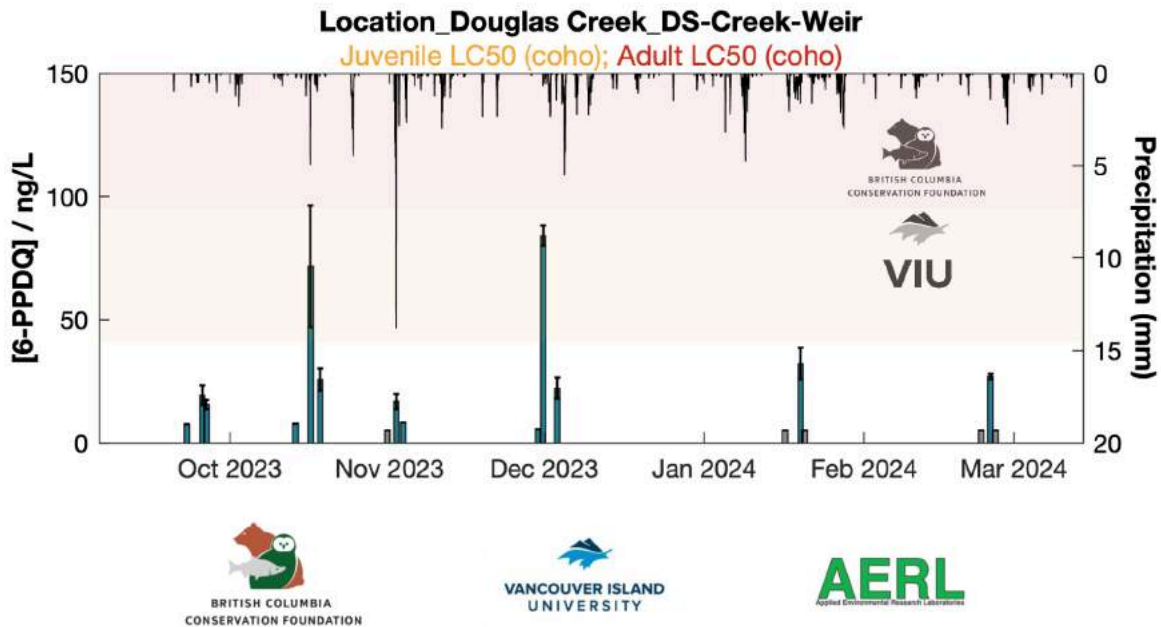
Levels of 6-PPDQ known to be lethal to Coho salmon were detected in Douglas Creek

Our Society is pleased to be assisting with a research initiative led by the BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF) in collaboration with Vancouver Island University's Applied Environmental Research Lab (VIUAER). Volunteers are collecting water samples during different precipitation events during the rainy season to determine whether a common tire preservative compound known as 6PPD-quinone is detectable in Douglas Creek.

In 2020, 6-PPDQ was identified as the cause of 'urban run-off mortality syndrome' (URMS) in multiple salmonid species, with coho being the most vulnerable - even at extremely low concentrations. Sampling efforts were primarily focused on waterways that are utilized by coho salmon (such as Douglas Creek) as they are most vulnerable to URMS.

The Tire Wear Toxins Project Database has recently been made public, and results from the sampling and monitoring initiatives across the island can be viewed at <https://www.tireweartoxins.com/interactive-database/>

**Levels of 6-PPDQ known to be lethal to Coho salmon were detected in Douglas Creek during two rain events in October and December 2023.**



## What's Next?

In response to a February 2024 request from the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the Watershed Watch Salmon Society, and the Raincoast Conservation Foundation, Minister Steven Guilbeault announced on April 30th 2024 that Environment and Climate Change Canada will fast-track an investigation into 6-PPDQ under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

**We will be sampling for 6-PPDQ again beginning this fall . If you are interested in being part of this volunteer team, please get in touch with [michelle@PKOLS-MountDouglas.ca](mailto:michelle@PKOLS-MountDouglas.ca)**

## Fauna in Focus: Late Spring



**Sharing The Trails:** After helping herself to a snack of Fringecup blossoms, this doe took a shortcut across Churchill Trail. Meanwhile, on Tod Trail, a Dark-eyed Junco gathers nesting material from the trail edges.



**A Curious Critter:** With a wingspan of only 11mm, the tiny Ocean Spray Fairy Moth (*Adela septentrionella*) might be easily missed, but its extremely long antennae certainly stand out. Look closely around the buds and flowers of their host plant - and namesake - Ocean Spray (*Holodiscus discolor*) on sunny days in May and June and you might be lucky enough to catch a fleeting glimpse of these elusive creatures. The females lay their eggs on Ocean Spray buds, providing a food source for larvae when they hatch.



## Shell Midden and Indigenous Place Names

The following information was provided by Grant Keddie, retired Curator of Archaeology at the Royal BC Museum

### The Douglas Creek Shell Midden (DcRt-11)

“There is not much information on the shellmidden site at the mouth of Douglas Creek. This site - DcRt 11 - extends along the beach for a distance of about 180 meters and extends inland up to 30 meters. It has been observed to be at least 30 cm deep in some areas. A very basic site record exists for this site but no further archaeological work has been undertaken here.

In our collection we only have a sandstone abrader (likely used for shaping and sharpening bone or slate tools) a stone core from which flakes have been removed, and a few water worn flaked stone objects. A private collector has a perforated stone that was likely used as a net weight.

One of the rare photographs showing economic activities of First Nations in this region appears to have been taken on the beach below this site. The location is just inside the territory of the family group called the Chekonein who were signers of one of the 1850 Douglas treaties. This location would have been excellent for gathering large butter clams, cockles and native little necks and as a fishing site. The forest back of most of Cordova Bay was one of the better localities for obtaining the large cedar trees for canoes and house posts. Like all sites in the area, this one contains important information about the history of local First Nations. I would certainly encourage any activity that stops or slows down the erosion of this midden.”



Clam Bake, Mount Douglas Beach [188-?] via BC Archives

### łəkʷəŋiʔnəŋ and SENĆOŦEN Names for “Mount Douglas”

On June 3, 1955, Songhees Band member James (Jimmy) Fraser (c.1871-1857) provided a name for Mount Douglas to a reporter from Victoria’s Times newspaper:

“**Chu-utchin**”. Meaning : “heavenly mountain”.

Saanich [WSÁNEĆ] elders provided a different name for Mt. Douglas which is similar to the name given by Songhees advisors to Mt. Tolmie (*Pkaals*):

“**PKOLS**” - “white head”. David (Dave) Elliott 1990:27 (revised edition from 1983 edition)

“**PKOLS**” - “means white head”. (David Elliot 1983:64).

“**pepkey’as, “white berries”**; refers to white berries that grow on the slopes.” Saanich elder, Earnie Olson provided this name for Mt. Douglas to Douglas Hudson in 1969. Hudson #87. This name is that of the snowberry. It is also spelt as *Pepkiyos* . Elsie Claxton (Tsawout) and Chris Paul (Tsartlip) note that this plant is poisonous but also used as a medicine (Turner and Hebda 2012).

“**pq’als**” - Saanich Classified Word List # 1870. Montler, Timothy (1991:88)

Fraser, James 1955. Times, June 3, 1955 (Victoria newspaper).

Hudson, Douglas. (Compiled by) 1970. “Some Geographical Terms of the Saanich Indians of British Columbia. With information from: Mr. Richard Harry, East Saanich; Mr. Ernie Olsen, Brentwood Bay; Mr. Louis Pelke, East Saanich”, Page 21.

Montler, Timothy. 1991. Saanich, North Straits Salsih. Classified Word List. Canadian Ethnology Service Paper No. 119. Mercury Series. Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Turner, Nancy J. and Richard J. Hebda. 2012. Saanich Ethnobotany. Culturally Important Plants of the WSANEC People. Royal B.C. Museum, Victoria.

## Looking Back: 20 Years Ago — The First *Stream of Dreams* on Vancouver Island



**March 2004:** Connecting stream and watershed education with public art? Believe it. The Stream of Dreams is a public information program that does just that. In the delivery of the program Joan Carne and Louise Towell, Burnaby residents and healthy stream advocates, show that we can have our neighbourhoods very nearly as they are now and still have a healthy Creek. They delivered this program, with the assistance of volunteers from the school PAC, schoolteachers, and two trainees to Gordon Head Elementary students, teachers, parents and friends on the 23rd to 25th of March this spring. Gordon Head Elementary School, The Friends of Mount Douglas Park, the Goldstream Salmon Enhancement Society encouraged and assisted the presentation, and Saanich Parks and Saanich Environmental Planning each donated \$1500 to make the project go.

The Program is in two parts. First comes an interactive discussion about urban watersheds and the connection between roofs, roads, drains and aquatic ecosystems, specifically Douglas Creek, in this case. A map of the Gordon Head/Douglas Creek watershed was displayed for local reference, and experiences with other streams formed part of the narrative as well. The second part focused on an artistic interpretation of how people think about salmon. Each participant was supplied with a wooden salmon, brushes and paints, to paint the dream salmon in their own Stream of Dreams. Their salmon—about 500 of them, one for each student, teacher and guest who took part—have been installed on the section of the School's chain link fence that faces Kenmore Street.

The Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society considers the Gordon Head Elementary presentation as a pilot project to encourage participants—the community—to realize that together we can bring salmon back into the neighbourhood as a feature of the Park, as an indicator of the health of the neighbourhood, and to restore some of the cultural and physical heritage of this part of British Columbia. We hope that other schools in the area will take up the project for delivery in their schools. This is an impressive program, with a strong visual impact.

How Gordon Head Elementary received the Stream of Dreams Project may best be told by Charlotte Holton who is a teacher at the school and an environmental steward, and who was closely involved with the delivery of the program. She says, *"I can't stop checking out our fish! Today I put up a big display of the project on the main bulletin board. I got some great photos, which I displayed, as well as students writing about the day. I'm still SO PUMPED with the excitement of the Stream of Dreams Project. This is absolute proof that when all the players come together, something like this is very do-able! We did it! The kids will be such good ambassadors and good 'voices' for the message we want to continue to spread. This is definitely a testimonial to getting kids involved from the ground up, getting them invested, so that they will take ownership."*

**The *Stream of Dreams* Program continues to bring community art and eco-education to classrooms across British Columbia, inspiring future generations of environmental stewards. Visit [www.streamofdreams.org](http://www.streamofdreams.org) to learn more about past and upcoming projects.**

## Flora in Focus: Early Summer



*Gaultheria shallon* (Salal)



*Lilium columbianum* (Columbia lily)



*Delphinium menziesii* (Menzies' Larkspur)



*Stachys chamissonis* var. *cooleyae* (Cooley's Hedge-Nettle)

### Answer Key: Test Your Tree Identification Skills

1. Arbutus
2. Douglas Fir
3. Western Red Cedar
4. Garry Oak
5. Bigleaf Maple
6. Pacific Yew
7. Grand Fir
8. Red Alder



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**Membership Renewal - Gift Membership**

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Providing information via this newsletter about the Park is an important Society function. We want to reach more Park users and Park neighbours. Why not give someone you know a gift subscription and include it with your renewal? A one-year membership isn't much more than the price of a good cup of coffee! You provide the gift and we'll send notification to the recipient of your generosity. We hope you will continue to support the work of the Society for another year.

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Archived newsletters are available on the website