



# PKOLS-MOUNT DOUGLAS CONSERVANCY

## FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER

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## Territory Acknowledgement

PKOLS - Mount Douglas lies within the traditional territories of the WSÁNEĆ peoples, represented by the WJOLÉLP, BOKÉCEN, STÁUTW, WSIKEM and MÁLEXEŁ Nations; as well as the the lək'wəŋən peoples, represented by the Songhees and X̱sepsəm (Esquimalt) Nations. The WSÁNEĆ and lək'wəŋən peoples have been here since time immemorial, and their relationship with the land and water is long and rich.

## lək'wəŋən and SENĆOŦEN Names for 'Mount Douglas'

*We thank Grant Keddie for providing this historical summary of recorded Indigenous place names*

On June 3, 1955, Songhees Band member James (Jimmy) Fraser (c.1871-1967) 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 Ernie Olsen provided this name for Mt. Douglas to Douglas Hudson in 1969. Hudson #87. This name is that of the snowberry. It is also spelled 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)

## Mount Douglas Park Charter

*"The lands known as Mount Douglas Park are hereby reserved in perpetuity to the protection and preservation of the natural environment for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public.*

*This land has been transferred by the Province of British Columbia to the Corporation of the District of Saanich on the condition that it be maintained and preserved as a public park.*

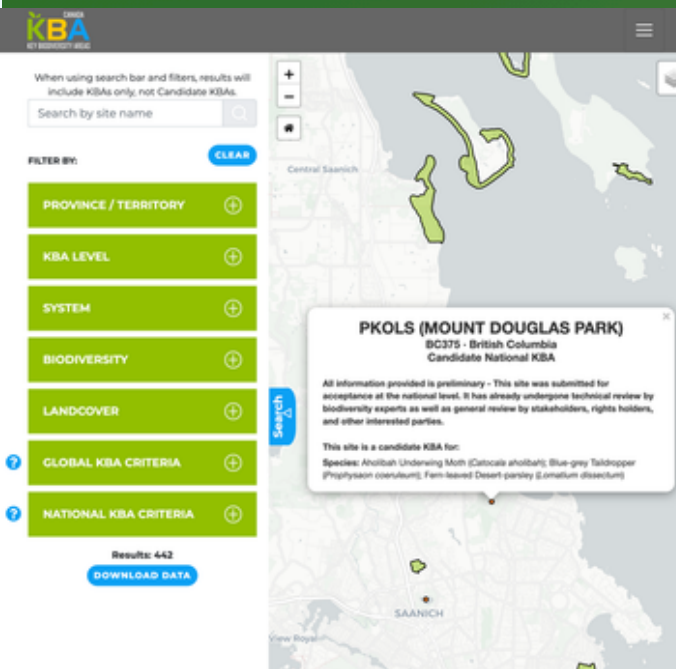
*With this charter, the spirit and intent of the original crown grant of 1889 is maintained while its scope is expanded to include within Mount Douglas Park all adjacent municipal parkland present and future, so that the whole will continue as a wilderness preserve for generations to come.*

*Proclaimed this 22nd. day of November 1992 by the council of the Corporation of the District of Saanich on behalf of the citizens of Saanich."*



## You're Invited! Please Join Us at Our Annual General Meeting

-  **Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 2026**
  -  **Doors at 7pm, Meeting starts at 7:30pm**
  -  **Feltham Room, Gordon Hed Rec Centre**
  -  *While we would love to see you in-person, please contact us if you would like to attend virtually.*
- Please join us for our AGM, where we will present updates on the Conservancy's ongoing initiatives, upcoming projects, and restoration efforts at PKOLS.
- The agenda will include reports on the Society's budget, invasive species management work, creek restoration, summit improvement projects, and more.
- It's a great opportunity to learn about our work, hear what's ahead for the coming year, and find out how you can get involved!



***“This site was submitted for acceptance at the national level. It has already undergone technical review by biodiversity experts as well as general review by stakeholders, rights holders, and other interested parties.”***

[www.kbacanada.org](http://www.kbacanada.org)

## Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) Update

In 2024, Conservancy Vice President Michelle Watt co-authored a report to nominate PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) as a National Key Biodiversity Area (KBA). After technical review by a panel of biodiversity experts, the entire boundaries of the Park qualify as a KBA based on internationally recognized scientific criteria.

While the original KBA report identified two endangered species, in November of last year, an additional species-at-risk (Blue-grey Tailedropper) was observed in the park for the first time, further expanding the initial KBA criteria.

National framework for ecosystem-based criteria is now in development and expected to be completed quite soon. Once finalized, it will align provincial data with national and global vegetation classifications systems, paving the way for additional ecosystem-based KBA criteria that PKOLS will be well-positioned to meet.

## Meet the Endangered Species That Qualify PKOLS as a KBA



### Fern-leaved Desert-parsley (*Lomatium dissectum*)

PKOLS contains 5.6% of the national population of this rare member of the carrot family, found in only 20 sites in Canada, all on southern Vancouver Island.

#### Conservation Status:

- Provincial Status: S2 (Imperiled)
- BC List: **Red** (Endangered)
- Global Status: G4 (Apparently Secure)



### Aholibah Underwing Moth (*Catocala aholibah*)

Identified by its vibrant pink-red hindwings, the entire national range of this moth is restricted to the Garry Oak ecosystems of southern Vancouver Island.

#### Conservation Status:

- Provincial Status: S2 (Imperiled)
- BC List: **Red**
- Global Status: G5 (Secure)



### Blue-grey Taildropper (*Prophysaon coeruleum*)

This small, striking slug is endemic to western North America, where it is found exclusively in Garry Oak meadows and mature Coastal Douglas Fir ecosystems. The recent discovery of this species in PKOLS marks only the 13<sup>th</sup> known occurrence in Canada, all within a ~150 km<sup>2</sup> range of each other.

#### Conservation Status:

- Provincial Status: S2 (Imperiled)
- BC List: **Blue** (Special Concern)
- Global Status: S2 (Imperiled)
- Species At Risk Act (SARA): Schedule 1 – *Endangered*

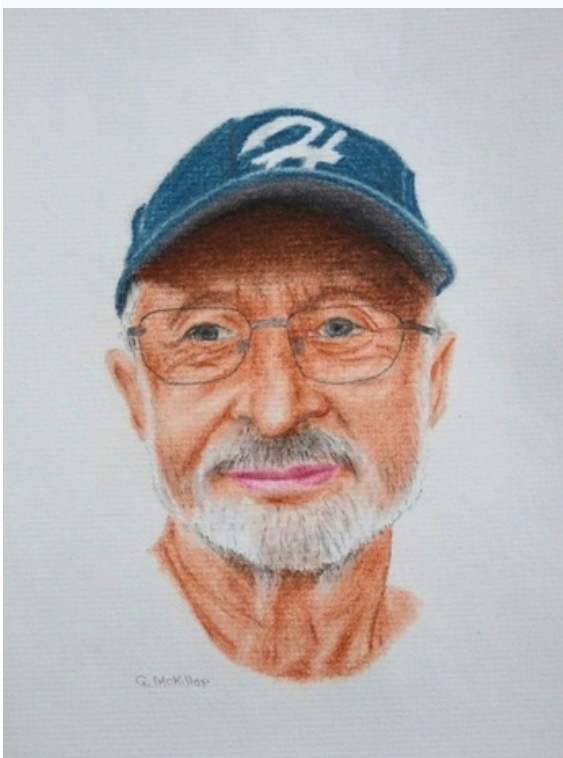


Blue-grey Taildropper photos shared courtesy of Mira Bride. Last November, Mira discovered a new population of this endangered species in PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) – which triggered additional KBA site criteria!



## Remembering Richard “Dick” Battles: An Exemplary Park Steward

Earlier this year, the Park lost one of its greatest friends. Richard “Dick” Battles passed away peacefully on April 26, 2026, after a brief unexpected illness. Dick was an exemplary park steward who spent the last 25+ years volunteering many thousands of hours removing invasive species in all areas of the park. He will be missed tremendously by all who knew him, and no doubt by the Park itself.



*Dick Battles (by Greg McKillop, 2021)*

We know he was there, somewhere in the Park, pulling these invasive plants each and every day. Generally he was alone, almost hidden somewhere in the Park daily for hours in the morning, then again in the afternoon. On Sundays he took a “break” and walked with his wife to pickup debris, often in the area of the beach parking lot.

Just a few weeks before Dick passed, he joined the Pulling Together group at the Garry Oak restoration site along Whittaker Trail where he removed a small mountain of invasive blackberry in a two hour window.

We have been looking at ways that we might best recognize Dick Battles and the exceptional work for the Park. In his honour, we intend to purchase a new bench that includes a small metal plaque with a short inscription. We have proposed placing the bench near the Churchill Drive hairpin turn (at about the 1100m marker). Saanich Parks has been generally receptive to this, but in the interest of pedestrian safety, they would prefer the bench to be set from the road. We are waiting for a final confirmation from them on the exact location.

### What should the inscription say?

We would welcome your suggestions, keeping in mind that the District of Saanich’s policy states that  
*“Wording on the plaque may not be intended to act as a memorial.”*



## The Saanich Municipal Election is on October 17th 2026

As Voting day quickly approaches, we would like to highlight a few considerations for Society members who may still be reviewing the candidates for Mayor and Council.

Our Society will not be endorsing any specific candidates. However, we strongly encourage members to research each candidate and consider whether their stated priorities, platforms, and/or previous actions are in alignment with the Conservancy's goal of safeguarding the welfare of PKOLS (Mount Douglas).

Candidate biographies are available [at this link](#), along with links to candidates' individual websites where more detailed information about environmental and park-related platforms may be available. Members may also wish to reach out directly to inquire about candidates' positions on initiatives and policies pertaining to the Park.

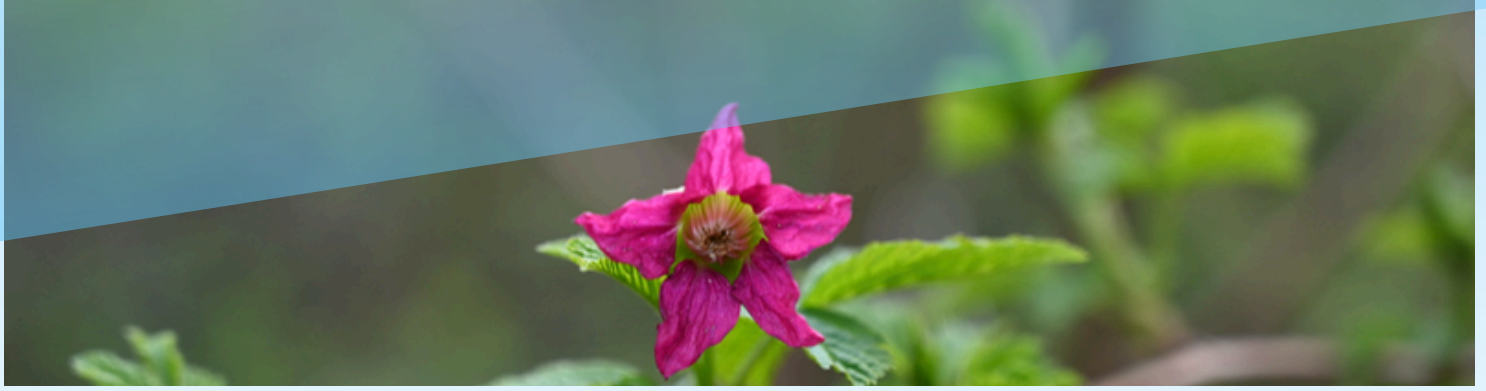
We are concerned to learn that some candidates, including all of the Save Our Saanich (SOS) candidates, have proposed pausing, scaling back, or reversing aspects of the People, Pets and Parks Strategy, including ecological protection fencing in PKOLS. Pausing these measures before they have been fully implemented risks undermining their intended purpose and makes it impossible to fairly assess their effectiveness. From the Society's perspective, maintaining and strengthening ecological protections in the Park — of which there is a demonstrable need — is more important than ever.

The decisions made by the next Saanich Council could very well shape the future of PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park). We look forward to working with the next version of Council to ensure the Park is responsibly stewarded and protected for generations to come.



We would like to send our best wishes to Saanich Mayor Dean Murdock and Lana Popham, MLA for Saanich South following their decisions not to seek re-election in the upcoming municipal and provincial elections respectively.

Both Dean and Lana have been dedicated Friends of the Park for many years. We look forward to seeing them at the next Salmon Carcass Transplant, where year after year they have never been afraid to get their hands slimy to help restore Douglas Creek!



## Salmon Recovery in Douglas Creek is Supported by Local Students

Throughout the month of April and May, students from Frank Hobbs Elementary, Hillcrest Elementary, Arbutus, Middle, Torquay Elementary, and Oakland Elementary released hundreds of Chum Salmon fry into Douglas Creek. The *Stream to Sea Salmonids in the Classroom* program is delivered by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and supported by community partners like Goldstream Hatchery and local stewardship groups.



Each spring, we always look forward to joining the student groups at the outdoor classroom at Douglas Creek to support the fry releases and host nature walks with the students. This year, students learned how to identify some of the commonly-observed plants along Churchill Trail, including Salmonberry, Snowberry, Horsetail, and Fringecup. We even came across a large cluster of flowering Western Trilliums!

We talked about the importance of keeping riparian and forest habitats healthy in order to have a healthy in-stream habitat. At the creek weir just below Robinwood Drive, the students learned about how the weir has been designed to help trap surface pollutants from travelling downstream.



*Coho Salmon fry before and after their release into Douglas Creek in late April 2026*

## Salmon Spawning Season is Approaching!

Being an intertidal creek, the annual return of salmon to Douglas Creek usually coincides with a high tide and a big rain sometimes towards the end of October and into early November. Coho tend to swim all the way up to the upper reach of the creek to spawn, whereas the Chum salmon spawn in the lower reach below Ash Road.

There are several suitable viewpoints along Churchill, Douglas, and Beach trails. If you have a keen eye (or a good pair of binoculars), please keep an eye out for returning salmon this year! We would appreciate you sharing any observations with us. Perhaps you may even spot Coho attempting to jump the weir, as they have done in recent years!



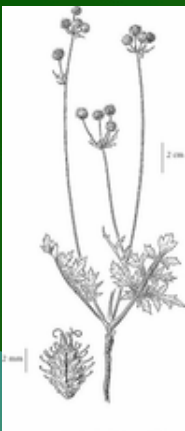
## It Was Preventable: Purple Sanicle Is Now Extirpated from PKOLS

As of late spring 2026, we can sadly confirm that the population of endangered Purple Sanicle (*Sanicula bipinnatifida*) – a plant listed under Schedule 1 of the federal *Species at Risk Act* – has been extirpated from PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park). Extirpation is defined as the local extinction of a species from a specific geographical area within its range. Every extirpation event of a species increases the risk of that species becoming extinct.

While the disappearance of any species is always upsetting, it is particularly distressing that the loss of this species from the Park was an entirely preventable one. Data available through the BC Conservation Data Centre indicates that the population of Purple Sanicle in PKOLS has been critically low since at least 2001, when only one plant was recorded as observed. The population in PKOLS increased to a total of three in 2009, then dropped down to two plants recorded in 2016 and 2019. By 2020, there was only one plant remaining.

During these years, independent biologists, ecologists, and conservationists expressed their concerns with Saanich that user-created trails were cutting through federally-mapped critical habitat for Purple Sanicle in the Park. Plants were repeatedly trampled and crushed, and those that remained grew mere centimetres away from the edge of the trail. Requests were made for Saanich to either re-route or close this rogue trail for restoration in order to protect the few plants that remained, but no action was taken to do so. In 2023 when discussing this topic, we were told “it isn’t Parks’ job to tell people where they can and can’t go within a Saanich Park.”

With only one plant remaining, a wire-mesh cage/fencing structure was placed to protect the sole-remaining Purple Sanicle plant, along with a sign asking people to stay on the trail due to the sensitive wildflower habitat. This was intended to fully shield the plant from trampling while still allowing sunlight and airflow — but unfortunately it was placed a few inches away from the actual plant, leaving it open to foot traffic.



### Purple Sanicle (*Sanicula bipinnatifida*)

Source: *E-Flora BC: Electronic Atlas of the Flora of British Columbia*

**General:** Perennial herb from a taproot; stems erect, 10-60 cm tall, branching.

**Leaves:** Basal and lower stem leaves pinnately divided, toothed or with a winged and toothed leaf axis, the stalks sharply toothed, the blades 4-13 cm long, 3-12 cm wide.

**Flowers:** Inflorescence of several to many compact headlike umbels; flowers purple; involucre inconspicuous, of 6-8 lanceolate bractlets.

**Fruits:** Egg-shaped to subglobose, 3-6 mm long, covered with stout, hooked prickles.



- (1) Wire frame fencing intended to protect Purple Sanicle was placed in the wrong location, leaving the plant exposed.
- (2) Invasive grasses encroaching on the last remaining Purple Sanicle plant early in the growing season in April 2024
- (3) Split-rail fencing installed along the user-created trail (4) Purple Sanicle plant in PKOLS flowering in May 2024

It took an additional year of correspondence and requests before a 8 foot stretch of split-rail fencing was installed along the edge of the trail. Unfortunately, this fencing was installed so close to the plant (in a well-meaning attempt to delineate the border of the trail) that it created a significantly increased amount of shade. Purple Sanicle is adapted to full-sun, though it can also tolerate *partial* shade.

This year, we conducted several vegetation surveys during the growing season between January and June, and it was not observed. We believe several key factors contributed to the demise of the population of Purple Sanicle in PKOLS:

- No action taken to enhance the population through re-planting/re-seeding efforts
- No action taken to manage invasive grasses in its critical habitat
- No action taken to close the rogue trails that were created through its critical habitat
- No signage informing park users of the presence of a critically endangered plant species
- No signage informing park users of their presence in a critically globally imperilled ecosystem
- No action taken to educate the public on the ecological risks associated with creating new trails
- Incorrect placement of protective wire fencing, installed only when there was one plant remaining
- No action to correct the inadequate fencing despite repeated written requests until April 2024
- Placement of the replacement fencing prioritized maintaining trail access over species protection
- Placement of the split-rail fencing was over the crown of the plant, reducing available sunlight



The Garry Oak ecosystems in PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park) are facing many significant pressures, and are highly degraded. At least ten rare and endangered plants and animals have disappeared from Park boundaries since written records began. When plant populations are as small as the Purple Sanicle had become over the last 25+ years, they face increase risks of mortality due to factors such as low resilience and poor reproductive viability.

The last Purple Sanicle plant in PKOLS bloomed for the final time in May of 2025, but this is not the end of the story. We are committed to working with Saanich Parks and local partners to reintroduce and restore a healthy population of Purple Sanicle in PKOLS. Please get in touch with us if you would like to be involved in this project.



How many different types of mosses can you find on your next walk in the park?  
Approximately 60 species have been observed so far, perhaps there are more!



Licorice Fern (*Polypodium glycyrrhiza*) begins to emerge after the first fall rains



Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana*) leaves often turn deep red near the summit of PKOLS



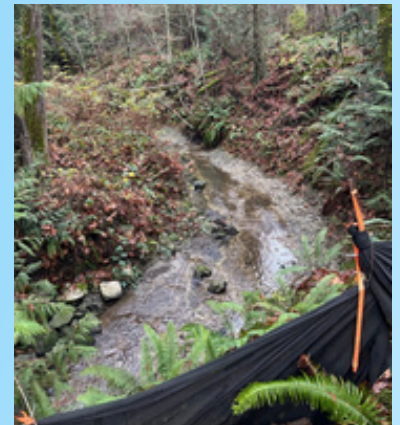
Pictured here are some Orange milk-cap mushrooms, an ectomycorrhizal fungi that forms a symbiotic relationship with the roots of Douglas fir trees



## New Record High-Water Level and Planned Creek Restoration Work

In January of this year, a storm exceeded the long term high-water height at the Douglas Creek weir by almost a quarter of a metre, making the new record high-water level 1.25 metres. Perhaps you may have noticed that this stormwater incident washed out the cobble stones in the creek bed just downstream from the bridge, leaving behind a bare-earth clay substrate. This is not good for salmon! We passed this information to Saanich Parks and Natural Areas Assistant Supervisor Rick Hatch, who responded with their restoration plans:

*"I just had a great site meeting with Dave at Douglas Creek bridge. We will bring in large boulders to place in the creek in both directions from the bridge. The water level was perfect when we were there to see how few boulders were sticking above the water line. Our goal will be to create a series of larger boulders that break the surface of the water during flows like today. We will also be bucketing in 6 inch plus cobble to the down creek side and basically just dump and let the water flow distribute. We also brainstormed good ideas about the trail redo from the Churchill side to stabilize the bank and decrease the trail slope to make it easier for trail users to navigate."*



*The high-water marker beneath the Douglas Creek Bridge may need to be raised!*

## Additional Projects and Repairs Coming...Soon?

- The hydrological data box that automatically measures and records water levels and temperature at the creek weir is temporally offline while the CRD works on replacing outdated equipment. We hope it will be repaired soon!
- We continue to wait for the installation of a boardwalk on Douglas Trail just south of the Bridge Trail. Saanich arborists have cut hazard trees in this area allowing for the boardwalk installation, but no date has been set.
- Plans to remove the stabilization tarp on the eastern approach trail to the bridge and slightly modifying the trail have been promised since the bridge installation in 2021. We are glad to hear from Rick Hatch's correspondence (above) that things seem to be moving along on the project front.



## Tower Replacement Project Updates and Main Summit Changes

**The crews have completed the installation of the new tower.** This includes a new base, and a three section 40-metre high tower with pre-installed antenna mounting brackets. The next phase has been installation of the large cables inside the concrete cable-way. Next were the cellular antennas along with frontend radios on the tower. The signal strength from the antennas is very weak and the high frequency would be highly attenuated from the cables. To avoid this attenuation, the radios installed near the antennas amplifies the signal and also changes it to a lower frequency avoiding the attenuation. We don't have a schedule, but expect the antenna installation project phase will be ongoing this fall with different crews responsible for different site users. You'll see the tower slowly grow bulkier as each set of antennas is installed.



**We have been in discussion with Saanich about potential changes and improvements for the summit area after the tower work is finished.** First up is restoration of the South Ridge Trail which was broken up by the new tower location. A short section of new trail will connect the old trail to the new stairs. This work has to wait until workers are not on the tower, as accidentally dropping a wrench would be a serious risk to anyone passing below!

Visitors arriving at the summit parking area are now greeted by a nice trail leading to the tower summit. Conversely, they can't even see the main summit leading to the lookout, and the trail entrance isn't particularly welcoming. We have proposed installing a new set of well-designed stairs over the large bare-rock face that many visitors now scramble over. A new interpretive sign, (similar to the one at the Churchill Drive parking lot) would be installed in the area between these new stairs and the current old trail. We understand that W̱SÁNEĆ Nation will also be producing interpretive signage which will recognize the profound cultural significance of PKOLS.

The asphalt trail leading to the summit needs repair and widening. About halfway up are a series of uneven steps that need to be redone. Just before the summit, the trail needs a safety railing because of the large drop-off. If you look at the last steps leading to the summit area, the first three are okay, but the lower ones need replacement.

**There are a lot of projects in the works. We are waiting to hear from Saanich about when they might be able to schedule some or all of them. Stay tuned!**



## Invasive Species Updates and Pulling Together Work Party Sessions

Invasive species removal work parties will continue this fall and winter. This spring we removed an enormous amount of Bur Chervil at the restoration site at Whittaker Trail and Cedar Hill Road, while continuing to control the other “Big Bad B’s” — Blackberry, Broom, and (invasive) Bromes! This year, we were delighted to see several Great Camas and Fawn Lilies have returned. We will also be working in several additional sites this season.

### Interesting in joining some invasive species removal work parties in PKOLS?

Contact the Saanich Parks Stewardship Coordinator at 250-475-5522 or [stewardship@saanich.ca](mailto:stewardship@saanich.ca) for more information. We also share planned work party dates and times on our website and social media pages. You can also help monitor the spread of invasive species by uploading your photo observations to [iNaturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org), which helps us identify priority areas.

### Invasives of Concern: Shiny Geranium

In spring of this year, Pulling Together volunteers from various Saanich Parks and Parks staff spent several days targeting infestations of Shiny Geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) in the Park. This invasive species was introduced to Vancouver Island from Eurasia approximately 15 years ago, and it has spread rapidly since.

Left unchecked, Shiny Geranium will quickly take over and choke out native plants in both open and closed canopy habitats. Although it may appear relatively unassuming, this annual or biennial forb is capable of dispersing up to 1000 seeds per year, which it does so using a ballistic seed-ejection mechanism. This gives the plant an advantage by allowing it to spread up-slope. We have a small seasonal window to manually remove it before it flowers and goes to seed.

While Shiny Geranium is listed as a Priority Invasive Species by the province (designated under a *Regional Containment/Control* management objective), it is a relatively ‘new’ invasive species in the region, and as such it is not included in the Saanich *Noxious Weeds Bylaw, 2000, No. 8080*. This bylaw requires property owners in Saanich to control listed invasive plant species on private lands. In PKOLS, infestations of Shiny Geranium on bordering properties continue to spread into the Park each year, with the District unable to enforce removal.

We are advocating for an amendment to the Schedule of listed plants in the *Noxious Weeds Bylaw* to include Shiny Geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) — as well as Bur Chervil (*Anthriscus caucalis*) and Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), two more priority species of concern in PKOLS and other natural area parks.





## The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Salmon Carcass Transplant on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2026

Over 130 individuals, including children and elected representatives, gathered at the Douglas Creek Outdoor Classroom for the 24th annual Salmon Carcass Transplant event. After coffee and hot chocolate, Tom Rutherford explained the importance of this keystone species. This was followed by a welcome from Hereditary Chief WEC'KINEM (Eric Pelkey) of STÁUTW (Tsayout), signalling that the public could begin placing salmon carcasses in the creek.

Transplanting salmon carcasses into Douglas Creek simulates the ecological process that occurs naturally 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 highly nutrient-rich. This natural process is how marine nutrients return to terrestrial ecosystems through the breakdown of 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, including a record-breaking return in the fall of 2024, the numbers have not (yet!) reached their full potential, so the annual Douglas Creek Salmon Carcass Transplant continues. The transplanted carcasses also attract scavengers such as river otters, raccoons, eagles, and ravens, which help distribute nutrients more widely across PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park), further enriching the ecosystem.

A notable study\* published last year by researchers at Simon Fraser University examined the impact of nutrients from salmon carcasses 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 larger flowers, directly benefiting pollinators that depend 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 systems with the creek and park, 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.]*



## From The Archives – 60 Years Ago This September: “Life Returns to Fire-Wasted Mount Douglas Park”

Victoria Daily Times — Tuesday, September 27, 1966

In sharing this original article, we recognize that some of the language used in the text reflects the biases of its time.

*It takes a careful eye to see it, but nature already is healing the 100-acre fire scar on Mount Douglas.*

*Freeman King, veteran youth leader and naturalist says a slow stroll through the wasted area reveals the miracle of regeneration.*

*The fire roared over Mount Douglas September 7. Since then, less than month of warm rains and filtered sunshine gently washed the area. And these things began to happen:*

*The sheep sorrel grass and the chickweed and the dandelions are awakening to new life. They are not the plants men prize. But their appearance bears a promise that the Camas and satin flower, with their deep roots and bulbs will come back, too—perhaps even in greater numbers.*

*"New things appear after a fire," said Mr. King. And the orange-purple fungus Pynonima is growing everywhere. Flies and insects made their return, too. And hot on their heels are tiny lizards moving in from the unburned areas.*

*Bodies of snakes and lizards killed by the fire can be seen. But the snails that once lived here seem to have evaporated. The bodies of small ground birds appear often. But new ones will flit back with the vegetation.*

*There are islands left by the fire which are already proving an attraction to them.*

*The fire killed the golden broom—but its sprawling root system is working already and by spring will send out new shoots.*

*The Garry Oaks and the arbutus did not fare so well. Some are dead beyond recall. And the mosses and stonecrop is gone except in some shady spots.*

*There are some dead field mice. But most of them went deep underground and now they are digging out and foraging again for food.*

*Also surviving is the one thing which should have been erased, the discard from the untidiest of all animals, man.*

*Tin cans and broken glass once hidden by nature, now stand out in revolting designs.*

*Freeman King isn't grieving however. He points out that the main wooded sections of the park, where most of the wild flowers grow in profusions that once thrilled Emily Carr—were untouched by the flames.*

*And he knows that soon the fire-wasted parts will have new green camouflage.*

*He can show you sears from previous fires on old Douglas Firs. Some of these ancient fires were started by the Indians many generations ago to ensure a new crop of camas—which served them as a vegetable, he says.*

*Each fire brings some good. He thinks one of the benefits of this one is the drama of the mending process. High schools and universities should send students to observe.*



**Renew your Membership or Purchase a Gift Membership Online!**

**pkols-mountdouglas.ca**

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.

### Membership Options

**4 Years (\$20)**

**3 Years (\$15)**

**2 Years (\$10)**

**1 Year (\$5)**



*Archived newsletters are available online*

**Would you like to contribute photos or written articles to upcoming newsletters?**

Perhaps you have a story to tell about time spent in the Park, or you have knowledge to share about its flora, fauna, or history.

If you are interested, please reach out to [michelle@PKOLS-Mount Douglas.ca](mailto:michelle@PKOLS-MountDouglas.ca) and share your ideas!

**Are you a member of the Society with financial skills and a passion for environmental advocacy and conservation?**

Maybe you've been a member for years and have been wondering how to get more involved. This could be your opportunity!

Our current treasurer, Nancy Lewthwaite, has done a fantastic job over the past many, many years. She wishes to retire and has set up clear instructions for all tasks required of a new treasurer.

The Treasurer helps to manage Society funds, prepare financial reports, prepare grant applications, and support the Board in making informed financial decisions that guide our work.

If this sounds like a good fit, we would love to hear from you. Please reach out to [darrell@PKOLS-MountDouglas.ca](mailto:darrell@PKOLS-MountDouglas.ca) and tell us a little about yourself.

