

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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\$238,056 granted to 16 South Vancouver Island Salmon Community Projects by Pacific Salmon Foundation

VANCOUVER – The Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) announces grants for 16 projects in the South Vancouver Island region, totaling \$238,056 through the PSF Community Salmon Program (CSP). The total value of the projects, which includes community fundraising, contributions and volunteer time, is \$1,488,711 and is focused on the rehabilitation of key Pacific salmon habitats and stock enhancement in the South Vancouver Island area.



(l-r) Eva Riccius, Sannich Parks; Ward Bond, PSF Board member, B.C. Agriculture Minister Lana Popham, Darrell Wick, President of Friends of Mt. Douglas Park Society, and Michael Meneer, President of PSF, at Douglas Creek Bridge and Interpretive Area, Victoria BC, July 2020



(l-r) Ward Bond, PSF Board member, Michael Meneer, PSF President, Ian Bruce, Executive Coordinator, Peninsula Stream Society, Mitzi Dean, MLA for Esquimalt-Metchosin, on behalf of Premier John Horgan, visiting the Mill Stream fish passage project in Langford that was funded by PSF's Community Salmon Program.

"PSF has been a key partner in the successful restoration of Douglas Creek for spawning Coho and Chum salmon. PSF grants provide strong leverage, enabling significantly larger projects that impact the whole community. As an urban creek, within an urban watershed, there are innumerable challenges for our project which provide excellent opportunities for student research projects from the University of Victoria and Camosun College. Families participate in our annual carcass transplants and release salmon fry raised in small classroom incubation tanks," said Darrell Wick, President, Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society. "Thanks to the support of PSF and others over the past decade, Douglas Creek has evolved into a public education forum, in addition to recovering its historic core role for the return of spawning salmon."

Also, among the 16 projects supported by PSF in Victoria is the Peninsula Streams Society's Millstream Fishway Project in Langford, which will open up more than eight kilometres of upstream salmon habitat by repairing a large culvert under Atkins Road near Mill Hill Regional Park. This project was also funded by the B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund, a joint provincial and federal fund of more than \$140 million established in 2019.

"Projects that restore salmon runs so close to our homes and neighbourhoods immediately help people value the importance of having healthy wild salmon populations," said B.C. Agriculture Minister Lana Popham. "It's impossible to watch returning salmon without being amazed by the miracle of nature taking place in front of your eyes, and to be anything but inspired to protect it for the future."

"As a result of this fishway, an additional 3,000 fish are expected to return through my constituency up the stream here to spawn. This project is not only significant for salmon restoration on the South Island, but its just the beginning of many future projects that will include school programs, fish habitat restoration and watershed and water quality protection," Mitzi Dean, MLA for Esquimalt-Metchosin.

"Peninsula Streams Society was pleased to host local MLA Mitzi Dean, PSF-CEO Michael Meneer and Victoria PSF Board member Wade Bond at the Millstream Fishway site. Without the support of PSF, the Province and the BC Salmon Restoration and Infrastructure Fund, this project would not have been possible," Ian Bruce, President, Watershed Ecological Services.

The Province of British Columbia contributed funds to Community Salmon Program as part of a \$5 million grant, through 2023 to address the immediate and ongoing needs of Pacific salmon and their habitats.

"These are great projects for Pacific salmon, and we know that Pacific salmon need our help now to restore spawning habitats in stream and rivers, carry out stock assessment and enhancement, and provide educational opportunities," says Michael Meneer, Pacific Salmon Foundation President and CEO. "The Community Salmon Program values its partnerships with grassroots organizations like the Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society, Peninsula Streams Society, First Nations, government, and all of our hundreds of partners in communities across the province."

PSF's Community Salmon Program is funded primarily from sales of the federal government's Salmon Conservation Stamp. The Salmon Stamp is purchased annually by saltwater anglers who participate in the public fishery. Proceeds from the \$6 stamp are returned to British Columbia through PSF, generating nearly \$1.5 million for community grants annually.

Funds are also raised locally through PSF's annual South Vancouver Island Gala Dinner & Auction, which raised \$115,000 in early March 2020. An active committee of local volunteers organizes the 400-person event at the Victoria Conference Centre.

This spring PSF has awarded more than \$1.2M in grants to 117 grassroots salmon conservation

projects across British Columbia. The value of these projects is nearly \$10M Including local fundraising and volunteerism. Thousands of volunteers will be supported to:

- Restore salmon habitat in streams, rivers and estuaries
- Operate conservation hatcheries & related education programs.
- Undertake a variety of “citizen science” projects to help better understand the challenges Pacific salmon face amidst climate change.

Community Salmon Program grants support projects from across British Columbia and the Yukon, with a focus on habitat stewardship, salmon enhancement, science and education. In addition to funds generated from the Salmon Conservation Stamp, and from the Province of BC, these grants are made possible by corporate donations from Trans Mountain, Mosaic Forest Management, BC Hydro, Enbridge, Methanex, Seaspan, FortisBC Energy.

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Video link: [PSF announces over \\$1.2 million in grants to 117 grassroots salmon conservation projects across BC!](#)

Contact

Jollean Willington
Pacific Salmon Foundation
Manager, Media & Public Relations
O 604.664.7664 ext.129
C 778.881.7792
jwillington@psf.ca

About the Pacific Salmon Foundation:

PSF is the independent, thoughtful leader and catalyst in conservation, restoration, and enhancement of Pacific salmon and their ecosystems through strategic partnerships and leveraged use of resources. www.psf.ca