



Annual Vancouver Island Symposia Series on **Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate**

Nanaimo 2018

Parksville 2019

Comox Valley 2020

Improve Where We Live – Good Strategies are Our Path to Success:

- Reconnect hydrology and ecology – what happens on the landscape matters to streams!
- Shrink our destructive footprint while growing our restorative footprint – sustainable is attainable!

Symposia Series on Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate

DID YOU KNOW: The Symposia Series is a building blocks process. Each event builds on the last and points the way to the next. The symposium format provides a neutral forum for local elected representatives, local government staff, stewardship groups and others to ‘convene for action’ to improve *where we live*.

Nanaimo 2018

Collaboration Success Stories

Inspired by the 2017 Comox Valley Eco-Asset Symposium, Nanaimo 2018 was a ‘call to action’. The theme? Build on the good outcomes that flow from local government and stewardship sector collaboration!

Nanaimo 2018 introduced a vision for ‘restorative land development’ that would re-establish creekshed function. And it energized the audience with this challenge: ***How will communities ‘get it right’ through collaboration as land develops and redevelops?***

Parksville 2019

Improving Where We Live Through Restorative Development

Building on the energy that was released in Nanaimo, the dot-connecting theme for the 3-day Parksville program was: ***Restorative land development would result in sustainable stream restoration.***

Parksville 2019 celebrated local government initiatives on Vancouver Island that are ‘getting it right’ over time. They are on a pathway to reconnect hydrology and ecology. Achieving this outcome depends on collaboration, commitment, and the ‘hard work of hope’. ***Follow the leaders!***

Comox Valley 2020

Climate Change, Collaboration and Landscape Restoration

In April 2020, the third in the series will further open eyes and minds as to ‘what can be’ – because the Comox Valley has emerged as an ***incubator region for provincially significant precedents.***

Collaboration, across sectors and among rightsholders and stakeholders, is essential in order for communities to: mobilize and respond effectively to the present climate emergency; reconnect hydrology and ecology; and demonstrate that restorative land development is attainable.

To learn more, visit <https://waterbucket.ca/viw/category/vancouver-island-symposia-series/>

Comox Valley 2020 Program At A Glance

SERIES CONTEXT: *The rhythms of water have changed faster than climate scientists had anticipated: winters are warmer and wetter; summers are longer and drier; and extreme floods, droughts and forest fires are occurring more frequently. Adapting to this ‘new reality’ requires fundamental changes in how we value nature and service land. In the built environment, strive to reconnect hydrology and ecology.*

<p>Tuesday evening – October 20, 2020</p> <p>Changing Climate Public Event</p> <p>Special guest speakers to be announced</p>	
<p>DAY ONE (Wednesday, October 21, 2020) (Opening 8:45AM & Closing at 4:30PM)</p> <p>Climate Change, Collaboration and Landscape Restoration</p>	
Module	Module Theme
A	Water, Place and Reconciliation
B	Regional Collaboration toward Natural Asset Management
C	Engaging Community in Climate Strategies – Projects and Tactics
D	Stitching Together Altered Landscapes: Conservation, Community & Resilience
	Re-Cap Day One and Look Ahead to Day Two
<p>DAY TWO (Thursday, October 22, 2020) (Opening 8:45AM & Closing at 3:15PM)</p> <p>Reconnect Hydrology and Ecology</p>	
E	BC’s Climate Reality, Inter-Regional Collaboration & Actionable Visions
F	Natural Assets as Ecological Systems and Services
G	International Year of the Salmon – Will Lightning Strike Twice?
	Reflect and Look Ahead to Symposium 2021

Collaboration & Partnerships

The Symposia programs are built around success stories – inspirational in nature, local in scale, and precedent-setting in scope and outcome. In short, these precedents can be replicated and/or adapted in other communities.

Parksville 2019 Symposium

Improving Where We Live Through Restorative Development

Learn why and how local government partnerships with stewardship groups can be transformational and 'make where we live better'!

DAY 1: Tuesday, April 2nd

In the Field

Option 1 (free):

Tour the new Englishman River Water Treatment Plant

Plant serving Parksville and Nanoose Bay Peninsula

Option 2 (pay to attend):

Stream restoration training workshop with Dave Derrick

Part in class, part on stream at Shelly Creek

For both options, participants will meet at the Parksville Conference Centre (132 Jensen Rd. E)

Bring appropriate clothing & footwear. Must pre-register. Space limited.

DAY 2: Wednesday, April 3rd

Full Day Symposium

Parksville Community Conference Centre (132 Jensen Rd. E)

Theme: Sustainable Stream Restoration

with catered lunch

What happens on the land matters to streams – reconnecting hydrology & ecology

Doors open at 7:30 am, begins 8:30 am.

Four modules of speakers with panel discussion and town hall dialogues.

Goes to 4:15 pm

Free Evening Lecture by Author Storm Cunningham:
"The Challenge: Design With Nature"

DAY 3: Thursday, April 4th

Full Day Symposium

Parksville Community Conference Centre (132 Jensen Rd. E)

Theme: Restorative Land Development

with catered lunch

How we can decrease our destructive footprint while increasing our restorative impact

Doors open at 8 am begins 8:30 am.

Four modules of speakers with panel discussion and town hall dialogues.

Goes to 4:15 pm

A Key Message: Restorative Land Development Results in Sustainable Stream Restoration!

Day 2 Theme: *'Sustainable Stream Restoration'*

KEY MESSAGE: Reconnect hydrology and ecology – what happens on the land in the creekshed matters to streams! *Development reduces the capacity of the landscape to absorb and hold water. When it rains, there is more flow volume and streams erode; in a drought, there is little or no flow as the surrounding land dries out.*

Module	Theme & Description of Scope
A	<p>“Getting It Right”: The Whole-System Approach</p> <p>ABSTRACT: Dr. Chris May will set the tone for the symposium. He will tell the story of how his research correlated the relationship between land use and stream health; and how Kitsap County is a living laboratory for implementing a hydrology-based approach at multiple scales (to build resilience). TAKEAWAY: Participants understand that hydrology is the engine that powers ecological services.</p>
B	<p>Panel & Town-Hall Session: Watershed Health and You</p> <p>ABSTRACT: The Englishman River ‘big picture’ story (endangered river, regional water source, Shelly Creek restoration) provides the backdrop for developing a shared understanding of what a whole-system approach looks like, and what it would mean to reconnect hydrology and ecology. The spotlight is on citizen science. A 5-person team will prime the audience with 5-minute vignettes. TAKEAWAY: Participants would be engaged, energized and inspired to make a difference.</p>
C	<p>Make Better Decisions: First, Understand How Rain Reaches a Stream</p> <p>ABSTRACT: THIS SESSION WILL BE CONDUCTED AS “A MINI-WORKSHOP WITHIN THE SYMPOSIUM” Understanding the complex interactions of whole-system, water balance processes that lead to water availability in and on the ground, and all the values that depend on it, is critical to effective water resource allocation. The provincial government leads the way with collection, storage and dissemination of surface and groundwater data. However, there is a gap at the local level. A provincial government initiative on Vancouver Island is mobilizing stewardship groups and community volunteers to collect such data. This contribution would create understanding that would enhance the effectiveness of the stewardship sector as champions for reconnecting hydrology and ecology. TAKEAWAY: Streamkeepers would understand the value of their contribution in being part of a provincial initiative to fill a data collection gap at the local level.</p>
D	<p>Back to the Future: Reconnect Hydrology & Ecology</p> <p>ABSTRACT: This segment is the book-end for the Chris May opening. Decades of in-stream restoration work have not been sustainable because communities have not addressed the root cause of ‘changes of hydrology’, even though we have known what we need to do. The closing for Day 1 is a ‘call to action’, and the bridge to Storm Cunningham’s evening lecture and the theme for the Day 2 program. TAKEAWAY: Participants would be primed for Day 2 on <i>restorative land development</i>.</p>

Day 3 Theme: ***'Restorative Land Development'***

KEY MESSAGE: **Yes, we can decrease our destructive footprint while at the same time increasing our restorative footprint!** *Celebrate Vancouver Island success stories. These are inspirational in nature, creekshed in scale, and precedent-setting in scope and outcome. "Get it right" and proceed along a restorative development pathway.*

Module	Theme & Description of Scope
A	"Getting It Right": Make Better Land Use Decisions
1 ¼ hrs	<p>ABSTRACT: The story of how a strong foundation of public outreach and science was built over the first decade (2009-2018) of the Regional District of Nanaimo's Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Program (DWWP) will lead into a lively discussion on opportunities and emphasis for the next 10 years of water sustainability initiatives. It is the successful cultivation of awareness and data that will inform policy and planning in order to make better land and water decisions and tackle regional water issues in the next decade.</p> <p>TAKEAWAY: Participants would contribute to the visioning of the next decade of Drinking Water and Watershed Protection in the region.</p>
B	Panel & Town-Hall Session: <i>Make Where We Live Better</i>
1 ½ hrs	<p>ABSTRACT: A 5-person team will prime the audience with vignettes about long-term and emerging initiatives in communities on Vancouver Island. These success stories demonstrate what is achievable when there is a restoration imperative. The panel will build on Module A's "actionable vision" theme.</p> <p>TAKEAWAY: Participants would be engaged, energized and inspired by stories of collaboration.</p>
C	Moving Towards Restorative Development
2 hrs	<p>ABSTRACT: The Bowker Creek and Brooklyn Creek restoration success stories are beacons of hope. Each has a long history. Inspirational and provincially significant precedents, each demonstrates how local government partnerships with stewardship groups can be transformational and <i>'make where we live better'</i>. These precedents represent a range of situations: Bowker in the urban heart of the Capital Region; Brooklyn in the suburban Comox Valley. They are beacons of hope.</p> <p>The Bowker Creek Urban Watershed Renewal Initiative serves as a 'how-to-guide' for a 'top-down and bottom-up' approach that connects with the community and gets the vision and strategy right.</p> <p>Brooklyn Creek is a working example of how to apply the Ecological Accounting Process (EAP) to value the worth of a creekshed, its hydrology, and ecological systems.</p> <p>TAKEAWAY: Participants would be inspired by the 'top-down and bottom-up' approach.</p>
D	We Can Create the Future We Want
¾ hr	<p>ABSTRACT: Storm Cunningham will conclude the symposium with an inspirational message. The goal of making the world 'less worse' does not go far enough, he will state. Rather, we have it within our power to undo previous damage and make the world better. The essential ingredients for restorative land development encompass a vision, strategy to deliver the vision, and commitment to implement.</p> <p>TAKEAWAY: Participants would understand the essential ingredients for restorative development.</p>

Nanaimo 2018 Symposium

Sharing & Learning from Collaboration Success Stories



A program deliverable for “Sustainable Watershed Systems, through Asset Management”,
Implemented under the umbrella of the Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Education Initiative

7:30	Registration / Meet & Greet		Speaker
8:30	Event Welcome from Nanaimo & Area Land Trust Chapman		Paul
8:45	MODULE A: How Communities Will “Get it Right” – Setting the Context		
	Sponge Communities: A Water-Resilient Future Despite Floods & Droughts?		
	<p>BC has arrived at a fork in the road. Consider the weather extremes experienced in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Impacts are magnified by human interventions. Kim Stephens will explain the call to action for <i>Sustainable Watershed Systems, through Asset Management</i>. To prime participants for the town-hall sharing session in Module B, Kim will pose this question for their reflection: How will communities ‘get it right’ through collaboration as land develops and redevelops?</p>	 Kim Stephens	
9:15	The Evolving Role of the Freshwater Stewardship Sector in BC		
	<p>Community members caring for waterways are key to making a difference in restoring naturally functioning watersheds over time. Zo Ann, executive director of the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation, will reflect on the role stewardship groups have played since the early 1990s, as advocates for stream-protection, collaborating with municipal decision-makers and others, and contributing important on-the-stream observations and actions.</p>	 ZoAnn Morten	
10:00	Refreshment Break / Conversation		
10:30	MODULE B: Panel & Town-Hall Session on Community Empowerment & Sustainable Partnerships with Local Government		
10:30	OVERVIEW OF PANEL & TOWN-HALL SESSION ON: Community Empowerment & Sustainable Partnerships with Local Government <i>(turn to last page for detailed abstract)</i>		
	<p>Led by Peter Law, this segment is the heart of the program. It has two parts: first, panel reflections; then, a ‘roving mike’. The panel will showcase success stories resulting from local government and stewardship sector collaboration. Panel members will paint a picture of what collaboration must look like in practice to truly achieve the vision for <i>restorative development</i>. The desired outcome: participants will be inspired to make a difference!</p>	 Peter Law	
12:15	Lunch / Conversation		

1:15	MODULE C: Building Blocks for Sustainable Watershed Systems	
	Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Plan: Sustainable Partnerships in the RDN <p>In 2008, the RDN was the first regional government to create a Drinking Water and Watershed Protection (DWWP) service. Julie Pisani, program coordinator, will elaborate on DWWP initiatives, which include outreach and education, local water studies and community-based monitoring, and policy advocacy and support for land use planning. She will share stories and successes of regional collaboration and the development of sustainable partnerships in freshwater protection.</p>  <p>Julie Pisani</p>	
1:45	Look at Watersheds Differently: ‘Perceptions of Worth’ versus ‘Perceptions of Value’ <p>The <i>Ecological Accounting Process</i> (EAP) is a whole-system view of watersheds that assesses hydrology in order to accurately describe ecological services. Demonstration applications are Busy Place Creek in Cowichan Valley; and Brooklyn Creek in Comox Valley. Looking through the ‘worth lens’ has led to a fundamental shift in the EAP approach: place less emphasis on monetization of ecological services; instead, focus on the investment of resources as well as aspirations of motivated stakeholders.</p>  <p>Tim Pringle</p>	
2:15	Water Sustainability & the City: Urban Watershed Challenges & Opportunities <p>Although local governments in British Columbia can influence a number of activities that impact watershed health in their jurisdictions, many face challenges in addressing watershed pressures. Christine Mettler will report on research conducted with dozens of urban watershed practitioners across B.C., outlining environmental and management challenges and how new tools developed under B.C.'s new <i>Water Sustainability Act</i> could help to address some of these challenges.</p>  <p>Christine Mettler</p>	
2:45	<i>Refreshment Break / Conversation</i>	
3:15	The Journey to a Water-Resilient Future: Action Items for the Nanaimo Region <p>Bob Sandford will connect the dots between his call to action the previous evening, and what he heard throughout the day of the symposium. His emphasis will be on identifying action items that are tangible and possible, and would lead to restorative development in the mid-Vancouver Island region and beyond. The essence of his message? Once we change our attitude, we will find the path to success.</p>  <p>Bob Sandford</p>	
3:45	<i>Symposium adjourns</i>	

10:30 PANEL SEGMENT - DETAILED ABSTRACT: **Community Empowerment & Sustainable Partnerships with Local Government**

Communication, cooperation, coordination and collaboration – have you thought about the power of the **4Cs**? When all four are in play, good things happen. Are you aware of the **beneficial outcomes** that are flowing from collaboration between local government and the stewardship sector in the Nanaimo region? These questions provide context for the two-part panel segment of the program.

- **PRIMING THE AUDIENCE:** In their prepared remarks, panelists will shine the spotlight on the role played by the stewardship sector in building trust and delivering outcomes through effective partnerships with local governments. They will give examples of how their project(s) relate to the foregoing.
- **TOWN-HALL INTERACTION:** Panelists will reflect on the value of ‘citizen science’ and how it can be leveraged to achieve two complementary objectives: educate the local community (public); and provide an impetus for political action that results in implementation of environmental policy at the local and/or provincial level.

The panel lens is a watershed lens – *what do we want this watershed to look like?* The desired outcome: the audience will be energized and inspired to make a difference regarding **restorative development!**

REPRESENTING	THEME & RELEVANCE	SPEAKER
Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement	Shelly Creek Water Balance & Sediment Reduction Plan	Peter Law
	MVIHES has morphed from <i>Stewards of the Englishman River Recovery Plan</i> to <i>Stewards of the Watershed</i> . The Shelly Creek Plan is a provincial precedent. Community-driven action can restore watershed hydrology, prevent erosion and ensure fish survival.	
Nanaimo & Area Land Trust	Watershed / Stewardship Partnerships	Paul Chapman
	NALT uses the tools of land trusts: acquisition, conservation covenants and education to promote and protect the natural values of land in the Nanaimo area. NALT also shares its structural capacity to assist local stream stewardship groups to carry out their activities.	
Regional District of Nanaimo	Community Watershed Monitoring Network	Julie Pisani
	The RDN coordinates a surface water quality sampling program in partnership with 13 stewardship groups, Ministry of Environment and Island Timberlands to expand ability to track watershed trends, inform planning and programs, and raise watershed awareness.	
City of Nanaimo	Stewards in the City	Rob Lawrance
	Shifts in environmental partnerships have been occurring within the City Parks system. The City has adapted to try and make environmental stewardship a more inclusive activity for residents in order to build connections between residents and natural spaces.	
Mt. Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute	Wetlands Mapping Project	Ashley Van Acken
	Student researchers engage with the local community to learn more about our water resources – with a key focus on the role of wetlands	
D.R. Clough Consulting	Streamkeepers	Dave Clough
	Training and supporting legions of volunteer stream stewards – what works & what doesn’t for long lasting watershed engagement.	