

Mayor and Council

April 28, 2020

Town of Qualicum Beach

201-660 Primrose Street

P.O. Box 130

Qualicum Beach, BC

V9K 1S7

Subject: Project Cooperation in Qualicum Beach

Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers would like to update Council with respect to several opportunities for cooperation between the Town and Streamkeepers, and invite your views and support.

First, we have just been advised by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) of its approval of our funding proposal for the installation of a level logger on Beach Creek. As you will recall, Council passed a motion in January in support of the project and this was essential to its approval by the RDN. We appreciate Council's support and look forward to carrying out the installation in the next several months. When combined with the existing level logger on Grandon Creek, the data quality on long term trends in water levels on both streams will be significantly improved.

Second, we would like to offer our volunteer and technical support for the revegetation of the area adjacent to the Hoylake Road School Connector above Grandon Creek this fall. Over the past twenty five years, Streamkeepers has removed numerous invasive plants, and planted several hundred native trees, shrubs and ferns in the riparian zone below Hoylake Road, so this would be a logical continuation of that long term effort.

Third, we are pleased that the marine spit at the junction of Memorial Avenue and Highway 19A is functioning largely as planned. We have received a number of contacts from the public over the past year expressing concern about whether the spit and the berm at the entrance poses a barrier to fish migration. Our advice has consistently been that we were optimistic that the new green shore, spit and resulting channel would in fact improve fish movement and our observations to date have confirmed that. We would like to now recommend that, to strengthen public understanding of the project, an interpretive sign be developed and situated near the spit. Similar to the approach carried out with regard to the Memorial Rain Garden, we would offer to develop the content and graphics of the sign, confirm Town approval, and work with Town staff with regard to the timing and placement.

Finally, we would like to suggest that there is a common theme for all of these project opportunities - that of strengthening consultation and communication between the Town and citizens. While we recognize that efforts to improve communication on capital projects have recently been made, there is a real need to incorporate early consultation and communication into each project. The cost of such communication, ranging from open

houses, tours, outreach to neighbours or signage, should be incorporated in project costs from the inception.

While there may be valid concern that such a communication commitment would be too time consuming to implement, we would suggest that adopting a more proactive and planned approach would in fact reduce the demands on Town staff and Council and produce better outcomes.

We look forward to working with the Town in the future, and hope that the offers and recommendations we are making are of interest.

David James

President, Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers

216 Saturna Drive, Qualicum Beach

V9K 2P5