

*Living rivers*  
GEORGIA BASIN  
VANCOUVER ISLAND



British Columbia  
Conservation  
Foundation

November 13, 2014

David James, President  
Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers Society  
221 Elizabeth Avenue  
Qualicum Beach, BC  
V9K 1G8

Dear Mr James:

On behalf of the BC Conservation Foundation and the Regional District of Nanaimo (Parks and Recreation Department), we wish to acknowledge and sincerely thank the **Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers** for your sterling assistance on November 12-13, 2014 in replanting 5 sites on the Little Qualicum estuary Spit with native vegetation.

This work was funded by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (<http://www.hctf.ca/>), as part of HCTF's multi-year investment in Little Qualicum estuary habitat restoration. The initiative started in summer 2012 with improvements to the DFO-constructed salmon rearing channel on the Spit, led by BCCF fisheries staff, with support from the RDN, Ducks Unlimited Canada (the Spit co-owners and property managers) and BC's Living Rivers Trust Fund.

This year's re-vegetation pilots are intended to create 'nodes' of native shrub, tree and grass species which will be temporarily protected from browsing herbivores (mainly black-tail deer and feral rabbits) using traditional wire fence 'exclosures.' If exclosures are successful in safeguarding plants until they are more browse-resistant, the RDN may wish to expand their use on the Spit to enhance native riparian species.

It is envisioned the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers will continue to play an important role in plant husbandry on the Spit, including invasive species control. Newly planted native species will also require some maintenance starting next spring, with periodic watering and fertilizer applications to give them an early growth and survival boost, especially in dry summer conditions.

Your members' obvious enthusiasm and attention to detail will be a huge asset in assisting both the RDN and BCCF with these habitat restoration goals.

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Again, our thanks for the great turnout and very capable volunteer help. We certainly look forward to working closely with you in the future.

Best regards,

*Craig Wightman*

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