

*W̱MÍYEFEN
Nature Sanctuary
Society*

*(formerly the
Greater Victoria
Greenbelt Society)*





wh-my-eh-then: Place of the Deer



Conservation - Education - Culture - Kinship

"Nature as Ally and Teacher"



Acknowledgement: W̱SÁNEĆ Coast Salish territory



W̱MÍYEFEN (Land of the Deer)

We are grateful to work to protect these lands in allyship with W̱SÁNEĆ Knowledge Keepers whose nations include: Pauquachin, Tsartlip, Tsawout, Tseycum, Esquimalt and Whyomilth (Songhees) peoples

A Place for Kinship

With Nature

Listening to Nature	Caring for the Land
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates Respect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoring ecosystems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports Wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deepens Wisdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting Native Buffer Zones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspires Creativity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reciprocity in Action

Between People

Respectful Listening	Common Values
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultivates Compassion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrating culture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurtures Understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Diversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthens Vision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respecting Nature
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kind Regard

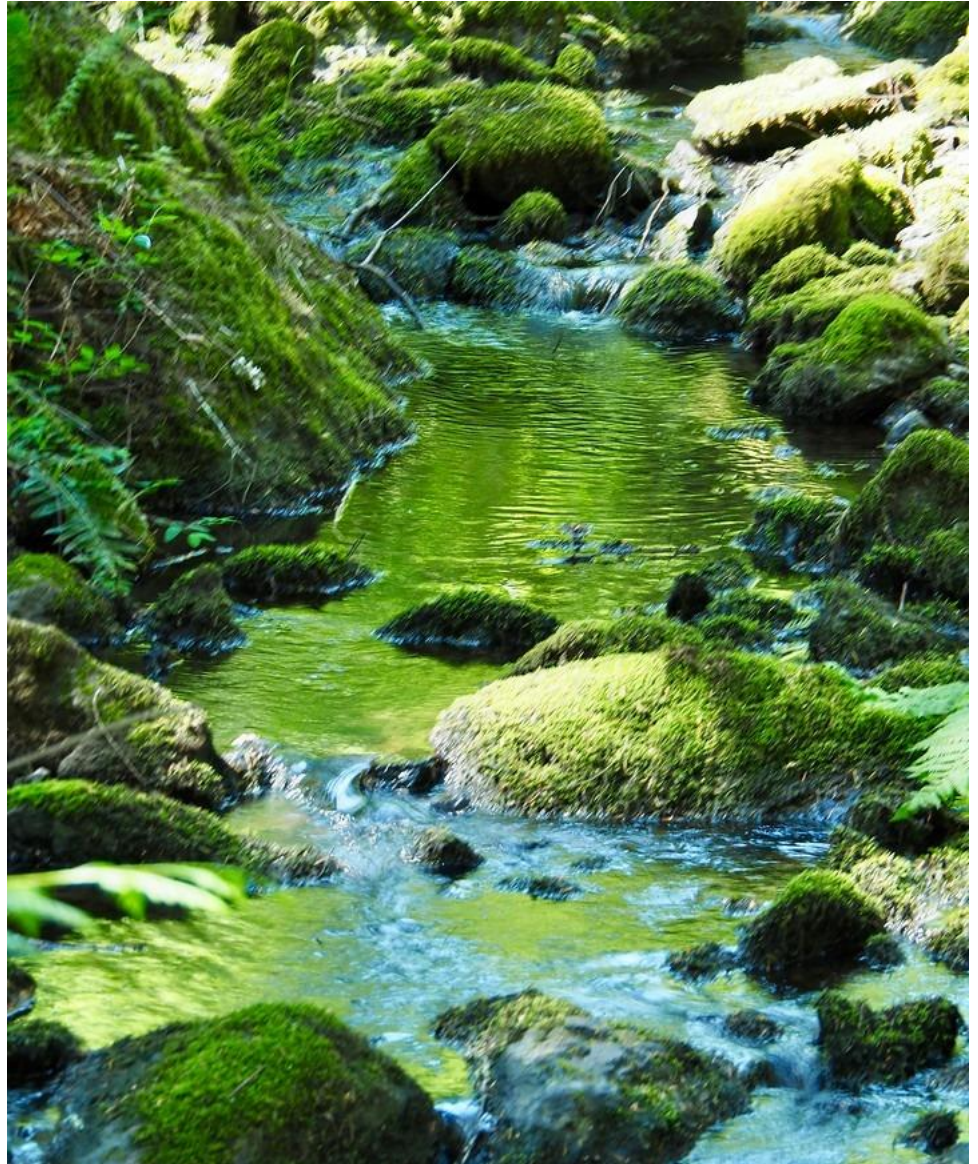


2023

Year in review

ŪMÍYEFEN

Nature Sanctuary Society



6th annual “New Year’s Day Walkabout and Wee Celebration”



All ages are welcome to experience the peace of the forest, the powerful stream & waterfalls, magical pathways & community spirit.

Gather for a warm drink (mulled cider, tea or coffee) and gourmet popcorn.

2023 Research Project

Beaver Wetland Assessment

A Mary Lake Nature Sanctuary Project



Prepared for Greater Victoria Greenbelt Society
August 16th, 2023



Wild Riparian Conservation: Harrison Craig, Kimberly
Groome, Jaeden Jones, & Kyla MacIlroy

Royal Roads University School of Environment and Sustainability

RRU students focused on the wetland on the east side of the property adjacent to Millstream Rd which has the Millstream Creek running through it.

The report showed "All the road site samples exceeded the guidelines for copper, chromium, nickel and vanadium. Zinc, lead, cadmium, and arsenic were within normal ranges within the road site samples.

It is possible that this contamination is attributed to road runoff contamination since research has shown that zinc, lead, copper, cadmium, chromium, nickel as well as iron and manganese are the metals commonly found in road runoff (Marsalek et al., 1997)."

This research will help to inform future remediation of the area.

[CLICK ON IMAGE TO REVIEW REPORT](#)



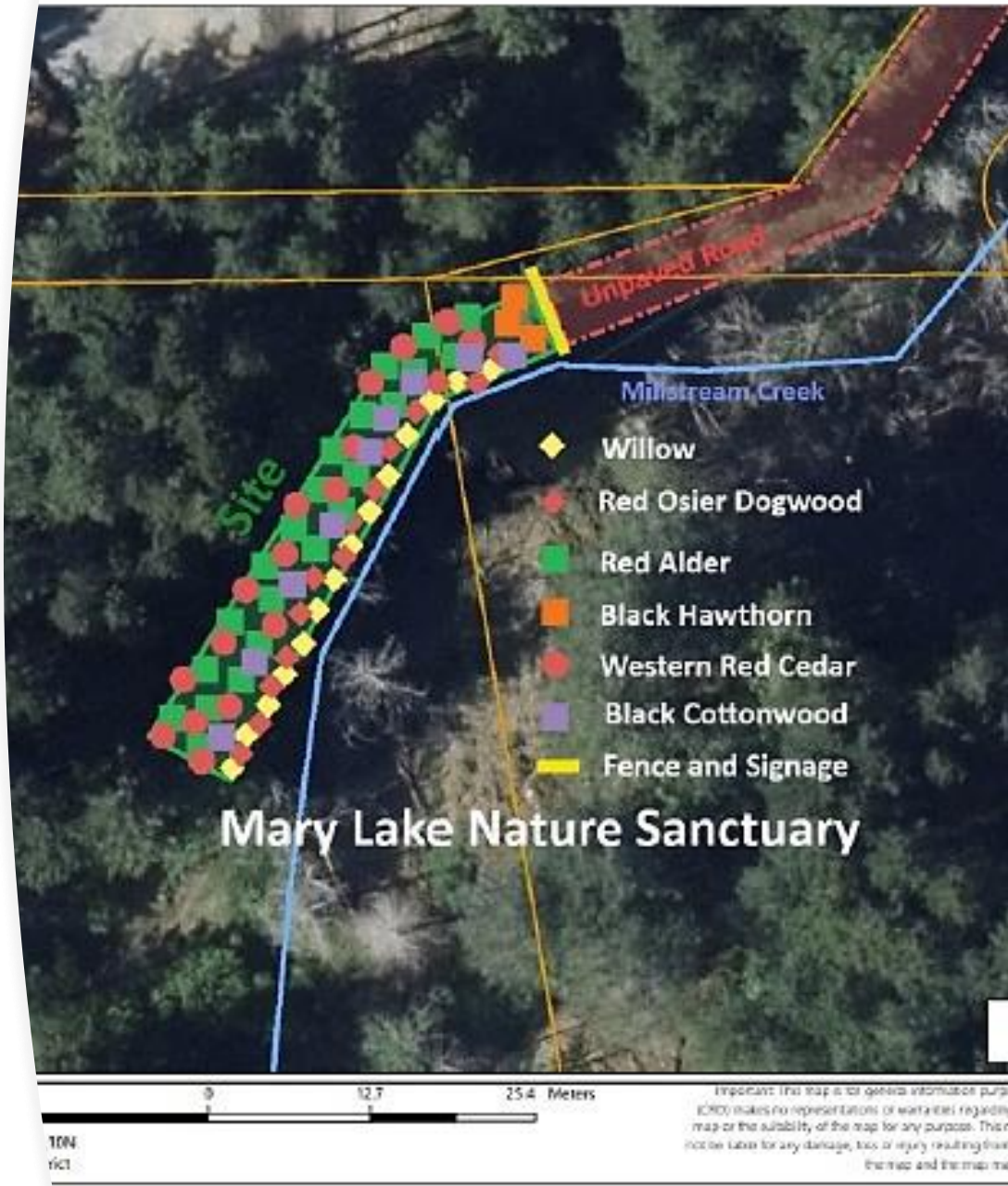
Royal Roads
UNIVERSITY

Riparian Habitat Restoration Plan

Restore the Site to a riparian habitat beneficial to Millstream Creek by:

- Increasing shading to regulate water temperature and improve habitat for fish.
- Providing native trees that contribute nutrients for invertebrates in the creek through falling leaf litter.
- Discourage trespassing onto MLNS from the north via the access road.
- Reduce the ability of invasive species to establish themselves.
- Stabilize the streambank to reduce erosion and maintain water quality.

By Rob Shoemaker student of Restoration of Natural Systems at UVIC





Invasive Species Removal

Our yearly removal of invasive Scottish Broom was held in May and attended by dedicated local volunteers and supervised by our caretaker Tim.

Ecological Restoration – Planting Buffer Zones

Initial Steps

These first 20 seedlings - Arbutus and Garry Oak are just the beginning of a buffer zone that will eventually contain 260 native trees and almost 400 native shrubs.





Snowberry



Oceanspray



Western Red Cedar



Western Honeysuckle

Ecological Restoration – Planting Buffer Zones

The purpose is to create two ecological buffer zones, one along the sanctuary's property line adjacent to a recent housing development (Ridge line buffer- about 16,400 sq ft (100m L x 15m W), and the other bordering the driveway to create a sound buffer and wildlife habitat surrounding the presentation/ teaching stage area (Stage buffer) to mitigate the current and future effects of an adjacent housing development on the ecosystems of the Nature Sanctuary.

Future hands-on land-based learning opportunities for the regional communities. The focus on native species for restoration will support the new movement towards rewilding that is crucial for the maintenance of local ecosystems for these species.

Map of Buffer Zone Planting Areas



California Hazelnut Propagation

WMÍYEFEN Nature Sanctuary is a resource site for California Hazelnut research by Nathan S. Fisk Restoration Ecologist, Resource Management Officer for Parks Canada - Fort Rodd Hill Rd. who is working with the 2 Billion trees initiative.



Kinship to the Land: Programs - Year 2



Programs supporting W̱SÁNEĆ youth, elders and families to reconnect to the land after 135 years of separation due to colonial settlement.





ŁÁU, WELŃEW Tribal School - 50 students from the SENĆOŦEN language immersion program - drawing at emotional mapping workshop



UVic Community Mapping Collaboratory



“What is Kinship with the Land”

Opportunity to strengthen a sense of place and connection to the land.



UVic Community Mapping Collaboratory

Initial Workshop with 15 regional participants to begin reconnecting with one’s own and ancestral relationship to the land. Artistic and Emotional journaling inspired by quiet reflection and focused observation.

The image is a composite. On the left is a flyer for an event. The flyer has a dark green background with white and light green text. It features a title, a subtitle, a main heading, and three text boxes with details. On the right are three nature photographs: an aerial view of a lake surrounded by dense forest, a close-up of a forest floor with moss and tree trunks, and a waterfall cascading over rocks in a forest.

Emotional Mapping Event at WMIYETEN

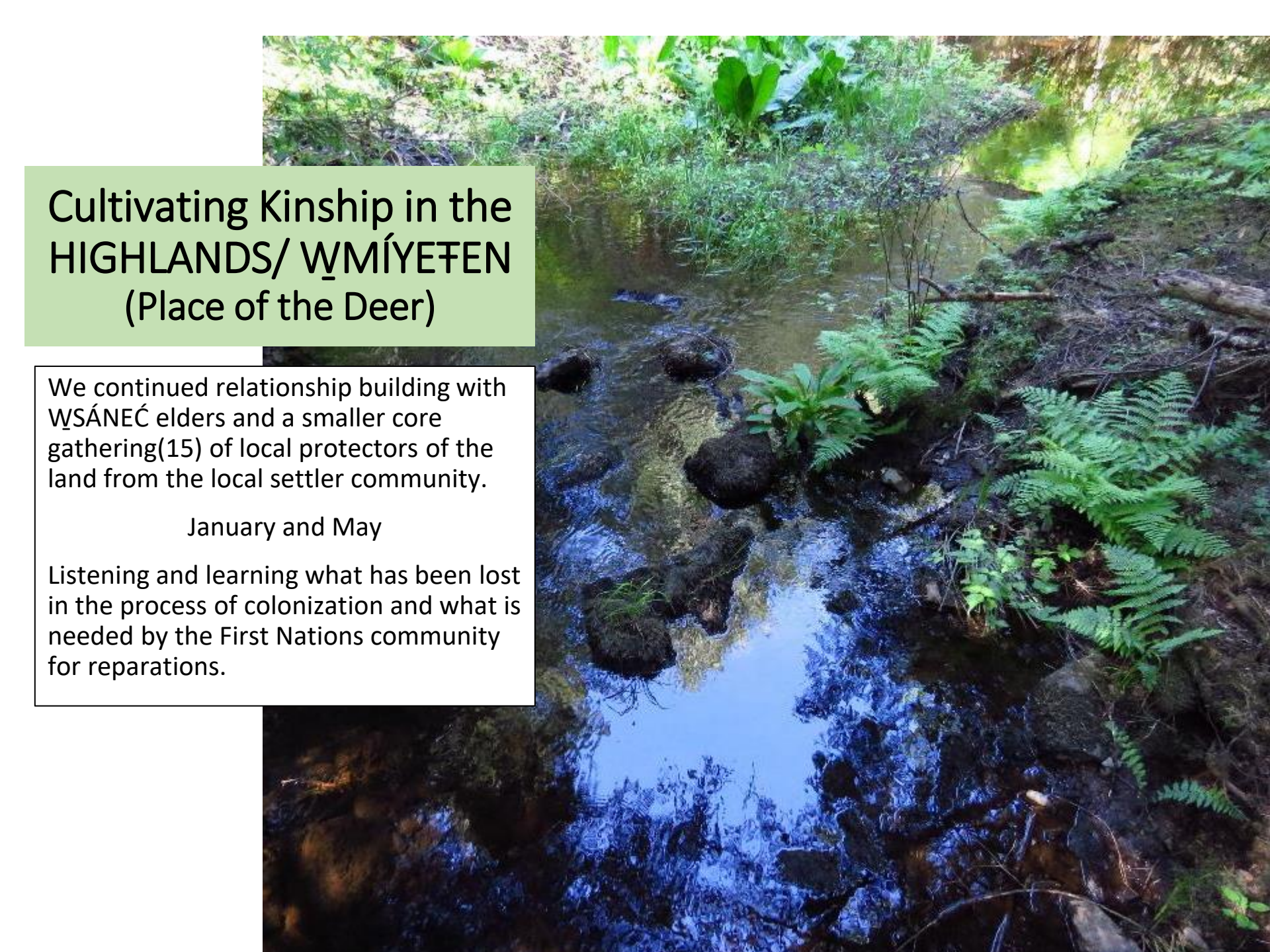
Mary Lake Nature Sanctuary

A Community Mapping Workshop

In a collaboration between University of Victoria Geography students and The Greater Victoria Greenbelt Society we welcome you to attend a workshop dedicated to learning about these lands and strengthening our sense of place.

Saturday, March 11

12:30 - 3:30 PM
1772 Millstream, Victoria, BC
Snacks and Refreshments will be provided!



Cultivating Kinship in the HIGHLANDS/ W̱MÍYEFEN (Place of the Deer)

We continued relationship building with W̱SÁNEĆ elders and a smaller core gathering(15) of local protectors of the land from the local settler community.

January and May

Listening and learning what has been lost in the process of colonization and what is needed by the First Nations community for reparations.

Cultivating Kinship: participant feedback

“I am so grateful for the space that you and the Mary Lake Board have created for these gatherings. I have had virtually no significant interaction with First Nations people over my lifetime and have found the opportunity to be in the room together deeply moving. To hear directly about the impacts of colonization is very impactful. The words ‘We have nowhere to go’, ‘We are tired’ and a knowledge keeper recalling of the impact on her great grandson of being at Mary Lake stand out for me. Being in the room together also gives me a direct experience of differences in our cultures – in relation to time, process, and naming. All of this begins to create, in a very rudimentary way, a sense of what the world feels like and is experienced within a First Nations’ perspective. And from that, a sense of how much we, of settler descent, need to shed in order to move forward as partners, being present without the frameworks of time, process, and outcome that we are so used to. Each opportunity to be together in this way feels like building the foundation for partnership.”

Libby McMinn - WNSS board member- District of Highlands resident

Sacred Site Designation

XÁXOĆE, XOĆEᑦENOᑦ (haw-haw-ten-ot)

Sacred Lake of the Sacred Woman

Working in collaboration with a Council of 12 local W̱SÁNEĆ (wh-say-nich) Grandmothers – Knowledge Keepers & Respected Teachers who speak of the necessity for their communities and especially women to have culturally safe natural spaces to gather.





New Indigenous Name

Sanctuary name change to the **Wmíyēfen Nature Sanctuary** (wh-my-eh-then: Place of the Deer) (formerly Mary Lake) in recognition of our allyship with local First Nations and the traditional SENĆOŦEN language.

SMÍET (deer) logo

Logo by Sarah Jim a visual artist of mixed ancestry from the small village of Tseycum in W̱SÁNEĆ.

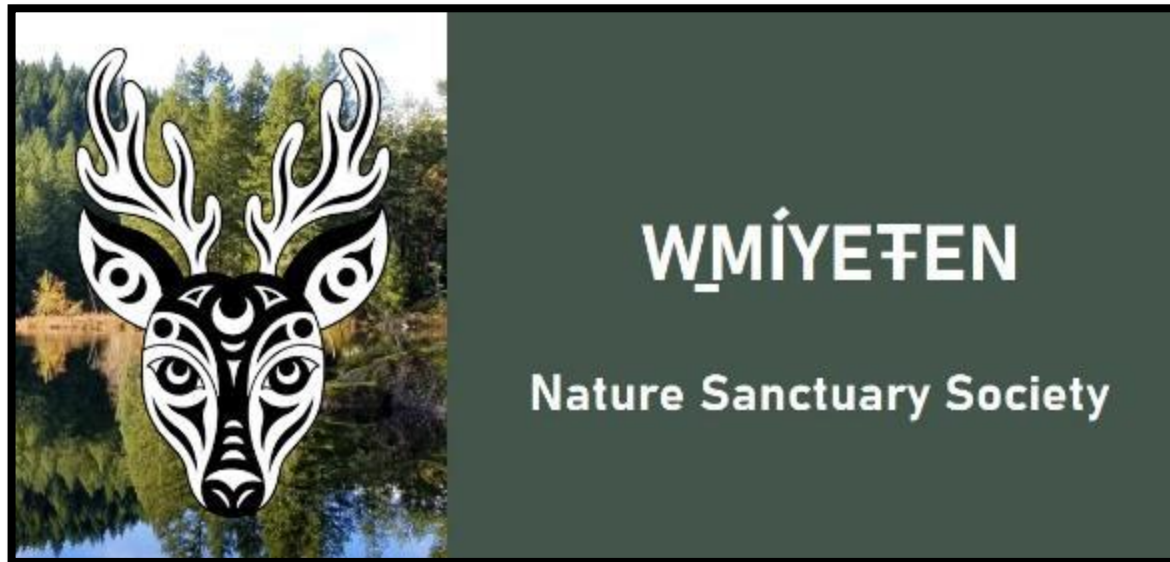
She's received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Victoria and works in the field of environmental restoration.

Her creations reflect and advocate for the beautiful land, sea, and skies that the W̱SÁNEĆ have stewarded since time immemorial.

Here is a link to her website <https://www.sarahjimstudio.com/>



Society Name Change



Previously Greater Victoria Greenbelt Society



WMÍYEFEN
Nature Sanctuary Society



Mission Updated:

"To foster respect for nature through environmental conservation, restoration, education, and cultural activities that promote the protection of natural areas in collaboration with First Nations communities for the benefit of all future generations."

Final Assessment

HYDROGEOLOGY OF MARY LAKE

Nov. 2023 – assessment completed

Final Results:

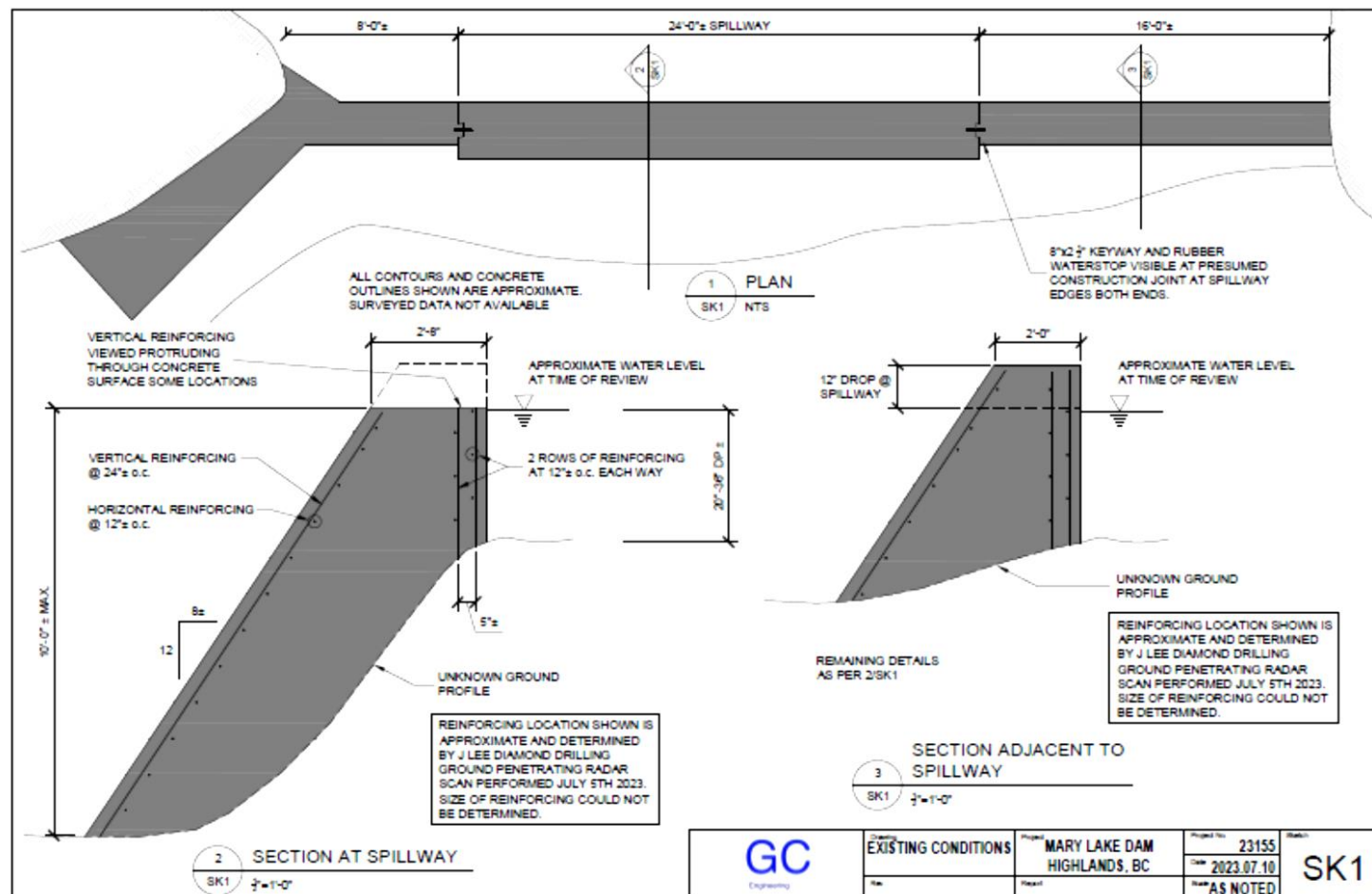
The hydrotechnical analysis of Mary Lake indicates that the existing structures meet the design criteria requirements, and upgrades are not required to convey the design flows and provide adequate freeboard.

It is recommended that the WNSS continue with the dam safety reviews and maintenance as required of dam owners in the province.



Dam research continues

Results of ground penetrating radar on concrete dam.




	Client: EXISTING CONDITIONS	Project: MARY LAKE DAM HIGHLANDS, BC	Project No.: 23155	Status:
	Date: 2023.07.10	Sheet:	Scale:	SK1
			Notes: AS NOTED	

Preparing for Rezoning

We met with numerous local experts (some had previously been involved in the 2018 CRD subdivision) to plan budgets and time frames for the various aspects of the rezoning process.

Consultants	
Area	Professional
Nature House (Architect)	<p>NsqArchitecture Ltd.</p> <p>Nicole Parker, Architectural Technologist, AIBC, Partner</p> <p>1060 Meewar Street Victoria, B.C. V8U 3J8 O: 250.382.2809 E: nparker@nsq.ca</p>
Nature House (Structural Engineer)	<p> SKYLINE ENGINEERING</p> <p>Wade Griffin, P. Eng., 1FFDAP, Principal</p> <p>Principal/Senior Structural Engineer 330-4241 Glenford Avenue Victoria, B.C. V8L 4B8 Tel: (250) 360-4133 ext 109 Email: wgriffin@skline.ca</p>
Nature House (Geotechnical Engineer)	<p> RYZUK GEOTECHNICAL Specializing in Geotechnical Testing</p> <p>Scott Currie, P.Eng.</p> <p>Geotechnical Engineer/Principal Unit 46 - 40 Cadogan Avenue, Victoria B.C. V8L 2L2 Office: (250) 479 3131 Email: scott@ryzuk.com www.ryzuk.com</p>

Consultants	
Area	Professional
Total Parcel (Surveyor)	<p>Phillip, C. Buchanan, P.Eng.</p> <p>J.E. Anderson & Associates 4212 Glenford Avenue Victoria, B.C. V8L 4B7 Phone: (250) 737-2214 Email: pc@jeanderson.com</p>
a. Septic Field b. Dry Hydrant (Engineer)	
Total Parcel a. Biological Assessment b. RAR	<p>Thomas Roy, R.P. Bio., CEFP</p> <p>Carlisle Biological Services 772 Salsburgh Ave / PO Box 27084 Victoria, B.C. V9B 5S8 Phone: (250) 474-0102 / (250) 333-4064 Email: tom@carlislebio.com</p>
Nature House (R.P. Bio)	<p> swell Environmental Consulting</p> <p>Sarah Stafford BS, ASCT, Envt. Tech.</p> <p>Senior Environmental Consulting Principal/Liaison/Member IAGLR AP Bio Phone: (250) 480-7272 Email: sarah@swell.ca</p>



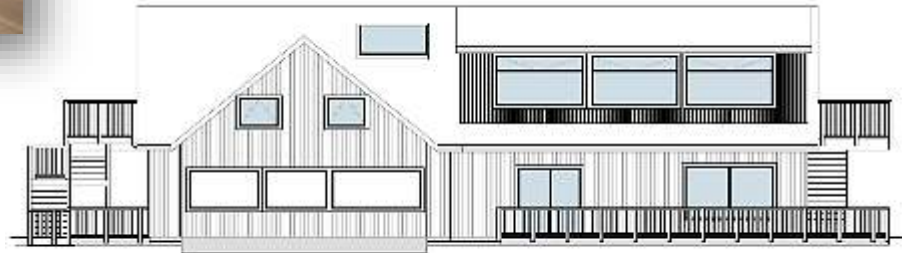
Application for
Rezoning Submitted

Considerations:

- Future Uses - Capacities
- Traffic Impacts – Study
- Parking Provisions
- Noise
- Septic - Evaluation
- Water Quality

Transforming the Nature House

Upgrading the Lakeside Nature House to meet Public Assembly use codes for safety will support future income generation through rentals to like minded community groups, schools and nonprofits while creating a warm place for Elders to meet.



Studio Space for Nature Inspired Art

We have partnered with the Westshore Arts Council to adapt the existing carport to a Studio that can be used for art and other classes with beautiful lake views.

They have already received \$75,000 grant from the BC Arts Council toward the cost of creating that space.



WEST
SHORE
ARTS COUNCIL



BRITISH
COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL
Supported by the Province of British Columbia





BRIDGES
FOR WOMEN SOCIETY



Hulitan
Family & Community
Services Society



Human-Nature
Counselling Society

**Reconnecting
to Life**

A transformative process for difficult times

A weekend workshop with
Jackie Larion, Maggie Ziegler

Mary Lake Nature Sanctuary
1772 Millsman Rd, Victoria

2023

Visiting
Organizations

2023
Visiting
Organizations



**ABORIGINAL
COALITION
to end
HOMELESSNESS**



S·A·L·T·S·

SAIL AND LIFE TRAINING SOCIETY



**WSÁNEĆ
SCHOOL BOARD**

Vancouver Island
Quakers

Oct. 14 10 am & 2pm



Victoria Festival
of Authors

—
2023

Oct. 15 10 am & 2pm

Morning Session

Sat., Oct. 14, 10:00 a.m.

**Forest to Poet/
Tree Walk**

with:
Robert Bringhurst
Wanda John-Kehewin
Samantha Nock
Russell Thornton

Hosted by:
Kate Braid and Beth Kope

WMIYETEN Nature Sanctuary (I. Mary Lake)
Tickets \$25/\$15 – (low-income/unwaged)
No latecomers

Morning Session

Sun., Oct. 15, 10:00 a.m.

**An Enchanted Walk
Through the Writing of
Our Natural Landscapes**

with:
Luanne Armstrong
Jess Housty
Natalie Virginia Lang

Hosted by:
Jennifer Manuel

WMIYETEN Nature Sanctuary (I. Mary Lake)

2024

Moving Forward

W̱MÍYEFEN

Nature Sanctuary Society

**Creating a Solid
Foundation**



Rezoning for Conservation, Education and Culture

A new zone is being created with a focus on values of conservation, education/learning and culture. Polygons indicate Human Activity Designated Areas with the remainder protected for nature's wellbeing.

This will preserve the ecosystems that have been continually protected by previous owners since 1947.



wh-my-eh-then: Place of the Deer



Conservation - Education - Culture - Kinship
"Nature as Ally and Teacher"



Background for Rezoning Application

- **Considerations:**

- Conservation Legacy
- Respecting Funding Conditions
- Future Uses - Capacities
- Traffic Impacts – Study
- Parking Provisions
- Noise
- Septic - Evaluation
- Water Quality
- Public Codes for Safety

CLICK

to link to [Presentation](#)

Rezoning: Traffic Study

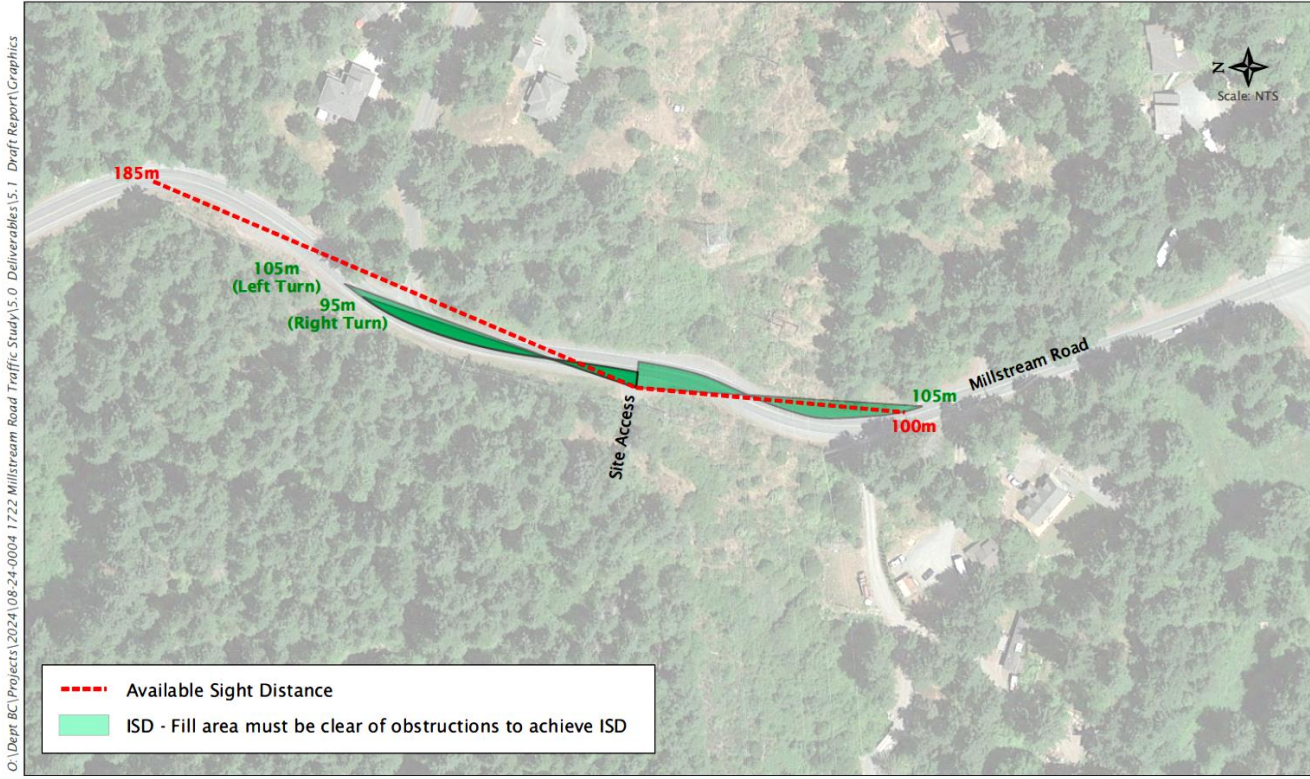


Exhibit 6.2
High-Level Intersection Sight Distance (ISD) Review



08-24-0004 1772 Millstream Road April 2024

Based on a high-level sight distance review, the required stopping sight distance (SSD) is met to achieve safe operations, assuming the requires sight triangles are kept clear of visual obstructions.

Rezoning: Plans for On-site Parking

- Expand the existing on-site parking area from 15 to 21 spaces. In addition, a new pick-up/drop-off area is proposed to be provided in front of the nature house. **Figure 5.1** illustrates a high-level concept of the on-site parking area expansion.
- Provide 11 new parking spaces intermittently along the access road. These spaces are proposed to take advantage of the expanded pullout areas. These areas are proposed to be expanded and marked as parking.

Figure 5.1: High-Level Concept of On-Site Parking Area Expansion



Caring for the Land



Early Learning and Care:

- cohort of 25 students, and 4 instructors
- created opportunities for students to contribute to ongoing Land restoration practices





Caring for the Land : Wetland Restoration
with Tree and Shrub Planting



Give Back to Nature when you Volunteer

If you like what we are doing and would like to help us out, we would love to hear from you.

We are looking for people to occasionally help with:

- Removing Invasive Plants
- Site & Trail Restoration
- Construction / Renovations
- Fundraising
- Social Media
- Event Greeter/ Set Up
- Nature Walk Guide



[Click to Sign up Here](#)

Mindful Nature Walks for Youth:

with forest bathing (therapy) exercises

The NEED: our students need more direction in mindfulness, stress management and building resilience

3 groups of twenty international students plus 3 instructors

“Many students enjoyed the guided nature walk at Wmíyeteŋ and cited it as a highlight of their year.”





Victoria Natural History Society Birding:



A large group of inquisitive birders enjoyed a June outing at the sanctuary.



UVic Community Mapping Collaboratory
Department of Geography
University of Victoria

Base Map



BASE MAP



paintful

tree branches

blue felt

ferns

Layer example: Water



Mapping Sense of Place: Connections to the Land

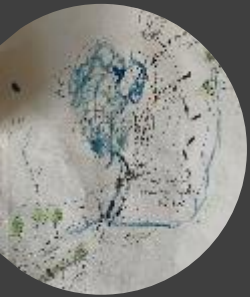
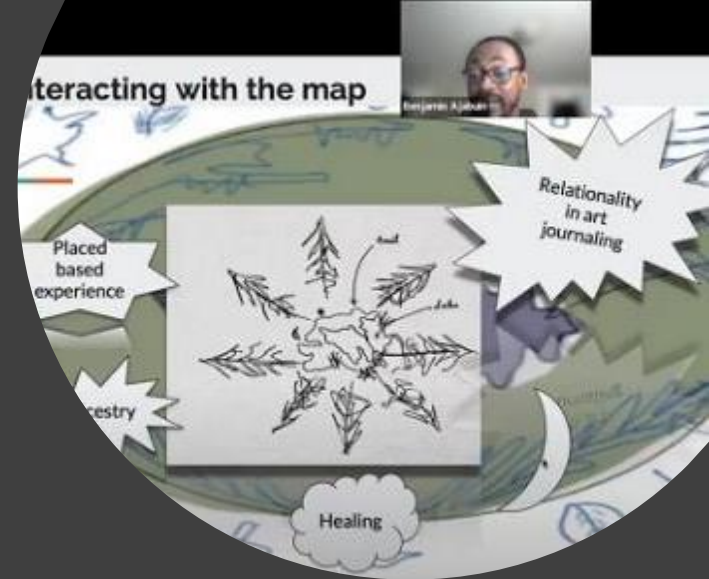
- Creating Canvas Map - Circular
- Overlays with Fungi, Trees, Water, Sounds
- Connected Journal- hosting inspirations

Outside characters



Geog 380: Community Mapping 2024

- **Interacting with Place:** inspirations, healing, ancestral remembrance
- **Collective Journal:** points on map relate to entries



Collective journal

- Stickers on map connected to journal entries



W̱SÁNEĆ Cultural Use: Nurturing Community

- Youth preparation for cultural practices
- Elders sharing skills of Weaving and Knitting



Oct. 19 10 am & 2pm

vfa

Victoria Festival
of Authors

—
2024

Oct. 20 10 am & 2pm

W̱M̱IY̱E̱F̱EN Nature Sanctuary (f. Mary Lake)
No latecomers



Oct. 19th/20th, 2024
@ 10:00 a.m.

Forest Poet/Tree Walk

with:
Brandi Bird
Tim Lilburn
Cynthia Woodman Kerkham,
and shō yamagushiku

Moderator:
Yvonne Blomer
and Beth Kope

poets.ca
Victoria Festival of Authors

W̱M̱IY̱E̱F̱EN Nature Sanctuary (f. Mary Lake)
No latecomers



Oct. 19th/20th, 2024
@ 1:00 p.m.

Re-Story Forest Walk

with:
Sarah Cox
Dr. Jennifer Grenz
and Melanie Siebert

Moderator:
Amy Reiswig

poets.ca
Victoria Festival of Authors



BRIDGES
FOR WOMEN SOCIETY



Human-Nature
Counselling Society

2024

Visiting
Organizations

Tending the Writer's Flame



2024

Visiting
Organizations

Victoria Insight Meditation Society



**ABORIGINAL
COALITION
to end
HOMELESSNESS**



Vancouver Island
Quakers



Join Us with a Yearly Membership

To Support: Conservation and Kinship with Nature Programs



Makes a difference @
the W̱MÍYEFEN Nature Sanctuary

Art Studio Design Consultants



- Architect
- Structural Engineer
- Electrical Consulting Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Project/ Construction Management



**Thank you for
your support!**

Special Thanks to all

WSÁNEC Knowledge keepers and community members: The WŚÁNEĆ First Nations: WJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), WŚIKEM (Tseycum), SŖÁUTWŪ (Tsawout), and BOŖEĆEN (Pauquachin).

Researchers, Schools, Teachers, Organizers, Board members, Funding Foundations, Community Organizations, Partners, Project Managers, Professional Consultants and Donors who support a vision of harmony with nature and all that it requires.