

PROTECTING & RESTORING
LOCAL WILD FISH HABITAT
SINCE 1995



QUALICUM BEACH
STREAMKEEPERS





Qualicum Beach
Streamkeepers are
dedicated to
protecting and
restoring local wild
fish habitat.

OUR MISSION





A healthy
watershed for
fish and wildlife
is good for
people too!





Our objectives:

- To ensure healthy wild fish, streams, and rivers near Qualicum Beach – i.e. Grandon, Beach, LQRECA
- To ensure sustained and healthy fish populations – primarily coho and chum salmon and cutthroat trout

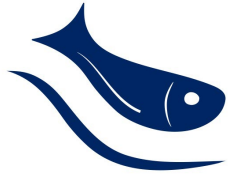




Who are QB Streamkeepers?

- Between 40 and 50 volunteer members from all walks of life.





Gord Almond
Neil Carruthers
Daryl Erickson
Pat Jacobson
David James
Louella MacVicar
Ed Wasiak
Neil Worboys
Ray Woroniak
Sacha Woroniak (Youth advisor)

Board of Directors



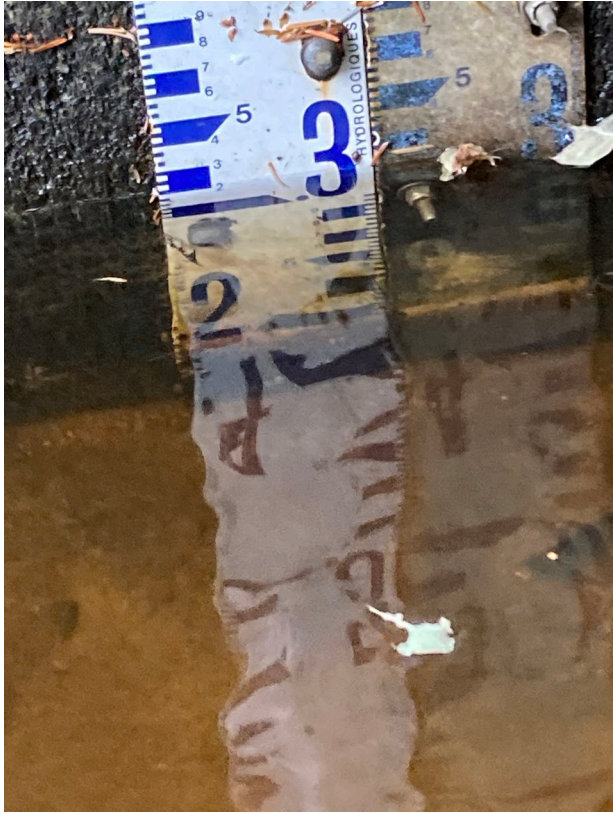


WHAT DO WE DO?

- **Monitoring** - gather accurate and scientifically sound data – examples: fish counts, water measurements, water quality (e.g. collaborate on 6-PPDQ study)
- **Restoration** - improve fish habitat through tree cover, bank stabilization, pool creation, invasive plant control
- **Awareness** - raise awareness of our group and educate our community about the importance of healthy ecosystems for salmon. For example: Seaside Nature Park and Pavilion, event participation (Beach Day, Brant Geese Festival, River Never Sleeps, Family Day at the Museum), website, speaking engagements, VIU student field trips



Monitoring: Level and flow rate of Beach and Grandon Creeks





Monitoring:

Annual Fish Count – Grandon & Beach Creeks





Restoration: Work party adds native plants

With the completion of the new culvert under Crescent Road East in Qualicum Beach, a QBS work party added native plants to the upper banks of the roadway on November 18, 2024.





Restoration:

Work party at Seaside Park
April 2025

- Removing weeds and other invasive plants at Seaside Park.





Restoration: LQRECA work party 2024





Protect habitat

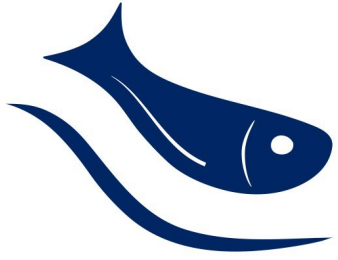




Grandon Creek storm event



Awareness: VIU field visit 2025





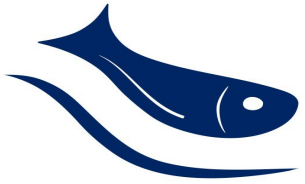
Awareness: Beach Day





Awareness: Beach Day seining





Our History

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada initiative in 1993 to engage citizen volunteers to assist in addressing loss of salmon habitat in British Columbia – over 100 groups today
- Qualicum Beach group formed in 1995 – Faye Smith, Doug Taylor, Bob and Betty Drewbrook, Scott and Annette Tanner, Councillor Brian Dietrich - advised by Dave Clough (fisheries biologist)
- A non- profit society established in late 1995

Founding member Faye Smith hard at work





Major Activities/Projects

- Removal of Whiskey Creek Dam (2000)
- Beach Creek Fish Friendly Culvert (2000)
- Little Qualicum River Regional Conservation Area fish channel (2000)
- Grandon Creek Fish Friendly Culvert (2001)
- Stabilization of lower Grandon Creek bank (2005-2010)
- RDN /MOE Water testing team (2009 – present)
- Streamflow monitoring since 2014
- Faye Smith Pavilion (2017-2021)
- Annual fish counts (2018-present)
- Mapping of Beach and Grandon Creeks (2025)





How do we work?

1. Partnerships and collaborations

- Town of Qualicum Beach, Regional District of Nanaimo, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, BC Environment and Parks
- Science based organizations such as Pacific Salmon Foundation, BC Conservation Foundation, MABR, Flow Monitoring Network

2. Work primarily on public land

3. Insurance coverage through the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation, supported by DFO

4. Technical support and advice from experts in the field (e.g. biologist Dave Clough)

5. Funding is generated from membership fees, donations from private and public sources, and project funding. No core funding for operations.

Partnerships and collaborations

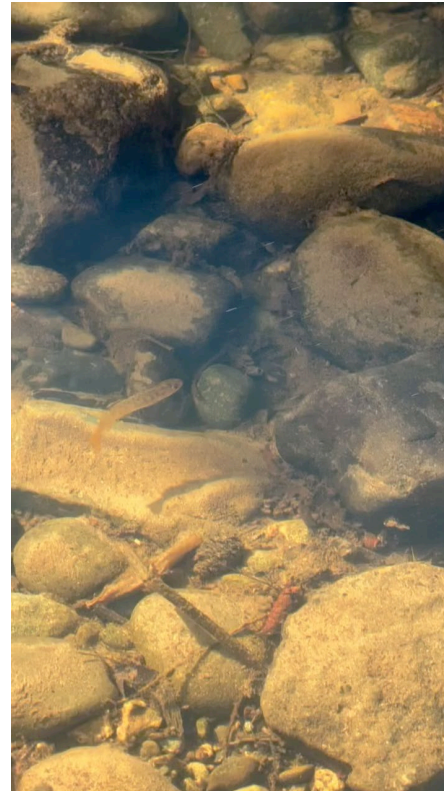




How are we doing

- Fish have returned to local streams, due to major investments in fish friendly culverts by the Town of Qualicum Beach
- Fish numbers are steady over the past five years – health is stable – hundreds counted in the large pools, scores in the small pools
- Two thirds coho salmon, one third cutthroat trout, chum salmon return every few years.

**Coho fry in Grandon
creek observed
April 2025**



Cutthroat trout in Beach Creek



What are the challenges?

- Our streams are small with local watersheds which are vulnerable to urban development pressure and climate change
- Records over the past decade show a steady trend – higher peak water flows in the winter, lower and longer water flows in the summer
- High water flows are eroding the banks and deepening the stream beds
- Low water flows mean smaller and less numerous pools for fish in summer
- Summer stream flows are dependent on groundwater, and watershed protection
- Tree cover in some areas is declining due to aging out of species such as alders, leading to increased water temperatures in summer and less stable banks





What still needs to be done?

- Protect stream watersheds - loss of tree cover, urbanization, excessive water use from streams
- Mitigate impacts of climate change (tree cover, rain gardens and detention ponds)
- Maintain data on water, streams and fish populations
- Remove barriers to fish access (Hoylake Road culvert and open beach access on Grandon Creek)
- Educate and inform local residents



Thirty Year anniversary recognition 1995-2025

- Beach Day on Sunday, July 27, 2025
- A waterfront event with thousands of visitors, a strong environmental 30 theme and many participating partner organizations
- QBS has been part of the event from its inception
- An expanded QBS presence in displays
- Recognition of key volunteers and contributors on stage
- Mayor and Council are invited to be part of the recognition and celebration



Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers

Celebrating 30 years of protecting & restoring local wild fish habitat!!

