

# Pen Streams seek pollution partners

## Projects back on the agenda

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Peninsula Streams is beginning a pollution prevention program in the Keating industrial area. They have mailed letters to businesses in the area explaining where storm drains in the area are located and informing businesses that the storm water runs into Graham Creek and Hagen Creek before running into the ocean.

"Back in 2001 the Hagen Creek Watershed Project, with Misty MacDuffee as coordinator, thought that it was time to try to protect the water quality in the Hagen Creek watershed. They did a lot of research, then the funding ran dry," explained Mary Steel, Peninsula Streams stewardship coordinator. Now the Hagen Creek Watershed Project has been given new life under the auspices of Peninsula Streams.

"The Hagen Creek Kenes Watershed Project has a new steering committee and is up and running again, so we picked back up

and got the initiative going again," said Steel.

They took the project idea to Central Saanich council which approved funding for the project.

"That's really great to have. Last time they didn't have that kind of financial support," Steel said.

The project is educational and preventative in nature. "What is washed down the storm system goes to Graham Creek and Hagen Creek and to the ocean. It's important that we inform, educate and make aware the businesses of this and offer good housekeeping methods to them: cover your garbage when it's stored outside; clean garbage off of your parking lot; be aware of [use of] grease, oil, metals; if you have a spill make sure it's cleaned up properly."

So far Steel has had enquiries from three of the businesses that have been contacted. The next step is to contact companies by phone and arrange a visit where Steel or other volunteers can ask a few questions of business owners that will lead them to a better understanding of the recommendations Peninsula Streams can provide.

"In appreciation for their commitment to encouraging some pollution prevention in their daily activities we will award them with a

Pollution Prevention Partners window sticker so they can get some positive public recognition," said Steel.

"It's a really positive thing," said Ian Bruce, coordinator of Peninsula Streams. "A lot of what we do is reactive. This is a proactive approach — we're hopeful we can do more of it. It's also important that

the district of Central Saanich gets recognition, this is a \$10,000 project."

Peninsula Streams is going to try to get more funding from Environment Canada to extend the project to the Sandhill Creek end of Keating X Road in the new year.

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