



City of Colwood

Proclamation

Oceans Day, & Rivers to Ocean Week

- WHEREAS World Oceans Day (June 8th) offers an invitation to remember the very beginnings of life on earth, along with the many benefits we presently enjoy and the ongoing critical role of oceans worldwide, and
- WHEREAS the Government of Canada proposed the concept of World Ocean Day in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and the day has been celebrated internationally ever since, being officially declared in 2009 by the United Nations as "World Oceans Day", and
- WHEREAS this international celebration has grown from a ripple into a tidal wave of awareness, connecting the importance of our oceans to the lands we live on - leading to Rivers to Oceans Week (June 8 - 14th) also being recognized by Environment Canada as an opportunity 'to better understand the role of Canada's watersheds, our connection to fresh-and salt-water environments, and what we all can do to protect and keep waterways and marine environments healthy and productive, and
- WHEREAS our coastal regions and communities have benefited greatly from a historic, cultural and natural relationship with our lakes, creeks, streams and rivers, and
- WHEREAS estuaries offer some of "the greatest natural assets ...and it is important to ensure that this resource is protected to yield the best social and economic returns", (*Nanaimo Estuary Management Plan, 2006*), and
- WHEREAS First Nations heritage, values and customs, culture and way of life have traditionally drawn upon and given thanks for the abundance and wealth of our oceans and waterways,
- WHEREAS the waters of the Salish Sea between Vancouver Island and southern British Columbia create a unique partnership, linking our coastal rivers with the Pacific Ocean to provide a flourishing, clean, self-sustaining and bio-diverse habitat that supports a wide variety of fish and marine life, and provides many direct and indirect benefits that meet our long-term needs and that of healthier coastal communities, and
- WHEREAS the recognition and proclamation of World Oceans Day and Rivers to Oceans Week will help to encourage many interests and sectors to work together, advancing practical and proven marine restoration and protection that contributes to sustainability and coastal conservation efforts at home and around the world.

NOW THEREFORE:

I, Carol Hamilton, Mayor of the City of Colwood, do hereby proclaim June 8th, and June 8-14th 2016, as **World Oceans Day, and Rivers To Oceans Week** in the City of Colwood, to be recognized and celebrated as a means to foster support for local, national and global efforts which further awareness of our rivers and oceans, their sustainable development and stewardship, and the marine life and conservation initiatives that help secure their health and viability for our common future

Mayor Carol Hamilton





File: # 0630-01-PRO-17832

Date: June 1, 2016

Laurie Gourlay, President, VICCS
Vancouver Island & Coast Conservation Society
Box 333
Cedar, BC V9X 1W1

Dear Ms. Laurie Gourlay:

RE: 'Ocean's Day, and Rivers to Oceans Week'

I am enclosing a copy of a proclamation signed by Her Worship, Mayor Carol Hamilton, proclaiming June 8th, and June 8- 14th, as 'Ocean's Day, and Rivers to Oceans Week', in the City of Colwood.

This proclamation will be posted on Friday, June 3rd, 2016 at City Hall.

Yours truly,

Ian Howat
Chief Administrative Officer

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OFFICE HOURS:
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