

## Celebrating Water for Life



A young Victoria artist peeks through a school yard fence decorated to represent a “counting fence” – a tool used by biologists to count fish populations.

Photo Tiffany Brown Cooper

In Canada we have some of the most plentiful, cleanest water sources in the world. Let's give thanks for that and to all of the individuals and nonprofits who are working tirelessly to keep it that way.

This year, World Water Day takes place on Tuesday, March 22. The international observance of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro. This year's theme is Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge.

In recognition of World

Water Day, we'd like to recognize some of the people working to protect our water sources and the fragile ecosystems that surround us in the Greater Victoria region.

World Fisheries Trust is a local non-profit organization working on water, fisheries, and aquaculture, both locally and internationally, to keep water clean, productive, and accessible. The group's main focus in Victoria is with hands-on environmental education initiatives, in particular with marine Seaquaria that are providing exciting learning opportunities and new life skills in 35 local

schools.

World Fisheries Trust and a growing network of other local environmental education providers have recently collaborated to create the EcoLearning Hive. Over 40 organizations in the Greater Victoria region provide excellent learning opportunities for youth and the public. However, many are unknown to teachers, and so they are often underused and the organizations struggle to survive.

“The EcoLearning Hive is a growing network of local environmental education providers that are working to create meaningful learning

opportunities,” says Lindsay Silversen, Office Manager and Projects Assistant at World Fisheries Trust.

“The ‘Hive’ was developed to help educators in the community communicate, connect, and partner to make environmental education more meaningful, synergistic, and easier to access.”

This exciting project was made possible in part by funding and other assistance from the Victoria Foundation. A core element of the project will be a user-friendly website where educators and the public can learn about

environmental educational opportunities through a comprehensive database of workshops, events, and field trips. The website will be a reference point to source out the variety of opportunities available to teachers, students, groups, and the general public.

There are currently over 15 local member organizations involved in the EcoLearning Hive. These include World

Fisheries Trust (WFT), Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT), SeaChange Marine Conservation Society, the Victoria Compost Education Centre, the Sierra Club, LifeCycles, the Galiano Conservancy, and teachers from School District 61 (SD 61).

If you'd like to learn more about World Fisheries Trust and the EcoLearning Hive, please visit their website: [www.worldfish.org](http://www.worldfish.org).

## 75 YEARS AND COUNTING.

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