



The Living Lab Project



Winter 2022 Newsletter
www.livinglabproject.ca



Network News

December Network Gathering

Living Lab had an exciting bi-annual Network Gathering on December 8. See Presentation of Schools, Youth, Restoration and Research 2021 Highlights here: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1EwwwH73GmHjPzLORnWTFhIeONBI_ob3EyR2N_8QT3Kk/edit#slide=id.ge6cbafe07f_1_2



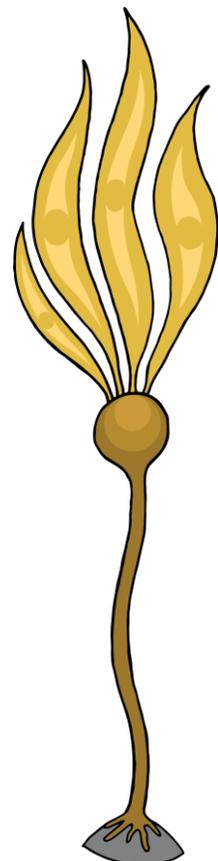
Strategic Planning / Visioning

This spring Living Lab will be completing our strategic plan based on the ideas and visions from core staff and student team members as well as campus and community partners. Now that COVID is subsiding we hope it will be much easier to meet in person and, of course, out on the land. Together we are stronger, connecting and combining our resources and energies, guided by our values and principles. Thanks to everyone who has offered their thoughts and ideas. In many cases those who responded wear both community and campus hats, such as Mavis Underwood. Check out her blog on our website (<https://livinglabproject.ca/blog/vision-for-living-lab/>).

Funding News

The National Science and Engineering Council's (NSERC's) Promo Science Program renewed funding for the schools and youth work of Living Lab for 2022.

Living Lab is also engaged in programs and partnership with Professors John Taylor, Nancy Shackelford and Jeff Corntassel who received UVic Strategic Impact grants



focused on ecological restoration with a special focus on camas growing on campus and Indigenous community/ youth knowledge and participation.

Communications / Living Lab Facebook

Hello! I'm Jessica Joseph, Living Lab's Arts and Community Engagement Programmer and I manage the Facebook site (www.facebook.com/Living-Lab-113506270994960). As part of Living Lab bringing community and knowledge together, we've been exploring social media as another avenue to share. We are focussing on blending core practices of land-based learning, eco-cultural restoration, and 'STEAM' (science, technology, engineering, arts and math education) into our content in a good way. Feel free to give us a follow for updates!

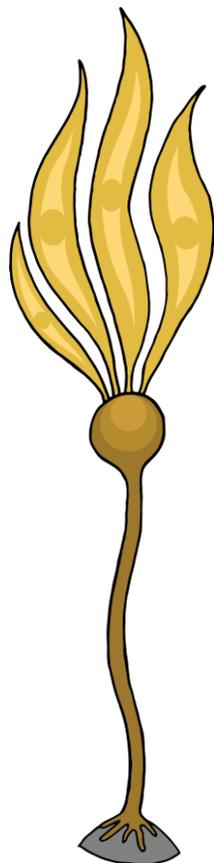


'Lekwungen Seasonal Traditions'
Upcoming LLab March 2022 Publication
Artwork by Jessica Joseph, Living Lab staff / Songhees Nation

Network Presentations

Living Lab network partners have been presenting their work and visions locally, provincially, and globally. These include:

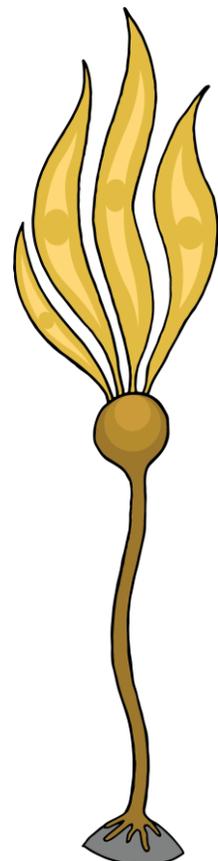
- **Classrooms to Communities (C2C) 2021 Provincial (BC) Conference:** titled, *Listening to the Land, Giving Voice to the Sea: Stories to Nourish Hope and Resiliency* on October 22-23, 2021. Living Lab Eco-Steward youth team members



Frankie Taylor, Jessica Joseph, and Kady Williams joined with facilitator John Harris to take part in the keynote presentation. Also present were Dr. Gloria Snively and Dr. Wanosts'a7 Lorna Williams, OC walking in peace, member of Lil'wat of the St'at'yem'c First Nation and part of the Living Lab Advisory. The keynote was called: *Environmental Lessons from the Indigenous Knowledge and Wisdom of Long-resident Peoples*. <https://c2c.ourconference.ca/index.php?Page=Keynote&track=1>

The youth shared their experiences during the summer through a lens of healing and restoration, stewardship of lands and waters, community building, and relationships.

- **BC Middle Schools Conference, January 24, 2022:** John Harris and Songhees Elder and educator, Butch Dick, keynoted at the BC Middle Schools Conference on January 24th (keynote available for SD61 staff). <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D6q2ffFumkCVE6E090ZUEwf5IjgQ07YmIhVGsjx2y7F0/edit>
- **Salish Sea Environmental Speakers Series, Feb 3, 2022:** John Harris presented solo at *Nuts'a'maat: We Are All One* as part of the Environmental Speaker Series hosted by the College of the Environment and the Salish Sea Institute in partnership with the Western Washington University Alumni Association. <https://vimeo.com/673778340>
- **Living Lab for Climate Solutions Showcase & Discussion, Feb 10, 2022:** Deb Morrison - Living Lab community partner, climate and anti-oppression activist, scientist, learning scientist, educator, mother and locally elected official based at the University of Washington - presented at this event hosted by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions. https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/13NjzC3nQ9Dy5W-BjiaJz_1IGSqYvrJwFrkDeJ-RVnGw/edit#slide=id.g6cbafe07f_1_2



Upcoming Presentations for Living Lab include:

- **Salish Sea Ecosystem (virtual) Conference (SSEC), April 26-28, 2022:**

Honouring our Ancestors: Visions for Future Generations and the Salish Sea



The Salish Sea Institute at Western Washington University and Living Lab campus network partner member, Natalie Baloy, run this annual event. Living Lab is giving two workshops on *Supporting Community and Youth Resurgence with Community Resources*.

www.salishseaconference.com

- **Horizons, May 26-29, 2022:**
Crisis and Social Transformation in Community-Engaged Research



Hosted by Simon Fraser University, Living Lab is giving a presentation workshop entitled, *Research Resurgence and Land-Based Healing with Indigenous Youth* in partnership with Concordia University and the Quebec Youth Research Network.

www.sfu.ca/cei/horizons-conference.html

- **Living Knowledge Network – Groningen Netherlands, June 29-July 1, 2022:**



A community and campus Living Lab Team with members from the Lekwungen and W̱SÁNEĆ Nations will be attending this 9th bi-annual EU- based global event promoting knowledge democracy and justice. This year's theme is: *New Synergies in Research with and for Communities: To meet, to learn, to collaborate.*

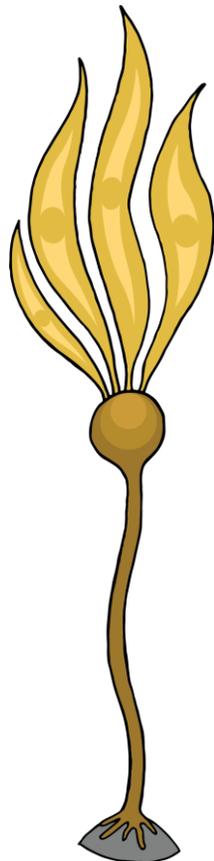
www.livingknowledge.org/lk9/



Campus News

Indigenous Resurgence in the Salish Sea Research Project Update

Besides the ongoing support for regional community-driven research, Nick Stanger has been working closely with W̱SÁNEĆ School Board (WSB) to support a land/sea-based learning project this spring. PÁSTEN-W̱SÁNEĆ ÁLENENEÇ (US-W̱SÁNEĆ 'Learning from the Homeland') is partnered with Western Washington University's Environmental Studies students to support field-based learning capacity building. WSB staff and faculty, including (but not only) SXEDFELISIYE (Renee Samson), FELÇILEM (Blake Underwood), Julie Daniels, Emily Olsen, Tye Swallow, (Musgamdzi) Kaleb Child, and Esther Morris have been working on capacity building for the school around risk management and cultural safety, logistics planning and support, and travel organization. All of these are actionable outcomes of the SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, with the ultimate goal to support W̱SÁNEĆ youth and their teachers being out on their territories,



including on the so-called United States side of the border and in collaboration with the Lummi Nation and School.



Youth in the Eco Stewardship Program look at sea life in the still pools



Community News

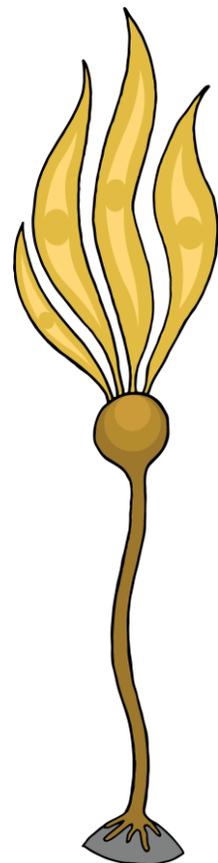
Citizen Science Wetland Ecology Pilot Program Begins

A new pilot is beginning in the Esquimalt/Gorge region to teach concepts of wetland ecology linked to local Lekwungen and W̱SÁNEĆ knowledge in the context of Citizen Science curriculum. As this project continues to develop, the team is growing to include a wider array of community members involved in teaching aspects of the course. Julia Palozzi, a UVic Restoration Program/Environmental Studies PhD student, is currently working with Tracey Murphy (Living Lab Schools Hub), John Harris (SD#61- Indigenous Education/Living Lab), Cheryl Nigh and Rachel Trebilco, teachers at Esquimalt High School, to implement this new land-based unit in a Citizen Science 11 course this April, and a fuller implementation of the course this September.

Community-Campus Camas Cultivation, Signs of Spring

After visiting several locations at UVic last May, Songhees Elder Frank "Bangus" George selected the Finnerty Gardens site for a new camas cultivation project. Bangus is the lead elder in this collaboration involving UVic professors Nick Claxton (CYC Dept.) and John Taylor (BIOL Dept.), John Harris (District Elders & Indigenous Knowledge Facilitator for Greater Victoria SD #61) and youth from several local First Nations.

The first indications that everyone's efforts might be rewarded appeared in mid-January



when several bulbs started sprouting [see photo below]. There was some evidence that grey squirrels are sampling the bounty from the edges of the garden, so we have added temporary netting to discourage them. While we might be a year or two away from harvest, these encouraging early signs have us hoping for blooms in June.



First Blooms! A small patch of grass (left) tries to poke through cardboard mulch in this bountiful camas garden.

ReconciliACTION makes headway in Oak Bay

A new website, a new motion, and even more momentum. That's a quick assessment of where things stand for Living Lab community partner ReconciliACTION Oak Bay. The ReconciliACTION network (comprising Oak Bay United Church, Community Association of Oak Bay, St. Mary's Anglican Church, and the Oak Bay Heritage Foundation) launched its new resource, news, and initiatives website at reconciliACTIONoakbay.ca in January. For more information, contact Living Lab Project Advisory member Bruce Kilpatrick at abkilpatrick@gmail.ca

