

# Working for the Watershed

## The Douglas Creek Watershed

A watershed is like a bowl with a spout. Imagine a drop of water falling somewhere in the bowl, it trickles down and eventually makes its way to the spout. If the bowl is smooth, the water gets to the spout quickly, if the bowl has some soil and plants in it, it will take longer and be cleaner when it arrives at the spout.

Long ago, a network of creeks about 7 kilometres in length once drained the Douglas Creek watershed. As the land was developed, these creeks were filled in and the job of draining the watershed was converted to storm sewers. Today, only about 800 metres of the original stream channel remains and 80 kilometres of storm sewers drain the rest of the watershed.



### Legend

- \* You Are Here
- Watershed Boundary
- Parks

The Douglas Creek watershed is about 5.5 km<sup>2</sup> in size. What was once forest, meadows and wetlands that could soak up rainfall has become a residential neighbourhood and that changes how water is absorbed.

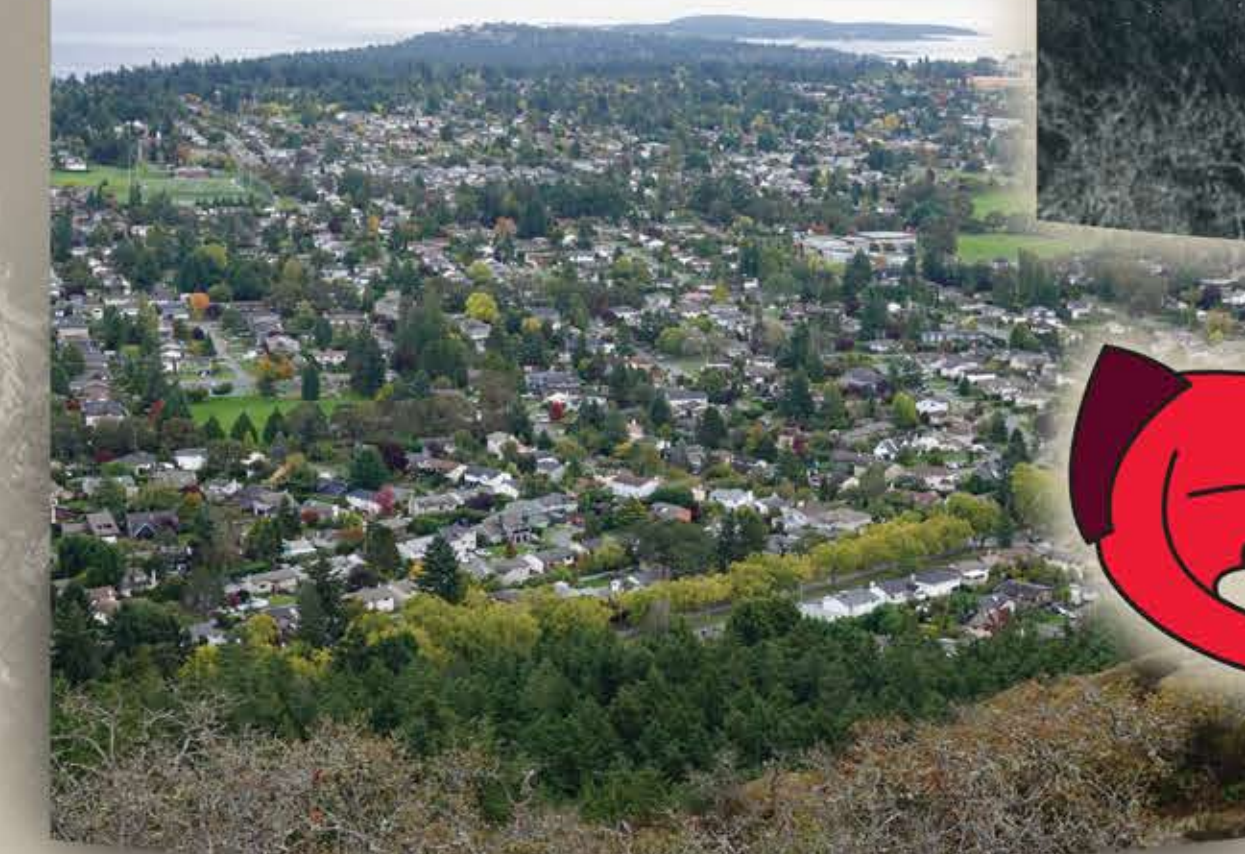


Saanich Parks 250-475-5522 saanich.ca/parks

## Big Transformation

Historically, the Douglas Creek watershed was Douglas-fir forest and Garry Oak meadows and part of the traditional territories of Indigenous people. In the late 1800s, during the settlement era of Victoria and British Columbia, much of the land was cleared for farmland. The area was largely agricultural until the 1950s, when the land was developed for housing. Today, the watershed is almost entirely residential, with some commercial development along the Shelbourne Street corridor, and several small parks.

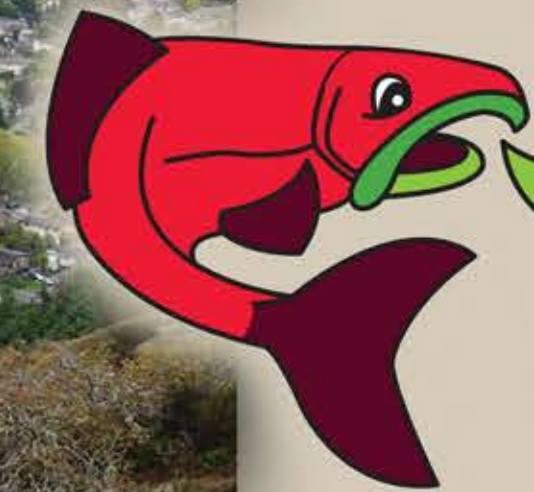
## 2021



## 1965



2021 Photo: Darrell Wick  
1965 Photo: Frank Rosson



Sammy again! Wow there are a lot of new homes. How many years did it take to get here?