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1

Summer 2024 Internship Opportunity

TITLE
Researching the invasive aquatic plant, Parrot's Feather, and its
relationship with other native and invasive aquatic plant
communities in support of the restoration of S'amunu/Somenos
Creek fish habitat and access.

Organization
Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society (SMWS)

Project Background & Overview
Somenos Creek is a 3 km long creek and the S’amunu/Somenos Watershed outlet into the Cowichan

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2
Project Description
The Scholar’s research will help us understand the role of neighbouring plant communities, i.e.
Smart Weed and Lilies, in relation to the Parrot’s Feather spread, as we have noticed some
communities of these plants have caused a withdrawal of the Parrot’s Feather.
The research project will study the relationship of these and other aquatic plants with Parrot’s
Feather. For example, do Water Lilies provide enough shade to be a barrier to Parrot’s Feather
growth? Is Smart Weed more aggressive than Parrot’s Feather, or do they ‘mutually agree’ on
borders between plants? At one time Parrot’s Feather began where Somenos Creek meets Somenos
Lake, and now Parrot’s Feather has vacated the first 300 meters of the creek. Why has this
happened?

Project Scope
The 3 key objectives would be:
1. Map the presence of the Parrot’s Feather and suggest priority removal
2. Review impacts of neighbouring native and invasive plant communities on Parrot’s Feather
spread
3. Develop removal strategy/protocol in relationship to neighbouring plant communities
The research project will involve monitoring both invasive and native plant growth and water quality

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4

UVic Sustainability Scholars Program
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Sustainability Scholars Program internships are designed and mentored by partner organizations and paid
at a rate of $30.87 per hour (after deductions) for 250 hours from May 1 to Aug 15. Explore details on our
website and review eligibility criteria before applying. Contact Laurel Currie, Program Manager, with any
questions: sustainability-scholars@uvic.ca.