

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Salvaged Native Plants Find New Home To Grow At Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park

Shawnigan Lake, BC – The new residential hamlet development underway at the Elkington Living Forest site off of Goldstream Heights in Shawnigan Lake is taking steps to reduce their ecological footprint impacts through transplanting native plants to replenish disturbed sites elsewhere in the community.

Through the “Growing our Futures” course offered by Royal Roads University, sixteen students from the Tsaout First Nation working with Elliott’s Native Nursery in Duncan actively rescued plants from the Elkington Living Forest property on October 29th. The variety of plants salvaged included Salal, Oregon grape, Kinnikinnick, Red Huckleberry, various native fern species and Twinflower. Each plant was wrapped in a burlap sack donated by “Level Ground Trading” located in Brentwood Bay and readied to transport to a new location for replanting.

“Elkington Living Forest is pleased to deliver on a commitment to the local community at the start of our project five years ago to provide these salvaged plants for re-use in local parks”, comments Doug Makaroff, President of Living Forest Communities, “We are equally excited to support through this event capacity building for youth in our community to learn new skills, such as the regenerative design in indigenous plant restoration applied today.”

One site which benefited from this initiative is the Shawnigan Hills Community Athletic Park located at the north of Shawnigan Lake. As part of an active program to remove and control the spread of invasive plant species within local parks in Electoral Area B – Shawnigan Lake, an area next to the ballfield was cleared of invasive Scotch Broom, Tansley Ragwort, Himalayan blackberry and other noxious weeds. Following salvage of native plants at the Elkington Living Forest property in the morning, the students with salvaged plants at hand headed directly to the Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park to begin replanting this area in early afternoon.

“A tremendous effort has been made the past few years to eradicate targeted invasive plants in our local parks throughout Shawnigan Lake,” notes Shawnigan Lake Director Bruce Fraser, “but removal is only half the challenge, and today’s actions to replant such areas with native species will go a long way to reduce re-establishment of unwanted noxious weeds at these parks.”

The enthusiastic planting activities of the students also attracted the attention of neighbours to the park, who in short order began to show up with shovels and gloves in hand to assist with the effort. By the end of the afternoon over 200 native plants were successfully replanted next to the entrance to Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park, as both a welcoming feature to park users and an excellent example of how native plant salvage can be applied to benefit the restoration of impacted sites.

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