

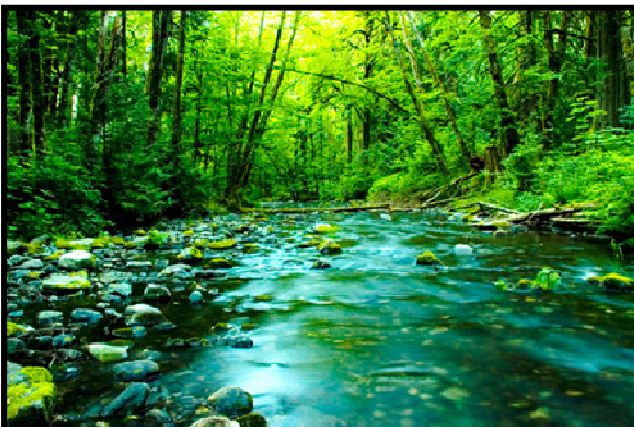
## WRNBC Conference 2017—Facility Tour and Field Trips

**Esquimalt Lagoon - Migratory Bird Sanctuary** is only a 20 minutes drive from Victoria and the unique geological history and physical processes of Esquimalt Lagoon have created an area rich in wildlife, that is highly valued by locals and visitors to the area. This shallow lagoon is enclosed by a sand and gravel barrier spit, and is connected to the ocean with a tidal channel at the northeast end. The lagoon is bordered by some of the oldest Coastal Douglas Fir forest remaining in the Victoria area. Esquimalt Lagoon has the least modified shoreline among the CRD harbours. However, pollution, habitat loss and invasive species are concerns in this area.

- Esquimalt Lagoon is an important stopover for birds migrating on the Pacific Flyway, a “bird highway” between North and South America.
- First Nations people have used the lagoon for thousands of years for food gathering, habitation and spiritual purposes.
- Early charts indicate that Coburg Peninsula was an island, with a second outlet at the southeast end of the spit.



**Visit the Rehabilitation Facility**



**Goldstream Provincial Park** is only 16 kilometers from downtown Victoria and breathtakingly rich in its characteristic flora: towering Douglas firs and massive western red cedars, some up to 600 years old. Amid the old-growth temperate rainforest, the autumn months give opportunity to view the annual salmon run and one of the largest concentrations of bald eagles that congregate to feast on it. Thousands of chum salmon return to the park's streams to spawn, along with thousands of visitors who come to see the spectacle each year. Goldstream's numerous hiking trails transverse through varying ecosystems, from low valleys to cliff ridges of arbutus trees and abandoned gold diggings from the time of the Gold Rush. Hikers can even reach one of the highest points in Greater Victoria, Mt Finlayson, or to the stunning 47.5 metre high BC's Niagara Falls.