

## CONSERVING TIXEN SPIT

Over the past 24 months a dedicated project team consisting of members of the Tsawout First Nation Lands Advisory, Canadian Wildlife Service, CRD Parks, Municipality of Central Saanich and the University of Victoria have been working towards a conservation and restoration plan for this very special place. So far this partnership has worked towards the following initiatives:

- The identification of rare and culturally significant plant and animal species.
- Mapping of the human impacts to the site.
- The identification of community values and a desirable future.
- The design and installation of 5 signs on the Tsawout reserve.
- An Earth Day invasive species removal campaign and site clean-up day.
- Weekly clean up of the spit is done by a dedicated community member.
- Fencing off of the sensitive areas of vegetation (medicinal plants and bird nesting sites)

As this project moves forward it is the goal of this conservation partnership to conserve this special place. One of the primary goals is to stop the destructive actions that have been imposed on the landscape.

One way that we hope to do so is to begin to control the impacts that dog walking has on the ecological and cultural integrity of the site. Off leash dogs can have a destructive impact on migratory bird populations during the crucial months of April, May, August and September. Birds that nest at TIXEN in the summer can also be adversely impacted. Dogs and their owners may also trample sensitive vegetation. Furthermore, based on interviews that were conducted with a variety of band members of the Tsawout community, it is acknowledged that damage to the spit or dog walking at TIXEN is a behavior that is not welcomed. TIXEN is a special place for the Tsawout community and in an effort to restore its cultural significance we will be working towards making this a no dog area.

The following rules are to be respected by ALL residents and visitors on the reserve and within this area. The band is considering fines to those who do not comply with these regulations:

- Dogs are NOT allowed in/on the beach or the low lands area
- Fires and parties at the beach are not allowed
- No dumping
- No 4 x 4 vehicles or all terrain vehicles are allowed on the spit
- No horses

There is a local dog park located on Lochside Drive – Cy Hampson Park, where you can walk your dog. Please respect the rules of the Tsawout First Nation as we are trying to make a positive change to the area so everyone can enjoy the natural habitat with minimal impact to the environment.