



Creatures from the lagoon

By Amy Dove - Goldstream News Gazette - May 16, 2008

Spend a day at Esquimalt Lagoon this weekend and you'll leave knowing a whole lot more about the area's natural history.

Celebrating Esquimalt Lagoon: Past, Present and Future features rowing, live touch tanks, kite demos, guided bird watching and conservation displays. The intent is to bring awareness to the lagoon as more than just a beach, said Natalie Bandringa with the Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Initiative.

On display too are signs designed by Colwood elementary Grade 6 students urging people to keep off the restored dunes.

"I wanted to draw the kids in to teach them how simple actions can start solving bigger problems," she said.

SeaChange, a non-profit group dedicated to marine conservation, is providing the touch tanks where people can experience first hand a plethora of animals found in the lagoon. Sea stars and cucumbers, along with crabs, fish, scallops and more will be on display. Microscopes can also be used to look at plankton, the early larvae stage of all those animals, said Nikki Wright, executive director.

"The more people learn about these critters the more people care about them," she said.

Ocean Boulevard is closed for the event but people can park either end. A shuttle service is being provided at the bus exchange at West Shore Parks and Recreation. with stops at the lagoon and the waterfront of Royal Roads University.

The free event runs Sunday, May 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 360-3299.

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