

# GW I info sheet

GORGE WATERWAY INITIATIVE

WORKING TOGETHER TO BALANCE CONSERVATION, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY VALUES

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## WHO DO YOU CALL?

You are walking or paddling down the Gorge or Portage Inlet and suddenly you see an oil slick on the water or someone harassing some birds. You care about the health of the waterway and you want to take action, so you need to know who to call.

There's a lot happening along the waterway. This infosheet walks you through the different agencies to call if you see something that concerns you — an oil spill, wildlife in trouble, illegal fishing, excess silt from construction, or a speeding boat.

### KNOWING YOUR BOUNDARIES

The waterway spans four municipalities — Victoria,

Esquimalt, Saanich and View Royal. If you are reporting a problem or a concern, even if it's not a municipal issue, it's very useful to be able to provide as exact a location as possible (see map on other side).

### WHO TO CALL

The table below has been prepared to the best of our abilities. Agency numbers and mandates often change. Sometimes there is more



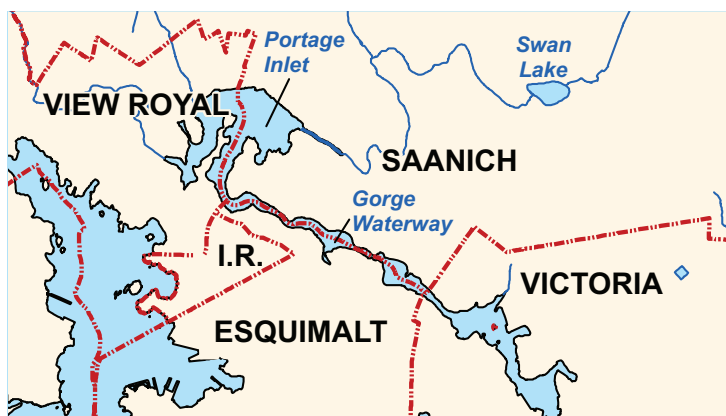
Jody Watson

than one number to call for the same situation, but there is a great deal of inter-agency cooperation (in particular in the “spills” area) so calling one number may set the wheels in motion with a number of different agencies.

Situation	Agency	Phone Number	Comments
Spill – oil, contaminant, sewage, etc. <b>originating on land or water</b>	Emergency Management BC (EMBC) (formerly PEP)	1-800-663-3456	24-hour. EMBC works with other agencies (Coast Guard, BC Ministry of Environment, Environment Canada, municipalities) to coordinate spill response
Spills	Esquimalt	250-414-7108 After hours: 250-995-7654	Each municipality has a pollution control officer to assist with spills.
	Saanich	250-475-5596	After hours & weekends: 250-475-5599
	Victoria	250-361-0300	After hours & weekends: 250-387-5711
	View Royal	250-479-6800	
Sewage outflow	CRD	250-360-3256	Monday-Friday. 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.
Stormwater discharges	CRD	250-360-3109	
Destruction/alteration of fish habitat; sport & commercial fishing violations	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	1-800-465-4336	24-hour. Observe, Record, Report (ORR) line.
Marine Pollution	Canadian Coast Guard	1-800-889-8852	24-hour. BC & Western Canada

Situation	Agency	Phone Number	Comments
Wildlife harassment	Ministry of Environment	1-877-952-7277	24-hour. Report all Poachers and Polluters (RAPP). Anonymously report all suspected violations of fisheries, wildlife, or environmental protection laws including wildlife safety issues. Or report online <a href="http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/form.htm">www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/form.htm</a>
Disturbing migratory birds	Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada	1-877-768-6904	24-hour. The Gorge and Portage Inlet are both part of a federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary.
Dead or living marine mammals	Marine Mammal Rescue Centre	1-604-258-7325 Cell: 1-604-862-1647	Centre is run by Vancouver Aquarium, which is primarily interested in live, large marine mammals, but they can direct people to other agencies such as DFO.
Municipal bylaw infractions, such as:			Weekdays. Most municipalities prefer you to register bylaw infractions in writing or online.
• Zoning	Esquimalt	250-414-7108	<a href="http://www.esquimalt.ca">www.esquimalt.ca</a>
• Building and development (shoreline, set backs)	Saanich	250-475-5456	<a href="http://www.saanich.ca">www.saanich.ca</a>
• Tree protection	Victoria	250-361-0215	<a href="http://www.victoria.ca">www.victoria.ca</a>
	View Royal	250-479-6800	<a href="http://www.town.viewroyal.bc.ca">www.town.viewroyal.bc.ca</a>
Crime related	Police	Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency 250-995-7654 250-474-2264 250-475-4321	All municipalities.  Victoria and Esquimalt View Royal (Westshore RCMP) Saanich
Speeding watercraft	Police	As above	Police from all four municipalities (three police forces) do not regularly patrol the waterway. They investigate speeding issues but are unable to deploy a boat rapidly. It is important you gather as much information as possible — what the boat and driver look like, where the boat is docked (if possible), and which way it was heading.
	Harbour Master (Victoria)	250-363-3578 VHF Channel 16 (marine) After hours emergency: 250-388-6275 (pager #1312)	Limited hours but have pager. Jurisdiction only covers Victoria harbour to Selkirk trestle but if boat were moving in their direction, they would want to know.
Boating accident, search and rescue	Joint Rescue and Coordination Centre	1-800-567-5111 Cell: #727	24-hour. Run by Coast Guard and Department of National Defence. If you call 911 and say it is a marine emergency, they would direct you to JRCC.
Encountering or disturbing cultural sites	Archaeology Branch BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations	250-953-3334	If you come across an area that contains such things as human bones, broken pottery, primitive tools, shells and animal remains, it may be an ancient First Nations site.

Note: Contact numbers are subject to change. Visit GWT's website for up-to-date information.



For more information on the Gorge Waterway Initiative:  
[info@gorgewaterway.ca](mailto:info@gorgewaterway.ca)  
 250-360-3065  
[www.gorgewaterway.ca](http://www.gorgewaterway.ca)

This GWT Infosheet is one in a series on the natural and cultural features of the Gorge Waterway, Portage Inlet and surrounding watersheds  
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