



## CITY OF DUNCAN

### PROCLAMATION

#### **"Oceans Day, & Rivers to Oceans Week" June 8-14, 2016**

- WHEREAS World Oceans Day (June 8th) offers an invitation to remember the very beginnings of life on earth, along with the many benefits we presently enjoy and the ongoing critical role of oceans worldwide; and,*
- WHEREAS The Government of Canada proposed the concept of World Ocean Day in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and the day has been celebrated internationally ever since, being officially declared in 2009 by the United Nations as "World Oceans Day"; and,*
- WHEREAS This international celebration has grown from a ripple into a tidal wave of awareness, connecting the importance of our oceans to the lands we live on - leading to Rivers to Oceans Week (June 8 - 14th) also being recognized by Environment Canada as an opportunity 'to better understand the role of Canada's watersheds, our connection to fresh-and salt-water environments, and what we all can do to protect and keep waterways and marine environments healthy and productive; and,*
- WHEREAS Our coastal regions and communities have benefited greatly from a historic, cultural and natural relationship with our lakes, creeks, streams and rivers; and,*
- WHEREAS Estuaries offer some of "the greatest natural assets ...and it is important to ensure that this resource is protected to yield the best social and economic returns", (Nanaimo Estuary Management Plan, 2006); and,*
- WHEREAS The waters of the Salish Sea between Vancouver Island and southern British Columbia create a unique partnership, linking our coastal rivers with the Pacific Ocean to provide a flourishing, clean, self-sustaining and bio-diverse habitat that supports a wide variety of fish and marine life, and provides many direct and indirect benefits that meet our long-term needs and that of healthier coastal communities; and,*
- WHEREAS The recognition and proclamation of World Oceans Day and Rivers to Oceans Week will help to encourage many interests and sectors to work together, advancing practical and proven marine restoration and protection that contributes to sustainability and coastal conservation efforts at home and around the world; and,*

*NOW, THEREFORE, as a means of fostering support for local, national and global efforts that further awareness of our rivers and oceans, their sustainable development and stewardship, and the marine life and conservation initiatives that help secure their health and viability for our common future, I, Mayor Phil Kent of the City of Duncan, British Columbia, do hereby claim June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to be World Ocean Day and June 8-14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to be Rivers to Ocean Week, in the City of Duncan.*

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day  
May, 2016

Phil Kent, Mayor