

# Graduate Internship Opportunity

SUMMER 2026

## Project Title

***Tides of Change: The Growth of an Environmental Advocacy Group on the Gorge Waterway***

## Organization

Gorge Waterway Action Society (GWAS)

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## About the Opportunity – Sustainability Scholars Program Info

*These 250-hour internships are offered in partnership with community organizations and provide UVic graduate students from any discipline with opportunities to gain applied sustainability research experience. Scholars work under the guidance of a partner mentor and contribute to projects with real community impact.*

*The 2026 pay rate is approximately \$34.72/hour. To apply, visit the [Sustainability Scholars Program website](#) and review the application guide to confirm eligibility and required materials. Applications close at 11:59 pm PT on Sunday, February 1, 2026. Questions? Contact Laurel Currie: [sustainability-scholars@uvic.ca](mailto:sustainability-scholars@uvic.ca).*

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## Project Background

The Gorge Waterway Action Society (GWAS) is a local environmental charity dedicated to conservation, stewardship, ecological restoration, and community empowerment on the Gorge Waterway. GWAS has a strong history in advocacy work, and a commitment to empowering the Gorge community with education and action to address climate challenges that the ecology and residents will face. Bridging these interests, GWAS seeks to tell the story of the organization's origins and historical stewardship of, with the assistance of a research Scholar from the University of Victoria.

## Project Description

The Gorge Waterway Action Society (GWAS) was formed 35 years ago by concerned neighbourhood advocates who were distressed by the degradation of the Gorge. From a heavily polluted, unswimmable urban waterway, to a community hub of biodiversity, beauty, recreation and education, GWAS has helped to facilitate the transformation of the Gorge over decades. The *Tides of Change* project aims to tell the engaging story of the organization's origins, and the current voices of today who cherish the Gorge Waterway and are committed to seeing it thrive.

The *Tides of Change* project will encompass archival research, interviewing, and arranging facts and stories in a compelling and accurate resource for GWAS and the Gorge community.

## Project Scope

Key activities of the *Tides of Change* project include:

- Research the ecological and cultural history and context of the Gorge Waterway
- Consult with the founders of GWAS, past and current staff, and key partners of the organization on their motivations and learnings over time

Create a compelling resource (webpage, poster etc.) to be published on the Gorge Waterway Action Society's website, and used as an education and outreach tool

## Deliverables

Develop a resource (webpage, poster, brochure, interpretive timeline etc.) that tells the story of the Gorge Waterway Action Society's inception, and its impact on the ecological health and community of the Gorge. A final *Tides of Change* project report that compiles interview notes, photographs and greater detail in appendices is also expected.

## Time Commitment + Timeline

Optimal dates for the *Tides of Change* project to run are as follows:

1. May 1, 2026- June 10, 2026: Conduct research and review archival materials related to the formation of the GWAS organization and its stewardship work through the decades
2. June 11, 2026-July 12, 2026: Through consultation with GWAS staff, its founders and key community partners, begin to record and write the story of the organization in an accurate and compelling medium (webpage, poster, timeline etc.)
3. July 13, 2026-August 15, 2026: Edit and share the created resource with GWAS staff for review; then publish, print, and promote the resource with support by GWAS staff

## Required / Preferred Skills and Experience

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys

## Additional Project Information

The UVic Sustainability Scholar will have the support of GWAS' management staff, a team of experienced professionals in the environmental nonprofit sector throughout the duration of their work term. While not required, Scholars with an academic background in social sciences or environmental studies would be most applicable.

GWAS aims to provide equitable and accessible work conditions for the Scholar's work term. The Scholar may work remotely and will require access to a computer and internet connection

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to conduct research. Check-in support meetings with GWAS staff can take place in-person or remotely through video conferencing.