

COASTAL WATER PROTECTORS

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**'SWEEPING THE
SHORES'...THE
LARGEST BEACH
CLEAN UP YET!**

**20
24**

Meet the newest coastal
addition, Tanner Oswald!

**NEW RELEASE OF
SPILL KITS...2.0
EDITION!**

Way up north...
The first 'Tidal Talks' of 2024,
in Fort St. John!



**BC Métis
FEDERATION**





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TANNER OSWALD

“AS SOMEONE WHO WAS NOT LUCKY ENOUGH TO WITNESS THE BEAUTY OF THE OCEAN TILL AGE 25, I FEEL IT IS MY DUTY TO HELP PROTECT THIS TREASURE.”





Tanner hails from the picturesque northern town of Fort Nelson, British Columbia, where he cultivated a deep appreciation for nature and community. Recently making the leap to Vancouver, he eagerly embraced the opportunity to become the newest addition to the Coastal Conservation team, as a Coastal Coordinator, bringing his passion for environmental stewardship to the forefront.

A trailblazer in his own right, Tanner proudly stands as the first member of his family to pursue higher education, graduating from Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia, with flying colors.

With a diverse skill set honed through hands-on experience, Tanner boasts a wealth of expertise in healthcare, having served as a registered care aide for several years. His commitment to safety extends beyond the medical realm, as evidenced by his comprehensive training in first aid, including certifications in National Lifeguard, Bronze Cross, Bronze Medallion, Canine First Aid, and Standard First Aid with CPR/AED Level 3.

But Tanner's talents don't stop there. A keen eye for capturing moments and telling stories through the lens, he is also a seasoned professional photographer, specializing in the art of portrait photography. Additionally, he channels his creativity into crafting artisanal hand and body soaps from scratch, a testament to his dedication to sustainable living and craftsmanship.

Outside of work, Tanner finds solace and joy in the company of his beloved feline companions, Lemons and Gracie, whom he affectionately adopted at the age of 18. Together, they've embarked on a journey spanning from Kamloops to Calgary and now Vancouver, forming an inseparable bond along the way.

Thrilled to embark on this new chapter with The Coastal Water Protectors, Tanner radiates enthusiasm for his role in coastal conservation. With his unwavering dedication, diverse skill set, and boundless passion, he is poised to make a meaningful impact in safeguarding our precious coastal ecosystems for generations to come.

ENGLISH BAY, BC

SWEEPING THE SHORES





In a heartening display of community spirit and environmental stewardship, the first beach cleanup of 2024, aptly named "Sweeping the Shores," proved to be a resounding success. With over 400 dedicated volunteers hailing from various corners of the Lower Mainland, this event not only cleared litter from the coastline but also served as a testament to the power of collective action in safeguarding our planet.

Spearheaded by the Coastal Water Protectors, who are committed to preserving the natural beauty of their local beaches, the cleanup received a significant boost from its sponsor, Grounds for Coffee. Their generous support went beyond mere sponsorship; they provided sustenance in the form of aromatic hot coffee and delectable cinnamon buns, fueling the volunteers for their noble task ahead.

For two hours, the shores buzzed with activity as volunteers armed with gloves and garbage bags combed through the sands, meticulously picking up trash and debris. From plastic bottles to discarded wrappers, every piece of litter retrieved was a step towards restoring the coastline to its pristine state.

The sense of camaraderie was palpable as participants, ranging from families to environmental enthusiasts, worked hand in hand, united by a shared goal. Amidst the rhythmic sound of waves crashing against the shore, laughter and conversation filled the air, underscoring the community's determination to make a difference.

The impact of the cleanup reverberated far beyond the beachfront, garnering attention from media outlets keen to highlight the positive efforts of the community. Global News and CBC News provided coverage of the event, amplifying its reach and inspiring others to take action in their own communities.

WAY UP NORTH... THE FIRST 'TIDAL TALKS' OF 2024, IN FORT ST. JOHN





In the heart of Fort St. John, British Columbia, the Coastal Water Protectors of BC Métis Federation convened a transformative gathering known as Tidal Talks.

The ambiance was charged with a palpable sense of purpose as attendees engaged with the rich tapestry of initiatives orchestrated by the BC Métis Federation. Through captivating videos, participants were transported on a journey that illuminates the beauty of British Columbia's and the urgent need for the protection of its waterways. Moreover, the BC Boat Owners Spill Kit Initiative took center stage, empowering individuals with the tools and knowledge to mitigate environmental hazards.

Amidst spill kit demonstrations and informative showcases, Tidal Talks transcended into a space of meaningful dialogue and shared concern. Voices resonated with passion and conviction as participants articulated their worries, hopes, and aspirations for the future of Fort St. John and its surrounding ecosystems. From the preservation of aquatic biodiversity to the sustainable management of natural resources, every conversation thread wove together a tapestry of collective action and stewardship. As the event drew to a close, Tidal Talks left an indelible mark on the community, igniting a ripple effect of environmental consciousness and fostering a deep-seated commitment to safeguarding the treasures of British Columbia's aquatic realms.

The 'Tidal Talks' gathering served as a platform for open dialogue, fostering collaboration in addressing local issues that deeply affect both the land and its inhabitants. The community members voiced their apprehensions regarding several pressing matters. Foremost among these concerns were dialogue surrounding the pollution plaguing Lily Lake and the Lookout, emblematic of broader ecological degradation in the region.

Moreover, the scars left by previous fires at Cache Creek weighed heavily on the collective consciousness, underscoring the urgent need for proactive measures to mitigate wildfire risks and safeguard vulnerable ecosystems. The specter of climate change loomed large over the discussions, with members lamenting the stark reality of its impacts, notably citing the alarming disappearance of huckleberries over the past five years. The absence of huckleberries, a cherished local favorite, served as a poignant symbol of the profound alterations wrought by climate change on the region's biodiversity. As temperatures rise and ecosystems undergo fundamental shifts, such losses resonate deeply within communities, prompting reflection on the interconnectedness of human activity and the natural world.

Throughout the 'Tidal Talks', a spirit of solidarity and shared responsibility pervaded the discourse. Both Coastal Water Protectors and Fort St. John community members recognized the imperative of collective action in addressing these multifaceted challenges. From advocating for sustainable land use practices to amplifying indigenous voices in decision-making processes, the participants articulated a shared vision of stewardship and environmental conservation.

Looking ahead, the 'Tidal Talks' serve as a springboard for ongoing collaboration and advocacy, underscoring the enduring importance of community engagement in promoting positive change. As the tides of change continue to ebb and flow, the connection forged between the Coastal Water Protectors and the Fort St. John community continues to grow.

FORT NELSON, BC




BC BOAT OWNERS SPILL KIT INITIATIVE



In British Columbia, where the pristine beauty of the coastline is a source of pride and sustenance for communities, initiatives like the BC Boat Owner Spill Kit are crucial in safeguarding against potential environmental threats. With the recent release of spill kits, 2.0 edition, this initiative is empowering community members to actively participate in the protection of aquatic spaces.

The BC Boat Owner Spill Kit Initiative is a proactive response to the ever-present risk of small spills caused by pleasure craft vessels. While these spills may seem minor in comparison to large-scale environmental disasters, their cumulative impact on marine life and coastal ecosystems can be significant. Recognizing the need for a swift and effective response at the grassroots level, this initiative provides boat owners with the tools and resources necessary to mitigate the effects of such incidents.

The newly launched Spill Kits, 2.0 edition builds upon the success of the original initiative, each kit is carefully curated to equip boat owners with everything they need to respond swiftly and effectively to small spills. From absorbent materials and containment booms to protective gear and instructional guides, these kits are designed to enable quick action in the event of an emergency.



One of the key features of the Spill Kits 2.0 edition is their user-friendly design, making them accessible to boat owners of all experience levels. Whether you're a seasoned sailor or a weekend enthusiast, these kits are designed to be easy to use and intuitive to deploy. With clear instructions and step-by-step guidance, boat owners can feel confident in their ability to respond to spills and minimize their environmental impact.

Moreover, the BC Boat Owner Spill Kit Initiative fosters a culture of environmental stewardship within the boating community. By empowering individuals to take ownership of their role in protecting the coastal environment, this initiative promotes a sense of collective responsibility and solidarity. Through education and outreach efforts, the initiative seeks to raise awareness about the importance of spill prevention and response, encouraging boaters to adopt best practices for environmental conservation.

Looking ahead, the BC Boat Owner Spill Kit Initiative aims to expand its reach and impact, reaching more boat owners and communities across British Columbia. By advocating for policies and regulations that promote responsible boating practices and investing in education and outreach efforts, the initiative seeks to create a culture of environmental responsibility that extends beyond the shoreline.

In conclusion, the BC Boat Owner Spill Kit Initiative 2.0 edition represents a significant step forward in the protection of our coastal waters. By empowering boat owners to respond to small spills and promoting a culture of environmental stewardship, this initiative plays a vital role in safeguarding our precious marine ecosystems for future generations. As we navigate the challenges of environmental conservation, initiatives like these remind us of the power of collective action and the importance of protecting the natural treasures that define our coastal identity.

