

RIPPLES

A N A R T S Z I N E C R E A T E D B Y Y O U T H

WORLD WATER DAY | MARCH 22



Water
Sustainability
Project

POLIS Project on Ecological Governance



Letter from the Editor

Young people, particularly youth artists, are creating ripples in the world of water guardianship. "Ripples" is an arts zine created by youth showcasing artwork, short stories, poetry and photography celebrating a shared love of and connection to water, all created by youth and kids between the ages of 4 and 20.

WRITTEN BY KATIA BANNISTER

Youth have a huge role to play in terms of protecting watersheds and ecosystems. Their creativity, resiliency and ingenuity pave new ways forward for our combined advocacy work. It is for that reason that "Ripples" zine project has been curated and spearheaded by representatives from the Cowichan Valley Earth Guardians crew.

CVEG is a group of youth between the ages of 12 and 20 based out of the Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island. This crew is only one of over 300 local youth-led activism and organizing groups that exist across the world under Earth Guardians, a global intergenerational organization that seeks to engage youth in the social, climate and environmental justice movements.

Youth leadership and voice on youth initiatives is key. But intergenerational collaborations and connections are essential in supporting projects to be impactful and far reaching.

So in addition to the curation and leadership efforts of dedicated youth from the Cowichan Valley Earth Guardians crew, "Ripples" has been supported by the Canadian Freshwater Alliance and the POLIS Water Sustainability Project.

The Canadian Freshwater Alliance is a national Canadian initiative that seeks to build, unite and activate connected networks of freshwater champions to drive forward change and secure healthy waters for all.

The POLIS Water Sustainability Project is an action-based research group that works out of the University of Victoria's Centre for Global Studies. They seek to inform best governance practices and support a sustainable and secure freshwater future by combining practical research with community action.

The collaboration between CVEG, CFA and POLIS on "Ripples" has created an invaluable opportunity for kids and youth to express their creativity and love for freshwater ecosystems, watersheds and marine environments that are important to them, and shape their lives. With "Ripples" we hope to show young people that they have the power to make ripples and create waves in the world of water advocacy, and they can create meaningful change.

YOUTH contributors

**Peter
Brandes**

My name is Peter. I like outer space. I'm five and my piece is about Earth, water, humans, trees, nature, and keeping them healthy.

**Honeysuckle
Rose White**

I'm Honey and I loves living near water. I'm very conscious about conserving water when it comes to reusing water to nourish my garden, my animals and myself. I always make sure water taps are turned off and am very careful of what goes down the drain.

**Joy
White**

My name is Joy and I loves all forms of water. I especially loves swimming in it! I swam in some body of water every single day last summer although my favourite is swimming in the river!

**Miko
Garrett-
Jones**

I'm Miko and I'm a visual artist who enjoys representing fantasy and nature topics in multimedia formats including drawing, painting and computer media. I've also been doing computer animation for several years. Currently, I'm in the 7th grade at Selkirk Montessori School in Victoria, British Columbia.

**Katia
Bannister**

My name is Katia and water has always been an important part of my life. I live on a small Gulf Island on Penelakut territory in the middle of the Salish Sea and worked recently as a Digital Engagement Coordinator for the Canadian Freshwater Alliance.

**Max
Richmond**

I'm Max. I am an artist who loves to draw and paint. It is my dream to study in Japan and to become a graphic artist.

**Jasmine
Hachey**

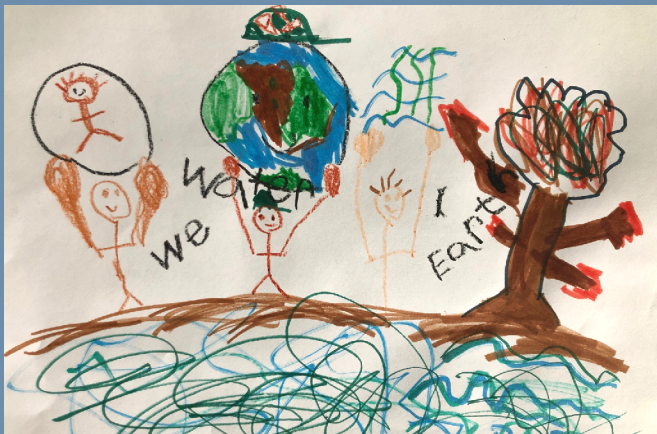
My name is Jasmine and I know that water is life. I have always had a close relationship with the Cowichan Estuary on Quw'utsun territory.

**Cova
Paydli**

I'm Cova and I am 8 years old and live in Saltair on Stz'uminus Territory on Vancouver Island.



PHOTO BY KATIA BANNISTER (AGE 17)



PIECE BY PETER BRANDES (AGE 5)



PIECE BY COVA PAYDLI (AGE 8)

World Water Day

World Water Day has been held on March 22 every year since 1993, and focuses on the importance of water and watershed health, particularly freshwater resources.

World Water Day both celebrates water and aquatic ecosystems, and strives to raise awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water.

Today, water is under massive threat from increasing demands of agriculture and industry, a growing population, and the worsening impacts of climate change.

In this zine, youth artists, photographers and writers explore what water means to them, it's inherent value and how we can better protect our vital resources.

Streamkeepers at work

PHOTO BY JASMINE HACHEY (AGE 16)

Not only are youth making waves of change in the world of water advocacy through their creative efforts, but also through ecological restoration.

When youth engage in activities like streamkeeping and ecological restoration, they build deep and meaningful connections within their communities, both human and

ecological. Doing this work helps to pave the way forward for a more resilient future. One championed by a new generation of freshwater, ocean and land defenders, as older generations concede to the youth and pass along the shovel. Interested in learning more about how supporting youth involvement in community restoration initiatives? Check out [this](#) blog post from the Canadian Freshwater Alliance about the critical links between engaging young people and tangible restorative actions.





cold —

standing on the edge of the pier,
cold but the ocean froths
like warm milk on the stovetop.

i watch seagulls covet fetid oyster flesh,
waves crash over the sandstone and pebbles,
sailboats rock gently in the distance.

warm —

my soft palms clench inside my pockets,
filled with beach pebbles and lint.
and the tips of my ears burn hot,
trying to overcome
the chilling wind.

Jellyfish family

PIECE BY JOY WHITE (AGE 8)



Cup of water

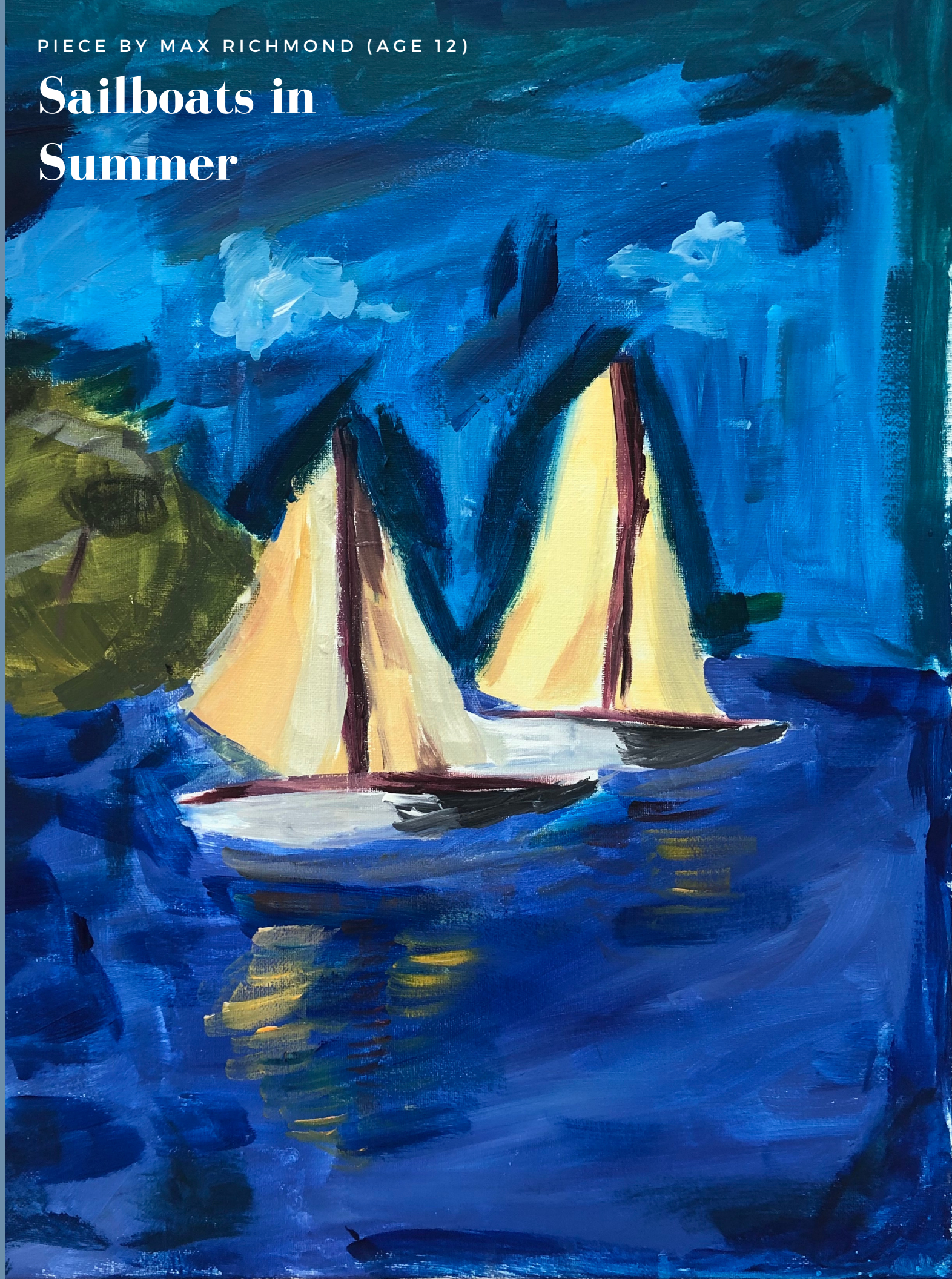
PIECE BY JOY WHITE (AGE 8)

A cup of water I drink,
then pour the rest down the sink.

The stuff that I waste,
I'll never have a taste,
of the water that drains in a blink.

PIECE BY MAX RICHMOND (AGE 12)

Sailboats in Summer



Ocean waters

PIECE BY MIKO GARRETT-JONES (AGE 12)



A hiker's view

PIECE BY HONEYSUCKLE ROSE WHITE (AGE 11)

