

BACKGROUND



A few key aspects that we think make us special!

- Hands on – hands wet learning is at the core of the visitor experience. Microscopes touch pools, fascinating exhibits, all accessible for one on one exploration.
- We are entirely focused on the waters of the Salish Sea. We showcase this local wonder but extrapolate information to underline the connectivity of the world's ocean and the challenges the ocean and our planet faces.
- Our interpretive method is really about conversations; knowledgeable Oceaneers from age 11 to 88 share well researched information supplemented by books, our unique 'fridge magnet' signage and video technology harnessing data from throughout the world.
- The Coast Salish Nation lived and prospered on this coast for thousands of years. We are honoured to have the opportunity to work with the few remaining elders who experienced the traditional ways and keep the Sencoten language alive. The centre is an important bridge between First Nations and settler communities.
- We are small in the sense that our facility is only 960sq/metres but we are also friendly and in a way, intimate. Every visitor will be personally engaged throughout their visit by knowledgeable Oceaneers aged 11 to 88; friendly just like our small seaside town.
- We are also very large because we embrace all of nature on our doorstep. Very few aquariums in the world have as a diverse, accessible and dynamic an ecosystem just 60 metres away. Marine mammals, seabirds and the entire ecosystem can be experienced outdoors, on and in the water.
- We are a place of action. We expect a great deal of our visitors. Once equipped with information we hope they will be inspired to take personal action on behalf of the ocean. We ask them to make a personal pledge to the ocean before they leave.
- Partnerships with the University of Victoria, the VENUS and NEPTUNE projects and the Institute of Ocean Sciences have made the Centre the friendly face of complex ocean science and research. Science explained – mysteries revealed.
- We are on the forefront of green technology with hydrothermal heat pumps linked to the ocean heating and cooling the building as well as our aquariums. We are a leader in the use of low energy LED lighting for our aquarium exhibits.
- We are a registered not-for-profit supported by donations and our self sustaining business model. The economic pillars are; a free building, no debt or investors to pay back and a very small professional staff supported by over 200 amazing volunteers.

Our Ocean Lives Here