

Macdonald Wood Park Society



volunteer stewards of Macdonald Wood Park

Balmoral Ave & Croteau Rd, Town of Comox

MWPS@shaw.ca

27 October 2015

Comox Valley Sewage Commission

Dear Commissioners -

Re: New Pumping Station and Forcemain

We last wrote to you on 16 January when we expressed our concerns about Macdonald Wood Park being included on a list of potential sites for the new pumping station and forcemain. It was with relief that we learned subsequently of your decision to exclude parkland from your considerations.

We have recently learned of the latest proposal, to site the works on the Croteau Road right-of-way (ROW) between Midden Road and the beach. For several reasons, it is difficult to imagine how construction could proceed on the ROW without destroying much of what drove the creation of Macdonald Wood Park in 1995.

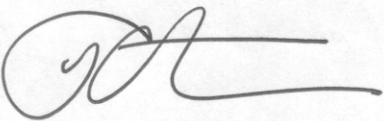
Some of what is considered by the public to be Macdonald Wood Park is in fact located on the Croteau Road ROW - de facto parkland for much longer than twenty years. By providing access to the beach and to the Rotary Boardwalk in the southernmost part of the park, this public ROW has allowed the circumvention of the alder wetlands and the intact midden, some of which is located in the undeveloped ROW. Any 'replacement trail' west of the ROW, within the park boundaries, could not be constructed without fundamentally disrupting the midden and the foreshore marsh. Because of the protective covenants held by the provincial Ministry of Environment, the cutting, removal, or disturbance of trees, bushes, or foliage is restricted. The removal or displacement of any soil or beach material is proscribed. The entire Croteau Road

corridor from the beach access ROW north to Balmoral Avenue and Hawkins Road is identified within the regional district's Environmentally Sensitive Area Development Permit zone as a wetland, a designation indicative of its sensitive status, presenting substantial hydrological concerns.

MWPS acts as volunteer stewards of Macdonald Wood, in collaboration with and under the jurisdiction of the Town of Comox. Its 600 voting members and its many additional supporters will continue in its efforts to protect the integrity of this invaluable park. We hope and trust that the Sewage Commission has a similar resolve.

A site visit could more clearly demonstrate the practical matters presented by this latest proposal. As we offered in January, we would be happy to accompany the commissioners, individually or as a group, on a guided walk through Macdonald Wood Park, whenever it is convenient for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tom Pater', written in a cursive style.

Tom Pater
President, Board of Directors
Macdonald Wood Park Society
MWPS@shaw.ca

cc: Mayor and Councillors, Town of Comox
Chief and Councillors, K'ómoks First Nation
Director, Electoral Area B, CVRD