

Hello to all Macdonald Wood members and supporters.

You might have heard about the upcoming **Public Open House on Tuesday 21 June** -- in the CVRD Boardroom on Comox Road in Courtenay, 4:30 to 7:00 pm, with the Sewage Commission and staff presenting their latest proposals to handle Comox's and Courtenay's sewage.

What you might *not* know is that the plan now has the sewage forcemain coming up from the bay through Macdonald Wood Park's beach access trail **in a trench more than three metres deep**, right through the intact midden, adjacent to the rare saltmarsh wetland, and proceeding up Croteau Road north to Docliddle Road.

There, a "forcemain discharge chamber" is proposed to be located under Croteau Road at Docliddle, **ten metres wide and ten metres deep**, before the sewage line proceeds to a new pumping station on Beech Street amidst the Croteau Beach residential neighbourhood in Area B. After being pumped, the sewage would turn back under Docliddle to Croteau Road and then northward along the park's east side up to Balmoral Avenue and on to the existing treatment plant at Brent Road.

If this plan were to go ahead, trees would need to be removed on the park's beach access trail and along the Sunrise Trail, some of which is on the Comox half of the Croteau Road right-of-way. Once again, the midden's integrity is under threat, and it's hard to imagine how the marsh under the boardwalk wouldn't be dewatered. It appears that, under this proposal, not just the beach access but **the entire eastern side of the park** would be permanently damaged.

The CVRD open house will offer good opportunities to ask questions of staff and provide feedback. **A high turn-out would be very useful.** Please tell all your friends and contacts.

Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, from 4:30 until 7:00 pm.

Sincerely,

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

PS -- The earlier proposal to site the pumping station on the park's beach access trail was successfully stopped, in part because of your letters to the Ministry of Transportation opposing the closure of the right-of-way. But we can't rely on MOT this time -- they usually permit pipes to be built under their rights-of-way because underground infrastructure does not require the surrender of crown land. **Your voice in opposition is needed to be heard even more clearly this time, to protect the park and stop this ill-considered plan.**