

LETTERS: A public forum

Oyster River basin favored

Dear Sir:

I am concerned over the extremely one-sided struggle that Pacific Playground Ltd. is having to do something really good and in an unselfish manner for this entire area.

I read with great alarm the article in the April 25 Green Sheet by Donna Clements entitled "Fight to protect Oyster," not because there are people concerned about the river, but more because the meeting was arranged by the Comox Strathcona Regional Board's Environmental Committee. The article states that there will be about ten groups invited to express their opposition to any plan that Pacific Playground may have, and then the board will be able to make a strong recommendation to the Department of Lands.

Should not a hearing have groups invited to speak on or defend both sides? How could the board possibly have an open mind without hearing from the other side, and I am speaking apart from Pacific Playground.

I would question some of Mr. Brandt's statements. He states that because of Macmillan Bloedel Ltd. the river is subject to extremely high runoffs and flooding during the winter months. I cannot deny this and certainly something must be done to preserve the upper watershed for some distance back from the river. However, no mention is made of the fact that since the creation of time, that once in a while we do get a real heavy rain or a sudden heat wave early in the year and the river goes on the rampage and unmercifully cuts away at the banks and

changes its own channel. There are some old timers around here that will verify this.

I would question also how many eggs are laid in the gravel in the concerned area at the mouth of the river. I have witnessed many thousands, perhaps millions, of young fry, enjoying the deep and warmer water of the existing boat basin. This would appear to be an asset to me.

Mr. Brandt mentions a "gazetted park reserve" which he says was set aside by order in council in 1937 for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. I believe there would be at least two to one in favor of a good boat and salmon fishing facility at this point on our coast and the odds are probably more like 10 to one, particularly in the summer months.

Commercial fishing boats and pleasure boats alike have no place to get in when quick storms arrive unannounced at a low tide anywhere between Comox and Campbell River. A few of the local resort owners are saying that their sandy beach is disappearing. I don't know why they are looking at Pacific Playground because Pacific Playground hasn't done anything yet. However, some of them have their own boat rentals so their reasoning may be a bit selfish.

I am a resort owner, too, on Saratoga Beach and I feel I am getting more sand on my beach.

I do not believe we have to create a bitterness among people over this sort of thing, but I sometimes think that too many people are content to let a handfull of people run the show. I believe there are a lot

Museum dedication held lax in uniforms, dignity

Dear Sir:

April 28 was an exceptional day for the Comox Valley. On that day history was made in order to preserve history.

History was made when the Museum came to life after much hard labor by many people. All that to preserve history so that people in days to come could see how things used to be and some of the things used to make our country great.

The building itself is a work of art of which the Canadian Sons and Daughters can be proud. Let us hope that the many priceless items inside the building will be viewed by countless people, mainly our children and their children.

The weatherman was most kind so that the opening ceremonies could be held outside. The uniforms of the scouts, Guides and others added color, as did the costumes of the three ladies in their beautiful native dress. Much pleasure was provided as always by the Courtenay Legion Pipe Band, dressed in their spit and polish Highland Tartans, playing music that stirs the heart even of those not born among the heather.

It was with dismay that I observed, when a presentation was made to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in connection with their 100th anniversary, that the sergeant accepting it in the name of the Courtenay Detachment was dressed in mufti. Horrors, history was being remembered. Did the Mounties dress that way during the past century? Was it so that our young people are

to suppose that they will be dressed in mufti in the coming century, lugging around a Breathalyzer, a word by the way that was rather ill chosen.

Then the commanding officer of our Armed Forces Base was not in uniform and smoking a pipe - a peace pipe perhaps? I am sure that he would not permit his officers and men to appear at an official public function dressed like that. Then, worst of all, the mayor of our great city officially opened the museum not wearing his Chain of Office.

People may say that in this "modern" day that kind of thing is out of place. The Pacifists will holler that I have imperialistic tendencies. To all critics I say that I am not ashamed of the way things were done in the past. The RCMP, in their red tunics, made this country safe and helped many homesteaders in trouble.

Our Armed Force Base is not there to make war but to preserve peace and help people in distress.

The mayor of our city is the Chief Magistrate and his office should reflect dignity and importance. Remember, history was being made and history was being preserved, a moment that should have had all the color possible because the eye remembers longer what it sees, when children are concerned, than the ear, hearing words delivered in a hapless manner.

Magns Ooppel

of the local residents that are in favor of a good all-tide boat basin at the Oyster. I would suggest that they be heard.

Wm. A. Henderson

Changes view on lake road

Dear Sir:

In your newspaper of April 18 there appeared a very interesting interview with Cumberland old-timer, Jim Ellis.

I have known Mr. Ellis since I was a little boy and he and his family were very attached to Comox Lake, as are most people in dear old Cumberland.

On more than one occasion I have written articles in your newspaper, strongly suggesting a road up Comox Lake, but if such a road would hurt Cumberland and its population then I'll have to go along with old Jim Ellis.

Please know that my asking for the road had no plan for enriching any leeching, bloody loud speculator, for which I never did have any use.

Several years back I got in trouble with the law for bootlegging and was given a few days in jail and a fairly stiff fine.

What I'd like to know is how these land bootleggers get around justice and the law. I feel a person can do without booze but a man cannot do without a piece of dirt on which to build his home.

M. Denlin

Sterilization policy mapped

Dear Sir:

The letter by Mrs. D. M. Smith in the April 25 issue of

Request for financial