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CAMPBELL RIVER, B.C.,

MONDAY, JULY 30, 1973

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River plan snagged



CLAIRE BROWN, 3820 Discovery, will be the only woman representing B.C. in target shooting at the Canada Games this August. She beat out seven other

B.C. women to win the haonor of representing the province.

— Bob Howse photo

By PAUL NICHOLSON (Staff Writer) by the Comox-Strathcom

Two decisions taken by the Comox-Strathcona Regional Board after hearing a brief by the Vancouver Island Steelhead Society may have halted Pacific Playground's plans for the Oyster River.

The proposed test channel that would be dredged through the mouth of the Oyster River should be held in abeyance at least until Environment Canada has finished its studies there.

And the provincial government will be strongly urged to hold a public hearing on the use of the estuarine region of the Oyster River.

These two decisions were reached by the Comox Strathcona Regional Board after a presentation by a representative of the British Columbia Steelhead Society opposed the proposed channel.

Pacific Playgrounds operates a resort area at the mouth of the river, and part of its expansion plans calls for a 1,700 foot deep-water channel to be dredged through the estuary region to give 24-hour access to its boat basin.

At present the basin is not accessible during low tide.

An engineering study recommended a smaller test channel be dug first, so tidal and storm action could be observed to see what effect a larger channel might have on the estuarine region.

Both channels have received a great deal of

"If the channel goes through, we feel it would be detrimental to marine life in this area," he said.

"Environment Canada is making a study of the area now. All we are asking is that the board wait before approving the test channel, at least until the study is finished.

He also pointed out that the channel was in violation of a recreational land reserve set for the area by an order-in council of the provincial government in 1937, and that the director of lands also recommended the channel construction wait until the federal studies are completed.

"The fisheries department, including Federal Minister Jack Davis, are working toward imposing a moratorium on all estuarine



regions in Canada," he added.
Director H.C. McQuillan, of
the adjoining Black Creek
electoral area, opposed what
he called the delaying tactics
of the board.

(Continued on p 2)

Board wants data

A recommendation by the environmental committee to obtain more information for the possible relocation of industries along the Campbell River estuary, was endorsed unanimously by the Comox-Strathcona Regional Board Saturday.

An interim report by Environment Canada had previously recommended that industries on the river be removed and no further leases be issued for industry in this area.

The board has already



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- Bob Howse photo

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Henrich farm near Black x) vowed Sunday she will armers losing livestock to

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legislation, he can't get compensation.

"I think the best answer is to provide compensation for the lost livestock," said Ms. Sanford.

Another area farmer, Ken Hansen, has asked for \$900 compensation from the livestock he lost to wolves — 13 sheep over the past year. But the government refused compensation.

"If they don't want to pay it, I can't make them," Hansen said.

Wolves didn't bother farmers in the area until the Hansen and Henrich attacks.

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"The farmer rather enjoyed

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Both channels have received a great deal of criticism from environmental

By following the advice of Father Charles Brandt, secretary of the steelhead society, the board overruled recommendations by its own environmental committee.

The committee "recommended that the department of lands be notified that the regional district has no objection to construction of the test channel."

But when the motion was put to the board to accept the environment committee's recommendations, it was defeated. An alternate motion was put forward by director Dick Treherne whose electoral area includes the Oyster River to hold the test channel in abeyance until the federal fisheries studies have been completed at the end of December.

At that time the fisheries report would be studied by the board, and the proposed channel reconsidered.

Director Norm Lysne of Quinsam added an amendment that the provincial government be urged to hold a public hearing on the matter.

Father Brandt told the board that the estuary was a vital area for the support of five species of salmon and trout. proving the test channel, at least until the study is finished.

He also pointed out that the channel was in violation of a recreational land reserve set for the area by an order-in council of the provincial government in 1937, and that the director of lands also recommended the channel construction wait until the federal studies are completed.

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FATHER CHARLES
BRANDT
... opposed

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The board has already written letters inquiring about available money to relocate these industries, but the environmental committee suggested a request be sent directly to the new provincial secretariat requesting information regarding this matter.

The committee suggested Menzies Bay as a desirable alternative to the present industrial locations on the estuary.

Town to die without road'

By PAUL NICHOLSON (Staff Writer)

The Village of Zeballos is slowly dying because of the provincial government's reluctance to build a short road into that community, the Comox-Strathcona Regional Board was told Saturday.

Village fathers claim families are steadily moving out of the area rather than send their children away to board in order to obtain detachment, and a road would put the village within minutes of police protection of Tahsis.

Present electric power is by mobile generators but B.C. Hydro has indicated it would put in power lines from Tahsis.

Telephone lines could be put in along with the hydro lines, and Zeballos' "disgraceful" telephone situation would be vastly improved.

At present there is a party line with five phones and only