



THE ALMOST-PRISTINE Pearl Lake watershed is important to the health of the Oyster River.

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# Oyster River defenders concerned

Dear editor,

I am writing on behalf of the Oyster River Enhancement Society over our concern that logging in the vicinity of Pearl Lake, at the very headwaters of the Oyster River, may result in dire consequences for the entire watershed of the Oyster River, and will destroy the pristine beauty of this absolutely unique body of water.

This lake is being threatened by Island Timberlands in its logging of the upper watershed of the Oyster River.

Since the early nineties both the Oyster River Enhancement Society and the Oyster River Watershed Management Committee (both of which the Comox Strathcona Regional District has supported financially

and morally) have had the intention of preserving Pearl Lake in its entirety from logging, and have worked towards this goal tirelessly.

The Pearl Lake watershed is almost pristine, important to the health of the Oyster River, an important source of drinking water, and closely related to the successful salmon enhancement operation in the river.

We can think of no other remaining watersheds in the Georgia Strait basin of the quality and beauty of Pearl Lake.

Somehow in the Goal II process, this lake was overlooked. It should have been included in Strathcona Park. And it is now time and appropriate to include it.

We are making an appeal to the

provincial government to protect Pearl Lake. We are requesting that directors of the regional district board present this as a resolution to the Association of Vancouver Island Communities, which is having its convention this spring, and if carried would then go to the Union of B.C. Municipalities convention this coming September.

In doing this, they would be taking a step toward the transformation that we must make, a step away from the destructive influence we are having on the natural world and a step towards having a benign presence in that world.

Father Charles A.E. Brandt,  
 Director, watershed protection,  
 Oyster River Enhancement Society,  
 Black Creek