

NDP breaks a promise

Key lands could be lost

Editor's Note: The following letter is to B.C. Premier Glen Clark with a copy to the Record.

Sir,

The Oyster River Enhancement Society is keenly disappointed that your government has failed in its promise to include the Divers and Rossiter Lakes as an extension of Strathcona Park, one of a number of new and expanded parks aimed at bringing Vancouver Island parks to 13 per cent of the land base as part of the Goal II Plan.

Logging began in this proposed park on July 7. TimberWest, frustrated by the extremely slow pace of negotiating with your government for a land swap, has

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proceeded with timber removal.

The only redeeming feature in TimberWest's current logging is their harvesting plan: It plans to harvest in the near future only 10 hectares of the total 996-hectare Divers Lake area.

There is still time to negotiate with TimberWest so that your promise to include the Divers Lake area as part of Goal II can be fulfilled. You are aware that TimberWest is quite willing to make a land swap.

Not only does the beauty and recreational value of the area demand that your promise be kept, but the overall effect of harvesting on the watershed demands it as well.

Since the Divers-Rossiter area is located in the very headwaters of the principle tributary of the Oyster River, the Oyster River Enhancement Society is doubly concerned.

Already your government has issued a water licence to Mt. Washington Ski Resort

to withdraw water from Rossiter Lake. This will affect the Oyster River.

And now we are to have logging underway in the same area with the creation of additional logging roads which are the primary cause of silting to our rivers.

This, we believe, is a strong additional reason for you to keep your promise and give the area park status.

It is our strong conviction that the Ministry of Environment along with the Minister of Forests through discussion with TimberWest can bring about the inclusion of the Divers-Rossiter area in B.C. parks. Our MLA, Evelyn Gillespie, gives this her whole support.

**Charles A.E. Brandt
Chair,
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Committee, ORES**