

Weir issue is topic

A controversial weir proposed for Rossiter Lake, near Mount Washington, will be discussed by the Comox Valley Environmental Council Monday.

Mount Washington Ski Resort official Paul Bates will outline the project at 7 p.m. at the Courtenay Fish and Game Club.

The concrete weir proposed by the ski resort would be two feet high and about 150 feet long, according to a water licence application filed with the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.

Local environmentalist Father Charles Brandt recently protested the project, claiming it would impact adversely on the Oyster River.

"Rossiter Lake, a pristine lake noted for its beauty and fine cutthroat fishing, and surrounded still by old-growth

forest, is drained by Goss Creek, which empties into Piggott Creek and so forms part of the Oyster River watershed ... when you touch the Rossiter, you touch the Oyster River," said Brandt.

But Bates told *The Record* the weir was suggested by the environment ministry to help maintain a steady flow to the Oyster.

The weir will enable the lake to store water which can be released to replace water drawn from wells on Mount Washington during the busy season, Bates said.

The provincial Oyster River Management Plan calls for dams and weirs at various points in the watershed, including Rossiter Lake, said Bates.

But Brandt says the proposal underlines the need for an overall water supply plan.

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