Father Brandt tackles environment questions at NDP constituency meet

The executive of the Comox Valley constituency association of the New Democratic Party met at Maple School in Willow Point on May 7.

Fr. Charles Brandt spoke on the developments in the environmental movement. He described the upcoming Globe 92 conference to be held in Brazil during June. Over 10,000 government officials and 30,000 representatives of nongovernment environmental organizations will attend.

Fr. Brandt also spoke about the pending changes in provincial environmental impact study legislation. Public hearings to take suggestions on changes to regulations have just been completed which should result in an improved process to protect the environment from negative impacts of proposed developments.

Fr. Brandt stated that there should be an environmental impact study done regarding the permit to allow Mt. Washington ski hill to discharge 480 cubic

metres of treated sewage into Piggot Creek, a tributary of the Oyster River. Similarly there should have been an impact study done before the fish composting was established in the Oyster River watershed.

Fr. Brandt also reported on the continuing action to eliminate the copper leaching from the abandoned Mt. Washington open pit copper mine. Over a million dollars have already been spent to cap the exposed ore. A further \$170,000 has been allowed in the recent provincial budget for continued work. Samples taken

recently from Murax Creek, a

Fr. Brandt is also a founding member of the Oyster River Watershed Management Committee.

He stated, "we now have a mission statement and a committee of twenty-four members who are discussing plans for the watershed."

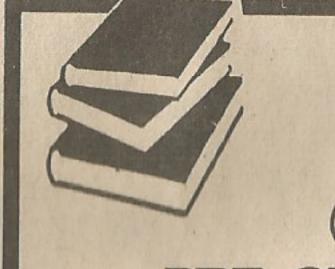
The regular business meeting followed Fr. Brandt's address.

tributary of the Tsolum River continue to indicate copper levels in excess of those known to be toxic to young fish.

of the N.D.P. provincial executive will be sponsoring a workshop for N.D.P. women in Parksville on Saturday, May 30. This workshop will provide an opportunity for women to discuss their concerns and network with other women in the region. Those interested in attending please

phone 334-3434.

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