

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 12:58 PM

To: Ian Thorpe

Subject: riparian area destruction

I am writing to you because of the destruction of the riparian area along the little qualicum river, which is a trout and salmon bearing river. In little qualicum river village, one owner has rerouted a fish bearing stream and clear cut all the trees off of two lots and went within about 10 meters of the river, when they have to be thirty meters back. It took him five days to knock all the trees down with his excavator and haul them away. The rdn was informed on the morning of the first day and did absolutely nothing. They could have stopped this as they had no permits to do anything and saved the trees. Now it's ruined and can't be fixed and it's the rdn's fault. Other owners have hauled in fill, cut trees, built fences and landscaped their lots, all without rdn approval. Because these lots have never been mapped by the rdn they have no idea what is on these riparian lots. There are ponds and streams that fall under spa rules, there is a flood plain act that applies and some lots have a restricted covenant limiting what the owners can do. Therefore a proper rar report must be done in order to get approval for any modifications being done to the lots. None of the owners have done that. The rdn was informed of all the violations and have done absolutely nothing, except to tell us they are not going to do anything about it. These riparian lots also have septic tanks on them which some are possibly within the set backs and could be leaking into the streams and ponds behind them but the rdn does nothing to ensure that they are safe and fall within the setback rules. I have seen, and smelled, one more than one occasion owners having problems with their septic systems. E coli could be getting into the river where Qualicum Beach gets its drinking water from. Leanne Salter, director of area F, was here and was shocked as to what was going on here, you should talk to her. Also the Cedar Grove campground, beside the little qualicum river and highway 19A, clear cut a section of land right up to the rivers edge and put in camping lots. Last summer I seen the back of trailers hanging over the water. Vehicles and motorhomes could be within ten to twenty feet of the rivers edge. Now what if they are leaking oil? This is a salmon spawning river where he removed all the trees and under growth right up to the rivers edge. The last heavy rains we had that whole area of the campground flooded and he is hauling in, right now just go and look, fill to build up that flood plain area to prevent future flooding. This is all illegal and was reported to the rdn and even the dfo and nothing is being done to stop this. There has been more destruction of the riparian area along the river in the last year than in the previous ten years. If it keeps being destroyed at this rate, the whole ecosystem will collapse and there will be no fish in river in five years. The rdn has to deal with this, immediately, by having rar reports done on these properties and enforcing the riparian bylaws as they are legally required to do.

Harry Oppenlander, Qualicum Beach, B.C.

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