

## Friends of Island View Beach

Our position on Island View Beach Regional Park is:

### **Maintain the drainage ditches and mosquito control program**

We support the direction of the CRD Regional Parks Committee to CRD Parks staff, that the drainage ditches and mosquito control program must continue to be maintained in any new park plan, and that the park not be flooded. **CRD staff appear to be trying to circumvent that direction, with the goal of having the ditches filled in.**

### **Have an independent environmental study of the park**

We support an independent environmental study to identify which "*species at risk*" are present in the park, and, of those, which need protection, and what that protection might be. That environmental study should also take into account climate change and sea level rise. **The January 2015 CRD presentation about Island View Beach Regional Park is incomplete; ridden with mistakes, half truths and pure fabrication; and with what appears to be a deliberate intent to deceive the public as to the number of species at risk in the park.**

### **Full public disclosure by the CRD**

We advocate full and accurate public disclosure by the CRD in matters relating to Island View Beach Regional Park. **Three times over the last two years, the CRD materially misrepresented conditions at the park to the public - was this intentional?**

### **A factual environmental study will guide the future of the park**

A factual environmental study will guide any future park plan, and we are waiting for that study before considering or advocating any plans for the future. The park is what it is, and its environment should not be exaggerated for the purpose of furthering an agenda.

***Come to our web site where you will be able to speak up and email the CRD!***

<http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/>

January 2015

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## Public meetings by the CRD in January & February 2015

We called for the CRD's public meetings to be postponed because their environmental presentation is incomplete; ridden with mistakes, half truths and pure fabrication. There appears to be a deliberate intent to deceive the public as to the number of species at risk in the park. Throughout the presentation they lead the reader to believe there are "33 confirmed species at risk" in the park. We challenged that number because many on the list were migratory marine birds that never set foot on island View Beach. **The CRD have now acknowledged in writing to us, that there are only 9 species at risk in the park, but they have not corrected the CRD web site which still suggests 33.** Did the CRD intentionally mislead the public to believe there are 33 confirmed species at risk in the park? **The CRD directors have been told of these misrepresentations to the public – why have the Directors allowed them to continue?**

Apart from the geology section, the CRD environmental presentation is flawed throughout. Bizarre statements are made, such as the claim that the average width of the ditches in the park is 3.4m!! They included two old photos from Saanich Archives and then fudged the dates and descriptions on the photos. If this was a school project it would get a failing grade!

A major misrepresentation is regarding the mosquito drainage ditches installed in 1936. In the existing park bylaw, CRD parks staff are required to keep the ditches clean of debris but they did not do so and eventually in 2011 the CRD had to ask Central Saanich to clean them. At the first public meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>, staff said the ditches didn't drain properly and they breed mosquitoes. The thrust of the CRD staff push is to have the public say in the response forms that the ditches should be filled in. **CRD staff did not tell the public that the ditches have been there for 80 years, and that the CRD Parks Committee have instructed them the ditches are to stay.**

Last Monday The Parks & Recreation Committee of **Central Saanich Council** heard a presentation by the CRD, and then by the Friends of Island View Beach that showed up the misleading claims by the CRD. Central Saanich passed this resolution calling on the CRD to prove their data: ***"Central Saanich Parks & Recreation Committee make a request of the CRD to provide references for the scientific data that they have provided in the current plan that is on their web site, and if they can not provide accurate references that it commission a study by an independent firm in order to provide validity on the facts."***

**The remaining CRD public meetings are at 6pm**

- for local residents      **February 3<sup>rd</sup> Heritage Acres – School Meeting Room**
- public                      **February 5<sup>th</sup> Saanich Fairgrounds**

Come on out to these meetings and challenge the CRD to prove their claims.

See us at <http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/>