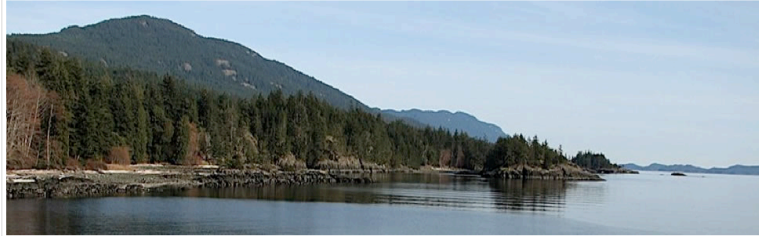


F R I E N D S O F D A V I E B A Y .



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November 23, 2009

Dear Sirs

**Re: Assessment of the significance of the cave and karst at Davie Bay, Texada.  
CEAR reference number 09-01-49595.**

Friends of Davie Bay welcome the action by the ILMB to protect the karst feature, however the map reserve at just 7.8 hectares reflects a "minimum" given to the ILMB on November 3, 2009, when it was made clear at the time that the "minimum" may not be large enough to protect the contiguous karst unit, and that the final size and identity of the reserve can only be drawn up scientifically after a proper and thorough karst assessment. Paul Griffiths, BC's karst specialist, has provided you with a map showing the boundaries of the contiguous karst unit, and he has reinforced his strong representation to you that the identity of the proper cave/karst reserve can only be drawn up after a proper and thorough karst assessment.

The caves and the karst at Davie Bay have been observed as the most extensive and well decorated of all the known caves along the BC Mainland Coast between Washington and Alaska, so worth preserving. The next step is for the ILMB to authorise a full karst assessment to define the contiguous boundary of the karst area by a qualified karst professional, a position fully supported by the Powell River Regional District. When that has been defined, the ILMB, with advice, will be able to draw up the final boundaries of the reserve.

The karst assessment will be just part of the Environmental Review which the Environmental Review Office is legally required to carry out, as the capacity of the infrastructure is above the threshold to trigger an Environmental Assessment under part 3 of the regulation. And, BC as steward of the Crown lands on behalf of the public has an obligation to ensure "highest and best use" of Crown land.

The karst in the Davie Bay area may prove to be of Canadian or international significance, only known however if BC is prepared to authorise a full karst study. Anything less and BC could be exposed scientifically in the global community at this sensitive time and be seen as a party to environmental vandalism. This would occur at the same time the Premier is championing BC's green, environmental and sustainability credentials internationally and the need for knowledge-based industry in BC.

The potential economic benefits of the karst to Texada and BC and the creation of a wider reserve would far outweigh the "benefits" of resource extraction.

We look forward to your response. Thank you

Yours truly,

Richard Fletcher  
Friends of Davie Bay.  
<http://daviebay.com/>

November 23, 2009

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