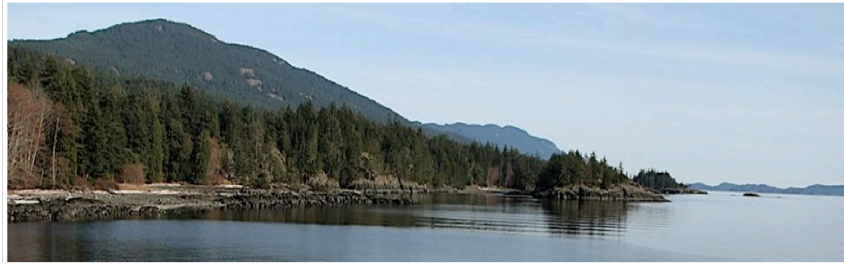


F R I E N D S O F D A V I E B A Y .



Record of Presentation by Friends of Davie Bay to Transport Canada.

Texada South Quarry, CEAR reference 09-01-4959
Wednesday, Feb 10th, 1pm, 800 Burrard Street, Vancouver.

1 Special Land Use Initiative.

There is a new ILMB project to create a “special Land Use Initiative for 5 parcels of Crown Land that contain the quickly disappearing, rare and threatened Coastal Douglas-fir forest (CDF)”. Davie Bay is another such CDF parcel. The designated sensitive sites of Davie Bay are identified on the ILMB map at: HYPERLINK "http://a100.gov.bc.ca/appsdata/acat/documents/r3758/sun_092f059_1130979293332_bf70e627bdd341179d6fadfd56e484d.pdf" http://a100.gov.bc.ca/appsdata/acat/documents/r3758/sun_092f059_1130979293332_bf70e627bdd341179d6fadfd56e484d.pdf.

Only 110 hectares of old growth Coastal Douglas-fir have been protected in the entire province of BC, yet this forest type has one of the highest carbon sink capabilities. Because of its Mediterranean-style climate, with an extended growing season, the biodiversity of the CDF forest rank among the highest in Canada.

2 Special cave and karst above Davie Bay.

There is evidence of substantial cave and karst formations above Davie Bay.

The ILMB has drawn up a provisional Section 16 map reserve of 7.8 hectares in the centre of DL 589 to protect the sensitive karst. Lehigh has now withdrawn all of DL 589 from its application, so we can presume now that the protected area has grown to 35 hectares. However without a full assessment the Province will be in no position to understand the delineation of the karst unit and the value of what is “there”. The Power River Regional District (motion dated Dec 16, 2009) recognizes the caves and karst at Davie Bay as “an island jewel” and has emphatically requested that a karst assessment be carried out by a qualified karst professional.

The Davie and GO/Stromberg creeks, along with the low saddles of wetlands, constitute a large karst drainage system and bring clean, filtered freshwater onto the beaches. The dikes of magma rock mixed in with the limestone essentially create an aquifer for the whole area. Removing the upper ridge of limestone will definitely affect the way water enters into and behaves in that aquifer, and impact most severely on the critical marine habitat in the Bay.

3. Significant impact on fish habitat. Due diligence required by the DFO.

At the February meeting, Scott Northrup DFO was unable to answer our questions about data and parameters used by DFO to decide that the quarry at Davie Bay will not impact fish habitat. The data collected by our consultants indicate that **there will be a significant impact**. There is no precedent in British Columbia for a barge loading facility, such as the one proposed by Lehigh, operating in an RCA. The environmental assessment completed by the marine environmental consultants for Lehigh missed at least one major designated DFO "species of importance": eelgrass beds. *In Canada, eelgrass beds are protected as critical fish habitat under Fisheries and Oceans Canada "no-net" loss policy (Federal Fisheries Act)*. The presence of eelgrass and forage fish habitat near the barge loading facility should have been enough to trigger further site assessment by DFO, based on their matrix below. This is the matrix we asked Scott to explain as regards his decision on Davie Bay. We are still waiting for Scott's reply.

4. Massive scale of the Texada South Quarry facility

The actual scale of the Texada South Quarry is much larger than the indicated 240,000 tonne production, conceded by the applicant. The application documents indicate that a ramp 1.8 meters wide is to be constructed over several concrete pylons **giving a loading rate of 2,500 tonnes per hour capable of servicing a quarry extending over a considerable acreage. Assuming an economic operation of 5 days a week using one shift, means that the production capacity could exceed 5 million tonnes per annum.**

5 20 years supply exist already on Texada

The product from the proposed quarry is not needed on crown land. There is already enough aggregate present in piles on site at the operating and non-operating quarries on Texada for 20 years. There is enough aggregate in the ground at these already disturbed Texada sites (with existing, safe barge-loading facilities NOT in biologically sensitive RCA zones containing eelgrass) for 200 years.

6. Plans for public use and conservation.

There are alternatives for Lehigh's private land if they use the existing aggregate rock on Texada. There are alternative use plans to develop Davie Bay as a marine park, to protect the caves and karst, and create a caves/karst educational center destination site. All private land in the Davie Bay area is zoned as rural residential. Hence Lehigh has the option to subdivide and sell its private land in small residential parcels. At the very least, Lehigh has alternative sites to move the barge loading facility away from the sensitive fish habitat crown land in Davie Bay.

7 Summary

In summary, the crown land at Davie Bay contains an unusual amount of biodiversity. The level of potential destruction to this biodiversity, the natural habitat, the CDF zone, the substantial cave and karst, and the critical fish habitat in Davie Bay cannot be justified by the need for aggregate rock product from this location at this time.

The Canadian Government Stated for the year 2010:

"As we celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity, we encourage Canadians to seek opportunities this year to take action on biodiversity. Your actions, **large or small**, will help to **protect** the abundance and variety of life that is part of our natural heritage."

Governments cannot justify the destruction of the Davie Bay area. Time for action.

James Mack

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February 22, 2010

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Distribution by e-mail

Hon John Baird, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities.

Hon Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment.

Hon Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Hon. Barry Penner, Minister of Environment, BC

Hon Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, BC

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The Suzuki Foundation

West Coast Environmental Law

Sierra Club of B.C.

Malspina Land Trust

Sunshine Coast Conservation Society

The Georgia Strait Alliance

Pacific Stream Keepers

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