

Dr. Richard S. Stanwick

Published: Tuesday, April 11, 2006

Re: Raeside's Cartoon, Saturday, April 8, 2006

Firstly, let me reiterate that I have deliberately and consistently restricted my comments on sewage treatment to public health impacts, my area of expertise.

That being said, Saturday's editorial cartoon on marine effects by Raeside does a great public service by highlighting problems that will not be addressed by sewage treatment as proposed for the Macaulay and Clover Point deep-sea outfalls.

Even with treatment, in times of heavy rainfall, raw sewage will continue to be discharged to the foreshore as accurately depicted by Raeside. This sewage originates from municipalities which have uncorrected "cross connections" that are combined sanitary and storm sewers.

Secondly, the reference to the toxins in second-hand smoke serves to identify another issue that will not be addressed by secondary treatment -- the removal of dissolved chemicals that will be discharged to the ocean environment.

Continuation and further enhancement of the Capital Regional District's aggressive source management program would best address this issue.

Ironically, if secondary sewage treatment plans proceed, this artwork could be run again in five years, but this time with the caption: "So this is what a half a billion dollars buys you."

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