

***SEWAGE TREATMENT*** (Harry Drage and David Langley –May 11, 2009)

1. The CBRA Sewage Treatment Sub-Committee was formed in 2007. Bill Dancer, Harry Drage and David Langley have been active in reporting back to CBRA on the CRD planning process. Irene Stewart and the group have pressed for and have secured recent direct meetings with CRD to try to get straightforward information on potential impacts of sewage treatment on our community.
2. The group has been monitoring and questioning CRD over the last two years; the prime issue is whether a Saanich East plant is really required.
3. We are continuing to pursue these questions including a presentation to be made on behalf of CBRA at the Wed. May 13 CRD Sewage Committee Meeting.
4. That CRD committee is facing a major decision on choosing the best region-wide sewage treatment option at their meeting on May 27.
5. The CRD staff and consultants position is that a Saanich East plant (\$128 million to be spent immediately) is necessary (or desirable) under all of their current regional options.
6. The CBRA Sub-Committee review of information requested from CRD indicates that a much lower-cost option (\$47 million spread over 30 years) could be provided with local storage tanks and/or a pumping facility as an alternative to the treatment plant.
7. This alternative low-cost option would include improvements to deal with current problems where the downstream Oak Bay infrastructure is in bad shape and sewage system overflows can result.
8. This low-cost option, as outlined by CRD staff, would also deal with the concern that sewage volumes from Cadboro Bay, U Vic and Gordon Head could overload the trunk sewer system through to Clover Point.
9. If the CRD decides to build the Saanich East plant, the site size is about 1 ha (300 ft. by 400 ft) with a buffer area around the whole perimeter of about another 100 ft in width.
10. Substantial construction work would be required on the effluent outfall from the plant into the Finnerty Cove area or into the Queenswood waterfront near Guinivere.
11. CRD is considering alternative locations for local treatment plant sites; please note that approx. 1/2 of Haro Woods is now owned by CRD.
12. A CRD public workshop is set for June 11 in Cadboro Bay to talk about possible sites for the treatment plant and the local site selection process.
13. A concerned citizens public meeting is set for May 13 @ 7:00PM at Queenswood Centre.

