

Subject: [Fwd: Fw: North Shore beach pollution]
From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>
Date: Fri, 10 Aug 2007 22:15:09 -0700
To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Fw: North Shore beach pollution
From: Ernie Crist <criste@shaw.ca>
Date: Fri, 10 Aug 2007 12:46:08 -0700
To: fonvca <fonvca@fonvca.org>

The editor:

“Beaches remain unusually clean so far” ...See “News” August, 8. ??? A more appropriate title might have been. “GVRD sampling of sewage saturated waters leads Health Authority to declare North Shore beaches safe”

How is this possible? Not far from Ambleside we are discharging the equivalent of 3000 tanker truck loads of raw sewage into the ocean daily. The toxic and ammonia polluted water can only go east, into the Vancouver Harbour and the Indian Arm if the tide comes in, or west to Ambleside in West Vancouver, if the tide goes out.

Either way, the water, is swished back and forth along our beaches. They are closed only if the level of fecal coliform exceeds 200 units per millilitres of a water sample calculated over a 30 day period. If this is not a bureaucratic gobbledygook and copout I don't know what is.

Water safety standards have been set by the federal government. We might do well to remind ourselves that this is the same government which has refused to ratify KYOTO even though Canada along with the US is the world's biggest per capita polluter.

This is a fact, despite Canada pointing the finger in other directions. We might do well also to remind ourselves that nowhere in the developed world is it legal to return waste water to any water body unless it has received tertiary treatment. A GVRD delegation sent to Europe more than 20 years ago saw first hand the results.

By comparison Lions Gate is a primary treatment facility only. It does not remove any of the toxins, not to speak of the ammonia so deadly to all marine life.

However, while contrary to common sense it may be the GVRD which is conducting the water tests in and around our beaches; it is ultimately the Coastal Health Authority itself which is responsible for the health of North Shore residents. We should keep that in mind

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