

Subject: [Fwd:]
From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>
Date: Tue, 07 Aug 2007 11:04:28 -0700
To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

From: Ernie Crist <criste@shaw.ca>
Date: Tue, 07 Aug 2007 08:23:44 -0700
To: fonvca <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Why have North Shore beaches not been closed this year?

This is one of the very few summers that swimming at the beaches in North and West Vancouver has not been prohibited. Judging by its appearance, the water is just as unfit for swimming as it was in most previous years. If so then what is the reason for putting the public at risk? Is it to avoid adverse publicity in preparation for the Olympics? Should this be the case then it is totally irresponsible. It would beg the question who put pressure on the Health Authority to do the unconscionable. Who would have the power and be so calculating as to play Russian roulette with the public's health.

The Lions Gate sewage plant is but a short distance from Ambleside and the West Vancouver seawall. Raw sewage at Lions Gate treatment facility is subjected to primary treatment only. Primary treatment is nothing more than cosmetic. Only solids are removed. Everything else, including harmful bacteria and the toxins, remains untreated. It even includes ammonia which is deadly to marine life.

No less than the equivalent of 3000 tanker trucks of untreated sewage is being poured into the ocean each and every day at Lions Gate.

As for Deep Cove?...It too is vulnerable. All the drainage waters from the residential areas above the Cove are converging into Indian Arm. The Cove, because of its isolation, has but a small flushing capacity. The many pleasure boats are also a factor. Also, there appears to be little if any enforcement of existing rules for holding tanks on boats.

At the very least, North Shore residents deserve to be informed whether it is safe to swim and so do tourists. If the North Shore Health Department is doing its job diligently and has found that there is no risk, then it should state so in the local press. Surely the public is entitled to know, not to mention visitors who must be wondering about the scum and sludge visible in the water.

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