

[Follow up email Jul 28, 2023 ]

Cowichan Watershed Board,

Thank you for the notice of agenda for Monday, July 31st. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend. A brief update on the dumping situation since last month is that it continues with an unabated vengeance. Reportedly, some material is coming from over the Malahat. One Khenipsen Road neighbour has informed me that they witnessed a derelict travel trailer dumped over the edge! This is no way to treat a wetland on the edge of a critically important salmon-bearing estuary.

I reiterate my concern and thank the Watershed Board for its efforts to daylight this stark watershed sacrilege.

Respectfully,

Roger Wiles

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## **Public Input to Cowichan Watershed Board**

By: Roger Wiles (26 June 2023)

Thank you for this opportunity for public input.

My name is Roger Wiles and I am here speaking out of concern for watershed values. I come to you because the Cowichan Watershed Board has earned a singular reputation. You are at the nexus of all issues relating to regional watershed health.

In February I noticed a parade of dump trucks stopping in the vicinity of 1725 Tzouhalem Road. This dumping site is on the edge of a steep escarpment that falls away into a complex of wetlands associated with Tzouhalem Creek. This drainage feeds directly into fish-bearing Cowichan estuary waters. This dumping site is within short metres of the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Chase Woods nature preserve. It is here that in recent years, and in collaboration with Cowichan Tribes, a significant wetland habitat restoration has been accomplished. Great expense and

community volunteer labour was deployed in its execution.

In March I alerted the Nature Conservancy to this dumping threat and they in turn delivered their concerns to the Municipality of North Cowichan and Cowichan Tribes. Since that time repeated attempts have been made to learn why this is happening — and why here of all places.

In answer to my inquiries, I have received only silence. Community speculation and hearsay is rampant but there have been no reasonable and attributable explanations.

I ask the Board to help solve this puzzling silence. Why are valuable wetlands being destroyed? Specifically, I ask you to find and publicly report:

- 1 By what authority this dumping is permitted?
- 2 Has there been any formal environmental impact assessment?
- 3 Is any of the dumped material contaminated?
- 4 Are any environmental mitigation measures in place?

Thank you for your watershed leadership in this matter.