

Pamela Martin

From: Wayne Cox [REDACTED]
Sent: May 9, 2025 2:53 PM
To: Municipal Hall; crdboard@crd.bc.ca; asktheboard@islandhealth.ca
Cc: 'Jason Austin'; Tom Michell; Anne McFarlane; Cathy & Peter Weston; Elizabeth & Richard Barker; Jim & Norma Chistou; John & Lynn Stevenson; Joy & Michael Zwicker; Lawrie McFarlane; Michael Zwicker; Mike Barron ; Myrna Cox ; Randy Baidwan; Richard Barker; Rosemary & Geoff Gaunt; Tony & Ying Sun; Wendy & Michael Moulding; 'Barbara Powell'; Carol Best; 'Cooper, Tracy J TRAN:EX'; 'David and Karen Harris'; 'George Kruzynski'; 'Jackie Goodwin'; 'Jim Laite'; 'Ralph DeLisle'; 'Ted Murray'; Wayne Cox
Subject: Island View Beach - saltwater mosquitoes

Dear members of Council and Board members of the CRD and Island Health Authority,

I am writing regarding the saltwater mosquitoes from Island View Beach.

My name is Wayne Cox and I reside at 7006 Island View Place, Saanichton. I am president of a 12 unit bare land strata of single family homes and I have been directed by our strata to contact Central Saanich, the CRD and the Vancouver Island Health Authority about our continuing concerns about saltwater mosquitoes emanating from the Tsawout lands and Island View Beach Regional Park. The mosquitoes have increased during the past several years and in addition to them being an extreme nuisance to homeowners and local farmers, we have health concerns regarding increasing climate change and possible effects that could result in mosquitoes carrying harmful disease.

This is not a new problem. I understand that the Friends of Island View Beach (FOIVB) have been raising the issue for about 14 years. Ditch clearing resolved the problem some years back but the clearing was poorly executed and now the ditches are in poor condition to drain. The most recent efforts resulted in a meeting held April 12, 2023 at the Tsawout Administration Building. The meeting was well attended by representatives from Central Saanich, CRD, FOIVB, Tsawout, and consultants such as the mosquito control contractor. FOIVB gave a power point presentation showing the ditch system and the flooding of land as a result of the ditches overflowing. The presentation was followed by various consultants and other attendees. It was a lovely meeting, it's just that nothing came out of it. We were advised that record amounts of larvicide have been used but when the ditches overflow and flood large portions of the land it becomes impossible to effectively control the mosquitoes. Together, Central Saanich and the CRD spend many tens of thousands of dollars a year on larvicide and it is simply not effective.

Last July 2024, Jason Austin and I met with Dale Pukas, Director of Engineering, District of Central Saanich to explore several ideas we had to combat the problem. We know what the problem is – saltwater accesses the Tsawout lands through a flapper gate, travels up the ditch and overflows at the intersection of the Tsawout lands, the CRD Park and what was Puckle Farm. Puckle Farm has been acquired by the Tsawout. We discussed ideas of ensuring the present flapper gate continues to work, proposing an additional flapper gate midway up the ditch, digging a ditch about 100 ft from the offending ditch to tie in with the Park ditch system or possibly filling in the ditch. To my knowledge no action has been taken and the mosquitoes continue to worsen. A neighbour on my street advised me today that this year is the worst yet.

I can appreciate that solutions could be complicated due to the number of jurisdictions involved. Even in the case of the Tsawout I understand that the problem ditch is on land that is not Tsawout communal land but owned by individual band members. However, as difficult as this may be, it is long past time to find an effective solution. I used to monitor the Tsawout flapper gate from time to time to ensure it was not stuck open with a log. I haven't been able to drive for the past year for health reasons so I do not know the status of the flapper gate.

I believe there are solutions to this problem and they need not be expensive. It's simply someone needs to carry the ball on this and deal with the multiple parties. Now that this year's breeding season is upon us it means that we will have to continue to suffer through into the fall. Please take action before it becomes a bigger problem of mosquito borne disease.

Yours truly,

Wayne Cox

7006 Island View Place

Saanichton, BC, V8M 2J6



"The information contained in this transmission may contain privileged and confidential information of the District of Central Saanich. It is intended for review only by the person(s) named above. Dissemination, distribution or duplication of this communication is strictly prohibited by all recipients unless expressly authorized otherwise. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message. Thank you."