

Each developer must account for every tree he or she cuts down. If we haven't come too late to the environment but these trees are not only our salvation, our beauty, our glory but the health of our nation. The environmentalists have woken us to their health benefits.

Paying men to cut down trees? Losing their salaries? Making their living by taking our trees? Let them make their living at something else. Are they Americans? Let them go home and work with their own trees. Trees should have UNESCO World Heritage status. The greatest environmental damage to our climate is clear cutting - of Amazon forests and smaller forests like those on Vancouver Island. Clearcutting trees deteriorates our climate and our health. Developers should be forced to compensate for clearcutting by reforestation and carbon taxed for the deprivation to the environment. Not many people have the force of character of Premier Brian Peckford on Crescent West, Qualicum Beach, who insisted on not a tree on his property being touched. Even replanting takes a generation for a tree to regrow but if the B.C. government continues allowing developers to clearcut sites without reforestation this Island will be bald, ruined.

A large portion of the tree canopy is on private property. The Town with the help of the province must manage trees on these properties while considering private property rights.

We need government to defend BC forests against foreign, US and local exploitation. So called developers and private landowners need to be discouraged by fines. We need green developers only.

Although the B.C. government is reviewing how logging occurs on private lands and hopes to have recommendations by this fall. On private land, B.C.'s weak regulations under the Private Managed Forest Land Act give endangered species like the whitebark no protection at all, and private landowners and their developers the right to clearcut our sites and demolish our green canopy.

Forest should be the first issue in the French Creek Estates Ltd. sale of one hectare (2.47 acres) of French Creek Estuary Land to Elkay Developments Ltd. of Surrey, BC. on the ocean front is only Phase 1 of Elkay's plans. Their President has stated there are plans for Phase 2 & 3, developing strata lots for 50 or more houses. It's time our politicians protected this ecologically special place. Trees? Wildlife? Shore protection?

CanWel Fibre owns approximately 136,000 acres of private timberland, according to its website, much of it in the Elk Valley. Goodbye trees? Goodbye forests?

Help!

Cecil Bosher