



APE Update

Just taking a moment to bring you up to speed on APE's activities before summer sets in and your time is taken up with beaches, barbeques, lakeside vacations and all that other fun stuff.

First of all, you may have read in the newspaper that Roger, Mary, Susan, Georgine (SDSS student) and myself had a meeting in Victoria last month. We met with four provincial cabinet ministers (Transportation, Environment, Agriculture and Intergovernmental Relations). Our presentation focused on the many environmental risks and issues associated with Deltaport expansion and the lack of business justification to continue expanding when there is plenty of port capacity at other BC ports. We came away from the meeting recognizing that the issues we raised received little or no argument from the Ministers or their staff. Indeed it was "egg on his face" to have one of the Ministers question the accuracy of our numbers at which point we pulled out the B.C. Government report which provided the numbers. We subsequently sent them a recent report from Prince Rupert confirming the numbers.

APE has been invited to set up a display in the 2007 Car-Free Commercial Drive Festival, which had an estimated 50,000 visitors last year. The dates of this year's festival are June 17th and July 22nd, from 11am to 6pm both days. This is an excellent opportunity to get our message out to other Lower Mainland communities. The ill-effects of Deltaport operations will be felt far beyond Delta. **Please let me know if you can put in a shift on either of these days. The more people we have, the shorter the shifts will be.**

Thanks to an anonymous donation, APE is working on a newspaper which will be a follow-up to the "Gateway to Global Warming" paper released a couple of months ago. This edition will focus on Terminal 2, as well as the significant loss of farmland to container storage, railyards, railways and highways.

Our neighbours to the south have been busy putting pressure on their state politicians to get involved with the Deltaport expansion issue. The Point

Roberts Voters Association has been in communication with Governor Chris Gregoire who is scheduled to meet with Gordon Campbell in early June.

Meanwhile, a teacher from a local college invited APE to speak to his environmental law class about the Deltaport expansion issues. Each year the class takes on a new project to research and get involved in. The presentation was well received so we're hoping Deltaport will become the next class project.

Please make a point of keeping informed of what's happening over the summer.....even better if we could keep the letters to the editor coming. There have been some excellent letters lately. The more new names involved, the better. We are at the 11th hour. Terminal 2 is rumoured to be in the starting gate. Now that the public comment period has ended for the South Fraser Perimeter Road, we're waiting to see what the next announcement will be. It is still unclear where the money will come from to pay for that road, should it be approved. As taxpayers, we should all be tuning in to that specific issue. We could be on the hook for the demise of our own living space!

I cannot stress this enough.....the only thing that's going to stop the destruction of our community is a huge public outcry. Scientists have already concluded that further expansion on Roberts Bank is too high of an environmental risk. That's a conclusion, not an opinion! By the same token, proponents of Gateway's South Fraser Perimeter Road, which is being constructed to service Deltaport, are justifying the detrimental effects the SFPR will have on Delta's air quality by touting the increase of jobs it will generate in the medical industry due to respiratory diseases and cancer. This is the same government who is deciding whether or not the project should be given approval!

We have got to find the trigger that will detonate the public's passion for preserving the type of life we all brag about in the Lower Mainland. To become Canada's great Gateway to the East, we will give up our clean air, fertile farmland, human health, environmental health and billions of taxpayers dollars. We need to broadcast that message far and wide.

Again, please stay in touch.....and keep on talking!

...Liz Gough