



APE Update.....

A couple of things....

In case you missed the article in the Delta Optimist, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority has now selected a partner for Terminal 2 at Deltaport. It's important to note that Terminal 2 (T2) is a whole new 3-berth terminal, separate from the existing Deltaport facility which is currently expanding to three berths. All this expansion will take us from 2 berths to 6 berths! APE will be putting in a request to Delta Council to strongly oppose construction of the second terminal on Roberts Bank. The barn door hasn't quite opened on this one yet, so there's still time to stop the horse! Please stay tuned for more details.

On Sunday, April 27th, the Burns Bog Conservation Society is holding a public forum at Delta Municipal Hall, from 1:30-4pm. This event is part of Earth Week, and it celebrates Delta's own international treasure.....Burns Bog. There will be guest speakers, displays and an open question period.....all related to the importance of protecting the Bog. What does this have to do with APE, you ask? Well, the South Fraser Perimeter Road (SFPR) runs through a portion of Burns Bog, incurring detrimental impacts on this extremely important ecological system. The public needs to make the connection between the SFPR and Deltaport development. Plain and simple, the SFPR is being constructed because of the increase in truck movements generated by Terminal 2. The scary truth is that if this truck superhighway is built.....there will be no stopping Terminal 2. The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority has stated that without Terminal 2, the SFPR is not needed. Folks, if this highway gets approval, it paves the way for T2. Therefore, we must do what we can to support those who are opposing the SFPR.

One has to wonder why the heck the provincial and federal governments are foisting further port expansion on Roberts Bank when scientists, including Environment Canada's own scientists, continually publish their concerns about the damage that's being done to bird and wildlife habitat on Roberts Bank. Most recently, an international team of scientists have discovered the importance of the Roberts Bank mud flats to Western Sandpipers, a tiny shorebird that touches down in this specific area every Spring. The following article has been showing up on websites all over the

world: <http://www.canada.com/theprovince/news/story.html?id=4d5481d6-394c-4a01-91a6-0a3096fefbde&k=79207>

The Port Action Awareness Group has been conducting their own telephone survey regarding Deltaport expansion plans. They're looking to get an unbiased sampling of how South Delta residents feel about port development, and the infrastructure required to support it.....(i.e. SFPR, container storage facilities, and 17-track railyards). As a telephone survey is a very large undertaking, they're wondering if anyone is interested in helping out with the phone calling. Those who have already made some calls have been finding that 9 out of 10 residents are strongly opposed to further port development. Please contact Perry Long at portstop@dccnet.com if you're able to help out.

Finally, I hope you all had a chance to read Ian Robertson's column in Saturday's Optimist. To quote the author, "What is being proposed could really screw up our lifestyle here", referring to port expansion and the related infrastructure. The last line of this column is what we really need to pay attention to: **"IT'S TIME TO GET ANGRY!"** Yes, indeed, that time has come. Delta residents should be banging down the parliamentary doors of Victoria and Ottawa to find out why port development on Roberts Bank hasn't been ceased! Science has proven the environmental risk is far too high; the governments' own projected forecasts for container throughput have verified there is enough capacity on BC's west coast to handle what's coming (and more) without further expansion in Delta. There is absolutely no business justification to expand this port; yet the provincial and federal governments are willing to spend billions of tax dollars on it! Could all this be happening so that port business from Vancouver's inner harbour be shifted over to Delta? Could that be where the "needed" numbers will come from? Waterfront land in Vancouver makes for some very profitable real estate development. Yes, indeed.....**"IT'S TIME TO GET ANGRY!"** Please do what you can to enlighten others on the details of what's happening. It's going to take a massive public effort to get this pendulum swinging in the other direction.....but I believe it can be done. We have science and business sense behind us. Now all we need is people.....a gigantic mass of citizens, banded together delivering a very clear message.....ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! NO MORE PORT DEVELOPMENT ON ROBERTS BANK!

Again, please start talking and educating your friends, family and neighbours. APE has plenty of copies of the last paper we sent out.....an excellent tool for demonstrating all the related issues. (Let me know if you'd like a few copies.) Ask people if they want to be added to our contact list, as there will be a call to action at some point soon. We've got to build a mass! We've got to think positive, and act united! Numbers, numbers, numbers.....that's what we need!

...Liz