

Nick Doe, *Water levels connect, minds of officialdom ... not so much*, The Flying Shingle, p.8, October 3, 2011.

Dear Editor

Isn't it odd that while the Province does not regulate the extraction of groundwater, it is nevertheless requiring local governments to implement riparian area regulations (RAR) to protect watersheds. There seems to be an ongoing disconnect in the minds of officialdom between surface water and groundwater; yet, the sometimes intimate connection between the two is well known to all hydrologists. If you lower the water table, you affect the flow of water in streams. It's not rocket science.

There can be no better illustration of this than in Lock Bay, where Castell Brook is largely sourced from water from aquifers at the Gabriola-Spray and Geoffrey-Northumberland Formation interfaces. How can you possibly protect Castell Brook without giving any consideration to groundwater extraction at or near its source? I understand that regulation of surface water and groundwater were historically kept quite separate in many jurisdictions, and that there are deeply entrenched legalities involved, but isn't it time to unravel these and do away with such absurdities?

What's vaguely amusing amidst all of this is that I noticed in last week's two Gabriola newspapers, the Sounder covered the RAR issue, and the Shingle covered the non-regulation of groundwater issue, but neither article made mention of the subject matter of the other.

Sincerely

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