

Gravel not park for Producer Pit property

Construction Aggregates Ltd. is not prepared to dedicate Murray's Pond in Colwood as a park, but the matter will be taken further by the Capital Regional District.

The company is currently taking gravel from its gravel property on which the pond is

located. The area had been used for recreation and community groups had asked that the pond and surrounding woods be retained in their natural state as a park.

The company will be urged by the CRD to reconsider its decision because if sometime in the future houses are planned for the area, park land dedication could be a condition of rezoning.

The pond is identified on the Colwood settlement plan as an environmental conservation area and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources will be asked by the CRD why a mining permit was issued for a conservation area.

"Perhaps it was an oversight on their part. They should have looked into local wishes," said Lois Gardner who spearheaded petitions and protests against the gravel extraction.

"I think that should be pursued. I would like clarification as to whether it was a gross oversight on the Ministry's end," said Langford director Rick Kasper.

The pond is a geological kettle or sink. According to Jim Masterton, CRD electoral area

services manager, it is understood the land will eventually be developed by Genstar after gravel extraction is completed.

"It won't be the same kind of park if it has been quarried out

and lowered a couple of hundred feet," said Colwood director, David Krauel. "They are not making these sort of kettles any more — and I hope they're not going to be in the near future."

A letter from Construction Aggregates to the CRD speculated that to preserve the water in Murray's Pond would require dedication of well over 50 acres of land. "I believe our

company has done quite enough in terms of land dedication. We need the remaining land to satisfy our shareholders, whose investment is now committed," stated the letter.