

**Letters to the Gazette should be addressed to the editor, be signed, and include your name, address and telephone number. We will not accept photocopies or letters addressed to others. Letters may be edited.**

**Editor:**

Re your article (Save Our Swamps) on page B3 of your May 5th issue.

I think a few inaccuracies should be cleared up.

First it is not a swamp. It is only a pond during part of the year and mudflat during the dry weather.

In January there may be water 12 feet deep, by October it is usually dry and fills up after the heavy rains. It is really an old glacial kettle, where a large piece of ice was left in the glacial period and which melted and left a deep hollow at the end of the ice age.

Secondly, "Our Swamp" has been on private property for at least the last 50 years, and probably for the last hundred years. So that anyone going to the pond would actually be trespassing, although until people started dumping garbage on the property, no one complained.

And it is being fenced partly on that account, and partly to safeguard the machinery used in the gravel pit. Not because it is owned by Genstar Corporation. The property was partly fenced several years ago when I think it was owned by Evans Coleman.

It was only a short time until someone had cut that fence in several places, although only the old gravel pit and not the pond that was fenced. The new fence is wholly on the property, not even to the boundaries.

A paper was left at our house today, giving the location of the pond as at the corner of Dressler and Wishart Roads. That location is out by about half a mile, as the pond is on Section 39 and Section 38 lies between

Section 39 and Dressler Road.

Also, according to your article the pond is on the edge of the land cleared for the present gravel pit. It is nearly a quarter of a mile from that clearing, as the cleared area is on the southeast part of Section 39.

Last September, someone had a drinking party by the pond and left a fire burning, which burned under three big cedars and an area nearly 20 feet square by the time the Colwood Fire Department reached there, although they were there early in the morning.

Had they not got there early that fire would have gone up those cedar trees and as it was a hot day that fire could easily have burned out a large part of Colwood. It was a good thing that the pond had not dried up at the time, so the firemen could pump from the pond.

In your paper, sometime last winter, there was an article about the gravel pit on Galloway Road. Then, the big complaint was that gravel pit was not fenced and was dangerous for children. Now, the complaint is that Fenstar are fencing their pit.

Two years ago, when Genstar had plans for subdividing the section on the west side of Wishart Road, and were proposing to build a sewage disposal plant on section 38, some people said the sewage would go into the pond.

The topography is such that the run-off does not run in that complained that there would be a bad smell. If the sewage disposal plant were to built similar to the one in Kelowna, there would be neither noise or smell.

Again, some said it would raise the water table in the area of Dressler and Painter Roads.

That, in my estimation, is also in error, as any drainage would be to the old sandpit, the bottom of which is about a hundred feet lower than any of the subdivisions around there.

At least, a proper sewage disposal plant is better than either the City of Victoria or the Regional Board seem to be able to come up with. And, as far as I know no other developer in this area has done anything about sewage other than dump it into the Straits.

Lois Gardner wants the Regional Board to buy 35 acres

out the property. Does she want to pay for it? At the present inflated prices this would cost over seven million dollars.

I think she should wait and see what her taxes are going to be this year, before she asks the Regional Board for anything.

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*Goldstream Bog.*

*May 12/82*