

## **Anecdotal information about Paq Creek/Lily Lake**

**Don White** regarding the collection of sea run cutthroat trout in Lily Lake/Paq Creek

I can't remember how long ago they were running the program I think it was sea run cutthroat they were trapping. I did talk to the crew one year they are the ones that told me that Lily Lake trout were extra large. When I was a boy I did catch trout there and they were quite large but not good to eat tasted swampy. I guess the trout hatchery in the Fraser valley is still operating they might have some records. I remember seeing salmon in the lower portion of the creek likely dog salmon. There is a family that grew up at the Oak Tree store Martin Anderson and Ruby Anderson Martin would know more he and I fished the creek.

**Howard White**

The school district let several big contracts to expand and raise the grounds over the years. It used to flood at high tide. My dad did some early work but it wasn't him who covered the creek. It might have been Wilf Harper. Maybe Johnny Divall or Bev would know. They lived down there and worked with Wilf. I seem to remember big piles of wet logs being yarded out of the muck and whoever it was splitting up a lot of cedar like they did for logging road culverts.

Thing is, it wasn't much of a creek, more of a long swamp full of skunk cabbage. As to time I'd say early 1970s. The shopping centre was built then and they culverted their section around 1974-5.

**Jim Cameron**, via Cathy Jenks of the Pender Harbour Living Heritage Society

I remember seeing something about the filling in of the field. I believe a large portion of the field belonged to the community club originally so if the old minutes of the community club are available there may be something there. I don't think there is much pipe through there. I think the creek is lined with cement slabs and covered with planks. About 20 years ago there was a lot of fill put on the field to raise it and I understand the machine broke through a couple times. There is no way we would take a fire truck across the field.

I only found a little bit of Community Club material. By the late 60's when I think the concrete was installed I don't think my father was active in the running of the Community Club. At that time he was very involved with the South Pender Harbour water system. I do remember my father telling the story of diverting the creek more than once. Originally the creek ran in a big loop towards Madeira Marina. A blaster was hired or maybe volunteered his time I don't know. Ditching powder was used and the concussion of one stick of power sets off the next one in line. My father helped and they walked in a straight line using a steel rod to poke a hole in the ground every 2 feet and placing in sticks of powder. When that was done the first stick was ignited and the trees fell in both directions and the creek had been moved into its current channel. Couldn't do that today. I did find this relating to the field which I have attached. One is in pencil and is hard to read and I think the other must be the draft of a letter.

### **Doris Philips**

Doris Philips was one of the first to attend the new Madeira Park Elementary school when it opened. Regarding the school field, she explained, "When school started, they had cleaned out the grass and bulrushes from the field, but they didn't get it finished in time for school. They may have had a few loads of fill but the field filled up with water over the winter and it was a cold winter, so we ice skated on the field.

One year a beaver built a dam at Lagoon Road and plugged up the culvert completely. The whole school ground was completely flooded all the way up to the Legion. So when they got a backhoe in there and reached in and took out the beaver dam, they had to have a chain link fence around it because it was just a huge, big eddy slurping down going under the road there. For several years, the field was always wet and at some point, they dug it up and put drains in.

One year, I think it was the end of November or the beginning December, I was walking along the road and I heard this splashing and looked down at the creek between the lake and the Oak Tree Market and there was a salmon making its way upstream.

Wilf Harper had the property where the fire hall is now and the properties down past the post office. It was also swamp, but he filled all that in and put in a road and built a gas station where the firehall is now and put in a hardware store where the post office is now.