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# VIEWPOINT

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## OUR VIEW

# Contaminated site for sore eyes

Residents are right to be skeptical about any cleanup of Reay Creek pond, no matter who might be overseeing the operation.

But while it's easy to lay blame, people who live along the creek and next to the pond are moving beyond their frustration, to their credit, with an eye on reaching a solution.

It has taken more than 15 years to reach a point where probably the largest concentration of heavy metal contaminants — the sediment in Reay Creek pond — is about to be addressed. Many of the people involved in this case, from conservationists to local politicians, have known there was contamination since testing done in 1998. That knowledge is likely to go back even further for some people, as the area has been used as an industrial site for decades, since the airport was first built in the 1930s.

The Victoria Airport Authority spent a lot of time and money to remediate the portion of the creek that flows through their property and by all accounts is willing to play a role in further cleanup. While they must be credited for taking responsibility where they can, it must be pointed out that the airport land is still industrial — a fact clearly illustrated in a spill of chemicals at Viking Air last month. In some respects, then, the issue may persist for decades more.

Sidney is publicly stepping up as the leader in this effort, as the pond itself is on their side of Canora Road. Their challenge will be to get the airport authority, District of North Saanich and the previous land owners, Transport Canada, to all come to the table.

If anything is to be accomplished, those parties will have to sit down and come to some sort of agreement. Residents are right when they say Sidney should not wait but take the bull by the horns and make the overtures on their own. Work co-operatively, yes, but take that leadership role to a higher level.

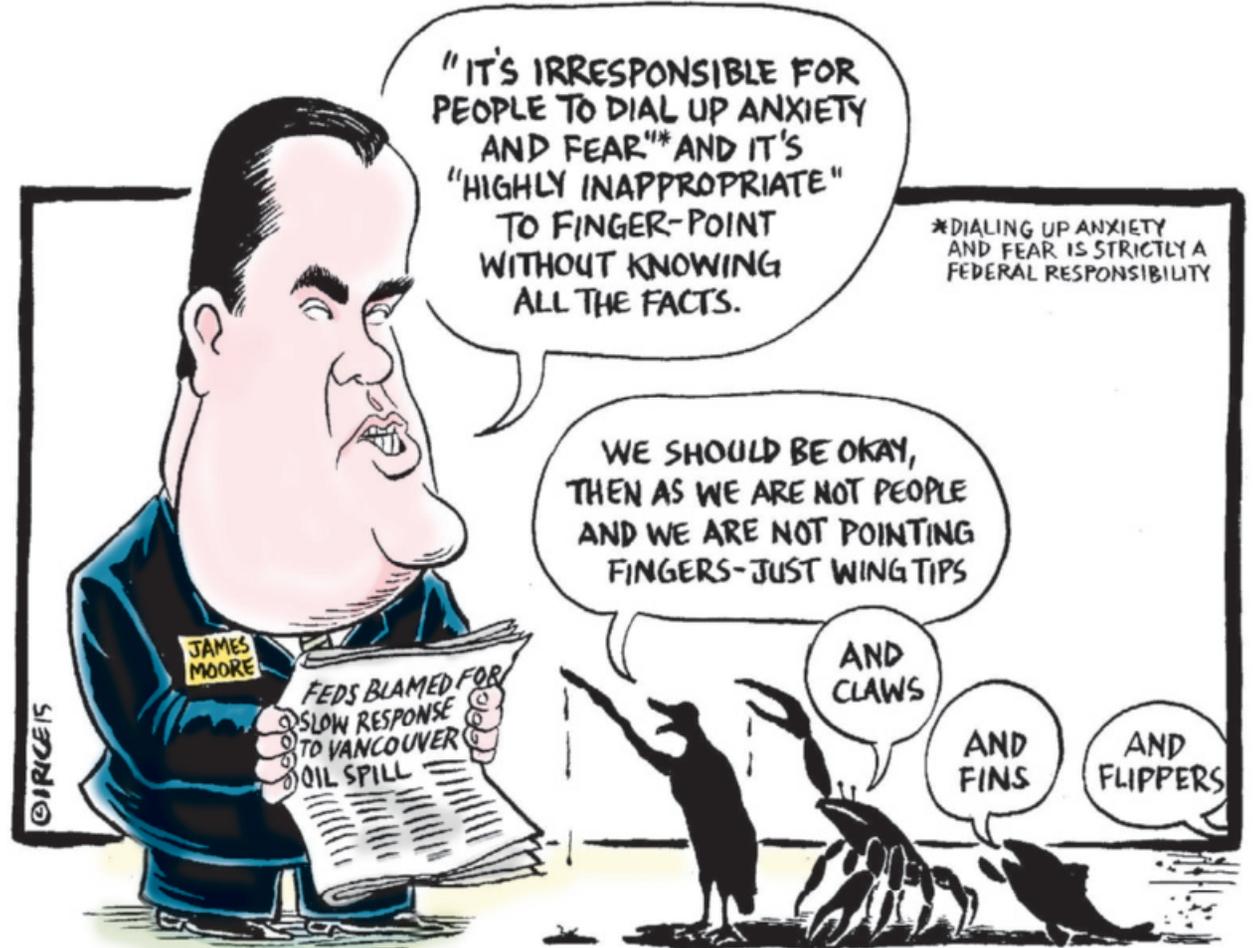
Cleaning up the area will cost a lot more than the \$40,000 allocated in Sidney's budget this year, so it's unlikely the Town will go on its own as a result. The expense, in the end, may push any action back a year or two and Sidney is clear in saying so.

Yet, by putting themselves out there in the lead role, Sidney will have to expect residents will be there, waiting, while the pond remains a contaminated site in need of help.

**What do you think?** Give us your comments by e-mail: [editor@peninsulanewsreview.com](mailto:editor@peninsulanewsreview.com) or fax 250-656-5526. All letters must have a name and a telephone number for verification.

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## YOUR VIEW

# Not all Canadians support Harper's war

The Government of Canada is taking liberty with my freedom of speech when they make public announcements that Canadians support their decision to extend their war against ICIS.

This is one Canadian who does not support the Conservative's Foreign Policy.

Mr. Harper's majority has obviously inflated his importance in the world. How many Canadians are wondering what is the bigger threat to our safety and the democracy? Is it the overinflated arrogance of this majority government or radicals who are reacting to the west?

The argument and support the Conservatives claim to have is not what is being reported in the news when NATO and the United States are not supporting Mr. Harper in his independent engagement.

Millions of Canadians do not support this war and I would urge every Canadian to write your MP and the PM and tell them if you support this or if you are like millions of us who do not! They do not have the right to claim all Canadians support this war.

**Jo-Anne Berezanski**  
 North Saanich

## Environmental responsibility

I see that there are people who want Sidney to adopt the meaningless 'environmental right' to clean air and water and to consume safe food.

Do we not have any responsibilities any more? Is it not our respon-

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should discuss issues and stories that have been covered in the pages of the News Review.

Please keep letters to less than 300 words.

We reserve the right to edit letters for style, legality, length and taste.

The News Review will not print anonymous letters.

Please enclose your phone number for verification of your letter's authenticity. Phone numbers are not printed.

Send your letters to:

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sibility to consume nourishing food rather than junk food?

How about the individual responsibility of walking more and driving less, thereby doing something for both our health and for the environment?

**H. Voermann**  
 Sidney

## What is B.C.'s grand treaty plan?

Re: Treaty trouble has deep roots (B.C. Views, March 31).

No one would disagree that the B.C. treaty process hasn't been as successful as hoped. Indeed, there are also many First Nations who think it is the wrong process of reconciliation altogether.

However, that doesn't excuse Premier Christy Clark's recent decision to blindsight B.C.'s treaty partners by refusing to appoint George Abbott as head of the B.C. Treaty Commission.

Although it might be comforting to think that Premier Clark's reckless behaviour was done in consultation with the federal government, there is simply no evidence to suggest that.

If the B.C. Liberal government has a grand plan for reinventing the treaty process, they aren't sharing it with any of their constitutional partners.

B.C.'s approach to reconciliation needs to be re-energized so that First Nations, resource workers and those seeking to bring new investment to B.C. can have certainty. This means not only fixing the treaty process, but doing more work to find a way forward with First Nations who have chosen a different path. That means working together, not going it alone.

**Scott Fraser, NDP spokesperson for Aboriginal Relations and MLA for Alberni-Pacific Rim**

Let your voice be heard. Send your thoughts to [editor@peninsulanewsreview.com](mailto:editor@peninsulanewsreview.com)