

# Town cautious about Bowker Creek co-ordinator

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Oak Bay politicians want a progress report from the CRD before funding an environmental co-ordinator past 2006.

For the past few years, the Capital Regional District (CRD) has steadily worked away at implementing the Bowker Creek Urban Watershed Renewal Initiative - a restoration project intended to protect and enhance one of Greater Victoria's major

urban waterways.

Bowker Creek runs through Saanich, Victoria and Oak Bay before emptying into the sea near Glenlyon-Norfolk School. As part of its commitment to the project, the municipality of Oak Bay kicked in about \$9,225 in both 2004 and 2005 to help pay for a watershed implementation co-ordinator, who helps oversee the remediation work and educate the public about what's being done along the waterway.

The CRD Environmental Services department approached Oak Bay council Oct. 12 to confirm monetary support for 2006 and also to suggest that the funding be extended to 2007.

Coun. John Herbert noted at the Oct. 24 meeting that Oak Bay had initially only committed to a three-year term for the co-ordinator position (2004-2006). He added that the municipality should ask for an update on the project and how effective of the co-ordinator has

been before signing up for another year. Several councillors agreed with Herbert that most of the work has taken place in Saanich so far, but that the project would eventually benefit stretches of Bowker Creek in all three municipalities.

Council voted to approve \$9,456 in funding for 2006, but to ask the CRD for a progress report before committing additional money for 2007 and beyond.

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