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To Honourable Madam Justice Fitzpatrick,

Sierra Club of BC Foundation strongly supports the work of the Friends of Maltby Lake Watershed Society in the efforts to secure the biodiversity and ecological integrity of the Maltby Lake watershed. Maltby Lake should be preserved for its incredible ecological integrity and ecosystem function as understood by The Friends of Maltby Lake Watershed Society and the Habitat Acquisition Trust.

The lake system is likely the only remaining intact freshwater riparian zone in Saanich and its value is as an undivided land parcel. A total of 46 sites were suggested by 15 residents and the Natural History Society with Maltby Lake being nominated 10 times for the Saanich Environmentally Significant Areas Mapping Project in June 2012. It is a local treasure with world-class value.

We at Sierra Club BC feel that Maltby Lake's pristine lake water and biodiversity are astounding considering its proximity to local metropolitan development. This compounds its conservation value exponentially as development increases in the area. The presence of freshwater jellyfish, freshwater sponges, 600+ year old Douglas Fir trees, protected Yew trees, beavers, many orchid species, camas meadows and protected Garry Oak Ecosystems make the property virtually impossible to further develop without contaminating the riparian areas or protected plant species.

To date 40 species of breeding birds have been identified as present at Maltby Lake. This concentration is highly unique, and may be servicing bird populations in surrounding areas. This is likely due to the fact that 75% of the whole land parcel is wetland freshwater riparian ecosystems serving high biodiversity function for birds and other species.

Sierra Club BC is a non-profit environmental organization whose mission is to protect and conserve British Columbia's wilderness, species and ecosystems within the urgent context of global warming impacts. We advocate the responsible use of BC's natural resources while promoting a modern, equitable economy that sustains our planet in every way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Peart". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bob Peart
Executive Director, Sierra Club BC Foundation