

July 25, 2008



4-7953 120th Street  
Delta, BC V4C 6P6  
Tel: 604.572.0373  
Fax: 604.572.0374  
Toll Free: 1.888.850.6264  
Email: [info@burnsbog.org](mailto:info@burnsbog.org)  
Website: [www.burnsbog.org](http://www.burnsbog.org)

Dr. Hans Joosten  
International Mire Conservation Group

Dr. Joosten:

The Burns Bog Conservation Society ([www.burnsbog.org](http://www.burnsbog.org)) is a twenty-year-old organization set up in 1988 dedicated to the conservation and protection of Burns Bog. Burns Bog is the largest raised peat bog on the west coast of the Americas. Dr. David Bellamy has identified it and others as the only estuarine raised peat bog found in a Mediterranean climate. The estuary is the Fraser River Delta.

Peat harvesting took place from the 1940s to the early 1980s. Since then, according to Dr. Bellamy, it has shown a remarkable ability to regenerate. Eleven sphagnum mosses were identified in the Burns Bog Ecosystem Review in 2000.

Dr. Richard Hebda, the only person to conduct work for a doctoral thesis on Burns Bog, calls it an "island of subarctica in a southern clime." This is due to the many subarctic plant species found in Burns Bog. In addition, it is home to many rare and endangered plants and animals. These include the Greater Sandhill crane, the Green Heron, the Southern Red-backed vole and the Pacific Water Shrew.

The plans to build the South Fraser Perimeter Road around the Conservation area and through unprotected bog have raised the concerns of local citizens and scientists, locally and internationally.

Dr. Catherine O'Connell, Executive Director of the Irish Peatland Conservation Council has pointed out that "any negative impact on biodiversity could leave your government (Canada) open to prosecution under the Convention on Biological Diversity as your country (Canada) is a signatory." Canada is a signatory to the UN Convention on Climate Change as well.

In light of concerns expressed by some 700 scientists at the INTERCOL International wetlands Conference, Cuiaba, Brazil that the destruction of wetlands could release a planet-warming "carbon bomb," Sunday, July 20, 2008, we feel every step should be taken to protect this urban carbon sink from becoming a carbon source.

We strongly request you to help us take all possible steps to prevent the South Fraser Perimeter Road crossing bogland between the Fraser River and the Conservation Area and using alternate methods to transport materials from the Delta Port locally and across Canada.

On behalf of the Burns Bog Conservation Society,

Eliza Olson  
President

**Honourary Chair:**

David Bellamy, O.B.E., B.Sc., Ph.D., D.Univ.,  
DSc.Hon., F.L.S., F.I.Bio., F.I.Env.Sci., F.R.G.S.,  
F.Z.S., Botanist, Ecologist, Author, Broadcaster

Charitable No: 12916 6682 RR0001

***Protect, Provide, Educate***