

F. E. Neate

In 1967 the design engineer for the Corporation of Saanich was asked to determine the cost of enclosing the whole of Colquitz Creek.

Although the stream was heavily polluted then and deprived of water, Neate looked into the history of the creek and its importance to the local community: “Conversations with some of the older residents of the area indicate that the condition of the stream was substantially different in the days of their youth and, according to some, up until ten years or so ago. There are reports of swimming 'holes' in the area of present day Colquitz Junior High School, spawning salmon plentiful enough to attract farmers to spear them for use as fertilizer, ample water during the summer for irrigation, and good trout fishing throughout the length of the stream.” Telephone comments invariably included sadness and often hostility, for the way this water system had been abused or neglected.

Neate then went further and looked into the cost of preserving and even restoring the Colquitz. Happily, the cost was \$560,000. The cost of enclosure would have been three million dollars. The Saanich Council chose preservation.

