

RDN, DUCKS UNLIMITED PURCHASE OF HAMILTON MARSH IS NOW ON HOLD

The Regional District of Nanaimo in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada have been unsuccessful in an initial attempt to purchase Hamilton Marsh as a Regional Park from Island Timberlands. In early September of 2007 the partners made an offer of fair market value to purchase an area of the private forest company's lands including the Marsh. Hamilton Marsh is located outside of Qualicum Beach in Electoral Area F. Earlier this month the partners were informed that the offer was not accepted and a subsequent meeting between the parties was not successful in advancing the acquisition.

Island Timberlands representatives indicated that the company is conducting a land holdings analysis review on all their forest lands in the Island, and will not be open to offers on the property until that review is complete.

With its network of trails and abundance of wildlife, Hamilton Marsh is an important conservational and recreational area for residents of the Regional District of Nanaimo. RDN Chairperson Joe Stanhope confirmed that Hamilton Marsh remains a key area in the RDN Board's Regional Parks Acquisition Strategy. "The RDN Board hopes to work with Island Timberlands in the future to ensure that this valuable wetland is protected," Stanhope said.

Hamilton Marsh is also of significant interest to Ducks Unlimited Canada. "We will continue to work with the RDN and our conservation partners to secure key fresh water wetlands such as Hamilton Marsh." said Dan Buffett of Ducks Unlimited Canada. "These wetlands are important not only for migrating birds but are critical to maintain our watersheds."

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