

Contain growth on Peninsula

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The determined drive by the Peninsula Co-op to ribbon-build along West Saanich Road between Keating Cross Road and Kersey Avenue is a cause for alarm.

If Central Saanich assents to rezone as commercial areas any of the properties flanking West Saanich Road between Brentwood and Keating, it will mark the beginning of the end for the two leafy rural secondary thoroughways that run the near length of the Saanich Peninsula.

Voracious developers will present themselves at the council chambers to petition their plans for a welter of commercial development projects. East and West Saanich roads will vie to replicate Surrey's King George Highway and Delta's Scott Road strip malls, gas stations, pizza takeout joints and the ghastly enterprises that blight the eye.

Urban-containment boundaries identify areas expressly set aside for the concentration of industry and commerce. The Keating Cross Road urban area, between East Saanich and Oldfield roads, fits well into the intelligent scheme of things. Any plans to breach that boundary should be firmly opposed.

Nor should council heed petitions signed by rolls of people claiming to be "community" but who, for the most part, are co-op members with an axe to grind or immediate neighbours hoping to gain from commercial rezoning of property adjoining the proposed development area.

It is timely to consider one all-embracing master Peninsula Parklands Commission with power to preserve the glory and greenery of one of Canada's last remaining Arcadian territories.

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