

## **In response to Greg Middleton's letter entitled "No sympathy for cell tower area residents"**

Thanks for voicing your opinion Greg that cell tower area residents "should just suck it up and be quiet for the sake of the common good." However, I'd like to share a few facts you may not be aware of.

The protesters aren't against cell towers. They are simply asking that Rogers place the tower in a more appropriate location. This is not a tower or no tower discussion but rather a question of where to place the tower. And given the 567 hectares of bare land in Channel Ridge with several ridges as high or higher than the proposed site, and no medium density residential area nearby, it doesn't seem unreasonable to ask Rogers to place their 14 story tower elsewhere.

Rogers have 6 existing towers in and around the southern gulf islands; located on Mount Tuam on Salt Spring, Stockade Hill on Galiano, Cramer Hill on North Pender, Mount Parke on Mayne, Warburton Pike on Saturna and Maple Mountain in Maple Bay. All of those sites except Mayne have no homes within 500 metres of the tower, and on Mayne the 23 metre tower has no homes within 270 metres of the site and only 12 homes between 270 metres and 500 metres.

Rogers proposed 40 metre tower site in Channel Ridge has 49 homes within 500 metres, 29 homes within 270 metres, 8 homes within 100 metres and three homes with 50 metres. One of the subcontractors shared that he has put in more than 150 cell tower foundations over the past 20 years, and he has never seen a tower of this size placed so close to a residential area!

So rather than ask your fellow Salt Spring residents to "suck it up", perhaps you might consider joining us and asking Rogers to suck it up and move their proposed site to a more appropriate location!

Also, you may not be aware of how poor a corporate citizen Rogers has been throughout this process. They disregarded regulations, falsified their application to the Local Trust Committee, refused to meet with residents, and ignored the LTC when they were asked not to break ground on the site. So alternatively, perhaps you might consider pulling your support for a corporate bully and simply change provider.

Julian Clark