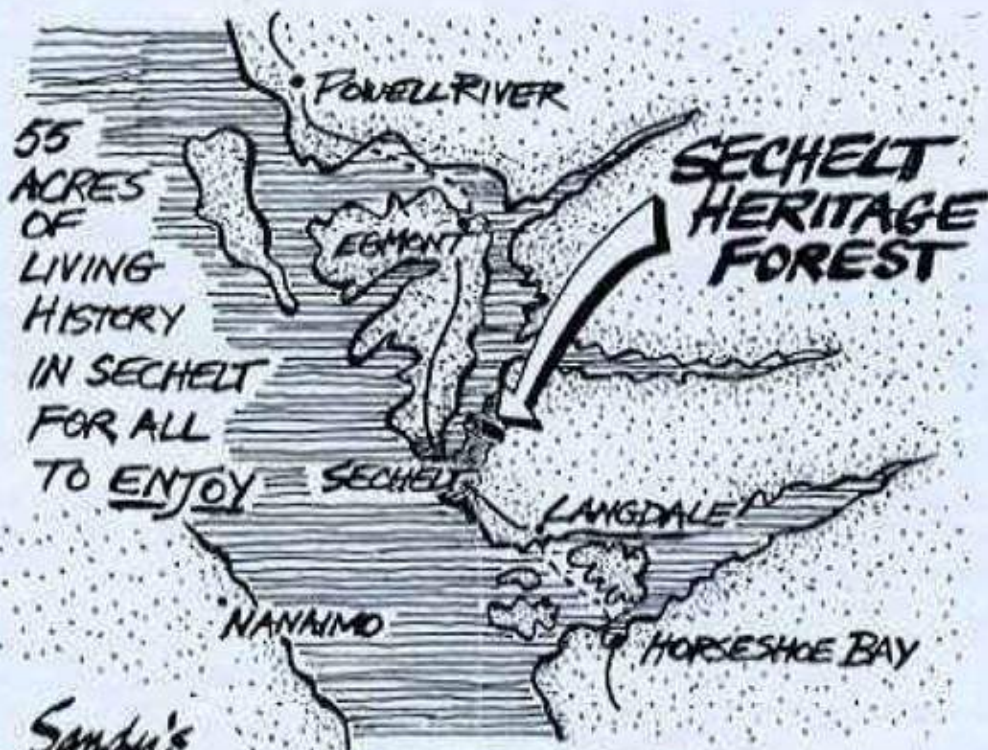


the

Sechelt Heritage Forest

Nature's
work-in-progress

*A project of the District of Sechelt
and Sandy Hook Community Association*



Sandy's Field Notes:

- Deer - a sleek doe picked her way through the ferns
- Moss - found 18 varieties & luxuriant growth
- Trees - some ancient trees are still standing
- Birds - woodpecker, eagle, crow, robin, jay...
- Old-time logging - spring board holes on stumps and living trees, very old saw lines, "long butts"
- Bear - decaying deadfall torn apart for grubs
- Cougar - fresh paw print in mud by a puddle

Early Sandy Hook

Once a completely forested mini-mountain, pushing cool, green glades into Sechelt Inlet

1962 - Capilano Highlands promotes a free bus trip from Vancouver to promote sales of its lots for a few dollars each.

First lots sold on Coracle Drive waterfront and west end of Sandy Hook road.

"Utilities"-fireplaces; wood stoves; gas lamps; shallow well system; miserable dirt and gravel roads, almost impassable after rain.

1967 -area below Sandy Hook Road completely cleared by Block Bros.; beautiful second-growth forest gone; now an ugly wasteland. "much to everyone's disgust," says local pioneer.

Highlights back then -- welcome escape from city to land of minimal taxes; plentiful fish; beautiful vistas, leafy canopy, sandy beaches -- life in harmony with nature.



District and Neighbours United

For 20 years the Sandy Hook Community Association (SCHA) has worked to improve our rural, forested neighbourhood.

Now, the SHCA is working to save the Sechelt Heritage Forest. This 55-acre tract stands as the only natural buffer between Sandy Hook and heavy residential development slated for adjacent areas.

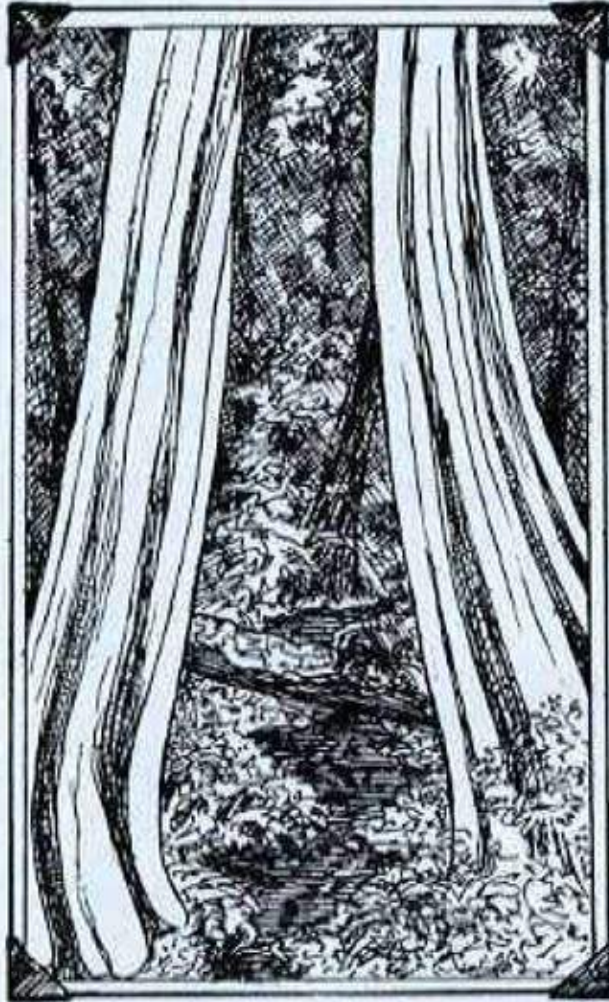
The Forest is owned by the Province of British Columbia, but lies within the boundaries of the District of Sechelt.

Over 100 Sandy Hook families signed a petition to present to the Ministry of Forests and the District of Sechelt Council.

In June, 1993, the Sechelt Council voted unanimously in favour of our proposal and forwarded a request to the Ministry of Forests for transfer of the Forest to the District.

SHCA has given its commitment to the District of Sechelt to maintain the simple trail through the forest.

SHCA has included the Sechelt Heritage Forest project in Sandy Hook's submission to the Official Community Plan. Our plan also addresses other issues related to preserving the environment, while allowing for future development.



The Secrets of the Forest

Our small forest guards many secrets. We brought in experts in the natural sciences and asked them to tell us what they found. They confirmed what we suspected: we are living beside a treasure trove - a forest that supports rare mosses, a variety of ferns, ancient trees (one over 8 feet in diameter), a pond fed by a trickling stream. It's a fragile ecosystem that shelters birds, bear, deer and even cougar.

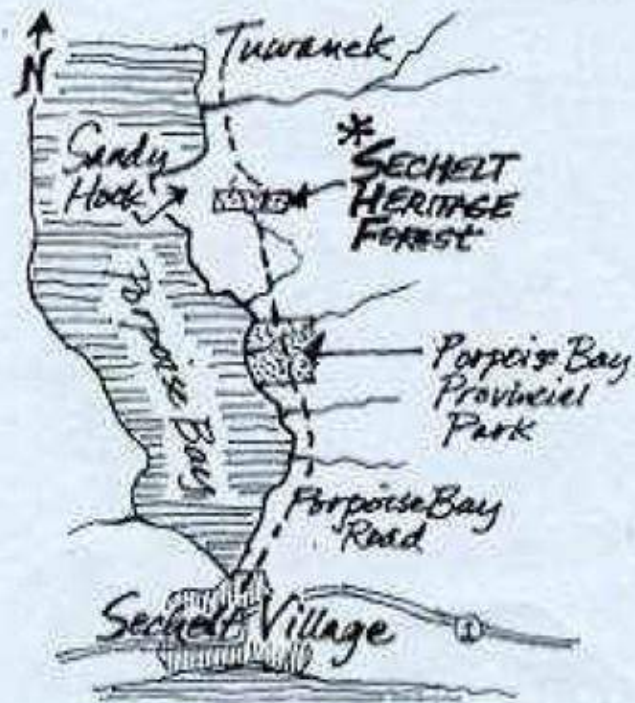
Supported by

- * *Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society*
George Smith, Executive Director
- * *Sechelt City Council*
unanimous vote, June 1993
- * *Sandy Hook Community Association*
Annual Meeting, May 1993
- * *Heritage Forests Society*
Will Paulik, President
- * *Sechelt Marsh Protective Society*
Tony Greenfield, President
- * *shísháih curriculum project*
a joint project of Sechelt Indian Band &
School Dist. No.46
- * *Marion Parker, B.A., M.A.*
dendochronologist, archaeologist
- * *Terry Taylor, Botanist*
Vancouver Natural History Society
- * *Tuwanek Ratepayers Association*
Linda Williams, President

For more information on the Sechelt Heritage Forest, you are welcome to call 885-3797

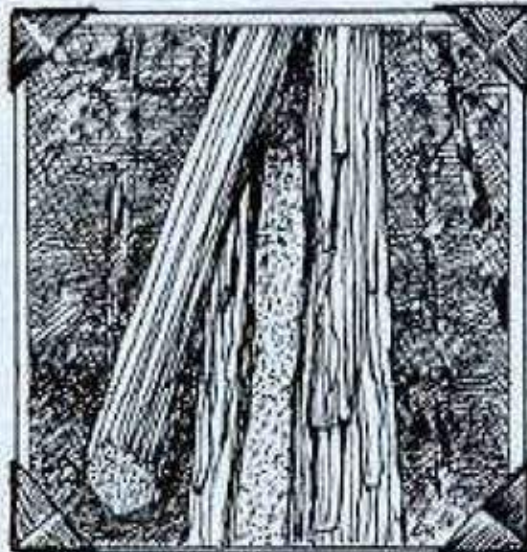


Produced by — Sandy Hook Community Association
RR#1 Sandy Hook Site C-1, Sechelt, BC, V0N-3A0, 1993



On the road from the Village of Sechelt to Tuwanek (two kilometers past Porpoise Bay Park) lies the beautiful

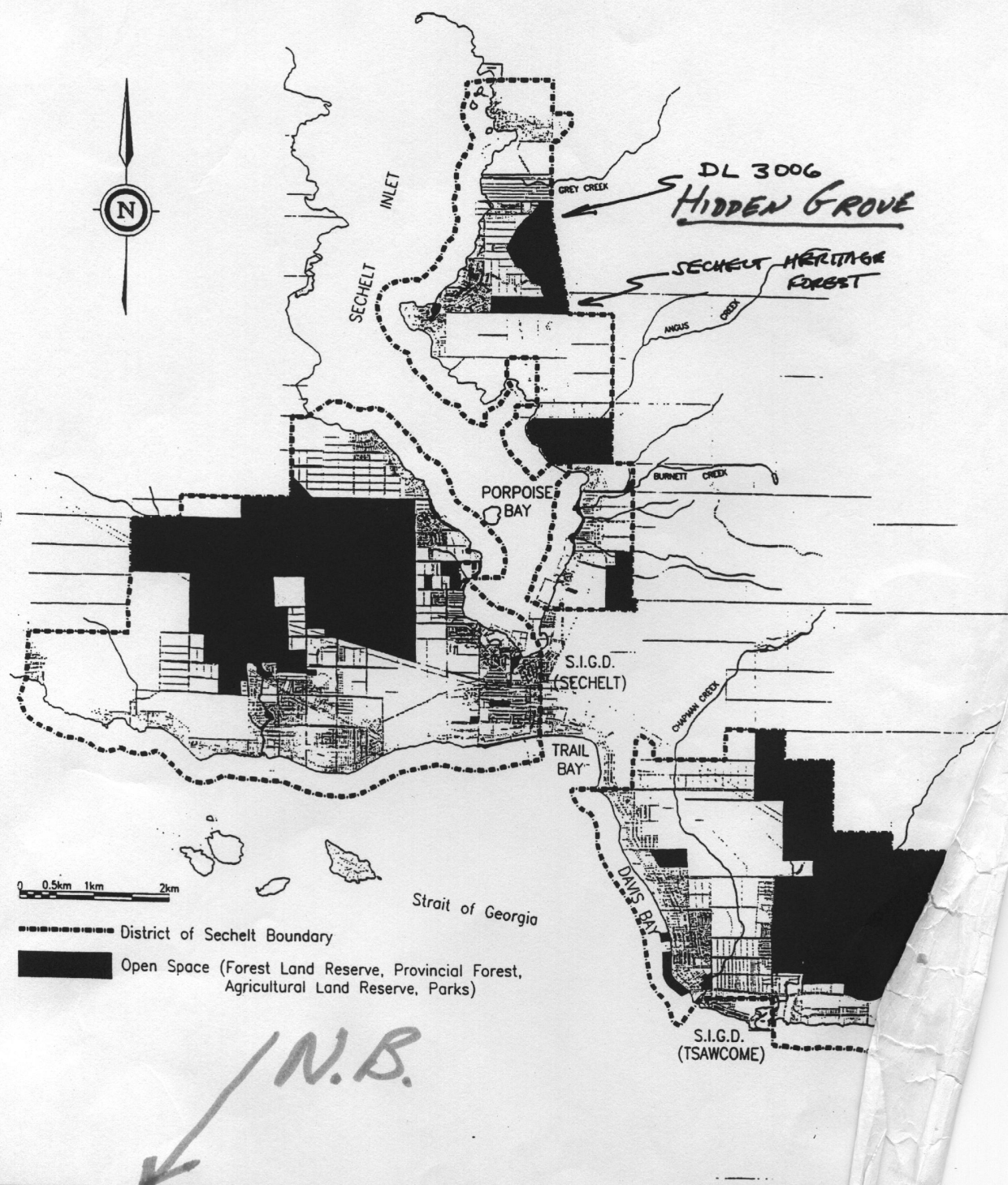
Sechelt Heritage Forest



Coro-Pop Tree

Figure 13.3

OPEN SPACE NETWORK



SHCA News Feb./96

4) Forest Trail & Cleanup: Gertrude will organize a three-pronged attack on the trails: 1) heavy chainsaw-type jobs; 2) light debris to be cleared from the sides of existing trails, and 3) bush clearing on new trails. On Wednesday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m. the crew will meet at the Davidson house to allocate jobs. March 17 at 9:30 a.m., people will gather to work on the trails. A lunch break with sandwiches and drinks will take place in the forest, under a tarp if necessary.



Mountain Bikes in the Forest: The Board of Directors' Position

During the discussion of our recreation needs which followed the June annual general meeting of the Sandy Hook Community Association, the question of whether mountain bikes should be permitted in the Sechart Heritage Forest was considered. It was eventually agreed that the SHCA board of directors would consider the opinions which had been expressed at that meeting and would invite, through our newsletter, those Sandy Hook Association members who were not there to express their views also.

The board discussed the mountain bike question at some length at its August 22 meeting. It concluded that:

1. The leadership that saved the Sechart Heritage Forest from being clearcut, and persuaded the Ministry of Forests to designate it as a passive recreation forest, founded their arguments on the unique ecology of the forest — its rich, diversified fern species, samples of old growth trees, the shelter it provides for wildlife —and they gave assurances that these characteristics would be preserved. We feel obliged to honour that commitment.
2. Because the trails in the forest, built by volunteers, were intended for walking and were not designed to accommodate multiple uses, their use by mountain bikers could substantially damage the forest's sensitive ecosystem.
3. Rapid mountain bikes, speeding on trails without any warning device, would present a substantial hazard to slower pedestrians, children and pets; they would create anxiety and discourage those with the fewest recreational opportunities.
4. A relatively few mountain bikers could disproportionately disturb the quiet and serenity which the substantially greater number of walkers come to the forest to enjoy. (This consideration will become even more important when the areas adjoining Sandy Hook complete their planned development, and many new residents join us in wanting to refresh their spirits in the only bit of wilderness on the east side of Porpoise Bay.)
5. There are many excellent nearby locations outside our small Sechart Heritage Forest where mountain bikers can enjoy their sport.

IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS, PLEASE PHONE MICHAEL DAVIDSON AT 885-3797 OR DROP US A NOTE AT SANDY HOOK SITE C-1. THANKS.

Sandy Hook
Community Association

RR#3 Sandy Hook Site C-1, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A0



COPY

December 11, 1996

Councillor Rosina Giles
District of Sechelt
Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0

Dear Councillor Giles:

**Re: Sechelt Heritage Forest
Fund Raising**

Congratulations on your re-election!

Once again, thank you and the last council for supporting our efforts to continue creating and maintaining trails in the Sechelt Heritage Forest.

Enclosed please find a sample of our recent efforts toward fund-raising for the Forest. (Our community not only supplies tools and labour toward the forest, but also we raise money for materials.) We hope that you will share them with other members of the Council.

They are currently on sale for \$12.00 for a package of six hand printed cards. Each package contains three different images (two of each), created by artists Adelle Waddell and Gertrude Pacific. Packages contain either floral or animal designs, or a mixture of both. People have found them to be a favorite for Christmas gifts.

Christian Kruse and his thoughtful staff at the wonderful new library have agreed to display a basket of these cards at the checkout desk. Purchases may be made right there.

Merry Christmas and Happy 1997 to you and your family.

Yours sincerely,

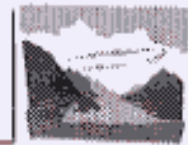
Adelle Waddell
Secretary, Board of Directors

Gertrude Pacific
Forest Committee

cc: Christian Kruse
District of Sechelt Library

Sandy Hook
Community Association

RR#3 Sandy Hook Site C-1, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A0



December 11, 1996

Ferd Hamre, Operations Manager
Sunshine Coast Forestry District
7077 Duncan Street
Powell River, B.C., V8A 1W1

COPY

Dear Ferd Hamre:

Re: Trails in the Sechelt Heritage Forest

Thank you for informing us, through Gertrude Pacific, about the need for a formal communication regarding our plans for trails in the Sechelt Heritage Forest.

Enclosed please find a map showing the progress to date, and the proposed new trails.

Last year we hired Michel Frenette for one day to flag new trails for us. In the future, we plan to extend the existing trail east to eventually join up with Inlet Road. Members of the Sandy Hook Community Association will provide the volunteer labour and tools.

Also, we plan a new entrance to the forest from Forest Road, the only legal access to the forest from the Sandy Hook side. We asked the District of Sechelt for monetary assistance to build a wooden stairway down into the forest. We made a formal presentation to the District, with Board members Jim Ettinger, Michael Davidson, Gertrude Pacific and me, showing maps and a stairway plan to the Councillors and Mayor. (The stairway design was taken from your ministry's published information on trailbuilding.) Council approved our request and have given us a check for over \$300 for materials. Again, our community members intend to provide the tools and labour.

We hope these plans prove acceptable to the Ministry of Forests. The Sandy Hook Community Association Board of Directors would be delighted to take note of any suggestions you might have to improve our plans. If you feel there is a need to visit in person, we would be happy to show you the Sechelt Heritage Forest (although our work to date is so careful and uninvasive that you would not notice much difference) and to take any advice you might offer.

Please accept this letter as a request for approval. If any further information would be required, we would be pleased to forward it to you.

Thank you for your continuing interest in our efforts to protect the Forest.

Sincerely,

Bula Hess
President
885-2429

cc: Rosina Giles, Chair, Planning and Environment, District of Sechelt