

# Hidden Grove Plan

## Steering Committee

Mr. Rob Rounds, Manager, Financial Operations  
Ministry of Community, Aboriginal  
And Women's Services  
Local Gov't Infrastructure & Finance  
P.O. Box 9490 Stn Prov Govt. Victoria. BC. V8W 9N7

February 17, 2005

Dear Mr. Rounds:

### Re: Hidden Grove Sponsorship

In his letter to you, dated February 14, 2005, Bill Brown, Administrator of the District of Sechelt, has requested sponsorship for a free crown grant for Hidden Grove. Our steering committee for the Hidden Grove plan, created at the request of the District of Sechelt Mayor and Council, takes this opportunity in acknowledging that once again the District of Sechelt has furthered the well-known desires of the people of the lower Sunshine Coast. In addition, Hidden Grove also has the support of the following:

The Sechelt Indian Band  
MLA Harold Long, Sunshine Coast  
Strategic Master Plan for Parks and Recreation, Sunshine Coast Regional District  
Sunshine Coast Conservation Association  
Sandy Hook Community Association  
- and the over 60 people from all areas of the lower Sunshine Coast who voiced their enthusiastic support at the meeting when this proposal first came to the District of Sechelt's planning committee.

Even more importantly, the **Ministry of Forests** has invited the District of Sechelt to submit a community forest application. The District is in the final stages of this application. The "interim community advisory committee", of which I am a part, has met three times and on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> a consensus response was achieved! Kevin Davie, forestry consultant to the District of Sechelt, was tasked with presenting this response to MoF this week. Among other provisions, the consensus response, which changes Hidden Grove from a provincial harvest area into a municipal recreation/conservation area, could provide MoF with a means of releasing the Hidden Grove from its present designation, thus allowing the transfer of the crown land to the District of Sechelt.

Yours sincerely,

COPY

Gertrude Pacific, 5823 Skookumchuk Road, Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0, 604-885-3797

cc: District of Sechelt; Mayor and Council, Administrator, Planner, Consultant K. Davie  
Sechelt Indian Band; Chief and Council, Administrator  
Sunshine Coast Regional District, Parks Plan Committee  
Greg Hemphill, District Manager Sunshine Coast, Ministry of Forests  
Bill Valentine, President and Chief Executive Officer, Land and Water BC  
Tom Brown, Ministerial Assistant, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management  
Dan Bouman, Executive Director, Sunshine Coast Conservation Association

**REPLY: Mail – c/o SHCA, 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4**  
**Email: [hidden Grove@sechelt.net](mailto:hidden Grove@sechelt.net) Web Site: <http://hidden Grove.info>**  
**Phone: 604-885-5766**

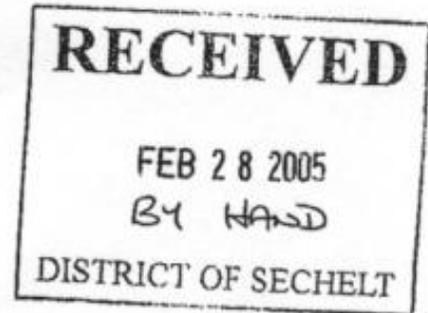


# Sandy Hook Community Association

5916 Skookumchuk Road,  
Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A4  
Email: [sandyhook@sechelt.net](mailto:sandyhook@sechelt.net)  
Web Site: <http://sechelt.net>

February 23, 2005

Mr. Ray Parfitt  
Director of Planning  
District of Sechelt  
2nd Floor 5797 Cowrie St.  
PO Box 129, Sechelt, BC  
V0N 3A0



Dear Sir,

Re: Hidden Grove and the proposed Sechelt Community Forest

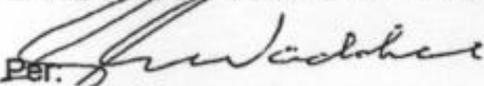
At a recent meeting of our board of directors it was agreed that we should write you to record our position about the relationship of these two ongoing initiatives for Sechelt.

The two may well compliment each other if the terms of the Community Forest include full management rights for the District and that the District maintains its position of support for the Hidden Grove to be a park or, at least, managed as a park. In this event the Community Forest might be a route to the District accomplishing its Hidden Grove goal without acquiring actual ownership of Cut Block 350. We would fully support this.

On the other hand, we have heard that the terms of reference for the Community Forest may just be for an active cutting forest with logging as the only defined activity to the exclusion of management for recreation or parks. Further, we understand that the ad hoc committee meeting to try and set the terms for the Community Forest is trying to exclude the watershed and Cut Block 350 from the designated forest. Unless this second condition sought by the ad hoc committee is firmly included then the Community Forest initiative could contravene prior motions of the District of Sechelt council to work for a Hidden Grove Park. Not having a managed park is not a desirable result for our Association, the residents of Sandy Hook or, for that matter, the residents of the entire Sunshine Coast who would benefit from it.

Gertrude Pacific, a founding member of the Hidden Grove Park Plan Steering Committee and a participant in your weekly Community Forest discussions has been keeping us apprised of developments. Based on what we have heard to date we feel it necessary to make our position known.

Yours truly,  
SANDY HOOK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

  
Per. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gray Waddell  
President

# Sechelt Community Forest Tenure Timber Supply Study

## March 12, 2005

This study was undertaken to give a preliminary view of what potential areas would be required to meet the Sechelt Community Tenure cut of 20,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year in both the short and long term. The Sechelt Community Forest Tenure opportunity is for a five year probationary license, which is the short term to be considered. If it is managed successfully, the Province may extend the term of the tenure to a longer term of 25 to 99 years.

This study of the timber supply of areas being considered for the Sechelt Community Forest tenure has been undertaken using data supplied by the SCFD MOF, with local knowledge and local values considered for netdowns to the potential timber harvesting landbase.

### **Procedure:**

This timber supply analysis basically followed the SCFD Timber Supply Review methodology. The steps taken are outlined below, including notes where local knowledge and values were incorporated:

1. Assembly of data files, including area boundaries, LU data files, trim data, satellite images.
2. Netdown of the Forest Cover inventory as per the TSR II definitions, removing:
  - Contributing classes N and X
  - ESA1 categories with 100% netdowns
  - Pine –leading forest polygons
  - Urban and other NP areas
  - Roads
  - Low productivity sites by TSR II species and site index definitions
  - Chapman Gray IWMP “no harvesting” zonation
  - Landscape Unit Plan Old Growth Management Areas
  - Riparian management areas for trim-identified streams
3. Further netdown of areas from the THLB for:
  - Additional NP areas identified locally
  - Hidden Grove recreation area
  - Unstable gullies in lower Angus Burnett area
  - Research plots
  - Potential Marbled Murrelet habitat in Chapman and Gray Creeks
  - Larger stream buffers
4. For each separate area an average Mean Annual Increment was calculated. This was done by either
  - A. Selecting all the stands with at least 300m<sup>3</sup>/ha. From this selection, stands over 150 years and under 60 years of age were eliminated. This selected only stands that have accumulated representative volume and have not yet stagnated. A weighted average volume and age were then derived and used to produce the average volume per ha per year for each potential tenure area.  
or,
  - B. Calculating each area’s MAI from the MOF CF area TSR document by dividing the long run sustainable yield, in m<sup>3</sup>, by the timber harvesting landbase area in ha. (LRSY/THLB).
5. After the netdowns, a total productive area total was derived for each tenure zone.

6. The potential annual volume production of each tenure zone in m<sup>3</sup>/year was then calculated by multiplying the MAI by the productive area.
7. The total amount of urban interface area within each tenure zone was then identified, and a 25 % netdown applied as per the direction of the MOF SCFD Planning Forester. This netdown was assumed to be sufficient to also account for potential netdowns for visual quality objectives.
8. Netdowns were then applied for future roads and WTPs consistent with TSR II rules. Productivity figures for Douglas-fir-leading stand within the CDFmm, and CWHxm1 were then adjusted to account for root rot by deducting 12.71 %. This direction was provided by the MOF SCFD.
9. An estimate of the currently available wood supply for each tenure zone was derived by selecting all the stands of at least 60 years of age with at least 300m<sup>3</sup>/ha and then unselecting the alder, Abies and hemlock-leading stands. From the remaining stands, polygons under 0.5 ha and other significantly isolated stands were removed. A helicopter flight of the area was conducted to assess recent harvesting of both Crown and private lands. Photos and video were taken to accurately map these recent developments. Adjacency of both Crown and private harvesting was then taken into account for short term supply.

## Results:

The areas available for the Sechelt Community Forest have enough timber to supply the needs of the five year probationary term.

### Long-Term Productivity Results

Tenure Zone	Gross Area ha	Net Productive Area ha	Root Rot Area area ha / reduction ha	Urban Interface area ha / reduction ha	MAI m <sup>3</sup> /ha/yr	Productivity m <sup>3</sup> /yr
Angus/Burnett	3434	1099.9	144.2/18.3	1740.1/435	4.0	4399.6
West Sechelt	1146	900.9	193.6/24.6	78/19.5	5.5	4955.0
Wilson	1117	736.4	144.2/18.3	400/00	6.0	4418.4
Chapman	3063	740.4	0	50/12.5	4.2	3117.1
Gray	3047	1603.6	0	0	4.2	6751.2

### Short Term Timber Availability

Tenure Zone	Current Wood Availability ha	Current Wood Availability m <sup>3</sup>	Supply Based on Current Availability Years
Angus/Burnett	91.3	45,951	2.0
West Sechelt	188.8	120761	6.0
Wilson	144.0	95118	5.0
Chapman	24.2	9,819	0.0
Gray	142.6	64510	0.0
	<b>590.9</b>	<b>336,159</b>	<b>13.0</b>

## Age Class Distribution:

The age class distribution has been calculated using all the productive area in each of the tenure areas and has not considered volumes, species or isolation.

The current supply of harvestable timber, above age class 3, can be seen in the Angus Burnett, Wilson Creek and West Sechelt tenure areas. The lack of available timber in Chapman and Gray Creeks is clear, with the majority of the area being age class 3 and under.

Age Class	Chapman Creek	Gray Creek	Angus Burnett	Wilson Creek	West Sechelt
0	32.7	22.3	0	104.8	3.0
1	385.7	578.8	399.4	192.6	166.6
2	221.9	339.0	129.7	0	113.5
3	59.0	388.2	550.2	4.3	189.2
4	12.3	32.2	94.7	66.3	153.2
5	13.2	146.8	86.9	25.9	40.7
6	0	33.8	165.6	113.5	91.8
7	2.5	0	64.8	316.8	123.1
8	8.8	31.4	24.1	30.4	61.2
9	16.9	20.0	37.7	0	2.7

## Conclusion:

The areas available for the Sechelt Community Forest tenure are adequate to supply 20,000m<sup>3</sup> of timber per year for the five year probationary period, and likely for another eight to ten years after that. The long term timber supply for this proposal area, for the 20,000 m<sup>3</sup> AAC, will face a shortfall beginning approximately 2020 for about two decades. The timing and duration of this shortfall will depend on many factors including:

- Accuracy of the inventory data,
- Market prices for hemlock and Abies,
- Greenup rates affecting adjacency constraints,
- Commercial thinning viability and
- The community's opinion regarding selective harvesting within the Chapman and Gray Community Watersheds.

## Access to Crown land and water proves too much for 'one window'

VICTORIA

The B.C. Liberals, not being in the habit of announcing their mistakes, are quietly bringing an end to another organizational experiment.

Land and Water BC is being shut down, three years after it was launched as a "one-stop" solution to improve access to Crown land and water resources.

The Liberals took an existing government-owned corporation, gave it a new name and expanded its responsibilities.

The new entity was charged with ending "duplication," "lengthy delays" and "lack of coordination," according to Premier Gordon Campbell.

This would supposedly lead to new business opportunities, investment, jobs, growth and more revenues for provincial treasury.

The revitalized Crown corporation soon acquired all the trappings of a going public sector concern.

As of this spring, the organizational chart listed a president and chief executive officer, three vice-presidents and half a dozen other senior executives.

Plus there were more than 300 employees dispersed through a dozen or so regional offices and five divisions: operations, strategic initiatives, corporate services, business improvement, and programs and policy.

The strategic plan presumed the organization would still be a going concern in 2008. A three-year human resources plan promised to develop a "highly skilled, engaged workforce" in an organization with a definite "future."

All this was set out in the finest, modern-day MBA-speak: "Initiate strategies ... leverage investment ... streamline processes ... optimize responsiveness ... align resources ... provide one-window access."

Well, last week the window slammed shut. The reorganizational chart, published with last week's cabinet shuffle, indicates that Land and Water BC will be broken up and absorbed back into central government.



VAUGHN PALMER  
VANCOUVER SUN

COLUMNIST

In defence of the experiment, the Liberals insist the corporation made great progress in reducing the backlog in public applications for access to Crown land and water resources.

The main backlog was in access to land. The government's own records indicate that 90 per cent of the reduction was accomplished before the premier created Land and Water BC.

There was a corresponding reduction in waiting times for water licences. But I'm not sure it needed a full Crown corporation to accomplish the job.

The company's own list of accomplishments also cites improvements in electronic bill-paying and a better website, neither of which is likely to earn a chapter in the next edition of *In Search of Excellence*.

What happened? It looks as if the executioner was Jessica McDonald, the premier's new deputy minister and head of the public service.

Before assuming that post, McDonald (herself a former land-use consultant) presided over an extensive review of government land use and resource management.

The review identified several problems. One was mentioned in the most recent update of the LWBC strategic plan: "Access to Crown land and water will continue to create challenges that result in some tensions across agencies and ministries with interdependent mandates."

Those tensions pulled the cor-

All this was set out in the finest, modern-day MBA-speak: "Initiate strategies ... leverage investment ... streamline processes ... optimize responsiveness ... align resources ... provide one-window access."

Well, last week the window slammed shut. The reorganizational chart, published with last week's cabinet shuffle, indicates that Land and Water BC will be broken up and absorbed back into central government.

Land allocation goes to a new ministry of Agriculture and Land, under Prince George's Pat Bell. Water allocation was shifted to the reconstituted ministry of the environment, under Chilliwack's Barry Penner.

All this, according to government, should ensure "single-point-of-contact service," which should not under any circumstances be mistaken for "one-window access."

Exiting, not through the window one hopes, is CEO Bill Valentine, a civil service holdover from the New Democratic Party administration. He'll probably be getting severance.

The rest of the employees and all those divisions and offices will be folded into one ministry or the other, as if LWBC had never existed.

No word on what this exercise will cost. It would probably take a full-blown investigation by the auditor-general to pry loose the figures from government.

extensive review of government land use and resource management.

The review identified several problems. One was mentioned in the most recent update of the LWBC strategic plan: "Access to Crown land and water will continue to create challenges that result in some tensions across agencies and ministries with interdependent mandates."

Those tensions pulled the corporation every which way. There are just too many other government entities with interests in Crown land and resources.

The second problem was the corporation's overly aggressive pursuit of revenues through the sale of land and water rights.

The previous NDP government set revenue targets for sale of Crown assets, as well. But they tended to waive them. The Liberals pushed hard to meet the targets, generating controversies over disposal of land and water rights in every part of the province.

The last problem was with first nations. They were bound to oppose any attempt to expedite access to ("sell") resources claimed by them.

All of which proved to be fatal for Land and Water BC. In a province where virtually all of the land and water is already spoken for, decisions on use don't lend themselves to one-stop solutions.

*vpalmer@direct.ca*

# Hidden Grove Legacy

## Steering Committee

June 25, 2005

Member Legislative Assembly  
The Honourable Patricia Bell

Dear MLA Bell,

**Re: Hidden Grove – Sechelt, BC**

A recent article in the Vancouver Sun by Vaughn Palmer indicates that a reorganization of the ministries responsible for the disposal of Crown Lands is underway and that you are the new minister taking on the duties related to “Land Allocation”. We wish to draw your attention to a long outstanding item in the hope that you may act decisively under your new mandate on a simple and relatively small matter.

We are a sub-committee of the Sandy Hook Community Association formed at the specific request of the District of Sechelt to assist in the preparation of a plan and application for park designation of a small parcel of Crown land within the boundaries of the District of Sechelt. The plan and application were completed and submitted to Land and Water BC in January, 2003 and to our best knowledge there is still sits.

This request is for the referenced 350 acre parcel to be turned over to the District of Sechelt to use only for a public natural recreation park. We would be pleased to duplicate the application and send to you a copy of the comprehensive plan (it also may be viewed at [www.hiddengrove.info](http://www.hiddengrove.info)) if you so require. Since this letter is only an opening with you in your new government capacity we would just like to draw your attention to a few points:

- The “Hidden Grove” was erroneously included the working forest due to the MoF not correcting their maps when the District of Sechelt was incorporated in 1986 and that error was only corrected in 2003.
- The Sechelt Indian Band has expressed their written support for the “Hidden Grove” and will be contributing their counsel to its implementation.
- The “Hidden Grove” is now shown on local tourist maps and has become a focal point for visitors to Porpoise Bay Provincial Park.
- The District of Sechelt, in partnership with our Sandy Hook Community Association, as of December 16, 2003 has applied to assume the management of the Sechelt Heritage Forest Recreation Reserve (crown land which lies immediately south of the Hidden Grove, within the District of Sechelt) under a new “recreation management divesting program” initiated by the Ministry of Forests. Under that plan, our Association will continue to manage the trails and signage under the direction of the District of Sechelt Parks Department.

**REPLY: Mail – c/o SHCA, 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4**  
**Email: [hiddengrove@sechelt.net](mailto:hiddengrove@sechelt.net) Web Site: <http://hiddengrove.info>**  
**Phone: 604-885-5766**

There is, of course, much more that could be related but we felt at this time we could only draw your attention to the matter and seek your guidance and/or positive action.

We would be delighted to meet with you or anyone you designated to advance this further and, of course, send you any material that will assist you in assisting us and all the citizens of Sechelt to finalize this very important enhancement on the recreation resources of the Province of British Columbia.

Thank you very much for your kind attention to this letter and we look forward hearing from you.

Yours truly,  
Sandy Hook Community Association  
Hidden Grove Legacy Steering Committee

Per:

Robert D'Arcy  
Chair

Cc: District of Sechelt, Planning Department, Mr. Ray Parfitt.  
District of Sechelt, Parks Department, Mr. John Gillespie

**REPLY: Mail – c/o SHCA, 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4**  
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**Phone: 604-885-5766**

# Hidden Grove Plan

## Steering Committee

The Honourable Patricia Bell  
Minister of Agriculture and Land  
Victoria, BC

June 29, 2005

Dear Minister Bell:

### **Re: Hidden Grove Legacy in Sechelt, BC**

We draw your attention to an outstanding item hoping that you act decisively in your new mandate. We are a sub-committee of the Sandy Hook Community Association (SHCA) formed at the request of the District of Sechelt (DoS) to prepare an application plan for park status for the Hidden Grove Legacy area. The application was submitted by DoS to Land & Water BC, December 2002.

Further, our Steering Committee wrote to then Minister of Sustainable Resource Management George Abbot, seeking a meeting which was deemed “premature” in response. We then approached Rob Rounds of the Ministry of Community Aboriginal and Women’s Services seeking sponsorship for Hidden Grove but have received no response as yet. Our request is for your support for a change of land use, so that this 40 hectare parcel called Hidden Grove Legacy can be assigned to the DoS for public recreation.

- DoS incorporated new territory in 1986 but Ministry of Forests maps failed to conform so Hidden Grove Legacy was erroneously included in the working forest. Forest Practices Board intervened, advising MoF and Interfor to move the border in 2003.
- Under MoF’s initiation, the DoS assumed the management of the Sechelt Heritage Forest, (by order-in-council 1996, an “Interpretive Forest Recreation Reserve”) an area contiguous with Hidden Grove. Trails to be managed under DoS Parks department and the SHCA.
- Also under MoF’s initiation, the DoS submitted a Community Forest Agreement application this year, and the Hidden Grove Legacy area is included.
- Our former MLA, Harold Long, the Sunshine Coast Regional District Parks Master Plan and the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association support the application. Hidden Grove Legacy is now on local tourist maps – an additional recreation destination, especially from Porpoise Bay Provincial Park (see recreation map).
- Sechelt Indian Band support this plan in a letter dated December 2003.

We would be happy to answer any questions you or your staff might have. Seeking your support, we invite you to visit our website listed below. Thank you very much for your kind attention to this letter.

Yours truly,

Robert D’Arcy, Chair  
Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee

Cc: Ray Parfitt, Planning; John Gillespie, Parks; District of Sechelt  
Greg Hemphill, District Manager, Ministry of Forests

**REPLY: Mail – c/o SHCA, 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4**  
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**Phone: 604-885-5766**



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
AUG 08 2005

Ref: 17034



Robert D'Arcy, Chair  
Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee  
c/o Sandy Hook Community Association  
5866 Deerhorn Dr  
Sechelt BC V0N 3A4

Dear Mr. D'Arcy:

Thank you for your letter of June 29, 2005, regarding the Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee's request for a 40-hectare parcel known as the Hidden Grove Legacy. I have reviewed your previous correspondence to the Honourable George Abbott on this matter, and have been briefed by staff. With government's recent reorganization, the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands is now responsible for the allocation of Crown land.

I understand that the District of Sechelt has recently approached the Ministry of Community Services to sponsor a Crown grant for the Hidden Grove area, and has also applied to the Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) for a Community Forest for an area that includes Hidden Grove. I have been advised that a Community Forest includes managing for integrated uses that could accommodate a number of activities and interests in the area.

Given the District's application to the MFR for a Community Forest designation, consideration of the Crown grant will be deferred until a decision is made on the Community Forest. Staff will continue to work cooperatively with the District, the MFR and the Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee to identify a form of land tenure which can serve a broad range of interests in the land, including those of the Steering Committee.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact Julia Berardinucci, Land and Water Manager, at (604) 586-4420.

Sincerely,

Pat Bell  
Minister

.../2

-2-

pc: Ray Parfitt, Planning  
District of Sechelt

John Gillespie, Parks  
District of Sechelt

Greg Hemphill, District Manager  
Ministry of Forests and Range

# Hidden Grove Plan

## Steering Committee

August 21, 2005

Ken Sneddon  
5514 Derby  
Sechelt BC V0N 3A0

Dear Ken:

Our Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee for the Hidden Grove Legacy would like to commend you for your investigation of possible trails for the handicapped.

Since 2001, the supporters of the Hidden Grove wrote over one hundred and thirty letters to MoF District Manager Greg Hemphill and Interfor seeking protection for the Grove. Our plan has always included a main trail for the handicapped since eleven letters specifically mentioned such a trail.

We are glad to have the information which you provided through your consultant Al Jenkins. His fieldwork in the Hidden Grove regarding the degree of slope necessary for handicapped as well as the route he mapped leading from the parking area to the Grove itself should prove very useful. As the District of Sechelt continues working toward securing the area, this data will be important.

We believe you still have a copy of the plan, which you are welcome to keep - with our compliments. Best wishes for your continuing efforts.

Sincerely,

Gertrude Pacific, for the Committee

Cc: Mayor and Council of Sechelt  
Chief and Council Sechelt Indian Band  
The Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Agriculture and Lands

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Phone: 604-885-5766**

Box 673  
Sechelt BC V0N 3A0  
5-4720 Sunshine Coast Highway  
Sechelt BC  
604-740-7445



Province of  
British Columbia  
Legislative Assembly



Nicholas Simons, MLA  
(Powell River-Sunshine Coast)

Robert D'Arcy, Chair *Pro Tem*  
Hidden Grove Steering Committee  
c/o Sandy Hook Community Association  
5866 Deerhorn Drive  
Sechelt, B.C.  
V0N 3A4

September 6, 2005

Dear Mr. D'Arcy:

I would like to thank you, your friends and Committee members for the most enjoyable tour you gave me of Hidden Grove and some of the trail system. What a beautiful legacy for future generations. I also think it is marvelous that much of the trail system will be made entirely accessible for those with mobility challenges.

I encourage you to continue to pursue the goals you have set to ensure that this land is protected in its natural state –with the possible exception of wooden boardwalks and interpretive markers. I am pleased and not at all surprised that the Sechelt Nation has offered its support of the project, as clearly many cultural teachings are available by preserving this park.

I presume that the inclusion of this area in the District of Sechelt's Community Forest Application was inadvertent since it had made a previous request for a Crown grant for the area. I would recommend seeking advice as to whether it would be appropriate to notify the Community Forest Advisory Board of this conflict.

Please keep me informed of any updates you may have, and let me know how I can further assist you in achieving your laudable goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Nicholas Simons pro tem".

Nicholas Simons, MLA  
Powell River – Sunshine Coast

# Hidden Grove Legacy

## Steering Committee

September 7, 2005

Nicholas Simons, MLA  
Powell River - Sunshine Coast  
Box 673, Sechelt, B.C.  
V0N 3A0

Dear Simon,

This is just a short note to thank you for donating a big chunk of your valuable time to tour the Hidden Grove with some of our committee on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

We know you will do whatever you can to help this community, this District, the Sunshine Coast and, in fact, everyone to protect and enhance the Hidden Grove as a wonderful part of the recreational and tourist assets of our country. We will be working hard in every way that furthers reaching this goal and you need only let us know how we may help in your efforts.

Sorry the photos did not turn out better. It was the photographer, not the subject matter!

Again, our deepest appreciation and we look forward to any good news you can give us.

Best regards,  
Hidden Grove Legacy Steering Committee  
of the Sandy Hook Community Association.

Per:

Bob D'Arcy  
Chair

**REPLY: Mail – c/o SHCA, 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4**  
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**Phone: 604-885-5766**

# Hidden Grove Plan

## Steering Committee

November 23, 2005

Nicholas Simons, MLA  
Member of Legislature Assembly, Sunshine Coast

Dear MLA Nicholas Simons:

Thank you very much for the meeting we had with you and also for supporting the Hidden Grove Legacy as a “park area” (not a part of forestry) on a permanent basis for future generations.

We are responding to your request for a document highlighting this five year process (to achieve secure status for Hidden Grove), and have arranged it chronologically for your review. Please see the following pages for this report. We believe that with your help in Victoria, a solution can be found. To that end we quote here from a 2001 Discussion paper from the **Forest Practices Branch**:

**Page 8.** The provincial government will consult with local government to determine when proposals for deletions or inclusions in the Forest Land Reserve might be referred by the Commission to local government, with a view to keeping the consultations as efficient as possible. Small deletions (criteria to define small and significant deletions will be reviewed through consultations) of Crown land from the working forest would be done by ministerial order. *(We know this process was used for the Sechelt Heritage Forest.)*

**Page 9.** Section 60 of the Forest Act allows the minister of Forests, with one year's advance notice, to delete up to five percent of forest tenure without compensation for specified purposes such as a hydro reservoir. A second five per cent may be deleted for an unspecified non-timber use like a park.

With the above quotes in mind, we hope you can approach the Hidden Grove Legacy proposal with fresh ideas. We sense that our efforts, while politely unrelenting have given us many supporters, but have not resulted in releasing the tension between a ministerial fear of losing control and a municipal/citizen initiative which is widely supported. Your energy, knowledge and sense of humour plus new contacts in the legislature could lead to another way of seeing this situation. The Forest Practices Branch could be an interesting place to begin.

Any documents supporting the information can be readily provided. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Bob D'Arcy, Chair  
Hidden Grove Legacy Steering Committee

Attachments  
maps  
(development plan binder presented to you at our last meeting)

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**Phone: 604-885-5766**

## **Hidden Grove Legacy Summation of Efforts to Secure Protection**

(All records referenced are from files kept by Gertrude Pacific, 5823 Skookumchuk Road, Sechelt. 885-3797)

### **1994**

Nancy Cashman, then a planner with International Forest Products (Interfor), received a copy of an official District of Sechelt (DoS) map showing the new boundaries of Sechelt - as established in the letters patent - of an increase in the land size of Sechelt in 1986. This map was delivered in person by Gertrude Pacific, and witnessed by Bula Hess at the Interfor office then located near Tuwanek. We delivered it because at the time, Interfor, with a Timber Supply Area (TSA) license, proposed logging within the Sechelt Heritage Forest area east of Inlet Road. Subsequently, after receiving a determined letter from the DoS Planner to permit no logging, Interfor abandoned trying to log there. This map (see attached) is important to remember while reading the following notes.

### **1999**

DoS Bylaw 290 designates the approx. 120 acres of Hidden Grove as “parks and open space”.

### **November 2000**

Sandy Hook residents are alerted to pre-logging surveyor tapes in the nearby DoS lands by local mushroom pickers who noticed “Road Allowance” tapes and “cruise plots”.

Phone calls seeking Timber Supply Review information: to Gerard Le Blanc, District of Sechelt, planner asking if the DoS has received a referral on the area from Ministry of Forests (MoF) since the land lies within DoS boundaries and is included in Bylaw 290, 1997 as park and greenspace; to John Werring, Sierra Legal Defence asking advice; to Mike Whitehouse, MoF and finding that according to the MoF, that area was within Interfor’s “chart area” – a volume (not area) based chart. Phone calls seeking maps: to SCRD; to MoF; to Surveyor General, Ministry of Environment.

### **January 2001**

Letter from Interfor to DoS, welcoming comment on Block 350 until March 21, 2001. Presentation by local members to Sandy Hook Community Association (SHCA) Board of Directors with concern about Interfor’s plans to log nearby and previous history of trying to log in the Sechelt Heritage Forest area.

### **February**

Meeting: Sandy Hook Board Members & Sandy Hook Trailbuilders with Bob Rebantad, Recreation, MoF, who encourages writing to Greg Hemphill, District Manager, Sunshine Coast Forest District (SCFD) requesting no logging. Open House: Interfor shows map of Block 350 covering nearly all of the provincial forest within DoS boundaries.

Creation and distribution of Hidden Grove to Sandy Hook residents, others, encouraging visiting the area because Jeff Pollock states that “if there is a showing of public interest, they will consider withdrawing from the area”. Rudimentary trails are laid out by Sandy Hook Trailbuilders so that visitors can enter into the area prior to writing letters.

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A large turnout of Sandy Hook residents meets Interfor and Kevin Davie upon arrival at the top of Sandy Hook Road to hand deliver an estimated 30 plus letters against logging Block 350. A few Trailbuilders plus K. Thirkell host a tour through Block 350/ Hidden Grove.

### **March**

Sunshine Coast Conservation Association Board (SCCA) votes to support Hidden Grove in a letter to the MoF. Over 60 Sunshine Coast residents attend a DoS Planning Committee meeting to support the Hidden Grove. Of the many speakers, not a single one was in favour of logging the area. Council committed to send a letter to MoF asking for more public consultation time past March 21, and that a committee be set up to meet with Interfor to discuss options. Cam Reid said, "Council can show leadership so that the area never is logged."

The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans" (D. Nanson habitat & Enforcement Branch, DFO) writes an unusual letter to J. Pollock, Interfor, cautioning "we suggest that the falling boundary in the upper watershed be re-re-examined" which refers specifically to Davis Brook in the Hidden Grove.

G. Pacific and M. Davidson present a formal request to the full Council to ask for an extension to the Sechelt Heritage Forest now known as Hidden Grove. Davidson reported the Sandy Hook community's effort to date: Mushroom pickers alert, Hidden Grove sign, brochures, core sample, pamphlets taken door to door, local radio interview, school posters and letters, placed on agendas at SCCA, East Porpoise Bay Rate Payers, and Sunshine Coast Association for Community Living, talks with local B&B guests, and beautiful professional photos donated to the cause.

### **May**

During and after the all-candidates meeting for the provincial MLA position held at Raven's Cry, candidates Gordon Wilson, Adriane Carr and Harold Long all gave positive support to our efforts.

Interfor suggests a land swap and downgrades Block 350 from A to I status – I == "interest", and promises more consultation over the summer.

D. Reynolds, MoE, writes supportive letter re: Hidden Grove in response to a government referral.

### **August**

At a DoS Planning, Environment and Community Relations Committee meeting August 14, Hidden Grove was discussed, but it was noted that Interfor had not scheduled any consultation as promised over the summer.

### **September**

At a regular council meeting, representatives for the Forest Coalition (Kevin Davie) and the International Woodworkers Association (Sonny Rioux) spoke against Hidden Grove becoming a park. Council agrees to delay sending letter of support for Hidden Grove until Interfor has made its presentation.

### **October**

Documents received from MoF by M. Jares (under Freedom of Information) on Block 350 reveal 131 letters for preservation of Hidden Grove and 6 for logging it.

### **January 2002**

The new Liberal government initiates a Recreation Features Inventory using contractors to quantify and qualify recreation opportunities for private owners to lease as well as community crown land (such as Hidden Grove which we made sure to include).

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Gerard Nachtegaele, Recreation, MoF toured Hidden Grove with us, suggesting we apply to MoF for a C102 so we could officially build trails there. We applied, filling out the form he sent us which was later denied by F. Hamre, Operations, MoF.

### **February**

Group of Eight Sechelt Community Associations writes to Mayor Milne and Council supporting the Hidden Grove park.

Bryen Green, Community Aboriginal and Women Services (CAWS), confirms by letter that the DoS map is correct in its boundary, which confirms that Hidden Grove is within the municipality.

### **March**

Interfor, after avoiding DoS Council for 12 months, presents an unacceptable logging plan due to similarity to the one presented before. Council resolved to protect Hidden Grove and letters were sent from the DoS to BC Assets & Lands (BCAL) and the MoF stating their intent to acquire this area as park.

### **April**

Logging personnel seen in Hidden Grove plus re-flagging and new spray can paint blazing on trees noted, even though the Hidden Grove received a "high recreation" value rating in the recent Liberal Recreation Inventory.

### **May**

DoS receives letters of reply from Land & Water BC (LWBC) and MoF, both reflecting ministerial inertia. Presentation binder on Hidden Grove given to Premier Gordon Campbell by Cam Reid at a luncheon at the Blue Heron, Sechelt.

### **June**

A formal complaint, signed by M. Hunter and G. Pacific is initiated, directed to the Forest Practices Board (FPB) about Sechelt's municipal boundary mapping error in Interfor's (and MoF's) maps.

### **July**

In anticipation of an application to BCAL for ownership/control of Hidden Grove, the Planning Committee of DoS requests a detailed plan for park development: drawings, maps, photographs, construction cost and continuing maintenance costs, etcetera, but with no budget to cover our expenses except some staff time. Our committee of six members is formed as the Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee.

An article about the complaint to the FPB appears in the newsletter of the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association. Glen Pilling of the FPB calls advising continuation of complaint and has talked with G. Hemphill, MoF. MSRM is now in charge of mapping.

### **August**

J. Pollock, Interfor, sends a new color map of G052 showing correct borderline. G. Pilling, FPB, advises the next official provincial map changes should occur in 2003.

G. Nachtegaele, MoF calls to announce a new policy of co-management for Sechelt Heritage Forest.

Our committee places an advertisement in the Coast Reporter asking the public "to contribute ideas, advice and expertise to the plan and to participate in the work of the committee."

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Steve Gordon, MoF, has worked with B. Smart on the Old Growth Management Area ( OGMA) designations, and when asked why an OGMA was not placed within Hidden Grove, says “We can’t place an OGMA anywhere Interfor wants to log”. The old growth in Hidden Grove was recognized by Carmen Cadrin <Carmen.Cadrin@gems3.gov.bc.ca> who, with Peggy Ward of the Canadian Wildlife Service had made an inventory of old growth trees in May 2000 called the Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory (SEI): Sunshine Coast. (That inventory was sponsored by Environment Canada, Georgia Basin Initiative, the Sunshine Coast Regional District, the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, and the Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks of BC.)

### **September**

The first plan binder for Hidden Grove park by our committee was delivered to Councillor Cam Reid who passed it on to MoF Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) conference who advised “I do not have the jurisdiction...go to LWBC.”

### **October**

B. D’Arcy, G. Pacific and K. Drugmand of the Steering Committee meet with Chief Feschuk and Councilor Rick August, Sechelt Indian Band, to ask for their support. Culturally important First Nation ideas are discussed and accepted. We decide to rename the area the Hidden Grove Legacy.

### **December**

DoS applies to assume management of the Sechelt Heritage Forest - Recreation Reserve which lies immediately south of the Hidden Grove, with volunteers (Sandy Hook Trailbuilders) maintaining trails under the direction of DoS Parks Department.

Ray Parfitt, Planner, DoS, sends the Hidden Grove Legacy Plan formal application to LWBC.

### **February 2003**

In the Legal/Public Notices section of the Coast Reporter’s classified ads, the DoS places a “Land Act: Notice of Intention to Apply for Disposition of Crown Land” which states “ for a License of Occupation for Institutional – Local/Regional Park purposes” together with a map.

### **March**

G. Pacific alerts Carmen Cadrin about Sangita Sudan, LWBC, who in reviewing the Hidden Grove application, said “I need to know why the Hidden Grove was included in the SEI because that area is within the ‘working provincial forest base’ “. Once again, the MoF/Interfor mapping errors muddy the waters.

### **April**

G. Pacific alerts Sangita Sudan, LWBC, by 5 page fax that the provincial SEI inventory was aware of the “old Forest” site since February 2001 when it was then referred to as “Nature Endowment Lands”.

### **May**

Alec Drysdale, Manager, LWBC replies to the DoS application: “The SCFD has advised that this area is within Forest License A19220 held by Interfor and under the administration of the MoF. The land you are interested in must be removed from this forest license prior to LWBC giving further consideration to issuing you tenure for this area.”

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Mapping errors stop the process again, so no recognition by MoF that the District of Sechelt has valid jurisdictional interest in land within the municipal boundary, and that the MoF is clinging to their old pre-1986 maps.

Without acknowledging the changes confirmed by their own Forest Practices Board. Therefore, both ministries (MoF, LWBC) are pointing at each other as the legitimate arbitrator.

### June

Sudan advises, by phone, that we need to get First Nations support in writing and to get G. Hemphill, MoF, to remove his objections to the application.

Legal advice from John Pennington, lawyer from FPB to this committee is that the provincial government does not want to directly challenge that Sechelt has some jurisdiction. The relevant point is: whatever the municipal bylaw says would govern the land and also municipalities do have the power to regulate tree cutting.

Suddenly, G. Hemphill is seconded to work on the Annual Allowable Cut takeback indefinitely, and Brian Hawries has become the Acting Director Manager of the Sunshine Coast Forest District.

### July

Meeting in the mayor's office: Mayor Cam Reid, M. Davidson, G. Pacific, B. D'Arcy to discuss the situation. It is decided that: Mayor Reid will contact Minister Joyce Murray; Ray Parfitt, Planner, will contact Mr. Drysdale; and the Steering Committee will contact Chief Feschuk and Council. For the first time we hear the words: "Community Forest" as Mayor Reid says he had some conversations with G. Hemphill, MoF, who says it would be the best way for DoS to get control of the Hidden Grove.

Later, M. Davidson observes "putting the Hidden Grove into the pot with a Community Forest leaves it in the same state of limbo as it is now, with a chain saw hanging over its head, exchanging Interfor for community forest tenure – still a logging tenure. In addition, there might not be the ability to implement the park design development and creates fuzzy thinking about goals for tourism in particular." These comments were sent in a letter to Mayor Reid.

### August

M. Davidson meets with K. Davie, president of the Forest Coalition, who suggests that forest workers be given first chance at any jobs developing Hidden Grove such as small paths, trails, and log structures. He also claims that the province only gets 30% of the possible stumpage in a community forest.

Letter from G. Pacific to Gerhard Pokrandt, General Manager, Interfor, Campbell River requesting verification that "Interfor does not have any real interest in the Hidden Grove area and that Interfor is winding down operations in this vicinity, and has sold private holdings in Sechelt. Although interest was shown in the past, Hidden Grove (or Block 350) is not in Interfor's development plans now or in the foreseeable future". These statements were made in a phone conversation by J. Pollock.

### September

SHCA joins the SCCA at the urging of the Steering Committee.

G. Pacific receives confirmation letter from G. Pokrandt: "I can confirm that you are correct in believing that Hidden Grove is not in Interfor's development plan now or in the foreseeable future."

Thank you letter sent by Committee chair Bob D'Arcy to Otto Schulte, Vice President of Coastal Woodlands, Interfor, saying "Interfor is to be congratulated for sensitivity to community aspirations and our municipal bylaw."

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### **October**

R. Parfitt, Planner, DoS, requests reconsideration of the LWBC application in a letter to Scott Benton, Director, Regional Operations, Environmental Stewardship Division, Water Land & Air Protection (WLAP), due to recent correspondence which should clear the way from a MoF perspective. He also mentioned that Mayor and Councillors met with S. Benton at the UBCM conference and discussed the Hidden Grove. Sandy Hook Community Association presented an update at the public meeting held by the DoS at the Seaside Building, reading Interfor's Otto Schulte's letter in full.

Letter sent to Brian Hawryns, Acting District Manager, MoF Sunshine Coast District, asking for a meeting, and noting the attached correspondence.

### **November**

The Steering Committee (SC) meets with the Chief and Council of the Sechelt Indian Band where we presented the Plan, answered questions, and proposed a written addendum to include traditional activities desired, possible interpretive historical material, and a change of name from park to legacy as in **Hidden Grove Legacy**.

In a phone call B. Hawryns, MoF says that after reviewing Interfor's recent retreat from the Sechelt area the MoF cannot change its position, but it would respect a decision in favour of the Hidden Grove if LWBC decided to grant our request. Seven additional pages were faxed to him plus 2 more about the Forest Practices Board complaint investigation. He replied in negative terms again.

### **December**

Letter received from the Sechelt Indian Band confirming their "full support of the Hidden Grove Plan" signed by Brian Woodward, Administrator.

### **March 2004**

Letter from SC to Minister George Abbott, MSRMC listing recent changes, and asking for a meeting with him in Victoria?

Letter of support for Hidden Grove Legacy from Harold Long, MLA, 'Hidden Grove would certainly fit nicely into the tourism picture of the Sunshine Coast and I look forward to walking in that pleasant forested area again.'

Presentation by SC before the DoS Council regarding the request to meet in Victoria with Minister Abbott.

### **April**

Our committee received an invitation to present SC Hidden Grove Plan to the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) Strategic Parks Master Plan committee. Upon our presentation, the committee passed a motion of support on to the Board of the SCRCD.

Response to our request to meet with Minister Abbot received: another Inventory Development Study, to find out what lands are still crown lands, will be made within the District of Sechelt after completion of same within the SCRCD is used as the reason LWBC will not consider an application, and therefore it is premature to meet with Minister Abbott. This letter is signed by Bill Valentine, President and CEO of LWBC.

In a call to Tony Duffy, mentioned in the above letter, he says he is currently conducting the "Inventory Development Study" for the SCRCD but anticipates new bids from consultants and at least 6 months delay to begin one in Sechelt.

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### **September**

A follow up conversation with T. Duffy reveals there is no time line set for Sechelt's Inventory Development Study. Subsequent calls result in recorded messages.

### **December**

Mayor Reid called M. Davidson, and seems to be pursuing the Community Forest proposal, meeting with G. Hemphill who will be fast tracking the areas that might be included in a community forest.

### **February 2005**

Bill Brown, Administrator, DoS, applies for support from CAWS in the form of a sponsorship of the Crown Grant applications concerning Dusty Road Sewage Treatment Plant and Hidden Grove Park. G. Pacific sends a backup letter to Rob Rounds, Manager, Financial Operations, and CAWS, to reinforce the DoS letter by itemizing the overall support for the Hidden Grove.

Also, consensus was reached at the third of 6 meetings regarding the community forest proposal when Kevin Davie was asked to present a means of releasing the Hidden Grove from its present designation, thus allowing the transfer of the crown land to the District of Sechelt.

### **March**

DoS submits application for a Community Forest amidst public apprehension that the logging tenure could endanger our drinking watersheds, Gray and Chapman Creeks, and also jeopardize preservation of the Hidden Grove, since the Community Forest License is a license to log, not to protect anything.

Mayor Reid assures the public that those fears are unfounded, but much doubt remains.

### **June**

The Vancouver Sun prints a Vaughn Palmer Column announcing that "Land and Water BC is being shut down, three years after it was launched as a "one-stop solution to improve access to Crown land and water resources. Land allocation goes to a new ministry of Agriculture and Land (A&L), under Prince George's Pat Bell."

Chair of the SC Bob D'Arcy sends a letter requesting support to Minister Patricia Bell, A&L, for Hidden Grove Legacy.

### **July**

Al Jenkins, consultant for local logging contractor Ken Sneddon, approaches the SC seeking support for K. Sneddon's wish to construct trails in an area for handicapped users, in one of three sites. A. Jenkins maps a properly graded trail within Hidden Grove for our information and use. SC sends Mr. Sneddon a letter of thanks for that information, wishing him well in his search for an appropriate location.

### **September**

Barbara De Mott, a valuable and keen supporter of the Hidden Grove, arranges a meeting with our new MLA Nicholas Simons and the Steering Committee. MLA Simons heartily supports the Hidden Grove Legacy and requests a listing of the public processes we've been through – this report. We are hopeful that after five years, we will see action on this initiative at last.

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**Hidden Grove Legacy**  
**Summation of Efforts to Secure Protection**  
**2000-2005**

Briefing Note  
Prepared for MLA Nicholas Simons

November 28, 2005

Gertrude Pacific  
Hidden Grove Legacy Plan Steering Committee

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