

November 27, 2002

File No.

Ministry of Forests,  
Sunshine Coast Forest District,  
7077 Duncan Street,  
Powell River, BC,  
V8A 1W1

Attention: Mr. Gerrard Nachtengaele:

Dear Sir:

**RE: Forest Service Recreation Sites  
Sechelt Heritage Forest – Forest Service Recreation Site No. 9006206**

As discussed, enclosed please find completed application form by the District of Sechelt to facilitate transfer of the Sechelt Heritage Forest to the District. I trust that the requisite forms are satisfactorily completed

On November 21, we discussed the matter of liability insurance. At that time you indicated that this was under discussion at higher levels of management. Could you please advise if there has been any policy decision taken on this matter.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours truly,

**DISTRICT OF SECHELT**

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December 12, 2002

File No.

Ministry of Forests,  
Sunshine Coast Forest District  
7077 Duncan Street,  
Powell River, BC  
V8A 1W1

Dear Sir:

**RE: Forest Service Recreation Sites,  
Sechelt Heritage Forest – Forest Service Recreation Site No. 9006206**

Dear Sir:

Further to our telephone conversations and our meeting December 4, 2002 enclosed please find the District of Sechelt proposal to assume management and maintenance of the above referenced site.

The District of Sechelt owns and manages a wide variety of municipal parks and trails including several large parks treed with mature second growth timber. The District's parks staff has proven expertise in parks management including silviculture, trail development and interpretation.

The Sechelt Heritage Forest will be a significant compliment to the District's parks inventory.

I look forward to

**DISTRICT OF SECHELT**

March 8, 2003

File No.

Ministry of Forests,  
Sunshine Coast Forest District  
7077 Duncan Street,  
Powell River, BC  
V8A 1W1

Dear Sir:

**RE: Forest Service Recreation Sites,  
Sechelt Heritage Forest – Forest Service Recreation Site No. 9006206**

Dear Sir:

Further to The Ministry's letter to Recreation Proposal Proponents dated February 24, 2003, by copy of this letter please be advised that the District of Sechelt has no amendments to its proposal of December 12<sup>th</sup> 2002 and respectfully requests that the Ministry accept the District's original proposal to assume management and maintenance of the above referenced site.

The District welcomes the Ministry's policy change to assist successful proponents in the matter of liability insurance.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

**DISTRICT OF SECHELT**

December 19, 2002

File No. 624020

Land And Water BC Inc.,  
Lower Mainland Region,  
Suite 200 – 10428 153 Street,  
Surrey, BC  
V3R 1E1

Attention: Mr. Tyler Brown, Land Officer

Dear Sir:

**RE: Crown Land Application West Half DL 3006 NWD  
The Hidden Grove**

Enclosed please find a completed application by the District of Sechelt for the above referenced land for a municipal park. The subject land is presently under tenure to Interfor. (Forest License A 19220) The District recognizes that the application will be referred to the Ministry of Forests for comment.

Pursuant to Lands and Water BC Inc application requirements please find the following attachments:

- Application for Crown Land and cheque in the amount of \$107.00 to cover application fees;
- LWBC Requirement Checklist;
- Economic Impact Questionnaire;
- LWBC Notification checklist
- Council resolution endorsing application;
- General Location Map and Site Plan
- Detailed Development Plan
- Completed Agency Required Check List

I trust that the application has been completed in a satisfactory manner. If you have any questions please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

**DISTRICT OF SECHELT**

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Ray Parfitt MCIP, Municipal Planner

Attachments

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**REPORT**

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**DATE:** July 2, 2002  
**TO:** Planning, Environment and Community Relations Committee  
**FROM:** Ray Parfitt, Municipal Planner  
**RE:** Hidden Grove

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1. **BACKGROUND:**

At the June 12, 2002 meeting Council adopted the recommendations of the May 14, 2002 Planning Committee meeting. The Planning Committee recommendations about the Hidden Grove agenda item include the following:

- That the District of Sechelt make application to Land and Water BC (LWBC) for acquisition of DL 3006 as a park;
- That the District of Sechelt consider making an application to the Ministry of Forests to annex DL 3006 to the Heritage Forest, if the park application for DL 3006 is not approved;
- That Staff write to the District Manager of the Ministry of Forests advising of mapping discrepancies for the Municipal boundary within the Provincial Forest shown on Ministry mapping.

Staff has written to the Ministry of Forests advising of the mapping error and has started the process of filing an application with Land and Water BC for a community park. Staff at the Corporation advised that the District's park application must include supporting park documents, including a park design plan and construction budget. LWBC staff also advises that applications for community and institutional uses are presently being held in abeyance.

2. **ALTERNATIVES:**

- Delay making application to Land and Water BC until they establish a policy about Crown Grants for Community and Institutional uses.
- Retain a consultant to prepare a park plan and construction budget for the Crown Grant application to Land and Water BC.

- Request the Sandy Hook Community Association to prepare a park plan for the proposed DL 3006 Park. And to authorize staff to spend time to prepare working drawings from their design and develop a budget for the work.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The application fee is \$109.00. Staff projected that fees to prepare a park plan in support of the application would be approximately \$5000.00. Preliminary information from Provincial Government press releases indicate that Crown Grant to the District might involve the municipality compensating the tenure holder.

4. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

1. The proposed park is Provincial Crown Land within the Provincial Forest.
2. In previous reports staff has outlined the inter-jurisdictional nature of the Hidden Grove issue.
3. The District's OCP designates the subject area as Parks and Open Space. It is zoned Rural Resource (RR-1).
4. Interfor has a Forest Management License in the subject area and has submitted a five-year management plan to the Ministry of Forests in which the Hidden Grove area has been deferred for further study.

5. **DISCUSSION:**

Interfor staff indicated they are revising their plans for the proposed Cut Block 350. At this time, extent of logging proposed is not known. Planning Department staff has discussed the application procedures for a Crown Land Grant with Land and Water BC staff. We were advised that applications for Community and Institutional uses are on hold. The Ministry is establishing a policy for these types of Crown Grants. However, they did indicate and stress that any application for crown land for a local government park, must include a detail plan for the park development as part of the application submission.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**THAT** Council authorizes staff to request the Sandy Hook Neighbourhood Association to prepare a park development concept plan for DL 3006 for the part of the District Lot to be requested as a Crown Grant.

**AND THAT** Council authorizes staff to divert Engineering staff time for preparing drawings and a budget estimate based on the concept plan for submission to the Provincial Government.

OR THAT Council authorizes staff to retain consulting assistance to prepare the required drawings and budget.

March 19, 2002

File No.

Mr. Randal Wenger, RI (BC)  
Regional Manager, Land Sales,  
Lower Mainland Region  
10428 153<sup>rd</sup> St.,  
Surrey, BC  
V3R 1E1

Dear Sir:

**RE: DL 3006 District of Sechelt**

At the March 12 meeting of the District of Sechelt Planning Committee a resolution was passed instructing staff to examine the requirements of acquiring all or portions of the above referenced District Lot for a municipal park or preservation by way of an extension to the Heritage Forest which abuts the subject lands to the south. (See attached map)

The subject lands are Crown lands within the Provincial Forest and under tenure to Interfor. Interfor has filed a Forest Management Plan with the Ministry of Forests. As part of this plan a cut block within DL 3006 has been proposed for selective harvesting, but has been deferred for further public input.

I have written the Ministry of Forests to determine the requirements associated with an extension to the Heritage Forest.

By copy of this letter I respectfully request that your office outline the procedure required to enable the District of Sechelt to acquire from BCAL that part of DL 3006 as outlined for park purposes.

If you have any questions please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

**DISTRICT OF SECHELT**

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Ray Parfitt, MCIP,  
Planner

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**DISTRICT OF SECHELT - MEMORANDUM**

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**DATE:** May 1, 2001  
**TO:** Charles Littledale  
**FROM:** Ray Parfitt  
**RE:** DL 3006, District of Sechelt  
**FILE NO:** Hidden Grove

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Charles:

Further to our telephone conversation of May 1, 2001, the District of Sechelt is interested in acquiring the west half of DL as illustrated on the attached plan.

It is our understanding that DL 3006 was cancelled by an Order in Council and the land is vacant crown land. The land lies in the Provincial Forest. Interfor has tenure over the area and has recently prepared a forestry development plan which identifies a cut block in the subject area. This plan has not yet been submitted to the Ministry of Forests for approval.

Some years ago the Sechelt Heritage Forest was designated on District Lot 7148 immediately south of the subject land. The proposed use of DL 3006 would be for parks and recreation purposes. The land is designated Parks and Open Space in the District's OCP, however, the District has no tenure over the lands in question.

I would appreciate your opinion and advise in this regard. Could the District of Sechelt be granted this land for parks purposes? Given the forest tenure, would there be an extensive referral process? Would compensation be due to the licensee?

If you have any questions regarding this enquiry please contact me at your convenience.

## **HIDDEN GROVE**

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **September 16, 2002**

**March 1, 2001** Staff report to Planning Committee in response to Public Information meetings and referral of Interfor's Forest Development Plan (Forest License A 19220) Particular concern about proposed Cut Block 350 in DL 3006

**March 16, 2001** Council requests that Interfor meet and clarify matter of Cut block 350.

**May 2001** Interfor withdraws status of Cut Block 350 to "I" on Management Plan – deters action on Block 350 pending further study.

**September 5, 2001** Council requests letter be forwarded to MoF, BC Lands requesting that Cut Block 350 be designated as part of Sechelt Heritage Forest

**March 6, 2002** Interfor appears before Council outlines plans for Cut Block 350

**March 12, 2002** Planning Committee recommends District write MoF, BC Lands to either add Cut Block 350 to Heritage Forest or create a municipal park

**May 14, 2002** Planning Committee recommends that District of Sechelt apply to Lands BC to acquire DL 3006 as a park and undertake the requisite park plan in support of application to Lands BC; and

that Interfor meet with Council to discuss revised management plans for Cut Block 350

**July 9, 2002** Planning Committee recommends that Sandy Hook Neighborhood Association appoint steering committee to prepare park plan for Cut Block 350 in support of an application to Lands BC and that District Staff review same.

#### HIDDEN GROVE CHRONOLOGY

#### MARCH 1

Staff report to Planning Committee reviewing proposal to amend forest license, ocp policies

#### **MARCH 13 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING (Gertrude, Michael, Adrian Carr)**

Council request Interfor to meet Council, MoF, Ratepayers Ass'n

#### MARCH 21 COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Request Interfor to appear to review issues and options re Cutblock 350

#### MAY

Interfor designates Cutblock 350 for Information Only – defers area from Forest Management Plan

#### AUGUST

Michael Davidson appears before Planning Committee, proposes wide range of initiatives which the DoS should pursue. Committee recommends that staff respond be forwarded to Davidson

#### OCTOBER 9

Planning Staff meets with Interfor, outlines issues, concerns. Interfor to appear before Council, Sandy Hook Ratepayers to define a planning Strategy. To meet in November or December.

#### OCTOBER 17

Council invites Interfor to attend January 23, 2002 meeting

JANUARY

Interfor requests postponement to March Council meeting because of personal and staff reasons

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## REPORT

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**DATE:** July 10, 2003  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ray Parfitt, Municipal Planner  
**RE:** Hidden Grove  
**FILE NO:**

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1. **BACKGROUND:**

In December, 2002 Council submitted a Crown Land application to Land and Water BC (LWBC) for a municipal park in DL 3006. (The Hidden Grove) Council had agreed in July 2002 that the Sandy Hook Ratepayers Association would prepare a park plan for the Hidden Grove and that District staff would provide capital cost estimates for the park in support of the application. LWBC has advised the District that they cannot approve this application. (see letter attached)

2. **ALTERNATIVES:**

- that Council contact LWBC, to determine the costs of purchasing DL 3006.
- that Interfor be requested to preserve the unique features of Cut Block 350 in their logging plan
- that no further action be taken to pursue acquiring this property for municipal parkland.

3. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Although the subject area is designated "Park and Open Space" in the OCP, it is provincial crown land and lies within the provincial forest. The initiative has involved community interests in an area of provincial government jurisdiction. (i.e. Forest Management and established licensed tenure.)

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Establishing a municipal park would involve land costs and possible compensation costs to Interfor.

5. **DISCUSSION:**

Council will recall that DL 3006 (the Hidden Grove) is provincial crown land within the Provincial forest. The property is under license to Interfor. Interfor filed a Forest Management Plan with the Ministry of Forests in June 2002. Following statutory community input, Cut block 350 was deferred in the management plan for further study and consultation.

Following a request by the Sandy Hook Ratepayers Association, Council agreed to file a crown land application for a crown grant to develop a municipal park in DL 3006 (including Cut block 350) The Ratepayers Association agreed to prepare a development plan for a park plan and district staff prepared the associated cost analysis. The application was submitted to LWBC in December 2002. The District was advised by letter May 22, 2003 (attached) that this application was denied.

LWBC advised that they would reconsider a new application if the Ministry of Forests agree to remove the subject area from the Interfor's license. LWBC staff indicated that there were two major issues identified in the referral of this application (i.e.)

- the Ministry of Forests expressed a reluctance to remove forest land from the Provincial Forests, and
- that there had been insufficient consultation with the Sechelt Indian Band.

At this juncture the following are outstanding issues that require attention:

- The province has still not determined a policy regarding the valuation of crown land for community purposes. Consequently the land value is still an unknown. The District estimated a capital cost \$266,000 for improvements.(Trails, parking, benches, signage, buildings)
- Is this a priority for parks acquisition? Current efforts have been to acquire waterfront lands in the vicinity of Mission Point. By agreement with the Ministry of Forests, the District of Sechelt has acquired management for the recreation reserve known as the Heritage Forest which abuts the "Hidden Grove". The purpose of the Heritage forest is recreation and interpretation of forest features. The Porpoise Bay campground is located approximately .5 km south and Mount Richardson/ Tetrahedron Park is located to the north.
- The District of Sechelt is currently preparing a Parks strategic plan. The purpose of this is to identify priorities for community parks at the neighborhood level.
- The District of Sechelt in partnership with the Sechelt Indian Band has filed an expression of interest for a community forest. Negotiations will soon take place with the Ministry and area tenure holders in order to secure tenure and quota for the community forest. Would extensive discussions about the Hidden Grove compromise the community forest initiative?

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**That Council not take further action on this file until the parks strategic plan is completed.**

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## REPORT

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**DATE:** November 14, 2002  
**TO:** Mayor and Councilors  
**FROM:** Municipal Planner  
**RE:** Hidden Grove  
**FILE NO:**

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1. **BACKGROUND:**

At the July 17, 2002 meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

"That the Sandy Hook Community Association be requested to prepare a park development concept plan for that part of DL 3006 to be included in an application for a Crown Grant," and

"That staff time be diverted to prepare drawings and a budget based on the concept plan for submission to the Provincial Government."

On November 6, 2002 representatives from the Hidden Grove Park Steering Committee presented their plan to Council.

2. **ALTERNATIVES:**

- Refer the Park Plan and cost projections to Planning Committee for review
- Instruct staff to prepare an application to Lands and Water BC for a Crown Grant for parks purposes.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are considerable financial implications. Staff estimates that the cost of improvements as proposed in the Hidden Grove Park Plan at approximately \$300,000. Staff has previously been advised that the provincial government is revising its policy on Crown Grants for municipal parks and recreation purposes and that nominal rents or fee simple values will no longer apply. The matter of compensation to Interfor is presently unknown.

4. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The subject area is designated "Parks and Open Space" on the District's OCP Land Use Map. The specific park policies in the OCP reference neighborhood park standards and linear pedestrian walkways parallel to the shoreline areas of the Strait of Georgia and Porpoise Bay. The Open Space policies don't specifically address the acquisition of open space.

5. **DISCUSSION:**

The Sandy Hook Ratepayers Association Park Steering Committee has prepared a plan for the Hidden Grove consistent with Council's direction. This park plan would be an attachment in support of a formal application to Lands and Water BC for the granting of tenure to the District of Sechelt for a Park in District Lot 3006.

The Hidden Grove Plan divides DL 3006 into three areas (Northern, Southern and the Hidden Grove lying in the middle). The Northern area lies north of Davis Brook. The Hidden Grove section includes the area of old growth timber. The southern section comprises that portion from the entrance road to the Sechelt Heritage Forest.

The proposed park improvements include such features as a parking lot off Sechelt Inlet Road, a system of trails (8.6 km.) designed to include wheelchair access, improvements such as ladder bridges, boardwalks, viewing platforms, balance logs, signage, picnic facilities, (tables, benches, pavilion) pit toilets, garbage facilities. The plan suggests that the Hidden Grove Park be developed over a 7 year time line.

Staff estimates that the above referenced improvements would cost approximately \$300,000. This has not been prorated over the development time line.

There are a number of issues that staff should review with Lands and Water BC and the Ministry of Forests.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**That Council refers the Hidden Grove application to Planning Committee for a more detailed review of financial and policy considerations.**

March 19, 2002

File No.

Ministry of Forests,  
7077 Duncan Street,  
Powell River, BC

V8A 1W1

Attention: Mr. Greg Hemphill, District Manager

Dear Sir:

**RE: DL 3006 District of Sechelt**

At the March 12 meeting of the District of Sechelt Planning Committee a resolution was passed instructing staff to examine the requirements of acquiring all or portions of the above referenced District Lot for a municipal park or preservation by way of an extension to the Heritage Forest which abuts the subject lands to the south. (See attached map)

As you know, the subject lands are Crown lands within the Provincial Forest and under tenure to Interfor. Interfor has filed a Forest Management Plan with the Ministry of Forests. As part of this plan a cut block within DL 3006 has been proposed for selective harvesting, but has been deferred for further public input.

I have written BCAL to determine the requirements associated with granting the lands to the District of Sechelt for parks purposes.

By copy of this letter I respectfully request that your office outline the procedure required to enable the part or all of DL 3006 as outlined to be added to the Heritage Forest

If you have any questions please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

**DISTRICT OF SECHELT**

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Ray Parfitt, MCIP,  
Planner

July 24, 2002

File No.

Sandy Hook Community Association,

5916 Skookumchuk Road,  
Sechelt, BC  
V0N 3A4

Attention: Ms Sandra Sharkey, President

Dear Ms. Sharkey:

**RE: Hidden Grove**

Please be advised that the District of Sechelt Council at the regular Council meeting July 17 2002 adopted a Planning Committee recommendation

That Sandy Hook Association prepare a Park Development Concept for that part of DL 3006 to be included in an application for a Crown Grant.

This follows the initiative of Sandy Hook residents to have the "Hidden Grove" granted municipal park status from its current status as a licensed area in the Provincial Forest. Municipal staff has been advised by Land and Water BC that any application for a municipal park must be supported by a plan which shows proposed and estimated costs.

Further to this Planning Staff has been advised by Land and Water BC that the application will not be considered until a new policy has been developed regarding crown land grants for municipal and institutional purposes. The application will be subject to a provincial government referral process.

By copy of this letter, I would request that the Community Association strike a committee to prepare the proposed municipal park plan. I would suggest that the committee be limited in size in order to achieve the objective of preparing a plan in a timely manner. District Planning staff will serve as a resource and to this end will provide base maps and aerial photos. I would suggest the following elements for consideration in the plan:

- Parking lot
- Trails
- Fixed improvements (pavilions, bridges, bar b q pits
- Garbage cans
- Interpretive features, signage

Please advise this office of your steering committee and a proposed meeting date to commence this project. If you have any questions please contact the undersigned

Yours truly,

**DISTRICT OF SECHELT**

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Ray Parfitt,  
Municipal Planner

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## REPORT

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**DATE:** February 23, 2014  
**TO:** Planning Committee  
**FROM:** Ray Parfitt, Planner  
**RE:** DL 3006 – Park  
**FILE NO:**

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1. **BACKGROUND:**

Council at its September 5, 2001 meeting directed staff to explore the procedure for adding Interfor's proposed Cutblock 350 in DL 3006 to the Sechelt Heritage Forest. Staff has been in correspondence with Ministry of Forests and Land and Water British Columbia (the old BCAL Lands Branch) respecting the process for (a) adding the subject area to the Heritage Forest or (b) acquiring the property for park purposes. A copy of the responses from the two agencies is attached to this report. Interfor appeared before Council on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2002 to outline its planning process in respect of Cutblock 350.

2. **ALTERNATIVES:**

Options for Council include:

1. Directing staff to make application to the Ministry of Forests to annex DL 3006 to the Heritage Forest, a reserve within the provincial forest.
2. Directing staff to request Interfor and Ministry of Forests to enter into dialogue with the District of Sechelt and Sandy Hook Neighborhood Association about a reduced logging plan for DL 3006
3. Directing staff to apply to the Land and Water BC Inc. to acquire the property for municipal park purposes (and negotiate with the Ministry of Forests to remove DL 3006 from the provincial forest)

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Cost for the first alternative is limited to utilizing staff time to make application to annex DL 3006 to the Heritage Forest reserve. Implementing the second alternative, will involve significantly more staff time. Cost for the third alternative would include preparation of a park development plan, application processing costs and purchase of land.

4. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

District of Sechelt Council is being asked to represent community interests in an area of provincial government jurisdiction. (i.e. Forest Management and established licensed tenure)

5. **DISCUSSION:**

Interfor has filed a Forest Management Plan with the Ministry of Forests in which after community input, Cutblock 350 was deferred for further study and consultation with the community. Inter has proceeded to revise its plans for Cutblock 350 but have advised staff that mapping will not be completed until late 2002. Consultation will take place at an undefined date.

The option of annexing DL 3006 to the Heritage Forest is not favoured by the Ministry. Of Forests. In its letter of April 10, 2002 the Ministry indicates satisfaction with the present boundary of the Sechelt Heritage Forest Recreation site.

A second alternative is the revised forest management plan that meets both community and industry objectives currently being undertaken by Interfor. This approach will require a significant time due to information gathering and on going public input.

The third option is for the District to purchase the property. Viability of this approach is questionable. The issues raised are; priority of this property for purchase in relation to other park land purchases in the District, and that cost for the property could deplete the District's parkland acquisition reserve.

The issue of local government involvement in an area of provincial jurisdiction is complex. The possible acquisition of provincial lands over which company holds a Forest License raises the issue of compensation. At the same time the Ministry of Forests is undergoing considerable restructuring including change to forest management

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**That Planning Committee instruct staff to set up a meeting with representatives of BCAL and Ministry of Forests to review management options for Cutblock 350; or**

**That Planning Committee recommend to Council that when Interfor finalizes its revised management plan, the company, and Ministry of Forests meet with Council and representatives of the Sandy Hook Community Association; or**

**THAT the Planning Committee recommends to Council that staff be directed to make application to the Ministry of Forests to annex DL 3006 to the Heritage Forest, a reserve within the provincial forest; or**

**THAT the Planning Committee recommends to Council that staff be directed to make application to the Land and Water British Columbia for acquisition of DL 3006 as a park.**

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## REPORT

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**DATE:** August 9, 2001  
**TO:** Planning, Environment and Community Relations Committee  
**FROM:** Development Planner  
**RE:** "Hidden Grove" Cutblock 350 (Sandy Hook) Forest License A 19220  
**FILE NO:**

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1. **BACKGROUND:**

On July 10, 2001 Mr. Michael Davidson made a presentation to Planning Committee in support of the "Hidden Grove" initiative. As part of his presentation he submitted a written proposal requesting four specific actions that the District of Sechelt Council should pursue.

2. **ALTERNATIVES:**

Not applicable at this time

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Not applicable at this time

4. **DISCUSSION:**

On January 19, 2001, Interfor referred their proposed Forest Development Plan to the District of Sechelt. Block 350 (Hidden Grove) near Sandy Hook included a proposed partial cut block. On March 21, 2001 Council adopted a resolution requesting that Interfor meet with Council and the community to outline development options for the proposed cut block. On May 7, 2001 Interfor wrote the District of Sechelt advising that they had modified their Development Plan by deferring Block 350 to allow more time for public comment and input at the community level. To this end Interfor undertook to meet with the District of Sechelt and the Sandy Hook Community Association during the summer of 2001. At this juncture no meeting has been scheduled.

The following response is offered to the points raised by Mr. Davidson's written submission to Planning Committee on July 10, 2001.

1. Ask MLA Harold Long to write a letter of support for the District's OCP to the Honourable Joyce Murray, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection.

The March 1, 2001 Staff report to the Planning Committee in response to Interfor's Management Plan, outlined the OCP Parks and Open Space designation and Section 6.2 Forest Resource Area policies. The staff report identified the apparent conflict between the Parks and Opens space policies and the proposed timber harvesting in Cutblock 350. The OCP Forest Resource Area polices support good stewardship practices and reference the management of forest areas to protect ecosystems and watershed values. The staff report identified the subject area lying in the Provincial Forest and outlined to Planning Committee the primacy of the Forest Act and the Forest Practices Code and that regardless of OCP designation, the local government land regulatory policies cannot over-ride the province's jurisdiction

2. Write the Ministry of Forests regarding mapping issues and clarification regarding "ownership codes".

Staff has spoken to Ministry of Forest Officials and received a written response. The Planning Forester advises that the Ministry is obtaining the current boundary delineation for the District of Sechelt. He further clarifies the "ownership codes" (i.e. "N" - land not available for timber harvesting or "C" land that is available for multiple use, including timber harvesting). The fact that a block of Crown Provincial Forest lies within a municipal boundary doesn't necessarily change the ownership code. He cites the Sechelt Heritage Forest (adjacent to the Hidden Grove) in which the ownership code was changed with the creation of the Heritage Forest, (designated an "Interpretive Forest Site pursuant to the Forest Practices Code). However the land is still within the Provincial Forest.

3. Contact BC Assets and Land Corporation regarding transfer of vacant crown lands (in vicinity of Hidden Grove) to District of Sechelt.

Staff has contacted BCAL officials regarding the matter of municipal acquisition of Crown lands in order to "extend municipal powers". We are advised that this is a complex inter- Ministerial issue. BCAL would require that the District prepare a long term management plan for the subject area. This request would be referred to the Ministry of Forests whose major concern would be a clear identification of a "higher and better use" than the production of timber. BCAL further advises that this item would not likely be accorded a priority.

4. Respond to the Provincial Timber Supply Review by August 14, 2001.

The Sunshine Coast Timber Supply Review covers approximately 1.5 million hectares including TFL 10 and parts of TFL 39 and 43. The major objective of the Timber Supply Review is to forecast harvest levels for the Sunshine Coast Timber Supply Area.

The Timber Supply Review takes into account a variety of information including land base available for timber harvesting, constraints such as wildlife and riparian zones, parks and recreation uses, current forest management practices. The Timber Supply Review projects two harvesting levels (i.e. 1.14 million cubic meters per year and 1.233 million cubic meters per year, - sustainable for 250 years). (The average actual harvest from 1998 to 2000 was 1.19 million cubic meters per year)

The Ministry of Forests advises that the TSR included ownership code "C" parcels of land. (all lands potentially available for integrated resource management) As discussed in point 1 above, the Interfor lands in question are within the Provincial Forest regardless of the fact that they fall within the boundaries of the District of Sechelt.

Conclusion:

The March 16 Staff report to Planning Committee dealt extensively with the Official Community Plan Policies and jurisdictional limitations. In response to Council's request, Interfor has agreed to a meeting with the District and the Sandy Hook Community Association at a date to be determined. Staff has left voice mail messages requesting that this matter be expedited. Staff has not had the time to fully review the Timber Supply Review and prepare a response. It doesn't appear that proposed Cutblock 350 is a major factor in determining the projected annual allowable cuts.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**That Council provide direction to staff in regards to dealing with the Hidden Grove issue.**

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## REPORT

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**DATE:** May 14, 2002  
~~May 13, 2002~~

**TO:** Planning Committee

**FROM:** Ray Parfitt, Planner

**RE:** DL 3006 – Park

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1. **BACKGROUND:**

Council at its September 5, 2001 meeting directed staff to explore the procedure for adding Interfor's proposed Cutblock 350 in DL 3006 to the Sechelt Heritage Forest, and to provide information for Council about the procedure to obtain the property for use as a municipal park.

Staff has been in correspondence with Ministry of Forests and the new Land and Water British Columbia (the old BCAL Lands Branch) respecting the process for (a) adding the subject area to the Heritage Forest or (b) acquiring the property for park purposes. A copy of the responses from the two agencies is attached to this report.

Interfor appeared before Council on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2002 to outline its planning process in respect of Cutblock 350. Following that, Council's Planning Committee reviewed the presentation and recommended the proposed alternatives to Council.

As Council may recall, during 2001 Interfor filed a Forest Management Plan with the Ministry of Forests. After receiving community input, Cutblock 350 part of the company's submission was deferred for further study and consultation with the community. Interfor has advised District staff that they are revising their plans for Cutblock 350. They indicated that mapping work revising their plans will not be completed until late 2002. Subsequent to that, consultation would take place. No dates were specified for this.

2. **ALTERNATIVES:**

Options for Council include:

4. Directing staff to make application to the Ministry of Forests to annex DL 3006 to the Heritage Forest, a reserve within the provincial forest.
5. Directing staff to apply to the Land and Water BC Inc. to acquire the property for municipal park purposes (and negotiate with the Ministry of Forests to remove DL 3006 from the provincial forest)
6. Directing staff to request Interfor and Ministry of Forests to enter into dialogue with the District of Sechelt and Sandy Hook Neighborhood Association about a reduced logging plan for DL 3006 to accommodate recreation use in a working forest.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Cost for the first alternative would be utilizing staff time to make application to annex DL 3006 to the Heritage Forest reserve. Cost for the second alternative would include preparation of a park development plan, application processing costs and purchase of land. Implementing the third alternative, will involve significantly more staff time.

4. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

District of Sechelt Council is being asked to represent community interests in an area of provincial government jurisdiction. (i.e. Forest Management and established licensed tenure)

5. **DISCUSSION:**

The first option, annexing DL 3006 to the Heritage Forest is not favored by the Ministry of Forests. In his letter of April 10, 2002 the Ministry of Forests District Manager indicates the present boundary of the Sechelt Heritage Forest Recreation site is their recommended limit. It will be difficult to change the Ministry position, which limits the feasibility of this option.

The second option is for the District to purchase the property. In view of provincial government policy that land taken away from working forests must be purchased, viability of this approach is questionable. The issues raised are; that cost for the property could deplete the District's parkland acquisition reserve, and the priority of this property for purchase in relation to other park land purchases in the District.

A third alternative is the Ministry's suggestion that the District of Sechelt participate in a revised forest management plan that meets both community and industry objectives. This is the direction the Ministry has directed be undertaken by Interfor. As noted above in the Financial Implications section, this approach will require a significant amount time for information gathering and holding a public input process.

In summary, local government involvement in areas of provincial jurisdiction is complex. The possible acquisition of provincial lands over which company holds a Forest License raises the issue of compensation.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**THAT the Planning Committee recommends to Council that staff be directed to make application to the Ministry of Forests to annex DL 3006 to the Heritage Forest, a reserve within the provincial forest, AND**

**THAT the Planning Committee recommends to Council that staff be directed to make application to the Land and Water British Columbia for acquisition of DL 3006 as a park AND**

**THAT Planning Committee recommend to Council that when Interfor finalizes its revised management plan, the company, and Ministry of Forests meet with Council and representatives of the Sandy Hook Community Association.**

Land and Water BC Inc.  
Attention: Tyler Brown, Client Service Coordinator  
Suite 200 – 10428 153<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Surrey BC V3R 1E1

Dear Mr. Brown:

**RE: Crown Land Application – Local/Regional Park, Hidden Grove, Sechelt**

Thank you for your letter of January 15, 2003 confirming acceptance of our application package for Public Road Dedication. Enclosed please find the following, confirming completion of the advertising and staking requested in your letter:

- Copies of advertisements in the local paper for two weeks
- Copy of advertisement in the BC Gazette
- Staking Notice staked on property January 29, 2003
- Photo of staking

I hope the above enclosures now complete our application.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please us a call.

Yours truly,

**DISTRICT OF SECHELT**

---

Hans Penner, ASCT  
Assistant Planner



February 07, 2002

Ferd Harme  
Operations Manager  
Ministry of Forests  
707 Duncan St  
Powell River BC V8A 1W1

Dear Ferd Harme:

**Re: District of Sechelt Municipal Boundary**

I was contacted by Gertrude Pacific of Sechelt, who is concerned that the present legal boundary of the District of Sechelt (the District) is not shown correctly on the Ministry of Forests' maps. The enclosed map shows the present municipal boundary of the District. You will note the municipality includes a portion of the Sechelt Provincial Forest in the vicinity of District Lot 7148.

I trust this clarifies any questions on the boundary of the District.

If you require additional information, please contact me at 250-387-4030.

Yours truly,

Bryan Green  
Administrative Officer  
Local Government Structure Branch

pc: ✓ Gertrude Pacific



# District of Sechelt

*"Heart of the Sunshine Coast"*



April 30, 2002

DOS File No.1405-01

MOF File: ARCS 240-20/Sechelt

Attn: Greg Hemphill  
District Manager  
Sunshine Coast Forest District  
Ministry of Forests  
7077 Duncan Street  
Powell River, BC  
V8A 1W1

Dear Greg:

**RE: CHART BOUNDARY ERROR**

The District of Sechelt has been advised that the municipal boundary drawn in Interfor's 2001-2005 Forest Development Plan F.L A19220 dated January 19, 2001, is incorrect in the area of D.L.3006 (Sandy Hook Heritage Forest and "Hidden Grove"). Enclosed please find a copy of the metes and bounds description from the District of Sechelt's Letters Patent and a cadastral map detailing the boundary in question. This mapping error has caused concern amongst local residents who favor the preservation of the "Hidden Grove". Would you please advise this office whether this discrepancy affects in any way the status and jurisdiction of the Municipality or the Provincial Forest. If you require further information please contact the undersigned

Yours truly,

**DISTRICT OF SECHELT**

Paul Appelt,  
Assistant Engineering Technician

Attachment:

f:\wkgtps\eng-pw\general\paul\mof1.doc

2nd. Floor, 5797 Cowrie Street, P.O. Box 129, Sechelt, British Columbia, Canada V0N 3A0



# District of Sechelt

*"Heart of the Sunshine Coast"*



April 30, 2002

File No. 1405-01

International Forest Products Ltd.  
Attention: Jeffery W. Pollock  
#311 - 1180 Ironwood Road  
Campbell River, B.C.  
V9W 5P7

Dear Jeffrey:

**RE: CHART BOUNDARY ERROR**

It has come to my attention that the boundary drawn for the District of Sechelt in your 2001-2005 Forest Development Plan F.L A19220 as signed by J.W. Pollock is incorrect in the area of Sandy Hook. Enclosed please find a copy of our meets and bounds description for the area in question along with a cadasteral map. If you require further information please contact the undersigned

Yours truly,

**DISTRICT OF SECHELT**

**COPY**  
Paul Appelt,  
Assistant Engineering Technician



File: 19500-55/A19220 CGRAY

October 4, 2002

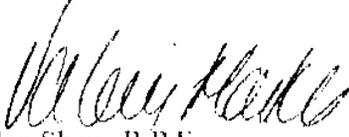
Gertrude Pacific  
5823 Skookumchuk  
Sechelt, British Columbia  
V0N 3A4

Dear Gertrude Pacific:

This is in follow up to your recent concern regarding the depiction of the Sechelt municipal boundary in International Forest Products Forest Development Plan for the Hidden Grove area.

Enclosed for your information are copies of the applicable Forest Cover Maps that have been updated to include the municipal boundary. Previously, the boundary was included on our Management Atlas Maps and is now included on the Forest Cover Maps.

Yours truly,



Alan Shaw, R.P.F.  
Timber Forester  
Sunshine Coast Forest District

Enclosure



• THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA IS AN "EMPLOYMENT EQUITY EMPLOYER" •

Ministry of  
Forests

Sunshine Coast Forest District

Mailing Address:  
7077 Duncan Street  
Powell River, BC V8A 1W1

Tel: (604) 485-0700  
Fax: (604) 485-0799

**Motorized And Non-Motorized Conflicts**

- There is increasing motorized use (primarily off-road motorcycles) on the trails and abandoned roads frequented by the horseback riders and hikers. Degradation or destruction of trails (many of which have been constructed and maintained by non-motorized groups), noise, speed, exhaust and impact on the "wilderness" setting are the primary objections of the non-motorized users to motorized presence. Horseback riders are concerned that motorized users may startle the horses, causing them to bolt.

Issue Resolution Options								
1 Dialogue	2 Find new areas	3 Change use patterns	4 Develop Ethics Code	5 Patrol & educate	6 Regulate	7 Designate use areas	8 Carrying capacity	9 Difficult to resolve

- *Dialogue between the different groups is essential for a workable solution.*
- *Identifying behaviour changes will help reduce friction between users, particularly with use a code of ethics.*
- *Segregated use can be voluntarily chosen to meet the different recreation requirements.*
- *Options include temporal segregation (encouraging conflicting groups to use areas at different times), directing user groups to less used areas, and education regarding competing users needs and desires.*
- *Designate use areas based on identifying traditional local use or on who developed the trails.*
- *It may be useful to develop a "closed unless open policy" for motorized recreation. This would result in identifying areas most suitable for motorized activities and opening these areas for use.*

**6.2.4 HIDDEN GROVE (RMU 2B)**

Hidden Grove, a plot of land within the Municipality of Sechelt and adjacent to the Sechelt Heritage Forest, contains vestigial and regionally scarce low elevation old growth forest that can be readily accessed. While the area lies close to residential communities and is primarily used by locals, it has potential for regional recreational interest and use. Some trails have been constructed and more are planned. Extensive lobbying for both the preservation and extraction sides of the debate has been ongoing.

**Recreation And Other Resource Users**

- High timber values and close proximity to the market makes this a valuable area for timber extraction. Historically, plans to remove the forest have met with a continual opposing lobby. There is a high level of community support, including local government, for preserving this old growth forest. Preservation lobbyists are using recreational access as a means of promotion.
- The Municipal boundary, expanded in 1986 through a Letters Patent, incorporates the Hidden Grove. Conservation proponents assert that neither the Ministry of Forests nor the Timber Licensee have recognized the new municipal boundary. Regardless, the Ministry of Forests retains the authority to issue timber sales.

Issue Resolution Options								
1 Dialogue	2 Find new areas	3 Change use patterns	4 Develop Ethics Code	5 Patrol & educate	6 Regulate	7 Designate use areas	8 Carrying capacity	9 Difficult to resolve

- *Dialogue between the forest companies, Ministry of Forests, Municipality of Sechelt and local stakeholders must be open and arrive at a suitable solution.*

# Sechelt council urged to save Hidden Grove

JANE SEYD  
CO-EDITOR

Community activists in Sandy Hook are not impressed with International Forest Products' new logging plan for "Hidden Grove" and are urging Sechelt to try to stop the cutting.

A year after controversy erupted over plans to log cutblock 350 in Sandy Hook, Interfor has come back to the public with what it hopes is a kinder, gentler plan to log the timber stand, known to locals as the "Hidden Grove".

Jeff Pollock of Interfor told Sechelt council members on Wednesday the new plan includes visual buffers, retention of 13 per cent of the block for wildlife habitat, retention of existing trails and of the old growth trees in the block.

But some Sandy Hook residents are unimpressed with the changes.

"After a year of waiting, we didn't see anything substantial in terms of changes to their plan," said Michael Davidson. "I think they're cutting the same amount. You've lost the essence of a walk in the forest."

Bob D'Arcy, another Sandy Hook resident, said he was particularly unimpressed that no maps showing exactly what would be logged or saved under the new plan have been presented to the public. That doesn't instill faith that much has changed, he said.

Pollock told Sechelt council that Interfor still wants to cut about 25,000 cubic metres of timber from block 350. He

*"If we say we don't want to log this area, we have to go somewhere else for the timber. Sechelt may be the loser in that scenario,"*

**Jeff Pollock, Interfor**

said not logging the cutblock would result in a net loss to the Sechelt economy.

"If we say we don't want to log this area, we have to go somewhere else for the timber. Sechelt may be the loser in that scenario," he told council.

Pollock said that's possible, but it would likely mean loggers travelling up to Toba Inlet.

The area known as Hidden Grove is within municipal boundaries and is designated as "parks and open space" under Sechelt's official community plan. A final decision on what happens there, however, will be up to the forest service.

Both Davidson and D'Arcy say they want Hidden Grove preserved and added to the Sechelt Heritage Forest, a designated recreation area adjacent to block 350.

Last year, environmentalists and local residents argued the area would be a boon to tourism because it is so close to Sechelt. Concerns that logging in the boggy wetlands could dry up nearby Davis Brook and affect local drinking water were also voiced.

FORESTRY

## Interfor has ignored us

Editor:

No matter where you stand on Block 350, the March 6 Interfor presentation was far from helpful. Interfor announced: It had walked the extra mile and can do whatever it pleases, whenever; that the public are not a meaningful part of the process; and that Interfor has not finished any plan.

Interfor should have: offered to negotiate plans with the public; had clear layouts of proposed actual areas to be preserved and those to be logged; suggested a tie in with Sechelt Heritage Forest; offered to volunteer equipment and expertise to enhance preserved areas; addressed all sight lines and not just those from the inlet; had a handout for the councillors and the public (the mayor had to ask for the overheads), and; made firm commitments to establish an element of trust.

It was an insult to the council and the residents. It showed a lack of any appreciation of the concerns and interests of the community, both through the lack of a proper presentation and the inordinate delays in making one. The elephant laboured and gave birth to a mouse—but a mouse with big teeth.

Until now, I have taken a position of compromise. I now see that such a position is naive and futile. Unless and until a full and negotiated plan addressing the concerns of the residents is cast in stone, any logging in Block 350, in total, should be stopped by any and all means available.

It is now for council and committee to decide a course of action. They should listen to their constituents, who have made an effort to deal with the matter as opposed to Interfor, which has made none.

**Bob D'Arcy**  
Sandy Hook

## Interfor and Hidden Grove

### Editor:

Re: Jane Seyd's article "Sechelt council urged to save Hidden Grove," (March 10 issue) and past articles and letters regarding the "Hidden Grove." As Interfor's area forester in Sechelt, I am obligated to correct some of the information that may lead to misconceptions regarding our intentions.

Interfor had already committed to protecting the old growth trees described as "the Hidden Grove." We made this commitment last year (Feb. 27, 2001) during an onsite meeting with Gertrude Pacific, Michael Davidson, and John MacKenzie, who represented the concerned citizens of Sandy Hook. Community activists have now expanded the area of concern to include all of Block 350.

At the March 6, 2002 district of Sechelt council meeting, Interfor re-affirmed this commitment to protect the "Hidden Grove" portion of Block 350, and more. Interfor summarized the planning history, public consultation process, and the steps taken to address local concerns regarding the harvesting of timber. As required by provincial legislation, information used for final development planning is collected through the public consultation process and thorough on-site assessments. The responses, made by Interfor, to public input include:

- Creating reserves around the large trees known as "Hidden Grove;"

- Retaining the forest surrounding most of the walking trails, including the trail to the "Lookout," "Wetland Loop" and the trail to the "Lone Giant;"

- Retaining a large forested buffer on Davis Brook;
- Relocating the road to avoid the "Hidden Grove" area;

- Planning to deactivate all roads into the harvest area to prevent vehicle access;

- Providing more time for public consultation;

- Harvest areas will have timber retained as groups or individual trees for many purposes including: wildlife habitat, biological diversity, and visual quality;

- Prescribing strategies to mitigate several forest health concerns;

- Meeting the aesthetic requirements (VQO) set by the Ministry of Forests.

Interfor has modified harvest plans to accommodate a number of concerns in this area. At the same time we must balance economic, social, and environmental values to ensure the sustainability of our renewable forest resource. There are numerous parks and protected areas near Sandy Hook for wilderness preservation and recreation including: Mount Richardson Park, Tetrahedron Park, Porpoise Bay Park, and the adjacent Sechelt Heritage Forest.

It is disappointing that in spite of the numerous steps taken to balance local concerns, there is opposition by some to any plan that is anything different than total preservation.

Brian Fournier, RPF  
Area Forester  
Interfor, Sechelt



# District of Sechelt

*"Heart of the Sunshine Coast"*



March 19, 2002

File No.

Mr. Randal Wenger, RI (BC)  
Regional Manager, Land Sales,  
Lower Mainland Region  
10428 153<sup>rd</sup> St.,  
Surrey, BC  
V3R 1E1

Dear Sir:

**RE: DL 3006 District of Sechelt**

At the March 12 meeting of the District of Sechelt Planning Committee a resolution was passed instructing staff to examine the requirements of acquiring all or portions of the above referenced District Lot for a municipal park or preservation by way of an extension to the Heritage Forest which abuts the subject lands to the south. (See attached map)

The subject lands are Crown lands within the Provincial Forest and under tenure to Interfor. Interfor has filed a Forest Management Plan with the Ministry of Forests. As part of this plan a cut block within DL 3006 has been proposed for selective harvesting, but has been deferred for further public input.

I have written the Ministry of Forests to determine the requirements associated with an extension to the Heritage Forest.

By copy of this letter I respectfully request that your office outline the procedure required to enable the District of Sechelt to acquire from BCAL that part of DL 3006 as outlined for park purposes.

If you have any questions please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

**DISTRICT OF SECHELT**

---

Ray Parfitt, MCIP,  
Planner

I:\planning\general\ray\hidden grove bcal mar 19-02let.doc

2nd. Floor, 5797 Cowrie Street, P.O. Box 129, Sechelt, British Columbia, Canada V0N 3A0  
Tel: (604) 885-1986 Fax: (604) 885-7591 Website: [www.district.sechelt.bc.ca](http://www.district.sechelt.bc.ca)



# District of Sechelt

"Heart of the Sunshine Coast"



March 19, 2002

File No.

Ministry of Forests,  
7077 Duncan Street,  
Powell River, BC  
V8A 1W1

Attention: Mr. Greg Hemphill, District Manager

Dear Sir:

**RE: DL 3006 District of Sechelt**

At the March 12 meeting of the District of Sechelt Planning Committee a resolution was passed instructing staff to examine the requirements of acquiring all or portions of the above referenced District Lot for a municipal park or preservation by way of an extension to the Heritage Forest which abuts the subject lands to the south. (See attached map)

As you know, the subject lands are Crown lands within the Provincial Forest and under tenure to Interfor. Interfor has filed a Forest Management Plan with the Ministry of Forests. As part of this plan a cut block within DL 3006 has been proposed for selective harvesting, but has been deferred for further public input.

I have written BCAL to determine the requirements associated with granting the lands to the District of Sechelt for parks purposes.

By copy of this letter I respectfully request that your office outline the procedure required to enable the part or all of DL 3006 as outlined to be added to the Heritage Forest.

If you have any questions please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

**DISTRICT OF SECHELT**

---

Ray Parfitt, MCIP,  
Planner

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2nd. Floor, 5797 Cowrie Street, P.O. Box 129, Sechelt, British Columbia, Canada V0N 3A0  
Tel: (604) 885-1986 Fax: (604) 885-7591 Website: [www.district.sechelt.bc.ca](http://www.district.sechelt.bc.ca)

DAVIDSON & PACIFIC  
5823 SKOOKUMCHUK SECHELT BC VON 3A4

April 15, 2002

Harold Long, MLA  
Sunshine Coast  
Sechelt Office

Dear Harold Long:

**Re: Hidden Grove Resolution**

The Planning Committee of the District of Sechelt has passed a long awaited resolution regarding the Hidden Grove and our Official Community Plan. On March 12, staff was instructed to examine how to preserve the forested Hidden Grove for a municipal park or as an extension to the Sechelt Heritage Forest (a Recreation Reserve Interpretive Forest under MoF). Both areas, the Hidden Grove and the Sechelt Heritage Forest lie within the boundaries of the District of Sechelt since 1986.

Enclosed please find two letters showing the direction the Council is going in search for preservation. One letter is to Randal Wenger, BCAL, about granting the lands for park. The other letter is to Greg Hemphill, MoF, about an extension to the Sechelt Heritage Forest.

We know that you support the preservation of the Hidden Grove for park purposes, and we wanted you to know that the Sechelt Council has finally agreed with the overwhelming public support.

We call for your help in this matter. Perhaps the park/preservation goal could be achieved without taxpayer's money, and could be accomplished at the ministerial level.

We would like to draw on your past experience with park creation in Powell River to bring some good news to the people on the south Sunshine Coast!

Sincerely yours,

*Gertrude Pacific*  
Gertrude Pacific

enclosures: 2 letters, 2 maps

*Michael Davidson*  
Michael Davidson

c) **Hidden Grove - Block 350, DL 3006**

**MOTION #15317: Poole/Dixon**

**That Sechelt make application to the Ministry of Land, Air and Water Protection for acquisition of DL 3006 as a park; AND**

**That should the application for acquisition of DL 3006 as a park fail, Sechelt will give consideration to making an application to the Ministry of Forests to annex DL 3006 to the Heritage Forest, a reserve within the provincial forest; AND**

**That staff write to the District Manager of the Ministry of Forests formally requesting confirmation that the Ministry is aware of the mapping omissions of the boundaries of the District of Sechelt and that this will be rectified to conform to the correct boundaries.**

**CARRIED**

**REPORTS FROM NON-STANDING COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS**

**Chamber of Commerce, SDBA – Councillor Inkster**

Councillor Inkster noted that:

- the 2002 Home Show was financially successful for both the Sechelt and Gibsons Chambers of Commerce,
- over 60 local businesses donated goods and services to aid in the hosting of the Timber Framers' Guild in Sechelt,
- the SDBA hosted a sidewalk sale and family fair over the past weekend, and
- plans are being prepared for Canada Day.

**Library - Councillor Dixon**

Councillor Dixon reported that Library Board would be meeting on June 17, 2002.

**Public Safety Commission; Harbour Authority; Sechelt and Sunshine Coast Economic Development Partnerships, Sechelt Sewage Facilities Commission - Councillor Poole**

Councillor Poole reported that the official opening of the Davis Bay Seawall would be held Saturday, June 15, 2002 at 11:30am and that the public was invited to attend.

**Aquatic Facility; SCR D - Councillor Kershaw**

Councillor Kershaw reported that the SCR D Area B (Halfmoon Bay) is scheduling a referendum regarding participation in the Sechelt Aquatic Centre for September 21, 2002. This issue will be discussed at the SCR D Board Meeting on June 13, 2002. The SIGD is also considering holding a referendum.

**Public Safety Commission; Harbour Authority; Sechelt and Sunshine Coast Economic Development Partnerships, Sechelt Sewage Facilities Commission - Councillor Poole**

Councillor Poole reported that the Sechelt Economic Development Partnership met on June 13, 2002 and discussed future direction for the partnership, including operating as a sub-Committee of the Sunshine Coast Economic Development Partnership.

**Aquatic Facility; SCR D - Councillor Kershaw**

Councillor Kershaw reported that the SCR D Board recently:

- approved an emergency grant-in-aid of \$3000 to the Arrowhead Centre in Sechelt,
- approved levying fees for House Numbering services provided by the SCR D,
- referred the request for funding for the Chapman Creek suspension bridge project to the 2003 budget process. The proponents of this project did not submit an SCR D Grant-in-Aid application in 2002. It was also noted that the proponents are seeking funding and donation of expertise from private sector firms, including Howe Sound Pulp and Paper, and
- reviewed the idea of accepting a number of Ministry of Forests sites on the Sunshine Coast that are being divested. A report on the financial implications was requested. She noted that the SCR D Board will not be investigating taking over the Sechelt Heritage Forest site.

It was noted that District Staff will prepare a report on the financial implications of Sechelt assuming responsibility for the Sechelt Heritage Forest site.

**Transportation; Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee - Councillor Steeves**

Councillor Steeves reported that he attended a BC Ferries Coastal Council Meeting in Nanaimo on June 13 and 14, 2002. He noted that Transportation Minister Reid addressed the Council on the formation of an Integrated Transportation Plan for the province, encompassing roads, ferries, airports and Translink, and including local transportation authorities.

Staff were directed to write to the Minister of Transportation to request Sechelt representation on any local transportation authority for the area.

Councillor Steeves noted that Mr. Jacob Knaus of the Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee also attended the Coastal Council meetings, and he thanked Mr. Knaus for his assistance.

**DISTRICT OF SEHELDT**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
held in the Community Meeting Room at the Library Building  
at 5797 Cowrie Street, Sechelt BC  
on Wednesday, November 20, 2002  
at 7:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Milne  
Councillor Kershaw  
Councillor Poole  
Councillor Reid  
Councillor Steeves  
Administrator, B. Brown  
District Clerk, J. Heinrich  
Director of Finance, D. Chapman  
Director of Engineering and Public Works, K. Tang  
Recording Secretary, C. Jordison

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Milne called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was amended to include item 3.1, a Delegation from the Sandy Hook Community Association regarding the Sechelt Heritage Forest.

**MOTION #15593: Poole/Kershaw**

**That the agenda be adopted, as amended.**

**CARRIED**

**DELEGATIONS:**

**1. Sechelt Heritage Forest – Maintenance and Management of Site**

Mr. M. Davidson and Ms. G. Pacific of the Sandy Hook Community Association reviewed background information on the Ministry of Forests devolution of the management of park sites, including the Sechelt Heritage Forest, located within the District of Sechelt. It was noted that the Sandy Hook Community Association has been investigating taking on responsibility for this site, but feels it cannot meet the Ministry's requirements regarding liability insurance. The Association requested the District consider applying to take over the management of the site in advance of the December 16, 2002 application deadline.

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting – November 20, 2002

Mayor Milne assured the delegation that Council is interested in the future of the site and that District staff would prepare a report on the matter for consideration at the December 4, 2002 Regular Council Meeting.

**ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES OF COUNCIL:**

**1. Minutes of Regular Council Meeting, November 6, 2002**

**MOTION #15594: Kershaw/Poole**

**That the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of November 6, 2002 be adopted.**

**CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING:**

**a) Regarding Motion #15589: Resolution supporting Designation of Sechelt Indian Government District as a School District #46 Electoral Area – Trustee Representation for SIGD**

**MOTION #15595: Steeves/Kershaw**

**That a letter be written to the Minister of Education reconfirming Sechelt's position in favour of the SIGD being designated as an Electoral Area for the purpose of having trustee representation on the Board of School District #46, while clarifying the District's position that representation be taken from School District #46 Rural Area "2" and that no reduction occurs in the District of Sechelt's representation on the Board.**

**CARRIED**

**b) Sechelt Golf and Country Club – Capital Improvement Plan**

**MOTION #15596: Reid/Poole**

**That a letter be written to the Sechelt Golf and Country Club to reaffirm the District's confidence in the financial position of the Club and to express regrets for inaccurate public comments made on this matter during the recent election campaign.**

**CARRIED**

**REPORTS FROM NON-STANDING COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS**

**Harbour Authority; Sechelt and Sunshine Coast Community Economic Development Partnerships, Sechelt Sewage Facilities Commission, Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Councillor Poole**

- The Sechelt Economic Development Partnership met November 14, 2002. Mr. C. McNaughton has accepted the position of Board Chairperson.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**1. Heritage Forest**

The Administrator's report, dated November 27, 2002 was reviewed as circulated with the agenda package.

**MOTION #15639: Poole/Kershaw**

**That Sechelt make application to the Ministry of Forests to operate the Sechelt Heritage Forest site, being that portion of District Lot 3006 also know as "Sechelt Provincial Forest", as a Ministry of Forests Recreation site, AND**

**That Council inform the Sandy Hook Community Association in writing that this application is being submitted on the understanding that they will continue to maintain the property on a gratis basis, and consent to doing this work under the supervision of the District Parks Foreman.**

**CARRIED**

**2. Regular Council Meetings – Schedule Change for January, 2003**

**MOTION #15640: Steeves/Kershaw**

**That the January, 2003 Regular meetings of Council be scheduled for the second and fourth Wednesday of that month, being January 8 and January 22, 2003 respectively, both beginning at 7:30pm.**

**CARRIED**

**3. Presentation of the 2003-2007 Financial Plan**

The Director of Finance, D. Chapman gave a brief presentation on the processes involved in the development of the District's Financial Plan.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION #15641: Poole/Steeves**

**That the Regular Council Meeting be adjourned.**

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

**Certified Correct:**

---

Mayor

---

District Clerk



# Sunshine Coast Conservation Association

Newsletter Issue 5

PO Box 1969, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A0; [www.thesc.ca](http://www.thesc.ca)

July 2002

## Malaspina Peninsula's Ecological Treasures in Need of Our Help

by Maria Hunter

"Sustainable development = parallel care and respect for people and the environment" — Anthony Hodge

Dinner Rock Park, Powell River Greenways Corridor and Atravida Loop are three of the ecological treasures found on the Malaspina Peninsula, just north of Powell River at the top of the Sunshine Coast. These features, and the forested ecosystems that surround them, provide many benefits to residents, including recreation, alternate transportation, water filtration and wildlife habitat. They also represent an incredible

*continued on page 4*



Dinner Rock recreation site, with the plaque commemorating the wreck of the Gulf Stream. Dinner Rock itself is in the background. *Andrew Scott photo*

## Ambrose Lake Watershed to be Logged?

by John Field

The Sunshine Coast's only ecological reserve, at Ambrose Lake on the northern Sechelt Peninsula, is threatened by a new proposal to log a large area immediately adjacent to it. The cutblock recently laid out by Interfor lies mostly within the lake's watershed and appears to target areas of mature forest and patches of old growth right against much of the reserve's northern boundary. This is the same area that faced a similar threat more than 10 years ago, and the Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society, a member group of the SCCA, successfully argued then that logging could not be done without affecting the reserve.

Ecological reserves enjoy the strongest protection of all conservation areas,

*continued on page 2*

## Results-Based Code Reveals Forest Privatization Agenda

by Colin Campbell

Since the Ministry of Forests released its discussion paper entitled *A Results-Based Forest and Range Practices Regime for British Columbia* on May 1, 2002, there has been a profoundly thoughtful body of response from industry, academia and the environmental movement (for details, see [www.resultsbasedcode.ca](http://www.resultsbasedcode.ca)). Despite obviously different agendas, there is interesting overlap in criticism between stakeholder groups. What is really striking is what is missing, namely a recognition of the true implications of the softwood issue, and what is obscure, namely the government's incompletely declared privatization agenda.

A brief prepared by the BC Government and Service Employees' Union reveals the context of privatization intended for all future resource management in the province. It does this by reviewing four policy documents addressing Sustainable Resource Management Planning, the Working Forest, the Forest Investment Account and Sustainability Principles for Resource Management. It is revealing that the sustainability principles presented to Open Cabinet on May 21 exclude any reference to ecological limits and community well-being. They are selected solely to encourage economically effective governance. The list of principles says it all: integration, shared responsibility, accountability, efficiency, science-based decision-making, transparency, innovation, continuous improvement, competitiveness and certainty. No equity, precaution, community participation or conservation mentioned. Talk about stunningly blatant greenwash!

Sustainable Resource Management Planning (SRMP) is described up front as "generally a more technical, design-oriented process, not a consensus-based process," the latter unnecessary because "government has already made most of the broad social choices through previously approved

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## Ambrose Lake Watershed Threatened

even stronger than Class A provincial parks. They are usually created for the perpetual protection of examples of ecosystems in their natural, undisturbed state, and as such are for the plants and creatures that live there, not for the enjoyment of humans. The only allowed uses are related to non-intrusive scientific investigation and education. A permit from the Parks Branch is techni-



*The Ambrose Lake Ecological Reserve, BC's finest example of a coastal bog ecosystem, is supposedly protected by tough legislation. John Field photo.*

cally required to enter an ecological reserve.

Ecological Reserve #28, Ambrose Lake, is one of the province's oldest, created in 1971 to preserve a small coastal lake, adjacent bogland and surrounding forest. The lake and sphagnum bog ecosystems are in near-pristine, climax state. They are characteristically acidic and nutrient-poor, and as a result are unusually sensitive to disturbance. Even something as invisible as an increase in nutrients (due to increased runoff and decreased capture of nutrients by terrestrial plants following logging) would likely alter the chemical balance of the bog. Also likely are elevated summer water temperatures, as well as a change in seasonal runoff patterns, typical after logging because

soils are less able to retain moisture for slow release as groundwater seepage during the dry summer months. A more visible problem is that this area is subject to strong winds, as evidenced by many recently blown-down trees in the forest adjacent to the lake. A fresh edge of non-windfirm trees right along the boundary of the reserve will undoubtedly result in a considerable increase in blowdown within the reserve.

Unfortunately, much of the lake's northern watershed was for some unknown reason left out of the reserve when it was created. In fact, the northern east-west boundary lies so close to the lake that in one place it passes within 60 metres of the sphagnum boglands that surround it. The Pender Harbour Wildlife Society made a formal proposal in 1990 to the then-Socred government to have Crown land in district lots 5399 and 5400 added to the ecological reserve to more adequately protect its vulnerable northern watershed. No formal answer to this proposal was ever received.

What has changed since 1991 that would now allow logging to proceed? And how can it proceed in a way that won't affect the reserve (a legal requirement)? According to a letter from Interfor's area engineer, Jeff Pollock, road-building and logging practices are much better now; also, partial retention methods will be used, rather than clearcut logging. We are asked to accept Interfor's word on this, without any supporting assessments or site studies. The Ministry of Forests has given preliminary approval to the cutblock in principle, again without documentation of Interfor's ability to leave the ecological reserve unaffected. (It has, however, stipulated that Interfor must meet with Parks Branch and wildlife society representatives to address their concerns before a cutting permit can be issued.)

By contrast, there are specific expert opinions written in October, 1991—one by a MoF hydrologist and the other by a forest ecosystem specialist—which clearly support our continued conviction that any human development within the watershed has significant potential to affect Ambrose Lake. Both reports conclude that the best use of the land would be to add it to the ecological reserve. We agree.

*continued from page 1*

## Results-Based Code Agenda Revealed

strategic land-use plans." This "new consolidated approach to planning at the landscape level" will effectively "establish broad provincial Crown land-use zoning and objectives."

Furthermore, the development of SRMPs is intended to be done with partners who contribute financially and take on increasingly more landscape-level planning responsibilities. This is where the "results" in results-based forestry will come from! Clearly, the intention is that decisions over the publicly owned resource base will become the responsibility of the very corporations who exploit them.

Government, in partnership with licencees developing their own sustainable Forest Management Plans, will provide "on-the-ground definition to the Working Forest." Despite sound public rejection of a Working Forest in 2000, the government

plans to hand over responsibility for the collection and analysis of timber supply information and maintenance of forest health to companies with timber harvesting rights. Timber-cutting targets will become inputs to (not outcomes of) SRMPs, in violation of the most elementary notion of ecologically based sustainability. With this strategic shift it is apparent that social, community and environmental concerns have achieved permanent secondary status.

The Forest Investment Account (FIA) replaces Forest Renewal BC with a reduced budget totaling \$146 million, \$80 million of which is to enable licencees to cooperatively develop SRMPs. This blatant financial subsidy will be managed by PriceWaterhouseCoopers, while Forintek Canada Corp will do the same for research, product development and international marketing campaigns. Government staff will have no direct role

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## Results-Based Code

in setting priorities, approving projects or certifying satisfactory project completion. It's hard to call this anything other than privatization of public property.

An impressively consistent response has emerged from the environmental movement. The land and its resources are owned by the citizens, including First Nations, not the government. Despite this, the government shows no intention of recognizing the rights of the public to determine the goals of land-use planning. Results clearly favour timber values, and SRMP will favour tourism, settlement and water resources over biodiversity. There is no recognition that the "results" must address improvement in all values. The government appears oblivious to *Haida vs Weyerhaeuser* and the need to consult with First Nations on land-use decisions. Since landscape-level planning has not been completed in any Higher Level Plans, clear, concise, measurable goals cannot yet be established. Any proxy goals with lower generic standards will ensure irreversible damage to forest ecologies. The public is being excluded from any constructive participatory role.

Once corporations take over fundamental management, inventory and monitoring roles, we can be sure that the notion of ownership will flourish in their minds. Any future options

will be constrained by claims for compensation—"after all, we paid for the planning." The real mystery is how such a model can succeed in any sense. Ecologically, it ensures rapid loss of remaining old-growth forests and biodiversity as the AAC is maintained or increased. The wood products of this strategy become pulp and low-grade timber, for which there are already cheap, abundant competitive sources. Many of these strategies will legitimately be called subsidies by the US coalition.

It seems that industry cannot envisage anything except the past, and in this blinkered vision lies economic, social and environmental disaster. Rural resource communities, and many others, want a real voice in the utilization of their common heritage. Log exports, depopulated ghost towns and bankrupted families are one choice; devolving tenure and starting the new wave of truly sustainable forestry is the other. The refusal to perform forest economic calculations on the full spectrum of values hides the potential success of a major shift in policy, tenure structure and product profile, a shift that would restore profitability and engender sustainability. The government will find very little approval for the regime it proposes. How thoroughly it rejects the truncated vision of industry and moves toward genuine restructuring with community and environmental values uppermost will determine if sustainability is truly the goal and the outcome.

## Sechelt's Hidden Grove Moves Closer to Park Status

*by Andrew Scott*

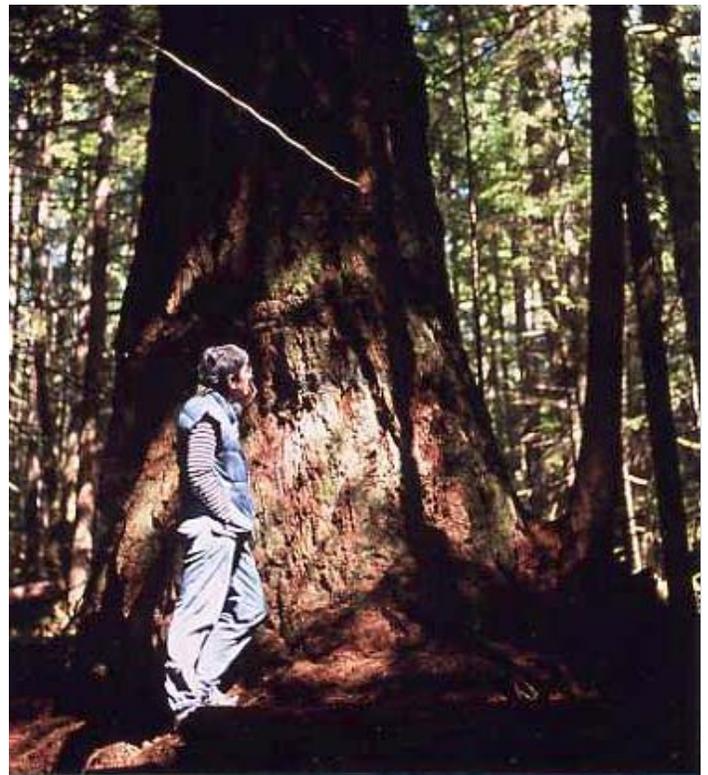
The SCCA has initiated a complaint to the Forest Practices Board asking that Interfor and the Ministry of Forests be directed to update their inventory maps to reflect District of Sechelt boundaries established in 1986. This is important because provincial forest land within a municipality is generally given a special ownership code that removes it from the Annual Allowable Cut.

The complaint originates over a 40-hectare logging plan for Hidden Grove, a forested area with old-growth cedars and Douglas firs adjacent to upper Sandy Hook within Sechelt's municipal boundaries. A popular trail system leads through the forest from Inlet Road to giant trees, a maple wetland and rocky bluffs with views over Porpoise Bay to Sechelt.

In 1994, Interfor intended to log part of the Grove, but its forest development plan was rejected by the Ministry of Forests after protests by District of Sechelt officials. In 1998, the area was reserved for "parks and open space" on Sechelt's official community plan. Two years later, after being advised that their maps were incorrect, Interfor again ignored Sechelt's boundaries to include almost the entire Hidden Grove in their plan as Block 350.

Throughout 2001, SCCA members worked to publicize Hidden Grove, organizing tours for district and industry officials and the public, printing a brochure/map of the area and signposting trails. The Ministry of Forests received more than 125 letters opposing Interfor's plans. The District of Sechelt again requested a ban on cutting, and Interfor changed Block 350 to "information" status.

In March, 2002, Interfor was back with a revised plan



*One of Hidden Grove's ancient fir veterans. Andrew Scott photo*

that retained 13 percent of the forest for wildlife habitat, trails and old-growth trees but took the same amount of timber from the cutblock. Those who want Hidden Grove preserved in all its biodiversity and added to adjacent Sechelt Heritage Forest, were not impressed. In May, Sechelt council took the first important steps in the planning process to acquire the area for a park under the jurisdiction of the district municipality.

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## Malaspina Peninsula's Treasures

opportunity for ecotourism and sustainable development.

Dinner Rock Park is a forest service recreation site where visitors can walk through a rare coastal Douglas fir forest and enjoy a picnic looking out onto Savary Island and historic Dinner Rock, an offshore islet where five lives were lost in the 1947 shipwreck of the *Gulf Stream*. The Greenways Corridor, planned and constructed over a 10-year period to incorporate heritage trails and ecological features, is wheelchair accessible, with no more than a seven-percent grade. This corridor links up to Atrevida Loop trail, adjacent to a delightful guesthouse where visitors can go hiking with pack goats. Residents of the area have taken the initiative to build on this low-impact infrastructure and realize economic benefits based on the sustainable use of the area's resources.

As is the case on the lower Sunshine Coast, timber companies also have chart areas covering most of the Crown lands on the peninsula. When residents realized the scale of proposed and approved timber harvesting in the region, they organized a public response to forest development plans by Canfor and Northwest Hardwoods (a Weyerhaeuser subsidiary). Canfor has incorporated this input and accommodated residents' concerns by temporarily removing a proposed block near Dinner Rock from its plan. At the time of printing, we have not yet heard of similar commitments from Weyerhaeuser/Northwest Hardwoods.

The challenge of sustainable development on the Malaspina Peninsula is the same as it is everywhere: to plan economic activity without degrading the structure and function of the ecosystem. The clearcut logging with reserves that is planned for the area is not compatible with this goal. Residents have been in discussions with representatives from Weyerhaeuser/Northwest Hardwoods to find acceptable methods of harvesting that would protect veteran trees, species at risk habitat, unique ecological features and visual quality, and provide adequate buffer zones.

Two groups are actively working to find solutions for this region: Friends of Dinner Rock and Eco-Care Conservancy of the Powell River Region. The Friends formed in 2002 to seek formal legal protection for the Dinner Rock forest and its immediate surroundings. Eco-Care Conservancy has been active since 1995 in the Powell River area, advocating sustainability through a number of initiatives, including preparation for a Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). Faced with cancellation of the LRMP and the extent of the proposed cutblocks, Eco-Care approached the SCCA for advice and help, as did Friends of Dinner Rock.

Already, public input seems to have produced positive results, and both groups should be congratulated for their efforts. A great deal of work remains to be done, however. With the help of the Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory (SEI), the habitats of rare and endangered plant communities must be identified and mapped, so that they can be legally protected. Some logging approvals are in treaty settlement lands negotiated as part of the agreement-in-principle between the Sliammon First Nation and the BC government and are

protected by an order-in-council until January, 2003. The legal status of these areas after that date is not clear and requires research. The Forest Practices Board has indicated a willingness to mediate in local issues, if required.

Much is on the drawing board. The SCCA will be supporting Eco-Care and Friends of Dinner Rock as much as possible during the next year. As Patricia Keays of Eco-Care says, "In this crisis we also realize that there is opportunity to reach out and make contact with other groups on the lower Sunshine Coast who are working on similar issues." The SCCA



*Fishing from the shoreline at the Dinner Rock recreation area provides fine views over to the resort community of Savary Island. Andrew Scott photo*

hopes to combine resources with Eco-Care and Friends of Dinner Rock to access SEI data and document and map both the lower and upper Sunshine Coast concurrently.

### How can you help?

Write to our MLA, Harold Long, and Premier Gordon Campbell (see page 6 for addresses). Ask them to protect Dinner Rock, the Greenways and Atrevida Loop—world-class assets that form part of our biodiversity heritage and can contribute to a sustainable economic base for the Sunshine Coast. Ask them to designate Dinner Rock as a park and initiate an LRMP that will provide a fair and adequate plan for the resources of the region.

Donations to the rare and endangered plant communities identification project can be made out and sent to the SCCA to receive an official tax receipt. To donate directly, become a member of Eco-Care or Friends of Dinner Rock, or offer to help in some other way, please contact:

Powell River Eco-Care Conservancy  
6848 Courtenay St, Powell River, BC V8A 1X2  
Ph: 604-485-0490  
Email: [patriciakeays@shaw.ca](mailto:patriciakeays@shaw.ca)

Friends of Dinner Rock  
C-4, RR #2, Powell River, BC V8A 4Z3

Hikers Haven Bed and Breakfast  
Ph: 604-483-4665, Fax: 604-483-2350  
Website: [www.hikers-haven.com](http://www.hikers-haven.com)

## A Report from the Association's Executive Director

by Daniel Bouman

Good news! The Forest Practices Board has finally released a finding on the "Failure to Protect Biodiversity" complaint filed by the SCCA in March, 2000. Readers will recall that this complaint was discussed in the SCCA newsletter. It was also reported on in the local papers, presented to the SCR D and to numerous government ministers and officials, and circulated around the province. We contended that the district Ministry of Forests office had failed to protect deer and goat winter range, had failed to protect marbled murrelet nesting habitat and had refused to maintain proper old growth inventories. As well, we held that wildlife habitats and old growth areas were being targeted by logging companies.

Here's the essence of the finding. The Forest Practices Board agreed that the Ministry of Forests had unreasonably failed to recognize and "make known" deer and goat winter range in this district. The FPB also agreed that the approval of three Interfor Forest Development Plans was unreasonable, as these plans did not adequately manage and conserve the resource of deer and goat winter range. The board's recommendation is for changes to the Forest Practices Code's *Operational Planning Regulations* to allow Category A approvals in ungulate winter range to be overturned on review by district managers.

On old growth issues, the FPB agreed that this resource has not been adequately managed but did not fault the MoF. Instead the board notes that the code lacks a clear and legal definition of old growth and recommends that government establish one. The investigation did not uncover evidence that logging companies were targeting wildlife habitat and notes that, even if they were, there is no law or regulation against it. (We'll accept this finding with a wink and a nod.) As for the murrelet issues, the investigation concluded that, considering the state of knowledge at the time of the logging approvals and the published intentions of government to resolve the problem, it was reasonable for the MoF to approve Interfor's logging plans. (Since filing this complaint in 2000, we did establish, in the Supreme Court of British Columbia

and through the Administrative Review Panel of the FPB, that the MoF and Interfor broke the law with regard to adequate management of marbled murrelet nesting habitat.)

Of course, the value of the complaint and the finding is not in determining who is right and who is wrong. The point of the exercise is to see progress made in protecting critical habitats and in fostering sustainable practices. In my view the recommendations of the report are all noteworthy and will contribute to a sustainable future for the Sunshine Coast.

I would like to expand on the moral of this story at some later date, but for now I'm pleased and relieved that the outcome is positive and the SCCA's investment of time and resources has been justified. Our method of combining careful research, participation in available public venues and big doses of publicity is slow and labor intensive but seems to work pretty well. I think we should continue with this approach. Meanwhile, the MoF must respond to the FPB regarding the complaint findings and detail the measures that will be undertaken to remedy the situation. You can bet that we will be watching and making responses of our own, if necessary!

You can read the entire decision on the website of the Forest Practices Board at [www.fpb.gov.bc.ca](http://www.fpb.gov.bc.ca) or check our website at [www.thesc.ca](http://www.thesc.ca) for the official press release.



SCCA executive director Daniel Bouman hands 5,000-signature watershed petition to unenthusiastic MLA Harold Long. Will Koop photo

## Other Noteworthy News and Events

The SCCA and the Council of Canadians gathered more than 5,000 signatures on a petition opposing logging or mining in the Sunshine Coast watershed. On May 29, Daniel Bouman of the SCCA, Don Murray, chair of the Sunshine Coast Regional District, and Rick August of the Sishalh First Nation (in photo) presented the document to the government representative for the Sunshine Coast, Harold Long. ☺ The Carlson Point Property Owners have succeeded in getting the Ministry of Forests to amend a logging approval on Sechelt Inlet and ban cutting within 100 metres of any intake for their watershed. ☺ Jervis Inlet issues continue to simmer. A "redetermination" process in the Brittain River resulted in interim protection measures being

granted to one of two proposed Wildlife Habitat Areas, pending its official designation. ☺ Executive director Bouman was part of an NDP-sponsored public forum on "Jobs and the Environment" in May. ☺ The first draft of the Sunshine Coast Habitat Atlas (see article in Newsletter #4, February, 2002) is ready for public inspection and comment at local government offices (SCR D, District of Sechelt, Town of Gibsons, Sechelt Indian Government District). The draft can also be viewed on the Internet at [www.user.dccnet.com/ctrent](http://www.user.dccnet.com/ctrent). ☺ A new partnership of government agencies and stakeholders, including the SCCA, has been formed to resolve the vital issue of habitat protection for marbled murrelets in the Sunshine Coast Forest District and elsewhere. More on this forum in the next newsletter, plus a report on another initiative, the Eelgrass Conservation Project.

**Contacts:**

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\* Inquiry BC: 1-800-663-7867  
By calling this toll-free  
number you will be connected  
by telephone or fax to any  
individual or department in  
the BC government.

**Newsletter of the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association**

Newsletter Editor: Andrew Scott

Articles & photos may be submitted by emailing them to  
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Thanks to all those who have contributed to this publication.

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**Member Organizations:**

Alliance for Responsible Shellfish Farming  
BC Spaces for Nature  
Carleson Point Property Owners  
Eco-Care Conservancy of the Powell  
River Region  
Elphinstone Living Forest  
Francis Point Marine Park Society

Friends of Caren  
Friends of Homesite Creek  
Gambier Island Conservancy  
Gibsons Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre  
Halfmoon Bay Greenways  
Native Plant Society of BC,  
Sunshine Coast Chapter  
One Straw Society

Pender Harbour and District Wildlife Society  
Sargeant Bay Society  
Sunshine Coast Clean Air Society  
Sunshine Coast Natural History Society  
Sunshine Coast Species Survival Network  
Sunshine Coast Water First Society  
Tetrahedron Alliance  
Tuwaneke Ratepayers Association

**Sunshine Coast Conservation Association**

PO Box 1969, Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0; [www.thescca.ca](http://www.thescca.ca)

**"PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association is to preserve the natural biodiversity of the Sunshine Coast region for the present and future benefit of humanity and all life; specifically to:

1. Conduct research to inventory and describe our remaining natural areas with the goal of identifying land and waters important for the preservation of biodiversity. All information collected will be freely available to the public.
2. Work to retain such lands and waters in a natural state and make them available for the public enjoyment where possible.
3. Raise public environmental and conservation awareness by sponsoring educational programs, workshops and access infrastructure (eg. maps and trails to facilitate low-impact recreation)."

Our constitution requires that membership in the SCCA is conditional upon acceptance of the purpose of the SCCA stated above.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group membership (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

• SCCA representative/contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

• Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliate (individual) membership (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Receive newsletter by email? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation

I accept the purpose of the SCCA. Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Receipts for income tax purposes will be issued for donations. Registered charity #87322 0446 RR0001

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## REPORT

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**DATE:** July 2, 2002  
**TO:** Planning, Environment and Community Relations Committee  
**FROM:** Ray Parfitt, Municipal Planner  
**RE:** Hidden Grove

---

1. **BACKGROUND:**

At the June 12, 2002 meeting Council adopted the recommendations of the May 14, 2002 Planning Committee meeting. The Planning Committee recommendations about the Hidden Grove agenda item include the following:

- That the District of Sechelt make application to Land and Water BC (LWBC) for acquisition of DL 3006 as a park;
- That the District of Sechelt consider making an application to the Ministry of Forests to annex DL 3006 to the Heritage Forest, if the park application for DL 3006 is not approved;
- That Staff write to the District Manager of the Ministry of Forests advising of mapping discrepancies for the Municipal boundary within the Provincial Forest shown on Ministry mapping.

Staff has written to the Ministry of Forests advising of the mapping error and has started the process of filing an application with Land and Water BC for a community park. Staff at the Corporation advised that the District's park application must include supporting park documents, including a park design plan and construction budget. LWBC staff also advises that applications for community and institutional uses are presently being held in abeyance.

2. **ALTERNATIVES:**

- Delay making application to Land and Water BC until they establish a policy about Crown Grants for Community and Institutional uses.
- Retain a consultant to prepare a park plan and construction budget for the Crown Grant application to Land and Water BC.
- Request the Sandy Hook Community Association to prepare a park plan for the proposed DL 3006 Park. And to authorize staff to spend time to prepare working drawings from their design and develop a budget for the work.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The application fee is \$109.00. Staff projected that fees to prepare a park plan in support of the application would be approximately \$5000.00. Preliminary information from Provincial Government press releases indicate that Crown Grant to the District might involve the municipality compensating the tenure holder.

4. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

1. The proposed park is Provincial Crown Land within the Provincial Forest.
2. In previous reports staff has outlined the inter-jurisdictional nature of the Hidden Grove issue.
3. The District's OCP designates the subject area as Parks and Open Space. It is zoned Rural Resource (RR-1).
4. Interfor has a Forest Management License in the subject area and has submitted a five-year management plan to the Ministry of Forests in which the Hidden Grove area has been deferred for further study.

5. **DISCUSSION:**

Interfor staff indicated they are revising their plans for the proposed Cut Block 350. At this time, extent of logging proposed is not known. Planning Department staff has discussed the application procedures for a Crown Land Grant with Land and Water BC staff. We were advised that applications for Community and Institutional uses are on hold. The Ministry is establishing a policy for these types of Crown Grants. However, they did indicate and stress that any application for crown land for a local government park, must include a detail plan for the park development as part of the application submission.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**THAT** Council authorizes staff to request the Sandy Hook Neighbourhood Association to prepare a park development concept plan for DL 3006 for the part of the District Lot to be requested as a Crown Grant.

**AND THAT** Council authorizes staff to divert Engineering staff time for preparing drawings and a budget estimate based on the concept plan for submission to the Provincial Government.

**OR THAT** Council authorizes staff to retain consulting assistance to prepare the required drawings and budget.

2002-07-10 - Robert D'Arcy - Garry\_Feschuk(garry\_feschuk@dccnet.com) - Sechel t Heri tage Forest Tour. txt  
From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>  
To: Garry\_Feschuk(garry\_feschuk@dccnet.com) <garry\_feschuk@dccnet.com>  
Date: Wed, 10 Jul 2002 10:56:00 -0800  
Subject: Sechel t Heri tage Forest Tour

Dear Mr. Feschuk

On behalf of The Sandy Hook Community Association, Gertrude Pacific and her merry Trail Builders group, I have been asked to confirm to you that the District Mayor and Council have accepted the invitation to tour the Sechel t Heri tage Forest on Thursday, July 25 at 2 PM. We would be delighted if you and any of your colleagues could join us for the walk through. Everyone will be gathering at the entrance signs on Sechel t Inlet Road just past the pedestrian crossing sign near Sandy Hook. In particular, Gertrude asked that you might pass this invitation on to Marika Paul as we do not have an email address for her. Thank you very much and we look forward to seeing you. Bob D'Arcy Sandy Hook Community Association  
mail to: sandyhook@sechel t.net

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No virus found in this outgoing message.

Checked by AVG Free Edition.

Version: 7.1.407 / Virus Database: 268.12.9/457 - Release Date: 26-Sep-06

2002-07-18 - Robert D' Arcy - David Cripps(lutonchap@dccnet.com) - Council July 17 IMPORTANT.txt

From: Robert D' Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>

To: David Cripps(lutonchap@dccnet.com) <lutonchap@dccnet.com>,  
Din Ruttelynck or Koen Drugmand(koen@uni serve.com) <koen@uni serve.com>,  
Gray Waddell (spiderlegs@dccnet.com) <spiderlegs@dccnet.com>,  
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Ron Atkinson(diron@dccnet.com) <diron@dccnet.com>,  
Sandra Sharkey(sgsharkey@uni serve.com) <sgsharkey@uni serve.com>,  
Tom Nash(tomnash@shaw.ca) <tomnash@shaw.ca>

Date: Thu, 18 Jul 2002 10:16:00 -0800

Subject: Council July 17 IMPORTANT

Hi Everyone,

Block 350. A recommendation made at the planning meeting forward and with some wording amendments, was passed. It tells staff to approach SHCA to take on the job of preparing the submission to Land and Water BC so that 350 becomes a park for the District of Sechelt. We are asked to do it since:

- a) no money is in the District budget for staff time;
- b) it is presumed we have a concept already in mind
- c) it is closest to our interests. We have to make a decision if we wish to take this on.

This idea was originally proposed at the Planning Meeting about 2 weeks ago. Even though it had not yet passed council some steps were taken by staff since then. They contacted Gertrude Pacific and she in turn spoke to me. Gray Waddell and Ron Atkinson were involved as they had been at the planning meeting. Sort of by divine creation we have a small non-official committee! Staff faxed Gertrude some web page printouts which described the process for application to LWBC for a park and within it were download sites for material and forms that apparently need completion. Gertrude came to my place where we download all the material and printed it out.

About 20 pages of demands (see [http://www.lwbc.bc.ca/applying\\_for\\_land/community\\_institutional.htm](http://www.lwbc.bc.ca/applying_for_land/community_institutional.htm) if you are interested). Looking at this I can see that the process of doing this job is long and complex and will require calling upon friends with experience in this.

Back to last night's council meeting where, when the subject came up I was able to say a bit. I expressed that our taking this on had to be agreed by the SHCA board, we would need some professional help, an official status from council/District since we are working on their behalf and we would want incidental expenses covered (stationary, long distance, computer supplies, whatever). The mayor made short work of my comments by saying that the motion before the council was to approach SHCA and that then we could let staff know of our requirements and further, he envisioned that a couple of pages of conceptual material to come from us was all there was to it. When I described the material that we had been directed to download, he sloughed this off as a case of the "Red Tape" killers not having affected all departments of the BC Government yet but was sure that little was needed but a couple of pages. Next they passed resolution that some resources of staff would be available to assist in drawing and mapping for the final submission report. (Small maps I guess if they are to fit on the '2 pages'). So what now?

1. We are going to be asked to take on a chore to help save 350 but that chore may be a small job (per the mayor) or a very complex one (per the material downloaded).
2. We have maintained a "neutral" stance in this matter and now would be active in moving it to a Park status. I think that the decisions of council in the past months have taken the matter out of our hands as far as staying neutral. That is not longer an issue since a decision has been made by council. The decision now is whether we directly influence the next step.
3. The ad hoc committee referred to above is meeting on Saturday (the 20th) to take a look at what we have and thrash our some ideas for the proposal. That is fine but it is my position that it has no authority or status until the board of the SHCA responds to some official approach from the District staff whenever that comes.

Sorry to be so long winded but hard to make short. ALL your thoughts please from EVERYONE and then I will pull these together and report back to you for a poll or

2002-07-18 - Robert D'Arcy - David Cripps(lutonchap@dccnet.com) - Council July 17 IMPORTANT.txt  
whatever. Bob D'Arcy

--

No virus found in this outgoing message.

Checked by AVG Free Edition.

Version: 7.1.407 / Virus Database: 268.12.9/457 - Release Date: 26-Sep-06

**Robert D'Arcy**

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**From:** Grant and Sue Thompson [gtst@dccnet.com]  
**Sent:** July 25, 2002 12:02 PM  
**To:** Bob d'Arcy  
**Subject:** Hidden Grove



**Davis Bay – Wilson Creek Community  
Association**

5123 Davis Bay Road  
Sechelt B.C. V0N 3A2  
604-885-2752  
dbwcca@dccnet.com

July 25, 2002

Mr. Bob D'Arcy, President  
Sandy Hook Community Ass'n  
Sechelt, B.C.

Dear Bob:

**Re: Park Development Conceptual Plan**

Let me begin by offering my congratulations to you and your Community Association for remaining neutral for so long regarding the Block 350 controversy. Patience seems to have paid off, and now I understand that a park will happen rather than a logging operation at that location.

This park will be a real asset to the entire community of Sechelt and District.

We are very pleased to hear that the Sandy Hook Community Association has been offered the opportunity to develop a conceptual plan for the park. This means that local knowledge and not political expediency will shape the plan for this development.

On behalf of the Davis Bay-Wilson Creek Community Association, I am happy to offer any assistance that we might provide you in this regard. Once again congratulations on playing such a major role in getting things to this point.

Cordially

Grant Thompson, President  
Davis Bay-Wilson Creek Community Association

25/07/02



**EAST PORPOISE BAY RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

The Directors & Members  
Sandy Hook Community Association

July 25, 2002

On behalf of the East Porpoise Bay Ratepayers Association, I would like to express our thanks for your efforts toward the preservation of the "Hidden Grove" forest.

This area will serve as a source of enjoyment for residents and non-residents alike for many years to come.

We offer our support for any future efforts you undertake in this regard.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Godwin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Pat Godwin  
Director - E.P.B.R.A.

# SHORA

6094 Poise Island Drive  
Sechelt, B.C.  
V0N 3A0

July 23, 2002

Sandy Hook Community Association.

Dear Sandy Hook Directors

Well it looks like a rather contentious issue is finally approaching a resolution. Some will agree with the outcome and others will not. It is always a very difficult line to walk as we try to represent all the parts of our community. I feel that Sandy Hook has done an admirable job by trying to keep both groups communicating in hopes of a resolution while not being seen as supporting either side of the issue. Now that this property's future seems determined, we can all feel comfortable in supporting the next phase, which is the design and development of the park..

I understand that the district has offered your association the opportunity to be involved in the designing of the proposed park area. This is a great opportunity to bring your community together around a worthwhile project. Hopefully both sides of the lead up to the creation of this park will now join forces and utilize their expertise in creating a park we can all enjoy and be proud of. The challenge will be to create something that can meet the needs of as broad a group as possible. Exclusivity is not a plus.

If SHORA can offer any expertise or assistance please feel free to contact us. We had attempted to create a park within our area recently but were unsuccessful due to some issues that came up at the district level. Sounds like you should have better luck. All the best.

Your friends and neighbours at SHORA

Jason Herz Pres.

Sandy Hook Community Association:

Congratulations on patiently working through the Block 350 problem. Whether everyone agrees or not, now we will have a park.

The West Porpoise Bay Association would like you to know you have our support and we will offer to help in any way we can. We do hope you will consider helping the District in formulating a plan for the property.

Again Hurrah for all the work, time, and effort put in by the members of your Association. This will make a wonderful addition to the park system of Sechelt and particularly as its close proximity to the Sechelt Heritage Forest.

Renee McCall  
President  
West Porpoise Bay Community Association

**Robert D'Arcy**

---

**From:** Connie Jordison [cmalone@district.sechelt.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** July 22, 2002 3:56 PM  
**To:** rdarcy@dccnet.com  
**Subject:** Draft Resolutions for July 17, 2002 Council Meeting

MOTION #15399:

That staff request the Sandy Hook Community Association be requested to prepare a park development concept plan for that part of District Lot 3006 to be included in an application for a Crown Grant. CARRIED

MOTION #15400:

That staff time be made available to prepare drawings and a budget estimate based on the concept plan for submission to the Provincial Government. CARRIED

# SHORA

6094 Poise Island Drive  
Sechelt, B.C.  
V0N 3A0

July 23, 2002

Sandy Hook Community Association.

Dear Sandy Hook Directors

Well it looks like a rather contentious issue is finally approaching a resolution. Some will agree with the outcome and others will not. It is always a very difficult line to walk as we try to represent all the parts of our community. I feel that Sandy Hook has done an admirable job by trying to keep both groups communicating in hopes of a resolution while not being seen as supporting either side of the issue. Now that this property's future seems determined, we can all feel comfortable in supporting the next phase, which is the design and development of the park..

I understand that the district has offered your association the opportunity to be involved in the designing of the proposed park area. This is a great opportunity to bring your community together around a worthwhile project. Hopefully both sides of the lead up to the creation of this park will now join forces and utilize their expertise in creating a park we can all enjoy and be proud of. The challenge will be to create something that can meet the needs of as broad a group as possible. Exclusivity is not a plus.

If SHORA can offer any expertise or assistance please feel free to contact us. We had attempted to create a park within our area recently but were unsuccessful due to some issues that came up at the district level. Sounds like you should have better luck. All the best.

Your friends and neighbours at SHORA

Jason Herz Pres.



# District of Sechelt

"Heart of the Sunshine Coast"



July 24, 2002

File No.

Sandy Hook Community Association,  
5916 Skookumchuk Road,  
Sechelt, BC  
V0N 3A4

Attention: ~~Ms Sandra Sharkey~~, President  
*MR BOB DARAY*

*RSOS*  
Dear ~~Ms Sharkey~~:

**RE: Hidden Grove**

Please be advised that the District of Sechelt Council at the regular Council meeting July 17 2002 adopted a Planning Committee recommendation

That Sandy Hook Association prepare a Park Development Concept for that part of DL 3006 to be included in an application for a Crown Grant.

This follows the initiative of Sandy Hook residents to have the "Hidden Grove" granted municipal park status from its current status as a licensed area in the Provincial Forest. Municipal staff has been advised by Land and Water BC that any application for a municipal park must be supported by a plan which shows proposed and estimated costs.

Further to this Planning Staff has been advised by Land and Water BC that the application will not be considered until a new policy has been developed regarding crown land grants for municipal and institutional purposes. The application will be subject to a provincial government referral process.

By copy of this letter, I would request that the Community Association strike a committee to prepare the proposed municipal park plan. I would suggest that the committee be limited in size in order to achieve the objective of preparing a plan in a timely manner. District Planning staff will serve as a resource and to this end will provide base maps and aerial photos. I would suggest the following elements for consideration in the plan:

- Parking lot
- Trails
- Fixed improvements (pavilions, bridges, bar b q pits)
- Garbage cans
- Interpretive features, signage

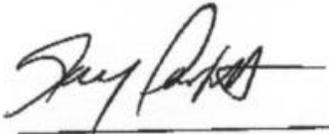
I:\planning\general\ray\hidden grove park plan.doc

2nd. Floor, 5797 Cowrie Street, P.O. Box 129, Sechelt, British Columbia, Canada V0N 3A0  
Tel: (604) 885-1986 Fax: (604) 885-7591 Website: www.district.sechelt.bc.ca

Please advise this office of your steering committee and a proposed meeting date to commence this project. If you have any questions please contact the undersigned

Yours truly,

**DISTRICT OF SEHEL T**



---

Ray Parfitt,  
Municipal Planner

Robert D'Arcy

July 25/02

To: SHCA Board  
Subject: Block 350 Update Long, I am sorry.

NOTHING DECIDED YET but some update and comment.

Update first.

1. All board members have been heard from to some degree but for Din (who I think is away), Harold, and Tom for whom I get email failure. Some division of ideas, folks, so I will "attempt" to be presidential and just stick to information in this part for now. I ain't even saying how I will vote and my vote for SHCA 'might' be at variance with my personal opinion.

2. The unofficial little group met on Saturday and it was made very clear that the SHCA board had not decided anything yet. The material required for the application was reviewed. Each section was set as it would be either for the District to do OR the SHCA or jointly. In the end the chore seemed very manageable since what is needed is a clear setting out of thoughts - not rocket science or a lot of resources. A small task force (4 or 5) can do the job over a few months and they need not be board members. Without this exercise I did not feel that the board could make any informed decision as the magnitude of the task was not known.

3. Knowing what is involved, then when the District approach us, IF we are going to think of assisting, then we know what to ask for. A sort of list was done.

4. We have not heard from the District staff yet but I would certainly like to have some answer ready in fairly short order. I think it would reflect badly upon us if we delayed advising the District one way or the other after all the fuss that has gone on.

5. Should we have a meeting to decide this? I have no problem with an absentee vote (email or snail or phone) but in that case I feel that ALL board members must be heard from whereas in a real meeting only a quorum is required to carry whatever. Rather than make a decision I would appreciate your thoughts.

Now for the benefit of new members or senior moments, some comment:

File

6. Some recap of our position up to now might be salutary. In a nutshell, by letter and verbally at a planning meeting, SHCA asked that whoever "respect the wishes of the residents". Failing that SHCA asked that it be a party in any negotiating process.

7. In hindsight it appears to me it never dawned on us that the District would make a decision as they have. As the elected representatives of the residents are they expressing or acting for the 'wishes of the residents'? If so, then the SHCA got part one of its position and part two is academic.

8. IF the above is correct then our prior position is mute. The matter has been resolved or at least gone as far as it can until some part of the government accepts or rejects the District request. The alternate for the SHCA would be the impossible act of starting to campaign to stop a park and encourage logging!

9. The decision now, it seems to me, is a separate one. Do we assist the District in obtaining their goal of a park. It matters not whether we think a park is overkill and whether we think that only part or none should be preserved. As far as our current reach goes that has been decided. If we say No to the District I am not sure of the result but for the purposes of this I am confident you must assume that some party will come forward to fill the gap.

10. Answering either way can be justified within the position we took last year but perception may be just as important. Will we be perceived to have changed into tree huggers or conversely are we against protecting the Sandy Hook environs? Since a process appears to be going forward do we wish to part of it or leave it to parties not under the control/auspices of the SHCA?

Do we influence the final result or stay out of it to take what comes including criticism from those who support the park decision as the only way to save Hidden Grove.

11. Damned, maybe, if we do and damned, maybe, if we don't. Unfortunately, we are caught with a decision to make.

Let me know your thoughts on a meeting or a mail poll or phone poll or suicide.:)

Bob

**AGENDA**  
**Special Board Meeting**  
**2:00 PM, July 27, 2002 at President Bob D'Arcy's House**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD**

To consider 2 motions to be presented by your President in respect of the area commonly known as Block 350.

**INTRODUCTION BY THE PRESIDENT**

- a) Short introductory remarks
- b) Reading of the resolutions of the District of Sechelt and status of District staff on same
- c) Tabling and reading of correspondence received pertaining or germane to the business of this meeting
- d) Expression of the position of the president and expectation that the board will show support for their President.

**PRESENTATION OF MOTION NO.1**

Moved by the President and seconded by the Treasurer

**Motion No. 1 of July 27, 2002**

Whereas the District of Sechelt has determined that the area commonly known as Block 350 shall remain as designated in the OCP as a "PARK" or, in the alternate has decided the designation of "PARK" shall apply, and

Whereas there is a requirement for the District of Sechelt to make application to appropriate senior government departments or incorporated bodies for official recognition of "Park" status, and

Whereas the District of Sechelt requires assistance to prepare the application it has therefore passed a resolution reading:

"That staff request the Sandy Hook Community Association be requested to prepare a park development concept plan for that part of District Lot 3006 to be included in an application for a Crown Grant." and,

Whereas in accordance with the resolution, the District Staff have or will be approaching the Community Association for a response;

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

The Sandy Hook Community Association will advise the District of Sechelt that it would be pleased to call upon members of the community to form a ~~Task Force~~ <sup>STEERING COMMITTEE</sup> to assist in the preparation of a park development concept plan and further, that the District may deal with that Task Force without direct referral to the Board of the Association. The Task Force shall appoint a spokesperson to deal with the District and outside agencies and may set satisfactory terms of reference with the District for performing its task including but not limited to: reimbursement of expenses, authority, scope and professional assistance from the District or their designees

**CALL FOR DISCUSSION**

**CALL FOR VOTE**

Following the successful passage of the above motion, the following:

**PRESENTATION OF MOTION NO. 2**

Moved by the President and seconded by Gray Waddell

**Motion No. 2 of July 27, 2002**

Whereas the Sandy Hook Community wishes members of the community at large to form and participate in a Task Force in respect of Motion No. 1 of July 27, 2002, and

Whereas a group known as the Hidden Grove Park Planners has come forward with an interim spokesperson, Bob D'Arcy,

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

- a) Hidden Grove Park ~~Planners~~ are recognized as the Task Force referred to in the prior motion
- b) The task force shall negotiate the terms of reference with the District as required by the Board's resolution on the matter;
- c) The Task Force shall proceed to develop the requested plan in as competent and expeditious manner as they can;
- d) The Task Force shall give status reports to the board of the association on the content and progress of their work on a time table to be agreed;

**CALL FOR DISCUSSION**

**CALL FOR VOTE**

**OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY ARISE - OPEN**

**CLOSE OF MEETING**

*Steering Committee      Steering Com*

*1) H.G.P. will advertise this question to the public boards. Contributing from the S.H. community - welcome for the*

*but the intent shall be the creation of*

*a natural (Conservation) park / non-intensive use*

*non-intensive recreation*



# Sandy Hook Community Association

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

**BY EMAIL AND HARD COPY HAND DELIVERED AFTER**

July 27, 2002

District of Sechelt  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 5797 Cowrie Street  
P.O. Box 129,  
Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A0

Attention: Mr. Ray Parfitt  
Municipal Planner

**RE: Hidden Grove**

Dear Ray,

We wish to acknowledge your letter of July 24<sup>th</sup> and advise that the Board of the Association on July 27, 2002 passed the following 2 resolutions:

**1. BE IT RESOLVED:**

The Sandy Hook Community Association will advise the District of Sechelt that it would be pleased to call upon members of the community to form a Steering Committee to assist in the preparation of a park development concept plan and further, that the District may deal with that Steering Committee without direct referral to the Board of the Association. The Steering Committee shall appoint a spokesperson to deal with the District and outside agencies and may set satisfactory terms of reference with the District for performing its task including but not limited to: reimbursement of expenses, authority, scope and professional assistance from the District or their designees.

**2. BE IT RESOLVED:**

- a) Hidden Grove Park Steering Committee are recognized as the Steering Committee referred to in the prior motion, and;
- b) The Steering Committee will advertise its existence on the community bulletin boards and invite residents of Sandy Hook to participate in it and/or contribute to its goals, and;
- c) The task force shall negotiate the terms of reference with the District as required by the Board's resolution on the matter; but it is understood that the intent shall be the concept of a natural (conservation) park and non-intensive use recreation park, and;
- d) The Steering Committee shall proceed to develop the requested plan in as competent and expeditious manner as they can;
- e) The Steering Committee shall give status reports to the board of the association on the content and progress of their work on a time table to be agreed;

The Hidden Grove Park Steering Committee current members are:  
Bob D'Arcy, Gray Waddell, Gertrude Pacific, Michael Davidson and Din Ruttelynck; all residents of Sandy Hook. Bob D'Arcy is the interim spokesperson for you to communicate with. I am sure we will strike an abbreviated committee name for you to deal with too!

We anticipate having an organizational meeting within the next 7 days and would appreciate a meeting with you and any of your staff you feel appropriate as soon as possible. I will call you to set up an appropriate time.

Yours truly,

**SANDY HOOK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

*R. B. D'Arcy*

Bob D'Arcy  
President



## Hidden Grove (Block 350) Steering Committee

The District Of Sechelt passed a resolution in May, 2002 to proceed with the development of District Lot 3006 (containing the Hidden Grove) for the purposes of a municipal park. At the District's request, a Steering

Committee of Sandy Hook residents has been formed to prepare a Park Development Concept for that part of Lot 3006 to be included in an application for a Crown Grant.

The "Hidden Grove Steering Committee" invites residents of Sandy Hook to join in the work of the committee or to just offer contributions of ideas, advice and expertise to the plan development.

It should be noted that the conceptual plan at this time is limited to that for a natural (conservation) and non-intensive use recreational park.

Anyone who wishes to participate in the committee's work or has ideas or expertise to share should contact the interim spokesperson for the committee:

**Bob D'Arcy**

Phone: 885-5766

Email: [rdarcy@dcnet.com](mailto:rdarcy@dcnet.com)

**YOU CAN HAVE A SAY IN  
THE FUTURE**

On the Web at: [www.sechelt.net/heritage](http://www.sechelt.net/heritage)

## Hidden Grove Park Steering Committee

...has been formed to prepare a Park Development Concept Plan for the Hidden Grove part of DL3006. The public is invited to contribute ideas, advice and expertise to the plan and to participate in the work of the committee. Interested parties should review the material at [www.sechelt.net/heritage](http://www.sechelt.net/heritage) or email [park@sechelt.net](mailto:park@sechelt.net) or write HGpsc, 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, BC, V0N3A4

**DRAFT**

**SANDY HOOK  
HIDDEN GROVE PARK PLAN  
STEERING COMMITTEE**

formed by request of  
the Council of the District of Sechelt

August 9, 2002

Chief and Council  
Sechelt Indian Government District  
Box 740, Sechelt V0N 3A0

Dear Chief Feschuk and Council:

We are seeking consultation with you regarding the effort now beginning to present a plan for the **Hidden Grove Park** to Lands and Waters B.C. (formerly known as BC Assets and Lands). The District of Sechelt Council is unanimous in agreement that the areas known as Hidden Grove and the Sechelt Heritage Forest be combined together to form a larger entity to comply with the Official Community Plan (OCP) as Parks and Open Space. This would change the jurisdiction of those lands from the Ministry of Forests to the District of Sechelt for the purpose of recreation. We understand that as part of the official referral process, you would be consulted in the future by Lands and Waters B.C.

However, we are seeking your input first at this initial stage. We did invite you by E-Mail to walk the trails with members of the Sechelt District Planning Committee, but we understand that you were out of town for that date. We would again invite Chief and Council to tour the two sites with us to gain your input. We are also inviting you and the residents of the Sunshine Coast (and elsewhere!) to provide input to our website (sechelt.net and go to Sandy Hook Community Association).

This committee is very pleased to be asked to participate in the planning of this important park proposal, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Bob D'Arcy, President, and Interim Committee Spokesperson

cc: Harold Fletcher, SIGD Administrator  
Councillor Cam Reid, Chair-Planning Committee

**DRAFT**

# Hidden Grove Park Plan

**the request of the District of Sechelt Council)**

August 9, 2002

Chief and Council  
Sechelt Indian Band  
Box 740, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A0

Dear Chief Feschuk and Council:

We are seeking consultation with you regarding this project; now just under way, to present a concept plan for the "Hidden Grove Park" to Lands and Waters B.C. (formerly known as BC Assets and Lands). The District of Sechelt Council has unanimously agreed and so resolved by a motion that the area known as the Hidden Grove form a park to comply with the Official Community Plan (OCP) as Parks and Open Space (map attached). This would change the jurisdiction of the land from the Ministry of Forests to the District of Sechelt for the purposes of recreation. It is likely that the land currently described as the Sechelt Heritage Forest would be folded into the total park although still maintained as a natural heritage site.

We understand that as part of the official referral process, Lands and Water B.C would consult you in the future. We are, however, seeking your input first during this initial planning stage. You will recall we invited you to walk the trails with the committee but you were out of town on the date in question. We would be delighted to reschedule a tour of both the sites involved at your convenience. Further we are inviting you and the residents of the Sunshine Coast to visit our web site and contribute ideas, thoughts and expertise to our efforts through that medium. (Go to [www.sechelt.net/heritage](http://www.sechelt.net/heritage))

This committee is very pleased to have been asked to undertake this important park-planning project and we sincerely hope you will be able to join in supporting us and giving us valuable advice on the process. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Bob D'Arcy  
President, Sandy Hook Community Association  
Interim Committee Spokesperson

cc: Harold Fletcher, SIGD Administrator  
Councilor Cam Reid, Chair – Planning Committee

## **Economic Benefits of Hidden Grove Park Proposal**

Sustainable use of the resources of the Hidden Grove, a forested area adjacent to Sechelt in the Chapman landscape unit, may result in a greater economic return to the province than the currently proposed timber harvesting plan. The purpose of this analysis is to examine the economic benefits that could potentially be derived, both from timber harvesting as proposed (clearcut with reserves) and continued use as a recreation area, bed and breakfast tourist destination, wildlife and biodiversity preserve, and water source for local residents who hold licenses.

### **Potential Revenue from Timber Harvesting**

Currently, International Forest Products (Interfor) has proposed to clearcut with reserves a 40.1 hectare cutblock which covers the Hidden Grove forest. Representatives from Interfor have stated, in a presentation to the District of Sechelt council<sup>1</sup>, that the economic benefits to the province of logging this block would be:

\$500,000 in stumpage fees

\$75,000 in provincial income tax (from workers in logging and related industry)

\$100,000 in other taxes (I assume this would be PST, which would be considerable lower than \$100,000)

Please consider these two important points before using these figures in a decision about the resource use of Hidden Grove: Firstly, these figures are highly speculative. Secondly, there are many other areas that Interfor could log within their tenure in the SCFD, and the Chapman landscape unit, that would not be *removing* this forest that is *already* contributing to economic activity for the bed and breakfast operators of the area. Thus, the province could increase overall revenue by preserving the Hidden Grove forest to

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<sup>1</sup> District of Sechelt Council Meeting, Summary, March 6, 2002

generate income taxes, and PST, while still collecting the same amount of stumpage from allowing Interfor to log elsewhere in their tenure.<sup>2</sup>

### **Potential Stumpage Revenue**

An estimate of the volume of wood contained in the proposed cutblock indicates that it is *possible* that the above figures for stumpage could be correct:<sup>3</sup>

40.1 hectares x 1000 m<sup>3</sup> = 40,100 m<sup>3</sup>

subtract 13% for reserve protection – 5213 m<sup>3</sup>

estimate of total cubic meters: 34,887 m<sup>3</sup>

If the stumpage rate were \$10 per m<sup>3</sup>, which is typical for Interfor, the gross stumpage *could be* \$348,870. I note, however, that the stumpage rate is not fixed until the average quality of lumber is determined after logging begins. Trees of similar quality and value were sold to Interfor in Wilson Creek for .25 m<sup>3</sup>. Thus, the point here is that a projection of any profit from stumpage is speculative.

That being so, let us assume for the purposes of analysis that the \$10 m<sup>3</sup> would be paid. For actual net revenue to the province, as opposed to gross, we need to subtract the administration cost to the government, which is approximately \$5 per m<sup>3</sup>.

\$348,870

- 174,435

= \$ 174,435

I believe the figure of \$174, 435 more accurately reflects potential stumpage revenue to the province. The associated taxes would of course be proportionately less also.

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<sup>2</sup> Note the most recent Timber Supply Review considers no lack of available wood supply for this TSA.

<sup>3</sup> Daniel Bouman, personal communication, August 25, 2002

### **Other Economic Benefits, Values and Costs:**

Non-timber values of the Hidden Grove Forest are extensive, and include, visual quality and recreational trails for residents and tourists, water licenses, wildlife habitat and biodiversity/old growth representation. Although these values can be difficult to measure in economic terms directly, the uniqueness of this case does enable us to identify some potential costs.

The Forest Practices Code requires that measures must be specified in a Forest Development Plan that will be taken to protect the forest resources of the area.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, the district manager must be satisfied that all forest values are adequately managed and conserved before approving a cutblock.<sup>5</sup> As the plan currently exists, it does not meet these criteria. Therefore, logging of Hidden Grove may be a moot point since an amendment has not yet been approved by the District Manager, and in my opinion, could not legally be done.

However, my point here is that, were the plan to be mistakenly approved, the province could potentially be paying out legal fees were this decision to be challenged. An estimate of the fees and staff time would conservatively be \$50,000. This is not in any way intended to be a threat, it is simply my opinion regarding the legality of approving logging of this area, and an attempt to impart that there would be a cost associated with this.

The basis for NOT approving this proposed cutblock is that the Chapman landscape unit provincial forest land has less old growth and *old growth quality* forest in the CWHxm and CWHdm (of which the Hidden Grove area consists of) than is scientifically and legally defensible. Current policy implementation has evolved to protecting less than 9% in actual old growth or old growth quality forest in Old Growth Management Areas for

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<sup>4</sup> Section 10

<sup>5</sup> Section 41(1)b

some landscape units and it is NOT ADEQUATE to manage and conserve the forest resource of old growth and associated dependent species.

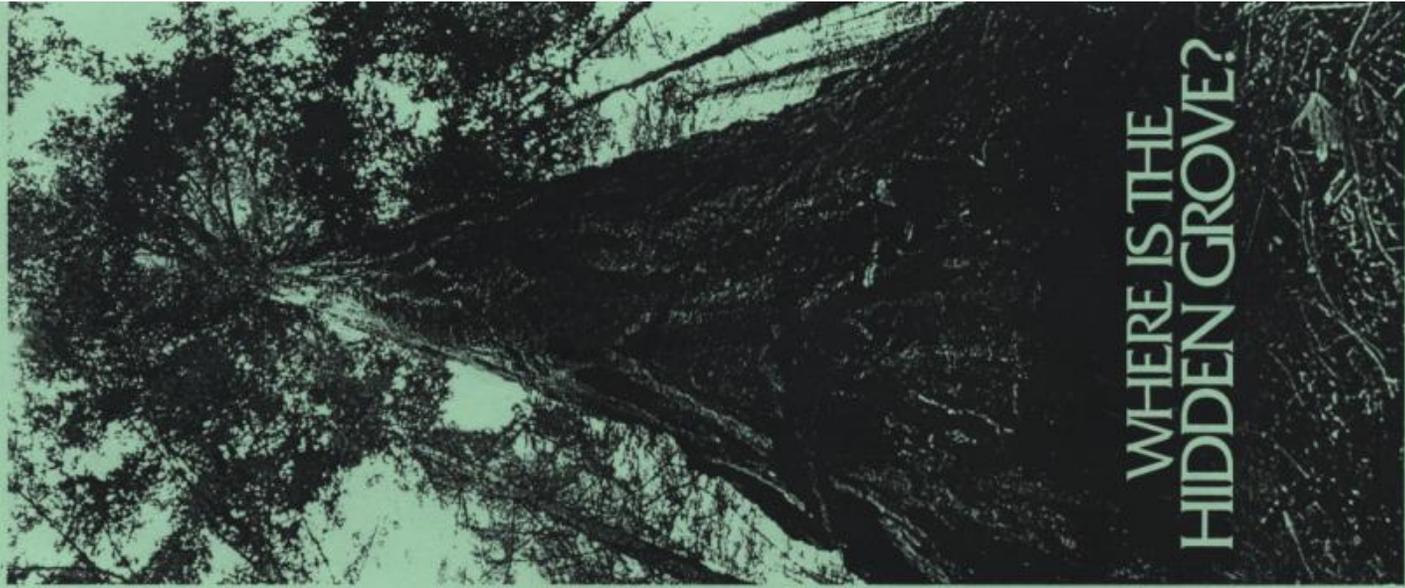
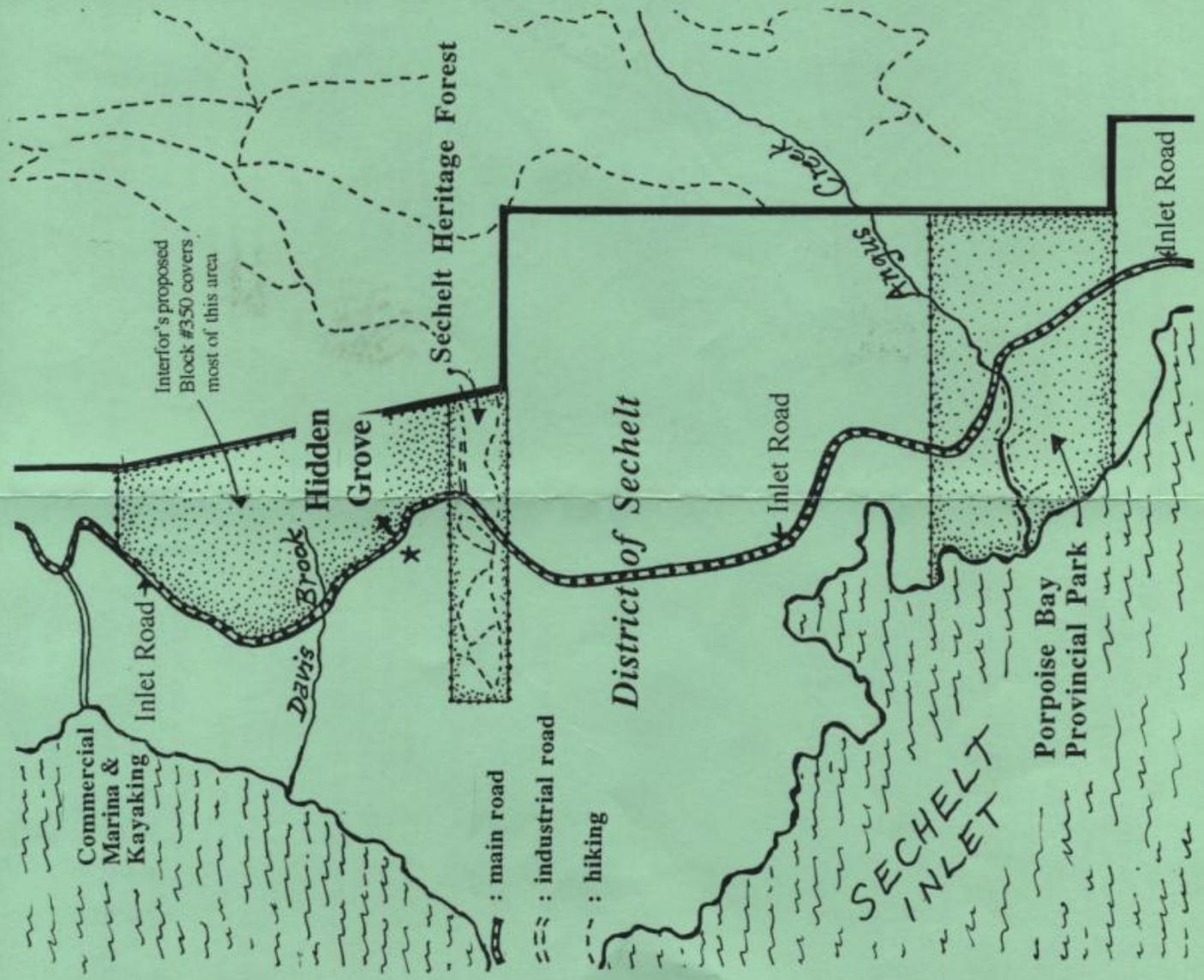
**Conclusion:**

The Hidden Grove represents an opportunity for the provincial government to continue to diversify and evolve economic opportunities from our natural resource base that leave the capital of the forest intact to provide the other benefits. I would be happy to discuss further any of the issues that might arise regarding the economic potential of the Hidden Grove Forest.

Maria Hunter, MEM (Masters of Environment and Management)

Sustainable Development and Biodiversity Law and Policy Consultant

August 26, 2002



# WHERE IS THE HIDDEN GROVE?

## The Hidden Grove has been recently discovered next to the community of Sandy Hook!

A very old grove of cedar and fir, set between maple wetlands and rocky bluffs is located immediately east of where Inlet Road and Sandy Hook Road meet. Go to the entry on Inlet Road (located on this map), walk only five minutes into the forest and see if you agree that the Hidden Grove provides a sensational backdrop for recreation quite different but complimentary to the adjacent Sechelt Heritage Forest to the south.

## What is the status of the land in the Hidden Grove area?

It is crown land within the Provincial Forest managed by the Ministry of Forests. Also, this land lies within the District of Sechelt. Interfor has the Forest Licence A19220 for the area. In 1994, previously proposed cutblocks in the same area were not approved.

This area has the same status as the area which has become the Sechelt Heritage Forest, a project begun by the Sandy Hook Community Association in 1993, and supported by the District of Sechelt through the Official Community Plan. In the OCP, the Hidden Grove area is now marked as Parks and Open Space.

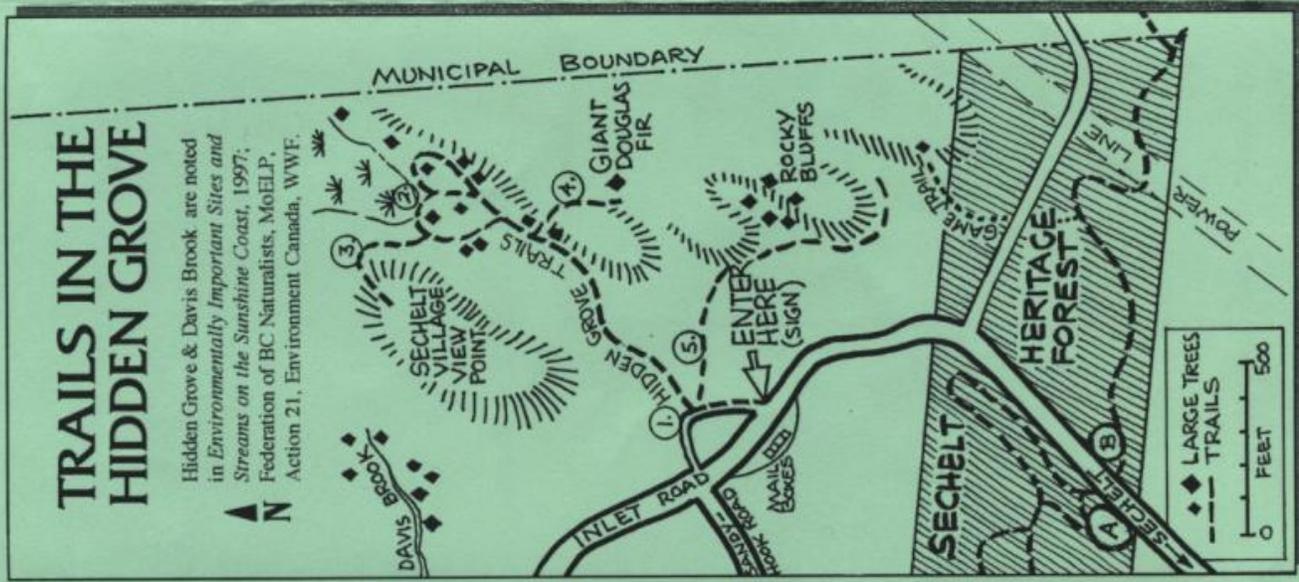
The Ministry of Forests changed the status of the Sechelt Heritage Forest, designating it an "Interpretive Forest Recreation Reserve" in 1997. It is managed jointly by the Ministry of Forests, the District of Sechelt's Public Works Department (for Inlet Road), and the Sandy Hook Community Association's forest committee (the Trailbuilders).

## Map References to: Hidden Grove Trails

- 1.- **Hidden Grove** - the trailhead begins with easy walking in second growth past fire scarred veterans, and ends in majestic old growth fir (500 yrs) and cedar
- 2.- **Maple Wetland** - a loop trail through lush ferns in a boggy zone thought to be the headwaters of Davis Brook and within sight of tall maples
- 3.- **Viewpoint** - begins easily from Wetland Loop, then rises steeply up a rock lined draw towards a view of Sechelt through the tops of old growth fir, arbutus and pine
- 4.- **Lonely Giant** - a short spur trail from the Grove uphill between rocky bluffs to regard the 27' circumference Douglas Fir
- 5.- **SHF Connector** - a longer trail leading from the trailhead to the Sechelt Heritage Forest is only partially completed up to a mossy ravine

## Sechelt Heritage Forest Trails

- A- **Inlet Road Trailhead** (west side) - all the many trails are well marked with signposts; the Main trail leads to a yellow cedar bridge over Deerfern Streamlet and the Ancient Cedar (600-1000yrs) which survived two attempts to fall it but still lives on
- B- **Inlet Road Trailhead** (east side) - no signposts yet; a single trail leads to the Christmas Tree Farm under the powerline; to make a loop turn left uphill to the gravel road then go west to return to Inlet Road



## **HIDDEN GROVE**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**September 16, 2002**

**March 1, 2001** Staff report to Planning Committee in response to Public Information meetings and referral of Interfor's Forest Development Plan (Forest License A 19220) Particular concern about proposed Cut Block 350 in DL 3006

**March 16, 2001** Council requests that Interfor meet and clarify matter of Cut block 350.

**May 2001** Interfor withdraws status of Cut Block 350 to "I" on Management Plan – deters action on Block 350 pending further study.

**September 5, 2001** Council requests letter be forwarded to MoF, BC Lands requesting that Cut Block 350 be designated as part of Sechelt Heritage Forest

**March 6, 2002** Interfor appears before Council outlines plans for Cut Block 350

**March 12, 2002** Planning Committee recommends District write MoF, BC Lands to either add Cut Block 350 to Heritage Forest or create a municipal park

**May 14, 2002** Planning Committee recommends that District of Sechelt apply to Lands BC to acquire DL 3006 as a park and undertake the requisite park plan in support of application to Lands BC; and that Interfor meet with Council to discuss revised management plans for Cut Block 350

**July 9, 2002** Planning Committee recommends that Sandy Hook Neighborhood Association appoint steering committee to prepare park plan for Cut Block 350 in support of an application to Lands BC and that District Staff review same.

# Hidden Grove Park Plan

## Steering Committee

Formed at the request of the District of Sechelt Council

October 22, 2002

Chief and Council  
Sechelt Indian Band  
5555 Coast Highway  
Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0

Dear Chief and Council:

Thank you, Chief Feschuk and Rick August, for taking the time to meet with us yesterday in your council chamber. We appreciated the care with which you listened to our story of the how the Hidden Grove Park Plan has come about.

We are especially delighted that you wish to include ideas for the Plan from the Sechelt Elders and Rick August. Culturally important First Nation information and activities that would be appropriate to the Hidden Grove Park Plan – coming from your unique point of view - would be most welcome.

We are very happy to meet with the Elders and Rick August (and any others) to listen to their comments, questions and ideas, and to discuss any aspect of the Plan as much as possible.

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm we are scheduled to make a presentation to the District of Sechelt at the Davis Bay Community Hall regarding the Hidden Grove Park Plan. We will make known to the District the general nature of our meeting yesterday with you. And, if we could meet with the Elders prior to November 6<sup>th</sup>, we could incorporate their particular wishes in our Plan presentation.

We are honoured that you have taken an interest in this project. We look forward to seeing you again soon and to hearing from you regarding our meeting with the Elders.

Sincerely yours,

Bob D'Arcy

Gertrude Pacific

Koen Drugmand

**Attachment:** *sample page for Plan book.*

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

**Email: [park@sechelt.net](mailto:park@sechelt.net) Web Site: <http://sechelt.net/heritage>**

**Phone: 604-885-5766**

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## REPORT

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**DATE:** November 14, 2002  
**TO:** Mayor and Councilors  
**FROM:** Municipal Planner  
**RE:** Hidden Grove  
**FILE NO:**

---

1. **BACKGROUND:**

At the July 17, 2002 meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

“That the Sandy Hook Community Association be requested to prepare a park development concept plan for that part of DL 3006 to be included in an application for a Crown Grant;” and

“That staff time be diverted to prepare drawings and a budget based on the concept plan for submission to the Provincial Government.”

On November 6, 2002 representatives from the Hidden Grove Park Steering Committee presented their plan to Council.

2. **ALTERNATIVES:**

- Refer the Park Plan and cost projections to Planning Committee for review
- Instruct staff to prepare an application to Lands and Water BC for a Crown Grant for parks purposes.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are considerable financial implications. Staff estimates that the cost of improvements as proposed in the Hidden Grove Park Plan at approximately \$300,000. Staff has previously been advised that the provincial government is revising its policy on Crown Grants for municipal parks and recreation purposes and that nominal rents or fee simple values will no longer apply. The matter of compensation to Interfor is presently unknown.

4. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The subject area is designated “Parks and Open Space” on the District’s OCP Land Use Map. The specific park policies in the OCP reference neighborhood park standards and

linear pedestrian walkways parallel to the shoreline areas of the Strait of Georgia and Porpoise Bay. The Open Space policies don't specifically address the acquisition of open space.

5. **DISCUSSION:**

The Sandy Hook Ratepayers Association Park Steering Committee has prepared a plan for the Hidden Grove consistent with Council's direction. This park plan would be an attachment in support of a formal application to Lands and Water BC for the granting of tenure to the District of Sechelt for a Park in District Lot 3006.

The Hidden Grove Plan divides DL 3006 into three areas (Northern, Southern and the Hidden Grove lying in the middle. The Northern area lies north of Davis Brook. The Hidden Grove section includes the area of old growth timber. The southern section comprises that portion from the entrance road to the Sechelt Heritage Forest.

The proposed park improvements include such features as a parking lot off Sechelt Inlet Road, a system of trails (8.6 km.) designed to include wheelchair access, improvements such as ladder bridges, boardwalks, viewing platforms, balance logs, signage, picnic facilities, (tables, benches, pavilion) pit toilets, garbage facilities. The plan suggests that the Hidden Grove Park be developed over a 7 year time line.

Staff estimates that the above referenced improvements would cost approximately \$300,000. This has not been prorated over the development time line.

There are a number of issues that staff should review with Lands and Water BC and the Ministry of Forests.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**That Council refers the Hidden Grove application to Planning Committee for a more detailed review of financial and policy considerations.**

**SANDY HOOK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
FOREST COMMITTEE**

5916 Skookumchuk Road, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A4

November 25, 2002

Gerard Nachtegaele, Ministry of Forests  
Sunshine Coast Forest District  
7077 Duncan Street, Powell River, BC V8A 1W1

Dear Gerard Nachtegaele:     **Managing and Maintaining the  
Sechelt Heritage Forest Recreation Site**

On November 20 of last week, the District of Sechelt Council heard our delegation regarding the proposals for Managing and Maintaining Forest Service Recreation Sites, as pertaining to the Sechelt Heritage Forest. We reported that the Sunshine Coast Regional District was going to take many of the other proposals under their "insurance wing" and assume the role of proponent. We then said we felt it would be appropriate for the District of Sechelt to become the proponent for the Sechelt Heritage Forest with our Sandy Hook Community Association Forest Committee as partner.

The Mayor and Council agreed to this, and decided to bring it to a formal vote at their next meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>. It was also decided that the Planning Department could ask you for the Request for Proposal package in the interim. We understand the Planner, Ray Parfitt, has done so and does realize the deadline is December 16, 2002. Therefore our Forest Committee will not be submitting a proposal.

This arrangement is agreeable to our Forest Committee and to our Board of Directors as it allows us to continue our activities in the Sechelt Heritage Forest, gives us a partnership role with the District of Sechelt councilors and staff, and provides liability insurance. Over time, we feel that this partnership will also strengthen the sense of cooperation within our municipality.

We would like to thank you, Gerard, for your guidance in this matter, and in addition, for displaying good will toward our Forest Committee at every opportunity. We hope that the District of Sechelt's proposal will be met with Ministry of Forests approval so that we may continue the volunteer work we have done since 1996.

Sincerely yours,

Gertrude Pacific

**COPY**

Michael Davidson

Cc: District of Sechelt: Mayor, Council and Staff

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**REPORT**

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**DATE:** November 27, 2002  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Administrator  
**RE:** Heritage Forest – Recreation Reserve  
Ministry of Forests

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1. **BACKGROUND:**

On May 1, 1997, the Ministry of Forests established a Recreation Reserve for the area locally known as the Heritage Forest. That recreation reserve was established at request of local residents, who constructed recreation trails through the area.

Recently, the provincial government commissioned a review of services provided by the government. Part of that review was a decision to seek operators for Ministry of Forest Recreation sites. The Ministry is seeking proposals from community groups, local government and private campground operators.

Ms. Gertrude Pacific, representing the Sandy Hook Community Association, made a presentation to Council at the November 21, 2002 meeting requesting Council support for the association's initiative to continue to hold stewardship of that reserve. The crux of the group's concern is that the Ministry application form requires proponents submit proof of insurance, to protect the provincial government in the event a visitor or worker is injured at the recreation site. The association does not have insurance coverage.

2. **ALTERNATIVES:**

There are a range of alternatives available to Council in responding to this group's request. They include:

- 1 Offer the community association a grant-in-aid for purchase of liability insurance
- 2 Take the community group's place in making application for District control of the site
- 3 Petition the Ministry of Forests to waive the insurance requirement for community groups
- 4 Decline to involve the District of Sechelt in this application.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Alternative #1. - No quotation has been received for liability insurance for this community group.

Alternative #2 - There would be a minimal cost to the District for this approach. Costs would include submitting the application for District control of the property, and the ongoing cost for supervision of the property for maintenance. This cost estimate is predicated on the assumption that the community group would continue to provide labor to maintain the property on behalf of the community on a gratis basis.

If the property is to be maintained by District forces, or contract labor then costs would be higher. The District budgeted \$8,500 for maintaining Kinnikinnick Forest park this past year. This includes both maintaining paths and removal of dangerous trees.

Alternative #3 - Telephone conversations with Ministry staff, indicate that the Ministry has not reached a final decision about imposing a requirement that community groups possess insurance. An option is to petition the Ministry to waive the requirement for community groups. This could be done as a first priority or in conjunction with one of the other alternatives.

Alternative #4 – No financial costs.

4. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The District is encouraging community groups to take an active role in planning and maintaining their neighbourhoods.

5. **DISCUSSION:**

Over the years, Council has encouraged community groups to take an active role in maintaining beach access trails and other neighborhood amenities. However, liability insurance concerns have constrained this trend. At this time, volunteer labor is restricted to 'low risk' activities that can be done under supervision of District staff.

Municipal Insurance Association bulletins often remind staff to require community groups to possess insurance for their events on municipal property, in which the District is named as a third party. MIA also advises that the District insurance can not be used as an umbrella for community group initiatives, rather they must work under supervision of District staff.

The most expeditious alternative for Council is to take the community group's place in making application for District control of the site. This would meet the Ministry of Forests concern about responsibility. However, as noted above, the District could be committing to an ongoing park maintenance budget for this property.

If the Ministry is reconsidering the requirement that community groups hold liability insurance, the 'best option' is to petition them on behalf of this community group. As noted above, this could be done in conjunction with one of the other alternatives, should Council so choose.

The alternative that would be best for the District, should the Ministry require that community groups possess liability insurance, is to extend a grant-in-aid to the community group for purchase of the required insurance. This would limit the District's involvement in the initiative to payment of an insurance premium.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**THAT Sechelt make application to the Ministry of Forests to operate the Sechelt Heritage Forest site, being that portion of District Lot 3006 also known as 'Sechelt Provincial Forest', as a Ministry of Forests Recreation site,**

**AND THAT Council inform the Sandy Hook Community Association in writing that this application is being submitted on the understanding they will continue to maintain the property on a gratis basis, and consent to doing this work under supervision of the District Parks Foreman.**

## DISTRICT OF SECHELT

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING held in the Community Meeting Room at the Library Building at 5797 Cowrie Street, Sechelt BC on Wednesday, November 20, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Milne  
Councillor Kershaw  
Councillor Poole  
Councillor Reid  
Councillor Steeves  
Administrator, B. Brown  
District Clerk, J. Heinrich  
Director of Finance, D. Chapman  
Director of Engineering and Public Works, K. Tang  
Recording Secretary, C. Jordison

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Milne called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was amended to include item 3.1, a Delegation from the Sandy Hook Community Association regarding the Sechelt Heritage Forest.

#### **MOTION #15593: Poole/Kershaw**

**That the agenda be adopted, as amended.**

**CARRIED**

#### **DELEGATIONS:**

##### **1. Sechelt Heritage Forest – Maintenance and Management of Site**

Mr. M. Davidson and Ms. G. Pacific of the Sandy Hook Community Association reviewed background information on the Ministry of Forests devolution of the management of park sites, including the Sechelt Heritage Forest, located within the District of Sechelt. It was noted that the Sandy Hook Community Association has been investigating taking on responsibility for this site, but feels it cannot meet the Ministry's requirements regarding liability insurance. The Association requested the District consider applying to take over the management of the site in advance of the December 16, 2002 application deadline.

Mayor Milne assured the delegation that Council is interested in the future of the site and that District staff would prepare a report on the matter for consideration at the December 4, 2002 Regular Council Meeting.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**1. Heritage Forest**

The Administrator's report, dated November 27, 2002 was reviewed as circulated with the agenda package.

**MOTION #15639: Poole/Kershaw**

**That Sechelt make application to the Ministry of Forests to operate the Sechelt Heritage Forest site, being that portion of District Lot 3006 also know as "Sechelt Provincial Forest", as a Ministry of Forests Recreation site, AND**

**That Council inform the Sandy Hook Community Association in writing that this application is being submitted on the understanding that they will continue to maintain the property on a gratis basis, and consent to doing this work under the supervision of the District Parks Foreman.**

**CARRIED**

**2. Regular Council Meetings – Schedule Change for January, 2003**

**MOTION #15640: Steeves/Kershaw**

**That the January, 2003 Regular meetings of Council be scheduled for the second and fourth Wednesday of that month, being January 8 and January 22, 2003 respectively, both beginning at 7:30pm.**

**CARRIED**

**3. Presentation of the 2003-2007 Financial Plan**

The Director of Finance, D. Chapman gave a brief presentation on the processes involved in the development of the District's Financial Plan.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION #15641: Poole/Steeves**

**That the Regular Council Meeting be adjourned.**

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

**Certified Correct:**

# Hidden Grove Park Plan

## Steering Committee

December 17, 2002

Alec Drysdale  
Acting Lands and Water Manager  
Lands and Waters BC  
Suite 200 -10428 53 Street  
Surrey, BC. V3R 1E1

Dear Alec Drysdale:

**Re: Hidden Grove Park (DL 3006)  
Acquisition by the District of Sechelt**

This year, the Forest Committee of the Sandy Hook Community Association was commissioned by the District of Sechelt to draw up a proposed plan, according to the requirements of Lands and Waters BC, LWBC Requirements Checklist-New Application, to be presented to your agency.

Our work entailed: the Detailed Development Plan, the Development Operating Schedule plus Acetate Overlay Mapping, the Site Photographs, the Projected Provincial Economic Impact (including data gathering), and the Land is Required for the Intended Use rationale. Then our work for the Park Plan was combined with detail supplied by various District of Sechelt staff departments which completed the rest of the proposal requirements.

We understand that a meeting between officials of your agency and the District of Sechelt regarding the above Park Plan was to have been held in December 2002, but your agency has postponed the meeting until sometime in January 2003. In advance of your meeting, we wish to add our support to acceptance of the Park Plan Application by noting two positive recent developments which directly involve this committee and the Park Plan:

1. This committee communicated with the Sechelt Indian Band early in the planning process, seeking their input into park planning. On October 21, our committee met with Chief Gary Feschuk and Resource Director Rick August regarding inclusion of the Sechelt Band's cultural interest in the Hidden Grove Park. We presented them with the work we had completed to date and we were invited by Chief Feschuk to consult with the Sechelt Band Elders. We have since placed an important addendum to the plan outlining this welcome development with the District of Sechelt and the Sechelt Indian Band.

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

2. The District of Sechelt, in partnership with our Sandy Hook Community Association, as of December 16, 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.

Obviously, our interest in this process is ongoing. The enthusiasm and thanks expressed by both the outgoing and the new Mayor and Council for our contribution to the Hidden Grove Park Plan Application encourages us to believe that the people of Sechelt, native and non-native, and the residents of the rest of the Sunshine Coast and BC may look forward to acceptance of the Hidden Grove Park by all agencies concerned, and that the development plan implementation may begin.

We hope that you will direct this information to staff personnel from your department who will be attending the January 2003 meeting with the District of Sechelt. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Bob D’Arcy, President, Sandy Hook Community Association  
Chair, Hidden Grove Park Plan Steering Committee

cc: District of Sechelt  
Sechelt Indian Band

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