

February 19, 2001

Mr. Jeff Pollock, R.P.F.
Area Engineer
International Forest Products Limited
#311 – 1180 Ironwood Road
Campbell River, BC, V9W 5P7

Re: Sechelt Heritage Forest Possible Extension

Dear Sir,

Please let me confirm that I am not against logging and the forest industry. I believe it contributes to welfare of all citizens. That said, I believe that any logging must be conducted for the greatest benefit to all. Selection of logging sites is an issue to be considered.

I do not think that any responsible logger would advocate logging Stanley Park in Vancouver. A similar situation presents itself with the proposed plan to log all of the area north of the Sechelt Heritage Forest. In particular there is a part of the area with unique features adjoining the current forest and easily accessible to everyone including the handicapped. I strongly feel this area should be preserved and protected from logging activities of any kind. I feel strongly enough that this is the first time I have ever considered writing a letter such as this.

I ask that you and the other 'powers that be' revise your logging plans to exempt this special area from any logging in perpetuity. I am sure some sort of compromise can be reached to the benefit of your company, the forest industry in total and the interests of the Sechelt community. Please take this letter as my voice in favour of preservation of the special area and my request that you work with the community representatives to reach a conclusion satisfactory to all.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours truly,

Robert B. D'Arcy
5866 Deerhorn Drive
Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A4
Phone: 885-5766

CC: Mr. Greg Hamill, District Manager
Ministry of Forests, Sunshine Coast,
7077 Duncan Street
Powell River, BC, V8W 1W1



5916 Skookumchuk Road
Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A4

Mr. Jeff Pollock
Interfor, Area Engineer
Campbell River Operations
311 – 1180 Ironwood Road
Campbell River, B.C. V9W 5P7

March 16, 2001

Re: Forest Development Plan, Forest Licence A19220, Gray Creek, Block 350

Dear Sir,

This board has been listening to the members of the community in respect of the proposed logging of Block 350 and the 'Hidden Grove' area. Due to the arbitrarily imposed deadline of March 21st, 2001 we now wish to firmly state our position.

Many of the residents would prefer to see no logging take place in the cut block but rather wish this area to be added to the Sechelt Heritage Forest to be preserved for generations to come. We ask that you respect the wishes of the residents of this community.

If for some reason, beyond our current knowledge or comprehension and against the expressed wishes of the community, it is deemed that some logging must go forward then we insist that there be consultations. These will be to determine the extent of such operations, the nature of them and the status in the future of the entire block including the 'special' feature portions. In this regard we reiterate the position we announced at a recent meeting of the planning committee of the District of Sechelt. As the only legally constituted organization representing the residents of Sandy Hook we wish to be recognized as the party to represent the interests of the residents. In such a position we are prepared to put forward a group of well-informed residents and experts to consult with the logging company, the Ministry of Forests or whoever else.

In furtherance of the foregoing it is imperative that the March 21st date be amended to allow adequate time for the consultative process.

We are confident that at the end of the day you and the other parties responsible for decisions of this nature will see the wisdom and necessity of acting in accordance with the wishes of the constituents who are so directly affected by the currently proposed logging plan.

While we appreciate you cannot normally respond to all letters received in regard to a matter such as this, we believe that this letter represents an exception since it comes from a legally constituted association representing the community affected. We therefore ask that you reply accordingly.

Yours truly,

Sandra Sharkey
President

cc's: shown on Page 2

Mr. Greg Hemphill
District Manager
Ministry Of Forests
7077 Duncan Street
Powell River, B.C., V9A 1W1

Mr. Gordon Wilson
Minister of Forests
Room 128, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

By Hand
Mayor Bruce Milne and Council
District of Sechelt
P.O. Box 129
Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A0

Mr. Bill Brown
Administrator
District of Sechelt
P.O. Box 129
Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A0

Mr. Gerard LeBlanc
District Planner
District of Sechelt
P.O. Box 129
Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0

Bulletin Boards of the Sandy Hook Community Association

Dear Barry,

The following was to go to Cam Reid but on speaking to him he referred me to you. I would appreciate you contacting me at your earliest convenience with your advice.

To: Cameron Reid – District of Sechelt Councilor

I left a message on your answering machine but just in case I am sending this fax as a back up. Sorry for any redundancy.

I am approaching you since you are the current Sandy Hook delegate from Council and I have received many recent approaches regarding the Block 350 situation. I am aware of your discussions with Gertrude Pacific and Michael Davidson and this is in part a follow up on that.

There is an imperative to have the matter raised immediately by Council. The next planning meeting is too far off and, even after it, the procedure is to forward any decisions to Council – a process that could involve a delay of over 6 weeks.

I will not repeat what Pacific/Davidson have already imparted. The concern now is timing. There is serious concern that the feared preempting of the situation by Interfor is proceeding and no immediate action is apparent by the District.

Concerned residents who have contacted me are aware that Interfor are proceeding with work in the cut block. They fear that the 'rules' may allow them to proceed to cut roads and cut paths prior to taking the block out of its 'information' status. Such roads could impact on the areas that residents are most concerned about and no hard information seems available as to what the Interfor plans are. The Interfor presentation was far from firm or enlightening. Further, if the roads are built then actual logging could proceed on very short notice and, unfortunately, the wheels of local and provincial governments move slower than a private corporation.

The position of the Sandy Hook Community Association is well documented as one of balance since we have residents who are from the "cut nothing" to "go to it" group. Nevertheless, the input I am receiving objects to Interfor apparently proceeding completely as they wish with no meaningful negotiation to satisfy in any way the wishes of the residents who are anywhere to the side of some preservation (the majority, by the way).

In light of the above, I am approaching you to seek some way of having the matter debated and brought forward immediately. I am not versed in the proper procedures but alternates which come to mind are: adding the matter to the May 1 council meeting agenda, calling of a special meeting of the planning committee or a special public meeting. If it would be helpful interested parties could make a presentation at a time and venue you suggest.

I look forward to your attention to this important matter and, hopefully, you will be able to offer a solution.

Yours truly,
Bob D'Arcy
VP Sandy Hook Community Association
Phone: 604-885-5766



Forestry and Logging Group
Campbell River Operations



May 7, 2001

Robert D'Arcy
5866 Deerhorn Drive
Sechelt, BC
V0N 3A4

RE: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FOR BLOCK 350 (SANDY HOOK), FOREST LICENCE A19220

Dear Robert:

Thank you for your letter dated February 19, 2001.

Interfor has decided to withdraw this proposed Category A block to "I" status for the Final submission of the Forest Development Plan (FDP). "I" (Information) blocks do not receive approval from the District Manager if he chooses to approve the rest of the FDP. Interfor has deferred Block 350 to allow more time for public comment and input at the community level. It is anticipated that a plan can be formulated that satisfies the majority of the people in the Community as well as Interfor.

Following are clarifications to some points in the various letters that were received. They are in no particular order.

- The Ministry of Forests has jurisdiction over the area covered by Block 350. It is Provincial Forest within Interfor's Forest Licence area. This raises questions as to the suitability of the District of Sechelt's decision to deem the area "Park and Open Space" in their Official Community Plan.
- There were some concerns voiced over specific areas within the block proposal, namely, the old growth area or "Hidden Grove", the maple wetland, Davis Brook, and a heron nest. The following clarifications are offered:
 - Block 350 is not "untouched old growth". Most of the proposal area was logged and/or burned in the past. There are actually very few old growth trees inside the block proposal. Most of the larger trees are simply very thrifty second growth between 100-150 years old. During telephone conversations, field visits, and letters, Interfor has

International Forest Products Limited

#311-1180 Ironwood Road, Campbell River, BC, Canada V9W 5P7 (250) 286-1881 Fax (250) 286-5019

- repeatedly committed to retaining the old growth areas and/or old growth trees within the block.
- During preliminary engineering, the maple wetland was flagged to be retained from harvesting.
- Also during preliminary engineering, the vast majority of the Davis Brook catchment area was flagged to be outside of the harvest area. This measure was well beyond the requirements of the Forest Practices Code for a creek of this nature.
- Preliminary engineering, cruising, and silviculture prescription fieldwork has not turned up any heron nests within the block area. It is believed that the nest may be outside of the proposal area, closer to Sechelt Inlet Road. It is anticipated that some of the local residents that have seen the nest will be able to show us the exact location prior to final engineering.
- The area that is now the Sechelt Heritage Forest was willingly removed from Interfor's Forest Licence and given back to the Ministry of Forests in 1994.
- Block 350 was not proposed as a clearcut. It was to be a selectively logged, partial cut that would have had a number of wildlife tree patches and single standing trees scattered throughout the block area. It was to be a combination of "Aggregate" and "Dispersed" Variable Retention. In areas of Aggregate Retention, any point within the block can be no more than 100 meters away from any edge of a patch (>0.1 hectares) or block boundary line. In areas of Dispersed Retention, any point within the harvest area can be no more than 50 meters from any tree. These distances are based on the average tree height for the block. As can be seen from these definitions, Block 350 would not have looked like a clearcut. There is presently an example of a block that meets these criteria being logged in Wilson Creek (Block 320).
- Many local volunteers spent many hours constructing new trails within the proposal area once Interfor's preliminary flagging was discovered. This trail building was not approved by the Ministry of Forests and is considered an Offence under Section 102(1) of the Forest Practices Code of BC Act. It is punishable by fines up to \$5,000 and/or six (6) months imprisonment.
- When this area was considered a firebreak, logging was ongoing in the area immediately to the east. Logging has long since stopped in that area and therefore the risk of fire from heavy equipment is no longer a concern.
- Block 350 falls within an area that has been given a Partial Retention visual quality objective (VQO) by the Ministry of Forests. The preliminary engineering exceeded this VQO from the "worse case scenario" in Sechelt Inlet. The "worse case scenario" is the point in the Inlet where the block is most visible from. All calculations are then made from that point in the Inlet. Preliminary calculations reveal that just 1.8% of the area is visible from the inlet, which is well below the upper limit. The block is not visible from Sechelt Inlet Road. The flagging that appeared along the highway was done so by individuals attempting to bring attention to Interfor's proposal. The preliminary block boundary is located a minimum of 20 to 25 metres from the highway.
- The Provincial Government target of 12% areas in Parks has been achieved province wide. It is physically impossible to have 12% in Parks in every area in the Province – some areas will obviously have more and some will have less.

International Forest Products Limited

#311-1180 Ironwood Road, Campbell River, BC, Canada V9W 5P7 (250) 286-1881 Fax (250) 286-5019



- Interfor is in favour of a healthy tourism industry, but at the same time realizes that everyone uses forest products and needs employment generated from the forest industry.
- Some people mentioned that they would be in favour of Interfor receiving a comparable area of land to log somewhere else. As all Crown Land in the Sunshine Coast Timber Supply Area has been allocated, there is no further land for the Ministry of Forest to allocate to Interfor.
- From preliminary information received from a Sandy Hook resident, France Spring is located across the road and well away from the Block 350 proposal. Prior to final engineering, the spring will be located and Interfor will plan operations not to damage this water supply.
- Interfor pays stumpage on every cubic meter of timber that is harvested from Crown Lands, regardless of whether or not the timber came from a road right of way.

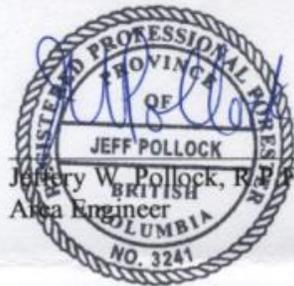
I trust that these brief clarifications will give some insight into the complexity of the issues surrounding this block proposal.

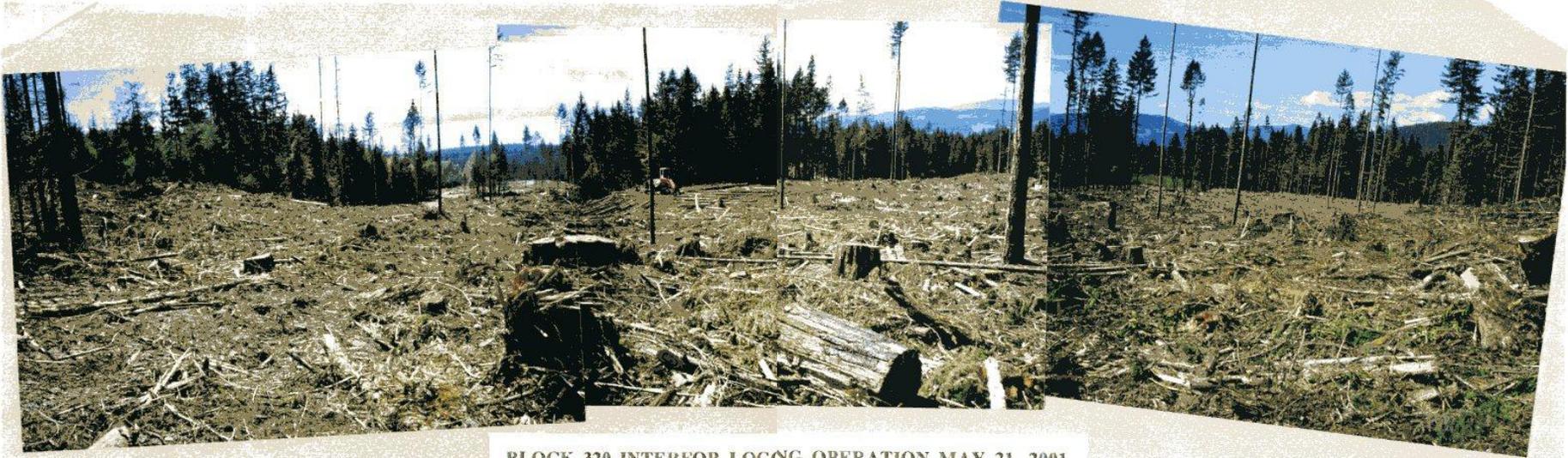
Once again, thank you for your comments and I look forward to speaking with some of you in the future.

If you have any further questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at (250) 286-5009.

Yours truly,

INTERNATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS LIMITED





BLOCK 320 INTERFOR LOGGING OPERATION MAY 21, 2001
Block 320, 25 hectares, 3 km east of Field Road

Block 320 shown above has been photographed because Interfor proposes to log Block 350 in Sandy Hook in the same manner. Mr. Jeff Pollock, Interfor, has written: "Interfor has decided to withdraw this proposed Category A block [Block 350] to "I" status for the final submission of the Forest Development Plan (FDP). He also notes that his proposal for Block 350 in Sandy Hook would not "have looked like a clearcut", because it would look like Block 320, currently being logged in the vicinity of Sechelt airport.

In technical terms he refers to this as "selectively logged, partial cut that would have a number of wildlife tree patches and single standing trees scattered throughout the block area...a combination of Aggregate and Dispersed Variable Retention". He believes this does not look like a clearcut. The size of the Sandy Hook Block 350 proposal is almost double that of Block 320. (Interfor's 2001-2005 FDP shows Block 350 at 40.1 hectares Gross Area.) The Official Community Plan of the District of Sechelt designated this area as Parks and Open Space, Bylaw 290-12, 1999.



FOR "MUST READ" FILE

Please initial after reading:

Bruce Milne
Stan Dixon
Darren Inkster
Ann Kershaw
Barry Poole
Cam Reid
Ed Steeves

B

dl
AK

via
Corporation
British Columbia

Ray Parfitt, MCF
District of Sechelt
PO Box 129
Sechelt BC V0N 3A0

Dear Ray Parfitt:

Re: DL 3006, District of Sechelt

[Handwritten signature]

Thank you for your letter dated May 1, 2001 noting the District's interest in acquiring the western half of this parcel for parks and recreation purposes. At this time, the key issue regarding this matter is its location within the Sechelt Provincial Forest. Consequently, the feasibility of your proposal depends on support from the Ministry of Forests (MoF).

We notified the Sunshine Coast Forest District (SCFD) of your request in July and received a response from them earlier this month. The letter notes that SCFD staff had replied in detail to your inquiry on August 2, 2001. It also states that this land is within the Provincial Forest and is within the administration area of International Forest Products Ltd. It concludes with the statement that MoF fully intends to continue to manage this land according to its mandate within the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*; therefore, MoF does not support your proposal.

Disposition of this land for your intended purpose is not feasible under these circumstances. As long as the subject land remains in the Provincial Forest, MoF support is necessary before we would consider such a request. Nevertheless, it would be worthwhile for you to remain in contact with Barry Miller of the SCFD (604-485-0737) to discuss and identify any future opportunities that may be arranged on this and other current Provincial Forest areas in your district. Furthermore, the British Columbia Assets and Land Corporation will continue to make every effort to support your interests on Crown land as long as they meet the objectives of other agencies, First Nations, and the local community.

Yours truly,

V. A. Lowther

Valerie A. Lowther
A/Regional Manager

pc: Brian Hawrys, Sunshine Coast Forest District

RECEIVED
SEP 5 - 2001
DISTRICT OF SECHELT



Jun. Sept 23/01

Council rethinks forest issue

CHRISTINE WOOD
STAFF WRITER

Sechelt council has backed down on its recommendation to send a letter of support to make Hidden Grove a heritage forest.

The decision came after two presentations by members of the forest industry, asking for council to "represent all of their constituents, not just a vocal few."

At a previous board meeting Sechelt councillors had leaned toward supporting some in Sandy Hook in their fight to reserve the area for recreation. That's why Kevin Davie of the Sunshine Coast Forest Coalition and Sonny Rioux representing the Industrial Wood and Allied Workers of Canada were at the recent council meeting to plead their case.

"What we're saying is that we've given enough," Davie said, adding, "This whole hidden grove thing started as a result of a few trees they wanted saved. So International Forest Products said they

wouldn't cut those trees, and now it's escalated into saving the whole 200 acres."

Rioux said the 400 forest workers who live on the Sunshine Coast are facing enough job loss through collapse of the market, taxation at the border and the general downturn of the economy without having three months of work (the time it would take to log Hidden Grove) taken from them.

"And (those workers) contribute between \$15 million and \$20 million in direct wages to the local economy. This does not include the Howe Sound pulp mill or the non-union forest sector. Recent statistics indicate that between 20 to 25 per cent of the economic activity on the lower Sunshine Coast is forest related and the vital role it plays locally cannot be underestimated," Rioux said.

He went on to note the number of cutblocks in dispute on the Coast, including Mount Elphinstone and Homesite Creek, saying the loss of another is unnecessary.

"I am requesting Mr. Mayor

and council that you please not support either position, be it pro logging or pro park. I am simply asking that you encourage those who approach you for support to come to the table, whether it be in the form of an LRMP or some other process and that you further request that they bring with them not only their own needs but also a recognition of the needs of those who depend on the local forests to support their families," Rioux said.

Council empathized, but noted Interfor has yet to meet with councillors to speak about the proposed cut block as the company said it would in March.

"This area is really too important to residents in Sandy Hook so we must look at it carefully... we need to sit down with Interfor and discuss our options," said councillor Anne Kershaw.

Council will write to Interfor requesting a meeting within the next 60 days. If a meeting is not set up, it will again consider writing a letter of support to save the area for recreation.

ITEM 10.4

REPORT

DATE: October 10, 2001
TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Director of Planning and Development
RE: Cutblock 350, Hidden Grove
FILE NO:

*Forward to
Mayor Councillors - Public
Meeting*

1. BACKGROUND:

In January 2001 Interfor referred a proposed Forest Development Plan to the District for comment. In March Council requested staff to organize a meeting with Interfor and the community to discuss the development options for the proposed cut block. In May, Interfor advised the District that the Development Plan classification of Cutblock 350 had been changed from an active plan to Information status to allow more time for community consultation about the proposed logging plan.

The meeting for Council, the community and Interfor has not occurred to date. However, staff did meet with representatives from Interfor on October 9th 2001 and arrived at a proposal for a community consultation process about this issue.

2. ALTERNATIVES:

The alternatives available to Council are outlined below:

1. Accept the community consultation proposal set out in this report.
2. Reject the community consultation proposal outlined.
3. Modify the proposed process or substitute another approach to the suggested community consultation process.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications that require discussion at this time.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The proposal presented below follows Council's policy for inclusive public participation. It will serve as the basis for presenting a series of options for the future of Block 350 to the public. Staff proposes the formation of a working

Regular Council Meeting – October 17, 2001

Page 22

committee comprised of representatives of the Sandy Hook Community Association, Sunshine Coast Conservation Association, IWA (International Woodworkers' of America) representatives, forest contractors, the Ministry of Forests, Interfor, Council and the District's Planning and Development Department. The purpose of the working committee meetings would be to discuss alternatives and identify a preferred option that would then be presented to a community public meeting.

5. **DISCUSSION:**

Staff met with representatives from Interfor to establish a process for discussing the future of Cutblock 350 with the community. Issues raised by Interfor during the meeting included:

- the current status of Cutblock 350 as an Information Block;
- Interfor's interest to harvest parts of Cutblock 350;
- Interfor's proposed Retention Silviculture System;
- relocation of access roads;
- agreement to protect the Hidden Grove and the 'Lonely Giant';
- protection of Davis Brook;
- completion of a Visual Impact Assessment;
- assessment of forest ecology and forest health; and
- a reforestation strategy, among others.

Councillors have heard from the community at various Committee and Council meetings and staff has discussed concerns with area residents who visit the site. Issues identified by area residents and the community-at-large include:

- extension of the Sechelt Heritage Forest;
- protection of representative old growth trees;
- protection of Davis Brook headwaters as a fish-bearing stream and a source of potable water;
- concerns over logging in an area designated for Park and Open Space and logging it in close proximity to an established residential community;
- negative impacts on residential quality of life;
- disruption of an area used for passive recreation and quiet enjoyment;
- potential negative impacts of logging on the local environment and on local tourism;
- impact on informal trails established on Cutblock 350; and,
- resultant negative visual impacts of large scale cutting, among others.

Staff proposes that a community based committee, made up of representatives from various sectors of the community, be struck to facilitate a resolution to the interests and issues associated with the future of Cutblock 350. It would be of value to strike this committee at the earliest possible convenience to enable meetings to be initiated as soon as possible.

Regular Council Meeting – October 17, 2001
Page 23

An initial meeting would (a) agree on the process to develop a mutually acceptable solution, (2) identify and discuss shared and differing views regarding the property. Familiarizing committee members with the bio-physical characteristics of the site would also be an objective of the initial meeting and would be shared by community members and representatives from Interfor. A walk through of the site would be conducted at a subsequent meeting to field verify the information discussed. Based on this knowledge the committee could proceed to discuss strategies for the future of the property. Options prepared at these meetings would be presented to the public at a concluding meeting.

The proposed community public meeting could be held in early-2002. This meeting would provide an opportunity to share the information assembled by the committee with the community. It would also be an opportunity to gather any additional information that may have been overlooked by the committee.

Staff proposes the committee to be struck be comprised of Sandy Hook residents, Sunshine Coast Conservation Association, IWA representatives, forest contractors, Ministry of Forests representative(s), Interfor staff, Council and the members of the District's Planning and Development Department. It is intended that members of the District's Planning and Development Department and Ministry of Forests staff would facilitate meetings of the proposed committee and as such would be *ex officio* members and technical resource persons to the committee members.

6. **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT a community committee be struck to develop options for the future use of Cutblock 350 and that the committee be comprised of two members each from: the Sandy Hook Community Association, residents-at-large familiar with the property, Council and Interfor; one representative from the IWA, forest contractors, and two ex officio staff from the Ministry of Forests, and the District's Planning and Development Department.

NEWS FLASH! NEWS FLASH! NEWS FLASH!

Re: Planning Report on Interfor Meeting on the Hidden Grove
for the regular Council Meeting, October 17, 2001

Copies of Hidden Grove letters have finally been obtained from the Ministry of Forests under the Freedom of Information Act. Their unprecedented numbers (usually 30 at most for any given cutblock) show overwhelming support for preservation, and break down as follows:

<u>Hidden Grove Preservation</u>	<u>Pro-Logging of the Area</u>
Sandy Hook - 48	Sandy Hook - 2
Other - 74	Other - 4
Total 122	Total 6

Copies of the above letters were given to the Planning Department.

The District of Sechelt has already exercised due diligence by listening to delegations from IWA and the Forest Coalition and meeting with Interfor.

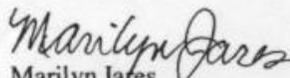
It is clear from the planning report that Interfor, with minor concessions, still intends to log the area.

Interfor can be thanked for their time and input but further meetings would be drawn out and unproductive since the will of the community, clearly demonstrated in the March Planning meeting and the above 122 letters, is in direct opposition to Interfor's plans.

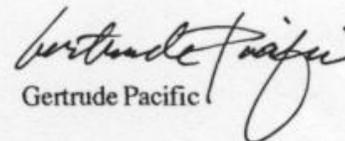
A new proposal for an educational outdoor Heritage Pavillion of antique logging machinery near the parking area has recently been suggested and would quite possibly gain support from the entire Sunshine Coast.

The tourism potential of this idea, along with proposed hiking and mountain biking trails, would allow the Hidden Grove to contribute to the emerging economy.

Sincerely,


Marilyn Jares


Michael Davidson


Gertrude Pacific

COAST REPORTER
NOV 4,
2001

FORESTRY
**Save Grove
for the future**

Editor:

While I am not a permanent resident of the Sunshine Coast, I visit often and find it a welcome change and beautiful diversion from Vancouver's grime.

Hidden Grove and places like it are important not only to those who live in the area, or even to tourists, but to the rest of B.C. As more of our province becomes overdeveloped and less peaceful, how could those who have the power to set aside a place for us, for new generations and for the continuing sanity of both residents and visitors in the face of a steel-scraper future, not take that opportunity and protect places like Hidden Grove?

At 16, it's disheartening to see what the world is becoming. While older members of the community may not be around to see the impact that this sort of careless disregard for nature brings, I will. It is my future, and the future of other children and young adults that the no doubt well-aged decision-makers in the district are tampering with.

When the city gets too much, we can come to Hidden Grove and have something beautiful to retreat to. Fifty years from now, I'd still like to be able to say that.

Lea Cohodas
Vancouver

**12% means
nothing here**

Editor:

British Columbia governments routinely boast that 12 per cent of the province is "protected" from commercial activity; in fact, on the Sunshine Coast only three per cent is protected.

Hidden Grove lies adjacent to the Sechelt Heritage Forest and to the rural residential community of Sandy Hook. It is not very large. No doubt it could be cleared of its old trees in a few days by a small crew of loggers. The high quality timber would no doubt be shipped out of the area very quickly—nice profit for the logging company, but probably of little or no benefit to the economy of Sechelt.

Ninety-seven per cent of our local landscape is unprotected. Why would three of our six councillors even consider supporting Interfor in its desire to log this small parcel? Just let it be!

Barbara Rocheford
Tuwaneke

straight

Editor:

I was pleased to read Christine Wood's coverage of Sechelt council's motion regarding Hidden Grove (Block 350) and Interfor's exact plans for it.

There is overwhelming support for preservation, as shown by the unprecedented number of letters received by the Ministry of Forests. (These are available at the District of Sechelt office and are interesting reading for anyone wanting to check on the public pulse.)

I do want to clarify one point. Some confusion has occurred, perhaps due simply to choice of wording. The article reads: "Marilyn Jares, Michael Davidson and Gertrude Pacific are asking council to look at a new proposal for Hidden Grove that would make it an educational outdoor heritage pavilion of antique logging machinery".

This is not correct. Hidden Grove (Block 350) covers many acres of forest and would certainly not be made into an outdoor pavilion. Also, we cannot take credit for this new proposal. The suggestion came from a conversation with Sechelt's Mayor Bruce Milne.

According to Mayor Milne, the idea of a forestry based museum or educational facility has been floating around the District of Sechelt for some time. Community members have discussed this idea and Mayor Milne brought it forward in an effort to promote movement. Proponents of preserving Hidden Grove do like the idea.

The District has donations of antique logging machinery

and needs an appropriate place for display. The idea of using a half or one acre space near the parking area of Hidden Grove is ideal. It would allow an aspect of our history to be brought forward and would be compatible with the tourism potential of nature appreciation, hiking and mountain biking in Hidden Grove.

We have the opportunity to create our own little Stanley Park. Let's make it happen.

Marilyn Jares
Sechelt

History and Hidden Grove

Editor:

I spent the better part of two years working on the Official Community Plan (OCP). I thought that the OCP, and its associated zoning bylaws, was a grassroots democratic exercise and that when the exercise was complete, our elected officials were not only obliged but even pleased to honour that document with its considerable citizen input.

Cutblock 350, otherwise known as Hidden Grove, is within the boundaries of the District of Sechelt, and is clearly designated in the OCP as an area to be reserved for "parks and open spaces." Its location, adjacent to, and north of, the Sechelt Heritage Forest, could also be expected to provide relief from the density which will hit our town when the Terraces development, immediately south of the Heritage Forest, and already approved, comes back online with its 700-some housing units. Also, the OCP subscribes in Appendix III to six principles of sustainability, including "hold to a minimum the depletion of non-renewable resources;" Was I naive to think that the OCP and its exhaustive citizen input meant anything? Apparently.

Seemed simple to me. Council would honour the OCP. Council would remember how jammed its meeting room was some months ago with people from all over the Sunshine Coast. Council would remember those present urged the preservation of the grove and that some 100-plus letters went to the Ministry of Forests urging the same. Council would do its simple duty. Well maybe! At that meeting, council decided to invite Interfor, the Ministry of Forests, and some "community members" to meet with council to resolve the issue—to cut down and destroy a magnificent passive park within the municipal boundaries.

Months pass. Nothing happens till the August planning committee meeting where those four councillors present agreed to recommend the letter referred to in paragraph one; hardly a damn-the-torpedoes-full-speed-ahead approach. But even that was too much for council.

In the full council discussion Coun. Stan Dixon, who steadfastly stood by his conviction that the grove should be saved, said that economic development wasn't even a relevant issue, that the grove would be cut and abandoned in three days and nothing left but desecration. I asked a former forester if Mr. Dixon was exaggerating. He thought about it and said,

"Well maybe, depending on what equipment you brought in and so on. Maybe it would take a week or less." (Councillor Barry Poole was also steadfast in support of his committee's recommendation.)

Council made noises about following "process." What process? As an autonomous elected body, I would think council can determine any process it wishes. And council is faced with evidence that this is a matter affecting all Sechelt and the Coast, and that includes councillors who give much lip service to the Coast as a tourist destination. They cannot marginalize it as a purely Sandy Hook issue, as one councillor has suggested.

Is council listening to its professional staff to provide continuity in their learning? Who on earth is this council representing?

Bula Hess
Sechelt