

SEYMOURGATE

THE OFF-CATCHMENT LANDS OF THE LOWER SEYMOUR VALLEY

AN INVESTIGATION INTO:

THE HISTORY OF THE LOWER SEYMOUR;

THE FIRST REGIONAL PARK PROPOSAL;

**THE SEYMOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AND THE RELATED ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF
THE SEYMOUR DEMONSTRATION FOREST**

Research, text, layout
by Will Koop
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Note: The *Seymourgate* report was presented and copies distributed to the Greater Vancouver Regional District Directors on December 12, 1997. After a period of 14 months, and as a result of a two hour long debate at a meeting of the Greater Vancouver Water District Board at the end of February 1999, the Seymour Advisory Committee was officially disbanded and the Seymour Demonstration Forest was renamed as the *Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve*.

OPENING QUOTATIONS.

[Note: These two quotations are provided not to promote ‘recreation’ in our watersheds, rather, they provide insight on the Greater Vancouver Water District’s public denial of the existence of the ancient forests in the Capilano, Seymour, and Coquitlam watersheds, which represents the nature of their secretive and shameful ambitions to liquidate the forests.]

“... the special circumstances of the lands within the Greater Vancouver and Victoria Water Districts deserve attention. These extensive Crown-granted forest lands have extraordinarily high recreational potential, being on the doorsteps of the province’s two largest cities, containing a mixture of forest, water, and mountains.... The relevance for the present discussion is that these two watersheds contain some of the last remaining stands of old-growth timber within easy reach of these population centres, and a strong case can be made for preserving examples of these stands for public education and enjoyment. In both cases, however, the old-growth timber is being liquidated under harvesting plans. I strongly recommend that Regional District Boards initiate a reassessment of both the restrictions on access to these lands and the liquidation of the remaining old-growth timber.” (Peter Pearse, *Timber Rights and Forest Policy in B.C.*, Volume 1, 1976, page 186)

“For the most part, the watershed lands, or at least the accessible parts, were logged off by the early part of the 1920’s. Thus there are no stands of old growth timber accessible to the public even if they were permitted into the watersheds.... the dependence of half the population of the Province on an unfailing supply of good quality water dictated that action be taken to replace the old forests with a young robust forest cover which would be less prone to destruction by fire.... As far as forest management is concerned, there does not appear any reason at this time to vary the program undertaken in 1961 to replace the mature and decadent forest cover with young thrifty stands of growing timber.” (Greater Vancouver Water District staff report, March 1977, pages 9, 10, in response to the above recommendation by Peter Pearse)

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SEYMOURGATE DATELINE

-- Summer -- West Vancouver , North Vancouver District, North Vancouver City municipal resolutions for a Lower Seymour park.	1983	-- September -- Greater Vancouver Regional District Board (GVRD) approve recommendation for an enquiry into Lower Seymour as a regional park.
-- --	1984	-- February -- Lynn/Seymour Recreation Advisory Committee is established by the GVRD Parks Committee.
-- Summer -- Professional foresters David Bakewell and Peter Sanders are requested to prepare reports for the creation of a demonstration forest, not a park.	1985	-- October 31 -- Water District Commissioner and GVRD Regional Manager Doug MacKay establishes the Seymour Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee without GVRD Board approval. Former provincial chief forester Bill Young is nominated as chairperson.
-- January -- Doug MacKay presents Terms of Reference for Seymour Advisory Committee.	1986	-- Fall -- Water District forester Gordon Joyce is assigned position as Seymour Demonstration Forest (SDF) Project Coordinator.
-- Spring -- Long term funding for the SDF from public coffers (interest capital from logging profits) is approved (almost \$4 million from 1987-1997).	1987	-- August 23 -- The SDF is formally created and the Lower Seymour is "open" to the public after being closed from public access for 60 years.
-- --		-- December -- B.C. Forestry Association president and professional forester Bob Cavill is nominated by the Seymour Advisory Committee as chairperson.
-- August -- "Master Plan for Interpretation and Education in the Seymour Demonstration Forest" report is submitted.	1989	-- September -- Water District forester Dan Jepsen is assigned position as SDF Project Coordinator. Gordon Joyce transfers to the Victoria Water District as their forester.
1991-1992. Seymour Advisory Sub-Committee begins designing a long term plan for the SDF with Water District staff to demonstrate logging.	1991	Public review of logging in the Greater Vancouver watersheds conducted by a Review Panel who recommend sustained yield logging to end in the three watersheds, but also recommend a 200 year rotation (sustained yield logging?).
-- --		-- November -- GVRD Board resolution for an ecological assessment of the watersheds.
-- Spring -- Ralf Kelman discovers giant Douglas Fir almost 300 feet in height at Hydraulic Creek, and many more in the Lower Seymour.	1992	-- February -- Former Council of Forest Industries president Don Lanskaill nominated by Advisory Committee as chairman.
-- October -- The GVRD Board votes to postpone "proactive" logging proposals in the Greater Vancouver watersheds.		-- Spring -- Former Ministry of Environment hydrologist Valerie Cameron accepts Water District post as SDF Project Manager. Dan Jepsen takes post at the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters to coordinate demonstration forests around the world.
-- February -- Water District staff present "proactive" logging proposals in the Greater Vancouver watersheds.	1993	-- January -- Forestry education program transferred to the GVRD's Communication and Education Department. Planning begins for watershed tours. -- January 28 -- Seymour Advisory Committee and Water District staff discuss logging plans.
-- April 1 -- Seymour Advisory Committee meets to request that the Water Committee reconsider logging proposals in the Demonstration Forest, and chair Lanskaill writes a letter the following day to Water Committee chair to reconsider logging in the SDF.		-- May -- Former Seymour Advisory Committee chair Bob Cavill becomes administrative manager of the GVRD Watershed Management Division.

<p>-- May 1, 2 and September 25, 26. "Watershed weekend" public tours advocate pro-management approach and human intervention to maintain forest "health".</p>	<p>1993</p>	<p>-- October -- Seymour Advisory Sub-Committee begins planning sustained yield logging zoning plan with Water District staff for the Demonstration Forest.</p>
<p>-- July -- Water District staff present Water Committee with four options on the future of the Lower Seymour based on inadequate information. The Water Committee is also presented the Bell-Irving Report. Water Committee is dissatisfied with report as sustained yield proposal is inconsistent with the mandate for the three watersheds.</p>	<p>1994</p>	<p>-- January -- Seymour Advisory Committee presented with draft logging proposal. -- May 5, 31-- The Seymour Advisory Committee meet twice to finalize the sustained yield logging report, referred to as the Bell-Irving Report. The identical logging plans rejected by the Water Committee in 1993 are resubmitted.</p>
<p>-- --</p>		<p>-- Spring -- Laurie Fretz hired as summer watershed tour coordinator.</p>
<p>-- October -- The Ministry of Forests and the Council of Forest Industries send letters to the GVRD Regional Manager threatening to withdraw funding if logging does not continue. Letters are forwarded to 'Summit' meeting.</p>		<p>-- November 2 -- Water Committee 'Summit' meeting at the Seymour Dam Field House to discuss the logging plans for the Demonstration Forest.</p>
<p>-- March -- The Watershed Management Division sends funding application to Forest Renewal B.C. for the Demonstration Forest ecological assessment. They receive \$20,000 out of the \$1,235,650 applied for.</p>	<p>1995</p>	<p>-- December -- After four years as SDF Project Manager, Valerie Cameron leaves the Water District and accepts the position as Head of Community (Water Supply) Watershed Management of the Ministry of Environment's Vancouver Region.</p>
<p>-- February -- The Water District receives an additional \$45,000 from Forest Renewal B.C.</p>	<p>1996</p>	<p>-- January -- Laurie Fretz becomes supervisor of the Demonstration Forest.</p>
<p>-- --</p>		<p>-- October -- Chairperson Don Lanskail dies and Peter Ewens becomes acting chair.</p>
<p>-- May 21 -- Seymour Advisory Committee members are asked by Water District staff in a memo if they agree to have Peter Ackhurst, a former member, and an employee with Simons Reid Collins (who had former contracts with the Water District) as chairperson.</p>	<p>1997</p>	<p>-- June 5 -- Peter Ackhurst appears at a Seymour Advisory Committee meeting as chair, without being formally appointed by the Water Committee. According to the Advisory Committee's own Terms of Reference, the GVRD's Water Committee must appoint the chairperson.</p>
<p>-- July 10 -- Peter Ackhurst and Water District staff unsuccessfully attempt to hold an in-camera meeting to force out public observers in violation of their own Terms of Reference. The Committee re-table the Bell-Irving Report without any revisions and approve the sustained yield zoning plan. They receive \$135,000 from Forest Renewal B.C. to build an "old growth" trail.</p>		<p>-- August 24 -- Tenth Anniversary celebration of the Demonstration Forest. Forest industry reps. unveil the new "Learning Lodge", and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee unveils a park proposal for the Lower Seymour at the event. -- In starting the "old-growth" trail, old growth trees are cut down because they are considered "danger" trees.</p>
<p>-- November 21 -- Peter Ackhurst appears before the Water Committee to lobby against the Lower Seymour park proposal. Three other delegations present information on the Demonstration Forest: no maintenance of trails; how the SAC has violated its Terms of Reference; and a draft report on the history of the Lower Seymour - Seymourgate.</p>		<p>-- October 2 -- The Water District advises the Western Canada Wilderness Committee "cease and desist further unauthorized marking of trails and viewpoints." -- December 12 -- The final report Seymourgate is presented to the GVRD Board.</p>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Recognition is given to Ralf Kelman who has been an articulate and highly motivated pioneer in his ongoing pursuit for endless hours to find those legends of time, the giant trees of the Greater Vancouver watersheds, and in flagging routes to some of them in the Lower Seymour. He is among the very few who have come to understand the issue at hand, the great and tragic loss of our ecological heritage. And Paul Hundal, for his hard work and public advocacy in monitoring many and diverse issues regarding the Greater Vancouver watersheds, including his reports and delegations to the Water Committee on the Lower Seymour. Thanks to Paul George and the staff at the Western Canada Wilderness Committee in advocating a regional park for the Lower Seymour, a public process which was railroaded twelve years ago on Halloween day by the Water District and professional foresters. Many many thanks to Chris Player, who sat glued to his screen for hours on end in producing the maps for this report. And thanks to the Victoria chapter of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee (and many others over there) who provided me with information on the attempts to establish a demonstration forest in the Greater Victoria inter-municipal watersheds' off-catchment lands. Special thanks to B.C. Wild, for printing this report.

I wish to thank the Greater Vancouver Regional District's staff for so very kindly attending to my many questions, in providing me access to their records and time from their busy schedules, and to the GVRD's librarian, Francis Christopherson, for her kind assistance. I also wish to thank the Watershed Management Division for providing me with some technical information.

Finally, thanks to E.A. Cleveland and his fellow engineers and administrators, and many other influential advocates, back in the days when public representatives had the vision, courage, wisdom, and resolve to protect our watersheds and the extensive old growth and some second growth forests within them from exploitation for so many years. We owe them a lot!

Here's to the Lower Seymour in all of it's seasons, in daylight and in darkness, the west side and the east side, the bears, the coyotes, the owls, the cry of the raven, the mist on the mountains, the sweet fragrance of the forest, and its lovely cool waters.

SEYMOURGATE OVERVIEW

Should the Lower Seymour become a public regional park? That's what the Western Canada Wilderness Committee is proposing to the Greater Vancouver public. It is an important question, and one which was advocated not too long ago, the recent memory of which has been mysteriously erased. It was once seriously proposed in 1983 by the three municipalities of the North Shore for recreational use of their back yard, and then approved as a process of enquiry by the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) Board the same year. When the option for a public park in the Lower Seymour resurfaced in a July 1994 Water District report to the Water Committee, which was given no support, there was no oddly no mention of this very recent history to our municipal representatives, no mention of what happened to that public process.

The same question was also seriously considered in March of 1977, twenty years ago, when North Vancouver District Councillor Don Bell, who at that time was a member of the Greater Vancouver Regional District's Water Committee, requested that Water District staff prepare a report to investigate the recreational use of the Lower Seymour off-catchment lands. In 1975, North Vancouver District Planner Des Smith asked Water Commissioner Bunnell if he supported the idea of the Lower Seymour as a park. Bunnell liked the idea but said there would also have to be some form of logging.

As the boss, Bunnell said he had to advocate logging. This was so because the Water District made a very bad agreement with the provincial government in 1967 to log the old growth in the watersheds, which included the Lower Seymour off-catchment lands. But even so, the Greater Vancouver Regional District were never actually required to log any of their lands at all, because the agreement, wisely enough, has two escape clauses in it, #6 and #25 - our municipal representatives could cancel the revised agreement at any given time. However, they were never reminded by our public administrators about the escape clauses and the vital option not to log. At one time, the GVRD had full control of the watershed lands, and they had always protected them from being logged. This too has somehow been strangely forgotten in Water District reports to our municipal representatives over the last thirty-seven years. There never was, nor is there, any requirement or subservience to the provincial government to log in the Lower Seymour lands and in our three watersheds: "we are not licensees under the Forest Act" (GVRD forester Ed Hamaguchi, July 13, 1979).

A few years ago when I discovered that the North Shore municipalities had proposed the Lower Seymour as a park I began to investigate the matter, and this report is the long result. I supported the idea, simply because the area was originally intended as an untouched reserve until some greedy men got their hands on it and began constructing roads and liquidating the old growth forests. The process to make the Lower Seymour a regional park in 1983 had been privately obstructed by a few administrators and foresters in late 1985. There was no public process in place, no approval from the GVRD Board, when Regional Manager Doug MacKay created the Seymour Advisory Committee, a committee run by professional foresters which reported directly to him and not to municipal representatives:

And you will notice from the Committee Membership that we may have made a mistake in that we have a single purpose, and we have not involved perhaps who should be involved. That is some other parts of the public, in reference to recreation and other uses. These memberships are not in the Committee now. (Regional Manager Doug MacKay, presentation at the first Seymour Advisory Committee meeting, October 31, 1985.)

65% of the Lower Seymour's 5600 hectares is under direct and private ownership by the Greater Vancouver public. The remaining lands are owned by the Crown and also under the control of the Greater Vancouver public through a lease agreement until the year 2,926. Given these parameters, how is it that a regional administrator and representatives from the forestry sector have been allowed to redirect a public process for a regional park and then to provide advice for the opposite, and apparently on behalf of the public, on lands which the Greater Vancouver public have direct control of?

The Greater Vancouver Water District ambushed both the Lynn/Lower Seymour Recreation Advisory Committee, which was established in 1984, and the park proposal through discretionary powers of the Water District's Commissioner, Doug MacKay, in 1985. According to him, and his Watershed Management Division, there would be no park, there would, however, be a demonstration forest, continued logging, and gravel pit operations. The Commissioner then established the Terms of Reference for an advisory body that would report directly to him and his successors. In February of 1993, after seven years, the Seymour Advisory Committee was finally required to not only report directly to the GVRD's Water Committee, which oversees issues regarding the Greater Vancouver watersheds, but also their membership was now subject to its appointment and approval, as other GVRD advisory committees are normally required to undergo, a condition which was never followed through with.

In the late 1980's the Seymour Advisory Committee and the Water District began to implement a public relations 'educational' forestry program to promote "multiple" or "integrated" resource management in the Lower Seymour's Demonstration Forest. The program, according to its advocates, was to demonstrate two discordant management practices: how logging was being conducted both generally in British Columbia, and in the restricted areas of the three watersheds, in order to influence public perception. An educational program began to widen substantially by the early 1990's, including programs to reach students and instructors in the Greater Vancouver school system. Pronouncements such as "the world's premier demonstration forest" were bandied about. By 1993 the mandate and operation of the Seymour Advisory Committee's Education Sub-Committee was transferred to the Greater Vancouver Regional District's Education and Communications Department. As such, the Department advocated and advertised the forest industry sector's philosophy through its diverse communications mandate, programs, and functions to Greater Vancouver residents, British Columbians, and to the world.

The establishment of the Greater Vancouver watershed tours in 1994 was a direct outcome of the GVRD's new mandate. The tours, initially experimented with in 1993, have continued each summer with public dollars and staff's time in an attempt to influence and poll tour participants. This public relations effort, which had never been practiced by the Water District since its establishment in 1926, was quite similar to the one promoted by the Capilano Timber Company in the early 1920's, to promote the continuation of logging in the Capilano watershed. The results of the watershed tour polls are presently being incorporated in the present Issues and Options Report, which was presented to the Water Committee on November 21st and to the GVRD Board on December 12th, 1997, as a basis of support for the Water District's preference in the upcoming Management and Working Plan document for the continuance of logging the watersheds. The polling of watershed tour participants, according to the GVRD's own poll consultant, does not have a legitimate evaluation basis for representing sound public opinion. These tours are directly linked to the programming and direction established by the Seymour Advisory Committee, and the information presented during the tours is selective.

In a report for the February 1993 Water Committee meeting, the Water District proposed to log two old-growth dominant areas in the Demonstration Forest, despite the GVRD Board's 1992 resolution against proactive logging. The Water Committee therefore rejected the proposals. However, even after

the Water District and the Seymour Advisory Committee were told to hold off with their logging proposals, and that they were first required to conduct an ecological inventory, they then proposed the identical areas for logging once again in a report to the Water Committee in July 1994. On top of this, the Seymour Advisory Committee, in conjunction with Water District staff, also provided an accompanying proposal for sustained yield logging in prescribed zones in the Lower Seymour. These proposals were presented in direct defiance of the Water Committee's and Board's resolutions. Despite the Water Committee's revision to the Seymour Advisory Committee's proposal for sustained yield logging in November 1994, which included protective and identified measures against logging old-growth forest sites, the Advisory Committee nevertheless recently adopted the same July 1994 report during their July 10, 1997 meeting, without any revisions, and with the blessing of the Watershed Management Division's representative. The sustained yield logging proposal for the Lower Seymour area was then incorporated into the Issues and Options document.

Water District staff violated both the GVRD's 1993 Guidelines document for advisory bodies and the 1993 Terms of Reference for the Seymour Advisory Committee, in terms appointing independent and public representation for its membership. Staff recently chose their own chairperson by bypassing the Water Committee's responsibilities in order to continue with their internal forestry mandate for the Lower Seymour watershed.

It is high time for a public enquiry into the operations of the Seymour Advisory Committee and the Seymour Demonstration Forest, and to revisit the 1983 publicly approved process for a regional park in the Lower Seymour watershed.

QUOTATIONS

The watersheds on the north shore are a heritage for this whole area. This is a golden opportunity for the exercise of that Greater Vancouver spirit which knows no internal bounds and is bound to avail itself of the heritage which nature has supplied for the common good of all. To allow anybody to get entrenched on Seymour Creek with logging and shingling operations would be almost criminal. (E.A. Cleveland, Provincial Water Comptroller, February 19, 1924)

This project has a tremendous potential to demonstrate integrated resource management in a controlled area within 20 minutes of downtown Vancouver. This will be of value to industry and governmentThe Water District's interests in this project can be simply stated as being to maximize the public benefit of a public asset. More importantly, perhaps, is actual demonstration of the Water District's management practices on its watershed lands, that is to say to show and demonstrate how the lands and the forests are managed to for the preservation, protection and enhancement of the water supply. (Regional Manager Doug MacKay, letter to deputy minister of Forests, D. Flitton, November 12, 1986)

We're in the water supply business - not the logging business. (Water District Commissioner T.V Berry, October 1953)

Initial logging operations would be restricted to those areas which are not yet being utilized as a source of Water Supply i.e. Lower Seymour Valley, Gold Creek Drainage and the Port Moody Conservation Reserve. (C.D. Schultz memo, September 28, 1955)

And you will notice from the Committee Membership that we may have made a mistake in that we have a single purpose, and we have not involved perhaps who should be involved. That is some other parts of the public, in reference to recreation and other uses. These memberships are not in the Committee now. (Regional Manager Doug MacKay, presentation at the first Seymour Advisory Committee meeting, October 31, 1985)

Bill Young pointed out that if there was already a Recreational Advisory Committee in existence there was a possibility of conflict between the two groups.... Mr. Hankin stated that the Recreation Advisory Committee was set up before the Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee. Mr. Young replied that this should be the sole Advisory Committee. (Seymour Advisory Committee minutes, October 31, 1985. Bill Young, former chief forester for B.C., and Rick Hankin, Manager of GVRD Parks.)

If any part of the Lower Seymour Valley is alienated or designated for a single purpose use, such as recreation, the chances of the Water Board ever retrieving the site in the future for its original and principal purposes are remote. Accordingly, the integrity of the Lower Seymour Valley is best served by establishing a multi-resource Demonstration Watershed. (David Bakewell, professional forester, excerpt from his report to the Water District, *Demonstration Watershed in the Lower Seymour Valley*, page 4.)

For the most part, the watershed lands, or at least the accessible parts, were logged off by the early part of the 1920's. Thus there are no stands of old growth timber accessible to the public even if they were permitted into the watersheds." (Water District Report, March 1977)

The GVRD says its critics have distorted facts, harassed staff and members of an advisory committee, and engaged in vicious and personal propaganda. (Vancouver Sun, December 8, 1997)

It is our concern that a provision for public involvement will lead to a vociferous minority bringing out issues not related to the Working Plan and not consistent with our obligation to provide potable water to the inhabitants of the Greater Vancouver area. We wish to maintain a low key in our watershed management program.... (Watershed Management forester, Ed Hamaguchi, 1979)

Bluebell was a blue grouse.... She was a very wise bird and knew this [demonstration] forest well for her family had lived here for generations and many stories were passed down to her....”And did you tell him [Tim bear] why man has been managing this forest? Ah ... no, answered Tim bear. Not really, answered Brare [rabbit]. For tree products! answered Daphne [the deer]. Not really Daphne, replied Bluebell. Daphne frowned in puzzlement. “They manage this forest for drinking water to supply the people of the city. I don’t understand, said Tim. Doesn’t make sense? blurted Brare. I thought it was for tree products, exclaimed Daphne. Yes, people do get tree products from some of these trees, Daphne, and many other forests are managed for that reason. But this forest is managed specifically for drinking water. If they didn’t manage this forest, many trees could die from forest fires and disease which would spread and damage a large part of the watershed, and this would affect the drinking water. (Excerpt from an animal story prepared for children through grades 2-5. In Seymour Demonstration Forest Field Trip Handbook - A Teacher’s Guide, Second Draft, prepared by Abbie Milavsky, February 11, 1991)

The Education Programs puts an emphasis on the school program. It is a well established program with 174 school groups.... The majority of the students who toured in 1993 were in the grade 4/5 level. Proportions of the different grade categories ... kindergarten, 10%; grade 1/2/3, 21%; grade 4/5, 41%; grade 6/7, 15%; highschool, 10%; adults, 3%. (Seymour Demonstration Forest Education Program Discussion Plan for 1993-1996, Jill Deuling, page 3)

I am following in the footsteps of individuals like Don Lanskail who fought to have this land excluded from GVRD park status, for the educational opportunities it can provide. (Bruce Ward, professional forester, representative of the Federation of B.C. Naturalists, Seymour Advisory Committee member. North Vancouver District Council presentation, November 17, 1997)

Don’t use the word park. We’ve just battled for two and a half years to avoid that designation. (Don Lanskail, 1996, Seymour Advisory Committee meeting transcript. Former mayor of West Vancouver and past president of the Council of Forest Industries, previous chair of the Seymour Advisory Committee)

[Don Lanskail] stated that the restricted reactive harvesting recommendation adapted for the watershed lands will preclude the “demonstration” aspect of the Seymour Demonstration Forest, rendering it to, in effect, a park. (Water Committee minutes for April 15, 1994)

The Seymour Demonstration Forest is not a park. Recreation is subordinate to the stated guiding objectives of the SDF and activities will be restricted where they are deemed to be incompatible with the guiding objectives. (Seymour Advisory Committee: Proposals Sub-Committee Bell-Irving draft Report, May 16, 1994, page 4)

The Ministry of Forests has been a primary supporter of the Seymour Demonstration Forest (SDF), through its participation with the SDF Advisory Committee and as a major funding partner. John Hall, Chilliwack Forest District Manager, has provided me with a copy of the report entitled “Seymour Demonstration Forest - Future Management Options”, Mr. Hall has also expressed concern that the guiding principles and education objectives formulated at the inception of the SDF have been eroding in recent years. I have been advised that the significant reduction in the forest area harvested within the

SDF is beginning to limit the area available to demonstrate the full range of silviculture activities. I cannot understate the importance of the Seymour Demonstration Forest, located as it is to within easy access to most of British Columbia's urban population. (Ken Collingwood, Regional Manager, Vancouver Forest Region, letter to Ben Marr, Regional Manager, GVRD, October 25, 1994.)

The CFLA and its Forest Working Group, is extremely concerned that the harvesting portion of the SDF program has been effectively curtailed by the GVWD and that a "park-like" proposal has been more the focus. At issue here, is one of demonstrating and educating. To only show a forest environment in its natural state, without showing resource extraction including succession and management, is only showing a narrow range of the resource picture. (J. Brian Zak, president of the Coast Forest & Lumber Association (CFLA), to Ben Marr, Regional Manager, GVRD, October 31, 1994.)

"It is a working forest as opposed to a park," says Laurie Fretz, SDF supervisor. "And it's still being managed for water quality. While the working forest may not be very evident right now, there are plans to increase the visibility of forest practices within the SDF, especially to highlight current forestry techniques as opposed to those of the past." (Vancouver Sun, August 22, 1997)

The Terms of Reference for the [Seymour] Advisory Committee has never been formally approved by the Board. Therefore, the attached terms of reference are presented for Committee and Board approval. Consistent with other Advisory Committees established, it is intended that it will report to the Water Committee rather than the Regional Manager previously. (Draft, from Manager of Communications and Education, to the Water Committee, Feb./Mar. 1993.)

It has also been suggested that the timber harvesting should be encouraged in this area because of the influential effect for logging controversies in other watersheds. (J.A.K Reid, Ministry of Forests staff consultant, letter to Assistant Deputy Minister of Forests, September 14, 1981.)

The poor payer of water rates is not organized so God help him against the timber interests lobby. (Water District Watershed Inspector, Bill Angus, 1953)

I think we've had a philosophical departure from the way we have formerly operated in the watersheds. I think that is significant, and I think it is contradictory to demonstrate logging if that's not what we are doing. I think it would be very difficult and expensive for the Communications and Education Department to deliver that message clearly, that we are actually showing one thing and doing something else inside the watersheds. It still takes out a message that is inconsistent with the policy that we've developed. As much as I agree that forestry is a big employer in the province of B.C., I think there are lots of opportunities for the forest industry to get out that message, and I don't think the Water District needs to serve that purpose....And are we going to participate in an image of logging that is not real? I don't think that the public in Greater Vancouver wants to be hoodwinked that this message of what happens in the Seymour Demonstration Forest is what happens in the province of B.C. (New Westminster mayor, Betty Toporowski, November 2nd, 1994, at a special Water Committee meeting regarding the Seymour Demonstration Forest)

There are other criteria that govern the use of this Demonstration Forest. From a summary standpoint, we may not realize it quite so much, but from the comments around the table, this is very clearly more than a Demonstration Forest. Whether we like it or not it is becoming and having many of the trappings of a park because of the access to it by literally everyone and the degree of recreation that takes place within it.... There are issues relating to access and to use that go beyond the management

needed to manage a Demonstration Forest. (Port Moody Mayor John Northey, Water Committee chair, November 2, 1994)

The District is presently considering opening up the lower Seymour Watershed to the public as this area is not presently being used as a source of water supply and may never be needed as such. (Letter to Water District chief engineer Art Purdon from Ed Hamaguchi, October 2, 1985)

Clauses within the Amending Indenture document obligated the District to manage the timber on a sustained yield basis, and for the fireproofing of the lands, in part, by providing access roads throughout the watersheds.” “The District is obligated under the terms of the Amending Indenture to the watershed leases to undertake access road construction in accordance with the Management and Working Plans approved by the Ministry of Forests.... cancellation of the proposed 1991 road and culvert construction program will frustrate the completion of the harvesting contract.... (Item 2A3, Water Committee Agenda, April 16, 1991)

6. Subject to the original Indentures, on notice in writing (a) the Lessor may notify the Lessee that the lands described in the notice are no longer subject to the terms and conditions of this Amending Indenture. (March 1967, *Amending Indenture*)

1. THE ACQUISITION, LEASE, AND RESERVATION OF THE LOWER SEYMOUR VALLEY

The Seymour River watershed is located north of Burrard Inlet within the ‘North Shore Mountains’, and is part of the southeastern toe of the extensive Coast Mountain Range. The watershed is nestled within the eastern boundaries of the Lynn watershed, the upper northeastern perimeter of the Capilano watershed, the headwaters of Furry Creek and the Stawamus River (City of Squamish’s drinking water source), and flanked to the east by the western slopes of Indian Arm and the Indian River Valley. The Seymour is, for the most part, a long narrow valley characterized by rugged granitic mountain slopes which are robed in both coastal old growth and recent plantation forests. The upper Seymour watershed is divided into two significant sub-basins, the Balfour to the northeast, and the Upper Seymour to the northwest.

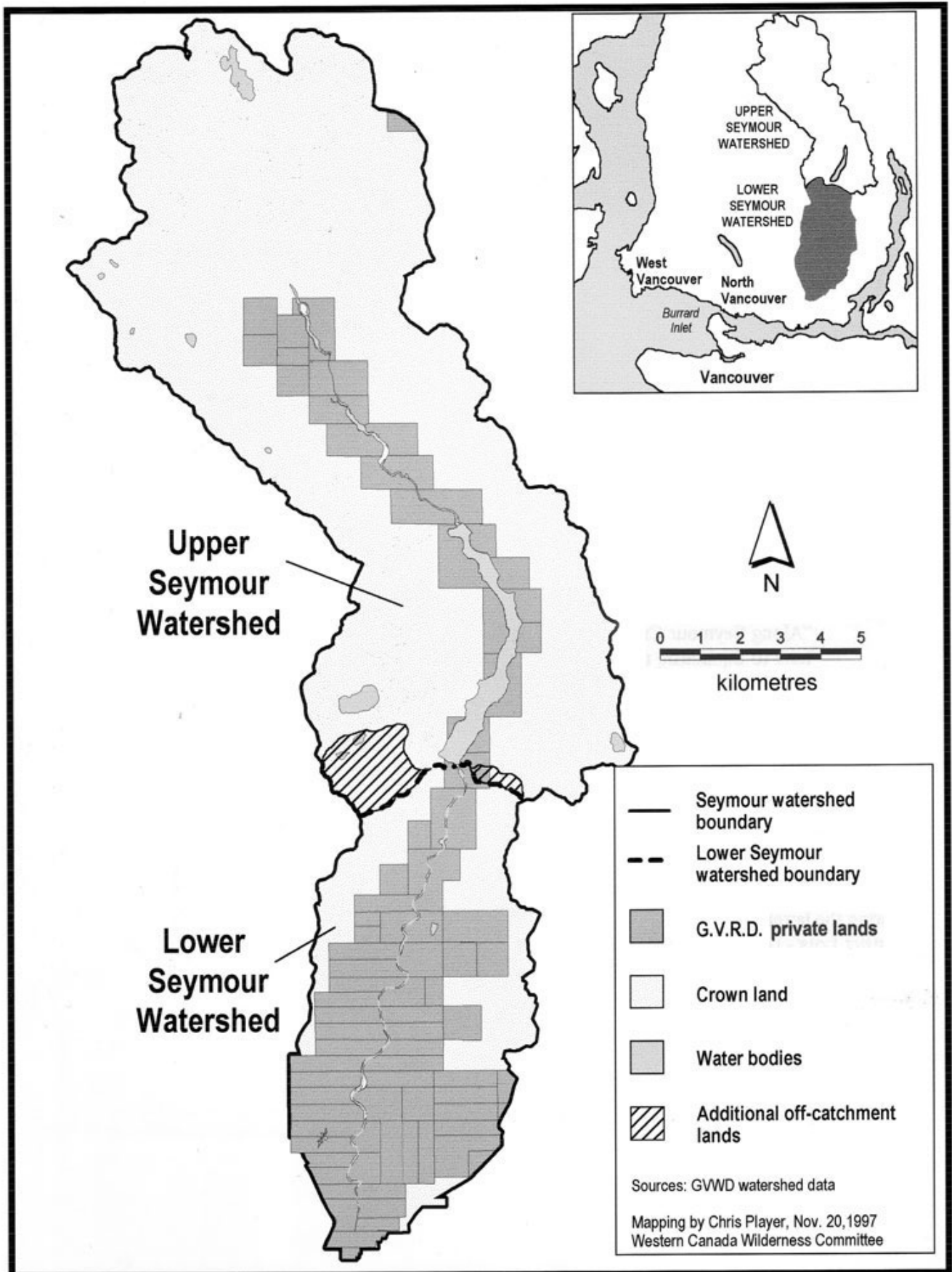
In the late 1800’s and the very early 1900’s explorers, prospectors, traders, and settlers infrequently used the Seymour Valley Trail for passage northward through adjoining valleys to reach the town of Squamish, and then up the Cheakamus valley and beyond to Pemberton Meadows for connections to B.C.’s Interior. Aside from the two other Fraser Valley connectors (Harrison Lake-Lillooet Lake, and the Fraser River Canyon) this was the only established land-linked route to B.C.’s northern interior from the Lower Fraser Valley.

Along Seymour Creek in 1860 was built the Lillooet trail, a pack horse trail from Burrard Inlet to Squamish, thence by the Pemberton trail up the Cheakamus River toward the goldfields of the Cariboo. The route was little used, but during the eighties and nineties it afforded an access to homesteaders and the land along the stream was pre-empted and crown granted and eventually became consolidated under a very few owners who were holding it for its timber. (*Seymour Falls Water Supply Extension*, by W.H. Powell, GVWD engineer, in the Canadian Engineer, June 18, 1929)

It wasn’t until many years later in 1919 that the City of Vancouver began to seriously entertain a strategy to prohibit access to the Seymour Trail’s right-of-way over concerns for the sanitary protection of their water supply. Their argument was that the trail was not a gazetted road and “therefore they have the power to close it” (March 12, 1919).

During the latter part of the 1800’s and the very early 1900’s, the provincial government sold District Lots - large rectangular parcels of Crown lands - throughout much of the Seymour Valley. The majority of these District Lots were purchased by timber speculators prior to 1906. Through provincial Order-In-Council #505, established on August 23rd, 1906, the Seymour Valley watershed was designated as a ‘watershed reserve’ for water supply purposes, which meant that all of the Crown lands were no longer vulnerable to alienation (a reserve was also placed on the Capilano watershed in 1905). This satisfied the concerns of Vancouver City and adjacent municipalities who were looking to the Seymour as a second source of water supply, and therefore quite earnest about protecting it. Even though the provincial government had placed the entire Seymour watershed under reserve status, some Crown parcels were subsequently sold and some mineral claims were also approved.

In 1907, the Seymour’s first water intake was completed, located near the confluence of Hydraulic Creek, at about the 5 kilometer mark from the guard house on the present 11 kilometer paved road to the Seymour dam. In 1912, Vancouver City built a second intake one half mile north of the first intake.



During the mid-1910's, and years following when lumber markets began to recover, timber speculators eagerly cast their eyes toward their, and other private, investments in the Seymour Valley. Medical Health Officers petitioned the Provincial Board of Health, relating how future logging above Vancouver City's intakes would negatively impact the Seymour as a reliable source of water. Arthur Mitchell, a consulting engineer, who had been involved with the City of Vancouver's supervising engineer Fellowes, wrote to Dr. Young, the Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health on August 16th, 1916:

... on July 18th [I] went to the intakes of the Seymour Creek pipe lines with Mr. Fellowes.... That nothing should be tolerated which would menace the Vancouver water supply goes without saying.... In the present instance, I believe it is absolutely safe to affirm that no logging of the [District] lots in question could be carried on without imminent danger of the pollution of the City's water supply.... it would materially detract from the value of the Seymour Creek as a water supply to allow the watershed to be deforested.... Should the timber be removed the unchecked erosion would not only increase the amount of suspended matter in the stream but would materially reduce the time of concentration, be eliminating the retention of the run off which the timber effects.... Whatever means be adopted by the Provincial Board of Health to prohibit any logging operations on the watershed, it is manifest that sooner or later the City will be confronted by the necessity of purchasing all alienated land and timber.... From a standpoint of public health it is essential that no logging be allowed on the watersheds of Seymour and Capilano Creeks.

The owners of the District Lots were proposing to begin logging operations above the Seymour's water intakes. Because of the pressures from Medical Health Officers and engineers from the City of Vancouver those operations were abated. Due to the accelerated logging which began in the Lower Capilano watershed in 1918, and the threat of logging in the Seymour, the provincial Water Comptroller, E.A. Cleveland, was requested by the Minister of Lands and Forests, T.D. Pattullo, to investigate the situation. In October of 1922 Cleveland presented a long report entitled *The Question of Joint Control of Water Supply to the Cities and Municipalities on Burrard Inlet*. Cleveland and his provincial Water Rights staff were intimately acquainted with the effects of logging and human encroachment to water quality and water flows. They were understandably very concerned about the long term future of the watersheds to provide protected quality water to the largest and most rapidly growing population center in the province.

Cleveland's report recommended that all the lands in the Capilano and Seymour watersheds should come under the direct control of a newly created Greater Vancouver Water Board, and that logging should promptly cease: "the watershed should be preserved inviolate". In other words, the provincial government should lease the lands to the new Water Board in perpetuity and all private or alienated lands should be purchased through negotiation. These recommendations were held in abeyance by the provincial government for the next three years, during which time timber companies were once again threatening to log above the Seymour water supply intakes. Sixteen months later, in a formal address at a meeting of the Engineering Institute of Canada, the provincial Water Comptroller read the following excerpt:

The watersheds on the north shore are a heritage for this whole area. This is a golden opportunity for the exercise of that Greater Vancouver spirit which knows no internal bounds and is bound to avail itself of the heritage which nature has supplied for the common good of all. To allow anybody to get entrenched on Seymour Creek with logging and shingling operations would be almost criminal. (E.A. Cleveland, February 19, 1924.)

These concerns were also reflected in the City of Vancouver's engineer's report, later the very same year:

There is one phase of development of the water supply which can hardly be given a unit number, viz., Watershed Protection. As no logging has been done in the Seymour [above the intake], it is a simple matter to acquire the watershed, and I am certain that there is no expert but will admit that the control of the watershed must be in the hands of the water supplying body, be it the City of the Metropolitan Water Board. It may be a matter of argument whether the logging of the area is advisable under the present methods. But logging operations may adversely affect the water supply in three ways, - 1st, Extremes of flood and drought. 2nd, Fire danger which increases the first. 3rd, Danger of pollution. (November 6, 1924 report from Vancouver City Engineer C. Brakenridge)

It was during the mid-1920's that the B.C. Forest Service, representatives from the University of B.C.'s forestry faculty, and representatives from the forest industry engaged themselves in a lively drawn out public debate over logging in the Capilano and Seymour watersheds. For example, L.R. Andrews, who had been the manager of the Forest Service's Vancouver Forest District, sent a petitionary letter to the mayor of Vancouver City recommending sustained yield logging in the two watersheds:

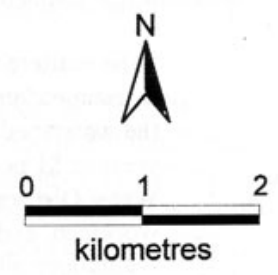
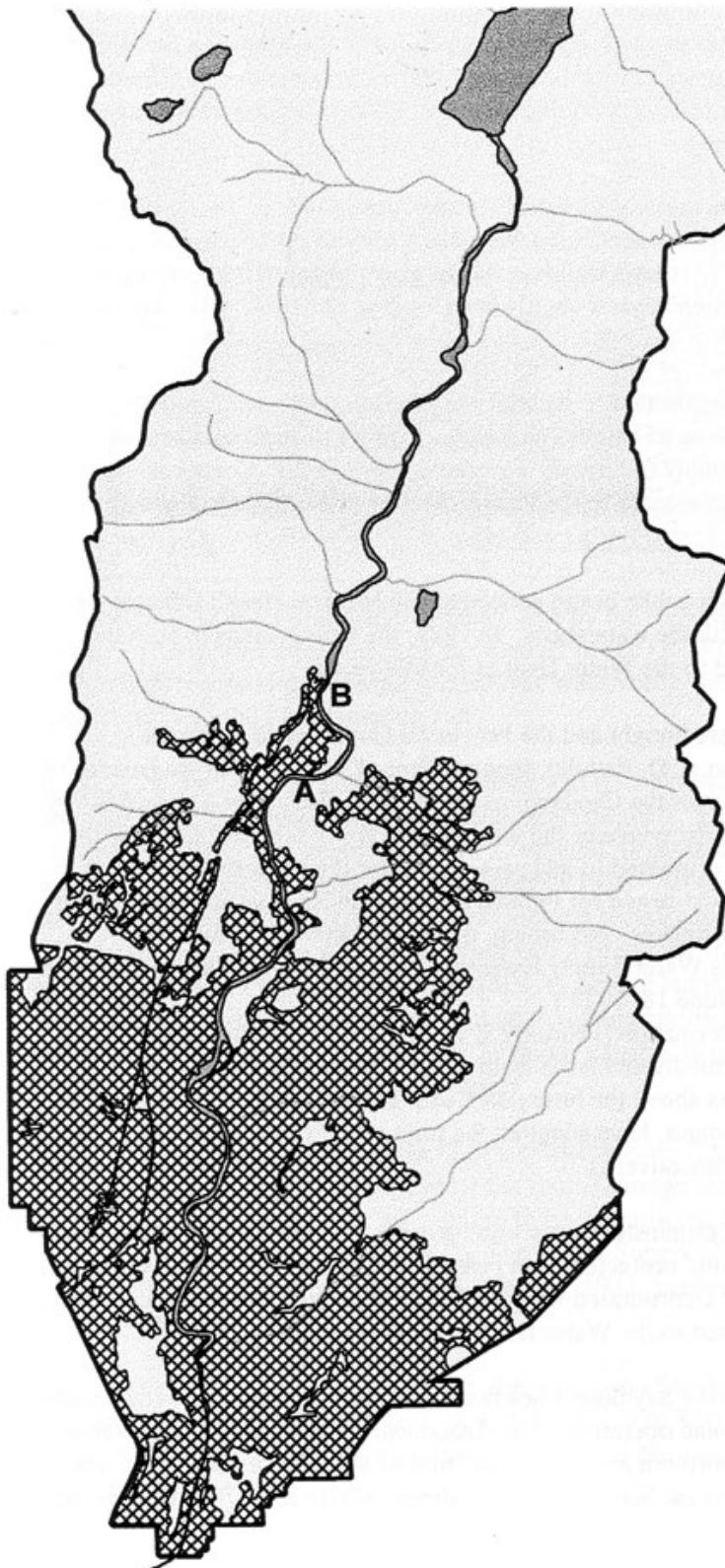
The timber is mature to over-mature, and should be utilized before it deteriorates. The first principle of good forestry should be applied to this area, namely, intelligent use and not abuse.... The Capilano could be logged, reforested and the Seymour Watershed, if acquired by the city, could be given like treatment. This process could go on perpetually to the mutual benefit of everybody concerned, keeping these two areas productive under scientific management. (The letter was reprinted in the *Western Lumberman*, January 1925, a forest industry monthly journal)

Half a year later, on June 25th, 1925, the Capilano Timber Co., which began logging its private lands in the Capilano watershed in 1918, was responsible for starting a very large fire. The fire swept through the lower Capilano valley, menacing the North Shore Mountains like thick smoke from a raging volcano, eventually burning over 3200 acres of slash and standing forest. The celebrated forest industry photographer, Leonard Frank, captured the spiraling torrent of smoke on film, which appeared on the front page of local newspapers. The fire also scorched the lobbying efforts by the forest industry and was the catalyst for the formation of the Greater Vancouver Water District six months later, bringing an end to the first logging conflict and debate in the Greater Vancouver watersheds.

In 1926, and in years following, the newly established Greater Vancouver Water District began in earnest to negotiate with private land owners in the Seymour Valley to purchase all District Lots. Under a provincial Act, the Water District's mandate was to gain control of both private and Crown lands to protect the population's water supply from logging and from public access to the Seymour and Capilano watersheds.

(b) Acquire lands and timber within or without the District to be used for its water works or for protecting or preserving its sources of supply. Powers of expropriation are conferred. (*The Water Supply of Greater Vancouver*, by GVWD Commissioner E.A. Cleveland, May 15, 1931, presented to the Pacific Northwest Section [engineers] meeting)

Lower Seymour Watershed



— Seymour watershed boundary

▣ Areas logged before 1927

A First intake

B Second intake

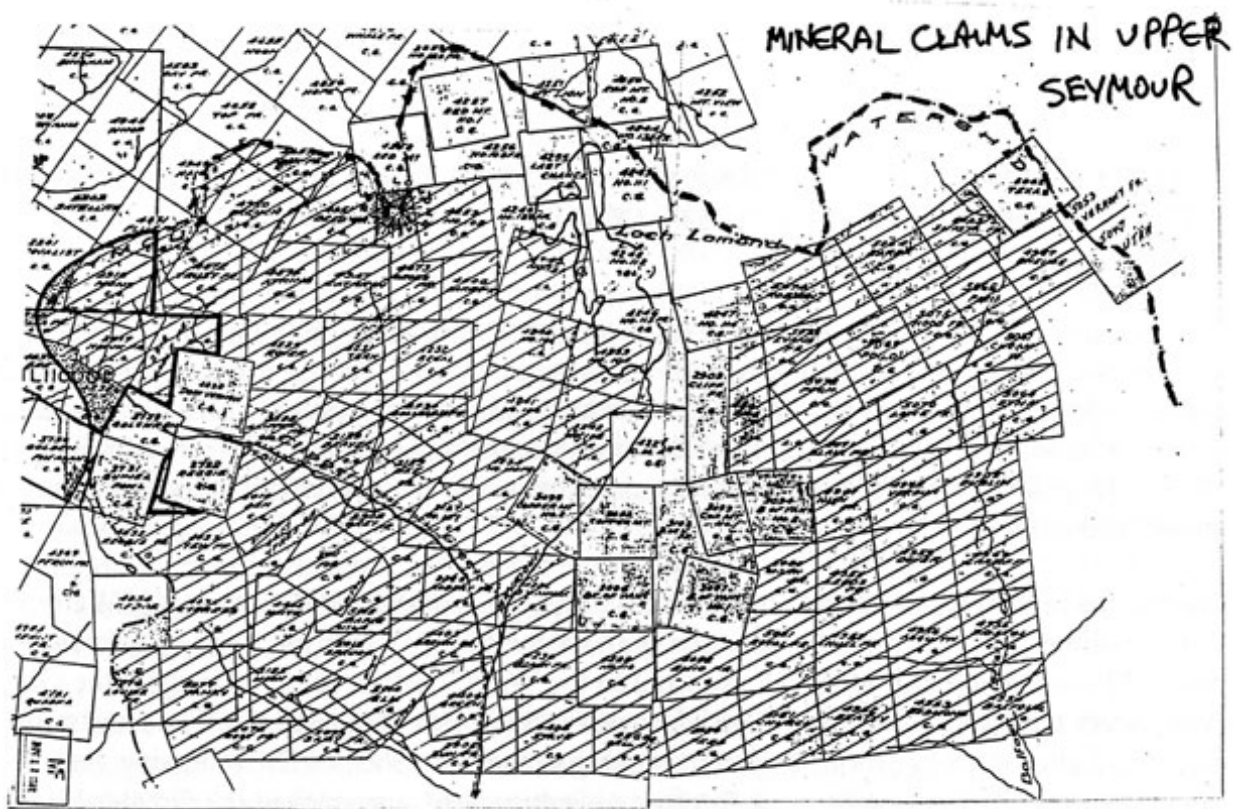
Sources: MoF forest cover, G.V.W.D. watershed data
Mapping by Chris Player, Dec. 9, 1997
Western Canada Wilderness Committee

Public access was restricted through public health concerns, and Medical Health Officers were ordered to monitor all activities with the watersheds. In 1927, the Crown lands in both the Seymour and Capilano were leased to the Water District for 999 years.

The scattered holdings were bought and the Provincial Government, upon the recommendation of the Hon. T.D. Pattullo, then minister of lands, leased the balance of the watershed as well as that of the Capilano, to the [Water] district for a period of 999 years at \$1 per year so that the whole of the watershed is absolutely controlled by the Water District. No access is granted to any person to enter the watershed except to workmen, and these are blood-tested for typhoid and kept under most stringent sanitary regulations while above the intakes. No fishing, mountain climbing or hunting is permitted. (*Seymour Falls Water Supply Extension*, by W.H. Powell, GVWD engineer, in the *Canadian Engineer*, June 18, 1929)

The District has since its formation [February 3, 1926] purchased upwards of 13,000 acres of subdivided and un-subdivided lands from private owners, so that it now controls 93 percent of the entire area above the future dam sites and will, before the time arrives for the construction of the dams, have acquired the total area. (E.A. Cleveland, *The Water Supply of Greater Vancouver*)

The Coquitlam watershed, New Westminster City's water supply, was not under dispute at that time because it had been reserved and protected from being logged by a 1910 federal Order-In-Council. The Coquitlam was later incorporated with the Water District in 1931, and in 1942 its federal reserve status was transferred to the Water District's 999 year lease.



Prospectors staked many claims in the Seymour's headwaters, being the eastern mineral extension from the Britannia Beach copper mine operation. The Anaconda Co. (Canada) Ltd. staked and owned 123 mineral claims in this northern area, although "title to the surface and timber was not conveyed by the Crown grants" (Forest Service correspondence, March 3, 1970.) Concerned over pollution of the

watershed by mining, and by the transfer of disease from miners themselves, the provincial government, through the request of the GVWD, passed Bill #84 on March 24th, 1930, which reserved the Greater Vancouver watersheds “from location and acquisition under the Mineral Act and the Placer-mining Act.”

In 1927 the Seymour intake was abandoned and relocated about 6 kilometers northwards to Seymour Falls, the present location of the reservoir dam. The Water District, under the direction of their new Water Commissioner, E.A. Cleveland, organized the construction of a small dam and an 180 acre ‘balancing’ reservoir, completed in 1928. All of the untouched and logged lands in the off-catchment lands between the dam and the security gate near the residential area of North Vancouver District were quickly evolving into a protected state, a reserve, both through Crown land legislation and through direct control over private lands. Towards the end of the 1920’s, Water District engineers had considered constructing another dam and reservoir 10 kilometers to the south at the entrance of the Lower Seymour canyon, in order to compliment Greater Vancouver’s increasing demands for water:

... investigations led to the choice of the Second Canyon on Capilano and the head of Seymour Canyon as the sites of the future storage and diversion dams.... It is estimated that the Capilano dam will require to be constructed by 1940 and the Seymour dam perhaps 25 or 30 years later. (*The Water Supply of Greater Vancouver*, by GVWD Commissioner E.A. Cleveland, May 15, 1931, presented to the Pacific Northwest Section meeting)

Plans for the lower Seymour dam were shelved soon after the Capilano dam and reservoir were completed in November 1954, and the expansion of the Seymour dam and reservoir in January 1961. The reservoir systems were finally secured to provide the ever growing population with an enormous water reserve.

2. THE C.D. SCHULTZ COMPANY CONNECTION AND THE LIQUIDATION OF THE OFF-CATCHMENT LAND FORESTS IN THE LOWER SEYMOUR

In February of 1952, during the Fifth Annual Natural Resources Conference in Victoria, a government, university, and industry body of representatives endorsed forestry panel resolution number nine, to implement and coordinate sustained yield logging in all B.C.'s community water supply watersheds. The significance of this resolution, along with a later concurrent inter-ministerial policy of multiple use, was to impact the health and economies of communities for decades to come.

During the same month, which, coincidentally, was one month after the passing of Water District Commissioner E.A. Cleveland, a forester by the name of F.J.G Johnson, who had also attended the 1952 conference, had written a proposal to the Water District to begin logging the Greater Vancouver watersheds. Cleveland had during his twenty-six year term of office consistently rejected numerous suggestions to permit logging in the watersheds. The following year, 1953, the C.D. Schultz Co., a very prominent forestry consulting firm, approached the Greater Vancouver Water District. The company was hired in September 1953 to conduct an "inventory" of the Greater Vancouver watersheds. Not surprisingly, the Schultz Co. later cautiously proposed to counter the Greater Vancouver Water District's policy and mandate of no logging by rationalizing the introduction of sustained yield logging. Over a process of several years Schultz Co. principals were able to influence key administrators in the Water District to privately consider logging the population's watersheds. In December 1956, after carefully revising phrases and terminology in their November 1955 two volume final report, the Schultz Co. released their second final report to the Water District: 'Appreciation of Factors Affecting Watershed Management on the Watershed of the Greater Vancouver Water District'.

Prior to the release of their first final report, the Schultz Co. proposed a scheme whereby the Water District should begin logging on its off-catchment lands first, areas from which water did not flow into a reservoir. The Lower Seymour, the Or Creek drainage in the south-eastern sector of the Coquitlam watershed (formerly known as Gold Creek), and the Port Moody Conservation Reserve (the plateau and ridge just south of Eagle Mountain and directly north of Port Moody) were each identified:

Initial logging operations would be restricted to those areas which are not yet being utilized as a source of Water Supply i.e. Lower Seymour Valley, Gold Creek Drainage and the Port Moody Conservation Reserve. (C.D. Schultz memo, September 28, 1955)

The Schultz Co.'s concept to first log the Lower Seymour's off-catchment lands became entrenched with a few Water District administrators, a fact which was later corroborated in a December 1963 report by then Water District Commissioner Ken Patrick to the Water District Administration Board. Patrick, the Water District's former chief engineer in the 1950's, departed from the District's mandate to protect the watersheds from logging, and became a sudden advocate for the Schultz Co.'s proposal:

Before pursuing this matter any further it was thought wise to develop a small management program on lands owned outright by the Water District and in areas that as yet are not within catchment areas. The area below the Seymour Falls Dam was selected as there is little possibility that the lower Seymour Dam that has long been considered for the lower canyon will be built for many years to come.

In the late 1970's and onwards, Water District staff have repeatedly stated that logging in the Greater Vancouver watersheds began because of a widespread insect infestation, but have quietly neglected to inform the public otherwise. The proposal to log the off-catchment forests of the Lower Seymour by the Schultz Co. in 1955, and the Water District's administrative approval of this, is important in consideration of later conflicting statements by Water District administrators and staff around the discussion of why logging began in the Lower Seymour, and in the Greater Vancouver watersheds, i.e., the Balsam Woolly Aphid insect attack:

Until 1961, the Water District left the forests virtually untouched and most of the balsam stands were under attack by the balsam woolly aphid which would eventually kill them, leaving increasingly large areas susceptible to forest fires which could be very serious from the point of the water supply....Since that time the log salvage program has expanded and some 5382 acres have been harvested. (Report by Water District Commissioner Bunnell to Water Committee, July 19, 1978)

The present forest management program began in 1961 in response to a major insect attack which was causing widespread damage in the watershed forests. (Water Committee Agenda, July 13, 1989)

Shortly after the release of the Schultz Co.'s second final report, C.D. Schultz was indicted by the provincial Attorney General's Department for charges of corruption relating to bribery and conspiracy with the Minister of Forests. According to the charges, C.D. Schultz had been making secret deals under the table about who would obtain rights for certain forest management licences. Although the jury found the former Minister of Forests, Robert Sommers, guilty, Schultz was declared innocent through default because of a hung jury. During the time of the scandal the Schultz company vice-president, David Bakewell, became the president of Consolidated Services Inc., which included a large number of Schultz Co. staff.

In late 1957, the Water District hired its first forester, Kel Blakeney, a former employee with the C.D. Schultz Co., his contract presumably limited to supervise the logging of the proposed Seymour dam reservoir extension. According to a confidential source, Water District staff at the time were wondering why a forester was suddenly "poking his nose around" the office. Blakeney, however, remained with the Water District for about twenty years. In 1958, the Water District contracted Bakewell's Consolidated Services Inc. to log the Seymour reservoir area. It was during this time, when equipment and logging trucks were passing through the old growth stands of the upper Seymour off-catchment lands, that foresters drew attention to the outbreak of the Balsam Woolly Aphid. According to many subsequent anecdotal summaries, the Balsam Woolly Aphid was spreading quickly into all three watersheds, affecting the health of the forests, threatening the environment with the possibility of forest fire conditions, which would directly impact our water quality. The groundwork was laid by foresters to log the watersheds.

3. THE FIRST PUBLIC PROPOSAL OF THE LOWER SEYMOUR AS A REGIONAL PARK

The GVRD Board endorsed a recommendation in November 1981 by the Regional District Park Committee to establish a task force to consider recreational use in the Greater Vancouver watersheds. The recommendation was then forwarded to the Water Committee and subsequently rejected. The GVRD Board was then relatedly reminded by the Water Committee about the Water District's 1926 policy to restrict public access to its lands, which the Board then promptly reaffirmed. Water District staff, however, failed to provide an account to the Water Committee about the recreational value of the Lower Seymour's off-catchment lands. The possibility of public access to off-catchment watershed areas, which didn't affect Greater Vancouver's water supply, was not on the table.

It's quite odd that the Water Committee were not reminded about an inquiry on this very topic three and a half years previous. At that time the Water Committee were considering recommendations from the 1976 Peter Pearse Commission on Forest Resources report, to permit public access to some of the Greater Vancouver watersheds for recreational purposes. The Pearse report mentioned that the public might be given an opportunity to visit the old growth forests in one of the Greater Vancouver watersheds, because of growing concerns over the "liquidation of the remaining old-growth timber". Pearse's comments about the "old-growth forests" put Water District staff on the defensive, who then countered the extent of the old-growth forests in the watersheds by deceiving Water Committee members in a March 1997 staff report:

For the most part, the watershed lands, or at least the accessible parts, were logged off by the early part of the 1920's. Thus there are no stands of old growth timber accessible to the public even if they were permitted into the watersheds.

That was a bare-faced lie, and is a recorded indictment on the Water District's logging mandate. Instead of telling the politicians that they should simply discourage public access, they didn't want the public, or the elected municipal representatives, to know what they were up to. This is further reflected in Water District correspondence in 1979, in a letter from the Water District's administrative forester to the province's chief forester:

It is our concern that a provision for public involvement will lead to a vociferous minority bringing out issues not related to the Working Plan and not consistent with our obligation to provide potable water to the inhabitants of the Greater Vancouver area. We wish to maintain a low key in our watershed management program....

As an alternative to Pearse's recommendation, North Vancouver District Councillor Don Bell (who is currently the chair of the GVRD Water Committee, and Mayor of North Vancouver District) stated:

... that in his opinion there was no need to open the watershed lands for public use, but that the area south of the Seymour Dam should be the subject of a separate report.... **IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED** ... That the Board give consideration to public access to non-productive areas south of the Seymour Dam. (Water Committee minutes)

But where is this report, and why was it not tabled during the discussion in November 1981 with the GVRD Board?

Discussion regarding the off-catchment lands of the Lower Seymour came into play after circumstances surrounding the physical disruption of the Lynn Creek water supply for the City of North Vancouver. During the Halloween rainstorm of 1981, the Lynn Creek intake was severely damaged and the City had to immediately rent water, at a reduced rate, from the Greater Vancouver Water District.

For most of this century the City of North Vancouver had its own source of water supply and was independent from the Greater Vancouver Water District. After loggers, under the critical fire of Medical Health Officers and City officials, retreated from the Lynn watershed in 1928, the area was protected from logging. The City also owned three District Lots in the Seymour surrounding Rice Lake, a small reservoir which was supplied with water from Lynn Creek via a diversion pipe (see diagram on page 27). In a December 31, 1958 unsigned draft agreement, the City was to relinquish its water rights and associated land reserve of the Lynn watershed to the Greater Vancouver Water District. Aside from the benefits the City might enjoy from becoming a partner, the Water District would benefit in obtaining the logging rights to the Lynn watershed forests. This sort of thinking fit into the plans proposed by the Schultz Co. in their reports to the Water District, and those engendered by the Water District's forester. In 1969, the City once again refused to entertain the same agreement proposed by the Water District.

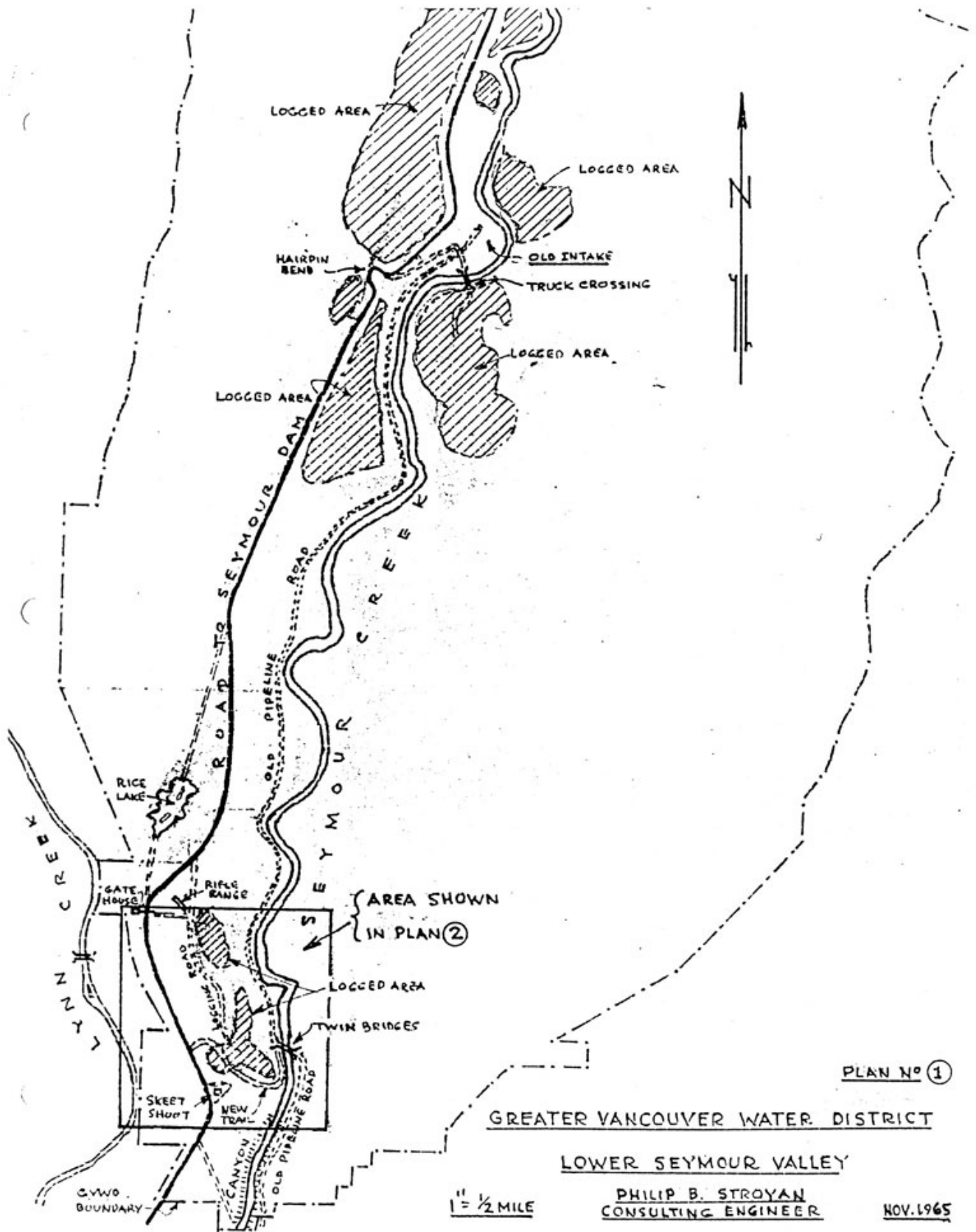
In 1972, the City of North Vancouver contracted the services of the C.D. Schultz Co. to produce a report on the forests in the Lynn watershed. Interestingly enough, the Schultz Co. hired former Commissioner Ken Patrick, who had become a private consultant, to assist in researching the report. David Bakewell, still registered as the vice president of the company, signed the cover letter for the report. Bakewell slipped in the suggestion to the City that:

... amalgamation of the Lynn Creek Watershed with adjacent watershed lands would be advantageous. For example satisfactory terms for the unified management of Lynn Creek along with the Greater Vancouver Water District lands might be worthy of consideration. The scope of this study does not include consideration of such possibilities, however, but rather limits it to consideration of management by the City of North Vancouver as an independent watershed. (*Appreciation of Factors Affecting Management for Water and Timber in the Lynn Creek Watershed*, 1972, page 3)

If the report did anything at all, it got some North Vancouver City officials and Water District administrators thinking about revenues from logging, which was the obvious intention of the report. So when North Vancouver City began to consider negotiating with the Water District in February, 1982, after the Lynn intake washout, they mentioned the following transfer of "benefits" to the Water District:

The full control of the North Shore Watershed. Logging revenue from the Watershed area, which is currently in its natural condition, and in which commercial logging operators are currently indicating an interest, offering potential revenues to the City. (Letter from N.Vancouver City engineer, Alan Phillips to Water District Chief Engineer A. Purdon, February 18, 1982)

The costs in Option B are also affected by the value of the City water intakes to the GVWD, the value of City lands in the Lynn Creek watershed, water quality considerations and possibly the value of logging in the watersheds. (*City of North Vancouver Water Supply Investigation - Phase I*, Appendix 1.)



During these discussions an alternative proposal appeared for the creation of a regional or provincial park for the Lynn watershed, which was forwarded to the City of North Vancouver Council for their consideration. According to GVRD requirements, three municipalities need to endorse a park proposal before it can be formally considered as such. Accordingly, West Vancouver (Council meeting, June 27, 1983), North Vancouver District (Council meeting, July 12, 1983), and North Vancouver City approved the study proposal. The provincial Ministry of Lands, Parks, and Housing's Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division also supported the Lynn watershed proposal:

... it is suggested that the GVRD Parks Committee coordinate a recreational/resource analysis study to determine the appropriate land use and agency most capable of managing the area. Our Division would be pleased to assist in such a study if required. (Letter to City of North Vancouver, August 11, 1983)

However, the District of North Vancouver extended the proposal to include the Lower Seymour:

I am now enclosing a copy of the Planning Analyst's report dated July 12th which was considered at the Council last Monday evening. I am pleased to inform you that the discussion resulted in the following resolution being adopted by a unanimous vote:

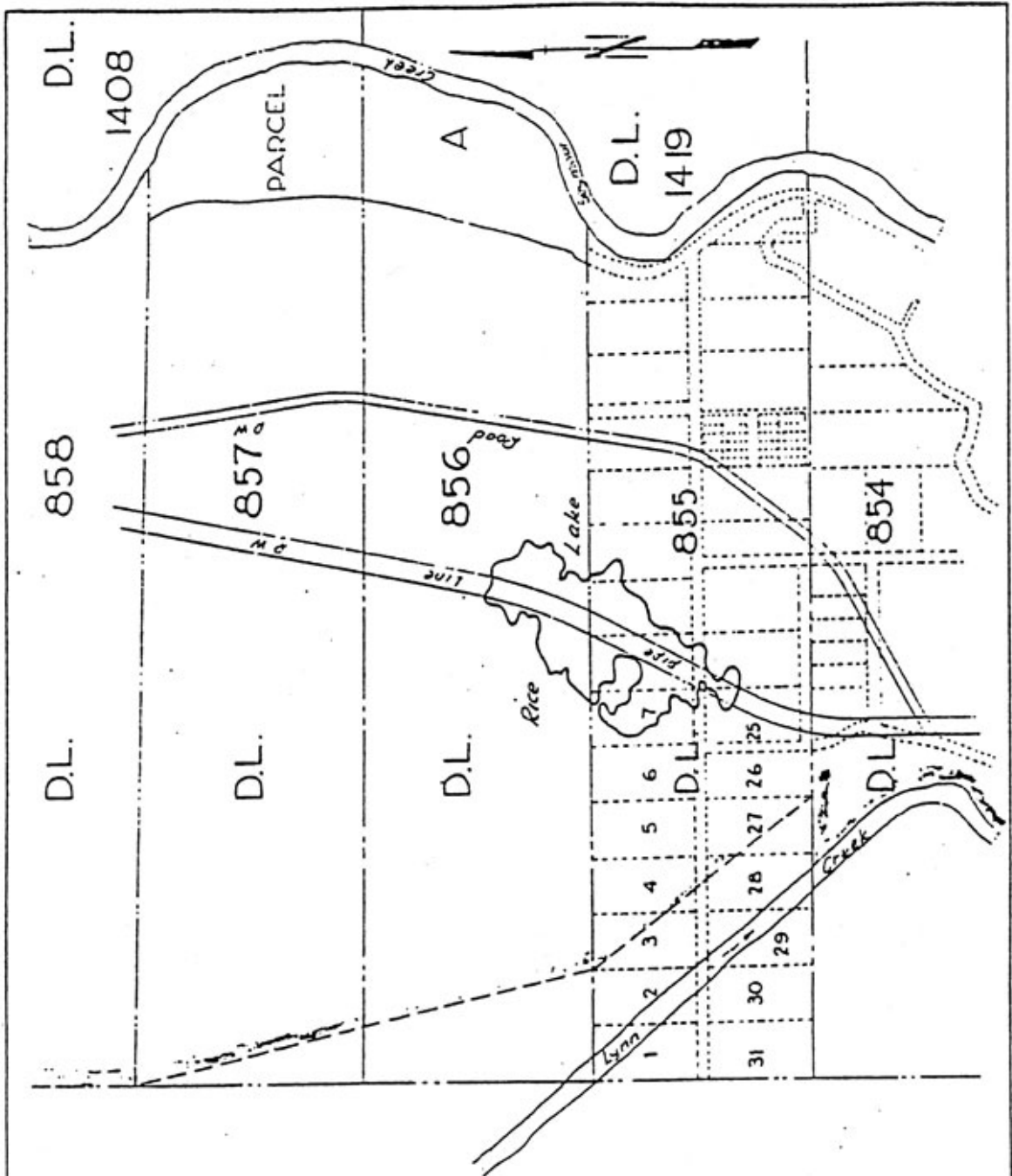
THAT, as recommended in the July 12th report of the Planning Analyst, Council supports the City of North Vancouver's request for a G.V.R.D. park study and recommends that the boundaries of the study be expanded to include the Rice Lake area and adjacent Seymour River Valley as part of a comprehensive regional or provincial park. (July 27, 1983: N. Vancouver District mayor Marilyn Baker to N. Vancouver City mayor Jack Loucks)

Des Smith, North Vancouver District's Planning Analyst wrote in his report that the Lynn:

... matter is considered to have a degree of urgency as the City's water licence is due for renewal later this year and if the licence is surrendered before the included Crown lands are protected by park status they may be opened to forestry and/or mining and thereby ruined for recreational purposes for many years to come.... The upper Lynn Creek valley, like the upper Seymour River valley, has been designated as a "Distinctive Landscape and Open Space Feature" under the Official Regional Plan and as such is regarded as a recreation asset of regional importance. It is presently protected under the Limited Use regional zoning category and as Parks, Recreation, and Open Space under municipal zoning.... the Lynn Watershed area should not be studied in isolation. Consideration should be given to the potential development of Rice Lake for more traditional park purposes and to the future of the lower Seymour Watershed.

Consideration for the recreational use of the Lower Seymour and Lynn watersheds began in the mid-1960's. In November 1965 Consulting Engineer Phillip B. Stroyan produced a short report "Preliminary Report on The Recreational Possibilities of the Lower Seymour Valley":

... the Board wishes to consider the practicability of removing some of the present restrictions against public use of the lower portion of the valley.... There are other possibilities for opening up the valley for recreational purposes and one which appears to be particularly attractive is the creation of a large picnic area with adequate parking near the river level on the most southerly logged area as indicated diagrammatically on Plan #2 attached to this report.



PLAN
 TO ACCOMPANY AGREEMENT
 DATED _____ 19__
 BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER
 AND
 THE GREATER VANCOUVER WATER DISTRICT
 SCALE: approx. 1" = 800'

In 1976, the Lynn Canyon Regional Park proposal identified “the Lynn/Seymour area as regionally significant and necessary because of the long-range population projected for the North Shore” (Water Committee report, September 28, 1983).

On September 21, 1983, the manager of the GVRD’s Parks Department, Rick Hankin, and the Water District’s chief engineer, Art Purdon, signed off a letter to the chairmen and members of both the GVRD’s Water and Park Committees. The letter summarized the issues and objectives of the park proposals, including the following recommendation by the Water Committee for the GVRD Board, approved by the Board one week later: “That the Water District cooperate with the Park Committee in carrying out a study of the Lower Seymour Valley to identify potential park uses in conjunction with the proposed Lynn Creek Park.”

Prior to the discussion of the Lower Seymour as a possible park, North Vancouver City’s agreement with the Water District involved the transfer of the City’s private land around Rice Lake. The City stipulated that the three District Lots could only be used for either water supply purposes or for a future public park:

The only other assets which would be of value to the District would be the 395 +/- acres of City-owned property around and including Rice Lake as shown on the attached plan Appendix F. It was agreed that a fair value for this land would be \$395,000 on the understanding that the land could be used only for water supply or park purposes. (City of North Vancouver Water Supply Report and Agreement, April 1983, page 5)

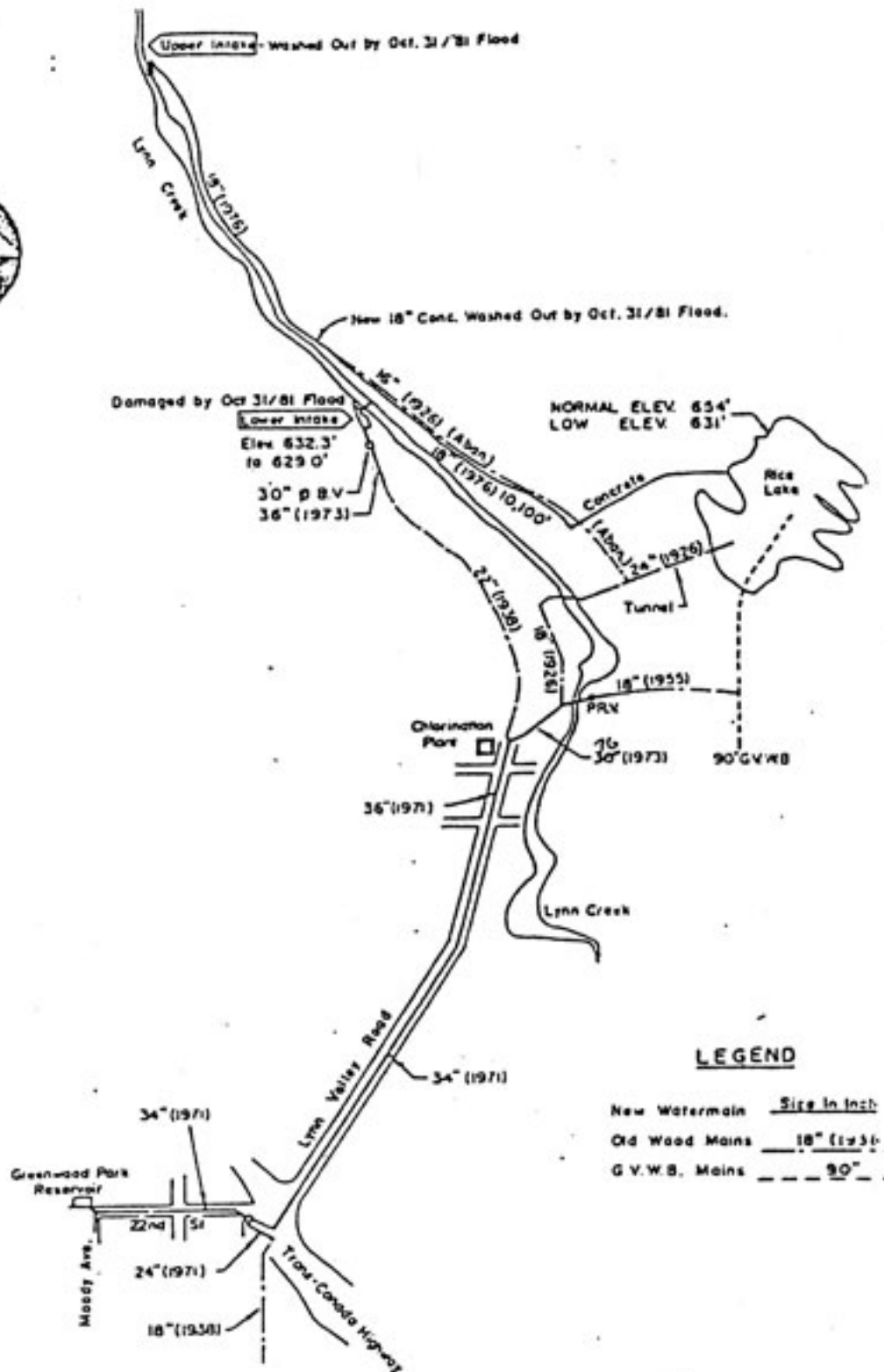
This contractual agreement, which stipulated that the “land could be used only for water supply or park purposes” was almost severed by Water District staff three years later. On October 29, 1984, North Vancouver City became a member of the Water District.

In February 1984, the GVRD Parks Committee approved the formation of the Lynn/Seymour Recreation Advisory Committee. The Committee was extremely active with the complicated logistics of creating the Lynn Headwaters Park.

... development of the Seymour Forest Recreation area is stalled pending resolution of the Coquitlam reservoir issue. The water district still intends to retain a lower level reservoir option on the Seymour River. (Advisory Committee minutes of January 29, 1985)

The Seymour was closed to reconnaissance trips by interested groups because of uncertainty over the Coquitlam watershed, making it desirable for the GVWD to maintain its flooding reserve option on the Seymour and reduce public attention on the area. The lack of access to the Seymour has resulted in an imbalance in research and awareness by Committee members between the Lynn and the Seymour. Many advisory members have specific interests in the Seymour, and understandably there has been a certain amount of frustration with the lack of progress on the Seymour component of the study. (Lynn/Seymour Recreation Advisory Committee Chairman’s report, 1984, page 2)

After the Recreation Committee’s May 1984 report to the Parks and Water Committees, “The Lynn/Seymour Park Study”, and the later public processes such as the September Public Open House in North Vancouver, the Lynn Headwaters Park was officially hailed and opened to the public on June 15, 1986. For decades the public were barred from accessing the Lynn watershed, and it was with great curiosity and delight that residents and visitors began to happily frequent its forests and trails.



CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER
 WATER INTAKE - LYNN CREEK

4. THE CREATION OF THE LOWER SEYMOUR DEMONSTRATION FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

After the GVRD Board approved the joint Water and Parks Committees' recommendation to begin a park study of the Lower Seymour, it took Water District staff eight months to present their vision for a "multiple use" or "integrated" plan, rather than a "single use" park plan. In turn, the Water Committee then accepted staff's recommendations, which were then forwarded to the GVRD Board on May 23, 1984:

The Water District's present interest in the Lower Seymour is preservation of the area as a future water source, security of the pipeline facilities, protection of upstream water quality, operation of the forest management program, and exploitation of gravel reserves. The forest management program in the Lower Seymour is of major importance to the District. To date, the District has invested \$1.5 million in roads and bridges and \$800,000 in tree plantations. The sustained annual market value of the loggable mature and present plantation is over \$1 million in 1984 dollars. 750 board feet of timber per year will be lost for every acre of land taken out of forest production which at current log prices is worth \$220 per year. The potential gravel resource in this area is estimated to be 24,000,000 tonnes. At \$.50 per tonne royalty, the gravel is valued at \$12 million....The District's extensive interests in the Lower Seymour dictate all recreational uses be carefully planned and controlled to protect the water resource and minimize the impact on the existing facilities and on the forestry and gravel resources. Multiple use of the lower Seymour is in the general public interest.... For these reasons, a multiple use plan for the Lower Seymour should be prepared in cooperation with the Parks Department....
RECOMMENDATION: That it be recommended to the GVWD Board that the Water District continue to cooperate with the Parks Department in the preparation of a multiple use plan for the Lower Seymour and report back with an analysis of the costs and benefits of such a plan.

According to GVRD records, there were oddly no further reports or discussion of the Lower Seymour Park study in the Water Committee minutes and agendas until July 1986. Despite the recommendations for multiple use in the Lower Seymour by the Water District in May 1984, the West Vancouver Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission conducted its own study on the park potential later that year, and on December 10, 1984, West Vancouver Council passed the following resolution: "That West Vancouver support the proposal of the GVRD to use the upper Lynn and Seymour Valley area for a Regional Park." West Vancouver's resolution was to have a hollow ring to it.

The Water District's Forest Engineer, Ed Hamaguchi, sent a memo on October 2, 1985 to chief engineer Art Purdon and Commissioner Doug MacKay, outlining his recommendation for the establishment of an advisory committee consisting of only professional foresters:

The District is presently considering opening up the lower Seymour Watershed to the public as this area is not presently being used as a source of water supply and may never be needed as such.... In order to maintain controlled public use of this area we are proposing the concept of an operating Demonstration Forest.... An Advisory Committee is suggested to overview and make recommendations on the Demonstration Forest. The objective of this advisory committee will be to provide assurance that the forestry activities carried out in the Demonstration Forest are compatible with recreation, education areas, watershed protection and intensive management practices.... It is recommended that the following organizations be contacted to determine their interest in participating in the proposed Advisory Committee: Association of

Professional Foresters; B.C. Forest Service; BCIT Forestry Department; Canadian Forestry Association of B.C.; Council of Forest Industries; Federal Forest Service; the IWA; U.B.C. faculty of forestry.

By mid-October 1985, the Water District Commissioner and GVRD Regional Manager, Doug MacKay, had, through his own discretionary powers, approved the formation of an advisory committee for “multiple public uses of the Lower Seymour”, without GVRD Board approval. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee would have to report directly to the Commissioner, rather than to GVRD’s Water Committee members. Unlike the formal establishment of the Lynn/Seymour Recreation Advisory Committee through the GVRD Parks Committee, the Seymour Advisory Committee was created through the Commissioner, and were not directly accountable for providing information to the GVRD’s publically elected representatives on the Water Committee.

The Terms of Reference for the (Seymour) Advisory Committee has never been formally approved by the Board. Therefore, the attached terms of reference are presented for Committee and Board approval. Consistent with other Advisory Committees established, it is intended that it will report to the Water Committee rather than the Regional Manager previously. (Draft, from Manager of Communications and Education, to the Water Committee, Feb./Mar. 1993.)

Why the Commissioner chose not to involve the Water Committee in this matter no doubt reflected the sensitive nature of the Water District’s internal directives. Water District correspondence, reports, and minutes reveal that Commissioner MacKay strongly advocated the sustained yield logging program in the Greater Vancouver watersheds, and was not supportive of disrupting the logging and graveling operations in the Lower Seymour. In the event that external funding for the Seymour Demonstration Forest programs might not be forthcoming, MacKay recommended to the Water Committee on November 13, 1986, that “the Water District continue to secure the Lower Seymour to protect only its own Forestry interests”. The park proposal was not to be tolerated.

The inaugural meeting of the Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee ¹ was held on October 31, 1985. Present at this Halloween day meeting were: Mike Apsey, a former deputy minister of forests, and then president of the Council of Forest Industries; Bill Young, former chief forester with the province and then president of the B.C. Forestry Association; Frank Pendl, representing both the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters and the B.C. Ministry of Forests; Don Munro, with the U.B.C. faculty of Forestry, and director of the U.B.C. Research Forest north of Haney; Dr. Doug Lacate, with the Canadian Forest Service; Eric Crossin from B.C.I.T.; forestry consultant Peter Sanders, and second in command at the U.B.C. Research Forest; forestry consultant David Bakewell; GVRD Regional Manager Doug MacKay; Water District watershed management staff; and GVRD Parks staff. Frank Pendl moved to nominate Bill Young as chairman of the committee, and Mike Apsey moved that nominations for the position of chairman be closed.

Prior to their maiden meeting, the Water District had contracted the services of two forestry consultants to provide reports to both legitimize the newly formed committee and to direct the future use of the Lower Seymour. David Bakewell, the former long standing vice president of the C.D.

¹ Renamed as the Lower Seymour Advisory Committee, and then later as the Seymour Advisory Committee (SAC). The committee was privately referred to for several years by the first chairman as the “Public Advisory Committee”. In a later document submitted by the Seymour Advisory Committee on September 14, 1989, called *The Seymour Demonstration Forest “A Vision”*, it stated that when the Advisory Committee was formed it was “broad-based” and “consisted of respected persons in the community who, in one way or another, had an interest in the SDF”. The “Vision” report went on to boast that “through meaningful public involvement input (i.e., SDF Advisory Committee) plans will be developed, approved and implemented....”

Schultz Co., and one of the principals of the 1956 Schultz Co. proposal to begin logging in the Greater Vancouver watersheds, provided an executive summary report to the committee from a much longer document entitled “Demonstration Watershed in the Lower Seymour Valley” (September 20, 1985):

If any part of the Lower Seymour Valley is alienated or designated for a single purpose use, such as recreation, the chances of the Water Board ever retrieving the site in the future for its original and principal purposes are remote. Accordingly, the integrity of the Lower Seymour Valley is best served by establishing a multi-resource Demonstration Watershed. (Page 4)

Peter Sanders, assistant director of the U.B.C. Research Forest, presented a report “Proposal for the Development of Forest Cover in the Lower Seymour Public Use Area”. Sanders had devised a plan to divide the Lower Seymour into ten divisions, each “demonstrating” a separate degree and intensity of forestry. Both reports ushered the concept of a “demonstration forest”.

Modern day North American “Demonstration Forests” were originally promoted in the United States. Some of the more urban Canadian “show” sites, such as the Lower Seymour, the largest in B.C., and esteemed by some of its promoters as the world’s premier demonstration forest, rarely reflect conventional logging practices:

In its five year history, the Seymour Demonstration Forest has become the premier demonstration forest in the Province of B.C., and has become an internationally renown model for demonstration forest management. (Draft agenda item for Feb./Mar. 1993 Water Committee meeting, from chief engineer John Morse.)

Imagine the Seymour watershed, as most other land based operations, with old and more recent logging roads straddling across the mountain slopes, interspersed with older and more recent landslides, with scoured boulder bare creeks and streams, surrounded by legions of dense even aged plantations. This is the British Columbian vernacular of forest company executives and their chief foresters. This is also a non-exaggerated description of the Sunshine Coast Regional District’s source of water supply, the Chapman Creek watershed. Protection of community watershed water supplies does not exactly fit the Seymour Demonstration Forest model.

Water District Commissioner Doug MacKay gave the opening presentation on October 31, 1985. According to a transcript of the meeting, he briefly and selectively described why the lands in the Lower Seymour were bought from private owners, elaborated on the Water District’s plans to build a lower dam at the mouth of the canyon, and formulated his opinion on why Greater Vancouver residents needed a demonstration forest, and not a dedicated park:

... the Lower Seymour dam site will probably not be developed if at all for many many years. We are talking 40, 50, 60 years. If it is developed our perception is that under the conditions that prevail now and will undoubtedly prevail in the future, it would be most unlikely that the dam/reservoir could be developed as a closed watershed. And with that determination we came to the conclusion that the Lower Seymour Valley ... should be opened up for other public uses.... And they include recreation, some urban development, they include potential for water supply, include resources that are here in the way of wood and gravel.

... through the Regional Parks department we have had studies done on Recreation Potential and other things that could be done in the nature of park development. However, our belief is that the public’s interest would best be served by making a totally integrated use of the valley. And we see the values there to the public, in not only having access to the area for recreation or

whatever, but also an enhancement of the understanding of what the Water District is doing as far as Watershed Management is concerned.

... the industry and I say that in its broadest terms, including the companies, the professions, the work force, the educational facilities, the Industries interest could be served by the development for public observation, public use of an integrated management plan. And I think it is pretty obvious from what is going on in this Province now that those lands conflicts are not going to be resolved in any way that results in single purpose use of the public lands.... To look at the Industry, the public interest, we have asked the Advisory Committee to be formed and to work with us on the development of the concepts that would serve our interests, your interests, and more importantly the total public interest. We recognize that the Committee membership is pretty awesome in the talent and availability that is being made to us and we intend to do everything possible to milk that talent....

And you will notice from the Committee Membership that we may have made a mistake in that we have a single purpose, and we have not involved perhaps who should be involved. That is some other parts of the public, in reference to recreation and other uses. These memberships are not in the Committee now.

At the end of the inaugural Halloween meeting, Chairman Young dictated the future process to Regional Parks Director Rick Hankin, in the presence of the Water District Commissioner, regarding exactly who would be in charge of deciding the future use of the Lower Seymour. After Hankin's presentation, wherein he mentioned the Lynn/Seymour Recreation Committee's concerns "about the landscape", that "they don't want to see it destroyed," and that "more can be done without destroying the other interests":

Bill Young pointed out that if there was already a Recreational Advisory Committee in existence there was a possibility of conflict between the two groups.... Mr. Hankin stated that the Recreation Advisory Committee was set up before the Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee. **Mr. Young replied that this should be the sole Advisory Committee, but maybe the Recreation Advisory Committee** could be a sub-committee of this group, or that someone from that committee could sit on this committee. A general discussion ended in the recommendation to invite Brian White of the Recreation Advisory Committee and Robin Draper of the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. to sit on the Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee. Bill Young then stated that this nicely balanced the committee, with one exception, and asked if one member from the Association of Professional Biologists should be invited to sit on the committee. Then we would have all areas covered - forest industry, academic, recreation and professional. (GVRD Transcript of October 31, 1985 meeting)

Through the consent and direction of Water District Commissioner Doug MacKay, the Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee was manufactured to maintain a logging agenda in response to the GVRD Parks Advisory Committee. A park proposal would eliminate the Water District's allowable annual cut for the Lower Seymour area (1986 estimation of 26,00 cubic meters, and 900 cubic meters for the Rice Lake Covenant lands), and the direct possibility that it could threaten the movement of logging trucks from the upper Seymour watershed through a newly created park area, as many would observe and be bothered by the traffic:

How are we going to maintain a safe public facility when we are hauling up to thirty loads of logs per day along the Seymour Mainline or Spur 4? (Quote from Derek Bonin, professional forester, watershed management division, in Master Plan for Interpretation and Education in the Seymour Demonstration Forest, page D9.)

To counteract the park proposal, the Water District created its own advisory body, under the guise of what the committee would later politically refer to itself as “public input”. This advisory body, as a distinctly separate process, would initially parallel and then redirect the mandate of the Lynn/Seymour Recreation Advisory Committee. As a result, the Demonstration Committee created, understandably, friction with both the GVRD Parks department and the Recreation Committee. This was turf war.

The Recreation Committee and the Parks department had been snubbed, and members were correct in sensing that the process for park protection in the Lynn watershed was worlds apart from an otherwise dominating situation in the Lower Seymour because of the Water District. Road blocks were everywhere. Outnumbered by both the logging fraternity and the solicited members who embraced the concept of the Demonstration Forest, the sole Recreation Advisory Committee representative on the Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee ended up diplomatically capitulating to the stakeholder majority philosophy. In contrast to later concerned efforts by public organizations and individuals, there were no open and engaging criticisms of both the Lower Seymour Advisory Committee and the Water District, merely occasional diplomatic summaries:

The Preliminary Submission by GVRD Parks (Sept. 1985) “Recreation Component of the Seymour Forest Recreation Area”, and the summarizing statement on Lower Seymour Management Issues generally reflects the thinking of the Recreation Advisory Committee, based on discussions at our regular monthly meetings over the past two years.

The committee foresees a wide range of potential activities within the Lower Seymour. The stated GVRD parks objective of providing “a quality recreation experience for a diversity of interests in harmony with the environment and GVWD requirements...” is endorsed and supported.

We believe the forest resource must be carefully evaluated for its recreation, cultural, and tourism potential. The Demonstration Forest should be evaluated in terms of its productivity for values beyond cash returns for logging, and management for healthy productive timber stands. (‘Recreation Advisory Committee Position on Recreation for the Seymour Demonstration Forest’, by Brian White, Recreation Advisory Committee chair, February, 1986.)

Bill Young remained chairman of the Seymour Advisory Committee for two years. He was succeeded by fellow B.C. Forestry Association representative Bob Cavill from late 1987 until late 1991, who, as of May 1993, is the salaried manager of the GVRD’s watershed management division. Mr. Cavill introduced and was succeeded by Don Lanskaill in early 1992, a former president of the Council of Forest Industries and mayor of West Vancouver, recently deceased. As of June 1997, Peter Ackhurst,²

² On May 21, 1992, as a Seymour Advisory Committee member, it was announced that Peter Ackhurst, employed at that time with the Ministry of Forests, would be given a plaque just before his three year departure for consulting work in Malaysia, “to show appreciation for his support of the SDF”. Peter Ackhurst presently employed with Simons Reid Collins, formerly called Reid Collins and Associates Ltd., a prominent forestry consulting firm, which had previously been contracted for numerous services by the GVRD’s watershed management division. For instance, Reid Collins prepared forest cover maps of the Greater Vancouver watersheds. In 1987, according to Advisory Committee minutes, Reid Collins provided a \$3,800 contribution to the Seymour Demonstration Forest operations, the very same year that Reid Collins and Pannell Kerr Forster

a forest industry consultant and former Ministry of Forests Director of the provincial silvicultural program, was appointed as chair.

Prior to the 1960's, the Water District was clearly not in the logging business, as their explicit mandate was to protect the watersheds from commercial logging. After the provincial government's March 1967 Order-In-Council, which revised the original 1927 lease agreement, to permit the Water District to amalgamate the Crown and private lands in the three watersheds into an operational Tree Farm Licence, the need for staff to manage the logging operations and to hire more staff eventually necessitated the creation of a separate Water District division. The watershed management division, which was funded from logging profits in the watersheds, began to grow and evolve.

The Forestry Staff of five persons is augmented during the summer months by a fire patrol and survey crew of eight persons." "The GVWD Forestry Staff appears too small for maintaining the commendable standards of work undertaken in the Watershed and forest management programs. The requirements for an optimum organization is a necessary part of the above-mentioned review. (*Overview of the Forest Management Practices in the Watersheds of the Greater Vancouver Water District*, by David R. Bakewell, July 1978, pages 9, 11)

Prior to 1978 the profit or loss from the Watershed Management Program was charged to the Water District general revenue. This was not satisfactory in meeting budget commitments because of the unpredictability of the costs and profits or losses of our Watershed Management Program which would impact on water rates. (Water Committee Agenda, April 13, 1989)

The Watershed Management Program is operated as a separate fund, and is not part of the regular Water District operations and therefore does not impact on the water rate. Over the years this program has produced net surpluses which have been set aside in the Reserve for Watershed Management Program Losses which amounted to \$9,124,183 at December 31, 1987. (Water District Annual Report, 1987)

By the mid-1980's the watershed management division had begun to take on a life of its own. The emergence of the Seymour Advisory Committee, and its evolving autonomous authority, with a series of sub-committees, launched the watershed management division into a distinctively new and somewhat shadowy era: public advertising through forestry 'educational' programming.

Logging began in the taxpayers' privately owned GRVD off-catchment lands of the Lower Seymour in 1961 under the pretense of fighting a forest pest, which then spread to a systematic logging program in the three watersheds. A forestry propaganda program was emerging in the Lower Seymour Demonstration Forest, an evolving and coordinated program which was to about to permeate and influence the public about the Greater Vancouver watersheds. The Water District was forming a partnership, an open alliance with the forest industry sector, which would prove to be of enormous brief benefit to the forest industry sector. The industry would exert a great effort to access the attention of the largest concentration of the province's population on an issue that could help to change public policy to accept logging in community water supplies, and, at the same time, influence the Greater Vancouver Regional District staff and the municipal representatives themselves.

On November 10, 1986, Doug MacKay gave his big pitch in support of the Demonstration Forest in a six page report to the Water Committee, a report which was often reinserted for the GVRD's information in the future:

were contracted to provide a report for the GVRD, through funds from the Canada-British Columbia Forest Resource Development Agreement, on the tourism potential in the Demonstration Forest (*Regional Visitation and Tourism Potential of the Seymour Demonstration Forest in North Vancouver, British Columbia*).

The Water District's interest in this project can be simply stated as being to maximize the public benefit of a public asset. More importantly, perhaps, is actual demonstration of the Water District's management practices on its watershed lands, that is to say to show and demonstrate how lands and the forests are managed for the preservation, protection and enhancement of the water supply.... The importance to the District of its watershed management programme and protection of the watersheds cannot be overstated. To actually demonstrate the management of the lands and the forests and to show the public the benefits of these programs and through this demonstration to foster public support, is important to the District.

The Federal and Provincial Governments interest in such a project are related to the demonstration of integrated resource management, the resolution of conflicts resulting from multiple use, education, training and tourism. The industry interests are to demonstrate proper forest management practices and to generally educate the public about the number one industry in British Columbia.

Through the advice and recommendations of Commissioner MacKay, the Water Board passed two resolutions on March 25, 1987, the latter of which adhered to MacKay's January 1986 Terms of Reference:

That the members of the Advisory Committee be thanked for their contribution to the establishment of the Lower Seymour Demonstration Forest;

That the Advisory Committee be asked to continue to function and to provide advice to the Commissioner on the planning of the Demonstration forest.

5. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LOWER SEYMOUR DEMONSTRATION FOREST

During 1986 and 1987 the Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee prepared the way for the establishment of the Lower Seymour Demonstration Forest, through the authority and assistance of Water District Commissioner Doug MacKay. On January 29, 1986, MacKay sent a memo entitled “Purpose & Terms of Reference” on GVRD letterhead to the Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee, in preparation of the Advisory Committee’s meeting on February 6th:

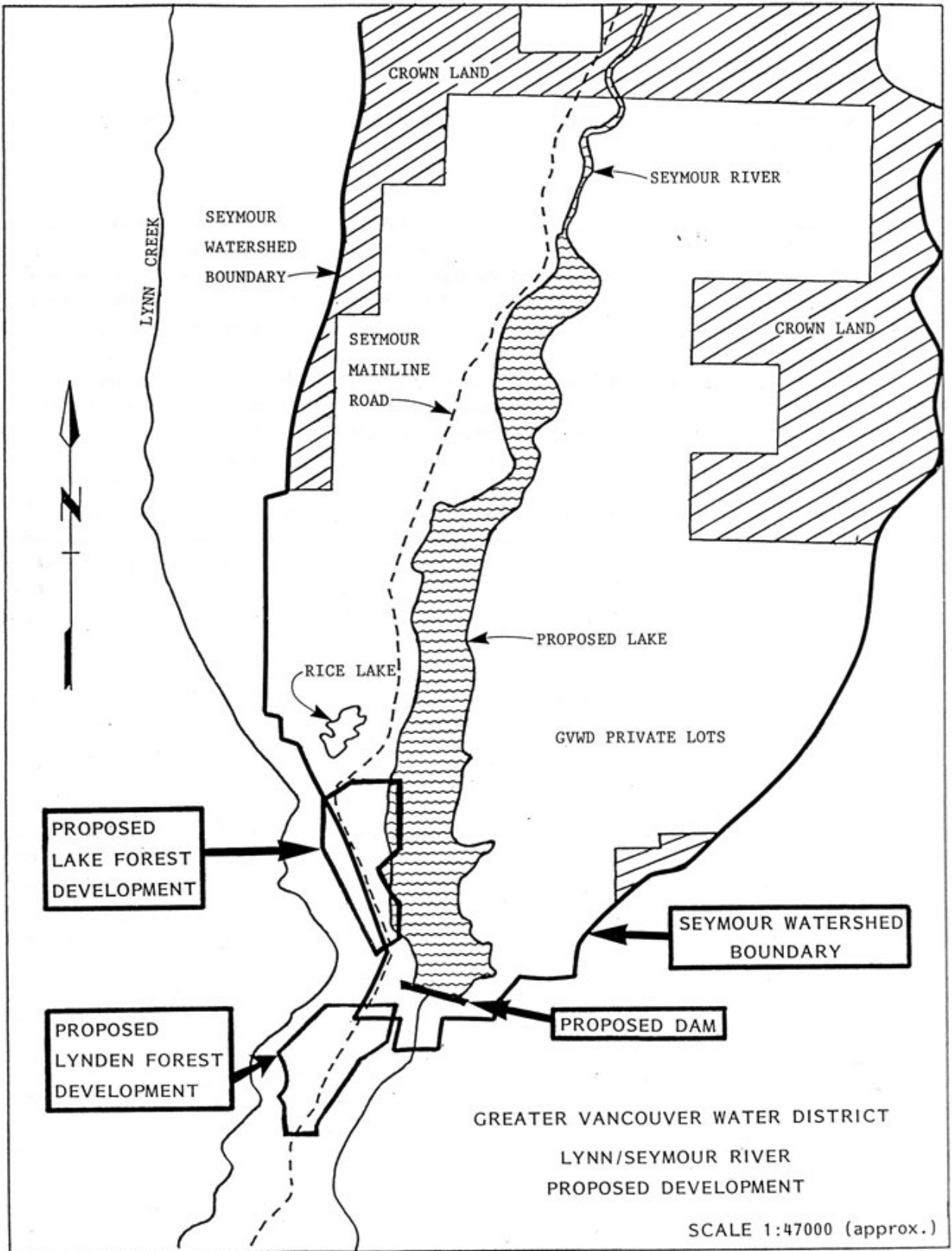
The purpose of the committee is to advise the Commissioner on development and management of a multiple use Demonstration Forest.... In carrying out its work, the committee will receive reports from GVRD staff and others on identified issues setting out options and, where appropriate, costs. From these reports and other information, the committee will recommend on development and management of the multiple use demonstration forest. The target to open the area for public use is the spring of 1987. This requires that the Greater Vancouver Water District Board, on the Commissioner’s recommendation, make a decision or decisions by the end of 1986 and, accordingly, the committee needs to advise the Commissioner on an appropriate plan by October, 1986. If the project proceeds, the committee would continue to overview and recommend on the ongoing operation.

According to the minutes of the February 6th meeting, Water District staff would prepare “an Integrated Plan for the Forest Advisory committee’s discussion and approval and then presentation to D. MacKay.” The Integrated Plan was to become the initial master guiding document for the Demonstration Forest’s concept and operations.

At the February 6th meeting, the representative from the Association of Professional Biologists, Bryan Gates, proposed that the Water District allow hunting, a suggestion which MacKay agreed to: “Possible forms of hunting to include cross-bow, long-bow, shotgun”. There was no clarification from the Commissioner that the proposal was contrary to legislation passed in 1930 through the Game Act, which protected the three watersheds from hunting. Gates’ proposal was never implemented. The aspect of long-term funding for the future Demonstration Forest programs requested members to apply to the Canada - British Columbia Development Agreement “for the enhancement of research, education and forest knowledge to the public on private lands”.

The possibility of real estate development in the southern zone was also entertained by Commissioner MacKay at the same meeting, who qualified that there would be no development “for at least 20 years”. Housing development proposals suddenly appeared three years later, which created enormous public debate and the eventual cancellation of the proposal. ³

³ The reason why the upper proposed Lake Forest Development was canceled was because Paul Hundal, who was actively involved in the issue, had discovered a contractual agreement which stipulated that the area was dedicated for park purposes. In late 1950 and early 1951, E. A. Cleveland had corresponded with the District of North Vancouver over transfer of lands within the Water District’s Lower Seymour area, reminding the District that “this parcel will not be re-subdivided but will be set aside by the District of North Vancouver for park purposes” (January 23, 1951). When these documents were presented to the hearings on the proposed developments they challenged the District’s position, prompting the proposals to be canceled.



REFERENCE DRAWING WG-612

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At the following meeting, on June 6, 1986, Bjarne Mjaaland, the chief forester for the Oslo municipal forest in Norway, was invited to present information on their forest management to reinforce other similar concepts for the Committee. On the follow up suggestion from the previous meeting, D. Ross McDonald from the Canadian Forestry Service attended. He stated that the:

Demonstration Forest close to a large population centre is a fantastic opportunity (unique across Canada). This is an opportunity to use Direct delivery funding from the Forest Service Resource Development Region....

The Committee agreed that the primary objective was to “develop the use of the Lower Seymour Watershed as a means to further public appreciation and education in integrated resource management and use.”

Among many of the immediate strategic plans which the Seymour Advisory Committee streamlined, included was the extinguishment proposal of an important section in the 1983 land transfer agreement with the City of North Vancouver regarding the three District Lots in the vicinity of Rice Lake, known as the Rice Lake Covenant. This was the only immediate land entitlement conflict in the Lower Seymour watershed. According to minutes of the August 15, 1986 Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee meeting, in “Discussion Paper #1”, Water District staff recommended that “these lands be included and managed under the terms and conditions of the Amending Indenture to ensure and protect the long-term interests of the GVWD and to allow for future Demonstration Forest developments.” In other words, the 1983 legal agreement, which specifically stipulated that the transferred lands near Rice Lake be used as a public park, and that “the Lands will not be used for logging operations except for the passage over the said road of log-hauling vehicles”, was to be dismissed by Water District staff through an advisory body which reported directly to Commissioner MacKay, in order to amalgamate those lands for logging purposes. The Demonstration Advisory Committee’s Discussion Paper stated that the agreement contained a “severability clause” and implied that the covenants and agreements in the 1983 contract were “invalid or unenforceable at law”. The proposal to axe the Rice Lake Covenant was then included in a report published in September 1986, “Lower Seymour Demonstration Forest Integrated Plan”:

According to Clause 4 of the Amending Indenture, lands covered by the Rice Lake Covenant should be included in the present Watershed-Forest Management Plans to ensure and protect the long-term interest of the Greater Vancouver Water District. (Page 11)

Existing leases and use agreements with GVWD should be reviewed and incompatible uses terminated. Compatible uses may have to be relocated to compliment the Demonstration Forest objectives, development plans and development priorities. (Page 32)

The September 1986 Integrated Plan, which was the first formal document for the Demonstration Forest concept, was co-compiled by Gordon Smith of the Parks Department and Gordon Joyce, a professional forester with the Water District’s forest management division (currently employed with the Victoria Water District). It is difficult to understand how the Parks Department would have consented to terminating the protective land clause in the Rice Lake Covenant. The Rice Lake Covenant was, according to a recent conversation with the Seymour Demonstration Forest Project Coordinator Laurie Fretz, never altered.

The 1986 Integrated Plan provided two primary concepts: forest management “educational and interpretive programs”, which would “increase awareness, knowledge and appreciation for the richness, values and benefits of the west coast environment”; and “recreational opportunity”. The concepts were summarized as follows:

The Lower Seymour Valley offers a unique combination of water supply and forestry on a sustained yield basis. These are key elements for an educational feature to further public awareness and appreciation of integrated resource management. As well, the proximity of the study area to the major population center in the province and the lack of a similar facility with equivalent accessibility, increases the importance and potential benefits.

Therefore, education and interpretive programs should be the primary objective for opening the Lower Seymour to the public.

The management of existing resources needs only slight modifications to accomplish this primary objective. Recreation should be resource-based and provide a user-awareness experience that compliments the primary objective. **Recreation activities should not duplicate what already exists on the North Shore.** Access and use of the area should be managed to further the realization of the Demonstration Forest management objectives and **convey that the Lower Seymour is a special place.**

It is therefore concluded that a Demonstration Forest, with an educational and interpretive emphasis, can best integrate the management and multiple use of this unique area. (Page 28)

Concurrent with the two objectives for ‘public’ logging education and recreation, the Lower Seymour watershed was, nevertheless, still subject to an allowable annual cut and a forest management and working plan. In this respect, the September 1986 Integrated Plan report discussed producing a map to show all of the proposed logging plans for the next 20 years. The internal dilemma which the Water District and the Seymour Advisory Committee faced was to continue implementing sustained yield logging for the Lower Seymour in the face of possible public reaction to logging in an area reserved for water supply purposes - a very sensitive matter.

The Water District had been in the logging business since 1961 and, as this was the first time in sixty years that the public were to be granted access to the Lower Seymour’s off-catchment lands, the Water District’s logging operations would be subject to scrutiny. The forest industry understood this as well, and it was an unusual opportunity for them to help invest in forming public opinion with the Water District in an area adjacent to half of B.C.’s population, about an issue which had provincial implications. As it turned out, very little logging occurred, much to the later chagrin of the Seymour Advisory Committee.

The critical component for the organized operation of the Demonstration Forest, as envisioned by its proponents, was funding. Without it the Water District and the Advisory Committee were dead in the water. According to Commissioner MacKay’s report to the Water Committee on November 10, 1986, projected costs for the first five years of operation (1987-1991) were at \$2,707,250, and that financial contributions “should be a shared cost program”. In September of 1989, the Seymour Advisory Committee forecast another five year overview (1990-1994), with total capital and operations expenditures at **\$4,196,000**, an increase of almost 50%.

The Water District promised to secure annual contributions out of the interest from their watershed logging reserve fund (see Appendix E) which, by March 1987, had accumulated from the 1960's to almost eight million dollars:

The watershed management program has developed a surplus of \$7,500,633 from timber sales and in light of the fact that the Demonstration Forest will enhance the District's entire Forest Management program, it would be reasonable to charge any direct costs to this reserve. (March 5, 1987 Water Committee report from Commissioner MacKay)

That the District fund the Demonstration Forest up to an amount of \$285,000 for 1987 to be taken from the interest on the watershed management reserve fund and that the aggressive program to secure outside funding continue. (Greater Vancouver Water District Administration Board Resolution Form, April 15, 1987)

The prominent members from the forest industry and the Ministry of Forests, who had influential associations with provincial and federal government agencies, helped to secure some of the annual external funding for the Demonstration Forest's operational programs. For instance, the Council of Forest Industries provided matching contributions with the provincial Ministry of Forests for many years (Appendix E). According to correspondence from the Ministry of Forests Vancouver Forest Region's Regional Manager, dated October 25, 1994, the Ministry of Forests had been contributing \$100,000 "annually in support of the development of forest resource interpretation sites, signage, recreation infrastructure development and maintenance, volunteer training and the forest education program". Other representatives, such as those affiliated with the Outdoor Recreation Council, and the B.C. Federation of Mountain Clubs, also had their credentials as organizations to attract the attention of federal government coffers.

On February 5, 1992, the Council of Forest Industries representatives Linda Coss and Tony Shebbeare, in their continuing effort to build upon and increase the forestry educational funding component, proposed forming a non-profit society, called the Seymour Demonstration Forest Society. The purposes of the society were two-fold:

1. To assist the Demonstration Forest to apply for funds from Foundations, such as the Vancouver Foundation, which require a non-profit society status of those applying for funds.
2. To enable the selling of memberships in the Society so that the public can show their support of the Demonstration Forest. GVRD's lawyers would be requested to make an application under the B.C. Societies Act to register the "Seymour Demonstration Forest Society" as a non-profit society.

Recommendations. 1. Apply for non-profit society status with the purpose of assisting the solicitation of funds from Foundations. 2. Define the society as the existing structure of the Seymour Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee and its sub-committees. 3. Do not proceed with the concept of a broader public membership in the society at this time. That issue and its implications should be addressed once some experience has been gained with the operation of the Society on the basis outlined in recommendations 1 & 2. (Seymour Advisory Committee minutes, February 5, 1992)

Towards the end of 1993 the GVRD's lawyers revealed that the Advisory Committee was unable to apply for the non-profit status, but the other possibility was that Revenue Canada might allow them to apply for tax exemption status.

6. THE MASTER PLAN: THE GREATER VANCOUVER EXPERIMENT

From the available and abundant documented sources, there is little doubt that the prime motivation for the forest industry sector in the creation and evolution of the Demonstration Forest was in public relations through “education”. There was, of course, an overlap of this agenda with the Water District’s forestry division, but the District was initially more interested in protecting and maintaining its fibre flow, its profit margins from logging the watershed forests (Reserve fund \$9,124,183, December 31, 1987). The Water District Administration had become deeply entrenched in forestry, and now, conscious of public perception, it wanted the public to accept its addiction. Through invitation, the forest industry sector helped to push them right over the edge. Doug MacKay had given birth to the Seymour Advisory Committee through his discretionary powers, granting them the green light to begin their educational programming:

The Advisory Committee will assist the Regional District in the development of policy, goals and objectives and strategies from which the Seymour Demonstration Forest will develop, operate and program. (Water Committee report, March 10, 1988)

The first report to influence the future direction of the educational agenda was called “Regional Visitation and Tourism Potential of the Seymour Demonstration Forest in North America”. It was produced by Pannell, Kerr, Forster, and Reid Collins and Associates in July 1987, funding provided by federal money. This document was perhaps responsible for a later summary report by the Water District to the Water Committee on March 10, 1988:

Education and Interpretation programming is the focus of the Seymour Demonstration Forest. With assistance from the Seymour Public Advisory Committee and related public working groups the following education and interpretive objects have been identified:

- (a) Develop a long range Education and Interpretation Plan, establishing the foundation from which all programs will emanate.
- (b) Complete five interpretive panels highlighting specific forest management activities in the Rice Lake Area.
- (c) Conduct a number of guided tours targeting school children, community groups, technical and professional associations and classes, the general public and the business sector.
- (d) Develop and provide educational materials to user groups.
- (g) Regional District staff will continue to participate in public committees, establishing contacts and seeking advice and assistance from such groups.
- (h) Participate in conventions and other display opportunities.
- (i) Undertake a special event during National Forest Week highlighting the theme “A Shared Resource.”

In summary 1988 is shaping up to be a very exciting year. With up to 100,000 visitors expected, continuation of a development program and establishment of the education-interpretation foundation the Seymour Demonstration Forest will be well on its way to meeting its goals.

After these ‘goals’ were presented to the Water Committee, the Seymour Advisory Committee regrouped and contracted M.J. Hadley & Associates and BUFO who produced the “Master Plan for Interpretation and Education in the Seymour Demonstration Forest” in August 1989. As suggested by the title, the report identified a variety of matters, from the “natural” features of the Lower Seymour

and the incorporation of interpretive trails and signage, to publishing pamphlets, guides and videos for schools and the public, activities, programs, visitor statistics, producing public questionnaires, polling, themes, a “learning” house (they later named a building donated by the film industry the “Learning Lodge”), forestry information, recreation, special events, constructing trails, etc.:

The primary objective for the Seymour Demonstration Forest ... Master Plan is to provide direction regarding the development of the Lower Seymour Valley to further the public awareness and understanding of integrated resource management. (Page 4)

Since the Seymour Demonstration will serve a variety of audiences - from casual visitors to school children, natural resource professionals, scientists and academics - it must provide a range of visitor experiences and employ many different communication techniques.... Most people visited the area for casual recreation, seeking an outing in a serene and scenic area. The idea of a Demonstration forest was not necessarily a drawing card.... (Page 8)

One of the ironies in the Master Plan report is that it described the creation of the Rice Lake interpretive trail “to provide recreational visitors with information about integrated resource management” (page 10):

Rice Lake: ... harvesting of some trees with subsequent site preparation and planting... trees marked for productivity research; thinning of some areas. (Page 18)

The Rice Lake Covenant stated that the areas in the agreement were for park purposes, so it should be pointed out that the spirit of the agreement was not being observed here. But the report got one thing right, even though it did not go far enough to contextualize the following comment:

Forestry is a high-profile and sometimes controversial subject in British Columbia. Controversy will doubtless be present in the Seymour Demonstration Forest. (Page 22)

Logging is especially controversial in lands which are to be reserved for water supply purposes, which was why the Lower Seymour lands were originally bought, controlled, and protected. The controversy is actually about why logging began and continued from the 1960's, and the rare old growth assets which we have lost as a result.

The two reports both led to the entrenchment of the Seymour Advisory Committee's Sub-Committee on Education (approved in the Spring of 1990) and the distillation of information into the communities and school systems of Greater Vancouver. All this was the result of funding from the Water District's reserve funds and the many government and forest industry sponsors (see Appendix E). According to the minutes of the September 28, 1991 Education Sub-Committee meeting, for instance, the proposed five year budget (1992-1996) for educational items was \$1,706,473, which included a projected staffing budget of \$713,399.

In 1989 pro-logging advocate Council of Forest Industries representative Linda Coss chaired the Education Sub-Committee, and in other years as well. In 1989 Abbie Milavsky became actively involved in the educational programs with the Seymour Advisory Committee, and managed to land a number of contracts with the GVRD, and has been referred to as a GVRD liaison person. She was also featured in an undated newspaper article toward the end of 1991 (“A Stand on Trees”), which provided a general profile of her involvements:

Resource consultant Abbie Milavsky wears three hats these days. As well as running her own New West-based business specializing in forestry communications and education, Milavsky is a director of an organization called Women in Timber and a member of the Citizens' Advisory Board for the B.C. Forest Alliance.... Milavsky believes much of the conflict over land use stems from the public's lack of understanding of forest resource management.... Her major clients include the Greater Vancouver Regional District and the Seymour Demonstration Forest.

Between the years of 1989 to 1992, Linda Coss and Abbie Milavsky worked together in an intensive manner on the educational agenda, which included a variety of public activities, seminars, and informational materials.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress of the public education program in the Seymour Demonstration Forest since the initial \$12,000 contribution from the Council of Forest Industries in May, 1989." "We have been working very closely with the Women in Timber organization to coordinate volunteers for assistance with the school programs." "We have been offering free public guided walks on Sundays in the Demonstration Forest since June 18, 1989." "... we actively advertised a fall school program.... Eleven hundred students from twenty nine schools around the Lower Mainland will be participating in an integrated resource management education program in the Seymour Demonstration Forest. We currently have thirty schools on a waiting list and we are still receiving calls daily." "All the information on programs and program participants is enclosed in tabular form for your reference. At the completion of the fall program I will be preparing a detailed report on the activities since May 1989. The report will include suggestions and recommendations for future education programs and funding requirements. It is very rewarding to be involved in the initial phase of the educational component of the Seymour Demonstration Forest. (Abbie Milavsky, Forest and Environment Consultant, letter to Mike Apsy, president and ceo, Council of Forest Industries, September 21, 1989.)

Milavsky, who is still a director with the Forest Alliance of B.C., prepared two drafts of the "Seymour Demonstration Forest Handbook - A Teacher's Guide" on December 8, 1990, and on February 11, 1991. In the first draft was an outline for a children's Seymour Demonstration Forest board game:

#10. The Seymour Dam is a large concrete structure that stores water (which has been collected through rainfall, snowmelt, streams, creeks and rivers). This water is used in our homes for drinking, bathing, washing and many other uses. We must manage our forests so they can provide fresh, clean water.

Should we be teaching children that logging roads and clearcutting in our mountainous watersheds provide "fresh, clean water"? Some of the contents in her second draft were quite disturbing, given the fact that this was information being prepared for elementary school students. The first is an animal story intended for grades 2 to 5, and takes place in the Demonstration Forest. Tim the black bear wakes up from his hibernation, works his way through the forest and meets up with Daphne the deer and Brare the rabbit. After the material benefits from logging in the Lower Seymour are discussed, why we must log to protect the forest from disease and insects which can destroy a forest, and why the young forest must be commercially thinned, they meet up with Bluebell, the blue grouse:

Bluebell was a blue grouse.... She was a very wise bird and knew this [demonstration] forest well for her family had lived here for generations and many stories were passed down to her....

And did you tell him (Tim bear) why man has been managing this forest? Ah ... no, answered Tim bear.

Not really, answered Brare .

For tree products! answered Daphne.

Not really Daphne, replied Bluebell.

Daphne frowned in puzzlement.

They manage this forest for drinking water to supply the people of the city.

I don't understand? said Tim.

Doesn't make sense? blurted Brare.

I thought it was for tree products, exclaimed Daphne.

Yes, people do get tree products from some of these trees, Daphne, and many other forests are managed for that reason. But this forest is managed specifically for drinking water. If they didn't manage this forest, many trees could die from forest fires and disease which would spread and damage a large part of the watershed, and this would affect the drinking water.

... I still don't get it, said Tim bear. Why don't they just put out the fire or kill the disease whenever it strikes the watershed instead of doing all this stuff before it even happens?

Well they could do it that way Tim, but it's not that simple.... I guess the best comparison would be us animals. Younger animals get different diseases than older animals, right?

Right, they all answered.

Well, let's say for instance that Tim bear and all his relatives were old. There weren't any young bears at all. One of you got a bad disease, say the 'purple virus', and it spread to you and your other relatives and all the bears died. There weren't any young bears to survive the virus.... Now do you understand that it is necessary to have different ages and types of trees, as well as animals?

They were all so happy that they understood Bluebell that they invited her to go along on the walk with them.

Milavsky was inspired from the "Master Plan" report which suggested developing a story to create an impression with the experience of the participant during the tour, which included the development of a story from animals in the forest:

The development of a storyline is extremely important to the planning of interpretation and educational programs. Signing a few treatment blocks or developing a self-guiding trail that leads people through different forestry operations is not sufficient communication to ensure an understanding and appreciation of what resource management is all about. Understanding does not follow directly from show and tell. To capture public interest and develop public awareness, it is important to place each communication into the context of the larger picture of integrated resource management and into a framework that each audience can understand. In the Seymour, the overall theme is integrated resource management, comprised of specific resource themes. Within each of these, there are a number of stories and messages. In a taxonomic sense the themes are the "families" and the stories are the "species".... For example, a major theme in the Seymour is timber management. Specifically, that the trees in the watershed are valuable both commercially and as a crucial component of other resource's needs. Wildlife.... Effects of practices such as clearcut and selective logging on wildlife, vary with the species. Deer and black bears may benefit from logging, as may blue grouse and a variety of other bird species. However, spotted owl, pileated woodpecker, etc. may suffer if the mature forest is removed. (Pages 23, 24, 27)

It is interesting to note that the animals which Milavsky chose in her story just happen to match the very animals identified in the Master Plan report that “may benefit from logging”, and not the others which do not.

Part of Milavsky’s animal farm story quoted above was actually told to children during a scheduled tour with elementary school children in grades two to three in about 1992. The school and teacher were contacted and the field trip to the Demonstration Forest was arranged well in advance. The teacher carefully prepared the students for three weeks before the tour, because the philosophy of the school incorporated a technique to provide children with good creative skills - the children were prepared so that they might ask a lot of questions. A number of the children’s parents also came along on the tour, simply because their kids were excited and they wanted to experience what their children were learning. The school children, the teacher, and parents suddenly became quite upset when the tour guide would not tolerate any more questions from the children. The tour guide sternly told the children that they should not interrupt her any more, and that they all had to be quiet and listen to her alone. In the tour guide’s monologue she repeated the account in the story mentioned above, that older trees need to be cut because they were all the same age and had a disease, and just imagine if everyone was the same age in your family! At this point the children became quite worried about their families and started to ask a lot of questions.

6 - Friday, September 2, 1994 - North Shore News

INSIGHTS



The tour guide wanted to control the children's interpretation of the managed forest they were visiting by not allowing them to ask rehearsed and spontaneous questions, because the questions were not leading to the forestry message to be imparted to the children, a matter which upset the teacher and the parents. I am not suggesting that all the tours in the Seymour Demonstration Forest are like the one mentioned above, but this is simply a professional teacher's account of one of the tours. If this is in fact even a partial reflection of the emphasis on some of the tours, as indicated in Milavsky's draft story above, then it appears to be more of an advertising business than a creative, intelligent, informative, and neutrally conducted program for the students in our schools. And these tours, and all the attending information, have the financial support from the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

The following is a segment from another Milavsky excerpt, a very bad two page "rap-rhyme" story intended for students through grades 5-8 (the emphasized bold words are supposed to rhyme):

First there is a **plan**, a five-year **plan**. And they have to do **this** before they **harvest**. They look at some **maps** and say "lets **rap**" as they go into the **woods**, to check out if they **should**, log this piece of **land** according to their **plan**. "Let's take out this these **trees**, they're full of **disease**," exclaims the forestry **man** who is making up the **plan**. And involved in the **plan** is a fisheries **man**, who checks the **situation** of the fish **habitation**. And the public has a **say**, if it should be done this **way**. Since the public owns the **land**, they must take part in the **plan**. And all is made sure there is no **strife** with **wildlife**, because everyone must **share** every single **hectare**. And the final step is **not** till eighty or **one hundred** (years) when they may want the **situation** of another **rotation**. Then they would harvest the **land** with a newly made **plan** and the cycle would start all over **again**.

The forest industry sector has been very keen on developing forestry education programming in elementary and secondary schools in British Columbia for decades. Jack Munro, the previous president of the IWA, and current chair of the B.C. Forest Alliance (which is the brainchild of the international public relations corporation, Burson Marsteller) sent copies of the following letter to all Seymour Advisory Committee members on September 29, 1995:

The B.C. Forest Education Coordinating Committee was recently formed by representatives of the forest education sector. The group includes industry, associations, educators and others. The Forest Alliance of British Columbia was asked to act as secretariat for this new organization. Participants attending the October 11th founding session established a committee to compile a list of forest education programs in B.C., and act as a central resource centre via the Forest Alliance. We will provide information to teachers and educators on programs, resources and tours that are available in their area of interest.

More recently has been the expansion of Forest Education B.C., and their newsletter "Landscapes", a forest industry based organization which was spawned from the B.C. Forestry Association. Another organization developed in late 1995 called B.C. Forest Educators (BCFE), which has a newsletter "Branching Out". Common names with these forestry education organizations are Linda Coss and Abbie Milavsky, who were active in the Seymour Advisory's Education Sub-Committee. Anne Bishop, who is the Forest Education Coordinator for Canadian Forest Products and the 1995 chair of BCFE, attended the last Seymour Advisory Education Sub-Committee meeting on August 20, 1997:

It appears that the Education Program is being utilized mostly by elementary grade level users and that the objective is to encourage more secondary school age involvement in the Program. There was some interest by committee members regarding the possible expansion of the GVRD website to accommodate more up-to-date information about the Education Program. Laurie

Fretz has been looking into the cost. It was suggested that students participating in the Education Program may be able to assist in the website update. (Education Sub-Committee minutes, Aug. 20, 1997)



A4 - July 4/96.

DISCOVER YOUR FOREST

*Summer programs and
tours in the Seymour
Demonstration Forest*

Located at the north end of Lillooet Road in North Vancouver, the Seymour Demonstration Forest is a dynamic living exhibit of environmentally sound resource management. The following programs and tours allow you to learn some of nature's most fascinating secrets as you experience the beauty of the forest.

Our Forest the Provider/Sat., Aug. 17
A first-hand look at past and present uses of trees and other forest plants, including a taste of some delicious edible-wilds. For adults and children over 8 years. Registration required one week in advance. \$10 per person.

The Hemlock Zone/Sat., July 20 & Aug. 24
Learn more about the plants, animals and other features which make up this diverse and unique ecosystem. This is an adult-level program, but children are also welcome. Register one week in advance. \$7 per person.

Lost in the Woods/Fri., July 12 & Sept. 13
An opportunity for children 4-10 years of age to learn wilderness survival skills with an adult escort. Advance registration required. \$8 per child (adults free).

Sunday Bus Tours/July 7 to Oct. 6
A scenic 22-km bus tour plus a walk that takes in forest management areas, Seymour Hatchery, old growth forest and the Seymour River. Advance registration recommended.

Register Now!
Be sure there's space for you on these enjoyable, informative forest exploration outings. To register - or for more information - phone **987-1273.**

 Greater Vancouver Regional District

Web site address: <http://www.gvrd.bc.ca>

38708

Another member of the BC Forest Educators is Dwight Yochim, who represents the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters (ABC PF). Yochim had worked with the Water District as one of their foresters, and left to work at the ABC PF, as did Dan Jepsen. And, interestingly enough, the Editor of “Branching Out” is Dan Jepsen, the former superintendent of forestry of the Greater Vancouver Watershed Management Division, and former Project Manager of the Seymour Demonstration Forest. Jepsen left the Water District in late 1991 to work for the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters, where he was involved in organizing other demonstration forests in the world (he received a telephone call from the Tasmanian demonstration forest organizer when I interviewed him in 1992), and in editing their bi-monthly issue of FORUM. In the July/August 1994 issue of Forum was a profile of Linda Coss, who taught the UBC summer course Education 411 on forestry through the Department of Curriculum Studies: “The course included field trips to the Seymour Demonstration Forest....” In the same issue was an update of the Greater Vancouver watersheds, written by Derek Bonin, the superintendent of the Water District’s forestry Division:

The public have been participating in daily tours of the Capilano watershed in addition to the ongoing public programs in the Seymour Demonstration Forest. Public feedback on the tours generally reflect a positive response to the erosion control and vegetation management strategies within the watersheds. The tour program has proven to be an inexpensive, effective communication tool enabling the public to have direct contact with watershed management staff in the working environment. (Page 30)

There are strong ties and an active relationship between the B.C. Professional Foresters and the Seymour Demonstration Forest, as outlined in January/February 1994 issue of the FORUM:

Additional plans for 1994 include closer ties with the Seymour Demonstration Forest and the compilation of a list of Professional Foresters who would be able to tour the public through the forest both on a regular and an ad hoc basis. (Vancouver RPAC Report, by Jim Rodney, Co-Chairman, “The Continuing Saga of The “Search For Solutions”.)

As of 1995, Dan Jepsen is currently working for Western Forest Products, the same company which has been involved in the Seymour Demonstration Forest, and which donated, together with Canadian Forest Products (Canfor), a crummy, a refurbished forestry passenger truck. Bill Dumont, who is the chief forester for Western Forest Products, is a member of the Seymour Salmonid Society, the society which runs the fish hatchery near Seymour Dam, which is affiliated with the Seymour Advisory Committee. At the tenth anniversary of the Seymour Demonstration Forest on Sunday August 24th, 1997, Western Forest Products had a large tent set up in the rain, along with the Forest Alliance of B.C., and the Association of BC Professional Foresters (Dwight Yochim was there to represent them), with free cups full of water with their logo on it, and plenty of helium filled balloons. Bill Dumont was one of the speakers at the main proceedings, and introduced the planting of a five year old Noble Fir seedling from southern Oregon (a specialized Christmas tree clone donated by MacMillan Bloedel) at the southeastern corner of the newly named “Learning Lodge”.⁴

⁴ Off to the side, and well away from the forest industry camp, the Western Canada Wilderness Committee had a table set up under a very flimsy looking blue tarp, unlike the professional looking striped elaborate tents across the road. They had just published their newsletter, “OUR CHOICE: SEYMOUR DEMONSTRATION FOREST, OR, SEYMOUR ANCIENT GROVES PARK”. Inside was a chronology of the Lower Seymour, which I had provided, indicating how the process for a regional park in the Lower Seymour had been obstructed. The Western Canada Wilderness Committee had hundreds of people sign their petition for a regional park. Some people began calling the day’s affair “The Last Anniversary”.

The forest industry is very much interested in getting into the British Columbian school system. Their reasoning is quite simple: influence the minds of students to a preconceived way of thinking, condition them long enough, and some of them will fall through the cracks. The cigarette industry is extremely familiar with the results.

The Education Programs puts an emphasis on the school program. It is a well established program with 174 school groups.... The majority of the students who toured in 1993 were in the grade 4/5 level. Proportions of the different grade categories ... kindergarten, 10%; grade 1/2/3, 21%; grade 4/5, 41%; grade 6/7, 15%; highschool, 10%; adults, 3%. (Seymour Demonstration Forest Education Program Discussion Plan for 1993-1996, Jill Deuling, page 3)

Aside from influencing the school sector, the Seymour Demonstration Forest multiple use program has attempted to attract many other sectors of society. One of the first big events for the Seymour Advisory Committee was inviting visitors of the annual Federation of Canadian Municipalities held in Vancouver in 1989 for tours in the Demonstration Forest, and was authorized through the GVRD Board:

It was **MOVED AND SECONDED** That the Board authorize the Water and Waste Management Committee to host a seminar on the Seymour Demonstration Forest at the 1989 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Convention to be held in the City of Vancouver in June 1989. (GVRD Board minutes, June 29, 1988)

To our knowledge it is the first time that such an initiative of this scale and potential has been established on the doorstep of a major Canadian city. (Water Committee Agenda, April 13, 1989)

The Master Plan document, and many others, identified the possibilities: "Approximately 1.4 million people, or nearly half the population of British Columbia, live within the Greater Vancouver Regional District.... it is important that the Master Plan clearly identifies the target audiences and addresses their needs. (Page 8)

August 1997 edition 1 **THE VOICE** 13



*The Seymour Demonstration Forest is 10 years old!
They're throwing a birthday party and you are invited!*

*Activities and games for families will run all day at this big birthday bash!
Bring a donation for the food bank and receive a special behind
the scenes bus tour of the demonstration forest.*

Date: Sunday, Aug. 24th

Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

7. THE EVOLUTION OF THE GREATER VANCOUVER WATERSHED TOURS

As of January 4, 1993, the administration of the Seymour Demonstration Forest education program was transferred from the Seymour Advisory Committee's Education Sub-committee to the GVRD's Communication and Education Department. It's amazing when you look back at how it all unfolded since 1985: the counter park committee program to create the Seymour Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee, comprised of mostly professional foresters; the Terms of Reference and funding effort in place to create the Demonstration Forest; the consultants' reports on creating an educational agenda; the gradual expansion and advertisement of the educational process from the Demonstration Forest to the Greater Vancouver school system, etc.; and now to the inner sanctum itself. The propaganda program was now brought to the very center of power that once so proudly defied it. The GVRD once held the shield to ward off the hammer strokes; the Trojan horse was now in the compound. They were "hoodwinked", as a Mayor was later to utter, and they didn't even seem to understand, notice or to care.

Commencing with the 1993 Program year, it is intended ... (c) that all education materials, publications, signage, presentations and other communication tools will be presented as a program of the GVRD consistent with the GVRD's Communication and Education Strategic Plan, (d) that cross-promotional opportunities are maximized across all GVRD Communications and Education programming in support of Creating Our Future and livable region objectives. (e) ... Funding partners and other contributors are consulted through the Seymour Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee for advice about the operation of the Seymour Demonstration Forest and the education program.

The Seymour Demonstration Forest education program is implemented in close cooperation with the GVRD's Watershed Management staff and in consultation with the Seymour Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee and its Education Sub-Committee.

The purpose of the SDF education program is to provide integrated resource management education opportunities for a broad range of audiences including elementary, high school, college, university and technical students, teachers, community groups, service clubs, technical and professional groups, conferences and the general public.

On-Site School Programs to provide structured information on integrated resource management and to introduce teachers and students to the forested watershed environment through interpretive trails, the Seymour Falls Dam and reservoir and the Seymour River Hatchery. Community Education Programs attracting different audiences to the Demonstration Forest including: Beavers, Cubs, Guides, Brownies, Junior Forest Wardens, Seniors Groups, Community Centres and Service Clubs.... Technical and Professional Tours are conducted by Watershed Management staff for colleges, universities, technical schools and professional groups, and by the SDF Education program staff for the Professional Development of Teachers. Display Presentation at special events, conventions and conferences such as the Pacific National Exhibition, the B.C. Forestry Association Forest Fair and the Canadian Institute of Forestry Annual General Meeting.

The SDF education program has been administered through the Watershed Management Division of the GVWD with core program Funding from: the GVRD, the Council of Forest

Industries (COFI), the International Woodworkers of America (IWA) and the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, and Forestry Canada. Additional support has come from the Forest Education Council, the B.C. Forestry Association, the Forestry Continuing Education Network, the National Forest Week Planning Committee, B.C. Ministry of Environment, Women in Timber, Outdoor Recreation Council, Forest Industry Ladies, the B.C. Lotteries Corporation and many others. (Draft, from Manager of Communications and Education, Feb./Mar. 1993.)

Coincident with the advent of the formal linkage with the Seymour Advisory Committee, was the Water District report announcement in the April 15, 1993 Water Committee Agenda of the Watershed Weekend events:

Watershed Weekend is a component of the Water Department's 1993 Interim Communications Plan This event will be coordinated with the GVRD's 1993 Water Conservation program, as well as B.C.'s Safe Drinking Water Week. The purpose of the event is to provide the public with an opportunity to visit closed areas of the Seymour Watershed and learn about watershed management activities. The tours will also provide the GVRD with feedback from the public.... Watershed Management staff will escort each bus tour to explain the various sites to the public.... The event will be advertised in the Vancouver Sun and Province newspapers on and around April 17 and 18, 1993.... Estimated cost for this event is \$22,000.... The Communications & Education and Water Engineering & Construction Departments are working together to plan and implement this community relations event.

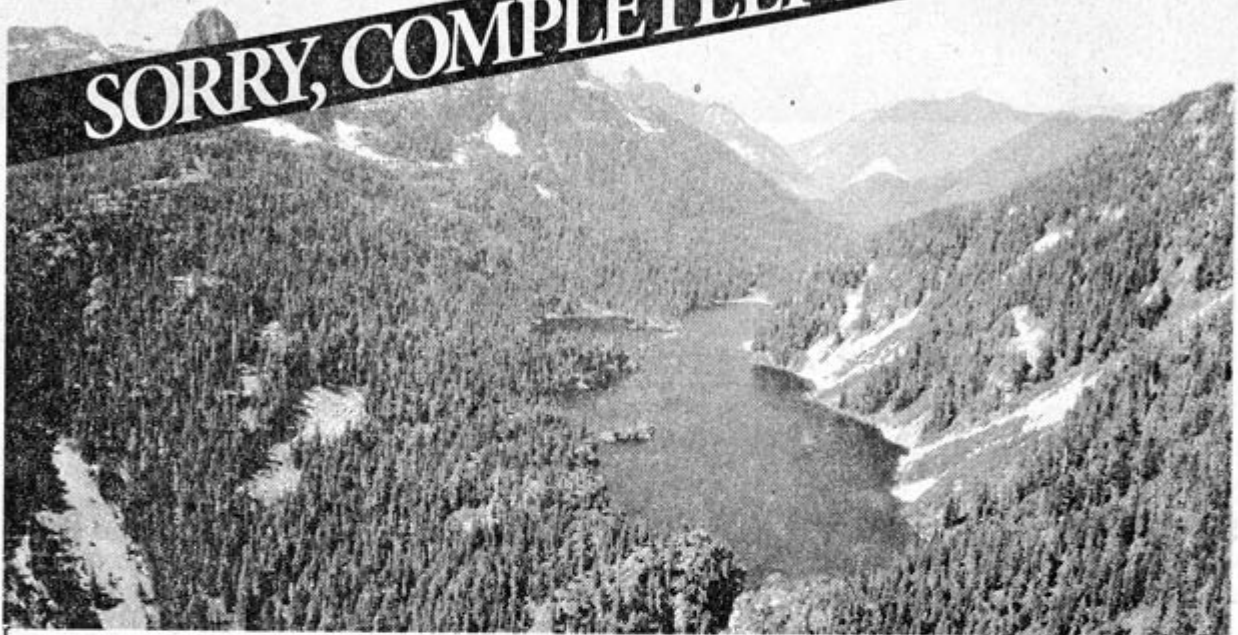
So, ask yourself, what was going on here? Why was the Water District suddenly interested in this unusual public relations event? Were they concerned about something? What were their intentions? Why were they interested in getting "feedback" from tour participants, and what were the feedback forms going to be used for? That was all to become very clear. The circus was coming to town.

The first Watershed Weekend was held on Saturday, May 1 and Sunday May 2.... All tours were fully-booked within three hours of the GVRD offices opening on the first day the advertising appeared.... The Watershed Weekend tours, which were conducted by Watershed Management staff, visited four sites within the closed area of the Seymour Watershed: (1) the Seymour Falls Dam Field Office: the public viewed displays and picked up information to take home. GVRD staff were available for questions. (2) Orchid Creek Fire Site: This is the site of a lightning induced fire in August 1992. Watershed Management staff discussed the department's fire protection program with the public. (3) Jamieson Branch: Harvested two years ago, this site was being replanted with a variety of tree species. The public had an opportunity to ask questions of Watershed Management staff about harvesting operations and speak with tree planters. (4) Ecological Inventory Pilot Study Site: Watershed Management staff explained the watershed ecological inventory program and its goals.

Tabulation of Watershed Weekend Feedback Forms: (1) Is the Watershed Weekend tour a worthwhile way to learn about the GVRD's watersheds? Yes - 409; No - 2. (2) Did you receive useful information on the tour? Yes - 398; No - 5. (3) Were all your questions answered in a direct and understandable manner? Yes - 301; No - 13. (4) Did you have a clearer understanding of the GVRD's management of the watersheds? Yes - 335; No - 10. (Water Committee Agenda report, June 17, 1993)

Open house

SORRY, COMPLETELY BOOKED



**Seymour Watershed. 20,000 hectares.
Conveniently located. 30 metre dam.
Running Water. No bath. Spectacular views.
Carefully maintained. Quiet neighbourhood.
Not for sale. View by appointment only.
May 1st and 2nd. Starting at 9 a.m.**

The Greater Vancouver Regional District invites you to visit one of the most "exclusive" properties in British Columbia. The Seymour Watershed is one of three strictly-controlled areas that supply mountain-fresh drinking water to 1.6 million residents of the Lower Mainland (380 billion litres of it every year). Join us for a 3.5-hour guided bus tour of this

priceless resource. Free! You'll go behind the scenes, where the public is generally not admitted. Visit the Seymour Falls Dam. See the displays. Find out where your drinking water comes from and how to conserve it.

Call 436-6899 for reservations. Seating is limited (first-call, first booked). Children under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Tours are wheelchair accessible.

*Part of B.C.'s
Safe Drinking Water Week.*



*Creating Our Future:
Steps To A More Livable Region*

A10 - Apr 17/93

That must have been an interesting experiment for the poll people. Ask the right questions, get the right answers. Let me see now. They were at the Jamieson Branch recent cutblock, the site directly below the largest landslide caused directly from logging practices (which the Water District and its consultant deny) and 355 people had a “clearer understanding” of logging? Watershed Management staff were on hand to explain that I’ll bet. They may have been planting trees in the recent cutblock but try planting some on the bare rock landslide site. They went to the Orchid Creek Fire Site? Why? Logging has caused the destruction and removal of more forest in any single year of active logging and roadbuilding since 1967 than that little site. Did staff show and explain to tour participants the escaped slashburn fire on the mid-west side in the Demonstration Forest, you know, that big one in 1967, the one that ripped up the mountain side, the one that still sticks out like a sore thumb, the one you can see from the northwestern windows at the GVRD Headquarters?

The second Watershed Weekend event was held Saturday, September 25 and Sunday, September 26. Response to tours was overwhelmingly positive, in fact, many people urged the GVRD to hold Watershed Weekend events each year. Tour participants were asked to fill in a feedback form. A summary of feedback is attached for the committee’s information.... Although 769 people were registered to take the tour, only 645 people actually participated. A nominal charge in future may reduce the number of people who do not honour their reservation. The Watershed Weekend tours were guided by Watershed Management staff... East Capilano Harvesting Site. Participants donned hard hats and walked through a recently harvested site and an adjacent forest area that has been rated as having a moderate to high forest fire hazard.... Cost of the Watershed Weekend program was approximately \$16,000.... (Water Committee Agenda report, October 14, 1993)

I remember visiting that cutblock on the tour, number 1-93, which the Water District finished logging in 1993, an area that didn’t need to be logged. People walking in a long line wearing orange hardhats in a large open clearcut. We were smiling at the hired hand busily planting Western Red cedar plugs. Can you imagine, 73 people out of 645 liked that part of the tour the best? My favorite comment from one of the participants, which was included in the package to the Water Committee: “Take us to the Jamieson Creek slide.”

The following summer the Water District began its four-hours-per-trip two-tours-a-day four-days-a-week program from June 15 to September 15, a program which continued to 1997. In the May 13, 1994 Water District report to the Water Committee, it stated that “a full media relations program will support the tours”, and that “a tour coordinator will be contracted ... to provide media relations and technical support for the tours....” They hired Laurie Fretz, who later in 1996 became the Project Supervisor of the Seymour Demonstration Forest. The 1994 tour program was held within the Capilano watershed, and in subsequent years included the Coquitlam as well. The Seymour watershed was not part of the program.

During 1994, tour members even got a chance to see the helicopter logging operation at the corner of the Eastcap drainage, getting a glimpse of the super transport mechanism. Later that year a transport helicopter, which was carrying the fallers to the site, crashed causing an investigation and concerns from the public about helicopter logging safety, resulting in concern over the risk of helicopters starting a fire in the watershed.

According to the Water District’s report to the Water Committee on October 14, 1994, 3,719 people came to the tours, 2,606 of which filled out the “feedback forms”. And according to the Water District’s statistics, 92% (2,398) of these tour guests “felt they had a better understanding of management practices” in the Greater Vancouver watersheds. The question was slipped in between

seven other unimportant questions. 1,350 of the 2,606 participants who provided a feedback form didn't provide an address, thereby disqualifying the poll results in terms of providing proof of being a Greater Vancouver resident. 42 other people provided origin of residency, which were outside of the Greater Vancouver District. Therefore, only 1214 participants who filled out their forms provided information that they were living in the Greater Vancouver area, which was about 30% of the summer's participants. But this information was not clearly provided for the Water Committee. The Water District was trying to establish a case for their management practices in the watersheds, and trying hard to make it look effective.

On November 22, 1996, the Water District presented the 14 page "Watershed Tour Participant Survey - A Quantitative Research Report" by Viewpoints Research, a public polling company. The executive summary produced the desired results:

A sizable majority of respondents (88%) believe that the GVRD is doing a good job protecting watershed areas.... When given a direct choice between letting nature run its course and actively managing the watershed, 86% of respondents opted for active intervention. Nearly two thirds of respondents (63%) disagree that the GVRD makes decisions about watershed areas without consulting special interest groups.... The vast majority of respondents (91%) agree that watershed management helps to reduce the threat of forest fires and landslides. More than three quarters of respondents (77%) agree that the GVRD should remove dead trees and do other small amounts of logging in the watersheds as a fire prevention measure.

If the polling results showed anything, they showed how misinformation could be taken to new heights. I've been on the tours and heard the pretentious statements on fire history in the three watersheds. There is much confusion spread among the gullible who hear that there were hundreds and hundreds of lightning strikes in the watersheds during a lightning storm, but no mention of the results which show that these very seldom created only very small spot fires. No mention of the fire damage from logging activities in this century, the statistics of which rise to the heavens. No mention of how the Water District practiced slash burning on the clearcut sites, bringing ashes into the water supply, and the escaped slash burn fires into standing forest next door. No mention of that. No mention of the road building practices, over three hundred kilometers of which were constructed since 1961, the practices which expose soils to weathering processes, and cutslopes in their myriad heights and lengths, which are collectively responsible for so much sediment transport, rerouted and concentrated water flows. No mention of the mistaken data in the 1991 public review document which shows the increase in landslides, from two to three fold higher than natural landslides, as a result of logging practices. No mention of that. No mention of "special interest groups" who have been denied access to the watersheds to double check Water District staff's findings on management activities, and to provide the public with information which does not seem to be forthcoming from the Water District. No mention of that.

If there are experts who claim modern timber cropping can be carried out without cutting off the water, Mr. Berry says he can get just as many experts to argue the other way. Access roads, he maintains, concentrate the run-off - upset the balance of nature - stir up sediment in colloidal suspension so the water is so dirty it can't even be filtered clean. He's not too concerned at the danger of a bad fire, wiping out the watershed for lack of a road to get in and fight it. "We have been operating for 27 years, and our losses have been negligible. No recent fire has been over three acres. Our protection is so good that when other people get in trouble they call on us.... Some day," he concluded, "the people will thank those of us who today may be considered fanatical in our desire to protect the watershed." (An interview with Theodore Berry, the Water District Commissioner, October 1953)

After the Water Committee meeting on November 22, 1996, we had a chance to speak with the polling consultant. He said that the manner in which the poll was conducted wasn't credible, that it wasn't of any value whatsoever. It is furthermore interesting that the Water District have now incorporated their watershed tour polling results into the Issues and Options Report, a document which is to be submitted to the Ministries of Environment and Forests, as a guiding document for the future management plans of the Greater Vancouver watersheds. In the November 1997 final Issues and Options document, accepted by the Water Committee, and in waiting for the GVRD Board's approval on December 12th, they recite both the general results from the 1994 tour poll and the 1996 Viewpoints Research report as the basis for establishing the human intervention option for the watersheds:

One of the main purposes of this report is to document issues that are important to the public and to outline the actions intended to address these issues.... The four original information sources are ... (ii) the Watershed Tours Program.... (Page 4)

The tours are designed to facilitate interaction between tour participants and GVWD staff, therefore providing a good forum for discussing management issues. (Page 6)

... a public opinion research firm was contracted to develop a questionnaire which was distributed to participants. The survey was designed ... to help gain a better understanding of public issues. (Page 8)



See where your drinking water comes from

If you live in the Lower Mainland and want to learn more about where our drinking water comes from, join us for a tour of our mountainous watersheds.

Public tours of the Capilano and Coquitlam watersheds take place this summer every Thursday through Sunday from June 13 to September 15. Tours start at 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. rain or shine. Each tour takes about four hours.

These tours involve mostly bus travel with some walking. Remember to pack a snack and drink, and don't forget your camera!

Call now to register: Phone lines open May 21, 1996. To register call **432-6430** Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

 Greater Vancouver Regional District
Creating Our Future:
Steps To A More Livable Region
web site address <http://www.gvrd.bc.ca/>

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8. CONTROVERSY IN THE LOWER SEYMOUR

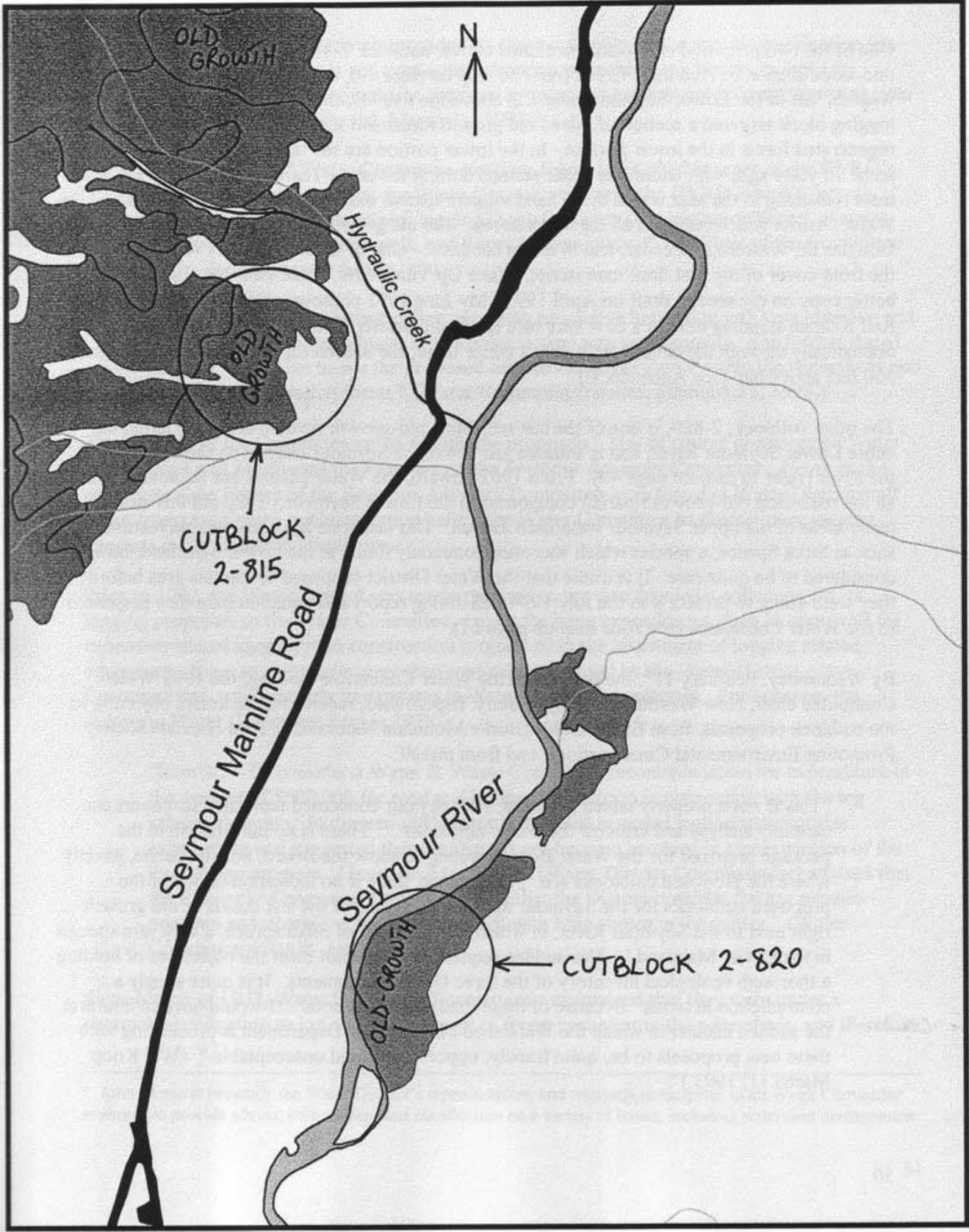
After the 1991 public review of logging in the Greater Vancouver watersheds, which recommended an end to the Water District's sustained yield logging program, 1992 marked the transition year which brought an abrupt and temporary halt to logging in the three consumptive use watersheds in the following year. This abrupt change not only troubled the Water District's Watershed Management Division but it also raised grave concerns for the forest industry stakeholder representatives on the Seymour Advisory Committee. Even though the GVRD Board agreed to a resolution in late 1992 to drastically limit the reasons for logging in the watersheds, Water District staff stubbornly pushed for a number of new logging proposals (cutblocks) in a report for the Water Committee's consideration on February 11, 1993. The Seymour Advisory Committee, in conjunction with Water District staff, advocated two cutblock proposals for the Demonstration Forest, despite the GVRD Board's specific restrictions:

... staff have now identified some areas suitable for aerial harvesting in the watersheds and the Seymour Demonstration Forest. The Seymour Demonstration Forest area is presently not used for water supply and is below the Seymour Falls Dam.... Activities in those areas grouped under the proactive [logging] heading require preventative measures to avoid anticipated problems compared to those areas in the reactive category which require measures to address existing deficiencies. Current Board policy permits harvesting to address reactive issues while harvesting for pro-active management purposes would require an amendment to existing policy.... Pro-active, low level management in the Seymour Demonstration Forest, Block 2-815, 14.2 hectares.... Block 2-820, 5.6 hectares.

Staff Recommendations. That it be recommended to the Administration Board: That aerial harvesting methods be approved in principle for pro-active, low level management in the Seymour Demonstration Forest.... (Water District report to the Water Committee, February 11, 1993) ⁵

One of the two proposed cutblocks mentioned above, cutblock 2-815, is situated amidst the steep mid-slope section of Hydraulic Creek, which is a sub-drainage in the western half of the Lower Seymour, near and above the five kilometre signpost. The proposed logging block targeted a section of mixed old growth forest and some younger naturally regenerated forest in the lower portion. In the lower portion are tell tale signs of previous logging some 70 years ago, with enormous cedar stumps dotting the area. There are also many old yew trees remaining in the area which those hand loggers spared, unlike the liquidation practices of the Water District which removed all the understorey. The old growth component has remnant giant Douglas fir, Western Red cedar, and Western hemlock. One of the

⁵ The first opportunity for the Greater Vancouver public to obtain a copy of a Water Committee Agenda package, that is to physically go to the GVRD headquarters in Burnaby during their business hours, is on a Monday, three days before the Water Committee meeting on the following Thursday (meetings are now held on a Friday). This, unfortunately, does not allow the public time to research important proposals which have been carefully directed by Water District staff to be discussed by the Water Committee, to contact and inform representatives on the Committee, or adequate time to perhaps request a delegation to discuss a matter before the Committee (delegation requests now require two weeks notice). Relatedly, public observers who are actively interested in a discussion topic, despite their credentials or knowledge or insight on a related matter, are at a disadvantage as they, as silent observers, are very rarely privileged an opportunity to participate in addressing critical matters and in supplying relevant information when they arise during Water Committee meetings (I can only remember one such situation over the last five years). Clarification on any matters at Committee meetings are always addressed by staff or their consultants who also attend as observers.



Douglas fir was featured on the front cover of my first draft manuscript, *Wake Up Vancouver*, dated February 1992, and a better copy on my second draft on April 1993. My June 1991 photograph showed a dwarf-like Ralf Kelman standing next to a now very rare ten foot diameter Douglas fir trunk, rising dramatically through the canopy with only a minor taper, the unseen top of which towered almost 300 feet above him (see Appendix D).

The other cutblock, 2-820, is one of the last remaining old-growth riparian areas left along the entire Lower Seymour River, and is situated just above the Seymour canyon on the east side of the River. From 1961 onward, the Water District has liquidated almost all the remaining old-growth riparian component in the Lower Seymour. They did this along many areas of the upper Seymour watershed as well. This last zone has some unique features, such as Sitka Spruce, a species which was once commonly found in the Lower Mainland, now considered to be quite rare. It is ironic that the Water District proposed to log this area before they were going to protect it in the July 1994 Bell-Irving report and zonation map they presented to the Water Committee (see map on page 69).

By Wednesday, February 11th, the day before the Water Committee meeting, the 1993 Water Committee chair, New Westminster Mayor Betty Toporowski, received three letters objecting to the cutblock proposals, from Elaine Golds (Burke Mountain Naturalists), Paul Hundal (Society Promoting Environmental Conservation), and from myself:

This is not a properly tabled proposal, whereby our concerned municipal taxpayers can carefully analyse and criticize these new cutblocks There is no information in the package prepared for the Water Board meeting to show the Board, nor the public, exactly where the proposed cutblocks are. For instance, there is no indication in one of the proposed cutblocks for the Seymour that it is really one of the last stands of old growth right next to the Seymour River, in which are a number of Sitka spruce, a very rare species in the Lower Mainland.... This sudden request also does not meet the objectives of holding a thorough ecological inventory of the three GVRD catchments. It is quite simply a contradiction in terms. Because of these fundamental reasons ... I would have to interpret the sudden manner in which the Watershed Management Department is proceeding with these new proposals to be, quite frankly, opportunistic and unacceptable. (Will Koop, March 11, 1993)

Virtually no information is provided on these cutblocks or the specific justification for cutting them. There is not even a map showing where they are. We are completely opposed to this type of reckless approval process and ask you not to grant approval even in principal. (Paul Hundal, March 11, 1993)

During the February 12th Water Committee meeting, John Morse, the Manager of the GVRD's Water District, recommended that the Water Committee change the GVRD Board's recently revised policy to allow for "proactive" logging in the Seymour Demonstration Forest, thereby supporting the two cutblock proposals, and future logging plans.⁶ The Chair of the Committee responded to Water Manager Morse, and:

... indicated that the Board policy regarding pro-active harvesting was very sensitive and that to suggest an amendment at this point in time was unacceptable. She further stated that she would like to see the proposed test harvest areas found within the watersheds and not the demonstration forest. (Water Committee minutes, February 11, 1993)

⁶ John Morse is presently the Water District's representative, and regularly participates in all Water Committee meetings to provide advice, information, and clarification on a variety of issues, including watershed management.

The majority of the Committee voted against the proposals. This of course disappointed Water District staff and aggravated the foresters on the Seymour Advisory Committee. Never in the seven year long history of the Seymour Advisory Committee were they and Water District staff about to exert so much public attention before the Water Committee to protect their logging interests in the Demonstration Forest.

Prior to 1992, the Water District was rarely required to provide detailed justification for its logging proposals to the Water Committee, except for large expenditures, such as approvals for expensive annual logging road construction projects or in the investment of logging related equipment. Even so, proposals were then routinely supported by the Water District Commissioner, who regularly participates in Water Committee meetings. For instance, the following Water Committee item in 1978:

Item 2.2. To consider a Water & Waste Committee recommendation for expenditure in the amount of \$600,000 for road and bridge construction in connection with the log salvage program. In discussion Director (Don) Bell opposed authorization of this expenditure and suggested that the District not become involved in any expansion of the log salvage program. However, Mr. Bunnell [Water District Commissioner] advised that the Provincial Government policy requires that the District continue the log salvage program and, therefore, the District is left with little choice in the matter. (Water Committee minutes, June 28, 1978)

Since March of 1967, Water District staff consistently maintained that they were under a contractual obligation to log a certain amount of forest each year in the watersheds, and therefore logging became a routine business affair. For instance, when Water Committee members were asked to approve road construction costs of \$1,150,000 on April 16, 1991 for 11.5 kilometers of road in the Capilano, Seymour, and Coquitlam watersheds, during the 1991 public review of logging in the watersheds, they were told that the Water District was “obligated” to do so:

Clauses within the Amending Indenture document **obligated** the District to manage the timber on a sustained yield basis, and for the fireproofing of the lands, in part, by providing access roads throughout the watersheds. The District is obligated under the terms of the Amending Indenture to the watershed leases to undertake access road construction in accordance with the Management and Working Plans approved by the Ministry of Forests.... cancellation of the proposed 1991 road and culvert construction program will frustrate the completion of the harvesting contract.... (Item 2A3, Water Committee Agenda, April 16, 1991)

Elected public representatives, who showed concern about the logging activities, were routinely not advised by staff that the Amending Indenture, the logging contract with the government, had two escape clauses built into it, number 6 and number 25, that the GVRD were **NOT** obligated to log in the watersheds. Much had changed from the responsible decades in which the Water District maintained their mandate against logging. In terms of the issue of logging in the watersheds: it was unusual for the public to attend and then challenge the Water District on their logging program with well researched information; the Water District at Water Committee meetings were rarely held accountable by concerned members of the public nor from elected representatives; and never did staff have to come begging, such as now.

This was also true in many ways for the Seymour Advisory Committee. For instance, it was not required to report directly to the Water Committee until February 1993, shortly after the GVRD's Communication and Education Department began to develop guidelines for all advisory committees. As such, the GVRD Communications Department properly concluded that the Seymour Advisory Committee, the longest standing advisory committee in GVRD's history, was not in compliance with their protocol, wasn't 'advising' the requisite publically responsible body:

Valerie Cameron presented proposed new Terms of Reference May 1992 for the Seymour Advisory Committee for consideration and discussion at the next SAC meeting. (Seymour Advisory Committee minutes)

Currently, the Seymour Advisory Committee provides recommendations to the Regional Manager. To be consistent with the reporting structure of other GVRD advisory committees, the Seymour Advisory Committee would report to the Water Committee.... The Seymour Advisory Committee met January 28, 1993, to consider the proposed Terms of Reference The only major change suggested by the Seymour Advisory Committee members present was ... to remove the term "**wilderness**" and modify the phrase such that it stresses an outdoor experience in a **managed forest** ... To provide an outdoor experience in a managed forest adjacent to a large population base. (Water Committee agenda, February 11, 1993)

Since the mid-1980's, the Seymour Advisory Committee functioned almost like an operational wing of the Water District, with a large budget and sub-committees. No one formally challenged the publically unrepresentative and forestry dominant Committee, it simply continued to function like a satellite department.

Because the Seymour Advisory Committee was now suddenly required to report to the Water Committee, chairman Don Lanskail provided a letter to the chair of the Water Committee on April 2, 1993, obviously annoyed with it's decision to cancel the proposed cutblocks:

Present policy providing for the "reactive" logging policy, which is currently applicable to the watershed area, to also apply to the Seymour Demonstration Forest is proving to be a serious inhibiting factor in the operation of the forest. In addition, external funding of SDF education programs is potentially threatened by the current policy. It was the unanimous view of the Seymour Advisory Committee [on April 1st] that there were ample grounds to distinguish the Demonstration Forest from the closed watersheds and the existing watershed logging policy which governs their management. Failure to do so would make it impossible to "demonstrate" how different resources can co-exist in a forest. (Correspondence to Mayor Toporowski.)

Lanskail's letter, which was sent the day after a Seymour Advisory Committee meeting, prefaced a later barrage of complimentary information which the Water District presented to the Water Committee over the next few months, along with cutblock proposals in the watersheds and reports on the initiation of the watershed tours.

Attached as correspondence in the Water Committee Agenda of April 15, 1993, was a pointed letter addressed to Valerie Cameron, the Demonstration Forest Project Coordinator, from the Council of Forest Industries. The letter, stamped with the logo "Forests Forever", insisted that if the logging proposals were aborted then they would revoke their annual financial contributions:

A number of our member companies have expressed concern that the Seymour Demonstration Forest is moving away from demonstrating the full range of forest management activities from

conservation through to harvesting. The feeling is that the range of forest management practices is not proceeding on a timely, consistent basis.... Therefore, I must inform you that our continued financial support of the Seymour Demonstration Forest **will be linked** to the full range of forest management practices, including harvesting and forest renewal being undertaken. We wholeheartedly support the Seymour as a working example of B.C. coastal forest management. Our representative, Mr. Angus Allison, will table this topic for discussion at the next meeting of the Seymour Advisory Committee. (D.L. Cooper, Interim Manager, Coast Forest Sector, March 24, 1993)

The Seymour Advisory Committee and its sponsors were clearly becoming anxious over the way things were beginning to turn as a result of the Water Committee's February decision. As such, chairman Lanskail was forced to appear as a delegation before the Water Committee on April 15th, unsuccessfully entreating the Committee to reconsider:

... the main item that he wished to speak to was the distinctiveness of the Seymour Demonstration Forest from the closed watersheds. Referencing the history of the Demonstration Forest, he stated that the current harvesting strategy within the forest is not consistent with the established main objective ... which is the harmonious co-existence and management of all resources He stated that the restricted reactive harvesting recommendation adapted for the watershed lands will preclude the "demonstration" aspect of the Seymour Demonstration Forest, rendering it to, in effect, **a park**. (Water Committee minutes)

Undoubtedly Lanskail attempted to use the term "park" as a negative connotation to incite a reaction from his audience. Lanskail was perhaps unwittingly also alluding to an eventual reality, which was why the counteractive Seymour Advisory Committee was originally created. Of course, Lanskail did not go back far enough in his history to "demonstrate" to the Water Committee about the Water District's original mandate to prohibit logging, or about how the private lands were purchased and the Crown lands secured in a very long term lease to provide the Water District with complete control over the forested lands. In response, the Water Committee chair responded to Lanskail's letter and delegation as follows:

Chairperson Toporowski suggested that the policy for the Seymour Demonstration Forest was not consistent with the changed objectives and policies of the Board regarding logging in the watersheds. She suggested that this changed direction be addressed in the 1994 budget for the Seymour Demonstration Forest. Director Dykeman (North Vancouver District Mayor) indicated that he too shared those concerns. (Water Committee minutes for April 15, 1993)

Despite the Water Committee's February 1993 ruling against logging in the Demonstration Forest, the Seymour Advisory Committee nevertheless flagrantly continued to construct a management plan for sustained yield logging in conjunction with Water District staff. On April 30, 1993, notes from a member of the Advisory Committee show all the estimated calculations for the Annual Rotation and the Total Annual Yield, including annual costs, gross net, public costs, contingencies, and the balance. Accordingly, yields from a proposed managed area in the Demonstration Forest of about 3000 hectares, out of the total lands of about 5000 hectares, would be based on logging it all each 75 years, at 40 hectares per year. And according to all the estimated costs, based on 1993 estimates, the Water District would receive **\$180,000** per year, which would no doubt go to the Demonstration Forest education program, just under the amount contributed annually from the Water District's watershed logging reserve funds alone.

1993 April 30

SEYMOUR FOREST (~ 5000 ha)

MANAGED AREA = 3000 ha

ROTATION = 75 ± 25 yrs

AREA TO HARVEST = 40 ha yr⁻¹ (3000/75)

TOTAL ANNUAL YIELD = 12 m³ ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹
= 900 m³ ha⁻¹ (75*12)
= 36 000 m³ yr⁻¹ (40*900)

GROSS Value @ \$65 m³ = \$ 2,340 000

ANNUAL COSTS

1) Harvest @ \$25 m³ incl. roads = \$ 900 M

2) Stumpage @ \$5 m³ = 180

3) Regen + Mtce @ \$2000 ha⁻¹ = 80

4) Supervn - adm 500 ha/person = 300

5) Equip + Cap replac 6 * \$50 = 100

Σ 1,560,000

GROSS NET = \$ 780 000

PUBLIC COSTS

• Trails dev. + mtce = \$ 100 M

• Public Edn. = 200

• Public safety = 100

• Security = 100

Σ \$ 500 M

Contingency = \$ 100 M
~ 5% gross income

BALANCE = \$ 180 M (780 - 600)

[Signature]

The Seymour Advisory Committee began to develop plans for sustained yield management plan in 1991 through to 1992. In April 1992, P. Lawson and Sons, A.R. Milavsky and Associates, and J. Pickford finally presented a management plan to the Seymour Advisory Committee. A later outline of their management plan appeared in the February, and once again in the June, 1993 Water Committee Agenda packages. During the Advisory Committee's review process for the management plan in 1992, there was some infighting from members who were unhappy with its seemingly conservative stance, particularly regarding the low degree of logging ("operational plan") in the Demonstration Forest:

Linda Coss will be meeting with an ad-hoc committee that has been established to review the future of the SDF Management Plan. There was general consensus that the Education Committee is disappointed with the final plan.... As it is currently structured, there is still no recommended "operational plan" for the ground level of operations. There is a need to move ahead and reaffirm the initial mandates of the SDF. (Minutes of the Education Sub-Committee meeting, July 9, 1992)

By the October 1, 1992 Seymour Advisory Committee meeting, members agreed "that the Management Plan was not operational", but that "parts could be used as a basis for an operational plan." At the following meeting on January 28, 1993, the Advisory Committee noted that:

The GVRD has assigned the task of developing a more operational plan to Valerie Cameron. Valerie will issue a questionnaire to SAC members and follow up with interviews over the following 2 months. (January 28, 1993 minutes)

About the time when Don Lanskail wrote his April 2, 1993 letter to Mayor Toporowski, Watershed Management Division staff were no doubt shocked at the sudden termination of their long-standing forestry administrator, Ed Hamaguchi. As a fresh graduate from the University of British Columbia, he had been a forester with the Water District since 1968, and did not yet qualify for retirement. The Water District quickly replaced their former administrator with Bob Cavill, a long-standing member of the Seymour Advisory Committee. During his first return appearance at the June 24, 1993 Seymour Advisory Committee meeting, members warmly congratulated him on his recent and influential portfolio as a professional forester in charge of managing the Greater Vancouver watersheds, and honored him for his past services as their chairman, from late 1987 to 1991:

Bob Cavill [was] introduced as Administrator, Watershed Management - [and] presented with a plaque for past service as Chairperson, SAC. (June 24, 1993 minutes)

On another note, Cavill's appointment coincided with the beginning of entirely new promotional era: the Watershed Management Division and the Communications and Education Department joint 'educational' program of watershed tours. The reason for the Communication and Education Department's involvement in the public relations program was due to the transfer of the Seymour Advisory Education Sub-Committee's program to them directly. It kicked off in 1993 with the two "Watershed Weekends", balloons and all.

SEYMOUR DEMONSTRATION FOREST

Forest Management Operations: 1987 - 1992

Year	Harvest		Thinning		Spacing		Planting		Rehabilitation		Pruning		Girdling Area (ha)
	Block	Area (ha)	Vol. (m ³)	Block	Area (ha)	Block	Area (ha)	Block	Area (ha)	Block	Area (ha)	Block	
1987					2-11/2-63	8.3	2-701	2.8	2-701	2.0		2-24	5.7
1988	2-97	7,430	Patch clearcut	2-603	8,326	40.7	2-702	0.8					
							2-24	5					
							2-4	17.0					
							2-25	15.4					
1989	2-111	900	Patch clearcut			2-28	7.2	2-97	6.4	4,700			
						2-35	5.9						
						2-41	1.6						
						2-62	20.5						
1990						2-35	0.5						
						2-46	1.4						
						2-37	2.0						
1991						2-3	42.5						
						2-41	1.5						
						2-63	3.1						
1992	2-92	6.3	New Forestry	2-605	2.7		2-40	10.9					
							2-50	23.2					
1993	2-124	0.5	Patch clearcut				2-63	7.6					
							2-57	6.8					
				2-74	25.5	2-124	.4					2-57	6.8
				2-92	4,660								
TOTALS		15.9	13,086	6.3	9,003	241.6	28.2	20,060	3.0	76.6	5.7		

During the same June 1993 Seymour Advisory Committee meeting, H.P. Bell-Irving, a former B.C. Lieutenant Governor and chairman of the Proposals Sub-Committee, proposed that:

... an ad hoc “Proposals” Committee of not more than six persons be now established to work with Project Co-ordinator Valerie Cameron, to produce a document for consideration of the next Advisory Committee meeting with proposals for uses appropriate within the Demonstration Forest, the areas best suited to these uses, and requirements to facilitate cooperative co-existence. (June 24, 1993 minutes)

The ad hoc Proposals Sub-Committee members also included Terence Lewis (a consultant for the Water District), Dr. Bert Brink (representing the Federation of B.C. Naturalists), Peter Caverhill (Ministry of Environment), Angus Allison (a registered professional forester with Richmond Plywood, representing the Coast Forest Lumber Association), Gary Charland (Outdoor Recreation Council), and Linda Coss (Council of Forest Industries, and chairperson of the Education Sub-Committee). The “document” was later nicknamed the Bell-Irving report, and was finally presented to the Water Committee on July 15, 1994. The Seymour Advisory Committee minutes did not state that the document was about sustained yield logging.

Towards the end of 1993, the Proposals Sub-Committee continued to refine their management plan report for the Lower Seymour. At the January 27, 1994 Seymour Advisory Committee meeting, Bell-Irving presented a draft copy of the Proposals Committee report on the Demonstration Forest to all members for comment, before the Proposals Committee’s next meeting on February 16th. The draft report was not sent to the Water Committee for their consideration. Eric Crossin, a registered professional forester, a longstanding member of the Advisory Committee, and retired forestry instructor from B.C.I.T., gave a slide presentation during the January 27th meeting. Crossin had attended the previous two committee meetings as an observer, as well as the following meeting on May 5th. During his slide show he advocated that:

... the SDF should be self maintained through forest practices such as planting and harvesting. The SAC will meet with the Water Committee to discuss forest management practices. (January 27, 1994 minutes)

The Seymour Advisory Committee met twice in May 1994 to discuss the Proposal Sub-Committee’s report. On May 5th:

A copy of the report was distributed to all members present and was read by Valerie Cameron. There were 4 areas in the report that members felt should be re-examined: sustainable forestry, filming, mountain biking.... A decision was reached to defer any further discussion until the Proposal Committee could review the report. Members will receive the next draught of the report prior to the next meeting.... (May 5, 1994 minutes)

The “Seymour Demonstration Forest - Proposals Committee Report (Second Draught)”, dated May 16, 1994, was circulated to the Advisory Committee members for their meeting on May 31, 1994. After reviewing the report “page by page” members decided that the document would be presented, after some revisions as suggested by Valerie Cameron, to the Water Committee on July 15th. On page seven of the May 16th draft report were mentioned three cutblock proposals for the Demonstration Forest, the last two of which were oddly identical in area with the same two cutblocks which were proposed by Water District staff in February of 1993 and then rejected by the Water Committee (the report headlined the cutblock proposals as a “Short Term Forest Harvesting Program”). Oddly, once again, as

in the report by the Water District to the Water Committee in February 1993, there was no attending map to show exactly where the proposed cutblocks were located.

On the same page was also headlined a section “Long Term Forest Harvesting Program”. The description once again proposed a policy which was blatantly contrary to the Water Committee’s decision in February 1993, and the reiterated statement by Water Committee chair Toporowski in April 1993:

A policy change from reactive to sustained yield forest management in the SDF is required and would allow the public to view and participate in the process of integrated resource management. As a benefit, the sale of forest products generated by this program could financially subsidize the SDF while providing educational opportunities for its visitors. The planning necessary to create a sustained yield forest management plan which is area based is very complex and time consuming. This planning phase should therefore commence only upon acceptance of the proposed management policy by the GVWD.

The Proposals Sub-Committee justified their entire sustained yield logging scheme under a section entitled “Forest Management”, which somehow explained that logging does not affect water quality:

The timber resources of the Seymour Demonstration Forest lend themselves to a program of sustainable forest management. This has been identified and confirmed throughout the life and attendant documentation of the SDF. While it is clearly understood that the SDF is subject to possible future alienation for exclusive use as a fresh water catchment basin, a modest sustained yield harvest program should not put future water quality at risk. This is confirmed in the 1991 Watershed Management Evaluation and Policy Review wherein it was declared that harvesting in the catchment basins was not harmful to water quality.

Though the last part of the last sentence, as shown in italics, was not included in the final June 16, 1994 report for the Water Committee, it is nevertheless inferred as much in the previous sentence. It should be noted that their conclusion about water quality is hypothetical, as there was no scientific data collected in the Greater Vancouver watersheds to support that preposterous conclusion.

In the Introductory remarks of the May draft report was a proclamation relating to the internal policy of both the many members and sponsors of the Seymour Advisory Committee and the Water District, a policy which reverts back to why the Demonstration Forest was created:

The Seymour Demonstration Forest is not a park. Recreation is subordinate to the stated guiding objectives of the SDF and activities will be restricted where they are deemed to be incompatible with the guiding objectives. (Page 4)

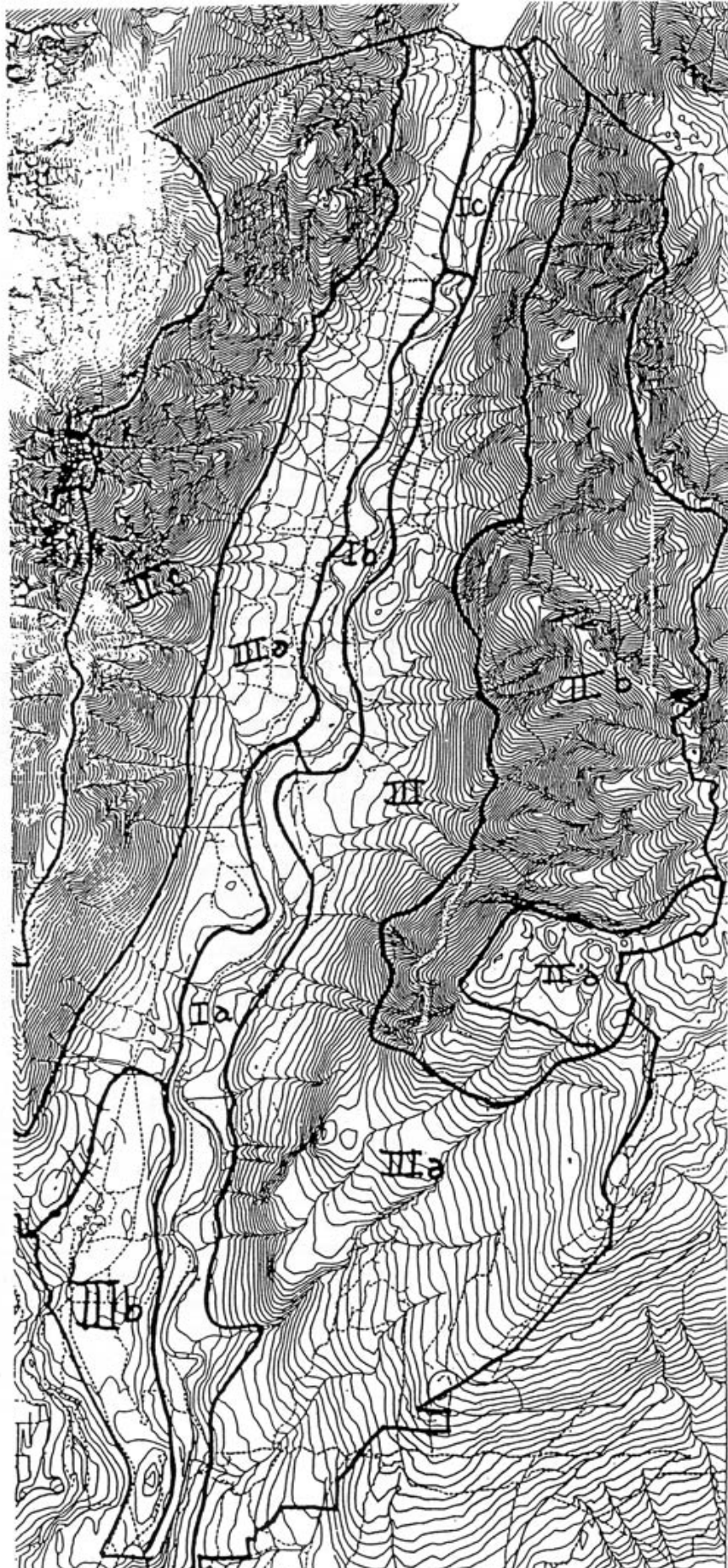
Even though the statement about the “park” was deleted from the final June report, it is nevertheless very revealing. For instance, why have the Seymour Advisory Committee been reluctant to build a network of trails in the Lower Seymour, and why has there been no representation of local environmental organizations on the Advisory Committee and in their Sub-Committees, and does this demonstrate the Advisory committee’s alienation from the Parks Department? The October 1997 Issues and Options report suggests otherwise, by misrepresenting the Seymour Advisory Committee as being “citizen backed” (page 27).

Other statements in the final report demonstrate the inclination of the Water District and the Seymour Advisory Committee: “The time is overdue for recognition that the area below the Seymour Dam can

LOWER
SEYMOUR
PROPOSED
SUSTAINED
YIELD
LOGGING
ZONE III
AREA.

ZONE I
IS
RIPARIAN
ZONE

ZONE II
IS
GROUND
TOO
STEEP.



← MT.
SEYMOUR

Management Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Continue Demonstration Forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conform with the original intent of SDF • approve Seymour Advisory Committee recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coincides with the recommendations of Seymour Advisory Committee and funding partners • Proposed sale of SDF timber could supplement operational budget • Creates a unique regional educational opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not representative of current GVRD watershed management practice • Potential objection from some sectors of public
<p>Create a Demonstration Watershed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • change focus of SDF to emphasizing watershed and water management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conforms with current GVRD policy and GVRD watershed management direction • Provides opportunity for promotion of GVRD Water Department initiatives such as water treatment, water conservation, and ecology based watershed management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole or partial withdrawal of current funding partner support. • Contradicts direction and approach of Seymour Advisory Committee • Requires base funding level increase from GVRD to maintain operational and educational programs unless alternate funding sources can be found
<p>Create a Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer Administration of SDF from Water and Construction Department to GVRD Parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tying in with existing Parks administrative, operational, and interpretive network potentially reduces redundancy and overall GVRD costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of the SDF to Parks would likely jeopardize future use of the land base for water supply purposes • Contradicts Seymour Advisory Committee vision for SDF
<p>Close SDF to Public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • revert SDF to part of the closed Seymour watershed • move GVRD's security gate to Rice Lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost savings of approximately \$240,000 with elimination of Operations and related Educational programs (however, Security costs will increase, estimate \$100,000) • Reduced risk of liability associated with current public use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong public and film industry protest over access restriction • Abandonment of established trails and interpretive sites representing considerable investment by GVRD and funding partners • Concerns by Provincial and Federal government agencies over loss of educational opportunities

and should be managed differently from the reservoir catchment basin above the dam” (page 4). The final report also stated that a “carefully maintained partnership with Nature with a maximum preservation of the wild environment are important objectives of the SDF.” At one time, for 34 years, the Lower Seymour was a reserve, and functioned much like a “park”.

The focus of the final June 16, 1994 Seymour Advisory Committee’s report for the Water Committee was a prescription for long term sustained yield logging of the Demonstration Forest. Pages 12 through to 18 explained the “Zoning Plan” in a “forest for everyone, but not for every use”. Zones Ia, Ib, Ic, IIa, IIb, IIc, IIIa, and IIIb divided the Lower Seymour into distinctive management areas, which were briefly explained in an accompanying chart and map. Logging was planned for zones I and III. The map however failed to exclude two areas: the Rice Lake Covenant’s three District Lots which are legally exempt from logging, and the proposed ecological reserve of Western Red Cedar in the northwest section of IIIa. Water District staff were undoubtedly cognizant of these exclusion zones, and there was curiously no explanation of these exemptions in the final report. There was also no statistical information in the report on the total hectares for each of the zones, to help clarify what the percentage of the Demonstration Forest was proposed for management. The Advisory Committee strangely qualified their proposed management plan by stating that if they didn’t ‘manage’ the forests then that would present a “potential for conflict” (page 12).

The Water District and the Seymour Advisory Committee both submitted their proposals about their future plans for Demonstration Forest to the Water Committee on July 15th, 1994. Don Lanskail provided a delegation to present the Bell-Irving Report for their information, which was included in their Agenda package. Water District staff presented a report entitled “Seymour Demonstration Forest - Future Management Options”, which had two components to it. The first was a pitch that the Demonstration Forest’s external funding partners, such as the Council of Forest Industries, were threatening to withdraw their funding if more logging did not continue:

When the SDF first opened, its management practices were consistent with management practices in the closed watersheds. The SDF forests formed part of the sustained yield program approved by the Provincial Government and administered by the GVRD. As part of the process the SDF was promoted, funding partners were solicited, and the Seymour Advisory Committee was formed. Management policies for GVRD’s watershed lands as well as the SDF have changed considerably since 1987. Given the lower level reactive management approach currently required, at least one major traditional supporter has expressed concern and is continuing to withhold financial support.

In 1993, funding partners contributed approximately \$200,000 towards the SDF, much of which was allocated to operate the Education Program.... COFI has announce that it is withholding its \$70,000 contribution pending a change in policy in the SDF to allow for the full range of forestry practices including timber harvest.

The second component presented four options in a table for the future of the Lower Seymour:

- (1.) “Continue Demonstration Forest”, which is “not representative of current GVRD watershed management practice” and the “potential objection from some sectors of the public”;
- (2.) “Create a Demonstration Watershed” which “conforms with current GVRD policy and GVRD watershed management direction”, but “contradicts direction and approach of Seymour Advisory Committee”;
- (3.) “Create a Park”, which would transfer the administration of the Lower Seymour to the GVRD Parks Department and which “potentially reduces redundancy and overall GVRD costs”

and “contradicts Seymour Advisory vision for SDF”; and
(4.) “Close SDF to public”, which would create “strong public and film industry protest over access restriction” and bring about “concerns by Provincial and Federal government agencies over loss of educational opportunities.”

Though the report and options stressed the continuance of the Demonstration Forest based upon the continuing financial contributions from external and internal sources, the park option revealed a financial benefit and seemed to be an attractive option. All the options were tabled to the Water Committee for their information and consideration before a scheduled special meeting later that year in the Demonstration Forest.

Though all the representative stakeholders were at the July 1994 Water Committee meeting as observers, the Parks Department was not. In fact, the GVRD Parks Department was not properly informed of the option, nor requested to take part in the process, nor asked to provide a separate report to the Water Committee. I investigated this matter about six months later when I spoke to the Manager of Water and Construction, John Morse, on January 26, 1995. Morse mentioned that the topic of the Lower Seymour as a regional park had been an ongoing concern for a long time, and he then inquired why I was interested in asking him this question. I replied that I wanted to make certain that the Water District followed proper procedures in proposing the parks option. Morse then stated that “it was Ben Marr who made the decision, he is the one in charge, he’s the Regional Manager” (personal notes). I then faxed a letter to Ben Marr on January 31, 1995. I related in the letter that I had asked John Morse “was the GVRD Parks Department formally consulted on this option?”, and that Morse suggested that “I should contact you”:

So I am asking your help in clarifying this matter for me. Was the Parks Department formally contacted and consulted ... to make the Seymour Demonstration Forest into a Regional Park?

On February 1st, 1995 I received a call from Ben Marr. He wanted to know what I meant by the word “formally”. Evidently the Parks Department were not informed of the matter.

The Water Committee minutes for July 15th stated that Water Committee Director Toporowski:

... continued to see a conflict between the harvesting practices in the watershed and the whole range of forestry practices in the Seymour Demonstration Forest. She stated that this mixed message should be addressed in a report in September.

The reference to September 1994 was a proposed special meeting of the Water Committee with the Seymour Advisory Committee to discuss the future options presented during the July 1994 Water Committee meeting. The Seymour Advisory Committee were previously unsuccessful in two attempts in 1993 to entice the Water Committee with a visit to their Demonstration Forest, to discuss and perhaps influence the Committee to reconsider their resolution against their logging plans:

The Water Committee was to tour the SDF and discuss its management objectives on July 7, 1993 (NB: the tour has been deferred until September). [Seymour Advisory minutes for June 24, 1993.]

... the Water Committee workshop ... was cancelled both in June and October due to a lack of participation. (Ibid., October 7, 1993)

The 'summit' meeting was rescheduled for November 2nd 1994, at the Seymour Dam Field House, and a lot was riding on it. Two weeks prior to that the Water Committee was presented with yet another report by Water District staff on the Demonstration Forest in the October 14, 1994 Agenda package. Once more staff were presenting their pitch that funding requirements for the Demonstration Forest were in jeopardy, simply because their key sponsors were threatening to pull out if logging did not continue. The funding was required for the ongoing public "forestry education" programs which the GVRD Communications and Education Department was now responsible for "to demonstrate how the lands and the forests are managed for the preservation, protection and enhancement of the water supply". The "Education Program", which "is utilized and highly valued as an outdoor classroom by all levels of the school system as well as post secondary institutions and agencies conducting research":

May have to be altered to accommodate a reduced 1995 budget, unless supplementary funds can be found. These funds could be provided by external sources or alternatively provided through the GVWD Budget as a contingency pending the resolution of the watershed management policy discussion in November which may indirectly identify potential funding sources. These sources may have already prepared their 1995 Budgets however, thus a contingency program may be prudent to ensure the education program continues in a meaningful form in 1995.

9. THE DEMONSTRATION FOREST ‘SUMMIT’ WORKSHOP

Days before the November 2nd, 1994 summit meeting, the Regional Manager and Water District Commissioner, Ben Marr, received two anxious letters from the Ministry of Forests and the Coast Forest Lumber Association. The representatives demanded the Commissioner understand and convey to the Committee at the upcoming workshop that without a logging program there would be no more financial support from them. The letters were included as “on-table” items at the workshop by the 1994 Water Committee chair, Port Moody Mayor John Northey:

... I have been advised that the significant reduction in forest area harvested within the SDF is beginning to limit the area available to demonstrate the full range of silviculture activities.... The Ministry have determined that one-fifth (\$20,000) of it's funding contribution must be directed towards incremental forest management practices.... I cannot understate the importance of the Seymour Demonstration Forest, located as it is to within easy access to most of British Columbia's urban population. The Seymour Demonstration Forest provides us with one of the best, if not the best opportunity to foster an awareness, an understanding of the importance of forestry to all British Columbians, including the urban communities.... Mr. Marr.... Please convey my position as expressed above and my recommendation that the SDF continue as was originally intended to educate and demonstrate to the public, the full range of forest resource values and uses. (Ken Collingwood, Vancouver Forest Region Regional Manager, to Water District Commissioner Ben Marr, October 25, 1994)

The CFLA [Coast Forest Lumber Association] represents 33 coastal forest companies and is a new regional forest industry trade association formed as a result of province-wide trade association restructuring. The Council of Forest Industries (COFI), as the new “Association of Associations,” will speak to those issues that are common to its 6 members as depicted on the attached brochure. In the re-structuring, the CFLA has become the funding partner to the SDF program.... Those urban citizens who have had exposure to our B.C. school systems, also recognize that their previous resource education has been too broad to help with their current understanding of the complex environmental issues. This is why it is so important for the urban populations to have an opportunity to learn through “demonstration,” what forest management and resource interactions are all about.... The CFLA and its Forest Working Group, is extremely concerned that the harvesting portion of the SDF program has been effectively curtailed by the GVWD and that a “park-like” proposal has been more the focus.... The CFLA remains committed to the Seymour Demonstration Forest as a funding partner, provided that harvesting and resource successional programs continue to be part of the overall objectives as originally determined, as recommended by the Seymour Advisory Committee. It is our intent to budget \$70,000 for 1995 as part of that commitment should the SDF and the GVWD move forward in meeting its objectives. We look forward in working with you to make the Seymour Demonstration Forest a world-class “demonstration and education” ecological classroom. (Brian Zak, president of the Coast Forest Lumber Association, and former president of the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters, to Commissioner Ben Marr, October 31, 1994)

The Manager of the Water District, John Morse, began the November 2nd workshop after Water Committee members and other municipal representatives had a brief tour of Rice Lake by the Demonstration Forest Project Coordinator Valerie Cameron. The tour group was not told about the Rice Lake Covenant, and that the lands they were in were protected from logging. Members were then escorted eleven kilometers north through the plantation forest zones to the Seymour Dam Field House. The Field House is situated slightly above the western extension of the Seymour Dam with a stunning

view of the Seymour Reservoir, forests and mountains. Not too long ago the roar of logging trucks was routinely heard - today there was peace and quiet, at least outside the Field House.

H. Bell-Irving, Don Lanskail, and Angus Allison attended as Seymour Advisory Committee representatives, and GVRD staff Deb Trouten and David Cadman from Communications and Education, and forestry manager Bob Cavill. According to the Seymour Advisory Committee minutes of October 13, 1994, “the workshop is intended for the Water Committee and invited guests only; however non-invited observers may be permitted to attend.” It was nice of the Advisory Committee to allow Doug Porter, SPEC president Paul Hundal, and myself to attend as observers, as is our right and defined in their Terms of Reference. I recorded the meeting. Outside of the Field House Stellar Jays were obviously frolicking about and chattering when John Morse brought things into perspective for the attendees:

The watershed policy that was conducted a few years ago provided a different perspective on how the watershed on-drainage lands are managed, and that is somewhat the reasons about why we are around the table today. That policy is somewhat inconsistent with the policy about the demonstration forest as it was initially set out. Some of the traditional funding partners are having difficulty with the current process and that is why it is very timely to look at it. (Audio transcript)

Morse was not quite correct to state that the GVRD Board’s 1992 revised watershed management policy was “inconsistent” with the Seymour Advisory Committee policy: that was reverse thinking. Water District staff were supporting and allowing the cutblock proposals and the prospect of sustained yield logging to come to the table, that is what was “inconsistent” with the new policy, a point which Mayor Toporowski was to once again repeat at the workshop.

During Morse’s introduction he also provided a brief summary on the history of the Seymour Advisory Committee, but neglected to inform attendees about the regional park proposal for the Lower Seymour in the early 1980’s and the Lynn/Lower Seymour Recreation Advisory Committee. How can Water Committee members make decisions on an option, such as option 3 regarding a park proposal, if the information they receive is improperly provided?

After Morse’s introductory comments, Commissioner Ben Marr managed presented the four options the Water Committee was to consider, more or less belittling the option for a park in his presentation. As a sort of an afterthought, Marr suggested a fifth and rather repugnant option:

The other thing on the land use is we actually own most of the land ... one could raise the possibility that that’s the property that’s actually worth billions of dollars.... I’m not suggesting that we put it on the table, but that’s a piece of land we are holding for other uses. (Audio transcript)

The suggestion to sell off the Water District’s lands is exactly what Commissioner MacKay once proposed at the first meeting of the Seymour Advisory Committee on October 31, 1985. After the North Vancouver public meetings in the late 1980’s, where MacKay’s proposals for real estate development were protested and publically defeated, the issue had not reared its head for five years.

The eight Committee members, and four other attending municipal representatives at the table, North Vancouver District Mayor Murray Dykeman, North Vancouver City Mayor Jack Loucks, Maple Ridge Mayor Durksen, and Vancouver Councillor Gordon Price also provided their comments on which of the four options they each preferred. New Westminster Mayor Betty Toporowski gave the following

eloquent and conscientious summary of her decision to support option 2, which two or three of the members also supported:

In the last few years I've raised the issue a number of times. I think we've had a philosophical departure from the way we have formerly operated in the watersheds. I think that is significant, and I think that it is contradictory to demonstrate logging if that's not what we are doing. I think it will be very difficult and very expensive for the Communications and Education [Department] to deliver that message clearly, that we are actually showing one thing and doing something else inside the watersheds. We've had great difficulty with that over the last two years. We've changed our policy with regard to logging significantly.... It still takes out a message that is inconsistent with the policy that we've developed.... As much as I agree that forestry is a big employer in the province of B.C., I think there are lots of opportunities for the forest industry to get out that message.... and I don't think the watersheds need to serve that purpose. (Toporowski, Audio transcript)

Vancouver Councillor Gordon Price was the only representative who supported option 3 for a regional park. He recommended that if logging was not to be done in a serious manner then the external forest industry funders might as well consider investing their money in other projects:

The average person who lives in this city the whole experience of logging is something that is a debate on TV news and in newspapers. It is not a real experience. Now, if this is not the place for it to happen, that's fine. If I were one of the fundraisers I would pull out and put my money maybe out in U.B.C. or Haney [Research Forest], or some place where you could really do a proper job of this. But if it is going to be a little bit here and a little bit there [logging] and we are not exactly sure what the mandate is, and the public is going to be confused, then let's get real about what this place is - it's a park. It's a high use, recreational oriented park and should be managed on that basis. (Gordon Price, Audio transcript)

Water Committee chair John Northey echoed Councillor Price's evaluation with regard to what visitors to the Lower Seymour are generally after:

There are other criteria that govern the use of this Demonstration Forest. From a summary standpoint, we may not realize it quite so much, but from the comments around the table, this is very clearly more than a Demonstration Forest. Whether we like it or not it is becoming and having many of the trappings of a park because of the access to it by literally everyone and the degree of recreation that takes place within it.... There are issues relating to access and to use that go beyond the management needed to manage a Demonstration Forest.... People who come up to ride bicycles on the road back and forth here, it's for that environment. They are not necessarily here for a demonstration forest, they are here to experience a wilderness condition where they can ride a bike without too much traffic. (John Northey, Audio transcript.)

I'm sure that when Mayor Northey mentioned the word "wilderness" it probably made some of the Seymour Advisory Committee representatives a little uneasy. Northey was also very critical and unhappy with the logging zone map of the Demonstration Forest which the Proposals Sub-Committee included in their June 16, 1994 final report:

If you look at the Advisory Committee's report I have a little difficulty with the broadness, if you will, of the identification of the area subject to eventual harvesting. We have an enormous area that is eventually susceptible to full cutting, in one form or another.... When you consider all those kinds of park-related activities, I think at the same time we do need to perhaps limit

AG - Nov. 19/94

Logging in Seymour forest won't include any of its old-growth trees

'The last thing I'd want to see on the area you can view from downtown Vancouver is a scar right across the hillside. You'd never do that.' — John Northey

SCOTT SIMPSON
Vancouver Sun

OLD-GROWTH TREES are off limits but the remainder of the Seymour demonstration forest can be considered for logging, the Greater Vancouver regional water committee decided Friday.

Water committee members voted unanimously to maintain the popular North Shore forest valley as an area in which to demonstrate logging methods and to provide recreation opportunities for the public.

But they supported a recommendation from water committee chair John Northey that pockets of old-growth forest be preserved indefinitely.

"Actual tree removal under this option might be extremely small," Northey said.

"We're demonstrating a whole host of things and education and demonstration are the most important items — not necessarily pulling trees out.

"This will be an extremely carefully managed area.

"The last thing I'd want to see on the area you can view from downtown Vancouver is a scar right across the hillside. You'd never do that."

The committee's decision will be passed along for the approval of the full administrative board of the Greater Vancouver regional district,

probably in December.

Although a forest industry-dominated group advising the committee had recommended that logging begin immediately, the water committee accepted Northey's suggestion that there will be no logging until a full ecological inventory of the forest is completed.

The inventory is expected to take two years and will examine logging, watershed preservation, fisheries, wildlife, recreation and public education opportunities.

North Vancouver District Councillor Janice Harris, although a strong opponent of logging in any of the Lower Mainland's three watersheds, said she voted with pro-logging members of the committee such as Burnaby's Councillor Doug Evans because they agreed to protect remaining pockets of old-growth forest in the Seymour.

Harris was also supportive because the ecological study will delay logging and might provide an opportunity to further lobby GVRD politicians to ban all logging.

The committee rejected other options for the forest, including closing it to the public or turning it into a regional park.

The park option was rejected because the forest, although situated below the Seymour reservoir, could conceivably be flooded in the distant future if Lower Mainland

needs for drinking water cannot be otherwise met.

The forested valley surrounding the Seymour River on the North Shore is 14 times as large as Stanley Park and attracted about 250,000 visitors last year.

Much of the Seymour valley was logged at the turn of the century and is dominated by second-growth trees alongside a few tracts of the original forest.

Since discussions began several years ago about the future of the forest, environmentalists have argued that no logging should take place because there are already other demonstration forests in the Lower Mainland and the Seymour is one of the region's principal watersheds.

Elaine Golds of the Burke Mountain Naturalists said that logging in the Seymour is essentially a public relations opportunity for the forest industry.

The GVRD is under pressure to find a way to finance its recreational operations in the forest, particularly after the Council of Forest Industries withheld a \$70,000 annual contribution because of a temporary logging ban.

In any given year, only about one per cent of the forest would be available for logging and profits would be used to finance recreation and other programs.

ourselves as to really how much of the area do we want to have for full, and I use the term management activity, which is a bit of an euphemism for ‘clearcut’. (Northey, audio transcript.)

After the workshop members each presented their views about the four options, the discussion began somewhat in earnest to wrestle with the philosophy behind the Seymour Advisory Committee’s report, the conditional relationship with the forest industry and governments, and the overall intent of the Seymour Demonstration Forest as it relates to forestry in British Columbia. Water District Commissioner Ben Marr ⁷ supported the Demonstration Forest concept:

What we are really saying is that we can manage the watershed outside the drainage area to demonstrate what you are doing behind the dam, so people can come and say that is a watershed management option. Or if you manage the area below the dam, for multiple use purposes, or integrated management, to demonstrate to the area and to the world this is possible to manage that area in a way that is compatible with a variety of uses, including recreation.... So I think it really comes down to two options. You see us simply demonstrating below the dam what we are doing above the dam, or you see us taking the next step ... to have integrated resource management for a variety of uses and we can demonstrate that to the Lower Mainland and to the world. It’s that second one that attracts the Canadian government and attracts the Province. If you go in that direction, you are authorized to use that area for activities that we think are compatible with our mandate. (Ben Marr, audio transcript.)

At this point the chairman asked the Seymour Advisory chairman to provide an account to the workshop members concerning their sustained yield logging report and recommendations. Don Lanskaill began by referring to the general discussion up to that time: “this is a question of fact, and not philosophy”. While glancing around the room John Northey responded, “It goes beyond forestry, it is also a political issue here.” Lanskaill immediately asked Angus Allison, the Timber Supply Manager for Richmond Plywood and Council of Forest Industries representative, to make the presentation:

With respect to option one. Please let’s start with the first thing, and that is the Seymour Demonstration Forest is the jewel in the crown. It is the biggest, the most diverse, most accessible demonstration forest on the face of the earth, bar none. So your opportunity is unequal anywhere else in the world. When Tasmania went to create their own demonstration forest they had their deputy minister travel the world for a year to study demonstration forests. His conclusions are this is the best. It is not achieving its potential, and the potential it has got is tremendous.... Now when you come down to the area, which is suitable within that context for harvesting, then you’ll start looking at a cut of around 1%, bearing in mind that the forest grows at around 3%. That’s the intention of option 1.... I was basically the architect of it. (Audio transcript)

After another round of comments chairman Northey stated:

The use of the forest is education and demonstration driven and not market driven, that’s been certainly the assumption tacitly around the table. That would be quite a travesty if we should think we have to cut in order to meet our costs. I think what is probably concerning a number of

⁷ Previous to his appointment as Regional Manager in February 1990, he had been the deputy minister of Forests for the provincial government since 1987. Prior to that he had been the Deputy Minister of the Environment for the province since 1976. And prior to that he had been the Chief Engineer for the Ministry of Environment’s Water Resources Department. In 1972 he was appointed to chair an inter-agency provincial committee to evaluate the “multiple use” of community water supply watersheds. [Note: Refer to the “Good-bye Letter to Ben Marr” on the BC Tap Water Alliance website, for more information.]

people is that this a pretty draconian drawing the way it is because it shows in effect that all of that area is susceptible to harvesting of one form or another.... There are parties out there that would not take very kindly to indicate that all this area is susceptible effectively to logging. (John Northey, audio transcript.)

After yet another round of questions on logging and promotional support for logging in the Demonstration Forest by Burnaby Councillor Doug Evans, a former president of an IWA local, and who once appeared before the Water Committee in 1985 to defend a logging contract for IWA members in the Greater Vancouver watersheds, Betty Toporowski once again summarized her well-informed views regarding the forestry propaganda program in the Demonstration Forest:

I guess I can understand the consensus in the room is certainly focused on option 1, and I continue to have concerns for that. I think there is no doubt that the logging practices within the watershed and the logging practices that would take place in the Seymour Demonstration Forest have been and would be a very high standard. I think that if you are looking for a school to teach people forestry might be done - it's a very good location and it is obviously enough of a size. But I wonder about the industry's interest in it, and I am uncomfortable that Mr. Allison has left at this point, because I think that if in the province of British Columbia all logging had been carried out in the manner in which it has been carried out within the watershed, we would not have an international uproar about forest practices in the province. So if we are going to demonstrate how forestry may be done, and these industry representatives are going to use this as an effort to support the economy and to support their operations, what kind of commitment is industry making that the manner in which they practice forestry within the Seymour Demonstration Forest would be the manner in which they log in the province. Otherwise, we become part of promoting the message to what is quite contrary to what is actually happening. And I think there is some dichotomy there. We took a lot of flack over logging in the watershed based on clearcuts in Clayoquot Sound, or what happened to the Eve River [Vancouver Island, northwest of Sayward, MacMillan Bloedel]. But within this province there are real problems with the size of cutblocks, the extent of them, the rate of turnover of forest. And I think those kind of vivid images that the public has, what's reality in forest practices, is the Ministry of Forests or is the Federal government, provincial government going to use this opportunity to redesign its regulations? If we can demonstrate that biodiversity interests are being met, that water quality are being met, that these things are being managed, are they going to use this as a learning situation to change the standards and the policies within their departments, and to upgrade the forest practices within the province? If all of the province was logged the way we have been logging within the watersheds it would be a different place than it is today. And are we going to participate in an image of logging that is not real? I don't think that the public in Greater Vancouver wants to be hoodwinked that this message of what happens in the Seymour Demonstration Forest is what happens in the province of B.C. (Audio transcript)

Besides the very compelling and sober insight that Toporowski articulated to the workshop participants, she unfortunately did not take her argument a step up. Comparing low level forestry to what is conventionally practiced in this province should not have a bearing upon our discussion about watersheds which serve people as their source of water. We have only to examine what happens when knowledgeable and concerned citizens unite to research and then provide our provincial government with solutions for "sustainable" ecologically-based alternative logging plans for low level forestry. For instance, the provincial government was provided with a well researched alternative logging plan in B.C.'s Slocan Valley about a year ago, a plan which could have been a "demonstration" model for the province. The government and the Ministry of Forests rejected the Silva Plan. If the government and

Demonstration forest chop proposal angers NVD coun.

GVRD board to consider call for more aggressive logging at Seymour

A REPORT to the Greater Vancouver Regional District's (GVRD) water committee recommending more aggressive logging in the Seymour Demonstration Forest has incurred the ire of North Vancouver District acting mayor Ernie Crist.

By Kate Zimmerman
News Reporter

The report, which was prepared by a subcommittee advising the GVRD on the forest in the North Shore river valley, was presented to the GVRD July 15 by chairman and former West Vancouver mayor Don Lanskaill.

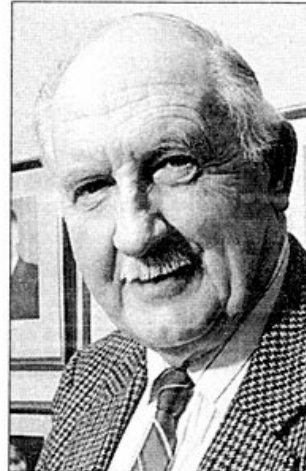
It suggests that trees no longer be weeded out of the forest on the basis of the effects of disease or winds, but should be harvested on a sustained-yield basis. It also advocates that a new network of trails be constructed for various factions of the public — hikers, cyclists, mountain bikers and horseback riders.

Crist has no objection to the trails. He is, however, disgusted by the notion of logging in the demonstration forest. He claims the committee's report is proof that the GVRD is controlled by a forest industry which has ruined the city's water supply and destroyed the forests of B.C. through "greed and stupidity."

Crist described the demonstration forest as a priceless "jewel." He said demonstration forests should be managed from the vantage-point of parks and recreation, and logging companies should stay away from the watersheds and recreational areas.

"We've lost all confidence in the forest industry," said Crist. "They continue to insist on logging methods which have ruined our forests. They are totally irresponsible."

A demonstration forest, he said,



NORTH VANCOUVER District acting mayor Ernie Crist (left) says he is disgusted by a proposal to log in the Seymour Demonstration Forest. But former West Vancouver mayor Don Lanskaill (right) argues for timber harvesting demonstration in the forest.

is for demonstrating forest management in an educational capacity and for experimenting with different types of growth. "We don't need a demonstration of clearcuts."

But Lanskaill said a demonstration forest "is supposed to demonstrate a wide range of uses of the forest. Timber harvesting is just one use."

"It's either a demonstration forest or a park," he said, suggesting that the GVRD has to decide which role it wants the Seymour forest, which is 14 times as large as Stanley Park, to play.

According to the report, active logging in the valley below the Seymour dam would produce a small yield which would not degrade the river, affect the water

supply or poison fish.

Tom Griffing, the GVRD's project manager for watershed studies, ecological inventory and the long-term vegetation management plan,

the prominence of the forest industry in B.C. there are few locations in which the public can observe logging practices. According to Griffing, the demonstration forest is "a strong and viable education tool for the public."

He suggested that possible demonstrations of forest industry practices might include pruning, ways to minimize tree growth and methods in which forests can be protected from fire. If trees were cut down, it would be on a small, selective scale, he said.

The GVRD forest management division would contract the forestry jobs out to individual companies. The logs would be sold and the money from their sale turned back into public education programs, said Griffing. "It's not a commercial operation."

But Crist was less trusting about the motives of the subcommittee, which was comprised of representatives of the B.C. Environment Ministry, the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. and the forestry industry. "There's no question in my mind that the bottom line of Mr. Lanskaill's attempt is to get their hands on the logs," he said, describing Lanskaill as "a spokesman of the forest industry. They want to log, period."

The Council of Forest Industries, the principal lobby group for the forest industry, has said that it is withholding a \$70,000 contribution to public programs in the valley for 1994 until the GVRD agrees to allow a full array of forest practices in the area. Lanskaill admitted that this threat factored into the report,

but said "that was not a dominant interest."

The GVRD board will be considering the water committee's demonstration forest logging recommendations on Friday.

“ We don't need a demonstration of clearcuts. ”

- North Vancouver District Coun. Ernie Crist

sees no problem with logging in the demonstration forest.

According to Griffing, who holds a PhD in ecology, "It's a very logical place to conduct demonstration logging." He noted that despite

forest industry are not serious about alternative logging practices, then why are they so interested in the Seymour Demonstration Forest as being a model for the world?

When it comes to “demonstrating” water supply watersheds in general, we should once again demonstrate how to leave these areas as much as possible in their natural state. That’s the way to demonstrate them, which the Water District once did. The Greater Vancouver watersheds were once the real “jewels in the crown”, not the artificial jewel as iterated by Angus Allison above. The creation of the Seymour Demonstration Forest was a strategy of the forest industry sector to influence public school educational programs, public opinion, policy, and philosophy about drinking supply watersheds, and other sensitive forest areas, for what is advertised as a “model” for the world. The forest industry sector has known too well the legislated policy the Water District once had, and still can have, about no logging in their watersheds, and how this was once, like Victoria’s and Portland’s watersheds, a provincial and world example of protected reserves. When the Water District forged the 999 year protective lease for their control over Crown lands, they did so under great protest from foresters. We should congratulate and honour this part of our local history, and scold the present Water District and GVRD administration for not researching, acknowledging, and incorporating this in their educational literature and in public discussions.

In summary, the November 2nd 1994 Seymour Demonstration Forest workshop discussion did not accept the Seymour Advisory Committee’s report as it stood. The chair stated his position on their zoning map to be “draconian”; some members expressed concerns about keeping away from “old growth” areas; one member discovered that the sustained yield rotation did not reflect the 1991 Review Panel’s recommendation for a 200 year rotation; and some members were concerned about the effects logging would have on visual impact, such as the large slopes southwest of Seymour Mountain.

Areas of heritage value are to be preserved indefinitely, for demonstration and education purposes, including selected areas of old growth timber and associated ecosystems, and early harvesting or water treatment works. (November 2nd workshop summit resolution)

One thing that Water Committee members did not examine at the summit meeting was the coincidental resurfacing of the two cutblocks under the heading “Short Term Harvesting”. Because there was once again no map produced to show the location of the areas, and because there was no information provided to instruct Water Committee members that these were the same areas that were rejected by the Water Committee in February 1993, the issue was overlooked during the workshop discussion.

SPEC president Paul Hundal and I began inquiring from Seymour Advisory Committee members the exact location of these areas. Strangely, no one seemed to be able to provide us with the information. They explained that the Water District would no doubt know where they were. Water District staff Project Coordinator Valerie Cameron said that she didn’t know either, and, according to Seymour Advisory minutes, she worked on the report with the Proposals Sub-Committee. After many inquiries, and after being given the run around, we were finally presented with the correct information. Angus Allison was responsible for making the inclusion in the May draft report and in the June 16, 1994 final report, after he was directed by Water District staff to recommend the same two areas for harvesting. In other words, Water District staff were responsible for allowing the rejected proposals to be reincorporated, this time in a report by the Seymour Advisory Committee. Paul Hundal then presented information as a delegation to the Water Committee on November 18, 1994, objecting to the proposals as an attempt to include them without the Committee’s understanding of having already been rejected by them.

Paul Hundal also appeared before the GVRD Board on December 9th, 1994 and presented a 15 page report on the Seymour Demonstration Forest. Attached to the report as appendices were the Seymour Advisory Committee's June 16, 1994 report for sustained yield logging, the Water District's report to the Water Committee dated July 15, 1994, and a copy of the resolutions from the Water Committee summit meeting of November 2, 1994. He stated in the executive summary that the "C.O.F.I. [Council of Forest Industries] representative, who viewed and recommended the short term cutblocks, never reported to anyone that the stands he proposed cutting was the last old growth stand along the lower Seymour river or the last big stand of giant Douglas Firs." Hundal also provided an assessment of the obligations the Council of Forest Industries might impose if they were to provide funding for the proposed ecological inventory for the Demonstration Forest:

The Seymour Advisory Committee (S.A.C.) Report recommended a long term sustained yield harvesting program of the Seymour Demonstration Forest. The Council of Forest Industries (C.O.F.I.) asked to pay the costs of an ecological assessment and put together a long term harvesting program where you would log an average of 1% of the S.D.F. per year (approximately 120 acres annually). It is unclear whether we would be committed to a "sustained yield" logging program once we let C.O.F.I. spend this money. The S.A.C. recommendations ask the Board to commit to sustained yield logging before they proceed with an ecological assessment.

VANCOUVER SUN, MARCH 13/98, P. A18.

LETTER OF THE DAY

Pro-logging forces set demonstration forest agenda

In the wake of two recent letters about the Seymour Demonstration Forest, I would like to discuss important issues in its recent shameful history (No shame in having a productive forest, Dec. 22, and Demonstration forest an irreplaceable tool, March 12).

The forest industry, the B.C. forests ministry, the Association of Professional Foresters and the Greater Vancouver water district have had an agenda in the demonstration forest for more than 10 years to promote logging in our three water supply watersheds and in other community water supplies. I documented these matters in my report, "Seymourgate," to the Greater Vancouver region-

al district last December (the report is available in Vancouver public libraries and at www.alternatives.com/bctwa).

The proposal by three municipalities for a regional park in the Lower Seymour valley in 1983 was countered by the creation of the Seymour advisory committee. The manager of the GVRD established the committee on Oct. 31, 1985, without the approval of the GVRD board.

At that time all committee members were registered professional foresters, with the former chief forester of B.C., Bill Young, elected as chair. This committee then stated, quite proudly, that its self-appointed membership had pub-

lic representation. Apparently, until 1993, this committee was not required to be accountable to any publicly elected representatives. Even after the committee adopted terms of reference requiring its members and chair to be elected by the GVRD water committee, this never occurred.

From 1926 until 1961, the Lower Seymour lands were purchased and leased for protection from all logging.

The previous 1983 park proposal committee should be reinstated and the Seymour advisory committee immediately disbanded.

WILL KOOP, Director
Friends of the Watershed
Vancouver

10. THE ECOLOGICAL INVENTORY AND THE UNREVISED REVIVAL OF THE 1994 BELL-IRVING REPORT

The Water District's forestry division and the Seymour Advisory Committee were confronted with two matters: to revise the June 1994 Bell-Irving report to reflect the Water Committee's November 2, 1994 'summit' meeting discussion; and the requirement to conduct an ecological inventory of the Lower Seymour before any logging management plan could be tabled:

The only funding that was approved here was the ecological inventory on-drainage, above the dam. The lower portion was before the [Water] Committee and funding was not approved for it." "Those areas, the areas that are being set out in this program clearly would have to be supported by an ecological process, very similar to what is in the watersheds right now, whether funded through outside interests or funded by the GVRD.... but it wouldn't be done divorced from [Water] Committee knowledge, meetings, you would have input into it. (John Morse, Audio transcript, November 2, 1994.)

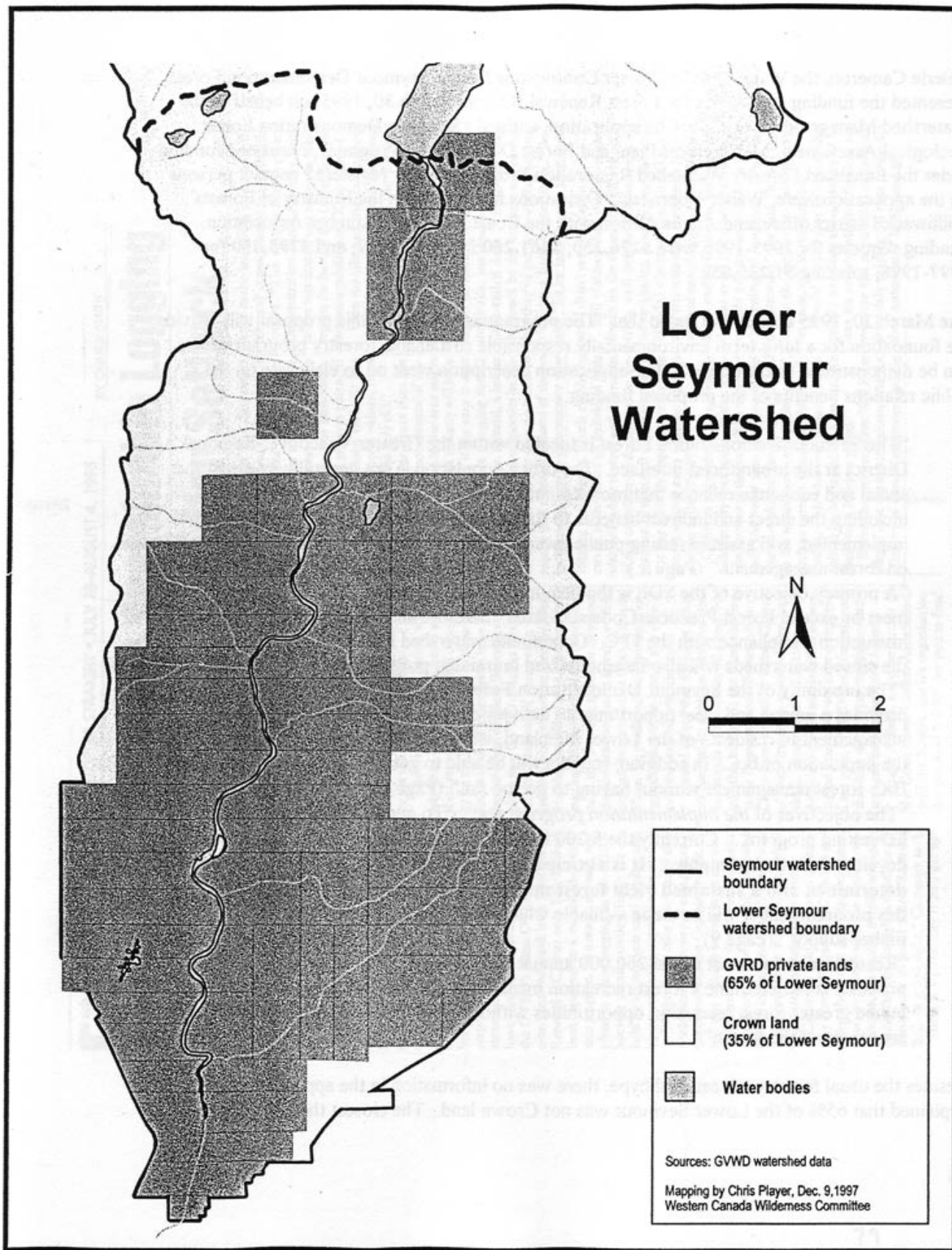
Chairperson Northey qualified that no demonstration forest activities will be taking place until an ecological inventory is completed and a management plan is in place. The Committee agreed with this point of view."(Water Committee minutes, November 18/94.)

The Water Committee argued that because the lands were not part of the critical on-drainage lands and because of a looming budgetary restraint they would not provide funding for the ecological inventory. Without the ecological inventory there could be no logging plans, and a well-conducted ecological inventory for over 5200 hectares of land requires substantial funding (between 1992 to 1997 the Water District has spent between 3 to 4 million dollars on the ecological inventory of the watersheds). Because the GVRD Board was not going to fork over the required funding for an ecological assessment of the Lower Seymour watershed, the Water District and its partners on the Seymour Advisory Committee were presented with a challenge to raise the appropriate funds from a more or less independent source. Angus Allison had stated to the Water Committee on November 2, 1994, that the Council of Forest Industries would cover part of the funding, but the GVRD Board were concerned about their public image on such a sensitive matter, which Paul Hundal pointed out to them in his delegation to the Board at the end of 1994.

The ecological inventory for the Seymour Demonstration Forest could not proceed, however, until the Water Committee would agree to a Terms of Reference for the undertaking. On April 21, 1995, Water District staff provided the Water Committee with a draft Terms of Reference for their consideration. During the meeting North Vancouver Councillor Janice Harris:

... stated the Committee lost an opportunity by not designating the lands for park. As well she provided specific comments on the terms of reference noting that the weight for recreational opportunities is not given enough emphasis. (Water Committee minutes)

After a month's deliberation, the Water Committee recommended that the GVRD Board adopt the Terms of Reference. The Water District's procedures for the ecological inventory, as mentioned in its report to the Water Committee on May 12, 1995, were adopted from the B.C. Forest Practices Code to help produce a "suitable SDF management plan":



1. Establish the Ecological Assessment Terms of Reference by reviewing and approving the data to be collected.
2. Gather the field data once funding is procured.
3. Analyze data - produce related maps.
4. Develop draft plans and assess opportunities and options.
5. Submit draft to Water Committee, Seymour Advisory Committee and general public for input.
6. Revise as necessary.
7. Submit final Management Plan to Water Committee and Administration Board for approval.

The Water District's report went on to say that:

The timber harvest program for SDF will be based on the long term sustainable yield of timber from the forest, once other values (i.e. recreation features, special old growth values, visual consideration, streamside management areas, etc.) are identified and considered within the planning framework. Future annual timber yields, reduced as a result of these values, would be determined based on a forest land area.

The report also mentioned that the Water District applied for a grant from the recently created Forest Renewal B.C. for the sum of \$176,350.

When Forest Renewal B.C. was established in 1994 all applications, at that time, were for Crown land uses only, not for private lands. About 65% of the Lower Seymour is private land, owned by the Greater Vancouver public, much of which is located along the wide valley bottom area, optimum conditions for growing good and fast timber 'crops'. During a Forest Renewal workshop at the University of British Columbia on July 5, 1995, I cornered a Forest Renewal spokesperson and enquired about the Water District's application and their interest for conducting an ecological assessment, given the private land status of the Lower Seymour. He replied that that was definitely a problem, that the application on private lands would not be considered as acceptable. He also stated that the Forest Renewal Board might be considering funding arrangements for private lands some time in the future, but that was a complex matter. Later on in 1995, the Forest Renewal Board adopted new guidelines for private land application funding. Under these guidelines priorities are given to Crown lands immediately adjacent to the private lands, and applications only relate to projects to restore environmental damage, for watershed restoration purposes.

Valerie Cameron, the Water District Project Coordinator for the Seymour Demonstration Forest, presented the funding application for Forest Renewal B.C. on March 30, 1995, on behalf of the Watershed Management Division. The application, entitled "Seymour Demonstration Forest: Ecological Assessment, Management Plan, and Forest Development Program", requested funding under the Enhanced Forestry Watershed Restoration Program. Other registered contact persons on the application were: Walter Vohradsky, Operations Manager with the Ministry of Forests' Chilliwack District office; and Angus Allison with the Coast Forest and Lumber Association. Funding requests for 1995-1996 were **\$176,350**; **\$261,250** for 1996-1997; and **\$798,050** for 1997-1998; totaling **\$1,235,650**.

The March 30, 1995 application stated that "The program as outlined in this proposal will provide the foundation for a **long term** environmentally responsible sustainable forestry program which can be demonstrated to the public." The application description went on to elaborate on the public relations benefits of the proposed funding:

The Seymour Demonstration Forest is located within the Greater Vancouver Regional District at the urban/forest interface. The urban population is not generally aware of the social and economic reliance that most communities in BC have on the forest industry, including the direct and indirect benefits to the urban areas themselves. This proposal, if implemented, will assist in raising public awareness on the dependence of BC communities on forest management. (Page 2)

A primary objective of the SDF is the demonstration of exemplary forest management to meet or exceed Forest Practices Code standards; therefore all workers will receive instruction compliance with the FPC. Community watershed management as practiced in the closed watersheds will also be emphasized in training programs. (Page 5)

The proximity of the Seymour Demonstration Forest to the province's largest urban area provides a unique and ideal opportunity to actively demonstrate responsible resource management to residents of the Lower Mainland, which constitute approximately 50% of the population of B.C. In addition, tourists will be able to get a real impression of actual B.C. forest management without having to go too far. (Page 7)

The objectives of the implementation program are: ... To generate revenue from harvesting program.... Currently the 5,200 ha Seymour Demonstration Forest is not being developed for timber supply.... It is anticipated that an annual allowable cut will be determined and a sustained yield forest management plan will commence. Under this program timber will be made available which would otherwise not be part of the timber supply. (Page 9)

Recreation draws most of the 250,000 annual visitors to the SDF. A purpose of this proposal is to determine a forest recreation management strategy which will allow the public greater forest recreation opportunities without compromising the ecological sensitivity of the forest.

Besides the usual forestry educational hype, there was no information in the application which explained that 65% of the Lower Seymour was not Crown land. The closest the application came to acknowledging this was in mentioning that the GVRD had a Crown lease agreement with the provincial government:

The 5,200 ha Seymour Demonstration Forest (SDF) is located in the lower Seymour River watershed below Seymour Falls dam. As part of the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) watershed lands, the forest is managed under a 999 year lease with the Province of British Columbia.... In late 1994, the GVWD Administration Board agreed that the SDF, being located below the Seymour Dam, would resume its demonstration forestry function pending the completion of an ecological assessment and comprehensive management plan. No direct funds were allocated towards plan development. (Page 6)

Was Forest Renewal B.C. aware of the private land status in the Seymour Demonstration Forest area? Probably not. And if Forest Renewal would have known this, would they have granted the funding? Probably not. Valerie Cameron received a formal response from Forest Renewal B.C. on July 13, 1995, stating that the Water District was only eligible for 11% of the proposed first year's funding:

Forest Renewal BC is pleased to advise you that all or part of your proposal has been approved for funding up to \$20,000 for the Watershed Restoration Program during the 1995/96 fiscal year.

Each week, hundreds of locals visit the Seymour demonstration forest to go hiking, swimming, fishing, roller-blading, or cycling under a conifer canopy. And for the past decade, the B.C. forest industry has pushed for the opportunity to log the area in a sustainable fashion. For just as long, environmentalists have bitterly opposed the plan for fear that it would destroy the forest's exquisite beauty and shatter the recreational aspirations of thousands of Lower Mainland residents.

Last year, it appeared that the forest industry had finally gotten its way when directors of the Greater Vancouver Water District approved a plan for "sustained yield" logging in the publicly owned area. Last March, GVRD employee Valerie Cameron asked Forest Renewal B.C. for a \$1.23-million grant over three years to conduct preliminary work that would lead to timber harvesting. However, the Crown corporation, which was set up to promote sustainable forestry, appears to have thrown a monkey wrench into the GVWD's plans. On July 19, Cameron received word back from Forest Renewal B.C. that only \$20,000 had been approved for a watershed-restoration program. As a result, she said, any plans to allow logging in the 5,200-hectare demonstration forest are on hold for up to a year until funding can be secured for a comprehensive study.

"Nothing can take place until this ecological inventory is completed," Cameron told the *Georgia Straight*. "I had very logically set out to do the ecological inventory first, the management plan second, and then the enhanced forestry in the third year." She said that in between these stages, she had planned to seek extensive public input.

Cameron said she doesn't know why Forest Renewal B.C. didn't approve the entire grant application at once; an official with the Crown corporation was unable to offer an explanation by the *Straight*'s deadline. "I don't want to paint Forest Renewal B.C. in a bad light," Cameron said. "There is a possibility it may get ap-

Seymour Sustainable Logging Supporters Suffer Setback

The Seymour demonstration forest, which is almost 13 times the size of Stanley Park, lies alongside the Seymour River. Two-thirds of the land is owned by the GVWD; the rest is owned by the provincial government. In 1994, 355,000 people visited the area—including up to 90,000 people who work in the film and television industry, which pays fees to GVWD to use the site as a location.

The demonstration forest, which has been identified as a future watershed reserve, offers an ideal opportunity for the forest industry to show off its latest land-use practices to large numbers of urban dwellers. But critics complain that GVWD directors should be in the business of preserving water quality, not promoting forestry. Paul Hundal, president of the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation, told the *Straight* that the Seymour demonstration forest is very visible across Burrard Inlet from Canada Place. He predicted that tourist-industry officials will be irate if this view is ever interrupted with clearcuts.

Hundal alleged that the forest industry has had its sights on lucrative timber stands in the forest all along. He said this was borne out when the Seymour Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee, chaired by former Council of Forest Industries executive Don Lanskail, recommended cutting three prime old-growth stands before an ecological assessment was to be completed. Last year, GVWD directors rejected that idea while approving the committee's call for sustained-yield forestry.

Angus Allison, a representative of the Coast Forest Lumber Association, told the *Straight* that his organization has provided \$70,000 per year to fund

the operations of the Seymour demonstration forest. He said his members would like to see timber harvested every year to help educate the public about forest issues. "This is considered to be the one demonstration forest with the greatest potential in the world," Allison said. "It has the full range of forest values, from the very young to the very old."

Hundal, however, fears that the GVWD directors' acceptance of sustained-yield logging in the area might ensure that the forest industry will have to be compensated if the area is ever turned into a park or if logging doesn't take place every year. Hundal, a lawyer who studied resource economics in university, said there was no need to require that a certain volume of timber be extracted just to demonstrate new

logging techniques. "Such cutblocks can be approved on an individual basis with full public review, and the merits of any experimental demonstration logging can be discussed at that time without any arbitrary requirement to log a certain volume every year," he wrote in a report to the GVWD.

Cameron responded that sustained-yield forestry does not mean that a certain amount of timber will be harvested each and every year. She emphasized that an ecological inventory would lead to the setting aside of "special areas", such as certain stands of old-growth timber, with whatever remains available to be harvested on a sustainable basis over a 100-year period.

Environmental researcher Will Koop alleged that the forest industry and the Ministry of Forests minimized public

input in the late 1980s by stacking the advisory committee with pro-logging forces. "The reason the Seymour Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee was formed was to bypass public process for having the Lower Seymour become a public park," Koop charged.

One member of the committee who is not associated with the forest industry, Kevin Bell of the Vancouver Natural History Society, told the *Straight* that the committee's members and GVRD staff have not placed a great deal of emphasis on the impact of forestry on wildlife such as songbirds, woodpeckers, and coast black-tailed deer. "I have not been impressed by the concern and energy that they've put into wildlife habitat. It's been a back-burner issue," Bell said. "To be fair, though, I sat there

and I didn't say much either."

Bell claimed that wildlife ranked fourth on the committee's list of priorities, well behind the concern for water quality, forestry, and fisheries. Hundal claimed that the GVWD directors wanted to commence logging without completing any wildlife-population studies. Cameron, however, said she has every intention of conducting wildlife population studies as part of the ecological inventory. "That was my intention," she said. "It says right here in the application—wildlife habitat areas, wildlife inventories."

Hundal replied that habitat studies merely examine the usability of an area for certain wildlife. "It does not measure the population of animals presently relying on that forest for their sustenance," he claimed. ■

Discussion on the funding matter surfaced at the next Seymour Advisory Committee meeting on September 14th, 1995. After questions were asked about the status of the funding request with Forest Renewal, Cameron said that the reason they received so little funding was no doubt due to her emphasis in the application on the educational component, and not on a forestry restoration project:

So they focused in on the portion of my application that dealt with slope stability, road identification rehabilitation, or mitigation, and culvert and infrastructure work, and said this is the portion we are going to fund. And that was the \$20,000 amount. (Audio transcript)

At this point the Seymour Advisory Committee members and the Project Coordinator began a rather candid discussion of their association to members on the Forest Renewal Board because of their funding obstacle:

Cameron: It's taken a lot of work by the Seymour Advisory Committee to get the GVRD to get up to this point. We've been given the mandate to proceed by the GVRD, but we haven't been given a budget to be able to proceed with it. So it's left up to scramble for external funding sources to be able to do it. And when you're looking for \$2000 here, and \$4000 there, funding is not that difficult. But when you're looking for \$176,000, well people don't just have that sitting in their chequing account.

Don Lanskail: What position does Colin Smith have with Forest Renewal, our former vice-president of finance? [Colin Smith was the former GVRD Manager of Finance.]

Cameron: Roger Stanyer and Colin Smith. One is the director...

Vohradsky: ... of the Board, and the other is the CEO.

Lanskail: Colin Smith is the CEO.

Cameron: That's right. We haven't used that connection yet. Maybe that's something we'll have to do, is talk to Colin Smith. It was Jim McFarlane, who was the president of Lands, Resources, and Environment. And Bob [Cavill] got in this telephone conversation that our application is still there, for the full amount of funds is still there, and still active with FRBC. But because it is such a holistic application. I mean we are not just looking for money to fix up a road, or to replace a culvert. We are looking at a more comprehensive application. They don't know where to put it and how to deal with it. It's too big, it's too complex, and it's got a lot of different components. So what we've been told is, okay, for the short term, you've got \$20,000 to begin this infrastructure inventory. For the long term, hang on, because we think that there is something coming down the road.

Linda Coss: I am just going to follow up on that. I am just going to say that actually Angus [Allison] must know Jim McFarlane [vice president of Operations at FRBC]. Jim used to be the chief forester at MacMillan Bloedel.

Jim Parker (IWA): He probably would.

Coss: He is actually quite supportive of education. He is on the education committee for the B.C. Forestry Association.

Lanskail: Well, are we generally agreed then that we request ... and I think we have to get approval of course from the GVRD on this. We are simply an advisory committee. To get an approval for a delegation of three, four, five, whatever it takes to go to Victoria to talk to Colin Smith and Roger Stanyer, and whoever else we can line up. (Audio transcript.)

According to the discussion, if the proposed funds could not be appropriated through the proper channels at Forest Renewal a meeting might be held with someone, higher up the ladder, who might be able to offer some assistance. Money did come through later on February 6, 1996, when the Water District received notice that they qualified for an additional \$45,000 for a sum total of \$65,000:

Forest Renewal BC is pleased to advise that your proposal which was approved July 13, 1995 for funding up to \$20,000 under the Watershed Restoration Program for 1995/96, is approved-in-principle for up to \$65,000 for the Ministry of Forests upslope portion of your project which is to continue during the 1996/97 fiscal year.... In keeping with our 1996/97 Handbook for Land-Based Programs, we recognize the "Lead Proponent" as being the Greater Vancouver Regional District, who will hold lead responsibility throughout the approval process.... The Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks will review the detailed proposals and negotiate and administer the contract(s) and approve payments on behalf of Forest Renewal BC. They have advised us that their staff will make every reasonable effort to expedite the completion of contract(s) for all approved project work.

Despite the obvious disappointment, as this provided only 5.3% of the \$1,235,650 originally applied for, Watershed Management administrator Bob Cavill passed on the good news to the Seymour Advisory Committee members in a GVRD memo on February 16, 1996:

As you are aware SDF volunteers and staff have been working with Forest Renewal B.C. to procure funds for the SDF Ecological Assessment. This assessment forms the basis for the subsequent sustainable resource management plan which is intended to guide all future activity in the Forest. I am pleased to report that, as a result of these fund raising efforts, Forest Renewal B.C. is beginning to show commitment to the program.... While the \$65,000 is only a fraction of the \$175,000 required, it is a significant and positive step. Over the next period Ken Juvik, GVRD's Watershed Forester, and Laurie Fretz, our new Supervisor, SDF and Public Programs will continue to liaison with the Ministry of Forests at the District level regarding the dovetailing of our specific assessment needs with FRBC requirements. At the same time your Chairperson, Don Lanskaill and others are continuing to investigate the possibility of procuring further funds through the various government levels.

According to a recent discussion with Laurie Fretz, the Seymour Demonstration Forest Project Coordinator, the "output" results for the Demonstration Forest ecological inventory are probably going to be ready by the end of 1997.

While the poorly funded ecological assessment was getting underway, the Watershed Management Division drafted a **Terms of Reference** document in 1996 as part of the initial process for the next working Management Plan (No.5) of the Greater Vancouver watersheds. The Terms of Reference report is the first of three successive reports ("each report acts as a building block for the next"), each of which, according to the Water District, must in turn be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forests, and finally approved by the Ministry of Forests' Regional Manager. Along with the three on-drainage watershed lands, there is now, strangely, a separate planning process in place for the Demonstration Forest:

Because of its different mandate, the Seymour Demonstration Forest will have its own set of management options, separate from the closed watersheds. (Water District report to Water Committee, Item 4.4, November 21, 1997)

The Terms of Reference report was not publicly distributed until June 1997, well after it had been approved by the Ministry of Forests in March 1997. In fact, there was no public input on this initial document, and it wasn't even submitted to the Water Committee. This was also initially true for the second phase document, the draft **Issues and Options Report**. The Issues and Options Report, which is a structural outline for the upcoming Management and Working Plan for the Greater Vancouver watersheds, was not brought before the public until some members of the public discovered its existence in mid-June. These members of the public then requested that it be distributed at the June 28, 1997 public workshop meeting on the future management of the Greater Vancouver watersheds. Even so, Water District staff did not provide a presentation to the public at the June 28th meeting on the Issues and Options Report, nor did they request that the public provide written comments after the meeting, even though the Water District said it did:

Those management 'issues' specified within the Issues and Options Report have been identified by a diverse number of public sources. Specific sources include: *1991 Evaluation and Policy Public Review; * Watershed Tours Program; * 1996 Public Opinion Polling; ***June, 1997 Public Input Workshop**; * Regional Water Advisory Committee. (Water District Report to Water Committee, Item 4.4, November 21, 1997)

The Water District were certainly not planning to table the Issues and Options Report to the Regional Water Advisory Committee (RWAC), the public body which is supposed to represent the Greater Vancouver public on critical issues regarding water management. This matter was also discovered by the public (see below for more details) who demanded that the Water District present it to the RWAC. After this issue was made public, the Water District were finally forced to request that the RWAC specially convene on November 6, 1997 in order to review the Issues and Options Report. The process to inform the RWAC was more of an afterthought than anything else. Ironically, the RWAC did not have enough time to finish their review of the Issues and Options report at the meeting because so much time was devoted to presentations and unhappy discussions around the fact that they had not met for 15 months.⁸ The section of the Issues and Options Report which RWAC did not discuss was the section on the Seymour Demonstration Forest.

As a member of the Regional Water Advisory Committee (RWAC), I wish to clarify that during the November 6 RWAC meeting at which we discussed the Issues and Options Report, time did not allow for us to completely go through this report. While we were able to discuss the items that dealt with the three drinking watersheds, we did not have any time to discuss issues associated with Integrated Resource Management in the Seymour Demonstration Forest (Issues #38 - #41). (Elaine Golds, letter to the Chair of the Water Committee, December 3, 1997)

Water District staff did not tell the Water Committee that the RWAC review was incomplete on November 21, 1997 when they recommended that the Committee approve the Issues and Options Report:

The Regional Water Advisory Committee (RWAC) has reviewed the Issues and Options report at their meeting of November 6 and their comments have been incorporated. (Water District report to Water Committee, Item 4.4, November 21, 1997)

The Seymour Advisory Committee, however, was provided with a special presentation by Watershed Management's forestry superintendent Derek Bonin on the draft Issues and Options Report for their July 10, 1997 meeting. After the presentation, the Committee were given ample time to discuss the Seymour Demonstration Forest component in the Report and were even asked to provide further written comments by the end of August, as that was when the Report was originally scheduled to be submitted to the Ministry of Forests. It is very clear that the Watershed Management Division were being highly selective about who was going to provide 'meaningful' input into the Issues and Options Report. The Water District understood that the Seymour Advisory Committee shared their views about future logging plans, and were therefore given the highest priority. It was also clear that the Regional Water Advisory Committee were not going to be consulted, given the Ministry of Forests deadline for late August 1997, even though Derek Bonin had told the Committee on July 10th that RWAC had been consulted in the matter. When the Seymour Advisory members received copies of the July 10th minutes two weeks later, it stated that both the Terms of Reference and the Issues and Options Reports had "been provided to the Regional Water Advisory Committee." That statement was a deception.

⁸ It should be stated that the Regional Water Advisory Committee have rarely met over the last three years, whereas the Seymour Advisory Committee, and its various sub-committee have met far more often. The Seymour Advisory Committee, with little meaningful public representation, seems to have more clout when it comes to "advising" than the RWAC which has gone through a rigorous nomination process by the Water Committee. The Water Committee has never appointed a chairperson or member to sit on the Seymour Advisory Committee.

I had attended and recorded the Advisory meeting in July and decided to contact Andrew Mackie, the former chairperson for the RWAC in early August 1997, and asked him if his committee had been presented with either the Terms of Reference or the Issues and Options Report. Mackie took a moment to check his files and confirmed that they had not received either of those two documents during or since their last meeting in 1996. I then sent a letter to Derek Bonin on August 6, 1997, requesting specific information on when the Water District released either of these reports to the RWAC. After four months, I have not yet received a letter of response. Copies of the **amended** minutes for the July 10th meeting were passed around at the following November 27, 1997 Seymour Advisory meeting, where the reference to the Regional Water Advisory Committee was curiously **crossed out**. New information (marked in italics) was attached, which reads as follows: "*Terms of Reference was provided to RWAC in July 1996 and Issues & Options was provided to RWAC November 1997.*" There was no mention in the amended minutes that RWAC on November 6th failed to comment on the Seymour Demonstration Forest section during their incomplete review of the Issues and Options Report.

After Derek Bonin's presentation on the Issues and Options Report on July 10th, the Seymour Advisory Committee began discussing the Report. Several members of the Committee wanted to incorporate the sustained yield zoning plan in the 1994 Bell-Irving report, as it stood, unrevised. Peter Ewens, a high school teacher, wisely suggested otherwise, because, according to him, the 1994 report was three years old and needed revision. Derek Bonin tried to incorporate both views on the matter. At this point Peter Broomhall, who represents the Seymour River Anglers' concerns, said that the 1994 Bell-Irving report should not be revised in any way, shape, or form, and that it should be incorporated in the Issues and Options report as the basis for the management plan. At this point the chair, Peter Ackhurst, agreed with Broomhall's decision, and the discussion continued with other comments around the Issues and Options Report.

As was already discussed in chapter 9, the Water Committee wanted substantial revisions in place for the 1994 Bell-Irving report, which included revisions to the zoning plan. There was also a recommendation from one of the Water Committee members in 1994 that any logging plans should conform to a 200 year rotation plan, as recommended by the 1991 public review panel. The Water Committee was expecting that the ecological inventory might shape the outcome for those revisions, but the ecological inventory was not even completed at this point. The Seymour Advisory Committee was not advised by Derek Bonin about the Water Committee's November 1994 decision, and there were members at the meeting who may have known this. And if no one knew of this, then it is obvious that proper information was not being given to the Advisory Committee.

The zones for logging, for instance, include the open large slope immediately below and southwest of Mount Seymour, the 'billion dollar' tourist view of the Seymour Mountain forest. A lot of people would become quite upset to discover that the area was being considered for logging. Once again, the Seymour Advisory Committee was working against the wishes of the Water Committee, and even before the completion, or the partial release of information, from the extremely low budgeted Lower Seymour ecological assessment. The Advisory Committee's resolution was then introduced in the October 1997 draft Issues and Options report:

The zones will provide for a balance of protection and utilization of all forest resource values. The SDF Advisory Committee will revise the Proposals Committee Report (Bell Irving, 1994), and **utilize the current zone uses** in the development of the Management Plan.... A cooperative approach for the planning and operation of the SDF will be used. **The citizen backed** [???] Seymour Advisory Committee will provide broad guidance in the development of the management strategies. (Page 27)

The October 1997 draft Issues and Options Report identified the Demonstration Forest as a separate entity from the watersheds, because of its present status outside of the on-drainage lands, therefore allowing it to be considered for more intensive management. The Report designates the Demonstration Forest for an “IRM (Integrated Resource Management) program”, which is “the only opportunity to publicly demonstrate IRM between Howe Sound and Pitt Lake”.

... the GVRD Board passed resolutions reconfirming the management of the SDF as a demonstration forest for Integrated Resource Management and as a classroom for demonstrating the application of the Forest Practices Code. (Eighth draft, October 1997, page 26)

If the document would have said “between Howe Sound and Hope” that would have significantly altered the perpetrated perspective in two ways. First, there are many places for the public to see logging operations. Why not go to the Stave Reservoir area, where the City of Mission has a “community” tree farm forest logging program, which was featured in the Vancouver Sun on November 22, 1997. Lots of ‘active’ logging there, and many other intensively managed forest areas up the Fraser Valley. Secondly, there already is another “demonstration forest” in the area, the UBC Research Forest, just on the east side of the Pitt River. Peter Sanders, one of the architects of the Seymour Demonstration Forest, and present supervisor of the UBC Research Forest, considers this area as an “education” forest, not a “demonstration” forest. Sounds confusing to me. Why does the public need another demonstration forest when there is already one just on the other side of Pitt Lake? Seems like the Water District needs to spend some time thinking about why the Seymour Demonstration Forest is the ‘only’ one around, and why we seem to need one at all.

The final Issues and Options Report, as approved by the Water Committee on November 21, 1997, states that “the primary goal in managing the Seymour Demonstration Forest is to demonstrate integrated resource management involving forest management, fisheries, water, and recreation.” (Page 1) The “primary goal” of the Demonstration Forest was determined through the compliance of the Water District by an ‘advisory committee’, which subverted a public process to create a regional park, an advisory body which has not been accountable to the Greater Vancouver public, and which has created its own “goal” for the Lower Seymour watershed. The main argument by the Water District against the area becoming a public park is that the area is to be reserved for future water supply purposes, and if it does become a park, then it will be difficult to revert the lands back for water supply purposes. If that is true, then why is the Water District supporting and proposing a sustained yield logging program, when the same is not being advocated for the on-drainage lands in the watersheds? There is something extremely inconsistent with the plans for the Lower Seymour off-drainage watershed. Or perhaps the Seymour Demonstration Forest, in its propaganda campaign, will once again attempt to introduce sustained yield logging in the Greater Vancouver watersheds?

11. A SEPARATE AGENDA

Something very peculiar almost transpired at the July 10, 1997 Seymour Advisory meeting which was held in the new “Learning Lodge”. The chairperson, Peter Ackhurst (who, as it turns out, was not the approved chair), Water District staff SDF Supervisor Laurie Fretz, and many of the Committee members wanted to hold an “In-Camera” meeting and asked the two public observers to leave the Learning Lodge. They were then challenged by the observers, Paul Hundal and myself, who objected to the Committee having an in-camera meeting. The observers stood their ground with three of the representatives for about five minutes, explaining that advisory bodies don’t have the authority to hold in-camera meetings. The observers maintained that advisory bodies are there to provide advice, not to decide on matters which politically elected representatives only have the authority to determine, and then only with reference to specific matters. Ackhurst finally conceded, and the meeting ended. Moments later we found out from Laurie Fretz that the Chair wished to vote on banning recording equipment from meetings, and that was apparently why they wanted to go in-camera.

About three months later, Peter Ackhurst sent the following memo to members of the Seymour Advisory Committee on October 29th, prior to the next scheduled meeting:

The issue of videotaping Seymour Advisory Committee meetings by observers as well as holding “in camera” sessions has been a concern for committee members. It is my understanding that the committee is not bound by the GVRD Procedure Bylaw. Consequently, the sections in the Procedure Bylaw providing for videotaping and the hearing of matters “in camera” are inapplicable to the SAC and as such, we as a committee can therefore develop our own committee operating procedures.... Do you agree that the committee should be able to go “In camera” at meetings as required? (no observers or video cameras) Should video cameras be allowed at meetings? Do you have any comments?

After I obtained a copy of the memo, I wrote a letter of concern to the Water District’s Manager John Morse on November 12th. I wanted some answers from the Manager about the proper rules for advisory committees, and I wanted to have the answer before the next scheduled Seymour Advisory Committee for November 27th, but have not received a reply since.

Why were the members suddenly concerned about recording equipment, and why would they want to have “in-camera” meetings, especially since we had been recording the meetings on a fairly regular basis since 1994? In contrast, the infrequent Regional Water Advisory Committee meetings have been almost always audio taped by the GVRD since November 1995, and transcripts are provided afterwards. No transcripts for the Seymour Advisory Committee.

Paul Hundal had discovered that Peter Ackhurst was not elected by the Seymour Advisory Committee during his first meeting as chairperson. Hundal recorded that Ackhurst suddenly appeared at the June 5th 1997 meeting as the chair with only a casual introduction by the former acting chair Peter Ewens. According to the Seymour Advisory Committee’s own Terms of Reference, which were endorsed by the Water Committee in February 1993:

5.(b) **Chairperson.** The SDF Advisory Committee will be chaired by an independent person to be designated by the Greater Vancouver Regional District’s Water Committee.

5.(e) **Meeting Process.** The meetings will be structured to encourage free and open discussion of agenda items concerning the SDF.

GVRD Advisory Group Camera-Shy About Forest's Future

The chair of a Greater Vancouver Regional District citizens' advisory committee has written a memo to fellow committee members asking if they want to ban video cameras and go behind closed doors "as required". **Peter Ackhurst**, who heads the staff-appointed **Seymour Advisory Committee**, wrote that it



is his "understanding" that the advisory committee is not required to follow a GVRD bylaw on in-camera meetings. The bylaw only permits the GVRD board and its committees, which are comprised of municipal politicians, to go behind closed doors to discuss property acquisition, labour relations, personnel issues, and security concerns.

The Seymour Advisory Committee offers advice to the GVRD on the Seymour Demonstration Forest, a popular North Shore recreation site. Ackhurst's memo has upset antilogging watershed activists who worry that the committee is working behind-the-scenes to obtain approval for logging in the forest. **Elaine Golds**, a member of the GVRD's regional water advisory council, told the *Straight* that there will be a "huge problem" if the advisory committee tries to limit the public's opportunity to see how they make decisions.

In a November 12 letter to John Morse, the GVRD's manager of water and construction, amateur watershed historian **Will Koop** wrote: "I believe that the taxpayers of Greater Vancouver would consider it important that advisory committee meetings be conducted in an open manner and that the process by which decisions are reached are transparent."

Paul Hundal, the past president of the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation who videotapes the committee's meetings, appeared before the District of

North Vancouver council meeting on November 17 to raise his concerns. Hundal's remarks generated a sympathetic response from Coun. and GVRD director **Ernie Crist** at the meeting. "Any time there is any committee anywhere that deems it necessary to meet behind closed doors, my warning signals go up," Crist said.

• CHARLIE SMITH

5.(l) Members of the public may attend Advisory Committee meetings as observers.

5.(m) As the role of the Seymour Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee is advisory, **no votes will be held to determine the Committee's position on issues.**

On October 28th I contacted Peter Ewens, the former acting chair since Don Lanskail's sudden passing in October 1996, to ask him if he was aware of how Ackhurst was appointed. Ewens replied that he didn't know by whom or by what method Peter Ackhurst had been appointed. I then contacted Ackhurst on October 31st, and he said that he was appointed by "the GVRD", but did not tell me who at the GVRD appointed him. On October 31st I then contacted Manager Bob Cavill at the Watershed Management Division. Cavill stated that he did not know who appointed him and thought the Advisory Committee had voted on his appointment. Of course Paul Hundal has recorded documentation that Ackhurst was not appointed by the Advisory Committee.

Who appointed Peter Ackhurst? No one seemed to know. It reminded me of the time when we were given the run around in 1994 with Seymour Advisory members and Water District staff claiming that they did not know where the two proposed cutblocks were physically located in the Demonstration Forest, the cutblocks which were specifically mentioned in the 1994 Bell-Irving Report. The Water Committee didn't appoint Ackhurst because we had attended all the meetings, and it was never brought up for discussion. Hoping for some clarification from the Chief Administrative Officer, I sent a letter to Johnny Carline on November 3, 1997 asking: "Could you please inform me on how, through whom, and when Peter Ackhurst was appointed as chair of the Seymour Advisory Committee." No response. I also checked with one of the Water Committee members who said that he was not aware of this coming to their attention.

On November 6th I obtained a copy of the GVRD's "Guidelines for Public Consultation and Advisory Committees", dated June 15, 1993. It clearly states that:

Advisory Committees do not have the authority to operate independent of the terms of reference established by the GVRD Board. (Page B-2)

The Chairperson of the advisory committee will be appointed by the appropriate Committee of the GVRD Board. (Page B-4)

Finally, in a recent conversation with Water District Manager John Morse on the afternoon of December 3, 1997, he confirmed that the Water Committee was never notified nor asked to appoint a chairperson to the Seymour Advisory Committee. Mr. Morse stated that the Seymour Advisory Committee membership has never been approved through the appointment of the Water Committee since it began (without the GVRD Board's approval) on October 31, 1985. I then reminded Mr. Morse of the February 1993 Terms of Reference, and the GVRD's Guidelines document on advisory committees, which state otherwise. It didn't seem to concern Mr. Morse at all. He stated that it was no doubt "an oversight" by staff. I then replied that staff did know of the Terms of Reference. Yet, no word from GVRD staff on who actually was responsible for appointing Mr. Ackhurst.

It turns out that the Water District staff at the Watershed Management Division made the decision to appoint Peter Ackhurst. On May 21, 1997, five days after the May 16th Water Committee meeting, SDF Supervisor Laurie Fretz sent the following memo to all the Seymour Advisory Committee members:

A process was initiated last year to replace Don Lanskail as Chair of the Seymour Advisory Committee. Our search for a person to fill this challenging role has led us to Mr. Peter Ackhurst of Simons Reid Collins.

The role of Chair will be to carry on the responsibility of providing strong leadership at meetings, providing direction during the development of the SDF and facilitating support for the future management plan. As manager of the BC Planning and Management Division, Peter is well qualified to undertake this position and has a broad background in resource management and public involvement.

The SDF has many challenges ahead, including the completion of the ecological assessment, and subsequent development of an integrated resource management plan. I look forward to working with Peter and the committee members to complete this endeavor and begin implementation of the approved plan.

If any member of the committee has any comments please forward them to me for discussion by May 30, 1997.

According to the fax list, 16 Advisory Committee members were sent the memo. It is clear that Water District staff were involved in handpicking Peter Ackhurst for the position of chair, and that they had violated the Seymour Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference by not bringing the matter to the Water Committee for its own approval and decision process, nor in instructing Seymour Advisory members about the formalities. Both recently appointed Regional Manager Johnny Carline and the Manager of Communications and Education Bob Paddon were probably not cognizant of the Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference, as they were written four years ago. On November 27th, 1997, Laurie Fretz told me that she was aware of the Terms of Reference, indicating that staff did know about the procedures.

There is only one conclusion to what has transpired since the Water District violated the Terms of Reference and the GVRD's Advisory Committee Guidelines document: since Peter Ackhurst's appointment on June 5th, 1997, all three meetings by the Seymour Advisory Committee are invalid, out of order, therefore, all proceedings and decisions which have taken place through that Committee are illegitimate - "advisory committees do not have the authority to operate independent of the terms of reference". This includes their July 10th input on the Issues and Options Report, which places that section of the Report in critical jeopardy. Furthermore, it can be argued that all meetings of the Seymour Advisory Committee, since the Terms of Reference were adopted by the Water Committee in February 1993 and were never abided by, should also be considered as invalid. These violations continue to raise serious concerns about the objectivity and agenda of administrators at the Water District, especially as it relates to the future management of the Greater Vancouver watersheds.⁹

⁹ The following is a copy of a letter, dated December 4, 1997, which I, as a director of Friends of the Watersheds, sent to all the GVRD municipalities regarding the Seymour Advisory:

"I spoke with Water District Manager John Morse yesterday afternoon and asked him if the Water Committee had appointed Peter Ackhurst to chair the Seymour Advisory Committee. He replied that the Water Committee had not done so. I then related to Mr. Morse that the Water Committee is obligated to appoint the chairperson, as mentioned in the February 1993 Terms of Reference for the Seymour Advisory Committee:

"5(b) **Chairperson.** The SDF Advisory Committee will be chaired by an independent person to be designated by the Greater Vancouver Regional District's Water Committee. The Chairperson's responsibility is to ensure that the meetings are run in an orderly and effective manner."

I also related to Mr. Morse the following contents in the GVRD's June 15, 1993 "Guidelines for Public Consultation and Advisory Committees":

"The Chairperson of the advisory committee will be appointed by the appropriate Committee of the GVRD Board." (Page B-4)

It is highly ironic that Peter Ackhurst, the unauthorized representative of the Seymour Advisory Committee, was permitted to appear as a delegation before the Water Committee on November 21st, 1997, especially with Watershed Management administrative staff in attendance. In his unofficial capacity, Ackhurst lobbied the Water Committee not to have the Lower Seymour become a park:

In 1994 the Water Committee reconfirmed that the Seymour Demonstration Forest status would continue, and that's the Terms of Reference that we work under.... There seems to be lots of discussion about the Seymour Demonstration Forest becoming a park, and it would certainly help me and a lot of the people who work in the Demonstration Forest that you can reconfirm that it will be a Demonstration Forest. I think that would be a good communication on your part.... (Audio transcript)

Prior to Ackhurst's presentation, three other delegations appeared to speak on issues relating to the Seymour Demonstration Forest. The first delegation was Ross Muirhead, Director and co-founder of Friends of the Watersheds. He presented descriptive and visual information on how the public Fisherman's Trail, located along the lower western Seymour River, was left in a state of disrepair, that the Seymour Advisory Committee were not paying attention to public trails in the Demonstration Forest. Since the formation of the Demonstration Forest ten years ago, there has been almost no

(Footnote #9, Continued)

“Advisory Committees do not have the authority to operate independent of the terms of reference established by the GVRD Board.” (Page B-2)

John Morse commented that the reason why Mr. Ackhurst was not appointed by the Water Committee was “an oversight” by staff. I then stated to Mr. Morse that Water District Watershed Management staff knew of the Terms of Reference. In spite of this, the Seymour Demonstration Forest Supervisor had sent out a memo to Seymour Advisory Committee members on May 21, 1997 stating that staff had picked their own candidate to chair the Committee. Mr. Morse was not concerned about the matter and stated that members of the Seymour Advisory Committee had always operated independent of the Water Committee and the Board since 1985 when it came to any and all appointments. I then reminded Mr. Morse of the Water Committee's motion passed in 1993 regarding Terms of Reference which made the Seymour Advisory Committee directly accountable to the Water Committee, and which specifically required the chair to be appointed by them. In spite of this, as stated by Mr. Morse, the Seymour Advisory Committee has continued to operate independently, as if no motion was made, in clear violation of the Terms of Reference adopted by the Water Committee.

When the **Regional Water Advisory Committee** was established in 1992, the chairperson and Committee members were formally appointed by the Water Committee after the matter was advertised in the newspapers. Why is it that the Seymour Advisory Committee continues to operate outside of the GVRD's public process? It is obvious that Water District staff continue to bypass regulations to set up a committee which will conform to their own internal resource management mandate.

Thus, Friends of The Watersheds make the following recommendations:

1. That, because Peter Ackhurst, the present Chair of the Seymour Advisory Committee, was not appointed by the Water Committee, after being selected by Water District staff, in violation of the 1993 Terms of Reference, that Mr. Ackhurst step down from his non-appointed position;
2. That, since the GVRD's Water Committee have not been guided by Water District staff to ensure the Seymour Advisory Committee's February 1993 Terms of Reference were regularly complied with, regarding the regular appointments of chairpersons and membership since February 1993, that the Seymour Advisory Committee be disbanded;
3. That, given the status of point number 2 above, and the regulations from the June 15th 1993 GVRD Guidelines quoted above, that the recommendations and advice from all Seymour Advisory Committee meetings be considered unofficial;
4. That the GVRD Board proceed to re-establish and re-affirm the 1984 Lynn-Seymour (Parks) Advisory Committee mandate for the Lower Seymour, a GVRD process which was countered by the unauthorized and publicly unrepresentative establishment of the Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee on October 31, 1985.

consideration for the establishment of a good public trail system, despite it being one of their initial objectives. The Western Canada Wilderness Committee wisely proposed a number of trails in their August 1997 public newsletter to access the remaining old growth forests in the upper slopes of the Lower Seymour, something which has been mysteriously neglected for 12 years by the Water District and the Seymour Advisory Committee. Ross Muirhead requested that the Water Committee consider the creation of a public volunteer trails committee to plan the building and maintenance of trail systems in the Lower Seymour. In this respect, it is odd that the Seymour Advisory Committee had received \$135,000 from Forest Renewal B.C. in 1997 to build an “old-growth” trail on the valley bottom lands near the dam, but they seemed to be entirely amiss about procuring funding to work on the most heavily used trail in the Demonstration Forest.

As the second delegation, I presented the Water Committee with a copy of my draft report, Seymourgate, which did not include this and other chapters. I related that the Water District had a legacy of misleading the public, including the formation of the Seymour Advisory Committee, and said that I would be providing a final report before the GVRD Board on December 12th.

Paul Hundal, representing SPEC as the third delegation, presented the Water Committee with a report on the Demonstration Forest, outlining a number of serious concerns about the Seymour Advisory Committee’s decisions on the future of the Lower Seymour. For instance, Hundal showed the Committee on a large map that the Advisory Committee were advocating logging in the old growth zone below and southwest of Mount Seymour, a highly visible area to Greater Vancouver residents and to the tourism market.¹⁰ Hundal explained that staff were not properly informing the Water Committee about the consequences:

We are particularly concerned about a viewscape ... we look at the fabulous vista which serves our billion dollar tourist industry.... Now if you turn to the very last page of the Proposals Committee Report, which was presented by the Seymour Advisory Committee, and endorsed again in July of 1997, you’ll see there is an area called 3A zone.... one can easily see that the area described as 3A is outlining this old-growth block. Now if you turn to the Report and go back a page, you’ll see 3A is and will continue to be a focus for forest management....if you do go ahead and approve the Proposals Committee [Report], then what is going to happen is these cutblocks are going to show up on the viewscape of Greater Vancouver residents and then they are going to be coming up to you to ask what is going on.... This zoning plan should be rejected in its entirety....The park option has not been fairly stated. And our general position is that the park option is the appropriate option for this area and should be revisited, reconsidered, and hopefully adopted.

Hundal also spoke to the Committee about how Water District staff had transgressed the Terms of Reference policy for the Seymour Advisory Committee, and how the Advisory Committee had tried to ban the use of recording equipment from their meetings:

And as far as videotaping it has proved to be very valuable. For instance, when Peter Ackhurst was appointed, he wasn’t appointed pursuant to the proper policy laid out, his appointment should have been through this committee.... When we had asked staff about it afterwards they had suggested that he had been selected by the Committee. But we have videotape proof of the meetings that they did not select the chair. He was simply appointed by staff and presented to the Committee.

¹⁰ Between 1962 to 1963 the Water District had clearcut logged 61.4 hectares of old growth forest in this area, creating a highly visible S-shaped scar in the mid-southern section of this area, and decided to discontinue logging in this highly visible area at that time.

After Hundal's remarks about the GVRD's policy, the Water Committee was not given clarification by staff on the Seymour Advisory's 1993 Terms of Reference. The Water Committee members, who were ignorant of the Terms of Reference, were silently confused about Paul Hundal's allegations. Water Committee members were also confused about accusations from Peter Ackhurst that public observers were "harassing" Seymour Advisory members, casting disparity toward the public observers. Water Committee Chair Don Bell finally thanked Ackhurst and the Advisory Committee for their volunteer time and all their hard work.

On November 26th, six days later, the Seymour Advisory Committee convened under a tense atmosphere. They spent about thirty minutes debating the issue of banning recording equipment and holding an in-camera meeting. Peter Sanders, the supervisor of the UBC Research Forest, stated at the outset that he was going to walk out the door of the "Learning Lodge" if the meeting was recorded, and requested from the chair that the Committee should have a 15 minute in-camera session at the end of the meeting.

At this point the GVRD's Manager of Communications and Education, Bob Paddon, was asked to make a presentation about procedures for advisory committees, both in terms of the presence of recording equipment and with regard to in-camera meetings. At the beginning of Bob Paddon's presentation he was pressed by the Ministry of Forest's Chilliwack District Planner Guy Fried, suggesting that if the GVRD had no specific rules about it, then why couldn't the Advisory Committee proceed to go in-camera. Bob Paddon stated the following:

This Committee exists to provide advice to the Greater Vancouver Regional District. As Manager of Communications and Education I am hard pressed to see any reason why any advisory committee would go in-camera for any reasons whatsoever. I just want to be real clear. I don't see a reason for an advisory committee to go in-camera. Furthermore, if content in an in-camera session is discussed, it is not of value to me as a government official for anything done in-camera. This is a public advisory committee. Its decisions, its deliberations, and its advice to us should be done in an open and public way..... What I would advise you though, we are really going to be challenged to deal with anything that you have deliberated in-camera of any value back to the Greater Vancouver Regional District, because if it is done in-camera, that is not a public process. It's no longer conducted in a public forum, so how can we use that advice?" (Audio transcript.)

Despite the pressures by some of the members, the Seymour Advisory Committee was unsuccessful in its attempts to conduct an in-camera session for the second meeting in a row.

In retrospect, it is acutely ironic that the first item on the agenda which Peter Ackhurst dealt with on his first day as chairperson on June 5th 1997 was on the 1993 Seymour Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference:

So, one of things I asked was, was there a Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee?
And I understand that they are out of date....

Laurie Fretz took her cue and continued with the discussion:

The last time we took a look at the Terms of Reference was in 1993, and I think that needs a little update work. So what I will do is take a look at the Terms and update it, and I pass it out for discussion at the next meeting.... Everybody should have a copy of the old original one, and what I would like to do is update it....

Finally, on December 8, 1997, an article appeared in the Vancouver Sun entitled “Battle brews over Seymour land reserve.” The reporter, Jeff Lee, had obtained a copy of my draft report, Seymourgate, at the November 21 Water Committee meeting and had decided to run with a story, four days before the GVRD Board meeting:

The GVRD says its critics have distorted facts, harassed staff and members of an advisory committee, and engaged in a vicious and personal propaganda campaign.

John Morse, the Water Manager, said in the article that “critics have deliberately misconstrued facts and have taken their protests to personal levels of attack, in some cases calling GVRD employees liars.” It went on to say that the Seymour Advisory Committee “complained to the GVRD that his [Paul Hundal’s] use of a camcorder at meetings was intimidating staff”. The spins were coming out, trying to sideline “critics” of the Water District. The article also stated that:

Environmentalists say the GVRD and the forest industry have a hidden agenda to clearcut portions of the old growth.... That kind of talk upsets [Laurie] Fretz, who says that she and others are dedicated to preserving the old-growth forests. “If for one moment I thought the land base was going to be raped and pillaged, I wouldn’t condone it, and I wouldn’t be here,” she said. Fretz, a biologist and ecologist, and a self-described conservationist, admits the district wants to harvest up to one percent of the demonstration forest each year. But the sites would be small and focused around education programs for schools and university students. Old-growth stands in the river bottom are not included in the harvest, she said.

I contacted Laurie Fretz on the morning of December 8th, shortly after I had read the paper, which featured her in a photograph leaning against an old-growth giant, and asked her if the portrayal about “preserving the old-growth forests” in the article reflected the Water District’s proposals for the Lower Seymour. She stated that the remark “preserving” was only referring to the valley bottom area near the “old-growth” trail near the Seymour Dam. She said that the old-growth forests in the Demonstration Forest were going to be “maintained” (clever alternate terminology for the word “managed”), meaning that they were subject to the long term logging plans. I then said to her that the public were going to get the mistaken impression from the newspaper article that the Water District intends on preserving the old-growth, and that it should correct this information in a letter to the Vancouver Sun. She replied that she did not get that impression from reading the article.

12. SEYMOURGATE SUMMARY

We distorted our own minds. (John le Carre)

As far as the public and municipalities of the North Shore were concerned, there was one important option for the future use of the Lower Seymour in the mid-1980's: the creation of a regional park. The gates had been closed to the public since 1926, with some notable exceptions towards the end of the 1970's for those eager souls simply wishing to cast their fishing rods into the river far above the narrow Seymour River canyon. By the mid-1980's the Water District began stating that it was highly unlikely that the land was going to be used for water supply purposes, "if ever" according to reports and correspondence. Many nearby residents were favouring recreational use in a 5600 hectare wilderness setting - no buildings, no industry, plenty of quiet, forests, streams, and fresh air. But Water District administrators and professional foresters within and outside of the Water District would not tolerate the "single use" proposal. The Water District perceived it as a threat and wanted to continue to both control the public and the forest land base for its logging agenda, inviting professional foresters to help control the forum. It made that very clear, both to the public and the GVRD Parks Department.

Since the late 1950's, professional engineers and foresters had managed to change the deeply rooted social mandate and philosophy of the legislated protection and conservation of the Greater Vancouver watersheds. Prior to that the Water District considered 'logging' as an intolerable and dirty word, and Commissioner Cleveland (a principled professional engineer), had for 26 long years continually kept the timber lobbyists at bay:

Don't call it logging or you'll make the Water Board's hair stand straight up on end. Every six or seven years people who are "after the timber" start pressuring for logging in the watershed. But the Water Board "holds the area in trust for the people and will continue to do so. (Commissioner T.V. Berry)

They will log that watershed over my dead body. (Commissioner E.A.Cleveland)

We're in the water supply business - not the logging business. (Commissioner T.V Berry)¹¹

The old Water District guardians knew what foresters and the forest industry wanted and did to the land, they knew how their practices affected the water supply, and they wanted to protect the watersheds from exploitation - forever. That's why they made a thousand year agreement with the provincial government in 1927, and that's why they systematically purchased almost all of the private lands in the watersheds, for complete control. They cherished and guarded the public's forested assets, and did not log the forests even when small pockets were affected by forest insects. However, the legislation was not written in stone. When the old guardians passed away, Water District administrators were gradually seconded to the fabricated trappings from foresters, and of the accompanying seduction of short term profits from logging. They violated the public's trust and kept their logging operations in secretive control, and deleted historical references to the old watershed guardians and their mandate for complete protection:

¹¹ These quotes are from suppressed articles written for the Vancouver Province, by reporter Doug Leiterman, October 19, 1953. The C.D. Schultz Company was responsible for contacting the Province's editor to suppress three interrelated stories on the Greater Vancouver watersheds, explicitly exposing how and why professional foresters wanted to initiate sustained yield logging, and why the Water District was opposed to it.

The poor payer of water rates is not organized so God help him against the timber interests lobby. (Water District Watershed Inspector, Bill Angus, 1953) ¹²

For instance, when the young forestry economist Peter Pearse (who is presently chairing the scientific review panel process for the future management of the Greater Vancouver watersheds) conducted hearings into British Columbia's forest resources in the mid-1970's, he recommended the following:

... the special circumstances of the lands within the Greater Vancouver and Victoria Water Districts deserve attention. These extensive Crown-granted forest lands have extraordinarily high recreational potential, being on the doorsteps of the province's two largest cities, containing a mixture of forest, water, and mountains The relevance for the present discussion is that these two watersheds contain some of the last remaining stands of old-growth timber within easy reach of these population centres, and a strong case can be made for preserving examples of these stands for public education and enjoyment. In both cases, however, the old-growth timber is being liquidated under harvesting plans. I strongly recommend that Regional District Boards initiate a reassessment of both the restrictions on access to these lands and the liquidation of the remaining old-growth timber. (Timber Rights and Forest Policy in B.C., Volume 1, 1976, page 186) ¹³

Pearse's highly publicized recommendations, particularly the one referring to the "liquidation" of the old-growth forests in the Greater Vancouver watersheds, touched a central nerve, making Water District administrators and forestry staff extremely defensive. They countered Pearse's recommendations with unabashed deception before the Greater Vancouver Regional Board Directors in a March 1977 report, under the sub-title "Liquidation of the Remaining Old-Growth Timber":

For the most part, the watershed lands, or at least the accessible parts, were logged off by the early part of the 1920's. Thus **there are no stands of old growth timber** accessible to the public even if they were permitted into the watersheds.... the dependence of half the population of the Province on an unfailing supply of good quality water dictated that action be taken to **replace the old forests** with a young robust forest cover which would be less prone to destruction by fire.... As far as forest management is concerned, there does not appear any reason at this time to vary the program undertaken in 1961 to replace **the mature and decadent forest cover** with young thrifty stands of growing timber. (Page 9, 10)

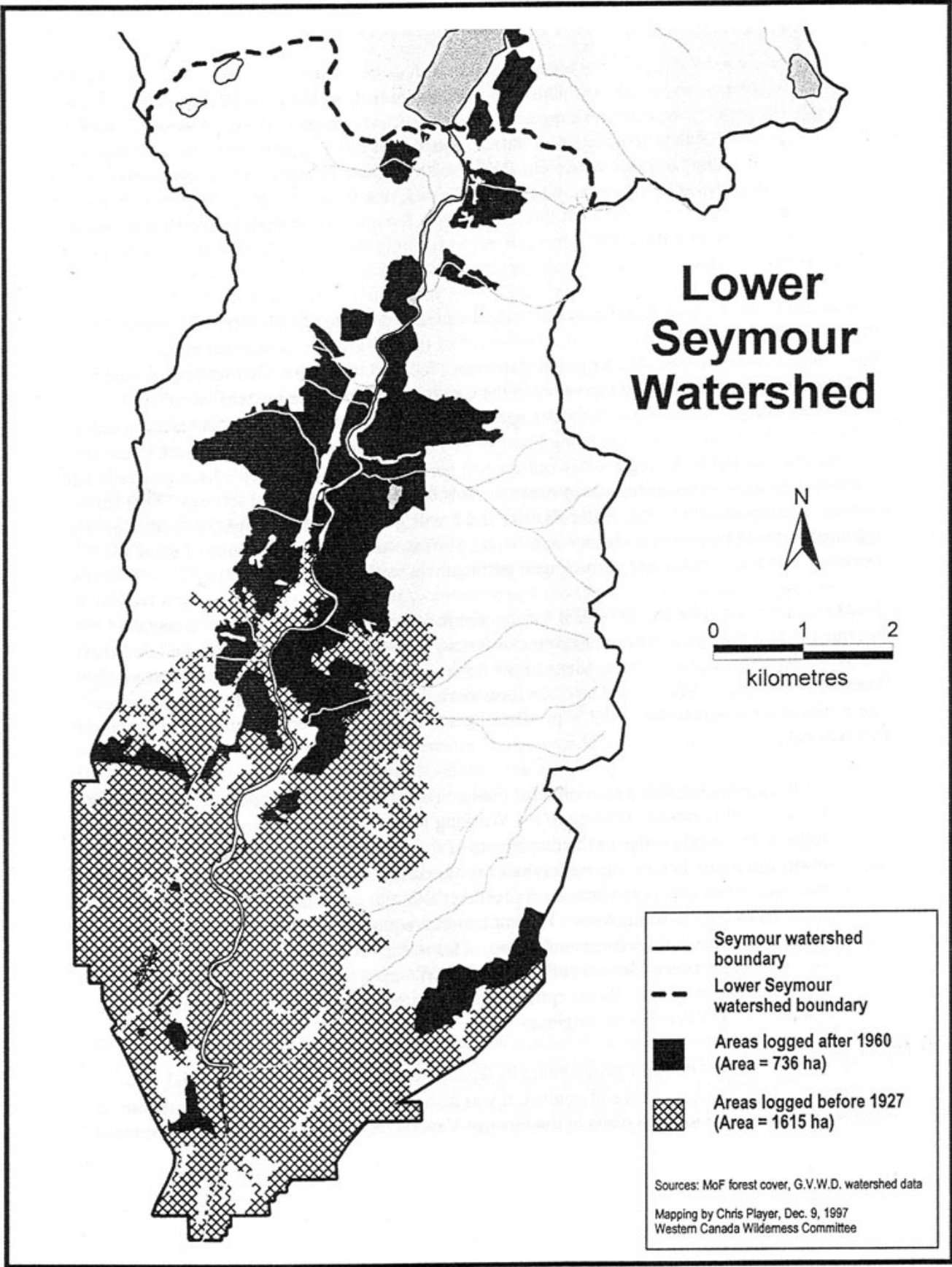
The Water District's own forest cover maps and annual reports to the Ministry of Forests documented detailed information about the extent of the old-growth component in each watershed, contrary to the above quoted statement. In 1968, the Water District constructed a logging access road to the Eastcap valley in the Capilano, an untouched extensive valley dominated with mixed old-growth forests

¹² These quotes are from suppressed articles written for the Vancouver Province, by reporter Doug Leiterman, October 19, 1953. The C.D. Schultz Company was responsible for contacting the Province's editor to suppress three interrelated stories on the Greater Vancouver watersheds, explicitly exposing how and why professional foresters wanted to initiate sustained yield logging, and why the Water District was opposed to it.

¹³ Conservation representatives from the Greater Vancouver area went on a tour with Peter Pearse, Rolf Kellerhals, and Everett Peterson in the Capilano watershed on December 7, 1997. These latter three members make up the scientific review panel to recommend the future management process for the Greater Vancouver watersheds. While we stood in the middle of a road looking across the upper Eastcap Valley at the clearcuts and remaining old growth forests, I recounted to Peter Pearse his recommendations in 1976, which had caused the Water District so much stress. I said that it was interesting how things have come full circle, that he was chairing a process which would ultimately effect the future of the old-growth forests in our watersheds. He replied that "I'm not sure I would have written it exactly the same way.

LOWER SEYMOUR LOGGING HISTORY, 1961 - 1992 (WATER DISTRICT DATA)
 (Note: There is still some missing data from this summary, notably the location of cutblocks 6 & 7.)

Cutblock #	Year of Completion	Area in Hectares	Cutblock #	Year of Completion	Area in Hectares
1	1961	11.3	47	1969	35.6
2	1961	28.7	50	1970	17.8
3	1961	38.9	57	1972	10.1
4	1962	3.2	62	1973	4
5	1962	13.4	63	1974	17.2
10	1963	24	64	1974	1.6
15	1963	37.4	74	1979	35.6
16	1964	14.8	83	1986	8.8
17	1964	4.9	90	1983	40.2
18	1964	6.9	92	1992	6.3
19	1964	30	97	1988	8
22	1964	9.7	111	1988	1.1
24	1965	5	124	1992	.5
25	1965	48.6	133	1961	.7
27	1966	6.5	601	1986	4.1
34	1968	24.3	701	1979	2
35	1967	21	702	1987	.8
36	1967	17.8	802	1980	32
37	1967	51.8	804	1978	41.3
40	1968	8.5	811	1979	16.2
41	1969	19			
42	1968	8.1	CUTBLOCKS	TOTALS	HECTARES
46	1968	19.4	42		737.1



species. The Water District's statement is a fraudulent testimony to how the public were being hoodwinked by their administrators who were intent on "liquidating" the public's irreplaceable old-growth heritage and assets. People have generally had a tendency to trust government administrators, especially in local municipal settings. That trust was consciously abused by the Water District and it was going to put up a fight, even though its arguments lacked both credibility and sensibility. Staff was stretching the limits of belief to extremes, and they were, quite surprisingly, getting away with it.

Two years later, on June 18, 1979, Bill Young, the province's chief forester, who ironically became the first chairperson of the Seymour Advisory Committee six years later, requested that the Water District table its logging plans to the public, as a mandatory process for all provincial Tree Farm licensees. The Water District's forester replied on July 13, 1979, that because they had a special lease agreement with the provincial government, they were not subject to provincial requirements:

It is our concern that a provision for public involvement will lead to a vociferous minority bringing out issues not relating to the Working Plan and not consistent with our obligation to provide potable water to the inhabitants of the Greater Vancouver area. We wish to maintain a low key in our watershed management program and respectfully submit that we are not licensees under the Forest Act and that compliance with the terms of our lease, as amended, will govern. This, of course, requires that we prepare forest management plans for submission to you. This is, however, a condition of our lease and not as an obligation under a tree-farm licence. We trust that this is a satisfactory explanation of why we take exception to the requirements for public involvement. (Ed Hamaguchi, GVWD Forest Engineer)

The Water District was not only proclaiming its legal independence from the provincial government's legislative policies and control, it was also implying that it wished to continue being secretive over its logging plans in the Greater Vancouver watersheds. This was not the Water District forester's singular directive, he had discussed the matter "with the Commissioner of the District, Mr. Bunnell", and had his orders. Had the Commissioner sought advice from the GVRD Board of Directors on this matter of inviting the public to review its logging plans of the old growth forests, or was he simply continuing to take advantage of his discretionary powers? The Water District was slowly leading the GVRD Board evermore into collective and psychological denial, the layers of deception that became cemented within its public pronouncements, its monthly and annual public reports.

The logging mandate within the Greater Vancouver public's drinking supply watersheds was not only confined to the aspirations of administrators within the Water District, it was also strategically supported by the Ministry of Forests, as a highly symbolic and political football:

It has also been suggested that the timber harvesting should be encouraged in this area because of the influential effect for logging controversies in other watersheds. (J.A.K Reid, staff consultant, letter to Assistant Deputy Minister of Forests, September 14, 1981)

On October 31, 1985, it was with the same shameless disregard and secretive process that the next Water District Commissioner overturned a GVRD Board process to investigate the potential for the Lower Seymour to become a regional park, and invited the former chief forester to lead the charge. Commissioner Doug MacKay threw the dice, but the dice were loaded. Why did municipal representatives on the Water Committee and the GVRD Board tolerate the creation of the Seymour Advisory Committee in 1986, knowing that it did not go through a formal and public process? Didn't they mind? Did they not want to create trouble? Or were they simply too busy with their own affairs? More than likely most of them trusted the Commissioner's advice and recommendations, as puzzling as they may have seemed. The course was temporarily set and the forest industry, mostly through the

assistance of professional foresters, became evermore entrenched within the operations of the Greater Vancouver Water District, influencing the GVRD Board and its policies. The facade continued until the mid 1990's, when public observers and Water Committee members began questioning their intentions and public mandate.

Oddly, it took a long time for the Greater Vancouver public to begin to take notice and protest the Water District's destructive and dubious practices in the watersheds. It started asking some hard questions in 1991 during the so-called 'public' review of logging in the Greater Vancouver watersheds. Newspaper articles, as few and scattered as they were, and scant television reviews, brought attention to the matter. Professional foresters¹⁴ were concerned in their written and oral presentations to the 1991 review panel about the possibility that the logging program was threatened, and a number of them were either members of the Seymour Advisory Committee, or affiliated 'volunteers' with the Seymour Demonstration Forest program. Scientists were also making public presentations, but challenging the Water District's robotic misinformation. By the end of 1991, the Water District's veil of deceit began to tear, and the GVRD Board brought a halt to the systematic liquidation of the old-growth forests in its watersheds.

The Seymour Demonstration Forest operations and its Advisory Committee continued to harness their public relations programs about the benefits of integrated resource management, despite the temporary restrictions to logging imposed by the GVRD Board in November of 1991 and in October 1992. The Seymour Advisory Committee said however that they had a mandate, sanctioned by the GVRD Board in 1987, to continue with a logging program.

A public relations strategy was extended from the Demonstration Forest tour program into summer tours of the Greater Vancouver watersheds themselves, in the hopes of convincing the public that logging was in their best interests, and they literally spent hundreds of thousands of public dollars to do so. At the same time, Water District staff and some members of the Seymour Advisory Committee began to maneuver around the GVRD Board's logging restriction by implementing a strategy to separate the restrictive process in the on-drainage lands from the Lower Seymour off-drainage lands. In spite of well-grounded criticisms from Water Committee members to the contrary, staff continued to argue that sustained yield logging should continue in the Demonstration Forest area, even though they had repeatedly stated in the past that the logging that occurred in the Demonstration Forest was similar to the logging in the on-drainage lands. That's when they started running into problems with funding for the ecological inventory and with their frustrated forest industry partners who were threatening to pull out if an annual logging program was not secured through GVRD Board resolution. They got that, in part, with the 1994 Bell-Irving Report, and the sustained yield logging zonation proposal for the Lower Seymour.

Water District staff and their partners, however, had made a serious error in judgment, an error which may have cost them dearly. They flagrantly by-passed public process by not adhering to the 1993 Terms of Reference document which they themselves reviewed in January 1993. In so doing, they transgressed GVRD policy and process by appointing their own membership, and forfeited years of work to mastermind a new sustained yield logging proposal for the Lower Seymour. They thought that

¹⁴ Bill Dumont, Western Forest Products' chief forester, and member of the Seymour Salmonid Society; Brian McCloy with the Council of Forest Industries; Robert Fechtner, vice-president of International Forest Products; Tony Shebbeare, Council of Forest Industries; John Leasing; Dr. John Barker; Trevor Boniface; Douglas Rickson; R.K. Vivian; R.W. Beaumont. These members names were read aloud during the tenth anniversary of the Demonstration Forest on August 24th 1997, and all submitted written comments to the 1991 public review panel.

they could get away with it, and “demonstrated” one thing quite clearly, that they were not accountable to the public for their decisions about the Lower Seymour.

The Greater Vancouver public has a unique and challenging opportunity before it. It has an overwhelming right to call for justice on this issue of the future use of the Lower Seymour Off-Catchment lands, and to call for an investigation into the affairs of the Seymour Advisory Committee the Greater Vancouver Water Districts’ Watershed Management Division. The Greater Victoria Water District was recently abolished, because of similar reasons (see Appendix C). The process which began in 1983 to have the Lower Seymour become a regional park should be reinstated, and the Seymour Advisory Committee, and its attendant mandate for logging, should be disbanded, forever more.

north shore news
MAIL BOX

Keep foresters out of watershed lands

Dear Editor:

In your recent article about the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) threatening Western Canada Wilderness Committee over its trail map to the last remaining giant Douglas firs in the Seymour Demonstration Forest, the GVWD alleges that it is strictly concerned about public liability issues. What nonsense.

Ask yourself, why is it that the GVWD will not build a trail to these remarkably large, and now rare, Douglas firs? The answer is that it has other plans for them. The GVWD staff want to log them as quickly as possible but have been blocked up until now by our local councillors on the GVWD Water Committee.

In 1991, Ralf Keldman, brought these trees to the GVWD's attention during a public meeting and asked that they be saved and that trails be built so that the public could see them. The trees are located in a publicly accessible area in the Seymour Demonstration Forest.

Instead of saving these trees the GVWD staff responded by coming up with a proposal to log them and asked that they be cut immediately, before an ecological inventory was to be

done. The ecological inventory was supposed to be done for the area to identify areas of old growth that could be saved. In their report, staff did not tell the elected politicians, who have to approve logging proposals, that the logging plans included these controversial trees.

As a regular attendant at board meetings, I examined the logging proposal and saw that it did not include a map showing where the logging was to occur, which is very unusual. After over a month of demands to see the map, staff finally disclosed where the proposed cutblocks were, and I discovered that the GVWD was planning to cut the Hydraulic Creek giants.

Thanks to North Vancouver District Coun. Janice Harris, who sat on the GVWD Water Committee at that time, the staff proposal to log immediately was rejected and deferred until after a long-term plan was in place. Now WCWC wants people to see these giant fir trees before the proposal goes back to the board to cut them.

Not surprisingly, the GVWD are using threats and intimidation to stop the public from seeing them. The GVWD will not build a trail to them and will not let anyone show the pub-

lic where they are, because of the alleged public liability concerns.

In the long run, the only way these trees will be saved for public enjoyment is if the area is made into a park.

When it was decided a few years ago that lower Seymour Valley was not needed for watershed purposes for 75 years, an effective lobby by the forest industry convinced the GVWD to call it a demonstration forest and to operate it like a tree farm where you must log it. This is publicly owned land in a highly accessible location with extremely high recreational values.

With the rest of the province being logged, it does not make sense to destroy the last remnants of old growth within the city. If the public doesn't speak up now, however, these trees will be logged. As for the GVWD staff who have gone out of their way to hide the truth from the public, in my opinion they should be fired.

As long as we have foresters managing our GVWD lands, then we are going to end up with a logging operation, instead of parks and watersheds.

Paul Hundal
West Vancouver

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APPENDIX A: SEYMOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP, ATTENDEE LIST, FROM OCTOBER 31, 1985, TO 1997

(Note: Sub-Committee members do not necessarily attend Seymour Advisory Committee meetings, and Sub-Committee members are not necessarily included in the following list.)

BILL YOUNG - B.C. Forestry Association. Chair from Oct. 1985 to Sept. 1987.

BOB CAVILL - B.C. Forestry Association. Elected as Chair of SAC on Dec.10, 1987 until the end of 1991. Later, May 1993, Manager of GVWD Watershed Management Division.

DON LANSKAIL - Chair from end of 1991 to 1996. Former alderman and two term Mayor of West Vancouver. 41 years in the Forest Industry and past president of the Council of Forest Industries (COFI).

PETER ACKHURST - Former Ministry of Forests rep. Appointed as Chair by Water District staff in June 1997. Presently employed with Simons, Reid, Collins.

MIKE APSEY - Former deputy Minister of Forests (1978-1984) and then president of the COFI.

DAVE BAKEWELL - Registered Professional Forester, consultant, former vice-president of the C.D. Schultz Co.

ERIC CROSSIN - BCIT, Forest Resource Technology Dep't.

DON MUNRO - UBC faculty of forestry, past supervisory of the UBC Research Forest.

PETER SANDERS - consultant, present supervisory of the UBC Research Forest.

FRANK PENDL - Association of BC Professional Foresters (ABCPF).

JACE STANDISH - ABCPF.

TONY SHEBBEARE - COFI.

LINDA COSS - COFI, Seymour Education Committee.

ANGUS ALLISON - Richmond Plywood, COFI.

TOM COLE - Richmond Plywood, COFI.

ABBIE MILAVSKY - Consultant, SDF Education Coordinator, Forest Alliance Director.

BARB JONES - BC Forestry Association.

GAIL WALLIN - BC Forestry Association.

TERRANCE LEWIS - Soil Conservation Society.

BRUCE WARD - Registered Professional Forester, representing the Federation of B.C. Naturalists.

ANNE BISHOP - Chair of B.C. Forest Educators, Forest Education Coordinator for Canadian Forest Products.

JIM STEPHEN - Western Forest Products.

CLAY PERRY - International Woodworkers of America, Canada (IWA).

CLAIRE DANSEREAU - IWA.

JIM PARKER - IWA.

WARREN ULLEY - IWA.

JOHN HALL - Ministry of Forests, Chilliwack, District Manager.

W. VOHRADSKY - Ministry of Forests, Chilliwack Forest District.

GUY FRIED - Ministry of Forests, Chilliwack Forest District.

JOHN HOWE - Ministry of Forests.

DICK DOERKSON - Ministry of Forests.

JACK DE LESTARD - Canadian Forestry Service (Pacific Forestry Centre).

LORRAINE BLASHILL - Canadian Forest Service.

J. DREW - Forestry Canada.
ROBERT DOBBS - Canadian Forestry Service.
STEVE GLOVER - Canadian Forest Service.
DOUG LACATE - Canadian Forest Service.
JOHN BURCH - Canadian Forest Service.
D. ROSS McDONALD - Canadian Forestry Service.

BEN MARR - According to the Lower Seymour Integrated Plan, Marr, as the Deputy Minister of the Environment, was the Ministry of Environment representative. Later as GVRD, Regional Manager.

TOM WOOD - Ministry of Environment and Parks.
TOM BURGESS - Ministry of Environment and Parks.
PETER CAVERHILL - Ministry of Environment, Fish & Wildlife.
K. LAMBERTSON - Ministry of Environment and Parks.
VALERIE CAMERON - Ministry of Environment, hydrologist.
V. SWIATKIEWICZ - Ministry of Environment and Parks.

BRYAN GATES - Association of Professional Biologists.
ALTON HARESTAD - Assoc. of Prof. Biologists.

J. PAYNE - Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).
MARK JOHNSON - DFO.
G. TACCOGNIA - DFO.

BILL McLALLEN - Seymour Salmonid Society.
MICHAEL BANWELL - Seymour Salmonid Society.
H.P. BELL-IRVING - Former B.C. Lieutenant Governor, Seymour Angling Committee.
JAY ROWLANDS - Seymour Angling Committee.
PETER BROOMHALL - Angling.
JANICE JARVIS - Seymour Hatchery, Seymour Salmonid Society.

MARK ANGELO - BCIT.
JIM SIMPSON - BCIT.
ROY STRANG - BCIT.

GARY CHARLAND - Outdoor Recreational Council of B.C.
JURI PEPREE - Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C.
DR. ROGER FREEMAN - Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C.

DR. V.C. BERT BRINK - Federation of B.C. Naturalists.
BRUCE BLACKWELL - Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.; consultant.
KEVIN BELL - Federation of Mountain Naturalists, Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre.
BRIAN WHITE - Lynn/Seymour Recreation Advisory Committee, Capilano College Outdoor Recreation Department.

Ms. D. BARKHOUSE - Consultant, Corporate Promotions.
PETER EWENS - Sutherland Secondary School.
MS. M.J. HADLEY - Consultant, M.J. Hadley and Associates.

JIM DEULING - Seymour Education Program.
CARMEN RIDA - Seymour Education Program.

GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT STAFF

DOUG L. MACKAY - GVRD Regional Manager until 1988.
M. O'CONNOR - GVRD Regional Manager, 1988-1989.
BEN MARR - GVRD Regional Manager, 1990-1996.
ART PURDON - GVWD, Chief Engineer, Manager Operations, until 1987.
JOHN MORSE - GVRD, Manager, Water and Construction.
ROBERT J. JONES - GVWD, Supervisor Quality Control and Watershed Security.
ED HAMAGUCHI - GVWD, Administrator, Watershed Management, Forestry Dep't., until Spring 1993.
GORDON JOYCE - GVWD forester, SDF Project Manager, until 1989.
TOM McCOMB - SDF technologist, supervisor (now working for the Victoria Water District with Joyce.)
DAN JEPSEN - GVWD, SDF Project Manager, Superintendent Forest Engineering, until 1991.
VALERIE CAMERON - GVWD SDF Project Coordinator (1992).
LAURIE FRETZ - Watershed tour coordinator; SDF Supervisor, 1996.
DEREK BONIN - GVWD, Superintendent Forestry Operations.
M. SOKALSKI - GVWD, Area Supervisor Operations.
RICK HANKIN - GVRD, Manager, Parks Dep't.
GORDON SMITH - GVRD, Parks, Park Planner.
DON GILLIS - Senior Engineer, GVWD Engineering Dep't.
DAVID CADMAN - Administrator, Communications and Education.
JOLEY SWITZER - GVRD Education Coordinator.
DEBRA McADAM - GVRD Communications and Education.
CATHERINE GASTALDELLO - Recording Secretary.
Ms. G. HEBNER - Recording secretary.
CHARMAINE MALET-VEALE - Recording secretary.
MAUREEN VENABLES - GVWD, recording secretary.
HEATHER GOODMAN - Recording Secretary.
SHIRLEY SJOBERG - GVRD Recording Secretary.
CATHERINE PHILPOT - GVRD Recording Secretary.

APPENDIX B: SEYMOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS LIST

(Excluding the many and various sub-committee meetings)

October 31, 1985. Former B.C. chief forester **Bill Young** is nominated as chair.
February 6, 1986.
June 6, 1986.
August 15, 1986.
December 10, 1986. **Gordon Joyce** is assigned SDF Project Coordinator.
April 28, 1987.
September 17, 1987.
December 10, 1987. **Bob Cavill** replaces Bill Young and is nominated as chair.
June 28, 1988.
March 15, 1989.
April 26, 1989.
July 25, 1989.
September 14, 1989. Water District's **Dan Jepsen** is assigned as SDF Project Coordinator.
March 8, 1990.
June 6, 1990.
August 23, 1990.
November 8, 1990.
March 7, 1991.
June 12, 1991.
October 24, 1991.
February 6, 1992. **Don Lanskail** is introduced by Bob Cavill and is nominated as chair.
May 21, 1992. **Valerie Cameron** is assigned as SDF Project Manager.
October 1, 1992.
January 28, 1993.
April 1, 1993.
June 24, 1993.
October 7, 1993.
January 27, 1994.
May 5, 1994.
May 31, 1994.
October 13, 1994.
January 26, 1995.
May 11, 1995.
September 14, 1995.
April 11, 1996. Water District's **Laurie Fretz** is assigned as SDF supervisor.
September 19, 1996.
June 5, 1997. **Peter Ackhurst** is appointed by Water District staff as chair.
July 10, 1997.
November 27, 1997.

APPENDIX C: THE VICTORIA CONNECTION

There is an intriguing linkage between the efforts and operations by professional foresters to establish a “demonstration forest” within the off-catchment lands of the Greater Victoria watersheds and with those established in the Greater Vancouver watersheds’ Lower Seymour off- catchment lands. The potential to radiate forestry educational programming to a large concentrated urban population, and a logging program next door to a forested municipal water supply watershed, are features common to both. Though recent efforts to incorporate this agenda for the off-catchment lands of Greater Victoria were unsuccessful, the parallels are nevertheless important enough to be included as a semi-detailed appendix in this report.

Just after the B.C. Supreme Court decision in the Spring of 1994, which brought a halt to the logging program in Greater Victoria’s drinking supply watershed, the Greater Victoria Water District announced that the forested off-catchment lands were to become surplus lands, and therefore a source of available revenue. As this was both a public and ecological issue, a coalition of environmental and affiliated organizations in the Greater Victoria area, led by the Western Canada Wilderness Committee and the Sea to Sea Greenbelt Society, then proposed that the off- catchment lands should be dedicated as a protected park.¹⁵ That’s when the South Vancouver Island Chapter of the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters (ABCPF) began a counter campaign to propose a demonstration forest, or what they carefully coined a “community forest”. The process by professional foresters attempted to subvert that public park process is almost identical to the process with the Lower Seymour off-catchment lands in the mid-1980’s, when three North Shore municipalities proposed a regional park for the area.

The ABCPF’s Southern Vancouver Island Chapter sent the following correspondence to the Greater Victoria Water District Board members on October 11, 1994:

I am writing on behalf of the 300 concerned members Our fact sheet (attached) states that ... Much of this area, within easy driving distance, already has been reserved for the enjoyment of future generations in the form of national, provincial and municipal parks and government reserves We suggest, therefore, that the Board give serious consideration to the creation of a Community Demonstration Forest, a unique setting where the citizens in this area, **particularly the school children**, can see and experience first-hand a variety of forest values, integrated resource management and the ecosystem approach to forestry; truly an outdoor classroom for all.... The lands, managed as a Community Demonstration Forest would provide the District and community with opportunities to: ... permit careful selective harvesting to mitigate the escalating operational costs of the GVWD and to demonstrate modern techniques.... A Community Demonstration Forest could be planned and directed by a community based Advisory Committee made up of District, community and special interest group representatives. The SVI Chapter of the ABCPF would be a willing participant.

¹⁵ Victoria and Saanich Municipal Councils, Tourism Victoria, Fairfield Community Association, Fernwood Community Association, James Bay Neighbourhood Environmental Association, Cordova Bay Rate Payers Association, Association for the Protection of Rural Saanich, Greater Victoria Fish and Game Association, Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition, Greater Victoria Ecological Network, Garry Oak Meadows Preservation Society, Friends of Ecological Reserves, Victoria Natural History Society, Citizens Association to Save the Environment, Sea to Sea Greenbelt Society, Sierra Club of British Columbia, Sierra Club of Victoria, University of Victoria Students Society, Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group, Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

On November 27, 1994, John Harris, a professional forester, sent a memo to his fellow members of the ABCPF RPAC Goldstream Community Demonstration Forest sub-committee. Harris, who was also the ABCPF's liaison officer for the Victoria/South Vancouver Island Regional Public Affairs Committee, wrote:

It was decided at our last regular RPAC meeting on Thursday, Nov. 24, that this committee would concentrate on the community demonstration forest project. Closely related, however, is our forest classroom project, which could wait until we hear in February about our funding proposal, or we can raise other funds and get started now.... I am including in this fax: 1. Excerpts from a hot-of-the-press full color, illustrated 4-page flyer, 60,000 copies of which were just published by the Western Canada Wilderness Committee to combat our proposal. 2. Notes from the last board meeting of the Greater Victoria Water District. These include minutes of the October meeting and the "package" (agenda, public presentations etc.) from the November meeting. These may give you some inkling of where the Board is thinking now and the opposition that is developing. 3. Comments by Water District Forester, Gordon Joyce. He will be at the Thursday meeting to answer your questions.

Gordon Joyce, mentioned above, is a professional forester and is still currently employed with the Greater Victoria Water District as their forest manager to supervise forest management of their water supply forests. In 1989 he left the Greater Vancouver Water District's Watershed Management Division, where he had been employed for some ten years. During his years as a forestry student at the University of British Columbia, he wrote a bachelor's thesis in 1976 on the landforms and forests in the Greater Vancouver Regional District's Seymour watershed. From 1986, until the time of his departure, Joyce became the first of four Project Managers of the Seymour Demonstration Forest. Joyce had co-authored the September 1986 "Lower Seymour Demonstration Forest Integrated Plan", regularly attended Seymour Advisory Committee meetings and some sub-committee meetings (such as the Planning-Development Group), and was thoroughly entrenched in the philosophy and operating activities of the demonstration forest.

On November 23, 1994, before the RPAC meeting mentioned above, Gordon Joyce sent the following memo (which he denies writing) to John Harris "Re: RPAC Activities":

1. I've attached a draft of a "Community Forest description". This is from a Water District position. Please review and make recommendations on "purpose", "objectives" (far too many listed) and what else to add/leave out. (2) I still recommend that this group be given a formal name: "Goldstream Community Forest Committee" ??? (3) We need to continue to get support from School Districts (have some from Sooke District) and not only one from each, but from committees, associations etc. How about the BCTF [BC Teachers Federation]? (4) Need to continue to respond to media articles and letters by writing directly to the Board and through letters to the editor (T.C.[Times Colonist], Goldstream newspaper etc.) Should get different names on letters. (5) Need to develop a slide show/presentation package ... would people be willing to make presentations to Park Committees, municipal councils etc.? (6) Can we get some \$\$ to develop a "newsletter" or some other handout for general public use? (7) Need to get formal support from BCFA [BC Forestry Association], Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C., B.C. Naturalist Society ... need as many groups/agencies as we can get. (8) I've attached a few pages from the "Green Guide", gives you an idea of what WCWC/S.C. [Sierra Club] are focusing on. Matters relating to the Management Plan, yields etc. are a long ways off. Besides, consultants will address yields in both the Land/Timber study and the Recreation/Community Forest study. **If the Community Forest concept is approved then we can work on a management plan.**

In preparation of Gordon Joyce's presentation, John Harris wrote back to Joyce suggesting that the ABCPF create a brochure, contact the respective provincial legislative politicians, and have tours to the Seymour Demonstration Forest and to Victoria's off-catchment lands:

(1) Preparation of a brochure explaining our concept of a community demonstration forest.... It might outline the pros of a CDF ... and the cons of a park (cost, inability to demonstrate harvesting techniques).... (2) Meetings with Moe Sihota and Rick Kasper, Capital Regional District, Outdoor Club of Victoria etc. I can set these up. Any other groups we can approach? Make a list for Thursday of organizations that you have had experience with.... (3) A visit to the Seymour Demonstration Forest and any others which member's experience suggest would be useful to visit. Make a list of those you are familiar with in order of priority. Perhaps there is a set of slides or over-heads describing the SDF (Gordon?). (4) Arrange public tours of the non-catchment lands (Gordon, can this be arranged; could you supply bus and driver if we supply guides?) We need to develop a "two hour tour". So we can offer tours to any groups we contact. I think this is the best way to allay the fears of logging and show off the other educational possibilities. A tour of the heavily forested watershed lands (most of it having been clear-cut logged at one time or other) demonstrates to most people in the most effective way that logging does not result in hopeless devastation of the forest and the turning of the water....

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee Victoria chapter, and The Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt Society, obtained copies of the correspondence between John Harris and Gordon Joyce. On January 25, 1995, they broadcast a joint media release calling for the resignation of the Greater Victoria Water District's Watershed Manager Gordon Joyce:

Joyce is in a clear conflict of interest - - supporting a demonstration forest in the GVWD's off-catchment lands while the future use of these lands is still being considered.... The memo clearly states that Joyce has a bias. He should now step down if the Greater Victoria Water District is to retain any credibility with the public. Joyce is supposed to be working in the public interest, managing the watershed for high quality water - - not promoting the interests of his professional associates. This memo will make people very cynical about the Water District's commitment to good faith land use planning. It highlights the need for a fair and open process of public input on the future use of the off-catchment lands.... the public interest is being betrayed if the Water District or its staff have already made up their minds to promote a demonstration forest, which is logging by a different name.

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee also wrote a letter that same day to Jack Hull, the Chief Commissioner of the Victoria Water District, asking for Gordon Joyce's resignation: It is not appropriate for staff of the GVWD to be advising a subcommittee of the ABCPF on means to further the promotion of a demonstration forest in the off-catchment lands. This action specifically contravenes the Water District's own standard of conduct policy which clearly states that, "the conduct of employees should also instill confidence and trust in the general public that the Greater Victoria Water District is at all times fulfilling its obligations to all the people it serves in a fair and impartial manner..... In lending advice and support to the members of his professional association, Mr. Joyce has violated the public trust, and should step down from his position with the Water District.

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee was raising a very important point on ethical principals and standards as they relate to the public's trust.

Through 1995 to mid 1996 the lobbying efforts by the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters continued to escalate. Members from their continental umbrella organization, the Canadian Institute of Forestry, for instance, also partook in the efforts to lobby provincial government representatives, such as the Minister of Forests. There were dozens of newspaper articles and letters to the editor about the issue. One of the articles featured some rather archaic remarks from Jack de Lestard, the professional forester chair of the Greater Victoria Community Forest Society:

We're not talking clearcuts, we're not even talking patch cuts. What we're talking here is to teach a little bit about forestry, de Lestard said. We're trying to protect it, basically. That's not a park-type protection where you preserve. We're talking conservation more than preservation where you actually do what you have to do to keep the forest healthy, as opposed to just going in and letting it all fall down around your ears. (Times Colonist, October 28, 1995)

The Minister of the Environment, Moe Sihota, was asked to step in during the Spring of 1996 to not only resolve the issue of the future of the off-catchment lands, but to also tackle the larger issue regarding the role of the Greater Victoria Water District and the management of the Sooke and Deception watersheds. To do this, David Perry was appointed as the Special Commissioner for the Conservation and Protection of the Greater Victoria Water Supply:

The Commission ... was established to make recommendations on the long term provision of sustainable water supply for the Greater Victoria Region. The scope of the Commission's mandate includes: 1. conservation and protection measures for ensuring the quality and quantity of the source of Greater Victoria's water supply; 2. boundary redefinition, land management, land activities and capital works to address provincial and regional interests and public concerns, both within and adjacent to the watershed; and 3. the structure of governance of the Greater Victoria water supply, in relation to the issues outlined above. (Report of the Special Commission, Volume 2, page 1)

The Commission held a series of six public meetings between July and August 1996, which allowed for many members of the public and organizations to present their information and views on the complex issues of the Greater Victoria Water District, including the on and off-drainage lands. In Volume Two of the Commission's final Reports, called "Background Reports", and under a section entitled "Land Use Management and Ownership", the Commission had proposed six options for the future use of the off-catchment lands. Option 2, prompted by the proposals from Gordon Joyce and the ABCPF, was for a "Community Advisory/Management Board", where the "non-catchment lands would be managed by a community advisory board", much like the Seymour Advisory Committee. In fact, a footnote attached to the option discussed the Seymour Demonstration Forest as a primary model. The Greater Vancouver Water District's Demonstration Forest Supervisor Laurie Fretz was interviewed on September 27, 1996, who told the Commission that the Seymour Advisory Committee was comprised of "**appointed**" representatives from "government, industry, and **the general public**". We know of course, that none of the Seymour Advisory Committee members were ever appointed by the GVRD's Water Committee, and that the "general public" are not represented.

The Perry Commission provided two important recommendations. First, that the Greater Victoria Water District should be disbanded because of its failure to represent and operate in the public's interest, and secondly, that the off-catchment lands not be subject to the interests of the Association of Professional Foresters:

Based on consideration of the submissions made to the Special Commission, I must conclude that any uses which involve logging or other harvesting activities for educational purposes within the non-catchment lands should be prohibited. Integrated land use which includes these activities would compromise protection of the water supply and environmental integrity. Given that approximately 88 per cent of Vancouver Island's land base is already dedicated to high-impact activities such as agriculture, urban settlement, mining and logging, there is no pressing need to introduce these activities into an extremely sensitive area. (*Report of the Special Commission on the Greater Victoria Water Supply*, Volume One: Main Report, David Perry, Special Commissioner, October 1996)

In late August 1997, the Greater Victoria Water District, which was incorporated through a provincial Act in 1922, was disbanded. It is now regrouped under the direct control of the Capital Regional District, called the Regional Water Commission. On November 19, 1997, the Sooke Hills off-catchment lands were formally established as a public park.

APPENDIX D: TEMPLES OF TIME

[Note: Ralf Kelman, as introduced in the Acknowledgements, has been a hard-nosed pioneer of the ancient giant old growth remnant forests along the North Shore Mountains, and has flagged trails to some of them in the Lower Seymour watershed. His rough trails are marked on the Western Canada Wilderness Committee's newsletter, "Our Choice: Seymour Demonstration Forest or Seymour Ancient Groves Park". He wrote the following account in July 1997, entitled "Temples of Time in the Seymour Demonstration Forest", which he has kindly permitted me to reprint.]

TEMPLES OF TIME IN THE SEYMOUR DEMONSTRATION FOREST, by Ralf Kelman

Largely unknown to the citizens and many visitors to the Greater Vancouver region is the treasure-trove of magnificent record-breaking forest giants right in our city's front yard. Despite an 'unofficial' on-going policy of silence regarding our world-class ecological sites and great trees by forestry-connected water district bureaucracies, a new awareness is emerging. Caring citizens are taking it into their own hands to explore, inventory, and promote the amazing big-tree legacy that is being threatened by ill thought-out and unacceptable water district policies. By way of deception, the GVWD has attempted an act of modern-day alchemy by suggesting that liquidating the first forest and replacing it with a second-growth plantation would result in better water than nature itself. This astounding lie that is being presented to the public and their elected representatives is simply a bare-faced attempt to log the best of the remaining big tree forests close to our city. Only a 'forest first' policy can protect our pure water and save our increasingly rare, ancient North Shore forest and the special flora and fauna that is part of it.

The south Seymour forest, named the Seymour Demonstration Forest by officials for its opening to the public in 1987, is part of the water district that is outside of the catchment area. All of the major issues regarding watershed management are represented in the SDF. One of the most contentious, in my opinion, is the so-called 'ecological inventory' being done throughout the water district at a cost of several million dollars to taxpayers while failing to inventory and take the measure of the great trees and the forest ecology on these public lands. Everything I have heard indicates that this is a phoney operation and a subterfuge to avoid representing the real facts regarding the existence of many sensational trees that would certainly sway public sentiment away from clear-cut logging and road building in our watersheds. The patchwork of clear cuts, burn sites, roads, old growth, and great living and monument (snag) trees in the SDF are representative of the entire watershed system. Since 1990, I have explored and inventoried this large, mountainous area equal in size to eleven Stanley Parks. As a child I played on the banks of the Seymour River often when our family picnicked there. My father, Earl Kelman, was an outdoorsman and an IWA shop steward who shared a cabin beside the river in the 1930's and used to pass the house of the famous Group of Seven painter, Frederick Varley, on his way to the Twin Bridges area. They both loved the mountains and the valleys of the Seymour River and Lynn Headwaters area, with its great natural attractions and recreational potential. Originally a supporter of Jack Munro, my father finally became disenchanted with raw log shipments to Japan, undervaluation of increasingly rare timber, and the destruction of our magnificent forest legacy.

When the SDF opened, the original plan was to build a large trail system for access and recreational purposes. Interference by forest industry-connected individuals and organizations derailed this ambitious, visionary plan. When Randy Stoltman, who had recorded many of the tallest trees along the coast, contacted Dan Jepsen (former Project Manager of the SDF) in 1992 and mentioned the record size Douglas Firs in the Hydraulic Creek area. Jepsen exclaimed that he had just flown over the area and suggested that a trail be built up to the trees. Hundreds of thousands of people a year visit the

SDF for recreation and enjoyment of scenery, who have an opportunity to view some of the remnant three hundred foot Douglas Firs, record-size Western Red Cedars, magnificent Sitka Spruce, and much more, so close to our emerging, world-class city.

Watershed giants targeted

Man fights to save trees

MOTIVATED BY outrage that Vancouver's great trees are being ignored by the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) and worry that they may fall to the logger's chainsaw, Ralf Kelman searches for behemoths in Lower Mainland watershed areas to let the public know big trees stand close to home.

By Ian Noble

News Reporter

Not one to let the fences surrounding the restricted watershed areas stop him, Kelman travels the densely forested watersheds seeking big trees — firs, cedars, spruce and yews.

Kelman noted there is a lot to find back there. "We're talking about the big time," he added. "We're talking about the best."

In the Crown Creek area of the Capilano watershed stands Canada's second-largest Douglas fir, Kelman said. Although not record height (a mere 71 metres, or about 237 feet), the giant has an 3.3-metre (11-foot) diameter and a 10.5-metre (35-foot) circumference.

A Douglas fir more than 90 metres (300 feet) high in the Coquitlam Watershed may be the country's tallest tree, Kelman said.

A cedar Kelman found above a logging road



NEWS photo Ian Noble

RALF KELMAN'S tree-finding forays have taken him to stands well away from logging roads in the Capilano watershed.

had a circumference of 15 metres (50 feet). Although cedars in the watersheds are not record height, big cedars are scattered throughout the watersheds, Kelman said.

Giant yews, he said, live on the west side of the Capilano watershed.

Kelman said he believes many more giants lurk in the watersheds, and they should be found and measured.

Measuring tree size is not easy, said Kelman, but based on a combination of height, diameter and crown spread, it can be done.

Kelman believes and hopes the public will demand stricter logging regulations if they realize large trees remain in local forests.

He said local watersheds provide a unique opportunity to see B.C.'s "tree heritage" close to

home. He wants the GVRD to allow more people to see them.

John Morse, the water district's manager of water engineering and construction, said 3,500 people toured the Capilano watershed from May to September in 1994.

The same tours will be offered next year but access will not be expanded, he said.

Kelman started his tree-searching career by looking for big stumps and studying "stumpscapes."

"I was totally into stumps," he said.

However, his focus changed from stumps to trees when he was hiking in the Lynn Headwaters area and spotted a giant fir. Five minutes of bushwhacking brought him to the base of the 2.1-metre

(seven-foot) diameter giant that had been left untouched by loggers.

From that beginning, a determined tree-spotter was born.

"It's a sport in a way with a social twist to it," he said.

Kelman now compiles maps of the locations of massive trees and has begun a "great tree inventory" of 1,000-year-old trees to mark the upcoming turn of the century.

Kelman said he does not take breaking the law by entering restricted areas lightly. But he added the GVRD's policy left him with no choice: he said he was not even allowed to join a media tour of the area.

He said he may have to step on a few GVRD toes to find, map and try to save the trees.

**APPENDIX E: SEYMOUR DEMONSTRATION FOREST FUNDING
STATUS TABLE (\$)**

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Greater Vancouver Water District	285,000	285,000	285,000	285,000	190,000	190,000	304,000 (plus 39,000)	355,000	393,000	382,000
Forestry Canada	72,145	127,200	80,528	43,550	39,000			7,000	5,700	
Council of Forest Industries				22,000	65,000	70,000	75,000	70,000		
B.C. Ministry of Forests				20,000	65,000	70,000	75,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Coast Forest Lumber Assoc.									25,000	70,000
Canada Job Strategy Program - B.C. Outdoor Recreation Council		242,798	115,000	115,000						
Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.			225,478	115,000	80,000					
BCIT and/or Student Program		10,000	7,965	9,000						

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Green Gold Grant - Trail Guide				5,000			9,870	19,650		
IWA - Canada					10,000				5,000	
Fletcher Challenge Ltd.					2,750	lumber 2,000				
Western Forest Products					1,100					
Environmental Youth Core of BC- Outdoor Recreation Foundation			51,040	218,300	120,000	120,000				
Finning Tractor Ltd.					10,400	5,000				
Miscellaneous donations		5,800			35,144	2,900			372,520 3,500	
Movie Industry						41,700	7,000	94,870	228,800	
Reid Collins and Associates			4,800							
Corporate Sponsors				2,000						
GO B.C. (lottery)						17,000	14,500	20,000		

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Forest Industry Ladies						ATV 3,000	2,800			
Canfor						lumber 2,000				
MacMillan Bloedel						Bus 4,000				