

CHAPMAN AND GRAY CREEKS DATELINE

Abbreviations

B.C. = British Columbia.
 SCRD = Sunshine Coast Regional District.
 IRMS = Integrated Resource Management Study.
 IWMP = Integrated Resource Management Plan.
 LRUP = Local Resource Use Plan.
 MLA = Member of the Legislative Assembly.
 MOF = Ministry of Forests.
 MELP = Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks.
 TSHL = Timber Sale Harvest License.
 Interfor = International Forest Products Ltd.
 Canfor = Canadian Forest Products.

The Royal Society of Engineers survey Chapman Creek for long term community water supply for Sechelt and vicinity.	1910	
June 3. Chapman Creek is established as a Watershed Reserve in the New Westminster Land Recording District, for long term water supply, and active until June 3, 9999.	1929	The Union Steamship Co. is granted a water license on Chapman Creek for their steamship service and their recreational tourism development at Selma Park
A 10-year Timber Sale Harvest License (TSHL) #A00044 is issued to Jackson Bros. Logging Co. for 10 years.	1967	Order-in-Council 2277 gives effect to a Water Reserve on all of the water flowing from Chapman Creek and tributaries in favor of the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) water utility.
	1968	The SCRD is incorporated with the mandate to develop the regional water system for the lower Sunshine Coast and purchases the Union Steamship Company Water Works
The Forest Service District Forester informs the TSHL holder of an “unusually heavy incidence of silt in the Chapman Creek observed during a recent inspection of their operations.”	1969	
Forester about the effects of logging on water quality in Chapman Creek: “With the expanding use of this water for domestic use, we feel that extraordinary care should be taken to prevent pollution.	1970	
Additional restrictions on road building are added to the TSHL A00044 Indenture.	1971	Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs forwards the SCRD complaints about deteriorating water quality from the effects of logging in Chapman Creek to the Deputy Minister of Forests.
Initiated by the Assistant Chief Forester, the Chapman Creek Investigation Report concludes that SCRD concerns are justified.	1972	SCRD Planning Director raises concerns about the effects of logging in the Community Watershed to the SCRD Planning Committee.
The headwaters of Chapman Creek are removed from TSHL A00044 in response to SCRD concerns about the high elevation water catchment area.	1973	The SCRD Board continues to call for a moratorium on logging in the Chapman Creek until necessary studies are done.
MOF Experimental Project 732, the Chapman Integrated Resource Management Study (IRMS) is initiated as a multi-discipline planning model for other lower mainland community watersheds where high quality water was the prime consideration.		SCRD requests an Order-in-Council Watershed Reserve to restrict watershed use to water provision under the authority of the SCRD.

A special meeting chaired by the local MLA recommends that the upper Chapman be protected for water quality and recreation.	1973	The Sunshine Coast Ratepayers Council requests that the Minister halts logging in the Chapman drainage.
Experimental Project 732, the Chapman IRMS is completed and makes recommendations to limit logging and to undertake a sedimentation study to address necessary infrastructure repairs and maintenance.	1974	SCRD Planning Director, in a memo to MOF, stresses that any activities that might endanger the water source be curtailed to prevent siltation in the community water supply.
District Forester informs the District Ranger that “we cannot and will not tolerate the continuation of inferior road construction, inferior road maintenance and inferior wood utilization in the Chapman Creek watershed.”		The SCRDR Board recommends no further logging in the Chapman headwaters and that the lower watershed be declared a Health District to restrict uses that could impact water quality.
The Minister is “surprised that the Board has requested that regulations be established to preclude logging” and concludes that “with strict regulation the watershed can divest multiple benefits which will satisfy the water user, those dependent on the forest for their livelihood, and those who use the forest for recreational purposes.”		The SCRDR, on the advice of the Health Department, petitions the Water Resources Services Department for assistance in applying to Crown Lands for a Watershed Reserve in favor of the SCRDR water utility.
		A Section 12, <i>Land Act</i> , Watershed Reserve in favor of Water Management Branch is placed over Chapman Creek and other community watersheds as part of a provincial Task Force planning process which was initiated by the Environment and Land Use Committee of Cabinet in response to escalating public concern.
The Sedimentation Study recommended as part of Experimental Project 732 is completed and makes specific recommendations for remedial works and road maintenance procedures.	1975	
	1978	Responding to Jackson Bros. Co. logging plans, the Regional Engineer comments that the plan “cannot be any worse than it evidently was when logging was carried out downstream”.
A recreation reserve is removed from Gray Creek to facilitate an expansion of the logging chart of TSHL A00044 in Chapman Creek.	1979	Local residents inquire whether or not the 1975 Sediment Study recommendations were ever implemented and are informed by the MOF that the licensee still had not done the required works.
A Forest Service audit of the Chapman Creek “Resource Folio” confirms that the community watershed is extremely unstable and that management practices to date have been inadequate.	1981	Gray Creek is developed by the SCRDR for community water supply and begins to serve Sechelt residents.
Jackson Bros. Logging Co., holder of the TSHL, is sold and the liquidation of most of the remaining mature timber in Gray Creek is undertaken by the new owners	1983	
The Tetrahedron trail and cabins system is completed in the high elevation headwaters of Chapman Creek which had been removed from the license area of TSHL A00044 in 1973.	1987	A Section 12, <i>Land Act</i> , Watershed Reserve in favor of MELP, Water Management Branch is placed over Gray Creek.
Logging in the sensitive Chapman/Gray Creek headwaters at Tannis Lake results in sustained public criticism.	1988	
Without notifying either the SCRDR or the public, the upper Chapman, removed from TSHL A00044 in 1973, is re-included in Jackson Bros. Logging Co. Chart 101 by the MOF.	1989	The SCRDR agrees to participate on an Integrated Resource Management Plan for Chapman and Gray Creek community watersheds initiated by Water Management Branch in response to deteriorating water quality and timing of flows.

Jackson Bros. Logging is sold to International Forest Products (Interfor).	1990	The Chapman/Gray Creeks Integrated Watershed Management Plan is initiated.
Interfor and Canfor (Canadian Forest Products) are given seats on the Chapman /Gray Creeks Integrated Watershed Management Planning Team.		The SCR D makes a formal complaint to the Ombudsman about Ministry of Forests' management within the Chapman/Gray community watersheds.
Because of escalating opposition to logging in the high elevation catchment areas, the Ministry of Forests initiates the Tetrahedron Local Resource Plan (LRUP).		Ministry of Forests management within the Chapman/ Gray community watersheds.
		Preliminary restoration works, first recommended in 1975, wash out following some "unusual storm events" in the winter of 1990.
The SCR D files a statement of claim in BC Supreme Court, which causes the MOF to fund critical maintenance and restoration work in the watersheds.	1991	The Water subcommittee of the Tetrahedron LRUP makes inquiries about the significance of the Chapman Creek Watershed Reserve designation on MOF forest cover maps.
		The Water Subcommittee rediscovers Experimental Project 732, the Chapman Creek Integrated Resource Management Study from 1974, and is told that the "plan is still in force as a resource folio".
MOF states that there are no specific MOF files relating to the Chapman Creek Watershed Reserve and that the reserve status is simply to "red flag" the water resource.	1992	The Water Subcommittee makes a Tenure Inquiry to Crown Lands and discovers that Chapman and Gray Creeks are Watersheds under Section 12 of the <i>Land Act</i> and that the administrative authority is vested in the MELP, Water Management Branch.
In the first case of its kind in B.C., the SCR D proceeds with legal actions against the MOF and Interfor seeking an injunction to stop logging and road building during the IWMP process.		Water Management Branch confirms that according to its files a Section 12 Watershed Reserve was placed over Chapman Creek in 1975 (actually, in 1974), one year after the completion of Experimental Project 732.
A Watershed Cumulative Effects Analysis is completed by three MOF hydrologists who find that of the 310 landslides recorded in Chapman and Gray Creeks, 85% were caused by logging (74% of the 85%) and roads (26% of the 85%), with the remaining 15% from natural causes.	1993	The SCR D applies to MELP for a lease of Crown lands over the Chapman Watershed Reserve in favor of the Sunshine Coast Water Utility, and is rejected
Just before the SCR D goes to court, a deal is reached for a moratorium on logging and road building in the community watersheds.		The Tetrahedron LRUP Water Subcommittee Final Report finds that the 1974 IRMS recommendations were not adhered to; that current conditions within the community watersheds are deplorable; and questions whether the appropriate authority has been administering the community Watershed Reserves since 1975.
Gray Creek is relegated to a backup system, after only ten years of service, when water quality plummets due to logging in the 1980s.		The Watershed Reserve Subcommittee is struck by the Tetrahedron LRUP to look into policy, procedures and administrative authority in the Watershed Reserves.
The Watershed Reserve Subcommittee requests documentation from both the MOE and MOF to clarify administration of the Watershed Reserves.	1994	In response to the Watershed Reserves Subcommittee Tetrahedron LRUP's request through Freedom of Information, the MOF decides to "neither confirm nor deny the existence of the documentation" which would confirm that the MOF is the legal administrative authority in the community watersheds.
A 2000 signature petition is collected over a four day period which rejects any further industrial activity in the community watersheds and supports the SCR D in seeking local control.		The Tetrahedron LRUP is shut down prior to the Provincial Cabinet decision regarding the LRUP study area.

First draft Integrated Watershed Management Plan is released to the public for review and comment.		
	1995	The Chapman/Gray Watershed Restoration Project is approved and a project coordinator is hired to administer the multi- million dollar project.
Provincial Cabinet designates the entire Tetrahedron Study Area as a Class "A" Provincial Park including the upper Chapman, originally protected for water and recreation values by Experimental Project 732, the Integrated Resource Management Study in 1974.	1996	The second draft IWMP is released in May without substantive change and with the Watershed Cumulative Effects Analysis Landslide Inventory removed into the "Background Papers" of which there were only a few copies available.
The Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Environment "sign-off" the Chapman/Gray IWMP.	1997	The SCR D does not "sign-off" the IWMP and requests more public consultation.
On May 2 nd , 87% of voters reject the IWMP for the community watersheds. The SCR D accordingly announces it will not support the plan and refuses to sign-off.	1998	Following a Town Hall meeting on the subject, the SCR D decides to hold a public referendum for May 2nd on whether or not the community supports the Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the Chapman and Gray Creeks community watersheds.
Interfor proposes more logging in the Chapman and Gray Creeks community watershed reserves. The SCR D rejects all proposed cutblocks.	2000	
The Water First Committee and the Council of Canadians collects over 5200 signatures on a petition that calls for no logging and mining and SCR D control of the community watershed reserves.	2002	Representatives of the SCR D and the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association take the petition to Victoria where the Sunshine Coast's MLA tables it in the Legislature.
	2003	On May 15 th Interfor holds a meeting with the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association and announces it is withdrawing all proposed and approved cutblocks within the Chapman and Gray Creeks community watershed reserves from their 5 year Forest Development Plan
The District of Sechelt is invited by the Ministry of Forests to submit a proposal for a Community Forest logging licence.	2004	
	2005	The public objects to the inclusion of the Chapman and Gray community Watershed Reserves in the Community Forest land base.
The District of Sechelt Community Forest Proposal is rejected by the provincial Advisory Committee because the proponents fail to adequately consult with "the community".	2006	Despite the inadequacies identified by the advisory committee the Minister of Forests delegates the power to approve the Community Forest Licence to the Sunshine Coast Forest District Manager who does so over the objections of the SCR D, Town of Gibsons and the Shishalh First Nation.
Sechelt Community Projects is incorporated and its first Community Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) is released for public review.		BC's new Forest and Range Practices Act provides that logging is not to have a materially adverse impact on the quality and timing of water flows or on human health unless "it unduly reduce(s) the supply of timber from British Columbia's forests."