

SEYMOURGATE DISCUSSION PAGE

INTRODUCTION

This assembly of information was the former bulletin on the BC Tap Water Alliance website that updated readers on the ongoing politics pre- and post-*Seymourgate* report (December 12, 1997), and prior to the two hour meeting and decision of the GVRD Board in February 1999 to end the Seymour Advisory Committee and reestablish the Demonstration Forest with a new mandate as a Conservation Reserve.

Readers and researchers who are interested in the establishment and operations of the former Seymour Demonstration Forest and the Seymour Advisory Committee should refer to the *Seymourgate* report listed in the Greater Vancouver watersheds home page of the BC Tap Water Alliance website (under Community Watershed Issues).

After the release of the final Seymourgate report to the directors (municipal mayors and councillors) of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) Board on December 12, 1997 (see Delegation Transcript below, highlighted under the given date), the majority of our public representatives were unwilling to openly investigate or to admit the scandalous nature of the Seymour Advisory Committee and the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD). That was a source of extreme concern to the public, as it brought into question a number of relevant issues about the public democratic processes in place with regard to the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND THE GVRD

There has been no independent analysis undertaken on the role of public advisory bodies with the GVRD. The second GVRD advisory committee was the Seymour Advisory Committee, which began on October 31, 1985. Seymour Advisory meetings were closed to the public until 1993/1994, after the Terms of Reference were reestablished to permit the public to attend. Even so, these forestry dominated meetings were never publicly advertised by the Water District. Therefore, there was no opportunity for an independent assessment of the evolution of the Seymour Advisory Committee until much later, and no opportunity for the public to become conscious of its mandate and operations. The only information the public has in their domain to review is the Water District's own scanty and interpretive informational reports. In other words, the operational logging agenda of the Seymour Demonstration Forest, as discussed in the *Seymourgate* report, along with almost 4 million dollars in supportive funding from the Greater Vancouver Water District since 1985 (refer to Appendix E of the *Seymourgate* report), has been privately and carefully controlled. It was a "public advisory" committee in name only. Why was this permitted to happen, why did it continue without the disapproval of the GVRD, and what does this say about the GVRD and the Water District?

Some people may begin to believe that there is some sort of conspiracy or collusion at work here, and in some ways they may be correct in their interpretation. For instance, note the way in which the membership on the Seymour Advisory Committee (SAC) was established, observe the 'appointed' chairpersons to the Seymour Advisory Committee (refer to *Seymourgate* report, chapter 4, and to Appendix A) to understand the mandate, and note how a GVRD approved advisory body,

the Lynn/Seymour Recreation Advisory Committee, was subjected to ridicule and negation by the SAC (see chapter 4 again). This is a classic example of power and control by the Water District's forestry division and by players in the forest industry over a resource issue that has provincial implications, a matter which has made a mockery of public processes.

This fact is also reflective of the Water District's 1967 revised mandate for continued logging in the watersheds. When this becomes clear to readers, to the public, then they will be able to begin to understand how this mandate is symbolic of other Water District processes, committees, reports, and publications.

The first public advisory committee which sustained the apparent rigours of an open public process was the establishment of the Regional Water Advisory Committee (RWAC) in late 1992. After the 1991 'public' review by a "panel of experts" which examined the logging management of the Greater Vancouver watersheds, the GVRD were recommended to establish the RWAC which would advise them on issues relating to the source and distribution of the water supply. Unlike the Seymour Advisory Committee, representative members were appointed after considerable public advertisement. Many Water District forestry division staff have always seemed to have ample time in attending the RWAC meetings, especially when the discussion centered around resource issues. When the RWAC became critical of management practices, or when it challenged the Water District's logging mandate, its resolutions were always carefully filtered when they reached the considerations of who they were to advise, namely the Regional District's Water Committee. For many of the remaining years, the Water Committee was unaware of the RWAC's existence and mandate. In fact, the RWAC has rarely convened over the last two and a half years, making a number of members feel slighted, as though their services were being ignored - the Seymour Advisory Committee was meeting more often than the RWAC was.

In February of 1993, the Seymour Advisory Committee adopted a new Terms of Reference, which is discussed briefly in chapter 11 of the *Seymourgate* report. Despite the incorporation of the new Terms of Reference, the chairperson was never "designated" by the GVRD's Water Committee, as it was supposed to. The GVRD, with its own Terms of Reference "guidelines" for advisory bodies created on June 15, 1993, states that the Water Committee must "appoint" the chairperson. It also states "Advisory Committees do not have the authority to operate independent of the terms of reference established by the GVRD Board," implying that the Seymour Advisory Committee has been convening and advising illegitimately.

In response, the Water District in February of 1998 defended this 5 year old situation as an historical "oversight". Ultimately, the important question which is being raised here, is there any legislative reason for the Greater Vancouver Water District, or the Greater Vancouver Regional District, to be publicly accountable for its own actions? The other important consideration in all of this is to what extent, on the issue of watershed management, can our elected representatives be dependent on Water District staff for objective analysis and recommendations, especially when staff have an historical and continued self-interest in the matter?

When these matters were being brought to the attention of the Water Committee and the GVRD Board in late 1997, the manager of the Communications and Education Department was requested to attend the Seymour Advisory Committee meeting on November 27, 1997 to address the issue of the public attending its meetings with recording equipment and with the Committee's request to hold in-camera meetings (see chapter 11 of *Seymourgate* report). These concerns, and others raised about the Seymour Advisory Committee's breach of the Terms of Reference, were to be addressed at the GVRD's Communication, Education, and Culture Committee meeting in February 1998.

That discussion was apparently postponed and then brought in for discussion at the next monthly meeting on March 5, 1998. At the March meeting, members of the Communications Committee were supplied with a 4 page report entitled "GVRD Approach to Public Advisory Committees", wherein on page 2 and 3 there was reference made to the Seymour Advisory Committee and the concerns raised by the public on its function. And as a result of the concerns raised over the Seymour Advisory Committee, the Communication, Education, and Culture Committee are now reevaluating the GVRD's Terms of Reference for all advisory committees under two models or options. Under these options an advisory committee would be given either more or less influence on advice to publicly elected representatives, and the added option to conduct in-camera meetings on very restrictive terms.

PRESENTATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Correspondence and newspaper articles related to public concerns over the Seymour Advisory Committee and the Seymour Demonstration Forest.

February 10, 1993.

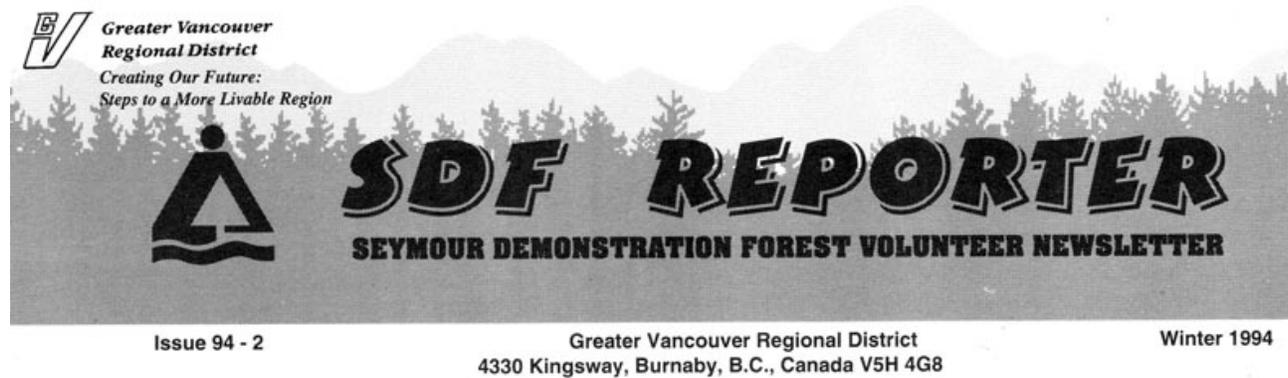
Letter to Water Committee members, from Will Koop.

In many ways the Watershed Management Department is making a significant departure this year from its 31 year old policy for clearcut logging in the watersheds. According to a recent statement by a Watershed Management Department staff member, staff will no longer be guided by the Amending Indenture for an Annual Allowable Cut in the three watersheds. For instance, the proposed roadbuilding plans and the 22 or so cutblocks in the Coquitlam watershed scheduled for 1993, which was tabled in their 5 year forest harvest development plans, have been put on hold. Relatedly, the proposed 1993 cutblocks and roadbuilding plans have also been put on hold for the other two watersheds.

The reason for the departure from the Annual Allowable Cut and their 5 year development plan is because of a combination of reasons. The main reason, according to the Watershed Management Department, is because of the pending ecological inventories, and the time factors involved with related public involvement processes for the three watersheds. But in the interim, quite suddenly, the Watershed Management Department is proposing 6 new cutblocks for 1993 in the Seymour and Capilano Catchments, outside of their unfinished logging from late 1992 in the Capilano watershed. The timing of the tabled new cutblocks is of grave concern. The Watershed Management Department first released this information to the public on Monday morning, February 8, 1993, thereby allowing only a few days of initial public inspection before the Water Board sits on Thursday, February 11, 1993. This is not a properly tabled proposal, whereby our concerned municipal taxpayers can carefully analyze and criticize these new cutblocks, and then consult the Water Board members of their findings before they meet to vote. 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. The Watershed Management Department is seeking "Approval in Principle" for all six cutblocks at the upcoming Water Board meeting, so that their proposals can go out for tender.

This sudden request also does not meet the objectives of holding a thorough ecological inventory of the three G.V.R.D. catchments. It is quite simply a contradiction in terms. Because of these fundamental reasons, at this point of analysis, 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.



Seymour Demonstration Forest Update

The SDF has been the subject of considerable debate recently. The GVRD Board has been trying to determine whether the SDF should continue as a demonstration forest, or change to a demonstration watershed, a park or simply be closed altogether. In a Water Committee workshop on November 2nd in the SDF, again in a Water Committee meeting on November 18th, and in an Administration Board meeting on December 9th, the GVRD has endorsed the demonstration forest option. This means that the SDF will be able to be planned as a separate management unit from the GVRD watersheds, which are currently managed using "reactive" management practices for risks and hazards. The GVRD is still ultimately responsible for the SDF lands. All activities that take place there will be exemplary demonstrations of practices as outlined in the Forest Practices Code. The

first step is the completion of a comprehensive ecological inventory, followed by the development of a management plan and review by elected officials, technical experts, and the public. It will be a wonderful opportunity to plan and manage the forest using the best possible forest management practices — look forward to lots of excitement coming out of the SDF! After all, how often do you get the chance to manage a spectacular land base from (almost) Square One?

On the lighter side, winter weather has slowed the normal level of activity for the Seymour Demonstration Forest, but, if you like winter activity, you can still enjoy the interpretive trails. There are some superb photographic opportunities out there too!

For more Information on the SDF, please call Valerie Cameron, Project Coordinator, at 432-6436.



December 15, 1994.

Letter to the Chair and Directors, Greater Vancouver Water District, from Paul Hundal, president of SPEC.

December 15, 1994
Chair & Directors, Board of Directors
Greater Vancouver Water District
4330 Kingsway
Burnaby, B.C., V5H 4G7

Dear Directors:

Re: S.D.F. Logging - Response to Dec. 9th, 1994 Board Decision

At the Board Meeting of December 9th, 1994, when you debated the motion of Mayor Bose, that the G.V.W.D. not be committed to a program of sustained yield logging, some serious misstatements were made by Water Committee member Councillor Jennifer Clarke that may have misled the Board in its decision.

Firstly, she stated that “sustained yield logging” does not involve annual harvests and that one may wait up to twenty years between logging. She is seriously in error. The proposed funders, Council of Forest Industries (C.O.F.I.), clearly indicated that they intend annual logging. In the letter from the C.O.F.I. representative, Angus Allison, just sent two days before and on table at the meeting, he says “The C.F.L.A. recommendation calls for an annual harvest volume...”.

Secondly, Councillor Clarke claimed that without the C.O.F.I. and Ministry of Forest’s funders there would be no funds for a Demonstration Forest. This is also untrue. The film industry revenues now far exceed what C.O.F.I. withheld this year. C.O.F.I. withheld \$70,000 because of the halt to logging, however, the film industry this year paid \$210,000 for use of the Seymour Demonstration Forest (S.D.F.) so the S.D.F. education program ended up with a surplus in spite of the C.O.F.I. withdrawal. As such we should not consider ourselves beholden to the forest industry for funding. Councillor Clarke tried to give the impression that there are no alternatives when there are.

However, by adopting the Seymour Advisory Committee (S.A.C.) recommendations you may also be interpreted as endorsing the following position taken by S.A.C. in their report:

“The filming industry is inevitably disruptive to the desired natural image of the S.D.F.. It makes a valuable contribution but thought should be given to its discontinuance should that contribution no longer be necessary.” (Page 6, SAC Report.)

S.P.E.C. opposes the above statement and believes that the film industry has been wrongfully maligned. Councillor Clarke, as member of the Water Committee, should have been aware that we have two options. 1) We can continue to accept the significant contribution from the film industry to fund our forest education program, or 2) we can replace those contributions with revenues from sustained logging, as recommended by S.A.C.. Her suggestion that there is only one option for funding the S.D.F., namely acceptance of C.O.F.I.’s funding proposal, is seriously misleading and the Board needed to be aware of this before they voted not after. S.P.E.C. had no opportunity to

rebut her statements because our presentation was complete. We ask that the Board not proceed with the proposed funding arrangement with C.O.F.I. until the full implications of such funding have been reviewed.

At the Board meeting you were told that there is no commitment yet to sustained yield logging because the longterm forest management plan still has to come back to the Board for approval. Right now, however, C.O.F.I. may be operating under the expectation that you have committed yourself to sustained yield logging. This expectation may be based on the excerpt from the S.A.C. Report that you approved:

“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 G.V.W.D..”
(Page 10, SAC Report.)

At the Board meeting, by voting for Option 1, you apparently gave C.O.F.I. the green light to fund the “forest management plan” referred to above so they may have the reasonable expectation that you have accepted the “proposed management policy” of “sustained yield forest management”. Private parties can sue local Boards over reasonable expectations created by those local Boards when those private parties spend money based upon such expectations. If you accept money from C.O.F.I. you have a duty to the public to ensure that C.O.F.I. knows that the G.V.W.D. is not committed at this time to sustained yield logging otherwise you may negligently create a legal liability requiring us to do something that the public does not want you to do.

I am bringing this matter to your attention now because you still have time to prevent this misunderstanding. As trustees over this recreationally valuable publicly-owned land you have a duty to ensure that future opportunities are not foreclosed permanently by an unnecessary commitment now to sustained yield logging.

JANUARY 31, 1995. Letter to Ben Marr, GVRD Regional Manager, from Will Koop.

January 31st, 1995.
Ben Marr,
GVRD Regional Manager.

Last Thursday afternoon I left a message with your secretary re the Lower Seymour. I am just confirming that phone call with this present facsimile. I was speaking with John Morse, Manager of Water and Construction, just prior to leaving that message, and he mentioned that I should contact you.

I had related to Mr. Morse that I had reviewed the Water Committee Agenda of July, 1994, Item 2A, with regard to the four proposals, the options for the Seymour Demonstration Forest, specifically regarding option #3. That option was to consider making the area into a park. My question to Mr. Morse was: was the GVRD Parks Department formally consulted on this option? Mr. Morse then asked the reason for my concerns. I answered that I wanted to make certain that all the proper procedures regarding this option were in place.

Park designation desired for Lower Seymour Valley

By Michael Becker

*News Editor
michael@nsnews.com*

THE Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) is campaigning to turn the Seymour Demonstration Forest into a park.

The Seymour Valley is home to some of the world's largest old-growth fir and cedar trees. The demonstration forest, in which logging is allowed, is managed by the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD).

Much of the area has been logged in the past, but up to a third of the 5,600-hectare (13,838-acre) area still supports original forest, with trees as tall as 91.4 meters (300 feet), says the WCWC.

The 25,000-member group is petitioning the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) to rename the area the Seymour Ancient Groves Regional Park and change the land use of the GVWD off-catchment lands in the Lower Seymour Valley (below the Seymour Dam) to protected regional park.

The group has printed 50,000 copies of a four-page newsletter on the issue and will be presenting its case at Sunday's open house at the demonstration forest.

Ralf Kelman has been trail-blazing the area for seven years now. Some of his walking routes to the giant trees are included on a map published in the WCWC newsletter.

Kelman is passionate about the rain-forest giants and has personally identified many of the significant groves.

Over the years Kelman has been taking pictures and making maps. He's been showing them around.

Said Paul George, director of

Western Canada Wilderness Committee: "Ralf Kelman has been coming into our office over the last few years, always bringing in photos of these trees. He's gone at it systematically and explored each one of those side valleys and found incredible trees."

For his part, Kelman is no longer just a voice in the wilderness. He welcomes the WCWC initiative. "It really vindicates my efforts to put a face on the magnificent forests in our city front yard. I want to demonstrate how you can have a world-class forest with a great tree legacy."

George said his group's success in lobbying for park designation for off-catchment land near a Victoria watershed spurred the WCWC to take up the Seymour Valley campaign.

"What we basically want to do is move the demonstration forest to an area where they really are doing selective logging and active logging. There are plenty of areas near Squamish or up the valley which would make a much better place for a real demonstration forest," George said.

"I think the current demonstration forest has sort of become a sham. For the last five years they've hardly cut there at all. A good demonstration forest should demonstrate silviculture principles. The way the Seymour Demonstration Forest is being managed is really more like a park and it has a lousy name," he said.

Said GVRD chairman George Puil of the WCWC campaign to designate the demonstration forest as park. "I don't know why, it serves a useful purpose now. It's open to the public. They don't paint the picture as it actually is. I find that a lot of misinformation goes out."

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

NOVEMBER 3, 1997. Letter to Johnny Carline, GVRD Chief Administrative Officer, from Will Koop.

NOVEMBER 3, 1997.
ATTENTION: JOHNNY CARLINE,
GVRD CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

Could you please inform me on how, through whom, and when Peter Ackhurst was appointed as chair of the Seymour Advisory Committee.

NOVEMBER 6, 1997. Delegation request to appear before the Water Committee on November 21, 1997, from Will Koop.

NOVEMBER 6, 1997.
ATTENTION: PAULETTE VETLESON,
GVRD CORPORATE SECRETARY.

RE: GVRD Water Committee delegation request for November 21, 1997.

I wish to present a report to the Water Committee on November 21, 1997, which is essentially an account of the recent history of the Lower Seymour's off-catchment lands. The report will also provide detailed information on the formation and function of the Seymour Demonstration Forest and the role of the Seymour Advisory Committee. An executive summary will also be attached for the convenience of the Committee members. Thankyou.

NOVEMBER 12, 1997. Letter to John Morse, Water District Chief Engineer, from Will Koop.

NOVEMBER 12, 1997.
JOHN MORSE,
MANAGER OF WATER AND CONSTRUCTION.

RE: ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROCEDURES.

It has recently come to my attention that the Chair of the Seymour Advisory Committee has, through correspondence dated October 29, 1997, requested its members to consider the following: "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."

For further information about the Seymour Demonstration Forest please call 432-6286

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EMERGENCY CONTACT - GVRD CONTROL - 929-1201

SEYMOUR DEMONSTRATION FOREST

A FOREST FOR EVERYONE

The Seymour Demonstration Forest is a living, breathing exhibit of integrated resource management. This forest is managed for future water supply, the production and harvesting of timber, the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and recreation. It is truly "A Forest For Everyone."

As you follow this eleven kilometer self-guided route you will find yourself in the middle of an outdoor classroom.

Follow the red numbered posts to see first hand the many uses of our forests.

Please obey the rules of the road.

Could you please provide me with information to clarify what the GVRD procedures are for advisory bodies to be able to conduct "in camera" sessions, and to clarify what the Board determined a few years ago about allowing the recording of GVRD committee meetings. Could you also clarify for me whether or not an advisory committee may develop their "own committee operating procedures". I understand that the Seymour Advisory Committee will be meeting in the near future, and it would appear important to address these concerns as soon as possible. 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. Thankyou.

DECEMBER 4, 1997. Letter to the GVRD Board, from Will Koop.

DECEMBER 4, 1997.

ATTENTION: GEORGE PUIL, CHAIRMAN,
AND DIRECTORS OF THE GVRD BOARD.

RE: THE SEYMOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

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)

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

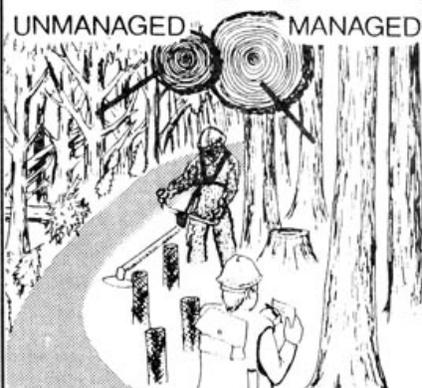
John Morse commented that the reason why Mr. Ackhurst was not appointed by the Water Committee was "an oversight" by staff. I then stated to Mr. Morse that Water District Watershed Management staff knew of the Terms of Reference. In spite of this, the Seymour Demonstration Forest Supervisor had sent 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.

STOP 1 0.4 km

You are now standing between two important forest management activity areas, commercial thinning and planting.

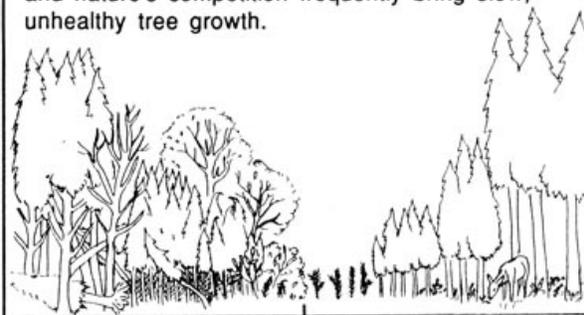
Commercial thinning, carried out here in 1986, removes selected competing trees and allows remaining trees to grow taller, wider and healthier. Sunlight now easily reaches the spacious forest floor allowing the growth of important food plants for animals and birds.



UNMANAGED **MANAGED**

Douglas-fir and western red cedar seedlings were planted in the second treatment area in 1986. Protective coverings have been placed on the seedlings to eliminate the damage caused by browsing deer. Deer and other wildlife are often seen in this feeding ground created by clearcut logging.

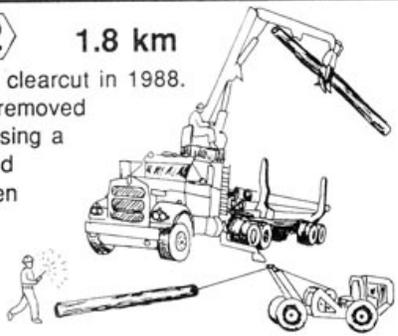
In a forest unmanaged by man, crowded conditions and nature's competition frequently bring slow, unhealthy tree growth.



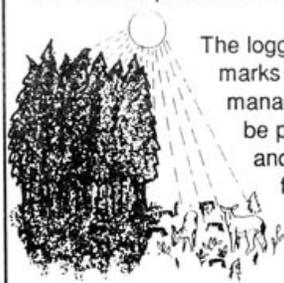
UNMANAGED **MANAGED**

STOP 2 1.8 km

This area was clearcut in 1988. The logs were removed from the site using a radio controlled skidder and then loaded onto a self-loading logging truck.



This clearcut opening admits large amounts of sunlight - promoting the growth of weeds, grasses and browse plants for deer and other animals.

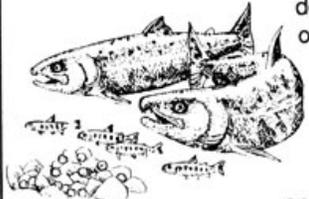


The logging which has occurred here marks the beginning of the forest management cycle. The site will be planted in the spring of 1990 and the new trees will be cared for until the next harvest.

STOP 3 2.3 km

Below you is Rice Creek, an important tributary of the Seymour River. The creek provides habitat for coho salmon, cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden char.

Notice the trees and shrubs around the banks of the creek. These help to keep water temperatures down by providing shade over the creek. The shade also provides necessary hiding places for the fish.



The natural debris in and around the creek provide food for the fish and create pools and structures where fish can hide and spawn.

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 GRVD'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.

DECEMBER 9, 1997. Letter to GVWD Chair and Directors, by Paul Hundal, SPEC.

Chair and Directors
Greater Vancouver Water District
4330 Kingsway Ave.
Burnaby, B.C. V5H-4G7

Dear Directors:

Re: Article in Vancouver Sun, December 8, 1997, Page B4

In Vancouver Sun article on December 8, page B4, titled “Battle Brews over Seymour Land Reserve”, GVWD staff who run the Seymour Demonstration Forest (SDF) apparently suggested that they intended to preserve the old growth in the SDF contrary to the claims of environmental groups like WCWC and SPEC. As the representative of SPEC doing all the research on this issue, I strongly dispute their claim as indicated in this article.

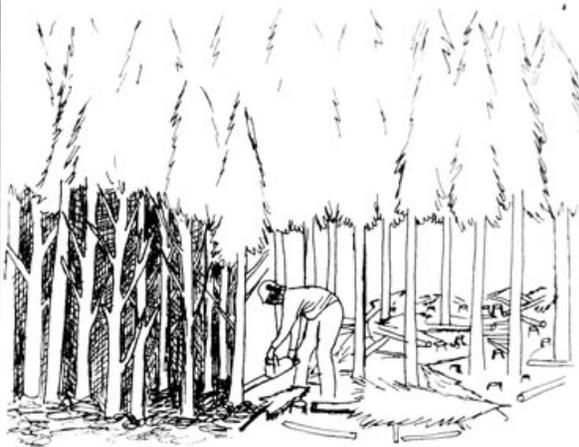
If the GVWD is protecting all the old growth why does your recently approved report to the Ministry of Forests say not one word about not logging the old growth? Why does the zoning map for the SDF, tentatively approved, and subject to review, include a large area of old growth as part of the proposed area for logging. This area is not only controversial because of the old growth values but it forms part of our treasured viewscape of the North Shore mountains, specifically the west face of Mt. Seymour. If their present zoning plan is finally approved, you will start to see patches of logging marring the hillside when tourists and Vancouverites look north at Vancouver’s billion dollar viewscape.

When the true facts are known by the public I have no doubt that you will find out that GVWD staff do plan to log old forest in the SDF. It is your duty as the Board to clarify this issue on behalf of the public and to ask staff the question directly – are they proposing to log any old growth in the SDF as part of the proposed sustained yield harvesting program referred to in documents approved by the Water Committee at their last meeting?

STOP 4 4.2 Km

You are looking at one of the oldest plantations in the Seymour Demonstration Forest. This 17.0 hectare site was originally harvested in 1962 and planted with Douglas-fir in 1963. The abundance of western hemlock trees are the result of natural regeneration.

In 1988, an important forest management activity was undertaken; juvenile spacing. Spacing involves the removal of some trees that are growing too dense. Often these trees are damaged or poorly growing and would likely die from nature's competition. The remaining trees have more water, sunlight, nutrients and space. This site was spaced from 2042 to 505 trees per hectare.



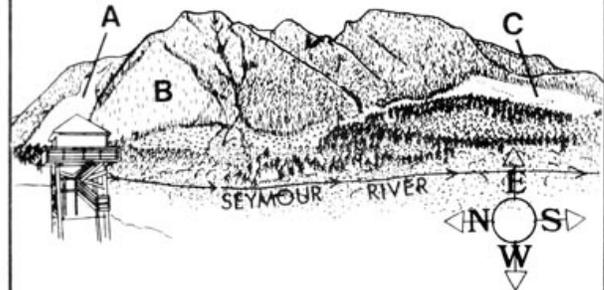
This open, airy site provides better access for wildlife and allows easier movement for future forest management activities.

Notice how the lower branches of all the trees have been removed. This helps to ensure that knot free wood is produced and also provides easier movement for people and wildlife.

STOP 5 5.2 Km

The mosaic of vegetation patterns before you is the result of a rich history of human activity in the Seymour Demonstration Forest. This forest has been cleared for roads, trails, dams, water pipelines and a fish hatchery.

A rock fill dam for domestic water supply was located just south of this area in 1907. Since that time logging, mining, wildfires and other activities have shaped the landscape you see today.



A - Wyssen Skyline logging - a simple gravity system for aerielly transporting logs down a slope. Notice the absence of logging roads in this area. (Logged 1980-81, planted 1986.)

B - Scars from a wildfire in the 1920's. Notice the remaining snags (standing dead trees).

C - Recent forest management. This treatment unit was logged in 1974 and planted the same year. The 17.2 hectare stand was juvenile spaced from 1985 to 1987.

Look at the different textures and colors of the trees. The dark green upper slopes are mainly old growth trees while the light green areas consist mainly of second growth stands, both planted and naturally growing.

The Seymour River is located in the valley bottom in the slight opening between the deciduous trees.

PRESENTATION OF SEYMOURGATE TO THE GVRD BOARD, DECEMBER 12, 1997

The following is a transcript of a presentation by Will Koop before the Greater Vancouver Regional District Board on December 12, 1997. At that time, Koop provided copies of the Seymourgate report for all of the Board members, and a copy of a letter (dated December 4, 1997) which he faxed to all the municipal mayors and council. Since the presentation of the Seymourgate Report, there was no formal response or action by the GVRD Board on the contents provided for their consideration, that is, until late February 1999, when the Board ruled to end the operations of the Seymour Advisory Committee and the Seymour Demonstration Forest.

Will Koop: There is a report going to be handed out to you and I would like to wait until members receive that.

George Puil [GVRD Board Chair, Vancouver City Councillor]: Okay. Proceed with your thing and we'll give it to them.

Will Koop: The report that is being distributed to you I've entitled Seymourgate, and the reason why I have named it that because it expresses a matter which relates to an abrogation of public process, and the control of information. I presented the Water Committee with a draft report. This report supercedes it.

George Puil: Excuse me (to members of the Board). I wonder if I can have all of your attention here to listen to the report by Mr. Koop here. Please go on.

Will Koop: Thank you Mr. Chairman. This report supersedes the draft report which I've given to the Water Committee. There are a number of things I would like to point out to you before I continue.

At the very beginning, as you flip it open, a quotation from Mr. Peter Pearse and a reply from the Water District in 1977. This statement encapsulates a process of secrecy and control. And the next thing I would like to point out to you on the following page is a timeline which I have provided for you. It goes through the entire sequence of events, and you can digest that at your later convenience. Then I've also provided an overview statement for you near the beginning, which you can follow from the table of contents, and a summary, which begins on page 96. These are two, short, concise summaries which can help you digest the information. Then I've also provided some maps. You can look on page 98 and 99, which shows the amount of logging which has happened before 1927 and after 1961. Also, in the appendices you will see: a list of members which have been on the Seymour Advisory Committee; the dates of their meetings; there is a funding chart; and there is an intriguing chapter called The Victoria Connection.

The Victoria Connection is, very quickly, about a proposal for a public park in the off-catchment lands of the Greater Victoria area, and the way in which professional foresters wanted to counter that movement, and the establishment of a commission by the provincial government which deleted the Water District over there, and they are now under the control of the Central Regional District there. And the upshot of that was the Commissioner advocated, or recommended, the park proposal, and that is now a public park in that area. So that is a very interesting chapter for you.

But very quickly, I would like to tell you what basically has happened. In 1983 there was a public process in place, through motions from the North Shore municipalities, the three, to have a public park in the Lower Seymour. That public process was bypassed through the discretion of the Regional Manager [Doug MacKay] in 1985 with the establishment of the Seymour Advisory Committee without the Board's approval. This is contrary...this information was not given to the Water Committee members that this process was in place when they voted on the park proposal issue in 1994 [Water Committee meeting, July 15, 1994], which Mr. [Paul] Hundal has given to you, and which is in this report as well. What's important about this is that when the Committee was set up – and it is shown to you – in this report I've relied mostly on Water District information, GVRD information. So it expresses exactly how the Commissioner at that time knew that this advisory committee was not, did not have public representation on it. And after that this committee was only to report to the Regional Manager, and not to the Board or to the Water Committee.

Finally, in 1993 there was a Terms of Reference established for this Committee, for the Seymour Advisory Committee. The Terms of Reference established that the Water Committee would appoint members and the Chair, and these points of motion have never been carried through with. And just recently I brought to your attention in this particular letter, which I faxed to you, and I've given you another copy, is how these Terms of Reference have been bypassed, and that the Water Committee has not taken the responsibility, have not been given advice by staff, that they need to appoint these members and the Chair, as they have done with the Regional Water Advisory Committee. There was an advertisement process in the public newspapers as well for all the members. This advisory committee, the Seymour Advisory Committee, has been independent of any public process and which is outlined in this report in many details.

George Puil: You are at the end of your 5 minutes [delegations are permitted to speak for 5 minutes, or longer, depending upon the tolerance of the Board]. We understand the point that you are making, and through the contents of your letter. Certainly I received it the day that you sent it to me, the fax. We understand the points that you are making. Are there any questions for Mr. Koop. Director Durksen.

Carl Durksen (Mayor of Maple Ridge): I wonder how many trees we had to log to get all this paper and so forth, because I've now had three boxes of paper, and I get worried about this and hear all this about forestry, and then we are worried about logging.

Will Koop: It's recycled paper.

George Puil: Director Price.

Gordon Price (Vancouver City Councillor): I appreciate the work that you do, it's impressive. But Seymougate, with its reference to Watergate, clearly suggests that there is malfeasance, if not analogously criminal activity. Is that your intent?

Will Koop: It is very clear from the information that I have provided to you, that the public process was bypassed. Very specifically, when the Lynn/Seymour Recreation Advisory Committee was established by the Board at the end of 1993, and the Committee was brought together in February of 1984, that later on that Committee was checked, if you will, through the function and establishment, without the Board's approval, of the Seymour Advisory Committee, which was comprised of, at that time, of professional foresters only. And I think on page 22, 21, I think of your report, you will note on the bottom and top pages, marked in bold, is a reference to this.

Gordon Price: But that is not what I am asking about.

George Puil: I think the name was deliberately chosen to give media attention, and does it warrant media attention.

Will Koop: I think it does.

George Puil: Okay. Any more questions.

Gordon Price: There is a question. I realize in asking this, and it may be immodest, but you are getting a reputation for some amount of bullying, why do you think that is?

Will Koop: The points that I have raised in this particular report are quite legitimate.

Gordon Price: I grant you that much. You know what I am asking. We are going now beyond this, because everyone on the Board is aware of that. And in particular when we are dealing with staff, and the professionalism and that, and our obligations here. Do you understand what I am saying? I guess what I am really asking you to do is to examine what it is you are achieving in terms of legitimacy, and what you are dealing with in terms of human beings. And their reputations, and professionalism, and where you leave us? The public expects that of us, and it is very difficult for us as politicians, who are accountable, to ask that to those who come before us. I must say, I think you have reached a point beyond which it is a legitimate thing to ask.

Will Koop: May I respond ? [question to the Chair] – There is the matter of the Issues and Options Report, which has been before you, been before the Water Committee, for instance. When we raised attention to that in June [1997], because prior to that there was a Terms of Reference document. The Terms of Reference document, which preceded that, was never brought before the Water Committee’s attention. I verified all that. Now that is supposed to go through a public process. The next process was the Issues and Options Report. That wasn’t going to be going through a public process, and it was only going to the Seymour Advisory Committee. And at the Seymour Advisory Committee, they said that it was going to go right to the Ministries of Forests and Environment, without going through the other public process, which is through the Regional Water Advisory Committee. Now, that was even documented in the minutes of their meeting. And the point here is, how can an advisory body go on without the support of the public process that other advisory bodies have?

George Puil: I think you have answered his question. Thank you very much.

DECEMBER 22, 1997. “No shame in having a productive forest”. Letter to the editor, Vancouver Sun, by Peter Yanciw.

The Dec.8 article “Battle brews over Seymour land reserve,” reports on groups that wish to have the Seymour Demonstration Forest designated as a park. As the name of the area indicates, one objective of the Greater Vancouver regional district management has been to provide an opportunity for the public to become more familiar with forestry, including (gasp) harvesting practices.

The Seymour Valley has long logging history. Harvesting has resulted in a network of roads and trails, as well as a diversity of forest age classes, which enhance the recreational and educational value of the forest.

Various harvesting methods adjacent to recreational sites makes it an ideal location to observe the practice of multiple resource land use. Do the special interest groups that petition against this concept really expect the public to overlook the obvious?

This valley with all its assets is the result of what has been left after logging. Environmental groups are doing their best to sell the idea that managers responsible for influencing the current attributes of the valley will undergo some strange metamorphosis and embark upon a binge of destruction: Put it in a park (another one with no significant self-funding sources) to protect it from the people who created it?

Paul George of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee labels the demonstration forest a “Progaganda Forest” and recommends “busing students up to Squamish where they can look at clearcuts.” His comments suggest that he failed to notice significant portions of the valley which are the result of fairly large clearcuts. Perhaps he didn’t recognize them because all but the most recent are covered by trees.

If some of the detractors spent even one day experiencing what this valley has to offer, they might appreciate that the management decisions already made allow for both recreational enjoyment and a contribution to our productive forest land base.

FEBRUARY 10, 1998. Letter to the Water Committee, from Will Koop.

GVRD WATER COMMITTEE CHAIR
AND DIRECTORS.

**RE: Item 4.8, February 13, 1998 Water Committee Agenda –
“Seymour Advisory Committee History and Status”.**

Having digested staff’s report, I must say that members of the Water Committee are being given highly selective and interpretive information. Some of the Water Committee Directors have in their possession my final report of Seymourgate, which I presented to the Board on December 12th last. Therein, should Directors find the time to read and reflect on matters, will be enough information to help you understand my concerns. And Water Committee Directors will also have in their possession my letter dated December 4th, 1997, which is attached as correspondence to the February 13th Agenda package, providing condensed concerns into the matter.

1. Item 4.8/4.1: “In 1985, the Commissioner of the Greater Vancouver Water District, recommended the formation of the Seymour Demonstration Forest Advisory Committee [SAC]....”

In Chapter 4 of my report, are the details to the formation of the SAC, from the Water District’s own information. How did Commissioner MacKay establish the SAC on October 31, 1985, on whose authority, and by which public process? Why is there no mention about the motion by the 3 [North Vancouver - sic] municipalities for the creation of a Regional Park, and what happened to that important public process? Why were only professional foresters asked to participate on that first meeting (refer to page 17-18 of my report)?

2. “In 1993, to facilitate a consistent approach amongst the increasing number of advisory committees within the GVRD, a number of changes were made to the original Committee process including its reporting relationship”

What staff discovered, and attempted to repair, was that, in relation to the very public process behind the formation of the Regional Water Advisory Committee in 1992, the SAC was established and operated without a similar and open process. Accordingly, the SAC’s Terms of Reference were adopted, but the key processes were never implemented. Why not? This fact belies a very serious problem and shameful process.

Relatedly, staff have admittedly stated in 4.8/4.3, after referring to Peter Ackhurst's appointment as the current Chair without the Water Committee's involvement, that it was "an oversight". An oversight? I established in chapter 11 of my report that staff and SAC members all had copies of the Terms of Reference, and knew about the protocol. Staff were cognisant of the Terms of Reference, and there is no excuse for them now. Someone is responsible for ignoring and breaking the rules. Why was there such flagrant abuse of public process? And how is it, that Water District staff, who filed a report for my supposed trespass on a watershed tour in the Capilano watershed on June 17, 1997, and then advocated my being banned from the watersheds entirely, can transgress their own laws and call it an oversight, and go unpunished? And what of the statement in the GVRD's own Guidelines on Advisory Committees: "Advisory Committees do not have the authority to operate independent of the terms of reference established by the GVRD Board"?

3. There is another dimension to the Chair's appointment, which, I believe, should be investigated. According to the Water District's information, Mr. Ackhurst's employer has received numerous contracts in the past (for instance, note the footnote on page 22 of my report). Does that qualify the recommended Chair for SAC by staff as "independent" (Terms of Reference, 5b), and should he then be recommended as the present Chair? Watershed Management Division staff are undoubtedly aware of this relationship, and are nevertheless supporting the recommendation for the present chair. The Water Committee should request Johnny Carline to provide a comprehensive list of all previous contracts between the Water District and Simons Reid Collins (formerly, Reid Collins).

4. Staff has provided Directors with conflicting guiding principles for the Seymour Demonstration Forest: to "protect" the area for future water supply; to continue logging; to provide a "wilderness" experience. The Lower Seymour, as the on-catchments lands of the three watersheds, were once "protected", at great expense and effort, explicitly from exploitation, from logging. "Integrated resource management", or "multiple use", or "dual use" is only a manipulative forester's and engineer's way to get around "protection". The Greater Vancouver watersheds have been mismanaged, and the Greater Vancouver public has been misled about the current forestry-minded and staffed Water District. The Seymour Demonstration Forest message is clearly a message for continued logging in our watersheds.

There are many more summary bullets of information which I can bring forward to the Water Committee, as stated at length in my Seymourgate report. The Committee has a responsibility to investigate the myriad concerns raised in this report. As a result, the Seymour Advisory Committee should not continue to function as an advisory body, until the matters raised in the report are properly and independently investigated and deciphered.

FEBRUARY 10, 1998. Letter to the Chair and Directors of the Water Committee, from Paul Hundal.

February 10, 1998
Chair and Directors
Water Committee
Greater Vancouver Water District
4330 Kingsway Ave.
Burnaby, B.C., V5H 4G7

Dear Directors:

Re: Proposed Ratification of Peter Ackhurst as Chair of SAC - Item 4.8

We request that you defer ratification of Peter Ackhurst as Chair of SAC until we have had the opportunity to speak as a delegation on this issue. We request to speak as a delegation at your March 1998 meeting.

We are opposed to him being Chair in part, as a result of him reporting false and slanderous information to the Water Committee at the November, 1997 Water Committee meeting. He claimed at that meeting that Will Koop and myself have been acting in a disruptive and intimidating manner at the SAC meetings. We deny these allegations and have already approached Bob Paddon about the opportunity to prove these statements false.

Every time we have attended the SAC meetings we have sat through the entire meetings saying nothing. Even though we have much to say and contribute to these discussions, we are forced by our observer status to not say anything and we have respected those rules by doing that. The impression that Peter Ackhurst left at the Water Committee of our conduct was completely false and the fact that he would mislead the Water Committee in this way, in itself, renders him inappropriate to be Chair of this Committee. We have other reasons to object to him being Chair and request the opportunity present these objections.

FEBRUARY 13, 1998. Delegation to appear before the GVRD Board, from SPEC past president, Paul Hundal.

February 13, 1998
Chair and Directors
Greater Vancouver Water District
4330 Kingsway Ave.
Burnaby, B.C., V5H 4G7

Dear Directors:

Re: Delegation request for February 27, 1998 Meeting

We respectfully request to speak as a delegation regarding the appointment of Peter Ackhurst as Chair of the Seymour Advisory Committee made at the February 13, 1998 Water Committee meeting. At that meeting we had requested by letter that the matter be deferred so that we could present our concerns but the majority of the Water Committee voted to not defer and to approve him as Chair. As a result we could not be heard on the issue and therefore appeal to you.

We believe it is highly inappropriate to appoint Peter Ackhurst as Chair of the Seymour Advisory Committee (SAC) for a number of reasons but particularly because he is in a blatant conflict of interest. He is a forester for Simons Reid Collins, a company which in the past has bid for and received a number of forestry related contracts with the GVWD/GVRD. It is in their financial interests for the GVWD to commit to as many "forest management" operations in Seymour Valley (SDF) as possible. The more "forestry management" the Water board commits to, the more work is available for them to bid on. By making him Chair of SAC, he is now in a unique position of influence over Committee and Board decisions because he can translate and present the views of the public advisory committee to the politicians on the very issue of how much forest management should take place in the SDF.

Not only is there an appearance of conflict of interest, but he has already made incorrect statements to the Water Committee that we believe reflect his bias. At the November 17, 1997 Water Committee meeting Peter Ackhurst appeared and claimed that Will Koop and myself were confrontational and harassing people at SAC meetings. He was seeking the power to exclude us from meetings and/or to stop us from videotaping. He also asked the Water Committee to reaffirm by motion their commitment to forest management in the SDF as opposed to making it a park. We deny absolutely that we have been confrontational and harassing people at any SAC meetings. We sit through their meetings saying absolutely nothing. We are simply quiet observers and our videotapes prove that fact. We submit that he misinformed the Water Committee on this point. As a result of the appearance of conflict of interest, and other reasons we ask that you overrule his appointment to Chair SAC.

We are also concerned about a serious flaw in the process for public input on agenda items that became apparent at the last Water Committee meeting. Councillor Bellamy claimed that our request for deferral and delegation request should be denied because we were late in that it was received February 10, 1998, three days before the meeting. He acted as if it was somehow our fault we were late.

We would like to point out to you that the public can not see the Committee agenda package until the Monday before the Committee meeting, which in this case was February 9, 1998. But the deadline for making delegation requests is two weeks before the meeting which in this case was January 31, 1998. In other words it is impossible to make a delegation request in time for any item on the agenda because the public is not given the agenda until after the deadline. The rules regarding public input on agenda items are therefore set up so that the public will always be either making a late delegation request or asking for deferral three or four days before the meeting at best. As a result Directors like Councillor Bellamy can go around telling the media or public that he did not have to hear us because it is our fault we were late.

We have complained about this process in the past but this problem was never corrected. In fact the last changes to the rules made after our complaint made matters worse. We would like to thank the Directors from Surrey and others who “have called a spade a spade” and are trying to make the GVRD more accountable. Their dedication has been refreshing and would make the public proud.

We also thank the minority of members of the Water Committee who saw the defects in the process and tried unsuccessfully to allow us to be heard. This does not however solve the systemic problems with the process. This problem continues unchecked and as a result you end up with staff running the show and blatant conflicts of interest being ignored.

The public deserves better.

FEBRUARY 23, 1998. Delegation update for the GVRD Board, from Paul Hundal.

February 23, 1998
Chair and Directors
Greater Vancouver Water District
4330 Kingsway Ave.
Burnaby, B.C., V5H 4G7

Dear Directors:

Re: Delegation request for February 27, 1998 Meeting

Further to the Board Secretary’s letter redirecting our delegation request to the March 13, 1998 Water Committee agenda, we respectfully submit that this makes a mockery of the public input process on agenda items. By doing this you are essentially saying that the public has no right to present delegations on items until after the decision is made, unless the issue is deferred for later consideration (such as the decision to delay filtration) or is specifically deferred to obtain public input.

Important decisions, which may seem routine to the Committee, are made without any opportunity for the public to give delegations on them because your rules are designed to make that impossible (as explained in our last letter). Usually Water Committee decisions need to be ratified by the Board at the next Board meeting but your secretary has refused to put us on the agenda for that meeting, even though we put our request in on time, because another rule purports to prevent us from giving a delegation to the Board on an item until the delegation has been to the Water Committee. This

way it is impossible to appeal a Committee decision to the Board until after the Board decision has been made on whether to ratify it..

There is a strong impression among many people that the GVRD/GVWD is out of control and unaccountable. With a public process like this it is no wonder. However, some members of this Board have been making diligent efforts to improve operations and accountability. There has been a noticeable increase in that type of commitment over the last year in particular. We therefore appeal to this Board to correct this serious deficiency in the delegation process now. Furthermore, we ask the Board to rescind the Water Committee's appointment of Peter Ackhurst to the Chair of SAC and to investigate our concerns about a conflict of interest, etc.

FEBRUARY 24, 1998. Letter to Will Koop from Johnny Carline.

FEBRUARY 24, 1998.

TO: WILL KOOP,
DIRECTOR, FRIENDS OF THE WATERSHEDS.

The Water Department has advised me that they do not know of, nor can recall, any contractual relationship with Simons Reid Collins that would place Mr. Ackhurst in a conflict of interest or would otherwise affect his ability to chair the Seymour Advisory Committee.

In any event, as Mr. Ackhurst's contribution is to chair a voluntary Advisory Committee which involves stakeholders but which neither evaluates or commissions GVWD contracts, the implication that Mr. Ackhurst may be in a conflict of interest with regard to his involvement is unsupportable. The Water Committee has not requested the detailed listing of contracts you suggested, and keeping in mind scarce resources and the need to keep taxpayer's costs down, I do not intend to undertake such a review.

FEBRUARY 25, 1998. Letter to the GVRD Board, from Will Koop.

FEBRUARY 25, 1998.

CHAIR AND DIRECTORS
GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD.

Re: For consideration of the February 27, 1998 Board meeting regarding the Seymour Advisory Committee position as chairperson, and its operations.

At the previous Water Committee meeting, a majority (5-4) vote recommended that the previously appointed chairman of the Seymour Advisory Committee, Peter Ackhurst, who had been improperly appointed as such, remain as chairman. A few days prior to the meeting I had faxed a letter to all Water Committee members explaining four matters:

- that Mr. Ackhurst appears to be in a conflict of interest;

- that the Seymour Advisory Committee was established to preempt a public process for a regional park proposal;
- that the Terms of Reference for the Seymour Advisory Committee for electing representatives was avoided since February 1993;
- that my report to the GVRD Board on December 12, 1997, called *Seymourgate*, had numerous concerns which the Committee should investigate before approving the operations of the Seymour Advisory Committee.

Some Water Committee members, who had read my letter, and who had listened to concerns by one member about the letter, nevertheless chose not to discuss the details of the letter nor to refer it for future consideration. If some of the publically elected representatives on the Water Committee and on the GVRD Board are choosing to ignore these matters, for whatever reasons, how will this reflect on the Board's objectivity on all other related matters which you make decisions on?

Allow me to clarify the matter to you with the following scenario. Let's say a municipality passed a motion to have a public committee established to propose a large parcel of undeveloped land as a park, because many members of the community were eager to have it as such. Let's say the municipality's engineering department, who, along with the real estate industry, wanted to develop the site, and then set up its own committee, without the authorization of City Council, but with the approval of the mayor, and that all or the majority of its self-appointed committee members were associated with the real estate industry. Let's say that counter committee then began a public education program with public taxpayer's financing to promote the development of this parcel of land, and many other similar undeveloped parcels of land in other municipalities, stating that the committee's membership was representative of the public's best interests. And let's say that the chairman of this committee was always elected both by its own members and by the engineering department. And let's say that, after a number of years, this committee became embarrassed that it was not conforming with other public processes concerning how membership on a committee was approved, and that they then approved a Terms of Reference to reflect this new approach. And let's say that the Terms of Reference, which specified how members were to be elected, was never complied with. And let's say that their most recent chairperson, who was associated with the real estate agency firm that started developing some of the land that the committee was overseeing, was elected as the chairperson by committee members, and not by the City Council, and that the majority of City Council were turning a blind eye to the matter. And let's say that certain members of the public, who had been monitoring the committee and researched the matter began presenting information to City Council, but the mayor and some Council members were simply ignoring them, with the engineering department stating that any irregularities regarding the Terms of Reference were simply "an oversight".

So far the majority of the Water Committee members and the Board have both been non-responsive to my *Seymourgate* report, and with my correspondence. I would urge members of the Board to take these matters seriously, and to take action and place an inquiry into the operations and history of the Seymour Advisory Committee, and to defer the future operations of the Seymour Advisory Committee.

MARCH 5, 1998. Letter to the Communications, Education, and Culture Committee, from Will Koop.

MARCH 5, 1998.

ON-TABLE ITEM.

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNICATION,
EDUCATION, AND CULTURE COMMITTEE.

**RE: THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTION OF
THE SEYMOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

On your March 5, 1998 meeting, I understand that you will be discussing and reevaluating the future Terms of Reference for advisory committees of the GVRD. As much as that may be important for this committee, we have some outstanding concerns as they relate to the establishment and function of the Seymour Advisory Committee since October 31, 1985.

On December 12, 1997, I presented the GVRD Board with my final report Seymourgate, which some members of this committee possess. Though the title of the document was criticized by the Board's Chair as sensationalism, it does not in any way address the numerous serious concerns which have raised based on the Greater Vancouver Water District's own information. Before this committee begins a process to possibly change the GVRD's Terms of Reference for advisory committees, it must deal with the outstanding concerns of the Seymour Advisory Committee which I have raised in my report and correspondence with the GVRD before anything else. Otherwise, this committee's function will be neglecting a matter of extreme relevance.

I will summarize for you the principal concerns which we have about the establishment and function of the Seymour Advisory Committee.

1. The GVRD's Regional Manager, Doug MacKay, along with the Water District's Watershed Management Division, established the Seymour Advisory Committee on October 31, 1985 without the consent of the GVRD Board (refer to chapter 4 of my report). The members who came to this meeting were all professional foresters, and were in no way representative of the Greater Vancouver public, who nominated Bill Young, the former chief forester of the province, as the first chair of the committee (page 19 of the report). The new chair then told the GVRD's Manager of Parks that the GVRD approved September 1983 Lynn/Seymour Recreation Advisory Committee, which was to bring about a regional park in the Lower Seymour lands, had no authority to participate in the future directions of these lands (page 21).
2. The Seymour Advisory Committee did not report to the GVRD elected representatives, rather to the Regional Manager, who established the Seymour Advisory Committee. This privately arranged process continued, apparently, until February 1993.
3. After the formal and elaborate public process to appoint members to the Regional Water Advisory Committee in late 1992, the Seymour Advisory Committee adopted a new Terms of Reference in February 1993. The Terms of Reference stated that the chair and members were to be appointed by the GVRD's Water Committee. That process was never honoured. In June 1997, Peter Ackhurst, an employee with Simons Reid Collins (formerly Reid Collins and Assoc.), was appointed by Water District staff and members of the Seymour Advisory Committee as the new

chair. I have brought this matter to the attention of Johnny Carline and the Water Committee, who have decided not to act on this matter. In fact, Water District staff have stated that:

“...they do not know of, nor can recall, any contractual relationship with Simons Reid Collins that would place Mr. Ackhurst in a conflict of interest....” (Correspondence from Johnny Carline, February 4, 1998.)

A.J. Simons, who incorporated Reid, Collins, and Associates, renamed the organization which has had numerous contracts with the Water District.

4. The Communications and Education Department were given new directions after 1993 to incorporate and communicate the Seymour Advisory Committee’s position and philosophy on resource management. This questionable authority and mandate needs to be reexamined in the light of the scandalous nature of the Seymour Advisory Committee, and in the quality of information which is being imparted to the public.

Before this committee discusses the future of advisory committees in general, it cannot avoid dealing with such an outstanding and glaring issue regarding the Seymour Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

We ask this committee to seriously investigate these primary matters, and many others attached in the body of my report. It is quite clear that the Seymour Advisory Committee was never a publicly representative process on an important issue, and one that seems to center more on the concerns for future logging in the Greater Vancouver watersheds. We strongly believe that the Seymour Advisory Committee should, for good reasons, be immediately disbanded, and that you look into the initial process that was once in place to propose these lands as a regional park.

MARCH 12, 1998. “Demonstration forest an irreplaceable educational tool”. Letter to the editor (Letter of the Day), Vancouver Sun, by Peter Yanciw.

The future of the Seymour Demonstration Forest will be debated again when the Greater Vancouver Regional District’s water committee meets Friday. As a resource management educator, and a British Columbian with a love and respect for our forests, I have professional and personal interests in this debate.

By any reasonable estimation - and as a GVRD staff report to the committee outlines - the forest has been a spectacular success. Some 300,000 people visit it annually, most simply to enjoy the natural beauty and recreational opportunities. Some 10,000 visitors also take part in educational programs there. Film industry use, fish hatchery operation, and watershed and forest management activities co-exist.

So great has the forest’s success been that it has become a model for the development of demonstration forests in other parts of the world. The forest also represents an invaluable educational resource for the students I teach in renewable resources technology at B.C. Institute of Technology.

Each year, students from the forestry and the fish, wildlife and recreation options gain skills in resource inventories, silviculture techniques, fisheries management, and long-term forest ecosystem research. Researchers and students from other educational institutions also work there. Many of these opportunities for hands-on education and research would be lost under the more restrictive management regime that would inevitably be put in place if this area became a park. The move would also eliminate the very feature that gives the demonstration forest such an educational value - the fact that it is a highly productive “working forest” with a long history of multiple use. The Lower Mainland is already well served with parks. Its residents and educational institutions need to continue to be served by our only demonstration forest.

MARCH 13, 1998. “Pro-logging forces set demonstration forest agenda”. Letter to the editor (Letter of the Day), Vancouver Sun, by Will Koop.

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 Seymour Demonstration Forest for more than ten 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 Regional 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 October 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. elected as chair. This committee then stated, quite proudly, that its self-appointed membership had public representation. Apparently, until 1993, 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.

APRIL 24, 1998. “Should the Seymour Demonstration Forest be a dedicated park to prevent any form of logging?”, by Martin Millerchip. North Shore News poll.

NORTH SHORE DEMOGRAPHICS

Should the Seymour Demonstration Forest be a dedicated park to prevent any form of logging?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	OTHER ANSWER
Horseshoe Bay	56%	15%	29%	0%
Dundarave/Ambleside	62%	6%	17%	15%
British Properties	47%	31%	22%	0%
Norgate/Pemberton Heights	78%	18%	4%	0%
Capilano/Delbrook Highlands	68%	10%	16%	6%
Lower Lonsdale	65%	4%	23%	8%
Central and Upper Lonsdale	71%	11%	18%	0%
Lynn Valley	75%	11%	9%	5%
Blueridge/Deep Cove	81%	9%	5%	5%
TOTAL -----	68%	12%	15%	5%

Last year the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) asked the Western Canada Wilderness Committee to stop distributing a trail map showing the last remaining giant Douglas Firs in the Seymour Demonstration Forest. These were the same trees that would have been logged if earlier staff proposals had been approved by the GVWD board. The Demonstration Forest was created when it was determined that the Lower Seymour Valley was not needed for watershed purposes for at least 75 years. The forest was supposed to educate the public about logging practices both in the closed watershed lands and in the rest of the province. These logging practices would apparently include cutting the few remaining old growth giants in the Hydraulic Creek area. Environmental groups would prefer to see all logging stopped forever by park designation and the publicly-owned lands opened up for further recreational use.