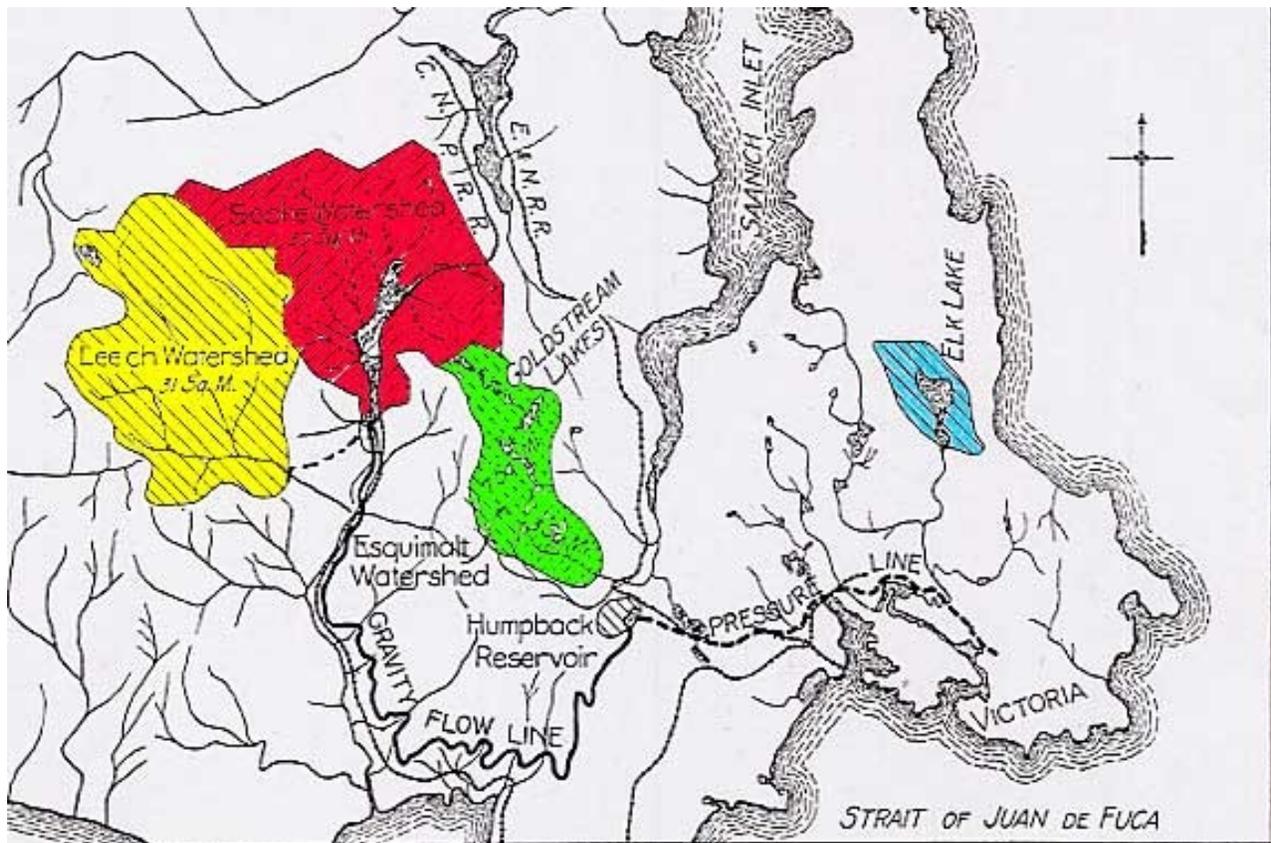


GREATER VICTORIA WATER SUPPLY WATERSHEDS

NEWSPAPER REFERENCES (1912-1998)



Early (1922) map of Greater Victoria watersheds. Former Elk Lake source (blue), Victoria's first water supply. Goldstream watershed (green), owned by the Esquimalt Water Works Company, and expropriated by the City of Victoria in 1925. Sooke watershed (red), first obtained by the City of Victoria in 1915. Leech watershed (yellow), first thought of for diversion in the 1910s, and later tapped into by the Water District in the 1980s via a diversion tunnel.

The following long list of newspaper articles cover topics mostly related to resource issues in the Greater Victoria watersheds, i.e, the logging issue. This issue came to prominence in the mid-1930's, following earlier contests, and then once again in the late 1940's when the promotion, recommendation and application of logging began, issues which continued until the 1994 court decision. Other interrelated issues cover the water supply itself, in terms of water quality, the availability of water to a growing population, the distribution and costs, downstream water flows from the dam, the off-catchment lands (post 1994), wildlife, public access, policy and politics, and the recommendations for the extinguishment of the Greater Victoria Water District (the Perry Commission).

There are no quotations from the articles themselves at this stage, and hopefully in the near future, as the Greater Victoria watersheds home page develops, excerpts will become available for interested readers. The reason that these articles are referenced here is for readers and researchers to begin to understand that the issue of water and resource use has had an important, critical, and often lively track record, as is certainly the case in the Greater Vancouver watersheds (see articles listed).

Almost all of the following newspaper references were transcribed from private collections. The collectors' efforts and keen interest are much appreciated. The present list may continue to expand, as more collections are examined.

(Note: readers who have more information on articles relating to the topic of the Greater Victoria watersheds not shown in the present chronology, or find any errors, or other related concerns, or wish to impart similar articles for other community watersheds, please contact email address bctwa@alternatives.com - thankyou.)

FORMAT:

1. Articles are first shown by abbreviated source, eg., TC = The Times Colonist.
2. Dates are given in the following order: year, month, day, eg., 92-02-22, is translated as February 22, 1992.
3. Title of article.
4. Page number of article (if available).
5. "letter" means, letter to the editor.

ABBREVIATIONS:

Co. The Colonist.
EN. Esquimalt News.
OBN. Oak Bay News.
MM. Monday Magazine.
SN. Saanich News.
SNM. Sooke News Mirror.
TC. The Times-Colonist.
TM. The Martlet.
VRN. Victoria Regional News.
VS. Victoria Star.
VT. Victoria Times.
WE. Weekend Edition.

(Note: The Victoria Times merged with The Colonist in September of 1980 to form The Times-Colonist.)

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES (last updated: February 17, 2004)

- VT. 12-08-27. Pure sample from Sooke Lake source, p.17.
- VT. 13-08-12. The water problem, p.4.
- Co. 13-08-27. Sooke Lake water, p.1.
- VT. 13-09-20. The water question, p.4.
- VT. 13-09-26. Bird's eye view of watersheds around Victoria, p.13.
- VT. 13-09-30. Four by-law votes, p.3.
- VT. 13-10-01. Mayor's views on water question, p.11.
- VT. 15-01-12. Waterworks suit, p.8.
- VT. 16-09-14. Extending service of Sooke Waterworks.
- VT. 16-09-15. Problems affecting extension of supply
- VT. 16-11-13. Esquimalt people want cheaper water.
- VT. 16-12-16. Ski-ing patrol is inaugurated.
- Co. 17-07-29. City wins 500,000 waterworks case, p.1.
- Co. 18-09-08. Wants Esquimalt united with City.
- Co. 19-06-14. City water supply to pay for itself.
- VT. 19-11-29. Would link City up with Esquimalt Waterworks system.
- VT. 20-01-04. Water system made a large profit in 1919.
- VT. 20-03-05. Desire to sell water on reserve raises big storm.
- VT. 20-06-15. Survey problem worries Council.
- Co. 20-08-18. Fire at Humpback is under control.
- Co. 20-08-20. No reduced water rates, say Aldermen.
- Co. 21-04-15. "Walking" trip to Sooke Lake, p.11.
- Co. 21-05-14. Says water supply is big city asset.
- VT. 21-05-21. Laws to protect watershed areas strongly urged.
- Co. 21-10-28. Saanich insists on right to tax.
- Co. 22-05-24. City to check flow-line loss.
- VT. 22-05-31. City water pressure low.
- VT. 22-06-03. Hard job to wash pressure so low, Aldermen are told.
- Co. 22-06-17. New pipe line to increase pressure.
- VT. 22-08-01. Water question in Esquimalt does not promise relief.
- Co. 22-09-15. Statistics given on water systems.
- Co. 22-11-21. Esquimalt condemns District water plan.
- VT. 22-11-21. Esquimalt shuns joint water board.
- Co. 22-11-22. Fifty years ago today.
- VT. 23-01-31. Salient facts on waterworks of Victoria and District.
- Co. 23-03-24. Water figures breach records.
- VT. 23-03-27. Asks complete reforestation of watershed, p.5.
- Co. 23-04-03. Sooke Lake watershed, p.4
- Co. 23-04-05. Sooke Lake timber, p.4, letter.
- Co. 23-04-23. Logging watershed, p.4, letter.
- Co. 23-06-27. Saanich water users to pay meter rents.
- VT. 24-07-11. Pollution of water supply is charge in court.
- Co. 24-07-12. Pollution of water charged in court.
- VT. 24-07-15. Water supply must be protected rules Magistrate - Fly fisherman fined for Act of Companions in Trespass Case.
- VT. 24-11-08. Saanich finances in health state Council informed.

Co. 24-11-25. Sooke Lake watershed, p.4, letter.
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 VT. 25-02-24. Saanich water question should be theme of meeting.
 Co. 25-06-06. Accountant differs in waterworks data.
 Co. 25-06-07. City Council contemplates additional water system.
 VT. 25-06-08. Esquimalt water system may be taken by City.
 Co. 25-06-09. Will investigate waterworks plant.
 VT. 25-06-11. Goldstream water system inspected.
 Co. 25-06-12. Water system state pleases.
 Co. 25-06-13. Timber deal will lower sale price.
 VT. 25-06-13. Timber at Goldstream will be cut.
 VT. 25-06-20. Timber operators prepare to cut.
 VT. 25-06-22. Engineer to make report on Goldstream.
 Co. 25-06-23. Suggests new negotiations with Saanich.
 Co. 25-06-24. Waterworks to be valued by Water Official.
 Co. 25-07-02. Commissioner now examining waterworks company.
 VT. 25-07-22. Expert to report waterworks very faulty in design.
 Co. 25-08-06. Goldstream system is purchased; sum of \$1,450,000 is involved.
 Co. 25-08-08. Ald. Shanks says injunction to be filed against waterworks deal.
 Co. 25-08-08. Esquimalt waterworks, letter by A.J. Morley.
 Co. 25-08-09. Waterworks purchase, letter by John Dean.
 Co. 25-08-09. Legal steps are taken to halt expropriation of waterworks.
 VT. 25-08-11. Water works, letter by W. Marchant, Alderman.
 Co. 25-08-12. Commissioner will link up two systems.
 Co. 25-08-23. Mr. Manson is called on to protect area.
 Co. 25-08-24. Water supply, letter by R.E. Gosnell.
 VT. 25-08-24. Mayor tells why water deal rushed.
 Co. 25-08-28. Expropriation of waterworks is fine investment, declares Mayor.
 Co. 25-09-03. Victoria west has low rate.
 Co. 25-09-04. Saanich and Victoria water supply, letter by Rob. MacNicol, Reeve.
 Co. 25-09-05. Threat of further litigation clouds waterworks horizon.
 Co. 25-09-05. Validation of purchase by City sought.
 DT. 25-09-09. Fight goes to floor of Legislature.
 DT. 25-09-10. Goldstream water works, letter by W.S. Drewry.
 DT. 25-09-15. Premier says Esquimalt must be specific.
 DT. 25-09-15. Water debate at City Hall was abortive.
 DT. 25-09-22. Notice of Expropriation.
 Co. 25-09-24. Executors allege breach of contract.
 Co. 25-09-30. Victoria's water problem.
 Co. 25-10-01. Expropriation of Esquimalt Waterworks Company.
 Co. 25-10-02. Victoria's water problem, letter by Frank Higgins.
 Co. 25-10-07. A question of facts.
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 Co. 25-12-05. Right of City on water deal is recognized.
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Co. 36-08-01. Sale of timber runs into delay, p.2.

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- Co. 37-04-16. Sooke siphon, p.6.
- VT. 40-08-29. Sooke watershed closed to hunters, p.13.
- VT. 40-10-03. Town topics, p.11.
- VT. 44-03-30. Sooke watershed timber economic loss says Shaw, p.11.
- VT. 44-03-31. Big firm purchases create problem for log-buying mills, p.2.
- DT. 48-09-03. Creation of Water Board.
- Co. 49-03-10. Board to arrange selective logging, p.8.



ASK CREATION OF WATER BOARD—Provincial government will be asked to bring the Greater Victoria Water Board, made possible by legislation passed this spring, into effect immediately, Ald. F. N. Cabeldu, chairman of the city water committee, said Thursday afternoon, following a meeting of representatives from Victoria, Esquimalt and Saanich. The board which will take over the city-owned water supply system and sell water to each of the Greater Victoria municipalities, in addition to some surrounding areas, will be brought into force by proclamation. Shown left to right with Mayor Percy George, seated, are: Ald. C. F. Banfield, Reeve E. C. Warren of Saanich, Reeve A. I. Thomas of Esquimalt and Ald. Cabeldu. Members considered Jan. 1 the best date to take over operation of the supply system, according to Ald. Cabeldu. Provincial proclamation will enable the board to appoint a water commissioner and staff and get the necessary organization underway.

- VT. 49-03-14. Watershed timber, p.4.
- Co. 49-03-16. Study report, ex-alderman urges board, p.12.
- Co. 49-06-23. Name forester to survey watershed, p.27.
- Co. 49-10-27. Call for appointment of forester in Sooke Lake, Goldstream watershed, p.9.
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- VT. 49-12-10. Enough water for double present, p.5.
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- Co. 50-06-06. Logging methods shown to city water officials, p.11.
- Co. 51-04-10. Reseed area on watershed, p.27.
- Co. 51-06-23. Contracts let for logging in watershed, p.27.
- Co. 51-06-26. May put sale proceeds in forest reserve fund, p.15.
- Co. 51-07-05. Distribution scheme water supply key, p.2.
- Co. 51-07-12. City businessman visits watersheds for board annual inspection tour, p.2.
- Co. 51-07-15. Water record is maintained, p.27.
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- VT. 51-07-23. An answer to water critics, p.4.
- Co. 51-08-14. Watershed to be cleaned, p.2.
- VT. 51-09-19. Logging the watershed, p.4.
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- Co. 51-11-07. Logging of watershed are described, p. 7.
- Co. 51-11-17. Sale of 100,000,000 board of feet of watershed trees proposed, p.1.
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- VT. 51-11-17. Watershed timber sales “no gamble”, p. 11.
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- Co. 52-01-25. Harrison, Skillings attack deal between water board, B.C.E.R., p.11.
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- VT. 52-02-22. Rangers fight to protect timber, claim chief forester sympathy, p.6.
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- Co. 52-03-20. No plebiscite on Sooke timber cut, p.13.
- VS. 52-03-24. Friction boils Victoria water system, p.4.
- Co. 52-03-26. Referendum proposed on watershed logging, p.1.
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- Co. 52-05-01. Water board members see patch-logged area, p.27.
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- VT. 52-05-07. Showdown on watershed logging scheme sought, p.3.
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- Co. 52-05-15. Water board party absorbs data for expected logging, p.15.
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- Co. 52-10-21. Mayor opposed logging scheme, p.17.
- VT. 53-02-18. End of chlorination sould by Harrison, p.1.



Old growth Douglas Fir forest in Rithet Creek, upper Sooke watershed, 1951. Photo from C.D. Schultz Company 1951 report to the Greater Victoria Water District on logging recommendations.

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TC. 84-11-29. Union charges 'doublecross'.

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TC. 87-02-14. Peninsula water rates going up soon.

TC. 88-04-12. Water board steamed up over log boom bids, p.B1.

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- TC. 95-04-25. Water district warns green group's tourists could face charges.
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- TC. 95-04-27. Access to reservoir land skewed - environmentalist.
- TC. 95-04-28. [Advertisement: "National Drinking Water Week - Watershed Tours"]
- TC. 95-05-10. No impact on water, letter.
- TC. 95-05-17. Try water elsewhere, letter.
- MM. 95-05-18/24. Forgive our trespasses.
- TC. 95-05-19. Enough parks already, letter.
- TC. 95-05-26. Conference focuses on trees' fate.
- VN. 95-05-26. Protecting the greenbelt.
- TC. 95-05-28. Flood today, drought tomorrow.
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- TC. 95-05-30. Saanich woman dies as car sinks (in reservoir).
- TC. 95-05-31. Eco-group critical of Goldstream quarrying.
- TC. 95-06-06. Alternative to sprawl, letter.
- MM. 95-06-8/14. Blasting may put water quality at risk.
- TC. 95-06-09. Water leadership lacking, letter.
- TC. 95-06-10. Water education needed, letter.
- TC. 95-06-12. Hall of Shame entries, letter.
- TC. 95-06-15. Manage the water, letter.
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- TC. 95-06-17. Environmentalists say borrowing is first step in land swap, p.D16.
- TC. 95-06-18. Stress water conservation, letter.
- TC. 95-06-19. No-review decision raises ire.
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- TC. 95-06-28. Water board rudeness, letter.
- TC. 95-06-30. District asks for voluntary ban.
- TC. 95-07-05. Like it or not, water district's preparing for growth.
- SN. 95-07-05. Area's water consumption rate reaches a record high.
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- TC. 95-07-07. Public vote sought on water projects.
- TC. 95-07-12. Replacement of leaky water line could cost \$13.5 million.
- OBN. 95-07-12. Waterworld - the future of the Greater Victoria Water District's non-catchment lands....(part three of a three-part series), p.3.
- MM. 95-07-13/19. Green gold in Sooke Hills.
- TC. 95-07-22. Natural approach save water.
- MM. 95-07-27/08-02. Freedom of information.
- TC. 95-07-28. Other park questions, letter.

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TC. 95-08-05. Threat to our water, letter.

TC. 95-08-09. A water warning to take seriously.

TC. 95-08-10. No impact on water, letter.

SN. 95-08-11. City water likely cause of epidemic.

TC. 95-08-15. Local reservoir called vulnerable.
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TC. 95-08-17. Better to raise public awareness, not Sooke dam.

MM. 95-08-17/23. Water board to vote on controversial dam.
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TC. 95-08-19. Sooke dam: \$16m.

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TC. 95-08-30. Water board should take a leaf from 'decision tree'.

TC. 95- ?? Ex-Lakes - Sierra Club says fish in trouble as Victoria water district drains obsolete reservoirs in 'return' to 1900s.

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TC. 95-09-07. Deadly parasite boosts demand for bottled water, p.A6.
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MM. 95-09-21. Sooke Hills Harbour Ecological Islands.

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TC. 95-09-27. Water tests unreliable - expert.

TC. 95-10-05. Court asked to force Sooke dam review.

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TC. 95-10-10. Water board logging contracts face challenge.
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- TC. 95-10-14. Threat of injunction won't halt expansion.
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- TC. 95-10-15. Water inquiry needed to quell concerns, letter.
- TC. 95-10-21. Sooke dam project gets thumbs up.
- TC. 95-10-25. Sooke Hills proposal, letter.
- TC. 95-10-26. Why the water district's reasoning isn't faulty.
- TC. 95-10-27. Green dream aims to shield west side.
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- TC. 95-10-28. Lobbyists still blazing forest trail.
- TC. 95-10-30. Park opportunity too good to miss.
- TC. 95-11-02. Water district park clears hurdle.
- SN. 95-11-03. Trapping animals to trap bacteria source.
- TC. 95-11-06. Not 'dinosaurs', letter.
- TC. 95-11-09. Don't break the belt, letter.
- TC. 95-11-10. Who's distorting?, letter.
- TC. 95-11-13. Water data defended, letter.
- TC. 95-11-14. School art offers hope for better use of water.
McLean tries out parkland plan on core councils.
- MM. 95-11-16/22. No dam substitute for water conservation, report says.
- MM. 95-11-23/29. Water district set to move on dam plan.
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- TC. 95-11-30. Heavy rainfall points out problem with reservoir.
- TC. 95-12-09. Reservoir board plans big splash.
- TC. 95-12-13. Reservoir open house today.
Coalition files injunction.
- TC. 95-12-14. No namesake parks, letter.
- TC. 95-12-15. Toxoplasmosis testing.
Environmentalists vow they will continue Sooke reservoir fight.
- TC. 95-12-16. Double hikes to hit users hard.
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- TC. 95-12-21. Court rejects bid to stop Sooke reservoir project.
- TC. 95-12-27. Needing more protection, letter.
- MM. 96-01-11/17. Sooke Hills park may be smaller than expected.
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- WE. 96-01-12. Re: Greater Victoria Water District public hearing.
- TC. 96-01-15. Water hearing input, letter.
- MM. 96-01-18. The singing hills of Sooke.
- VRN. 96-01-19. Back-door dealing threatens efforts to save Sooke Hills: WCWC.
- TC. 96-01-21. A new park - from sea to shining sea.
- TC. 96-01-25. Green groups fear land talks threaten sea-to-sea greenbelt, p. C15.
- MM. 96-01-26/02-01. Heat rises over water district lands.
- TC. 96-01-27. Agency seeks more for '95 water bills.
- TC. 96-01-31. Water and common sense.
- TC. 96-02-05. Sooke Hills greenbelt plan must be open to public.
- SN. 96-02-07. Mitigation funds in limbo for CRD surplus land project.
- TC. 96-02-08. Alternatives to NDP give activists jitters.
- WE. 96-02-09. Goldstream Park expansion.
- TC. 96-02-16. Water rates to soar 27.5 per cent, p.B4.
- TC. 96-02-17. Forest buffs opposed to swapping surplus land.

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- TC. 96-02-20. Civil debate, please, letter.
- SN. 96-02-21. Retroactive water increase is all wet, councillors charge.
- WE. 96-02-23. Water hikes likely to anger taxpayers.
- TC. 96-02-24. Options for property still secret - for now.
Rate claim misleading, letter.
- TC. 96-02-25. District stuck with hefty legal bill.
- TC. 96-02-29. Sooke Hills, the Musical.
- TC. 96-03-12. Water battler loses a round.
- TC. 96-03-16. Water rate hikes 'too high'.
- TC. 96-03-22. Water: fact and fiction, letter.
- TC. 96-04-03. Water board admits plan to swap land with logger.
- TC. 96-04-04. Rise in complaints too much for Sihota.
GVWD says logging protest off-base.
- TC. 96-04-06. Angry Gillespie says Sihota playing politics.
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- TC. 96-04-07. Water District brought this controversy on itself.
- TC. 96-04-09. What a giveaway, letter.
- TC. 96-04-10. GVWD options open, letter.
- TC. 96-04-11. Clear-cut alternatives, letter.
- MM. 96-04-11/17. Time to trade in our backwater board.
- TC. 96-04-12. Trustee needed for 'out of control' Water District.
- TC. 96-04-13. Workshops focus on environment.
- TC. 96-04-14. Let's save this priceless jewel.
- TC. 96-04-17. Land fund misused, letter.
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- TC. 96-04-19. Why raid land fund?, letter.
- WE. 96-04-19. SPWC demands water board review.
- VRN. 96-04-19. SPWC demands water board review.
- TC. 96-04-21. Water honcho fears inquiry.
- TC. 96-04-23. Complaints spur long,hard look at water district.
- MM. 96-04-25/05-01. Logger blocks road to cleaner water.
- VRN. 96-04-26. Saanich turns off water board.
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- TC. 96-05-01. Do we want to give a park for a dam?, p.A5.
- SN. 96-05-01. Integrity of region's greenbelt is paramount,letter.
- TC. 96-05-08. Dam upgrade provides secure water supply.
- SN. 96-05-08. Water District property subject of much interest.
- TC. 96-05-11. NDP 'greenwash', letter.
- TC. 96-05-24. The Sooke Hills need your vote (ad).
- TC. 96-05-29. Water district abandons land swap plans.
- TC. 96-06-19. Logging approval prompts complaint.
- TC. 96-06-20. Commission explores area's water supply.
- TC. 96-06-22. Opinions differ over future of system.
- TC. Water district abandons land swap plans.
- TC. 96-06-26. Water top issue as mayors meet, p.B4.
- TC. 96-07-03. Area mayors agree with recommendations.
- TC. 96-07-29. Don't let the Sooke Hills become the final forest.
- TC. 96-08-02. Our water needs stronger protection, p.A4.

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VN. 97-08-29. Can a water board change?
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