

Friends:

Seldom do I become passionate on a subject such as this and never before have I asked for support on such a contentious and controversial issue. However, I am convinced that the *logging operations* and *licensing process* presently being practiced **IN OUR WATERSHED** will compromise the quantity and quality of our drinking water supply on the Lower Sunshine Coast. Some of our neighbours have put their personal fortunes on the line for us by standing in the way of logging operations and what we see as an *assault* on our well-being. There is a real danger that these champions may feel the pain of criminal prosecution and/or civil liability for defending us against the profit motives of unfeeling corporations. I believe that we, the citizens, are protected by previous legislation that should have protected our water supply which, for whatever reasons, is being ignored or neglected by our government and by the companies involved.

Make no mistake, I doubt that there will be any “*instant communities*” being built in or near the watershed, as hinted by the developers. As we are already on water restrictions in the SCRD, ask yourself, “**Where is the water coming from?**” Where is the water coming from to service these new communities as well as a **large golf course** and **recreation area**? Also, **where is the sewage going to go?** Can you abide huge assemblies of septic areas IN OUR WATERSHED? Or do the “developers” intend to build the infrastructure necessary to support a “**Sewage Treatment System**”? And, even if they do build such a system, where is the so-called “treated” waste going to go? **Into the sea** where we swim and play? These complications and aggravations cannot be lost on the developers, either. For those of you who join me in my support for youngsters in a sea environment, I ask you to accept my maxim, “**On it – In it – Under it – The Sea is Our Home!**”

At the present time, all of us are aware of the building motor vehicle traffic on the Sunshine Coast. We are also aware of the only method of getting to the Coast - the BC Ferries. During the summer, when one might expect the greatest pressure from the “recreational properties” to be applied, our ferries can be expected to be working at maximum capacity. Right now, our “back up” or “support” ferry, *Queen of Esquimalt*, has been taken off line to service another route due to mechanical problems in a manner that is fast becoming *routine* on the Sunshine Coast. What *infrastructure* are these developers promising to solve that problem that their activities threaten to further aggravate? Are they going to provide the funding for *another, bigger ferry*? Do they promise to build a *bridge* from the Mainland? Do we want or need either? A ferry perhaps, but not a bridge!

Right now, their development threatens to compromise our drinking water supply, already under restriction. Their activities only promises to strain that supply even more. A protracted legal confrontation in the Courts will not stop the damage being done at this moment. Already thousands of truckloads of trees have traveled from Wilson Creek.. While logging on this scale may temporarily assist in the local employment issue, at what price to our wellbeing? While we wait for a Court date, the logging continues and possibly the permanent loss to the effectiveness of our Watershed to supply clean, pure water to us. That is why certain people are willing to make the confrontation NOW. I draw the analogy that our house is on fire. We have the will and the means to strike down the fire. But, do we wait for the Fire Department to be properly

notified, for the Fire Department to decide on whether or not they will attend, to assemble the personnel and equipment to respond, and then to move all of it the long way to the site. Those few people with the will and the means are all that is going to save our house right now while we wait for the hoped for response from the Courts.

Because other friends on the Coast are prepared to risk their fortunes and liberty for us, I urge you to support the “**Watershed Legal Defence Fund**” (WLDF). Before you make your decision, please read the attached Affidavit from a person who may face charges. At the very least, if you agree in principle with our outrage, please support our position that is being questioned by a “*poll*” in the **Coast Reporter** newspaper, found at [www.coastreporter.net](http://www.coastreporter.net) .

Thank you for considering this message.

Ron

R. J. (Ron) Joyce  
Elphinstone, B. C.