

WATERSHED UPDATE – September 30<sup>th</sup>,2007

[See Album of pictures http://yourwatershed.com/pictures/070930rally/index.html](http://yourwatershed.com/pictures/070930rally/index.html)

While we are still waiting for the BC Supreme Court decision regarding the LBH order and the appeal by WFP several positive events have occurred in the past week or so.

1. There was a “rally” held last Wednesday outside the Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention held inside the Trade & Convention center, downtown Vancouver.
2. Local politicians from across BC attended their annual convention and approx 40 local Sunshine coast residents were on hand to support our SCRCD directors and Mayors of Gibsons and Sechelt.
3. See photo’s and comments from residents who attended the rally and we were able to speak to a good number of the politicians from across the Province about the need for Provincial legislation to protect local drinking water sources.
4. Our presence definitely helped get the message out that protection of drinking water needs to be addressed at the Provincial level.
5. I personally spoke with Ed Steeves who indicated that the SCRCD directors were going to have an opportunity to speak directly with the Premier of the Province the following morning. This can only bode well for the Sunshine Coast.

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The following statement was made by the Attorney General for BC, Wally Oppal, while been interviewed by Digital Debbie during a rally held by concerned Sunshine Coast residents at the recent UBCM convention in Vancouver.

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Q: Do you have any comment on all the people out here today asking for the protection of water?

A: "I think it's wonderful that they are asking for that (protection of water) and I'm sure the Government will work with them and I think it's great that we are all mindful and conscious of the environment and so that's good, that's good."

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**Some additional comments regarding the Rally**

**Sunshine Coast residents support their delegates**



Rog and I were there, and there was a really good turnout. The delegates had to pass us going in and out, as did the Attorney General, Wally Oppel (sp?), who pledged to support our issue in Cabinet. (That was really interesting, because he/his office was prepared to support us in the court case, but rumour has it the Cabinet yanked him back from doing so.)

Nicholas Simons, our ever-vigilant MLA, joined us, some Green candidate (?) appeared briefly and shook a few hands, our MP Blair Wilson had a long conversation with John Keates, NDP leader Carol James and the provincial transportation critic (Ms. Karogiannis??) spoke with us (I talked to

her about ferry problems--she absolutely gets it), and Adriane Carr was there for us. Several of the delegates stated they were with us (besides Barry Janyk, Donna Shugar, Lee Ann Johnson, of course, who also spent time with the demonstrators), which was heartening. Even Sam Sullivan (Vanc. mayor) rolled by. Suzanne and Digital Debbie were on their way to Gordon Campbell's office to get his reaction when I left. There was a great deal of media coverage as well--CBC and CKNW were most noticeable. So it was a good demo. Now we'll wait to see the results of the UBCM's deliberations.

Best,  
Jude

VANCOUVER/CKNW(AM980) - Sunshine Coast residents concerned about the future of their drinking water rallied outside the Union of BC Municipalities Convention, but they were rallying in support of their local municipal politicians.

Back in August, the Sunshine Coast Regional District, acting as the local Board of Health, ordered Western Forest Products to cease logging in the Chapman Creek watershed, deeming it a health hazard. But, that order was stayed by the Courts, with the outcome of an appeal still pending.

Hans Penner of Roberts Creek says residents would like to see UBCM delegates call on the Province to introduce new legislation that would give ownership or control of watersheds to regional districts, "Communities all over BC need protection for their source of drinking water similar to what Vancouver and Victoria have."

If Western Forest Products' appeal in the Court matter is denied, it will establish that local boards of health have the ability to stop practices harmful to the water supply.