

WATERSHED UPDATE – October 6th, 2007

The SCRD resolution to continue to allow Regional Districts in the Province to act as a LBH under the Health Act was passed by the membership at the recent UBCM convention. This came just in time, since the SCRD learned that the Province was looking to either change the wording in the Health Act or remove this option entirely, thereby preventing any future use of this portion of the legislation.

Below find information from Pat Ridgeway and Dale Peterson regarding the upcoming watershed event scheduled for Oct 18th at the Gibsons Heritage theatre featuring Dr. Reese Halter.

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Pat's e-mail

Hi all

Just wanted to let you know that the crown is not pursuing the case against the 3 watershed arrestees at this time. I just spoke to Debbi and learned that this had occurred last week. She will be putting out another video clip tonite or tomorrow, and will put mention of this in the email. When I get it I will forward it on to you.

I also will have some info to send re the Oct. 18th Watershed Defense Fund Event at the Gibsons Heritage Theatre, and also the Dance for the SCCA fundraiser on Nov.3. We are still looking for some high end services to auction off at the Dance.

Apparently the water running from the clearcuts at the top of Western's cutblock is very brown as was observed yesterday. These smaller creeks feed into Chapman Cr. and with the heavy rains of late this must be increasing the strain on the treatment plant, and likely means higher chlorine use. It may be good to for the public to ask questions of the SCRD about this as it could be hazardous to people's health if the chlorine is increased to compensate the turbidity.

Hope you are well and we will talk soon.

Pat Ridgeway

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Copy of Dale's e-mail

DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR WATERSHED

International Forest Biologist warns of dire consequences of logging Chapman Creek watershed. On October 18th, on behalf of the Citizens of the Sunshine Coast, at Gibsons Heritage Theatre, in a live presentation Dr. Reese Halter will clearly explain how allowing any logging in Chapman Creek will not only harm the drinking water quality, it will harm the health of the entire Coast and the environment for generations.

Logging Chapman Creek, or any old growth watershed not only has immediate local consequences; it has regional and global effects on global warming, including disease and drought. At least 118 vertebrates make their living primarily in old growth forest. Forty-one of these cannot breed, nest or forage anywhere else. Logging, in this key old growth watershed, is a death sentence to at least 30% of them. An immediate moratorium needs to be enacted to stop this extinction policy that will affect us all.

Dr. Reese Halter is an award winning conservation scientist, syndicated science writer, nature documentary host and adjunct professor of Botany at Humbolt State University in California. In the late 1980's, Dr. Halter founded Global Forest Science, a charitable international forest research foundation. Today, with an international team of over 4,140 scientists, Global Forest Science is a world leader in forest science research and conservation.

Prior to Dr. Halter's presentation, local journalist and filmmaker Digital Debbi will present a 15-minute film showing the latest information on our watershed. Doors will open at 6:30pm and the event will start at 7:00pm. Suggested donation at the door is \$10, all proceeds will go to the Watershed Defense Fund. There will be time for questions and comments after the presentations. For further information contact Dale at 604-886-1424.

Dale Peterson,
Gibsons

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Also, please find below a copy of e-mail from Duane Burnett, free lance photographer on the Coast who has uploaded 144 photo's of our watershed protests and activites over the course of the summer months. Duane has taken some great photo's, check them all out!

Copy of Duane's e-mail

Hi there, its Duane Burnett, freelance photographer on the coast and I work for The Local newspaper.
I have uploaded about 144 photos of the watershed protest which I have been blessed to attend or be invited to or in most cases just stumbled upon by the grace of the universe. They are at my new flickr site.
Please share this link with your membership if you like or post it on your website.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/duaneburnett>

Yours for the planet
Duane Burnett

We are still waiting for the decision by Justice Butler re: the appeal but in the mean time several of the concerned citizens will be meeting next week to discuss future directions/strategy, etc

The watershed reserve issue for Chapman Creek is one such item that we intend to pursue with the Regional District.