



# Slocan Valley Watershed Alliance News Letter

November 1-14 2001

## GROUP REPORTS: Ever Vigilant

### RED MOUNTAIN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

In the summer of 2000 SFP constructed the first half of the contentious Road 200 in the Hasty/Vevey Watershed. At the same time, Red Mountain Residents Association filed a petition in BC Supreme Court requesting a Judicial Review of the road permit and associated cutting permits. RMRA requested a temporary Stay of road building until the full case could be heard, but Judge McEwen refused to grant the Stay, stating that waterusers have no legal rights to clean water. Road building continued for that season, after which, in October, the Judicial Review was heard in the Nelson court. After all final documents were submitted, the RMRA had to wait nine months for the unfavourable decision. An Appeal is being considered.

Another Petition for Judicial Review regarding the refusal of the Ministries of Forests and Environment to grant Community Watershed status to the Hasty /Vevey area has been filed in BC Supreme Court.

In the summer of 2000 an appeal to the Forest Practices Board was made by Craig Pettitt (Forest Watch and Valhalla Wilderness Society), in association with the RMRA. This appeal concerned misclassification of a large wetland, by SFP's consultants, and the determination by District Manager of Forests, Brian Simpson, allowing part



DAVE GOOD PHOTO

*Village of New Denver and New Denver Flats cutblocks seen from Valhalla Park*

## Sixty Groups Province-wide sign petition

### SEE LIST INSIDE

The court cases for water in the Slocan Valley have not been successful because there is no legislation to protect drinking water and it is imperative that a legal right to clean water be established. As a result the SVWA has joined many other groups provincially in signing the Petition.

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of Road 200 to be constructed in the Riparian Management Area of the wetland. We await a decision.

SFP has recently proceeded with building the south half of Road 200 through the Baby Ruth wetlands. Logging has continued through the summer and further cutting is planned for this winter. Meanwhile, the RMRA is regularly monitoring SFP's industrial activities.

More info at:

<http://www.watertalk.org/svwa/redmountain>



### ELLIOTT-ANDERSON- CHRISTIAN-TROZZO

Early this spring SFP entered the Elliot/Anderson (E/A) watersheds and started road building in the headwaters of Goloff, Sawan, and Anderson creeks. People gathered on the road on April 24th and engaged the workers in dialog; SFP

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**PERRY RIDGE:** *from page 2*  
 inadequate hazard mapping. A recent spot check of existing hazard maps by June Ryder, PhD, PGeo, found many instances in which the hazard ratings do not correlate with the hazard visible on air photos.

Directors of the Perry Ridge Water Users Association met with Mr. Don Munro, RDCK representative for Area H, about regional government responsibility regarding the safety issue on Perry Ridge.

*Marilyn Burgoon*  
*President Perry Ridge Water Users Association*  
 More info at: <http://www.watertalk.org/svwa/perryridge>



## GOAT MOUNTAIN WATER USERS ASSOCIATION

Logging was done last summer encroaching to the edge of our watersheds and new roads built have opened this area up to a host of other human activities as well, from motorized vehicle use such as ATVs and motorcycles, hunting, wood cutting, to prospecting and possible mining activities. It just never ends with logging. Protect the landscape and you will protect the water.

*Mike Simpson*  
 more info at: <http://www.watertalk.org/svwa/goatmountain>



## SLOCAN RIDGE

Spar and cable yarding, of the same variety as Elliot Anderson Trozzo watershed, is in full swing in the Vincent Creek to Shook Creek area above Slocan City. This can be viewed from Slocan - best is in the afternoon when the sun is on the hillside. The area around O'Shea Creek is next - to be conventionally logged - and the third area is in behind on the plateau and seems to be the catchment place for about 7 tributaries that are all part of Dayton. Logging further down the hill

toward Slocan or in between the strips, which is logically anticipated, is not in the current 5 year plan. The earliest a permit can be sought after for this or further logging, including road building from O'Shea across to Ringrose, is a year from now.

Residents please keep informed and learn what you can. Insist on the best for your watershed area. *Daphne Fields*

**In the spirit of open communication and the sharing of information within our valley we have included articles from groups and individuals who are not members of the SVWA. The ideas expressed in these articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the SVWA.**

## WINLAW WATERSHED COMMITTEE

A 598 ha. Woodlot above Dumont Creek has been given to Bernie Clover, Tom Bradley, and Breakaway Enterprises, a local partnership. They are making efforts to implement an ecosystem-based approach. They have published their Management Plan, and are working on the more specific Development Plan.

The Ministry of Forests (MoF) is planning some activity for Winlaw under their Small Business Forest Enterprise Program. So far, studies have been done on the stability of the old Silica Mine road, and on possible routes for new roads. MoF has given a contract to June Ryder and Associates to carry out a Terrain Stability Assessment, Level B.

From the time of first hearing that development plans were afoot, the Winlaw Watershed Committee (WWC) has tried to establish open communications with MoF. Under the management of Al Skakun, MoF has been

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## IN BRIEF...

● The Columbia River Basin, including southeastern British Columbia... relies on snowpack for irrigation and urban water use in the summer. Even a slight climate change could mean less snowpack and earlier spring melt, leading to less water in summer. Even if winter precipitation is higher, a larger proportion may fall as rain, resulting in spring floods followed by low summer water levels. Despite this prospect, the region's water resource management system is seen as fragmented and unprepared to deal with water shortages.

● The Auditor General has stated that the province is not adequately protecting the water resource.

● The B C Medical Association has stated that it is opposed to logging in Vancouver's watershed.

● The forest industry receives from us, in the form of tax breaks, subsidies etc. billions of dollars - it has been reported that they get as much as \$140 000 for every job they provide.

● The Provincial government's policy is to overcut the forests now and leave the "fall-down effect" to be suffered by our children - they plan to accomplish this by liquidating all the old-growth that exists outside of the protected areas.





