

THE RECORD

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MIRIAM TREVIS
THE RECORD

As many Gold River residents will have noticed, over the past two weeks, a number of Explorer Scouts from Scotland have been in the community volunteering their time on local projects.

Local Scouter Maxine McLean has been the host for these young men, average age 17, as they completed the tasks allocated to them on this "once in a lifetime" adventure in Canada.

Whilst they were in this area, the Scouts participated in the Canada Day Parade in Campbell River, explaining to Max that there is "no Scotland Day parade" back home and they also visited the Willow Point area to see the chainsaw carving contest. Their Canada Day experience ended with the traditional fireworks display.

The 10 Scouts were divided into different groups and while they were here they participated in many diverse activities including cycling from Mount Washington to Miracle Beach and a cycling tour of Denman Island.

In Gold River the Scouts cleared the old stairs near the entrance to Peppercorn Park prior to rehabilitation work being done on the trail and also removed what remained of the stairs at Upana Caves, hoisting the wood all the way to the road to make clean up easier before the new stairs are built.

Ross Pearce, one of the Scouts, told *The Record* that the whole experience had been memorable. When asked whether Canada had lived up to his expectations, he said that it exceeded anything they could have anticipated. Ross said none of the Scouts could get over the sheer size of Canada and that many of them have expressed an interest in returning here once they have completed their schooling.

The warm hospitality offered to the Scouts throughout their time on Vancouver Island was very much appreciated by these young men who were not only great ambassadors for Scouting and Scotland, but who also showed the finest attributes of the youth of today.

Scots Scouts Visit Gold River



Photo: M McLean



Photo: M McLean

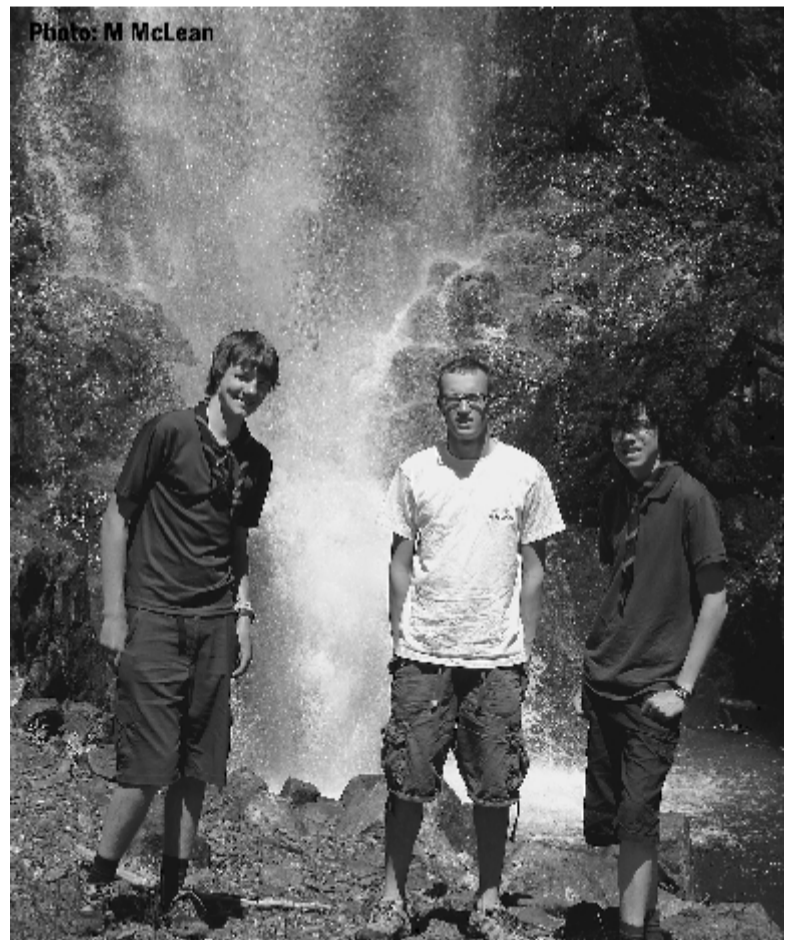


Photo: M McLean

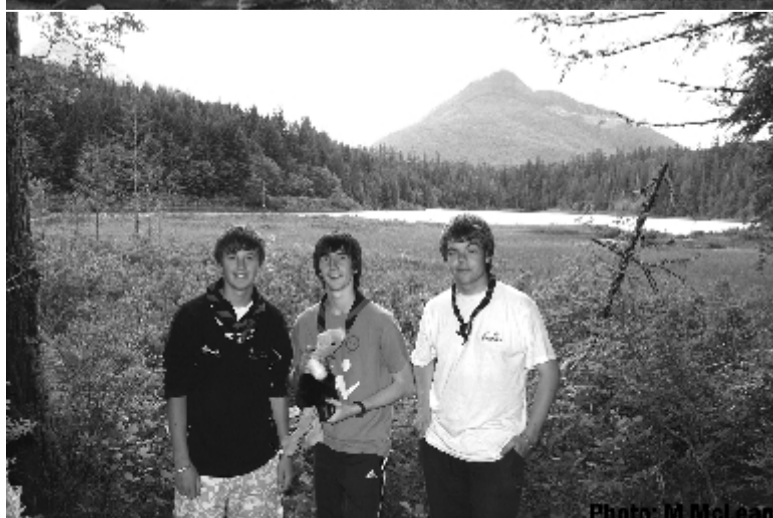


Photo: M McLean



Photo: M McLean

Gold River Village Council

July 05, 2010

MIRIAM TREVIS
THE RECORD

With all members present, the regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gold River took place on Monday, July 5 in the Council Chambers. There was just a handful of residents in the gallery to witness the proceedings.

Villoy Mitchell Dorrington started the Open Session at the beginning of the meeting by asking who was responsible for the provision of crosswalks on Muchalat Drive. Mayor Craig Anderson stated that it was the Department of Highways since it is a provincial highway. Mrs Mitchell Dorrington stated she would contact the Department to see if it was possible to put another crosswalk near the Gold River Chalet where people come down the trail from Chamiss Crescent to cross over to the plaza. Councillor Larry Fehr offered to assist Mrs Mitchell Dorrington with her negotiations with the Department.

Mayor Anderson then recognised three Explorer Scouts who were visiting from Scotland. The Scouts presented each council member and the Administrator with small bottles of Scotch Whiskey and also gave the Village of Gold River a silver bowl in appreciation of the hospitality shown to the group.

Council then approved the agenda and the minutes of the previous council meeting, moving on then to Council Information Items.

Councillor Kirsty Begon gave a verbal report on the latest Vancouver Island Regional Library Board meeting she had attended at which the Facilities Master Plan was presented. This Plan indicates that almost all of the VIRT facilities are lacking in some way or other, with some deficiencies being more alarming than others. Problems range from lack of fire extinguishers, cover plates missing from electrical outlets to insecure shelving.

Mayor Craig Anderson advised of a meeting he had had with the Ambassador to Norway and his attendance

at the Canada Day parade in Campbell River.

Councillor Suzanne Trevis asked whether the Economic Development Committee had had any success in getting the plaza signage updated and Councillor Lynne Unger advised that the matter was in hand.

Council received the minutes of the last two Economic Development Committee meetings and then moved on to look at the 11 pieces of correspondence on the agenda.

The first letter to attract Council's attention was from the Environmental Health Officer from VIHA regarding a proposed well on Block C near the Municipal Wharf. The letter outlined the various rules and regulations governing such a well and it was evident to everyone that such restrictions will prevent a well being drilled in that area. Until an alternative solution to providing potable water to the users in the area is found, the status quo will remain.

The next letter was from Covanta pertinent to its request for an amended air discharge permit. A public meeting to discuss this issue will be held in the Community Centre on July 21.

All other correspondence was received for information purposes only with Question Period being the next item on the agenda. Miriam Trevis asked whether Council has yet been successful in hiring a Bylaw Enforcement Officer and a Utilities Manager. Mayor Anderson stated that the hirings mentioned would be discussed In Camera following the council meeting.

Under New Business, Mayor Anderson appointed Councillor Begon to be council's representative on the Community Policing Society.

Council then adjourned In Camera with the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the Village of Gold River taking place on Monday 19th July starting as usual at 7.30pm in the Council Chambers.

Sound. I also spoke with workers at the fish farm hatchery at the old mill site in Gold River and was surprised to learn that it is operated as a closed containment system. The organic waste materials are extracted and sold to farmers as fertilizer as well as producing 'sea soil' for sale. So the obvious next question is why aren't the ocean fish pens going the same route? The savings on constant net maintenance, ocean transport, pesticide treatments, feed loss and environment-induced mortality could be applied to the costs of pumping and filtering. The result may be lower profit levels but at least our wild salmon would be given a reprieve.

Other business at this meeting included voting to fund a metal roof for the salmon raceway at the Tahsis Hatchery. On the subject of hatcheries, the feds are planning a \$1 million cut to coastal hatcheries, which will probably lead to closure of one hatchery. The Watershed Society will send a letter opposing any funding cuts. Also, the Conuma Hatchery is looking for volunteers to help with marking 77,000 salmon fry this month.

Martin Davis
Councillor

BEVERLY LYNCH
THE RECORD

Many Tahsis residents are firm in their belief that the music festival tentatively scheduled for the middle of August will do more harm than good to their village. So much so that on July 5 fourteen local people put forth a petition to the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Campbell River charging that Mayor Corrine Dahling, Councilor Ann Cameron and Councilor Martin Davis are in conflict of interest. They also asked for an injunction against the proposed festival.

Bringing the petition forward to the court were Debra Conibear, Elizabeth Beaupre, Barb Wanless, Sandy Naylor, Catherine Gordon, Artna Douglas, Alice Thompson, Alex Wright, David McIntosh, Bill Griswold, Rajindar Sharma, Sumeet Sharma, Joyce Davies, and Lucille Collins. Debra Conibear represented and spoke on behalf of the petition. Mayor Corinne Dahling, her lawyer Mr. Howieson and Harmony Neilson, Corporate Officer for the village of Tahsis, attended the hearing but Councilor Martin Davis and Councilor Ann Cameron failed to make an appearance.

The petition was heard at 10:30am and the hearing lasted approximately one hour. Presiding over the hearing was Madam Justice Allen. Debra Conibear spoke first outlining her two part argument. First she explained that the project was ill planned, that the councilors had used undue care and attention when the

contract was signed and most importantly that Mayor Corinne Dahling was in 'conflict of interest' due to the fact that the promoter of the concert, Amber McGrath representing Bounce Hard Productions was the Mayor's ex-daughter in law. This would be a first endeavour for Amber McGrath who has no previous experience putting a festival together. Ms. Conibear also said that a joint venture agreement had been made between Bounce Hard Productions and Mayor Dahling without advertising for any other potential promoters and that there may have been fully qualified people in the village who may have wanted to promote a festival.

Ms. Conibear went on to explain that a full budget or business plan for the festival was not available and that the Village's Economic Development Fund was being used as seed money for the event. "In fact the festival was being advertised on the web before the subject had even been brought to council. One can only assume that the promoter was going ahead with her plans only on the word of Mayor Dahling. As well, FOI responses show there is no safety plan," said Ms. Conibear.

"It appears that the Village is guaranteeing funds for this event. The Village is putting up the money and Bounce Hard Productions is controlling it. Our tax dollars are being used in favour of Bounce Hard Productions and to the detriment of the village," said Ms. Conibear.

Lawyer Howieson for Mayor Corinne Dahling, Councilor Davis and Coun-

cilior Cameron countered Ms. Conibear's argument. "Ms. Conibear is mistaken if she thinks the court can shut down the event. It is a narrow issue here, is there a conflict or not," he stated to Justice Allen. "Mayor Dahling has only seen her ex-daughter in law two times in the last 14 years, there is no relationship. As well there is no evidence that someone in Tahsis would be capable of putting on a festival," he said. Debra Conibear spoke up immediately citing her extensive experience, education, and affiliations in the arts and music world. Mr. Howieson remained silent.

Mr. Howieson repeatedly stated there was no pecuniary interest for the Mayor or her family. Madam Justice Allen told him it was common sense that if a poor mother became wealthy it would of course benefit her daughter. Mr. Howieson also said it was common practise to advertise an event on the web before it was a done deal in order to gauge the public's reaction. Howieson cited a number of different conflict of interest cases where the justice had ruled in favour of the defense.

Madam Justice Allen promised to read the materials that had been provided and come to a decision regarding the conflict of interest issue and the matter of an injunction to stop the music festival within a week. Upon leaving the court room Mayor Dahling said, "I'm going to have the festival anyways even if we lose in court. I believe in it, I can afford it, so the festival will go on as planned."

Tahsis Petition Heard In Court

Time To Abandon Tired Global-Or-Nothing Ideology

BARRY O'NEILL

Every other day in the big mainstream dailies, it seems, some right wing champion of so-called public-private partnerships is given generous column inches to extol the virtues of P3s and the global market. Earlier this year, for example, ATB Financial economist Todd Hirsch argued that opponents of a Calgary bridge construction project that went to a Spanish bidder were needlessly "paranoid" about lost jobs and "insecure" in their failure to embrace the wisdom of the global market in awarding contracts for large public infrastructure projects.

Mr. Hirsch's argument rested on the tit-for-tat logic of global trade-that if we give a construction project to a company in Spain we'll end up getting an IT contract in return. This misses the point about the Bow River bridge deal and similar projects elsewhere. Mr. Hirsch and likeminded observers, in their zeal to push a global-or-nothing agenda, seem unwilling to examine what a "local first" policy really means.

Consider for a moment a procurement model that includes in its decision-making process the value of a local business that may have been located in the community paying taxes in that community. Should such value not be considered a factor in the fiscal well-being of a community-not only for the bottom line but also with regard to the environment, employment, and innovation? In terms of building healthy local economies, I am sure Mr. Hirsch would agree that we've pretty much maxed out on our traditional reliance on revenue streams such as federal government transfers and cost development charges on property taxes. Just as I can agree that fair taxation should be the goal for all levels of government.

So what are the alternatives? Let's take a look at how our existing tax dollars go to work. Some of us believe that maximizing the multiplier effect of those tax dollars-creating more revenue from consumer spending that stays in the community-is a good thing.

So is providing more opportunities for young entrepreneurs to stay in the communities where they live so that they can develop innovative new products at home, rather than joining the brain drain to bigger cities or other countries. We could create additional revenue by promoting programs that use capital stock in municipalities. We could do leakage analysis in order to find ways to slow down the number of dollars that leave the community. We could consider programs that deal with import substitution to reduce, for example, our reliance on produce that's been flown in from another hemisphere.

These ideas are not new-nor are they rocket science. (Notwithstanding the new Canada-United States Procurement Agreement, which threatens to open up even our water supply to U.S. markets-and that's a whole other issue-several American states and cities have enacted procurement policies that provide either preferential options for, or discounts to, local bidders on infrastructure projects.) These initiatives have worked in the past, and they continue to prove effective in developing new revenue streams that can be nurtured over the years. The point is not to "always buy local" but to think local first: by giving the local business community the challenge of working with local consumers, the quid pro quo for their efforts will always be more customers. This is not about stopping anything; it's about starting something new.

Mr. Hirsch and other defenders of the globalist orthodoxy promoted by large corporations - the presumption that there is no alternative to unfettered global trade - would be well advised to do a rethink and take a look at what's happening out there. For example, if he happened to read Michael Shuman's *The Small-Mart Revolution: How Local Businesses are Beating the Global Competition*, or checked out the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE), which represents more than 21,000 independent business members across the U.S. and Canada, he might be surprised to learn what's actually working at the local level. He might even find that his mantra of Global, Global, Global-far from being cutting edge or the way of the future-is in fact a tired, unimaginative, inside-the-box way of thinking about the economy.

Barry O'Neill is president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, B.C. division.

Report to Tahsis Village Council

July 6, 2010

On June 23 I attended a meeting along with the Mayor and Corporate Officer with the Council of Chiefs of the Mowachaht/Muchalat First Nation. As a gesture of friendship and respect, we presented two gifts of a framed picture and a yellow cedar walking stick carved by a former resident of Tahsis. We discussed many issues of mutual interest including collaboration, the OCP, aquaculture, land acquisitions, watershed, trails, Reserve #11 beside Tahsis and cultural issues including the pending music festival. We are pleased that Chief Maquinna has endorsed the festival and will make a public appearance to bless it. The Chiefs have requested a followup meeting with Tahsis Council in the near future and we are looking forward to it.

On the same day I attended a meeting of the Nootka Sound Watershed Society where we did a quick tour of a fish farm near Kleeptee. The former farms from our neck of the woods have been moved down there to create 'superfarms' in Muchalat Inlet. While this may not bode well for Gold and Burman River salmon runs, it should take some pressure off the salmon rivers of central and northern Nootka



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