



TimberLess Times

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TimberLess Log

13 FEBRUARY 2008 — Directors James and Olson are introduced in the BC Legislature.

29 FEBRUARY 2008 — Writ of Summons filed.

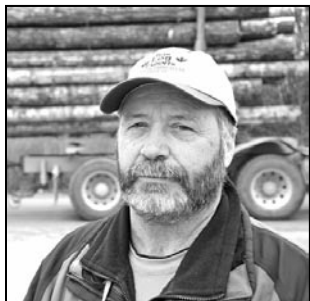
20 APRIL 2008 — Annual General Meeting (1 PM) at Somenos Hall, Duncan, BC

Courting Government

In November, there was disappointing news from the BC Court of Appeals. The Court ruled that “case already judged” (*res judicata*) did apply. This setback led to a fundamental reappraisal of the Class Action Lawsuit.

After consultation with representative plaintiff Ken James, lawyer Joseph Arvay filed a *Writ of Summons and Statement of Claim* in BC Supreme Court. This new initiative seeks an order setting aside the *Consent Dismissal Order* in the previous IWA Action.

Arvay is optimistic that if this troublesome roadblock can be removed, the Class Action against Government will be free to proceed to trial and argued on its own merits.



[Ladysmith Chronicle photo]

Representative plaintiff James

Erosion of Working Forest Land

The public knows Block 1405 at Cowichan Lake as the south face of Bald Mountain. This land is a highly visible example of much that is wrong with forest land management on Vancouver Island.

In 2001, this private land was owned by TimberWest Forest Corporation and managed as part of Tree Farm License 46 (TFL 46). At that time, the Forest Practices Code of BC ensured a superior standard of environmental protection in law. Then in 2002, BC Government “revitalization

policies” permitted TimberWest to sell off TFL 46 and withdraw Block 1405 from direct public oversight. This policy shift allowed for a much less stringent “results-based” self-regulation under the *Private Land Forest Practices Act*.

In late 2004, the property was sold to a “log and flog” outfit that quickly exited Private Managed Forest Land status to minimize environmental accountability. In early 2005, roads were blasted across the steep slopes and the trees were removed with subdivision and development as the end objectives. During this short history to the bottom, best management practices took a beating and that was quite evident this January.



[R. Wiles photo]

As land title is juggled from developer to developer, a little more distance is put between the new owners and the damage done. Senior governments disavow responsibility, regional governments are left without any meaningful levers of control, and the community reaps a

sorry inheritance of sprawl and fragmentation.

This scenario plays out again and again all over southern Vancouver Island. Each time it does, the public is dispossessed of more vital working forest, community watershed values decline, and the societal benefits of

many ecological services are degraded.



[R. Wiles photo]

TimberWest Real Estate Corp.

TimberWest has finally announced the long-awaited end of wood manufacturing. It was just a matter of time before Campbell River’s Elk Falls permanently fell and followed the Youbou Sawmill into history.

The *modus operandi* was the same. The usual excuses were trotted out—foreign exchange, commodity pricing, cost of labour, and weak markets. According to the CEO, “this news has been very tough for our Company to deal with,”

257 jobs will be lost, creating hardship for the individuals and their families.

TimberWest’s announcement made no mention of their Crown tenures and Tree Farm Licence 47. The community is left to ponder what will happen with the 700 000-m³ average annual cut from these public lands.

The corporation that takes pride in thinking itself a good neighbour, will now concentrate on log exports and land sales.

More TimberLess Times



Images from the Roy Legate Photographic Collection

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