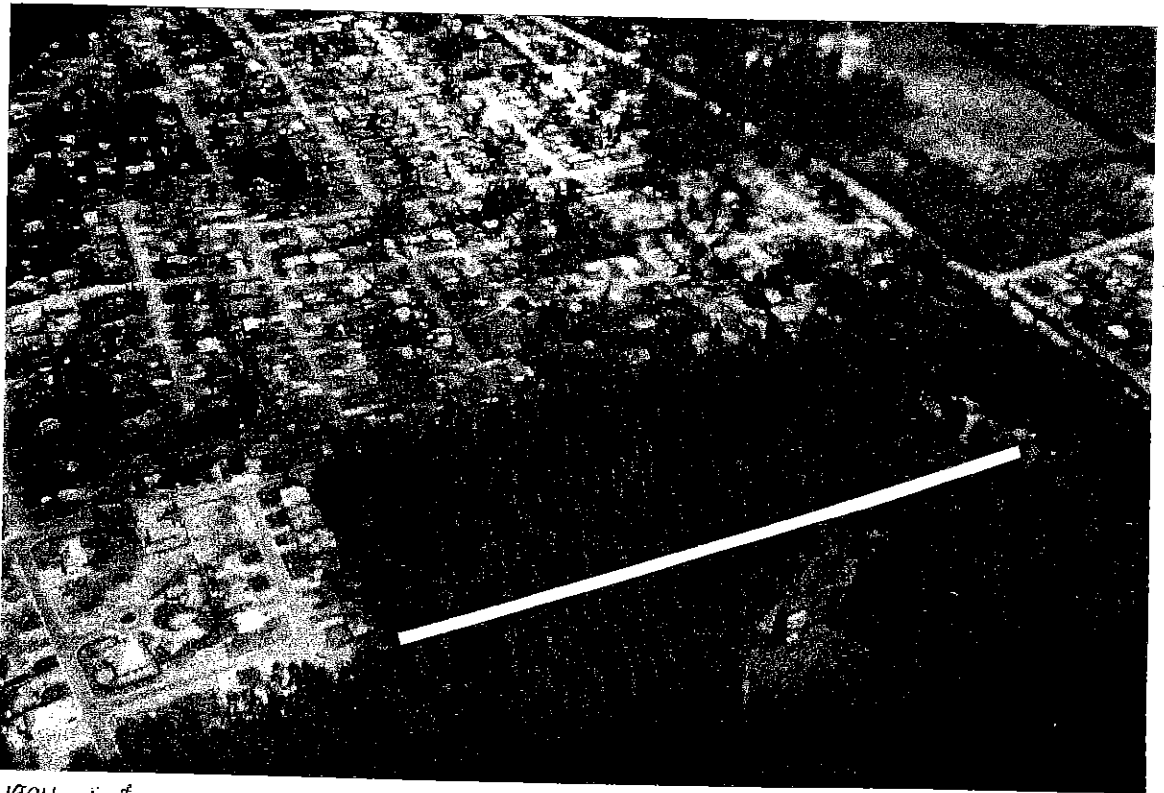


The Saga of the Tall Trees.

The last 15 acres



1994 photo.

of the Brown Property

in the year 2000.

Town of Qualicum Beach HERITAGE FOREST TRAILS



Legend	
--- Trail	— Road Paved (1 lane)
— Major Street	— Road Gravel
— City Street	— Road Gravel Rough



Produced by:
2004



101-200 First Avenue West, Qualicum Beach, B.C., V9K 2J3
Tel: 250.752.4296 Fax: 250.752.4297 E-mail: Info@GlobalGeomaticsLtd.com

"BROWN PROPERTY"
David Hay's 5-part series
(THE NEWS WEEKENDER)

THE NEWS WEEKENDER MARCH 17/20
**Brown property's
11th hour** 1st



TREES, HUNDREDS OF years old in a Qualicum Beach forest. The Brown property debate continues.

It's the piece of property adjacent to the big white house on East Crescent across from the golf course, home to the stately residence many people call "The Qualicum Mansion."

The property runs along East Crescent, up St. Andrews Lane, and is bounded by Sunningdale on the west side and Hemsworth on the east.

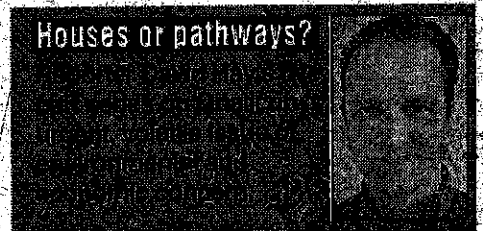
It comprises about 50 acres — 35 acres held by the Town of Qualicum Beach, and 15 attractive acres held in trust by the Brown family.

And this coming Wednesday night, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. the latest chapter in the long history of a portion of Qualicum Beach known to most as The Brown Property comes to the fore-front. That's when the Town and the Brown Property Preservation Society host a public forum concerning the options open to residents of District 69 where acquisition of an additional piece of the property is concerned.

Last April the Town of Qualicum Beach and the society raised \$908,460 to purchase 35 acres of the Brown property, with a one year option to buy the remaining 15 acres of the property for \$900,000.

At Wednesday night's forum at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre,

the guest speaker will be Jim Craven, executive director of the Municipal Finance Authority of B.C. who will be speaking on the subject of community bonds. These bonds represent a strategy whereby the community could participate to purchase the 15 acres before the option runs out May 1.



The events leading to Wednesday's event have their roots in the early part of the last century, when an English gentleman named Noel Money took a fishing trip to Vancouver Island in 1913.

At that time all of the land from the railway line to the Qualicum Beach waterfront was owned by the Merchant Trust and Trading Company of Newcastle, England. The company had built the famous old Qualicum Beach Hotel, and was in the process of building the golf course.

Money was impressed with the place — the August 12, 1913 entry in his game book reads, "... spent 10 days in Qualicum Beach and bought six lots."

See BROWN on page A15

March 17/2000 (15)
1st

BROWN PROPERTY

Continued from Front page

Money had a large house built, which today still stands on East Crescent facing the golf course. Early in 1914 he moved his family from England to the Qualicum Beach residence. Money became managing director of the Newcastle company, and at some point in either 1919 or 1923, raised the funds to buy the Qualicum Beach Hotel and the golf course.

That purchase likely included the modern day Brown Property.

After Money died in 1941 at the age of 74, his next door neighbor, a Major Lowery, bought his house and the 55 acres that went with it for \$5,000.

In 1952 Lowery sold the land to Bobby Brown, a Calgary lawyer, for \$60,000. In 1955, Brown was concerned that the golf course might be sold off, and bought the whole thing for \$25,000.

Brown died in 1971, leaving the golf course, the 55 acres and other assets in trust, the major beneficiary of which is Genevieve Brown.

In 1981, the (then) Village of Qualicum Beach purchased the golf course from the trust for a tidy \$1 million. It is generally agreed that the Brown estate could have received a much greater price from real estate developers, but the family wished to preserve the ambiance of Qualicum Beach.

The parcel of land that the Brown residence sits on is prized by many, including the members of the Brown Preservation Society, as the best surviving example of the original forests of the east coast of Vancouver Island.

"It's a prime example of a multi-age, multi-species forest," said Scott Tanner, Qualicum Beach town councillor responsible for the environmental portfolio. "You have trees in there that range from 500 and 600 years old, down to trees that are two to



DAVID HAY PHOTO

THE BROWN HOUSE, originally built by General Noel Money, as it appears today.

three years old, and everything in between."

As well, Tanner says, the Brown Property contains the most pristine, natural segment of Beach Creek, a stream that bears Coho salmon.

Debate surrounds the extent of logging that has occurred on the property, the significance being the authenticity of its "old growth" status.

"There is evidence of some removal, such as stumps," said Tanner. "But it's the best example we have of the original forest on the east coast of Vancouver Island."

■ In part two of the series we'll look at some of the controversy surrounding the additional 15 acres which developers are lined up to buy should

the May 1 deadline go by. Is it necessary to buy it? Who is behind the push to buy it — developers and environmentalists, politicians and average citizens? Who opposes the purchase? What makes the package so attractive?

See Tuesday's News for part two of "Houses or pathways".



Marlys Diamond
No



Teunis Westbroek
Yes



Scott Rodway
No

Onside or offside

WITH THE BROWN PROPERTY

Some say there are 15 more acres that need to be saved. Others say 35 acres are enough.

And in a special town meeting in the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., the community's interest in acquiring the final 15 acre parcel of the Brown Property will become known.

Last April, the Town of Qualicum Beach added \$483,460 to the \$426,000 raised by the Brown Property Preservation Society, and thereby came into possession of 35 acres of unique forest lands bordering Beach Creek near East Crescent.

The deal included a one year option on the remaining 15 acres of the property. That option expires as of May 1, and efforts to raise the \$900,000 purchase price have intensified with the approach of the deadline.

The option is unique in that it is not an all or nothing proposition. Any portion of the 15 acres can be purchased with however much money is raised.

And the reason for this 15 acres costing virtually as much as the previous 35? It occupies upland flats, as opposed to a ravine and creek, and therefore comprises a much more attractive tract for development.

"If we are able to preserve this land we could be compared to the people who preserved Stanley Park in Vancouver," said Qualicum Beach mayor Teunis Westbroek. "It would be a visionary act."

Westbroek, who spoke with *THE NEWS* from Zeballos on the Island's west coast during a break from fishing for herring, says acquisition of the 15 acres is necessary for

the protection of the original 35.

"One danger would be the blow-down effect, and the 15 acre parcel would act as a buffer to the heavy winter winds from the south east," he said. "Also, if this parcel were to be developed, the runoff water from driveways, roofs and such would create serious drainage concerns for the existing park."

One of the points generally raised by those in favor of acquiring the additional acreage is the environmental importance of buffering the older growth within the already protected land.

But those who oppose acquisition see it as being fiscally irresponsible.

"I think we've already saved the best, the 35 acres adjacent to Beach Creek," said Qualicum Beach

town councillor Marlys Diamond. "We made that purchase because the preservation society raised a sizable sum, and the town was able to find funds internally, without having to resort to outside borrowing."

Diamond says the town coffers are virtually drained, with other projects needing attention, such as a road for the newly acquired Laburnum lands and a new earthquake-proof fire hall.

"We put together the most recent Official Community Plan with intensive public input, and there is no indication in that plan that acquiring this property is a major concern of the community," she said. "I don't think this is a high priority for the silent majority."

Town councillor Scott Rodway sees the issue as primarily a budget decision.

See BROWN on next page

Houses or pathways?

The 2nd in Reporter David Hay's five part series on Qualicum's urgent, volatile issue of environmental and economic concern.



2nd

Continued from page A18

BROWN

"Right now the town has a budget of approximately \$8 million — so to come up with \$800,000 translates to 10 per cent of the overall budget," he said. "It doesn't matter if you amortize that cost over 15 years, it's still 10 per cent of the overall budget."

Rodway says there is also a less obvious cost to the town in the form of lost Development Cost Charges and a reduced tax revenue base.

"I have no problem with the park land that we've acquired to date," he said. "But if you look at 66 lots on that 35 acres, it equates to \$805,860 in potential DCC's, which brings the overall cost to the town for the initial purchase to roughly \$1.3 million."

The councillor says if you do the math for the additional 15 acres, the overall cost to tax payers climbs to about \$2.7 million.

"I do applaud the Brown Property Preservation Society and the town for their efforts in acquiring the 35 acres," he said. "But I just don't see this purchase as making sense."

But Mayor Westbrook and other proponents of the purchase dispute the validity of the view that development equals municipal revenue.

"A lot of people think that residential development brings more money in, but when you figure in servicing and operating costs down the line, the opposite is true," Westbrook said. "I'm not against development, but I don't think this would be smart development."

Rodway and other objectors to the land purchase say that servicing costs for any development on the Brown Property would be low, as water and sewer lines are already in place nearby.

Meanwhile, the president of the Brown Property Preservation Society, the membership of which has grown to almost 400 since it was first formed four years ago, says the purpose of Wednesday evening's town meeting is to answer two questions.

"The first question is: Do we want to preserve this land?" Jack Wilson told *THE NEWS*. "If the answer is Yes, then the second question becomes: How much is it going to cost, and what are the financing options?"

Wilson says those are the questions that will be addressed on Wednesday night.

"We've been going door to door, asking people if they would be willing to pay an additional property tax up to a maximum of \$25 per year for a maximum of 15 years, in order to preserve this land," he said.



NANCY WHELAN PHOTO

THE FOREST FLOOR of the Brown Property is home to plants like this vanilla leaf.

"I would say that 90 per cent of the people whose doors I've knocked on approve of that option, but there are other options too."

At Wednesday night's 7:30 p.m. public forum at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, the guest speaker will be Jim Craven, executive director of the Municipal Finance Authority of B.C., who will be speaking on the subject of Community Bonds.

The bonds represent a strategy whereby the community could participate to purchase the 15 acres before the option runs out on May 1.



ADRIENNE MERCER PHOTO

KWALIKUM SECONDARY STUDENT Jennifer Stahley was one of many residents who spoke in favor of preserving the remaining 15 acres of the Brown property at the public meeting on the issue Wednesday.

Preservationists out in droves

SOME 500 INTERESTED RESIDENTS ATTEND PUBLIC MEETING

About 500 people filled the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre on Wednesday night in a passionate, animated debate over the acquisition of 15 acres of the Brown property for town park land.

A vocal contingent hit the microphone, objecting to the deal on financial grounds, but a show of hands at the end of the meeting revealed over 95 per cent of those in attendance to be in favor of preserving the land.

And the same overwhelming percentage of the crowd raised their hands in the affirmative when asked whether they would be willing to finance the purchase through an increase in their individual property tax up to a maximum of \$25 per year over a maximum of 15 years.

As president of the Brown Property Preservation Society, which hosted the forum, Jack Wilson opened the meeting.

"I know this is a tough struggle for town council — council is fiscally conservative, and I applaud that," Wilson told the audience. "But this is a one time only deal, and if we don't do it the trees are gone."

Wilson pointed to the hazard of blowdown and other environmental stresses to the 35 acres already preserved by the town if the additional 15 acres are not preserved.

He then quoted the Harcombe Report, an evaluation of the Brown Property completed by the B.C. Conservation Data Centre in 1996.

"The Brown Property is an outstanding example of a type of landscape once common on the coastal plain but now severely altered on the east coast of Vancouver Island," Wilson read. "Besides the 300-plus year old forest that covers much of the property, the property's ecological value is enhanced because of its size."

Wilson portrayed the park as a potential attraction for the growing numbers of eco-tourists, a revenue-raising possibility which he says has been largely ignored in the debate thus far.

The guest speaker of the evening, Jim Craven, executive director of the Municipal Finance

Authority of B.C., spoke on the subject of Community Bonds. The bonds represent a strategy whereby the community could participate to purchase the 15 acres before the option on the land runs out on May 1.

He walked the audience through various community bond scenarios, all of which would include a \$100,000 grant from Forest Renewal B.C.



March 24 / 2000

See BROWN on page A4

3rd

March 24th / 2000

news

BROWN

3rd
Con't from Front page

Craven said a bond would pay a higher rate of return than a chequing or savings account, and the community would pay very low interest.

Opposition to the land acquisition came from the floor during the open mike segment of the evening, with virtually all opposed basing their dissent on financial grounds.

"Let's be satisfied with the 35 acres we have," said Bert Reid, a retired forester. "I would hazard a guess that the real cost to the taxpayer would be close to \$100 per year for many years."

Denyse Widdifield agrees the 15 acres is beyond the town's fiscal reach and blames the preservation society for waiting too long to fundraise. "I don't think a town this size can support an \$800,000 loan in the next six weeks," she said. "The Brown Property Preservation Society has known about this for 11 months."

But more speakers at the microphone were for the purchase than against. "I have worked as a gardener on the Macdonald property, adjacent to the Brown Property, for 20 years," said an emotional Fran Lacey. "I know those woods very well, and I can tell you that damage to the interior forest on the Macdonald property from blowdown was very severe when they logged it for the subdivision that's there now — we lost so many



DENYSE WIDDIFIELD SAYS the town can't afford to buy 15 more acres. **INSET:** Eco-forester Merv Wilkinson encourages the purchase.

trees." And Hilda Perry, a former Qualicum Beach town councillor, drew a comparison between the Brown property and other valued features of the town.

"The naysayers said the same thing about this civic centre that we're in tonight, and Ravensong swimming pool, and the trails and other parks in town — but it's this kind of thing that makes Qualicum Beach such a great place to be," she said.

Others opposed to the purchase cited a recent financial report by town treasurer John Marsh. The report estimates preserving the 15 acre parcel as undeveloped park land would involve foregoing about \$100,000 in annual property taxes

for the town. It says that would translate to an impact for the average residential property in Qualicum Beach of an annual \$25 to \$35 in addition to the proposed \$25 to repay borrowing costs.

The report was disputed by Ron Buechert. "You've omitted a number of the real costs of development to the taxpayers in this report," he said to Marsh.

The loudest applause of the night greeted world renowned eco-forester Merve Wilkinson's impassioned plea.

"You have a gem here — you have a small version of what the forests used to be like up and down this coast of Vancouver Island — don't louse it up," said Wilkinson, waving a frond of cedar over his head.

ADRIENNE MERCER PHOTOS

WITH THE OPTION on the remaining 15 acres of the Brown property rapidly running out, the acquisition has become a hot topic in Qualicum Beach.



NANCY WHELAN PHOTO

Blow down threatens wildlife

The question of whether to add 15 acres of park land to the 35 acres of the Brown property already preserved has become a contentious social issue for the citizens of Qualicum Beach and beyond — rife with politics, emotion and fiscal concerns.

But what would be the actual physical consequences for the flora and fauna of the place should development go ahead? How environmentally unique is the Brown Property, and how fragile? What importance does the property have in the larger environmental picture?

Professional wildlife biologists, ecologists and naturalists living in this area offer a profile of the locale, and posit some possible scenarios for its future.

Neil Dawe, a wildlife biologist and senior wildlife technician with the Canadian Wildlife Service says Vancouver Island's east coast lowlands, of which the Brown Property is a relatively intact remnant, are among the most endangered ecosystems in North America, because of the small area they constitute and the high amount of development they support.

Over 87 per cent of the Island's population lives in this ecosystem, which possesses one of the highest levels of biodiversity in all of Canada, by dint of its Mediterranean-style climate.

Here on the east coast, only 2.6 per cent of older forests remain," said Dawe. "And less than eight per cent of all the from Sooke to Campbell River have remained unmodi-

Currently 110 hectares of east coast lowlands are protected, including camp sites and public parks, so if the Brown

Property were preserved, it would account for about one fifth of all such protected lands.

Wildlife biologist and ecologist Ron Buechert says not saving the 15 acres amounts to losing the whole preserve.

"It is a highly reasonable assumption that there would be serious blowdown problems if the 15 acres were logged," he told *THE NEWS*. "Witness Cathedral Grove where they preserved a postage stamp sized stand of old growth — the impact of wind is obviously increased if you don't include a good buffer."

Buechert says some of the species that would likely find themselves out of a habitat would be owls like the sawwhet and the endangered northern pygmy and western screech owls, as well as flycatchers and many songbirds, including the winter wren.

Buechert says the Brown property has old growth characteristics and many species need those specific characteristics for their habitats.

"For example, cavity dwellers like the owls will move on if there are no dead standing trees such as you find in a mature forest," he said. "The property is a very lively spot for bird life — another example of a species on the property would be the Hutton's vireo, a tiny little bird about the size of your thumb, with a white ring around his eyes — he would lose his habitat."

Buechert also points to the presence on the land of what are called Culturally Modified Trees. In this case, the trees bear adz marks from where native people chopped into the bark hundreds of years ago to collect resin for patching canoes and general waterproofing.

See BROWN on next page

Houses or pathways?

The 15-acre property...
Dawe says the...
...the issue...
...and...
...the...



BROWN

Dave Clough, a consulting fisheries biologist, concerns himself with the health of Beach Creek, which runs through the property. He says the creek is a sensitive ecosystem that supports cold-water fish, including cutthroat trout, splake, three-spine stickleback, two species of frog, salamanders, otter, muskrat and the endangered aquatic shrew.

"The Brown Property is

actually a giant water conditioner, he told *THE NEWS*.

"The canopy cools down, aerates, filters and provides leafy matter which feeds the fish."

Clough says the adverse drainage effects of the impervious surfaces of an adjacent development — such as roofs and asphalt — would kill the stream.

"The creek bed could not handle the impervious surface that would be part of a

Continued from page A13

subdivision," he said. "The banks would literally disintegrate, the pools would fill with soil and debris, the trees would lose their footing."

In Clough's view, development on the 15-acre parcel would spell disaster for the 35-acre preserve.

"Blowdown would take the outer margin of the forest and disintegration of the creek would take the interior forest — that's not conjecture, that's a guarantee," he said. "In this case, the ankle bone really is

connected to the knee bone."

Merve Wilkinson, self-described citizen forester and owner of the Wildwood Tree Farm (150 acres near Lady-smith) which is visited by people from around the world as a progressive example of sustained-yield selective logging, recently walked through the Brown property.

"If you take down the 15 acres, it would be absolutely disastrous for the 35 you've already got," he said. "It's so quiet in here — you could be 100 miles from civilization."

The Crown of America
Presents
The ROADRUNNERS
APRIL FOOLS Dance
SATURDAY, APRIL 1st
Dancing starts at 9 pm
DOOR PRIZE
fabulous Diamond Necklace
Come early for the
Check out our New



MERVE WILKINSON ON the tranquility in the forest: "You could be 100 miles from civilization."

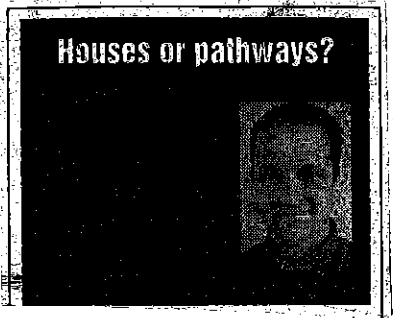
DAVID HAY PHOTO

Opponents and proponents of buying 15 acres of Qualicum Beach's Brown Property agree about one thing — if the May 1 option on the land is not extended, chances the acquisition will happen are slim.

Those in favor of preservation say the environmental and social values of the property are too great to pass up. Ecologists and biologists say not saving the 15 acres of forested uplands amounts to the certain demise of the 35 acres of mature forest acquired last year.

Those against the purchase say there simply is not the money to expedite it. Taxpayers in the No camp don't want to shoulder the fiscal burden, which the number crunchers say would add up to a maximum of \$25 per household for a maximum of 15 years, in the most costly of several possible funding scenarios.

31.3
2000
Brown 5th
deadline one
month away



environment

March 31 / 2000
5th

BROWN

The Brown Property Preservation Society has floated the idea of financing through municipal bonds, which could lessen the cost per household and would qualify as RSP's for participants.

The objectors also point to lost municipal revenue which they say would stem from a foregone development opportunity.

Those on the Yes side counter with studies showing development does not equal revenue, when servicing and operating costs are figured in. They cite the enhancement of Oceanside's tourism profile as a long-term revenue generator.

But if the May 1 option on the 15 acres passes, in accordance with the deal struck by the town and the property's owners last year, all of those arguments will be moot.

"The town and the preservation society are currently seeking an extension through our negotiator, Ian Lindsay," said Jack Wilson, president of the Brown Property Preservation Society. "We began formal pursuit of an extension after the overwhelming public support for acquisition shown at the town meeting on March 22."

If the town were to come up with the \$800,000 necessary to bring the \$100,000 already raised by the preservation society up to the \$900,000 purchase price, it would have to borrow it, or find it somewhere in various reserve funds.

In order to borrow the money, town council would have to proceed with counter-petition notification under loan authorization by-laws of

the Municipal Act, or organize a public referendum.

However, both scenarios would exceed the option deadline.

The counter-petition process requires at least 30 days of public notification, to allow petitioners time to document their opposition to borrowing. Should five per cent of the most recent electoral list register opposition, council would then have to hold a referendum in order to borrow the purchase price of the land.

And the likelihood of council scouring reserve funds to write a cheque for \$800,000 tomorrow looks slight.

"Technically, if there were the will on council, the town could just go ahead and write a cheque, and take the political consequences," said Qualicum Beach town councillor, Scott Tanner. "But I don't think the will is there."

Councillor Marlys Diamond says she would not acquiesce to spending money

from town reserves for the purchase of Brown Property lands.

"Absolutely not — I would be very violently opposed to such insanity," she said. "No, there is not the will on council to do that — not from this councillor anyway."

For his part, negotiator Ian Lindsay remains tight-lipped about the tenor of his discussions with the Brown Property Trust.

"As it stands, the option does expire as of May 1, and we are reviewing the situation for a long time," said Lindsay. "But I am not prepared to negotiate through the newspapers."

Diamond says council will likely begin serious discussion of the issue at Monday's town meeting, when Mayor Teunis Westbroek is expected to have returned from herring fishing.

"He's supposed to be back in time to chair Monday night's meeting," she said. "Hopefully we'll have an answer on the option by then."

Continued from Front page

The Brown decision is obvious

Okay, we did our job. As a newspaper, we asked the tough questions, we interviewed both sides, reported their responses, covered their meetings. News reporter David Hay's five part series explored many, many angles. And now the Brown property issue is back in your hands.

Residents of Qualicum Beach must decide if they want to buy that 15 acres of land by the golf course or not.

You have heard the experts say that 15 acres is crucial to the long term integrity of the other 35 acres. That the tall trees could begin to topple because of the blowdown effect should the land on the park fringe be cleared for houses. Just look at Cathedral Grove if you need proof.



Jeff Vircoe

But you have also heard that a housing development on those 15 acres could bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes, and various development cost charges for the town. Money sorely needed to fix roads, parks, recreation facilities etc.

It is a complex situation.

Or is it?

Using the keep it simple philosophy I say this:

If the integrity of the park we own is in jeopardy because of blowdown, we must buy the 15 acres and protect our investment.

If we build a whack of houses, collect hundreds of thousands of dollars in DCCs, but lose the tall trees on the other 35 acres, we will not be ahead. We will lose.

If there is in fact a way to purchase the land and keep the bill down to \$15-\$25 per year for 10 years for our residents, then we must buy that land.

When 500 people, mostly in favor of buying that land, turn out to a meeting in a town this size, you know (and council knows) the people want that land.

If we live in a democratic society, if the majority rules, then we must buy that land.

Some \$100,000 has been raised. Nowhere near enough, but clearly an obvious sign to us all that there is a strong will in this town to purchase that land.

Council needs to take this bull by the horns now.

I hope the Browns find it in their hearts to grant an extension on their deadline. They must realize that there is much good will, but many bureaucratic speedbumps.

If they do (and I believe they will) then the town, as in our politicians, must make it happen.

There is not a soul around that has told me they would not spend \$15-\$25 per year to save that land.

I say council must show some leadership today and serve the majority of the people.

The Brown property — all of it — must be saved.

CORE responsible for siesta at Home Lake

Only two per cent of the forests on Vancouver Island's east coast are protected

Re: Friday, March 24 Letter to the Editor "Is it Siesta Time at Home Lake?"

If you see a tree, Mr. Horner, it is probably on private property. (Frank Horner's March 24 letter, "Is it siesta time at Home Lake?") It has been siesta time since 1995, when CORE (The Commission on Resource and Environment) decided to protect only two per cent of Vancouver Island's east coast and to designate the other 98 per cent for industrial, commercial and residential development.

Multi-national companies trading on the New York Stock Exchange own most of what we think is our forest land, such as Home Lake, Hamilton Marsh and Cathedral Grove. There is no environmental protection on these lands

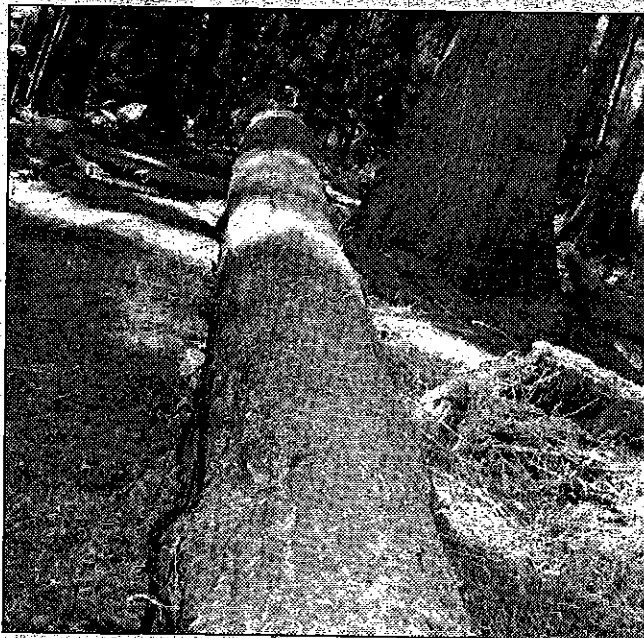
and raw logs can be exported directly to offshore mills in other countries. Logging such as this does not pay for schools or health care, as no stumpage is paid on corporate-owned land and no tax revenues are produced from value-added manufacturing.

To fill up general revenue coffers, the provincial government is selling our crown land for real estate development — land that could provide outdoor recreation for our growing population, conservation for our rare and endangered species and help to promote tourism in our crowded and over-booked provincial parks. Within the Municipality of Qualicum Beach recently, parcels of forested crown land, some adjacent to a very popular well-used trail netted

\$890,000 — enough to buy the remaining portion of the Brown Property.

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee Mid-Island Chapter is a completely voluntary organization that depends on its members and volunteers to get its work done. Mr. Horner complains of "dead silence" from environmental groups. Please give us a call, Mr. Horner.

Annette Tanner
Chair



AREA FORESTS HAVE been the subject of discussion.

Efforts to raise money for Brown property are criticized

By Valerie Baker

Fundraising efforts by the Brown Property Preservation Society — to raise money to buy the remaining 15-acre option property — were criticized by resident Frank Horner at Monday's Qualicum Beach council meeting.



Frank Horner

"There doesn't seem to have been a very strong effort in the past year to raise \$900,000," said Horner. "You can't raise this type of money from bake sales. I blame the committee, their basic fault was in thinking the provincial government would bail them out, but the government doesn't have any money."

"They should be going to private industries. If McDonald's are willing to finance a district playground, why not approach companies like them, or B.C. Hydro for instance. We could have golden arches over the two

entrances to the property."

Horner described the recent public meeting as "one-sided and badly slanted in favour of the purchase."

"This can't be sorted out by five people sitting at a table at a pro-public meeting," he said. "The true cost [to the taxpayer] of financing the purchase wasn't shown. It should be a public affair, not dealt with secretly through in-camera meetings of council. I'm in the camp which says put it to a town vote."

Following a presentation by Brown Property Management Committee chair Chris Lee, Horner questioned whether it will cost taxpayers \$25 per year for the operation of the Brown property, in addition to the \$25 per household parcel tax that would be collected if the town finances the 15-acre purchase.

Horner compared the future operation of the property to the skatepark situation, where the committee is disbanding and handing over responsibility for monitoring activities to the town.

"Will they leave the town to

carry the can when all is settled?" he asked, referring to the Brown property.

Eaglecrest Residents' Association president Larry Lewis asked council if the Brown property is going to be run as a private entity in future, or if the town will have some say in its operation.

"It was beginning to look like an independent society. Even if there is a council member and a town staff member on the committee, I fear it could become a skewed committee with Brown property people," he told the *Morning Sun*.

Lewis also criticized what he called a lack of openness by the society.

So much criticism

Where was I?

Where were the rest of us to help the handful of Brown Property Preservation Society people?

Let's work together for the sake of everything alive in this Beautiful Forest!

Liese Lowe-Wylde

8. April 2000

Brown property committee seeks clarification from town

BAP 00
MORNING
SUN

By Valerie Baker

The town's Brown Property Management Committee wants a mandate from Qualicum Beach council, and approval to call the already-bought portion of the property the Qualicum Beach Nature Reserve.

Committee chairperson Chris Lee gave council a proposed bylaw Monday that would govern and direct future use of the property. Lee says the bylaw is consistent with a restrictive covenant that ensures preservation and enhancement of the natural environment.

Since the management committee was struck following the purchase of the property a year ago, it has been without authority to deal with issues.

"The committee continues to meet, albeit without the authority it needs to carry on its mandate," said Lee, who asked for council's approval for an interim agreement with the committee, pending amendments to the existing Municipal Act.

The control of dogs on the property is one issue the committee is anxious to address. It is recommending signs requiring that dogs are

leashed.

Proposed uses for the property and applications for events is another issue for which the committee is seeking council's direction. "We've had applications for a wedding, a rock festival, Art in Action, the symphony and a petting farm," said Lee.

A two-trail system is currently underway, linking East Crescent, Palm Drive and Chester Road, and is anticipated to be completed by the end of this month.

The present Brown Property Management Committee is made up of five members - with coun. Scott Tanner being



Chris Lee

the town's representative, town public works superintendent Don Alberg is the administrative appointee, Michael Mirams Harrison is the community representative, Ron Speller represents the Brown Property Preservation Society and Lee is committee chair.

Philosophical breakfast with Bateman

Artist shares views on a world gone awry, and urges residents to pay attention

After local restaurants had served up tasty fare for the bod, these gentlemen passed out the hyacinths for our souls.

It was a good week for awe and inspiration — providing, of course, that you're open to the kind of awe and inspiration provided.

I was open.

An artist and a photographer, Robert Bateman and Courtney Milne, both of them good speakers, showed and spoke about their respective art with a good dash of philosophy thrown in.

At Parksville's Bayside Inn on the Brant Festival's Saturday morning, Mr. and Mrs. Bateman shared their breakfast table with three senior students, winners in the Gala Gallery of Art exhibit, and some of their teachers.

Himself a highschool teacher for 20 years, Bateman talked with the students and signed their programs before moving to the podium to talk and show his slides to the breakfast audience. His last official duty was to present the bursaries, funded by local groups, to the three winning students, and encourage them in their study of art.

One of Bateman's first slides was of a picture he'd done for his mother's birthday when he was 12-years-old. From that starting point, he moved through subsequent paintings, cartoons, and photos of people and places.

Some of these images translated his dedication to the

18, 4, 2000 News



Williamws

NANCY WHELAN

natural world and his dismay at the path the world, in particular North America, seems to be following in destroying all things natural as well as in deadening coming generations' knowledge, understanding and appreciation of nature. He found fault with the educational system for emphasizing exotic, "gen-splitting" science and neglecting to teach "natural science", i.e. teaching children to identify and know the names of our native flora and fauna; to know and love the world around them.

Many young people, he believes, fall into the category of a different species, "homo sapiens teenager consumerensis." Manufacturers of consumer goods, and advertising have created this creature, with the help of TV and videos, and because the creature is different it requires different things. Therefore, a whole new market has been created to make billions from these teenagers who are what he calls market targets.

Not only the teenagers are being targeted, though. Little kids are being convinced that they are already teenagers in need of this or that brand name, and the 35-year-olds think they're still teenagers.

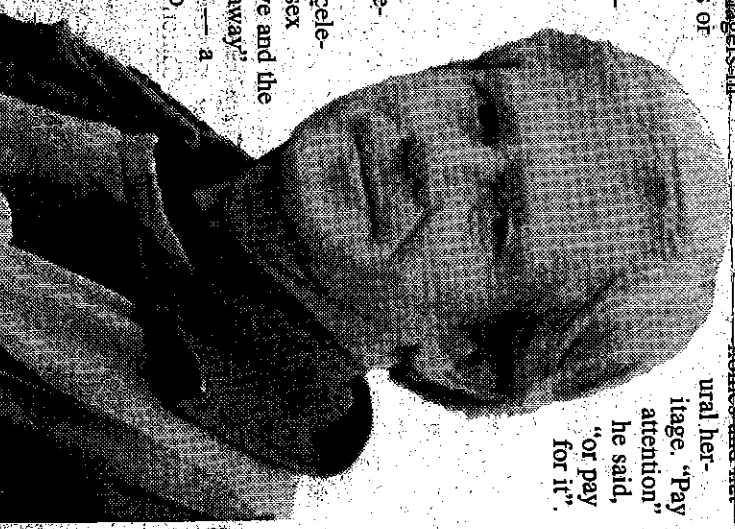
Along with the worship of consumer goods, Bateman said, comes the celebration of sex without love and the "blow em away" philosophy — a neat way to blow away your troubles. The violence of war and

calamity as seen on TV is not the same thing he insists; that type of violence engenders feelings of pity and horror while random, "Rambo-style" violence portrays, sadly, a feeling of fun.

In the end Bateman encouraged people to restrain their tendency toward self indulgence and titillation by scandal. He quoted photographer Ansel Adams, saying, "Every day, do a good deed for the planet."

We need to wake up to the state of our homes-and-natural heritage. "Pay attention" he said, "or pay for it!"

ROBERT BATEMAN was in Parksville for Brant Fest.

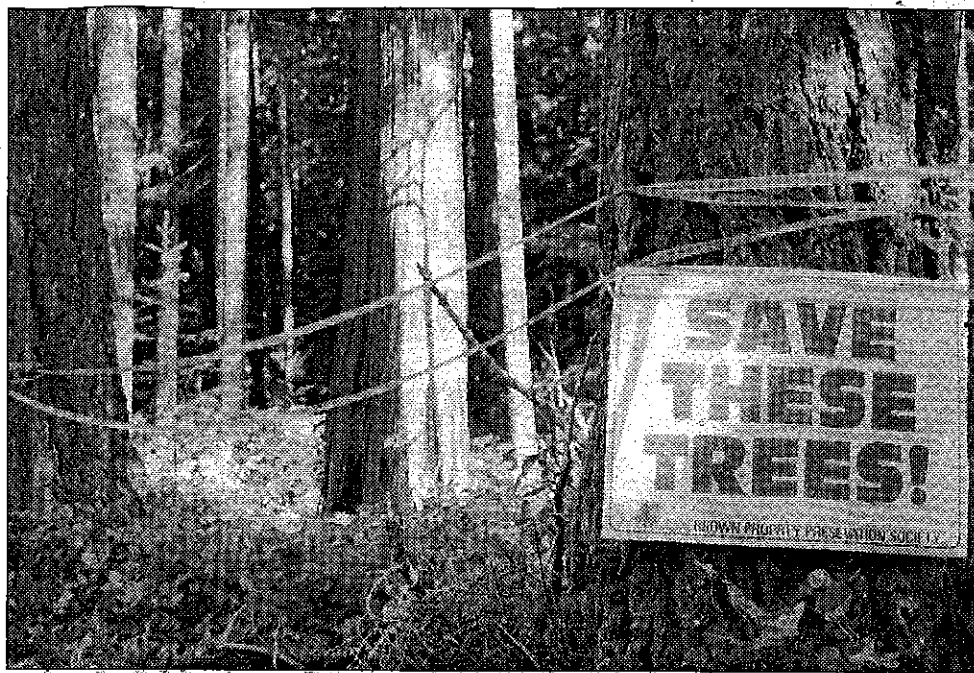


15 Tax payer dollars are not the answer

I believe there are ample woods areas in and around QB for all to enjoy. The Village has generously responded to organized requests for financial assistance in the matter of the first purchase of the Brown property, but that is enough. If there is a large portion of the electorate holding views that more money is required, then let them raise it privately, but I and many others do not support any further taxpayer assistance in the current push for more land acquisition.

A recent article in one of the local papers indicated Mayor Westbrook was leaning towards finding a taxpayer way to finance a purchase — Not typical of the kind of leanings that typified him in the previous council, and which got him elected in the last go around.

Councillor Diamond was said to be against more spending in this manner (I didn't expect that, but am pleased with it), and coun-



PRESERVATION OF THE Brown property in Qualicum Beach has been a hot topic in recent weeks, with both strong support and strong opposition to the idea.

cillor Rodway who I expected would not favor the project financing does not. Other council positions were not made known in the article. One hopes the article presented their views correctly, and that the other councillors will make

their position known before this matter goes much further.

The Village has enough cost problems brought on by Federal and Provincial funding cutbacks without taking on expensive and unnecessary recreational

projects pressed by organized ecological advocates who I suspect are less ecology minded than anti-development minded. I can understand that bias, but not this way of handling it.

Neil Gillespie

28-3-2000 N. Received via e-mail

2.
(1)

35 acres enough

Retaining the Brown property as a whole is all good and well, but the down side on a yearly basis (besides higher taxes) is: A. Cost for maintenance and periodical vandalism B. Cost for policing the area, because like Stanley Park (as it's compared to,) this also will come with its own undesirable elements. C. Cost for public washrooms to be installed and policed. So who do you think is going to pay for all this? You. \$25 a year? Forget that. More like \$50 and likely forever. Have you ever known taxes to be cut back? This will go the same way as the Pool costs, after the initial so called "one-time" tax no one thought about the upkeep costs (taxes) till later. Take notice people, BC is over 97 per cent green belt, we are surrounded by sea and forests, 35 acres is enough already. First things first. I would think a hospital is a real priority.

March 2000

Willemiena Hoey
Qualicum Beach

Save the last 15 acres

Editor, The Morning Sun:

By sending a copy of this letter to your newspaper, I hope to encourage more people to show their support for preservation of the Brown Property.

To the mayor and council of Qualicum Beach:

As the elected leaders of Qualicum Beach, I am asking you to support, in every way, the purchase of the remaining 15 acres of the Brown Property.

In the past few years, a great effort was directed toward the "beautification" of a part of our town. Now it would be very "nice" (perhaps even "fair") to help preserve this parcel of rich, natural, alive beauty.

Once this land is sold and the trees cut down, there is no reverse. But if we buy it, coming generations will have a choice. I am not aware, through my own observations, of any housing shortage in Qualicum Beach.

Please make a very thoughtful decision about what happens to the last 15 acres of the irreplaceable Brown Property.

Liese Lowe-Wylde
Qualicum Beach

15-3-2000

Subdivisions vs. trees

Editor, The Morning Sun:

AS a taxpayer I would like to respond to the Brown Property Preservation Society plea for more money from the taxpayers of Qualicum Beach.

I have walked the 15 acre option lands on many occasions and though a nicely treed site, I certainly don't see it as the next Stanley Park. This property was obviously logged in the past as was the rest of Qualicum Beach, evident by the many stumps throughout this site and yes there are some remaining old growth trees scattered throughout the property, but it is definitely not Cathedral Grove.

From an economic point of view the society has done a great job in preserving 30 acres of lovely park next to the 15 acres in question. The development of this fringe acreage fronting on Hemsworth Road, which is zoned residential, serviced and across from existing Qualicum Woods Homes is one of the few properties still available for growth in Qualicum Beach.

A fifty-lot subdivision would pump approximately \$1,750,000 directly into town taxes and local business through fees and construction of services, etc. The subsequent construction of homes would pump another five to seven million dollars into our local economy, not such a bad thing when you consider all the struggling business and unemployed in our area. And yes, tourists bring business too but not to all those trying to survive in the housing industry or young people looking for work in construction and its spin-off.

In conclusion, as a taxpayer I don't want to see my taxes increased or diverted from other projects simply to increase the size of another already good sized park.

Let those who wish to volunteer funds to the park pay for the park. And I wish them good luck.

Ken Salmond
Qualicum Beach

"Sun" 8.3.2000

Property would benefit everyone as parkland

I recently walked through the Brown Property and I was so impressed with its natural beauty, I feel compelled to write you about it.

Its tall, vigorous trees and park-like appearance make it a very favourable comparison to Cathedral Grove and it's right in the confines of Qualicum Beach. What a gem for the years ahead and a worthwhile project for the town, not to mention its value to tourism.

Contributions from individuals are federal tax deductible. If these fall short, Qualicum Beach council would not, I believe, let such a valuable property fall through its hands. Property owners would end up paying for it in the form of raised property taxes for which there is no tax relief. Buildings would only benefit a developer and to a lesser extent the contractor and construction workers, on a temporary basis.

A beautiful natural park would benefit every man, woman and child in the area for all generations to come.

Jim Lenihan

News March April 2000 Qualicum Beach

letters

Brown property is priceless

David Hay's presentation of interesting and diverse points of view regarding the Brown Property represent everything from a singular financial stance to wider ranging ascetic points of view.

I have spent much of my life working in and around forested areas of the world. Volunteering at this site has reopened my eyes. I had forgotten how much people benefit from the peace and tranquility of the forest. Obviously others have forgotten or else they never knew.

Here is a roughly parallel situation from one of my experiences.

In the early 90s, I worked for the Indonesian Forest Service, courtesy of the Asian Development Bank. Our

headquarters was in Jakarta. Jakarta in the early 50s, 60s and perhaps a little later was home to many plantations, rubber, pepper, coffee, cocoa, too.

Development for the same reasons quoted in David Hay's essay began to gain momentum. Now every Friday afternoon, the Jakarta exodus begins. Nearly all are looking for that tiny patch of peace and tranquillity that was squandered. Far fetched? Demographics indicate 20-25 million people in the Georgian Basin by 2020-2030.

My experience tells me the Brown Property is priceless.

B. Furneaux
Parksville

28.3.2000 News.

Send donations to...?

March 28
O f all the many words (thank you) that have been written about the acquisition or not of the Brown property, I have missed something like, "donations may be sent to."

I guess that considering the large amount to be raised they might consider what can be raised by small (or large) individual donations to be not worth the trouble. However, there may be others, like myself, who would like the opportunity to "vote," as it were, with our pocket books to help with the acquisition of the rest of this magnificent piece of land.

Louise Runnings
Qualicum Beach

Ed Note: Donations may be sent to: *The Brown Property Preservation Society at the Walker & Wilson Law Offices located at 707 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach, V9K 2K1. NFWUS*

A small price to pay for future

I made a small contribution to save this property, and I hope many others will do the same. For most of civilization, particularly the past 200 years, the game has been one step forward for humans, one step backward for nature. It's time to reverse this pattern and let nature win for a change.

Some of your readers seem opposed to this purchase because, as Neil Gillespie put it (*The News*, Mar. 28), it is "an unnecessary recreational project." This attitude that wild nature should be saved only if it has recreational benefit is wrong. It should be saved for its own sake, quite apart from human use; it should be saved because it is a functioning ecosystem whose life existed ages before we came on the scene.

The human animal, it appears, just cannot leave things alone, which is precisely why we are currently in this dilemma over the Brown Property. We should never allow ourselves to be held hostage by government, business, the real estate market, etc., who insist on looking at everything, even natural heritage, in terms of dollars. This is why we now have a hideously-inflated "market price" on this land.

So what do we do — give up, give in to inevitable development? No, we save the place. I am totally in favor of what the Preservation Society has done, and when another opportunity comes to save a significant piece of nature from becoming a subdivision or shopping mall, I will contribute again. We are told that this would cost each taxpayer about \$25 per year. This is really a small price to pay for a long-term benefit to our grandchildren who will thank us for it some day.

Richard Arnold
Received via email

Brown addition would cost town taxes

M.S. 723, 2009
By Valerie Baker

Will the town of Qualicum Beach lose revenues as a result of acquiring the 15-acre option portion of the Brown property? According to town staff it will.

A detailed financial report by town treasurer John Marsh came to council Monday in response to residents' enquiries.

Property taxes collected on the 15-acre portion last year - which will not be collected if the property becomes parkland - were \$8,357. If the property is developed as a 46-unit subdivision, the annual property taxes collected will be

\$100,761. In addition, \$561,660 will be collected in development cost charges to pay for present and future municipal infrastructure works.

If the property is purchased as parkland, there will be additional trail development and maintenance costs, but no figure was given in the report.

If the property is developed into a subdivision, municipal services such as water, sewer, garbage collection and roadside maintenance are already in place, therefore costs would be much lower, said Marsh. "This would likely

result in a very favourable annual net cash inflow — tax revenue less expenditures — to the town," he said.

"I am not in any way trying to paint a picture of not taking a pro or con stance on the issue.

"The loss of these revenues [if the property is not developed into a subdivision] negatively impacts the homeowner,"

whether the [Brown] property should or should not be purchased," said Marsh, adding that the Qualicum Beach and Eaglecrest residents' associations had requested the financial implications of the town buying the property, while

However, Marsh stated a number of residents and non-residents have stated their support for purchasing the remainder of the property."

The town has a \$900,000 option price on the remaining 15 acres, which expires on May 1.

The Brown Property Preservation Society is proposing the town purchase the property through a Municipal Finance Authority loan, which would be repaid through a parcel tax to property owners of around \$25 per year for 15 years, depending on the amount raised through donations

wrote Marsh in his report. "Staff estimate the impact to the average residential property is in the \$25 to \$35 annual range. This would be in addition to the proposed \$25 parcel tax cost to repay borrowing expenses."

and grants. Mayor Westbroek argued that taxes are not intended as a profit, but to provide services to the town, he said.

"It's interesting that we built a town hall which had no impact to the taxpayer, yet now we're concerned with lost taxes," said Westbroek.

In a three-page submission to council and staff on the pros and cons of purchasing the property, resident Bert Reid suggested a "referendum is now mandatory."

Council members will be present at tonight's public meeting.

"I am not ... trying to paint a picture of whether the [Brown] property should or should not be purchased."

A choice needs to be made

News 26.3.2000

in
Q.B.

Is land valuable only if it generates millions in taxes for its community? Should plants, animals, and insects be demolished because they're not on the tax roles or spending money? Are taxes and the economy everything in the greater scheme of things?

There are at least three forested places in our district being sacrificed or about to be sacrificed in favor of the dollar. Trees are disappearing thick and fast near Horne Lake, are being staked out in Cathedral Grove, and are within range of developers' guns in Qualicum Beach. Of these three, only the 15 acres of Brown property is within our power to preserve.

In the early days of North America's European settlement, trees and forests and animals were endless and uncountable. They were in the way; they were the enemy, and so they were hacked at, pushed back, and slaughtered to make way for humans.

For hundreds of years, few people ever thought about the forests or the animals coming to an end. It's true that it's hard to see the forests for the trees when you're standing on the ground. With the age of air travel, the continent's growing bald spots became visible. Gradually, some people realized that forests were finite. Some of them even began to understand that without forests we'd be without a lot of other things.

But haughty humans that we are, we too often turn a blind eye to the disappearance of "natural" things in our sphere. Our faith in the human technology that allows us to lead easy, comfortable and sheltered lives



Williwaws

NANCY WHELAN

How do we know that we all couldn't afford, say, \$20 a year, even for the rest of our lives, to save that piece of life?

tricks us into believing that the loss of a chunk of bush here, some old growth there, and a few bugs and weeds, cannot possibly affect our well-being. What hubris!

Do you truly "see" the trees in those 15 acres as you walk or drive by? Do you feel the mystery, the secrets, the solace they encompass?

What about the homes, food and shelter they provide? (No, not for you, for the creatures that call them home.)

Do you think of the life that surges there through all the seasons?

Do you give any thought to the wonders that can be found there? Wonders that had evolved, been tested, and found satisfactory ages before we came up with our own "modern miracles".

But a 50-lot subdivision would be better on that site, would it? After the land was cleared, the houses built, the owners moved in, how much and for how long would the predicted benefits be felt in our community? In the long run, would all the storefronts be full, would more people be spending more money (locally), would taxes go down?

Would Qualicum Beach be a better place to live?

What makes Qualicum Beach a "desirable address" right now?

So far, it's a community with some heart left in it. All, so far, has not been sacrificed to pavement, subdivisions, and the dollar grab. We still have patches of true forest, relatively clean beaches, clear air, and views of the mountains.

These are what make Q.B. special — but they're being chipped away at.

That's why 15 acres that could be saved, should be saved.

Saved for what? Saved for our souls. Deep in every human is a need to touch the earth and the earth's wild things. It's a need too often denied, to our own detriment. Not everyone living or visiting in Qualicum Beach would use or even appreciate these 15 acres, but not everyone uses the curling rink or the skateboard bowl either. There are many who cherish these woods and benefit just by knowing that they are there. Some cherish them with their eyes, their ears, their touch, and their breath. Others pay homage by learning from the life in these 15 acres.

These 15 acres are not just 'about big, old trees.

True, some of them are just stumps but stumps imprinted with history and giving new life to life around them. Look down; here are shrubs and plants, shape and texture, color and perfume.

Meandering through is the rush or murmur of water en route to the sea. Pervading all is teeming animal and insect and bird life. Can we ordain that 30 acres is enough for all these? Do we know, absolutely, that those other 15 acres are not needed? Neither for them nor for us?

How do we know that? How do we know that we all couldn't afford, say, \$20 a year, even for the rest of our lives, to save that piece of life?

The thing here, is that it's rather imperative to make the right choice. If we decide that the 15 acres is not that important, that it comes too dear, and we go ahead and cut and build, there's no changing our minds down the road. Neither we, nor our children nor our grandchildren, ad infinitum, will see that particular slice of nature again ever.

A certain Gerard Manley Hopkins once entered his plea thus:

"What would the world be, once bereft

Of wet and wildness? Let them be left,

O let them be left, wilderness and wet;

Long live the weeds and wilderness yet!"

Feeling blackmailed

The organizers of last Wednesday's meeting regarding the acquisition of the remaining 15 acres of the Brown Property should have made it clear that if you were not in favor of spending tax dollars to fund this purchase, you should stay home.

To me, the issue is a non-issue. During the last municipal election, the majority of the people we elected to town council promised categorically that they would not vote to spend tax dollars to acquire the balance of the Brown Property. We voted them in on that promise, not enough funds were raised by other means, and therefore we cannot buy the remaining 15 acres.

I was amazed that very few of the people who endorsed borrowing the money to fund the purchase, acknowledged that we used the monies in the park reserve and that, we, the taxpayers of Qualicum Beach, made the acquisition of the first 35 acres possible. Thank you Qualicum Beach.

I resent that some people referred to me as "a person with a lack of vision and a non-supporter of Qualicum Beach" because I disagree with their way of thinking (one "gentleman" even gave me the "finger" when I sat down). I stand proudly behind my community involvement; I am a good citizen.

From where I stand, I don't think that the Brown Property Preservation Society has made a true effort to raise some serious money towards the purchase of the remainder of the Brown Property. I, for one, have never been asked directly for a donation, yet Bob and I are perennial community supporters. Were the schools, community groups asked to be involved and spearhead some fund raising? Has anyone considered selling "a tree" for \$100 or more, a trail for \$10,000 (do we care if the trail is called John's trail or the Brown property trail)? Have we looked into pledges to be added to our water bills or credit cards? Have we considered "usage permits" — I would pay \$25 (Honor System) to use the trails! Have we investigated this being a regional park with regional sponsorship? If it is to be developed into an eco-tourism destination, have the tourism operators been approached for donations? I think that the society always thought that they could shame council and the taxpayers to ante-up tax dollars and I feel we are being blackmailed into a purchase.

In closing, let me stress that I support the purchase of the remainder of the Brown Property but not under these conditions! Sorry!!

M. Sien?
News 2

end of March

Denyse Widdifield
Received via e-mail

Brown trees worth saving

21.3. 2000

Editor, The Morning Sun:

I can understand why Ken Salmon, as a realtor, wants to continue to cut old trees and to continue to develop an area that is very unique to our town. It is too bad that he and others can't see the forest for the trees.

This unique forested ecosystem may not have all the qualities of Stanley Park, but it certainly has the same potential for eco-tourism that Stanley Park has had for the city of Vancouver. With its proximity to the downtown core for easy walking access and the fact that it represents one of the few remaining forested areas within the town itself, gives it great eco-tourism potential.

It is important to preserve the

last 15 acres that the Brown Property Preservation Society have an option to purchase. This option runs out May 1, 2000.

There are many ecological reasons for preserving this additional area. Some of these are: to prevent blow-down of the trees already preserved, to control runoff and drainage into Beach Creek, to provide habitat for animals, birds and other living creatures and to prevent the encroachment of a housing development right up to the preserved land. In other words, the whole forested eco-system has survived for a few hundred years so let's do everything we can to keep it that way!

Also, there have been a number

of studies done recently that point out the short-sightedness of continuing to put subdivisions on every piece of land available.

In the long run, these studies show the infrastructure costs to the town for the subdivision work out to be much higher than those of the immediate development cost charges (DDCs), etc. that the town receives. In other words, there is "short term gain for long term pain."

We do not need another Chertwell type housing development on this property!

Let's all support the Brown Property Preservation Society in their purchase of the last 15 acres!

Walter Wilson
Qualicum Beach

Town requests Brown extension

By Valerie Baker

An extension of the May 1 deadline to purchase the remaining portion of the Brown property is being negotiated with the owners of the property, the Town of Qualicum Beach and the Brown Property Preservation Society.

The decision to seek an extension is the result of last week's public meeting at the civic centre, which was hosted by society president Jack Wilson. An estimated 450 people packed the hall, most of them in support of purchasing the 15-acre option property.

Wilson outlined the potential eco-tourism benefits of purchasing the property, and the threat of blowdown of some of the old growth trees from exposure if the property is developed into a subdivision.

"We live in a democracy, and I believe many of the citizens of Qualicum Beach want to preserve it, and want the town to be involved in financing to make this happen," he said.

Guest speaker Jim Craven, executive director of the Municipal Finance Authority of BC, congratulated the audience

on the wonderful demonstration of democracy.

"I have never seen such a terrific turnout from such a small community," Craven remarked, before outlining the

chase lined up to speak during the open mike session, there was some vocal opposition.

"Let someone else buy the property ... an emergency medical clinic for Qualicum Beach is

wall"

In support of preserving the property, biologist Neil Dawe spoke against increased population. "We won't need DCCs if it's a park, wildlife finances itself," Dawe said.

Former town councillor Hilda Perry said there were similar doubts from the community when the civic centre, Ravensong pool, trails and parks constructions were considered. These are all things that make "Qualicum Beach such a great place to be," she said.

Applause was given to sustainable logger Merve Wilkinson of Wildwood Forest in Cedar, who said: "You have a gem here ... don't lose it up."

At the end of the meeting, a straw vote indicated overwhelming support for the town purchasing the property. Thirty-six people signed up for community bonds at a minimum of \$1,000 each, and a further six have signed up since the meeting.



Two people enjoy a stroll through the 15-acre option land.

options for financing the purchase through community bonds, including a Forest Renewal BC grant of \$1,000 and a low rate of interest for the community.

While a steady stream of residents supporting the pur-

a higher priority," said Jack McCaskill.

Deryse Widdifield reminded the audience that council said they would not use taxpayers money to buy the property during the election campaign. "We're being pushed to the

New feature not needed

Take out Take Ten and save a few trees

Sorry Jeff. Bad judgment: poor decision. The last thing we need in a community newspaper is "Take 10 Snappy Questions." And this is to be a regular feature, ad nauseam? Surely, we get enough of this puerile, partisan, political poison as a regular diet from the broader spectrum of "news" media?

There are many other subjects of greater interest to your readers. For example, we all know that our political system is a sewer which contaminates all who dabble

in it. Why not give us a series on the options available as an alternative to this travesty of democracy? (Not that we have any hope of change while these self-serving talking heads hold the reins of power). Your readers could offer a wealth of alternative topics.

Better still, why not save a few trees and reduce the size of your paper by one page?

F. H. Horner
Qualicum Beach

N. 7.4. 2000

ISSUES

Take 10

SNAPPY

QUESTIONS

Jack Wilson is a 53-year-old lawyer in Qualicum Beach. Since moving here in 1989 he has dealt mostly with commercial and real estate law.

He is also president of the Brown Property Preservation Society, a group trying desperately to save the remaining 15 acres of the Brown family property from housing developers.

"I've never been involved in environmental issues before this," says Wilson. "I don't really consider myself an environmentalist."

"But when I heard of the proposal to develop the Brown property it made no sense to me."

In the spring of 1996 he was asked by some neighbors if he wanted to get involved and he said yes, and soon became the society's first president. Since then he, Bill Bishop, Chris Lee and Scott Tanner have taken turns at the ever-controversial president's job.

He is married to Elsemarie Wilson, his bride since 1971. He is a Chamber of Commerce member, indeed a former chamber director.

In a new regular feature designed to keep our readers abreast on the issues, we ask the newsmakers of our community, province and country a series of 10 questions.

This week it's Jack Wilson, president of the Brown Property Preservation Society.

Questions posed by Jeff Vircoe on Sunday, April 2.

4 Name some of the key players in this matter.
Well, of course there's Ian Lindsay. He's a local realtor acting as the negotiator with the Brown family on behalf of the Town of Qualicum Beach and the society. He negotiated the initial purchase and option, and he's now trying to get an extension.

There's Marlys Diamond in her role as acting mayor ... Town staff, John Marsh in particular has been helpful in explaining the financial details.

6 How has this campaign affected your home life, and your business life?
It's my main focus every-day. I've put many, many hours into it.

For instance I just got back from guiding tours on the property. Monday I've got council, Wednesday night I'm speaking at the Chamber of Commerce. Thursday there's a society meeting.

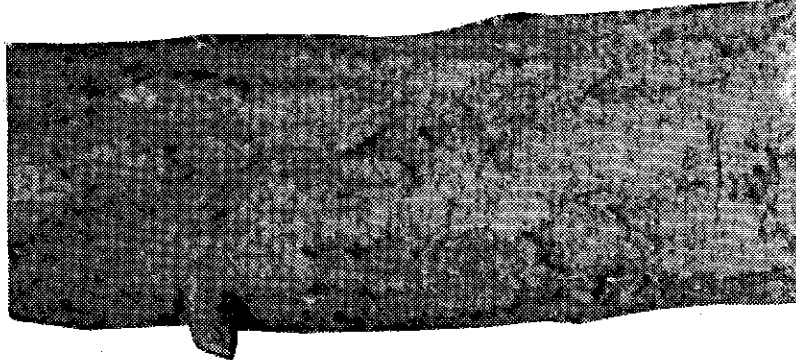
It's put a big dent in my law practice because so much time has to be devoted to this.

My wife has been extremely supportive and I think quite proud of me just getting involved in community service. To be honest, it's not something I do, going

lot for this community in selling the golf course to the town for less than fair market value. And I certainly appreciate they're wanting to attain fair market value for selling the Brown property. I respect that and I respect them.

9 What is your attitude towards any developers who may be chomping at the bit to get at that piece of prime real estate?

I don't know if there are any. There are rumors. I've been advised that there are 319 vacant lots in Qualicum Beach and I would wonder why a developer in this housing market would be chomping at the bit to develop



1 How difficult has it been to try and get the residents of Qualicum Beach behind the purchase of that remaining 15 acres?

We've had a great deal of support. Especially since we've gotten people out into the park. People come out and see what's there, what we're trying to save and they're just overwhelmed. Most want to support us in any way they can.

Going door to door, I'd say 90 per cent support us in trying to save the park.

2 Has it been a polite campaign? Are there any touching or conversely ugly moments that stand out so far?

I think we have a very, very popular issue here. People appreciate what we're trying to do.

Nobody — except for maybe some realtors who have a vested interest — is against it. I haven't met much confrontation.

3 What's the most common incorrect assumption people make about the Brown Property Preservation Society and its campaign to save the remaining 15 acres?

That it's a hot bed of tree hugging environmentalists.

It's actually composed of concerned citizens from every walk of life, mostly retired, who have never been involved in environmental matters before in their life, but who think this is a worthy project.

(As for organized opposition) I have heard of none, and never seen anything from it.

5 Some people are critical of the society for allegedly waiting so long to get its campaign in gear. They say you knew all along it would come down to this hard sell.

Well, in fairness, we were greatly affected by the municipal election (in November). At first we didn't feel we could discuss anything with the Town (administration) prior to the election because of the new council that would be in place.

Also, two members of our executive ran for council (Chris Lee and Scott Tanner) and on top of that, they tied.

Admittedly the society wasn't quite as focused as it could have been over that period and in January we refocused our efforts and here we are today.

There was kind of a natural hiatus as well. It seemed like we'd just gone out and asked for money (to buy the initial 35 acres) and then here we are again. We'd always hoped to raise as much money as possible.

We've raised almost \$100,000 to date, but haven't had the large donations we had the first time, even though more people have donated this time. We have an awful lot of people out there who support what we do but they live on retirement income. They say they'd love to give \$10,000 but can't. Here's a small donation, but I don't mind giving you \$25 or even \$100 per year.

7 What can the average resident do today to help preserve that land?

Go out and see what what we're talking about. Walk on the property. If you think it's worth preserving contact the council members, tell your neighbors and friends about the park, write letters to the editor and make whatever donation you feel you can comfortably afford. That will go towards preserving as much forest as possible.

8 Your thoughts on the Brown family itself in all of this.

You know, I don't know them. But I believe that they have a sense of their legacy in Qualicum Beach and want to preserve that. They've done a

that land, especially when a society has been organized for the sole purpose of preventing the development of that particular property.

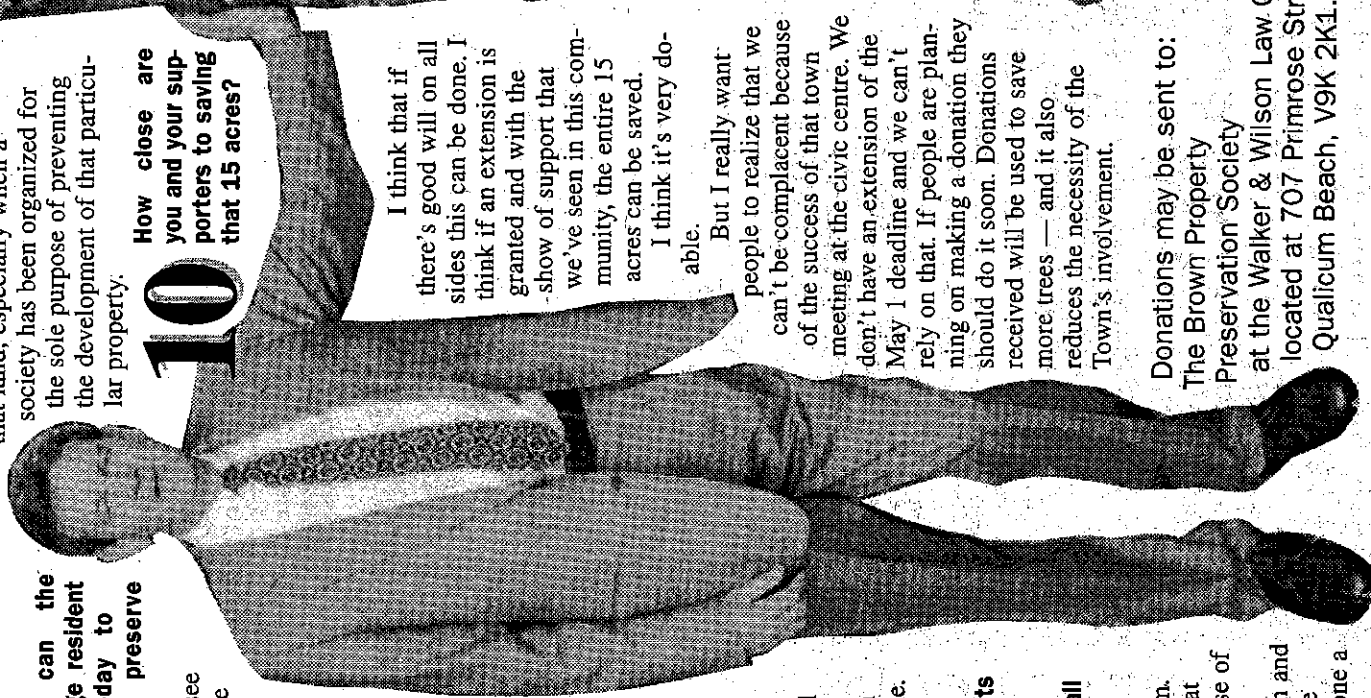
10 How close are you and your supporters to saving that 15 acres?

I think that if there's good will on all sides this can be done. I think if an extension is granted and with the show of support that we've seen in this community, the entire 15 acres can be saved.

I think it's very doable.

But I really want people to realize that we can't be complacent because of the success of that town meeting at the civic centre. We don't have an extension of the May 1 deadline and we can't rely on that. If people are planning on making a donation they should do it soon. Donations received will be used to save more trees — and it also reduces the necessity of the Town's involvement.

Donations may be sent to: The Brown Property Preservation Society at the Walker & Wilson Law Offices located at 707 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach, V9K 2K1.



Many oppose purchase

Horner: Brown piece lacking in accuracy, facts

(2) A community newspaper has a right to hold collective opinions on local affairs. While its reporting must be impartial, editorial comment is fair game for these opinions — provided that these comments are fully accurate and reflect facts. In your editorial "The Brown decision is obvious," *THE NEWS*, April 4, you fail on both counts.

Facts, like statistics to some extent, depend on their source. Last year we received opposing views as to the value and condition of the Brown trees — both by "experts." This year the "spin" is blowdowns to justify buying the additional tract. But other knowledgeable people do not agree. I wonder why the danger is higher for 35 acres than for 50 acres, especially when the prevailing winds are from the west and the 15 acre lot lies to leeward of the 35 — not "by the golf course."



THE BROWN PROPERTY issue simmers.

"too much?" Purchase price is only part of the equation. What about ongoing costs which (the mayor said on April 3) will be borne by the town, i.e. we, the taxpayers? Who doubts that once the purchase is finalized, fund-raising will fail to cover all the facilities and maintenance planned and required?

The fact to be faced is that the \$15 — \$25 per year purchase price is only for starters.

Probably most people in town agree it would be nice to have this property, but not at any price. So, what we need is an as-complete-as-possible disclosure of known and anticipated costs and then a referendum. This is the direction in which "council must show some leadership." We already, without consultation, have had donated \$500,000 of the town's reserves to the purchase of the first 35 acres (by the previous council, of which three members

The public meeting (closer to 400 people if you exclude non-residents and those too young to vote) did not show that "the people want the land." It needs all 4,000-plus voters to prove or disprove that, five elected officials or 10 per cent of the electorate do not make a democratic majority.

Accuracy should be easier to achieve. Fund-raising by the society has been singularly unproductive; a few sizable donations from local people but little or no corporate or government response. You need more than bake sales to raise a couple of million dollars. When does "how much?" become

sit in the new). For the additional purchase and subsequent ongoing costs we must have a vote.

I agree with you "if the majority rules, then we must buy that land," "council needs to take this bull by the horns now; "Council must show some leadership today." Right on. Give the taxpayers a voice.

And sir, I could also introduce you to many citizens who would not spend \$15-\$25 (plus?) per year to save that land.

News 14.4.2000

F. H. Horner
Qualicum Beach

7. (1) Brown trees priceless

Editor, The Morning Sun: 12.4.2000
Please note, this letter was delivered to the town hall in Qualicum today.
Councillors,

My appreciation for nature and concern for the natural environment began as a child when exploring the woods of my grandparents' property, finding a nest of quail eggs on the empty lot next door and hugging a tree with 10 other 10-year-olds in an old growth forest.

I understand the interconnection of living things and the delicate balance that is constantly challenged by humans' needs to have more.

I look at the Brown property as the perfect classroom to teach this appreciation. Its sheer beauty, awesome trees and buffer from the busy world we live in is a gift we would be mad to lose to future development.

Fortunately, we have space for development in other areas which are not as ecologically rare as the Brown property. To me, this is a win-win situation.

Please keep listening to the dedicated people working so hard to preserve this gem. They have innovated ideas for funding this second purchase, but need more time and more support from all of us.

Look around at the empty lots we don't have in this community. We need that next parcel to preserve what we have now. A compromise just won't work.

Jill Chudleigh

Don't rush in to property decision

The majority of taxpayers in Qualicum Beach are retired and living on a fixed income, and it is becoming increasingly clear, as years go by, that our incomes are being severely challenged.

Here are a few of the concerns that some of us talk about over coffee with friends: Why is it that the Town of Qualicum Beach cannot practice an austerity program, and hold the line on taxes? What became of the platform that the mayor and some of the councillors had in this regard prior to the last election? Why are some of them suggesting that a small \$25 per year assessment for the Brown property would not be a hardship for anyone?

This amount would only be the tip of the iceberg! In respect to holding the line on costs, Burnaby municipality held the line on taxes for seven years; this was the promise of Mayor Bill Copeland, and he kept his word! I was not in favor of the original Brown property purchase, in that the \$468,000 should not have been slated for the purchase without a referendum. In addition, I strongly believe that the regional district should have been the control factor in that decision, and not the town.

If people outside of Qualicum Beach are in favor of this park project, why not obtain their tax money to help in this project? Let's see their tax money at work! It hardly seems fair or economical for our village to be totally responsible for this park when a majority of the people reside in the outer districts and they will be visiting the park — and all without paying a cent towards it. There will be hidden costs involved with this development, and maintenance of the park will not come cheaply.

Let's get some of the answers up front. We should not be pushed into making a decision until all the facts are known. Let's stop loading more and more costs onto the local Qualicum Beach taxpayers. Don't let the Brown property proponents panic us into making a poor decision.

News 11.4.2000

Wayne Hamilton
Qualicum Beach

Extension granted

Mayor says referendum on Brown property is next step

By DAVID HAY
NEWS REPORTER

18.4.2000

The town of Qualicum Beach now has until August 15 to purchase 15 acres of forested upland on the Brown Property.

Ian Lindsay, negotiator for the town and the Brown Property Preservation Society, received the final agreement and signature from the Brown Trust early Friday evening. Lindsay was charged with the assignment of securing an extension of the previous May 1 purchase option deadline.

"The Brown family has given Qualicum Beach the opportunity to make the most of a town legacy," Lindsay said. "Negotiations are concluded to clear the way for a referendum to take place, so that the citizens of Qualicum Beach can decide this matter."

Teunis Westbrook, mayor of Qualicum Beach, says he was very happy to hear the news from Lindsay on Friday night, and that his initial response was one of gratitude.

"My first thought is to thank the Brown family for allowing us the chance to let

the people decide whether they want to preserve this property," said Westbrook.

"And I want to thank Ian for his tireless efforts for this community, and for future generations."

A motion of intent concerning a loan authorization by-law was expected to come before council last night, the first step towards his goal — a referendum on the Brown Property purchase.

"That would get the process going, and give staff a chance to draft the by-law," Westbrook said.

See BROWN on page A3

BROWN

"After three readings in council, the by-law would go to Victoria for approval, then there would be a 30 day opportunity for counter petitioning, and I would think we would be able to hold a referendum in June."

Westbrook says the town will hold public meetings to debate the issues involved.

"We're not really making the decision, we'll take it to the citizens of Qualicum Beach," he said.

At least one town councillor remains clear on his stand that taxpayers money shouldn't be used to purchase the 15 acres. Scott Rodway, whose was clear in his election campaign last November that he would oppose the purchase, said both sides of the issue need to be taken to the public.

"There has to be some balance provided and I guess I'm the one to provide it."

In the referendum, if the residents say the

Continued from Front page

purchase is what they want, "then I guess we buy it," Rodway added.

Meanwhile, Jack Wilson, president of the Brown Property Preservation Society, says the projected costs to tax payers of repaying a civic loan are falling, due to an influx of contributions and potential subscriptions to municipal bonds.

"We now have well over \$100,000 in donations, in addition to more than \$100,000 in potential subscriptions for municipal bonds," said Wilson. "That would qualify us for a matching loan of \$100,000 from the Forest Renewal B.C. fund, as well as a provincial grant of \$100,000."

Wilson says the upshot for Qualicum Beach taxpayers is a significant reduction in the burden they would carry for acquisition of the property, since the town would have to borrow less money.

12.4.2000

Missing zeros made big difference to story

Editor, The Morning Sun:
 Your reporter's account of the meeting of Mar. 23 at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre was rather inaccurate. She said

Renewal B.C. would loan a matching \$100,000 at five per cent interest and donate a further \$100,000. The community was only looking at borrowing a maximum of \$600,000, which could be arranged either by selling community bonds or through a BC Municipal Finance Authority loan.

Amortized over 15 years at around five per cent, the per-household tax levy would only need to be approximately \$20 per year.

Town treasurer John Marsh (at the meeting) seemed to be making a case for lost revenue if the 15 acres became a park instead of a lot subdivided into 30 lots.

sively clean up!
 If this village (I always think of it as such) is to be enlarged (gracefully?) 'fill-in' development (single lots) is the way to go without enlarging the infrastructure.

Longer live the 300-year-old trees!
 Michael Norris
 Qualicum Beach

8. (1)

It's up to taxpayers

NEWS 7-4, 2000

So councillor Scott Tanner feels the Qualicum Beach council lacks the will to go ahead and spend \$800,000 of taxpayers' money. Well there are 7,390 residents in the Town of Qualicum Beach. Membership in the Brown Property Preservation Society is a paltry \$10. The number of members is stated at 400, some of whom are not residents. These figures indicate that the majority of Qualicum Beach residents also want the wall to give more of their money to this project. There has been emotional, rhetoric written

in the past month in articles, editorials and letters, some by people who do not even live in the township or pay Qualicum Beach taxes. This is NOT old growth forest. This property has been logged off at least twice, and the only old trees left are those which were too difficult to remove or those deemed not worthy. These trees are in the 35 acre section purchased last year. As to the "Blow Down" theory, well I have walked the perimeter of these 15 acres and I see no evidence of blow-down here. There are no trees here that are protected in any way.

division was developed. If after two decades of winter storms this now unprotected 15 acres has not suffered significantly from blow-down why should we conclude that the 35 acres purchased last year would. Lastly to the people who attended the Brown Property open house, who are not residents of the Town of Qualicum Beach, I would like to say this. What right do you have to boo a resident who is concerned about the cost to his taxes. It is his money you want the Qualicum Beach council to give not yours.

John Marsh
 Qualicum Beach

9. (1)

We're willing to pay

Editor, The Morning Sun:
 In the Mar. 22 edition of the *Morning Sun*, Mayor Westbrook is quoted as saying "people could put their name on the land for \$15 per square meter."

Since I am only semi-literate in high finance, when someone says \$900,000 it passes over my head. But I can relate to \$15 per square meter.

So the next time my husband and I were in

town we each contributed to buy one square meter of the remaining Brown property.

We live outside the boundaries of Qualicum Beach. And we live on an income more limited than most (I hope for your sakes). I hope that the rest of you outside the boundaries of Q.B. who admire those trees alive can follow suit.

Louise Runnings

QB consults on budget

11.4.2000 N.S.
By Valerie Baker

Qualicum Beach property owners face either an increase in taxes or a reduction in services this year, says town treasurer John Marsh.

The question now is which services could be cut.

Cuts already made include: \$23,000 from community development, which includes downtown beautification and \$30,000 from public works. As well, both the parks and planning budgets have been trimmed.

A public meeting — which will include a presentation from the town and a public question period — will begin at 7 pm at the civic centre next Monday.

"We will welcome sugges-

“Balancing this budget has been the most difficult I've had to deal with in my five years here”

tions as to which areas, if any, are over-served," said Marsh.

A three per cent reduction in the operating budget was made to compensate for the \$110,000 cost of the landfill closure this year — a significant increase over last year's \$10,000.

"Staff fear this may not be enough," said Marsh. "Last year we budgeted \$10,000, but spent \$40,000 on the landfill closure costs."

A council decision to postpone the Laburnum ringroad project until next year will save the town \$900,000 in borrowed funding this year.

"Balancing this budget has been the most difficult I've had to deal with in my five years here," said Marsh. "We've haven't reduced services in the past, but the cost of doing business has increased, and 30 per cent of taxes relate to areas we didn't have to pay for in the past, such as RCMP and highway downloading," he said.

QB budget focus of town meeting

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER

12.4.2000 meeting.

A public meeting at the Civic Centre April 17 will allow Qualicum Beach residents input into the town's budget and five-year plan. The meeting will be at 7 p.m., with the regular council meeting to follow.

Financial administrator John Marsh expressed surprise at the decision to book the Civic Centre.

"I wasn't anticipating such a big turnout," he said.

Mayor Teunis Westbroek replied, "I would imagine there'll be a large amount of interest."

Changes to the Municipal Act require the town to have a public meeting before council can accept its financial statements.

Councillors moved to receive the statements at the March 6 regular

meeting. Marsh indicated both the Qualicum Beach Residents' Association and the Eaglecrest Residents' Association have shown "keen interest" in the town's finances.

Walking councillors and the public through the budget and financial plan, he said "we have continued putting previous budget values in just to get it on the table ... the problem with making any changes is that there will be more changes to come [after the meeting.]"

He said landfill closure costs estimated at \$20,000 have been increased to \$110,000 "and we're concerned it won't be enough."

Marsh also said \$910,000 is set aside for the purchase of the final 15 acres of the Brown Property, but specified that doesn't mean the town has committed to purchase it.

He explained that last year, the town said it would support the Brown Property Preservation Society in its fund-raising efforts. The money set aside is there so if enough donations come through, the town can facilitate the property acquisition, and later offset the expenditure with the donations.

"It's all to be funded through donations," said Marsh.

He closed his comments about the finances by saying, "Staff is getting concerned that our expectations ... [are] exceeding cash levels," and adding he'll be interested to see what areas people identify as places to cut at the upcoming public meeting.

"We have not had the taxation increase to offset the cost of our business going up," he said.

"We may have to raise our taxes or lower our expectations."

Are these trees in our future?

The summer of 1996 — what a summer. After a busy year of study, I decided to spend the summer with my grandfather, Bill Brown, in Qualicum Beach. After three months of fresh air, captivating views and endless outdoor adventures, I returned to university life in the busy city of Montreal. But, I did not go alone.

My new-found spirit, encouraged by the "giants" of Cathedral Grove, the bald eagles that fly above and the whispering surf, came with me. My memories, in writing and image, pro-

pelled me through my final two years of study and now, here I am. I am home.

I experience my physical and spiritual connection to this land on a daily basis. The tide, the rain, the birds, the trees serve as constant reminders of where we all come from.

Recently I toured the local Brown Property and fell in love again. I planted my feet firmly and reached out to touch the bark of an ancient tree. The "world" as most of us know it, stopped; no cars, voices, lights, or

directions. The "world" as I know it began. I felt myself filled with wonder, beauty, peace and love. The life of the forest spoke to me.

We need to remember that we should be adapting ourselves to our environment, not expecting our environment to adapt to us. The trees are our ancestors, our life force.

If we keep asking the questions "Do we save the trees?" we will one day be asking "Will the trees save us?"

NEWS 4.4.2000
Withanie Trimble
Parksville

Chamber throws support behind Brown property

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER 7.4.2000

Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce members voted unanimously Wednesday to endorse the acquisition of the final 15 acres of the Brown Property.

"I was pleased to see the motion was unanimous," said Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson, who spoke at the Chamber meeting, just prior to the motion.

"It's important to get an endorsement from the business community, it shows the depth of support in Qualicum Beach for saving all of the option property."

Chamber president Barrie McWha said the Chamber took responsibility for

its members to know "everything they could know" about the issue, so they could come to an informed

decision. "Personally, I think it's worth saving," he said of the final 15-acre parcel.

buy

Chamber for Brown

12.4.2000 M.S.

By Valerie Baker
Qualicum Beach's business community supported the acquisition of the remaining 15-acre portion of the Brown property last week.

Following a presentation by preservation society president Jack Wilson, around 130 chamber of commerce members voted unanimously in favour of purchasing the property.

Meanwhile, as negotiations continue for an extension to the May 1 deadline to purchase the

remaining portion of the property, Wilson is urging people not to become complacent.

"We cannot rely on receiving an extension that would allow the town to become financially involved," he said. "Any donations received will be used to preserve more trees for park, and donations also reduce the amount that is required from the town."

"From the society's perspective, it is imperative that those who have not already done so who wish to save the 15-acre forest

make a tax deductible donation as soon as possible," he said.

Public support to purchase the remaining portion of the Brown property was shown at the recent public meeting, when the province outlined options for financing the purchase with community bonds, including a \$100,000 Forest Renewal B.C. grant.

"This is an issue broader than just Qualicum Beach — the park would benefit the whole district," said Wilson.

The park is now open to the public seven days a week, with guided tours on Sundays between 1 and 3 pm. Tax deductible donations can be made at the Walker and Wilson law offices on Primrose Street.

“We cannot rely on receiving an extension that would allow the town to become financially involved.”

Referendum absolutely necessary

9. There are several things that need to be clearly appreciated by the tax-paying public about the Brown Property issue — the 15 and the 35 acres — before it is concluded:

1. The three pillars of responsible community: economic, social, environment. Consider all three adequately in the vision and planning of a sound community.

2. Financial: What is the total true economic cost going to be to the taxpayer if this venture proceeds, as some plan, to put us back to the sound financial status we enjoyed before the start of this investment. A responsible administration must include the \$83,000 already paid, and the lost interest and lost opportunity costs over 15 years. To this add the equivalent dollar figures for the amount of debt financing being proposed (\$800,000?) and again the lost opportunity costs. And consider the critical issues we have had or will have to forfeit, as we now have no reserves. Also the development, operation, maintenance, and liability costs must be factored in. We must know the 'total true costs' for the

full pay out time period (years).

3. Relevant Questionnaire: I submitted to Mayor and Council an extended questionnaire of straightforward, legitimate, factual questions re above, at the March 20 meeting. All of these questions need publicizing and answering, even though the Town has been commendable in answering some.

4. Alternative Option: I am personally not in favor of a 50 or 46 housing subdivision on this 15 acres — I believe this would create an unacceptable 'moonscape' approach. From the outset, I have been in favor of considering a "Smart Community/Smart Growth" concept of, say, 25 cluster homes leaving considerable green space for buffers, resident's amenities, character trees, wildlife habitats, restricting access to a minimum of narrow winding roads, etc. I do not buy the argument that the runoff drainage or the blowdown problem cannot be solved with some applied ingenuity. Qualicum has the opportunity to design and develop a model in this respect and there are examples to

guide us. To claim we are going to stop growth is absurd — look at the real world. Ensure that we are in a position to control and manage it.

5. The Decision: Proponents for a reserve/park admit this is a tough decision, but go on to say it is "a once in a lifetime opportunity" and there are benefits which one cannot put a dollar sign on (with which I agree — but try and convince a Qualicum Beach heart, stroke or spinal cord injury victim of this.) I believe I am correct in stating that this was said for the first 35 acres. Also we must not be stampeded into making a decision of this magnitude without each and every fact before the public — and they are not there yet.

There has been 12 months to get these details before the public. And it is not only a Town council decision, but a decision for the other 3,000 taxpayers that were not at the Wednesday March 22 meeting.

In my opinion, a referendum is absolutely necessary.

E. S. (Bert) Reid
Qualicum Beach

11. I've had past occasion to object to the contents of Jeff Vircoe's Viewpoint columns, but I now applaud him for his April 4 views on what must be done regarding protection of the Brown property.

His use of the word "must" at least 10 times in the article was applicable in this case and not overused. I can't help resenting however, the use of the word "need" when I hear of some of the locals' views regarding spending tax dollars on things like roads, buildings and other structures that we really don't "need" and/or can be built anytime. The timing of our last chance to save the Brown property requires that it must be done now, and it's gratifying to see that reasons to do so are slowly becoming more apparent to so many more of us all the time.

My personal "light bulb" regarding the importance of the environment to mankind's continued existence didn't get turned fully on until I reached retirement age and returned to Qualicum Beach after an 18 year absence, having lived and worked here in the early 70s when I appreciated and benefited from the local environment, but also took it for granted and lazily left it to those in control to do the right thing. I'll agree with people who have moved here in recent years that we're lucky to be living in such beautiful surroundings, but I also tell them that they should have seen the true beauty we had here 20 years ago, and probably, the 20 years before. I hesitate to envision what it will be like in another 20 years if we don't place additional value and protection on the environment that sustains us and our descendants. There are times that I feel a sense of guilt and even shame for my generation which in general has benefited in so many ways over those previous while turning a blind eye to the environment which provides so much to us and to which our generation has probably caused the most harm. The light bulb is slowly turning on

Last chance for
final 15 acres

for more people every day and there is still some time left to save things that power beyond mankind has supplied for our existence, that even our smartest scientists and biologists freely admit not full understanding, except agreeing that we are destroying it which will eventually destroy us. But as long as we consider the almighty buck and selfish "needs" to be priority above those things which we "must" fix, it may not be possible. I wonder what things of real value our descendants, if they're able to survive, will really have to thank us, or blame us for. Some of us may still consider saving the Brown property a small, useless and expensive thing right now, but it can never be replaced once gone, with its true priceless value becoming even more apparent and appreciable over time.

You're right Jeff, it must be done, and now is the last chance.

News 11.4.2000

Doug Taylor
Qualicum Beach

"Morning Star" 19.4.2000

Brown buy debated

By Valerie Baker

Borrowing money so the town of Qualicum Beach can buy the rest of the Brown Property was opposed by coun. Scott Rodway at Monday's council meeting.

Rodway first challenged the wording of a bylaw which would authorize the town to borrow up to \$900,000 from the Municipal Finance Authority, if residents vote in favour of the purchase in a June referendum.

He asked that the wording "it is deemed desirable and expedient to purchase [the property]" be changed. According to Rodway, "it is neither desirable or expedient ... it is detrimental to the town's finances."

Rodway disagreed with those who say turning the unpreserved 15 acres into a residential subdivision will lead to blowdown on the already purchased portion of the Brown property.

The councillor also criticized the eco-tourism argument.

"I have heard the eco-tourism argument and I see problems with access and bus parking," he said. "If I want to visit an old-growth forest, I'd rather go to Cathedral Grove."

Finally, Rodway questioned estimates that the average taxpayer would pay \$25 per year more in taxes if the town finances the buy.

Coun. Scott Tanner countered Rodway's criticisms, saying the cost will likely be between \$18 and \$20 per year. He said donations currently total 20 percent of the purchase price.

The wording of the bylaw was amended to read "it is needed to purchase [the property]" and first reading was given. Despite the change, coun. Rodway opposed it.

I am a resident of the Garrett Road, Canyon Crescent area where a new middle school is to be built, in fact, I understand the funding is already in place. The only access to the school is past the front of our home and the same for people on Garrett beyond us and it also affects all of Canyon Crescent. We had a vote to incorporate the property on Laburnum Road last year so the town could get money from Development Cost Charge (DCC's) for road construction. This vote was forced on the town, at a high cost, and passed overwhelmingly a year ago. I have a DCC project list dated April 22 of last year provided by the town showing

\$2,919,000 mostly for Laburnum Road and extension of the Rupert Ring Road. The April 3, financial plan for Qualicum Beach has dropped capital cost roads from \$1,009,999 to \$328,000. This probably means the town has abandoned all of the voters who approved the incorporation of the Laburnum area into Qualicum Beach. Where has all the money gone from the provisional 2000 budget for roads? Is it possible we are using DCC money and other sources to fund the Brown property, instead of looking after residents who are in dire need of relief from the disruption this is going to cause — shameful. If we are in the

fringe area, then we should pay fringe area taxes. Do we need to buy more property we can't afford and thereby reduce our tax revenue? It is unfortunate that schools are placed wherever the school board wishes without any concern for the taxpayer, and then we the taxpayer, are faced with the additional financial costs of trying to restore our neighborhoods. This is going to ruin a beautiful area of town. I haven't taken the time required, out of the happy retirement that I should be enjoying, to petition all of the neighbors, but some additional action is certainly required.

Al Nichols
Qualicum Beach

Action required on QB financial plan

Resident asks where road-building money is in provisional budget

Some points to ponder

Editor, The Morning Sun:

Points to ponder regarding the Brown property issue.

- How does five per cent of the Qualicum population as society members, at \$10 each, indicate a groundswell of support for this cause? *500 at a public meeting says it*
- Why should taxpayers fund, for the society, a free civic centre for a partisan interest group, while a volunteer health group raising funds for the sick and elderly, have to pay (twice)? Council's rationalization, of Apr. 3 was not convincing. *From your letter? Bit mixed up here!*
- Why is it at such a public meeting (Mar. 22) those of us who have a reasoned, opposing point of view, apparently not politically correct, get the physical or verbal 'finger' without censure from the chair? *Too long, too boring*
- How come the proponents for a park (we already have 12 per cent) now extol the virtues and beauties of Qualicum Beach, for which previous administrations were largely responsible. A short time ago, it appeared from letters and news, that almost everything administration was doing was wrong and thus convinced voters to opt for change? *Parks are not strips along main roads.*
- How many taxpayers are prepared to pay a \$50 to \$100 increase in yearly taxes indefinitely? *Not waiting for referendum*

Just thought I would ask.
Bert Reid
Qualicum Beach

M.S. 19.4.2000

Brown land splits QB

Editor, The Morning Sun:

This letter, concerning the Brown property, was delivered to Qualicum Beach town council on Mar. 30, 2000.

Councillors,
I have discovered that all we have to do to earn some money in this matter is to criticize the efforts of the preservation society. It is a short trip from dissenter to despoiler, if one is

tens closely to the preservation litany. These are predictable tactics, and I would urge you to ignore them.

You and your predecessors, and mostly the taxpayers of Qualicum Beach, have dealt generously with the concept of keeping the Brown lands green.

Most of us did not raise a finger against the first village-backed attempt to save much of the land as a heritage project, and in fact favoured it.

However, we feel a bit 'used' when the second phase opens with the preservers telling us the first phase will blow down if the second phase isn't acquired.

This is a very clever adaptation of the old straw man tactic.

It is unconscionable for those who have a dream to expect it to be financed by those who do not share that dream.

We would also be quite sure that the numbers we read on the cost of preservation — of \$25 per average household for the next 15 years — are grossly understated.

But it is not so much the cost as it is the principle.

The first civic centre meeting reports tell us the preservationist agenda is in full bloom, although the reports indicate there were non-Qualicum Beach taxpayers attending.

It may be that a referendum is needed on the subject. If the question is well-stated, and the majority required to win is fair, the cost of it would be acceptable.

There is a very uncomfortable feeling, though, that a referendum could upset the village tranquility for years to come and so it would not be the first recommendation. The place has been peaceful for a while now.

The best recommendation is that the second phase be entirely financed through non-tax resources, with immediate and future property maintenance costs being shared 30/70 by the village (taxes) and the preservation society.

That's about as much as this despoiler wants to handle.

Merv Jackson
Qualicum Beach

M.S. 19.4.2000

Weekender

The News

VOL. 18 • NO. 32 • CIRCULATION 16,191

Serving Parksville, Qualicum Beach & Area

APRIL 21, 2000 • 50¢

Sparks fly as QB referendum debate kicks off

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER

The divisive potential of the upcoming Brown property referendum was evident in the Qualicum Beach municipal offices Wednesday.

Things got ugly between elected officials, as Coun. Anton Kruyt challenged the way Mayor

Teunis Westbroek deals with the town's business in local media.

After council had finished its business on its committee of the whole agenda, resident Pat Hadley questioned a quote in a local paper in which the mayor suggested the town could eventually allow the Brown Property

Council fractured over Brown property acquisition

Preservation Society to manage the property, with the town over-seeing the budget.

Hadley and resident Frank Horner told council town staff should look after the property. Horner added he can "see a lot of problems in setting up some group to run this park."

A visibly irritated Kruyt blew up at the mayor, telling Westbroek he doesn't like "being a councillor in this town and reading decisions I've had no part of in the bloody newspaper."

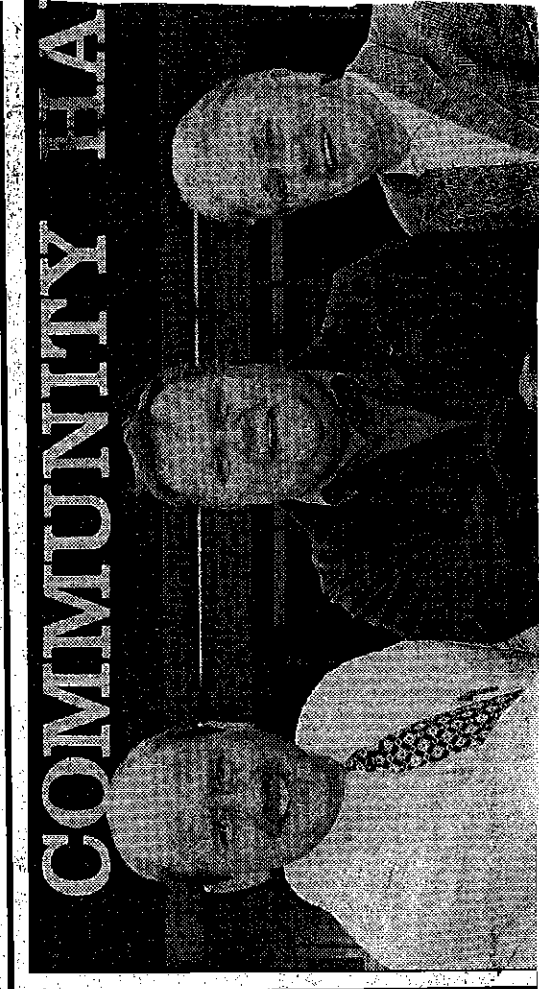
Leaning across the meeting table, Kruyt added Westbroek

should "be more careful with his bloody press conferences."

"He's had more bloody press conferences in the past three months than I've had in 25 years — he already knows how I feel about this," he said.

In a muttered aside, Westbroek countered, "it's a free country."

See COUNCIL on A2



A turn over

QB budget foreshadows cuts

Demands on staff and services means something will have to give

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER

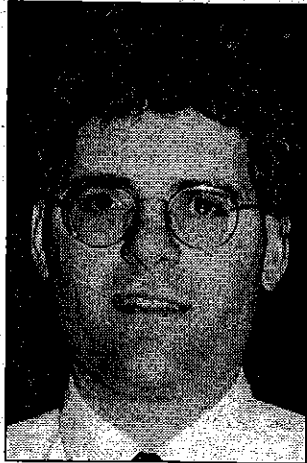
Every time a toilet flushes in Qualicum Beach, more tax dollars go swirling down the pipe.

Explaining a \$33,000 hike in sewer costs at a public meeting on finances Monday, financial administrator John Marsh pointed out residents pay to use the French Creek sewage treatment plant based on metered flow.

It was one of the lighter moments at the well-attended meeting, where close to 100 people gathered to provide the town's staff and elected representatives input into its 2000 budget and five-year plan.

Marsh began with an overview of the current financial situation, emphasizing while the town has not made significant cuts to services yet, that may soon be more a necessity than an option.

"We are going to have to start increasing taxes or talking about some serious reduction of services ... we're getting into a situation where it's getting more difficult to balance our bud-



John Marsh
...raise the taxes or reduce the services

get," he said.

Marsh said Qualicum Beach is looking at a tax hike of 2.11 per cent this year, with general/municipal revenues showing the most significant increase.

In 1999, general revenues were at \$3,227,000, while in 2000, they are projected at \$3,337,000. The increase is mostly because the town received its final installment of a provincial government grant for community policing last year, and this year, has to make up the money needed itself.

"We're getting \$110,000 more from you to pay for the services we provide," he explained, adding the increase is mainly provincial, and "taxes have been for the most part constant in the past five years."

The biggest hike in the town's operating expenditures comes under the environmental line item — \$110,000 budgeted for closure and monitoring of the Qualicum Beach landfill site, which increases environmental expenditures to \$748,000 from \$627,000

last year.

Marsh said the town has spent almost all of its reserve funds over the past three years, and now there is little of it left. He explained while there are still reserve funds in water and sewer, "water and sewer reserves can only be used for water and sewer."

General taxes have gone up 2.23 per cent since 1995, with 25.59 per cent of that being provincial government impacts and 7.72 per cent due to new construction.

Under the 2000 budget, gross property taxes will go up 2.23 per cent over last year, and show an 18 per cent increase since 1995 — though Marsh pointed out there has been 12 per cent inflation over this period.

Many of the 80 residents in the audience suggested a number of ways for the town to reduce operating costs.

"The comment that I hear quite often ... is when we're dealing with limited money there's really only two options, increasing taxes or cutting back services," said certified general accountant Lotar Maurer.

Maurer said an organization can always operate more efficiently, and challenged the town to try to operate for five per cent less this year — a suggestion that drew a hearty applause.

Marsh agreed, and said he feels efficiency is always a given, and the town has a responsibility to consider efficiency on an ongoing basis.

Brian Peckford, Qualicum Beach resident and former Newfoundland

premier, commented "I think in order to make a good judgment [on the town's finances] one needs to have a good understanding of what council stands for ... choices have to be made, and leadership is about making and defending these choices."

He said it's "disturbing news," that the town has little money left in reserve, and said while he believes council and staff are well-intentioned, the important question should always be "can we afford it?"

Former mayor Art Skipsey agreed, telling council "you have to look at the small things to save on the big things.

"If we're looking anywhere [to save money] let's look at general government and see if we can get that down ... it's gone up at too high a rate," he said.

Several residents, including Qualicum Beach Residents' Association member Roy Kleibl, asked about Laburnum Road, and whether it will be built in this fiscal year.

Mayor Teunis Westbroek said there are "building challenges associated with the road, and at this point, it will cost in excess of \$3.5 million to build.

"It would be irresponsible to go to referendum" at this point, said Westbroek, explaining the plan is to build up development cost charges and wait to see if the government offers municipal infrastructure grants that could help offset the cost of construction.

"It is a priority, we would like to see the road built ... but not this year," Westbroek said.

(3)
13.

Brown debate divisive

Editor, The Morning Sun:

For those who care, and this is by no means all the citizens of Qualicum Beach, the debate 'to buy or not to buy' the remaining piece of the Brown property is as divisive as any of the many contentious issues of recent years.

These strong opposing points of view can exist within council itself, so it is incumbent upon them to ensure the upcoming referendum is supported by the fullest possible information to ensure a vote based on knowledge, not sentiment.

The mayor has stated that council has been "heavily focused" on the acquisition of the final 15 acres.

Unfortunately, acquisition is only the first step of what could be a blessing or an albatross on the town's shoulders.

Months have been wasted during which the future administration of the property should have been examined, discussed and given a business plan for public scrutiny.

As things stand right now, we have only vague suggestions that really amount to the town buying, developing and maintaining the park (at taxpayers' expense, of course) while the preservation society gives the orders and maybe, just maybe, a little finance from indeterminate and unassured future fundraising.

Not good enough! Give us as full an accounting as possible of purchase, development and future maintenance costs to make this property into a first class nature park.

Also, give us a business plan that assures us that its future management will be sound, business-like and not become a ball and chain dragging the town down to drown in a sea of debt.

Nothing less is acceptable.

F.H. Horner

Qualicum Beach

Morning Sun

264,2000

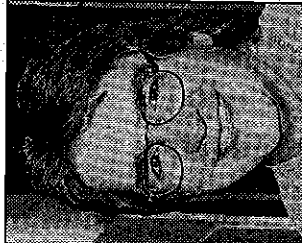
HEAT RISES UP IN JACK'S SHACK

For so many years ago, back when I was a raw rookie, a very senior journalist cornered me and gave me a heads up on getting stories.

"Whenever possible son, don't pick up your pen and start writing until you've heard what the man has to say," he told me, and it stuck. The theory goes comprehend the deal first, let it sink in, and then ask intelligent questions to clarify the situation via quotes.

Well that theory is being put to a test in a big way in Qualicum Beach of late. There are so many comments coming from so many different corners, one simply has to keep the pen to the notepad to get the juicy verbal gems flowing out of the town hall.

Since this well-intentioned but obviously disillusioned band of misfits was elected, I have made it a point to attend virtually all of their evening meetings. I figure Ally McBeal is getting too loony, too horny and too stupid, and frankly, the comedy in Jack Collins' mansion on Primrose is just better than Seinfeld's.



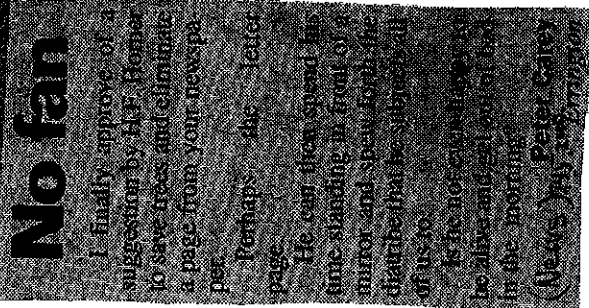
Jeff Vircoe

To give you a sample of their form of representation, we threw the battle between Anton Kruyt and Teunis Westbroek up front on Friday to show that all was not necessarily good in the town hall. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Last Monday I walked into a public budget meeting — normally about as exciting as listening to a Bill Gilmour speech on the rights of the Quebec Cree. Instead I found 80 residents sitting on the end of their chairs, and a doggone Mothers Day buffet worth of tidbits to chew on.

There was the usual rolling of eyes from councillors Diamond and Rodway every time the mayor expressed another opinion invariably masked as town policy. There was the ominous present Frank (I know what's best for you) Horner side show, the many who like the sound of their own voice, and the usual suspects blowing smoke up our new mayor's duff.

But perhaps best of all was listening to a former premier of Newfoundland give his opinions on how tough a job council has. Fiery, excited, enunciated as only a true Newfie can (although his accent is fading — I understood virtually everything he said) I watched an announcement as Premier Rob Ford showed how he can still captivate a town in Newfoundland.



No fan

I finally approve of a suggestion by M.P. Horner to save trees and eliminate a page from your newspaper. Perhaps the letter page. He can then spend his time standing in front of a mirror and shaving with the dabber that he should still use.

In BC, he found a cool reception.

First some damn editor swipes his seat while he's giving his speech. (The editor's half Newfie. It was a bonding thing.)

Then, after his second go-round at the mike, a resident gets the crowd giggling by 'thanking' our friend for coming all the way from Newfoundland just to straighten out us wayward British Columbians.

Nobody likes to be laughed at, but unlike Trudeau, Brian doesn't give fingers. "Come on, I can take yer shots," he yells across the room before crossing his arms and plunking his butt in a chair. God love ya by.

Ahhh, politics in Qualicum Beach.

If you are in need of some entertainment folks, I say turn off your televisions and get down to Jack's shack on Primrose. This whole Brown thing's just warm-up.

Referendum wheels in motion

Brown property debate will be settled by a \$5,000 — \$7,500 question

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER

Qualicum Beach councillors passed a motion of intent and hammered out wording for a bylaw authorizing the town to purchase the final 15 acres of the Brown property last week.

The bylaw is necessary in order for the town to proceed to referendum on the issue — but the purchase can only happen if residents approve it.

"I'm not trying to promote the purchase ... that's up to you citizens to decide," said financial advisor John Marsh while introducing the issue, last Monday.

The original motion brought before council estimated the borrowing amount at \$900,000, and listed that figure as "the maximum amount of debt intended to be created" by the bylaw.

Coun. Scott Tanner moved the amount be reduced to \$800,000, as the Brown Property Preservation Society has already raised \$120,000 toward the purchase of the option property. The motion carried, though Coun. Anton Kruyt pointed out the option value of the property is still \$900,000.

Coun. Scott Rodway, who opposes the purchase of the final 15 acres, moved to change wording in the motion stating "whereas it is deemed desirable and expedient to purchase"

the property.

Council did so, replacing the wording with Rodway's suggestion, "whereas the town needs to borrow to purchase."

"I think it is neither desirable nor expedient to purchase"

— SCOTT RODWAY —

Qualicum Beach councillor who vehemently opposes using tax dollars to purchase 15 acres of Brown property

"I think it is neither desirable nor expedient to purchase," Rodway said. He explained while he believes it is necessary to go to referendum on the issue, both sides need to be represented.

Rodway went on to question the risk of blowdown occurring on the 35 acres the town currently owns if the option property is not purchased — a key argument of those in favor of buying the final 15 acres.

He also challenged those who say the property will bring ecotourism to the area. Pointing out there is nowhere to park tour buses alongside the property, he said were he an ecotourist, he would rather go to "a real old-growth forest like Cathedral Grove.

"I believe the purchase of the balance of the property is detrimental to the town and to the town's finances," he said.

Coun. Scott Tanner said as more money is raised toward the purchase, the cost to taxpayers decreases. He also said 20 per cent of donations received to date have been collected from people who live outside of Qualicum Beach.

Before council voted on the motion, Coun. Marlys Diamond clarified "this merely facilitates the referendum and does not indicate endorsement."

The motion carried with only Rodway in opposition. The town will proceed to a referendum, scheduled for some time in June.

Marsh told *THE NEWS* Thursday \$7,500 is budgeted for the referendum, but actual cost depends on how the town proceeds.

"It will cost between \$5,000 and \$7,500, depending on things like mailouts and postage," he said.

Marsh said sending an information package to every taxpayer — as some residents have requested — could cost \$1,500 in postage alone.

"We just announced on Monday we are going to a referendum," he said. "A lot of things haven't been discussed ... we wanted to wait until we knew the option to purchase had been extended."

No taxes for trees!

Editor Fine Morning Sun,

I would like to applaud Councillor Scott Rodway for having the courage to stand by his commitment not to use Qualicum Beach tax money for the purchase of the last 15 acres of the Brown Property.

At the same time, I will admonish Mayor Westbroek. He promised fiscal responsibility and is now openly supporting those who would hang a \$900,000 mortgage around the necks of Qualicum Beach taxpayers, despite being fully aware of the precarious financial situation the town now finds itself in.

We as taxpayers are faced with at least a 2.23 per cent tax increase this year, bringing tax increases over the last five years to 18 per cent, this without even factoring in the costs related to the Brown property.

Our reserves are depleted to point of non-existence, partly because \$483,460 was used for the purchase of the first 35 acres of the Brown property. This was done regardless of the fact that — at the very first town meeting dealing with the initial purchase — not one hand was raised in support of using taxpayers' money to facilitate this purchase.

As for being "visionary," the only thing I can envisage is higher and higher taxes.

Councillor Tanner, who ran all around Qualicum Beach last November putting up flyers telling us he wanted to be the residential taxpayers' voice on council, now sports a 'Save These Trees' button to council and public meetings. This informs us that he is in fact the voice of the Brown property trees.

Perhaps it is time we all reminded the mayor and council of Qualicum Beach that they were elected to take care of all Qualicum Beach and serve all of its citizens, not just one parcel of land and a special interest group.

Jessie Mitchell
Qualicum Beach

26.4.2000

(2) 14.

(1)

Brown property acquisition could only add to community

It is my feeling that the remaining 15 acres of the Brown property, should be purchased by the town by means of the Preservation Society's idea to repay through a parcel tax, not to exceed \$25 per year for 15 years or a similar idea.

This is a once in a lifetime for Qualicum Beach, and would be the envy of the Island.

This property is not about a few old trees; it is about a special forest complete with plant life, animal life, birdlife, and a stream with trout and salmon, smack in the middle of a beautiful town.

Do you not think this unique situation would only add to our island community?

The argument that it

would be better financially to sub-divide the property, is false. I have lived in Qualicum Beach since 1958, and have not seen my taxes decrease because of expansion.

Our only remaining community park, is being chiseled away every year, and we as citizens of Qualicum Beach should not miss this chance to pur-

chase the remainder of the Brown property, to be enjoyed by everyone for years to come.

It has also been said that we have enough treed areas in Qualicum Beach, most of which are privately owned, and because of the popularity of this area, these too, will soon be sub-divided.

Hugh Gilmour

News 28.4.2000 Qualicum Beach

Private funds are fine for Brown

(2)
15.

Three hundred eighty-one thousand, one hundred nine dollars! That is how much interest Qualicum Beach taxpayers will have to pay if the Town were to borrow \$700,000 over 15 years at six per cent interest with one payment each year (usual practice for bond issues). That is a lot of money!

This is assuming that the \$100,000 grant from Forest Renewal BC would still be available; but the way this agency is in the news these days, I have my doubt ... therefore if we had to borrow \$800,000 using the same scenario, we would have to pay \$435,553 in interest!

Are we, as a community of a little over 4,000 taxpayers, willing to commit to that kind of debt? Council is discussing borrowing almost 10 per cent of our annual budget to purchase a park, can we afford this? I think not!

I know that the Brown Property Preservation Society is quoted as saying that "almost \$100,000 in bonds have been proscribed locally" but bonds are just a way of borrowing funds and we still have to repay, whether the bonds are purchased by a local resident or a German investor, we, as taxpayers still have to repay the principal and

interest!

I fail to understand why we are even discussing a referendum. Councillors Diamond, Rodway and Tanner all promised (during the election campaign) that no tax money would be spent towards the purchase of the remainder of the Brown property, a referendum will be paid for by taxpayers, ergo, we do not spend funds for a referendum!

As for Mayor Westbroek, he chided the previous council for their "irresponsible handling of tax dollars" and he is endorsing such a huge debt load and refusing to discuss the cost of upkeep!

Come on Teunis, what happened to your election promise of "no tax increase", you forgot already! It's only been five months since your election, your memory lapse frightens me!!

In closing, let me remind everyone that I endorse the purchase of the remainder 15 acres with private donations and I hope that the Society is actively looking for ways to raise the funds because I believe that Qualicum Beach taxpayers will not allow Council to borrow the funds.

Denyse Widdifield

M. S. 28.4.2000 Received via email

Brown swap touted

By Valerie Baker

M.S. 29.4.2000

A provincial land swap — in lieu of a grant to purchase the 15-acre Brown property — has been suggested by Qualicum Beach coun. Scott Tanner.

"It is critical that the government knows what Qualicum Beach is doing to protect this sensitive eco-system," he told the *Morning Sun*.

With no financial help from the government to purchase the remaining portion of the Brown property, Tanner is suggesting Crown land (located within the recently incorporated western area) could be given to the town for future development. This would offset the cost of purchasing the Brown Property - subject to the June referendum.

"They [the government] have sold off around \$900,000 of Crown land around Qualicum Beach in the past," said Tanner. "There are not many sensitive eco-systems left, and the Brown property has been identified by the federal government as an older forest in conjunction with a riparian zone.

"The government should contribute with options to assist Qualicum Beach with borrowing the money to purchase the property," he suggested.

Tanner referred to other Crown land transfers, to municipalities on Quadra Island and Neck Point in the Departure Bay area, as well as the government's assistance in purchasing the Parksville flats and the Craig Bay burial grounds in the past.

Tanner put the suggestion to environment minister Joan Sawicky recently, following a previous meeting with former environment minister Kathy McGregor. McGregor seemed enthused with the idea, Tanner said.

Mayor Teunis Westbroek agreed with Tanner's proposal, and said "it would help the provincial government in its goal to have 12 per cent of land for parkland in perpetuity."

Referendum date set

QB taxpayers make decision on Brown property on June 17

By ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER

2.5.2000

The date is set.

On June 17, Qualicum Beach taxpayers will decide, through referendum, whether or not to preserve the final 15 acres of the Brown property.

As the day draws closer, says Mayor Teunis Westbroek, the town is making it a priority to provide detailed information to taxpayers about the financial impact of saving the property, available for the purchase price of \$900,000 until the August 15 option deadline.

The Brown Property Preservation Society has raised more than \$100,000 to date — but to secure the property by the

option deadline, the town will need to lend a sizable portion of the price tag — at an expense to property owners.

"I want people to know the complete cost of the purchase of that park, and I'd rather paint a gloomy picture than a rosy one," said Westbroek.

Treasurer John Marsh told *THE NEWS* Friday he is preparing a financial breakdown to be sent out with tax notices. He explained the decision the town is asking taxpayers to make is "what the impact of the 15 acres is."

He said when originally asked to comment on the impact of the purchase in terms of lost development cost charges, he said it would cost taxpayers between \$25 and \$35 a year.

The financial breakdown Marsh is preparing will clarify that figure encompassed both last year's 35-acre purchase and the final 15 acres currently in question.

"I don't want the taxpayer to think a decision to buy [the 15 acres] will have a \$25 to \$35 impact," he said. "There has to be a clear division between the first and second phase."

According to Marsh, the original \$25 to \$35 figure works out to about a 60-40 split between the 35 acres and the final 15.

"To ballpark the numbers, the first phase cost \$15 to \$20 in lost revenue. The second phase would cost an additional \$10 to \$15."

See DATE SET on page A4

DATE SET

The financial breakdown will also advise Qualicum Beach homeowners of significant, long-term expenditures the town is looking at — such as Laburnum Road, a new fire hall and connection of a new water system.

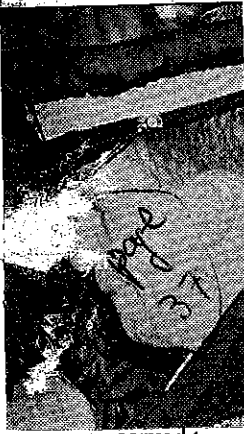
"We just want people to know when they're voting what other costs may come up in the future," Marsh said.

"Other factors may influence their decision. We want to alert the tax-

Continued from Front page
payer that there are some other significant expenses they could be looking at."

The town is also gathering ecological information to include with the financial breakdown.

down Which side of the debate do you fall on?



the final 15 acres in property. That debate, the blowdown has a key point on of the discussion. The experts argue s must be preserved to prevent blowdown on the 35 acres saved last year, others say it isn't necessary.

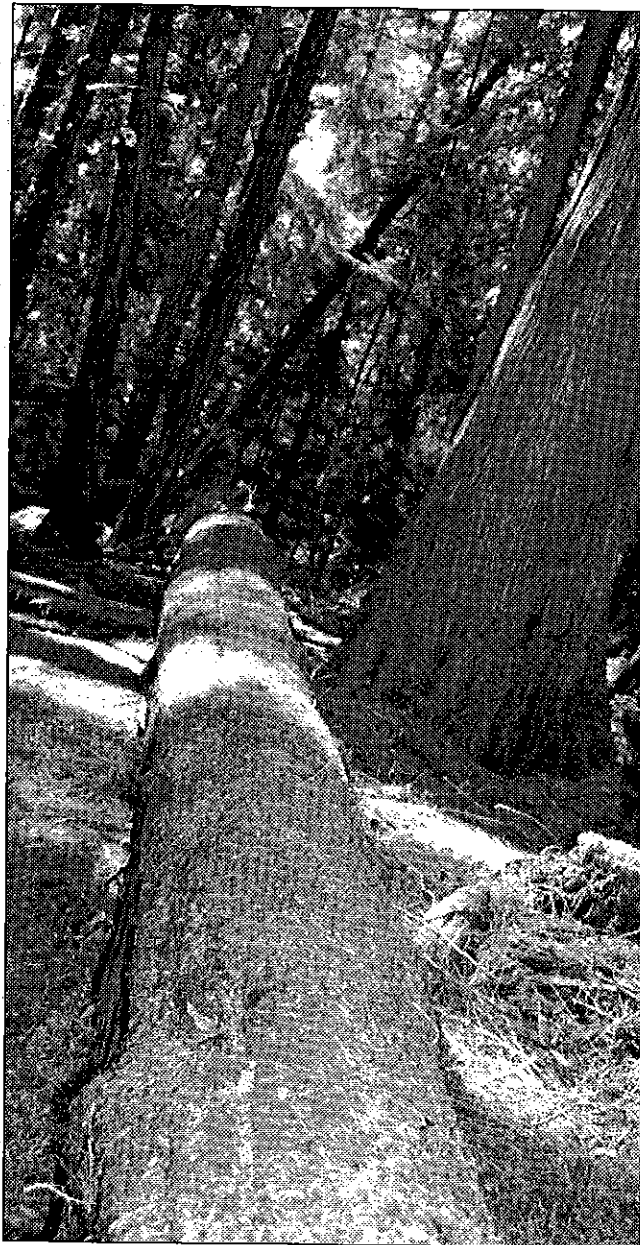
According to Annette Tanner, mid-Island chair of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, because of the direction of the wind, the trees that will receive the impact — and are at the greatest risk for blowdown — are the ones around the creek in the already-purchased 35 acres.

"The Brown property parallels Cathedral Grove," she said. "It's the same kind of wind-tunnel situation."

At the April 17 council meeting, Coun. Scott Rodway, who campaigned on the stance that the town should not buy the final 15 acres, told council and the public he doesn't believe blowdown is a factor.

"I just don't think it's going to have that much of an impact on the 35 acres as it exists," Rodway told *THE NEWS*. He added driving down Hemsworth and observing the area where a portion of the 15 acres was logged 10 years ago shows no sign of blowdown.

Pointing out the Brown Property Preservation Society has raised upwards of \$100,000 toward the \$900,000 purchase price of the 15 acres, he said "If they have \$110,000 ... that's approximately one-quarter of the 15 acres, and they have a blowdown strip



THE QUESTION WHETHER blowdown would be a factor for the Brown property is becoming key argument. already.

"Don't old-growth forests have blowdown anyway? They do!"

Fran Lacey spent 20 years as gardener and caretaker for the property adjacent to the 15 acres. She says logging near Hemsworth and Palm Drive

10 years ago caused blowdown on the property where she worked.

"I witnessed it and I remember it clearly," she said. "I could show you the stumps."

Lacey said 18 large trees blew down after the logging took the wind buffer.

"It was pretty devastating," she said. "It was clear by which way the trees blew down what had caused it ... the same situation is set up now, and I have certainty [if the 15 acres is logged] the same thing would happen."

Retired forester Bert Reid says if development is handled properly, blowdown won't be a factor.

"I feel — using a trite expression — it's overblown," he said. "There shouldn't be a problem. [A developer] shouldn't clear that whole 15 acres anyway ... if you put a buffer in, there shouldn't be a problem."

Reid thinks the 15 acres should be developed using the "smart communities" format, to "save a lot of green space and have a bit of both worlds."

But Jack Wilson, president of the Brown Property Preservation Society, doubts that will happen.

"We're talking about clear cutting here," he said. "If [the 15 acres] all gets cut down for a 46-lot subdivision, there won't be a tree left standing."

Registered professional forester Ed Hughes says while he hasn't assessed the blowdown risk on the 35 acres, "anyone who cuts a straight line harvesting boundary increases the risk of blowdown, because forests don't grow that way."

He said the only way to definitely determine the risk of blowdown is to walk the 35 acres and assess each tree individually, "a one-day job for somebody who knows what they're doing."

Preservation about community

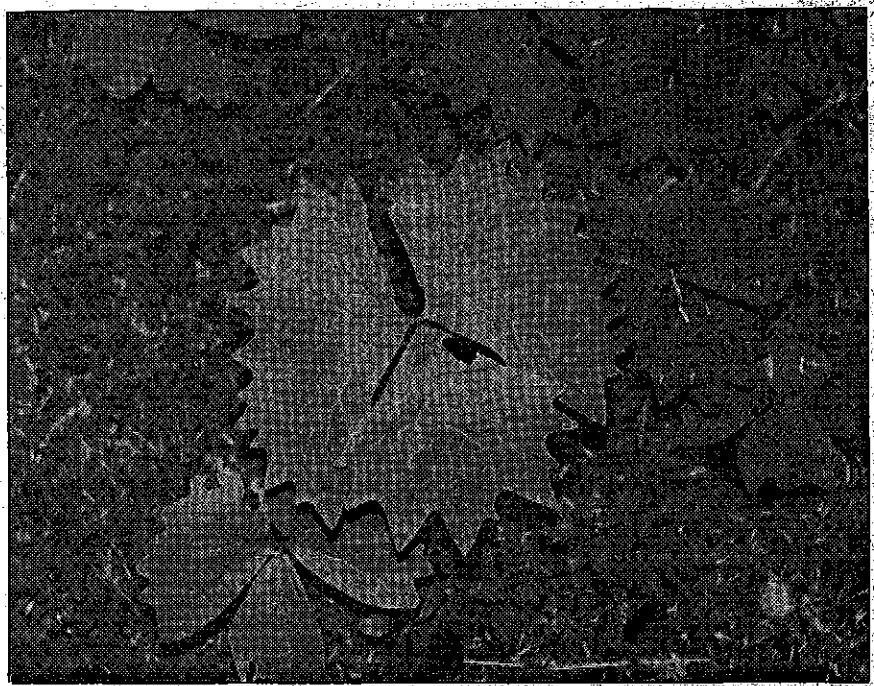
12.
(1)

I am writing this in response to the recent outbreak of negativity that has been aimed towards the people and the effort of trying to save the Brown Property Forest.

I am a younger member of our community. I moved to Qualicum Beach because I was attracted by its natural beauty, its cleanliness, and its wonderful sense of spirit. It is here that I am going to raise my family. Throughout the past few months, I have been actively involved within the Brown Property Preservation Society. We have been described as a handful of people with a dream. Indeed, this is the truth. But let it be known: our dream is not in the least a selfish endeavor, contrived to rip the hard earned cash out of community pockets.

Our dream is for the entire community. Our dream is for the future. Our dream is for life and its sustainability on this planet.

Our dream is daily being shredded by the nightmare of truth: Forests are being raped and decimated to turn a buck. Vital habitats and the animals who rely on them are being terminated; entire species have been brought to the brink of extinction. Our rivers and streams are being



THERE IS A great healing power in the forest of the Brown property.

turned into murky channels of poison. The very air we need to survive is being stolen from us by our own pollution.

The consequences of this destruction are very real. We humans are but a small minority amongst the creatures who make up this Earth. We hold in our hands the power to

destroy — the trees, the water, the air, the animals, ... and, inevitably, ourselves.

Our dream is to use our collective power to heal. To save. To maintain habitat and life. Certainly, we are not the ones who are being selfish.

News 2.5.2000

Elidah Jewer
Qualicum Beach

Chamber yet to formalize position

At the Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce monthly members' dinner meeting in April, Jack Wilson, the president of the Brown Property Preservation Society, was asked to make a presentation to the Chamber meeting outlining the options available for acquiring the property.

Mr. Wilson spoke about the efforts to date in raising money, and outlined the possibilities of how the town might purchase the property. Residents would be faced with an approximate payment of \$25 per year on their tax bill over 15 years. What was not addressed in the presentation were any other available options, including a purchase of something less than the 15 acres.

A couple of people at the meeting spoke in favor of the acquisition, but surprisingly there was no opposing comment from the members at the meeting.

A motion from the floor was made to support the purchase of the property by the town, and that motion was seconded and carried unanimously by those in attendance.

The reason for my comments today is to clarify the Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce's position on this

highly sensitive and important issue in the community. The topic was introduced to the members at that meeting in an attempt to disseminate information. The Chamber is attempting to adopt a more active posture in municipal affairs this year, and the directors felt that this was the appropriate way.

Mr. Wilson's presentation certainly provided more first hand information, albeit from the pro-Brown Property acquisition position. At the May meeting, there will be more discussion to provide a balanced perspective.

At this point in time the directors have not formalized a policy position on the issue and will be discussing it in detail at the May meeting of the executive. Among the issues to consider is the fact that many of the Chamber members neither live nor have their businesses (ergo pay taxes) within the boundaries of Qualicum Beach.

Following the May meetings the executive of the Chamber will be outlining its official position on this matter.

Barrie McWha, President

News 28, 2000 Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce

13.
(2)

Both portions needed to keep property healthy, says president

With regards to Jessie Mitchell's letter to the editor (*THE NEWS WEEK-ENDER*, April 21) I would like to quote from a letter to the president of the Brown Property Preservation Society from Mr. A. P. Harcombe, co-ordinator of the Conservation Data Centre, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Victoria, B.C. After his visit to the site, he states:

"The Brown Property is of special ecological significance because of two interacting factors. The riparian gully and associated vegetation is older, and in good condition." He continues: "The upland forest, although partially disturbed by the house and barn sites and some limited selective logging, still contains a significant area of forest at least 300 years old. The upland forest is actually considered to be

rarer than the low gully forests. It is the combination of these two ecosystems, in immediate conjunction to each other, that greatly adds conservation value to the property. The riparian ecosystem, without its upland neighbor, would be more vulnerable to modification."

In conclusion, Mr. Harcombe says, "The Brown Property is an outstanding remaining example of a type of landscape once common on the coastal plain but now severely altered on the east coast of Vancouver Island. Besides the 300-year-old forest that covers much of the property, the property's ecological value is enhanced because of its size." He continues, "The Brown Property is large enough that much of the interior quality of the plant communities have not been

compromised by excessive light penetration or exotic species invasion."

Mr. Harcombe emphasizes, "It is a combination of the riparian gully with the older upland forest that makes this property special. Either without the other would not be as valuable from either a conservation evaluation or from a representative landscape perspective. Forest diversity is high, and many animal species are able to maintain their territories within the property boundaries."

I hope this information will enhance Jessie Mitchell's knowledge and appreciation for this unique area which in turn will help her and others to understand why many people in this community want to preserve it.

News 2.5, 2000 **Walter G. Wilson**
Qualicum Beach

Man the real problem

This is not a letter precisely on the subject of the Brown property, we feel that much has already been said about this subject. It is actually a letter occasioned by your recent articles in regards to this property.

Over the years we have generally enjoyed your articles in *THE NEWS*, and we have admired your support of cultural events in the area. We must however, express our surprise and disappointment in your recent articles on the topic of the brown property, and especially on the remaining 15 acres. You seem to imply anyone who did not attend the recent meeting at the Civic Centre was lacking in moral fibre or initiative. This is far from the case with us. Slung into action, we followed your suggestion and once again visited Cathedral Grove and also the property in question. In Cathedral Grove we learned a different lesson from you. It seemed to us that the message was, Nature is destructive, but in a natural way, moreover Nature has its own way of renewing life. Man, or too much Man, appears to be the danger

16.
(1)

Full account of all costs a must

A line of cars parked along the roadside was our introduction to the Brown property. Within 50 yards of the entrance we were confronted by two unleashed dogs, not long after we saw several children romping among the trees. It seems as though the publicity had drawn many to the area. We felt it would have been better for the area to remain quiet and unfrequented.

Qualicum's main attractions are the beach, the village, the golf course. A great deal of money has been spent on the Brown property, it might have been better spent on the beach.

Undoubtedly the staunch supporters of the property have done a great job of publicizing this area, perhaps too good a job. We hope that no more public funds will be spent on this property, at least not without input from all the taxpayers of Qualicum Beach, presumably in the form of a referendum. The letters of the *NEWS WEEK-ENDER*, April 7, say it all for us.

News 2.5, 2000 **George & Monique Riley**
Qualicum Beach

17.
(4)

For those who care, and this is by no means all the citizens of Qualicum Beach, the debate "to buy or not to buy" the remaining piece of the Brown property is as divisive as any of the many contentious issues of recent years. These strong opposing points of view even exist within council itself, so it is incumbent upon them to ensure that the upcoming referendum is supported by the fullest

possible information to ensure a vote based on knowledge, not sentiment.

The mayor has stated that council has been "heavily focused" on the acquisition of the final 15 acres.

Unfortunately, acquisition is only the first step of what could be a blessing or an albatross on the town's shoulders. Months have been wasted during which the future administration of the property should have examined,

discussed and given a business plan for public scrutiny. As the thing stand right now we have only vague suggestions that really amount to the town buying, developing and maintaining the park (at taxpayers' expense, of course) while the preservation society gives the orders and maybe, just maybe, will be able to provide a little finance from indeterminate and unassured future fund-raising.

Not good enough. Give us a full account-

ing as possible of purchase, development and future maintenance costs to make this property into a first-class nature park and a business plan that assures us that its future management will be sound, business-like and not become a ball and chain dragging the town down to drown in a sea of debt.

Nothing less is acceptable.

News 2.5, 2000 **F. H. Homer**
Qualicum Beach

Debate hot over referendum

M.S. 3.5.2000

By Valerie Baker

The town of Qualicum Beach's plan to go to referendum to borrow money to buy the 15-acre Brown property parcel was hotly opposed by coun. Scott Rodway Monday.

Calling the reasons suggested by proponents to purchase the property "emotional rhetoric," Rodway said "I don't believe the arguments put forward to purchase the property will stand scrutiny.

"It's been suggested that those against the purchase ... have no vision. The vision for this community is outlined in the Official Community Plan and the Regional Growth Management Plan," he said.

Rodway pointed to plans to purchase waterfront property and construct the Laburnum ring road outlined in the OCP.



Coun. Scott Rodway

"Where will this money come from?" he asked council.

"There will be no money left for other projects, what does a further 15 acres add ... the best features already exist on the 35 acres," he said. "It won't be an added tourist attraction, it will only add to the debt of the town."

Rodway countered the advantages of a purchase argued by the Brown

Property Preservation Society, saying the additional 15-acres is not needed to control runoff or drainage into Beach Creek, to protect the existing 35 acres from blowdown or to enhance tourism.

"This park is not nature ... it is, and will be, in the middle of residential developments whether we buy the 15 acres or not," he said.

Coun. Scott Tanner disagreed with Rodway's statement regarding the protection of Beach Creek, and informed him that the watercourse is major fish-bearing stream.

Mayor Teunis Westbroek entered the debate. "How many people before us had similar opinions on the golf course and the beachfront?" he asked.

"There were probably some who calculated how many lots they could build on the golf course, or how

many high-rises could be built along the waterfront. I hope this [issue] will not divide community."

Rodway's opinions followed council's plan to give second reading to a bylaw authorizing the town to borrow up to \$840,000 to purchase the property, subject to a successful referendum.

Coun. Anton Kruyt reminded council that the bylaw would only enable the town to purchase the property if residents voted in favour of doing so in the referendum, suggesting the discussion was somewhat premature. Even if residents vote in favour of the purchase, council will still have to agree to borrow the money, he said.

Westbroek was surprised by that. "I can't imagine council not authorizing the borrowing of the money if that's what the residents wanted," he said.

Town trims 2000 budget

M.S. 3.5.2000

By Valerie Baker

Adjustments were made to Qualicum Beach's budget at third reading Monday.

Town treasurer John Marsh said the operating budget has been cut by \$70,000, following an Apr. 17 public meeting.

"The budget adjustments were necessary due mainly to three factors," said Marsh. "Debt payments had to be incorporated and grant funding for the possible Brown property purchase, eliminating \$25,000 that was originally proposed to be transferred from the general fund surplus to balance the budget," he wrote in a memo to the mayor and council.

Although the total change in operating budgets shows an increase of \$57,000, there is actually a reduction of \$70,000. Two significant cost increases — \$90,000 for the landfill closure and \$37,000 for Arrowview elementary school fields, totalling \$127,000 — are offset by the \$57,000 change in the budget.

There has been no change in property tax rates since

second reading, which remains at a 2.2 per cent increase for the average taxpayer. The total property taxes levied by the town have increased by \$184,000 to \$9.3 million, but Marsh said it is important to note that the town only retains 42 per cent of the taxes, with the rest going to other tax jurisdictions, such as library, regional district, the hospital and the school district.

Coun. Scott Rodway said he had considered voting against adoption of the budget because it includes borrowing money to purchase the Brown Property.

Adoption of the budget is expected today at 4 p.m.

Brown president answers questions from residents

By Valerie Baker M.S. 3.5.2000

What is the cost of preserving a forest in its natural state?

The question is being asked by Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson - in response to recent letters to the editor of local newspapers.

"Concerns about the cost of developing and managing the Brown Property recently expressed through letters in the local media may be ill-founded," he said.

"We need to keep in perspective that the whole point of the project is to preserve the park in its natural state ... how simplistic can that be? ... you shouldn't be able to spend a lot of money to develop and manage the park even if you wanted to.

"I don't know what people mean by the cost of managing and developing it," said Wilson, who suggested many volunteers would be happy to assist in maintaining the trails.

"Even if a future interpretive centre was established on the property, we don't have to build one, the building is already there," he said, referring to the stables.

He referred to the covenant registered against the Brown property - which restricts its use only as a public park to preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment of the property, subject to the establishment of designated walking trails and facilities for public use.

"All of which are intended to minimize disturbance of the natural habitat while providing the public with an opportunity to observe and appreciate nature," states the covenant.

At Monday's council meeting, Wilson presented \$110,000 collected through donations to Qualicum Beach council at Monday's meeting.

14. (3) More questions for Bert

Editor, the Morning Sun:

Re: Bert Reid's letter to the editor (Apr. 19, '00)

Some further points to ponder:

- Why is Bert Reid continuing to chastise many citizens of Qualicum Beach for trying to save a very unique piece of property as a park for all citizens to enjoy? What are his motives? Political? Or what?

- What does a very rude person at a meeting, giving another the finger, actually got to do with the acquiring of the Brown property?

- Most of us know why the citizens of Qualicum Beach voted for a change in council. This was certainly not to do with the great job that previous councils and administrators had done to enhance the quality of life in Qualicum Beach. What has this got to do with the attempts to save a valuable potential addition to the park system now?

- As far as the costs, every citizen has a right to know the costs. To throw around the figures he mentioned is an attempt to 'muddy the waters.' The petition I signed said, "We are in favour of having the town of Qualicum Beach providing funding to "acquire" the remaining 15 acres of Brown property forest by May, through a tax levy not to exceed \$25 per year per property."

This is approximately seven cents per day, or around \$2 per month. Thanks to the fine efforts of Ian Lindsay, this deadline has been extended to Aug. 15.

I understand the Society is endeavouring to continue to raise funds with grants, tax deductible donations and bonds to further reduce the costs.

To have "naysayers" like Mr. Reid attempt to "muddy the waters" with what I call rather irrelevant points makes me wonder if he really wants to enhance the quality of life we all enjoy in Qualicum Beach.

Walter G. Wilson
Qualicum Beach

M.S. 3.5.2000

I only ask these questions Mr. Wilson because I am confused as to why his letter is so different from the report prepared for The Brown Property Preservation Society, at their request by Mr. Bert Reid, that they chose to disregard. Was this perhaps because Mr. Reid, who is a recognized forester with 45 years of world-wide experience, did not tell them what they wanted to hear?

Thirty years ago I was head data co-ordinator for a large Vancouver based Airline, reporting on all aspects of their fleet of aircraft but this did not make me a Aerospace Engineer!

For 34 years I have walked and hiked the forests, old and new, of British Columbia. I know what a true old growth forest looks like, can you say the same Mr. Wilson? If so please tell us all exactly how many trees in the 15 acres you are asking this community to purchase are 300 years old.

N.B.W.S.
5.5.2000

Jessie Mitchell
Qualicum Beach

Where are the old growth trees?

18. (3)

Thank you Mr. Wilson for your extended quote from Mr. A. P. Harcombe's letter regarding the Brown Property.

Before I become truly enlightened on this subject I would like to ask one or two questions. Besides being a data co-ordinator for the government in Victoria, what other qualification does Mr. Harcombe have that enables him to be such an expert on this type of property. Is he a qualified forester? Does he possess a degree in forestry from any University? Has he worked in the forests of British Columbia for 45 years?

Rodway hammers No pitch

Councillor comes out strong against Brown property purchase

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER 5.5.2000

Councillor Scott Rodway proved he's a man of his word this week, keeping his election promise to oppose the purchase of the Brown property with town funds.

At Monday's council meeting, he opposed second reading of the town's loan authorization bylaw in a lengthy speech. At a special meeting Wednesday, he opposed third reading of the bylaw.

And at Wednesday's Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce meeting, Rodway, in his capacity as the town's liaison to the Chamber, rehashed his Monday night speech when asked to outline the facts and figures of the Brown property purchase for Chamber members.

Rodway believes the town does not have enough money in reserve to justify the purchase of the final 15 acres. He said the town paid \$483,826 for the 35 acres purchased last year, for which it has lost \$10,483 per year in property taxes and \$805,860 in potential development cost charges.

He challenged the Brown Property Preservation Society's argument the final 15 acres must be saved to save Beach Creek from

runoff and drainage, and prevent blowdown on the 35 acres the town now owns. He said he has toured the property with a professional forester who did not see blowdown as a significant issue.

"The argument does not survive scrutiny," he said.

Jack Wilson, president of the preservation society, heard Rodway speak at both Monday's council meeting and Wednesday's Chamber meeting.

"[Rodway] is doing everything he can to negate purchasing the property," he said. "He campaigned on that, so I respect him in that sense"

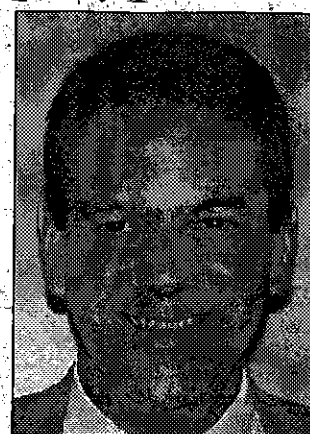
Wilson said both a professional biologist and a professional forester have identified blowdown as a serious concern if the 15 acres aren't preserved.

"More importantly, we have a testimonial from Fran Lacey," he said. "She personally saw 18 large trees blown down [after logging at the site 10 years ago] and I don't know how that fact can be denied."

On Monday, Wilson challenged Rodway to a walk through the property to assess blowdown, but he says Rodway declined.



Coun. Scott Rodway
...preservation society's arguments don't withstand scrutiny



Jack Wilson
...evidence of blowdown on property can't be denied

What you'll be asked on referendum day

Are you in favor of the Council adopting 'Town of Qualicum Beach Parkland Acquisition Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 583, 2000' which would allow the town to borrow money to purchase approximately 15.5 acres (6.3 ha) of land commonly referred to as the Brown Property under the following conditions:

- Borrow no more than \$840,000 with a repayment term not to exceed 15 years, and
- repay the principal and interest of the amount borrowed by levying a parcel tax each year of a maximum of \$25 per parcel?

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER 5.5.2000

Qualicum Beach council approved the official wording for the June 17 Brown property referendum Monday.

On that date, taxpayers will be asked "Are you in favor of the Council adopting 'Town of Qualicum Beach Parkland Acquisition Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 583, 2000' which would allow the town to borrow money to purchase approximately 15.5 acres (6.3 ha) of land commonly referred to as the Brown Property under the following conditions:

- Borrow no more than \$840,000 with a repayment term not to exceed 15 years, and
- repay the principal and interest of the amount borrowed by levying a parcel tax each year of a maximum of \$25 per parcel?

"That figure of \$840,000 is a worst-case scenario number," said Coun. Scott Tanner at the meeting, adding a \$110,000 cheque Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson presented to the town at the same meeting means the figure will be closer to \$740,000.

At a special meeting Wednesday, council passed third reading of the parkland acquisition bylaw, which will allow the town to borrow to purchase the property if taxpayers wish to do so.

There will be a public information meeting about the Brown property ~~May 7~~ ^{wrong} at 7 p.m. at the Civic Centre.

The June 17 referendum will also be held at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Advance polls will be June 7 and 14 at the Civic Centre, also between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Worst case? question for June 17

Meeting
25.5.2000

15. (1)

Groups stick to it

Do you ever wonder what provokes people to write letters to the editor? The comment attributed to Councillor Marlys Diamond to the effect that "projects get initiated by zealous volunteers and end up being dumped on the Town" has left me trying to think of which project she might be referring to. My observation has been just the opposite. For those who have moved here in recent years, I would like to review some facts.

The first 30 acres of the community park were purchased by three volunteer groups and donated to the village in the early 1930s. Likewise, the curling rink was constructed through citizens initiative and turned over to the village. Could these be the ones?

In more recent years, a number of projects have been provided through a partnership between the municipality and volunteer societies.

An early one was the lawn bowling facility. People were asking the village to provide the greens. Instead the village offered the land and water while the society raised the funds, built the facility worth over \$200,000, and covers the operating costs at no cost to the taxpayer.

To record the history and recognize the 100th anniversary of the first land title taken up by a settler, a group wished to establish a museum. The town bought the original B.C. Hydro property for \$25,000 and the volunteer society provided the facility with only help from the Town in the use of machinery. Again, operating costs borne by the society. This asset of the Town is worth in excess of \$400,000.

And, of course, The Old School House. The Town purchased the land and the building for \$50,000. The volunteer society put together an Art

Centre appraised at over \$400,000, the operating costs paid by the volunteer society. As well, the Town sold off-site parking on part of the land for \$140,000, which in turn provided the parking lot on Second Avenue.

More recently, the Train Station Society has totally refurbished the station providing over 5,600 hours of volunteer labor.

And then the service clubs. The Kiwanis built seniors housing on Town land. The Rotary Club has a long history providing needed facilities on their own or in partnership with the Town. The most ambitious, the civic centre saved the taxpayer in the neighborhood of \$1.5 million. By now, even the loudest critics acknowledge the benefit to the community.

My involvement over a seven year period left me convinced that the civic centre would be the last major project sponsored by a volunteer group. I have been amazed at the support shown by the \$600,000 raised in the campaign to purchase the



VOLUNTEERS LIKE JEAN Hay and Jim Storey show commitment to community.

Brown Property, a clear indication of the value of this natural asset and the strength of the society. It is clear that this group could operate this park, with a lease agreement, at no cost to the municipality just as the other volunteer societies have done. I believe the record of our volunteer groups is exemplary. I also believe in time the Brown Property could prove to be the greatest attraction for residents, tourists, and business.

Here is an opportunity to increase the legacy that we are so ready to accept and enjoy. If I might paraphrase the late J. F. Kennedy. 'Ask not what the community can do for you, but what you can do for your community.'

If you have not already done so, start by joining a volunteer organization.

News 9.5.2000

Arthur L. Skipsey
Qualicum Beach

What's really important here?

With the Brown property referendum still five and a half weeks away, it would appear the gloves are already off. The rumors are flying, the eyes are rolling when anyone with any opinion speaks, and some people are already showing their lack of class by not allowing both sides to express their views.

The mayor appealed to the gallery at last Monday's meeting to not let this debate divide the community and in this column, I heartily join that appeal.

Last Monday, upon entering the council chamber to witness that night's meeting of our elected representatives,



Jeff Vircoe

I was told by a fellow resident that I'd better get my head checked, that there was something wrong with me because of my views. The same person also blurted out (loud enough for those near him to hear) "oh not him again" when Jack Wilson, the president of the Brown Property Preservation Society, rose to speak as a delegation. Of course not a word came from the man when Mr.

Wilson turned over a cheque for \$110,000 to the town on behalf of that society.

As a resident of this community, I hope those for and those against the purchase of these 15 acres can cool down a degree or two, and remember that life is not about a Yes or No vote on June 17.

Life in our town is not about the Chamber of Commerce, the Qualicum Beach Residents Association, the mayor, the staff, or any of that.

The day after the referendum, whether they decide to clearcut that 15 acres or leave it as it is, town residents will still have to go about their business of raising their children, buying their groceries, paying their mortgages.

It's just a referendum people. Don't lose sight of what really matters in our town.

You do remember don't you?

The true meaning of "community" was in full bloom at the community hall Saturday evening for the awards presentation, and again at the Shady Rest later that night.

After the Fire and Ice event was put to bed, after thousands of people had experienced our town and left impressed, a dozen or so of the key volunteers who put this year's event together dined, sang, hugged and danced together at a historic Qualicum Beach restaurant, for no other reason than the euphoria of being able to contribute to a great community. They showed up, they took part, they helped out and many people are sure glad they did.

Some are in favor of the Brown property purchase, some aren't. And last weekend, nobody cared.

Please respect your neighbor's right to speak.

Most of all, remember the sun will rise on June 17, whether we vote Yes or No.

16. (1)

Let's keep developers off Brown property

The Brown property has been given an unusual amount of space in local papers and rightly so. This for the complaining residents who moan about tax increases and resent non-residents who support the property

tourism is perhaps the area's one sure salvation. In 1989, I was given an assignment which to this day sets my hair on fire. A fellow graphic artist hired me to write about the developer of Charwell. He

resentment about what the developer did after he got approval for "homes in a park-like, peaceful setting." Greedy developers talk a good line about salvaging trees and keeping acceptable environmental

OFF
Our Reg. \$49.99
ENVIRO FEE - TAXES
Expires May 15, 2000

FLUSH
INCLUDES UP TO 15 LITRES
OF ANTI-FREEZE

STORE HOURS: 8:30 AM TO 6:00 PM MON. TO SAT
WARRANTY APPROVED. LIMITED TIME OFFER!

5-8752

Nanaimo Campus
900 Fifth Street
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5S5

website at www.mala.bc.ca

Village issues pamphlet on Brown referendum

M.S. 10.5. 2000

By Valerie Baker

Qualicum Beach mayor Teunis Westbroek wants taxpayers to be fully informed before the June 17 referendum, which will determine whether the town should purchase the remaining Brown property portion.

A public information meeting will be held Thurs., May 25, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Qualicum Beach civic centre.

An information document covering all aspects of the Brown property has been compiled by council and staff, and will be mailed to residents this week with their property tax notices.

The document, in a question and answer format, deals with the pros and cons of purchasing the remaining 15-acre parcel, as well as the financial impact of the already purchased 35-acre parcel.

Annual maintenance costs, proposed use of the parkland and its ecological significance, the financial impact to taxpayers and the proposed development of the property if it isn't purchased for parkland by the town are explained.

Frank Horner again ques-



Teunis Westbroek



Scott Tanner

tioned the ongoing maintenance cost of the park at last week's council meeting. "I am not against the purchase, but I am against the secret agenda of council regarding expenditures," he said.

Coun. Scott Tanner reminded Horner there has been no increase in the parks and recreation budget since the acquisition of the 35-acre portion, but Horner suggested that is because trail systems in the community park had not been maintained to standard.

Resident Rick Tutte is "unconvinced" the purchase would not cost the taxpayer more than \$25 per year. "We will be sending town crews there," he suggested.

Westbroek referred to the minimal maintenance cost incurred by the town since it purchased the 35-acre portion last year. "We spent \$800 for labour and \$2,500 for materials," he said.

According to the information document, trail maintenance costs amount to \$2,000 per kilometre per year, which would add \$4,000 to the town's annual trail maintenance costs if the two kilometres of proposed trails are developed.

"Trail construction works are normally carried out through grant programs. The town would likely have to pay for materials only," states the information document.

Save all the Brown land

Editor, the Morning Sun:

In 1981, the Town of Qualicum Beach purchased the Qualicum Beach Memorial Golf Club.

I am fairly new to the community so I am not aware of all of the financial particulars, but I do know the town did not opt to purchase only four and a half holes of the course. The complete package was nine holes.

In 1986, the town of Qualicum Beach purchased the Old School House. Now the entire school House belongs to the town.

Who is the town? It is all of the residents of Qualicum Beach. We are now the proud owners and potential users of two excellent lifestyle acquisitions.

They were not free of cost, nor did they come into our hands without opposition. A big thank you goes to those visionaries who came before and left us and future generations with such positive additions to our community.

17 (1)

For hundreds of years, the 35-acre and the 15-acre parcels of the Brown property have coexisted as one natural unit. The 15-acre option property is an essential watershed for the 35-acres already acquired by the town.

It is also an established blowdown protector for the 35 acres. Hundreds of nature's creatures coexist on these two land parcels. These are only some of the provable and positive facts that should go toward keeping these two parcels together and intact.

At this time, there is more than one option for obtaining the monies required to purchase. I am pleased that the democratic process will be completed with a referendum.

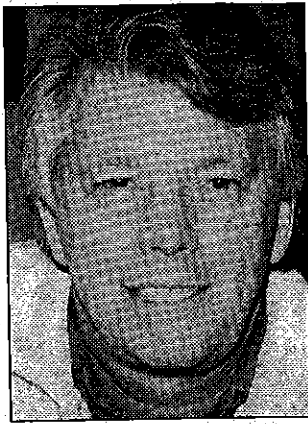
I only hope that those apposed to the purchase can get past the \$25 per year cost. For most of us that only amounts to half a tank of gas in our cars.

Paul Ryniak,
Qualicum Beach

M.S. 10.5.2000

Chamber won't take sides in Brown debate

By **JEFF VIRCOE**
NEWS EDITOR 12.5.2000



Barrie McWha
...motion was basically a feel good statement with no financial strings

The Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce has done its job regarding the Brown property debate and will stay in the background as the voters make a decision, the organization's executive has decided.

At a meeting of the board of directors Wednesday night, a half hour discussion on the chamber's position regarding the controversial issue resulted in a motion being passed to remain neutral.

Chamber president Barrie McWha said Thursday his executive has fulfilled its mandate in helping chamber members see both sides of the issue, first by allowing the president of the Brown Property Preservation Society (BPPS) to give a presentation at the Chamber's membership's April 5 dinner meeting, and then by affording the same opportunity to a town of Qualicum Beach councillor (Scott Rodway) at the May dinner meeting.

"We've done our best to at least get information out to our members. We've done our job. Hopefully our members are now more informed and are free to make their choice," McWha said.

The issue has been a sticky one for the chamber, which has traditionally remained out of any political debate in the community. That policy was tested at the April meeting when, after a presentation by BPPS president Jack Wilson, chamber member Hilda

"Many of our members, indeed many who were at the (April) meeting who supported the motion to acquire that property, do not live within the boundaries of Qualicum Beach and would not be impacted if there were a decision to purchase it," she said.

"Many of them might even be prepared to give a donation towards it, but they would not be obligated through a tax, as the residents of the town would be," says Maclean.

Even the chamber's past president, Denyse Widdifield, an outspoken opponent of using tax dollars to purchase the property, was comfortable enough with the wording of Perry's motion to vote in favor of it. The endorsement of the acquisition of the property was not a difficult one.

"My reaction to the motion was, of course, I do hope the Browns do sell it. I just wish with all my heart that someone would come out of the woodwork and buy it.

"It's a question of can we afford it? I don't think we can. I wish we could. But not with taxpayer dollars."

Widdifield even donated \$100 to the BPPS that night.

"I know a lot of people have done the same thing — and a lot more — but will be voting No on June 17. They figure they've made their donation, and they don't want to make any more."

Perry, meanwhile stands by her motion.

"I worded it that way on purpose. I still feel the vast majority of our members are in favor of the acquisition of

that property," she said.

Perry, a former town councillor, remains a strong Yes side supporter, but recognizes that acquiring the land, and how to acquire it, are two separate issues.

"I've been in business here for 27 years and I fully realize there are no free lunches. If you want something you are going to have to pay for it. Everything we have here in this town has been paid for. Twenty five years from now, that money will seem like peanuts."

Perry said the potential for financial spinoffs should be noted by chamber members.

"The fastest growing form of tourism today is eco-tourism and we have an opportunity to be in on that. It's an opportunity that if it passes, you can never get in on it again."

Wilson, who is also a chamber member, admitted Thursday he was less than thrilled by the executive's decision to remain neutral.

"As a chamber member I guess I am disappointed that the connection between the Brown property and eco-tourism doesn't appear to have caught the chamber's imagination."

18. (1)

Cheaper than a cup of coffee

and all for the price of half a cuppa

I gather that the cost of purchasing the remaining 15 acres of our forest (the Brown Property) amounts to about \$20 to \$25 per tax parcel. For my wife and myself, that works out at about 45 cents per week — which is less than half the cost of one cup of coffee.

Perry made a motion for the chamber to endorse the acquisition of the 15 acres of land.

In Perry's motion however, there was no mention of where the funds to acquire the land would come from, and the 85 or so people present passed it without any opposition.

Some in the community may have over valued the intention of that motion, says McWha.

"It was a 'feel good' motion," McWha said, adding he thinks "it fairly represents what the people in the community feel.

"In other words, if it's do-able, great," he said.

"From a chamber perspective, the issue is not whether the Brown property should be retained as a forest, the issue is whether tax dollars should be used as the method of acquiring it."

The ambiguous vote of support at the meeting for the acquisition of the property has to be taken in context, says Chamber manager Georgia Maclean.

My wife and I would like to be eligible to pay that modest sum to safeguard that lovely forest for our children, and our children's children. In 50 years — a hundred years generations yet unborn will thank us for our generosity and foresight. They sure wouldn't thank us for having rows of houses built on that property.
 Unlike sewers, road paving, airfield runway lights, that forest will appreciate mightily in value over time.
 Yours,
 Howard Perigo
 115 The Qualicum Beach

19. (1)

A dollar a year's not much

What is more beautiful than a park. Thanks to those responsible for Rath Trevor Beach, Parksville Flats, Englishman's River Falls Park, Little Qualicum Falls Park, etc.

I live in Parksville and I see no difference if a park is in Nanoose, Errington, or Deep Bay. It is in District 69 area.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if every head of a household gave one dollar for each year of his or her's age. It would be fun and exciting to see the Qualicum streets full of people going to make their donation to the Brown Property Preservation Society.

I have made my donation. I lied a little.

I am not 1000 years old.

Ray M. Young

Parksville

NEWS 9.5.2000

WITH AN INFORMATION meeting set for May 25 at 7 p.m. in the Civic Centre, and a referendum scheduled for June 17, controversy over the final 15 acres of Qualicum Beach's Brown property continues to simmer.

19. (2)

THE NEWS, Tuesday, May 16, 2000 • A7

letters

Taxes high enough without Brown purchase

The workup to the referendum proceeds. The Village council, except for Councillor Rodway has not clearly seen the problem as financial — which it is — but as ethical, as in, the total property must be acquired, for anything else is short-sighted and unthinking — maybe even mindless. If I have misread other councillors' views, and since council will do little else but rubber stamp a referendum result, is it too much to ask that councillors make their views on acquisition clear to the electorate? Please councillors.

It is unlikely that visitors would come to this village specifically to walk through an at least twice-forested piece of land, that while interesting has little to offer compared to the ocean beaches and the Village's comfortable ambience. If they did, where would they park? Would we pave some parts of the woods? Where would that be found in the cost projections? Have those who beat-acquisition drums visited the Milner

property in the Village? Now there is an environmental sight to see, and at no taxpayer cost and one wonders, why would anyone decide to visit the Brown tract, even in its entirety should that come to pass, when the Milner tract is so much more pristine and grander?

I despair of the current Canadian psyche which is that 'Yes, there is free lunch, and lots of it. Just put it on the tab and call the grandchildren when it gets too big — I'll be long gone, so I'm bombproof.' Our federal debt is

in the order of \$580 billion, provincials around \$280 billion including around \$40 billion of BC debt, and growing. Should we really be helping these folks to dig a financial grave with our own debt? Where does accountability start?

The Village is a lovely place to live, and the 35 acres of Brown land we helped finance is a park asset quite sufficient to our needs and our grandchildren's. I believe the Property Preservation Society is well meaning but exuberant to a fault

in its enthusiasm, and overly so in this instance.

'Spend and tax' policies benefit nobody and are national and provincial embarrassments. Let this Village get out of and remain out of long term debt as far as is practicable. We do not need the debt required to finance the purchase of the so called anti-blow-down last 15 acres of the Brown property. Taxes are rising quite nicely without this, thank you very much.

Neil Gillespie
Qualicum Beach

The Parksville / Qualicum Beach
Morning Sun

A member of the Vancouver Island Newspaper Group



Publisher: Bob McKenzie
General Sales Manager: Reg Cowie
Managing Editor: Bruce Winfield

1999 WINNER
 CCNA BETTER
 NEWSPAPERS
 COMPETITION

Phone: 954-0600
Fax: 954-0601

E-mail: thepaper@island.net
Web site: www.bcsupernet.com/sun
Mail to: Box 45, Parksville, B.C., V9P 2G3
 A division of Southam Publishing (B.C.) Ltd.
 at 114 East Hirst Ave., Parksville, B.C.

Referendum will answer QB dilemma

Question is ... should the purchase of the final 15 acres of the Brown property in Qualicum Beach be financed by the town's taxpayers?

Everyone seems so cranked up over that question, yet the answer is very, very simple.

Leave the decision to the voters in the upcoming referendum. They're the ones who will be paying the bills, and enjoy the benefits, so let them decide.

Right now, rather than revving up their rhetoric, and making the debate personal, councillors should be playing the role of political catalyst.

Councillors should inform the public of the pros and cons, without bias. They should debate the issue publicly, without taking offence, and make sure everyone knows where and when they have to vote.

Then, let the voters decide, and respect their decision.

20. (1)

Milner Gardens a real treasure

News
 16.5.2000

There has been quite sufficient discussion of late regarding the pros and cons of taxpayer purchase of the Brown Property, and I do not wish to add any more fuel to the fire. However there is a property of note in Qualicum Beach which has perhaps not received the attention to which it is due. I refer to the estate generously donated to Malaspina College by the late Veronica Milner in 1996 and now known as the Milner Gardens and Woodland. I recently had the pleasure of taking one of the escorted tours through this 70 acre gem, and came away entranced with the beauty and the contrasts of the estate, and also very impressed with the ongoing restoration by Malaspina horticulture students together with a corps of volunteers. I expect purists will denigrate this property, due to the number of imported plants and trees, but I consider the Milner Gardens and Woodland to be a treasure of which any community would be proud.

Brian Phillips
 Qualicum Beach.

20. (1)

Don't let your dogs run

Editor, the Morning Sun:

My trained dog and myself enjoy the beautiful Brown property parkland. My dog needs to run and he runs on the road and trail where I also walk.

We meet other people, also some with dogs and enjoy the company, but mostly we enjoy the freedom we feel walking in that beautiful parkland.

It is difficult to explain the joy of that whole package.

Many coming generations will say thank you God for the beautiful nature and thanks to past generations that were so concerned about saving it for us.

For the few people who don't care about their dog running wild, please don't spoil our joy.

Please make your dog stay with you on the road or trail you are walking, or keep your dog on a leash.

Please think about the joy other people have while walking through the parkland, hoping to see wildlife that can at times be visible.

Bendt Nielsen
 Qualicum Beach

M.S. 17.5.2000

Death by 1000 cuts — or cups of coffee

19.5. 2000

I'm totally fed up with people justifying wasting my tax dollars by using such simplistic specious arguments as "it will only cost you (to buy that dubious 15 acres of Brown Property, for example) 45 cents a week or half the cost of a cup of coffee."

Have these people never heard of "The Death of a Thousand Cuts?"

For the information of all these potential authors of "Taxation for the Feeble-Minded," I would like to point out that my residential taxes last year paid for 4,920 half-cups of coffee. Perhaps they would like to add in the penalties per day for income tax, GST and provincial taxes?

I sincerely hope that these poor, misguided souls never have to face a kindly surgeon who advises them, "We're going to amputate your leg, Mr. Jones, but don't worry as we'll only do it an inch at a time and you'll hardly notice."

Until you fall over, that is.

So, enough already.
Harvey Dorval
Qualicum Beach

Brown layout approved

20.5. 2000 By Valerie Baker M.S.

Preliminary layout approval has been given to an 11-lot subdivision proposed for a property surrounding the Brown family's former mansion.

Calgary developer John Merrett, who purchased the house and five acres roughly eight months ago, proposes to develop four acres that are already zoned R1 Residential.

Qualicum Beach planner Paul Butler said Merrett applied for preliminary layout approval for an 11-lot subdivision in January, which was granted on Feb. 28.

Butler said the property has been zoned residential for the past 20 years, but added that

"indications were that the five-acre portion would be left as it was." He called the subdivision application "unexpected."

"The property in question comes within a few feet of the creek," said Butler. "The three acres between the mansion and the ravine are quite important to the park."

Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson said it is "inconceivable" that someone would want to develop the area. "From the East Crescent entrance there's a trail which leads nicely through the woods, but the trail would be right on the edge of the property. People will literally be looking into someone's back yard from there," he said.

Logging controversy raised

M.S.

By Bruce Winfield
A ministry of forests official received a surprise broadside at the regional district's environmental services committee meeting Tuesday.

South Island Forest District manager Cindy Stern came to tell directors about forest district operations in general, and the small enterprise program in particular.

Everything went smoothly until Stern asked for questions. The unexpected broadside came from Area G director Joe Stanhope, who said the forests ministry should resolve controversy surrounding logging near Cathedral Grove.

While Cathedral Grove is a protected park, many nearby trees are actually on private land owned by Weyerhaeuser, Stanhope said in the past. If the company follows through

on plans to cut those nearby trees, the giants in Cathedral Grove will be at the mercy of the wind.

"That is a very critical issue that has elicited criticism from local residents," Stanhope told Stern. He fears the controversy could grow into an international embarrassment for the logging industry, and says jobs could be lost locally as a result.

Stanhope believes the best answer would be a land swap between the province and Weyerhaeuser to protect the trees around Cathedral Grove. He says the province and the logging company's predecessor, MacMillan Bloedel, were talking about this deal years ago.

"Somebody has to do something about it," said Stanhope.

While she sympathized, Stern said it is "becoming more and more

difficult to do these tradeoffs because we have very little to trade."

The forest ministry's top priority right now is compensating logging companies for logging rights taken away to create parks elsewhere.

Stanhope wasn't satisfied with that answer, saying forests should do something quickly. "Otherwise you'll have it all blown down," he said.

22. (1)

Empty pockets

Like most residents of Qualicum Beach I am most reticent to speak out on local issues. Today, an issue has hit me and my pocketbook like a thunderbolt — my tax notice.

I live in Eaglecrest and my taxes went up 9.25 per cent or \$270.13. It is significant to note \$188.83 of this total amount is listed under "General Municipal." Would a city mother or father please write to *THE NEWS* and explain to my neighbors and I how we have benefited from this exorbitant increase? Five years ago I retired and moved to my favorite town which is Qualicum Beach. During my working career I have owned properties in six other communities in B.C. Without question, we have one of the highest property tax rates in B.C. In five years my taxes have gone up in excess of 20 per cent.

I am an avid outdoorsman and a keen supporter of our environment. Given our current tax rate, I can not support the Brown Property proposal. My city guardians have spent my money tiling my downtown streets and I have no more money to give. Supporters of the Brown Property proposal, I'm sorry! The town fathers and mothers have more than picked my pocket; they have made me bitter.

News Bob Martin
Qualicum Beach

Speakers split over purchase of Brown land

27.5.2000

By Valerie Baker M.S.

To buy or not to buy the 15-acre Brown property — that was the debate in Qualicum Beach Thursday.

Opinions were split among the 150 people who came to hear staff presentations, arguments by councillors and to voice their own opinions.

Couns. Marlys Diamond and Scott Rodway will vote 'No' in the June 17 referendum.

Diamond said there is no money in the budget to buy the land, and that the town more than the provincial goal of 12 per cent in greenspace. "To ask a small municipality, with mainly a residential tax base, to acquire more is unrealistic," she said.

"Future taxes must address three major items," said Diamond, referring to the Laburnum ring road, a new firehall and firetruck, and the Arrowsmith Water Supply.

Rodway objected to high interest cost the town will face if it borrows. "I don't believe taxpayers can afford it," he said.

Coun. Scott Tanner — a proponent of the purchase — noted the irony of government identifying the property as rare, then not providing money to preserve it.

"It has been proven that it is much cheaper for communities to protect greenspace than to develop

it," said Tanner. "Please remember, tax revenues cannot buy clean air, clean water, and do not provide the birds that visit our back yards."

In the open session, Denise Widdifield suggested taxpayers make a one-time payment of \$225 to finance the loan — for which a tax receipt would be issued — rather than a \$25 per year parcel tax. "If we borrow the money it will cost \$411,000 in interest over 15 years," she said. "We cannot afford that debt load."

Responding to mayor Dennis Westbroek's question, about whether the purchase could be financed that way, town treasurer John Marsh said he has made enquiries regarding new government finance legislation. "I will get on to that tomorrow," he said.

Objections to the purchase from residents included the town's liability in a blowdown, the need to build Laburnum ring road to access the new school, and the possibility that the \$25 per year parcel tax would increase over the 15-year period.

Those in favour of the purchase spoke of the ecological value of preserving the forest, rather than being developed into a 50-lot subdivision, and the fact that taxes will increase in the future, regardless of the fact.

2 (1)

Town, residents show leadership

News 30.5.2000

BROWN DEBATE SHOWS QUALICUM BEACH CARES ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER

Congratulations Qualicum Beach, you've already won. No matter what the results of the upcoming forest preservation referendum, Qualicum Beach has established itself as a leader and a community that cares. Where else do citizens even contemplate a referendum to vote themselves more taxes to preserve a forest? What other community of this size could turn out 500 people for a presentation on forest ecology?

Your instinct for self-preservation has avoided the urban sprawl, strip-mall, used-car lot type of architectural ambience that afflicts so many of your neighbors. I offer my thanks to the foresight of past civic leaders for the unobstructed beach front walkway, for the golf course that frames the ocean view, for the public spaces and gardens that have garnered Qualicum Beach national and international recognition. There are disappointingly few other communities with the commitment to move beyond hollow rhetoric about their concern for the welfare of other species, and to actually commit time and money to remedy past mistakes.

Thank you Qualicum Beach for constructing fish friendly culverts for the spawning salmon, erecting natural history interpretative viewing platforms to educate about the need for habitat conservation, and

throwing a party for migrating geese. How do we determine quality of life? Can a songbird be assigned a dollar value? Do we sell them by the pound? How do you buy a child's memory of seeing a fawn, its dapples blending with mottled sunlight as it streams through the branches in the cathedral-like canopy of a forest patriarch, and falls softly on the moss drenched forest floor.

My children have had that experience in the Brown forest. What price is a drink of clean, clear cold water from a babbling brook on a hot summer's day? These are questions our society and our species must address and soon. The 15 acres and the integrity of one tiny stream are just the introduction to this discussion.

How do we find ways to redress past mistakes and to learn to do our forestry, fishery, and development with more sensitivity, and more respect for the needs of biological communities and future generations?

Congratulations citizens of Qualicum Beach for showing you care enough to start asking these difficult questions. These debates don't divide you, they establish your leadership in addressing the survival of our souls.

Phil Carson
Little Qualicum



QUALICUM BEACH RESIDENTS are still split on whether or not the town should borrow to buy the final 15 acres of the Brown property.

No clear winner in Brown debate

All signs point to close referendum decision if meeting is gauge

By ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER 30.5.2000

Qualicum Beach councillors Marlys Diamond and Scott Rodway oppose borrowing to purchase the final 15 acres of the Brown property. Coun. Scott Tanner says the property is too rare not to save. And Coun. Anton Kruyt chose not to speak at all at Thursday's public meeting, preferring to sit at the back of the room and absorb the comments of fellow councillors, town staff and members of the public.

The varied opinions of council mirrored the mood in general at the public information meeting. Just shy of 150 people came to hear the facts and listen to each other's opinions about whether the town should borrow funds to preserve the property.

Diamond, the first councillor to speak, explained she places high priority on long-range planning as outlined in the official community plan, and prudent financial management.

She said the town will already have to borrow significant funds to complete at least one phase of Laburnum road, hook up to the Arrowsmith water supply, build a new, earthquake-resistant fire hall and purchase a new fire truck.

"We have seen the horror of mounting debts in our federal and provincial governments," she said. "I have no desire to emulate that kind of leadership."

Rodway said when he looks at the Brown Property Preservation Society's promotional brochure "I see trees. I don't see large trees, I see trees."

He said the site has been logged and contains a large amount of second-growth.

Referring to a map produced by Environment Canada and provincial ministries, Coun. Scott Tanner said the Brown property has been identified as "one of the few sensitive riparian and older forest ecosystems that still remain here on the east coast of Vancouver Island."

"Did you move to Qualicum Beach because of all the attractive subdivisions or because of the variety of our natural assets such as the beach front and our walking trails?" he asked.

The question and answer period showed an even split between residents.

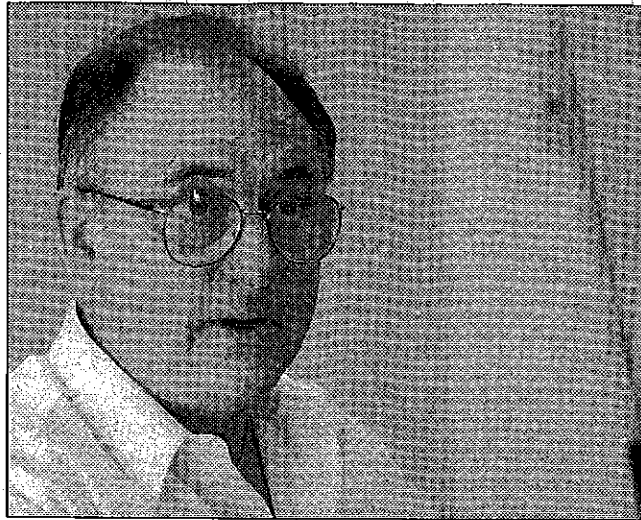
Former mayor Art Skipsey started things off, asking mayor Teunis Westbroek to confirm there are still lots available for building in town.

"I don't see any restriction on building for the next 40 years," Skipsey said. So we don't need the property for a subdivision. The DCC's are going to come anyway."

He said his only fear is ongoing cost, and a non-profit society of interested citizens should be responsible for upkeep of the property.

Westbroek confirmed the town still has approximately 300 lots available to build on.

Denyse Widdifield said if the town buys the property, she would rather pay the amount the 15-acre purchase will cost her up-front than be stuck with the accumulated interest over 15 years. When Westbroek asked if Widdifield's suggestion

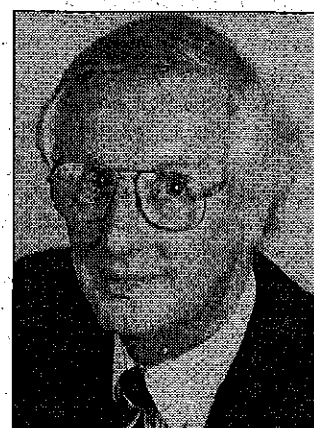


FORMER NFLD PREMIER Brian Peckford wades in.



Scott Rodway

...Looking at the Brown Property "I see trees, I don't see large trees."



Anton Kruyt

...won't tell the media where he stands but will tell former premiers

is an option for taxpayers, the town's chief administrative officer, John Marsh, said he wasn't sure, but would look into it.

After the meeting, Coun. Kruyt, a retired chartered accountant, said he thought Widdifield's idea would work.

When asked why he didn't speak at the meeting, Kruyt told *THE NEWS* "I have told you before, I do not conduct my political life according to the desires of the media."

Former Newfoundland premier Brian Peckford was more successful.

"Are you for or against? As my elected official, I want to know where you stand," he challenged Kruyt. "I did not hear you take a stand — you disappoint me."

After a good-natured exchange, Kruyt said he will likely vote Yes to the referendum, and if it succeeds, Yes again on whether council should buy the property with the funds it is authorized to borrow.

"I'm glad to hear it," Peckford said.

"Brian and I argue all the time," Kruyt told *THE NEWS*.

Vote "Yes" on June 17

to preserve the remaining 15 acres of the Brown Property



"Let us leave a splendid legacy for our children... let us turn to them and say, 'this you inherit; guard it well, for it is far more precious than money, and once destroyed, nature's beauty cannot be repurchased at any price'."

- Ansel Adams

Our Vision

To preserve the property as a public park dedicated to the appreciation of nature, with signs to identify the various plants and their role in the ecosystem and board-walk trails to minimize the disturbance to habitat.

Brown Property Acquisition Referendum

What? To acquire for \$900,000 the remaining 15 acres of the Brown's 50 acre forest

When? June 17, 2000, 8 am - 8 pm (Advanced Polls on June 7 & 14)

Where? Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

The Cost? A maximum of \$25 per household for 15 years

Tour the Property

We encourage everyone to walk through the property and experience for themselves the beauty and tranquility of this magnificent old forest. The trail is open daily. Guided tours are available on Sundays from 1 - 3 pm. Call 752-8135 for info.



*Brown Property
Preservation Society,
c/o Walker & Wilson Lawyers
707 Primrose St,
Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 2K1,
752-6951*

Donations welcomed

Space donated by the Qualicum Totem June 2000

"Green" councilors' silence in Brown debate puzzling

It has been suggested by one of the local media that the most appropriate position for Qualicum Beach Town Councilors to take on the Brown Property referendum is one of neutrality.

Provide all the necessary facts and figures on the project, the editorial said, then step back and let the people decide. It is point of view that has been voiced before in the community, not just by the media, and on other equally contentious issues.

The inference being that once someone becomes an elected official they forfeit the right to participate in the public debate. It's a suggestion that makes no sense.

If there is one single benefit in being a small town politician it is the opportunity to be a major player in the decision making process.

Editorial *Totem June 2000*

Over and over you are given the chance to get up on a soap box and promote your pet projects. If you are particularly persuasive many of those projects will be supported by the rest of Council and you will be given the satisfaction of knowing you played a big part in ensuring they were implemented.

Because of this it's hard not to be puzzled by the silence coming from three former members of the Brown Property Society who now serve on Council. The most charitable explanation for their conduct is to suggest that they were only ever interested in completing half the project. Once the previous council had done

that, they felt free to turn their attentions to other matters.

The fact is, it's always been an all or nothing proposition. At least, for those who have been genuinely committed to preserving this very rare urban forest.

At 50 acres, the Brown forest is large enough to withstand the ravages of almost any external force - fire being perhaps the one exception. Chop down a third of it and who knows what will happen to the remaining trees, the plantlife, the creek, the fish, the wildlife, the indescribable peace and beauty it provides.

Mention was made by the mayor at a recent public meeting about the desire of council to leave a legacy. Surely with three members personally connected to the Brown Society you'd expect that project to be at the top of their list. It's hard to imagine them only wanting to be remembered for competing something as uninspired as another section of ring road.

The most that can be said in their favour, at this point, is that they were at least willing to allow the matter to go to referendum.

To ensure success, however, the campaign needs an endorsement from Council - one equal to that given to last year's referendum on boundary extension.

Richard de Candole

Here's hoping for a "Yes" vote

Knowing what happened the last time area residents were called upon to save from development valuable forest and riparian land I have no hesitation in urging everyone to vote "Yes" in the June 17 Brown Property Referendum.

Eight years ago a campaign to preserve the Parkville Flats along the Englishman River fell short and today the park that exists is not half the experience it might otherwise be.

Had the matter been put to a referendum the outcome might have been very different.

The Brown Property Preservation Society is to be commended for generating the kind of public support needed to force a referendum. There is no fairer way to decide a matter of this magnitude. It would give me much pleasure to cast my vote in favour. Unfortunately, I'm not eligible,

SEEN & HEARD *Totem June 2000* By Richard de Candole

I live in Hilliers but I have been a supporter and contributor from day one.

Thanks to the efforts of residents in earlier times our community has many outstanding natural assets. The Brown property forest could be our contribution to that legacy.

...

23. (1)

Borrowing cost too high

Editor, the Morning Sun:

This letter is addressed to Qualicum Beach Councillors.

My wife and I follow with interest the material dealing with the Brown property purchasing proposal/plan.

We would suggest an alternate method of paying for the property. Instead of charging every homeowner the same amount, \$25 per year, they could charge land/homeowners the cost in proportion to the amount of taxes they pay.

This means that people in smaller homes, and probably with smaller incomes, would be more fairly dealt with. Does that not make it a little more equitable for all of the taxpayers in Qualicum?

We hope you will give serious consideration to this suggested method of paying for the Brown property by us taxpayers. We hope this can be changed.

John and Dottie Stokles

31.5. 2000

Funding alternative possible

M.S.

31.5.2000

By Valerie Baker

An alternate way of paying for the 15-acre Brown property — should the referendum succeed — has been investigated by Qualicum Beach town treasurer John Marsh, following last week's public information meeting.

At that meeting, resident Denise Widdifield suggested taxpayers make a one-time payment of \$225 to finance the loan, rather than the proposed \$25-per-year parcel tax over the next 15 years.

"Let's buy the damn thing — but don't ask me to put in on my tax bill," she said.

The town recently passed a loan authorization bylaw to borrow a maximum of \$840,000 to purchase the property, subject to approval at referendum, which would result in an annual debt payment of \$93,000, which would be over 15 years.

Marsh said he has received several enquiries regarding the lump-sum option since last week's public meeting, and confirmed there is Municipal Act legislation which allows taxpayers to make a single payment up-front, rather than having it added to their tax bills each year as a parcel tax.

However, Marsh said the figure of \$225 is very approximate, as is the

Picnic in the park

By Valerie Baker

The public will have the opportunity to enjoy a Sunday afternoon picnic amid the trees of the Brown property in Qualicum Beach.

An old-fashioned, no-frills family picnic — organized by the Brown Property Preservation Society — will be held on June 11.

The picnic will be held near the riding ring and stable area of the property, and picnickers are encouraged to walk the trails, says society director Ann Klees. "Come around 1 pm and stay as long as you like."

If it rains, the alternate date for the picnic is Sun., June 18. For more info, call 752-6432.

Residents' opinions on whether the town should purchase the property were evenly split among the roughly 150 people at last week's public meeting.

Among comments

23. Town finances are tight

(1) Editor, the Morning Sun

31.5.2000

"Our town treasurer gave us a clear message at the town's public budget meeting.

The cost of doing business in Qualicum Beach is going up. Unless we are willing to accept less services, then we will have to be prepared to pay more taxes.

He also told us the town's financial reserves are almost depleted, with the exception of \$1.5 million in the water and sewer accounts, which can only be used for these purposes.

In my case, I have seen the assessed value of my home drop in the last five years by 8.4 per cent. During the same period my total taxes have increased by 17.5 per cent (\$488).

We are now informed, in the May issue of the Town's Noteworthy Newsletter, about three of the Town's major capital expenditures, the completion of the Laburnam/Rupert Ring Road, estimated to cost \$4 million; a new fire hall and fire truck, at approximately \$1 million; and our future connection to the Arrowsmith water service, currently estimated at \$6 million.

We are now being told, by the Brown Preservation Society, that in order to protect our investment in the 35

acre Brown Park we purchased last year (for \$483,826 from our reserves) we must now buy an additional 15 acres at a cost of approximately \$800,000, plus interest.

If the Society is so concerned about protecting our original investment, why did they not take steps to protect the four vital acres between the Brown mansion and the current entrance to our park on East Crescent, which has now been approved for an 11-home subdivision.

I for one will vote 'NO' in the upcoming referendum.

P.F. Hadley
Qualicum Beach

Fiscal responsibility demands a No vote

Fiscal responsibility, words that should warm the cockles of the heart of all sensible persons. Unfortunately, when spoken from the federal and provincial levels of government they merely create a sinking feeling in one's sensitive spots or engender loud, cynical laughter. We expect better at the local level but in Qualicum Beach, we

seem to have the same problem. The grandiose promises of last fall's election are being compromised by two of the five council members while another one refuses to publicly commit himself. It seems that fiscal responsibility is a conditional thing. During 1999, the previous council wiped out the town's general reserves in a irresponsi-

ble disregard of future multi-million dollar needs. We are now being asked to provide a further \$1 million-plus, together with the surrender of \$500,000 in potential DCC's to buy trees of very debatable value. All the stops are being pulled out to tell us how wonderful it will be to have this treasure at the modest price of one-half cup of coffee

per day. What will be the reaction when taxpayers are asked to find the multi-millions more that will be required while the Brown debt still hangs around our collective neck? Fiscal responsibility demands that the vote is 'no' in the coming referendum for the Brown property
F. H. Hörner
News 26, 2000 Qualicum Beach

QB residents can avoid 15 years of park tax by paying up front

By **ADRIENNE MERCER**
NEWS REPORTER 2.6.2000

If the Brown property referendum passes June 17, legislation exists under the Municipal Act to allow Qualicum Beach taxpayers to make a one-time payment instead of paying \$25 per year plus interest over 15 years.

"It is possible, and I will personally pay the \$225 right after the referendum, whichever way it goes," Mayor Teunis Westbroek said Tuesday.

He said council will have to make a decision as to how payments can be made, but said the lump-sum idea is a good idea.

"People will end up paying about \$150 less than they will by paying \$25 per year for 15 years," he said, adding he's aware the option won't work for all taxpayers, as not everyone can afford to make such a large payment.

Treasurer John Marsh researched the idea after the May 25 public information meeting, when resident Denyse Widdifield said she would rather make a one-time payment than be taxed for 15 years.

While she's happy her suggestion is a possibility, Widdifield says she will still be voting No in the referendum.

"It's a beautiful bunch of trees," said Widdifield, who was on her way out for a walk through the property when contacted by *THE NEWS* Thursday.

"We can't afford it. I think we should vote it down ... to borrow it is just too much money for a community of our size."

The Brown Property referendum is set for Saturday, June 17, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. Advance polls are June 7 and June 14, also at the Civic Centre from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. All Qualicum Beach residents are eligible to vote, whether or not they pay taxes.

45¢ a week a modest cost for Brown Property

Surgeon's knife, or half a cup of coffee? A recent letter to *THE NEWS* observed that the cost of purchasing the remaining 15 acres of the Brown Property forest would amount to about 45 cents per week, or half the cost of a cup of coffee (most families are quite comfortable with a weekly budgeting approach).

This invited a critical response, in which the analogy was drawn with losing one toe after another on the operating table, or even more horrendous, suffering the infamous death of a thousand cuts. Clearly, each of us reacts to tax increases in a different way, and thank heavens we have vehicles like *THE NEWS* to pass on our views.

But the fact remains that the tax cost of the Brown Property purchase is about 45 cents per week; hopefully, payment of such a modest amount would be somewhat less painful than going under the dreaded surgeon's knife.

Howard Perrigo
2.6.2000 Qualicum Beach

Beach Creek a flowing success

ALL THAT'S NEEDED NOW IS THE RETURN OF COHO AND CHUM

By DAVID HAY 26, 2000
NEWS REPORTER

But for a few finishing touches, the Beach Creek Improvement Project is complete — and the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers say that should mean a return of coho, chum and other fish to the waterway.

As well, the Old Dutch Inn will no longer have the creek running beneath its foundations, and the residents of Elizabeth Avenue will have their neighborhood back to themselves.

Construction on the project began last September, after the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers obtained a \$76,000 Environment Canada EcoAction 2000 grant to enhance the creek as fish habitat.

The Town of Qualicum Beach participated in the project as well, given that the stream had created drainage problems around the area of Elizabeth Avenue and Memorial Drive, actually passing directly beneath The Old Dutch Inn.

"The object was to take care of the drainage problem and enhance fish habitat at the same time," said Teunis



QUALICUM BEACH MAYOR Teunis Westbrook (right) and Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers representative Faye Smith pose on the banks of Beach Creek. The creek underwent an enhancement project with the hope of bringing fish back to its bed.

Westbrook, mayor of Qualicum Beach.

The re-alignment of Beach Creek includes new culverts with offset baffles, set up like staggered ladder rungs, which create turbulence in the water and give fish the opportunity to rest on their journey upstream. The baffles also create habitat for the invertebrates that constitute food for the fish.

"We're looking for significant increases in the numbers

of coho and chum salmon coming back in the fall," said Faye Smith, of the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers. "It's just great to see this being a productive stream again."

Smith says the salmon would come up Beach Creek, through the golf course and into the sheltered waters of the Brown property, where they would spawn in the hospitable habitat there.

And Westbrook says the May 19 opening of a new

route to the ocean for Beach Creek marks a new era for ecological responsibility in this area.

"We are reversing the trend that saw the decimation of many fish bearing streams and fish stocks on the east coast of Vancouver Island," said Westbrook. "And if you look at the crest for the town of Qualicum Beach, one half of it is a fish — so we'd better make sure they get safe passage."

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER

6.6.2000

Tomorrow the first group of Qualicum Beach residents will cast their ballots in the Brown Property referendum advance poll.

The poll runs from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. Voters must be residents of Qualicum Beach. A second advance poll will happen June 14, and the referendum is set for June 17.

Residents are being asked if they want the town to be able to borrow an amount not greater than \$840,000 to purchase the final 15 acres of the property — which is for sale at a cost of \$900,000.

The referendum question reads "Are you in favor of the Council adopting Town of Qualicum Beach Authorization Bylaw No. 583, 2000, which would allow the Town to borrow money to purchase approximately 15.5 acres (6.3 hectares) of land commonly known as the Brown property under the following conditions: borrow no more than \$840,000 with a repayment term not to

exceed 15 years, and; repay the principal and interest of the amount borrowed by levying a parcel tax each year of a maximum of \$25 per parcel."

If the referendum passes, council will then vote on whether or not to adopt the bylaw.

Councillors Marlys Diamond and Scott Rodway oppose purchasing the property with town money, while Coun. Scott Tanner is in favor, though he believes the provincial and federal governments should have helped Qualicum Beach preserve the land.

Coun. Anton Kruyt has not discussed the issue publicly, though after the May 25 public information meeting, he said he will likely vote Yes in the referendum and at the council table.

Qualicum Beach preserved 35 acres of the Brown property last year, at a cost of \$908,460. The town kicked in \$417,699 from development-cost charges and other reserve funds, while the Brown Property Preservation Society came up with \$426,000.

Advance polls
open
tomorrow

25.
(2)

Bark up the right tree

Could it be that some people are barking up the wrong tree?

What are the things that have contributed to the higher taxes over the past decade? The major item has been administration costs which have increased at four times the population growth. Much of that can be tracked to the new Town Hall, capital and operating costs.

Each year additional "squares" that require constant care have been added which mean more staff and more trucks.

Maybe voices of dissent and support should focus on other targets to save money rather than sacrificing the Brown property trees.

Here are a few suggestions:

Phone your MLA (724-4454) and your MP (752-8888) to request some government funds that are lavished on remote and often inaccessible parks elsewhere. This treasure will be enjoyed by all, not just locals. Phone your elected Councillor and insist on an estimate for a seismic up-grade on the fire-hall. My guess is that \$300000 will save \$700,000.

Put pressure on health authorities for a community hospital. In 1986 there were 100 beds in N.R.G.H. occupied by District 69 residents who did not require the services of a special treatment centre. How much will you spend in the next 15 years visiting friends or relatives at a cost of \$28 per trip to the NRGH.

In uncertain economic times some have invested in diamonds or gold. Money invested in the Brown trees will likely outperform either of these.

Currently we are enjoying past purchases by the community including additional waterfront, greenbelts, park land and of course the Golf Course. Will there be a legacy from the present?

Years ago I had the opportunity to contribute to the Orpheum Theatre purchase and renovation. This has given me much satisfaction and pride each time I attend a performance there. I know of no better way to connect to your community than to support something of lasting value. I ask you to support and enhance your community by voting yes for the Brown property purchase.

Make your money "bark up the right tree"

Arthur N. Skipsey
Qualicum Beach

NEWS
6.6.2000

VIEWPOINT NEWS 6.6.2000 Keeping it simple on the vote

I received this letter recently via e-mail. It seems someone out there has an opinion that newspaper columnists should not express opinions on issues in their community. Before I express an opinion on the June 17 Brown Property loan referendum, I felt our readers might like to get a look at this interesting slant on freedom of expression.

It was titled Dirty Pool.

"Dear editor. It is unlikely that expressing distinct editorial views on the acquisition of the Brown property is illegal per se, but as you are, I am told, a Qualicum resident with a vested interest in whether to acquire or not, your printed pro acquisition comments are less than ethical to your fellow Qualicum taxpayers — unfair at least. Please don't tell me you have no say in if or how your comments are printed in THE NEWS. I suggest you keep your privileged editorial views on the Brown property out of THE NEWS until after the referendum has been put to bed."

— Neil Gillespie,
Qualicum Beach



Jeff Vircoe

Well sir, it is precisely because I am a journalist and a resident of Qualicum Beach that I feel totally comfortable in

expressing my opinion on the matter of the Brown Property. This paper has run many letters from both sides of the issue. Many people in our community have rightfully expressed and will continue to express their opinions on our pages. Dialogue is a good thing I say. To tell the local paper to muzzle itself is ridiculous. In fact, I believe it would be unethical to say nothing.

So, for what it's worth, my opinion as a resident and as a columnist is we should buy the 15 acres which buffer the juicy 35 acres. One because of the potential for blowdown, which could negatively affect the survival chances of the old growth trees in the 35 acres. Two because it is the right thing to do.

For me it is that simple.

Last year, we taxpayers purchased a fantastic park in the 35 acres. To risk blowdown now is akin to buying fancy furniture for a paper mache house. Build the walls for heaven's sake.

Sure we could say no to the Brown Property Preservation Society, force them to buy what they can with the money they have raised, let the developer clearcut the vast majority of that land and hope the blowdown theorists were wrong.

Are you willing to roll the dice?

Having walked the adjoining property with long time groundskeeper Fran Lacey, I have seen the stumps created by blowdown. I believe not purchasing the remaining 15 acres is too great a risk. I won't roll the dice — unless you democratically order me with a No vote on referendum day.

It is all well and nice for the No side to attempt to tell our voters that we can't afford \$25 per year (and that is the worst case scenario) but frankly, for such a legacy in downtown Qualicum Beach, I say we can. It remains my opinion that the right thing to do is to save our land from developers whenever possible, so the future inhabitants of this unique community can have something other than concrete and lamp posts to look at.

There is plenty of land to build fancy houses on inside our boundaries other than that lush, sensitive and highly visible parcel of land known as the Brown property.

Houses or trees. On June 17, you make the call.

Interest payment simply too steep for most Qualicum Beach pocketbooks

NEWS 6.6.2000

The Brown Property referendum information meeting May 25 was very informative.

The town staff explained the "whats and wherefors" and the councillors gave us their views. I was especially disappointed in Coun. Scott Tanner's remarks.

Mr. Tanner sure did a complete turn around since he was elected. I hope it is an about-face and not a deliberate "lie to get elected".

We all remember that Coun. Tanner repeatedly assured the electorate (at campaign time) that he would hold the line on taxes and advocate fiscal responsibility and NOT spend any tax dollars towards the purchase of the remainder of the Brown property.

Well, he has certainly changed his tune or is experiencing a memory lapse because he is all for additional tax money being levied to purchase the remainder of the Brown Property. Coun. Tanner I think that you owe the

Qualicum Beach electorate an apology and that you should, from now on, stand by your word and promises. If you want to change your tune, then wait until the next election.

As for my statement that evening, I want to make sure that everyone understood what I proposed. The cost of borrowing \$840,000 at today's rates will generate an interest bill of over \$410,000 in the 15 year installment period. This is an outrageous amount of interest to pay and about half of the cost for the new firehall (a necessity!!).

Each ratepayer's portion of the price (without interest) is \$225. I have a solution — Solution 225. We, as voters, defeat the upcoming referendum, the debt burden is not acceptable.

Then, between now and August 1, each of the 3,640 ratepayers drop off a cheque for \$225 to the Brown Property Preservation Society (I'm sure you can use your credit card) who will issue you a charitable

contribution receipt. This contribution will raise the \$840,000 needed to purchase the option property.

Now, I am not naive, I know that some people will not pay this money voluntarily, but, I expect that other residents will offset their portion. I know that some businesses and individuals who may not own property in Qualicum Beach but recognize the value of the purchase will gladly fork over some money.

This fund raising effort would be a big job but we can do it without paying one penny in interest!

And ... if we're a little short on funds, well we can always purchase a big portion of the property. I know this will work! Just give it a chance!

Denyse Widdifield
Qualicum Beach

26. (2)

Brown meet was good

Editor, the Morning Sun:

7.6.2000

After leaving the Qualicum Beach meeting regarding the Brown property, I felt very optimistic about the upcoming referendum.

Both sides were given time at the mike to state their views.

Those for the purchase voiced their opinions on the rights of nature, the need for not disturbing the existing eco-system and the correctness of preserving our heritage for upcoming generations. And of course, this is our last chance. Once it's gone, it's gone forever!

Those against the purchase stressed the danger of overextending the budget to purchase property that would not be worth the purchase price. And of course, the purchase would create lost taxes.

As I see it, if it was just about taxes and money, it would not have even come to the point of referendum.

It has been a slow journey to the point where the world's ethical position is saving the forest before it's gone. If you read the book *Forests of Hope* by Christian Kuchi, you will see where the cash crop mentality has taken us.

What was not mentioned at the meeting was that over \$100,000 in municipal bonds has been pledged by the people of Qualicum Beach. This is over and above the \$110,000 in donations already collected. These bonds will not be pursued if the referendum fails.

A lump sum payment, in lieu of a yearly tax levy, was presented. With this voluntary system, the savings on the interest on a loan would be substantial, or the loan could be cut down to a lower amount which would be more palatable to all Qualicum Beach taxpayers.

Whichever way you feel, get out and vote. It is your last chance to voice your opinion on the Brown property issue.

Paul Ryniak

M. S. 7.6. 2000



Maxine Carpenter

'Emotional' is welcome label

People who argue for justice, demonstrate for peace, insist on similar rights for everyone, try to protect the environment or get involved in any of dozens of other concerns are often said by their opponents to be acting on emotion.

Very true. And your point is?

For reasons I fail to understand, most of us have bought the idea that emotion and logic are opposites. In most fields of discourse, all you have to do in order to demolish someone's arguments is to label them emotional, and therefore not to be taken seriously.

It's too bad this notion is so widespread, because very few human beliefs are more irrational than this one.

Think about it. What would mankind's logical societies be like if they were actually built on logic, and not feeling? The reason we have rules, and what we like to think is an orderly civilization, is because of emotions.

At one time, it was probably the custom to torture people who disagreed with the prevailing politics. In many places, it still is. The reason some societies don't do it any more is because the screams of pain resulting from the practice made some of the listeners feel bad.

We try not to steal from each other, and punish the people who do (some of them anyway) because getting stolen from makes the victim madder than a hornet. Anger, I believe, qualifies as one of the stronger emotions, so we have laws against robbery, thievery and even white collar chicanery.

It was not long ago at all that men routinely spit globs of tobacco juice wherever they were public streets included. This aroused so much disgust — an emotion — that it eventually became socially unacceptable, and subsequently illegal.

The interesting thing is that all of these emotionally created rules and regulations have strong practical benefits as well. Therefore, I see no conflict between feelings and logic. The only progress humans have ever made has come from the emotional need for change and improvement. The only rationality we're capable of comes from our capacity to feel. Much as we try to become robots, we remain merely human.

Personally, I hate the fact that we're destroying Mother Earth and most of her creatures. I want such incredibly idiotic behaviour changed. Because of feelings, I want us to make sure all our citizens have a place to sleep and that our kids are never abused.

I desire a permanent end to war - the most profoundly illogical activity ever invented. I'll feel much happiness when all these things are accomplished, and the sooner the better.

Yes, all these dreams are highly emotional, thank you very much.

27.(1)

Decision to preserve an important one

BROWN PROPERTY CONSERVATION IMPORTANT FOR NOW, AND FOR FUTURE

As the fate of the Brown property will soon be decided, we would like to give our perspectives as children who have grown up living beside this valuable piece of land.

Nine years ago our family bought a house in Qualicum Woods, and we began spending our summers here in Qualicum. At that time, the Brown property was a large pristine piece of land where we spent many hours exploring. The stately trees, and the amount of wildlife kept us busy each summer.

Four years ago, our family moved here permanently, and we became aware that every year the property was getting smaller. This saddened us greatly, as the frequency with which we saw deer decreased, and the woods

became less imposing. The decision that the taxpayers of Qualicum must make is an important one; to preserve this pristine piece of forest means deciding to conserve a little piece of what drew many of us to the island in the first place: the beauty of nature. We feel that preserving this land is crucial, not only because we want future generations to be able to enjoy it as well, but because we have the opportunity to make a statement about our societal values. Conservation is important to us, and we are committed to the concept, and to this land.

We hope that the Brown property is rescued from development.

Katya, Stephen, and Tony Buttner-Schnirer

Ages 17, 15 and 13

7.6. 2000 NEWS

Other issues need tax dollars more

The Brown Property Preservation Society was formed almost four years ago. I was one of the founding members. We were told that there were many environmental organizations and governments that we could look to for help in preserving this property. The well-touted Andrew Harcombe report was received by the Society in the first six months of its existence. Since then, it has been presented to every funding agency the Society could find. Two provincial ministers of the environment and their staff have reviewed it. A copy was given to the chair of the BC Nature Trust, to MacBlo, etc. etc. etc. We have all read where these same organizations have assisted in preserving other ecologically valuable sites, yet not one of these organizations has been convinced to assist in preserving any of the Brown Property, particularly the remaining 15 acres.

I am pleased that the first 35 acres have been preserved. It contains all of the rare plant life, the oldest significant trees and Beach Creek. However, I can't support the spending of up to \$840,000 plus approximately another \$400,000 in interest for the remaining 15 acres, when our small community has other pressing needs which will require our tax dollars.

Regardless of how you feel about this proposed purchase, I could urge all our residents to turn out and vote your preference on Saturday, June 17.

P. J. Hadley
Qualicum Beach

Mayor's remarks ring warning bells

In your front page article, *THE WEEK-ENDER* June 2, on the continuing saga of the Brown property, your reporter quotes Mayor Teunis Westbrook as saying "and I will personally pay the \$225 right — after the referendum **WHICHEVER** way it goes" (my emphasis).

Warning bells are sounding! Does this mean that he intends to override a "No" decision (presumably with a narrow 3-2 council vote) if such is the referendum result?

Shades of the bulk water referendum where a 60-plus percentage rejection, nevertheless, was converted into a "yes" and a \$6-million future obligation by the council of the day.

Mayor Westbrook would be well advised to refrain from any interference with referendum result—whichever way it goes. Even if it turns out to be an imprecise 50-plus percentage there is already enough divisive feeling in town without adding more fuel to the fire.

F.H. Horner
Qualicum Beach

28. (1)

Opportunity to save this forest is priceless

9.6.2000 NEWS

Last Sunday as we walked through the Brown property, my husband and I spotted a pileated woodpecker in the trees adjacent to the trail and just below the woodpecker was a hummingbird near a bush. These two species are a small representation of all the living creatures in this unique forest ecosystem. This chance encounter with them reminded us of the fact that we no longer see these picturesque birds in our Qualicum Beach yard. The hummingbirds still come to the feeder but we rarely see the woodpecker anymore. Ten years ago when we first moved here they were frequent visitors. Why? Could it be that there has been much clear-

ing for subdivision houses above us and the development of the lots around our place? In saving the remaining portion of the Brown property we have a chance to set aside a large piece of urban property, which will help prevent the fragmentation of habitat that has driven many bird species (and other species) out of our back yards!

The opportunity to save this property so that future generations can view these bird species and other living creatures is priceless. It would be "fiscally responsible" if we deny them this gift! Vote Yes on the June 17 referendum.

Anne Wilson
Qualicum Beach

corrected to "irresponsible" in next issue. see page 67b

Financial info not town's

By ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER 9.6.2000

Copies of a town report on financial implications of purchasing the remaining 15 acres of the Brown property are being distributed to Qualicum Beach homes.

But deputy administrator Sandra Keddy says whoever is making the deliveries is doing it on an individual basis.

"It's not coming from the town," she told *The News*.

Keddy said Mark Brown, the town's chief administrative officer, received a phone call about the deliveries Thursday. "That was the first we'd heard of it."

The report, prepared by financial administrator John Marsh, is neither for nor against the purchase of the 15 acres, but outlines cost to the taxpayer of borrowing to purchase the property.

On Wednesday, 405 people voted in the first advance poll for the Brown property referendum. Another advance poll will be held June 14 at the Civic Centre, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The referendum itself is set for June 17, also at the Civic Centre from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Big award for preservation society

SALUTATIONS FROM VICTORIA

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER 9.6.2000



Chris Lee

...His efforts a big part of government recognition for preservation society

The provincial government honored the Brown Property Preservation Society with a major environmental award Thursday.

The society won the 2000 Minister's Environmental Award in the community/non-profit organization category, after being nominated by the Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce.

The awards were presented to 11 groups and individuals in five different categories, in recognition of outstanding contributions to protecting and enhancing British Columbia's environment.

"It's gratifying being recognized for community service, and we appreciate being nominated by the Chamber," said society president Jack Wilson, who travelled to the provincial legislature in Victoria yesterday for the formal announcement of the award.

Barrie McWha, president of the Qualicum Beach Chamber, said the organization is delighted Environment Minister Joan Sawicki saw fit to recognize the preservation society's efforts.

Information released by

the Ministry of Environment, Land and Parks recognizes the society for "tireless work in raising funds to purchase environmentally significant land for preservation as a park," and says the society's work over the past four years to preserve the Brown property exemplifies what can be accomplished when a group of people work together towards a common goal."

Wilson acknowledged countless hours of work by the society and its executive in raising funds and public awareness.

"The work of past president Chris Lee in acquiring the 35 acres with the town is a big part of this," he said.

29. (1)

Brown property not a 'fast cat' deal

In response to the letters submitted by people who can not understand the reasons we need to buy the Brown Property as a natural green belt in our community I must provide my opinion. I feel sometimes it is necessary to give, in whatever way you can, to ensure Qualicum Beach will continue to be a place we can be proud of.

By adding this unique and centrally located park type land as another positive community feature we would gain something our future generations will be grateful for years to come. Without this kind of foresight would there be Stanley Park ... Beacon Hill Park ... Qualicum's valuable public beach front? Not likely!

This is a small price to pay for a legacy that will outlive us all.

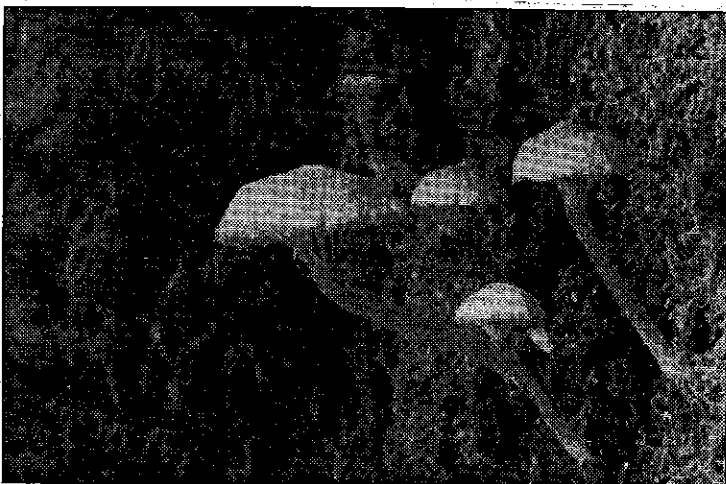
Avoiding spending more money is a valid concern for many already stretched to the limits financially. This is not a "Fast-Ferry Deal"; your money will be spent well to help

preserve Qualicum's beauty and reputation as a place where we will want to visit supporting one of our primary industries with dollars our local merchants rely on. It will become part of the package which keeps our local economy strong, providing a pleasant place to live, stimulating house construction and other services. I say this short term pain will provide enough long term gain to be beneficial. Help our community grow the right way, piece by piece. Please do what you can for our future generations, as our predecessors have done for us!

As an Area G resident, not able to contribute with my taxes, I have elected to donate my taxable equivalent through the Brown Property fund which is open for any concerned citizen to use as a method of giving to your community.

NEWS 9.6.2000

Gary Nelson
French Creek



PRESERVATION OF THE trees and forest habitat within a 15 acre parcel of the Brown Property has become a hot topic.

Brown society honoured

M.S.

By Valerie Baker 10.6.2000

Efforts to preserve the Brown Property have been noticed further afield than Qualicum Beach's boundaries.

A Ministry of Environment award was presented to the Brown Property Preservation Society on Thursday, for excellence in stewardship and protection and enhancement of B.C.'s environment.

Society president Jack Wilson was in the Victoria legislature on Thursday to hear the announcement and receive the award from the environment minister, before attending a dinner at Government House.

It is gratifying to be recognized

for community service, and the society appreciates being nominated for the award by the chamber of commerce," said Wilson.

"The award is the result of countless hours of work by executive members of the society over the past four years in raising funds and public awareness. The work of past president Chris Lee in acquiring the first 35 acres is an important part of this award."

The Brown Property Preservation Society was one of 39 applicants in the community/non-profit organization category - for which two awards were given.

"The [Society] exemplifies what

can be accomplished when a group of people work together toward a common goal," said ministry communications co-ordinator Charmane Edwards.

"This non-profit organization recognized the ecological value of a parcel of forest land slated for development, and for the past four years has worked to raise money to acquire part of the forest as a natural park," she said.

"They continue to raise public awareness and funding to purchase the remaining six hectares. In the future, the society will participate in managing the public park and organizing the development of its trails."

If you go out in the woods today

By ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER

9.6.2000

Politics aside, the Brown property is a perfect place to spend a summer's afternoon.

Brown Property Preservation Society director Keith Smith hopes Qualicum Beach residents will do just that on Sunday, when the group holds an old-fashioned family picnic from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

"I can remember going to big family picnics 50 years ago, and I hope that's what this will be like," said Smith. "We're trying to make it as non-political and low-key as we can ... win or lose, this is still a beautiful park for people to come and enjoy."

Seventeen artists will situate throughout the park, painting and sketching while passersby stop to enjoy their work. The Island Baroque Trio will also perform, taking advantage of the property's outstanding acoustics.

"We're happy to play at the picnic, [the Brown property] is something close to all of our hearts," said Faye Smith, who plays harpsichord with the trio. The other mem-

bers of the group are violinist Marjorie Koers, and Gigi Obradovic, who plays recorder.

Baroque music dates back to the period between 1600 and 1750.

"We have quite a lot of Celtic baroque in our repertoire," Smith said. "Now we just pray for sunshine."

People of all ages are invited to bring along lawn chairs or a blanket, pack some sandwiches and join in the fun at the riding ring and stable area of the park. Coffee and juice will be available throughout the day.

There will be guided tours of the property's nature trails, or picnickers can stroll them on their own. Last weekend, society president Jack Wilson marked a new trail which stretches diagonally through the 15-acre option property, showcasing many of its 300-year-old trees.

"We're hoping to make it a fun day for everyone," Smith said. "You don't have to put any money in a slot - just come and enjoy."

If the weather is uncooperative on Sunday, the picnic will be postponed to June 18.

By Valerie Baker

A record number of 405 Qualicum Beach residents cast ballots at the first advance poll for the Brown Property referendum, Wednesday at the civic centre.

"This was an incredible number of people," said deputy chief elections officer Sandra Keddy.

"It was more than the total number of voters in the two advance polls in the previous municipal and run-off elections," she said. "The good turnout is an obvious indication of the importance of this issue in the community."

The referendum will determine whether residents wish the town to borrow an amount not exceeding \$840,000 to purchase the remaining 15-acre portion of the Brown property.

Specifically, the referendum asks: "Are you in favour of the council adopting Town of Qualicum Beach Authorization Bylaw No. 583.2000 which would allow the town to borrow money to purchase approximately 15.5 acres (6.3 hectares) of land commonly known as the Brown property under the following conditions: borrow no more than \$840,000, with a repayment term not to exceed 15 years, and repay the principal and interest of the amount borrowed by levying a parcel tax each year of a maximum of \$25 per parcel."

Council members remain split on which way they will vote in the referendum.

M.S. 10.6.2000

Mayor Teunis Westbroek said he will vote yes in the referendum, using the rationale that "the challenge of any town is to have a vision for a better place ... taxes will go up anyway with residential growth, but if we buy it we have an asset."

Coun. Anton Kruyt will also vote yes, even though he declined to share his views at the recent public information meeting. "My philosophy is that it's a voluntary issue and shouldn't be mixed in with other town business, such as building roads," Kruyt said.

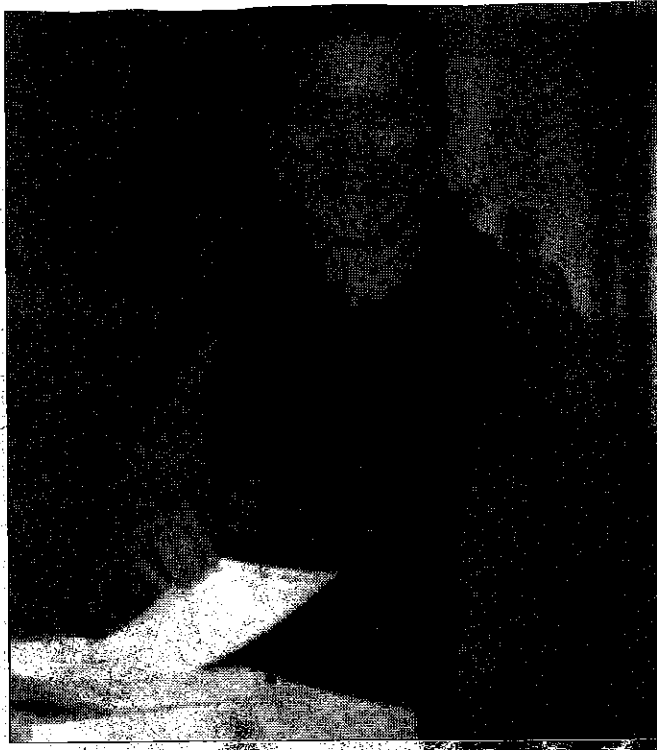
Coun. Scott Tanner will also vote yes, while both coun. Marlys Diamond and coun. Scott Rodway have both previously stated why they will vote no.

To date, \$120,000 has been raised through donations to the Brown Property Preservation Society toward the purchase of the 15-acre portion, listed for sale for \$910,000. The donated funds will purchase 12 per cent of the 15-acre property in any case.

If the referendum succeeds, and the town loans the money to buy the 15-acres, around \$50,000 of the donated funds will be applied to offset the interest on the loan for the initial period, before the parcel tax could be applied on January 1, 2001, said Westbroek.

The second advance poll will be held from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on June 14 at the civic centre. The referendum itself is scheduled for the same hours and place on June 17.

Voter turnout big for Brown advance poll



Janet Moore votes in an advance poll for the Brown referendum

the BROWN PROPERTY



say **Yes** ✓

to a rare
opportunity
to preserve
a LEGACY of
our community
for future
generations.

June 17

Referendum Vote
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

Brown picnic all wet

RAIN CHECK CHANGES EVENT TO THIS SUNDAY

By ERIN FLETCHER

NEWS REPORTER 13.6.2000

Uncooperative weather conditions postponed the Brown Property Preservation Society's old-fashioned family picnic last Sunday.

"It was very cold (Sunday)," said Leo Klees of the Brown Property Preservation Society.

"Not much good for picnicking weather."

The picnic has been re-scheduled for this Sunday, June 18, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the Brown property in Qualicum Beach.

The events and performances will remain the same which include seventeen artists painting and sketching throughout the park, music by the Island Baroque Trio and guided tours of the property's nature trails which showcase many of the 300-year-old trees.

Families are invited to come down with a blanket, lawn chairs and sandwiches to enjoy the natural beauty of the park. The picnic will take place at the riding ring and stable. Coffee and juice will be available throughout the day.

For more information please call Klees at 752-6432.

Referendum signals unclear in last week

June 17 results anyone's guess

By ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER

13.6.2000

An overwhelming turnout in the June 7 Brown property referendum advance poll has key players wondering what to expect.

Qualicum Beach's deputy administrator Sandra Keddy said 405 people voted in last Thursday's poll, but that doesn't necessarily guarantee a high turnout June 17.

"Until the actual day I would say it's anyone's guess," she said.

The outcome of the vote is no clearer, even to those who have been heavily involved with campaigning.

"It's very significant but nobody seems to know exactly what it means," said Brown property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson. "We're not sure whether it's good or bad [for us], but it reflects the interest in the Brown property in the community."

Councillor Scott Rodway, one of the loudest voices on the No side, said he hasn't been able to get a feel for how the vote will go.

"I think everyone should get out and vote and that will determine the outcome. Don't sit home on Saturday," he said.

The second advance poll happens Wednesday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Civic Centre. Referendum day is June 17.

34 No more subdivisions

(1)

Editor, the Morning Sun: 14.6.2000

I am 12 years old and soon I am going to be surrounded by subdivisions, and not the wonderful forests that have been around me my whole entire life. In the past few years, people have been cutting down many trees and tearing down all of the beautiful plant life surrounding District 69.

I recently went for a walk in the Brown property in Qualicum Beach and was amazed to see that we had so many old-growth fir, cedar, Sitka spruce and Douglas fir right inside a town.

If they cut it all down, it will be gone forever. Please save these trees so I will have somewhere to go that's beautiful like where I am going now.

Would someone please vote yes for me because I can't vote.

Fiona Fraser
Qualicum Beach

(1)

35 We can't afford not to

Editor, the Morning Sun: 14.6.2000

This letter is directed to the Qualicum Beach property owners who remain undecided on the Brown property issue.

In the days before the vote, please take time to visit our town hall. At the top of the stairs there is a large aerial photo showing clearly the importance of the property. It is our only large, centrally located, treed area.

Our town is spreading quickly and so are the areas to the north and south of us. The green buffer zone along the new highway is thinning rapidly. Eventually, heaven forbid, we will end up as part of a heavily occupied strip all along the eastern coast of Vancouver Island.

Hindsight is usually marvellous. The question isn't whether we can afford to purchase this property, it's whether we can afford not to.

Angie Price
Qualicum Beach

M. S. 14.6.2000

Mayor criticizes Brown vote opposition

By Valerie Baker

Qualicum Beach mayor Teunis Westbroek has criticized coun. Scott Rodway's opinions on the Brown property referendum.

Rodway hotly opposed the town's decision to hold a referendum at the May 1 council meeting, saying the issue was "emotional rhetoric."

Westbroek told the Morning Sun Rodway's reasoning for not proceeding to referendum was

based on "seriously flawed assumptions."

Rodway had previously stated there is no risk of blowdown if the property is developed, and disagreed the property is an old growth forest.

"I see trees, but I don't see old trees," Rodway had said.

Westbroek referred to forester Ed Hughes' report, which describes



Mayor Westbroek

the property the most important one as "rare and priceless," said Westbroek. "The decision we make on June 17 will grow trees on the property and 100 trees which show old growth characteristics. "I believe this issue may prove to be

this land purchase. As mayor, I'm glad we have residents like Frank Horner, Denise Widdfield and Pat Hadley."

Westbroek referred to his two elections campaigns when he stated he believed in fiscal responsibility, referenda for major capital projects and protection of the environment. "That has not changed," he said. At Monday's council meeting, Rodway's negative vote to go to referendum was recorded.

M.S. 14.6.2000

QB voters will have their say

After all the weeks of debate, the voters of Qualicum Beach now have a chance to tell their councillors how they feel about the town buying the rest of the Brown property.

Is this final 15 acres of the Brown property a priceless ecological gem, that must be saved for our grandchildren's grandchildren?

Or are there already enough parks in Qualicum Beach and the immediate area, and do the taxpayers already contribute enough dollars to maintain them?

With an advance poll today and the referendum on Saturday (both from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the civic centre), voters have ample opportunity to answer that question.

A referendum is one of the most democratic features in our political system. Regardless of how you feel about the issue, make sure your vote isn't wasted.

29. **Brown cost too high**

(2) Editor, the Morning Sun: 14.6.2000

Since 1997, Qualicum Beach taxes have gone up \$300, roughly \$100 a year. Now add on the cost of the 15 acres (forget the educated estimate of \$25 as quoted. It will be at least \$100 a year to cover the loan, enhancements, maintenance, vandalism, what have you).

Your taxes will be going up a minimum \$200 a year for the next 15 years, not counting in other unrelated costs along the way like proper sidewalks, a hospital and services. Our taxes in park-like Qualicum Beach are nearly at a par with places like Oak Bay and Vancouver.

The ecologists of today are becoming sharper than the sleight of hand artists of old. Their advertising campaign, exaggerated stories of "old growth forest," inducing feelings of guilt or sentiment "for our great-grandchildren," and finally bludgeoning and whining their way into draining the taxpayers for \$483,826 for the first 35 acres.

Let's take stock of parks in this area. We have a beautiful park in Mrs. Milner's place at no cost to us, we have the newly acquired Brown's Park and another park off Second Avenue. We have Cathedral Grove, Cameron Lake, Little Qualicum Falls Park 10 minutes away, and let's not overlook the lovely beach area. We have more bike/walking trails throughout Qualicum than sidewalks.

A month ago it was said in the American Times magazine that "our biggest threat lies to the north, because they are so passive."

Let's not be so passive. Let's not throw the cat another canary at a cost of \$909,826, making it a real total of \$1,393,652 to the Qualicum Beach taxpayers. We have already given them \$483,826. They already have their park.

Willemiena Hoey
Qualicum Beach

30. **No vote for owner**

(1) Editor, the Morning Sun: 14.6.2000

I am quite surprised to find that eligibility for voting on the acquisition of the Brown property by the town of Qualicum is open to any resident of the town who has been here 30 days.

The fact that my wife, who is joint property owner with me and also owns a condominium within the town is not permitted to vote by proxy is doubly surprising. She unfortunately cannot be here for either the advance poll or the voting day.

It would appear that the cards are stacked against the taxpayers who will pay the bill when anyone can cast a vote on the question. Who would refuse a free meal if they didn't have to pick up the tab?

Bert Cafik
Qualicum Beach

Vote yes in referendum

Editor, The Morning Sun: 14.6.2000

For some time, I have been encouraging people to support the purchase of the additional acreage of the Brown property.

On Sunday afternoon, June 4, we went for a walk through the property. We encountered several groups who were enjoying the peace and wonder of the forest, as we were.

They all seemed to be of the opinion that the small addition to our yearly taxes was well worth the chance to have this priceless park available for everyone to enjoy.

It's true that there are stumps and fallen trees, but don't you think it is a good example of how it is up to us to try to preserve the remaining trees and fauna?

The thought of private city lots, with rows of houses to view through the trees was unthinkable. In addition, the sound of lawn mowers buzzing would destroy the peace that we all seek at times.

I have little sympathy for the nay-sayers who are adamant about adding \$35 to their yearly taxes. This amounts to the sum of a little more than a tooney a month.

How much do we spend at the liquor store, restaurants, for the newspaper, or perhaps the garden shop on annuals that die at the end of the season, in comparison to \$25 on trees and fauna that last for generations?

How many of us spend hundreds a year on travel?

As we were about to leave from our walk, a deer stepped out on Chester Road to view us on his way to the forest. There could soon be a house and fence there; \$25 you say? Count us in.

Nancy McMillan
Qualicum Beach

The supply of pennies is limited

News 13.6.2000

I would like to comment on two recent letters in your paper: the gentlemen whose views of Qualicum Beach are somewhat naive and elitist and the predictable letter that the Brown Property will only cost us pennies a day.

The former seems to forget that most Qualicum Beach residents do their

shopping in Parksville and Nanaimo. There is actually choice for the average shopper in those two communities. Granted they are not quiet as pristine as Qualicum Beach but, to be honest, they are more user friendly. The only sentiment the writer expresses is the good old "Not in my Backyard Attitude" and no development at any cost.

The second letter assumes taxpayers have an inexhaustible supply of pennies in their pockets.

Both letters seem to forget the revenues that are lost in forfeited development of the Brown Property and future tax revenue. So how much will it cost us in rising property taxes in the next 15 years?

Now, considering my

backyard has more old trees than the repeatedly logged Brown Property, I would suggest adding a modest sum to the proposed amount the town will have to borrow for our house and lot (hey, you even get a clubhouse) and buy us out. Then we can move to a community that believes in fiscal responsibility. A bargain for just pennies a day! On June 17 vote NO!

Gilla & David Gidlow
Received via email

Brown property a natural jewel

As a recent visitor to Qualicum Beach I had the opportunity to see the natural forest area near the center of the city. It is magnificent! To walk along the pathway in these woods of centuries old trees is an inspiring, overpowering experience for all ages. It is a treasure very few in other cities and towns will ever enjoy.

Years ago as a young logger I participated in the destruction of many, many acres of similar pristine, arboreal beauty. Those areas are gone forever. You have a wonderful heritage.

Please forgive an outsider for making a comment on your forthcoming referendum with respect to purchasing the "Brown Property." But having seen the property in

question, I have to say that the opportunity of preserving a total of some 50 acres of such outstanding beauty is a chance of a lifetime. There are, of course, the obvious economic benefits to be derived in the maintenance of surrounding property values and in the attraction the site has for visitors and those wishing to locate in a city with such an asset.

But perhaps more importantly all Qualicum Beach residents, young and old will have a natural jewel which will give continuing pleasure, satisfaction and pride. I do hope your community seizes the opportunity.

Bob Bryce, Ph.D., CD
Vernon

NEWS 13.6.2000

CLARIFICATION
A minor typographical error crept into a letter headlined 'Opportunity to save this forest is priceless' in the June 9 WEEKENDER. In the letter, by Anne Wilson of Qualicum Beach, the comment "It would be fiscally responsible" should have read "irresponsible".

chase.

The Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers are very grateful for the support they've received over the past five years from this community. Our volunteers have worked hard and much money has been raised in the effort to assess and restore our two local creeks — Beach and Grandon — so that they can once again be productive salmon streams.

I think everyone would agree that any effort to promote the survival of the wild Pacific salmon is a worthwhile one, but those efforts cannot exist in a vacuum. There needs to be a concerted effort by all citizens, not only in Qualicum Beach, to protect salmon streams everywhere. Every little stream counts.

As to voting Yes in the referendum, not only does Beach Creek need every tree in the forest on the Brown Property to help moderate the flow and temperature of the creek, but Beach Creek cannot tolerate any more significant development within its watershed.

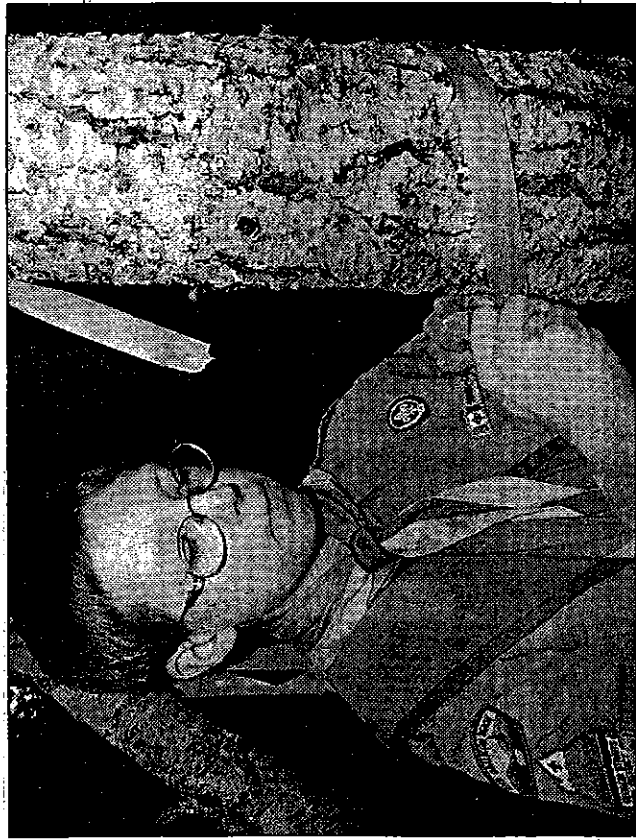
Forty to 50 houses in a subdivision that close to the creek would mean the eventual end of salmon spawning and rearing in Beach Creek. It would likely also mean the end of further funding for restoration. As more attention is being paid to habitat loss as a major cause of the decline of salmon stocks and more groups are taking on habitat restoration projects, we can be sure that, in the future, streams will be prioritized for funding, with money only going to the most viable ones. We can't argue with that. We just want to make sure Beach Creek will be up on that list.

Let's hope that there will be an overwhelming Yes vote so that the Streamkeepers can continue to work for the betterment of our streams and our community. The salmon are depending on it.

NEWS
13.6.2000
Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers
Faye Smith

SOFT COPY
The City

A SCOUT TIES a survey ribbon to a tree on the Brown Property earlier this year. The 15 acres, which the Brown Property Preservation Society hopes to add to 35 acres of already protected forest, will be the subject of a referendum scheduled for Qualicum Beach Saturday.



Your decision is all about investment

The debate over the purchase of the additional Brown Property has provided an important focus on the issues essential to make an informed choice on voting day. They seem to come down to three key issues: cost and tax implications; environmental impact; and value to the community.

Regardless of which path we take on referendum day, this piece of property is going to result in higher taxes for all of us. The question is not "Will we have to pay more taxes?" It is "What will we get for our tax dollar?" The tax and other income from new residential development never offsets the cost of future services that it generates. In fact, the opposite is always the case in what are essentially "bedroom communities". Without corresponding growth in commercial and industrial development, the excess cost of future residentially-generated services means increased taxes to every one

Qualicum will grow. But there is no identifiable social need compelling us to convert this land to speculative housing development with its downstream increase in taxes. If the property is acquired by the Town, there is strong evidence that volunteers along with personal and private supporters will minimize, if not eliminate, operational costs. The cost to taxpayers resides in purchasing an asset, not maintaining ongoing municipal and social services. Taxes are forever: the acquisition cost has a maximum term of 15 years.

Next is the issue of the environmental impact of development. The entire property is a stable and viable forest unit that is now peripherally wind-firmed. The forces of nature have long since established the equilibrium necessary to withstand the winds and weather. Opening a strip along Hemsworth would expose the property that the community now owns to significant blowdown and loss

For most of us, the opportunity to do something that will stand as a legacy to future generations will never occur. This purchase presents a unique opportunity. Debate about immediate benefits aside, just as we judge the actions of others in the past, so will the generations who follow us judge the quality of vision that we show today.

We are going to pay something, one way or another. Our choice is one of "cost" versus "investment". The difference between acquiring the property and simply letting it go to development is that if we do buy it, what cost there is becomes an investment. And, like those who had the vision to acquire the ocean front in years gone by, it is impossible for us to quantify the value to our community in the future. We have much to think about when we cast our votes on June 17.

NEWS 13.6.2000
Received via email
J. Christakos

Brown buy a wise investment

14.6.2000

Editor, the Morning Sun:

In a recent public meeting about the Brown property, my question about taxes did not get answered. How much would the other costs to taxpayers be for servicing development on the Brown property, which are not included in the calculations made by the town?

New houses need new schools, they need expansions and upgrades of the sewage treatment plant, and they will force us to connect to the Arrowsmith Water (chlorination) plant, a roughly \$6 million involvement which was already rejected by the voters of Qualicum Beach in a referendum.

Other large capital projects like the three - no, four - no, five million dollar ring road are

only necessary if Qualicum Beach chooses continued growth. Does a tax dollar to the province hurt less than a tax dollar to the town?

If you look around this province, often the highest tax rates are associated with the highest average growth rates. Also, in 69 case studies in 18 states of the U.S., the average housing subdivision costs taxpayers 15 per cent more than the revenues received.

In a third example, when my home was annexed by the town of Qualicum Beach, my taxes increased by over 300 per



Ron Buechert

cent, even though I still have to maintain road, sewage and garbage services on my own, at my own cost. Growth here has been among the fastest, so why are Qualicum Beach taxes not lower?

Almost all of our old Douglas fir forests have been removed, along with salamanders, salmon and owls (several kinds of owls are threatened or endangered on Vancouver Island).

These ecological communities have been replaced by housing subdivisions, traffic, pollution, unemployment, crime, scattered families and broken, dysfunctional human commu-

nities. Has this strategy given us lower taxes or a better quality of life? Check out the statistics for yourself.

The fate of the Brown property is your choice, yours and mine - I would not want it any other way. Paying tax dollars to buy back development rights which were granted for free by an earlier council is not sustainable.

But, in this case, if we look at what unique protected like the Brown property have done for the economy and tax bases of other towns and regions, such as Bamfield, Tofino, Point Pelee, Mount St. Hilaire and Charlevoix, it is probably a sound investment. It is certainly a more sane direction.

Ron Buechert
Qualicum Beach



M.S. 14.6.2000

Maxine Carpenter

Could we be as smart as bears?

For two contrasting views of international relations, go to the border between Alberta and Montana. On one hand is the famous American ignorance of Canada, the biggest blind spot in the history of sightlessness. On the other is Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

When I attended a conference held partly in Missoula and partly in Glacier, the US side of the park, I heard a speech by a fine American madman which nicely illustrated the first attitude.

The speaker served in the Vietnam war and came back as warped as any veteran of that crazy-making adventure. Unlike some of them, he has managed to express his trauma in a positive way, in the form of a lifelong near-fanatical commitment to grizzly bears.

This man's speech was a heart-felt plea for preservation of the great bears, whose numbers, he said, have shrunk to the few dozen remaining in Montana.

Since I was the only Canadian present, there was no one there to exchange eyebrow-raising with. Later I mentioned to the speaker that there are quite a few grizzlies in the park as a whole, and that probably most bears are not aware of international boundaries, so the situation may not be as desperate as he thinks.

The speaker greeted this idea as if it had come from the mouth of an alien from outer space. My words had no effect on the American perception of the border as the end of the known world.

Fortunately for my peace of mind, I had previously attended a conference in the park, this time in Waterton, on the Canadian side. The double park is one of a decreasing number of places in North America blessed by breathtaking wilderness and radiant beauty.

Thanks to the efforts of Rotary International, it became an international peace park in 1932, the first in the world to earn that designation, and one

of a few places to be named a World Heritage Site by Unesco. It isn't hard to see why the park has been so treasured by so many people. The dramatic meeting of mountain range and prairie, the forests and mountain meadows jeweled with glowing lakes, the explosion of wildflowers and the extravagance of wildlife all help make it as close to heaven as I expect to get.

An additional asset is perhaps the least known — the people who work in the park on both sides of the border. The biologists, park wardens and involved residents don't, any more than absolutely necessary, ask each other about their national affiliation, and they don't ask the wildlife about theirs.

The people get on with the business of protecting Waterton-Glacier's priceless cross-border legacy. The animals get on with the business of living. The people of the park prove that with work and determination — humans have the potential to become almost as smart as bears.

Time to save a little

Editor, the Morning Sun:

There is little doubt that Qualicum Beach is one of the most beautiful places on earth. However, our grandchildren may not agree.

Urban sprawl is steadily chipping away at nature, from Victoria to Campbell River. The destruction of natural habitat - and ecosystems - with species becoming rare, threatened or extinct is now a daily occurrence.

Clearly, if we do not act now, we will pass on a greatly diminished natural heritage to future citizens of this area.

The provincial Ministry of Environment and Environment Canada have spent the past five years identifying and mapping the sensitive ecosystems of east Vancouver Island.

The Brown property was identi-

fied as a combination of riparian and older forest sensitive ecosystem.

There is no doubt as to the rarity and significance of this forest. This has been confirmed by not only provincial biologists, but also by the head forester of Qualicum Beach-based Huock Resource Consultants.

We have a choice. Will our single generation forsake the future and consume the natural wealth contained in the remaining 15 acres of Brown property, or start the process of saving this natural legacy for future citizens?

Providing the taxpayers of Qualicum Beach the opportunity for a democratic choice as to the future of the last 15 acres of Brown property is my way of being fiscally responsible and socially responsible.

Scott Tanner

Qualicum Beach Councillor

Mayor salutes his opponents

NEWS 16.6.2000

I believe this issue may prove to be the most important one Qualicum Beach residents will face during the next few years.

The decision we make on June 17 will have a significant impact on our community, and therefore it is a decision which deserves its due consideration. However, it is also a very sensitive issue and one that I hope we all respond to appropriately.

As in most debates there are strong opinions on both sides. I salute those who disagree, passionately or otherwise, with my support of the land purchase. As Mayor I am glad we have numerous residents such as Frank Horner, Pat Hadley or Denyse Widdifield, who hold their belief about

what is best for themselves and this community. We are fortunate to live in a country where we have the right to do so, and though I do not interpret the information provided with the same perspective, however, I value their points of consideration.

I ask all of you to listen to the opinions, inform

yourself with the available information, carefully consider and then make your mark.

In both my previous election campaigns I clearly stated I stood for fiscal responsibility, referenda on major capital expenses and also the protection of our environment and greening of our community. That

has not changed.

The best way to reconcile my desire to protect green space and the sense of fiscal responsibility was to turn the issue to the electorate. Through this process a clear answer to the question will be voiced by the people who live here.

We face a choice of protecting that unique forest and preserving a legacy for others or destroying more of nature's beauty. The unsurpassed beauty of our natural areas has helped to make Qualicum Beach the charming community that has attracted us to live here.

The Brown Property referendum is not a vote or decision so much about today as it is about tomorrow. Potentially, it is the essence of long-term thinking, the epitome of setting something aside for future generations. It is your choice.

Teunis Westbroek
Qualicum Beach

QB council shows signs of stress as referendum debate comes to end

16.6.2000

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER

Qualicum Beach's Monday night council meeting got off to a heated start with a faceoff about the Brown property.

Councillor Marlys Diamond, who was away for the May 1 regular meeting, suggested changes to the minutes recorded at the meeting.

Diamond said after listening to the tape of the proceedings, she felt Coun. Scott Rodway's lengthy comments on the loan authorization bylaw should be recorded in the printed minutes, and his votes



Teunis Westbroek
...says naysayers comments have been debunked



Scott Rodway
...nobody has said anything to make me think differently

against the first and second reading of the bylaw should also be recorded.

Rodway spoke forcefully against the bylaw May 1, telling council the town cannot afford the additional 15 acres. He

said the property is not old growth, is not necessary to protect Beach Creek from runoff and drainage, and is no more unique than the 35 acres already preserved by the town.

Diamond said Rodway's speech and No vote should be recorded, so in the future when people look back at the Brown debate, they will be able to see what he thought.

Coun. Anton Kruyt said it should be up to Rodway whether or not he wanted his vote recorded, at which point Mayor Teunis Westbroek asked Rodway if he would like to do so. Rodway asked that his comments and vote be recorded, and council passed the motion.

On Tuesday, Westbroek said while Rodway's comments will be included in the minutes, they will not be included verbatim.

"I think he spoke for about 10 or 15 minutes," said Westbroek.

"The main points will be there, but to record ver-

batim what people say in meetings is just not practical ... I think some of the comments to rebut Councillor Rodway made by Councillor Tanner are also very valid."

Westbroek added some of the comments Rodway made at the May 1 meeting "have since been debunked," and said contrary to Rodway's claim the 15 acres is second-growth; there are 92 old growth trees on the site, and 100 additional trees with old growth characteristics.

He also said Rodway's belief that developing the 15 acres will not cause blowdown on the 35 already preserved is misinformed, and pointed out many people have now walked the site with forest professionals and have seen evidence of what can happen.

"There's clearly a risk," said Westbroek.

Despite the mayor's comments, Rodway hasn't changed his mind about his May 1 speech, or a similar one he presented to the Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce May 3.

"I think my arguments stand — nobody has said anything to make me think different," he said.

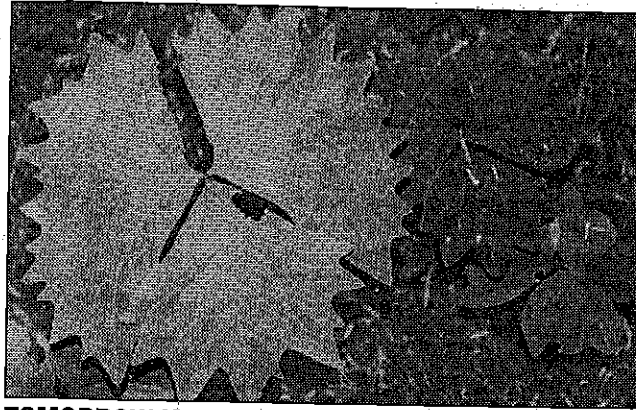
"I stand by the forest being second growth, and blowdown is not a factor. I think my position is clear. It remains a second growth forest and it's as clear as that."

Tomorrow (Saturday) is referendum day, with polls open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre.

Vote with the future in mind

NEWS 16.6.2000

The Brown Property Option Referendum has received much press in the last few months and rightly so. Rarely has the general public been given the opportunity to make the independent and individual decision to vote their opinion in such an effective way. Previous councils have had the vision to make tough decisions that would not necessarily have passed by referendum. For often referendums deal with short time span perspective and it can be all too easy to vote



TOMORROW IS BROWN property referendum day.

no. Past visions have included the purchase of the Memorial Golf Course property, the development of the sewer system, the ongoing purchase of the beach front property, and of course the Civic Center. All of these decisions have had a major impact on the quality of life that Qualicum Beach offers us today. Our present council has decided that this decision to save the trees and expand the park is beyond its mandate, so the tough decision is ours. And yes for many is a tough decision.

It is easy to crunch the numbers or show potential gross profits, losses and

expenses. It can be harder to put a value on expanding the park land and continuing the vision so eloquently experienced whenever you walk the beaches, view the picturesque golf course or just enjoy the beautiful surroundings of this community.

It is interesting that the concern is focused around costs and payments over 15 years. Fifteen years is such a short time when you consider the age of this forest and as importantly the future of this community. My background is in real estate marketing, negotiation and development. I believe that the long term financial viability of our

community will be achieved through the continued careful development of our district as a retirement and recreation destination.

It is critical that we plan for the future. Part of that planning is to take advantage of unique opportunities that appear. Yes, that involves flexibility and vision.

This option property should be looked at as an investment rather than an expense. It should be looked at over a 50, 100 or 200 year time span. This referendum is about more than a ledger entry of costs or a \$25 cheque. It is an opportunity for voters in Qualicum Beach to reaffirm the values that brought them here in the first place. Yes, it may be a hard decision for some, but it is a decision that must be made.

The council of Qualicum Beach has given you the voter, the opportunity to vote Yes to save the trees and enrich our community forever. Please vote wisely with the future in mind.

Ian Lindsey
Qualicum Beach

More voters out for round two

M.S.
17.6.2000

By Valerie Baker

There was an even higher number of voters in Wednesday's second advance poll in the Brown property referendum, with 516 Qualicum Beach residents casting ballots.

At the first advance poll, held June 7, town staff were surprised at the turnout of 405 voters.

"It was extremely busy," said deputy chief elections officer Sandra Keddy. "I don't know why there are such high numbers in the advance polls, it could be a combination of interest and the fact that the referendum is being held on a Saturday on a summer weekend."

The referendum will determine whether

residents wish the town to borrow an amount not exceeding \$840,000 to purchase the remaining 15-acre portion of the Brown property, to be repaid through a parcel tax of either a maximum of \$25 per year for 15 years, or by a \$225 one-time payment.

To date \$120,000 has been raised through donations to the Brown Property Preservation Society toward the purchase of the 15-acre portion, listed for sale for \$910,000. The donated funds will purchase 12 per cent of the 15-acre property in any case.

The referendum will be held today at the civic centre — from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. — and the result is expected within 10 minutes of polls closing, said Keddy.

Thanks but No thanks BROWN PROPERTY LOAN NIXED 57-42%

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER June 20/2000

Qualicum Beach residents chose not to link preservation with taxation in Saturday's referendum on the Brown property.

Of the 57.7 per cent of eligible voters who turned out, 57.7 per cent opposed the town borrowing to purchase the 15 acre option property. A Yes vote would have meant extra taxation to a maximum of \$25 per year for 15 years for Qualicum Beach taxpayers.

Though he wasn't vocal in the run-up to the vote, Coun. Anton Krnyt is clear about his disappointment in both the voter turnout and the referendum result.

"I'm disillusioned in the attitude of the population, which has drastically changed. I believe, over the years," he said Monday. "There are different people living in this town ... I knew it was going to be close but I didn't think it would be this decisive ... and I thought at least 70 per cent would turn out [to vote]. But that's the reality of life."

"We'll see what the Society comes up with as Plan B," he said. "I'm sure they're working hard at it."

Residents voted on whether they supported the town borrow-



Teunis Westbroek
...stands by decision to go to referendum

voted Yes, while 1,688 or 57.7 per cent voted No.

"I'm disappointed but I'm not surprised—it was a vote for a tax increase not a vote to protect the park," said Coun. Scott Tanner, who had hoped for a Yes vote.

Tanner, who was present at the ballot count, described the minutes after the result was announced as "spooky."

Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson agreed.

"There were about 40 people there, supporters from both sides, and when results were announced, there was a stunned silence for a minute at least. If there was a Yes vote there

given as to where the money is coming from."

In his trademark no nonsense fashion, Rodway agreed.

"The decision's been made and we can get on to other issues."

When asked if he would be in favor of the Society purchasing the 15 acres through other means, he said "That's fine—I have no problem with it if the property is purchased at fair market value."

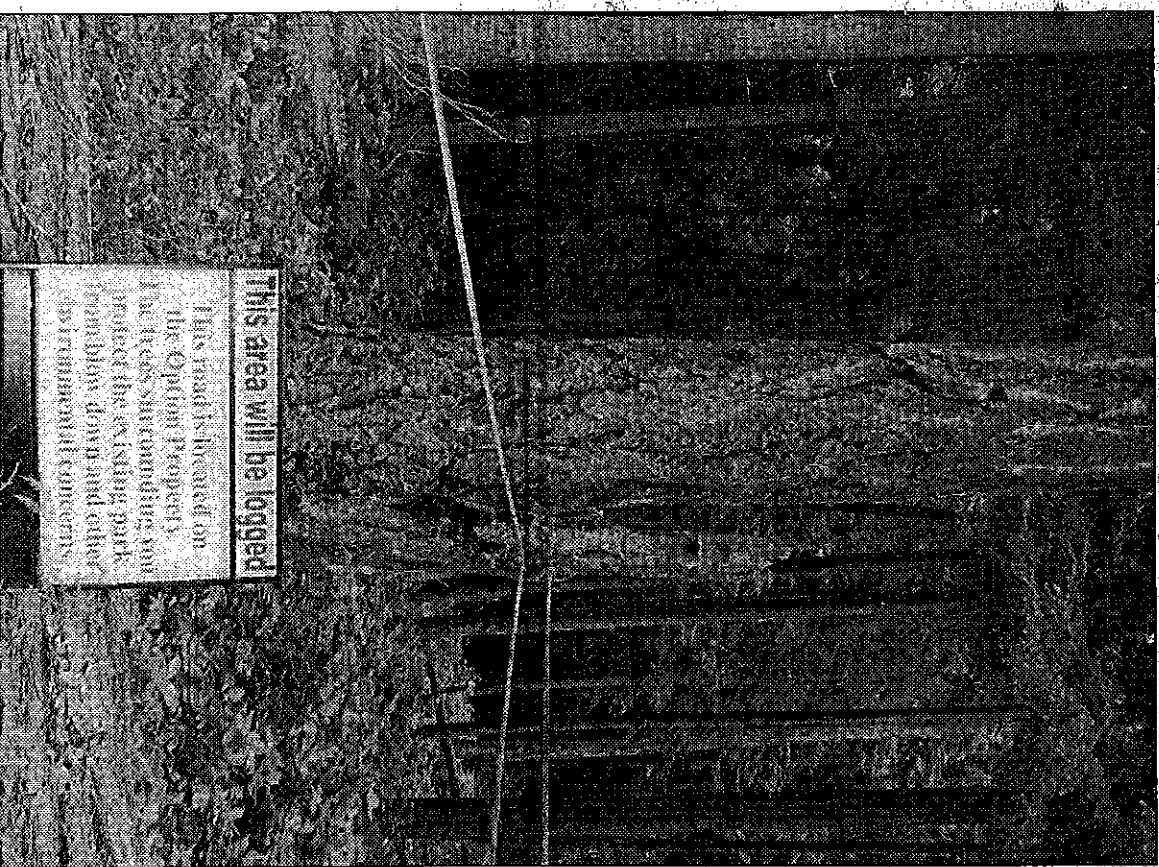
Though the No side prevailed, Wilson says he and the Society "may have lost the battle but we haven't lost the war."

With just under two months until the Aug. 15 option deadline, the Society has scheduled a rally for Wednesday night at 7 p.m. in the old Community Hall, where they invite the public to help brainstorm fund-raising ideas.

"I'm positive one way or the other we're going to save a significant amount of the park," said Wilson.

Mayor Teunis Westbroek is a strong supporter of the rally, and said Monday he will put his shoulder to the wheel to help preserve the 15-acre parcel.

"I don't think this is finished," he said. "I think this community still has lots of that pioneer spirit where they have big dreams and the strength to



This area will be torped

This area is located on the Option Property. The Society is currently in the process of securing the necessary permits, down and other environmental consents.

M.S.
June 21
2000

Greatest challenge is ahead

Well, the voters have spoken. More than 57 percent voted against town buying the last 15 Brown property. This decision came after a healthy airing of views and opinion on both sides and a strong turnout of voters.

There are two points to consider in the wake of this vote.

Firstly, nobody should grudge. While there were some tough moments, it was all in the name of making the public aware of the issue.

Secondly, supporters of the property purchase should not be discouraged. Their dream was not rejected. They still have the proposal to have the property.

Many people have already made donations to the cause, and we know the cost won't be too high. Taxes, the 'wait-and-see' approach, and the 'get down off the fence' attitude are a donation.

Referendum 'No' hasn't defeated Brown supporters

June 21/2000 M.S.

By Valerie Baker

The vision of 42 per cent of Qualicum Beach voters to preserve 15 acres of the Brown property portion may be dashed, but their determination isn't.

With the deadline to purchase the property still two months away, proponents are rallying ongoing support and continuing their efforts to buy as much of the property as possible before Aug. 15.

The 1,688 'No' votes, representing 58 per cent of those voting, overwhelmed the 1,236 'Yes' votes, Saturday at the Qualicum Beach civic centre.

Brown Property Society president Jack Wilson was among 40 people who waited for the result when the polls closed. "There was a stunned silence for about a minute when the results were announced," said Wilson. "It was like Remembrance Day, it was a sad day."

"I was naturally disappointed, I think there were a lot of misconceptions [about the issue] out there, and tax-deductible donations slowed pending the outcome of the referendum," he said.

"The referendum may have been defeated, but we have until Aug. 15," said Wilson, who is urging voters on both sides of the issue to save the park with a tax-deductible donation.

Wilson plans to continue soliciting corporate sponsors and government departments for grants and donations, including Weyerhaeuser who have yet to respond to the society's request for a donation. "We are still very positive," he said.

Mayor Teunis Westbroek also hit a positive note. "This is going to be the society's finest hour," he said. "Now this is a challenge, I'm excited and enthused."

"We lost the referendum but we haven't lost the Brown property yet. Will power and determination is what this country is made of."

Westbroek said Area C director Joe Stanhope is supporting society efforts to purchase the property. "Those living outside the town couldn't vote in the ballot, but they can vote with their cheque book," said Westbroek. "It's no longer a property tax issue, but a \$500 tax deductible donation to the society would probably cost less than the parcel tax would have over 15 years."

Of 5,066 eligible voters, 2,924 cast their ballots, for a 58 per cent voter turnout. "This number of voters was almost the same as for the November municipal elections when 3,027 people voted, which was 64.6 per cent of eligible voters — but we had less eligible voters," said deputy chief elections officer Sandra Keddy.



Mayor Westbroek

Brace

Over →

Picnic spirits high despite referendum results

By ERIN FLETCHER
NEWS REPORTER 20.6.2000

Last weekend's referendum results failed to dampen the spirits of picnickers at the Brown Property Family Picnic, Sunday.

More than 125 young and old Brown property supporters celebrated Father's Day while snacking on sandwiches, celery sticks and cookies in the shade of the property's majestic old growth trees.

"I think (the picnic) was successful because it was typical of what this park is

all about — not regimented or highly organized — but people enjoying nature and visiting," said Keith Smith, one of the Brown Property Preservation Society directors.

Although the picnic was not a referendum victory celebration, community members and park visitors were optimistic about finding alternatives.

"It was amazing how many people came up to us and offered their condolences and ideas (about how to raise the funds)," said Smith.

"We haven't given up hope. We want to come up with a plan that suits everybody."

Faye Smith, the coordinator of the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers Society, is also optimistic about the preservation of the remaining 15 acres.

"We're still hopeful to acquire most of it," said Smith, who has been working on rehabilitating Beach Creek which runs through the Brown property.

Preservation was important to picnic participants.

"A lot of people won't

realize (the value of the property) until there is nothing left," said Sharon Recalma, a Qualicum Bay resident who was visiting the park with her family on Sunday.

"Then they'll say 'oh, we've made a mistake'."

Smith said the picnic was a great way for people to get to know the park and may become an annual event in future years.

The question has been asked, the votes counted and the decision of the people is final. The 15 acres of fat surrounding the filet mignon is not worth the borrowing of nearly one million dollars — and that is that.

The fat lady has long since bellowed her last notes. Tra la la la. So now what?

If we are not involved in the Brown Property Preservation Society, as a collective group of souls, we can move onto other issues. Laburnum Road will be built and how will we pay for it? Beach Road has tumbleweeds blowing across its pavement. Gerard Janssen, an NDPer, could be our next MLA.



Jeff Vircoe

If we are involved in the Brown Property movement, we now continue our push to get people to pry open their wallets and cut a cheque and save as much of that 15 acres as possible. Attend Wednesday's rally at the community hall armed with ideas.

For some the next few weeks will be a time of false pride and 'I told you so' smirks and quips. For others it will be a tough time of trying to swallow a horsecap sized pill. I feel bad for anyone fitting into those categories.

Nowhere in the definition of acceptance will you find the word 'approval'. Clearly you do not have to like this decision.

You only need to accept it.

Personally I much prefer knowing that 1,688 souls in this community made a decision for the remaining 5,500 of us than having Tanner, Westbroek and Kruyt or any other triad of our council make a call on our behalf.

This is democracy and the people have spoken and we just have to respect that decision as the right one.

As a newspaper, we did our best to serve our readers by offering all the information available on the matter. A five part series, dozens of stories and letters with quotes, figures and facts. Our reporters worked hard to be balanced and nobody told me they weren't successful in doing just that. I feel our residents made an informed decision.

VIEWPOINT ^{June 20, 2000} Bring on the next issue

This editor voted Yes, 90 per cent on the basis that I fear the effects of blowdown on the old growth trees living in the 35 acres we already own, and 10 per cent on the principle that there are plenty of other places to build houses in Qualicum Beach.

I was not in the majority and I can live with that.

Surely it is as important to take a stand on an issue and not be in the majority than to merely sit in the background with all the excitement and fortitude of a vanilla cone and urge people to vote.

This would be a pretty boring place if we all agreed on everything. I also believe the Canucks will make the playoffs next spring.

You made the call people and a 57.7 per cent turnout is awesome. Way to go all of you who cast a vote either way. And as you can see, the sun did rise on June 18.

Yes side digs into fundraising mode

Deadline clock ticking as Brown property supporters plot strategy

By ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER Jun 23, 2000

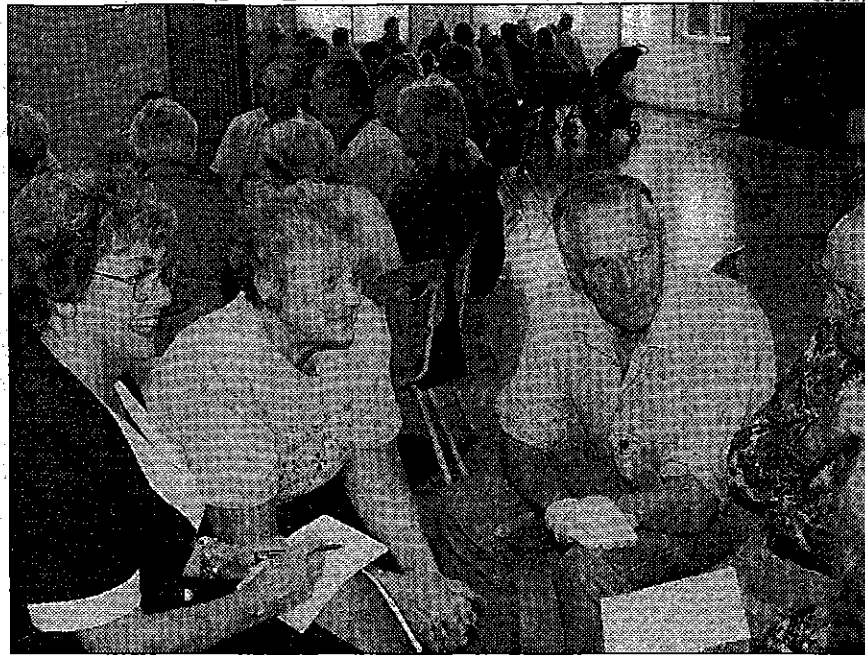
The Brown Property Preservation Society collected more than \$3,500 Wednesday night, and came up with a dry-erase board full of ideas for saving as much of the final 15 acres as possible in the next 55 days.

"Mark my words, we're going to save some if not all of that park by Aug. 15," said Jack Wilson, president of the society.

More than 80 people gathered at the old community hall to share fundraising ideas and show support for preserving the 15-acre parcel. After opening remarks from Wilson and Mayor Teunis Westbrook, they broke into small groups for a half-hour brainstorming session and later shared their ideas.

"This is the Qualicum I know," said former town councillor Hilda Perry.

Ideas range from canvassing outlying areas, where residents weren't eligible to vote in the referendum, to contacting celebrities who have connections to Qualicum Beach to conducting a "media blitz" to raise awareness and solicit donations. Several groups came up with the idea of having a donations "thermometer" at a



ADRIENNE MERCER PHOTO

OVER 80 PEOPLE turned out to a brainstorming session at the Community Hall Wednesday including Mary Parker (L) and Hilda Perry.

Westbrook, Councillor Anton Kruyt and Coun. Scott Tanner have committed to the project, and will work with other elected representatives from District 69 to gain support.

cost residents would have paid in taxes had the referendum passed.

Perry said she's confident residents can raise enough to acquire the property.

Over the narrow down do-able in the second meeti

Don't get me wrong, there's no doubt members worked hard to get an extension on the option, and tried to get Qualicum Beach taxpayers to believe in their vision. But what did the society do with the 10 months between securing the first 35 acres the their push to get their option extended?

Looking back, the answer seems to be — nothing.

There was no hype. There was no outspoken proponent taking advantage of every opportunity to sell the community on the idea of preserving the forest in perpetuity, no standard bearer to be the face of the dream.

Instead, there was silence. And even in the run up to the referendum, there was a sense the society wasn't sure how to market itself. It cost them the Yes they were looking for June 17, and now they're going to try Plan B.

give
at
&
will

The missing 12 month's

The voters of Qualicum Beach have spoken now members of the Brown Property Preservation Society are madly scrambling Plan B into effect with only eight weeks remaining on their purchase option for that remaining 15 acres.

Eight weeks to raise some \$800,000 to top off a \$120,000 they have in the bank and pay the near \$1 million asking price for 15 acres of forest. Eight weeks intensive, aggressive marketing before the opportunity slips away and the developers move in.

Eight weeks — it's not a lot of time. And it's an especially short time frame when you consider this society had more than a year to make this happen, and all managed to pull together is a paltry \$120,000.



Tom MacDougall

"the missing words" ?

not much time to scare up \$800,000. A year? Well, that option has already come and gone. If anything, that's the real loss, not the decision made by the electorate June 17.

NEWS
Jun 23, 2000

Lack of vision shown by No

39
(1)

Alas, Qualicum Beach has just been denied greatness; the greatness of a Stanley Park in Vancouver; the greatness of a Beacon Hill Park in Victoria; the greatness of High Park in Toronto; the greatness of a Mount Royal Park in Montreal; the greatness of a Hyde Park in London; the greatness of a Central

Park in New York. Great cities and great parks are synonymous.

In the decades to come, the greatness of a full Brown Park would have enveloped all of Qualicum Beach, now lost, alas.

How sad, sad is a lack of vision.

R. C. Quittenton

NEWS June 23, 2000 *Bowser*

humor NEWS June 23, 2000

Trust the taxpayer — he will provide

Disappointing but democratic. That's the way many folks in District 69 feel about the referendum on the Brown property in Qualicum Beach. The taxpayers of Qualicum Beach simply don't want to spend \$25 a year for the next 15 years to pay a \$840,000 loan needed to buy the extra 15 acres of the Brown property. Democracy has a voice. It said "no" in 58 per cent of the votes cast.

But to hear some, "it ain't over til it's over." Some taxpayers in Parksville, Errington,

Whiskey Creek and Coombs are mumbling that if they had a vote, they would save that ancient forest, because, it would benefit all of District 69.

In one sense they are right. If properly conserved and promoted, the entire project would attract visitors with a yearning for a pristine wilderness experience. Visitors mean tourist dollars and in that sense all of District 69 would benefit.

In another sense, the project becomes a heritage or Millennium project for District 69. Future generations might look back to the turn of the century citizens who made a small financial sacrifice to provide for the future.

Well, those who say they would cough up their tax dollars, better be sure: They may be asked to put up or shut up sooner than they think. There is talk of a fundraising campaign and/or some serious arm twisting of the senior levels of government to protect the land from residential developers. (By the way, would all candidates from this riding in the next federal or provincial election please let us know where they stand?)

Ah, yes, the senior lev-



Curmudgeon's Corner

SHERV SHRAGGE

els of government. They will provide.

After all, it's our money that they scandalously squandered in pork-barrel ridings from coast to coast. What's another \$840,000? That's only \$56,000 per acre. Heck, the Fed's questionable HRDC grants have spent more on golf courses!

And this ... why this is an ecologically sensitive treasure! Interpretive walks through ancient sitka spruce, cedars, fir and hemlock! They will provide — won't they? Don't bet on it.

There is a parable from my Jewish upbringing that seems to fit here.

A young woman brings home her fiancée to meet her parents. After dinner the father, wanting to find out more about his son-in-

law-to-be, invites him into his study for a chat.

"So, what are your plans?" the father asks the young man.

"I'm a Torah (bible) scholar," he replies.

"Well, that's admirable, but how will you be able to provide a nice house for my daughter?" asks the father.

"I will study," the young man replies. "And God will provide for us."

"And how will you buy her a nice engagement ring, which I'm sure you'll agree, she deserves?" asks the father.

"I will concentrate on my studies," replies the young man. "And God will provide for us."

"And children? How will you support children?" asks the father.

"Don't worry sir. God will provide," replies the fiancée.

The conversation proceeds like this. Each time the father questions — the young idealist insists that God will provide.

Later that evening, the mother asks, "Well, how did it go with our future son-in-law?"

The father answers, "He has no job, no plans, but the good news is he thinks I'm God!"

Brown society holds rally

By Valerie Baker

With a deadline to purchase the remaining 15 acres of the Brown property by Aug. 15, money is pouring in from supporters following last week's failed referendum.

Around 80 people attended a rally at the Qualicum Beach community hall on Wednesday to brainstorm fundraising ideas.

At the end of the meeting, the Brown Property Preservation Society was \$8,000 closer to its goal from donations collected that evening, including a \$1,000 donation from an Eaglecrest resident who voted No in the referendum. This brings the total donations to around \$130,000.

"We have 55 days until Aug. 15, and mark my words we're going to save most, if not all, of this property," said society president Jack Wilson.

Wilson emphasized however, that even if all the \$910,000 needed to purchase the complete 15 acres is not raised, every dollar donated will

go toward purchasing a portion of the property and saving the trees from clearcutting.

Tax deductible donations to the society — rather than the previously proposed municipal property tax increase —

means people can now receive an average 40 per cent tax rebate on their donations.

"On a \$500 donation, a person will receive \$200 back in tax rebate," said Wilson.

Addressing the audience, mayor Teunis Westbroek said "tonight is not just about ideas; it's about following up. There's a

contagious energy here to reach out to those who didn't vote in favour. Let's try to unify this community."

The audience then broke into groups to brainstorm ways of raising funds and report their ideas. A list of ideas were suggested, including can-

vassing the areas outside the electorate, e-mailing Bill Gates and Prince Charles, applying for corporate donations, a tooney tape, showcasing the Brown property on CHEK-TV and Shaw Cable, approaching service clubs and local businesses.

St. Andrews' Lodge owner Elizabeth Little donated a week's stay at the lodge during the summer, to be raffled.

Former town councillor Hilcia Perry urged everyone to ask everyone for donations. "If you don't ask, you don't get," she said, while a retired forestry technician stated there will certainly be a blowdown effect if the area is logged.

The society executive will now streamline the ideas into nine areas of fundraising and organize team leaders for each area. "This restores my faith in the spirit of Qualicum Beach," said Wilson at the end of the meeting.

There will another public rally on Wednesday at the Qualicum Beach community hall at 7 p.m.

Donations can be made at Walker and Wilson law offices, 707 Primrose Street, V9K 2K1 — either by mail or in person, and the society plans to publicize a list of names of everyone who donates, regardless of the amount.



Mayor Westbroek

Tourism discussed in QB

By Michael Briones

Tourism appears to be high on the list of economic opportunities in the Parksville-Qualicum Beach area.

Community representatives expressed this concern at the Premier's Summit on Economic Opportunity — Island Coast Communities held last fall in Campbell River.

Their views were revealed by provincial minister of environment, lands and parks, Joan Sawicki, who flew in from Vancouver to announce the outcomes from the summit at the Qualicum College Inn on Saturday afternoon.

"It came through in spades during the summit," Sawicki said. "It was something we've heard very often and clearly, that they want to build eco-tourism in this community."

Eco-tourism, Sawicki said, has a tremendous future here, partly due to the Island's lifestyle and incredible beauty, and a growing interest in the green economy.

There has been a rise in people wishing to start eco-tourism businesses, but most have been hampered by government red tape and municipal regulations.

Sawicki said developing eco-tourism is a challenging task because of limited resources, particularly Crown land.

"One of the big areas of concerns, it came up at the summit and it came up again today, is access to Crown land," Sawicki said. "Crown land is probably in greatest short supply here on Vancouver Island. The competition for the very small amount of Crown Land that's available is very intense, so there is frustration for people who are interested in eco-tourism to get access to the Crown Land in order to develop their tourism."

Sawicki said to help speed up the creation of new eco-tourism businesses, the province is trying to determine ways of removing some of the barriers that impede economic growth.

One of the initiatives is the recent signing of a memorandum of understanding between

the ministry of environment and the B.C. Assets and Land Corp - the group that handles the tenure around Crown Land.

"We want to see if we can streamline and clarify each of our roles to make sure that we can resolve some of the barriers that perhaps make it longer than necessary to issue tenures," Sawicki said.

Sawicki commended the Island communities for fostering the preservation of the environment and the quality of life which she says are "the basis for the future economy of the Island."

Sawicki cited as an example the \$40,000 being spent to create a bike lane along Stanford Ave. and Kelly St., from Miles St. to Highway 19A in Parksville.

"To me this makes the community more livable, encouraging people to bike to work or bike for recreation," she said. "An investment in that kind of infrastructure will reduce the need for people to use their cars."

To create a greener and cleaner environment, money is required and it can be expensive. But it shouldn't be, according to Sawicki.

"It's just common sense. It should be cheaper to do the right thing for the environment."

One way of making it cheaper is through tax shifting.

"It's basically taking the taxes away from things that we want to encourage — like environmentally responsible practices and job investments — and putting them on the things you want to discourage like resource misuse, waste and pollution," Sawicki said.

The summit, initiated by former Premier Dan Miller, was held to give communities from Port Hardy to Duncan a chance to discuss ways of taking advantage of an economic opportunity.

Other area concerns that were raised at the summit touched on aquaculture and shellfish industries and the future of pulp mills in the area.

“
Crown land is
probably in
greatest short
supply here on
Vancouver
Island.”

-Joan Sawicki

Saturday
June 24
2000
(Morning Sun)

June 17?
2000

Sometimes you have to pay for atmosphere

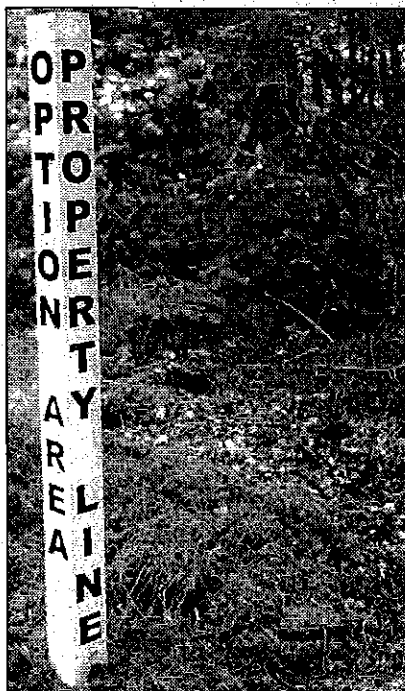
During the seven years I have lived in Qualicum Beach, I have heard the refrain, "We must maintain our village atmosphere." I have heard it from mayors, councillors, resident's association officials, average citizens and especially 'letters to the editor writer's.'

The recent referendum gave us a chance to put our money where our mouth is and in a small way actually help maintain our village atmosphere. We turned it down.

I grew up in Burnaby 70 years ago and I have seen it change from rural suburbia to a concrete jungle and high-rise haven. The only green space is Central Park (saved at least 70 years ago), the perimeter of two lakes, and thankfully, Simon Fraser University.

The east coast of this island is destined for the same future, yet for a lousy \$25 a year, we have let the additional acreage go forever. Where else in this town will we have another chance. The only other site is in Area Three and the land there will probably be more expensive.

Councillor Rodway wisely pointed out that all he could see in the 15 acres was trees, trees, trees. He was right, but what he did not, or could



BROWN PROPERTY REFERENDUM was a missed opportunity

not see was that those same trees, given a mere 70 years, will be big trees, big trees, big trees.

Councillor Diamond has stated a need for balance. This had nothing to

do with balance. We were asked to pay extra tax money to cover the loan. It was not taking money from the Laburnum Road or any other town expenses.

As you have probably gathered by now, I am not happy with the outcome of the referendum, but I am happy we at least had the opportunity to vote. In a democracy you win some and you lose some. I understand the lower income family's rejection, but I do not understand why so many people with plenty of money voted against the referendum.

The only thing those of us can do who voted for saving the trees and the wildlife is put our money where our mouth is and try and save at least some more of the property. My wife Gail and I would like to donate an additional \$1,000 to the Brown Property and we challenge any citizens to do like-wise, or at least donate what they can afford.

The only thing I ask is let's cut out the hollow statements about "We must maintain our small village atmosphere," unless we really mean it and are willing to pay for it.

Dave Courtice
Qualicum Beach

NEWS 27.6.2000

Referendum more a No to debt than to donating

Up until a week before the final day of voting I allowed myself to believe the Brown Property Acquisition Referendum had a good chance of passing. To some degree, this was probably because I wanted it to succeed and I was blinded to signs that many taxpayers were not in the mood to approve a tax increase to buy a nature reserve.

Ever since the acquisition of the first 35 acres of the 50-acre property a year ago I felt the project had momentum, that there was a growing number of residents who were getting behind the project.

Three public gatherings on the issue gave me further optimism. The Brown Property Society's well-attended meeting in late March gave the tax levy plan

Editorial

overwhelming endorsement. Then a show of hands vote at the April meeting of the Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce also backed the plan. Finally, the Town-sponsored forum of about 150 people attracted as many supporters as it did opponents.

Also working in favor of it passing, I thought, was the fact that the Yes forces had volunteers who were actively campaigning and would do their best to get every Yes voter out to the polls. There was no evidence the No side was even organized let alone campaigning.

Then, with one week to go, I had a conversation with someone who had just spent

two hours going door to door in Qualicum Woods. She encountered almost no one willing to vote Yes. I was puzzled. Also participating in the same conversation was a man who felt much like the people she met in Qualicum Woods.

He said people were against because of the amount of money they would have to pay each year. What irritated them was that as members of the older generation they felt they were once again being asked to carry the load for a generation that believed they were entitled to have it all now even if they didn't have the money to pay for it. It was a credit-card solution to

a problem and they wanted none of it.

There were of course other things that bothered people - the loss of DCC's and property taxes, suspicion that there would be yet another levy to cover operating costs - but I think in general it was regarded as project to be undertaken only if we could afford it without going into debt. That said, they were not necessarily opposed to making a donation to help the cause.

The challenge now facing the Brown Property Society is to find the time and resources to reach out to those willing to make a contribution. The next month and half provides one last opportunity to turn defeat into victory.

- Richard de Candole



ADRIENNE MERCER PHOTO

SQUIRRELS ARE JUST some of the many forest inhabitants who call the Brown property home. This one was found on the 15 acres the society is trying to save.

\$11,000 for Brownies

DONORS JUMPSTART FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER

The fundraising push to save the final 15 acres of the Brown property is off to a good start.

Within 48 hours of last Wednesday's planning meeting, supporters of the property acquisition had donated more than \$11,000 to the cause.

To preserve the land, supporters must collect more than \$800,000 by the Aug. 15 option deadline.

"It's unifying this community, and that's my biggest source of optimism," Qualicum Beach mayor Teunis Westbrook said Friday. "People may have said no to the parcel tax but they're coming forward with donations."

Westbrook, Councillor Anton Kruyt and Council-

lor Scott Tanner have pledged to work with Regional District directors from surrounding areas to drum up support for the purchase. To date, both Area G director Joe Stanhope and Area H director Dick Quittenton have come out in support of preserving the 15-acre parcel.

Though Stanhope did not support borrowing to make the purchase, he is fully in favor of fundraising to save the land.

Quittenton said it's important for Qualicum Beach residents to remember 50 years from now the town could be four times its size, and a 50-acre green space will be much appreciated.

"I hear the cost per metre of that property is \$15, so I'll be buying a few square metres myself," he

said.

A second meeting for people interested in saving the property is scheduled for Wednesday night at 7 p.m., in the Lions room at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre.



Maxine
Carpenter

MCP amazes me

Of the many dialects people speak, the one that gives me the worst pain in the neck is the one I call Middle Class Poormouth. This language was extensively used in the recent debate over the Brown property.

A short, true story will illustrate what I mean by Middle Class Poormouth. A one-time colleague of mine was trying to organize a group tour, the price of which would depend on the number of participants. He was pressuring people to take part in the trip because he really wanted to go, and at a bargain price. He didn't succeed, for reasons which came as a shock to him, namely, that some of our co-workers simply did not have the money for the trip.

"You know," he said to me, "I was amazed to discover that when Jane says she doesn't have the money, she really doesn't have the money. I mean, not in a savings account or anything. She can't get it from anywhere. She actually, physically, does not have the money."

The problem in understanding came about because Jane was speaking plain English and, when it came to money, our hero spoke only Middle Class Poormouth. In this language, "I can't afford that" translates into "I don't choose to pay for that." "That's out of the financial question for me" means "To do that, I would have to rearrange my fiscal priorities to some extent."

To hear the language in all its glory, just say the word "taxes." This is a word that will bring self-pitying tears to the eyes of any speaker of MCP. The crocodile tears shed over the Brown property initiative, which aimed at preserving a bit of the vanishing natural world, seems to have washed out of our consciousness two important facts. One is that in order to pay taxes, you must own something taxable. The second is that not all people are in this fortunate position. They are the people to whom such terms as "seniors on a fixed income" actually apply, if fixed income means modest income.

The modest income people, I'm willing to bet, are the ones who voted to preserve a miniscule bit of our beautiful natural world for the enjoyment of the community. There is no way to prove it, but my experience in business, and in collecting money for various charities, tells me that the people who can most easily manage to lend a helping hand are the ones who will refuse to do so, on the grounds that they can't afford it. The people who may have to make a real sacrifice in order to contribute will come through like the unsung champions they are.

If the attempt to save a minimal but crucial addition to the Brown property by means of individual donations succeeds, I would like to see the people responsible acknowledged in some way. Maybe there could be a plaque with their names inscribed on it. It would be great, for once, to see our many local heroes given some credit.

Brown fundraising

By Valerie Baker

Donations toward the purchase of the 15-acre Brown property continue to pour in, including an \$11,000 diamond ring to be raffled.

After Wednesday's support rally, \$14,000 in cash donations was received by Friday, bringing the total amount raised to around \$136,000.

Five areas of fundrais-

ing have been decided upon by the Brown Property Preservation Society, garnered from the numerous ideas suggested at last week's rally.

A province-wide media blitz is planned, which will include airing a showcase of the Brown property on CTV and CKNW, said Qualicum Beach mayor Teunis Westbrook.

A 'Love a Tree' project

— for which people can make a donation in memoriam of a loved one and have their name engraved on a plaque — is another fundraiser.

The plaque will be displayed in a prominent location, such as the town hall or the Brown property stables.

Raffles will be held for various items, including the diamond ring.

A major special event, 'Come in your jeans but bring your cheque book', is planned for the end of July at the Whitley House property.

Other miscellaneous fundraisers will include additional drop-off locations for donations throughout the district, e-mailing high-profile individuals, re-applying to all levels of government for

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2000 9

begins again

funding, contacting people who have summer homes in Qualicum Beach and canvassing residents in the outlying areas in District 69.

Area H director Dick Quittenton said he is "ready to help in any way he can" to promote the purchase of the property.

"Before the referendum the issue wasn't my business, but I shop in

Qualicum Beach and go there quite often, so now it is my business," he said.

The venue for tonight's public support meeting has been changed. It will be held at the civic centre at 7 p.m.

Donations can be made at Walker and Wilson law offices, 707 Primrose Street, V9K 2K1 — either by mail or in person.

Are these gentlemen really unaware that in our municipal park we already have our own "Stanley Park"? Do they not appreciate the fact that this haven for sports and woodland contemplation is here in the centre of town? And are they unaware that repeated attempts over the past 10 years to persuade successive councils to conserve this area with a protective covenant have been rebuffed?

A majority of voters do not want extra taxes. This does not mean that they do not want to preserve nature.

But why ignore what we already own and its slow erosion as non-recreational facilities are placed within its boundaries? If a protective covenant can be slapped on the 35 acres as soon as they were bought why is it so difficult to do the same for the municipal park?

F. H. Horner
Qualicum Beach

THE NEWS, Tuesday, July 4, 2000 • A7

31

QB has its own "Stanley Park"

I was astonished to read in your issues of June 23 and 27 letters decrying the "no" vote in the Brown Property referendum.

One from a long-time resident of the area, and currently an elected official, called our attention to the loss of the opportunity for "greatness" by not emulating the example of some of the world's great cities and their parks. The other, from a citizen actively concerned with town affairs, asks the question "Where else in this town will we have another chance? The only other site is in Area Three.

Brown concert series planned

M.S. 5.7.2000

The Brown Property Preservation Society is hosting a weekly Sunday picnic and free concert at the Brown property stable from 2 to 4 p.m., beginning July 9 and ending Aug. 13.

Residents are invited to bring a picnic and chairs and enjoy music performed by a variety of local performers. Guided tours of the Brown property, located on East Crescent at St. Andrew's Road in Qualicum Beach, will be available throughout the afternoon.

The first concert, on July 9, will

feature Fred Saliant and Friends performing an eclectic mix of classical, Spanish and blues guitar music.

The Sunday picnics are part of a six-week campaign to create widespread public awareness of the Brown property in an effort to raise \$900,000 to purchase the remaining 15 acres.

The society must reach its goal by Aug. 15, 2000. Thirty-five of the 50 acres was purchased by the Town of Qualicum Beach last year. Donations will be gratefully accepted during the Sunday afternoon events.

Anyone interested in performing at one of the picnics can call Richard de Candole at 752-2850 or 752-5384.

Society hard at work to preserve land

President says News editorial failed to consider

important factors

41 (1)

I feel there is a need to respond to your editorial on June 23 regarding "the missing 12 Months", about the Brown Property Preservation Society's apparent inactivity to secure the option property after the first 35 acres were acquired. There are a number of factors that should be considered.

Firstly, there was a natural hiatus between fund-raising for the 35 acres and immediately seeking funds from all the same sources for the option property. There was also a necessary focus on determining the ecological qualities of the forest, as we had not had access to the property before. Most significantly, two members of the society's executive ran for Town council, and extraordinarily, they tied and had a runoff election, all of which disrupted the society's focus for several months.

In January, under new leadership, the society renewed its efforts to solicit donations and increase public awareness about the option property, all of which culminated in a public meeting in March attended by 500 people.

The society's efforts to save the Brown forest were recently recognized by a provincial award presented to the society by the Minister of Environment in Victoria.

With the referendum now history, the society has embarked on an intensive campaign to raise as much money as possible through private donations before the Aug. 15 option deadline.

We have had an enthusiastic post-referendum rally, and are proceeding to raise funds with special events and canvassing our community and beyond. One of the most visible "No" supporters, Denyse Widdifield, has offered to dedicate her time and experience to raise funds for the society over the next seven weeks.

Time is short, and things might have been done differently, but with the good will and ardent support I have seen from the people throughout this area, I believe we can preserve a significant part, if not all, of the option property. It ain't over till it's over!

Jack Wilson
President
Brown Property Preservation Society

NEWS 7.7.2000

32 (3)

Enough already, Mr. Q

Editor, the Morning Sun:

Mr. Quittenton insists on rehashing the referendum in which the electorate expressed its view that 35 acres is quite great enough.

His letter's elitist innuendo is that those against the proposition lack the vision of the losing side. Responsible public financing was at the root of the referendum issue, and the 'fors' have gone back to the drawing board to address alternatives which will not upset the 'againsts' who will, in Quittenton's narrow vision, continue to drive around in rusty redneck pickup trucks with guns and axes hanging in their rear windows, unthinking savages at best.

Give it a rest Mr. Quittenton.
Neil Gillespie
Qualicum Beach

M.S. 5.7.2000

Brown preservers get serious

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER 7.7.2000

The community effort to save the final 15 acres of the Brown Property is gathering momentum in Qualicum Beach — and outreach to surrounding areas is all a part of the plan.

Over the next few weeks, volunteers will be everywhere with fund-raising tables and information on the Brown Property Preservation Society's "Tall Trees Project", and canvassers have begun knocking on doors to collect donations.

With just over a month left to raise close to \$800,000, volunteer Denyse Widdifield is confident the 15-acre parcel can be preserved.

"Now we're so damn organized that it's going to blow everybody's socks off," she said. An outspoken opponent of using tax dollars to save the property, Widdifield has come on-side to help fund-raise the money to purchase the land.

In addition to an ongoing awareness program at the Qualicum Beach Farmers' Market and Wembley



BROWN PROPERTY PRESERVATION Society president Jack Wilson and fund-raising volunteer Denyse Widdifield hoist the sign at the society's new headquarters at #2 - 707 Primrose Street.

mall in Parksville, a one-day blitz is planned for July 15 in Qualicum Beach, when volunteers will be stationed all over town collecting money to save the trees.

A number of fund-raising events have been organized, with all proceeds going to save the property.

A house and garden tour is organized for July 29 and 30. For \$20, participants can tour 14 homes, from cottages to mansions — including the property of Whiskey Creek folk artist Don Thompson. A charity auction is also in the works, as well as a garage sale fund-raiser.

Beginning this Sunday, the society will host weekly concert picnics from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Brown Property. Fred Salini and Friends (The Guitar Guys) kick things off July 9, with Bill Cave and Detlef Friede to follow July 16. The picnics are free, and donations are welcome.

For people wanting to learn more about the makeup of the 15 acres, retired forester Gary Graham is offering daily tours, beginning at 2 p.m. at the East Crescent entrance to the site.

To keep track of fund-raising efforts, volunteers

Vicki Harp, Ernie Shimkus, Dave Field and Mary Field have painted three "tree-mometers" which will be stationed at the tourist Info-centre at the waterfront, the corner of Primrose and Second Ave. and the East Crescent entrance to the Brown property. As the donation total rises, so will the mercury.

The Brown Property Preservation Society is still looking for volunteers to help with the Tall Trees Project. To help out, or for more information, visit the society's new office at #2 - 707 Primrose Street, or call the office at 752-2902.

Chamber News bits 11.7.2000 -n- bites

QUALICUM BEACH-The Brown Property Preservation Society has now opened an office at 707 Primrose Street (752-2902). This will be the fund-raising headquarters for the Tall Trees Project, staffed by volunteers during the week from 9 a.m. until noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. Check out the 'tree-meter' outside the chamber office and watch the dollars rise.

Today I was saddened to see that someone had vandalized our Brown Property "Entrance to the Park" sign by the golf course on East Crescent.

Before I could get around to repairing it, the Qualicum Beach Memorial Golf Course "marshall" Peter Drummond had, (on his own) repaired the supports for the sign. Those of us working long hours to keep things going in this "Tall Trees" project get a little discouraged sometimes, but when people like Peter Drummond come along to help, it really does great things for our spirits. I think I know how he voted in the referendum.

Keith Smith

July 2000 Morning Sun (Space donated)

YOU CAN HELP



All donations are welcome and will go towards purchasing all or a part of the remaining 15 ACRES. Your generous gift will buy part of the last portion of the beautiful 50 acre Nature Preserve in the middle of Qualicum Beach. We've saved 35 acres and have 15 to go - the deadline is August 15.

CONDUCTED TOURS

by an experienced forester

EVERY DAY AT 2 P.M.

Meet at the East Crescent entrance to the Brown Property

SUNDAY CONCERT & PICNIC

every week

FREE 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

July 9 through to August 13

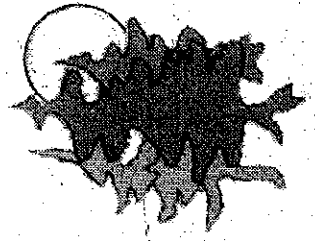
These Trees CAN be Saved!
before August 15, 2000

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS MAY BE MADE AT:

Brown Property Preservation Society

707 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 2K1 or

Parksville and District Credit Union - Qualicum Beach, Parksville & Nanoose



LETTERS

We are all dependent upon our forests

Last month I wrote a letter to the editor (we're all winners) congratulating Qualicum Beach on the quality of your planning and the depth of your commitment to the environment. I still marvel that 40+ percent voted themselves a tax increase to preserve 15 acres of trees. If only the children and animals were registered voters.

Now let's activate that special commitment. The salmon, the birds, the forest plants, the soils, the waters, and our children's future need your help.

Too often corporations wrap themselves in a flag of private property. Recently when I asked to be part of any discussions between the Town of Qualicum and Weyerhaeuser Corporation concerning imminent logging plans on the flood plain of the Little Qualicum River, I was excluded.

My discussions with Weyerhaeuser local managers were most unsatisfactory. I was informed that Weyerhaeuser treated their forest holdings on Vancouver Island like a vast hay field, that would be harvested however and whenever market conditions dictated. They repeatedly used the word private as if to imply that forests that had somehow been alienated from the public domain were beyond public concern. The distinction "private" referring to land that is held by a publicly traded corporation is a difficult concept for me to get my



SOME CONSERVATIONISTS ARE WORRIED ABOUT COMMERCIAL TIMBER HARVESTING ALONG THE BANKS OF THE LITTLE QUALICUM RIVER.

head around. I wonder how the bears, the eagles and the salmon manage. Certainly the forests don't belong to the managers or even Chief Executive Officers who are simple corporate employees.

It could be argued that our lands belong to the shareholders of Weyerhaeuser but if the majority of shareholders are institutional investors, many of them managing our pension funds, in reality the title still belongs with the people. In any event who cares? Does the delicate orchid or the eagle high

some corporate employee who envisions himself the plantation master. The physical and emotional health of our communities is not a subject to be determined behind closed doors.

I invite everyone, all the citizens including the children, the fishermen, the hospitality workers, the First Nations, the Town of Qualicum and the employees of Weyerhaeuser, our human community to come together with the larger biological community.

In a spirit of co-operation we must remember our health is inseparable from the health all. We must work on an ecosystem based approach to our community and forestry planning. In Switzerland clear cut logging has been banned for a mere 275 years. They haven't suffered. The Swiss forestry community generates 10 times the revenue per tree they cut. Swiss tourism is extremely healthy. Swiss communities enjoy stable watersheds. We have some work to do.

Let's take up Weyerhaeuser on the corporation's public commitment to eco-certification, to the Forest Stewardship Council, and to eco-system based management. Let's make our beautiful island, like Switzerland, a model of a sustainable healthy community. Nothing less than our survival depends on it.

Phil Carson
Qualicum Beach

Time is now

43
(4)

The acquisition of the remaining 15 acres of the Brown Property is no longer a political football or a tax issue. Thank God! It has now become a concerted community effort to raise private funds to purchase the park outright and turn it over to the town and ... time is running out. This is a cause that involves everyone in the District, not only Qualicum Beach residents, this nature reserve should become as much a part of our lives as Rathrevor Park and Little Qualicum Falls. Not surprisingly the federal and provincial governments have refused to get involved and open their purse strings to the cause.

Qualicum Beach's taxpayers have contributed as much as we can — over \$400,000, we, as individuals and businesses must do the rest. We must raise over \$700,000 in six weeks and, you know what — it can be done!!! To all those who voted yes, it is now important that you drop off your parcel tax — you were willing to pay up to \$350, we ask for \$300 before August 15 and we'll give you a tax receipt! For those of us who voted no because we did not agree that this purchase should be levied on our taxes but still wanted the property purchased, we must pay our share!

To all the businesses who will see a direct benefit from this acquisition, real estate, hospitality, tourism — we ask for your contribution. And to all those outside of Qualicum Beach who care about this issue, please contribute. We want to come and ask each and everyone of you personally but we may not have the time, so, take it upon yourself and give. You do the math — if 2,350 donors come forward with \$300 each in the next month — we will have the money.

Let me tell you, if you take the time to visit the Brown Property, you will contribute, it is a beautiful nature park! I heard the arguments, "we should be buying waterfront" — "we could use more activity fields" — "we don't need another park" but, we are now committed to this property so let's finish the job.

I urge you, put your pettiness from the referendum aside, open your hearts and your wallets and visit the property then drop in at our office in the village (707 Primrose) or give us a call — we'll pick up.

Denyse Widdfield
Received via email

July 11, 2000

Tid bits

Society seeks more volunteers

The Brown Property Preservation Society is always looking for more volunteers to help with the Tall Trees Project, a push to raise funds to buy the final 15 acres of the Brown property.

With just over a month left until the Aug. 15 option deadline, the society has several volunteer groups working on a variety of fund-raising initiatives. Call 752-2902 for info or to help out.

Good corporate citizen?

Editor, The Morning Sun:

The following is addressed to Linda Coady, vice president, Weyerhaeuser, Environmental Enterprise.

Ms. Coady,

This is to bring to your attention our great concern regarding proposed logging along the Little Qualicum River system.

As you know, the Town of Qualicum Beach owns Lot 10, which is the major source of our drinking water. What impact will logging have on the quality of our water? With Walkerton in mind, we are very concerned about the quality of our water.

Also, a recent inventory by federal and provincial governments identified the Little Qualicum as an "ecologically sensitive area." These "older forest" ecosystems are very rare along the east coast of Vancouver Island. They support a great diversity of wildlife, with a large number of both plant and animal species which depend entirely on the habitat features found only in this ecosystem. These lands must not be logged.

From a fisheries point of view, the Little Qualicum River system has all seven species of salmonids living in it. With a fish hatchery upstream and a wildlife sanctuary downstream, this river system is a very important fish habitat and wildlife corridor.

Ms. Coady, it is important, not only from an ecological point of view, but also as a good corporate citizen, Weyerhaeuser must not log this area.

E. Anne Wilson
Walter G. Wilson

M.S. 12.7.2000

Brown forces into high gear

The book sits open on a music stand in my sunroom. I try to savor a page or two each day as I pass by. It's a beautiful book of text and photos about the wilderness country where I grew up. One page is a poignant poem, a plea for the preservation of its finest forest.

In Qualicum Beach, there is but a month left to answer our own plea to save a piece of unique and priceless forest right here in our midst. Though priceless, there is a price tag — the hundreds of thousands of dollars that are needed to save these trees from development; to save the land from cutting, paving, building, or in other words, turning it into just another bunch of houses with manicured yards, fewer trees, fewer animals, fewer birds — simply fewer living things.

The Brown Property Preservation Society will save as many of these living things as possible in the next month, before the deadline for "saving deposits" on August 15th. The goal, of



Williwaws

NANCY WHELAN

course, is to save all of the 15 acres of the property alongside the area that has already been rescued. There are a number of plans and events in the works to help people help save the trees. The Tall Trees Project is the name of the game.

On June 30th, a small office was made available to the Society by local lawyers Walker & Wilson at 707 Primrose Street.

Even people who turned down the referendum on town borrowing to save the property are showing a soft spot in their hearts for that neck of the woods. While they might have objected to the dreaded "T" word on their own property, they were willing to make a tax-

deductible donation to the cause.

Society members are not just sitting back waiting for dollars to float in; things are happening, and will continue to happen until (maybe even after?) the August 15th deadline when the option on the property expires.

Every day at 2 p.m. forester Gary Graham will lead a tour through the park and option property to let people see what's at stake. Richard de Candole will arrange Sunday picnics and musical entertainment near the Brown Property stables each Sunday afternoon. A one-day blitz for awareness and donations will take place around town, and at Coombs and Wembley Mall on Saturday, July 15.

A gala silent auction is being arranged, time and place TBA, but likely on Friday, July 28. Here, you can enjoy wine and cheese while you make your bids on the arrays of items on the block. Many fine donated items will vie for your bids, including a stunning diamond ring donated by one Society member.

Local and Island media have taken up the Tall Trees Project to aid in saving this

urban forest. CHEK-TV will bring its cameras to the property; Bill Good will give it coverage on his CKNW show; CKCI is on board, and a local paper has offered one free 1/4 page ad per week for the duration of the fund raising. Other media outlets are being contacted and letters are going out to private and corporate enterprises to seek help in saving this vulnerable piece of the natural world.

What do you think YOU could do to help save some Tall Trees?

The poem I read about that other forest was entitled, "REQUIEM". It says, in part:

"What gives them the right

To kill a living beauty that [for hundreds of] years has grown?

To take and sell our heritage to fill pockets for a day?

And when this crop has gone what will they say?

And when this crop is gone, the trees are gone,

The wild is gone, and the beasts are gone,

And the tourists gone and the money gone,

What will they say?"

— Eileen McGann



SIGNIFICANT TREES INVENTORY committee members Frank Collins, Bert Reid and Bob Steele indicate the size of one of the inventory's stars — a Western Red Cedar located at the Qualicum Beach Airport property.

QB's Blooming

By **ADRIENNE MERCER**

NEWS REPORTER July 11, 2000

Be they town employees, volunteers or residents, Qualicum Beach gardeners are working at high speed to prepare for the national Communities In Bloom contest. Judges for the competition will make their rounds on Aug. 2.

"Hopefully everybody's getting out to do some weeding and trimming in their own yards," said Councillor Marlys Diamond. "It's great to have some sunshine now, because that will really bring things out."

Qualicum Beach gained entry into the national contest after its strong showing on the provincial level last year. The town will compete against seven other communities in the 5,001 to 10,000 population category: Steinbach, Manitoba; Stratford, P.E.I.; Carleton, Ontario; Kincardine, Ontario; Labrador City, Newfoundland; Innisfail, Alberta and Stony Plain, Alberta.

As with the provincial competition, categories for the national judges' arrival.

level include floral displays, tidiness, landscaping, turf areas, environmental effort, urban forestry and heritage conservation.

Diamond said a big part of the preparation for the competition is the Friendship Garden being created at the corner of Memorial and Garden. The project is a collaboration between the town, the Qualicum Beach Rotary Club and the Qualicum Beach Legion.

Another project is the significant trees inventory, which grew out of a suggestion from last year's Communities In Bloom judges. A seven-member committee - Diamond, town arborist Tony Botelho, naturalist John Mackenzie, RDN trail system coordinator Joan Michel and retired foresters Bert Reid, Frank Collins and Bob Steel - has documented more than 60 trees for the inventory.

The list includes several native and exotic trees found in the Milner Gardens and Woodland, and a Western Red Cedar on the Qualicum Beach airport property estimated at 1,200 years old. The tree is 73.2 metres tall, and 350 centimetres in diameter.

The significant tree inventory will be displayed in a hand-carved wooden photo album in time for the



Marlys Diamond
... weather change should lead to nicer gardens

Calling all Old timers, Grandparents!

Please help the Upland Forest and its animals, a legacy for all in the year 2000! We have to give BIG now, we have only until August 15. Dedicate your donation to your grandchildren, someone you love. It's more fun to give when we are still alive! Liese Lowe-Wylde.

Morning Sun:
July 13, 2000
July 19, 2000
August 2, 2000
August 9, 2000

15 acres
option land
Brown's Prop.
Photo 1994

The Tall Trees Project, tax deductible donation: Information 752-6951 or 2902, Brown Preservation Society, c/o Walker & Wilson Lawyers, 707 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach, BC. V9K 2K1

environment

Tall Trees backers ask Victoria for help

July 14, 2000

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER

Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers coordinator Faye Smith has asked Environment Minister Joan Sawicki to convince the provincial government to help save the Brown property.

In a July 5 letter to Sawicki, Smith asked her to "help to right the political wrongs of the past by con-

vincing your government to make a contribution to save something of this largest piece of coastal Douglas Fir ecosystem for the future."

Smith pointed out Streamkeepers have worked hard to restore parts of Beach Creek, which runs through the Brown property, and have counted on the area remaining in its natural state to avoid negative impact through urbanization.

"The people of Qualicum Beach have raised well over \$1 million toward the purchase of this important site and for whatever reason, not one cent has been matched by senior governments," she wrote, explaining if the property can be preserved as a 50-acre parcel, the site will be large enough to set up a viable research centre on the property.

According to ministry spokesperson Alex Dabrowski, Sawicki has received the letter and "a reply is still in the works."

Retired forester digs deep

I was quite surprised at the results of the referendum on the Brown property.

To have a forest such as this, comprising an area of intact old growth, some intermediate growth and some second growth areas, is a rare occurrence in this day and age. In the main, the trees on adjacent properties, including the golf course, certainly have contributed to the stability of this forest. This situation will change dramatically if the 15 acres in question are logged and developed. Putting a small lot development in this area will, over time, contribute to the necessity of removing trees considered to be dangerous (leaning, dead or dying trees) to homes and people in the development. This will be in addition to blowdown on this area, which will be open to the Southeast storm winds.

If anyone out there thinks the above is overstated, I offer you the following:

a) I live on Canyon Crescent, next to a vacant, treed lot. I have had two 80 foot trees fall on my house, which demolished a shed and damaged a vehicle and the garage-roof, resulting in the owner of the vacant lot having to remove a number of trees to prevent reoccurrences.

b) In the late 1960s a petition was circulated to stop logging up to the Cathedral Grove Park boundaries. The support was not there and a clearcut took place adjacent to the park's southern boundary. A brief walk through the park today tells the ongoing blowdown story. In addition, the timber on the park's north side is now going to be logged. It is a park under siege.

Why go down this same

road with the Brown's Forest?

I have recently retired, after 33 years with the Ministry of Forests. I have always believed that blocks of old growth timber, specially in the east coast fir forests on Vancouver Island, should have been set aside, so that future generations could see and enjoy what tracts of old growth look like and make their own decisions as to whether these blocks should be preserved or logged.

Let's give them this small forest intact and standing. Surely a tax deductible donation is warranted to complete the purchase of the Brown property. I already dropped off my donation at the law firm of Walker & Wilson at #2 707 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach.

Garry Graham

Qualicum Beach

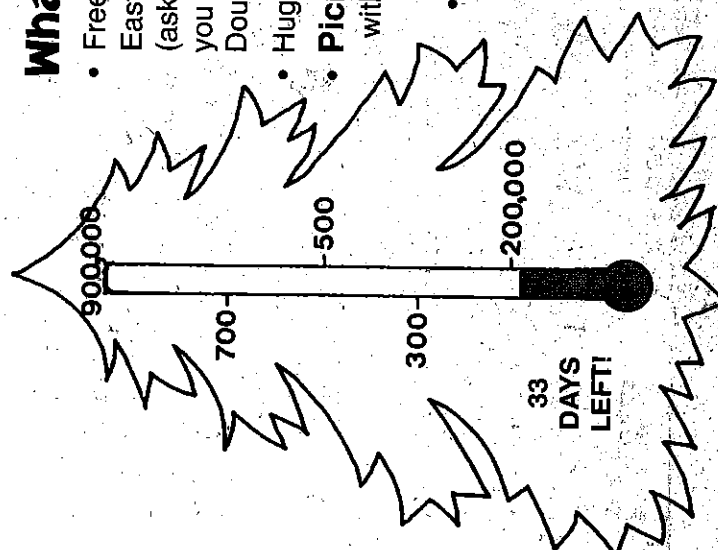
News 14.7.2000

TALL TREES PROJECT

The Brown Property Preservation Society's efforts to save the Qualicum Beach "in town" forest

What's happening?

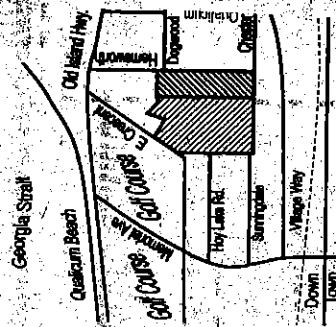
- Free daily tours at 2:00 pm - East Crescent entrance (ask the forester to show you the 600 year old Douglas Fir!)
- Huge one day blitz July 15
- Picnic in the Park with music every Sunday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- Home and Garden Tour July 29, 30
- Ongoing canvassing



Donate today!

Tax deductible!

at the Tall Trees Project office
707 Primrose Street
Qualicum Beach
or at the Credit Unions in Parksville,
Qualicum Beach and Nanoose



Time ticking

By Valerie Baker

As the clock ticks on the 34 days remaining to purchase the 15-acre Brown property, funds continue to pour in and the mercury level is rising on the Treemometers.

More than 60 volunteers are working every day — in various locations throughout District 69 — collecting donations. One volunteer collected \$700 in two blocks during a door-to-door campaign.

"We've never had so much support and enthusiasm since the Brown Property Preservation Society was formed in March, 1996," said society president Jack Wilson.

Wilson would like to see the 1,236 people who voted yes in the June 17 referendum — who were willing to pay \$25 a year through their taxes or a lump sum payment of \$225 — to donate that money (which would be tax-deductible) to the society.

Meanwhile, news of the Brown property effort was aired on CKNW last Friday, when Qualicum Beach resident and former Newfoundland premier Brian Peckford appeared on the Bill Good Show.

And on Sunday at noon, the Brown property will be showcased on CHEK TV, said Wilson.

In addition to the door-to-door campaign and fundraising displays throughout the area, Qualicum Beach House and Garden Tours will take place on July 29 and 30,

when 14 homes and gardens of outstanding visual interest will be open to the public for \$20.

"We have around 80 volunteers involved in this event, but we need around 100," said Wilson.

A party at the Brown property paddock will be held from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Fri., July 28.

The party will include hot and cold hors-d'oeuvres, complimentary wine and refreshments, a silent auction and some entertainment. Tickets for this event are \$35, available at the society's headquarters at 707 Primrose St.

Sunday concert picnics will be held at the Brown property stable area every Sunday until Aug. 13 to create public awareness of the beauty of the forest. People are invited to bring a picnic lunch and chairs or a blanket and enjoy music by a variety of performers, as well as guided tours of the property.

Volunteers continue to meet every Wednesday at the civic centre at 7:30 p.m. to report and update activities. More volunteers are always needed, said Wilson.

Currently the society has collected \$163,000 toward the \$910,000 needed to purchase the 15-acre property by the Aug. 15 deadline. Today's amount would purchase approximately 18 per cent of the property.

For volunteer information and donations, call 752-2902.



Ernie Shimkus, Dave Field and Jack Wilson await more gifts.

CONCERTS TO SAVE TREES

July 15 - 7:30 p.m.

Local musicians are rallying to help save the tall trees of Qualicum Beach. They will perform at a series of free Sunday concert picnics at the Brown property stables, 292 East Crescent, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The lineup for the series is as follows:

- July 16 - Jazzman Bill Cave and Detlef Friede.
- July 23 - Singer-songwriter Kerry Joy Molllet (Sameck) and violinist Emma Postl.
- July 30 - Tristen Brown and Heather-Wingstone Jazz Ensemble.

• Aug. 6 - Marjorie Koets Baroque Ensemble.

• Aug. 13 - To be announced.

Everyone is invited to bring a picnic lunch, chairs or a blanket and enjoy the music. Guided tours of the tall trees will be available throughout the afternoon.

The Sunday concerts are part of a six-week campaign to create public awareness of the tall trees. The campaign goal is to raise \$900,000 by Aug. 15 to purchase the remaining 15 acres of this forest. Call 752-2902.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

ARTIST DON THOMPSON IS donating a giraffe sculpture to the Brown auction.

Generous folk

Don Thompson, a well known Whiskey Creek folk artist whose work resides in collections all over the world, is donating a sculpture to the silent auction to be held at the Brown Property on July 28.

Thompson, whose pole-cats can be seen prominently displayed on the fence at Smithfords on Qualicum Beach's First Avenue, is renowned for his zany carvings capturing slices of life.

A few years ago a Don Thompson giraffe sold for \$26,500 at a charity auction for Sick Children's Hospital in Vancouver. It would normally sell for around \$1,000. The seven-foot giraffe was purchased by Vancouver developer Peter Wall.

The event is a fund-raiser for the Tall Trees project, and the Brown Property preservation Society is throwing out a challenge to all Vancouver Islanders to meet or beat this figure. News July 18/2000

Top private gardens open to public

By DAVID HAY
NEWS REPORTER July 18/2000

Fourteen of Qualicum Beach's most interesting homes and gardens will be open to the public on July 29 and 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in a fund-raising effort to help preserve the final 15 acres of the Brown Property.

The self-guided tour may be started at any of the 14 residences, each of which will be noted on a map and marked with a sign. Volunteers will also be posted to help with any questions you may have.

Among the residences on the tour will be Victor and Grace Fershko's "Bruin Hollow", formerly known as "Rosemuir". Built in 1927, it was the first house in Qualicum Beach to be assigned a heritage designation. With its English hall ceilings, reminiscent of country manor houses, it sits amidst beautiful gardens and forested lands.

Also open for tours will be Maureen and Barney Marshall's round granite tower, which was designed by a student of Frank Lloyd

Wright. The view up Georgia Strait from the tower is unsurpassed, and the separate studio is home to Maureen's fabulous works of art, which are inspired by west coast nature as well as equatorial Africa. A solarium connects the studio to the main home, which is situated on the waterfront in a 100 acre bird sanctuary.

Don Thompson, an internationally acclaimed folk artist whose whimsical pieces have found their way across North America, Europe, Australia and Japan, will be opening his Whiskey Creek property as well. His outdoor gallery constitutes a veritable hand made village, with various buildings throughout the grounds being populated by his creations. The property was recently featured on the TV show *Weird Homes*, and is sure to leave you with a smile on your face.

Throw in 11 more homes and gardens of interest, and for a \$20 ticket price, the tour offers up a great afternoon.

For more information, call the Brown Property office, at 752-2902.

Getting
behind
those fences



Homes like these will be on display, in an effort to raise funds to purchase the remaining Brown property.

Home and garden tour coming

The first-ever home and garden tour to take place in Qualicum Beach will be held July 29 and 30. This is an opportunity to view some of Qualicum's most interesting homes and gardens. The tour showcases unique homes, from small cottages to large seaside estates.

An interesting feature of the tour will be the opportunity to visit the Whiskey Creek property of folk artist Don Thompson, which was recently featured on the television program 'Weird Homes'.

Also included is one of Qualicum's oldest estates, built in 1927 and designated a heritage home by the Town of Qualicum Beach, and one of the newest homes on Judges Row, a spectacular cedar shingle manison.

Tickets for this special tour are \$20, available at Flandangles and Curious Coho Books.

All proceeds go toward the purchase of old coastal forest in the middle of Qualicum Beach. Formerly part of the Brown estate, this forest is rare. Less than one per cent of this type of forest remains intact on the east side of Vancouver Island, organizers say.

A salmon-bearing stream runs through the property, and some of the trees are over 500 years old.

The Brown Property Preservation Society, through its

Tall Trees Project, has until Aug. 15 to raise the funds to save this unique property from development.

The Home and Garden Tour is part of a major fundraising campaign, and every ticket sold buys one square metre of forest.

For more information, log onto their website at www.christopherlee.com/brown or call 752-2902. Tax deductible donations can be mailed to the Brown Property Preservation Society, 707 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 2K1, or at any branch of the Parkville and District Credit Union.

TALL TREES PROJECT

What's Happening...

M.S. 19. 7. 2000

FREE

2 pm at E-Crescent

entrance (ask Forester to show you the 600 year old Douglas Fir)

* Home and Garden Tour July 29 & 30

* Picnic in the Park

FREE - Every Sunday

Sunday Concerts - 2pm - 4 pm

• July 23 - Singer-song-

writer Kerry Joy Mollifret

(Sameck); Violinist

Emma Post

• July 30 - Faisten Brown

Heather Livingstone

Jazz Ensemble

• August 6 - Marjorie

Keers Baroque Ensemble

• August 13 - Phil Dwyer

Quartet

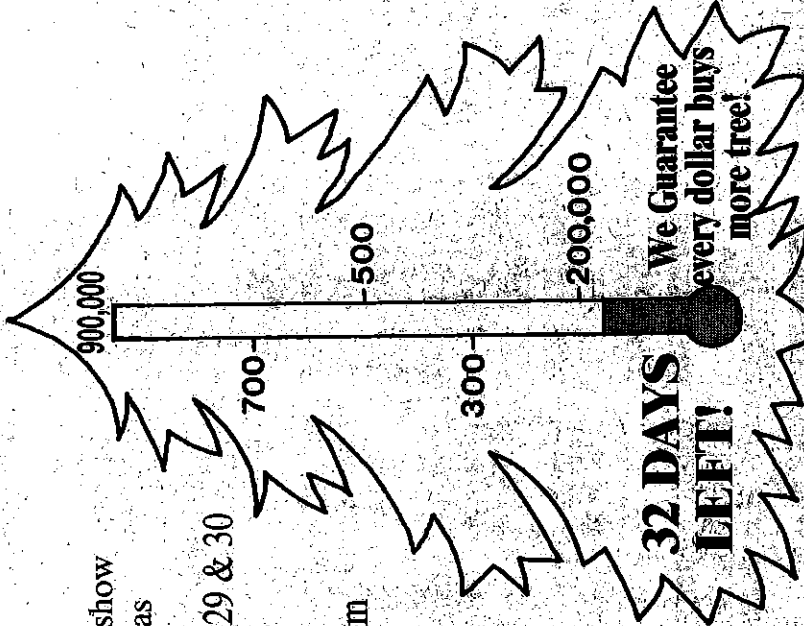
• Paddock Party - Fri., July

28, 4:30pm to 7:30

p.m. Silent Auction

Articles value \$10.00 to

\$10,000!



DONATE TODAY!

(IT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE)
TALL TREES PROJECT OFFICE
 The Brown Property Preservation Society
 707 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach
752-2902
 for tickets to Paddock Party
 & Garden Tour
www.cmisopirence.com/brown
 605 Parkville, Highway 100, Qualicum Beach, BC
 Parks@brownpp.com

Paddock tickets on sale

Tickets are now on sale for the upcoming 'Paddock Party' on Fri., July 28, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. This fun afternoon reception will benefit the Tall Trees Project of the Brown Property Preservation Society.

"We have a double mandate to create awareness for the park and to raise the funds," says Paddock Party organizer Denyse Widdifield. "This party will meet both our goals. We hope to attract 500 persons to a lovely wine and hors d'oeuvres reception in the park."

The Paddock Party will showcase the Island Baroque Ensemble, among others. There will be an opportunity to tour the property, play some games and contribute to the cause.

Tickets are \$35, and include wine, beer, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, sweets and non-alcoholic refreshments. They are available at both Mulberry Bush Book Stores and

the Tall Trees Project office on Primrose in Qualicum Beach.

In order to make this event even more fun and profitable, the society is holding a silent auction which has many exciting donations to date, including a lovely heirloom 1.4 carat diamond ring (minimum bid \$6,000) which was appraised at \$11,000; some rare wines and a great trip for eight persons to the Carmanah Valley, valued at \$900.

"This will be a wonderful way for people to wind down from their hectic week and support a great project," Widdifield adds.

"We are very grateful to town council for allowing us to hold the event at the paddocks in the Brown property.

"We urge people to get their tickets early, we invite them to come out for a great cause and we remind them to wear comfortable shoes."

M.S. July 19/2000

Alternate logging investigated

M. 5, 19, 7, 2000

By Valerie Baker

An alternative method of logging at the Little Qualicum River being considered by Weyerhaeuser is encouraging, says Qualicum Beach mayor Teunis Westbroek.

On Friday, Weyerhaeuser representatives showed Westbroek and Area G director Joe Stanhope a single stem selective logging method used near the Parksville weigh scales by MacMillan Bloedel about two years ago.

"With this method there are no roads, they cut the tops of the trees, buck the stumps and a helicopter picks up the timber," said Westbroek. He added, however, that there is a 50 per cent reduction in the volume that can be harvested with this method.

Westbroek said this method, which would include a 30-metre leave strip along the riverbank, is preferable to the Forest Practices Code logging method.

"The minimum standard under the FPC is for a 50-metre

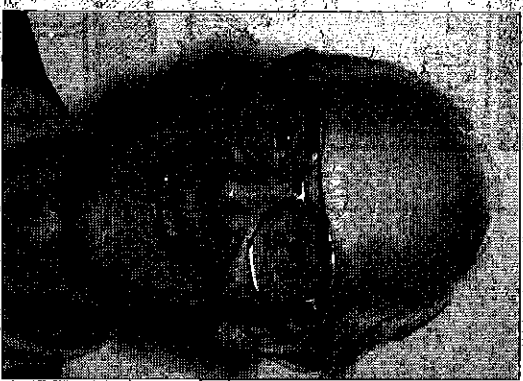


Mayor Teunis Westbroek

leave strip from the bank and a further 20 metres of single-stem selective logging, but beyond that can be cleared," said Westbroek.

Under the selective logging process, only trees which have reached their optimum growth are cut, creating more light and space for smaller trees to grow, he said.

"It would be a win-win situation. I would like to change the mindset of logging compa-



Director Joe Stanhope

nies] that it's not about how much we can get out but what we can leave," said Westbroek.

Meanwhile, Western Canada Wilderness Committee member Annette Tanner is concerned that alternative logging methods may stop the regional district from including the area in its regional parks plan, and the land could be sold in the meantime to a smaller logging company.

"This is not good news,"

said Tanner, in reference to an alternative logging procedure at Little Qualicum River. "If it's logged the conservation value is not there to preserve it for the community."

At Thursday's public meeting at the Little Qualicum community hall, 50 people attending were from various areas from Deep Bay to Parksville, Errington and Qualicum Beach, who have named their group The Neighbours of the Little Qualicum River.

The group plans to meet with Weyerhaeuser vice-president of environment enterprise Linda Coady, the regional district and the town of Qualicum Beach in September.

Westbroek said the town also plans to hold public meetings for residents and special interest groups before presenting a resolution to council on the future logging operations of Lot 10.

"They [Weyerhaeuser] don't plan to do anything until January, so we have some time," he said.

Believe it — every dollar counts

Barring a supernatural occurrence, the many members and supporters of the Brown Property Preservation Society aren't likely to raise \$725,000 in the next 26 days. On Aug. 15, the option deadline for the 15-acre parcel, we will know just how much of the land will be saved as a park and how much will be developed.

For some, that date can't come quickly enough.

There are people out there who have had enough of the Brown issue, who want to move onto things other than the option property they couldn't justify saving with their tax dollars.



Adrienne Mercer

Will they celebrate? Probably not. They've stopped paying attention.

For the people who are out there canvassing for donations, setting up fund-raisers and frantically playing Beat the Clock to save another square metre, another acre of this land, Aug. 15 should be a day to celebrate. It should be a day to look back at the weeks since June 17 and

say "We've done something that matters."

On that date, the referendum result showed 42.3 per cent of those who voted were willing to absorb a tax hike to preserve the 15 acres. Of those people, about 100 have worked tirelessly since referendum day to preserve as much of it as possible. They've organized a charity auction, a Qualicum Beach home and garden tour, weekly picnics in the park and an all-out media campaign.

Their reasoning is in 25 or 50 or 100 years, we won't be here, but our ancestors will. A town can grow a lot in that length of time, and in terms of retaining green space, more is always better.

How much money the fund-raising campaign produces remains to be seen — at press time there was just over \$175,000 — but as former Newfoundland premier and Save the Brown Property advocate Brian Peckford put it, every dollar raised is another tree saved.

The Brown property is not an old-growth forest. But to look at any of its trees is to sense its timelessness, and to understand how temporary we humans really are.

On the Canada Day long weekend, I took my younger brother Jason on a stroll through the 15-acre option property. As a Geography graduate who will soon start a Master's degree in community planning, I thought he would be interested in the issue which has captivated Qualicum Beach for so many months.

He told me it reminded him of Mundy Park, a valuable greenspace in our hometown, Coquitlam. In an area full of strip malls and fast food, the park is a welcome retreat for many nearby families, and to us as kids, it was a forest that seemed to go on forever.

As a Dashwood resident, I couldn't vote in the Brown referendum. But as a kid who loved to spend time in Mundy Park, I say this to the Brown Property Preservation Society: for every tree you save, thank you.

News 21.7.2000

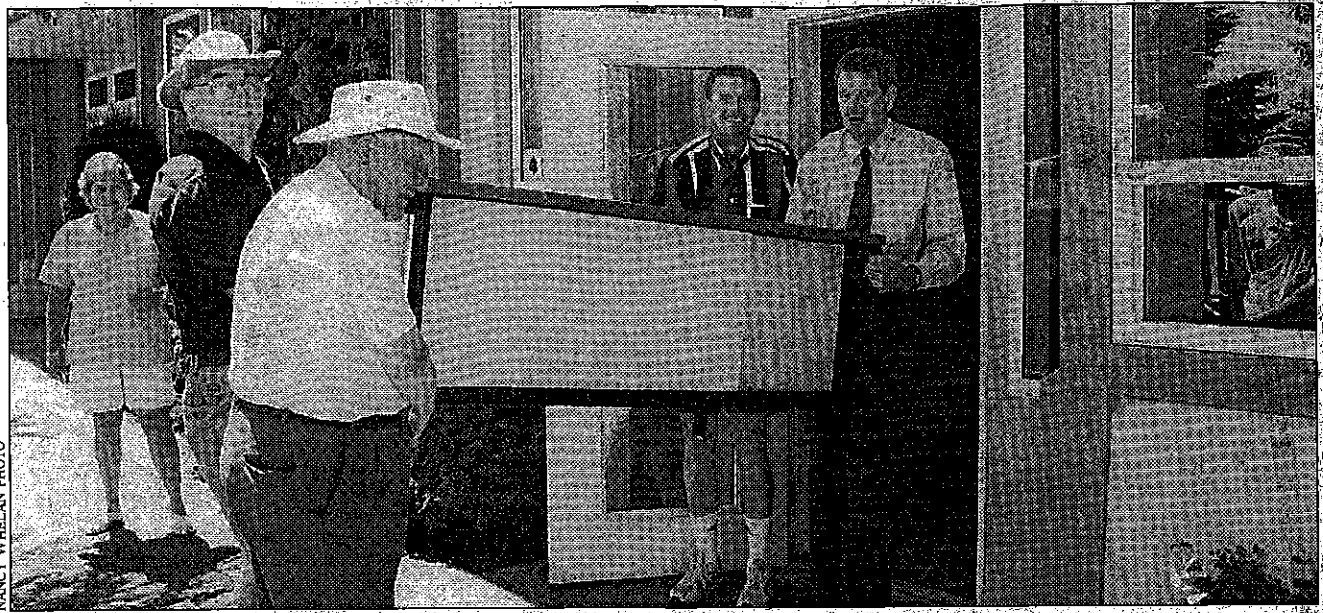
Concert a la Brown this Sunday

The Brown Property Preservation Society is running a series of concerts in the park, every Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Featured artists on July 23 will be singer-songwriter Kerry Joy Moutter and violinist Emma Post.

For further information call Richard de Candole at 752-2850.

NANCY WHELAN PHOTO



DENYSE WIDDIFIELD (left) WATCHES as Brian Peckford, Don Machan, Teunis Westbrook and Jack Wilson hoist a desk donated by Westbrook into the Brown Property Preservation Society headquarters at 707 Primrose.

Former NFLD premier a key point man on Brown rescue

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER 21.7.2008

Since the June 17 No vote in the Brown property referendum, the push to save the final 15 acres has become a true grassroots effort in Qualicum Beach. One of the most prominent voices in the fight is that of former Newfoundland premier Brian Peckford, who has turned his gift for the gab to raising media awareness about the property.

"I guess there are a lot of people like myself who see this as a volunteer, free choice thing," he said Tuesday. "It's the right thing to do — there is no economic reason to develop the land. It's up to people generally, by choice, to do something. And I like that sort of thing."

Peckford is convinced the property should be retained as originally envisioned by the Brown Property Preservation Society — 50 acres of forest land, with not a tree falling to development. Since the middle of June, when a group mobilized to save as much of the property as possible before the Aug. 15 deadline, he has contacted every media outlet on the Island, as well as provincial and national media.

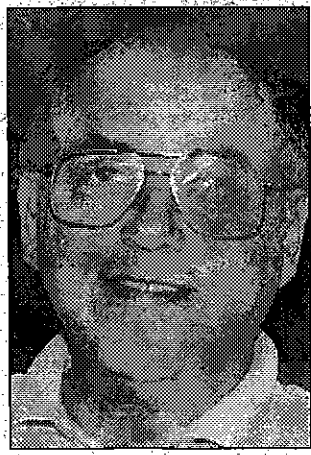
"Some of the media have been good, and locally they have been very good," he said. "It's harder to get attention provincially and nationally, although CKNW and CHEK TV have been very cooperative ... I've just been pushing and pushing and pushing as hard as I can."

A man used to speaking his mind in the public eye, Peckford acknowledges his past as a politician could bring a heightened awareness to the struggle. But he understands it

can also be a double-edged sword.

"You have to remember that people may have followed your career, and they may have a very negative impression about you," he said. "One has to be very careful ... I'm just one of others. We'll just see what we can do and do what we can."

To date, the society has raised just over \$175,000 of the \$900,000 price tag on the land. With under a month left to collect the rest, Peckford knows without some major donors, some of the property is bound to be developed.



Brian Peckford
...former premier says sometimes political fame can work against you

"It's often forgotten that every dollar earned is another piece of that property," he said. "We do need some more significant donors to come forward, but I think the supporters of this can already claim victory in many ways."

"The three or four acres we could buy right now would move the boundary back and give us some buffer. Moving that boundary along is very important."

In the last week Peckford has added another project to his plate — helping to attract major corporate donors who have some tie-in with the town. Though time is short, he believes it may still be possible to find one or more major contributors.

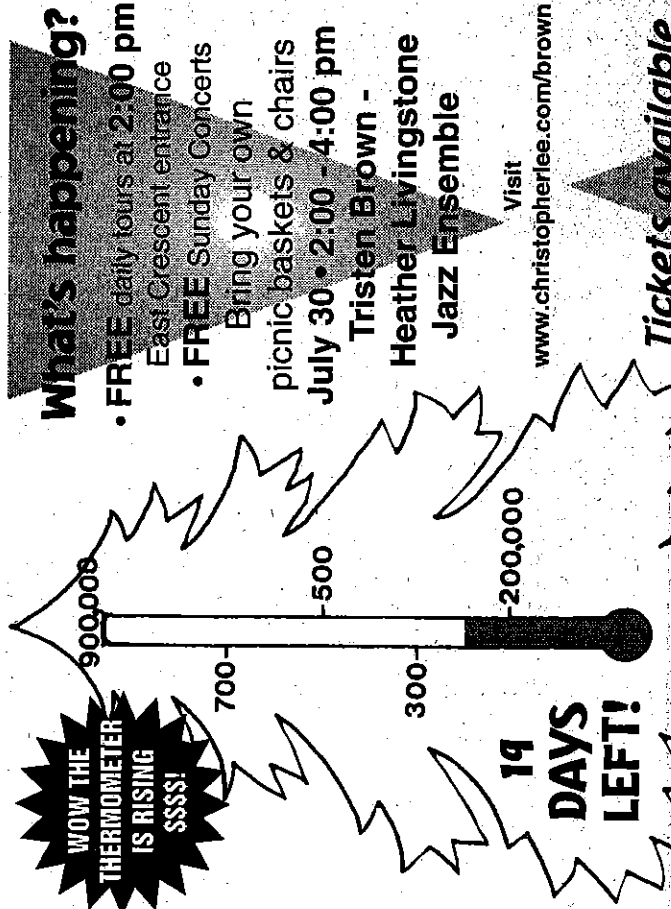
He says the volunteer hours he and others are contributing in the weeks before the option deadline point to an increased sense of spirit and community involvement in town.

"Each week, more and more individual donations have come in," he said.

"I think people who earlier felt the [Brown Property Preservation Society] was overplaying its hand are now saying 'yes, it is important.'"

TALL TREES PROJECT

The Brown Property Preservation Society's efforts to save the Qualicum Beach "in town" forest



What's happening?

- **FREE** daily tours at 2:00 pm East Crescent entrance
- **FREE** Sunday Concerts Bring your own picnic baskets & chairs
- July 30 • 2:00 - 4:00 pm
- Tristen Brown - Heather Livingstone Jazz Ensemble

Visit www.christopherlee.com/brown

19 DAYS LEFT!

Tickets available for

- Home & Garden Tour July 29 & 30
- Silent Auction articles valued from \$10 to \$10,000

Call our office for tickets 752-2902

WE GUARANTEE every dollar buys more of the 15 acres!

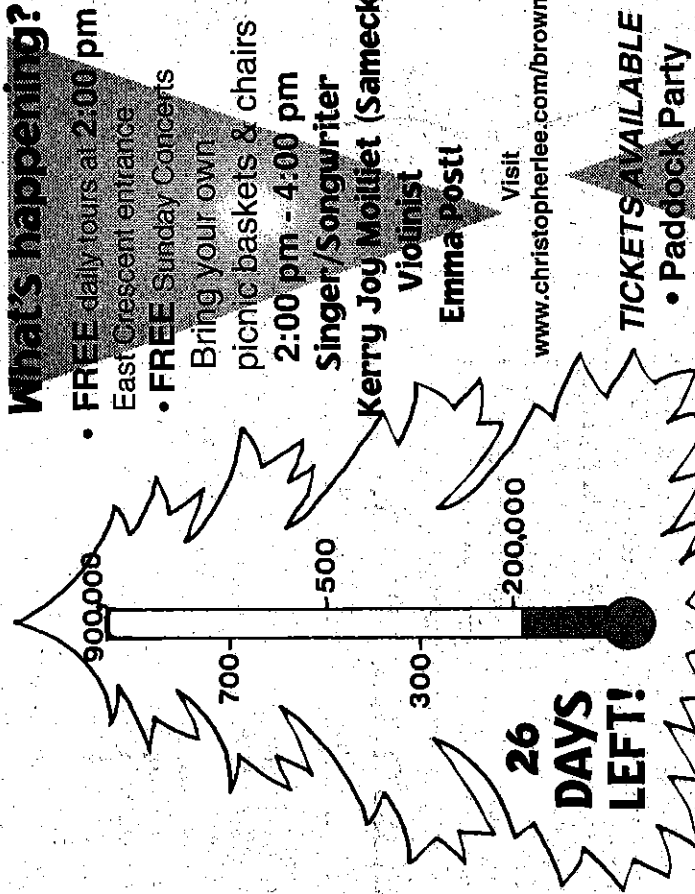
Donate today!

Tall Trees Project office
707 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach
or at the Credit Unions in Parksville, Qualicum Beach & Nanoose

Tax deductible! *News* July 25, 2000

TALL TREES PROJECT

The Brown Property Preservation Society's efforts to save the Qualicum Beach "in town" forest



What's happening?

- **FREE** daily tours at 2:00 pm East Crescent entrance
- **FREE** Sunday Concerts Bring your own picnic baskets & chairs
- 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- Singer/Songwriter Kerry Joy Molliet (Sameck)
- Violinist Emma Postl

Visit www.christopherlee.com/brown

26 DAYS LEFT!

TICKETS AVAILABLE

- Paddock Party Friday July 28 4:30 - 7:30 pm
- Home & Garden Tour July 29 & 30
- Silent Auction articles valued from \$10 to \$10,000

Call our office for tickets 752-2902

WE GUARANTEE every dollar buys more of the 15 acres!

Donate today!

Tall Trees Project office
707 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach
or at the Credit Unions in Parksville, Qualicum Beach & Nanoose

Tax deductible!

Behind QB's intriguing fences

Rosemuir part of garden tour

By DAVID HAY
NEWS REPORTER

July 25, 2000

One of the 14 extraordinary Qualicum Beach properties open to the public as part of the Home and Garden Tour on July 29 and 30 will be the beautiful "Bruin Hollow", also known as "Rosemuir".

Built in 1927 and sitting on just under three acres of rolling gardens and forest on West Crescent, the English country manor was one of the original major homes in town.

Victor and Grace Fershko decided to open their property, which was the first in Qualicum Beach to be assigned a heritage designation, out of support for the cause of the fund-raising tour — the preservation of as much of the Brown property as is possible.

Victor, a retired lawyer whose focus was land use and environmental law in California's Napa Valley, says he is well acquainted with the issues surrounding increasing urbanization.

"Much of my work involved representing grape growers and vintners in conflicts that arose with increasing urban development," he said. "After I retired in 1993, we found this idyllic town of Qualicum Beach, and it's interesting that some very similar issues are appearing here now as well."

Fershko says although he and his family moved to Qualicum Beach looking for a quiet, private life, they felt that opening their historic home to the public for the sake of the Tall Trees Project was appropriate.

"Those who have worked so hard to preserve the Brown property are owed a great debt of gratitude by this community," he said. "I grew up in New York city, and the only thing green in my neighbourhood was a fire hydrant."

Fershko says the previous owners of the estate, sisters Grace and Holly of the Muir family, stipulated that the buyer preserve the character and cultured beauty of the locale.

And the Fershko family has done just that.

With features like the original old growth cedar shake roof (now clothed in soft green moss), original fir flooring and an authentic brick Rumford fireplace, the home is both impressive and inviting.

The grounds — which are home to ancient cedars, Douglas firs and even redwoods — constitute a peaceful, pastoral little world of their own. The flora of the place is extensive and varied, with lovely roses given prominence in the English tradition.

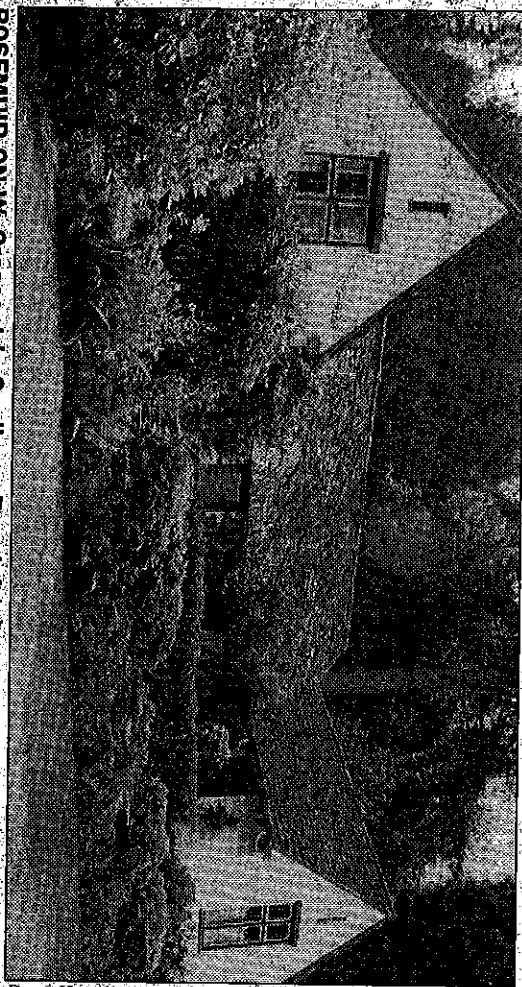
Bruin Hollow is truly a magnificent property, and the opportunity to visit its lush environs is a rare one.

The Fershko family is one of 14 Qualicum Beach families who will open their unique homes and properties to the public for the Brown Property Tall Trees Project on Saturday and Sunday, July 29 and 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

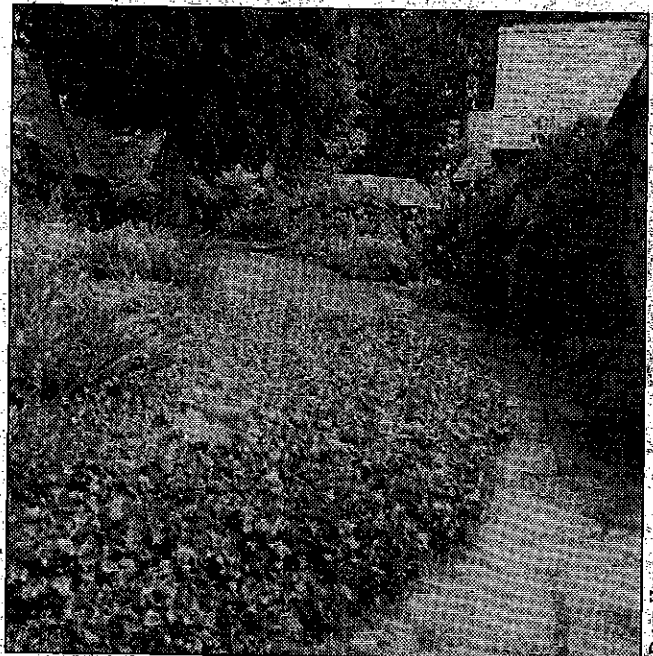
The self guided tour may be started at any of the 14 residences, each of which will be noted on a map and marked with a sign. Volunteers will also be posted to help with any questions you may have.

For more information, call the Brown Property office, at 752-2902.

ROSEMUIR ON W. Crescent in Qualicum Beach is a designated heritage home.



DAVID HAY PHOTO



DAVID HAY PHOTO

BEHIND ROSEMUIR'S FENCE lies a splendid system of garden trails, yours for viewing this weekend.

Tall trees a sound endeavor

NEWS 25.7.2000

Last Sunday July 16, our family spent a very pleasant time in the paddock area of the Brown Property.

Lying in the shade out of the brilliant sunshine surrounded by the tall trees, the air perfumed with the smell of recently chipped cedar, we listened to the music played by Mr. Joe Friede and Mr. Bill Cave.

As students of the trumpet, my big brother and I were amazed by Mr. Cave. Not only can he sing but he can play the piano and trumpet at the same time. We won't be surprised if he figures out a way to do all three together.

We the children of the Buttner-Schnirer family would publicly like to praise

Mr. Jens Van Draby for dreaming up the name "Tall Trees Project" for the Brown Property Preservation Society.

Thank you Mr. Van Draby for drawing our attention way up to their splendor.

Tony, Patrick, Katya & Steven Buttner-Schnirer
Qualicum Beach

Enough on Brown land

Editor, the Morning Sun: July 26, 2000

I have a couple of questions for the supporters of more Brown property.

As taxpayers, we have bought a large section of the land (without a referendum). We have paid for a referendum to say we don't want to spend more tax dollars to buy more.

Are the supporters just not listening, or can they not comprehend? The tax base of Qualicum Beach is small, and we would all like the village to stay that way. But without new taxpayers, where will revenue come from to support the facilities we already have?

A large number of the taxpayers in this area are seniors and living on small fixed incomes. We don't want to end up like Vancouver a few years back when seniors were forced to sell their homes because the taxes became too high.

I believe the 'no' voters tried to get the message across that it was not the \$25 per year projected, but the unseen costs of maintenance and upkeep.

We have three provincial parks within a 10-minute drive of Qualicum Beach, all with excellent walking trails and much better scenery that leads from the museum to the beach, the beach walk and unattended trails off Rupert Road. I for one would like my tax dollars spent to maintain the trails we have now.

If you don't want a large subdivision on the Brown property, you should put your efforts toward changing the regulations as to the lot size. There is nothing nicer than strolling on a quiet road in Qualicum Beach, enjoying the lovely residential gardens. If the remaining 15 acres were divided into large size lots, it could really add to the ambience of the area.

Please start listening to the majority of people in Qualicum Beach (as proved by the referendum) and quit hounding us for money. We don't want more, we want our tax dollars spent to maintain what we already have.

Kay I. MacIntyre

TALL TREES PROJECT
What's Happenin'
'Paddock Party & Silent Auction'
 Articles valued \$
 Fri., July 28, 4-7
 at the

• Hot & Cold Beverages
 • 14 Tickets available
 Mulberry Parksville
 Beach or picnic tickets and in

FREE SUNDAY CONCERTS
 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 • July 30 - Tristen Brown, Heather Livingston Jazz
 • Aug. 6 - Margorie Koets, Peter Leelec, Rosalie Sullivan & Mandolinist Ljijanna
 • Aug. 13 - Juno Award Winner Phil Dwyer Quartet Jazz
 Bring your chair and picnic to 292 E. Cresent
www.christopherlee.com/brown

20 DAYS LEFT!
 We Guarantee every dollar buys more trees!

DONATE TODAY!
 (IT'S TAX DEDUCTIBLE)
 TALL TREES PROJECT OFFICE
 The Brown Property Preservation Society
 707 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach
752-2902
 or Parksville and District Credit Union
 Parksville, Qualicum Beach & Nanoose

300-
 500
 200,000

July 26, 2000
 752-2902

Paddock party cancelled

M.S., July 26, 2000

Due to poor ticket sales, the July 28 Paddock Party has been cancelled. Organizers say they were not prepared to commit the organization to spending dollars, even though they were pretty sure tickets would eventually have sold.

The Tall Trees Project will hold a silent auction, originally scheduled for the Paddock Party, in conjunction with the Sunday concerts in the park on Aug. 6 and 13. Items will be available for bidding in the barn during the concerts, which are held from 2 to 4 p.m. each Sunday.

A list of the items up for bids will

be published and the public is invited to drop in and place their bids. There are many items available — from estate jewelry to certificates for services and accommodation. Many artists have contributed to the silent auction, both prints and original works.

Organizers thanked all the volunteers and businesses who offered to support the Paddock Party, and said anyone who bought a ticket can return it to the original place of purchase for a full refund.

Anyone wanting information on upcoming events can call 752-2902.

Tall Trees live

29.7.2000

An advertisement on page 22 of Wednesday's *Morning Sun* unfortunately gave the impression that the Tall Trees Project to save the remainder of the Brown property had been cancelled.

In fact, only the Paddock Party was cancelled, due to low ticket sales. All other fundraising activities continue as planned and donations are still being taken at the Tall Trees Project office at 707 Primrose St. in Qualicum Beach.

We regret the misunderstanding and any inconvenience it may have caused.

Appeal goes digital

M.S. July 26, 2000

The Tall Trees Brown Property Committee last week posted to the world wide web a new digital video of the 50-acre forest it is trying to preserve. It was created by a 1999 student summer project known as the E (Environment) Team.

The seven minute video is a guided tour of this older growth forest in the heart of Qualicum Beach by Kwalikum Secondary grad Annilou Verge-Marion.

During the tour, Annilou plays peekaboo with a baby deer, takes a close-up look at a spider weaving a web, inspects the gnarled bark of an ancient Douglas fir and dips her hands in the water of Beach Creek.

She reminds viewers that unless the final 30 per cent of the forest is protected from development, the

integrity of the entire forest is at risk. The society successfully saved 70 per cent of the forest in 1999, and has until Aug. 15 to raise another \$900,000 to purchase the remainder.

The E Team video, which is edited by local film producers Phil Carson and Julie Austin (752-0307), can be viewed at www.christopherlee.com/brown.

Information about donating can be obtained by calling the campaign office at 752-2902.

Other members of the E Team were Aurelie Verge-Marion, Simon Tilby, Katie McLean, Shannon Watson and Sheila Tobin. Through a B.C. government grant, they were hired last summer to research and film several videos relating environmental issues on the central Island.

M.S.

22 WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2000

Donations top \$200,000

By Valerie Baker

With 21 days remaining to raise funds to purchase the 15-acre Brown property portion, a major donation is needed, said society president Jack Wilson.

"There may be someone out there who has made a substantial capital gain, or made a killing on the stock market, who would make a tax-deductible donation to the society. This would benefit the community instead of sending the taxes to Victoria and Ottawa," he suggested.

Meanwhile, daily donations are increasing, with around \$207,000 collected toward the total purchase price of \$910,000. More than 100 volunteers continue fundraising efforts for the Tall Trees Project.

"It has become a community issue rather than a Brown

property society issue," said Wilson.

"There are indications of some substantial donations

“
There are indications
of some substantial
donations from
summer property
owners.”

Jack Wilson

from summer property owners," said Wilson, who compared the situation to a Bellingham group who spent a year trying to raise \$900,000 to preserve a San Juan island.

"They raised the money, but most of the donations were made during the last 15 days," he said.

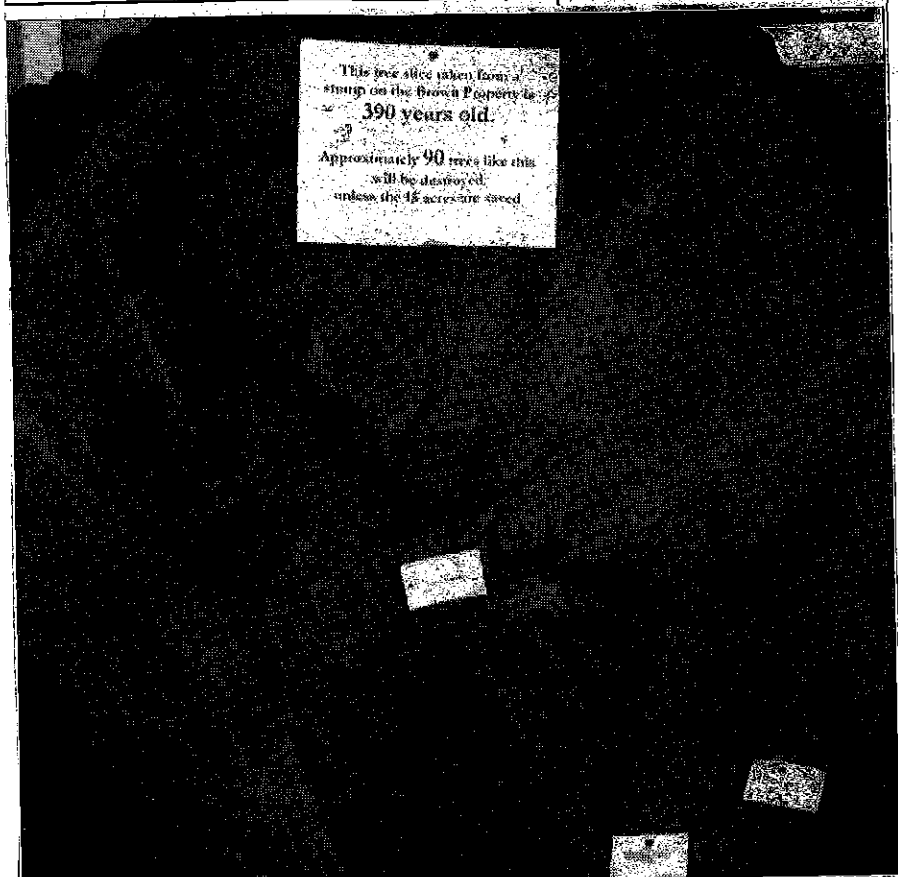
The Sunday picnics in the park are proving popular, with

around 75 people enjoying entertainment by various local musicians and tours of the property every week.

There will be a House and Garden Tour of unique properties of outstanding visual interest on July 29 and 30. Fourteen properties will be featured — including the Brown property house. For \$20, people will get a map of locations they can view at their own pace over the two-day event.

Tickets and maps are available at the Mulberry Bush bookstores in Parksville and Qualicum Beach, the Brown property headquarters at 707 Primrose Street and at Qualicum House on Second Avenue.

Donation and volunteer information is available at the Brown Property Society Headquarters, 752-2902.



This tree slab taken from a stump on the Brown Property is 390 years old. Approximately 90 trees like this will be destroyed unless the 15 acres are saved.

This tree slab — taken from a 390-year-old stump on the Brown Property — reminds people of what will be lost if enough money isn't raised to buy the remaining 15 acres. M.S. There are an estimated 90 trees of this vintage on the property. 267,100

TALL TREES PROJECT

What's Happening...

Home & Garden Tours

Sat., July 29th and Sun., July 30th

• 14 Homes and Gardens Open -

Tickets for both the above available at

Mulberry Bush Book Stores, Parksville and Qualicum

Beach or phone 752-2902 for tickets and info.

FREE SUNDAY CONCERTS

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

• July 30 - Tristen Brown, Heather Livingston Jazz

• Aug. 6 - Margorie Koers, Peter Lelec, Rosalie Sullivan & Mandolinist Lijijanna.

• Aug. 13 - Juno Award Winner Phil Dwyer Quartet Jazz

Bring your chair and picnic to 292 E. Crescent

SILENT AUCTION

August 6th and 13th

To be held in conjunction with Sunday concerts, available for bidding in the

barn during concerts.

Value of items \$10 to \$10,000

www.christopheree.com/brown

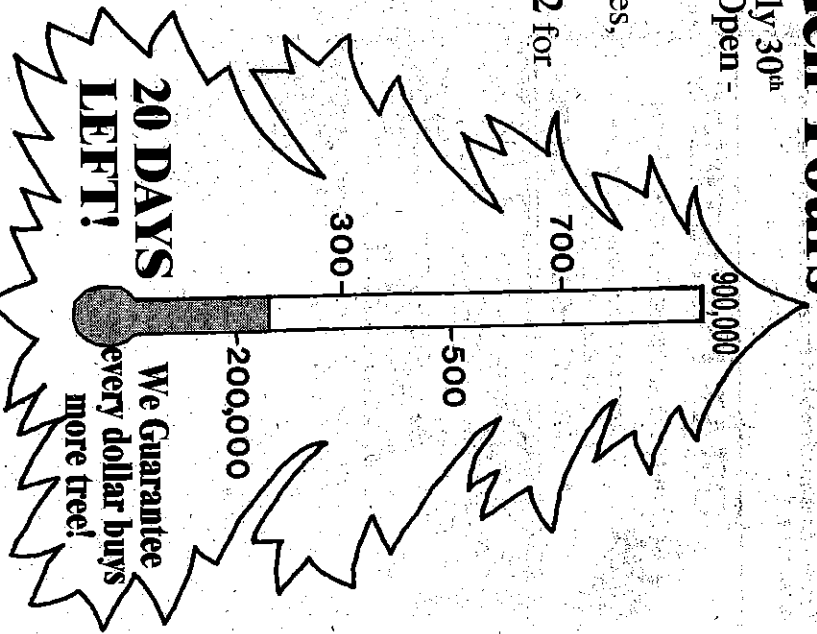
DONATE TODAY!

(IT'S TAX DEDUCTIBLE)
TALL TREES PROJECT OFFICE

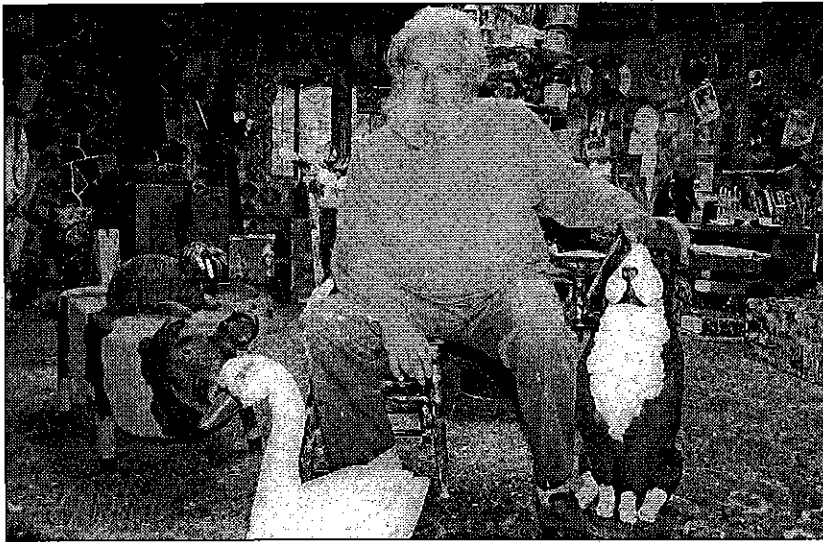
The Brown Property Preservation Society
707 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach

752-2902

or Parksville and District Credit Union
Parksville, Qualicum Beach & Nanoose



M.S. 29.7.2005



By **DAVID HAY**
NEWS REPORTER

Take de tour July 28, 2000

One of the properties open to the public as part of this weekend's Home and Garden Tour will be professional artist Don Thompson's famed outdoor art gallery.

de Home & Garden Tour, dat is

Thompson has become an internationally known folk artist, with his work

This highly enjoyable property (replete with studio, barn, sawmill saloon and animal bathhouse — all of which are packed with Thompson's creations) will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, as part of a fund-raising effort to preserve 15 acres of old east coast forest on Qualicum Beach's Brown property.

residing in private collections all over the world, including those of celebrities like K.D. Lang, Goldie Hawn, Mel Gibson and Katherine Hepburn.

And Thompson's rural Shangri-La, with its rustic pond and creek, is home to some of the breathing as well as the sculptural variety of wildlife.

"Everyone's welcome to come out here to the foot of Nutbar Mountain and have a look," he said. "Save the trees anytime — absolutely."

"We share the place with about 50 wild mallards, and six families of wood ducks," he said. "Those wood ducks are just exquisite, like they're made out of candy - I don't think you could paint them any better."

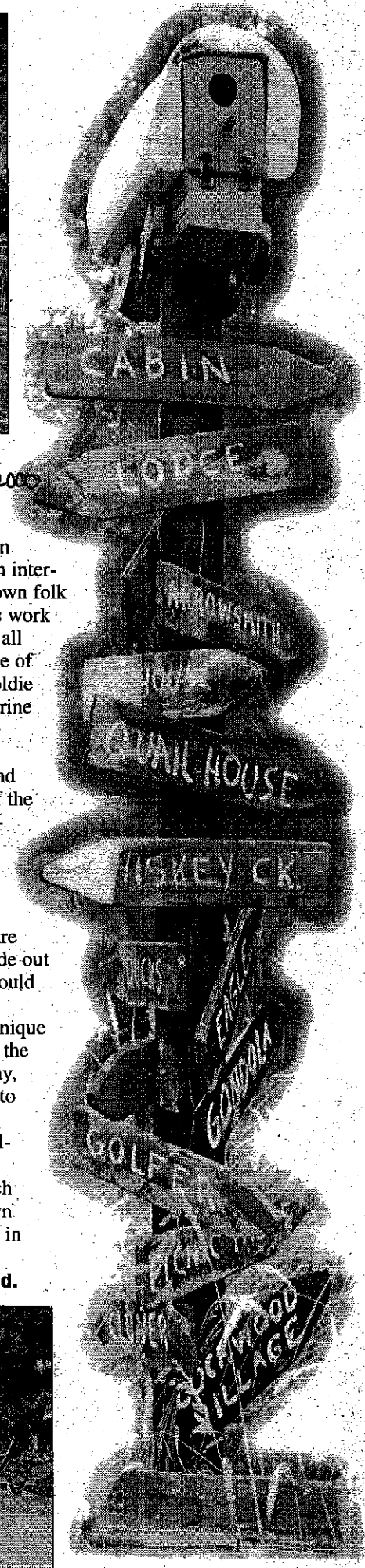
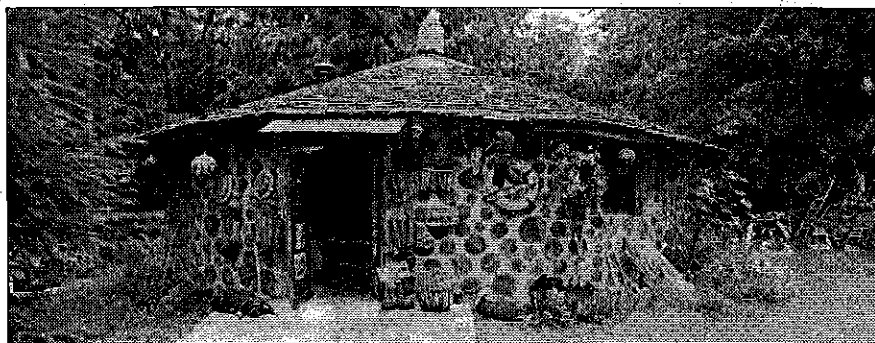
Thompson, whose work will be familiar to anyone who has seen the wooden cats draped over the fence of Smithford's store in Qualicum Beach, picked up a chainsaw about eight years ago, and began carving from logs and the stuff of his imagination.

Thompson's is one of 14 unique homes and properties open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, July 29 and 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Since then he has created some 900 pieces of sculpture. Although the pieces are hewn from wood, the fluidity of their lines and the sheer personality they exude are anything but wooden.

Tickets, \$20 each, are available at Mulberry Bush Bookstores in Qualicum Beach and Parksville, or at the Brown Property office, 707 Primrose in Qualicum Beach.

ARTIST DON THOMPSON opens his place to the public this weekend.



Tall trees get lofty donation

By ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER 1.8.2000

The Tall Trees Project got an unexpected boost this week thanks to a \$20,000 contribution from an anonymous donor.

The donation brings the total raised to just over \$230,000, and volunteers are hopeful it means more good fortune is on the way.

"This has become more of a community project than an effort by our society," said Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson. "Efforts are going great. Day by day, week by week momentum is growing."

"I'm an optimist to the core — I believe we can do this."

With the Tall Trees Project, the BPPS is striving to raise \$900,000 by Aug. 15 — the deadline to purchase the final 15 acres of the Brown Property. With a silent auction running for the next two Sundays and a Home and Garden tour slated for this weekend, the group shows no sign of slowing its cam-

paign.

"I've learned so much about forests that I've never known before," Wilson said.

Though he doesn't classify himself as an environmentalist, he is adamant development on the 15 acres is unnecessary, and will have a harmful effect on the 35 acres the town already owns.

"Some people say resi-

dential development won't matter but it really will," he said.

"The root systems in the forest are all intertwined — if you cut down a tree it can affect a tree 50 or 100 feet away."

According to Wilson, disturbing these interconnected root systems could also contribute to blow-down in the 35 acre parcel.

"I just encourage every-

body to walk through the park if they haven't done so already, to see what the potential can be ... every dollar we raise will go toward saving another part of the 15 acres."

For more information about the Tall Trees Project or to make a donation, call 752-2902 or visit the Brown property headquarters at 707 Primrose in Qualicum Beach.

Bounty plentiful for silent auction

News 1.8.2000

Preparations are well under way for a fund-raising silent auction to be held at the Brown Property paddocks in conjunction with the Sunday concerts of Aug. 6 and August 13.

Many businesses and individuals have contributed to the silent auction and organizers hope to receive additional items up to the day of the concert.

The items donated range in price from \$20 to \$11,000. For instance,

An estate 1.4 carat diamond ring set in platinum and appraised at \$11,000 is up for bids and can be viewed at Marquis Jewelers located on Second Avenue. Bids for that item only will be accepted at the Brown Property Office at 707 Primrose St. up to and including Aug. 12. Bidding will start at \$6,000. This item will not be part of the Sunday Concerts Silent Auction.

Other items include a book from Al

Ranger on Vancouver Island, a water color by Turk Caldwell, Tai Chi videos, a set of prints by Kelly Hanson, nap for eight to the Cammanah Valley including lunch, a limited edition framed photograph by the late Jack Whelan. Also offered: a Murder Mystery week-end for two at the Qualicum College Inn, certificates for a spa experience, manicures and massage, two tickets to the November Rotary/Chamber gala and many other fantastic gifts etc.

Most items will be displayed until Aug. 12 at the Brown Property Office.

Anyone can view and bid Aug. 6 in the barn at the Paddocks from 2-4 p.m., but the real bidding takes place on Sunday, Aug. 13 from 2-3:40 p.m. Anyone wishing to donate to the auction can contact Denyse at 752-8115 or the Brown Property Office at 752-2902.

Top Liberal does Brown homework

By TOM MACDOUGALL
NEWS REPORTER 1.8.2000

Gordon Campbell

dropped \$200 in the Brown Property Society coffers while he was in Parksville last week, matching donations from the two candidates he hopes will help lead to a Liberal sweep of northern mid-island. Judith Reid and Gillian Trumper.

He also proved willing to do a little homework.

This spring, in a *PQ* News feature called Take 10 (March 14), Campbell said he had not heard of the Brown Property in Qualicum Beach.

This visit, he knew proponents were trying to preserve 15 acres (or hectares, he wasn't sure and looked to Trumper and Reid for assistance), knew they need \$900,000 and have so far raised just over \$200,000, that there's a deadline of Aug. 15 and "I know there's a huge number of volunteers who have been working their tails off."

He also knows Trumper is in for a fight when she contests the newly created Alberni-Qualicum riding in the next provincial election.

She'll be going head-to-head with incumbent

Gerard Janssen, a longtime NDP MLA and party whip.

"There's no question it's going to be a good fight," said Trumper.

That said, Campbell appears to want to steer the election away from personally politics.

"This is not about whether people like Gerard Janssen or not. This is about whether people like the government.

"Do people want to improve the situation, or do people want to reward the NDP?" asked Campbell.

Campbell continued on to say he has never heard Janssen speak in the legislature on issues directly related to his constituency.

"People want people who will stand up and speak for them."

Brown report

M.S. 2.8.2000

By Valerie Baker

With \$235,000 in the bank toward the purchase of the 15-acre Brown property nature reserve, society president Jack Wilson is impressed with the community volunteer effort.

"It's incredibly heart-warming to see the degree of volunteer support for the Brown Property Preservation Society," said Wilson.

"The home and garden tour exceeded our wildest expectation, raising more than \$22,000, and there were 120 volunteers involved in the event," he said.

With the Aug. 15 deadline to purchase the property looming, Wilson would like more people to take the free guided tour of the property. "I urge people who haven't visited the Brown property to get out and see what we're talking about," he said.

Meanwhile, fundraising continues to raise the \$910,000 needed to purchase the remaining 15 acres, with Sunday picnics in the park from 2 to 4 pm and silent auctions on Aug. 6 and 13.

Donations of cash and items for the auction can be made at the society headquarters at #2-707 Primrose Street, by calling 752-2902, or by visiting any branch of the Parkville and District Credit Union.

Judges eye town

M.S. 2.8.2000

By Valerie Baker

Qualicum Beach will be looked at through critical eyes today, when the Communities in Bloom judges tour the town, assessing it for national fame.

Following last year's success as winners of the provincial Communities in Bloom contest, Qualicum Beach is one of seven communities with a 5,000 to 10,000 population that is competing in this year's national contest. Other competing communities include two in Ontario, two in Alberta and one in Prince Edward Island.

Judges Margaret Howe, a certified master gardener from Ontario, and Hubert Noseworthy, a retired superintendent of parks and recreation for the City of St. John's, Newfoundland, flew into Qualicum Beach yesterday and attended a welcoming reception on the town hall deck yesterday evening, when the Significant Tree Album was unveiled.

Coun. Marlys Diamond, chamber of commerce general manager Georgia Maclean, town parks foreman George Mitchell and Communities in Bloom committee member Diane Pertson will escort the judges throughout their tour today.

So what do the judges look for?

It's more than just blooms.

They will visit the French Creek treatment plant, the garbage transfer station, Grandon and Beach Creeks and town facilities, as well as the Brown property, the Milner Gardens and the downtown and residential areas.

New this year is the first phase of the Friendship Garden at Memorial and Garden Roads, sponsored by the town, the Qualicum Rotary Club and Branch 76 Legion, and created by town parks staff.

"We've prepared for the competition all year, and taken last year's results and comments into account," says town parks foreman George Mitchell.

This year the committee has compiled a town-owned tree inventory, listing the species and locations of some 500 trees, says Mitchell.

"We've also done some improved roadside mowing and worked to improve the appearance of some of the school property grounds. We have a lot more trails — and the purchase of the Brown property this year," he said.

Committee members are hoping residents will pull that weed, or pick up that piece of garbage they may see on their property today.

THE MORNING SUN 2.8.2000



Fred Salliana entertained at the Brown property Sunday.

TALL TREES PROJECT

What's Happening...

M.S.
2.8.2000

Home & Garden Tours

Sat., July 29th and Sun., July 30th

- 14 Homes and Gardens Open - Tickets for both the above available at Mulberry Bush Book Stores, Parksville and Qualicum Beach or phone 752-2902 for tickets and info.

FREE SUNDAY CONCERTS

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

- July 30 - Tristen Brown, Heather Livingston Jazz
- Aug. 6 - Margorie Koers, Peter Leclec, Rosalie Sullivan & Mandolinist Ljlianna.
- Aug. 13 - Juno Award Winner Phil Dwyer Quartet Jazz. Bring your chair and picnic to 292 E. Crescent

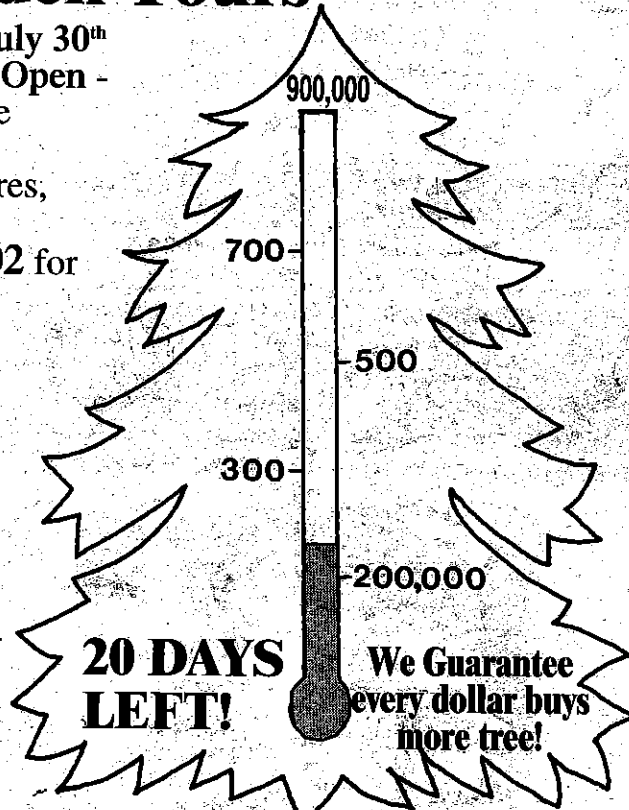
SILENT AUCTION

August 6th and 13th

To be held in conjunction with Sunday concerts, available for bidding in the barn during concerts.

Value of items \$10 to \$10,000

www.christopherlee.com/brown



DONATE TODAY!

(IT'S TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

TALL TREES PROJECT OFFICE

The Brown Property Preservation Society

707 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach

752-2902

or Parksville and District Credit Union
Parksville, Qualicum Beach & Nanoose

Home and garden tour draws a crowd

By Valerie Baker

The Brown property home and garden tour was a phenomenal success last weekend, with more than 1,100 visitors touring the unique homes and gardens of Qualicum Beach.

"We had to print more tickets Saturday afternoon and again on Sunday morning because there were so many disappointed people without tickets," said event coordinator Louise Dwyer.

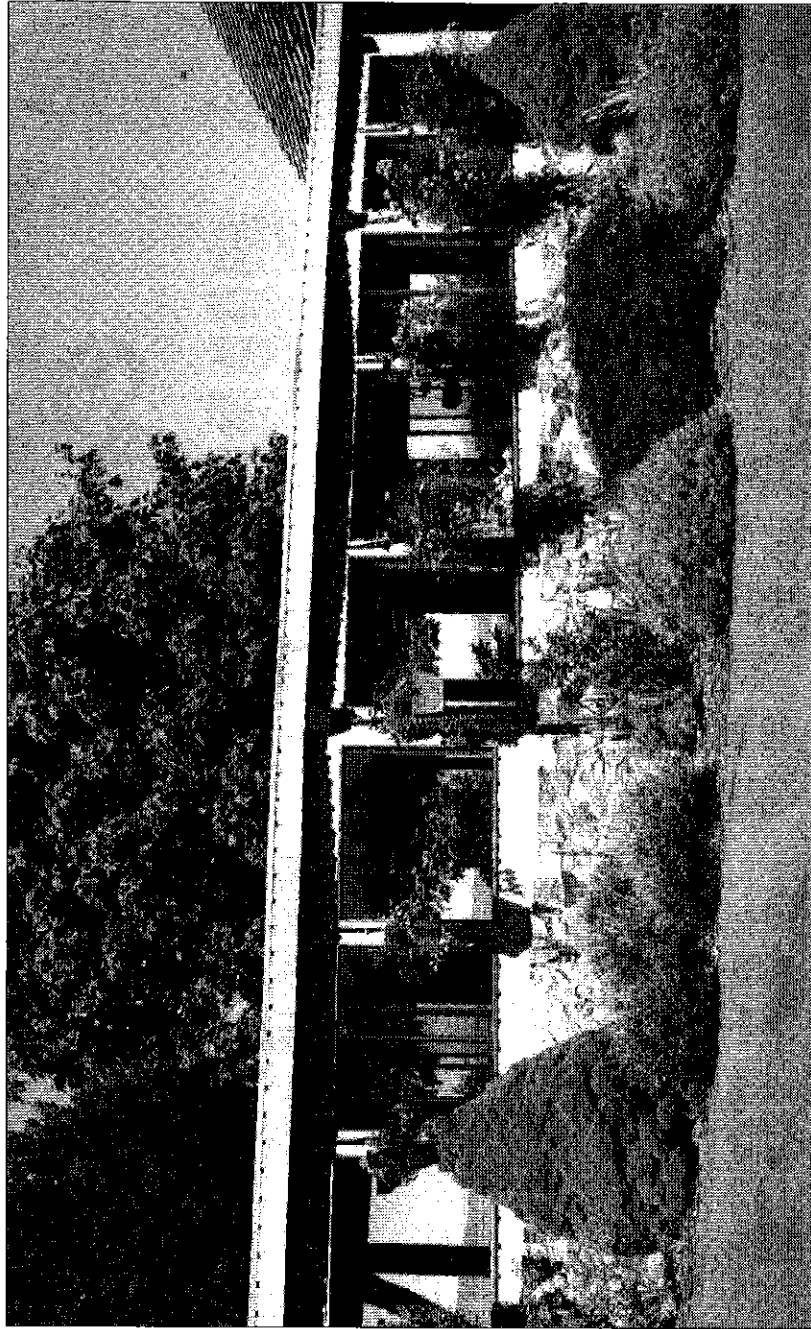
Visitors from Courtenay, Port Alberni, Duncan and Nanaimo were among those who took the \$20 two-day self-guided tour of the homes and gardens, with proceeds going to the Tall Trees Project to purchase the remaining Brown property

the 14 homes open to the public for the very first time.

From the cozy English-style cottages with rambling flower gardens and breathtaking ocean views, to a grandiose Judges Row property with its River Rock and cedar accents — owned by a movie star — and everything in between, the eager visitors armed with maps and addresses "oohed" and "aahed" at every stop.

Some homes included studios displaying artwork, textiles and antique object d'art; welcoming porches were adorned with unusual items such as brightly painted bicycles from a bygone era with colourful blooms spilling out of the basket; shady patios were crammed with fragrant lilies and blooms, water bowls and ornament-laden shelves; the gardens ranged from circular lawns and shrubs surrounded by majestic trees, to profusions of colourful blooms at every turn; even some garden sheds were attractively converted with painted window frames and little flower boxes.

Many of the homes had historical features



This solarium is part of artist Maureen Marshall's home.

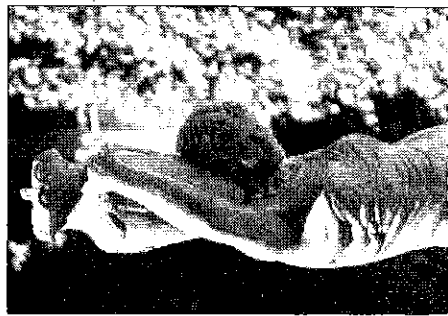
dows and latch-lock doors.

An unusually-designed Sunrise Drive property — with its granite tower and solarium — provided the curious with an opportunity to glimpse inside the tall windows drew gasps from onlookers. Room connected to room throughout the entire length of the property, with each room decorated in mono-chromatic blues. An outdoor brick

grounds of Gable Cottage on Seacrest Place was a memorable experience.

Although the house was not open to the public, the view through the large windows drew gasps from onlookers. Room connected to room throughout the entire length of the property, with each room decorated in mono-chromatic blues. An outdoor brick

Thompson — recently fea-





Statue in the Iyer garden.

The variety of home styles, furnishings and gardens — each with its own charm and character — delighted the visitors who drove at their own pace to

such as 'Bruin Hollow' on Hoylake Road — the first house in Qualicum Beach to be assigned a heritage designation.

Children's book author Johnee Burnett opened her charming waterfront country home, with its leaded glass win-

tured on the Weird Homes TV program — included a tour of his outdoor gallery and forested property, where his amusing whimsical creations appear at every turn. This home was definitely a one-of-a-kind home.

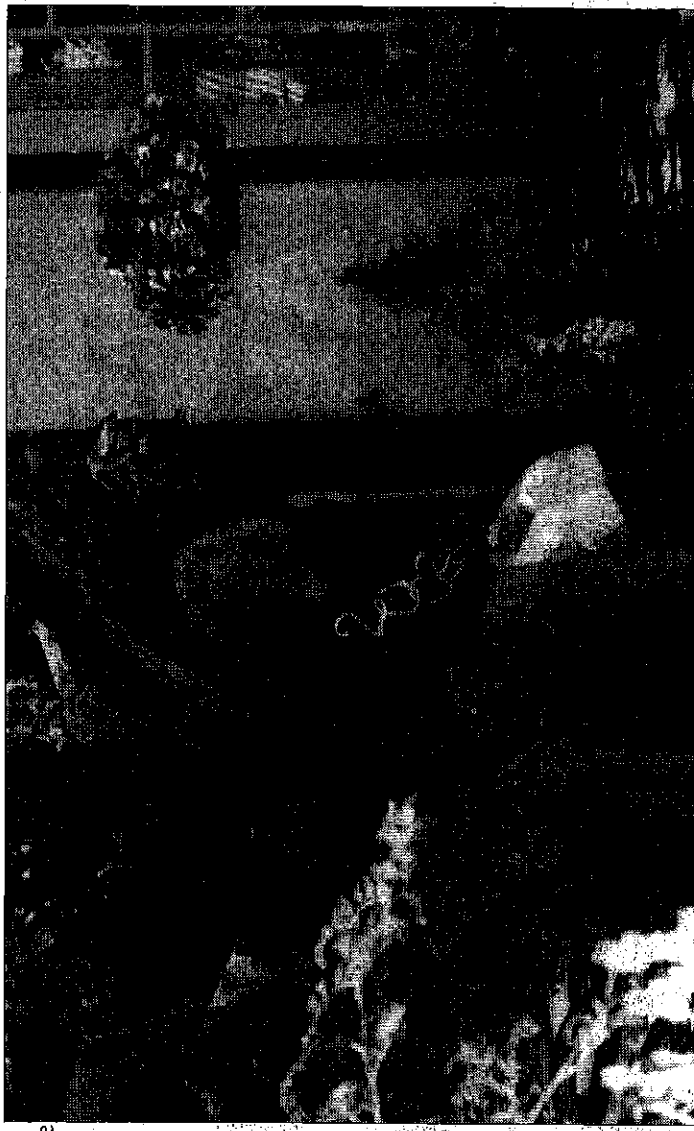
Touring the

fireplace and a pet cemetery were among the many unique features of this incredible beach-front property.

"Visitors raved at the variety of properties," said Dwyer.



Garden art adds colour to the Iyer's yard.



Jai and Lis Iyer enjoy the deck at their Burnham Rd. home.



The fabulous view from the home of Myrtle and Bill Arnold on Judges Row.

Let the judging process bloom

Qualicum Beach shows off its flowery side for national competition

By ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER 4.8.2000

National Communities In Bloom judges Margaret Howe and Hubert Noseworthy made a whirlwind trip to Qualicum Beach this week, touring heritage areas, gardens, parks and private homes as part of their quest for the best-blooming town in the country.

"Coming in on the plane, this struck me as a very green community in terms of its urban green space," Howe said Tuesday, at a reception given on the town hall deck in honor of the judges' arrival.

She said she and Noseworthy are impressed with projects like the preservation of the Brown property and the recent environmental enhancement of Beach Creek.

"It sounds like you have very active volunteers in Qualicum Beach," she said. "On the way into town I saw a sign that read 'It's not just flowers.' And I was glad to see that, because the program is all about community involvement and heritage."

Howe and Noseworthy



ADRIENNE MERCER PHOTO

BERT REID OF the Significant Trees Committee (centre) shows the completed project to Communities In Bloom judges Margaret Howe and Hubert Noseworthy.

will be judging the town on its floral displays, landscaping, turf areas, tidiness, environmental effort, urban forestry and heritage conservation.

At the reception, Councillor Marlys Diamond welcomed Howe and Noseworthy, and thanked representatives from the various community groups that helped with

Communities In Bloom.

In turn, Mayor Teunis Westbroek thanked Diamond, calling her "the sparkplug and the coordinator of this event."

Qualicum Beach's strong showing in last year's provincial competition earned the town the right to move on to the national level.

The town is competing

against six other Canadian towns in the 5,001 to 10,000 population category: Steinbach, Manitoba; Stratford, P.E.I.; Carleton Place, Ont.; Labrador City, Newfoundland and Stoney Plain in Alberta.

The winner will be announced Sept. 29, at the national awards ceremony in Edmonton.

COUNT THE RINGS!

SILENT AUCTION & CONCERTS

All proceeds go to the Tall Trees Project (Brown Property)

Sunday, August 6 & August 13

2 - 4 pm

Qualicum Beach and area artists, crafts persons, and businesses have donated these valuable items. **Don't miss this last major fundraising event.**



Sunday August 6th

Viewing and bidding
at the Park,
2 - 4 pm

Listen to Marjorie Koers, Peter
Leduc, Rosalie Sullivan Ensemble
Also hear the Mandolinist
Liljianna

Sunday August 13th

Viewing and **FINAL BIDDING**
at the Park, 2 - 4 pm
Take your purchase home!

Also hear Juno Award-winning
saxophonist Phil Dwyer
and friends

AUCTION ITEMS

- 1.4 Carat Diamond Ring set in platinum (\$11,500 value)
- Trip for 8 to Carmannah Valley
- Handwoven silk and mohair blanket
- Several framed originals and numbered prints by well known artists
- Set of 3 large Tall Trees colour photos
- Antique sewing machine and iron
- Folk Art Giraffe by Don Thompson
- 3 bottles of fabulous Cabernet
- Commemorative Commonwealth Stamps
- One week at St. Andrews Lodge
- Certificates for manicures, spas, and massages
- Much much more

Items on display at the Bard to Broadway Tent
Aug. 5, 10 - 2 pm. After this date view them at the
FALL TREES PROJECT OFFICE
707 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach
For more details, phone 752-2902

Juno winning saxophonist to play final Tall Trees concert

Juno award winning saxophonist Phil Dwyer and several Vancouver Island professional musicians will be performing at the final Save the Tall Trees con-

cert on Sunday, Aug. 13.

The outdoor concert takes place outside the Brown Property Stables at 292 East Crescent from 2 - 4 pm.

Phil is the son of Louise Dwyer of Qualicum Beach. He is a graduate of the Kwalikum Secondary School band pro-

Continued on page 2

THE Qualicum Totem

Locally Owned Monthly

Distribution - 8,000

Year 7, No. 12, August, 2000

Brown Property campaign mounts final push

With less than two weeks to go in the campaign to raise \$900,000 on behalf of the Tall Trees Brown Property Project efforts are being intensified to reach the goal.

The deadline is Aug. 15 and the total amount raised as of July 27 was \$240,000.

The organizing committee has plans for one more major fundraising event - a Silent Auction & Concert with Juno award winning saxophonist Phil Dwyer on Sunday, Aug. 13 from 2 - 4 pm at the Brown Property stables.

Door-to-door canvassing from French Creek to Bowser will continue right up until Aug. 15. The Brown Property Preservation Society office at 707 Primrose (Next to Dolly's) will be manned by volunteers Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. Call 752-2902.

Funds are being raised to purchase the remaining 15 acres of the 50 acre for-

est on Beach Creek owned by the Brown family. 35 acres have already been purchased.

A preview of the Silent Auction will take place on Aug. 6 at the Brown property in conjunction with the Sunday concerts. It will conclude on Aug. 13.

In addition to the auction, an estate 1.4 carat diamond ring set in platinum and appraised at \$11,000 is "up for bids" and can be viewed at Marquis Jewelers. Bids, starting at \$6,000, will be accepted at the Brown Property Office at 707 Primrose St until Aug. 12.



\$11,000 ring up for bids

Silent Auction items include:

- A book from Al Ranger
- a Tuk Caldwell watercolour
- Tai Chi videos
- Kelly Hanson prints
- trip for 8 to the Carmanah Valley
- Photograph by the late Jack Whelan
- Murder Mystery weekend for 2
- Manicure, massage & spa certificate
- 2 tickets to the Rotary/Chamber gala
- electric iron in a wooden box
- hand wheel sewing machine, circa 1908.
- Elsemarie Wilson hand-woven blanket
- Jason Marlow wood turning
- Gord Pym print
- Christopher Walker print
- Don Thompson whimsical giraffe

Anyone wishing to donate to the auction can contact Denyse at 752-8115.

August Concerts in the Park

Aug. 6 - Marjorie Koers, Peter Leclerc & Rosalie Sullivan, mandolinist Ljlianna
Aug. 13 - Phil Dwyer Quartet

Yes, I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Tall Trees Project

Name: _____

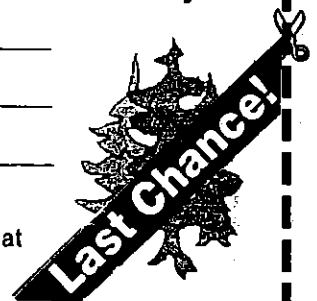
Address: _____

Phone: _____ Donation Amount: _____

Donation
drop-off
location

Brown Property Preservation Society Office
707 Primrose, Qualicum Beach, 752-2902, Open 10 am - 4 pm Mon - Sat

Clip and deliver this form before August 11, 2000



50-acre forest a legacy of General Money

Continued from Page 3

of Major Lowry's associate R. A. (Bobby) Brown. R.A. wasn't interested in the hotel but he did want to buy the golf course in order to protect his ocean view.

By the 1970s no one could be found to keep the hotel running and the property was subdivided. Then R.A. Brown died suddenly in January of 1972 and there great concern the golf course would be sold for development. Instead, the family agreed to sell it to the Town for \$1 million, much less than market value.

Now, nearly 30 years later, with his widow Genny too elderly to continue living in the home, the family has agreed to sell the surrounding forest for \$1.8 million, half what it was appraised at. The community was able to raise the first \$900,000 by May 1 of last year, securing 35 acres, and was then given 12 months (with an extension to Aug. 15) to come up with the rest. A proposal to raise the money through taxation was defeated in a referendum in June and now less than a month remains to reach the goal.

For supporters of the forest it has become a do or die proposition. I was among 80 people attending a rally in

late June who pledged to mount one final push to the finish line. The total amount of money raised stood at \$110,000. The task that lay ahead was daunting but no one seemed deterred. We were, after all, a community that just two years ago had mounted the superhuman effort required to force the resignation of our MLA.

A store-front office was opened (752-2902) and everyone hit the deck running. Any idea was a good idea and don't worry about getting approval. Just do it. I joined the publicity committee which attracted a couple of local heavy hitters. Qualicum Beach Mayor Teunis Westbroek agreed to tackle the various provincial government agencies involved in protecting land and to do some arm twisting among fellow mayors on the Central Island.

Former Premier Brian Peckford pledged to get himself on every major TV and radio station in Vancouver and Victoria in an effort to attract donors. I volunteered to arrange a free concert pic-

nic every Sunday afternoon until Aug. 13 in the heart of the forest where the Brown family had a riding ring and stables. Another supporter proposed a home and garden tour of Qualicum Beach's rich and famous which was held on July 29 weekend. There's a feeling that if everyone makes enough noise the appeal will reach the ears of the right donors. After all, the cam-

paign a year ago was partly successful because it attracted someone with a \$200,000 capital gain for which they required a tax receipt.

It's a time when the word community takes on a much larger meaning and as a non-resident I had no trouble counting myself in.

This appeared originally in the July 16 Victoria Times-Colonist.

Brown property video on internet

The Brown Property Committee has posted to the world wide web a new digital video of the 50 acre forest. It was created by a 1999 student summer project known as the E (Environment) Team.

The seven-minute video is a guided tour of this magnificent older growth forest by Kwalikum Secondary grad Annilou Verge-Marion.

During the tour Annilou plays peekaboo with a baby deer, takes a close-up look at spider weaving her web, inspects the gnarled bark of an ancient Douglas fir and dips her hands in the cool, clear water of Beach Creek.

She reminds viewers that

unless the final 30 per cent of the forest is protected from development the integrity of the entire forest is at risk.

The E Team video, which was edited professionally by local film producers Phil Carson and Julie Austin (752-0307), can be viewed at www.christopherlee.com/brown.

Other members of the E team were Aurelie Verge-Marion, Simon Tilby, Katie McLean, Shannon Watson and Sheila Tobin. Through a B.C. government grant they were hired last summer to film several videos relating environmental issues on the Central Island.

Juno winner caps concerts

Juno award winning saxophonist Phil Dwyer and several Vancouver Island professional musicians will display their talent and perform at the final Save the Tall Trees concert on Sun., Aug. 13.

The outdoor concert takes place outside the Brown Property Stables at 292 East Crescent, from 2 to 4 p.m. A silent auction will also be held during the concert.

The deadline for raising the

\$900,000 to purchase the final 15 acres of the 50-acre forest in the heart of Qualicum Beach is Aug. 15. As a result, the Phil Dwyer concert will be the last official event of the campaign.

Aug. 5, 2000 THE MORNING SUN

Events here to raise funds

By Valerie Baker

Two new fundraising initiatives are underway in the Tall Trees Project to purchase the 15-acre Brown property.

Brown property supporters can now remember loved ones and contribute to the fundraising effort at the same time through memoriam certificates.

"No minimum donation is required — although it is hoped that the amount given will help in meeting the project's Aug. 15 funding deadline," said project volunteer Andy Pope. "We're all set up, ready to print. This is a wonderful way to remember and

to honour loved ones who loved the outdoors and would want to help to save the trees," he said.

The memoriam certificates, available in three different styles, feature a backdrop of Brown property's ancient trees and can be viewed at the society's headquarters.

In addition, Quality Food shoppers can help the Tall Trees Project with their Q-Points, which can be cashed in and donated to the society.

Authorization forms are available at the society headquarters at 707 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach, 752-2902. Meanwhile, art,

antiques, jewelry and other unique items have been donated for the silent auction, which is being held Aug. 6 and 13 at the Brown property — between 2 and 4 p.m. — with Sunday concerts.

The Aug. 6 concert features entertainment by mandolinist Ljiljana, Marjorie Koers, Peter Leclerc and Rosalie Sullivan, and on August 13 Juno Award winning saxophonist Phil Dwyer and Friends will perform in the final concert.

The project has until Aug. 15 to secure \$910,000 to purchase the remaining 15-acre portion of the Brown property.

Film airs

A video by the E Team, a 1999 summer student project, will air seven times on Shaw Cable channel 4, beginning Tues., Aug. 8.

The video on the Brown property can be seen after the Locker Room, which airs at 7 p.m. on Aug. 8. It also airs at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Aug. 9 and at other times that week.

M. S. 6. 8, 2000

Tall Trees a community project too big to ignore

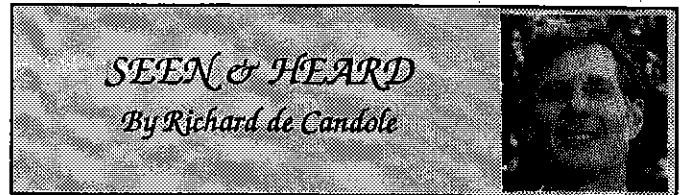
Living 10 minutes from town I can pretty much keep a distance from the political comings and goings of the place I call home, Qualicum Beach.

As a non-resident I don't have a say anyway in what goes on. But over the last three years there has been one community issue I have been unable to ignore, namely a campaign to save from devel-

opment 50 acres of tall trees in the heart of the town.

With its fish-bearing stream and deep ravine it is a place that has always stood apart, a magnificent woodland sanctuary that somehow escaped ever being logged.

It was originally owned by General Noel Money, an aristocratic British General who more than anyone else is responsible for charming sea-



side village of today.

When the town was first surveyed in the 1910s a huge block of land was left undivided on the bluff overlooking the ocean. In 1913 that block became General Money's domain. Using other people's money he did all he could to make it the centre-piece of the community.

Little by little, a luxury hotel was built, a small golf course developed, a community water system completed and the general was able to provide himself with a two-storey baronial home and private forest overlooking it all. But there was never enough

money (or clientele) to support the venture which meant each winter the hotel was closed and the fairways were turned into cow and sheep pasture.

Fortunately Calgary oil money came to the rescue just as the general's dream was beginning to slip from his grasp. Major Lowry, the founder of Home Oil and a summer resident, bought the general's home after his death in 1941. The hotel itself was taken over by Vancouver real estate developers.

Fifteen years later, the home passed into the hands

Continued on Page 5

Boy, was there ever a lot of interest in winning two tickets to Bard to Broadway. And everyone knew former Premier Bill and Lillian Vander Zalm are the ones who generously gave the summer theatre project free use of their property next to the Town Hall. Marie Scott was the lucky winner this time. Thanks to the many others who entered.

• • •

Qualicum Quiz: Name the Coombs business (and Totem advertiser) who can fix just about anything you care to bring in for repair. A \$25 gift certificate courtesy of the Totem from that business will be awarded to person with the correct answer whose name is drawn. Deadline for entering is Aug. 18. Call 752-2850 to enter.

If Lummi Island can do it, so can we

To hear that the tiny San Juan island of Lummi (pop. 800) successfully raised \$900,000 earlier this year to preserve a 70-acre forest has to be a big morale booster for the many volunteers working on the Tall Trees Brown Property Project in our community.

Obviously, anything is possible if a community as small as Lummi Island can do it. What is clear from talking to one of the Lummi organizers, Dave Kirschner, is that the campaign has to be creative and perhaps ultimately benefit from a surprise source of great generosity.

Early on in their year-long campaign one anonymous donor volunteered to match dollar for dollar every dollar raised. Suddenly \$900,000 became only \$450,000. That amount was made even more

attainable because the same donor was willing to count as cash the registering of conservation covenants by any landowner whose property surrounded the forest. That raised \$250,000 of the \$450,000 needed.

Still the committee had its work cut out. A mailing list of nearly 1,000 potential donors was developed and through that network they somehow managed to reach the goal by the June 14th deadline.

With two weeks to go they were still \$100,000 short. Dave says in the end 45 people donated \$1,000 or more, another 100 gave \$250 or more, and there was a handful who gave between

\$20,000 and \$30,000 each. They also received two grants totaling \$80,000.

The Tall Trees Brown Property Project is now into its final two weeks with considerably more than \$100,000 left to be raised. But perhaps, in terms of the two communities' relative size, the task that remains is not dissimilar.

A tremendous amount has been accomplished since the failure of the referendum in June which would have purchased the final 15 acres through a tax levy. Public awareness has spread well beyond the boundaries of Qualicum Beach. The home and garden tour attracted people from all over Vancouver Island. More than

500 tickets were sold.

With the door-to-door canvassing, Sunday concerts and the silent auction continuing right up until the Aug. 15 deadline anything is possible. No stone is being left unturned in an effort to reach the goal. The cause will not fail for a lack of trying. Perhaps most encouraging for those toiling on the front lines is that for every \$15 dollar raised another square metre of the forest is preserved for ever. It's not an all or nothing proposition. Every dollar counts.

For volunteers, a few moments spent in this spectacular older growth forest is all it takes to be reminded of why they have given so much of their time and energy to the campaign.

- Richard de Candole

Editorial

Good impression made on QB judges

By Valerie Baker

Qualicum Beach is described as "an entire community which is very aesthetically beautiful," by Communities in Bloom judges Margaret Howe and Hubert Noseworthy.

"You have very dedicated volunteers who do very many projects. We're talking of significant funds and major undertakings," the judges told the *Morning Sun* after touring the town Wednesday.

Following last year's success in the provincial competition, Qualicum Beach is competing for the national title against seven other communities in the 5,000 to 10,000 population category.

Noseworthy — a retired parks and recreation superintendent for St. John's, Newfoundland — said he was particularly impressed with the Beach Creek improvement project.

"It is a unique feature of the community and showed tremendous initiative from an environmental perspective," he said. "The streamkeepers should be congratulated."

Commenting on the Brown property, which was included in the tour, Howe said "it is a natural environmental heritage piece, a fairly pristine forest for generations to come."

"It will be devastating if it is not acquired," added Noseworthy.

The judges said they were favourably impressed with town facilities, which included the civic centre, aquatic centre and sports fields.

Commenting on the cleanliness of Qualicum Beach, they said "your town staff do things very well, there was not a cigarette butt to be seen in town, and the ocean walk was spotless."

Noseworthy applauded the train station volunteers who have restored the heritage building, and said it is unfortunate the building is leased, rather than owned by the town.

The tour was conducted by town parks foreman George Mitchell, public works superintendent Don Alberg, coun. Marlys Diamond, chamber of commerce manager Georgia Maclean and committee member Diane Peterson, who escorted the judges to residential and downtown areas, including the Milner Gardens, where they had lunch.

Eight categories are judged in the contest — tidiness, environmental initiatives, community involvement, heritage buildings, landscaping

in commercial and residential areas, floral arrangements, urban forestry programs and turfed areas where low use of pesticides is encouraged.

Qualicum Beach is competing with Carleton Place and Kincardine in Ontario; Steinbach in Manitoba; Innisfall and Stony Plain in Alberta

and Labrador. City in Newfoundland for this year's national title.

Results will be announced at the national awards ceremonies in Edmonton on Sept. 30.

"The categories are getting very competitive, and the competition gets stiffer every year," said Noseworthy.

Concluding their comments, the judges said "you have a very favourable climate but you have enhanced it ... you have taken the environment and made it work to your benefit."

"You have very dedicated volunteers who do very many projects. We're talking ... major undertakings.
Howe and Noseworthy

"The categories are getting very competitive and ... gets stiffer every year.
Howe

Tall Trees project into final week

Volunteers' morale remains high

By ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER

8.8.2000

There is just one week left for collecting donations to save the final 15 acres of Qualicum Beach's Brown property.

But while Aug. 15 is fast approaching and the \$900,000 goal seems out of reach, Brown property headquarters manager Anne Sharp says office staff are staying upbeat.

"It's been a wonderful experience for all the volunteers involved — the sort of collegial atmosphere and cooperation between us," she said Thursday. "I think it will keep us close afterwards."

When the June 17 referendum failed, the Brown Property Preservation Society had about \$110,000 in its coffers. Volunteers scheduled a last-minute rally and initiated the Tall Trees Project — a grassroots effort to raise enough cash to save the land. At *THE NEWS*' press time, they had brought the total to \$270,000.

For Sharp, the most impressive thing about it is the donations are primarily from Qualicum Beach residents.

"In the past six weeks, we've raised \$160,000, and that's all from the community," she said. "We're pleased, but we're a bit disappointed we haven't found a corporate donor yet."

She said a team of about 15-20 canvassers alone have raised about \$14,000, not to mention special events like the July 30-31 Home and Garden Tour, which sold 1,100 tickets and banked just over \$22,000.

or to make a donation, drop by the Brown Property Preservation Society headquarters at 707 Pineside, or call 752-2902.

Where are you, Brown supporters

The Brown Property deadline is fast approaching. We are down to the wire and my question is Where Are You? Over 1,000 individuals voted Yes on the referendum which translates to about 600 households (my estimate), each of these people were willing to pay up to \$375 towards the purchase. Where are you? If you all came forward, it would total \$225,000.

To all the professionals who moved here and settled their practice because of the quality of life, we'd like at least one dollar per patent/client, a nice way to say "thank you for the support" and to ensure our quality of life gets better and better — my question is Where Are You?

To all the accommodation businesses who tout eco-tourism everyday, this is not a community park, this is a nature reserve, a place where your guests will enjoy a nature walk, bird watching, take some great photos and even eat a picnic lunch in the paddocks. This gem is in our own Oceanside, please support it with a minimum \$200 donation or \$10 per room (whichever is greater), you will see ample returns on your investment. So... come and have a look. Where Are You?

TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

To the big three auto dealers, Joe, Tom and Bruce, can we expect \$10 per vehicle on your lot today? You are usually great community supporters — so we ask Where Are You? To all the small businesses who will benefit from increased tourism, a better quality of life and who will de-stress with a walk in the park — Where



Are You?

To all the people who do not reside in Qualicum Beach but were quick with an opinion of support during our referendum, we ask Where Are You? To all the Oceanside residents who take their visitors to the other parks and brag about our trees, fauna and beauty — who take pride in our "green space" — have you dropped in yet? The new trails make the experience even more enjoyable and we know that the Brown Property will be part of your "brag book" from now on, so... Where Are You?

To the hard working Community in Bloom participants, the beautification committee, the naturalists, walkers, hikers, runners and just nature lovers, Where Are You? To the grocery stores owners, Clayton of Thrifty's and Ken and "the boys" of QF, you are the cornerstone of each community project, we need your support. Where Are You?

Every dollar raised will be used to purchase a little bit more, we are fortunate to be able to buy as little or as much as we have. Today, we can almost pick up five acres!!! This will make our nature park 40 acres large right smack in the middle of town for all to enjoy. Come and have a look, attend the Sunday concerts, support the silent auction, take a walk, make a donation because if we don't do it now, you'll be the first to ask — "where were we when we had the chance?"

NEWS 8.8.2000

Denyse Widdfield
Received via email

And then there are the people who stop into the office and donate whatever they can.

"One evening, we emptied our donation bucket outside and there was a \$100 bill in it. We've had people stay at local bed and breakfasts and leave donations when they go — and I can't believe the many residents who are coming in to make donations," said Sharp.

"It's been a constant stream of people through here, both volunteers and members of the public."

Without any major corporate or private donations, chances of preserving the full 15 acres look slim — the amount raised to date is enough to purchase 4.5

acres or 30 per cent of the land. In looking at the volunteer effort of the past six weeks, Sharp says the total raised can be seen as positive or negative depending on who you talk to.

"I think there's a mixture of feelings," she said. "Some people are still holding out for the whole lot, others are saying 'we've given it our best shot, so let's be grateful.' Right now, we're still hoping."

Jack Wilson, president of the Brown Property Preservation Society, said volunteers working on the Tall Trees project have never given up.

"Everybody's still keen," he said. "We have the same amount of people coming out for our meet-

ings now as we did at the beginning."

With seven days to go, Wilson urges anyone interested in preserving the land to give whatever they can afford.

"We have to think not only of today, but of preserving an irreplaceable piece of nature for future generations," he said. "We should be able to look back proudly at the vision, foresight and generosity we had to save the Brown property."

Preserving the final acres of forest land is not an all-or-nothing proposition — every dollar raised will go toward saving a part of the property.

For more information about the Tall Trees Project

Large gifts fuel Brown fundraising

Recent donations totalling more than \$75,000 have pushed the Qualicum Beach Tall Trees Project to over the \$350,000 mark, says society president Jack Wilson.

The two donations, both anonymous and both local, couldn't have come at a better time, he adds.

"We hope that others

who can afford to help will do so," said Wilson, pointing out that \$900,000 is needed by Aug. 15 to purchase the remaining 15 acres of the 50-acre property. "Now is the time!"

Every dollar donated buys more of this forested area in the middle of Qualicum Beach, he notes. The 35 acres already pur-

chased last year by the town and Society benefited from several large bequests.

This time most of the money raised has come from much smaller donations — estimates range from 2,000 to 2,200 individuals — from Campbell River to Victoria and beyond have indicated

their support by donating to the project.

A special fund raising silent auction of arts, crafts, antiques and special services — will be held in the paddock area in the Brown Property on Sun., Aug. 13.

Valuable original art pieces and numbered prints, jewelry valued at up

to \$17,000, antiques and other valuable items donated by local and Canada-wide artisans will be offered. People can place their bid, and, if successful, take home their prize at 4 p.m.

June award winning saxophonist Phil Dwyer and his group will entertain at the auction in the

park from 2 to 4 p.m. During the week leading up to Aug. 13, the auction items can be seen and bid on, at the society office at 707 Primrose St. in downtown Qualicum Beach.

For more information, call the Brown Property preservation Society's office number at 752-2901.

Now or never for trees

9.8.2000 M.5.

Time is running out on the Tall Trees Project — an incredibly worthwhile community-driven effort that hopes to save the remaining 15 acres of the Brown property.

Volunteers have until Aug. 15 — that's next Tuesday, mind you — to raise \$900,000 to keep this priceless piece of woodland from becoming another bit of suburbia.

The Tall Trees Project raised \$75,000 last week, for a current total of more than \$350,000, but that isn't anything like what's needed.

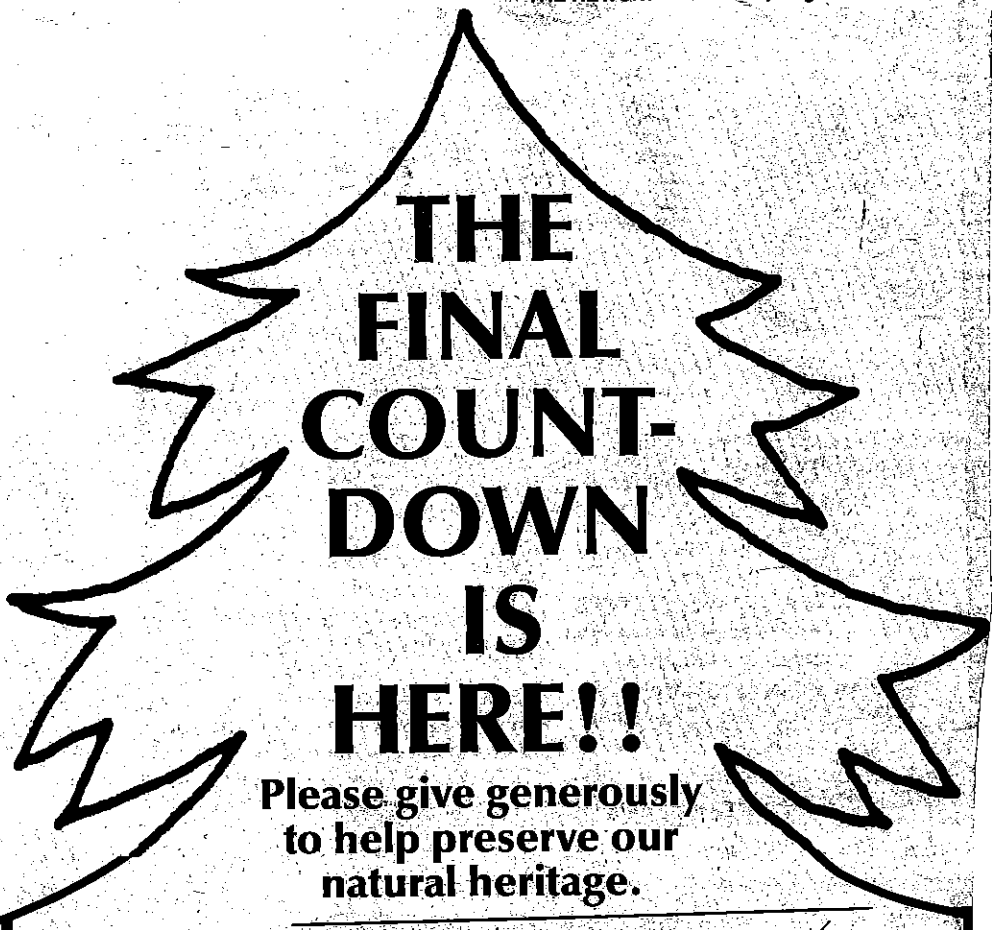
So, we're down to the wire ... it's time to either donate or watch the trees fall and the pavement pour.

What's it going to be? That's up to you to decide.

If you want to help, call the Brown Preservation Society at 752-2901.

It's now or never.

by Bruce Winfield



Beware
News
11.8.2000
of
Brown,
resident
warns

As this is written, time is running out for the option to purchase the second part of the Brown property. At this time, it appears that, perhaps, one-third of the target will be achieved. This will have serious repercussions down the road.

During 1999, the previous council eliminated virtually all of the town's \$2 million general reserves (over \$500,000 was put into the first phase of the Brown property purchase.)

35 acres already acquired

BROWN PROPERTY PRESERVATION SOCIETY AUCTION TO SAVE THE TREES AT THE BROWN PROPERTY SUN. AUG. 13 2 - 4 PM

Forest saved by your generous donations

TREES STILL TO BE SAVED

Palm Drive

Hemsworth Road

Chester Road

Hear Juno Award-winning saxophonist Phil Dwyer and his Jazz Quartet

By preventing development of two-thirds of this 50-acre site development cost charges to the amount of about \$800,000 will be forfeited — a total infusion of close to \$1.5 million.

The town's mid-long term capital expenditures are budgeted in the multi millions of dollars. Without massive new development in the newly-acquired west end expansion area, funds can only come from loans and taxes (guess who pays, either way.)

Every coin has two sides. We hear a lot about the inheritance this purchase will leave for our children and grandchildren. This other "inheritance" is a lot less palatable and not to my liking. We should all be forewarned.

F. H. Horner
Qualicum Beach



**Jack Wilson - President
B.P.P.S./Tall Trees Project**
"It's the 11th hour but it's never
too late to donate. We won't
stop until the final hour".
Each square represents a
\$1,000 donation.

A wonderful collection of art, antiques
and services available for viewing at the
office - 707 Primrose St,
Qualicum Beach, 752-2902
Friday & Saturday, then
FINAL VIEWING & BIDDING
at the Brown Property Paddock area,
Sunday, August 13th • 2 - 4 pm

Auction Items

- Large stained glass leaded window
- Collector Plates (Alice in Wonderland)
- Trip for 8 to Carmanah Valley
- Handwoven silk and mohair blanket
- Several framed originals and numbered prints by well known artists
- Set of 3 large Tall Trees colour photos
- Antique sewing machine and iron
- 7 ft. Folk Art Giraffe by Don Thompson
- 3 bottles of fabulous Cabernet
- Commemorative Commonwealth Stamps
- One week at St. Andrews Lodge
- Certificates for manicures, spas, and massages
- Much much more.

letters

News 11.8.2000

Time is running out to save a key component of Island life

If anyone out there thinks the above is overstated, I offer you the following:

a) I live on Canyon Crescent, next to a vacant treed lot. I have had two 80-foot trees fall on my house, which demolished a shed and damaged a vehicle and the garage roof, resulting in the owner of the vacant lot having to remove a number of trees to prevent re-occurrences.

b) In the late 1960s, a petition was circulated to stop logging up to the Cathedral Grove Park boundaries. The support was not there and a clear-cut took place adjacent to the park's southern boundary. A brief walk through the park today tells the ongoing blowdown story.

In addition, the timber on the park's north side is now going to be logged. It is a park under siege. Why go down this same road with the Brown's Forest?

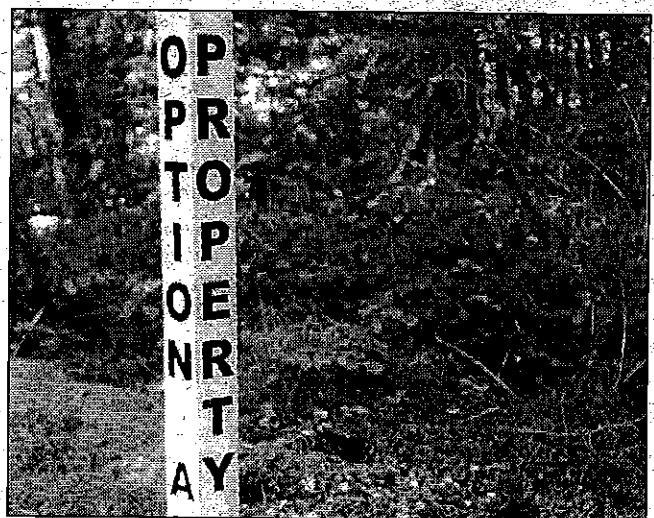
I have recently retired after 33 years with the Ministry of Forests. I have always believed that blocks of old growth timber, espe-

I was quite surprised at the results of the referendum on the Brown property.

To have a forest such as this, comprising an area of intact old growth, some intermediate growth and some second growth areas, is a rare occurrence in this day and age.

In the main, the trees on adjacent properties, including the golf course, certainly have contributed to the stability of this forest.

This situation will change dramatically if the 15 acres in question are logged and developed. Putting a small lot development in this area will, over time contribute the necessity of removing trees considered to be dangerous (leaning, dead or dying trees) to homes and people in the development. This will be in addition to blowdown on this area, which will be open to the Southeast storm winds.



TIME IS RUNNING out for the option property.

cially on the east coast forests of Vancouver Island, should have been set aside, so that future generations could see and enjoy what tracts of old growth look like and make their own decisions as to whether these blocks should be preserved or logged. Let's give them this small forest intact and

standing. Sure a tax deductible donation is warranted to complete the purchase of the Brown property.

I already dropped off my donation at the law firm of Walker & Wilson at #2-707 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach.

**Garry Graham
Qualicum Beach**

Requiem for QB's tall trees

Sunday's concert, auction offer
final chance to save forest

By **ADRIENNE MERCER**
NEWS REPORTER

It's crunch time for the tall trees.

Only five days remain to raise the \$900,000 needed to save the final 15 acres of the Brown property. With \$378,000 raised by *THE NEWS'* press time Thursday, Brown Property Preservation Society volunteers are looking to this Sunday's concert in the park and silent auction to give the project a much-needed push.

Bidding for the silent auction has been happening all week, but the final chance will be from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday at the Brown property paddock area. At 2 p.m., the Juno award winning Phil Dwyer Quartet will take the stage and perform from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

"We want a lot of public support — we're hoping for a double-header really," said Sandra Taylor, a Brown property office volunteer and one of the silent auction organizers.

"We hope people out for the music will take an interest in the auction, and people who've been supporting the auction will come out for the music.

"Just bring a lawn chair and your chequebook."

Both Taylor and Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson say for those who need convincing that the Tall Trees Project is a worthwhile cause, all they need to do is take a stroll in the park and experience its beauty.

"Some of our tour guides have taken people through who have been skeptical at first," said Wilson. "Once they're through, they're totally enthusiastic about saving the property."

While the full price of the 15 acre option property may be out of reach, the Tall Trees Project has brought in a quarter of a million dollars in the past six weeks — proof to Wilson that the community does care about the forest.

"We're not going to make \$500,000 [in the time left] obviously, but although we will not meet our goal in terms of dollars, already we've been able to save a significant part of the option property," he said.

See **TALL TREES** on page A4

TALL TREES

Continued from Front

"Every donation counts."

The project got a \$68,000 boost over the BC Day long weekend, thanks to a \$50,000 donation from an anonymous donor and \$18,000 in additional contributions.

Wilson said a local woman kicked in the \$50,000 after taking a tour of the Brown property Friday.

"She gave \$5,000 after the referendum and she didn't even know where the Brown property was," he said. "She thought we were doing a good job ... she said to call her again around the beginning of August."

After the woman toured the property, he said, she immediately wrote another check.

It's this kind of giving that can really make a difference as the Tall Trees project enters its final days, said general fund-raising volunteer Hilda Perry.

"I'm hoping we can get up to \$500,000 by Aug. 15 — then maybe we could borrow the rest," she said.

"If we get up to \$500,000 I think we can buy the whole thing."

Money for the Tall Trees Project has been arriving steadily throughout the week. On Tuesday, provincial Liberal leader Gordon Campbell made good on his promise of a \$200 donation — matching \$100 donations by Parksville MLA Judith Reid and Qualicum-Alberni Liberal candidate Gillian Trumper.

Qualicum Beach resident Dagmar von Eugen donated \$300 Tuesday, on behalf of her son, figure skater Victor Kraatz.

"I couldn't even vote [in the referendum] because I am a landed immigrant, but my children are all proud Canadians," said von Eugen.

"When I told Victor [about the Tall Trees Project] he said 'Mom you've got to go right away and help.'"

With so little time left to fund-raise, von Eugen hopes people will come forward at the last minute and give whatever they can, "even if it's only \$10."

For more information about the Tall Trees Project or to make a donation, visit the Brown Property headquarters at #2 - 707 Primrose or call 752-2902.

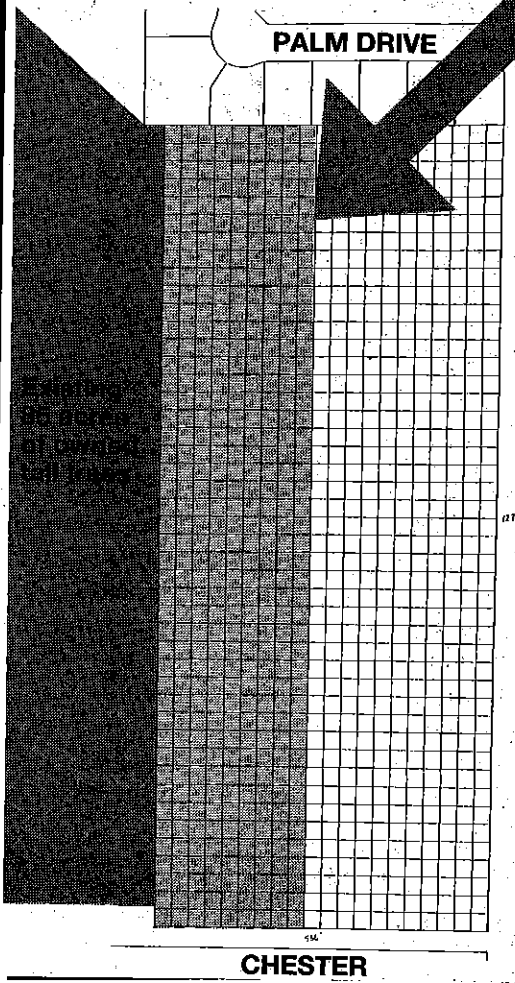
DONATION DEADLINE AUGUST 15th

We're at **40% OF TARGET**

Land purchased to date!

EVERY \$1000 BUYS AN ADDITIONAL BLOCK OF THE BROWN PROPERTY

ALL MONIES RAISED AS OF AUGUST 15 WILL BE USED TO BUY PROPERTY!



EVERY DONATION BUYS MORE TREES
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2000 · 7

The last chance to save the trees
Silent Auction & Concert
Sunday, August 13, 2-4
Brown Property Paddock Area

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

Qualicum Beach & area artists, craft studios, and businesses have donated these items:

- * Large Leaded Glass Window
- * Trip for 8 to Carmanah Valley
- * Hand Woven Silk and Mohair Blanket
- * Several Framed Originals & Numbered Prints by Well Known Artist
- * Set of 3 Tall Trees Color Photos
- * Antique Sewing Machine and Iron
- * 7 ft. Folk Art Giraffe by Don Thompson
- * 3 Bottles of fabulous Cabernet Wine
- * Commemorative Commonwealth Stamps
- * One Week at St. Andrews Lodge
- * Certificates for Manicures, Spas, and Massages
- * Much Much More

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE TALL TREES PROJECT

TALL TREES/BROWN PROPERTY PROJECT
707 Primrose S. Q.B. 752-2900

Brown forest clock ticks past

deadline

By JEFF VIRCOE
NEWS EDITOR

14. 8. 2000

Final tally shows less than half way home

The Tall Trees Project deadline clicks by today and supporters of the purchase of the final remaining 15 acres of Brown property forest are less than half way to their goal.

Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson said Monday supporters have collected "just over \$400,000", leaving them about \$500,000 short of their goal.

A concert and silent auction on the property last weekend raised \$19,300.

An estimated 300-400 people brought blankets and lawn chairs to the former stable area to hear a collection of musicians including Juno award winning saxophone player Phil Dwyer perform on Sunday.

"People were very generous. Some of them spent like \$5 on a cup of coffee," said Wilson. "One person gave us a cheque for \$1,000, to be bid on a folk art giraffe by Don Thompson. He said if it wasn't the highest bid, we could just keep it."

While the deadline passes today and subdividing offers can be accepted by the Brown family, a message has been sent as to the willingness of many in the community to save the land from developers.

"We've raised roughly \$300,000 in seven weeks since the (June 17) referendum. The more property we purchase makes the rest less desirable," said Wilson.

With the supporters almost halfway to their total goal of just over \$900,000, attention now turns to the Brown family again regarding the possibility of granting another extension to allow for more fund raising.

"We're communicating with them," said Wilson, cautiously selecting his words. "They are aware of the momentum we have right now."



SAXOPHONE PLAYER PHIL Dwyer entertained crowds of 400 at last weekend's silent auction and concert at the Brown Property paddocks in Quallcum Beach. The concert and auction was a fundraiser for the Tall Trees project.

Careful when you say 'they lost'

So the tree people were unsuccessful. The 15 acres of second and third growth bordering the second and old growth (got all that?) has not been purchased. Now we get to see if the developers are in fact frothing at the mouth, waiting to buy, cut and build.

It was a difficult campaign and in the end the Tall Trees people failed to convince the wealthy among us to part with a small portion of their portfolios and leave something behind for the grandkids of the community that adopted them.

They also failed to convince the "scraping by" crowd to suck it up for some lush land located on a millionaire's huge estate — albeit for the good of the town.



Jeff Vircoe

The passed hats never filled. Why was less than half of the \$900,000 raised?

Some will point to a disorganized, fragmented campaign, one which took far too long to get in gear considering the lengthy time frame they had to play with.

A campaign where self-appointed spokespeople frequently blathered or scribbled out of turn in the media, all too often coming across as raving tree huggers unable to see past their moss-filled goal.

A campaign where federal, provincial and most importantly, municipal politicians who have burned scores of bridges in many sectors of our community were unsurprisingly unable to gather the critical support from all sides to rally the townsfolk into a common goal.

To the dissemination of packs of misinforming pamphlets, ads and so called news stories whereby residents were unsure of what and how much they were being asked to save. Even the much heralded campaign title "Tall Trees Project" implied the 15 acres were populated by giant Redwoods — rather than the skinny second growth that actually resides in abundance there.

Remember people, you have already saved the vast majority of that forest. A previous council spent \$400,000 of your tax dollars on it over 15 months ago.

So yes, today, as the deadline passes, you can say the Tall Trees people lost.

But you would be wrong if you did. We all lose.

You'll know when you hear the first chainsaw whine its way through the death row strips of young trees so near their ancient relatives.

When you see the bulldozers tear out the roots, and stack them in unsightly clumps in Errington or Coombs, (where we like to leave our family secrets) and light a torch to them like some damn West Coast funeral pyre.

You'll know then how we all lost.

But the tree people — and all those who cut cheques — you shall remain honorable into the future.

Brown campaign is halfway there

by Michael Briones

The Brown Property Preservation Society has done an incredible job of raising half of its \$900,000 target in just eight weeks — but it's still far short of its goal.

But the group is not the least bit disappointed. The amount raised has given the society added confidence and it is not about to give up. It now hopes to convince the Brown Trust to allow an extension.

Society president Jack

Wilson said the society has written a letter to the Brown Trust and is still waiting for a reply.

"We wanted to tell them how successful we've been in the last eight weeks since the referendum," said Wilson. "We have raised nearly half of the money, which shows a great deal of community support. There's a lot of momentum on our side."

Last Sunday's concert and silent auction — which was to have been the final leg of the

fundraising efforts — generated \$19,300. At press time, the society has raised over \$420,000.

However, Wilson and Qualicum Beach mayor Teunis Westbroek were expecting more donations to trickle in before the Aug. 15 deadline.

"I think there are some people who are just sitting in the wings and watching," Westbroek said. "They're probably thinking whether or not the situation is hopeless."

Westbroek has been

approaching large companies for help, like Weyerhaeuser and Coastal Economic Industry in B.C., since the June 17 referendum. He feels getting the deadline extended would allow the society to reach the \$900,000 target.

Westbroek says the society, with the help of a representative from Weyerhaeuser Foundation, will file an application to help finance the preservation of the Brown property.

"I've seen some of the

projects they've funded. They are similar to our project so we have a good chance," says Westbroek.

However, the foundation is not scheduled to meet later this year, which makes the extension crucial. Wilson said they have yet to determine how much time they need.

"It will depend on the attitude of the Brown trust," he said.

Should the society gain an extension, Wilson said they would focus more on corporate founda-

tions and grants, rather than holding fundraising events.

"We can't squeeze anymore money from the same people," Wilson said.

Last Sunday's events drew a big crowd of around 400 people, who were entertained by Juno-award-winning singer Phil Dwyer and a silent auction.

"The concert and the quiet auction was a huge success," Wilson said. "Everyone had a terrific time."

Brown work continues

By Valerie Baker

It's not over until it's over.

With half the money raised to purchase the 15-acre remainder of the Brown property, the preservation society hopes to get a further extension from the Brown family trustees.

"We're still talking to the trustees, and hoping we may get a decision this week," said society president Jack Wilson.

"They're aware of the support and momentum in the community," he said. "We have applied for an extension of six months to a year."

Following the failed referendum on June 17 — when residents voted against the town funding the \$910,000 purchase of the remainder

through property taxes — volunteers rallied. They raised \$320,000 in less than two months, bringing the total to more than \$450,000 by the Aug. 15 deadline.

If the Brown family trustees grant an extension to purchase the property, the society will apply to foundations and corporations for additional funding.

"There are foundations we weren't aware of before, such as Weyerhaeuser, who review grant applications in the fall," said Wilson. "Now that we have more than \$450,000, it adds credibility to our application."

Meanwhile, donations continue to arrive at the society's headquar-

ters, including monies from people who cashed in their Quality Foods Q-Points.

The company has agreed to match \$5,900 from shoppers who cashed in their Q-Points, bringing the total to \$11,800.

Following last week's fundraising deadline, some 40 to 50 volunteers turned out to an Aug. 16 meeting.

While the society awaits a decision on an extension of the purchase deadline, tax-deductible donations are welcome at the society's headquarters at 707 Primrose St., or at any branch of the Parkville and District Credit Union.

Call 752-2902 for more information.

Still hope for Brown campaign

Although some amongst us seem to have given up, there is still a very real chance to save the 15-acre remainder of the Brown property.

While there probably isn't very much more money to be found locally, the fact that the community was able to raise \$320,000 in less than two months — and push the total raised to more than \$450,000 — has to be noticed by all the major grant-giving organizations that haven't already contributed.

So now the organizers are asking the Brown family trustees — who still control the 15-acre remainder — to place another delay on development. If that is granted, they will focus their efforts on major foundations, corporations and organizations that haven't given yet.

Well done. Don't give up the fight.

23.8.2000 by Bruce Winfield

M.S.

Half way there and waiting

By ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER 25.8.2000

The deadline has come and gone, but the cash is still coming in.

Just over a week after the option deadline, the worst-case scenario for the Brown Property Preservation Society is half of the 15-acre option property will be saved.

A donation that came in after the Aug. 15 deadline — \$11,800 from Quality Foods and its customers — means the volunteer-initiated Tall Trees Project has raised just over \$450,000, more than half the \$900,000 cost of the option property.

"People donated their Q-points (bonus points gained by shopping at Quality Foods outlets) and raised half that amount, and Quality Foods was kind enough to match the donations," said Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson.

Quality Foods managing partner John Briuolo said the store matched \$5,900 in Q-point donations because "for us, it was a good cause."

Donations of Q-points were taken through the Brown Property Preservation Society and not the store, said Briuolo.

"People could fill out a form through the Brown prop-

erty office, then they sent us the forms and we gave them the points," he explained.

While the society is still hoping for a further extension to allow for more fundraising, Wilson says nothing is certain at this point. This week he sent the Brown Family Trust a letter indicating the society had raised \$436,000 or 48.5 per cent of the purchase price — and money is still coming in.

On Tuesday, said Wilson, a woman from California came to the Brown Property headquarters at 707 Primrose and donated \$5,000 in U.S. funds.

To donate to the Tall Trees Project, call 752-2902.

Brown trustees consider request

M.S.

By Valerie Baker

A decision on whether the Brown family trustees will grant an extension on the purchase of the 15-acre option portion is expected this week.

Realtor Ian Lindsay, who is conducting negotiations with the trustees, told the *Morning Sun* "we are very close.

"The Brown trustees are aware and impressed by the work of the community at large [in raising money], and it is having a positive impact on negotiations," said Lindsay. "They realize donations are still coming in."

The Brown Property Preservation Society currently has more than \$450,000 toward the purchase of the property,

priced at \$910,000, raised through a variety of donations and community events.

Volunteers gathered at the Brown property on Sunday afternoon. Sitting amid the tall trees and shafts of sunshine, they enjoyed a concert by singer Rosalee Sullivan, who was accompanied on guitar and vocals by Richard DeCandole.

Society president Jack Wilson thanked the volunteers and individual endeavours for their fundraising efforts.

Tax deductible donations can be made at the Brown property headquarters at 707 Primrose St., or any branch of the Parksville and District Credit Union.

Dueling saxophones a highlight of Tall Trees summer

Some personal highlights (and lowlights) from a summer spent helping raise nearly \$1/2 million to save 15 acres of Tall Trees:

- The unexpected chance to watch KSS saxophone sensation **Jamie Campbell** match two-time Juno winner **Phil Dwyer**, also a hometown boy, note for note on the same stage during the final Sunday afternoon concert at the Brown Property. What a powerhouse of talent those two are. Phil, by the way, will be a special guest on CBC Radio's **Danny Finkelman** when he does a live show in October. Watch this space next month for the date.

- The treat of finding myself as replacement accompanist (I play guitar

and sing) for the very gifted singer **Rosalie Sullivan** at the volunteers wind-up picnic. I have admired the passion and purity of her voice since hearing her sing a few years ago with **Cliff Reynolds**. She knocked me out last year with her performance of *Dulcinea* in *ECHO Player's Man of La Mancha*. And she did it again at the picnic with her rendition of *Autumn Leaves* among several tunes.

- Discovering the wonderful video done of the Brown Property by members of the summer youth **E Team** in 1999. It became a valuable tool in reaching beyond the community for donations. The video captures the mystery and majesty of the forest beautifully. The light-hearted

SEEN & HEARD

By Richard de Candole

exuberance of narrator (and tour guide) **Annilou Verge-Marion** was an added bonus.

- I was continually impressed by the campaign's real foot soldiers - the two dozen or so who gave up their summer to go knocking on doors. Never knowing if you would meet friend or foe must have been an emotional rollercoaster. Their efforts contributed \$20,000 plus who knows how much that came into the office as a result of their visit.

- The campaign's single

most successful idea was unquestionably the home and garden tour, attracting an amazing 1,200 ticket buyers. The society has already decided to make it an annual event.

- The silent auction came a close second although it was an event that provided the campaign's single biggest setback - having to cancel the gala reception that was to go with the auction due to a lack of ticket sales. At that point the fundraising had barely hit the \$200,000 mark.

Continued on Page 5

Somehow we shook it off, rescheduled the silent auction, and the campaign never looked back.

- Finally, the sad news of **Linda Berry's** death just as we were celebrating the end of the six-week campaign. She became seriously ill in July but it was her story and photos in the *Victoria Times-Colonist* that gave the campaign much-needed momentum in the early days. Her artistry, energy and enthusiasm will be missed by many in the community.



Fred Saliani, left, and Brook Kennedy, right, performed in a Brown Property concert

Brown Property campaign looks to an extension

This summer's campaign to save the remaining 15 acres of the Brown Property reached the half-way point by the Aug. 15 deadline, said society president Jack Wilson.

And he remains optimistic that the Brown Family Trust will agree to extension of six months to a year to allow the balance to be raised. The campaign objective was \$900,000.

"I've very proud of what was accomplished," said Jack. "By Aug. 15 we had raised \$450,000 including commitments. On the basis of having that amount of money we have written the Brown Trust asking for an extension. We are hopeful they will agree to our request."

Jack said this will give the Brown Property Preservation Society time to hear back from a variety of corporations, charitable foundations and government agencies. He said their time lines were such that they were not able to



Toronto-based saxophonist Phil Dwyer was joined by KSS grad Jamie Campbell, left, during the final Brown Property concert on Aug. 13.

respond by the Aug. 15 deadline.

Jack said there was a feeling of sadness among the core group of about 50 that the local campaign had come to an end. He added that future fundraising efforts will be mainly focused outside the community.

He was particularly appreciative of the generosity of Qualicum Foods in the final days of the campaign. He noted that in addition to redeeming in-cash \$5,900 worth of Q-Points donated by customers Qualicum Foods matched the amount with another \$5,900 of its own.

He added that the society is continuing to accept donations since every dollar received ensures that a little bit more of the forest is saved. Donations can be made at Walker & Wilson Law Office, 707 Primrose Qualicum Beach, 752-6951.

Brown extension looks likely

M.S. 13.9.2000

By Valerie Baker

The Brown Property Preservation Society is hopeful it will be granted an extension on the purchase of the 15-acre remainder of the property.

The society applied to the Brown family trustees for an extension following the Aug. 15 deadline. It has more than \$450,000 in

donations toward the total purchase price of \$910,000.

Local realtor Ian Lindsay is currently negotiating an extension date, and society president Jack Wilson hopes a decision will be made in the coming week.

Meanwhile donations continue to arrive, includ-

ing a recent \$500 donation from a Parksville resident, said Wilson.

Tax-deductible donations can be made at the

society's headquarters at 707 Primrose St. in Qualicum Beach, or at any branch of the Parksville and District Credit Union.

Town, Society to run nameless property

By ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER 15.9.2000

Both the Brown Property Preservation Society and the Town of Qualicum Beach will soon have official authority to speak for the trees.

Council passed second reading of a new bylaw Monday, which will eventually allow the society and the town to jointly oversee the town-owned portion of the Brown Property. The town also gave second reading to a similar bylaw to establish an airport management commission.

The Brown Property bylaw outlines a management commission made up of one voting member from council, one non-voting member from town staff, two voting members from the Brown Property Preservation Society and two voting members at large, to be appointed from the town's list of electors.

As the town hammers out the management bylaw, the Brown Property

Preservation Society continues to seek an extension to purchase the final 15 acres of the property. To date, the society has raised over \$450,000 toward the \$900,000 price of the land, mostly through community donations.

According to society president Jack Wilson, negotiations with the Brown family are "in the very final stages."

In the meantime, the society and the town are seeking help from residents to come up with a new name for the property.

"It would be nice if we could come up with something that has a little more appeal, something like a Cathedral Grove," said Wilson. "We need something to draw people in — something with pizzazz."

Mayor Teunis Westbroek agreed.

"We don't want something like a stuffed shirt," he said. "We want something alive."

Suggestions can be submitted to Qualicum Beach town hall, at 201-660 Primrose.

granted
to raise \$450,000

Brown extension

Society members now have until March 2001

By ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER 22.9.2000

The Brown Property Preservation Society got what it was hoping for Tuesday when representatives of the Brown family allowed an extension to raise \$900,000 to buy the final 15 acres of the property.

The society has raised \$450,000 to date,

and has until March 15, 2001 to raise the rest.

"I think we can be successful," said society president Jack Wilson. "We have an experienced fundraiser, David Gifford-Cole, who is now retired and has volunteered to seek donations from corporations and foundations. With six months, we have time to do this in a focused way."

Wilson said he never anticipated a prob-

lem with securing an extension — it was just a question of when it would happen.

"It was a long process though," he said Wednesday. "We applied before the Aug. 15 deadline and it's taken until yesterday to get it signed."

The extra time does come at a price — when the society makes full payment for the final 15 acres, it will also pay the Brown family the interest on the \$450,000

now in the bank. Wilson estimates the payment will be more than \$12,000, but reasons it's money that was already designated for saving the forest.

"We're very happy," he said. "We never tried to negotiate the price down."

Donations toward the purchase of the final 15 acres can be made at the law office of Walker and Wilson, at 707 Primrose in Qualicum Beach.

Extension given to Brown property campaign

By Valerie Baker

A stay of execution was granted to trees and wildlife on the 15-acre remainder of the Brown property in Qualicum Beach Wednesday.

which have an environmental interest," says preservation society president Jack Wilson.

"We will now focus on acquiring funds from corporations and foundations which have an environmental interest."

effort "in a more focused way," said Wilson, who describes Gifford-Cole as "an experienced fundraiser who has world-wide experience."

the 15-acre portion — fundraisers put their shoulders to the wheel and raised more than \$330,000 by the Aug. 15 deadline.

Brown family trustees approved a six-month extension of the option to purchase held by the Brown Property Preservation Society. That means the society now has until Mar. 15 to raise roughly \$460,000 — to add to the \$450,000 they already have — to buy the property.

"Our previous applications to them were for infrastructure — such as trail construction — but not for property acquisition," he explained.

"Following the failed June 17 referendum — which would have seen the town of Qualicum Beach use tax dollars to buy

"He will use a rifle approach rather than a shotgun approach [to targeting fundraising applications]," said Wilson.

"It was a pretty intensive fundraising campaign, we received more than 1,500 donations," said Wilson.

"We will now focus on acquiring funds from corporations and foundations

David Gifford-Cole of Qualicum Beach has offered to head the fundraising

"A condition of the extension is that the Brown family trust receive interest on the \$450,000 already raised, which will amount to around \$12,000," said Wilson.

Donations to the society can be made at Walker and Wilson law offices at 707 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach.

Brown expenses begin

Editor, the Morning Sun:

Do we have a case here of "told you so?" Qualicum Beach council is giving consideration to a bylaw establishing a commission to assist the town in the management of the purchased portion of the Brown property.

One of the commission's major duties will be presenting annually to council "... recommendations for expenditure, development and maintenance ..." for terms of one and five years. Council need not be receptive to such proposals, but if they are (and two members appointed from council and town staff will be a strong incentive to accept), guess who will be on the hook to provide the money?

Expressed at the public meetings held last year, this was exactly the scenario that was feared would be the outcome of the purchase. Tasking the commission to

coordinate infrastructure funding and grants from various groups... is meaningless. It should be made perfectly clear that the commission, not the taxpayers, will obtain these funds.

A majority vote gave thumbs down to a purchase from taxes. The town has invested close to two million dollars in money and foregone development cost charges.

Let the Brown Property Preservation Society now take responsibility for their (baby) the taxpayers should not now be saddled with its upkeep and development administration.

F.H. Horner
Qualicum Beach

27.9.2000

YOU MADE IT HAPPEN...

The Brown Property Preservation Society wishes to sincerely thank all the people who contributed to the recent campaign to raise funds to save the last 15 acres of the Brown Property.

We wish we could thank each one of you personally, however you are simply too numerous to mention individually.

Over 1500 people made donations and provided support in many ways to this campaign. It was an extraordinary effort by so many of you in Qualicum Beach and surrounding communities. Our thanks also go to concerned and caring people from as far away as Victoria, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Halifax and the U.S.

We particularly wish to thank the Morning sun for their support in providing us with promotional advertising space in their newspaper during the summer campaign.

In the 7-week campaign, you gave an almost unbelievable \$330,000, which has brought our total funds to over \$450,000 - sufficient to save half the 15 acres. It is an amazing feat for such a small community! This amount of local support has allowed us to negotiate a further extension to our option from the Brown Family, up to march 15, 2001. The campaign continues. We are still welcoming individual donations and intend to seek grants from corporations and foundations to help us complete the purchase.

The magnificent forest in the middle of Qualicum Beach will be a legacy forever of your generosity and support.

Thank You.

The Directors of the Brown
Property Preservation Society,
Jack Wilson, President

M. S. 27.9.2000

News 29.9.2000

You made it happen...



The Brown Property Preservation Society wishes to sincerely thank all the people who contributed to the recent campaign to raise funds to save the last 15 acres of the Brown Property.

We wish we could thank each one of you personally, however, you are simply too numerous to mention individually.

Over 1,500 people made donations and provided support in many ways to this campaign - it was an extraordinary effort by so many of you in Qualicum Beach and surrounding communities. Our thanks also go to concerned and caring people from as far away as Victoria, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Halifax and the U.S.

In the 7 week campaign, you gave an almost unbelievable \$330,000, which has brought our total funds to over \$450,000 - sufficient to save half the 15 acres. It is an amazing feat for such a small community! This amount of local support has allowed us to negotiate a further extension of our option from the Brown Family, up to March 15, 2001. The campaign continues. We are still welcoming individual donations, and are seeking grants from corporations and foundations to help us complete the purchase.

A magnificent forest in the middle of Qualicum Beach will be a legacy forever of your generosity and support.

THANK YOU!

The Directors of the
Brown Property Preservation Society
Jack Wilson, President

Extension gives new life to Brown campaign

The recent announcement by society president Jack Wilson that the Brown Property Preservation Society had been given an extension until March 15, 2001, to come up with another \$450,000 was not unexpected but it does put a lot of pressure back on the project's core group of supporters.

Seven months can shrink to two or three in an awful hurry. Along the way various critics have made much of the fact things always seem to get left to the last minute.

At least this time the range of options is much clearer. With the defeat of the referendum, no longer can there be any hope of further financial help from the Town. And the community itself is pretty well tapped out.

Success would be all but assured if a few BIC donors

could be found early thereby getting the campaign to the halfway point. From there it would be a matter of pulling in a dozen or so smaller amounts.

David Gifford-Cole, a retired Anglican priest now living in Qualicum Beach, has agreed to spearhead this effort. He has considerable fund-raising experience.

In the early 1990s he helped co-ordinate a campaign that raised \$40 million on behalf of the University of Calgary. Ten years earlier he directed the campaign for the Diocese of New Westminster that raised \$35 million for Anglicans in Mission. He's now in the process of identifying potential foundations, corporations and individuals on behalf of the Brown Property campaign.

Donations can be made to

Walker & Wilson Law Office,
707 Primrose, Q.B. 752-6951

*Airport Brown Property commissions
Council supported motions giving second reading to bylaws
creating Council appointment commissions rather than com-
mittees for operating the airport and the Brown property. The
commissions will have more decision-making authority.*

Questioning negotiating tactics

While the efforts of the Brown property volunteers in raising \$450,000 have to be applauded, the negotiation tactics with the Brown heirs have to be seriously questioned.

The backdrop to this matter is that land values in this area continue to decline. Developers are facing economic hardship. In a recent telephone call to Mr. Jack Wilson, I posed the question that possibly the remaining 15 acres of the Brown property were no longer worth \$900,000. His reply to me was quote "you may be right" unquote, and suggested that I contact the negotiator, Ian Lindsay.

Mr. Lindsay, while not denying that land values in general have declined within the last two years, emphasized that a different set of criteria was established in regards to

the Brown property. Unfortunately, he was not prepared to define them.

Now according to your news reporter, Adrienne Mercer, an extension has been granted to March 2001. Wilson was quoted as saying "We're very happy. We never tried to negotiate the price down."

My question is "why not." Why not negotiate from a position of strength. To add insult to injury, the Society has embellished the offer by agreeing to pay the Brown family the interest on the \$450,000 now in the bank.

A full investigation into this whole project is justified, particularly since taxpayers money was involved in the purchase of the initial 35 acres.

Clive Jones

News 3, 10, 2000 Qualicum Beach

QB wins bloomin' awards

M.S. 4.10.2000

By Valerie Baker

Qualicum Beach was awarded 'Four Blooms' in this year's national Communities in Bloom contest.

In addition, the town received special recognition for the colourful floral designs created by town staff.

"With excitement comparable to the Academy Awards" the winners were

announced at the awards ceremony held in Edmonton on Saturday, said coun. Marlys Diamond.

"The streets are immaculate, the public buildings well maintained and in good repair," were comments made by judges Margaret Howe and Hubert Noseworthy.

"The community is obviously very proud of its aesthetic appeal and committed to maintaining a clean and litter-free appearance. Qualicum Beach has tremendous street appeal for both visitors and residents alike."

The judges also referred to dedicated and hardworking volunteers who commit to programs that improve the quality of life for every one.



Coun. Marlys Diamond

They listed several projects — including the restoration of the old train station, The Old School House, Milner Gardens and Woodland, the significant tree program and the Brown property.

Qualicum Beach was one of seven communities competing in the 5,001 to 10,000 population category at the national level this year. Judges toured the town on Aug. 1.

"This was like receiving a silver medal at the Olympic Games of Flowers," said Diamond.

"To expect to win top honours the first time in the national competition, is unrealistic," she said.

"Some of the competitors have been trying for a number of years, and some were not awarded Four Blooms."

Overall there were 97 entries competing for the top award in 12 categories, including representatives from England, Scotland, Ireland and Belgium who competed in the international challenge.

Qualicum Beach parks foreman

George Mitchell accompanied Diamond for the two-day National Symposium on Parks and Grounds which preceded the awards ceremony.

Last year's judge Walter Retzger said people who visited the town described it as "breathtaking."

NOTEWORTHY

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2

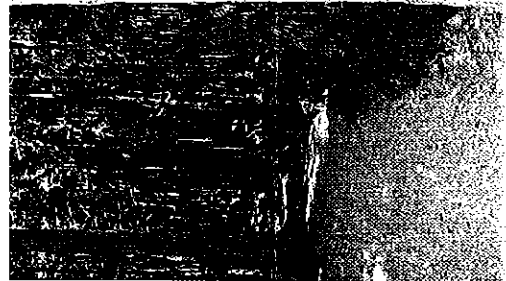
FALL/WINTER 2000

Brown Property

The Brown Property Preservation Society will continue their fund raising efforts, as the Town and Society have been granted an extension until March 15, 2001 on the option to purchase the remaining 15 acres of the 'Brown Property'.

To date the community has donated approximately \$450,000 which represents the purchase of one-half of the remaining acreage. The Society and the Town would like to sincerely thank the public for their generosity by contributing to the purchase of this parkland.

The Brown Property Preservation Society and the Town of Qualicum Beach are inviting the public to submit suggestions that you may have in providing a suitable name for the 'Brown Property'. It is hoped that an appropriate name for this significant piece of parkland property can be selected very soon.



A good park is forgotten

Editor, the Morning Sun.

4. 10. 2000

Since being residents of Qualicum Beach for 18 months, my wife, two dogs and myself have enjoyed countless hours in the parklands adjacent to the Civic Centre.

The woodlands are of enormous beauty, and are complemented by a fine sports field, a swimming pool and the new skateboard venue.

The entire area is host to many activities, including a recent triathlon. Kudos have to go out to you and town staff for maintaining this area in first class condition.

To my surprise, I just learned that this same parkland is not protected by covenant, and may be open for future commercial development.

In a recent letter to the editor, a statement was made to the effect that the referendum result of the "Brown Property" had cost Qualicum Beach the opportunity of creating a park on the scale of Stanley Park in Vancouver or High Park in Toronto.

In my opinion, we are already blessed with a park of similar grandeur and by this I am not referring to the Brown property, which until the recent new euphoria was largely unknown by Qualicum Beach residents.

If the electorate was given a choice between the protection of the Brown property or ensuring that there-civic lands remain in perpetuity as parkland, I am confident the latter alternative would win by an overwhelming majority.

Since town council appeared to favor the acquisition of the Brown property which has and will further increase the debtload, I see no reason why a motion to protect forever this civic property as parkland would not enjoy similar unanimous support.

Clive Jones,
Qualicum Beach

Brown land, airport manageable

Pair of new commissions will give public input into decisions

By **ADRIENNE MERCER**

NEWS REPORTER October 2000

Two new commissions will be set up in Qualicum Beach to manage the Brown Property and the town's airport.

Qualicum Beach councillors gave third reading to the bylaws needed to set up the commissions Oct. 2, then passed both bylaws unanimously.

Similar in makeup, the commissions will each have five voting

members.


The airport commission will be comprised of two members at large, one member of town staff and two members appointed by council, with at least one being a council member.

The Brown Property commission will include two voting members appointed by council, with at least one being a council member, two voting members from the Brown Property Preservation Society, one voting member at large and one non-

voting member from town staff.

Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson sees the commissions as a way for the public to participate, on a volunteer basis, in the management of the Brown property and the airport lands.

"It's always been the intent of the Society ... to be able to have some say in how the [property] is developed and maintained, and this provides the vehicle to do that," he added.



**BROWN PROPERTY
PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCT 25 • 7:30 pm
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

3 Year Membership (\$10) payable at the door

M.S. October 2000 *Jack Wilson
President*

Jack Wilson re-elected Brown Property president

Jack Wilson was re-elected president of the Brown Property Preservation Society at the annual general meeting held on Oct. 25th.

During the meeting Ernie Shimkus was chosen as vice-president, Keith Smith as secretary and Anne Sharp as treasurer. Also serving on the new board will be Dave Field, Brian Peckford, Anne Klees

and Phil Cople.

David Gifford-Cole updated the membership on his efforts to raise outside the community the remaining \$450,000 needed to complete the acquisition. He said he was still in the process of contacting potential donors.

Past-president Chris Lee updated the membership on the creation of a new six-per-

son commission to manage the nature reserve. Commission members are expected to be appointed Town Council in November. At that time a decision is also expected regarding the naming of the nature reserve.

The meeting was told that several dozen names have been suggested as a result of a public newspaper appeal.

Those in attendance at the annual meeting were evenly split between favouring Qualicum Beach Nature Reserve and Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

Other names suggested include: Beach Forest, Emerald Forest, Tall Trees Park, Deer Haven Forest, The Woodland, Oceanside Forest and White Tail Woods.

Watershed plan needed

Editorial

If nothing else the proposed logging by Weyerhaeuser of Lot 10 has shed light on the need for an assessment of the entire Little Qualicum River watershed.

The value of the water that runs through it was eloquently described by a number of speakers during the recent public meeting at the Civic Centre organized by the Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

As Qualicum Indian Band member Kim Recalma-Clutesi pointed out it has been the lifeblood of every living species in this region for tens of thousands of years. And the potential threats to it, not just on Lot 10, are many-fold, especially with much of the second growth forest along it now ready for harvest. The time has come to docu-

ment its importance to all aspect of our lives - fisheries, food, wildlife, tourism, recreation - and then to lay out a plan for its stewardship that is based not on who owns which parts but rather on the specific features of each area.

The benefit of such a plan is that it will outline what the logging companies *can* do, as opposed to the current what they *can't* or *shouldn't* do, up and down the watershed including those at Cathedral Grove and it will avoid having environmental show-downs every few months for years to come.

Some have argued that this watershed assessment should be completed before a single tree is allowed to come down on Lot 10 and what

Continued from Page 4
Weyerhaeuser should be prepared to foot the bill.

Weyerhaeuser owns a lot of the land in the Little Qualicum watershed but not all of it. They suggest their portion is less than 30 per cent. Even if it's 50 per cent it's not realistic to expect them to pay for everything.

In the interests of securing the company's support for a comprehensive watershed

assessment fund by all interested parties it might even be good strategy to let them win this round, particularly if they are prepared to commit to living by its conclusions.

The matter may seem well outside its jurisdiction but it is one in which Qualicum Beach Town Council should play a leadership role. What other elected body has a bigger stake in the long-term health of the river.

- Richard de Candole

Bill Recalma turns

NEWS 8.12.2000

Grandson of Qualicum Annie is serene as

I went along to Eagle Park Health Care Facility on Thursday, Nov. 30, the day before Bill Recalma was to celebrate his 90th birthday.

I did so, with some trepidation as I had heard that this man was pretty direct and, turning 90, perhaps a little "difficult."

However, I found a very gentle and serene man sitting in his wheelchair, and, as he said, "just waiting." I asked him what was he waiting for ... and he replied, "just waiting for the world to go on and on ..."

I had previously learned a little of his background and found that Bill is a descendant of the Qualicum Band of Indians. The territory occupied by the Pentlatch people covered an area between Kye Bay and Craig Bay on the East Coast of Vancouver Island.

Bill was born in 1910. His mother was Agnes, the only child of Qualicum Tom and Qualicum Annie. Agnes was born around 1886 in their Big House on the Qualicum Reserve. Agnes was married in the Indian tradition to



Seniors

NORMA JEAN LANEGAN

Emmanuel Recalma — a South American Indian who had jumped ship in Union Bay during the latter part of the 1890's and had been taken to Qualicum by Tom to live and work there.

In June of 1910, when Agnes was pregnant with their fifth child (Bill), Emmanuel was killed while working in a logging camp near the reserve. Agnes tried to get some compensation from the company, but the court ruled against her since the marriage was an Indian Custom Marriage. The court ruled that Agnes and her children were Indians since Agnes had never lost her status because her marriage to Emmanuel was by custom only.

Agnes remained a member of the Qualicum Band until her marriage to George Mitchell in 1915, which automatically transferred her status to the Comox Band. Her five children remained on the Qualicum Band list. (Agnes had four children born of this second marriage).

The Recalma family on the Qualicum Reserve is descended from both Qualicum Tom and Qualicum Annie. They still practice the rights and privileges transferred to their great-great grandfather,



BILL RECALMA

Qualicum Tom
Klaquagila over
ago.

Bill went to
Kuper Island (

Chemainus) where he also learned to read music. He was able to play many instruments, but his preference was the trumpet. Unfortunately, Recalma suffered an accident while duck hunting when he was just 19 and was paralyzed in his right hand and left leg. However, despite this disability, Recalma became proficient in building fish boats, making his own fish lures as well as being an accomplished artist.

As an artist, he worked with many different mediums — rocks, bead work, leather work, carving, oil painting and has even written a book on hunting and fishing based on the phases of the moon.

Recalma was an activist in the Peace Movement in 1970 and wrote many articles on the subject. These, together with his paintings and carvings, reached many destinations around the world. He considers eating the right foods and keeping

News

RECALMA, William 30.11.2001

Uncle Bill passed away peacefully on
November 14, 2001 at Eagle Park Health Care
Facility, Qualicum Beach, BC

Bill was born on the Qualicum Indian Reserve on December 1, 1910. He was the son of the only daughter of Qualicum Tom and Qualicum Annie and was, therefore, the last of the Pentlatch People of his generation. Bill was a survivor of the Kuper Island Residential School. He was an accomplished musician until an accident left his right arm and left leg paralyzed. Despite this handicap he led an independent, productive life. He taught himself how to write with his left hand and went on to become an accomplished artist, working in many different mediums. He fished alone on a little putter until his handicap made that impossible. He then moved to Vancouver and was a founding member of the Coqualeetza Fellowship Society that later blended in with the urban Indian Friendship Centres that were being built across Canada. After the first Friendship Centre was opened in Vancouver he was employed as the Caretaker and was both a mentor and a friend to the many Aboriginal youth who found themselves so lost and lonely in that large city where they had come to further their education. Many of these young people have gone on to become today's Aboriginal leaders and advocates for today's youth. Uncle Bill will be sadly missed by his "children" who were, in fact, his nieces and nephews, their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who never let a day go by without one or more of them popping in to brighten his day and in return be nurtured and loved by him.

There will be no funeral service at his request. Following the tradition of Bill's people, a Memorial Pole will be raised in his memory one year after his death. The Pole will be placed in front of the new Family Ceremonial Big House that will be opened on the same day on the Qualicum Reserve.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either the District 69 Hospice Society, 210 W. Crescent, Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1J9 or to the Eagle Park Auxiliary, 777 Jones Street, Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1L2.

1600-96

passed away. He moved into Trillium Lodge and thence to Eagle Park Health Care Facility where he is today.

Bill Recalma was to enjoy a family birthday party on Friday, and I'm sure they all had a good time.

Happy 90th, Bill.

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER 14.11.2000

Members of the joint commission to manage the Brown Property will be Councillors Anton Kruyt and Scott Tanner, Public Works Foreman George Mitchell, and Brown Property Preservation Society members Chris Lee and Gary Graham.



THE TALL TREES Project for the Brown property is still a work in progress.

Tall trees still short

More than seven acres to be bought before March

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER 5.12.2000

Community efforts raised \$450,000 toward purchasing the final 15 acres of the Brown property this year — enough to preserve half of the Qualicum Beach forest.

With 7.5 acres left to go, the Brown Property Preservation Society has secured a March 15 extension on the option deadline, and a five-member team is quietly working on major fund-raising initiatives.

"Nothing is finalized, but we've sent off applications ... we're going after two major donations and are investigating others," said society president Jack Wilson.

The group has taken a behind-the-

scènes approach this fall, a sharp contrast with last summer's public drive to raise awareness and funds through the Tall Trees Project.

But there's a reason for that, says Wilson. Because so much of the cash raised to date was collected in small amounts from private donors, the society is now focusing on other options.

"You can't go overboard," he explained. "We canvassed the local community really thoroughly over the summer; they've done a lot already."

Anyone interested can still make a tax-deductible donation to the society at the Walker and Wilson law offices, at 707 Primrose Street in Qualicum Beach.

Brown property commission named

M. 5. 6. 12. 2000

By Valerie Baker

A new commission has been formed to oversee future plans for the Brown Property.

Voting commission members are Chris Lee (chair), coun. Anton Kruyt, coun. Scott Tanner, Gary Graham and Michael Mirams-Harrison. George Mitchell will represent the town as a non-voting staff member.

The commission will review and select the name of the forest from suggestions received over the past two years, and prepare a site inventory and inspection report on existing trails and facilities.

It will primarily administer the 35-acre portion of the Brown property, while fundraising efforts continue to secure the remaining portion.

"Thanks to the local citi-

zens of Qualicum Beach and Parksville and others outside the area, who raised a third of a million dollars in two months this past summer, the remaining balance is within our grasp," says Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson.

With half of the remaining 15-acre portion acquired through these fundraising efforts, the society is continuing

efforts to secure corporate funding for the last 7.5 acres.

The Brown Property Preservation Society has received an extension deadline until March 15, 2001.

Tax-deductible donations to the Society can be made at the Walker-Wilson law offices at 707 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach.

For further information, call 752-8135.

The News' Annual Year in Review edition

Tuesday, December 26, 2000

Tues., Apr. 18

The Town of Qualicum Beach got a four month extension to try and purchase the remaining 15 acres of the Brown property.

Ian Lindsay, negotiator for the town and the Brown Property Preservation Society, secured an extension of the previous May 1 purchase option deadline.

September 22

The Brown Property Preservation Society received an extension until March 15 to raise the remaining \$450,000 needed to buy the rest of the property.

May

Tuesday, May 2

Qualicum Beach town council set a June 17 date for the referendum to determine whether or not to preserve the final 15 acres of the Brown Property.

With the town's option on the property set to expire on August 15, The Brown Property Preservation Society had raised about \$100,000 towards the \$900,000 price of the parcel.

Tuesday, June 20

Qualicum Beach residents chose not to link preservation with taxation in the Brown property referendum.

Of the 64.6 per cent of eligible voters who turned out, 57.7 per cent opposed the town borrowing to purchase the 15 acre option property.

January, 2001

QUALICUM TOTEM

Brown Property Commission underway

The Town-appointed commission has begun to address short and long-term planning issues what is commonly called, the Brown Property. This Commission has been struck to:

Ensure the community reasonable access and opportunity to observe and appreciate nature, consistent with best practices for preservation and management of the forest (yet to be named).

Provide good management and development of the forest consistent with the Restrictive Covenant registered against the property.

Make such rules and limitations on the use of the forest as it deems appropriate.

Provide a budget as well as a management and development plan each year, outlining recommendations for expenditure, development and maintenance for the short and long term.

Coordinate infrastructure funding and grants from various groups.

Voting members of the Commission are: Chris Lee (Chairperson), Scott Tanner and Anton Kruyt (Town of Qualicum Beach Council representatives), Gary Graham (Brown Property Preservation Society representative, and Michael Mirams-Harrison (member-at-large). George Mitchell attends the Commission as a non-voting member from

the Town of Qualicum Beach staff.

The Commission will be dealing with a number of issues including:

The Commission will review and select the name of the forest from different suggestions received over the past two years.

Take a site inventory and prepare a site inspection report to review existing trails, utilities and facilities on the property.

Develop additional trails and entrance/site signs on the property as it deems appropriate and affordable.

Develop a short and long term plan for the property.

Assist in the coordination of grant applications and infrastructure funding as required.

For more information, call Chris Lee, Commission chair at 752-6461.

Volunteers: a vital resource

This column is devoted to "feel good" news that you may not have heard.

The success of the Brown Property Preservation Society has been a completely volunteer effort. The recent success of *Savoir Faire*, in its second year, is another example of the accomplishments of volunteers in our community. Milner Gardens does have paid staff, but 65 volunteers have accelerated the progress made to date. When the mayors of Parksville and Qualicum Beach proclaimed the year 2001 the International Year of the Volunteer, they both paid tribute to the vital role of volunteers in our community.

Jim Storey, a Director of the Parksville-Qualicum Community Foundation, and one of six original founders, was recently selected as Citizen of the Year in Qualicum Beach. Over the years, the Citizens of the Year in both Qualicum Beach and Parksville have been selected primarily for their service to the community in a volunteer capacity.

The day-in-day-out contributions of volunteers affect our health services, policing, nursing homes, schools, recreation, the arts, services to the poor and the handicapped, the environment, and the list goes on and on. It is estimated that 6,000 people in District 69 volunteer at some time in a year. If you would like to know more about opportunities in volunteering, please call Heather at the District 69 Volunteer Association - 752-7202.

If you have a "feel good" good news story that you would like to share, please phone me at 752-7202, write to 373 W. Crescent Rd. Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 1J2, or email blvshd@home.com



Good News

BRAD WYLIE

PARKSVILLE & QUALICUM
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

It's the QB Heritage Forest now

M.S. Jan. 10th, 2001

By Valerie Baker

The Brown property — as it has been known for the past few years — is now The Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach.

The name was chosen from 30 names suggested by the public.

Heritage forest commission chair Chris Lee said the name was chosen after extensive discussion by commission members, in his report to council Monday.

To recognize the Brown family's contribution, a plaque will be placed on the property.

The current commission includes voting members Anton Kruyt, Scott Tanner, Gary Graham and Lee. George Mitchell is the non-voting staff representative. It will oversee park management.

Not even one year ago.....
History repeats itself?

Councillors missed the point

M.S.
Jan. 13,
2001

Amazingly, Qualicum Beach council has supported Weyerhaeuser's plan to helicopter logs in Lot 10, which is part of the Little Qualicum River watershed.

Where were they when Friends of the Little Qualicum organized a community day in the estuary, that underlined the importance of the river and the love local people have for it?

Where were the three councillors who voted for logging when Friends of the Little Qualicum went door-to-door during the holiday season — gathering public sentiment that shows most people support preservation of the watershed?

Were they listening when all but one delegation spoke against logging Monday?

Can these elected officials really be so out of touch with what their community wants? Say it isn't so.

Managing Editor: Bruce Winfield

THE NEWS WEEKENDER, January 12, 2001 • A7

Now that you mention it, there is something that could be improved in local newspaper coverage. Environmental coverage often seems to focus too many column inches on high visibility, often confrontational issues, while providing mere centimetres to the many positive, low key, co-operative successes that occur continually in our communities. This perspective affords a twisted view of the true nature of environmental issues and efforts. It portrays them as divisive and extreme, when they are in fact, uniting, and balanced.

History at risk on river lands

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER Jan. 12, 2001

As daughter of the hereditary chief of the Pentlatch people, Kim Recalma-Clutesi is well aware of the Little Qualicum River's significance within her culture.

But after Qualicum Beach council voted to support Weyerhaeuser's logging plan for the area — which is part of her people's traditional territory — she's not certain what to think.

"It took me by surprise when a pre-meditated agenda was pushed through," she said. "I'm not calling people down when I say this, but it has been monstrously frustrating to watch this unfold."

The Little Qualicum floodplain area was once home to traditional smokehouses, and District Lots seven, eight and 10 contain some 20 species of culturally important plants.

Though Recalma-Clutesi brought these points up at Monday's council meeting, she does not believe her words were taken seriously — and she is doubtful



RECALMA-CLUTESI — concern for her culture

Weyerhaeuser can complete its harvest on the property without doing irreparable damage, even if the company is willing to look at her concerns.

"Protecting two culturally modified trees I've identified is not going to be a fix for what I spoke about at that council meeting," she said. "Removing the [forest] canopy in any way shape or form means you will lose half the species I talked about."

"Look at the stewardship record for goodness sake, for the past 100 years as compared to the past 10,000 years. Then you tell me who is right."

Several environmentally active people I know were in agreement on this, to the degree that consideration was given to producing an independent sheet to provide balanced, comprehensive coverage. Unfortunately, that task was too much for such busy people, but for the local press and all its facilities, it would be much easier.

A regular, environmentally focused column would go a long way to letting people know what goes on around them and might serve as an impetus to move them to action themselves. Environmental concerns will, more and more, come to dominate our attentions in the coming years. Knowledge and understanding of those sorts of issues will go a long way in helping us to mitigate some of the threats we unleash upon ourselves.

Rob Adams
Received via email

Brown forest is now Heritage

Controversial property in Qualicum Beach gets an official new name

By **ADRIENNE MERCER**
NEWS REPORTER Jan. 12, 2001

The forest formerly known as the Brown property has a brand new name — The Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach.

Council approved the new name at the Jan. 8 council meeting, after presentations from Chris Lee, chair of the Heritage Forest Commission and Jack Wilson, president of the Brown Property Preservation Society.

The commission set up to manage the 35-acre town-owned property has been renamed the Heritage Forest Commission. According to Lee, the group is "working toward the good and better management of the property."

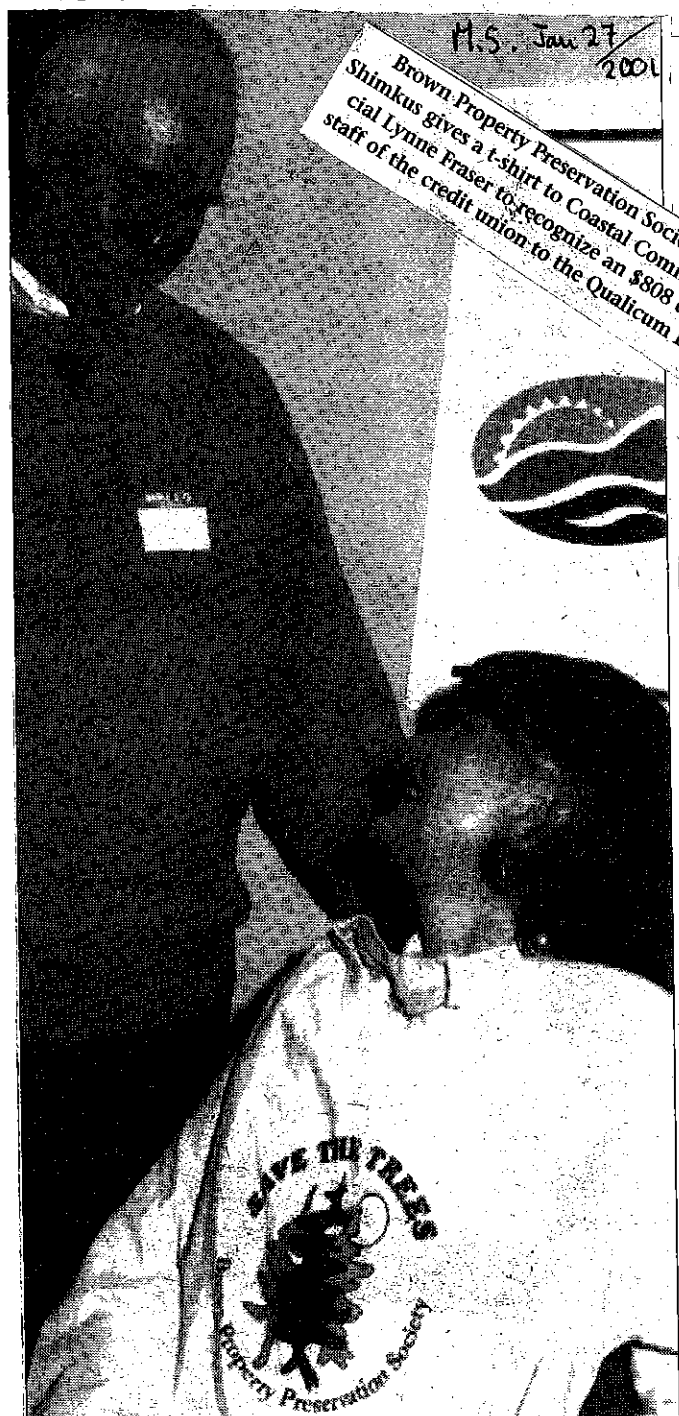
In his presentation, Wilson said the preservation society has three upcoming projects — constructing a new trail, planting Oregon Grape in select areas and removing non-indigenous plants like broom. A new entrance

sign is also under construction. "All of the foregoing will be at no cost to the town," Wilson said.

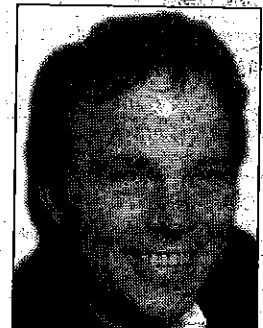
Councillor Scott Tanner, who sits on the Heritage Forest Commission, said there was "considerable discussion" about the new name.

Glancing slyly at the mayor, he said "Teunis Timbers was a close second."

Amid laughter from council and the gallery Westbroek grinned and replied, "I hate coming in second."



Hodge Podge



Charlie Hodge

Speaking of scare tactics, Qualicum Beach council seems afraid of being convinced by environmentalists concerned with logging along the Little Qualicum. Rather than accept some of the concerns from those wishing to block logging, council blindly forged ahead and supported the loggers.

Council didn't wait for an open house planned by the forestry giant. Despite efforts of mayor Westbroek and councillor Tanner, they supported logging. They may as well have stood up and said: "Our minds are made up, for goodness sakes don't confuse us with facts."

Hiss and boo. Back of the class with the lot of you.

Councillors reject Little Qualicum petition

By Valerie Baker

A petition to save the Little Qualicum River floodplain has not changed Qualicum Beach council's support of logging proposed by Weyerhaeuser.

The 1,500-name petition — representing 90 per cent of those polled — was presented to council Monday by Qualicum Beach resident John Kadlubowski.

He asked council to rescind their Jan. 8 motion to support the logging plan.

"I personally would like to know how many signatures it is going to take before council realizes that you are not representing your community here," Kadlubowski told a silent council.

He reminded council of Weyerhaeuser vice-president Linda Coady's Dec. 11 statement that "I can assure you Weyerhaeuser will not log without the support of the community."

Kadlubowski asked council to talk to Weyerhaeuser executives, rather than having "correspondence with Ken Roberts, the crew representative."



Marys Diamond

"There have been a few changes in the past few weeks... I think you are unaware of the Clean Water Act being discussed in Nanaimo on Jan. 26, which the Neighbours of the Little Qualicum River are attending," he said.



Anton Kruyt

signatures you have... people do not understand the issue."

Diamond — who pegged the value of the land at \$1 million, and the value of the logging at \$500,000 — said there is no money to purchase the property for parkland.



Scott Rodway

Diamond pointed to the past referendum to purchase the Brown property, saying residents voted "two to one that they did not want their taxes raised" to purchase it as a park.

Kadlubowski agreed there is no money to preserve the floodplain at this point, but said "we are taking it one step at a

time."

Coun. Anton Kruyt said if he conducted a poll asking people if they wanted to abolish the Income Tax Act, he would likely get 100 per cent support. He also suggested residents didn't fully understand the issue.

More than 1,000 signatures on the petition were from Qualicum Beach, 200 from Dashwood and the rest from residents living from Parksville to Deep Bay.

Kadlubowski said canvassers

will continue their door-to-door petition, and will meet with Area G director Joe Stanhope this week to discuss the issue.

For further information on the petition, phone 752-5356.

The Clean Water Act will be discussed at an open house at the Dorchester Hotel in Nanaimo, 70 Church Road, from 7 to 9 p.m. on Jan. 26. Town engineer Bob Weir and town superintendent of public works Don Alberg will attend the morning session.

148

QB intends to 'honor its contract'

By JEFF VIRCOE

NEWS EDITOR *JVM, 26/2001*

Uncomfortable silence was all the response to be found as John Kadlubowski's presentation to Qualicum Beach council ended Monday night.

From a podium in the centre of the council chamber, the local motel owner had just spent five minutes reading aloud a letter he wrote asking the four politicians present to reconsider a decision they made at the previous meeting.

The ensuing silence from the councillors spoke loudly.

No questions, no rebuttals, no sign of admission that their decision to support Weyerhaeuser's intention to selectively log its timber near the Little Qualicum River was wrong or indeed wavering.

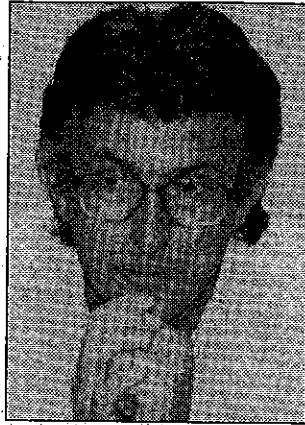
Finally, after an uneasy moment or two of quizzical eyeball shifting between the councillors, the politician who covers the environmental portfolio spoke.

Scott Tanner thanked the environmentalist for his revelations regarding the existence of a 1,500 name petition that, on the surface, should compel the town's decision makers to rethink their stand on Weyerhaeuser's plans.

Kadlubowski had asked that they remember Weyerhaeuser officials' promise they would not go ahead with logging without the support of the residents. As Kadlubowski did in his letter, Tanner then asked that the other councillors look at the new information that had come to light — especially the fact that 1,500 people opposed the logging.

Tanner moved that council receive the letter and pass it onto staff for consideration and possible action.

However, having dealt with the matter the previous



Scott Tanner

...Qualicum Beach councillor found little support on Monday

week, and considering the entire text of the letter, the remainder of council was having no part of it.

While the petition portion of Kadlubowski's letter presented a potential public relations mess, the letter asked for more than just acceptance of a petition. It also requested council to rescind its motion of support for the Weyerhaeuser plan and to meet with the Western Canada Wilderness Committee and the Neighbors of the Little Qualicum River.

With Mayor Teunis Westbrook, Tanner's frequent and loyal ally on environmental matters, away attending to a funeral, Tanner sat alone on the bench. Nobody was present to echo his sentiments. In fact he couldn't even find a seconder for the motion, which would at least take it to a vote.

The motion died.

Eventually Tanner found a seconder to at least receive the letter for information purposes — the usual protocol for dealing with letters sent to council.

But the issue itself would not die.

After quietly waiting in the 25 person gallery with several other supporters for the remaining hour of the meeting, an exasperated

Kadlubowski returned to the microphone for the post-meeting "questions and answers" session.

Starting quietly, but building in his level of frustration, Kadlubowski stared at the three councillors who voted to approve Weyerhaeuser's plan.

"What I want to know is why we can't even start to have a dialogue?" he demanded. "Do you think we're just going to go away? That's not going to happen!"

Kadlubowski asked how many people it would take for them to listen, referring to the 1,500 names on the petition.

At that point, Councillor Anton Kruyt, a politician who for over 20 years has served the people of Parksville, Qualicum and French Creek in the Regional District of Nanaimo, had enough.

Kruyt informed the man that he has spent many, many hours discussing matters of the environment with countless people. In fact, Kruyt said, when it came to the Little Qualicum logging issue, "I can assure you I've spoken to more people on your side of the street than Weyerhaeuser's."

Kruyt was not done.

He disputed the validity of the petition itself, saying that when a gentleman knocked on his door looking for his support, they talked "for half an hour and he wouldn't allow me to see it."

"I can tell you sir that I was an accountant for many years, and if I asked people if they were in favor of cancelling the income tax act, I would get 100 per cent support."

"I just want you to know it's not that I don't care."

While acting mayor Scott Rodway and Tanner quietly listened to the debate, Councillor Marlys Diamond then jumped in, telling Kadlubowski it was her

understanding that to buy out Weyerhaeuser's timber the town would have to come up with in the neighborhood of \$1 million. Given that the Brown property referendum last June failed by a 2-1 margin, Diamond said, there was no way the taxpayers of Qualicum Beach would be willing to pay to stop the logging.

Diamond closed by saying "it all comes down to honoring a contract," between the town, which bought the land — but not the trees — from MacMillan Bloedel, and Weyerhaeuser.

As the impromptu debate closed and council prepared to go in-camera for another, not-for-public-eyes meeting, Kadlubowski and friends retreated into the lobby of the town hall, where they debriefed the Western Canada Wilderness Committee's mid-Island chairperson, Annette Tanner on the actions of council.

M.S.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2001

• The Heritage Forest Commission has appointed Jack Wilson to the Board of Directors.

Wilson, the former president of the Brown Property Preservation Society — as it was formerly named — will replace Gary Graham, who has resigned from the commission.

• Qualicum Beach G.P. Dr. Hugh Fletcher has been appointed to the Qualicum Beach Parks and Recreation Commission.

People ignored again

Editor, the Morning Sun:

Over the past 10 years, the citizens of Qualicum Beach have been subjected to words and deeds by some mayors and councillors designed to squash any opinion at variance with their own.

We all remember the bulk water referendum, where its 'No' vote was ignored; the petitions and delegations to successive councils seeking protection for the municipal park, which have been pooh-poohed and rejected out of hand; the infusion of \$500,000 into the Brown Property, against the majority will; the attempt to discredit the signatories of the reverse petition on boundary expansion, and so on.

We now go one step further, and are informed on Jan. 22 by Councillor Diamond, supported by Councillor Kruyt, that we are incapable of understanding what we are signing when a petition form is shown to us.

It has been my belief that we elect councillors to see to the affairs of the municipality, according to the wishes of the people. How wrong can one be?

Apparently our intelligence extends no further than putting an 'X' on a ballot against the "correct" name. Any thinking and opinions after that are not within our capacity.

Such arrogance is insufferable.

At the very least a public apology is called for, and perhaps its true worth can only be confirmed by a resignation from council.

How about it, councillors?

F.H. Horner

Qualicum Beach

M.S. Jan 31
2001



Protecting our natural heritage

Jean Fau is a chief park warden for Parks Canada. He and his colleagues protect the plant and animal life in our national parks. They also help Canadians explore and enjoy these special places. This is just one of the hundreds of services provided by the Government of Canada.

For more information on government services:

- Visit the Service Canada Access Centre nearest you
- Visit www.canada.gc.ca
- Call 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)

TTY/TDD: 1 800 465-7735

Canada

Feb. 7/2001 M.S.

Community deserves all the facts

QB council needs to step back and reconsider Lot 10 decision

What exactly is it that we don't understand about the issue? At least two councillors have given us, the people of the district, an "F" in comprehension.

Q.B. Council has moved and passed a motion to support logging in the Little Qualicum River watershed, apparently hoping that with this fait accompli the issue will be so much water under the bridge and the protests will dribble away into the sand.

When it comes to l'cau de vie I don't believe that will happen.

Granted there are some side issues in the environmentalists' demands, but the bottom line, the nitty-gritty, is clean, safe drinking water. What can a literate people in the 21st century not understand about an issue that concerns safe drinking water?

If council has considered some side issues in this debate — truly relevant issues that had a serious bearing on their decision — why are they not telling us what they are? Members of council may have been elected to carry out the residents' business, but we also elected them to take our concerns seriously into consideration while doing so and to keep us cognizant of contributing factors.

If some council members honestly believe we do

not understand the issues, then it behooves council to educate us immediately. What do they know that we don't? Just the facts, ma'am/sir.

In trying to get some insight on the water issue, I've been reading *FRESH WATER*, a book by scientist and retired UBC professor, E. C. Pielou. The book jacket comments that "as the world's supply of clean, fresh water continues to dwindle, it becomes increasingly important that we understand the close connection between water and living forms."

While many living forms are at issue in this water fight, the form that strikes closest to home is we humans, and the safe water we require in order to live. Running a close second are the trees that help protect our water source, many of which seem doomed to deliberate death by chainsaw.

Pielou explains that a river's behavior is greatly affected by the characteristics of its watershed. Trees are one of those characteristics. Another characteristic is its annual runoff, or the amount of water leaving a watershed in a year. Trees have a very direct effect on the amount and cleanliness of the water that goes into a river.

Along with safe water to drink, there is the matter of flooding. Floodwaters are seldom, if ever, safe to drink. Says Pielou, "Not



Williwaws
NANCY WHELAN

surprisingly, a stream is most likely to flood if it responds quickly to a nearby rainstorm.

"Vegetation slows overland flow, and rainwater has time to soak into the soil and be used up by evaporation and transpiration." Some of us can remember flooded homes and highways and washed out culverts along the Little Qualicum, long before many trees were cut.

So what is it we're not understanding about this issue? I guess we have the right to say that some councillors don't understand the issue either. We all have to do our homework then compare notes, not clutch our "understanding" to ourselves just to get the result we or our supporters want for some undisclosed reason.

Weyerhaeuser's wants, of course are pretty clear; they're in the business of collecting, processing and selling trees. But what is council's agenda? Why are

they siding with Weyerhaeuser against the avowed wishes of their constituents, especially when Weyerhaeuser has said they won't go against the community's wishes?

It seems obvious that the logging company will interpret the support of council as the wishes of the community it serves — even if their own people know from the press that the community is disturbed, to say the least.

Council, the company will say, "is official", while the outcry is naught but the tears of the rabble.

Let's have an explanation. Tell us, Council, what you know and understand about the issues that we don't. And don't give us the Brown Property red herring. This is not only about trees and animals and flowers. This is about the water we drink. Show us the issues and we will read.

Meanwhile, show good faith by rescinding that motion of support — at least for the time being. What's the rush ... or is that part of the issue?

Huge tree over 500 years old

■ Environmentalists' position on Lot 10 emphasized by discovery

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER

A Sitka Spruce near an old river channel on the Little Qualicum River Floodplain may be the largest and oldest tree of its kind left on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

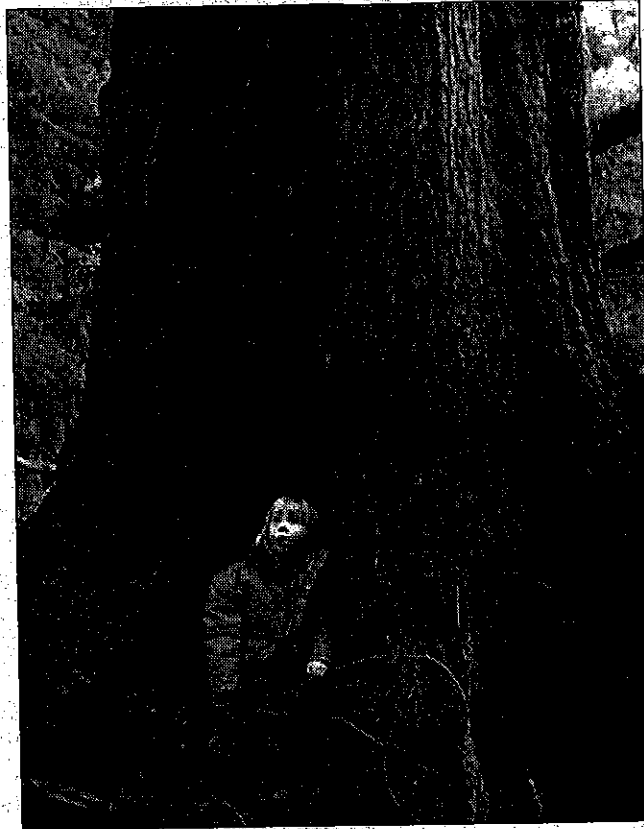
In a press release Tuesday, Western Canada Wilderness Committee announced the tree, which measures over 21 feet in circumference, is on Ministry of Forests land. Other Sitka Spruce trees of similar size are located close by on Weyerhaeuser land.

On Wednesday, the wilderness committee's mid-Island chair Annette Tanner said she and other members of the group located the tree "about two weeks ago, maybe even longer" while conducting a tour of the area.

"We didn't have time to do anything about it then," she said, explaining the group's recent work to preserve District Lot 10 hasn't left members with much free time.

Tanner said her husband Scott, a town councillor, and forest technologist Gary Murdock saw the giant spruce first, then pointed it out to others on the tour.

"We figured out a way to access Lot 10 through the



SOPHIE DENTON-KADLUBOWSKI, age 2, is dwarfed by a giant Sitka Spruce believed to be more than 500 years old. Sitka Spruce are red-listed on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

Ministry of Forests land, and lo and behold there [the tree] was," she said.

Tanner explained a grove of Sitka Spruce of this size "is a very rare occurrence in our dry Mediterranean-style rainshadow climate."

She said the tree is currently being registered with the province's significant

said. "Without drilling it you couldn't say exactly how old it is, but it's definitely more than 500 years old, just by looking at the bark."

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee runs tours of the Little Qualicum River Floodplain every Saturday and Sunday, between 9:30 a.m. and noon, now including the recently discovered Sitka Spruce giant. For more information, call 248-3667 or 752-6585.

trees registry.

Murdock said while Sitka Spruce are common on the west coast of the Island, they are red-listed, meaning close to endangered, on the east coast.

"I haven't seen a spruce grove that big, nor have I seen that big of a tree on the east coast of the Island," he

To support or not support, make it clear

Editor, The Morning Sun:

With regard to your story of Feb. 7, "Watershed Assessment not Required," it's not new news for people who are concerned with the Little Qualicum River logging plans. In fact the lack of legislation applicable to "private forest lands" is one of the main reasons that so many people are concerned with Weyerhaeuser's logging plans. Because there are no laws, the community voice needs to be heard loud and clear whether it support or not support.

The Lot 10 controversy

and confusion desperately needs to be cleared up. I had hoped that it would happen on Valentine's Day at Weyerhaeuser's planned open house, but apparently that has been postponed or cancelled.

I have attached a copy of Weyerhaeuser's much talked about logging plan so that everyone can see for him or herself and make up their own mind. I don't know why this has not been published as it has been public knowledge for some time now.

You will notice that 3,100 cubic metres out of the 3,600

cubic metres of timber volume is coming from the wetland, ephemeral channel where the Sitka spruce grove now stands, on the floodplain of the Little Qualicum River and includes the phenomenal second growth Douglas fir, Grand fir, maple and several other species. Located between the old channel and where the river currently flows is the area of "group selection" where the trees are too large to be lifted out in one piece, so they will be felled, bucked into shorter lengths and then lifted out by helicopter. The currently "red-listed" Vancouver Island east coast Sitka spruce existence will then be even more endan-

gered.

Herein lies the problem with damage to habitat and native plants needed for medicinal and ceremonial purposes by First Nations people. This area has been surveyed and more than 20 essential plant species identified by Kim Recalma-Clutesi. The forest canopy that is adjacent to an extremely sensitive and important wetland bog area will be opened to sunlight and wind.

The "single stem selection" taking place on DL lot 76, lots 7 and 8 and DL lot 10 and amounts to 1,500 cubic metres out of a total volume proposed of 3,600 cubic meters. In my 35

years with the Ministry of Forests I too have seen many kinds of logging methods used and there is a lot of logging out there for us to be proud of.

I have also seen many mistakes made. To log this federally recognized sensitive ecosystem, that is adjacent to a wildlife sanctuary, just below and important to the LQR salmon hatchery, in a community watershed containing the water intakes for more than one community is incomprehensible even to an old time logger and forest technologist like me.

I am quite sure that everyone who has an opinion on this area and has also witnessed the partial retention logging that Weyerhaeuser has recently completed on the upper portions of DL 76 lots 7 and 8.

But if there is anyone out there who would like to come and have a look for themselves, there are tours Saturday and Sunday mornings at 9:15 until noon. Meet at the Riverside Resort on the Old Highway, next to Kinkade Road.

Gary Murdock,
Forest Technologist



Taking a broom to the forest

ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS of the Brown Property Preservation Society (from left), Phil Copple, Norm Stubbings, Morris Pacula and Ernie Shimkus, pitched in on Saturday, Feb. 10 to help remove broom plants from the Brown Property park lands. The non-indigenous broom is highly invasive, and can choke out fragile native flora if allowed to flourish.

Brown Property Society update

We have all heard the expression "no news is good news". Let's hope that is true. We thought that by now we would have heard from one or more of the foundations or companies we had applied to for funding — and we could pass on the good news to you. We are still waiting.

But some things are happening and we would like to tell you about them.

Heritage Forest Designation

It was not a unanimous choice, but the Board felt that the name "The Heritage Forest Of Qualicum Beach" seemed to please most people at last fall's annual general meeting. The Commission and the Town of Qualicum Beach have since agreed and the name is now official.

Commission

The Heritage Forest Commission, chaired by Society member Christopher Lee, is working well to ensure that activities within the Forest reflect the wishes of both our Society and the Town. Jack Wilson is now our other representative on the Commission.

Interpretive Centre

The stable in the Heritage Forest clearing is still our choice for a potential interpretive centre. A special application for funds to renovate/build this centre has gone to Community Futures along with a preliminary plan. This plan is not "cast in stone" and we will be welcoming suggestions from the membership as to design and best possible use of this structure should we receive the funding.

Activities

Some Society volunteers, armed with shovels, recently removed the non-indigenous broom growth along the trail in the clearing, around the perimeter of the paddock area, and the Crescent Road border.

The people at Tourism B.C. have been given pictures and promotional material and we will soon be included in their Beautiful BC Travel Guide.

Qualicum Beach's Family Day in late May will once again feature our float. Let's hope that by then we will own all of the Heritage Forest so we will really have something to celebrate!

We currently have 63 paid-up members as of last October's annual general meeting but many others consider themselves part of our organization. You can encourage friends to join (or re-join) by checking at the Walker-Wilson Law offices at 707 Primrose St. in downtown Qualicum Beach.

News 30.3.2001

New reasons to visit Oceanside in 2001

M.S. 4.4.2001

The visitor survey undertaken by Oceanside Tourism last summer indicated that visitors to our region are drawn by the scenic beauty and the range of outdoor activities.

In 2001, three new developments will help to enhance this image.

The first is the UN designation of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve covering Mounts Arrowsmith, Cokely and Moriarty and the watersheds that flow from them to the Strait of Georgia.

The reserve has no regulatory powers, but will highlight the uniqueness

of our region internationally. The official designation ceremony will take place Apr. 7 as part of the Brant Wildlife Festival.

The second is the Milner Gardens and Woodland. This will be the first year that this 60-acre estate, that has played host to British royalty, will be open to the public. Tours are available Thursday through Sunday starting Apr. 21.

The final addition is the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest (formerly the Brown Property). This park within the town boundaries offers trails fea-

turing magnificent old growth trees.

Final Survey Results

The final draft of the visitor survey taken last summer is now in the OEA office. It indicates not only why people visit Oceanside, but how satisfied they are with their visits, how they spend their time, where they are from,

as well as information on them as individuals.

One interesting result was, while shopping was low on the list of reasons for visiting, once here, shopping was the fourth most popular activity. Copies of the survey have been delivered to both chambers and to the two councils.

Brown society looks to raise green to buy green

By Timothy Schäfer

The Morning Sun 18.4.2001

A proposal for an extension of the purchase agreement for the Heritage Forest will be made by the Brown Property Preservation Society to the Brown family, the society announced last Tuesday.

Society representatives met with the Brown family and delegates from the Town of Qualicum Beach last Tuesday to figure out a funding plan for purchasing the remaining seven-

and-a-half unprotected acres left from the original 50-acre forest.

"We met to talk about strategies which would allow the last few acres of the property to be finally preserved as a park," said Keith Smith, the society's secretary, last week.

Jack Wilson, the society's president, described for the assembled groups the ways the \$450,000 necessary to purchase the land would be gathered through fund-raising activities. Said proposal would be forthcoming "in the near future"

he stated. "The meeting was cordial and constructive," said Wilson in a press release.

A sign was erected on Sunday, Apr. 8 in front of the forest which has been protected, reading "The Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach." Tax deductible donations can be made at the Walker & Wilson law office at 707 Primrose St. in Qualicum Beach.



HERITAGE FOREST BOARD members and volunteers installed a new sign at the park's East Crescent entrance April 8. Pictured l-r: Dave Field, Anne Klees, Ernie Shimkus, Jack Wilson, Anne Sharp, Gary Graham and Keith Smith.

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER 4.5.2001

Land swap idea has McLean

Area F director Jack McLean is livid about a proposed land swap that would give Weyerhaeuser 140 acres of Crown land in Area F in exchange for its property at the Little Qualicum River.

"I truly feel let down that Area F is being used again," he said at the Regional District of Nanaimo's corporate and community services meeting Tuesday. "We are getting screwed ... I again ask why Area F is getting picked on to support the wishes of other communities."

McLean said he received a call

from Weyerhaeuser asking him to meet with the company's South Island Woodlands manager Jim Sears at 1 p.m. May 4. Though he agreed to the meeting, McLean said he has already informed company representatives he opposes the swap.

"I'm getting people looking up at the side-hills of that mountain and saying good God what's happening — now we're being clear cut," he said.

On Monday, Sears told *THE NEWS* community involvement and

support will be key to finalizing a land swap with the provincial government — a process he estimates will take about a year. The company is investigating the option due to public opposition to its logging plans for Lots seven, eight and 10 along the Little Qualicum River.

Lot 10, which is partially located in Qualicum Beach's town boundary and partially in Area G, has been a topic of particular concern over the past year. The town purchased its property there from MacMillan Bloedel in 1986, as a

Steaming

precautionary measure to protect its water supply. MacMillan Bloedel retained the cutting rights, which now belong to Weyerhaeuser.

When the company began to look at logging the area, public concern over the watershed and the sensitive ecosystem along the river prompted Weyerhaeuser to first alter its logging plans, then consider other options.

The Crown land under consideration in Area F — District Lot eight, Lots 104 and 30 — is in the

upper French Creek area, adjacent to lands already owned by Weyerhaeuser and Timber West.

After explaining his position to directors, McLean made a motion that the board support Area F in opposing the land swap. Directors defeated it, opting to wait until more information about the swap becomes available.

"I think it's ridiculous they can't even listen to a suggestion and support an area director," McLean said Wednesday.

"I will still be meeting with Mr. Sears ... but it's the same old story. If we don't like it, dump it on Area F."

Land deal sought by Weyerhaeuser to replace floodplain

By Valerie Baker
The Morning Star
Weyerhaeuser are negotiating for a crown land swap in lieu of logging rights at the Little Qualicum River floodplain under negotiation are the banks under French Creek behind located in the power lines behind beyond the power lines manager Garon Weyerhaeuser's manager South Island Timberlands Jim Sears.

Land Swap continued from front

"We have formed a committee and submitted a proposal to swap the timber rights for crown land, and we have tabled a couple of areas which don't have the same sensitivity [as the Little Qualicum River areas]," said Sears.

If the government agrees to the land swap Weyerhaeuser will apply a standard, variable retention logging method "which is not quite a clear cut" and utilize the areas as tree farms, he said.

Meanwhile Sears said their negotiations with the provincial Lands Branch are continuing.

Neighbours of the Little Qualicum River and other environmental groups have lobbied to prevent the proposed logging operation.

lots 7, 8 and 10 and block 37, sea their proposed logging of District Sears. "We are hoping to have a meeting with the representatives of Weyerhaeuser and Western Canada with Qualicum Regional Councilor Scott Rodway and a Wednesday member Scott Rodway or Wednesday member Annette Tanner discuss the proposal. However, Rodway emphasized, however, that Council is not involved in the negotiations and were merely there as observers. The two parcels of approximately 80 hectares and 30 hectares owned by Weyerhaeuser and the two parcels owned by the Vancouver Island Fruit Growers' said Sears.

Residents association opposes land swap

By Timothy Schäfer

The Morning Sun

A recent land swap proposed by Weyerhaeuser South Islands Timberlands and supported by the town of Qualicum Beach is an unconscionable move, said the French Creek Residents Association on Thursday.

After learning about the proposed deal, which would trade logging rights in the Little Qualicum River floodplain for similar rights on land near the headwaters of French Creek, the FCRA issued a statement chastising the swap.

"The principle that's applied here is to make a land swap from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction and not solving the problem," said FCRA president Thomas McArthur Thursday morning.

"We said to (the town), think about it, you just switched your problems to us."

Qualicum Beach Mayor Tuenis Westbrook noted that it was the logging company and not the town who made the decision to pursue a land swap with the B.C. government.

He noted that Q.B. council had agreed with Weyerhaeuser's first plan to log the floodplain but, after pres-

sure from within the community, the company is electing to pursue another avenue.

"If they can make a deal with the province to log another area where there might not be as much of a problem, and this community isn't negatively affected, I'm all for that," he said on Friday.

"Personally, I don't think the area needs to be logged but they do have that right."

Weyerhaeuser has submitted a proposal to the B.C. government's Lands Branch to swap timber rights for Crown land. If successful, the company would apply a variable retention logging method — not quite a clear cut but considered more of a "tree farm" operation.

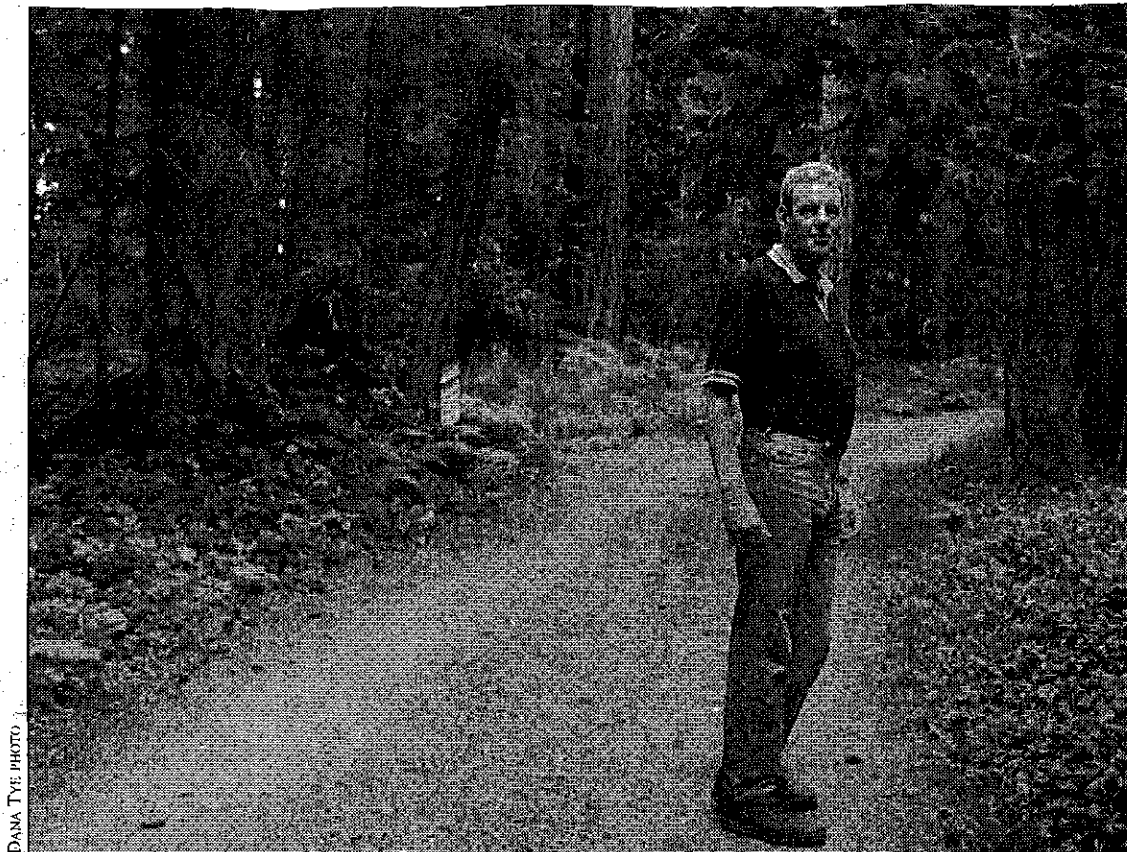
McArthur was disappointed the deal was concocted without the participation of the FCRA. He had been told by Mayor Westbrook the town's hands were tied and the swap was their only way to save the floodplain.

McArthur intimated that alternatives to the swap could be formulated had the FCRA been involved, but he could not say what those other plans would consist of.

Weyerhaeuser representatives could not be reached by press time to comment on the FCRA's concerns.

Heritage Forest

The Heritage Forest Commission has given the go-ahead, subject to grants being found, to a year-long environmental inventory of the forest. The Commission is also contacting the High School about safety and environmental damage concerns arising from students using the trails for phys ed. Q. Totem 2001



DANA TYE PHOTO

Jack Wilson, of the Brown Property Preservation society, walks through the Heritage Forest near the Qualicum Beach golf course, a 35-acre site preserved jointly as a town park.

A walk through the woods

Qualicum Beach's answer to Cathedral Grove

By **DANA TYE**
FUN THINGS CONTRIBUTOR

News 26 June 2001

A hand carved, arched entranceway divides a busy paved road from nature trails carpeted in tree dust, marking the narrow distance between Qualicum Beach's future — and its threatened past.

Just past the sign, the drone of passing cars instantly gives way to the melodic chatter of birds. The muffled concentration of nearby golfers, even anxious thoughts, are quickly absorbed by a thick canopy of Douglas Firs; a number of them older than Shakespeare's poetry, some bearing the imprint of use by earliest inhabitants.

Located along Crescent Road East near the Qualicum Beach Memorial Golf Course, for the past five years, Heritage Forest has become an idyllic spot for nature lovers and preservationists. Or for those who want to make their everyday troubles disappear.

Local lawyer Jack Wilson, a self described non environmentalist, says the first thing that strikes him whenever he enters the forest is the unparalleled sense of serenity he finds from just being there.

"It's our own Cathedral Grove," he says with a slow smile, gazing around at a hardy stand of Douglas Firs, ranging in age from newborn to as old as 700 years. As he speaks, filtered sunlight pours through branch openings, casting a golden glow over a floor of ferns.

"The thing I notice is its sort of mystical quality. You sort of leave the world behind."

As a founding member of the Brown property preservation society, Wilson's enthusiasm for the 35-acre forest park reflects a common theme.

The background of most society members, however, is far more eclectic.

As Wilson explains, slowly making his way along the park's main trail, most society volunteers are professionals or retired residents with minimal knowledge of forestry or botany. But they all possess a passionate desire to protect a tiny piece of old growth forest in the town's own backyard.

"These trees saw Captain Vancouver sail by," he says, pointing out the forest's oldest residents.

"Now, how could you cut them all down?"

The genesis of the park began with a developer's proposal to subdivide the 50-acre lot five years ago, on land formerly used as a summer playground by the Brown family of Qualicum Beach. Neighbouring residents such as Wilson, and society president Chris Lee, instinctively decided they needed to band together to save the lot in its natural state.

After three years of fundraising and working in concert with town council, two thirds of the land was secured for \$908,460, with the town supplying \$483,460 in development cost charges and reserves, and the other \$426,000 from society pledges and donations.

Wilson says a couple of generous individual donors kick started the drive. Ongoing park and trail maintenance, and its promotion as a natural oasis to local residents and tourists, has increased its public profile.

See HERITAGE FOREST facing page

HERITAGE FOREST

Continued
from page B14

"People appreciate what we're trying to do," he says. "Because more and more it's a thing to see in Qualicum."

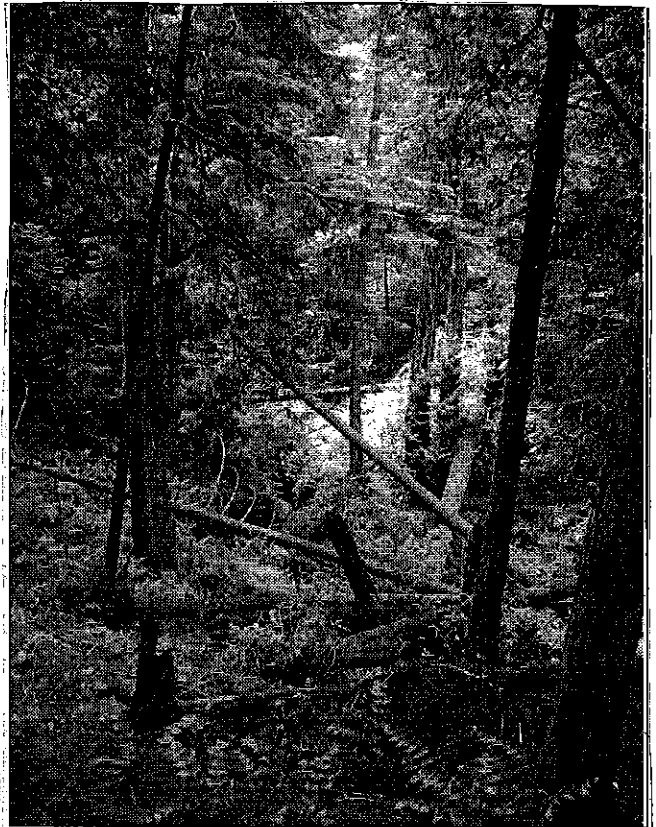
At present, the society is working hard to preserve the final, 15-acre third of the property. Securing the remaining portion of forest will offer protection for the existing park by providing root cover and the prevention of further damage from erosion and blow down.

The remaining upland area will cost the society a further \$900,000, however, since it's been assessed at roughly the same market value as the adjoining lowlands. Society volunteers are also hoping to build an interpretive centre on the Browns' former stable grounds, and create a fund for ongoing park maintenance and habitat protection.

In addition to rare and endangered tree species, such as sitka spruce, the forest and creek area harbour numerous deer, eagles, woodpeckers, owls, salmon and other native flora and fauna.

"This is home for them. This is the way it was for most of the Island for hundreds of years," Wilson says.

The Brown Property Preservation society is currently welcoming tax-deductible donations, care of Walker and Wilson, 707 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach, B.C., V9K-2K1, or at any branch of the Coastal Community Credit Union. To volunteer time toward the project, call 752-6951.



SOME OF THIS forest watched Captain Vancouver.

News 10.7.01

Heritage Forest QB's own Cathedral Grove

A walk through the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach (formerly known as the Brown Property) is a mind-cleansing, stress-relieving experience. Though I've done it a hundred times, it's still a thrill every time I go there at any time of day. With its dense foliage, thick undergrowth, songbirds and diverse species of forest giants, it is a more subtle version of Cathedral Grove.

Every day more people are seeking out this beautiful, natural place. Brown Property Preservation Society volunteers say that Heritage Forest brochures are now being picked up more often at the entrances to the woods. It's probably because local hotels, motels and the tourist bureaus are encouraging visitors to include a walk through the Heritage Forest in their list of "things to do" in our town. Even with this increase in traffic it is virtually impossible to find trash of any kind on the forest trails — would you leave an empty drink can in a cathedral?

All but 7.5 acres of the Heritage Forest now belong to the people of Qualicum Beach and area. We are close to owning — and preserving — the entire 50 acres of pristine wilderness right in the middle of our community, but the Brown Property Preservation Society could still use some financial help with their final efforts. If you haven't walked the Heritage Forest trails, do so soon.

Keith Smith
Qualicum Beach

Tall trees, great picnics

NEWS 20.7.2001

The Brown Property Preservation Society will repeat last year's highly successful series of picnics and musical events designed to create interest in the Forest.

Society volunteer Carol Spears, who is heading up a committee to stage the events, described the picnics as "low-key, fun events."

"We just want people to come and enjoy some fine local talent in a beautiful setting. You can bring a picnic and a lawn chair and we are encouraging people to take time to walk the beautiful Heritage Forest trails, too."

Well-known local entertainers have agreed to provide the music for the four afternoons. The list includes Kerry Moilliet, Rosalee Sullivan, Fred Sahani and Brook Kennedy.

Watch for posters and check *THE NEWS* for more details. You can enter the Heritage Forest from either East Crescent or Chester streets in Qualicum Beach.

Picnic in the Park runs Sundays from 1-4 p.m. on August 5, 12, 19, and 26.

There is no admittance charge but donations to the Brown Property Preservation Society's on-going fund-raising efforts would be appreciated.

For more information call Carol at 752-2444.

Heritage Forest picnic features Dale & Sharon

Due to the rainy weather, the first of the Heritage Forest Sunday afternoon picnics was cancelled.

However, picnics will be ongoing at the Heritage Forest from 1-4 p.m. featuring a different musical guest. On Aug. 19, Dale and Sharon of Tranquility Trio will be featured while on Aug. 26 Peggy Kinsman and Bill Cave will perform and on Sept. 2 Fred Saliani addresses your senses.

You can enter Heritage Forest from either East Cres. or Chester St. in Qualicum Beach. There is no admission charge, but donations to the Brown Property Preservation Society's on-going fund-raising efforts are appreciated.

For more information, call Carol at 752-2444. M.S. 15.8.2001

Sunday picnics are back

25.7.2001

M.S.

August Sunday afternoons in Qualicum Beach's Heritage Forest are back as the Brown Property Preservation Society will repeat last year's highly successful series of picnic and musical events designed to create interest in the forest.

Society volunteer Carol Spears, who is heading up a committee to stage the events, says "These are low-key fun events. We just want people to come and enjoy some fine local talent in a beautiful setting. You can bring a picnic and a lawn chair and we are encouraging people to take the time to walk the beautiful Heritage Forest trails too."

A number of well known local entertainers have agreed to provide the music for the four afternoons.

Not all have been confirmed, but the list includes Kerry Moilliet, Rosalee Sullivan, Fred Saliani and Brook Kennedy.

Watch for posters and check the local media for more details. Entrance to the Heritage Forest can be gained through East Crescent or Chester St. in Qualicum Beach.

Picnic in the Park runs Sundays from 1-4p.m. on August 5, 12, 19 and 26. There is no admittance charge but donations to the Brown Property Preservation Society would be appreciated. For info, contact Carol at 752-2444.

Picnic at the park features Kinsman and Cave

On Sunday, Aug. 19 a group of approximately 30 people were entertained by Tranquility Trio at the Heritage Forest.

The sun was shining and it was a perfect day to spread a blanket and listen to Dale, Sharon and Joyce singing in great harmony.

Lefty's Restaurant and Karma Coffee donated coffee.

This Sunday will feature Peggy Kinsman and Bill Cave.

You can enter the Heritage Forest from either East Crescent or Chester Street in Qualicum Beach.

There is no admittance charge but donations to the Brown Property Preservation Society's ongoing fund-raising efforts are appreciated.

For more information, call Carol at 752-2444. M.S. 25.8.2001

More Brown land purchased

■ Another 7.5 acres of eco-sensitive property added to QB's Heritage Forest

By **ADRIENNE MERCER**
NEWS REPORTER 31.8.2001

Thanks to a \$460,000 community effort, Qualicum Beach's Heritage Forest is about to expand by 7.5 acres.

Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson confirmed Tuesday the society is purchasing half of the 15-acre parcel currently held by the Brown Family Trust, with money raised entirely through community donations.

After the purchase, local land surveyors Sims and Associates will prepare a plan for the parcel — donating their efforts to the society — and the land will be transferred to the town of Qualicum Beach.

The Brown family has also granted an extension until July 31, 2002 on the option to purchase the remaining 7.5 acres.

Known as the Brown Property, the 35-acre Heritage Forest and the 15 acres still owned by the family trust have been a hot issue over the past five years.

In April 1999, the town and the preservation society purchased the 35-acre parcel for \$908,460. Of that total, \$426,000 came from donations, while \$483,460 came from town reserve funds and development cost charges.

On June 17 2000, with an Aug. 15 deadline on the option to purchase the remaining 15 acres, the town held a referendum to see whether Qualicum Beach residents would support a tax hike to allow the purchase.

The referendum failed, and the Brown Property Preservation Society had just \$110,000 in its coffers. But volunteers scheduled a last-minute rally and initiated the Tall Trees Project — a grassroots effort to raise

enough cash to save the land.

Since then, said Wilson, there have been two more extensions on the option — proof the Brown family is understanding and supportive of the society.

"They want us to succeed, I think," he said.

"[The family] seems to appreciate our efforts."

Wilson said the push to preserve the forest has been a true community effort — a fact that is not lost on Qualicum Beach's mayor, Teunis Westbroek.

"They have a clear focus and they've never given up," Westbroek said of the preservation society.

"I personally support setting aside this park, for us and for our wildlife ... future generations will look at this group of people and this community and say we made a good decision."

Save the Heritage Forest campaign gets extension

The campaign to raise funds to purchase the remaining seven acres of Qualicum

Beach's Heritage Forest has been given more time, reports Jack Wilson, president of the sponsoring society.

"The Brown family trust has agreed to give us until July 31, 2002 to come up with the rest of the money," said Jack in late August.

"At the same time we will be splitting the 15 acres into two titles and paying for the first

lot with the \$460,000 raised so far.

"We're hopeful that the extension will give us the time to attract sufficient corporate donations so the other lot can be purchased."

The Town of Qualicum Beach acquired the first 35 acres of Heritage Forest in May of 1999 using private donations and park DCC

money. The Brown family gave the community a year to raise \$900,000 to pay for the remaining 15 acres.

The family has granted three deadline extensions since then to allow fundraising to continue.

If you would like to help with the campaign call Jack Wilson at 752-6951.

Brown property may get Weyerhaeuser cash donation

By Valerie Baker

The Morning Sun 12.9.2001

Weyerhaeuser are considering a \$250,000 corporate donation towards the purchase of the remaining 7.5 acres of the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson met with Weyerhaeuser South Islands Timberlands manager Jim Sears and Alberni-Qualicum MLA Gillian Trumper on Friday to discuss the issue.

"It was an excellent meeting. There were two other directors from the society present to facilitate the resolution and other environmental issues," said Wilson.

If the \$250,000 Weyerhaeuser donation is forthcoming, a further \$200,000 will be required to purchase this last 7.5-acre parcel.

"The Society will continue in its fund-raising efforts to acquire the remainder of the forest," said Wilson.

The Brown Property Preservation Society have been fundraising to purchase the remaining 15 acres of the forest lands since April, 1999, when 35 acres of the 50-acre property were purchased by the Town of Qualicum Beach from town reserves and community donations.

Since then, the Brown Family Trust have granted two extensions to the option for the society to purchase the remaining 15 acres.

Last week the society announced it's intention to purchase 7.5 acres with funds raised through the Tall Trees Project, following a recent extension to the option to purchase by the Brown family to July 31, 2002.

"In exchange for the extended option, the Society will purchase a portion of the

option property adjacent to the forest already purchased, with the funds the Society has raised to date - approximately \$460,000", said Wilson.

Local land surveyors, Sims Associates, have agreed to donate their services to prepare the plan to transfer the parcel to the Town of Qualicum Beach.

"The Brown family

seems to appreciate our efforts to save all of the forest, and wanted to give us an adequate opportunity to acquire all of the funding we can", said Wilson.

The Society continues to receive individual tax-deductible donations from the public, which can be mailed or delivered to Walker & Wilson Law Offices at 707 Primrose St, QB, V9K 2K1.

Talks continue on land swap deal

By Valerie Baker

The Morning Sun

Weyerhaeuser are continuing negotiations for a land swap for District Lots 7, 8 and 10 for crown land in Area F.

Weyerhaeuser South Islands Timberlands manager Jim Sears met with Alberni-Qualicum MLA Gillian Trumper last week to discuss the issue, which would prevent controversial logging of the Little Qualicum River floodplain.

"There seems to be some interest," said Sears following the meeting with Trumper.

"We want our loggers to have some place to work."

The 80-hectare crown land site under consideration is located in the French Creek area beyond the power lines, and has a timber value in excess of \$1 million, said Sears.

Weyerhaeuser own property beside the lands.

Previous negotiations for a land swap were discussed with former NPD MLA Gerard Janssen, prior to the provincial election.

"He supported the proposal in principle, but it didn't go any further because the election was called," said Sears.

Sears said the \$250,000 corporate donation to the Brown Property Preservation Society "based upon the successful conclusion of the land swap from the Little Qualicum River floodplain to the Area F land.

Trumper was not available for comment at press time.

Heritage Forest stable Q.B. Totem Oct. 2001

The Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest Commission voted not to accept at this time a proposal by the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers to lease part of the stable building for an office. It was noted the building would require up to \$30,000 in improvements to make it ready for public occupancy and the commission said vehicle access to the building is by agreement with the Brown family which still owns part of the driveway.

Use of undesignated trails

Correspondence expressing concern about Heritage Forest Commission comments regarding use of undesignated trails through the bush by high school students for physed was received as information. Commission chair Chris Lee later told the Totem the concern was use of undesignated trails not the public trails which have been upgraded with bark mulch. He said students are welcome to use the designated trails.

Heritage Forest fundraising

Councilor Scott Tanner indicated the Brown Property Preservation Society was not applying for grants to make improvements to the park because it was still concentrating on raising acquisition funds now that a one-year extension has been acquired. Minutes of the Heritage Forest Commission indicate that body will be looking into obtaining funding to undertake an environmental inventory.



Heritage Forest Commission

Members of the Heritage Forest Commission of Qualicum Beach and others interested in the forest met recently to view a proposed new trail location near the edge of Hoylake Rd. (L to R) Ernie Shimkus, Jack Wilson – president of the Brown Property Preservation Society, Chris Lee – Commission Chair, Ron Speller, Scott Tanner, Anton Kruyt (with Kaycee), George Mitchell, Michael Mirams-Harrison.

Heritage Forest park benches

Council supported a motion by Councilor Scott Tanner giving the Brown Property Preservation Society authority to sell park benches as a fund-raising initiative to help purchase the remaining 7 1/2 acres of Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

Financial update

Financial administrator John Marsh noted that as of Aug. 31 spending for the year was right on target. 2/3 of the way through 2001, total government spending was \$634,527 or 68.3% of the total amount budgeted. He added that he didn't expect any money to be spent on two major budget items, Phase I of Laburnum Road, and acquisition of the final seven acres of the Brown property, because they were dependent on receiving external funding.

Brown society launches "Trees Please" fundraiser

The Annual General Meeting of the Brown Property Preservation Society was held on Thursday, Oct. 25 in the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre.

Board elections were as follows - Jack Wilson - President, Ernie Shimkus - Vice president, Keith Smith - Secretary, Ann Sharp - Treasurer, directors - Dave Field, Ann Klees, Brian Peckford and Phil Copple.

Jack Wilson spoke of the year's accomplishments which included on-going fund-raising to a total today of \$1.35 million, new trails developed in the Heritage Forest, a beautiful entrance to the Heritage Forest built at East Crescent, leaving only a final 7 1/2 acres to go.

A new fundraising program to raise the final \$450,000 was unveiled. Slogan is "Trees Please - Complete Our Heritage

Forest". Fundraising chairperson is Phil Copple of Qualicum Beach. Activities planned include: an antique road show, sale of special "Trees Please" pins, commemorative benches in the Heritage Forest, special recognition to the "500 club" - citizens who have already contributed \$500 or more over the past few years, and a personal appeal to community people who we feel could help us in our final "push". A Home and Garden Tour is also planned for next spring.

Contact for Heritage Forest activities is Jack Wilson, President of the Brown Property Preservation Society, 707 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 2K1 phone (250) 752 6951. Donations to the Heritage Forest are tax-deductible.

Society aims to preserve entire heritage forest

By Timothy Schäfer M. S. 7.11.01
The Morning Sun

With fund-raising topping \$1.35 million to-date, the Brown Property Preservation Society is two-thirds closer to preserving the entire heritage forest in Qualicum Beach.

Re-elected society president Jack Wilson unveiled, during the annual general meeting Thursday, Oct. 25 at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, a new fund-raising program to gather up the \$450,000 still needed to purchase the remaining seven-and-a-half acres of forest.

With a slogan "Trees please —

complete our heritage forest" to aid him, fund-raising chairperson, Phil Copple of Qualicum Beach, has several activities planned for the year including an antique road show, a sale of special Trees Please pins, a sale of commemorative benches in the heritage forest as well as a special recognition 500 club (for contributors over \$500) and personal appeal to the community for the final push to attain the goal.

Wilson also noted during the meeting that other enhancements to the forest have been completed, including new trails and an entrance to the forest at East Cres.

Tree campaign kickoff

By ADRIENNE MERCER
NEWS REPORTER 27.11.2001

With only eight months to raise \$450,000, the Brown Property Preservation Society has a new fund-raising campaign and renewed enthusiasm about saving the final 7.5 acres of the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

In April, 1999, the Society and the town of Qualicum Beach combined forces to preserve 35 acres of the 50 acre forest, located just off East Crescent Road across from the Qualicum Beach memorial Golf Course. The property is now known as the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

Since then, the society has raised \$460,000 through community donations — enough to buy an additional 7.5 acres. If \$450,000 more can be confirmed by July 31, 2002, the entire property can be saved.

"The society appreciates all the community has done so far to save the Heritage forest, and hopes people will consider making a further donation in our final push to save all of the trees," said Jack Wilson, president of the Brown Property Preservation Society.

Wilson explained preserving all of the forest is important, because any portion that is developed could increase the risk of blow-down on the rest of the property.

On Nov. 24, Wilson, Mayor Teunis Westbroek, society vice-president Ernie Shimkus and fund-raising committee chair Phil Cople set up a "treemometer" across from the Qualicum beach post office. The mercury in the treemometer will rise as the society's fund-raising total increases.

A series of fund-raising



BROWN PROPERTY PRESERVATION Society president Jack Wilson (l), Mayor Teunis Westbroek, society vice-president Ernie Shimkus and fund-raising chair Phil Cople watch the mercury rise.

events are planned for the coming months, including an antique road show, a home and garden tour, and the sale of special Heritage Forest pins.

Donations can be made to the law offices of Walker and Wilson, 2 - 707 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach, V9K 2K1. For more information call 752-6951.

Totem Community Notebook Dec. 2001



Trees, Please!

Jack Wilson reaches for the goal line as the Brown Property Preservation Society kicks off a new campaign, Trees, Please!, to raise the final \$450,000 needed to purchase the entire Heritage Forest. Progress will be recorded on the Treemometre on the lawn opposite the post office

Sensuous Art Sought

M.S. 28.11.2001

Society builds for final push for Heritage Forest



Several notables gathered for the erection of the treemeter — to gauge the progress of the Heritage Forest fund-raising campaign — in Qualicum Beach last week, including (from left) Jack Wilson, president of the Brown Property Preservation Society, Teunis Westbroek, mayor of Qualicum Beach, Phil Copple, chair of the fund-raising committee and Ernie Shimkus, vice-president of the society.

Funds needed

By Michael Briones
Special to the Star

8.12.2001

QUALICUM— The Brown Property Preservation Society has been busy planning events to raise money to help secure the last remaining seven-and-a-half acres of the Heritage Forest in Qualicum Beach.

With a target of \$450,000, and a deadline of July 31, 2002 set by the Brown Property Family Trust, the society plans to host Qualicum Beach's first Antiques Roadshow and Fair March 23 at the Civic Centre.

Fundraising chair, Phil Copple, said people will be able to bring their antiques and collectibles to the roadshow and have them appraised by experts for a small fee.

The fair will also include sales and display booths of antiques, collectibles, and garden art dealers from across Vancouver Island, as well as a Silent and Live Auction, mini lectures, and delicious snacks with entertainment in the tea room.

"Planning is already underway, and the Society is looking for volunteers to help get things rolling in the New Year," said Copple.

"Any knowledge of antiques, collectibles, or garden art, or experience with silent or live auctions, would be helpful but is by no means essential."

Being the first of its kind, Copple said they need people to bring their energy, knowledge and skills to help the society make this antique roadshow an enjoyable and successful fundraising event.

Continued from A1

A special meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre.

The society will be presenting the plans for the Antique Roadshow as well as update members and the community on the progress of the

group's overall goals.

A treemeter was erected two weeks ago across the Qualicum Beach post office that charts the progress of the Heritage Forest fundraising campaign.

Other events the society is looking to organize are a home and garden

tour, sale of special Heritage Forest Pins and one-on-one contacts.

Anyone interested in being part of the fundraising effort, or making a donation, can call Copple at 752-6252.

Heritage tree bears names of generous donors

M. S.

A "Donor Tree" has been growing rapidly in the foyer of Qualicum Beach's Town Hall lately. It bears a different kind of fruit, one that's filled with generosity and concerned from supporters of the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest campaign.

The tree carries the donors' names who have generously doled out cash to help the Brown Property Preservation Society acquire the Heritage Forest.

At present, over 200 names of people who have contributed a total of \$755,000 since 1998 is pasted on the tree. All are members of the "500 Club" - citizens who have given \$500 or more towards the project, including those who have given larger amounts.

Supporters to secure the last 7 1/2 acres of the Heritage Forest will also be recognized. The Brown Property Preservation Society has a July 31st, 2002 deadline to raise the final \$450,000 needed to save the remaining property.

Please see Tree on page 2

2 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2001 M.S.

Tree continued from front

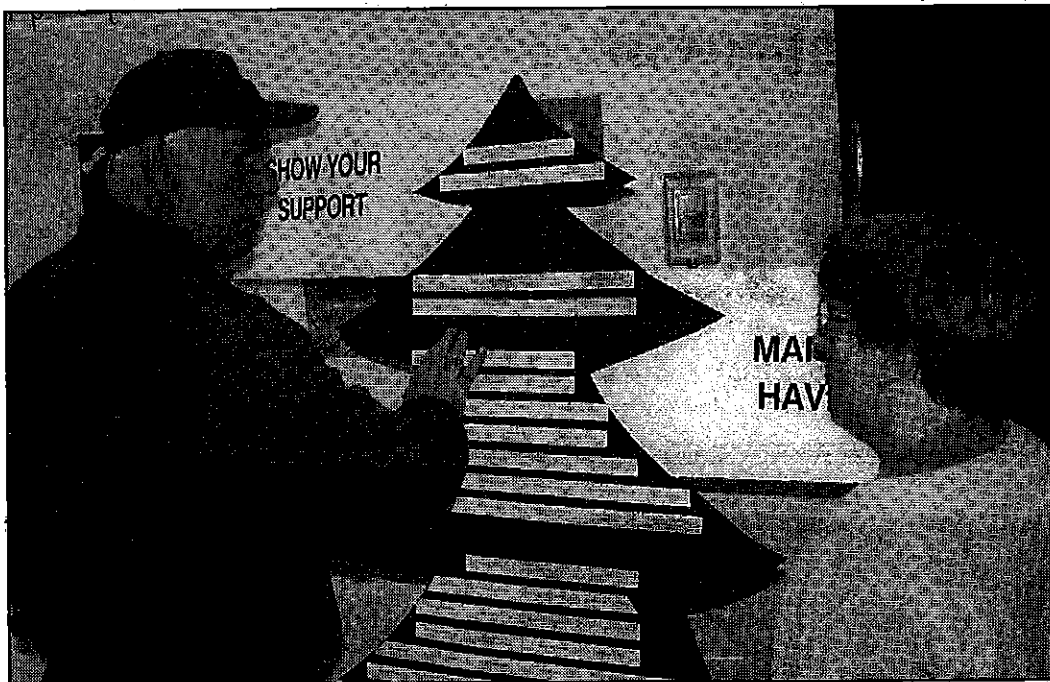
Names of those who give \$500 or more over the next 6 months will be added to the tree. Some may wish to add to a previous donation to move up into the "500 Club". A more permanent donor display is likely to be erected in the Heritage Forest when the campaign is over.

Meanwhile volunteers have come out in droves to attend the Dec. 13 meeting at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre where the plan to host Qualicum's first Antiques Roadshow and Fair was discussed.

The meeting was conducted by Maureen Drew, a local marketing and communications professional who brought her talents and organizational skills to the fundraising

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE MORNING SUN



Brown Property Preservation Society directors Ernie Shirkus and Anne Sharp place the latest name on the recognition tree located in the foyer of the Qualicum Beach town office. The tree recognizes those who have contributed to the purchase of the 7 1/2 acres of Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach.

event.

The plan is to hold the antiques show on March 23 at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. People will be able to bring their antiques and collectibles to the Antiques Roadshow and have them appraised by experts for a small fee.

The fair will also include sales and display booths of antiques, collectibles, and garden art dealers from all across Vancouver Island, as well as a Silent and Live Auction, mini-lectures, and delicious snacks with enter-

tainment in the Tea Room.

The Society is looking for volunteers to get things rolling in the New Year. Any knowledge of antiques, collectibles, or garden art, or experience with silent or live auctions, would be helpful.

Anyone wishing to get involved, can call Phil Cople in Qualicum Beach at 752-6254.

All donations can be dropped off at the Walker-Wilson Law offices, 707 Primrose Street in Qualicum Beach. Donations are tax-deductible.

"News" 15.1.2002

**BROWN
PROPERTY TOUR**
Tour anytime — open to public. Guided tours on Sunday between 1 and 3 p.m.

OCEANSIDE

A10 The Star

Saturday, February 2, 2002

Brown Society about to seal deal

By Michael Briones
For the Star

The Brown Property Society is poised to finally acquire half of the 15 acres of the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

The group, which has already raised \$460,000 through its Tall Trees Project last year, has yet to purchase the precious forest lands. Society president Jack Wilson said they're hoping to seal the deal by next week and will make it known to the public.

"We've been sort of going back and forth over what the configuration of the property that they still hold. That's now been resolved," he said.

"They've come up with a rough subdivision proposal that will allow the purchase of half of the 15 acres."

Wilson said that the subdivision proposal may change later as the owners have given them until the end of July to buy the remaining 7.5 acres.

The society needs to raise another \$450,000 and towards that end, it has ini-

tiated fund-raising events such as the first Antiques Roadshow and Fair to be held in Qualicum Beach Civic Centre on March 23.

As well, the society is hoping to get corporate donation from Weyerhaeuser which had indicated last year a possible \$250,000 donation.

Wilson said this is currently in abeyance but the society is hoping the forestry company can come through with the donation as it will leave them with only \$200,000 to raise to purchase

the last remaining 7.5 acre parcel.

The fight to preserve the 50 acre Brown property has been ongoing since 1999 when 35 acres of the property were bought by the Town of Qualicum Beach from town reserves and community donations.

The society continues to receive individual tax-deductible donations from the public, which can be mailed or delivered to the following address: Walker & Wilson Law Offices at 707 Primrose St., QB, V9K 2K1.

Qualicum Beach may get resort

By Michael Briones
For the Star

If all goes well, Qualicum Beach may soon see a new resort/hotel developed adjacent to the Qualicum Heritage Park.

The owner of Crown Isle Resort and Golf Course, Ron Coulson, has bought the 5-acre property with a three-storey mansion located along East Crescent Rd. right across the Qualicum Beach Memorial Golf Course. He plans to turn the house, without changing the character of the mansion, into a high-quality restaurant with room upstairs much like an inn.

But for Coulson to proceed with his plans, the property has to be rezoned since it is situated in a residential area.

"We think that this is a good idea," said Mayor Teunis Westbrook. "Part of our official community plan identifies tourism as a very important part of our local economy. But over the years we've lost a lot of potential tourist accommodations along the beach. They've become permanent residences like condominium type buildings along over there. So this would sort of compensate for that although we changed our OGP from residential to this tourist accomme-

dation. We think it's still within the general objectives of the community."

Westbrook feels Coulson's plan will help preserve the property's wooded area from the being transformed into another 20-lot subdivision.

"This is a residential zone and they could have flattened the whole works, trees and everything," said Westbrook. "Ron Coulson has built some very good quality developments. The people are always concerned about what happens next door because it's right next to the (QB Heritage) park. With this development, we're going to protect the perimeter of the five-acre estate and that will enhance the park and not see the area taken down and built houses on and so forth."

A rough draft of the plan was submitted to the Qualicum Beach advisory planning committee on Tuesday. Westbrook said they expect to see more details of the plans Monday night when the second reading of the rezoning application will be held at 7:30 p.m.

The first reading of the rezoning application was held by Qualicum Beach council on Jan. 18. And prior to the third reading on Feb. 18, a public hearing will be held.

Brown property resort heads to public hearing

By ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER Febr. 8, 2002

The owner of Crown Isle Resort and Golf Course is looking to build a 60-unit resort next to the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest, and the town is going to public hearing Feb. 18 to give residents a look at the plans.

Crown Isle owner Ron Coulson hopes to turn the Brown Mansion property and an adjacent property into a destination resort. The plan includes building 56 resort condominiums, and renovating the mansion to create four guest rooms from its existing second and third floor bedrooms. The mansion would also house a restaurant, lounge, library, reception area, concierge office and sitting rooms.

Qualicum Beach council has already given first and second reading to the rezoning and amendment applications needed for the project to proceed.

Town planner Paul Butler said the resort is a good option for the property, given it will be developed at some point.

"To retain some of the character that is part of the history of Qualicum Beach, I think this is a good compromise," he said.

Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson says the group is not opposed to the resort "... as long as the integrity of the natural forest is maintained, and a buffer is maintained around the development."

The News - Febr. 19, 2002

news

SOME KICKER

ERNIE SHIMKUS (L), JACK Wilson and Morris Pacula of the Brown Property Preservation Society work on a new trail through the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest. The trail will parallel St. Andrews Road, allowing visitors to the forest to view Beach Creek from the West.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, February 18th, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. in the Qualicum Beach Council Chambers, 660 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach, British Columbia, to receive representations from all persons who believe their interest in property to be affected by the proposed Town of Qualicum Beach Official Community Plan amendment bylaws and the Land Use & Subdivision amendment bylaws listed below. A copy of the bylaws may be inspected at the Municipal Office of the Town of Qualicum Beach, #201 - 660 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach, British Columbia, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, except statutory holidays, from February 8th to February 18th, 2002.

1. Former Brown Mansion Property – 292 Crescent Road East

Potential purchasers of the Brown Property Mansion wish to rezone the property in order to create a destination type hotel, restaurant and resort condominiums. If the amendment bylaws are adopted the total combined number of hotel units and resort condominiums on the 5.8 acre site would not exceed 60 units. Parking on-site would consist of a mixture of underground and surface parking. Natural buffer areas will be retained where possible and enhanced as required. The land must be developed in substantial compliance with the approved site plan. If the proposal is to proceed, two Municipal bylaws are required to be amended as follows:

a) Bylaw No. 575.02

"Town of Qualicum Beach Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 575.02, 2002" will amend the "Town of Qualicum Beach Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 575, 1998" as follows:

- i) "Schedule 2.1 - Land Use" map is hereby amended by changing the designation of Lot 1, DL 62 & 63, Newcastle Land District, Plan VIP68940 from "Single Family Residential" to "Commercial" as shown on Map 'A' below.
- ii) "Schedule 2.2 - Development Permit Areas" map is hereby amended by designating Lot 1, DL 62 & 63, Newcastle Land District, Plan VIP68940 as Development Permit Area 'C8' as shown on Map 'A' below.
- iii) By changing Schedule No. 1, Section 3.2 - Development Permit Areas by adding "Development Permit Area C8 - Crescent Road East". Development Permit Area C8 establishes design guidelines for the subject property.

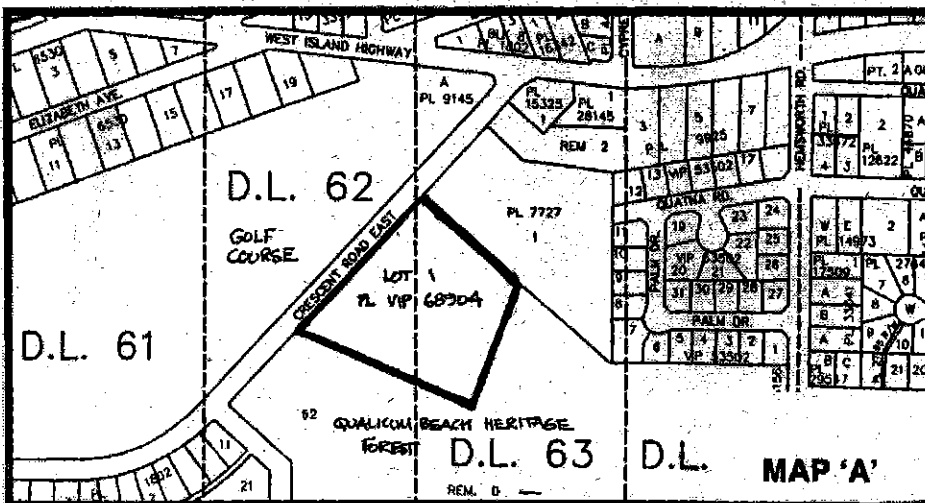
b) Bylaw No. 580.03

"Town of Qualicum Beach Land Use & Subdivision Amendment Bylaw No. 580.03, 2002", will amend the "Town of Qualicum Beach Land Use & Subdivision Bylaw No. 580, 1999" as follows:

- i) "Part 6 - Land Use Regulation" by adding section 6.4.28 - "Comprehensive Development Zone 1" (CD1).

In general terms the purpose of the 'CD1' zone is to limit the permitted uses on the site to: hotel, resort condominiums, restaurant and accessory uses customarily ancillary to a hotel or resort use including spa, recreation facilities, licensed lounge, swimming pool and parking. The 'CD1' Zone also regulates the maximum number and size of buildings, minimum setbacks, landscaping and screening, and parking.

- ii) "Schedule 6A - Zoning Map" by changing the zoning designation of Lot 1, DL 62 & 63, Newcastle Land District, Plan VIP68940 from Residential 1 Zone (R1) to Comprehensive Development Zone 1 (CD1) as shown on Map 'A' below.



**TOWN OF
QUALICUM BEACH**
Incorporated 1942
Feb. 8, 2002

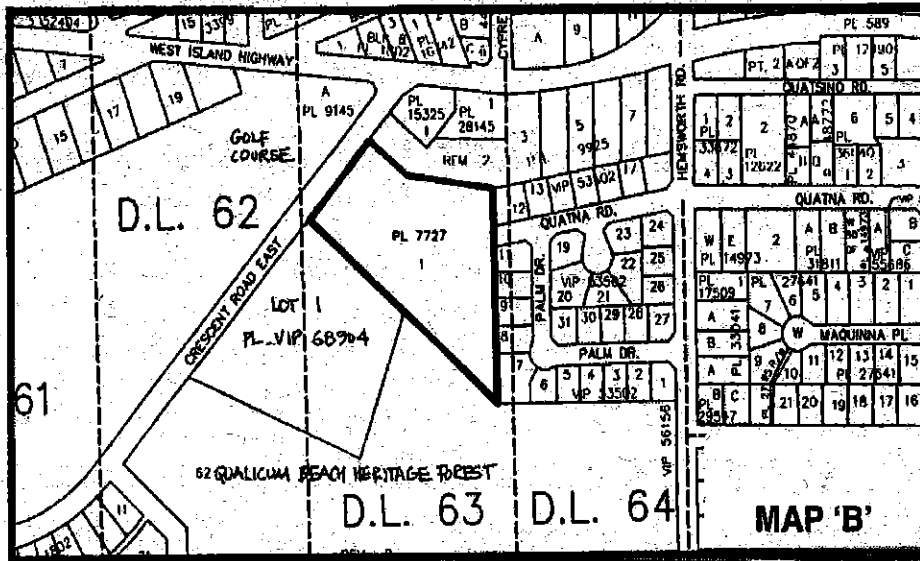
3. 320 Crescent Road East (McKeen Property)

In general terms the purpose of Amendment Bylaw 575.04 is to refine the current Official Community Plan objective to "identify land reserves that may serve as future sites for additional resort facilities" by designating a specific area where Council would consider rezoning applications for a resort facility. The Bylaw also establishes design guidelines for that area.

a) Bylaw No. 575.04

"Town of Qualicum Beach Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 575.04, 2002" will amend the "Town of Qualicum Beach Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 575, 1998" as follows:

- i) "Schedule 2.1 – Land Use" map is hereby amended by changing the designation of Lot 1, DL 63, Newcastle Land District, Plan 7727 from "Single Family Residential" to "Commercial" as shown on Map 'B' below.
- ii) "Schedule 2.2 – Development Permit Areas" map is hereby amended by designating Lot 1, DL 63, Newcastle Land District, Plan 7727 as Development Permit Area 'C' as shown on Map 'B' below.
- iii) "Section 3.2 – Development Permit Areas" is hereby amended by adding "Development Permit Area C8 – Crescent Road East". Development Permit Area C8 establishes design guidelines for the subject property.
- iv) By adding a policy to "Section 2.2.3 – Commercial" that states "The Town will consider a rezoning application for commercial destination type tourist resort facilities for the properties located on Crescent Road East as indicated on Schedule 2.1 – Land Use Map."

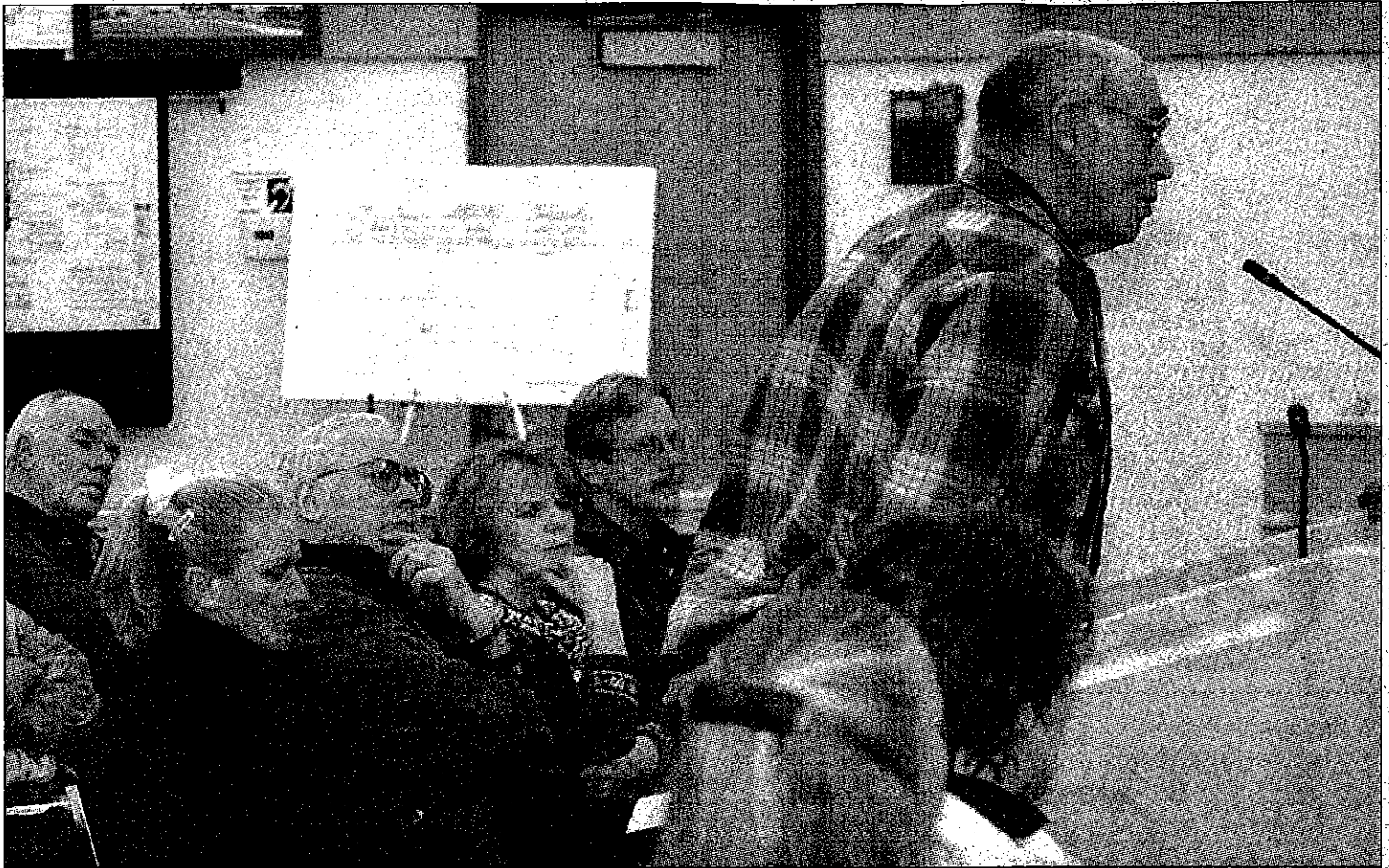


For further information regarding the bylaw amendments, please contact P.T. (Paul) Butler, Director of Planning, at the Municipal Office of the Town of Qualicum Beach, #201 – 660 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach, British Columbia at (250) 752-6921 or email pbutler@qualicumbeach.com.

This Notice is published in accordance with Section 892 of the *Local Government Act*. Further, this is the first of two publications of this notice in a newspaper.

P.T. (Paul) Butler
Director of Planning
Town of Qualicum Beach

Febr. 8. 2002



ADRIENNE MERCER PHOTO

FORMER QUALICUM BEACH mayor Art Skipsey addresses council during Monday's public hearing. Skipsey spoke in support of bylaw amendments that would allow a resort development on the Brown mansion property.

Brown family concerned about impact of resort

By **ADRIENNE MERCER**
NEWS REPORTER

22.2.2002

A public hearing on the rezoning of the Brown mansion property Monday prompted several concerned neighbours to write letters to the town, or crowd into council chambers to voice their opposition.

As a result, council is delaying third reading of the amendments, in order to take a close look at the public's concerns.

The town is considering land use and Official Community Plan amendments to allow Crown Isle owner Ron Coulson to convert the property into a "destination-type hotel, restaurant and resort."

The resort plan includes building 56 condominium units, and renovating the mansion to create four guest rooms from its existing second and third floor bedrooms. The mansion would also house a restaurant, lounge, library, reception area, concierge office and sitting rooms.

The property is currently owned by Calgary lawyer John Merrett, represented by his lawyer, Ron Lamperson, at the public hearing.

Lamperson said his client did not know about the proposed bylaw amendments until recently, but does not oppose them, as long as they are not adopted before the sale to Crown Isle is completed Feb. 28.

Speaking on behalf of her mother, Genevieve Brown, Lois Brown said her family has concerns with the plans for their former home.

She asked council what provisions have been made to protect the Heritage Forest, and suggested people who have made donations to help preserve the forest may want their money back if the forest is not adequately protected.

Brown pointed out visitors to the resort will be "transient" and may not respect the Heritage Forest and surrounding area as much as neighbouring residents do.

See RESORT on page A3

RESORT

Continued from Front page

She also asked if council has considered how drainage, water, sewer and servicing will be dealt with once the resort is built.

"We take enormous exception to this exceptional part of Qualicum Beach being rezoned in one fell swoop," she said.

In a letter to council, Jim Ford of Hollyford Bed and Breakfast said he and his wife Marjorie are "strongly opposed" to the development, particularly because of the historical significance of the mansion property. Ford said if built, the new resort could cause traffic problems, open the area to further development, and threaten the Heritage Forest.

Council watchdog Frank Horner also wrote a letter, saying while the resort will be classy, and draw more people to the area, it will put strain on "... a formerly peaceful and serene property."

One Palm Drive resident, Norm Carter, came out and asked council to put a stop to the bylaw amendment process, and let the official community plan bylaw amendment die at second reading.

"I would like council to show good faith towards the surrounding property owners," he said.

Not all residents were opposed to the

development. Former mayor Art Skipsey, who had a hand in developing the town's official community plan, said he supports the bylaw amendments, and Coulson's plans for the mansion property. He told council the resort will benefit the town, and should not have much effect on neighbouring properties.

Walter Kostecky, a Qualicum Beach resident, lawyer and Crown Isle representative, assured the public the developers and their clients will want to preserve the natural beauty of Qualicum Beach.

He explained the resort is not a time-share, but a proposal for a quarter-share.

"People would buy in because they are interested in preserving what's here and enjoying what's here," he said. "These people are buying into what Qualicum is, and what it will hopefully stay."

After the public process, Councillor Anton Kruyt moved to hold both bylaw amendments in abeyance until a future meeting, to allow staff and council enough time to weigh the public's comments. Council passed the motions unanimously.

"Council is not in a hurry to make a mistake," Mayor Teunis Westbroek explained to the gallery. "We need to consider all of the points raised."

THE NEWS WEEKENDER, March 1, 2002 • A7

Brown rezoning must be stopped

Everyone should be extremely concerned with the proposal to allow Crown Isle to convert the "Brown House" portion of the property into a "destination-type hotel." (*THE NEWS WEEKENDER*, Feb. 22).

At first glance, it looked like it would be just a renovation of the house. However, this proposal includes a destination-type hotel, restaurant, resort and the building of 56 condominium units.

The impact of this type of density increase would have a devastating effect on the ambiance and ecology of the park. This is similar to an earlier proposal on the outskirts of Stanley Park in Vancouver. The Vancouver Council stopped the re-zoning because of the concern and uproar of its citizens.

Many of us have devoted time, money and a great deal of effort to save and protect this Heritage Forest. I urge all citizens to contact our mayor and councillors to stop this rezoning and development. Now.

W.G. (Bud) Wilson
Qualicum Beach

Brown mansion proposal could be a tourism jewel

When you consider it's been over 30 years since the last destination resort opened in Qualicum Beach it's hard not to get excited at the prospect of the Brown mansion property being turned into a condominium hotel and restaurant.

A change we are more accustomed to is the closing and conversion of tourist accommodation into residential housing.

The last resort hotel to open was in 1972 when the Qualicum College Boys School was converted into what is now the Qualicum Heritage Inn. That same year, however, the community's most famous tourism landmark, the Qualicum Beach Hotel, was bulldozed and the land on West Crescent turned into 30 residential lots.

Since then Qualicum Arms, the Grandview, the Ben Bow, the Snow White and the Crescent Motel have all closed or been converted and the Shady Rest has

ceased to offer overnight accommodation.

As Brad Wylie notes in his 1992 book *Qualicum Beach: A History of Vancouver Island's Best Kept Secret*: "Qualicum Beach has never returned to the number of accommodation units achieved in 1963-64." That year the number of units stood at 339. Thirty years later the number is barely 300. Only one new motel/hotel, the Casa Grande, has opened in Qualicum Beach in the last 10 years.

The rezoning of the land owned by the Qualicum Beach Hotel into 30 residential lots was of course the single biggest loss of tourism accommodation property in the town's history. The proposal for the Brown mansion property is an opportunity to make amends for that loss and

should be supported.

There isn't a piece of property of its size, approx. 6 acres, better suited or better located for a resort hotel. Surrounded on two sides by the 50-acre Heritage Forest, a heavily wooded private home on the third and the golf course on the fourth, the Brown mansion as a hotel will impact almost no other property in the community. What's more, it has a spectacular view of the Georgia Strait, one that will make promoting the property a marketing manager's dream come true.

Standing behind the project is Ron Coulson and Rick Jackson of Crown Isle Developments of Courtenay. The Coulson family is one of Port Alberni's oldest and most respected corporate families. They make an enormous contribution to every community they

choose to do business in. Crown Isle is considered the premiere golf and residential development on the North Island. There is every indication they will bring the same energy and creativity to the Brown mansion project.

In approving the rezoning application Town Council has the opportunity to inject some new life into a business community that has been barely surviving for far too many years. And when completed, the 60-unit Brown mansion resort will unquestionably be a jewel in Qualicum Beach's tourism crown.

- Richard de Gaudole

Saturday, March 9, 2002

◆ OCEANSIDE

Antique show sure to please

By Michael Briones
For the Star, Nanaimo

The Antiques Show and Garden Art Fair is promising to be a first class show.

The event takes place spring break, March 23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. It will be a unique showcase for people who sell or exhibit antiques, collectibles and garden art.

Organized by the Brown Property Preservation Society, the antiques roadshow has already attracted a lot of interest from local, island-wide and Vancouver antique enthusiasts.

Qualified appraisers locally, from Vancouver, and all over the island are invited to the show, which is a fund-raising event. Proceeds go towards the preservation of the historic Brown property in Qualicum Beach - now known as the Heritage Forest.

Among the highlights of the show is the Garden Art, a real trend in landscape and garden design and a unique opportunity for many of the Island's artisans and sculptors to showcase their work.

The theme carries on in the Garden Art Café where everyone can enjoy foods cooked by guest chefs, sip on a cappuccino, enjoy local musicians, and chat with fellow enthusiasts.

As well, there will be exhibits, sales booths, guest speakers, prize draw and silent and live auctions.

More than 100 volunteers have already signed up for the project, which is an encouraging show of support for the Brown Property Preservation Society.

"It tells me there's a lot of enthusiasm in this community for saving more of the forest," says Jack Wilson, president of the Society. "All the money we raise will be used to purchase more land and save more trees. It's also a novel way to show support for the Society's conservation efforts."

Organizers are still seeking private donations of antiques and collectibles for the live auction. These can be donated for a tax receipt or items valued at \$200 or more can be accepted on consignment with a shared split. Items can be picked up and also appraised if there is no official appraisal.

"I'm really excited about this event," adds Wilson. "Interest in antiques and garden art is peaking, and I expect big crowds."

For information about the show, please contact Anne Sharp at 250-752-9771.

For more information about donating, contact Garda Rowe at 250-752-1581.

12.3.2002

environment

Heritage forest all spruced up

By TRICIA LESLIE
NEWS REPORTER

The Brown property, or make that the Heritage Forest, was a busy site Saturday afternoon.

In efforts to clean up the Beach Creek Ravine, situated on the property, members from different community groups combined their resources to pick up garbage dumped there.

How long ago that garbage was dumped is another question.

Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers' Paul Ryniak said that everything from old hotel dishes, old-fash-

ioned metal headboards, and even the remains of stoves from years past were found. As well, the rusting carcass of a vehicle was dragged out, via backhoe, in bits and pieces, with remnants of other vehicles also picked up.

The car, which Ryniak estimated was a 1920s vehicle, may have once come up a 1930s logging road, which residents back then may have used to dump their unwanted waste in the forest.

Jack Wilson of the Brown Property Preservation Society was at the site, with others from the Streamkeepers and the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest Commission, all pitching in to clean the ravine.

A new trail is slated for the area, replacing the old trail, to let locals enjoy a better walk through a natural setting, and in order to get a better view of the Beach Creek Ravine.

The rough filling for that new trail has been laid, with finishing touches, such as laying sawdust down, are in the works.

The new trail is expected to open shortly.



TRICIA LESLIE PHOTO

MIKE THOMPSON, A member of the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers, watches as a backhoe pull a rusting piece of rubbish out of a ravine on the Brown property over the weekend. The cleanup was part of a trail building project.



JAMES CLARKE/FOR THE STAR

Scrap iron, anyone? *13.3.2002 Oceanside Star*

The efforts of three different groups started taking shape Saturday as volunteers converged on the ravine and surrounding trail to clean up the pristine parcel of land located behind the old Brown mansion in Qualicum Beach. Above, town worker Gary Goldsberry reclaims the remains of a circa-1940 Ford from the steep forest floor. The group would end up removing parts from three different vehicles on the day. FOR RELATED STORY SEE PAGE A9

Oceanside volunteers pitch in to clean up Qualicum trail

By Michael Briones
For the Star

A group of volunteers spent their weekend helping build a more scenic and natural trail at the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

It was a cooperative event that saw the town of Qualicum Beach, the Brown Property Preservation Society and Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers join forces for a major cleanup that included clearing an old dump site that has been used as a garbage dump for cars, hotel debris and other trash.

Upon clearing much of the debris in the area on Saturday, the Brown Property Society built a new trail located in the corner of St. Andrews Rd. and Hoy Lake Rd. that will allow hikers and visitors an excellent view of Beach Creek and the ravine without having to stray way from the trail.

"It was an excellent day," said Paul Ryniak, one of the volunteers. "It was a well coordinated effort with everyone pitching in."

The clean up effort was initiated by the QB Streamkeepers who have been given the responsibility of taking care of Beach Creek - a spawn-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Morris Pacula, left, and Ernie Shimkus of the Brown Property Preservation Society work on a new trail in the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach.

ing area for salmon.


"We were given this task and now that we've cleaned up the dump site, we can replant the area," said Ryniak. "That will stop the silting in of the stream which kills the eggs of the salmon once they're laid."

The extensive work that has already been done on Beach Creek

has cleared the way for the return of salmon, added Ryniak.

"We have seen big salmon carcasses in the area and we think that a small number of salmon has made it back to Beach Creek without us knowing it," he said. "We will monitor the area this spring and check it out for fry."

THE NEWS WEEKENDER, March 15, 2002 • A15



Qualicum Beach
Antiques
Show
and
Garden Art
Fair

Don't miss this Roadshow

Antiques, Appraisals & Sales Booths
Fabulous Garden Art
Topical Guest Speakers
Silent & Live Auctions
Guest Chefs & Local Musicians

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
Sat., Mar. 23, 9 am - 5 pm
Live auction at 8 pm

Entrance fee: \$5
250-752-9532
www.qualicum.bc.ca
Appraisals: two item limit, \$10 & \$5

By **ADRIENNE MERCER**
NEWS REPORTER 19.3.2002

Nostalgia will be in the air this Saturday in Qualicum Beach, when the Brown Property Preservation Society hosts an antiques show and garden art fair.

Qualified appraisers will be on hand to examine treasured jewelry, crystal and other collectibles, and antiques dealers, exhibitors and a variety of guest speakers will pass on their knowledge. Meanwhile, the garden art component of the event will give Island artisans and sculptors the chance to showcase their work, and silent and live auctions will feature one-of-a-kind items.

"We have everything from furniture and art to native art pieces, porcelain, antique lace, and antique pieces of garden art," said Maureen Drew, event coordinator.

All proceeds from the Qualicum Beach Antiques Show and Garden Art Fair will be put towards the purchase of the final 7.5 acres of the Brown Property, so it can be preserved along with the rest of the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

"All the money we raise will be used to purchase more land and save more trees," said Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson.

Organizers, including more than 100 volunteers, are hard at work to make sure the day-long show at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre is both a successful fundraiser and a memorable experience.

"We want this to be a totally enjoyable day for people," said Drew.

"The Island is really into antiques ... the Brown Property committee decided it was suitable to the community, this type of a fundraiser, and it would be a great way to get the whole community involved and bring the donors together as



MAUREEN DREW AND Ernie Shimkus, two of the organizers for the Qualicum Beach Antiques Show and Garden Art Fair, are readying a wide array of antiques for the one-of-a-kind event.

a group." The show involves appraisers, antiques dealers, artisans and speakers from all over the Island and Lower Mainland — including local appraisers Rob Liddicoat of Parksville Jewellers and Richard Rosewell of Mildred's Memorabilia in Qualicum Beach. Colin Ritchie, a charter member associate appraiser with Sotheby's.com, will also be present.

Three guest speakers will give seminars from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., repeating them every 45 minutes. Karen Kafka, an interior designer with Chintz & Co. in Victoria, will speak on how to blend antiques and collectibles into modern decor; Cynthia Harris of

Vancouver's Old Mill City Antiques will discuss "what's hot and what's not" in collecting antiques; and chef Matthew Caldwell of the Gatsby Mansion in Victoria will give a cooking demonstration on "The Art of the Tea."

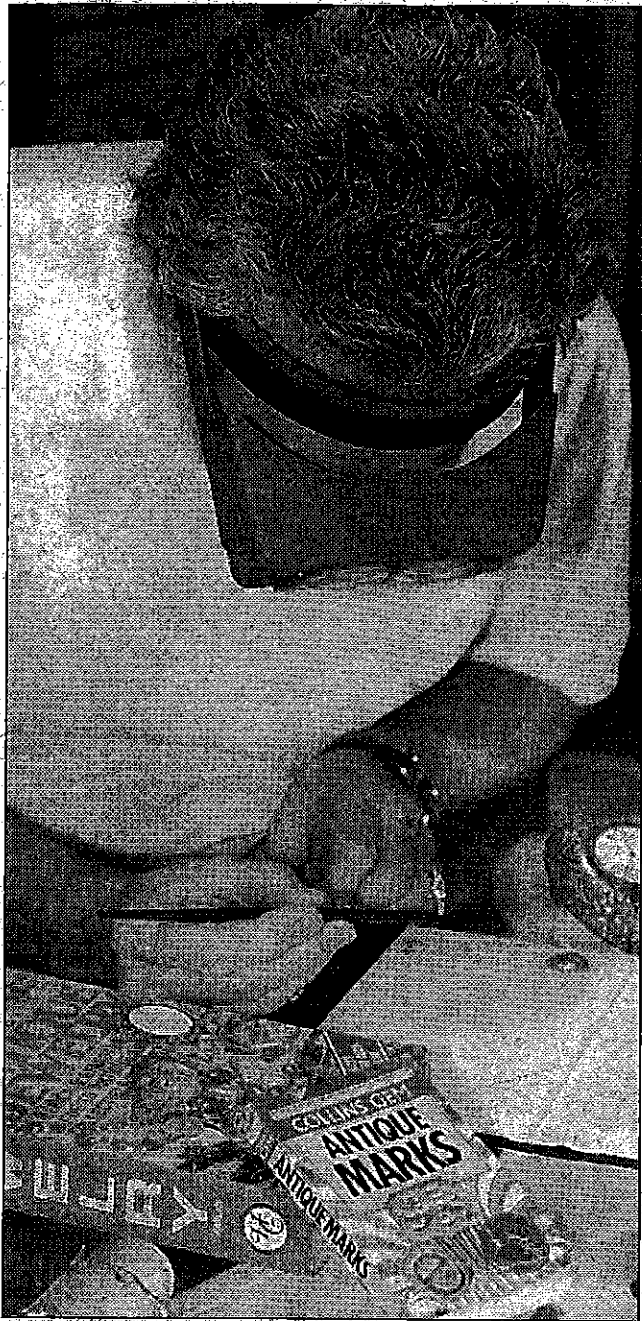
Local and Nanaimo-area restaurants — including Bailey's, Lefty's, Shoot the Breeze, Tigh Na Mara and the Longwood Brew Pub will provide breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea at the on-site Garden Art Cafe. And for caffeine addicts, there will be plenty of Karma Coffee to go around. Entertainment throughout the day will include performances by Oceanside musicians Dan Riddell, Marg La Foy, Anne McMillan, Fred Saliani,

Faye Smith and Marjorie Koers.

"We've tried to give people a really nice flavour of the Island," said Drew. "We've had really good response from private donors, appraisers, restaurants ... it's actually getting quite exciting. We have such a good cross-section of appraisers. We've had good participation from the Island and Vancouver, so we'll be able to offer the public a good mix of experts."

The Qualicum Beach Antiques Show and Garden Art Fair runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 23, at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. The entrance fee is \$5, and appraisals are \$10 for the first item and \$5 for additional items. For more information, visit www.qualicum.bc.ca or contact the Qualicum Beach Visitor Information Centre at 752-9532.

The value of collectibles — and tall trees



Antiques, art and QB's trees

Nostalgia will be in the air Saturday, as Oceanside residents take in the Qualicum Beach Antiques Show and Garden Art Fair.

A fundraiser for the Brown Property Preservation Society, the show will bring qualified appraisers and antiques dealers to the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre.

Island artisans and sculptors will showcase their work, and live and silent auctions will feature one-of-a-kind items.

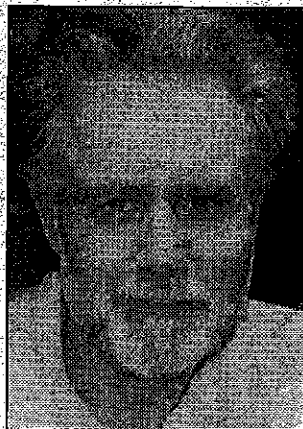
All proceeds will go toward the purchase of the final 7.5 acres of the Brown Property.

The show involves appraisers, antiques dealers and artisans from all over the Island and Lower Mainland — including local appraisers Rob Liddicoat of Parksville Jewellers and Richard Rosewell of Mildred's Memorabilia in Qualicum Beach.

"I just think it's a great fundraiser for this area and it's fun, too," said Liddicoat. "And people get something back for their donations."

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, at the Civic Centre. The entrance fee is \$5.

Appraisals are \$10 for the first item, \$5 for additional items.



Rob Liddicoat
...fundraiser a good fit with the Parksville Qualicum Beach area

Brown Property Cleanup a long tradition

Dear Editor:

Nice to see a tradition started by the Parksville-Qualicum Fish & Game Association many years ago being continued. In reference to the article on the Brown Property Preservation Society working in the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach in the March 13 Star.

Readers may be interested to know that in the early '80s Fish & Game volunteers spent a few years, aided by a Canada Works Grant, constructing a trail paralleling Beach Creek, constructing an incubation box (several times damaged by vandals) which resulted in 15,000 fry

being introduced to the main creek. The fertilized eggs had been taken from the Big Qualicum Hatchery.

By New Year's Eve, 1986, heavy rains helped the first coho salmon spawners of the season to enter the creek, pass through the culvert under the highway, and were seen above and below the Qualicum Memorial Golf Course.

About a dozen were spotted and there were still more off the mouth of the creek that had been there waiting since the previous December.

By February, the creek was responding with eggs incubat-

ing in the gravel. Several dozen fish had been counted, and the experts (Fisheries Biologists) informed the volunteers that there could very well be as many as 100 hidden away in dark areas.

And prior to the Club getting involved in the restoration of the creek, in the mid to late '70's, a John Van Herwaarden, with the aid of a Government grant, coordinated restorative work, doing extensive stream survey, hauling gravel for the stream spawning beds, which were covered by sand, building a side-stream dam and reservoir and wooden incubation box, in the same location as the later one

mentioned earlier.

It is not known whether Van Herwaarden was involved in fish rearing and incubation.

The Fish & Game volunteers built rustic spans over various sections of the creek, using material readily available on site.

These spans consisted of cedar logs having been shaped flat on top for ease of traverse, as well as foot bridges.

There was even a 12-foot-long, fish ladder built to allow the adult coho salmon to swim over a cement apron and over a dam in the creek built to withhold water for irrigation for the Golf

Course.

A credit to the volunteers tenacity was that in spite of Fisheries Officers, at that time, being cynical about these small, community streams being of much importance, proved that they were on the right track.

That is evidenced to this day on just how important restoration to smaller streams have resulted in countless ones having returned to their former years of providing spawning channels for many species of fish, not only coho.

John Domovich
Parksville

Antique show raises \$11,500 for Brown land

More than 1,100 people attended event at

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

By Shari Cummins
The Star 27.3.2002

The Brown Property Preservation Society moved one step closer to its goal on the weekend with the completion of the first Antiques Show and Garden Art Fair.

More than 1,100 people attended the event at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre Saturday. Of those, more than 500 people brought items — ranging from pottery to furniture and swords and jewelry — to be appraised.

"We were really thrilled by it," said Phil Copple, fund raising chair for the BPPS. Crowds browsed booths, listened to guest speakers, bid at silent and live auctions, enjoyed food and entertainment and had items valued by one of 10 professional appraisers. "I think people really enjoyed it, as an event," said Copple.

The event raised approximately \$11,500 for the organization. The group has already completed the purchase of 42.5 acres of the Brown property, but still needs to raise

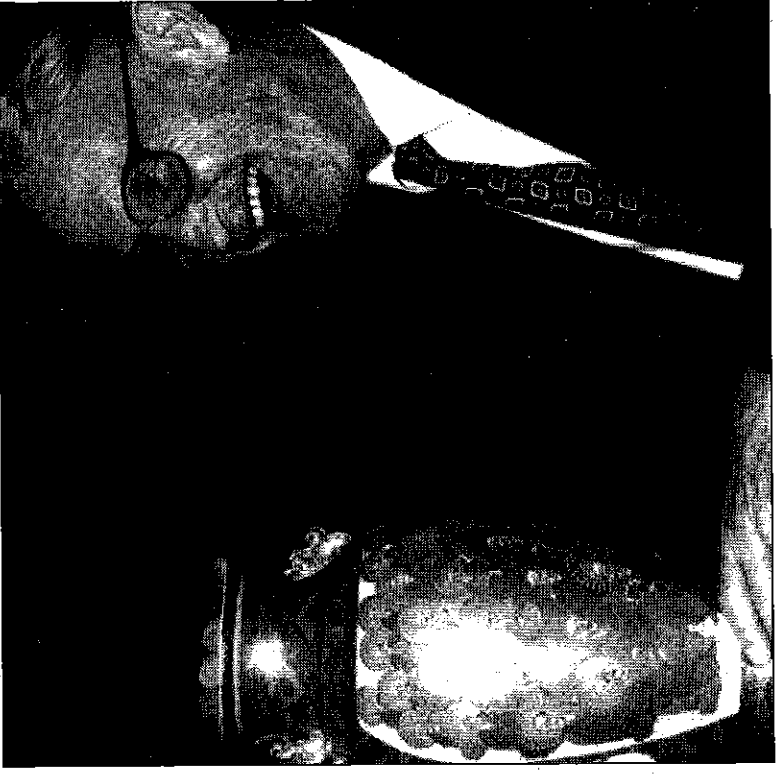


SHARI CUMMINS/THE STAR
Michael Hartmann, of Hartmann and Brown antiques in Nanaimo, inspects a sword at the Qualicum Beach Antiques Show and Garden Art Fair, held Saturday at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. The sword's owner was looking for information about the age and origin of the weapon. Hartmann determined the sword was forged in Germany in the late 1700s or early 1800s, possibly for a Spanish regiment.

another \$430,000 by July 31 to buy the remaining 7.5 acres and head off plans to develop the lot.

The group is planning another event, a home and garden tour, on May 25. But that alone will not be enough to meet their fund-raising goal before the deadline.

"What we're hoping is the profile we're giving to the Brown property through these events brings some attention to the project," said Copple.



SHARI CUMMINS/THE STAR

The owner of this vase laughingly told appraiser Ted Rye of Nanaimo that this item was probably a "door prize from the CNE (Canadian National Exhibition)." Rye determined, however, that it is actually a Japanese Satsuma vase, more than 100 years old. Rye took part in the Qualicum Beach Antiques Show and Garden Art Fair, Saturday at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre.

Since the future need for funds is unclear, the future of events like the Antique Fair has not been decided, he said. "It's an exhausting event to put on," he said.

"The question is, will we need to raise money for maintaining the property? We'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

"We're certainly not making any promises about holding (the antique show) again next year."

In the meantime, however, more help will be welcome with the coming home and garden tour. For information about taking part in that event, contact Lee Rainey at 752-8992.



TOM MACDOUGALL PHOTO

BROWN PROPERTY PRESERVATION Society member Audrey Lynch-Staunton displays two of a six piece set of etched waterglasses auctioned off Saturday night at the live antique and collectible's auction at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. The auction was a fund-raiser for the preservation society.

Antique show goes a long way to saving tall trees

This column is devoted to "feel good" news that you may not have heard.

As a former member of the Board of the Brown Property Preservation Society I really felt good about the outstanding job it did in putting on the Antique Show and Garden Art Fair recently in Qualicum Beach.

One could not help but be impressed with the amount of work necessary to put this on, and the comprehensive program, which included appraisals, sales exhibits, silent and live auctions, talks, musicians and a Garden Art Café. I am told that 125 volunteers were involved.

Just the organizing of this number of volunteers is a major feat.

I am happy to report that 1,105 people attended and 503 appraisals were made. A total of \$12,000 was raised toward the purchase of the last 7.5 acres of the Heritage Forest.

I can't think of any other single one day event at the Civic Centre that has drawn this large a crowd.

Let's hope that many of them will make a further donation for this worthwhile community project.

If you have a "feel good" good news story that you would like to share, please phone me at 752-2283, or write to:

373 W. Crescent Rd.
Qualicum Beach,
B.C. V9K 1J7, or
email
bhwyllie@shaw.ca.



Good News

BRAD WYLIE



PARKVILLE - QUALICUM
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

26.3.02

The news



TOM MACDOUGALL PHOTO

AUCTIONEER COLIN RITCHIE, president of the Antiques Company of Canada, auctions off a silver teapot at the live auction hosted Saturday night at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. The auction was a fund-raiser for the Brown Property Preservation Society.

Totem

April, 2002

Heritage Forest Home & Garden Tour

The Brown Property Preservation Society is hosting a Home & Garden Tour of 12 exclusive Qualicum Beach homes on Saturday, May 25 to raise funds to save the remaining seven acres of the Heritage Forest. Among the homes on display will be the homes of Brian & Carol Peckford, Jim & Marjorie Ford (Hollyford) and Hal & Sylvia Jones. Whiskey Creek folk artist Don Thompson will once again open his doors to the public as well Qualicum House owners Lars Meyer and Jens van Draby, in both cases, on Sunday, May 26 also. A limited number of tickets will be printed. Tickets go on sale May 1 at the Mulberry Bush Book Stores and Qualicum House.

QB Earth Day events

The Star

Celebrate Earth Day and Spring Fest in Qualicum Beach Saturday.

Live entertainment, zero waste management displays, and demonstrations using 'hands-on' watershed and ground-water models, farmers' market, children's activities, plant, bake and book sales will be ongoing from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of Qualicum Beach Town Hall.

"Earth Day is an excellent way to celebrate the natural areas in our communi-

ty," explains organizer Annette Tanner, Chairperson of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee Mid-Island Chapter.

Opening Ceremonies and cake cutting start at noon with an official Earth Day Proclamation by Town Crier Len Mustard. Mayor Teunis Westbroek, Dr. James Lunney, MP and Gillilan Trumper, MLA will be in attendance. The Earth Day festivities are held in conjunction with Spring Fest, an annual special event organized by

village merchants. In addition, students from Kwilikum Secondary School will be on hand to run a hot dog sale and collect donations for the Honors Society scholarship fund.

Earth Day festivities continue Sunday with two Tours planned to the third tallest Sitka Spruce in B.C., located on the Little Qualicum River Floodplain. Tours meet at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. at the Riverside Resort (junction of Kinkade Rd. and the Old Island Highway). A Sensitive Ecosystem Tour of the Heritage Forest in Qualicum Beach meets at 1 p.m. at the entrance gate on East Crescent Rd.

For information call 752-6585 or 248-3667.

Home & Garden Tour for Heritage Forest

The second Home & Garden Tour to help preserve Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest takes place on Saturday, May 25.

Two years ago this event was a huge success with over 1100 tickets sold! It was a great opportunity to view some of Qualicum Beach's more spectacular homes and gardens. Again this year there will be everything from lovely old cottages

to spectacular new homes.

The tour is organized by the Brown Property Preservation Society with all proceeds going towards the purchase of the last 7 1/2 acres of the Heritage Forest. This 7 1/2 acres is a source of much-needed water for the forest, particularly in dry years.

The tour showcases some wonderfully interesting homes including two spectacular Mercer Point homes,

the intriguing "Tunnel Hill" home of Hal and Sylvia Jones, the fabulous new residence of former Newfoundland premier Brian Peckford and his wife Carol, and the lovely 1920's home, now Hollyford B & B, owned by Jim and Marjorie Ford.

There is also another opportunity to see the wonderfully whimsical world that folk artist Don Thompson

has created in his Whiskey Creek property. Don's place will be open May 26 as well, and if you saw it last time you'll want to return and see the many new additions.

Tickets for the Home & Garden Tour are \$20. Every ticket sold buys one square metre of forest. Ticket sales will be limited. They are available on May 1 at Mulberry Bush Book Stores and Qualicum House.



The home of former Newfoundland Premier Brian Peckford is one of the homes on view in the tour.

Preservation Society

Brown property heritage forest purchase deadline looms

By Shari Cummins
The Star

The clock is ticking towards the July 31 deadline to purchase the remaining 7.5 acres of the Brown property heritage forest in Qualicum Beach.

So far, the Brown Property Preservation Society has raised \$50,000 of the \$400,000 needed to buy the lot and add it to the 42.5 acres it already owns. If the Society does not purchase it, the remaining 7.5 acres are slated to

be a housing development.

While the group is hoping for more private donations to boost the fund, it is also planning a repeat of the popular home and garden tour it staged two years ago.

This year the one-day tour on May 25 will feature 12 properties, all unique and many with interesting histories. Only two of the properties were featured in the previous tour.

One of the highlights will be the property of folk artist Don Thompson.

"If you saw his place two years ago you'll want to go back and see all the new additions," said tour organizer Lee Rainey. Thompson's place is expected to

"Nobody's making any money on this. It's all going to save trees."

- Lee Rainey

be so popular he has agreed to open it on Sunday, May 26, as well.

Another unique property which will be opened publicly for the first time is the Brown mansion on East Crescent Ave.

Built in 1914, it was lived in by the Brown family for decades. The new owner has agreed to open the unique heritage home,

needs \$350,000

even though it is not furnished.

For a touch of the eccentric, four participants can head to the property known as Tunnel Hill.

The original owner, a military man, dug a tunnel to access the beach.

The home of former Newfoundland Premier Brian Peckford will be on the tour, as will many other interesting properties, from small cottages to spectacular estates, said Rainey.

"We've got quite an interesting assortment," she said.

Tickets are \$20 each. While that may seem steep, Rainey reminded that the event is a fund raiser. "Nobody's making

any money on this," she said. "It's all going to save trees."

One of the volunteers actually figured out that one ticket buys one square metre of forest, she added.

Still several weeks away, the event is already attracting interest, said Rainey. "We're getting quite a lot of interest already. I'm already getting calls from Victoria."

Tickets are available in Nanaimo at Dig This and Turley's Florist.

In Parksville and Qualicum Beach they can be found at the Mulberry Bush Book Stores and at the Qualicum House.

New trail opens in forest, time running out

By **ROB SHAW**
NEWS REPORTER

A new trail through the lush vegetation and large Douglas Firs of the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest was officially opened Sunday.

Mayor Teunis Westbrook cut the ceremonial ribbon proclaiming the trail open to the public.

"To have an opportunity like this to enjoy old growth (forests) in an urban setting I think is a unique opportunity for people who live here and people who visit here," said Westbrook. "We're saving this as an option for a future generation. What they do with it will be their choice, but you can never replant those trees once you've taken them away."

The new trail, located at the end of Hoylake road, takes about five minutes to walk from one end to the other, and follows a ravine so that people can look down upon Beach Creek.

Brown Property
Preservation Society



ROB SHAW PHOTO

MAYOR WESTBROEK cuts the ribbon Sunday.

President Jack Wilson has been working on preserving the Heritage Forest for years. His society, with the help of the taxpayers of the Town of Qualicum Beach, built the trail and purchased the land to save it from being zoned into residential lots. So far they have bought 42.5 of a possible 50 acres of the Heritage Forest through fundraising campaigns in the community.

"I'm proud of what we've accomplished," said Wilson. "It shows what volunteers who are dedicated can do for their community."

Wilson and the society have until July 31 to come up more money to buy as much of the remaining 7.5 acres as they can. They are holding a house and garden tour May 25 as a fundraiser. Tickets are \$20 and can be bought at Mulberry Bush Book Stores in Parksville and Qualicum Beach, and at the Qualicum House.

The highlight of the tour will be a rare look inside the Brown family mansion.

Get in the house

The eagerly anticipated second Home & Garden Tour to take place in Qualicum Beach happens on May 25. Two years ago, this was a very successful fund-raiser for the Brown Property Preservation Society in its bid to save what is now known as the Heritage Forest. With a crucial 7.5 acres still to be purchased, the society is hoping that this year's tour will again focus interest on this special forest. One of the highlights of the tour will be an opportunity to visit what is known about town as the "Brown mansion." The forest was part of this estate.

This "mansion" was the first really grand house built in Qualicum Beach, in 1914, for one of its more prominent "pioneers," General Noel Money. The current owner, Ron Coulsen, of Crown Isle Developments, is very generously opening the house to the public for the first time.

Tickets for the tour are available at Qualicum House and at the Mulberry Bush bookstores in Qualicum and Parksville.

Inside the privileged gardens

The News June 11/2002

We never know what wonders lie between points A and B as we scurry down and up the highway to accomplish the various urgent errands of our lives. But every once in a while the fir curtain parts and we catch rare and privileged glimpses of the "oh's and aah's".

Such glimpses were made available to us a couple of weeks ago when the Brown Property Preservation Society held its second Home and Garden Tour and generous homeowners in the Quaticum Beach area allowed their privacy to be invaded — and on a rainy day at that. Luckily, at every door, baskets of disposable, stretchable, blue hospital booties supplied by another generous citizen saved the day — and the carpets!

From a mansion to a log cabin to palatial new homes we were able to admire (or criticize, *sotto voce*) the chosen styles and decor of the their residents. From masses of rhododendrons to geometrical formality to cozy country gardens we could store away ideas for our own little pieces of turf.

Some homes featured "back stairs" and tiny attic rooms, in sharp contrast to spacious entrance halls, kitchens with two of everything, formidable staircases, and dressing rooms into which one could fit a bachelor apartment. We nodded sagely at the vanished lifestyle and class system indicated by the floor plan. And oh, that wild red wallpaper in the lower powder room!

And then there were the views — beaches, sea, and mountains. Views from the kitchen and great room, views from the bedroom and Jacuzzi, views from the living and dining rooms, views from the deck — a view with every room; more glass than softwood lumber; a window cleaner's paradise.

In some homes, we could hardly spare time for the house itself, so attracted were we to the artwork, the photographs, the family histories, the memorabilia. And the things people grow stuff in — inside and out, plants sprouted, poured, or tumbled from unique, found containers. The theory seemed to be, if it's hollow, plant something in it!

Some gardens pulled us along as if on a string. Vague, curving paths gave us a glimpse of something beyond, and we had to follow our noses and our curiosity. Here, ephemeral plants long vanished from our own gardens still thrived in the cool, moist shade and rich humus of a garden dearly cared for, but allowed to grow in nature's way.

In a home perched for the view, we could tunnel our way to the beach — literally. Following a path and a sign we found our-

selves walking toward the light at the end of that tunnel. A 10 or 12 foot diameter culvert embedded in the bluff and fitted with a wooden walkway. At its end, we slithered the rest of the muddy way to emerge in a private world of woods and water, complete with multiple-globe, working lampposts to bring reassuring light to dark evenings.

We visited homes newly designed and built to cater to every whim of an imaginative owner. Colors and finishes flowed together, every accent was in its own special spot, appliances and fixtures awaited their purpose, and we were impressed. I wonder whether we quietly wondered if we could actually live with such perfection.

Then there was the cottage with some cool days' fuel providing the end-grain interior finish on both sides of the wood heater. There was the kitchen range sporting a curvaceous porcelain finish and that extra burner for times when four are just not enough. And you could stand by this faithful old cooktop, "stirring constantly" as the recipe instructs, and never once object to standing over a hot stove — not with a view through your shrubs to the sea and mountains beyond.

One of our favorite folk artists held court in his museum of a studio and remembered us from when we last visited, and asked how his "progeny" were doing in their new homes. Puns right and left lured us through woods animated with his own whimsical denizens of farm and forest. In a homey Eaglecrest cabin of logs, what we presumed to be access to an attic in the kitchen ceiling was decorated with the gilt-edged genius of Michelangelo. Now that's class!

Yes, the magazines and television may have their dream homes and gardens and do-it-yourself projects, but we have it all right here in Oceanside. Eat your heart out, Martha Stewart!



Williwaws

NANCY WHELAN

NEWS

Council on side, covenants final hurdle for QB resort

By TOM MACDOUGALL
NEWS REPORTER

A proposal for a destination-style resort utilizing the historic Brown mansion in Qualicum Beach was back in front of town council last Monday night.

Councillors gave third reading to amendments for the municipality's land use and official community plan bylaws, but delayed final adoption until a series of covenants have been approved by the Land Titles Office.

According to town planner, the covenants have been negotiated with and approved by the developer. "The wording, down to the last crossing of the 's and dotting of the 'i's, has been agreed to by the applicant," said Butler.

The covenants include a restriction on the number of days visitors can stay during the summer months (42 days maximum May-September) and a requirement that resort owners keep a guest register, which the town can inspect on 24 hours notice.

The covenants also include a requirement that the development adhere to the heritage form and character of the existing buildings, establish a statutory right-of-way for a path from the Heritage Forest that encroaches onto the property and a statutory right-of-way to allow the municipality to loop its water system at a later date.

The bylaw amendments change the zoning of the property within the OCP from single family residential to commercial, and alter the land use to allow for comprehensive development.

The proponent, Ron Coulson, owner of Crown Isle, intends to put a resort, hotel and restaurant on the property. The resort would have 56 condominium units and there would be four hotel-like guest rooms in the mansion itself.

As an associated item, council also amended the zoning of an adjoining property, referred to as the McKeen property, despite a motion from Coun. Anton Kruyt to

abandon the rezoning. "I think it's premature," said Kruyt, pointing out there is no development application currently in front of council for that particular property. The rezoning changed the property from single family residential to commercial.

But Coun. Marlys Diamond argued the change — which also makes the property a development permit area — would give the town a measure of control over what happens to the site.

Under the single family zoning, the entire site could be subdivided and clear cut, said Diamond. With the change in zoning, that would be harder to do because applicants would have to come before council first.

Kruyt's abandonment motion was defeated in a recorded vote, with all of council except Kruyt voting against it. A follow-up motion from Coun. Scott Rodway to rezone the McKeen property carried, with Kruyt opposing.



ROB SHAW PHOTO

THE SEQUIM DELEGATION is greeted at the Qualicum Beach Rotary Park Friday to start their town tour.

QB and US town's friendship in full bloom

By **ROB SHAW**
NEWS REPORTER 19.6.2002

You might say the towns of Qualicum Beach and Sequim, Washington, have a friendship in bloom. The two towns have

twinned together to enter the International Challenge portion of the 2002 Communities in Bloom competition, and Sequim is looking to provincial and national award-winning Qualicum Beach for advice.

An eight-person Sequim delegation of town officials, gardeners, and members of the business community visited Qualicum Beach Friday and Saturday to discuss beautification strategies for the competition.

"You just can't imagine how fortunate you are to have places like the Brown Property, the ocean, and the downtown area," said Fay Alton, of the Sequim

Town Partners group. "The networking with the people from Qualicum, and the ease of talking to them and the openness has been overwhelming."

The Sequim delegation arrived Friday to some fiery chili from Fire and Ice award-winners Thrifty Foods, and held a quick lunch meeting at Rotary Park on the Qualicum Beach waterfront.

Many Qualicum Beach town council members, public works employees, and administration were in attendance, and followed the group throughout the two-day stay.

On Saturday, after a breakfast at Milner Gardens, the Sequim group

was whisked around town on a whirlwind tour to visit local attractions and private gardens.

They then convened for a Qualicum Foods lunch, and a final meeting to exchange ideas.

"We've been blessed with unsurpassed natural beauty," said Qualicum Beach Mayor Teunis Westbrook. "We've got to be good stewards about it."

Sequim officials said they'd gladly accept the help of Qualicum Beach town crier Len Mustard who offered to come down and perform when the judges evaluate Sequim on Aug. 5.

Qualicum Beach has until August 7th to prepare for its judging, which is based on a host of factors including tidiness, landscaping, and floral displays.

Communities in Bloom is a non-profit organization that attempts to increase awareness of beautification by holding provincial and national competitions for seven years. It also spanned the Americas in Bloom program last year.

In it's size class, Qualicum Beach won the provincial award in 2000, and the national award in 2001.

D-Day for Trees campaign nears

The campaign to complete the purchase of the entire 50-acre Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest has reached its final month with organizers cautiously optimistic for success.

The deadline on the offer to purchase the remaining 7 1/2 acres expires on July 31. To date \$1.48 million of the \$1.8 million goal has been raised.

"If everything that has been pledged comes through we'll be close," said Jack Wilson, president of the Brown Property Preservation Society.

"That means every donation we receive can

make a difference. Many people have already given money but this is a new tax year and all donations are tax deductible."

He noted that Quality Foods has once again agreed to convert Q-Points into cash for donation to the campaign. Anyone with Q-Points can ask to have them given to the campaign. Two years ago Q-Point conversion raised \$12,000 to help save the forest.

In recent months the campaign raised \$11,500 from an antique auction and \$14,000 from a garden tour. The Town of Qualicum



Keith Smith raises the tally yet again

Continued on Page 6

New projects should "News" benefit us all

Re: the new arena and first things first

Well, you got your new arena. Rather than offering congratulations, I'd like you to consider this. The next time you or one of your loved ones is waiting for a hospital bed, go to the arena, that should make you feel better. I know it gives me a lot of assurance to know I'm in good hands. The Parksville-Qualicum Beach area needs a small medical facility, something better than the Parksville clinic. Since the provincial government (neither NDP or Liberal) hasn't made a move in that direction, we should be doing it ourselves.

Instead of throwing money at things like the Brown Property forest, the Technology Centre or the new arena, we should be building something that benefits the entire area. If all of us are going to pay for it then it should be something all of us could benefit from.

Wayne Langton
28.6.2002 Qualicum Beach

QUALICUM TOTEM
July, 2002

Continued from page 1

Beach has also agreed to hand over the proceeds of selling a residential lot on Palm Drive beside the Heritage Forest. It has an appraised value of \$75,000.

Also, Weyerhaeuser Canada has pledged to donate \$250,000 if and when it can settle issues surrounding logging of Lot 10 in Qualicum Beach and forestland adjacent to Cathedral Grove.

Failure to reach the goal would

almost certainly lead to the development of a subdivision along Hemsforth, said Jack Wilson.

He said a subdivision plan outlining the construction of a new road into the forest and the creation of 26 lots is on file with the Town.

Tax deductible donations can be made at Walker and Wilson Law Offices, 707 Primrose, Qualicum Beach, 752-6951.

Heritage Forest cash donation

Council supported a motion by Councilor Marlys Diamond to offer for sale a Town-owned lot at 360 Palm Drive with the proceeds to be

Continued from previous page

given to the Brown Property Preservation Society to help pay for the 7.5 acres of the Heritage Forest not yet acquired. The Palm Drive lot was being held as neighbourhood park reserve but is no longer needed now that the Heritage Forest has been established behind Palm Drive. The Brown Property Society has until July 31 to raise the \$450,000 still needed.

Brown mansion hotel

Council supported motions by Councilors Scott Rodway and Anton Kruyt giving third reading to bylaws approving the development of a condominium resort hotel on the Brown mansion property on East Crescent. Council also gave third reading to a bylaw designating the next door McKean property as commercial zoning. Town planner Paul Butler said that since the public hearing in February a number of covenants have been drawn up and agreed to by the proponents regarding right of way, environmental protection and architectural safeguards. Adoption of the bylaws will await registration of the covenants with B.C. Land Titles. Specifically the covenants are: designation of a preservation area protecting access at the southwest corner of the mansion property where a portion of the main Heritage Forest trail is located; a requirement that the heritage character of the mansion be preserved and that any new buildings reflect a similar style; a maximum stay restriction for 75% of the hotel's 56 units from May to September each year; provision for a watermain right of way from Hemsforth to Crescent Rd; provision for screening around the parking lot on the east side of the property and elimination of parking along the east boundary. With regard to installing a left turning lane off the Old Island Highway Town engineer Bob Weir said it was not something the developer is being asked to pay for because it is a problem that already exists. The turning lane will be installed once it is determined the traffic flow justifies the expense.

One more contribution to the campaign will do the trick

The hour has arrived when anything and everything that can be done to save the last 7 1/2 acres of the Heritage Forest must now be done. The July 31 deadline is just 31 days away.

Overshadowing the fundraising efforts is the knowledge that the property's owners, the Brown family, have a subdivision plan ready to go should the campaign fail. Nothing short of an outpouring of community giving equal to what we saw two years ago is needed.

Compared to how far we've come, the goal is well within sight. Just how valuable an asset our Heritage Forest is was underlined in comments made by a member of the Sequim, WA, delegation during their recent trip as part of the Communities in Bloom twinning.

"You can't imagine how fortunate you are to have places like the Brown property, the ocean and the downtown area," the del-

Editorial

egate said in a newspaper interview.

In Qualicum Beach we take pride in our civic centre, swimming pool, community park, golf course and Milner Gardens but it was the Heritage Forest that made the biggest impression. Clearly, it is something that sets us apart as a community, partly because it is a very special place, but also because it was a project that only happened because of an enormous collective will to make it happen.

In the summer of 2000 more than 100 volunteers put their efforts into a wide variety of fundraising schemes, announcing to the world that this was a project that was not going to die due to apathy or a lack of interest.

Hundreds more people came forward with cash donations.

Their contributions allowed the organizing committee to buy some time, first another 12 months, and now a second 12 months which comes to an end July 31.

The 15 acres left unpurchased was whittled down to 7 1/2 and now it is down to about 4 acres. The will to help is out there. Companies as large as Weyerhaeuser Canada support the project and are willing to contribute subject to resolution of two other forestry-related issues

in our area. Other provincial land protection groups have also expressed an interest in the project. What has most impressed these organizations is the willingness of so many individuals in the community to dig into their pockets and come up with cash.

Cash can still make a difference - in attracting more outside interest - and in ultimately achieving the goal. The finish line is in sight. Each and every one of us can play a part in helping cross that line. Please make a donation at Walker and Wilson law office before July 31.

- Richard de Candole

Funds go in wrong direction

News July 5, 2002

Here we go again!! According to the Qualicum Totem, "Council supported a motion by Councilor Marlys Diamond to offer for sale a Town-owned lot at 360 Palm Drive with the proceeds to be given to the Brown Property Preservation Society to help pay for the 7.5 acres of the Heritage Forest not yet acquired. The Palm Drive lot was being held as neighbourhood park reserve but is no longer needed now that the Heritage Forest has been established behind Palm Drive."

When the council and mayor used about \$500,000 of our money for the purchase of the Brown Property - without taxpayer consensus - I thought that was the end of their misuse of taxpayer funds, and with a subsequent majority referendum of the taxpayers, it was made abundantly clear that no further town funds should be used for the Brown property.

Now we have them taking a Town-owned lot and offering it for sale and using the proceeds as an additional grant to the Brown Property Society.

The lot may be considered no longer needed for the original purpose, but it could still be sold, and the money derived from the sale certainly could be utilized for other necessary Town expenses.

An election will soon be upon us and we will have the opportunity to elect a new council and mayor. We should all remember the names of the existing representatives, and ensure that we elect concerned citizens that do not have a personal agenda to achieve, but intend to represent the wishes of the majority of the citizens of Qualicum Beach.

Wayne Hamilton
Qualicum Beach

Time running out on Brown property

By ADRIENNE MERCER

News Reporter

July 2/2002

The Brown Property Preservation Society has just one month left to save 7.5 acres of forest valued at \$460,000.

On July 31, the society will reach the final deadline it has negotiated with the Brown family — and with \$140,000 in the bank, members are looking to raise \$320,000 by the cutoff date.

“We’re seeking donations from corporations — including Weyerhaeuser — and from individuals,” said society president Jack Wilson. “But it’s not an all or nothing thing... any money we raise will go to save a portion of the forest.”

Wilson, a Qualicum Beach lawyer, has been working to preserve the 50-acre property since March, 1996. In 1999, the society and the town of Qualicum Beach combined forces to preserve the 35 acres now known as the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest. In March of this year, the society purchased an additional 7.5 acres with \$460,000 raised through community donations.

“It’s the first time I’ve ever done anything like this,” said Wilson of his efforts with the society. “I’m looking forward to seeing the entire property preserved.”

With the fund-raising deadline nearing, Quality Foods is now allowing customers to put their Q-Points toward preserving the forest — something Wilson says has had excellent results in the past.

“Last time [Quality Foods helped out this way] we got \$11,000 in donations,” he said.

John Briuolo, co-owner of the grocery chain, said the company is happy to help out again.

“We think it’s a good cause,” he said.

To make a Q-Points donation,

Quality Foods customers can visit the customer service counter at any store location and ask to transfer all or part of their points to the Brown Property Preservation Society.

All other donations can be sent to the Walker and Wilson law offices, at No. 2 - 707 Primrose Avenue in Qualicum Beach.



BROWN PROPERTY PRESERVATION Society president Jack Wilson hopes to raise enough money by July 31 to buy the remaining 7.5 acres of forest.

letters

Money from land sale must buy other land

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some information in the letter to the editor from Mr. Wayne Hamilton.

The Town of Qualicum Beach with the Brown Property Preservation Society are signatories to an option to purchase with the Brown Family Trust to buy all or a portion of the remnants of old growth forest on the Brown property.

In 1999 the society and the town contributed \$426,000 and \$483,000 respectively to buy 35 acres of what is now called the Heritage Forest.

The town's share was a combination of monies paid for by developers for parks purposes and money out of the town's land acquisition fund.

The referendum question that was asked on June 17, 2000 was whether the town should borrow no more than \$840,000 with a repayment term not to exceed 15 years and to repay the

"News" 66 July 9/2002

I realize not everyone agrees with this, but we still have three weeks to preserve this forest ...

— TEUNIS WESTBROEK —
MAYOR, QUALICUM BEACH

principle and interest of the amount borrowed by levying a parcel tax each year of a maximum of \$25 per parcel. The response was negative and council acted accordingly.

After the referendum the society raised another one half million dollars and purchased additional property. This additional land is contiguous to a town owned lot on Palm Drive and was turned over to the town for the

purpose of green space by the developer.

Last month council decided unanimously to put this Palm Drive lot on the market with the eventual proceeds to be put towards the Heritage Forest fund. The use of proceeds from the sale of town owned lands can only be used for the purchase of other lands.

Although I realize that not everyone agrees with this, we still have three weeks to preserve a piece of forest for the benefit of our wildlife, our residents and visitors and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations. The efforts of the Brown Property Preservation Society members is inspiring and reflects all that is good about the vision and the community spirit of Qualicum Beach.

For more information please call me at 752-6921.

Teunis Westbroek
Mayor, Town of Qualicum Beach

Grocery outlet offers Q Points to forest

Quality Foods has once again offered to allow their customers to donate their accumulated "Q Points" to the Brown Property Preservation Society to purchase the last remaining acres of the Heritage Forest.

Customers can visit the customer service counter at Quality Foods stores and ask to transfer all or part of their existing Q Points to the Society.

Society president Jack Wilson is appreciative and points out that this is no small gesture.

"Through the generosity of Quality Foods, as much as \$10,000 could be raised," he said. "This is the second time Quality Foods has helped our project."

Deadline for purchase by the community of the last few acres of the Heritage Forest is July 31.

"News" July 9, 2002

Deadline looms for heritage forest

Preservation Society has just three weeks to buy last portion of Brown property forest in Qualicum Beach

By Shari Cummins
The Star

The clock is ticking for the Brown Property Preservation Society in Qualicum Beach.

For six years, the volunteer group has fought and fundraised to save a 50-acre parcel of forest, located in the heart of Qualicum Beach, from development. The group has raised more than \$1 million to date and has bought all but about five acres of the property. The Society has until July 31 to raise the remaining \$320,000 needed to buy the lot, for which a development proposal has been prepared. The Brown family, which owns the lot, has extended the purchase deadline for the society several times, and a further extension is unlikely, said Society member Keith Smith. As a result, the group is pushing hard to collect as many donations as possible.

The forest is a unique and special place, says Society president Jack Wilson. "There's a tranquility to this place that a lot of people mention," he explains as he walks quietly along one of the

wide, bark mulch trail society volunteers have installed from the Heritage Forest entrance on East Crescent Road. "It's separate from the world."

It does, in fact, feel like another world. The lot contains remnants of old growth forest, and the average tree age on the lot is estimated at 400 years. The forest is a mix of Douglas Fir, western red cedar and Sitka Spruce, a species rarely found on the east coast of the island.

Although it is bordered by housing and the old Island Highway, the Heritage Forest is remarkably quiet. A fish-bearing stream runs through the property, which is home to a wide variety of birds and wildlife. Although it would be easy to say they have saved enough land already, said Wilson, the final lot, a long narrow strip on the west side of Hensworth Road, is important for the health of the entire property.

If preserved, the land would provide an important weather buffer, protecting the rest of the forest from wind blow-down, said

Wilson. It also provides excellent year-round drainage, he said, preventing a sudden rush of water into the heritage forest.

If the Society does not purchase the lot, the landowners have prepared a plan to build approximately two dozen homes along Hensworth Road, between Sunningdale and Dogwood Roads.

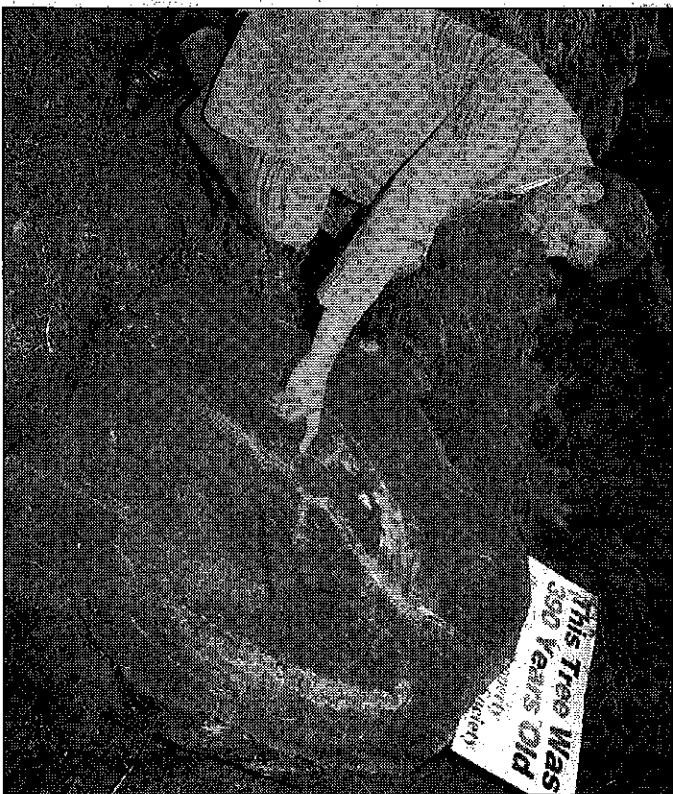
Wilson said they are optimistic about meeting their target, in spite of the short time line. It is an investment in the community's future, he believes.

"It's our own Stanley Park," he said. "Fifty years from now they'll say 'weren't we smart to do this.'"

If the society cannot raise the full amount needed to purchase the remaining land, Wilson said they can use whatever money is raised to buy a portion of the lot.

All donations are tax deductible. Donations can be sent to the Walker-Wilson Law Offices at 707 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach, V9K 2K1. For information, call 752-6951.

For decades the Heritage Forest was the private summer



SHARI CUMMINS/THE STAR
Preservation Society president checks out a slice from a fallen tree in the Heritage Forest. The tree was 390 years old, about the average age of trees in the forest.

retreat of the Brown family. In 1996 the family proposed to sell and subdivide the land, prompting the creation of the Preservation Society.

One part of the land, where the old house is located, has been sold to Ron Coulsen, owner of the prestigious Crown Isle devel-

opment in Courtenay. He has plans in place to develop a 56-unit condo resort and four guest rooms in the old Brown mansion. The development has been subjected to several covenants, restricting visitors' length of stay and preserving the heritage character of the buildings.

What will happen to the money when Brown bid fails?

Wayne Hamilton, *WEEKENDER* July 5, and Mayor Westbrook, *NEWS* July 9, are facing off over allocation of town funds. As usual, the town's explanation sounds reasonable but does not stand up to close scrutiny.

The donation of yet more town (i.e. our, we the taxpayers — all moneys available to the municipality come directly or indirectly from us) money to the purchase of the Brown Property was questioned from the gallery at the June 10 council meeting. It was questioned again at the open house, June 12. The strict wording of the 2000 referendum to borrow and repay through parcel taxes was given as the sole

indicator of public opinion to be considered. The overwhelming rejection of town financial involvement expressed at an earlier public meeting was dismissed out of hand.

It is my understanding that the condition for the sale of the last 7.5 acres of the Brown Property is "all or nothing." If the full purchase price cannot be raised, there will be no partial sale. Even with the town's latest largess, there is a long way to go to achieve the almost half-million required. When the deadline is reached and the full amount has not been raised, what will happen to the money collected?

Three of the current five members

of council were part of the original decision to unilaterally donate \$500,000 of town funds to this project. The other two are now also on side. Concern for the taxpayer has obviously been lost after what appeared to be a guiding policy for this administration over the past couple of years.

Mr. Hamilton is not alone in his dismay at this further contribution to the bottomless pit of the Brown Property Preservation Society. As Mr. Hamilton says, there will be an election later this year.

Frank Horner
Qualicum Beach

News 12.7.02



SHARI CUMMINS/THE STAR

Brown Property Preservation Society president rests on a bench in the Heritage Forest.

"News" July 10/2002

Heritage forest deadline looms

After six years of fund raising, the Brown Property Preservation Society has less than three weeks left to raise enough money to buy the last portion of heritage forest in Qualicum Beach.

Brown Property forest not an all or nothing deal

I feel compelled to respond to Frank Horner's weeful, if not willful, ignorance of local issues, most recently expressed about the purchase of the Brown Property in his letter in the *News* *WEEKENDER* of July 12, 2002.

Leaving aside his misinformation about contributions from the Town of Qualicum Beach, Mr. Horner states that the condition for the sale of the last 7.5 acres of the Brown Property is "all or nothing". Nothing could be further from the truth. It has long been stated publicly (most recently on the front page of *The News* on July 2, 2002) that it is not an all or nothing situation.

The Brown Property Preservation Society can purchase as much of the remaining forest as it has received in donations by the July 31 deadline. Contributions to preserve more of the forest can be made by transferring Q-points to the Society at any Quality Foods store, or by making a tax-deductible donation at Walker & Wilson Law Offices, 707 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach V9K 2K1.

Jack Wilson, President
Brown Property Preservation Society
News # 16.7.2002

Deadline looms for forest, but society well short of goal

By **TRICIA LESLIE**

NEWS REPORTER 30.7.2002

Members of the Brown Property Preservation Society have been extra busy through the month of July, trying desperately to raise more money in order to buy 7.5 acres of forest owned by the Brown family.

Valued at \$460,000, the society now has \$169,000 in the bank — enough to buy almost three acres — but the final deadline set by the Brown family is midnight, July 31, leaving the society \$291,000 short of its goal.

Society president Jack Wilson says he's exploring all options to come up with the cash, but has been told, through the Brown family's Realtor, that there will be no extensions past the July 31 cutoff.

Wilson has been working since 1996, when the Brown Property Preservation Society was formed, to save the 50-acre forested property, and teamed up with the town of Qualicum Beach in 1999 to save 35 acres of the land, where 700-year-old trees still stand.

Now known as the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest, the society fund-raised \$460,000 from the community to save an additional 7.5 acres earlier this year, but even though society members have volunteered their time to stand by a funds thermometer in Qualicum Beach every day throughout July to garner community support, it hasn't been enough.

The 100 million Q-Points Quality Foods customers donated — \$10,000 worth — was appreciated,

Wilson said, but plans for sub-division still await the remaining acreage.

"One option would be to borrow the money needed, and continue fund-raising to pay it off," Wilson said, but wouldn't comment on any specific alternatives he's exploring.

The acreage the society is trying to save borders Hemsworth Road in Qualicum Beach, which is why it's extra important to preserve the land, says Wilson.

Because the trees at that edge of the forest have grown up accustomed to harsh beatings from southeast winter winds, they're tough and used to the abuse.

Should trees at the perimeter be felled, it will almost definitely cause large numbers of newly exposed trees to come down in the winter, Wilson explained.

"It's a legacy to future generations, to save something that can't be replaced," he said.

"You want to be looked back on as having had foresight."

Donations can still be made, until midnight Wednesday, July 31, at the Walker and Wilson law offices, #2 - 707 Primrose Ave., Qualicum Beach.



TRICIA LESLIE PHOTO

JACK WILSON, PRESIDENT of the Brown Property Preservation Society, wants trees like this 700-year-old behemoth to be saved and preserved as part of the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

Tall trees reprieve as loan buys time

■ Last minute agreement with bank

By ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER 2.8.2002

A last-minute agreement Wednesday rescued the Brown Property from the chopping block until 2004.

"We bought the whole thing," Brown Property Preservation Society president Jack Wilson said jubilantly.

A Wednesday night deadline with the Brown family required the society to come up with \$460,000 to buy the section of forest, and as of the beginning of the week, the group had \$169,000.

"We borrowed from the Royal Bank ... it in effect gives us a two-year extension until Sept. 1, 2004 to fund-raise," Wilson explained.

"We're borrowing the money, we're giving [the property] all to the town ... the town has to agree with the bank and the society that some residential property, a minimum number of residential lots, will be subdivided off and sold to repay the loan if it's necessary [in September 2004]."

Wilson said the society has established a line of credit "somewhere between \$250,000 and \$300,000", and is responsible for making payments to the bank.

"It's not all over," he said of the lengthy fund-raising drive. "We've just bought some time ... we weren't going to be granted an extension [from the Brown family]."

He is confident the community — which has rallied to raise close to \$1 million since the push to save the property began in 1996 — will continue to be supportive.

The Brown Property totals 50 acres,

42.5 of which have already been preserved. The town and the society combined forces to buy the first 35 acres — now known as The Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest — in April, 1999, at a cost of \$908,460.

This spring, the society purchased an additional 7.5 acres with \$460,000 in community donations.

Former society president Chris Lee, who spearheaded the preservation of the first 35 acres, had not heard about the line of credit when asked to comment Thursday.

"As a society member I have not been approached at all," he said. "I am unaware of this and I cannot respond ... I am sure that society members will be informed of this in due course."

Mayor Teunis Westbrook said the town owes Brown Property Preservation Society members a debt of gratitude. He also thanked the Brown family for accommodating the society, by allowing numerous extensions on the option to buy the entire forest.

"This initiative driven by the community that started about six years ago represents everything that is good about the vision and the community spirit of Qualicum Beach," he said.

"I think the society is going to be able to continue to raise money. We still haven't given up on Weyerhaeuser, and other donations."

Donations to the Brown Property Preservation Society can be made at the law offices of Walker and Wilson, at #2 - 707 Primrose Avenue in Qualicum Beach.



THE BROWN PROPERTY Preservation Society has borrowed from the Royal Bank to preserve the remaining 7.5 acres of the historic forest. The deadline on the option to purchase the property from the Brown family ran out July 31.

Society borrows \$250,000 to buy a 7.5 acre portion of Qualicum's Brown Property

By Shari Cummins
The Star

The Brown Property Preservation Society has negotiated a deal to preserve the remaining 7.5-acre portion of the Brown Property in Qualicum Beach.

But the deal is not a complete victory for the Society. "We're not out of the woods yet," said Society president Jack Wilson.


The Society had to borrow approximately \$250,000 to exercise its option to purchase the land before the July 31 deadline set by the owner. They have two years to raise enough mon-

ey to pay off that loan. If they are unable to raise the money, Wilson said, the Society has agreed with the town of Qualicum Beach to subdivide enough parcels for development to pay off the outstanding portion.

"We've bought time, essentially," said Wilson. Although it means another two years of hard work for society members, Wilson believes it is worthwhile. "It means the community is in control of what happens in that forest."

And although two years is not a great deal of time to raise \$250,000, the society has proven to be a formidable fund raiser. By collecting corporate donations and organizing major events like a recent antiques fair and garden tour, the society has raised nearly \$1 million in the last six years to purchase and the preserve the 50-acre parcel of forest, which contains rare tree species and many trees over 400 years old. The main entrance to the forest, which is criss-crossed with carefully maintained trails, is located on East Crescent Avenue across from the Memorial golf course.

Donations can be sent to the Walker-Wilson Law Office at 707 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach, V9K 2K1. For information, call 752-6951, or check out www.qualicumbeach.net/heritage/Index.htm

 **TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH**
NOTICE
Local Government Act, Section 185

Take notice that the Council of the Town of Qualicum Beach intends to provide assistance, in the form of a guarantee of repayment of borrowing, to the Brown Property Preservation Society.

The Town proposes to enter an agreement with the Royal Bank of Canada to guarantee the repayment of a loan of \$326,000.00 plus interest, on or before October 1, 2004. Repayment of the loan will be secured by 7.5 acres of land legally described as Lot 2, District Lot 64, Newcastle Land District, Plan VIP73423. The land will be transferred to the Town under a proposed trust agreement with the Society.

Any requests for further information should be directed to the undersigned.

Oceanside Star,
17.8.2002

S. J. (Sandra) Keddy
 Deputy Corporate Administrator
 Town of Qualicum Beach

Crown Isle builder gets Brown light from QB council

BY ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER 23.8.2002

Qualicum Beach council has paved the way for Crown Isle owner Ron Coulson to build a destination-style resort next to the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest, the former Brown property.

On Aug. 12, council adopted amendment bylaws to allow construction on the properties. Town planner Paul Butler expects the resort to be

built in several phases over a period of about five years.

"They can proceed any time under the building permit application," he said, explaining construction of an underground parkade will likely happen first. After that, Butler expects to see an addition to the Brown mansion, and renovations to the existing structure.

"They'll be working away at the overall plan over the next few years," he said.

A restrictive covenant requires the developer to protect the natural environment. The covenant also requires any proposed buildings or additions to be built in a way that complements the existing heritage homes in the area.

Coulson is planning a resort with 56 condominium units, and four guest rooms within the Brown mansion. In addition to the guest rooms, the mansion will house a restaurant, lounge, library, reception area, concierge office and sitting rooms.

Society completes purchase of Heritage Forest

The Brown Property Preservation Society announced in early August it had completed the purchase of the entire 50-acre Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

This was achieved when the Royal Bank agreed to lend the Society \$282,900 for a two-year period.

Society president Jack Wilson said fund-raising events will

begin immediately to raise the money to pay off the loan. A Giant Garage Sale is planned for Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Community Hall in Qualicum Beach.

Jack also said commitments for significant donations have been made to the Society and he remains confident those commitments will be honoured before

Continued on Page 6

Giant Garage Sale kicks off next phase of campaign

Continued from Page 1
the loan expires.

At the end of the two-year period any part of the loan still outstanding will be repaid through the sale of lots along the Hemsforth Road border of the

forest.

He noted that it has been a long, hard struggle – lasting over six years – to complete the purchase. Almost \$1 million was raised in the community through fund-raising events. In addition,

the Town of Qualicum Beach contributed \$560,000 to the project.

He expressed his sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the campaign, both as volunteers and as donors. The generosity of so many people has been extraordinary and heart-warming.

He noted that realtor Ian Lindsay provided his expertise at no cost in negotiating the original option to purchase agreement and obtaining several extensions. He

also thanked the Brown Family for being so encouraging and accommodating.

The Giant Garage Sale requires items to sell (no clothing). If you have something to contribute call Andy or Gisela Pope at 752-3642 or Lynn Tomlinson at 752-7328. Anyone wishing to make a cash donation can do so at Walker & Wilson Law Office, 2-707 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 2K1. Call 752-6951.

Heritage Forest

There has been no shortage of reasons to give up over the last six years but, to their credit, members of the Brown Property Preservation Society persevered and in early August were able to declare all 50-acres of Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest had been purchased. What an amazing accomplishment.

Unfortunately, the time to celebrate has not yet arrived. It took a loan of \$282,900 from the Royal Bank to secure the final five acres. The Society now has two years to pay it off.

With all the awareness and goodwill that has been generated locally and elsewhere in B.C. it's hard to imagine the Society failing to come up with another quarter million dollars. Victory seems within its grasp.

However, they still need fund-raising ideas and volunteers to organize various events. Anyone who can help is asked to call Society president Jack Wilson at 752-6951.

purchase an incredible feat

Town and Brown loan not so sweet a deal

■ Resident says council, society disregarding results of 2000 referendum

By ADRIENNE MERCER

NEWS REPORTER 13.9.2002

A loan secured to save the final 7.5 acres of the Brown Property is an insult to taxpayers as far as financial services representative Mary Brouillette is concerned.

Brouillette, who works at the Qualicum Beach Coastal Community Credit Union, believes the town should not be part of a tripartite agreement with the Royal Bank and the Brown Property Preservation Society. On Monday, she questioned council about the arrangement, and its implications for residents.

On July 31, the society secured a line of credit with the bank for close to \$300,000, in effect gaining an extension to raise enough money to buy the 7.5 acres.

The society then turned the land over to the town, with the understanding that should the society not be able to pay back the loan by Sept. 1, 2004, the town will have to sell enough of the property to make up the difference.

While she has great respect for the Brown Property Preservation Society and the many residents who donated money to save the forest, Brouillette sees the arrangement as a slap in the face to Qualicum Beach voters. She reminded council voters opposed borrowing money to purchase the remainder of the property in a June 20, 2000 referendum.

"Why was this not brought forward [to the pub-



ADRIENNE MERCER PHOTO

MARY BROUILLETTE says the town should not be part of the Brown property tripartite agreement.

lic?]" she asked council. "Signing a guarantee for \$300,000 seems pretty serious to me."

On Wednesday, she said she is worried about what will happen if the society cannot repay the bank in full by September 2004.

"Somebody has to pay this debt. If your parent co-signed for you on a loan and you moved to Europe, they are responsible. If the Royal Bank has lent the money to the society then that should be the deal. It should be between the society and the Royal Bank."

Brouillette also questions a decision of council to buy 5,000 square metres of the final section of forest with money from the sale of a \$81,000 Palm Drive lot (\$76,000 net).

"I feel like the town has done this behind closed doors," she said.

"The town put that money into the society's hands ... that is not what the public has said [it wants]. They said no more tax dollars [toward the Brown

property]. If they wanted the town putting in \$100,000 here, \$100,000 there, they would have said that."

Mayor Teunis Westbrook maintains the agreement is good for the town, and taxpayers will not shoulder any further financial responsibility for the property.

"There is no borrowing, there is no risk," he said. "I respect Mary's opinion but I don't agree with it."

Westbrook said money the town gains by selling land can only be put into the purchase of other lands, and buying part of the Brown property shows council's commitment to preserving green space.

He explained in a worst-case scenario, if the society does not raise any more money and land values drop, the town will not have to sell back the 5,000 square metres.

"It's not encumbered," he said.

The mayor added in the current market, the town would have to sell back the equivalent of six lots if the

society fails to come up with the \$300,000.

"That's a half-dozen lots instead of giving up 24," he said. "[The tripartite agreement] means a windfall for the town where we were just given approximately 7.5 acres of land."

Society president Jack Wilson says repayment should not be an issue, as the group has every intention of raising enough money to pay the bank by the deadline.

"I'm optimistic that we can," he said.

According to Councillor Scott Rodway, there are only two scenarios where the town would have to repay outstanding debt in 2004. One would occur if a future council changed the zoning of the 7.5 acres from residential to recreational, which would keep the town from subdividing to sell land if necessary.

The other would be if the town's approving officer, Paul Butler, determined subdivision would not be in the best interests of the town. Because the approving officer acts independently of council, said Rodway, the town would have no say in such a decision.

Rodway said neither situation is likely to happen, because both go against taxpayers' wishes.

"That would go against the referendum, and that would be inappropriate from my perspective," said Rodway.

"I think any council that went against the referendum on tax dollars would be asking for trouble."

VIEWPOINT

A certain risk News 20.9.2002

There's something a little perplexing about Qualicum Beach council's decision to sign off on a \$300,000 line of credit for the Brown Property Preservation Society.

Now don't get me wrong — I think it's admirable that a community group wants to preserve greenspace. In fact I'm all for it. I even think municipal government has a role to play in making it happen. But taxpayers in Qualicum Beach have made it crystal clear they don't want any more municipal dollars going toward this particular section of greenspace.

And yet, Qualicum Beach council, with nary a whimper, essentially co-signed a loan to a group that has not been able to reach its targets on its own. This despite the result of a June 2000 referendum which told local politicians that taxpayers opposed municipal borrowing to fund the purchase of the remainder of the property.



Tom MacDougall

At base, that is exactly what has happened.

True, council is not officially on the hook, to the best of our knowledge, should the BPPS be unable to raise sufficient funds to cover the credit line. It has the option to sell off as many parcels as required to make up any shortfall. Given that the Heritage Forest is prime real estate, odds are good any sale would be speedy, but a quick sale — or any sale for that matter — is not a given.

Markets change and the B.C. economy is nothing if not in continual flux. Sure, two years from now the sticker price might be the same, but the buying power of the public could well be in the crapper.

It's a real risk, one Qualicum Beach taxpayers could have to face. Reassurances from Preservation Society president Jack Wilson that he is "optimistic" the society can raise the required money within the two-year window ring somewhat hollow. After all, we're not talking about a group that has particularly excelled in fundraising in recent years. They had to go back to the Brown family repeatedly, seeking extension after extension, to secure what property they had before the loan was granted. Funds never came in quickly enough to meet those deadlines. It's like trying to make mortgage payments from a permanently maxed overdraft and going to the bank asking them to give you more time or increase that overdraft. This loan is a direct result of an inability to raise required funds in a timely manner, something I don't see changing in the immediate future.

My hope is that the Brown Property Preservation Society is going to prove me wrong. Personally, I want this to succeed. I want Jack Wilson to come into the office with the final cheque to put them over the \$300,000 mark and wave it in my face.

And I want him to do it before the town has to try and find a new buyer for some of that land.

A Brown garage sale for a green idea coming

Six devoted committee members have been working steadily for the past six weeks on a fundraising event to keep the Brown property green.

On Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Old Community Hall on Memorial Avenue in Qualicum Beach the results of their efforts will be open to all. The proceeds from this giant, indoor, very up-scale garage sale will go to the Brown Property Preservation Society to help preserve Qualicum's unique old growth forest.

There are garage sales and garage sales, but on Sept. 28 you will see the garage sale of the year. Qualicum Beach and the Oceanside community have been amazingly generous in their contributions to the Brown Property cause.

Thousands of individuals have made cash donations from \$2 to \$10 000; anonymous donors have contributed more tens of thousands; entire estates have been willed to the forest; on two occasions shoppers have been able to donate their QF points; people have donated exquisite items for auction; donations have flown in from as far away as Nova Scotia and California. Obviously, this is a cause many people believe in.

While cash is always appreciated, in whatever amount, this garage sale gives people the opportunity to participate in preserving the Heritage Forest by donating quality articles to the sale and by shopping there to find valuable articles they want.

To date there are wonderful surprises just waiting to go on display in the Old Community Hall. Conjure up some of your secret desires then come look for them on Saturday.



to QB Sept. 28

THE GARAGE SALE to end all garage sales will help the Brown Property Preservation Society pay off the loan they took to buy the remaining property.

How about an electric Hammond organ, exercise equipment, wicker furniture, and even a hand-crafted cedar dinghy with over 500 hours of work in the trim hull perched on its own trailer.

A special season is not too far away, so think pottery, dishes, Christmas trees, ornaments, and lights. Are skis or golf clubs on your or a dear one's wish list? These are just a few of the delights awaiting shoppers' attention. Don't miss them.

Another new twist to this sale will be donations of original art from people's own collections, and some fine art pieces available in a silent auction. If all this largesse is overwhelming, sale visitors can take a break enjoying refreshments provided with the generous support of Qualicum Foods and Lefty's. Thus fortified, they can continue their browsing till just the right item catches their eye.

The Brown Property Preservation Society is a registered charitable society formed in 1996 with the sole objective of preserving a 50-acre old growth forest known as the Brown Property. The land so preserved will be available to the public and dedicated to the appreciation and enjoyment of nature.

Until recently, all but five acres of the forest had been purchased for the above purposes. Now, a loan from the Royal Bank has enabled the society to purchase the final five acres. The society's new job, therefore, is to raise the money to pay off the loan, and this is where the garage sale gives people an opportunity to help while acquiring things for their own needs and pleasure.

In the years since its formation, the Preservation Society has never been idle. One of its most visible projects was the Treemometer at the corner of Second and Primrose. The "dollar thermometer" and dedicated volunteers did a great job of raising the community's awareness of the forest's value and results of efforts to date in saving the property.

Twice, in the summer of 2000 and 2002, local home owners opened their homes and gardens for tours by the public at \$20 per ticket and raised \$36,000. An Antiques and Garden Art Show attracted a thousand people and generated over \$10,000. Some 40 people donated

items for auction and hundreds of people attended a benefit concert and auction to raise more funds.

These efforts and their results prove beyond a doubt that this priceless piece of old growth forest in the middle of town is worth something. It's priceless because it provides a haven for animals and humans alike to enjoy the peace of a living forest away from the sounds and scurry of everyday life.

It's priceless because it can never be replaced. We can help keep it in place by helping the Brown Property Preservation society. See you at the garage sale — Sept. 28.

P.S. If you want to donate something priceless to the sale, call 752.3642 for info.



Williwaws

NANCY WHELAN

"News" 1.10.2002

A certain amount of cheek in QB council decision

The editorial ("A certain risk," *THE WEEKENDER*, Sept. 20) undoubtedly expressed the feelings of many residents of Qualicum Beach.

The desirability of acquiring the Brown Property is, to say the least, of varying degrees of importance to the public and open to different opinions. That the issue itself has been divisive to the community has, however, been far clearer.

Aside from the financial risk involved, with the expense of a referendum of questionable necessity behind us, and a clear outcome opposed to any further involvement, what would encourage the council to take an action in direct opposition to the majority views by revisiting this particular matter?

In addition to "A Certain Risk" this would also appear to exemplify "A Certain Cheek" on the part of the council.

Jack McNeil,
Qualicum Beach

Fund-raising record actually pretty good

"News" 4.10.2002

I feel compelled to respond to your editorial in the Sept. 20 edition of the *NEWS WEEKENDER* regarding Qualicum Beach council's decision to "guarantee" a loan to the Brown Property Preservation Society. Council did not essentially co-sign a loan as you infer in your editorial, and this decision is not contrary to the 2000 referendum, as the council is not borrowing money.

The society bought an extension to raise funds, and the community is now in a position to control whatever development might have to occur, and thus minimize the impact on the natural habitat of the Heritage Forest.

The Town had to be involved in the loan to the society, as the Town obtained ownership of the land that is the subject of the loan. The security for the loan is the potential sale of residential lots, if all of the loan cannot be paid for

in two years, therefore the Town, as owner, has to be involved. In our opinion no taxpayer dollars are in jeopardy even if property values fall.

I am sorry that the society's fund-raising track record does not meet your standards, however, our fund-raising campaign has totalled over \$992,000 to date which, in my mind, is an extraordinary achievement for such a small community.

We do not anticipate being able to wave a \$300,000 cheque in your face as the money we raise in the future will be from the result of thousands of hours of ongoing efforts by unpaid volunteers and the accumulation of small donations.

A. Sharp
Treasurer, Brown Property Preservation Society

BROWN PROPERTY THE BIGGEST PROJECT EVER FOR COMMUNITY

"News" 4.10.2002

Though not a pioneer, I have had the privilege to have lived in Qualicum Beach since 1966 when the efforts of the pioneers were easily recognizable.

In the early years, the small population required everyone to work together to complete projects. Later it was the service clubs, especially the Rotary Club, that rallied the community to provide facilities ranging from the seawall to the airport and later the Civic Centre.

From my observation the largest project ever undertaken and which has raised the most money from the community, has been the preservation of the Heritage Forest. As a member of Council that purchased the golf course, over 1,000 feet of waterfront and considerable green space and helped draw up the original Community Plan, I commend the Brown property committee and those who have supported them. I share their beliefs that in the future the

Heritage Forest may be the greatest of any legacy for the community.

I find it regrettable that those who do not share this vision can not find the tolerance to forego criticism of both Town and community supporters.

My hope is that the Town of Qualicum Beach will always have the will to cooperate with any group who wishes to contribute something to enhance our community.

Arthur N. Skipsey
Qualicum Beach

Brown Society raises \$9,000 with garage sale

Oceanside Star

For the Star 5.10.2002

Members and volunteers of the Brown Property Preservation Society have done a final tally of the money generated at the Sept. 28 gigantic fund-raising garage sale in Qualicum Beach's Community Hall.

More than \$9,000 was raised. It will all go towards paying off the loan held by the Society for the purchase of the final 4.5 acres of the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach.

The Society is fortunate to have the support of capable, enthusiastic volunteers like Gisela (pr. Gee-zah-lah) and Andy Pope who organized the event and headed up a big committee. Brown Property Preservation Society President Jack Wilson points out that tax-deductible donations are still urgently needed if the

Society is to meet the Sept. 1, 2004 deadline to pay back the loan. They can be left at Walker-Wilson Law offices on Primrose Street in Qualicum Beach.

Brown Property Preservation Society raised over \$9,000 at their gigantic fund-raising garage sale in Qualicum Beach's Community Hall on Sept. 28.

It all goes towards paying off the loan held by the Society for the purchase of the final 4.5 acres of the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach.

The Society is fortunate to have the support of capable, enthusiastic volunteers like Gisela and Andy Pope who

organized the event and headed up a big committee.

Brown Property Preservation Society President Jack Wilson points out that tax-deductible donations are still urgently needed if the Society is to meet the Sept. 1, 2004 deadline to pay back the loan.

Donations can be left at Walker-Wilson Law offices on Primrose Street in Qualicum Beach. "News" 6.10.2002

Garage sale raises \$9,000 for Society

19.10.2002
**Preservation Society
 holding AGM Oct. 24**

For the Star

Along with the usual review of past year's activities and election of a new Board of Directors, the Thursday, Oct. 24 annual general meeting (7:30 p.m.) of the Brown Property Preservation Society in Qualicum Beach's Civic Centre will unveil new fund-raising ideas for the months ahead.

The Society has until September 1, 2004, to pay off the \$275,000 loan recently taken out to purchase the last 4 1/2 acres of the Heritage Forest. A group of Society members, led by Andy and Gisela Pope, were responsible for the success of the recent huge garage sale that netted the Society over \$9,000.

Preservation Society selling art

By Genevieve Poirier
 The Star

November 6, 2002

Parksville and Qualicum residents have the chance to help save a heritage forest and get an excellent deal on limited edition art work.

The Brown Property Preservation Society is holding an art sale Nov. 5 to Nov. 26 at Carriage Lane in Qualicum.

A variety of out-of-print art, by artists such as Andrew Kish, Bruce Mier, John Hiebert and Max Jacquard, will be on sale for a considerable discount.

Hal Jones, who owned Northern Images Publishing, has donated 25 different prints, which have been out of print for at least 12 years. There is a number of each print.

"They are mostly nature scenes," says Jones. "But, I have included a train by Max Jacquard and an aircraft by Thomas Wall."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Paul Ryniak points to the stamp he created which comes with every print sold.

Some of these limited edition prints have a value of over \$1,000, but for this sale will be

to raise funds

tagged at \$145.40. Others valued at \$50 will sell for \$15.

The profits from this sale will go to the Brown Property Heritage Society to assist in the final purchase of the Heritage Forest, a 50-acre old-growth forest known for many years as the Brown Property, located five minutes from downtown Qualicum.

The Society has raised \$1.54 million during the last six years, but it still needs \$270,000 to finish paying the bank loan, which must be repaid by Sept. 1, 2004.

"I believe this project is so important," says Jones. "This is an excellent opportunity for people to help and get a something special for themselves too."

Each print will be shrink wrapped, include a certificate of authenticity, an introduction of the artist and a commemorative stamp of the Heritage Forest.

The stamp was created by local resident Paul Ryniak.

Jones would like to stress that the sale will not be sold out and people must not worry if they miss the opening day. Over the three weeks, more prints will continue to hit the floor as others sell.

"There will something for everyone," says Jones.

So come out, enjoy the art show, take home a great piece of work and support the Brown Property Preservation Society.

Art sale benefits Brown Property

By TOM MacDOUGALL
NEWS REPORTER 8.11.2002

It's such a good deal it could almost be called art theft.

And it's all for a good cause.

For the next few weeks, Carriage Lane in Qualicum Beach will be hosting a sale of limited edition prints produced by artists the likes of Andrew Kish, John Hiebert and Thomas Wall.

The prints will be matted and shrink wrapped, and include a commemorative stamp, made from a photograph of the Heritage Forest taken by photographer Paul Ryniak.

Best of all, these prints, some of which retail for more than \$1,000, will actually be affordable. Rather than being sold at list price, or even at original issue price, the prints — donated by Hal Jones, who previously owned Northern Images Publishing Ltd. — will go for one-half issue price,



PHOTOGRAPHER PAUL RYNIAK poses in the Heritage Forest with a print of John Hiebert's *Downy Woodpecker*, one of the images available in the sale.

meaning a work like Andrew Kish's famous cougar (estimated \$1,200 retail) can be found for less than \$300.

All the proceeds of the sales go directly to the Brown Property Preservation Society.

"We see nothing but good coming out of this," said Brown Property Preservation Society mem-

ber Keith Smith.

But the prints themselves aren't the end of the deal. Each matted image comes with a certificate from Qualicum Arts and Crafts offering 10 per cent off the cost of framing. The shop

will also donate 10 per cent of each framing job back to the society.

The sale runs until Nov. 26.

For more information, call Paul Ryniak at 752-9830.

Art sale pays off for Brown Property Preservation Society

By Genevra Poirier
The Star

The Star 20.11.2002

The Brown Property Preservation Society is pleased to announce that its current fund-raising project has raised close to \$6,000 and it isn't over yet.

For the past 11 days, the Society has been hosting an art sale and area residents have been jumping at the chance to purchase limited edition art at an excellent price.

"It's been going great," says Hal Jones. "We even had an art dealer from Nanaimo and one from Parksville come down and buy a few prints.

"That gives credit to the great value."

Jones, who used to own Northern Images Publishing, donated 25 different prints, each of which have been out of print for at least 12 years. There is number of each print.

"We still have good selection," adds Jones. "There is still time for people to come and check it out."

The sale runs until November 26 at 177 West 2nd Avenue in Qualicum. A variety of out-of-print art, by arts such as Andrew Kiss, Bruce Muir, John Heibert and Max Jacquard, are on sale for a considerable discount. Some have a value of \$1,000, but are on sale for \$145.50. Bruce Muir's "Whales" has been a popular piece, along with Andrew Kiss' "Subtle Power Cougar."

The profits from this sale go to the Brown Property Heritage Society to assist in the final purchase of the Heritage Forest, a five acre old-growth forest known for many years as the Brown Property, located five minutes from downtown Qualicum.

22.11.2002

SEASON'S
Greetings
from

WALKABOUT
CASUAL WEAR

Only a few days left to support the
Brown Property by purchasing
Fine Canadian Wildlife Art at Fantastic Prices

752-4565

Carriage Lane
Come & Explore our Village Shopping Experience

177 West Second Ave. Qualicum Beach Parking in Back



KEITH SMITH, RIGHT, president of the Brown Property Preservation Society, waits, ready to discuss any of the limited edition prints in the fundraising sale at Carriage Lane. Today is the last day of the sale.

Spot a good buy from the forest

By **TOM MacDOUGALL**
NEWS REPORTER 26.11.2002

Today is your last chance to take part in an art robbery.

But you won't be stealing from a gallery, or even face the risk of arrest.

Instead, you'll be lending a helping hand to the fundraising campaign of the Brown Property Preservation Society, while securing yourself a limited edition print at a steal of a

price.

For the last few weeks, the society has been selling the prints not at gallery price, or even at edition price, but at one-half edition price. That means collectors have been able to buy near sold-out prints from artists like Andrew Kiss, John Hiebert and Thomas Wall, to name a few, for less than \$200.

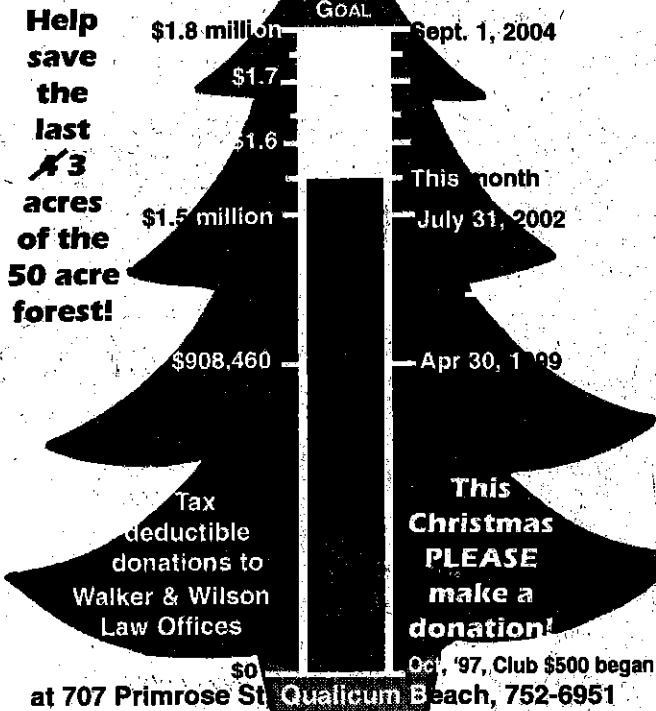
The prints were donated to the society by former gallery owner Hal

Jones.

Each image comes matted and shrink-wrapped, and includes a certificate from Qualicum Arts and Crafts worth 10 per cent off the cost of framing. The shop will also donate 10 per cent of the framing cost to the society.

You had better hurry, though. The sale ends at 5 p.m. today. You can find it in Carriage Lane, on Second Avenue in Qualicum Beach.

Qualicum Forest Heritage TreeMometer



Tom Westbroek

At the Inaugural Meeting of the new Town Council for District 2 the Council Elect was sworn in by the Honorable Judge Carole Lazar while the Reverend Brian Robertson gave the Benediction. Council responsibilities were assigned as follows: Mayor Teunis Westbroek - General Government, Beautification & regional health; Councilor Barry Avis - Community Development, Chamber of Commerce, airport & youth; Councilor Anton Kruyt - Public Works, regional library, water service and airport; Councilor Scott Tanner - Parks & Rec, regional transit; Dist. 69 Recreation & environment.

"Totem" December 2002



QUALICUM BEACH'S NEW town council was sworn in Monday night. Representing the town, from left, are: Jack Wilson, Barry Avis, Mayor Teunis Westbroek, Scott Tanner and Anton Kruyt. Lower left, now-retired councillor Scott Rodway looks at his parting gift — a collage of images of the town taken during his term.

TOM MACDOUGALL PHOTO

"News" 6.12.2002

Brown Property Preservation Society needs new ideas for fund raising efforts

For the Star

The Brown Property Preservation Society is looking for new fund-raising ideas. The Society is actively fund-raising to bring down the \$285,000 loan taken out in mid-August of 2002 to purchase the last few acres of the Heritage Forest in the Qualicum Beach area. Almost \$40,000 has been raised

in the five months since then, but there is still a long way to go. Everyone is invited to attend a special fundraising idea session at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre on Thursday, February 6 at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome at this session.

They know there are a lot of Heritage Forest supporters out there who don't necessarily carry a BPPS membership card and many of them have good ideas about how to raise the final funding dollars "to get the job done."

"News" 11.1.2003

Growing green News

The Brown Property Preservation Society is hoping to attract its members to attend a special fundraising idea session at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre on Thursday, Feb. 6 at 7:30 pm.

The Society is actively fund-raising to bring down the \$285,000 loan taken out in mid-August of 2002 to purchase the last few acres of the Heritage Forest.

Almost \$40,000 have been raised in the five months since then but there is still a long way to go.

Everyone is welcome at this session — not just BPPS members. There are a lot of Heritage Forest supporters out there who don't necessarily carry a BPPS membership card and many of them have good ideas about how the society can raise the final funding dollars to get the job done.

For more information on the meeting, contact Keith Smith at 752-8135 or gwenmar@shaw.ca.

4.2.2003

February, 2003

By Emily de Candole

5 Years Ago

Qualicum Totem, 1997

Brown Estate Waiting to be Saved

This month it was reported the Brown family is planning to put their property on the market for \$4.9 million. The property is zoned as single family residential and could be subdivided into 110 lots. Last year the Brown Property Preservation Society was formed in anticipation of the sale. The campaign was off and running this month when about 500 people attended a meeting to save the property.

Heritage Forest budget

Council was advised of the budget for proposed projects works for the Heritage Forest. Boardwalk construction, \$15 per ft, Ground Maintenance, \$6,500 per year, 2 kiosks and park signage, \$5,000, stable roof replacement, \$8,000 and 1,000 Oregon grape, \$3,750. Grant monies are expected to cover the various projects.

News 7.2.2003

letters

Quiet sale of lands slowly emptying public recreational lands pot

Charitable donations have been used to buy private land for public recreation, including the Brown property and Neck Point Park.

Citizens are, with sacrifice, gradually filling the pot of recreational land for us all to enjoy, to attract tourists, and to be a heritage for future generations.

Unfortunately, someone else is quietly emptying the same pot.

The provincial government is selling public recreation Crown land in this area as fast as it can, such as Crown land in Nanoose Bay already up for sale on Stewart Road, and a Crown land community park two kilometres

away scheduled for the same treatment.

We generously donate money from our own pockets to buy private land for public recreation, while the government sells other public recreational land and keeps the money. Just how low can a premier stoop?

Maybe one or two more recall campaigns will get his attention.

Eric Smith
Nanoose Bay

commentary

A flyin' pillie as a mascot, perhaps?

■ Whelan's vote goes to a woodpecker as a QB Heritage Forest champ

Four tables of brainstorming people resulted in eight flip charts of ideas last night at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. Members and guests at this planning session of the Brown Property Preservation Society were united in wracking their brains for ways to raise funds to pay off the mortgage on the last section of the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

Every idea from a row of carrots to a display of the world's largest mural joined the lists. Most sought after were fundraisers that could be put into action in the near future to pay down the mortgage, but other ideas to raise money in the long term were gratefully accepted as well.

Even the woodpeckers got into the act. Local photographers have been shooting dozens of impressive photographs of the unique aspects and awesome views of the Heritage Forest. Many of these photos have been chosen for note cards and enlargements and can be found for sale at various events. The Heritage Forest is not just about trees and plants, though, and some of its more colorful characters have been hamming it up.



Williwaws

NANCY WHELAN

tree when walking through a quiet forest. In the undisturbed woods of the Heritage Forest, one is often lucky enough to observe the birds performing.

The pileated woodpecker may be from 14 to 18 inches long and undulates through the trees with its white wing linings flashing beneath a black back. The bird's head and neck display its most spectacular plumage. White feathers run up each side of its neck, along the cheeks, under the chin, and streak back from the golden eye like a plume. Crowning this royal head is a superb, swept-back red crest, giving the bird its name. The male 'pillie' also has a red streak running from the base of its beak back to the neck; on the female this streak is white, and less her red chapeau attract too

much attention, it is muted with a brownish patch on her forehead.

If I had any say in it, I would proclaim the pileated woodpecker the mascot of the Qualicum Heritage Forest.

I would give 'pillie' this honor not solely for its flair and dashing appearance and its haunting wood-chopping melody, but for its lifestyle, its modus operandi, and for its choice of habitat — the mature forest.

Let's think about 'pillie's' habits. It lives and shops in heavy, old growth forest. Sometimes this marvel of nature's handiwork comes into the outskirts of quiet towns if large, old forests are close by.

Pileated woodpeckers love to eat ants, especially carpenter ants which are not favored by we owners of wooden houses. Upon investigation, the stomach of one hapless pileated was found to contain 2,500 ants. (Cancel that call to the exterminators, Mike!) And while 'pillie' does enjoy wild fruits and berries, like a good visitor it rarely raids cultivated fruits.

With its taste for ants and other insect residents (and destroyers of trees), the woodpecker has been given credit for clearing up vast concentrations of spruce beetles in Idaho.

This bit of information certainly gave me pause.

Throughout B.C. and other areas of Canada, the spruce beetle has been the cause, directly and indirectly, for the falling and felling of millions of spruce and other coniferous trees. When the beetle is spotted, the fallers go to work, ostensibly to destroy the host trees and thus the beetle. Forgive me if I sometimes let my skepticism get the better of me and wonder whether the beetle is an excuse to log, log, log.

Too, are the spruce beetle and other insect infestations a signal that too many mature forests are disappearing — and the woodpeckers with them? Fewer mature forests, fewer woodpeckers. Fewer beetle predators, more beetles; more trees fall prey.

When one considers that the pileated woodpecker, and many of its cousins, range from coast to coast across the forested (or once so) areas of North America, couldn't our very own Heritage Forest mascot be the start of something big — a mascot for all the threatened trees, old and new, across the continent? Let's think about this:

These are the pileated woodpeckers. Two photos of the imperious birds were on display last night. The larger was a single bird, but a duet of his fellows upstaged him. There perch two 'pillies' on a horizontal tree trunk, one behind the other, a la chorus line. Their poses are identical, every feather in place, as they train their black-centered golden eyes on the camera, and wait for the music to begin.

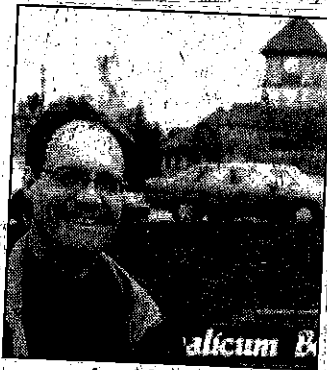
Like other woodpeckers, when it comes to music the pileated is a percussionist — there's a foot-stopping, ear-cocking thrill in the reverberating drumming of its sturdy beak against a

NEWS 25 2 2003
Town of Qualicum Beach
 COUNCIL BRIEFS

□ As part of its ongoing support of the Brown Property Preservation Society, council voted to exempt the society from having to pay rental charges at both the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre and the Community Hall.

to few
Jan Lindsay Feb. 2003
2002 Citizen of the Year

Well-known Re/MAX Anchor realtor Jan Lindsay has been chosen as Qualicum Beach's Citizen of the Year for 2002.



Jan Lindsay

More recently, he played a key role in negotiating at no charge the purchase of the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest from the Brown family. The process stretched over a number of years and involved several extensions before finally being completed last summer.

Fund raiser requires used tools and construction material

For the Star: Extra tools-taking up space in your tool shed? Now is your chance to sell them and at the same time help raise money for the Heritage Forest.

The Brown Property Preservation Society is holding a Construction Materials and Tool Sale April 2 to raise the money for the last remaining three acres of the Heritage Forest.

"Most people have two of everything when it comes to electrical tools and supplies and garden tools," says Brown Property Preservation Society President Keith Smith. "We will also welcome used lumber and other items that are in good condition."

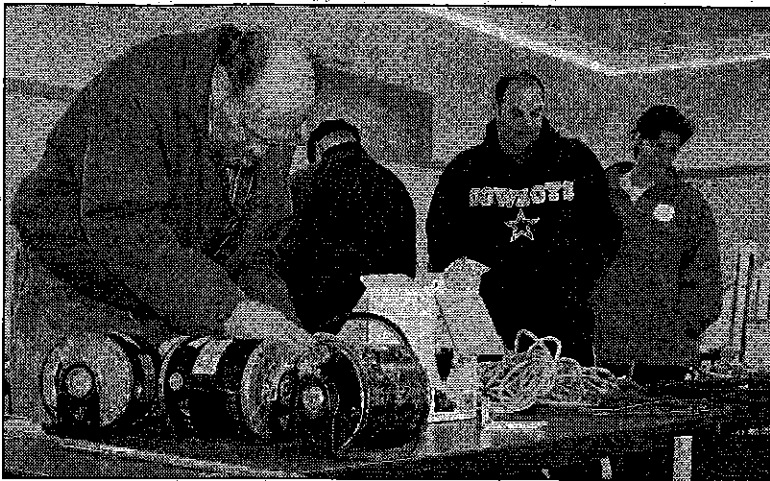
As well, local lumber and hardware dealers have promised to donate items for the sale.

With 17 months to go, the Society is fine-tuning its fundraising efforts.

About \$240,000 must be raised by September 1, 2004, to pay off the bank loan to ensure that the entire 50 acres of the Heritage Forest belongs to everyone in the community.

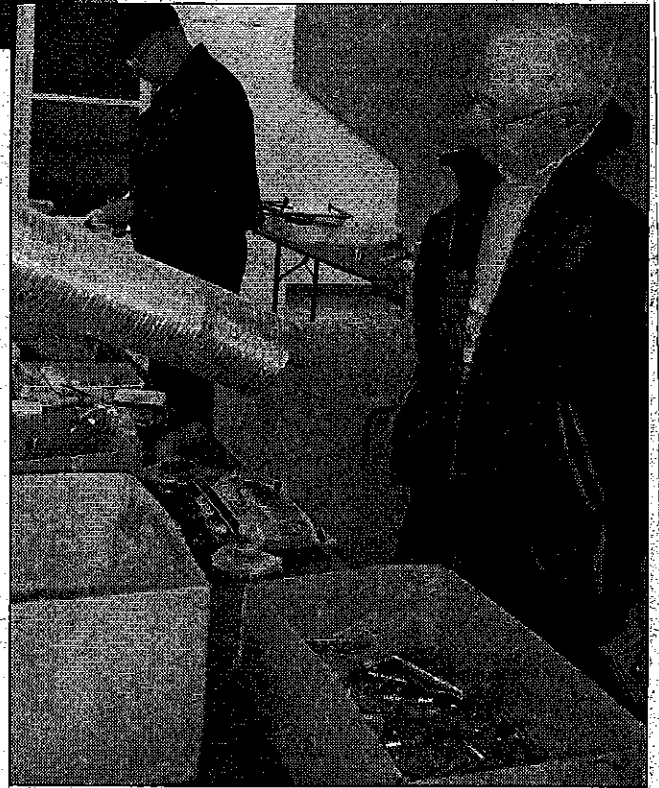
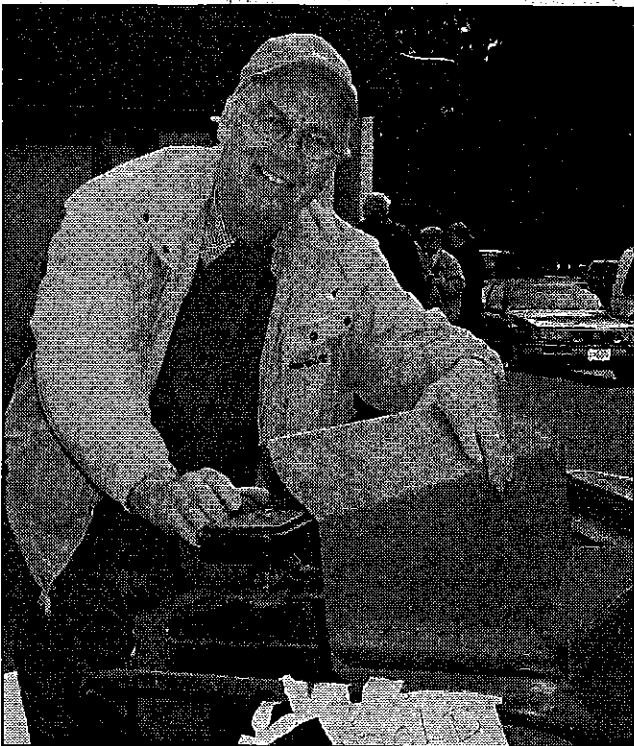
The sale will be held in the Qualicum Beach Community Hall from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 12.

Society volunteers will pick up and store items prior to sale date (call Pete Tomlinson at 752-7328) and Paul Ryniak is looking for volunteers. Call Paul at 752-9830.



Another man's treasure...

■ Brown Property Preservation Society saving trees with its Lumber for Land fundraiser



PARKSVILLE
RESIDENT BILL Hope (above) checks out a length of duct pipe at a construction materials, tools and lumber sale at Qualicum Beach Community Hall Saturday, a fundraiser for the Brown Property Preservation Society. The Lumber for Land sale raised some \$2,200 for the cause.

LEFT: Brown Property Preservation Society president Keith Smith shows off a wood chipper that sold for \$100.

TOP: Qualicum Beach resident Phil Bridgman looks over a variety of electric motors.

TISH LESLIE PHOTOS

Money needed to buy forest

Dear Editor:

If you take a stroll in any neighbourhood in Qualicum Beach, you will witness the ongoing demise of tall coniferous trees that have, for decades, provided habitat for wildlife and solace for humans. As the lives of these trees are ended by chainsaws in the interest of development, something is lost from our community - something that attracted many of us to choose Qualicum Beach as our home.

With every year that passes, the Heritage Forest in the centre of Qualicum becomes more significant. A walk along the trails in the

forest invokes appreciation for the small group who had the foresight several years ago to initiate a plan to save these old growth trees as a legacy for future generations.

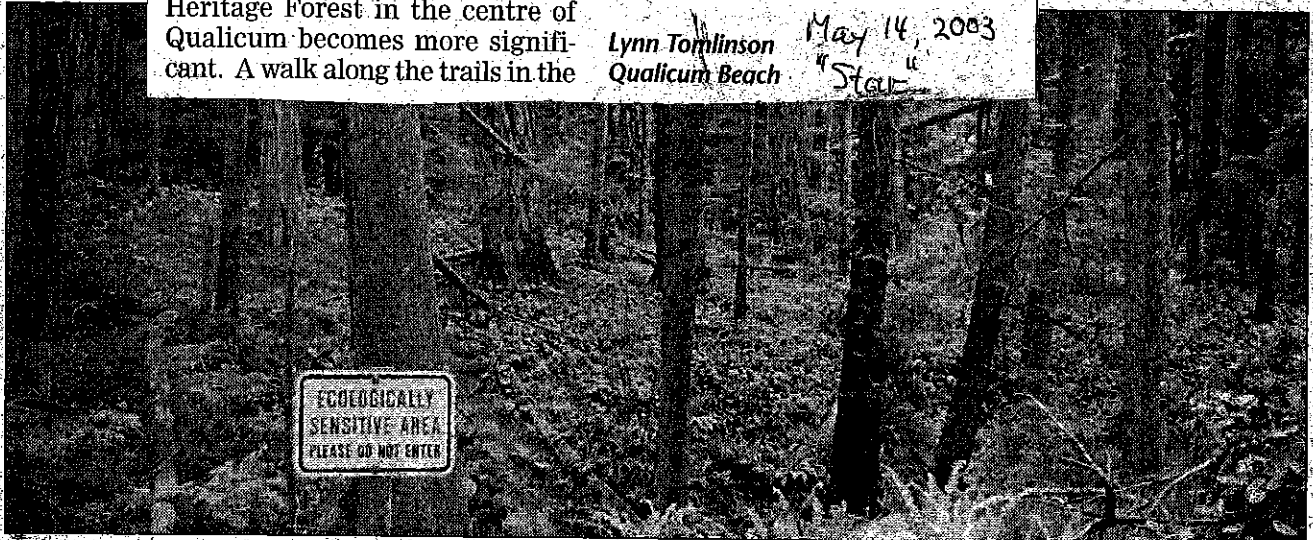
The Brown Property Preservation Society still needs help to play off a bank loan to save the remaining three acres of the 50-acre Heritage Forest. Tax receipts are available for donations. Help is always needed for fund-raising events.

For more information, give President Keith Smith a call a 752-8135.

Lynn Tomlinson
Qualicum Beach

May 14, 2003

"Star"



TOM MACDOUGALL PHOTO

THOUGH FAR FROM being able to pay their debt, Brown Property members are confident they'll be able to keep all of the Heritage Forest under protection and not have to sell any for development.

Brown Property fundraising slow, but reps are calm

By TOM MacDOUGALL
NEWS REPORTER 27.5.2003

Fifteen months and counting — that's all the time left on a quarter-million plus loan taken by the Brown Property Preservation Society and secured by the town of Qualicum Beach.

The society borrowed \$282,922 from the Royal Bank last summer, just as the final option on the remaining 7.5 acres of the Brown Property forest was about to expire. The town was required to add its name to the loan to guarantee repayment by September 2004.

Since then, the BPPS has whittled away at its outstanding balance, reducing it by \$41,729 to \$241,193 in the nine months ending May 15. At this pace, the

society will be approximately \$180,000 short when the loan comes due.

"The bottom line is, we've got a long way to go," said BPPS president Keith Smith Wednesday.

"When you put it up against the massive amount we still owe, it can get discouraging — but these people don't discourage easily."

While supporters have continued to come forward with fundraising ideas, and with funds of their own, other monies have been coming at a slower trickle.

"The toughest thing, for me, is when you are actually saving trees, it is a lot easier sell than paying off a bank loan," said Smith. "There's not the same urgency. That's making it tougher."

The reality, though, is

that it has not changed. The society is still working to save the trees, and failing to meet the September 2004 deadline could mean giving up on a portion of the property.

As part of guaranteeing the loan, past town councillors indicated selling off portions of the property might be an option.

To date, though, council has not discussed the future of the property.

Nor is it likely to become an issue soon.

"I don't see the pressure that there was in the past," said Coun. Scott Tanner.

He feels that if the society can show it has been working toward paying the loan, and has covered the interest, they'll likely be able to secure an extension if needed.

As has always been the

case, donations to the Brown Property Preservation Society can be made at the law offices of Walker & Wilson, 707 Primrose Street, V9K 2K1, Qualicum Beach.

Heritage Forest signs

Council supported a motion by Councilor Jack Wilson to waive the \$50 per sign mounting and installation fee normally charged by the Town for a project to erect six new information signs in the Heritage Forest. A \$1,500 grant from the Parksville-Qualicum Community Foundation is being used to have the signs made commercially.

Q.B. Totem 2003 July.

There will be a labyrinth, music, games and more at Brown party

For the Star July 5, 2003

The Brown Property Preservation Society will kick off its last 12 months of fund-raising with a party at the old

Brown Family mansion on August 17. They are calling it "A Day at the Brown Mansion" and it promises to be a family-fun event.

The Society has a September 1st, 2004 deadline to repay the \$280,000 Royal Bank loan (currently \$240,000) taken out last fall to buy up the last 4 acres of the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach. Ever since the Society was formed in 1996 it has had as its main objective the saving from development of the 50 acre pristine old-growth Douglas

Fir forest a 10 minute walk from downtown Qualicum Beach. The Society has raised more than a million dollars; the Town of Qualicum Beach \$700,000. Fund raising efforts over the years have included Home and Garden tours, giant garage sales, antique fairs, art sales and many other activities.

The August 17 event, running from 11 am until 7 pm, will include tours of the Heritage Forest, mansion tours, bocci, croquet and tennis, a labyrinth, music, art, an old-times tea and fashion show and other fun activities. Admission is \$5 at the door.

Foundation Grants for 2003

N.F. NEWS
2003

Brown Preservation Society

The Society's overall goal is to develop a functional infrastructure, specifically designed to prevent degradation of the Heritage Forest's natural environment/habitat. With funds received from the Community Foundation, trails will be surveyed to determine appropriate sign locations and information requirements. A complimentary brochure, identifying the locations and distances of the various trails will also be created.



Ernie Skinkus, left, with Art Skipsey

Grant received: \$1500.00



PARKSVILLE QUALICUM
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

Serving all communities in District 69

1192 - 665 Beach Road, Qualicum Beach 752-7202

This space courtesy of



Jollean Chantrel

"Your long-term care insurance specialist."



CLARICA

A SunLife Financial Company

250-248-7154

Toll free: 1-866-699-7865

jollean.chantrel@clarica.com

"For a defensive strategy to long term care costs."

Spend a day at the Brown mansion

News 29.7.2003

The Brown Property Preservation Society will kick off its last 12 months of fund-raising on August 17 with a party at the old Brown family mansion on East Crescent Avenue in Qualicum Beach.

They are calling it A Day at the Brown Mansion and it promises to be a family-fun event.

The Society has a September 1, 2004 deadline to repay the \$280,000 loan (currently \$240,000) taken out last fall to buy the last four acres of the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach. Since the society was formed in 1996 its main objective has been saving the 50-acre pristine old-growth Douglas Fir forest. The society has raised more than a million dollars; the town of Qualicum Beach \$700,000.

The August 17 event, running from 11 am until 7 pm, will include tours of the Heritage Forest, mansion tours, bocci, croquet and tennis, a labyrinth, music, art, an old-times tea and fashion show and other fun activities. Admission is \$5 at the door.

For more information, call 752 8135.

In the mansion and on the grounds a number of well known artists will be painting and sculpting. There will be an art auction of several beautiful paintings. Don Thompson has donated one of his famous whimsical carved wooden animals. For music, an outstanding group of musicians have agreed to perform on a stage under the trees on the mansion grounds during the afternoon.

Brown Property Preservation Society volunteer Anne Klees

and her crew will host an old-fashioned tea, complete with a tea cup reader. Qualicum Beach Rotarians will man the barbecue and bar on the grounds. Although the costs of food and drink are extra, general admission to the grounds is only \$5.

The Brown Property Preservation Society thanks mansion owner Ron Coulson for the use of the mansion for this important fund-raiser.

For more information, call 752-8135.

Brown Mansion day kicks off a year of fund raising

For the Star 2.8.2003

"A Day at the Brown Mansion" on Sunday, August 17, will mark the start of 12 months of fund-raising by the Brown Property Preservation Society.

That date will be a little over a year before the Society must repay the remaining \$240,000 of the \$280,000 Royal Bank loan taken out last fall to buy the final 3 acres of the old-growth Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach. The Society and the Town of Qualicum Beach have raised \$1.5 million over the past 4 years.

"This is a wonderful opportunity," says Society president Keith Smith, "for those who have held back until now to make a tax-deductible donation to the Forest."

It will be quite a day at 292 East Crescent Road East in Qualicum Beach. A number of fun activities are planned.

Society past-president Jack Wilson has challenged Mayor Teunis Westbroek and Wilson's fellow councillors to a game of "extreme" croquet! There will also be bocci and tennis on the old Brown Mansion tennis courts. Those wishing to connect with their spiritual side may want to walk the labyrinth being set up by Kathy Bluck. There are tours of the mansion and also the Heritage Forest itself.

Brown mansion hosts fundraiser BBQ

The Brown Property Preservation Society is offering public tours, entertainment, art sales and a BBQ at the old Brown family home on Sunday, Aug 17 from 11 - 7 pm as a fundraiser to help pay off the loan, currently at \$241,000, to purchase the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest. The following is a brief history of the home.

The three-storey white mansion that overlooks the golf course on East Crescent was built in 1913 by General Noel Money, one of the founders of the former Qualicum Beach Hotel.

The hotel had opened a year earlier on West Crescent and work had begun on the golf course across the street.

With the outbreak of World War I in 1914 General Money, his wife Maud and their two children returned to England, leaving the new home in the hands of a caretaker.

The Moneys returned to Qualicum Beach in 1919 and once again took up residence in their East Crescent home.

During the 1920s the Moneys hosted an annual New Year party to which many residents in the village were invited. Life-long resident Kitty Lane says they were always very grand occasions in the English tradition and she remembers being very envious of her teenage sister because she was old enough to attend.

Kitty would visit the Money home on other occasions and has a strong memory of playing with a hand-carved dollhouse in one of the second floor bedrooms. She also remembers the inside staircase up to the servants quarters on the third floor and small room off the pantry where the butler lived.

In the late 1920s General Money's mother Emily and his sister Hilda Bayley came to live with them, prompting the construction of a service elevator on the outside of the house for his aging mother. As Kitty recalls, after his mother saw how small it was, she refused to use it, relying instead on the help of the maid she brought from Ceylon to get up and down the stairs.

Following the death of General Money in 1941 (he was predeceased by his mother and wife) the



Brown's former home on East Crescent

home and 55-acre property was bought by Major Lowry, a Calgary oil company owner who at the time owned the log house next door as well as three other Qualicum Beach residences.

In 1951 Major Lowry sold the house and property to his business associate R.A. (Bobby) Brown Jr, the owner of Home Oil.

Bob Brown's widow Genevieve Brown continues to live in Qualicum Beach. Her husband died in 1972. A plaque in his honour was dedicated at the golf course in 1993.

Genevieve has vivid memories of her first visit here from Calgary in 1951.

"The house had been vacant for some time and I was not impressed with the way it looked," said Genevieve. "I also wasn't sure about Qualicum Beach. It was such a little village."

But she was willing to admit that the house had potential. Bob gave her the go-ahead to do whatever she thought was necessary.

She invited an interior decorator from Vancouver to visit and they were immediately enthusiastic about the project.

"We spent three days going from room to room, discussing what should be done," said Genevieve.

In the end the decision was made to redo the entire interior including rebuilding the four downstairs fireplaces. One of the few things left untouched was the elevator. By then it was boarded up and may not have ever been used.

Six months later the work was done and Genevieve was invited to inspect her new home.

She walked through the door and was momentarily speechless.

"It was absolutely beautiful," she recalled. "They had thought of everything. The furniture was perfect. They had even set out ash trays to make it look homey."

Each of the six, second-floor bedrooms now had its own bathroom and had been repapered in a particular theme. (The third floor attic was later finished with a large bedroom and bathroom).

The den had been fitted with dark wood paneling. The pantry had been removed to create a spacious modern kitchen. The renovation was so successful the Browns only made one other major change. A year later Bob thought there should also be wood paneling in the living room. A carver from Europe was hired to do ornamental carving with a music theme for the mantel, entrance and window valance. The wood paneling was custom-built in Vancouver.

Within a year they had also decided to build a swimming pool, cabana and tennis court on the grounds. The cabana included a full kitchen, bar, large living room and a separate suite for the pilots Bob employed for his airplane. Today the cabana retains a distinctive 1950s charm and character.

In the early years they also made a clearing in the middle of the property and built a stable, groomer's quarters and horse paddock. A highlight of the summer was the gymkhana the three Brown daughters, Pamela, Lois and Carolyn, organized. The girls attended boarding school in Toronto and every spring and fall their favourite horses made the trip across Canada so that equestrian training could continue year-round.

The house remained in the Brown family until 1999 when it was sold to John Merrick. In 2001 it was sold Ron Coulson who last year had the property rezoned for a condominium resort. The surrounding forest was acquired by the Town of Qualicum Beach in 1999.

commentary

You're invited to Brown Mansion party

■ Forest preservation society has big fundraising plans for August 17

In this village there is a special mansion. On Sunday, August 17 there will be a party like no other at the old Brown Family mansion on East Crescent Avenue in Qualicum Beach.

A Day at the Brown Mansion will be a mansion party with a mission, and that is to raise funds to repay the loan taken out last fall to purchase the last three acres of the Q.B. Heritage Forest. This old-growth, 10-acre, Douglas Fir forest is precious to Qualicum, its residents and its visitors. On August 17 from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. you can tour, play, and enjoy yourself for an admission of only \$5 at the entrance.

To date, the Brown Property Preservation Society has raised more than a million dollars through home and garden tours, giant garage sales, antique fairs, art sales and other efforts, and the Town has contributed \$700,000 toward the forest's preservation.

The unique Mansion Party is a kick-off to the



Williwaws

NANCY WHELAN

final year and the final effort to reach a worthwhile goal. It will also raise awareness of the work that has and is being done to bring the Society's aims to fruition.

"We hope to bring people out of the woodwork during this final push," said BPPS member Keith Smith. "While walking up from the beach just a week ago, a man presented me with a cheque for \$100 in aid of the Heritage Forest. We want people to know that we are still working and striving to save this forest once and for all."

So what does one see and do at a Mansion Party? For one thing, you'll see why Bobbie Brown made sure the Town was able to purchase the current municipal golf course at reasonable cost to save the fantastic view from the mansion. On a tour of the adjacent forest itself you'll

see how Paul Ryniak, a member of the Heritage Forest Commission and the coordinator of the trail building crews has made the trails easy to navigate and has worked to clear away the invasive broom.

Thanks to the mansion's new owners, Ron Coulson and his daughter Carla, of Courtenay, along with Manley Lafoy the architect in charge, you may get a peek into the mansion's future restoration and other structures planned for the property.

Then there are all the interesting events planned for the mansion and its grounds. Bring along your racquet and have a game of tennis on the courts. Cheer on your favorites at the mayor's and councillors' invitational croquet game. Enjoy a tea (strawberry? blueberry? blackberry?) in style. If you're still hungry try some barbecue food cooked on the site.

Tune into summer music organized by Craig Ellis; even participate on an outdoor open stage. Bid on the item of your choice at a small silent auction. Are you a bocci fan? The grounds are perfect for putting the ball where you want it.

Qualicum Beach being the art mecca it is, local artists will be present painting in or around the

mansion. See the works of popular artists Don and Ruth Quinlan, Jim McFarlane, Rosemary Gall, and others well known to many — Peggy Burkosky, Rosemary Hathaway, Elena Travanut, Helene McIntosh and Kristeen Verge and more. The works of these artists will be displayed and for sale throughout the mansion. The artists have graciously agreed to donate a good portion of the proceeds to the BPPS.

When you're ready for some quiet time around the mansion, seek out the tranquility of the labyrinth designed by Kathy Bluck. The maze-like patterns of the labyrinth, laid out on the ground in a peaceful area, will soothe you physically and mentally as you walk its intricate paths.

In a roughly circular shape, the labyrinth contains clear runs, switchbacks, and turns, and walking the pattern is almost a metaphor for life itself. Try it out and open yourself to its contemplative, meditative nature.

With a mansion and its surroundings like this in our midst, how can we pass up "A Day at the Brown Mansion?" For more information call 752-8135. Admission is \$5 at the entrance, and tea, refreshments and barbecue are extra.

Mansion party set

News The Brown Property Preservation Society is hosting a party at the Brown family mansion in Qualicum Beach Sunday.

A major fundraiser for the BPPS, proceeds from the day's events will go toward repaying a loan, taken last fall in order to secure the last three acres of the old-growth, 50-acre site. On Aug. 17, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., the public is invited to come and tour the mansion, play some tennis, watch town councillors play croquet, or partake of the food and refreshments on site.

Bocci ball, live artists painting, a live stage featuring Gerry Barnum and Fred Saliani, among others, are added attractions. Local bakeries and businesses will compete in a cake raffle, dubbed the Battle of the Bakers. Admission to A Day at the Brown Mansion is \$5, call 752-8135 for info.

Brown mansion party set for Sunday in QB

By TRICIA LESLIE

NEWS REPORTER

15.8.2003

A Day at the Brown Mansion takes place on East Crescent Avenue in Qualicum Beach Sunday, but it's more than bocci ball, croquet, tours and tea.

It's a major fundraiser for the Brown Property Preservation Society, which must repay a loan taken last fall to secure the last three acres of the 50-acre, old-growth site.

The society must raise \$240,000 by next September to ensure the heritage forest remains a part of Qualicum Beach's history, and a favourite attractions for locals and visitors.

"It's going to be fun," BPPS president Keith Smith said, but added the goal behind the fun is serious.

"We've got a long way to go ... [\$240,000] is a lot of money."

Smith wants guests at the Brown mansion affair, set for 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, to keep that in mind while they enjoy some of the festivities planned. For example, Some Guy and a Newfie, a band with an East Coast Celtic flair, will kick off live entertainment on the mansion grounds shortly after 11 a.m.

Other live acts include local blues/folk legend Gerry Barnum and guitarist Fred Saliani, among others.

Guests can play bocci ball, tennis,

croquet and experience a labyrinth created by local resident Kathy Bluck, or watch town councillors and staff battle it out on the croquet field at 2 p.m.

Eleven area bakers and businesses are competing against each other in a cake auction entitled Battle of the Bakers, and everyone can enjoy tea, fresh barbecue, or light refreshments on site.

Guests are welcome to tour the 50-acre heritage forest through its trails, as well as the heritage mansion.

"I don't think there's a room in there that's under 1,000 square feet," Smith said. Admission is \$5; call 752-8135 for more information.



ANGIE FOSS PHOTOS

COOMBS ARTIST JOAN Larson (above) discusses her rendition of the Brown Mansion while in the background visitors peruse art on display on the mansion's porch. James Domenico, 8, tries his hand at bocci (right) while visiting from Denver.

Day at Brown mansion a hit

By ANGIE FOSS *Aug. 2003*
NEWS REPORTER

It was a day in the life of genteel leisure, sipping tea on the porch or listening to musicians play on the lawn. And it was all for charity.

More than 1,200 guests strolled the house and grounds of the Brown Mansion in Qualicum Beach Sunday, in a day put together to raise money to pay a loan on the property.

The Brown Property Preservation Society filled the grounds with a variety of activities including bocci, a labyrinth, an art show and sale, a barbecue, live music and more. Ron Coulson, who owns the house, gave permission to open the state-ly white mansion for tours.

Sunday's event raised a whopping \$14,500 — including donations from a man who wrote a \$1,000 cheque and Mac Taylor who won the 50/50 draw and turned \$125 back over the

the BPPS. The society must raise \$240,000 by next September to pay off a loan on the last three acres of the 50 acre, old-growth site.



Paving the way with printers' ink

I remember back in January 2001 *THE NEWS* wrote a couple of 'Viewpoints' concerning another great debate by the denizens of Qualicum Beach, which likewise dominated your paper at the time — the purchase of the Brown Property. Your opinions spawned an onslaught of acerbic letters, and I attempted to lighten the atmosphere then by writing a little satire. And in view of the fires that are presently ravaging the Interior of B.C., some may now question the wisdom of choosing to keep an old-growth forest so close to downtown.

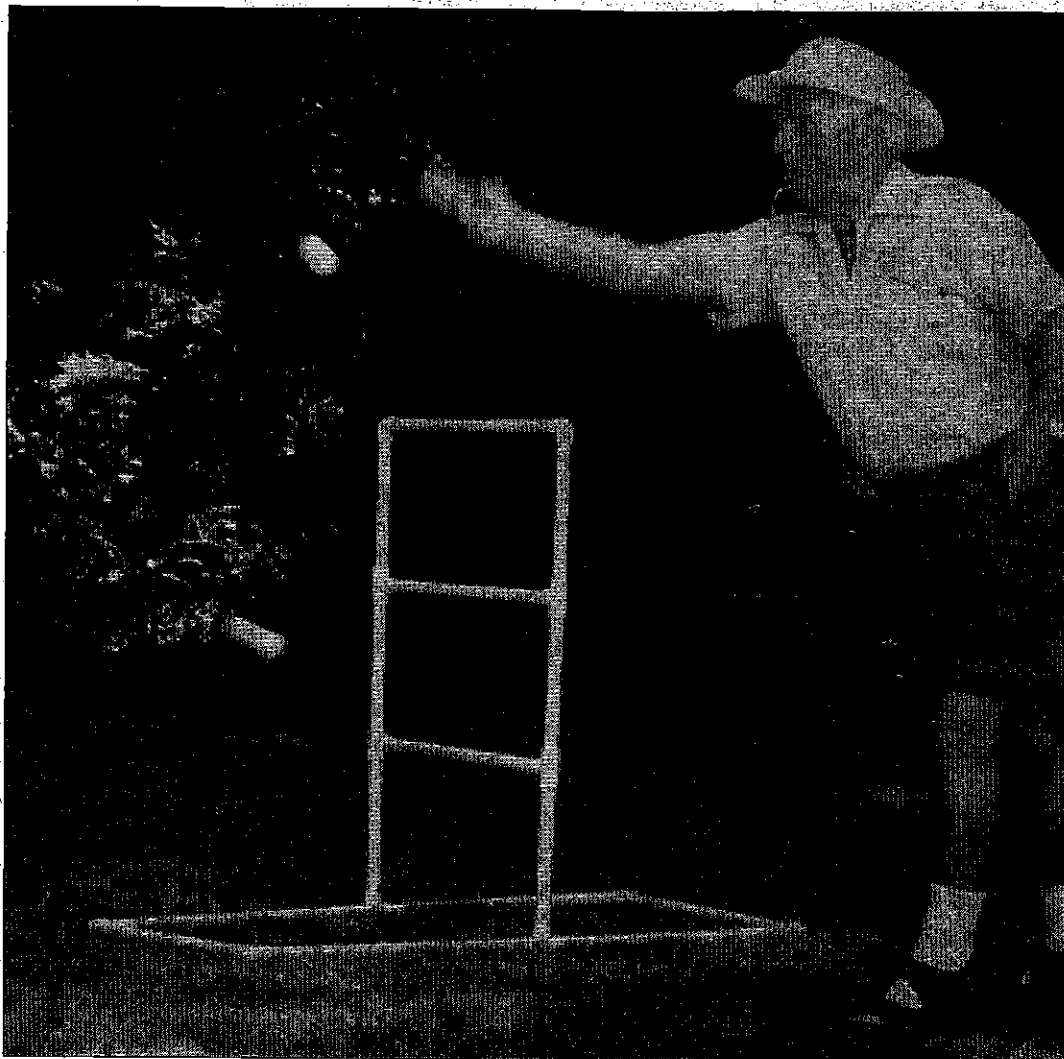
We all know that the road to Hell is paved with good intentions, but it seems to me that the road to the new school may well be paved with printers' ink.

"News" 5.9.2003

Bernie Smith
Parksville

ink

(Part of letter)



GENEVRE POIRIER/THE STAR

Fun fund raiser

George Whitford enjoyed a game of Arizona golf at the Brown Mansion Sunday afternoon. The Mansion was open to the public for a special fund raiser to raise money for the Brown Preservation Society, which must raise \$240,000 by September 2004 for the three remaining acres of old-growth forest.

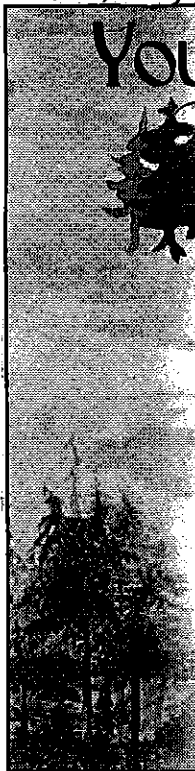
YOU MADE ^{"News" 26.8.2003} **IT HAPPEN....**



The Brown Property Preservation Society would like to THANK all those who made "A DAY AT THE BROWN MANSION" last Sunday, August 17, such a successful fund raiser. Thanks to your help our "Countdown" to the September 1, 2004 deadline is off to a great start!

Board Of Directors
BROWN PROPERTY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

THANK YOU!



Heritage Forest garage sale one for the record book

This may be a world record and worthy of Guinness documentation!

The category would have to be "Garage sales in communities of 7000 people or less" but the Qualicum Beach event on Sept. 20, held as a fund-raiser for the Heritage Forest, netted \$10,200 in just 5 hours!

The Brown Property Preservation Society is faced with repayment of a \$280,000 loan which they took out with the Royal Bank in the fall of 2002. The loan buys the last 4 acres of the 50 acre old-growth Douglas Fir forest right in the middle of the Town of Qualicum Beach. It is a project the Society has been working hard on for 8 years.

The Brown family property almost became just another housing development until a small group of dedicated and concerned local citizens said "NO!" and proceeded, along with the Town of Qualicum Beach, to raise funds to buy the land.

The Society and the Town have ownership of 46 acres - full payment of the loan by August of 2004 will ensure the last 4 acres is bought and the entire Heritage

Forest belongs to everyone in the community.

Since fund raising began several years ago, the Brown Property Preservation Society had raised \$1.5 million and even since September of last year, the Society has brought in nearly

\$70,000.

The garage sale, which had offerings from over 100 local households, comes just after a special fun day fund-raiser in August at the old Brown Mansion that raised \$14,000.

Tax-deductible donations can

be made for this most worthwhile project. Send them to: The Brown Property Preservation Society, c/o Walker-Wilson Law Offices, 707 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 2K1

"Totem" October 2003

Forest may get boost from UVic

By STEVEN HEYWOOD

NEWS REPORTER

23.9.2003

Keeping Qualicum Beach's Heritage Forest green has been job one for the local commission tasked with its upkeep. In seeking new ways to maintain its natural beauty, commission members are reaching out to the academic world.

Heritage Forest Commission member Jim Christakos said they are exploring partnerships with institutions such as Malaspina University College and the University of Victoria. If they can work with professors to establish study projects on forest health, Christakos said it would only benefit the community.

"The Heritage Forest is a very special area," he said. "Even the Western Canada Wilderness Committee said the Douglas Fir inside represents one-fifth of the trees that are protected on the west coast."

Having the educational world involved in studying the ecosystem of the forest — how it recovers from clearing and other damage

for instance — is something Christakos said would lend the site a lot more protection.

The main entrance to Qualicum Beach's Heritage Forest is an arch, located on East Crescent Road. Trails run through the wooded area, and there are maps and interpretive signs marking points in the forest. Christakos said there are three ways in, which all converge at the Brown Mansion site of recent fundraisers for forest acquisition and preservation.

Christakos said if they can partner with UVic or Malaspina biology departments, more information about the health of the area, and how it can be maintained over the years, might be developed.

"We have only been working in there for the last four or five years," he explained. "The people in the community have rallied for (this cause)."

At this stage, Christakos said it's too early to say if either Malaspina or UVic will bite, but he will be putting the idea forward to both institutions once the busy back-to-school season has passed.



FUNDRAISING EFFORTS ARE helping to preserve the last four acres of the Heritage Forest.

Brown property garage sale brings in \$10,000

"News" 26.9.2003

They're on their way. Members of the Brown Property Preservation Society are closer to their fundraising goal after raising more than \$10,000 at a large community garage sale.

Held at the Qualicum Beach Community Hall on Sept. 20, the garage sale was a fundraiser for the Heritage Forest.

It netted \$10,200 in just five hours.

The Brown Property Preservation Society is faced with repayment of a \$280,000 loan which they took out with the Royal Bank in the fall of 2002.

The loan covers the purchase of the last four acres of the 50-acre, old-growth Douglas Fir forest right in the middle of Qualicum Beach. It is a project the Society has been working on for eight years.

Once the private domain of Home Oil owner, the late R.A. 'Bobby' Brown, the Heritage Forest is still known to many people as the Brown Property.

It almost became another housing development until a small group of citizens proceeded, along with the Town of Qualicum Beach, to raise funds to buy the land.

The society and the town have ownership of 46 acres — full payment of the loan by August of 2004 will ensure the last four acres are bought and the entire Heritage Forest belongs to the community.

Since fundraising began several years ago, the Brown Property Preservation Society has raised \$1.5 million and since September of last year, the society has brought in nearly \$70,000.

The garage sale, which included donations from over 100 local households, followed on the heels of a day-long fundraiser in August at the old Brown Mansion that raised \$14,000.

Tax-deductible donations can be made to this project. Donations can be sent to:

The Brown Property Preservation Society, c/o Walker-Wilson Law Offices, 707 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 2K1.

The Brown Property Preservation Society

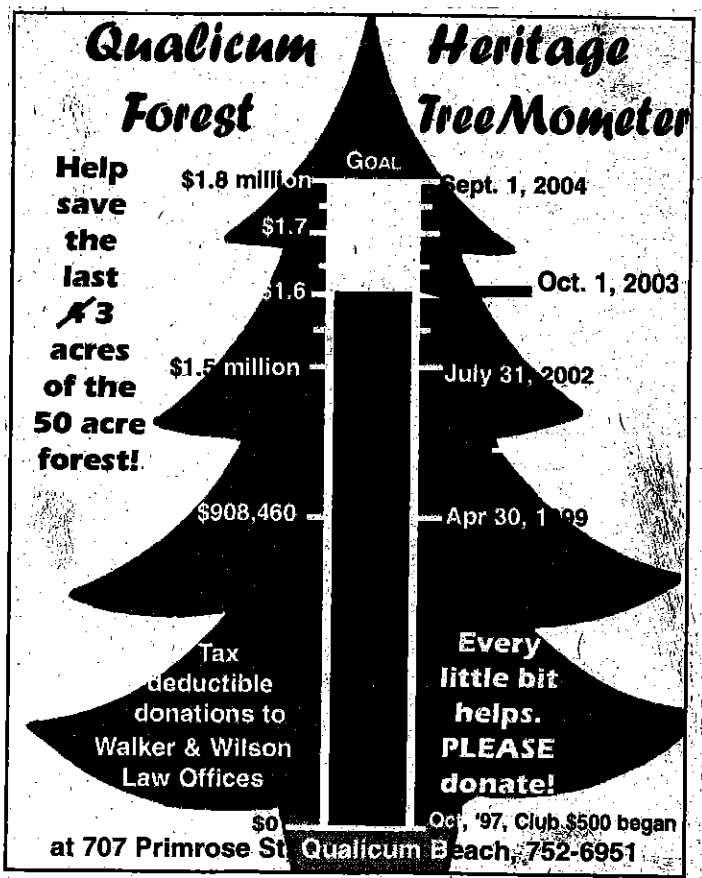
would like to acknowledge all those who made the garage sale such a successful event last Saturday, September 20.

Our **SINCEREST THANKS** to our donors, volunteers, supporting businesses, the media and customers.

With your generous support we raised over \$10,000.

The garage sale committee, BPPS

"News" 26.9.2003



October 2003 "Totem"

Brown Society selects new board

For the Star

The Brown Property Preservation Society (BPPS) held its AGM at the Civic Centre in Qualicum Beach, Nov 30 and a new slate of officers was nominated and allowed their names to stand for the BPPS board for the year 2004. At a meeting Nov. 4 at the home of Paul Ryniak, the upcoming executive positions were discussed and the following officers selected.

President – Paul Ryniak;

Vice President/Secretary – Ernie Shimkus; Treasurer – Anne Sharp; Past President – Keith Smith. Also serving on the Board are four directors as follows: David Field, Ann Klees (Committee Liaison), Lee Rainey, Nancy Whelan (Media Relations/P.R.)

Following these appointments, plans for the coming year were discussed with particular emphasis on Christmas activities, and the push

to raise funds to pay off the bank loan by September 2004.

Members of BPPS and the public are encouraged to watch in the press and other media for further interesting and exciting developments in the society's push to secure all of the remaining available lands for the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest. The next BPPS Board meeting will be at the home of Ernie Shimkus Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Brown Society launches final fund-raising push

For the Star

20.11.2003

The Brown Property Preservation Society has launched its final push to save all 50 acres of the Brown Property, now officially named The Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach.

This effort will be a nine-month dash to pay off the bank loan used to purchase the last of the property and due in September 2004.

Christened "The 200 Dollar Dash", this campaign needs only one thousand donations of \$200 to reach its goal. Based on the past generosity of the community and others acquainted with the value of this forest land, new BPPS President, Paul Ryniak is optimistic that The Dash will succeed, especially as there has been an immediate response of 17 pledges totaling \$3,400.

The actual bank loan stands at \$207,000 at the moment, and the immediate goal is to lower that amount to round figures before the end of this year. The progress of The 200 Dollar Dash will be recorded and publicized monthly. The names of donors will be published, with their consent, and a graphic "tree" indicator will be regularly updated in \$50 000 increments in the Qualicum Beach Town Hall foyer. A new kiosk at the stable area of the Heritage Forest will feature a smaller record of donations to date.

Ryniak is BPPS president

The Brown Property Preservation Society held its annual general meeting at the civic centre in Qualicum Beach, on Thursday, Oct. 30 when a new slate of officers stood for election to the society's board for 2004.

The results include:

President — Paul Ryniak; vice president/secretary — Ernie Shimkus; treasurer — Anne Sharp; past president — Keith Smith. Also serving on the board are four directors: David Field, Ann Klees (committee liaison), Lee Rainey, Nancy Whelan (media relations/P.R.)

Following these appointments, plans for the coming year were discussed with particular emphasis on Christmas activities and the push to raise funds to pay off the bank loan by September, 2004.

The next BPPS board meeting will be at the home of Ernie Shimkus on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

"News" 21.11.2003

Brown Property Society making final financial push

For the Star 23.11.2003

The Brown Property Preservation Society has launched its final push to save all 50 acres of the Brown Property, now officially named The Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach. This effort will be a nine-month dash to the finish line to pay off the bank loan used to purchase the last of the property, and due in September 2004.

Christened "The 200 Dollar Dash", this campaign needs only one thousand donations of \$200 to reach its goal. Based on the past generosity of the community and others acquainted with the value of

this forest land, new BPPS President, Paul Ryniak is optimistic that The Dash will succeed, especially as there has been an immediate response of 17 pledges totaling \$3,400.

The actual bank loan stands at \$209,000 at the moment, and the first and immediate goal is to lower that amount to round figures before the end of this year.

The progress of The 200 Dollar Dash will be recorded and publicized monthly.

The names of donors will be published, with their consent, and a graphic "tree" indica-

tor will be regularly updated in \$50,000 increments in the Qualicum Beach Town Hall foyer. A new kiosk at the stable area of the Heritage Forest will feature a smaller record of donations to date.

Donations to The 200 Dollar Dash, or contributions in any amount can be made at the Qualicum Beach offices of Walker & Wilson at #2 - 207 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 2K1. (250 752 6951)

The Star B19

the Brown Mansion

Wednesday, November 26, 2003

Come see the Christmas festivities at

For the Star

A highlight of the holiday season in Qualicum Beach Dec. 13, will be "Christmas Festivities" at the Brown Mansion, 292 Crescent Road East, and simultaneously at the (Old) Community Hall on Memorial Ave. from 11 a.m. till 3:30 p.m.

Local musical performers will add holiday background music to several of the Mansion's rooms decked out in traditional Christmas decor.

The entrance and rooms will be decorated by the Q.B. Historical &

Museum Society, The Cheshire Cat Antique Mall and Sharon Wood Interior Re-Design, Eyes on You, and Whiskey Creek Nursery.

Added to this will be a silent auction of fifteen to twenty items, a 50/50 draw, and a Christ-

mas boutique. Meanwhile, at the Community Hall, open from 11 AM, there will be local musical performances from 11:30 till noon, from 1 - 1:30, and from 2:30 - 3. Also at the hall, you can participate in the silent auction, the 50/50 draw, enjoy refresh-

ments, and purchase holiday treats at the bake sale. Only 400 tickets will be available, to be purchased in advance at Mulberry Bush Bookstores in Qualicum at 130 W. 2nd Ave. or beside Lefty's in the Thrifty's mall in Parksville. A \$10 ticket

is good for admission to both venues and includes the cost of refreshments at the hall. All proceeds in support of The Brown Property Preservation Society. For further information, please call 250 752 9830 or 250 752 9087.

Forest fundraiser a dash to the finish

The Brown Property Preservation Society has launched its final push to save all 50 acres of the Brown Property, now officially named The Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach. This effort will be a nine-month dash to the finish line to pay off the bank loan used to purchase the last of the property, and due in September 2004.

Christened "The 200 Dollar Dash", this campaign needs only one thousand donations of \$200 to reach its goal.

The actual bank loan stands at \$209 000 at the moment, and the first and immediate goal is to lower that amount to round figures before the end of this year. The progress of The 200 Dollar Dash will be recorded and publicized monthly. A graphic "tree" indicator will be regularly updated in \$50 000 increments in the Qualicum Beach Town Hall foyer.

Just 28 people, each making a \$200 donation by December 31, 2003, would complete the first leg

of the race and mean less than \$200 000 necessary to complete The Dash. All donations, big or small received by this deadline are eligible for tax receipts for the current year. Where else can you buy yourself a forest for Christmas?

Donations to The 200 Dollar Dash, or contributions in any amount can be made at the Qualicum Beach offices of Walker & Wilson at #2 - 207 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach, BC; V9K 2K1; 752 6951.

Heritage Forest Christmas Festivities



Saturday, December 13, 11 am - 3:30 pm

At The Brown Mansion

292 Crescent Rd East
Decked out in Holiday Attire

- Silent Auction & 50/50 Draw
- Christmas Boutique
- Local Musicians perform

At QB

Community Hall
644 Memorial Ave

Traditional Yuletide Decore

- Silent Auction & 50/50 Draw
- Refreshments & Bake Sale
- Local Musicians perform

Tickets - \$10

Covers admission to both Brown Mansion and Community Hall. Hall refreshments included in ticket price.
Tickets on sale at Mulberry Bush Books in QB and Parksville.
All proceeds to the Brown Property Preservation Society

Heritage Forest Christmas fundraiser

A highlight of the holiday season this year will be "Christmas Festivities" at the Brown Mansion, 292 Crescent Rd East, and at the QB Community Hall on Memorial Ave on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 11 am - 3:30 pm. Several rooms of the Brown Mansion will be decked out in traditional Christmas décor thanks to the Q.B. Historical & Museum Society, Cheshire Cat Antique Mall, Sharon Wood Interior Re-Design, Eyes on You, and Whiskey Creek Nursery. Added to this will be a silent auction of up to 20 items, a 50/50 draw, a Christmas boutique and live musical entertainment. At the Community Hall, you can participate in the silent auction, the 50/50 draw, enjoy refreshments, purchase baked goodies and listen to local musicians. Tickets are \$10 available at Mulberry Bush Book Stores. Only 400 tickets will be sold. All proceeds in support of The Brown Property Preservation Society. For further information, please call 752-9830.

Brown Property new executive

The Brown Property Preservation Society (BPPS) chose its executive for 2004 at an annual general meeting on Nov. 30. Officers are: president - Paul Ryniak, vice-president/secretary - Ernie Shimkus, treasurer - Anne Sharp, past president - Keith Smith. Directors are: David Field, Ann Klees (Committee Liaison), Lee Rainey and Nancy Whelan (Media Relations/P.R.)



The 200 Dollar Dash

Starting: October 30, 2003
Finishing: August 31, 2004

Enter the race to pay off the remaining \$207,000 owing by the Brown Property Preservation Society on the bank loan for the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach.

1,000 donations of \$200 = \$200,000!

Donors joining the race to date: John L. Boulton, Jim & Doris Christakos, Bob & Betty Drew-Brook, Sally Hemingson, Deborah McKeen, Andy & Gisela Pope, John Pope, Paul Ryniak & Lois Hill, Tony & Anne Sharp, "Your Name."

Let's finish this race!

Publication of donor's names by permission only
Official Income Tax Receipts issued
Cheques payable to Brown Preservation Society

C/O Walker Wilson
#2-707 Primrose
Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 2K1
For more information call 752-9830

Totem
Dec. 2003



STEVEN HEWWOOD PHOTO

THE BROWN MANSION on East Crescent will be alive with music and festive spirit on Dec. 13.

Have a Brown Christmas

"News" 2.12.2003

One of the joys of walking or driving through towns and villages on these dark December nights is the fleeting glimpse we get of the light and color inside the homes we pass.

The warmth beyond the windows touches some yearning in our hearts to stop, enter and share the glow within.

Alas, we are but passing strangers and are neither invited nor welcome to intrude.

But wait!

For a few hours a classic mansion in the midst of our community is about to open its doors, display its holiday grandeur, and let us wander through rooms decorated for a Christmas in the early days of the last century.

On Saturday, December 13, from 11 a.m. 'till 3:30 p.m. the Brown Mansion at 292 Crescent Road East in Qualicum Beach will be waiting to greet us in all its holiday finery. Here is an opportunity to see beyond the lighted windows, as the Brown Property Preservation Society invites us to their Christmas Festivities.

So let's imagine it now — the bough-decked door swinging wide, the huge entrance hall redolent with the scent of evergreens, fireplaces ready for a special visitor, and the gracious staircase leading to the upper storey of the mansion.

The music of local performers will echo through the building on this particular day.

The Youth Choir under the direction of Allison Shaw and Carolyn Hatley, Marjorie Koers on her violin, the EveryVoice Choir directed by Kelly Townsend, and Fred Saliani on his classical guitar will add to the holiday ambiance.

In various rooms we can enjoy the Christmas decor arranged by several local groups and businesses, browse the Christmas boutique, participate in a silent auction and trust to our good luck in a 50/50 draw.

At the same time, up in the village centre, another venue for Christmas festivities will be in full swing at the (old) Qualicum Community Hall on Memorial Avenue.

Here we can listen to the holiday music of Phil Copple and friends as piano and voices blend on old favorites, and the Noteworthy's, a choir under the direction of Larry Stubbins, and the EveryVoice Choir provide music that will transport us to Christmases past and present.

At the hall we can enjoy tasty refreshments, pick up fancy bake sale items for our holiday entertaining, and also participate in the silent auction and the 50/50 draw.

Indeed, I must take exception to Dylan Thomas saying that "One Christmas was so much like another," for this year Christmas Festivities at the Mansion and the hall will make it a Christmas like no other.

Only 400 tickets, to be purchased in advance, are available for this event. Each \$10 ticket provides admission to both mansion and hall and includes refreshments.

Extending their Christmas spirit to the community yet again, both Mulberry Bush Bookstores at 130 W. Second Ave. in Q.B. and at the Thriftys' mall in Parksville will have these tickets for sale.

All proceeds from Christmas Festivities will help the BPPS pay down the loan used to purchase the remaining acres of the Heritage Forest.

For further information please call 752-9830 or 752-9087.



Williwaws
NANCY WHELAN

Heritage Forest enters critical fundraising stage with mansion bash

By **STEVEN HEYWOOD**
NEWS REPORTER 5.12.2003

With a quick dash to the finish line, members of the Brown Property Preservation Society are hoping to have their loan paid off and the entire Heritage Forest area of Qualicum Beach free and clear.

That finish line is September, 2004 — when a \$209,000 loan comes due that the society took out to secure the final 50 acres of the property. To reach it, the BPPS has started the 200 Dollar Dash. Public relations director Nancy Whelan said the society hopes 1,000 people will each donate \$200 between now and the end of August next year. That, she said, will help the society reach its goal.

"We are already off to a pretty good start," Whelan said. "People have come forward already with over \$2,000."

All donations, big or small, Whelan said, are welcome.

The society couldn't let the holiday season go by without an additional fund raiser. Next Saturday, Dec. 13, the BPPS will host Christmas at Brown Mansion. Rooms in the large home will be decorated by a number of Oceanside businesses and organizations. Whelan said the dining room is being decorated by the Qualicum Beach Historical and Museum Society. Eyes on You (a fabric artist at The Old School House art centre) will spruce up another space. The entrance is being tackled by the Whiskey Creek Nursery.

A silent auction and 50/50 draw will be run at the mansion, and at the Qualicum Beach Community Hall, said Whelan. A ticket of \$10 will get people into both venues, featuring refreshments and music by local choirs.

The event starts at 11:30 a.m. at both the Brown Mansion and the community hall, with half-hour music performances at 11:30, 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. It wraps up at 3 p.m. Whelan added there will be only 400 tickets available in advance at the Mulberry Books locations in Parksville and Qualicum Beach. Donations to the 200 Dollar Dash can be made at the offices of Walker and Wilson, #2-207 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach. For information about both events, call 752-9830 or 752-9087.

A Brown Christmas^{News}

9.12.2003

Enjoy Christmas Festivities at the Brown Mansion and the (Old) Community Hall on Memorial Ave. on Saturday, Dec. 13th.

Local musical performers will add holiday background music to several of the Mansion's rooms decked out in traditional Christmas decor.

The mansion will be open from 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, at the Community Hall, there will be local musical performances from 11:30 a.m.-noon, from 1 p.m.-1:30 p.m., and from 2:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 and are good for admission into both venues. Tickets can be purchased at Mulberry Bush Bookstores in Parksville and Qualicum. All proceeds in support of The Brown Property Preservation Society. Call 752-9830 or 752-9087.

Make it a Brown Christmas Dec. 13

The Star

11.12.2003

The Brown Property Preservation Society hosts "Christmas Festivities" Dec. 13, 11am - 3:30.

Tickets are available at Mulberry Bush Book Stores for \$10 for the day. Contact 752-9830 or 9087

"Star" 6, 12, 2003



Festive celebration

Volunteers are busy decorating the Brown Mansion in Quailcum Beach this week for some special Christmas festivities on Dec. 13. From 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Brown Mansion will be decked out in traditional Christmas decor with musicians performing in different rooms. Events include a silent auction, Christmas boutique and 50/50 draw. Other festivities will take place at the Quailcum Beach Community Hall on Memorial. Musicians will serenade visitors as they enjoy refreshments, bake sale items, silent auction, and more. Tickets are available at Mulberry Bush Book Stores for \$10 for the day. Contact 752-9830 or 752-9087. All proceeds will go to the Brown Property Preservation Society. Above, left to right: Lyn Wilson; Sharon Wood and Paul Ryniak

Doors swing open on Brown Mansion Saturday

By **JESSICA KERR**

NEWS REPORTER 12.12.2003

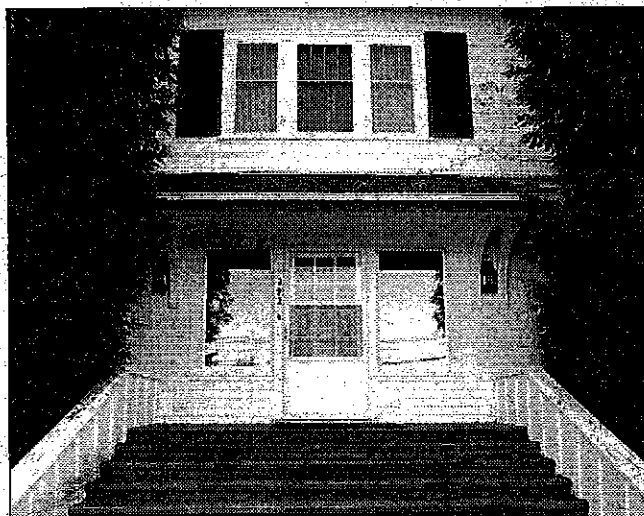
The Brown Property Preservation Society opens the Brown family mansion to the public this weekend in a way it never has before.

This year the society is holding a Christmas fund-raiser and it is showcasing the mansion in holiday style.

"The mansion will be decorated and furnished in a yuletide setting," said Lois Hill, a member of the Christmas event committee. "It is really worth seeing, people have not seen it in this way before."

The society is holding Christmas festivities at the mansion and at the old community hall (on Memorial Ave.) simultaneously on Saturday.

There will be live music, a silent auction and a 50/50 draw at both locations. Margery Koers, the Youth and EveryVoice choirs, and classical guitarist Fred Saliani will be performing at the mansion.



THE BROWN FAMILY mansion opens this weekend.

The EveryVoice choir will also be performing at the hall on Saturday along with Phil Copple and friends, and the Noteworthyies.

The silent auction will run concurrently between the two locations. The items will be on display at the mansion and photographs of the items will be put up at the community hall. Between 15 and 20 items will be up for auction, including a bonsai tree, limited edition prints and golf gift certificates.

The auction will be updated every half hour by cell phone, Hill said.

The entrance and rooms of the mansion are being decorated by the Qualicum Beach Historical and Museum Society, the Cheshire Cat Antique Mall and Sharon Wood Interior Re-Design, Eyes on You, and Whiskey Creek Nursery.

Both the mansion and the hall will be open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 and are going quickly, only about 100 are left, said Hill. Ticket prices include admission to both venues and refreshments at the community hall.

Tickets can be purchased at Mulberry Bush Bookstores in Parksville and Qualicum. All proceeds go to the Brown Property Preservation Society.

For more information please call 752-9830 or 752-9087.



The 200 Dollar Dash

Starting: October 30, 2003

Finishing: August 31, 2004

Enter the race to pay off the amount owed by the Brown Property Preservation Society on the bank loan for the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach. Just 1,000 donations of \$200 each were needed to raise the \$200,000 owed when the race started on Oct. 31, 2003.

Loan balance to date - \$189,000

Donors joining the race in December: Anonymous x 3, Signe Boughner, Joyce & Bob Brooks, Alan & Elizabeth Campbell, John & Arlene England, Bob & Peggy Hodge, Alfred & Patricia Humphreys, John Lowe-Wylde, Liese Lowe-Wylde, Ruth & Larry Mandt, Kenneth & Elizabeth McKenzie, Rowland & Wilma Mills, Evelyn Owens, Keith & Joy Smith, Pete & Lynn Tomlinson, Anhe Truesdale, Dr. & Mrs. W.M.G. Wilson.

Let's finish this race!

Publication of donor's names by permission only
Official Income Tax Receipts issued

Cheques payable to Brown Preservation Society

C/O Walker Wilson

#2-707 Primrose

Jan, 2004 Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 2K1

For more information call 752-9830



Seasonal songs

The District 69 Youth Choir sang a variety of Christmas tunes at the Brown Property fund-raiser in Quailcum Beach on Saturday.

GENEVIE POIRIER/THE STAR

Brown Mansion's Christmas fest a sold-out event

The Brown Property Preservation Society's "Christmas Festivities" at the Mansion and Community Hall in Qualicum Beach on Saturday, Dec. 13 was a successful event with the sale of all 400 advance tickets.

Both mansion and hall saw a constant flow of people enjoying the holiday music presented by local groups,

taking a break to enjoy refreshments, participating in the silent auction, purchasing holiday baked goods, and simply enjoying the festive spirit present in the beautifully decorated mansion while meeting and visiting with friends and acquaintances.

The BPPS extends holiday greetings and a sincere thank you to all who

helped, contributed, and attended, to assure the success of this fun-filled day.

Ten thousand dollars was raised to help pay down the Heritage Forest loan. The 50/50 draw winners were Eileen Dobson and Peggy Snyder.

Nancy Whelan
"News" 2-1-2004 Qualicum Beach



The 200 Dollar Dash

Starting: October 30, 2003

Finishing: August 31, 2004

to 1 km
Feb. 200

Enter the race to pay off the amount owed by the Brown Property Preservation Society on the bank loan for the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach. Just 1,000 donations of \$200 each were needed to raise the \$200,000 owed when the race started on Oct. 31, 2003.

Loan balance to date - \$181,000

Donors joining the race in January: Anonymous x 7, Candace & John Ashbridge, Hendrika & Gerard Blom, Jean & William Broadley, Barb & Peter Buhler, Carolyn's Friends, Gill & John Coady, Mary & David Field, Dorothy Fraser, Donna & Barry Furneaux, Beatriz & Garry Graham, Gloria Grant, Vicki Harp & Ernie Shimkus, Alastair & Stewart Hemingson, Eva Hilborn, Margaret & Martin Hill, Tom Ingham, Marilyn & Frank Kathrein, Anne & Leo Klees, Renee Kraft, Maureen LaPlaca & Phil Cople, Margit Lindquist, Audrey & George Lynch-Staunton (In memory of Dr & Mrs Wilson), Birgitta & Dr. James Mick, Margaret & Morris Pacula, Meryn Patten, Carol & John Roberts, Robin & Sandy Robinson, Cora & Arthur Skipsey, Faye Smith & Joe Rosenblatt, Rosalee Sullivan, Sheila & Robert Tait, Susan Tait & Richard Scoffom, Marilyn & George Turpin, Howard Tyner, Nancy Whelan and Anne & Bud Wilson.

Let's finish this race!

Publication of donor's names by permission only. Official Income Tax Receipts issued. Cheques payable to:

Brown Preservation Society, C/O Walker Wilson
#2-707 Primrose, Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 2K1, 752-9830



The 200 Dollar Dash

Starting: October 30, 2003

Finishing: August 31, 2004

*Totem
March
2004*

Enter the race to pay off the amount owed by the Brown Property Preservation Society on the bank loan for the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach. Just 1,000 donations of \$200 each were needed to raise the \$200,000 owed when the race started on Oct. 31, 2003.

Loan balance to date - \$176,000

Donors joining the race in January: Anonymous x 4, Russell Bergstrom, Brazier Family (John, Dagmar, Mike & Ruthie) in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Wilson, David & Elaine Evans, Alan & Roberta Fraser, Anna Grieve & Alfred Heringa, Harry & Dorothy Large, Bob & Mary Rae, John & Deborah Rowan, Legg in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Wilson, Grethe & Thomas Russell, Gary & Ruth Statham, Teunis & Jennifer Westbroek in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Wilson, Elsemarie Wilson.

Let's finish this race!

Publication of donor's names by permission only. Official Income Tax Receipts issued. Cheques payable to:

Brown Preservation Society, C/O Walker Wilson
#2-707 Primrose, Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 2K1
752-9830



The 200 Dollar Dash

Starting: October 30, 2003

Finishing: August 31, 2004

*Totem
April
2004*

Enter the race to pay off the amount owed by the Brown Property Preservation Society on the bank loan for the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach. Just 1,000 donations of \$200 each were needed to raise the \$200,000 owed when the race started on Oct. 31, 2003.

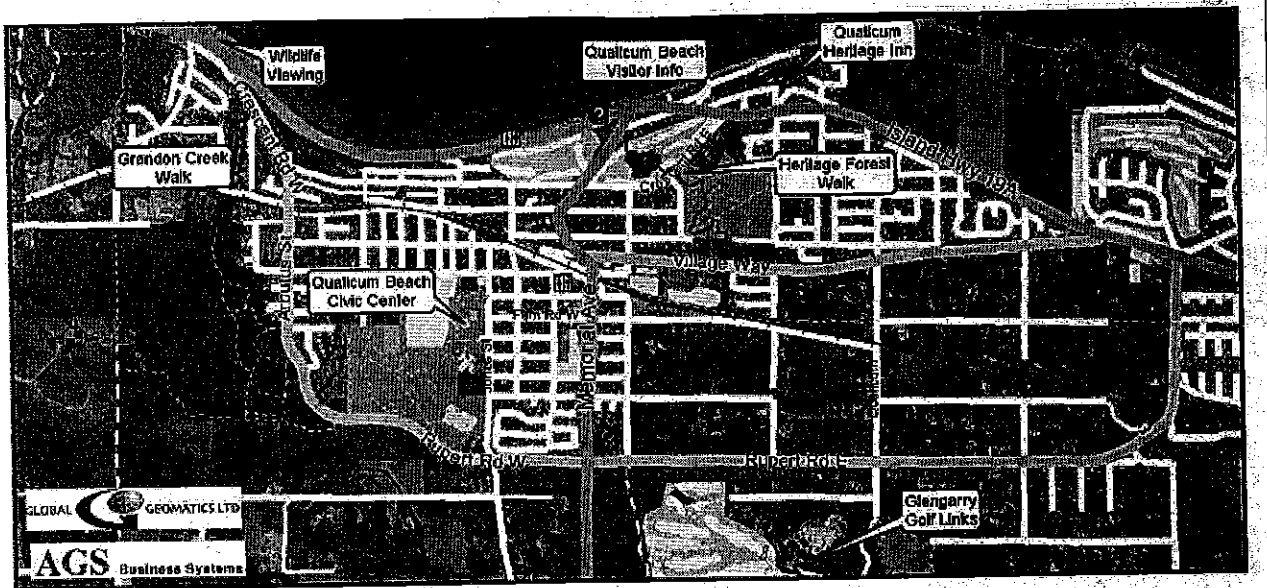
Loan balance to date - \$174,000

Donors joining the race in March: Anonymous x 2, Betty Dufour, Ryan & Ann Geboers, Fraser & Gwen Harp, John Howell in memory of Sheila Howell, Pat Jacobson, Ian Lindsay, Ann Lindsay, Jonathan Lindsay, Heather Lindsay, Rhianna Lindsay, Sushi Mon Restaurant (Qualicum Beach).

Let's finish this race!

Publication of donor's names by permission only. Official Income Tax Receipts issued. Cheques payable to:

Brown Preservation Society,
C/O Walker Wilson
#2-707 Primrose, Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 2K1
752-9830



Guided and self-guided tours are 'Brantastic'

By JESSICA KERR

NEWS REPORTER 30.3.2004

This weekend's Brant Wildlife Festival offers a chance to see parts of Oceanside up close and personal.

There are a number of tour and walks scheduled throughout the weekend.

'Brantastic Observations,' with biologist Terri Martin, is a three-hour wildlife viewing bus tour.

Martin studies the Brant and will "take you to all the Brant hot spots," said Brenda Paul, the festival's manager.

The bus, provided by Pacific Rainforest Adventure Tours, will depart from the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre at 9:30 a.m. and the tour will wrap up at 12:30 p.m.

"Brantastic Observations' costs \$30 plus GST. Seating is limited, to reserve a spot call 248-3667.

Another addition to this year's festival is the Englishman River Ecosystems tour. John Cooper, an ornithologist (a person who studies birds), and Tim Clermont, Vancouver Island Land manager with The Nature Trust, will take people along Parksville's Englishman River by bus.

The tour also encompasses a walking tour around Pacific Shores Nature Resort including the hatchery, the river and

the estuary before heading back to the resort.

The tour runs from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. and includes an hour for lunch at the resort. Pre-registration for this event is required by Thursday (April 1). The cost is \$60 plus GST.

To register call 248-3667.

There are self-guided tours available through Qualicum Heritage Forest and Grandon Creek, which is also in Qualicum Beach. Both of the self-guided tours are free and open anytime on Saturday and Sunday.

Colin Bartlett, know by some as the 'bird man', will host the ABC's of Birding on Sunday.

Bartlett, who owns Backyard Wild Bird and Nature store, will lead a walk and bird identification session beginning at Grandon Creek in Qualicum Beach.

The walk starts at 1 p.m. and wraps up around 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$5.

Island Community Notebook April Day

Heritage Forest fundraisers

The Brown Property Preservation Society is holding three fundraising events on April 23 & 24 at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre to raise money to pay off the loan on the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest. On April 23 at 7 pm the Island Troubadours will give a cabaret-style concert of music from the 1920s to '50s. Tickets \$12 each. On April 24 from 10 am to 3 pm there will be an Arts & Craft Sale featuring 60 vendors including artists Dan Gray, Arnie Fisk, Bill Helin, Ken Kirkby, Bill Townsend and Don Jean Louis. Admission by donation. On April 24 at 7 pm there will be a Jazz and Blues Concert featuring Linda Walker Jazz Ensemble, Gerry Barnum and Layla. Tickets \$15 available at the Mulberry Bush Book Stores and Hidden Waters Gift Shop. For info 752-9830.

**Brown Property Preservation Society
Fundraisers for Heritage Forest
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre**

totem **Friday, April 23, 7 pm** *April 2004*

The Island Troubadours

A musical revue for the 1920s to '50s. Cabaret table seating, refreshments, door prizes, 50/50 draw
Tickets \$12 or \$10 each for Table of 10

Saturday, April 24, 10 am - 3 pm

Arts, Crafts & More Sale

Over 60 arts & crafts vendors including Feature Artists: Dan Gray, Arnie Fisk, Bill Hélin, Ken Kirkby, Bill Townsend & Don Jean Louis. Food & refreshments, door prizes, Admission by donation.

Saturday, April 24, 7 - 11 pm

V.I. Jazz & Blues Concert

Featuring Linda Walker Jazz Ensemble, Gerry Barnum & Layla, No-host bar & reception with Art Sale artists, refreshments, door prizes, 50/50 draw. Tickets \$15

*All tickets available at Mulberry Bush
Book Stores and Hidden Waters Gift Shop
Website: www.qualicumbeach.net/heritage 752-9830*

**Weekend of music, art will raise money
for Qualicum Beach's Heritage Forest**

Star 14.4.2004
The Brown Property Preservation Society is on its final fund raising push to save the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

The last few acres of the property was purchased last fall with a bank loan, which is due this fall. The Society has been working hard to raise the money through auctions, garage sales, concerts and garden tours.

On April 23 and 24 the Society will present a Van Isle Concert. Saturday, The Island Troubadours will perform

in a musical revue from the 20s to the 50s. It starts at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$12. On Sunday a major arts and crafts sale will feature artists Bill Helin, Dan Gray, Arnie Fisk, Ken Kirby and Bill Townsend. There will be food, prizes and admission is by donation. That evening there will be a Jazz and Blues concert featuring Linda Walker and her Jazz Ensemble, Gerry Barnum and Layla. Tickets are \$15. For more information call 752-9830.

You may think 'contrast' would be the better word, but for one important thing they have in common – a park in the middle of town. New York has its Central Park; Qualicum Beach has its Brown Property or, officially, its Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

Neither of these oases of calm in the midst of the fray was come by easily. Luckily, New York had visionary landscape architects Olmstead and Vaux plus some forward-thinking bureaucrats in 1853, and Qualicum Beach, in 1996, had the Brown Property Preservation Society (BPPS) and an understanding council. The similarities of these two disparate communities pretty much end there.

Today's Central Park thrives on what was once but a swampy, rocky site when Olmstead and Vaux came up with their grandiose plan ... and here's the most mind-boggling fact: not one of Central Park's maze of trees was growing when the park was designed 150 years ago!

Now think about the treasure we have in the Heritage Forest. A salmon-bearing stream runs through it. Here are some trees more than 400 years old with many others into their second century. Here is a unique stand of rare Sitka spruce. If the whole of the Heritage forest were saved, it would represent a twenty percent increase of old-growth Douglas-fir forest being protected in B.C. – the only province in Canada where such a forest is found.

Here we have a park ready made and natural. What is it worth to us?

Surely, a forest in the hand is worth two in the making, if I may garble my metaphors.

When the BPPS was formed its goal was to buy the Brown forest; put in



Williwaws

NANCY WHELAN

walking trails, and make it accessible for residents and visitors to enjoy, and to do so while disturbing or changing as little as possible of the forest's natural character.

The history of the BPPS' efforts to date is a story of dedication and long hours of volunteer work and fundraising. The Brown family helped with several deadline extensions. Donations ranging from loonies to \$200,000 poured in. Some forest was purchased but acres of trees still hung in the balance. Then came concerts, art sales, auctions, community garage sales and home and garden tours. Quality Foods allowed residents to donate their 'points' and matched their \$10 000. An article about the forest in Canadian Gardening generated donations from across the country.

Last August the BPPS, backed by the town of Qualicum Beach, took out a bank loan to secure the remaining few vulnerable acres of forest. This last patch of forest is critical for two reasons; if cleared it will open up an area where severe wind damage

to remaining trees is a distinct possibility; also, that section is a vital catch basin for rainfall that keeps the salmon-bearing stream running year round.

The big catch is that the loan must be repaid by the beginning of September this year. Many thousands have poured in toward this end but the woods aren't out of the woods yet. The fundraising goes on.

Along with the ongoing \$200 Dash for which dollars donated are recorded in the foyer of the QB town hall, the BPPS has scheduled as its first major event of the year, a week-end of fun fundraising for April 23 and 24.

Three varied and gala events will take place at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre on those dates. First up are The Island Troubadours at 7 – 9:30 p.m. on April 23. The Troubadours will present their Musical Revue from the 1920s to the 1950s to an audience enjoying cabaret seating in the main hall.

To keep the evening lively there will be refreshments, door prizes and a 50/50 draw. Tickets are \$12 each or \$10 each in blocks of 10 (one table).

On Saturday, April 24, from 10–3, an Arts and Craft Sale will feature artists Bill Helin, Bill Townsend, Dan Gray, Arnie Fisk, Ken Kirkby, Don Jean Louis, and more.

Admission is by donation with door prizes and food and refreshments. In the evening from 7–11 a Vancouver Island Jazz & Blues Concert will feature Linda Walker and Ensemble, Gerry Barnum, and Layla.

Between 7 and 8 there will be a no-host bar and reception with some of the day's artists.

Tickets are \$15 and are available for the two performances at both Mulberry Bush Stores and the Hidden Waters Gift Shop in Qualicum Beach.

New York we're not, but we can finish this race to keep our own park front and centre.

**The Heritage Forest:
How would
you compare QB
with NYC?**

SHIMKUS, Ernest Max Phillip

Sadly and suddenly passed away April 15, 2004

Known to all as "Ernie", he is survived and will be missed by his loving wife Vicki, children Jody (Bob), Scott (Dianne) Blair (Mandie) and his two loving grandsons MacKenzie and Dylan. Ernie leaves to mourn sisters Marlene Reguly, Dorothy Grandpre and Ruth (Denis) Jeanson as well as his many friends and relatives in both Winnipeg, MB and Qualicum Beach, BC.

Ernie was born in Winnipeg Jan. 16, 1942 and was employed by the Manitoba Telephone System for over 35 years. The last eight years Ernie and Vicki have enjoyed the friends and climate of Qualicum Beach, BC where Ernie remained active golfing, walking and passionately fundraising to preserve the historic Brown property and its old growth Forest. Ernie will be deeply missed by all.

A memorial will be held Friday April 23 @ 1:00 pm, St. Stephen's United Church in Qualicum Beach.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the BROWN PROPERTY PRESERVATION SOCIETY at Walker and Wilson 2-707 Primrose St. Qualicum Beach BC

1600-32

News
2004
April 16

Brown Property Preservation Society FUNDRAISING EVENTS

at the Civic Centre
Qualicum Beach

April 23 • 7-9:30pm

THE ISLAND TROUBADORS

A musical revue of the 20's to 50's
Tickets: \$12 or \$10 each for blocks of 10 (1 table)

April 24 • 10am-3pm

ARTS & CRAFTS SALE & MORE

Over 60 Vendors with Guest artists. Door prizes! Refreshments. Admission by Donation.

April 24 • 7-11pm

VANCOUVER ISLAND JAZZ & BLUES CONCERT

Featuring: Linda Walker & her Jazz Ensemble.
7-8pm - reception w/Artists
8-11pm - Concert: Tickets - \$15

All tickets available at Mulberry Bush Book Shop (Q.B. and Parksville), and Hidden Waters Gift Shop - Q.B.
website: www.qualicumbeach.net/heritage Ph: 752-9830

Start April 17, 2004



FUNDRAISING WEEKEND AT THE QUALICUM BEACH CIVIC CENTRE

APRIL 23, 2004	7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. THE ISLAND TROUBADORS MUSICAL REVUE \$12 or \$10 each
APRIL 24, 2004	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ARTS & CRAFTS SALE Over 60 vendors with guest artists. Door prizes! Refreshments. Admission by donation.
APRIL 24, 2004	7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. VANCOUVER ISLAND JAZZ & BLUES CONCERT Featuring Linda Walker & her Jazz Ensemble. 7-8pm - reception w/Artists 8-11pm - Concert: Tickets - \$15

TICKETS AVAILABLE
Mulberry Bush Book Shop
Parksville & Q.B.
Hidden Waters Gift Shop, Q.B.

Heritage Forest fans dash to save acres this week

By JESSICA KERR

NEWS REPORTER 20.4.2004

The dash to the finish line is on.

The Brown Property Preservation Society has been working to raise money since 1996 to secure the area known as the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

"It's really been a grass roots effort," said Paul Ryniak, president of the Brown Property Preservation Society. The group has not received any large corporate donations or any money from the governments. The property is home to 50 acres of remnant old growth forest. It contains a mix of Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar, Hemlock, Grand Fir and Sitka Spruce trees.

The forest is protected by a covenant to ensure that it remains as an ecological reserve for the purpose of observing and appreciating nature.

Since 1996, the preservation society has raised \$1.63 million, but the group still has to pay off the remaining \$170,000 of its bank loan by September.

With the final fundraising push underway, the society is hosting a weekend of entertainment and activities at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre.

On Friday, April 23 the Island Troubadours will perform its revue of music from the 1920s to the 1950s. The group consists of about 18 performers who put on a two-hour performance. The show is divided into four segments, each one has a different theme and includes a costume change for performers.

The evening's entertainment includes refreshments,



The Brown Property Preservation Society and president Paul Ryniak are continuing fundraising efforts to help pay off a bank loan the society took out to help purchase and protect the Heritage Forest in Qualicum Beach. The society has until September 2004 to pay the remaining \$170,000 of the loan.

door prizes and a 50/50 draw.

Tickets for the Troubadours' performance cost \$12, or \$10 if purchased in blocks of 10.

The Brown Property Preservation Society has a whole day of entertainment and art planned for Saturday.

From 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. there will be an arts and craft sale, featuring artists Bill Helin, Dan Gray, Arnie Fisk, Ken Kirkby, Bill Townsend and Don Jean Louis, to name a few.

Admission to that event is by donation and includes food, refreshments and prizes.

The weekend will culminate with a jazz and blues concert on Saturday night.

The evening begins at 7 p.m. with a reception with some of the artists from the

sale until 8 p.m.

From 8-11:30 p.m. the audience will enjoy music from Layla, Gerry Barnum and Linda Walker and her Jazz ensemble. Walker will be joined by Bill Perison on piano, Brian Stovell on bass and Geoff Bowen on drums. Stovell, a teacher at Malaspina University-College who also taught Perison and Diana Krall, lived in Qualicum Beach as a child and used to deliver papers to the Brown family.

Walker and the other performers have all donated their time for the fundraiser.

"They're doing such wonderful work," said Walker. "It's really important to me to volunteer."

Tickets for the evening performances cost \$15. Tickets for both events are available at Mulberry Bush book store in Parksville and

Qualicum Beach, and at Hidden Waters Gift Shop in Qualicum Beach.

All of the weekend's events take place at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre.

For more information call 752-9830. To find out more about the Brown Property and the preservation society go to www.qualicumbeach.net/heritage.

Brown property fundraising all weekend

By JESSICA KERR
NEWS REPORTER.

23.4.2004

Music and art will come together this weekend to raise money for the Brown Property Preservation Society.

The group is on its final fundraising push, it must raise \$170,000 to pay off a bank loan by the end of August.

The festivities start with the Island Troubadours performance tonight at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre at 7 p.m.

The group will perform its musical revue of hits from the 1920s to the 1950s. The performance features cabaret seating and includes refreshments, door prizes and a 50/50 draw.

Tickets for the Troubadours cost \$12 or \$10 each for a table of 10.

On Saturday, the society is hosting an arts and craft show

and sale from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the civic centre. Featured artists include Bill Helin, Dan Gray, Arnie Fisk, Ken Kirkby, Bill Townsend and Don Jean Louis.

Admission to the show is by donation and there will be food, refreshments and prizes.

And on Saturday night, the fundraiser will wind up with a concert with Layla, Gerry Barnum, and Linda Walker and her jazz ensemble, also at the civic centre.

There will be a reception at 7 p.m. with some of the artists from the art and craft show. The concert runs from 8-11 p.m.

Tickets cost \$15. Tickets for both events are available at Mulberry Bush book stores or at the door. For more information call 752-9830.

For more on the fundraiser see page B3.

Qualicum Beach no longer a town

Editorial

For the first time since it was published in 1992 a revised and updated edition of *Qualicum Beach: A History* has been released.

Considering the pace of change during that period the new edition is more than justified.

Author Brad Wylie even felt compelled to address that issue on the first page by including a revised dedication.

He tipped his hat to those in Qualicum Beach who have maintained its charm while adjusting to its inevitable growth.

To all intents and purposes Qualicum Beach has gone from being a town to a city during that time.

In 1992 there was no traffic light on the main street, no civic centre or swimming pool, no bylaw enforcement officer, no

two-hour parking restrictions, no buildings downtown with elevators, no underground parkades, no noise restrictions, no restrictions on raising chickens within the Town, no public bus service, no ring road, no downtown security patrol, no dog leash bylaw, no burning ban, no DCC's, no Regional Growth Management Strategy and the municipal office was a small box-like building on 2nd Ave.

The population has grown from 5,137 to 7,400 which puts Qualicum Beach well into city status. On July 1st, when the latest boundary expansion takes effect and Chartwell is incorporated, the population will jump to 8,400. (In British Columbia any municipality over 5,000 is con-

sidered a city.)

The revised edition of *Qualicum Beach: A History* documents a number of other major changes over the last decade, some of which have contributed to transformation of the community into a city.

At the top of the list has to be the new Town Hall which opened in the fall of 1997. The two-storey structure represents a quantum leap in terms of the size and scale on the downtown landscape. Despite being located at an elevation lower than most other buildings it towers over the entire downtown.

A similar leap in scale took place in the design of the new Quality Foods store. So dramatic has been the change the revised edition devoted an entire chapter to the company. In the previous edition the 22-year-old company

wasn't even mentioned.

The revised edition also includes chapters on the establishment of Heritage Forest and the Parksville Qualicum Community Foundation, the restoration of the Old Train Station and the building of the Ring Road. It also includes for the first time a very useful index of names.

It's up to Town Council to decide when the time has come to acknowledge that Qualicum Beach is no longer a town and change the letters patent.

Because of the emotional outpouring such a change would cause they will probably put it off as long as possible. But once the population hits 10,000 it will no longer make sense for the community to call itself something it isn't.

- Richard de Candole



The 200 Dollar Dash

Starting: October 30, 2003
Finishing: August 31, 2004

Mo 7/2004
Totem

Enter the race to pay off the amount owed by the Brown Property Preservation Society on the bank loan for the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach. Just 1,000 donations of \$200 each were needed to raise the \$200,000 owed when the race started on Oct. 31, 2003.

Loan balance to date - \$170,000

Donors joining the race in April: R.T. & Alice Crawford, David & Karen Graham, Don Kemp Signs, Thwaites Norris Insurance Centre.

Let's finish this race!

Publication of donor's names by permission only. Official Income Tax Receipts issued. Cheques payable to:

Brown Preservation Society,
C/O Walker Wilson
#2-707 Primrose, Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 2K1
752-9830

Brown Property preservers have finish line in sight

By **JESSICA KERR**

NEWS REPORTER

25.5.2004

The Brown Property Preservation Society has the finish line in its sights.

The group has to raise another \$149,500 to reach its goal and pay off the \$280,000 loan that was taken out two years ago to pay for the remaining 15 acres of the Heritage Forest. The loan is due at the end of August.

"We're so close to the edge," says Paul Rymak, president of the Brown Property Preservation Society.

The group raised \$9,000 at its big fundraising weekend in April, plus another \$700 at a garage sale last weekend. The \$200 Dollar Dash campaign has also been successful this month, so far the society has received \$6,739 in donations.

But they haven't reached the finish line yet.

If the society can't raise enough money to pay off the loan, it has two options: extend the loan or hand the land back over

to the town of Qualicum Beach. The town would then subdivide it into lots and sell it, said councillor Jack Wilson.

The BPPS has one more big fundraiser planned before the end of the summer.

The society will host a home and garden tour on Sunday, July 18 featuring new gardens and homes in Qualicum Beach and area.

The society will also have a display, information and donation table at the Saturday Qualicum Beach Farmers' Market all summer and the \$200 Dash continues.

All Dash contributors will, if they wish, have their name entered into a draw for artist Bruce Muir's print of the Robson Bright whales.

For more information on the Heritage Forest and the Brown Property Preservation Society visit www.qualicum-beach.net/heritage

Donations to the \$200 Dash can be sent to Walker and Wilson, 2-707 Primrose, Qualicum Beach, B.C., V9K 2K1.

Heritage Forest fundraising continues

The Brown Property Preservation Society's fundraising weekend on April 23 & 24 raised over \$9,000 towards repaying the bank loan used to purchase the last few acres of the Heritage Forest.

The BPPS thanks its many organizers and volunteers who put in long hours arranging rentals and insurance, designing posters, and selling tickets for the events and the society is most appreciative of the support of patrons who attended some or all of the weekend's activities.

Although insurance for such public events is a major expense, Thwaites-Norris Insurance Centre has pledged \$200 toward the BPPS' \$200 Dash campaign.

Jens Van Draby sold a memorial bench on behalf of the society and glassblower Ted Jolda donated a glass vase which sold at the Art & Crafts event. BPPS director, Dave Field, contributed \$500 towards advertising and signage for the event.

The BPPS will continue its fundraising efforts throughout the spring and summer.

On Sunday, July 18, a Home and Garden Tour will feature all new gardens and homes in Qualicum Beach and area.

In June, which is Small Business Month, the BPPS will be presenting its \$200 Dash campaign to local businesses.

All during the summer the society will have a display, information, and donation table at the Saturday Qualicum Beach Farmers' Market.

All \$200 Dash contributors will, if they wish, have their names entered in a draw for artist Bruce Muir's print of the Robson Bight whales.

The grass roots efforts of the BPPS to preserve the Heritage Forest have made great strides in past months and the society has

faith in seeing their goal achieved.

For more information on the Heritage Forest in Qualicum

Beach, please visit the website at www.qualicumbeach.net/heritage.



The 200 Dollar Dash

Starting: October 30, 2003

Finishing: August 31, 2004

June 2004 Totem

Enter the race to pay off the amount owed by the Brown Property Preservation Society on the bank loan for the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach. Just 1,000 donations of \$200 each were needed to raise the \$200,000 owed when the race started on Oct. 31, 2003.

Loan balance to date - \$156,500

Donors joining the race in May: Gail & Michael Albin, David & Gail Courtice, R. Hopley, D. & D. Innes, Pat & Norm Louie, Donald Machan, Bonnie Mardis, Clark & Debbie McKeen, Linda Percevault, Qualicum House Gift Shop, Phyllis Robertson, R. & A. Robinson (Thank you Ian Lindsay), Jack & Win Roff, Shoot the Breeze (Susan & David Crisp), Donald B. Williams, John C. Williams, Paul H. Williams (In Memory of Donald & Kathleen Williams). In Memory of Ernie Shimkus: Anonymous, Doris & James Christakos, D. & C. Kelly, Susan & Chris Lee, John & Liese Lowe-Wylde & Anne & Tony Sharp.

Let's finish this race!

Publication of donor's names by permission only. Official Income Tax Receipts issued. Cheques payable to:

Brown Preservation Society, C/O Walker Wilson

#2-707 Primrose, Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 2K1

752-9830

July, 2004

QUALICUM TOTEM

Final Heritage Forest fundraiser

It's time for admiration and inspiration as the Brown Property Preservation Society presents its Third Qualicum Beach Home & Garden Tour on Sunday, July 18, from 10 am to 5 pm with three properties open on Saturday, too, from noon till four.

This self-guided tour will include 14 homes and/or gardens from the eastern edges of Qualicum Beach, throughout the town proper, and west to Dashwood, and also, once again, south to Whiskey Creek and the whimsical and wacky works of folk artist Don Thompson.

This is the BPPS' final big event and fundraiser to pay off the bank loan it received to purchase the last few acres of the threatened Brown Property forest, now known officially as the Heritage Forest.

Three of the properties on display, will be open for viewing on Saturday, July 17th as well as on the Sunday.

These include the Le Baron property in Dashwood, Horst Loewel's three-period homestead on Widgeon Road, and Don Thompson's folk art studio on Walz Road.

This tour will lead visitors from spectacular shingled, sea-view homes, to a Mediterranean-style vegetable garden, west coast-style dwellings, museum-like homes, one that was an original summer cottage, and a home made from the owner's own hand-split shakes and shingles modeled on a whaling hotel in Maui.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at both Qualicum and Parkville Mulberry Bush Bookstores and at Qualicum House on 2nd Ave. For more info call 752-8992.



The 200 Dollar Dash

Starting: October 30, 2003

Finishing: August 31, 2004

Enter the race to pay off the amount owed by the Brown Property Preservation Society on the bank loan for the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach. Just 1,000 donations of \$200 each were needed to raise the \$200,000 owed when the race started on Oct. 31, 2003.

Loan balance to date - \$146,400

Donors joining the race in June: Anonymous x3, Joy & Andrew Brown, Paul & Gill Connor, N. Bryan Holden, Qualicum Gardens Inc. (CPAC), Lee Rainey.

Let's finish this race!

Publication of donor's names by permission only. Official Income Tax Receipts issued. Cheques payable to:

Brown Preservation Society, C/O Walker Wilson

#2-707 Primrose, Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 2K1

752-9830

community

Take the time to smell the flowers

News 13.7.2004

In the 16th century Sir Edward Coke claimed "... a man's house is his castle," and 19th century writer Rudyard Kipling surrounded the castle with his statement that, "The glory of the garden lies in more that meets the eye."

Therefore, when a Home and Garden Tour featuring no less than 14 homes and gardens in Oceanside is waiting to lure us into these unique and magic places, do we have any choice but to don our sun hats and go tripping down the garden path?

This coming weekend, mostly on Sunday, but with an extra bit on Saturday, too, the Brown Property Preservation Society (BPPS) will host its Third Qualicum Beach Home and Garden Tour. All sites on the Tour will be open from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sunday July 18, and three larger properties will also be open on Saturday, July 17 from noon 'till 4 p.m.

This event will be the BPPS' last big fundraising effort to pay down the bank loan used to purchase the last few acres of the threatened Heritage Forest in the heart of Qualicum Beach.

Every day this year we see more and more trees and vegetation vanishing from once-forested areas around Qualicum.

As the town expands and empty lots are built upon, it becomes even more important to preserve, in its entirety, the trees and wildlife of the Brown Property's rare coastal Douglas Fir forest.

The Home and Garden Tour will emphasize the



Williwaws

NANCY WHELAN

value of growing things in our lives.

Some of the properties on display will give us glimpses of trees and forested areas preserved and incorporated into peaceful and gracious gardens.

At the same time, participation in the garden tour will help the BPPS reach their goal.

Each garden and home on this tour is unique in its own fashion and offers a variety of interesting aspects either outdoors or in.

At one sea-view home, you're encouraged to take time to sit and enjoy the view from the fire pit area in the back garden; remember this one when the feet are longing for a break.

If you're still on the lookout for some exotic plants for your own garden, one site will offer plants for sale - haven't you been yearning for a Japanese banana plant, a fig, bonsai, or black bamboo? The tour brochure that comes with your ticket will show you where you can find them.

A home and garden that draws visitors back year after year is reminiscent of an English country home

and has been featured, for the first time in Canada, in the U.S. Garden Conservancy venture, Open Days.

For the real or armchair traveller, at one property there is an eclectic display of art and curios collected during travels in Asia, Africa, Mexico and Europe, a greenhouse built from salvaged windows and food for the body and the soul in a combined food and flower garden.

A 1940s home built by one of Qualicum's pioneer builders was once considered the most modern house in town. Now lovingly and spectacularly renovated, it includes a beautiful European country-style kitchen, and the back yard is a fairytale.

For more history, one home decorated in bright colours is an original summer cottage on the site of the previous local community hall.

In another, the owners try to find room for living in what resembles a very compact museum. Its garden house, which is a former portable army kitchen, now houses an old Swedish loom.

If you enjoy the exotic in homes, don't miss one made

from the owner's own hand-split shakes and shingles modeled on a 19th century whaling hotel in Lahaina, Maui.

The three properties open on both Saturday (12-4) and Sunday (10-5) include a large acreage in Dashwood along the Little Qualicum River.

This home is built entirely of recycled materials by the owners, and has three other residences of converted barns and cabins.

Then there's the weird and wonderful world of a three-period home, and the whimsical works and gardens of a well known local artist and his friends, the Beachies.

If you're an ice cream fan, look for two ice cream trucks, circa 1950, one featuring Prince Charles selling ice cream and one converted to a safari wagon - these on the property of our favourite local folk artist.

For your tickets (\$20) and tour brochures for this feast for the senses, go to the QB or PV Mulberry Bush Bookstores, Qualicum House in QB, or Fandangles in Port Alberni.

Or, for tickets and info call Lee at 250 752 8992.

Don't miss this tour de force.

No place like home and garden

■ Tours BPPS' last kick at raising almost \$140,000

By **JENNIFER MALONEY**
NEWS REPORTER 16.7.2004

When Helen and Bryce LeBaron moved onto their Qualicum Beach property 33 years ago it was surrounded by old junk cars and dilapidated sheds.

The house, which was to become home for the young couple and their five children, had been taken over by squatters and farm animals.

"It was getting to be winter, so instead of burning it down and rebuilding we decided to clean it up," Helen said.

Today the LeBaron's 15-acre property bears many of the original structures first found on the land, but they have been reinforced and beautified in a meticulous fashion.

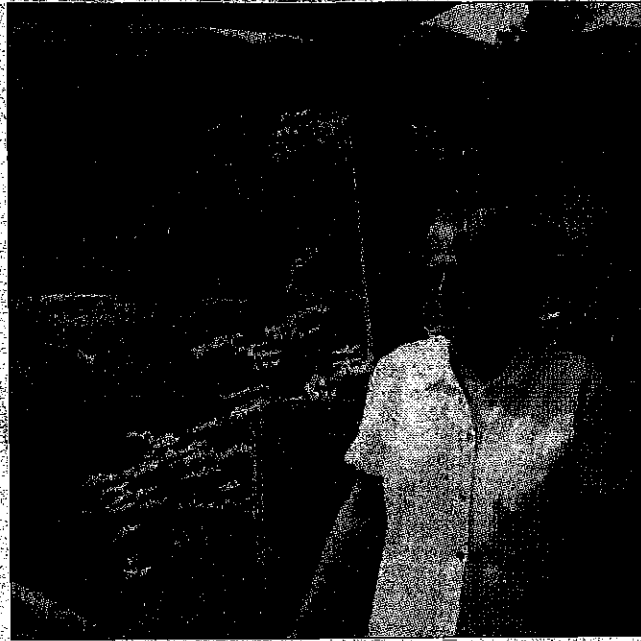
The original house has been fixed up using boards and wood shingles, which Bryce recycled from pig and chicken barns at the old Eaglecrest Resort.

"Practically everything in here is natural material," Helen said. "It's just more organic. It feels better to have natural stuff."

Each bedroom has in-wall closets, drawers and desks leaving the bed as the only piece of furniture.

Outside in the garden is a post carving made out of alderwood — a remnant of the commune that once lived on the property.

On July 17 and 18 the



JENNIFER MALONEY PHOTO

HELEN LEBARON WELCOMES the public to her and husband Bryce's 15 acres of heaven.

LeBaron's property will be one of the 14 unique homes and gardens on display for the Brown Property Preservation Society's final fundraising event.

The society still needs to raise \$140,000 by Sept. 1, 2004 to pay off its bank loan, which was taken out to purchase the last 7.5 acres of the Brown Property.

The Brown Property is approximately 50 acres of coastal Douglas fir forest and contains old growth trees, rare plant species, and important stream and flood plains.

Although most of the forest has been purchased for conservation through the

society's efforts, this last-ditch monetary goal must be reached by deadline or some of the remaining acres will be sold to pay off the loan.

"It's a unique system in its own right in Qualicum Beach," said Paul Ryniak, president of BPPS. "There are other places to build homes, this we want to save."

Tickets for the self-guided tour cost \$20 and can be purchased at Mulberry Bush Bookstores in Qualicum Beach and Parksville. Participants will be given a map and each property will be numbered.

For more information call 752-9830.

Over \$130 grand left to go

■ Brown Property Preservation Society nearing end of its bank loan

By JENNIFER MALONEY

NEWS REPORTER: 2.3.7.2004

After eight years of fundraising and roughly \$1.8 million collected in donations, the president of the Brown Property Preservation Society says they're calling it quits.

"We are completely through with fundraising to pay off that loan Sept. 1," said Paul Ryniak.

BPPS took out a \$282,922 bank loan in 2002 to purchase the last 7.5 acres of the land, locally known as the Brown Property.

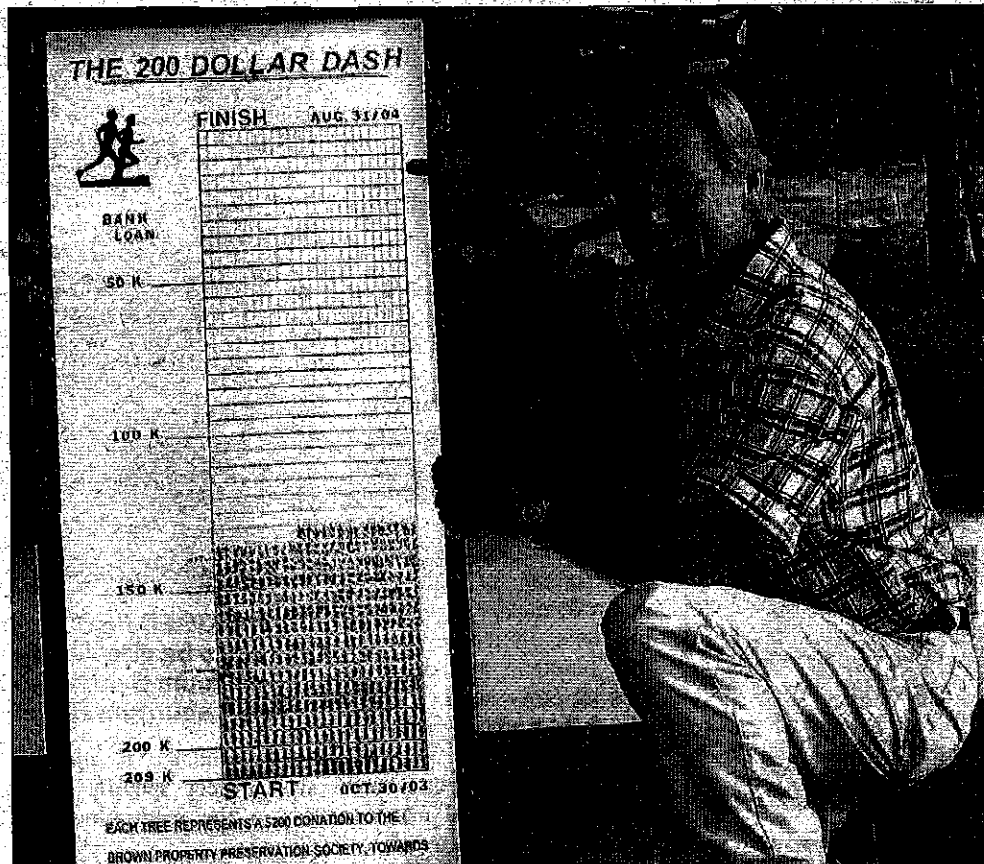
Before the society's last big fundraiser, the Home and Garden Tour, it still had \$140,000 of the two-year loan to pay off.

The tour, which took place last weekend in Oceanside, raised approximately \$8,000, but Ryniak said with interest and bills still to be accounted for, he does not yet have a total of how much money is left to be raised.

Although the tour was BPPS' final big fundraiser, Ryniak said the organization "still has lots of coals in the fire."

On the corner of Primrose and Second Streets the BPPS has a donation booth six days a week, which brings in about \$250 a day, Ryniak said.

The society has also sent queries out to local realtors asking for financial support and is keeping its \$200 Dash



PAUL RYNIK PRESIDENT of the Brown Property Preservation Society updated the society's money thermometer at Qualicum Town Hall Tuesday. Roughly \$8,000 was raised from BPPS' Home and Garden Tour.

JENNIFER MALONEY PHOTO

in effect until the end.

"We're still optimistic that we're going to reach our goal even though there's a big chunk to make," Ryniak said. "We're putting all our efforts in appealing to the community right now 'cause after Sept. 1 we're through."

None of the \$1.8 million raised to save the 50 acres of coastal Douglas fir forest has come from the tax payers' purse and Ryniak said

he is proud of the "grass roots fundraising" the society has accomplished.

However, it is time for BPPS to wrap up, he said.

"People don't understand that we're not here permanently because we've been around for so long," he said.

Final appeals have gone out to all the businesses in Qualicum Beach, and Ryniak reminds residents that they can still redeem

there Q-points from Quality Foods in Parksville and Qualicum Beach for donations.

Author Brad Wylie is also donating all the profits from his book *Qualicum Beach A History* to the society. The book, costs \$19.95 and can be purchased at Mulberry Bush bookstores.

For more information on how to donate call Ryniak at 752-9830.

Brown Property loan deadline is very real

"News" 27.7.2004

The Brown Property Preservation Society is in the final few weeks of its project to complete the purchase of the 50 acre Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach.

The big question is: Will they make it?

It's really all about community involvement. Eight years ago, when the 50 acre old-growth forest (a five minute walk from downtown Qualicum Beach) appeared to be destined to become a 110-lot housing development, a group of local people said "no".

The Brown Property, as it was then known (and, unofficially, still is called) was the private forest of oilman R.A. "Bobby" Brown. After his death it was put on the market. Locals intervened and with help from the town of Qualicum Beach, started to raise the \$1.8 million needed to buy the forest from the Brown Family Trust.

Today, thousands walk the forest's bark mulch trails

and marvel at the pristine wilderness right in their own back yard. It's now a town of Qualicum Beach park, but it's not all paid for.

It's a long story, but with dogged determination the Brown Property Preservation Society raised all but \$280,000 of the money needed by 2002. They then took out a Royal Bank loan for the balance and today, with the loan repayment date looming (September 1, 2004), still have \$140,000 to go. A "\$200 Dash" campaign has raised \$41,000 by itself; anonymous donations have brought in \$10,000. The final fund-raiser, a Home and Garden Tour held July 18 in the Qualicum Beach area, featured 14 unique places — unique in that they are all so different — and featured beautiful gardens, fine art work, interesting recycling aspects and unusual eclecticism.

Don't look for a series of "Going Out Of Business" signs.

The deadline is real.

If the Society doesn't get the needed money by the end of August, a small portion of the Heritage Forest could well become residential lots.

Besides destroying the environmental integrity of this beautiful area that would open up the forest to blow-down.

The Brown Property Preservation Society is ask-

ing for the wider community's support in this their final push.

Tax-deductible donations can be made to the Brown Property Preservation Society, c/o Walker-Wilson Law Offices, 707 Princess St., Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 2K1.

For more information, call the Society's president, Paul Ryniak at (250) 752-9830. *R.S. Submitted*

Totem
FINAL MONTH! **The 200 Dollar Dash**

Starting: October 30, 2003

Finishing: August 31, 2004

Enter the race to pay off the amount owed by the Brown Property Preservation Society on the bank loan for the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach. Just 1,000 donations of \$200 each were needed to raise the \$200,000 owed when the race started on Oct. 31, 2003.

Loan balance to date - \$140,000

Donors joining the race in July: Louis & Daphne Allec (In memory of E. Shimkus), Anonymous, Kim & Jill Brown, Buttner-Schirer Family, Mark Hobson (Coastline Art, Tofino), Loretta & Jack Menzies, Deanna K. McCrea, Ida Prefontaine, Helen & Philip Robertson, Ronyecz Family - Joyce, Edward, Richard, Donna, Harrison & Bradley Joe, George & Helen Rosie, Audrey Rutledge, The Taylors & McLeods (In memory of Annie).

Let's finish this race!

Publication of donor's names by permission only. Official Income Tax Receipts issued. Cheques payable to:

Brown Preservation Society, C/O Walker Wilson
#2-707 Primrose, Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 2K1,
752-9830

Totem Aug. 2004

Bush fire danger

Council supported a motion by Councilor Scott Tanner to prepare a news release alerting residents to the increased risk of bush fires due to the hot, dry conditions this summer. Residents are urged to call 911 if they see any suspicious activity near forested areas. Brown Property Preservation Society president Paul Ryniak told Council the situation in the Heritage Forest is aggravated by the use of bark mulch on all the trails. He noted a carelessly thrown cigarette butt could potentially set fire to the mulch which is currently very dry and he wondered if a bylaw could be passed to better control the situation. Councilor Anton Kruyt reported the fire department experienced a rash of bush fires in late June near the airport which are all believed to have been deliberately set.

5

**Community
Groups in new
museum exhibit**

13 - 16

**Kwalikum
Secondary
Class of 2004**

Distribution - 9,000

Give a little and save a lot!

With one month to go fundraisers for the Brown Property Preservation Society remain hopeful they can reach their goal to save the entire 50 acre Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

The society has until Aug. 31, 2004 to repay a \$282,900 loan it received from the Royal Bank two years ago to complete the purchase of the forest.

"We're down to saving the last lot," said Paul Ryniak, president of the Society. "We've adopted the slogan: 'Give a little, save a lot' to focus attention on how close we are.

"The total amount need is around \$130,000 depending on expenses from the House & Garden Tour."

He said getting so close has been a remarkable achievement.

"Last month we reached the \$1



Heritage Forest fundraiser Jim Purdon, left, talks with donor Bob Tait at the downtown information booth.

million mark in community fundraising," said Paul. "We're doing everything we can in this final month to bring the campaign to a successful end. Some of us

have been at it for quite a few years. It's time to wrap it up." Throughout August supporters will operate an information booth for the collection of donations

each day from 11 am to 3 pm at the corner of Primrose and Second.

Volunteers will also be canvassing the business community in hopes they will be willing to join the \$200 Dash, a campaign begun last October to find 1,000 individuals or businesses willing to donate \$200.

Residents can also, once again, donate their Q Points to the campaign. Qualicum Foods is willing to donate up to \$10,000 in donated Q Points.

Profits from the sale of the new edition of Qualicum Beach, A History by Brad Wylie are also being handed over to the society. Copies can be purchased at Mulberry Bush Book Stores.

Donations can also be made at Walker Wilson Law Office, #2-707 Primrose St, Qualicum Beach, 752-9830.

Yes, I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to save the Heritage Forest

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Donation Amount: _____

**Brown Property Preservation Society
#2-707 Primrose, Qualicum Beach, 752-9830**

Clip & deliver this form before Aug. 31, 2004



Letters

THE NEWS, Tuesday, August 3, 2004 • A7

Please, help save the heritage forest

O kay, I confess, I've been a tree-hugger almost from birth — I come by it honestly, having spent my childhood years as a CNR "railroad rat" in places like Mount Robson Park.

So when I recently had the privilege of living in Qualicum Beach for four years, one of the first things I fell in love with was the town's many wooded lots. I loved the fact that the lots hadn't been clear cut to build homes but that many of the tall trees had been preserved.

One day I noticed a huge thermometer, a "tree-ometer" at the corner of Second and Primrose and learned about the citizens of Qualicum Beach who had banded together to save a 50 acre urban heritage forest. I was impressed — I loved this "can do" attitude. And the forest, just five minutes from downtown, seemed a magical place to me, so like my childhood playground.

I've followed the progress of this group, formally known as the Brown Property Preservation Society, and have been amazed at their dedication, innovation and sheer determination to see this forest acquired for future generations. For eight long years, they've held benefit concerts, auctions, home and garden tours, antique and garden art shows, community garage sales, Christmas and summer events at the Brown mansion. They've been at the Farmers Market, Fire and Ice, Earth Day, and on various street corners. They've worked their hearts out — they've raised over \$1,203,000 of the almost \$2 million price tag to buy this unique forest rather than have it developed into building lots.

Apparently most of this huge amount of money has come from the citizens of this area, talk about the little town that could. Earlier this year, I moved back to Victoria. When I returned last month for a visit, what did I see? Yes, the BPPS folks again.

At the corner of Second and Primrose, this time behind a table called "The Last Stand". And so it is — the last stand, the final effort of this wonderful society's work to raise the remaining \$140,000 needed to make the last payment on the mortgage on this magical place known as the Brown Property.

On August 31, the group's fundraising efforts will end and, if there's a balance owing on the loan, the fate of the last chunk of land will be in the hands of town council. (I understand that one of the town's options is to sell off a section of the forest to repay the loan — a thought that horrifies everyone who knows the effect this could have, in blow down and damage to the finely tuned ecosystem within the forest.)

I'm writing this letter now because if I can influence even one person to dig a little deeper for this forest, I'll feel that I've done something worthwhile for a town I love, even though I no longer live here.

Even if you've donated before, as have I, another donation will be gladly welcomed, no matter what size.

If you've just never gotten around to donating, I urge you to do it now — even the tiniest donation will get you a heart-felt "thank you so much."

If you can't give money, you can give Q-points from Quality Foods. This is, indeed, "The Last Stand" for this awesome piece of property to be owned by all the people of Qualicum Beach and what a shame it would be if we didn't save it all — every last tree is important.

And if you're sick of hearing about the Brown Property and think saving some old trees is just a bunch of hokey, I especially urge you to donate this month and get these folks off the streets.

H. Walker
Victoria

Letters Question OF THE Week

Will the Brown Property Preservation Society pay off the last \$130,000 by August 31?

9 Yes
9 No

This week's question: Do you feel confident that B.C.'s economy is beginning?

Vote at: www.pqnews.com

BPPS confident they will reach \$130,000 target

By NEIL HORNER

NEWS REPORTER 6.9.2004

Despite a looming deadline and a \$130,000 mountain still to climb, the members of the Brown Property Preservation Society in Qualicum Beach are optimistic they'll be able to reach their target.

Society head Paul Rymack said Tuesday he's confident that last minute donations will be sufficient to put the group over the top.

"We have lots of coals in the fire," he said. "We have about five major people I'm checking with, and as we get closer to the deadline people will be bringing some money for us."

Rymack noted that a booth set up at the intersection of Second Avenue and Primrose Street received a whopping \$1,800 in donations in just one day recently. This sort of public support, he added, shows the strong interest in preserving the unique old growth forest, located in the heart of Qualicum.

This optimism was echoed by Qualicum Beach Mayor Reunis Westbrook.

"The community has done so well in raising over \$1 million in donations with no support from the federal or provincial governments," he said. "It really shows strong grassroots support. From my perspective, all the projects with involvement from the community have been a success, so I'm confident the community will be able to make up the rest."



BPPS VOLUNTEERS HAVE set up shop in downtown QB to accept donations for the Heritage Forest.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Westbrook cited the examples of the \$60,000 which was needed to finish the interior of the Seniors' Centre, and the \$50,000 needed to restore the Leigh House interior as examples of this community spirit.

Although a number of options are being considered in the event the money isn't raised in time, Westbrook stressed the only way to ensure the property is preserved is to raise the money by the August 31 deadline.

People wishing to help make this happen have a few different ways to do so. On Wednesday, August 11, they can attend a special showing of the Apple Theatre Works performance of the play *Sylvia*. This showing has been purchased by Ian Lindsay from Remax, with

proceeds from ticket sales going towards the Brown fund. Tickets can be picked up at Mulberry Bush book stores and at the Shoe Inn.

As well, local author Brad Wylie has written a book, *Qualicum Beach: A History*, and he has agreed to donate profits from book sales to the fund. The book is available at Mulberry Bush book stores. Rymack noted that a final big push began Tuesday to canvass all the businesses in Qualicum Beach for donations.

"The Brown property is a very unique ecosystem right within the heart of Qualicum Beach, and after eight years of public working to save it, we hope people will come together and give us a hand at the last minute," he said.

"Star" Wednesday, August 4, 2004

Brown Property Preservation Society well short of its goal

For the Star

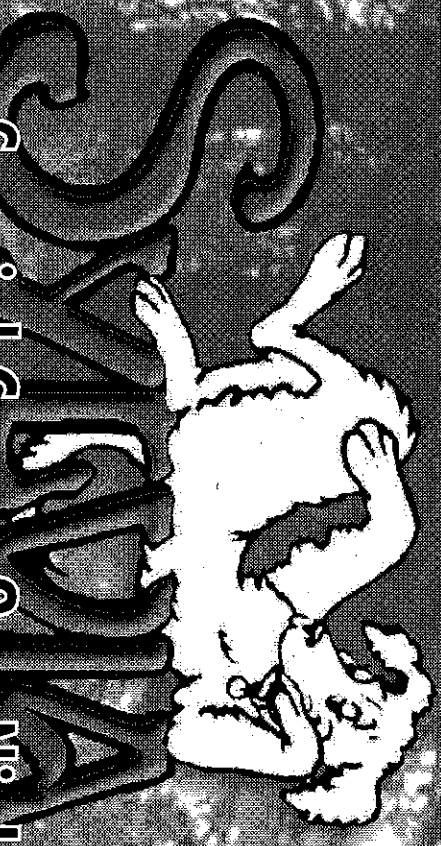
The Brown Property Preservation Society has less than one month left to save the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

The society has until Aug. 31 to repay a \$282,900 loan it received from the Royal Bank two years ago.

The organization has held many fund raising events this year and has roughly \$130,000 left to repay.

Throughout August there will be an information booth for collecting donations at the corner of Primrose and Second Ave. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Residents can also donate their Q Points to the cause. Quality Foods is willing to donate up to \$10,000 in donated Q Points.



For a Very Special Cause One Night Only!

Wednesday August 11th 7:30 Performance*

Presented by
apple theatre works

by AR Gurney
directed by Charles Fox

The Brown Property Preservation Society

The Brown Property Preservation Society has been actively raising funds in support of the purchase of approximately 50 acres of Coastal Forest for the past 8 years. This unique property containing 300 year old trees, a salmon bearing stream, many species of special plants, meandering trails and much more, was originally known as the Brown Property. 32 acres of the property was purchased in 1999 while an option was negotiated to control the remaining land. Fundraising continued and a loan was arranged to purchase the remaining property. It is now known as the Heritage Forest and is being enjoyed by district residents and tourists every day.

There can come a time though for every organization to make a tough decision.

Fundraising has continued for several years, the loan is coming due and approximately \$138,000 is needed to

retire the debt. The negotiated agreement allows for land to be subdivided off the last parcel of parkland in order to pay off the debt. The Brown Property Preservation Society feels it is time to call it a day. Funds raised this month will continue to pay down the debt. At month end the Society will meet with the town to finalize the park boundary.

The Society and the community have done a great job in saving this land and creating a lasting legacy for Quakam Beach and the district. They have created an asset worth much more than the original purchase price of \$1,800,000. Your support as a community has and is greatly appreciated. Please take the time to visit the park this month and see for yourself what has been achieved to date. For those of you who haven't visited please visit and if you like what you see.....**HELP US SAVE THE LAST STAND**..... Thank You.

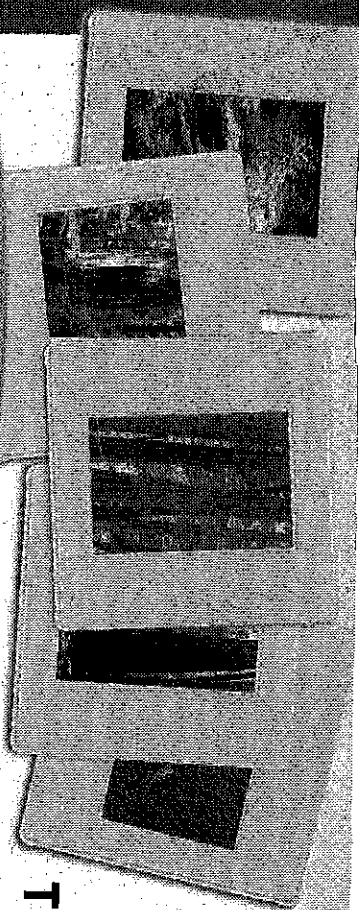
LAUGH! Contribute & Save! Support the Brown Property Preservation Society

Save 50% 2 for 1 ticket prices - \$15 for 2

All proceeds going directly to the Brown Property Preservation Society

Pick up your tickets while they last at MULBERRY BUSH BOOK STORES and the SHOE INN.

A modern dog owner would know about a marriage and a dog.
For anyone who owned a dog, loved a dog,
or wanted to wring a dog's neck!



* Regular performances
July 7 - September 4
for exact times and dates contact 927-8888

This special night of SYLVIA is sponsored by

THEATRE PROMS & ASSOCIATES

We Keep Our Promises

Design provided by:

marketing dynamics
skyforward

marketing > public relations > design > coaching

752.2466

www.theatreproms.com



Anchor Realty

113 W. 2nd Ave. Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 1T5

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

Sylvia a boost for BPPS Sold out

By COLLEEN DANE
NEWS REPORTER 13.8.2004

Local advocacy and arts groups came together in Qualicum Beach to raise money for a shared cause.

A special benefit performance of *Sylvia* at the Village Theatre, was held Wednesday to raise funds for the Brown Property Preservation Society.

"We saw an opportunity to support the fine arts and at the same time support a very worthwhile cause in the community," said Re/Max realtor Ian Lindsay, whose company bought all the tickets to the evening's show, and then re-sold them two-for-one.

The show was entirely sold out in three days.

"The evening went very well, it was a full house and a great play," said BPPS president Paul Ryniack, who had to stand during the performance because of the full seats.

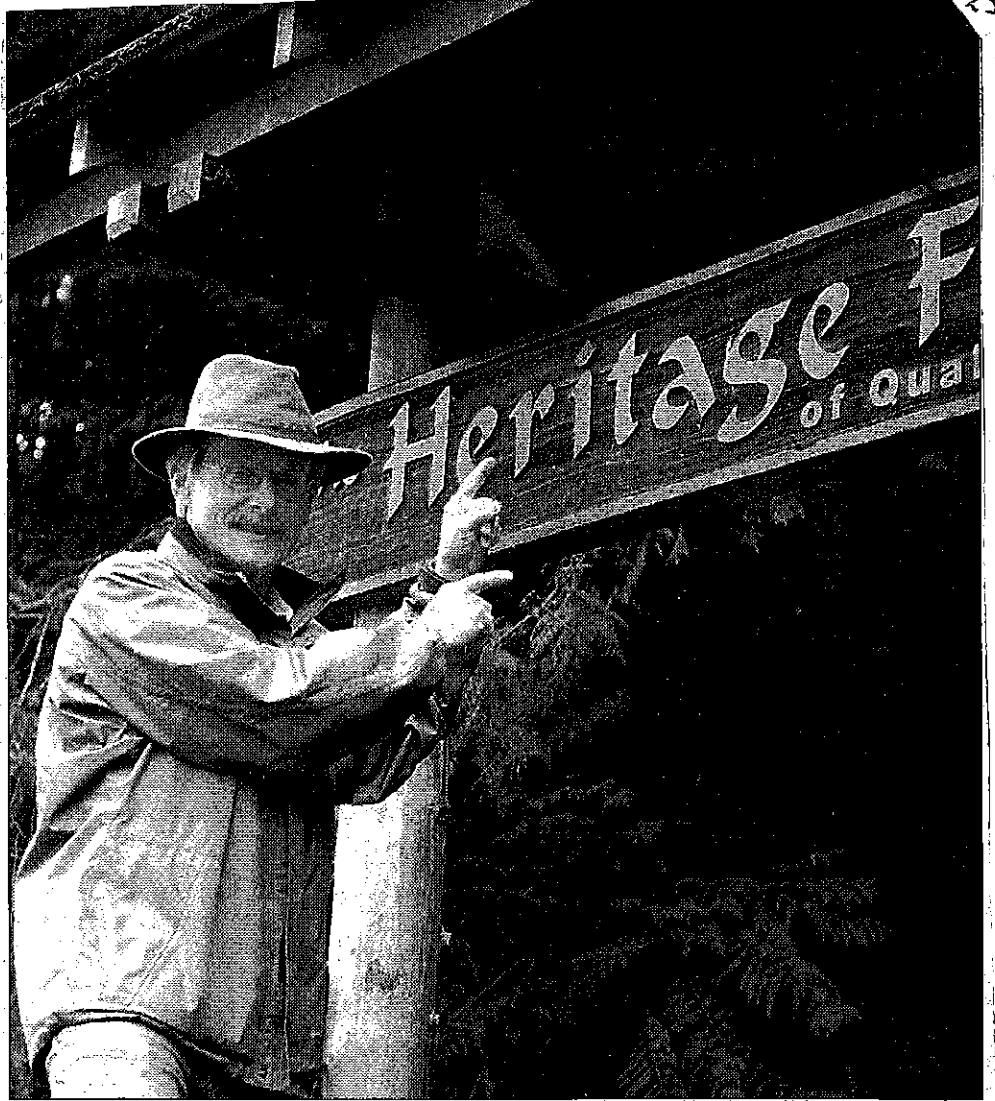
Ryniack said it is events like this which are most important for BPPS to reach their goal.

"These are the groups and the people that have gotten us this far, and now we need to come together to finish it," said Ryniack.

The event raised \$1,200 from ticket sales, and \$150 from a 50/50 draw.

Ryniack said the group is guaranteed to break the \$100,000 mark before deadline, but say this would leave one lot unprotected. They have cordoned off the lot to show how much would be lost.

To help BPPS reach their goal, director Charles Fox will donate 10 per cent of the rest of *Sylvia's* ticket sales to the group. For information on play dates and times, phone 752-3522.



BROWN PROPERTY PRESERVATION Society president Paul Ryniack says the group has turned over almost every stone in trying to reach the society's final fundraising goal of \$130,000.

Dash for the BPPS finish line

By NEIL HORNER
NEWS REPORTER 13.8.2004

With the clock steadily ticking towards the August 31 deadline to raise the last \$130,000 to purchase the Brown property in Qualicum Beach, Preservation Society head Paul Ryniack took a moment this week to publicly thank everyone involved in the effort.

Speaking as a delegation at Monday night's monthly Qualicum Beach council meeting, Ryniack said the group has worked extremely hard to make the dream of purchasing the old growth property a reality.

"We've turned over just about every stone," he said. "We've put in eight years and we are just about out of here. If you're sick of hearing about the Brown property, I urge you to donate this month

and get these folks off the streets of Qualicum forever."

Ryniack noted there are still a few events and fundraising opportunities to come before the time runs out, including Wednesday's performance of *Sylvia*, which had all proceeds going to the fund, the ongoing \$200 dash for business owners in the community, and proceeds from Brad Wylie's historical book about the Qualicum Beach area. As well, he said the table set out at Second Ave. and Primrose St. has so far brought in a whopping \$8,500, and he urged people to give generously while there is still time.

Once the deadline has passed, he added, the group's

function will change.

"As of August 31, our new mandate will be to deal with maintenance and improvements to the property."

“
We've put in eight years and we are just about out of here.
— PAUL RYNIACK —
BPPS PRESIDENT

Crunch time for Brown Property effort

By NEIL HORNER

NEWS REPORTER 20.8.2004

Current and former presidents of the Brown Property Preservation Society gathered Tuesday to make an appeal to residents.

The society is facing an August 31 deadline to raise the final \$102,000 to purchase the Brown Property in Qualicum Beach.

BPPS president Paul Ryniak, and past presidents Scott Tanner and Jack Wilson were at the corner of St. Andrews and Sunningdale to show exactly how much land would be lost if the municipality was forced to sell it to retire the debt. Although the 100-foot by 130-foot section, marked off with green ribbon, didn't seem large, Ryniak said the development of it could pose problems for the rest of the property.

"Without the lot, it opens it up to more blowdown," he said. "It bites into the integrity of the forest. It's stable as it is, and anything you take down will destabilize something else."

His concerns were shared by Tanner.

"Every time you cut into it, you move the edge that much closer to the heart of the forest," he said. "There



JACK WILSON, SCOTT Tanner and Paul Ryniak are hoping enough donations will come in to put them over the top.

are a lot of bird species that live in the edge of the forest, and some of them, like the cowbird, are invasive and rob nests from the other species inhabiting the interior."

For his part, Wilson noted the 50 acres of the Brown Property increases the amount of similar protected forest on the east coast of Vancouver Island by fully 20 per cent.

Although former presidents Keith Smith and Chris Lee were not able to be present, Ryniak said they fully supported it.

With land prices in

Qualicum Beach averaging out at \$100,000, the sale of one lot from the property would essentially be sufficient to retire the debt.

In related news, local author Brad Wylie handed over a \$14,000 cheque on Tuesday to Ryniak to help with the effort.

Wylie raised the money through sales of his updated historical work, *Qualicum Beach — A History*.

"I was one of the very first members of the board for the society and I believe in retaining that particular piece of property," Wylie said. "It's a park in the cen-

tre of town which most towns would give their eye-teeth for."

Ryniak noted the donation put the society at the roughly \$100,000 mark. Anyone who wishes to support the effort can do so and be entertained at the same time, as the local production of SYLVIA will donate 10 per cent of the take for the next 13 days. As well, Ryniak noted the society will be on hand at the Larry Aguilar art show at the Stone Cottage Inn on Fern Road this weekend, where they will sell refreshments and take donations. Meanwhile, he said the donation table located on Primrose and Second Ave. will remain open until the very last minute.

For those who can't make it to any of these functions, the society will be happy to accept their mailed donations at #2-707 Primrose St., Qualicum Beach, V9K 2K1.

NEIL HORNER PHOTO

the creative process

Oceanside artisans reveal big mystery of

BY COLLEEN DANE

NEWS REPORTER 20.8.2004

After 21 years of hosting an art show, Larry Aguilar said it's important to keep his work fresh and new.

At this year's Artisans at their Best! show, organized by Aguilar's studio, visitors will see all sorts of new things.

"Having this show for as many years ... you can't be complacent about your

product," said Aguilar. The show is meant to be not only a show-and-sale, but also an opportunity for spectators to meet local artisans and observe them creating their pieces.

On the lawns around the Stone Cottage Gallery on Fern Road East, 11 different artists will set up pottery wheels, easels and other means of their craft in order to show people how they create their art.

The art will include raku, stained glass, wood and stone carving, calligraphy, oil painting, stoneware and others.

"The artists are interested in talking to people and sharing what they do ... because it's a big mystery sometimes," said Sandy Richardson, also from Aguilar's studio.

While Aguilar's studio is open so the public can come and watch them work, many artists don't have the opportunity to showcase their craft unless events like these are planned, added Richardson.

This showcase of local art has moved around over the years, but Aguilar said this year's location should be especially popular because of the amount of space and accessible parking available.

The Brown Property Preservation Society will also be on hand to sell refreshments.

Artisans at their Best! runs Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For further information about the show, phone 752-9332, or stop by Larry Aguilar Pottery at 995 Meadowlark Place.



COLLEEN DANE PHOTO

ARTISAN LARRY AGUILAR shows a pot which, once finished, will be shown at the Artisans at their Best! show Saturday and Sunday.

A poem for the Heritage Forest in QB

In the pristine hour after dawn
The forest is tranquil and hushed
Sometimes a deer grazing with her fawn
Or the gentle whisper of leaves being crushed
Soft chorus of birds greeting the morn
Pastel coloured hues with which the sky is brushed
Peace and quiet while daylight is born
A gentle reminder that time's not to be rushed.

Ethne Towill
Qualicum Beach

"News" 27.8.2004

Last effort could push Brown Property over the top

By NEIL HORNER
NEWS REPORTER 3/8/2004

With only two days to go before the deadline, Brown Property Preservation Society president Paul Rymiak was optimistic his group would go over the top.

The society was \$44,000 short of their fundraising goal to purchase the last 15-acre section of the Brown property for inclusion into the Qualicum Heritage Forest.

"We did better than expected," Rymiak said as he accepted a cheque for \$10,000 from Qualicum Foods manager John Briuolo. "With only two days left we are still contacting people and doing everything we can."

Rymiak hinted about the possibility of another \$10,000 donation coming in Tuesday and noted that, considering the \$204,000 they were short last October, he'll consider the marathon fundraising effort a success.



NEIL HORNER PHOTO

QUALICUM FOODS MANAGER John Briuolo (right) hands Paul Rymiak a cheque for \$10,000. This is the third time Briuolo has stepped up to the plate with a significant cheque for the Brown property.

regardless of whether or not they manage to completely pay off the loan.

If the society is unable to get the loan amount down to zero by Wednesday, it will be turned over to the Town of Qualicum Beach, and council will be mandated to figure out how to raise the last of the money to buy the land. One possible way they

can do this, he noted, is to sell one lot from the property. However, Rymiak is hoping it won't come to this.

The project to purchase the Brown property in Qualicum Beach has been ongoing for the last eight years, and Rymiak has been involved for five. Although he remains passionate about the project, he said he'll be

happy to see the end of this phase.

Once the financial issues are cleared up, one way or another, the society will continue being active, although their mandate will change.

"At that point our focus will be to take care of maintenance and upgrades on the forest," Rymiak said. "If we

do raise money it will be for upgrading projects such as interpretive signs, and there has been talk of making the stables into an interpretive centre. Next year the major priority will be to establish a permanent donor board to recognize those who contributed."

Qualicum Beach gets Brown Property loan extension

BY NEIL HORNER
NEWS REPORTER
3.9.2004

Classes were raised in a tonic water toast Tuesday afternoon as the Brown Property Preservation Society officially handed over jurisdiction of the heritage forest to the Town of Qualicum Beach.

Society president Paul Ryniak said the group was ecstatic at having raised all but \$26,567 of the \$280,000 needed to retire the debt for the property.

"We accomplished our goal," he said. "I'm sure within

■ Jurisdiction over land handed over to town after BPPS' eight years of fundraising ends only \$26,000 from final goal

did far better than I anticipated. I would have been impressed if they had come to within \$70,000 or \$80,000, so this is a tremendous achievement. If this were an Olympic event, I would give all these people a gold medal."

Westbroek said the municipality has arranged to extend the loan for one more year, as hopes that people and bus-

nesses will be able to fill in the nearly \$27,000 gap.

"I'm hoping it will take a lot less than a year to raise that sum," he said. "The community has jumped on board in an unprecedented way, and I believe there are people still considering making a donation, and we will give them time to do so."

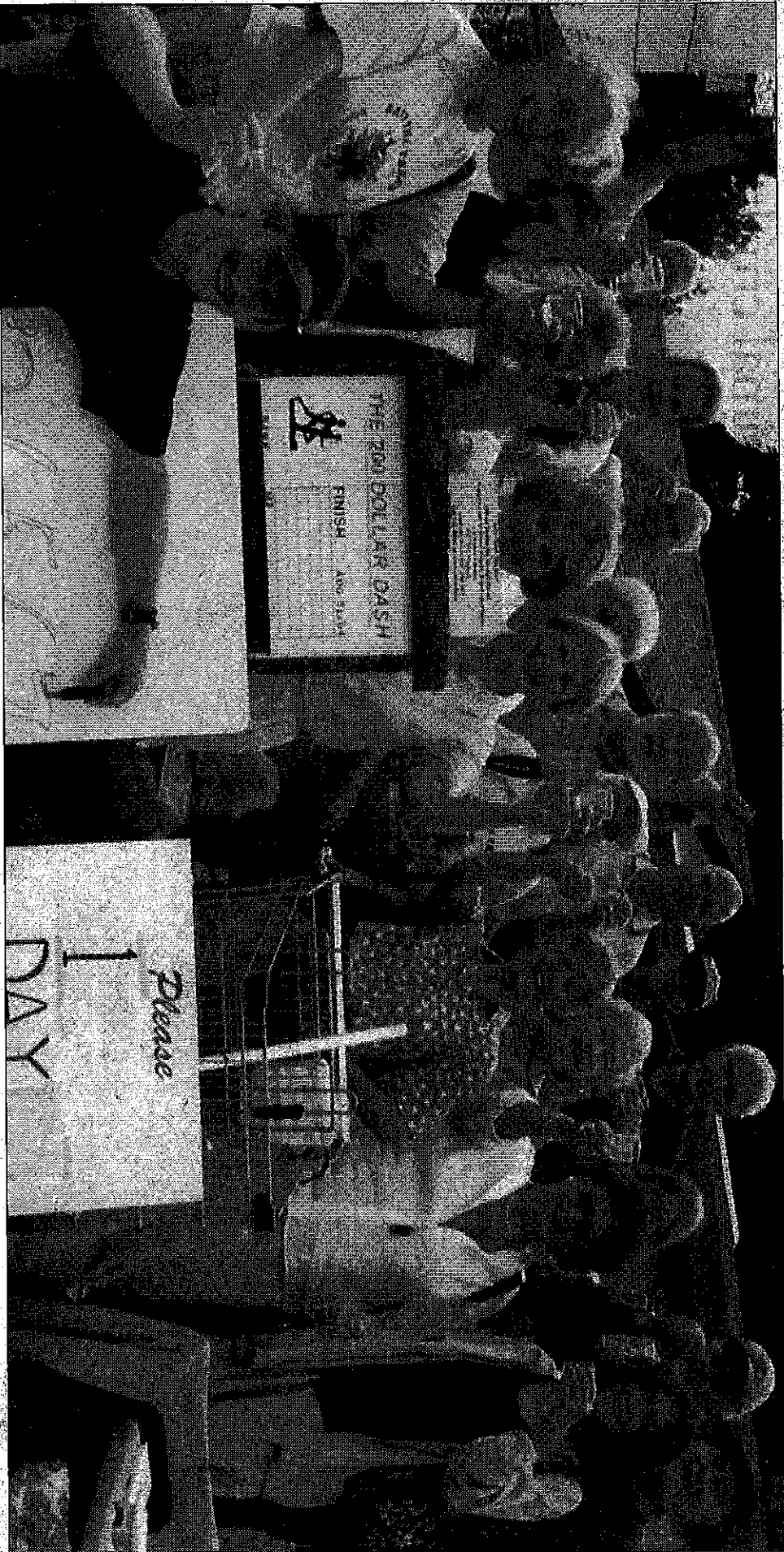


LEFT: BROWN PROPERTY Preservation Society president Paul Ryniak accepts a cheque for \$2,000 from Thrifty Foods Parksville owner Clayton Baker (on right). Above, local author Brad Wylie handed over a \$14,000 cheque to help with the effort. Right, residents gave generously to the campaign.



NEWS

THE NEWS WEEKENDER, September 3, 2004



PAUL RYNIAK MAKES a final adjustment to the tally board as society members raise their glasses to toast an end to their campaign on Tuesday.

NEIL HORNER PHOTOS

3

**Last issue
of the
Qualicum Totem**

6

**Musician/Composer
Phil Dwyer
comes home**

Distribution - 9,000

Heritage Forest campaign finally over!

The eight-year campaign to save 50 acres of Old Growth forest in the heart of Qualicum Beach is over.

By the August 31st deadline all but \$26,500 had been raised and organizers were confident the rest of the money will be found.

"The response from the community in the last month has been fabulous," said Paul Ryniak, president of the Brown Property Preservation Society.

"Well over \$100,000 was donated during that time and there are still a couple of big donations we're counting on.

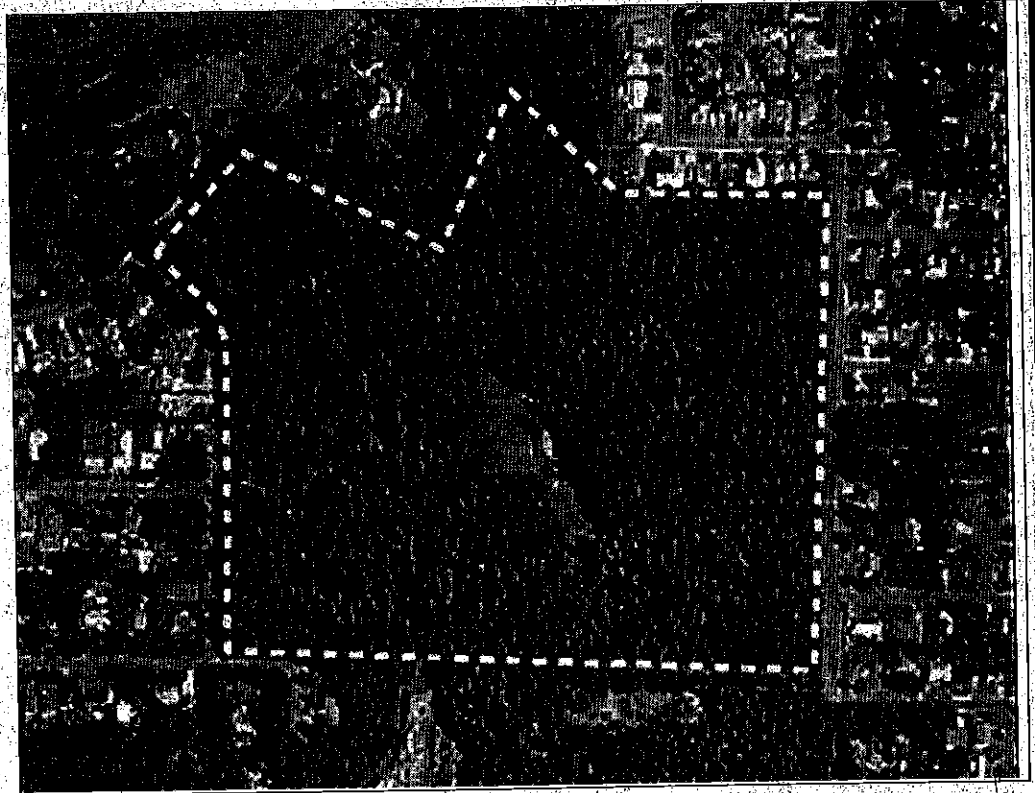
"Over the years residents have stuck with us and when the crunch came they came through. We can't thank our supporters enough."

Paul singled out Qualicum Foods and Brad Wylie, author of *Qualicum Beach: A History* in particular for their generosity.

Customer Q-Points donated to the campaign resulted in a \$10,000 donation from QF. Brad Wylie donated the proceeds from the sale of the new edition of his history book, a total of \$14,000.

Paul said that as of August 31st the Town of Qualicum Beach assumed responsibility for the unpaid portion of the loan to the Royal Bank and the Society would now focus its efforts on helping maintain the Heritage Forest as a nature preserve.

The Brown Property



Aerial view of Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest

Global Geomatics photo, 752-4296

Preservation Society was formed in October of 1997 to raise \$1.8 million to save the 50-acre forest between East Crescent and Hemsworth. To reach the goal the society took a mortgage of \$282,900 in 2002 which expired on Aug 31.

\$200 Donors in Aug - See Pg 3

Town to host volunteers tea

The Town of Qualicum Beach is hosting a Volunteers Appreciation Tea on Saturday, Sept. 18 at the Community Hall on Memorial Ave at 2:30 pm to recognize the many people who have helped save the 50-acre

Brown Property as a protected forest.

Anyone who has been part of the campaign over the last eight years is invited. Presentations will begin at 3 pm.

Heritage Forest Donor Honour Roll

Donors joining the 200 Dollar

Dash to the finish line in August.

Anonymous x 23

Grace Arthurs

Arrowsmith Golf & Country

Essex Properties, Paradise Motel
& Paradise Resort

Sandy & Warren Bailey "In memo-
ry of our dear friend Alex Fallow"

Barbara Janie Baker

Doreen Barrett

Morris Baumel & Jacqueline

Webster

Mark & Lesley Beaulieu

Russell Bergstrom

Rhonda Bevilacqua

Hendrika Blom "In memory of
Gerard Blom"

Dr. & Mrs Booth

Signe Boughner

Al & Barb Brett

William & Jean Broadley

Christina Brown

Chris & Gwen Burgess "Thank
you from Wagner & Lizzie"

Ames Byrd

Carolyn's Friends Christmas 2004

Caron Byrne, Luke & Emma Postl

CKC Enterprises Inc

Carlsen Family "In memory of

Erling Carlsen"

Charlie & Valerie Clark

Eleanor Cordingley

Elaine De Rooy

J. Thomas Dewar

Kathleen Dickson & Stuart Brown

Janet & John Dol

Harry C. & Monica Doll

Paul Facey & Dorothy Mansell

Steven Grauer & Family

Laverne Grams & John Pehowich

Ray & Joyce Hancock

Vicky Harp "In memory of Ernie"

Peter & Shari Hartman

George & Henrietta Head

Lois Hill & Paul Ryniak "In mem-
ory of Frank, Hilda & John Hill"

Harry Holmes & Shirley Holman

Léonard & Yvonne Hooper

Huock

Ruth Hnytzky

Tom Ingham & family

Larry & Gail Jacobsen

K. & E.J. Jameson

Peter & Ivy Jarvis

Don & Cathy Kelly "On behalf of
our grandchildren"

Pearl A. Kennedy

Mr. & Mrs Killip

Leo & Ann Klees

Paul Koffler

Rene Kraft

Arlene & Gary Lamont

Harry & Dorothy Large

J.V. Lenihan

E. Lettinga

Nanny Lettinga

Dexter & Catherine Lindberg

Margit Lindquist

John & Liese Lowe-Wylde

Anna Macdonald

Donald A Macdonald

Mary & Vernon MacKay

Lucile & Dr. Peter MacKay

Peter McDougall

Liz McLennan Meekison

W.A. & M.E. MacMillan

Deborah & Fox McKinley

Verne McShane

Ron & Joanne Moger

Lance Nater & Esther Christopher

Brenda Nicolls

Evelyn Owens

Albert & Rose Paulsen

"Celebrating the marriage of Paul
Mullen & Therese White"

Parksville TV & Sound

Hilda Pearce

Raymond Perks

Derrill & Pauline Prevett

Andy & Gisela Pope

QB Pharmasave

Murielle & Tim Pritchard

Cynthia Riera

Helen & Philip Robertson

Hazel Shorter

Barb & Rob Sibbald

Brian & Corinne Stark

Cindy & Sterling Stump

James Swift

Scott & Annette Tanner

Caroline & Edward Taylor

Daphne & Hugh Taylor

Edward & Mary Thompson

Thrifty Foods

Leonard Walker "In memory of
Nanette Walker"

Diane & John Wardle

Sharon, Bill, Casey &

Kelsey Waugh

Brad Wylie

Ethel Youds



THE QUALICUM BEACH golf course, here pictured in the 1930s, was bought by Bobby Brown in 1955 for \$25,000. Brown, who generally summured in QB, also owned the property now known as the Qualicum Heritage Forest.

Brown family name lives on in QB

■ As the former Brown property is preserved, a family is remembered

By COLLEEN DANE

NEWS REPORTER 10.9.2004

Former Qualicum Beach mayor Art Skipsey said he still remembers the biggest cheque he signed while in office.

It was the \$1-million cheque to the Brown family for the purchase of the golf course after the death of their patriarch, Bobby Brown.

Skipsey remembers the time, not only because of council's success in raising the money without increasing taxes or fees, but for the generosity of the Brown family.

With the recent fundraising for the Brown Property Preservation Society, and the group's success in blocking the property from development, it seems Brown is an unavoidable name in the town of Qualicum Beach.



SWINGS HANG FROM a tree on the former Brown summer place, which included the old mansion.

The prevalence of the Brown family name though, is based on the family's generosity in the area and not their frequency here, said Skipsey.

"They were here mainly summers maybe for special occasions like Christmas, but mostly in the summers," said Skipsey.

Bobby Brown was an oil baron from Calgary whose wealth allowed his family to own property here, in Palm Springs and in their home town.

Brown would bring his friends and business colleagues to visit the summer place, where they would often play on the golf course and enjoy the privacy of a piece of property near the middle of town which remained wooded.

See BROWN on A4



THE BROWN MANSION has been opened to the community for a variety of fundraising events, helping save the family's adjacent property (known as the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest).

BROWN

"News" 10.9.2004

They kept their stables in the centre of the property and used the land often.

"They had that big block of land, and it took someone with some means to update that," said Skipsey, adding that the taxes on the property were too hefty for most families to maintain.

In the 1940's and 1950's the size of the golf course was being chipped away by the development of Elizabeth, Elm and Poplar roads, according to Brad Wylie's book *Qualicum Beach: A History of Vancouver Island's Best Kept Secrets*.

Bobby Brown, concerned about losing the course, bought it in 1955 for \$25,000, and revamped it in 1967-68, said Wylie, adding sprinkler systems and upgrading the fairways.

When Brown died in 1971, the development rumours re-surfaced and

began to again worry Qualicum Beach residents.

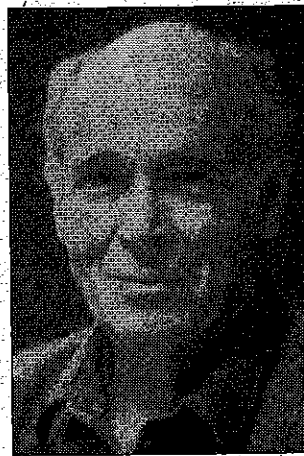
"That was the boogieman in town," said Skipsey. "That someone was going to develop the golf course."

In 1981 though the village negotiated the purchase of the greens, and paid it through the sale of seawall property just south of The Shady Rest pub and restaurant and other cumulated surpluses.

"After we bought the golf course, council considered buying that piece," said Skipsey of the Brown forest, which they considered as an area for golf course expansion.

Councillors decided though that the green space was too important to the character of Qualicum Beach, especially with the threatening rapid growth in the area, said Skipsey.

It was when Bobby Brown's estate holders sold



Art Skipsey

...holds the Browns in high regard for their sense of community

the property to the Town, through two phases in 1999 and 2002, that a subdivision plan was included.

This began the battle which wrapped up last Tuesday.

Other than through property management, Skipsey

said the Brown family helped the community by opening their home, the Brown Mansion on Crescent Road East, to The Old School House auction and fundraiser to support the arts. Bobby's wife Genevieve, who was a big supporter of the local arts, is still alive, though ill. She lives in a home near Mercer Point, said Skipsey.

While all of these places now have different owners, Skipsey said that the continuation of the Brown family name is a tribute to the influence they had on the area.

"In my view, there are only two families of means that have been this generous with the town," said Skipsey listing HR McMillan's family along with the Browns.

"I have always held them in high regard for their sense of community, not seen in many families of means," said Skipsey.

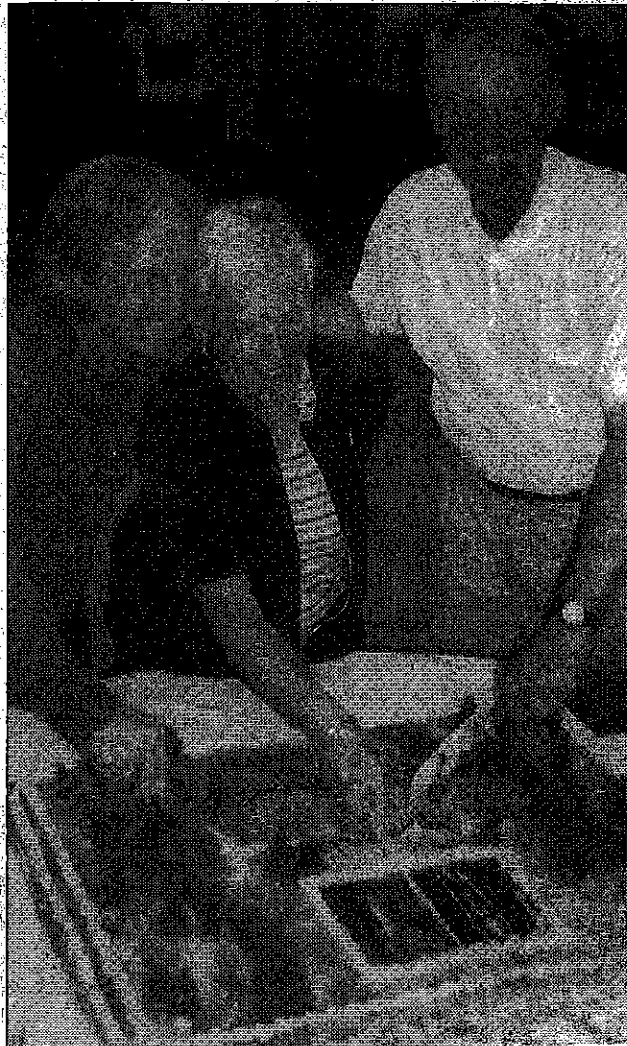
Continued from front page

AROUND TOWN/LET THEM EAT CAKE

PAUL RYNIAK, ANN Klees and Qualicum Beach Mayor Teunis Westbroek cut the cake at an appreciation tea on Saturday. The event was held to thank the many local residents who volunteered over the course of the eight-year Brown property preservation effort. Ryniak is the president of the Brown Property Preservation Society, while Klees had the original idea to save the site.

NEIL HORNER PHOTO

"News"
21.9.2004



Qualicum residents have reason to be proud

I would like to offer my thanks and my congratulations to all the people who have worked so hard to preserve the Heritage Forest for this and future generations.

In 1981 some members of council attended a workshop at Malaspina College to gain some knowledge on how to maintain the character of the town in times of very rapid growth.

They were told to identify the features that contributed to the character and work to preserve those features. I believe the Heritage Forest may be judged in the future to be our greatest treasure.

A special thanks is due to all whose donations have

brought success.

Longtime residents of Qualicum Beach or of the province may remember past decades when higher levels of government could be counted on to assist with major community projects.

It was a time also that timber barons or major corporations that draw their wealth from our natural resources could be relied upon to return some of their profits to the communities where those natural resources were extracted.

Well done Qualicum Beach and friends.

"News" 24.9.2004

A. N. Skinsy
Qualicum Beach

ment will
area" and
oved next
tion could

develop
e timeline
and Com-
like a done
stic but it's
d Gresser

g the
s Lex
l in a
ation
ng to
tober
those

Gully to sky, Qualicum forest is a saved haven

By LOUISE DICKSON 2-9-10, 2 004
Times Colonist staff

As a small child, Ken Carlsen felt the big beauty of the Heritage Forest at Qualicum Beach.

Every day, he and his brothers and sister played in the shadow of towering old-growth Douglas firs and splashed in the stream running through the bottom of its steep ravine.

They called it the gully and its natural beauty became a metaphor for the limitless love of the Carlsen family.

"When you are four or five years old, the gully seemed to be the deepest spot around. And if you looked up to the sky, it was so far away," Carlsen recalled last week from his home in Sparwood. "With that thought, when we were tucked into bed at night our parents would say, 'I love you from the gully to the sky.'"

In August, Carlsen, who had moved away from Qualicum Beach after high school, saw a news report on BCTV about a fundraising campaign to save the Heritage Forest, known to most locals as the Brown property because it belonged to R.A. Brown of the Home Oil Company.

Since 1996, the Brown Property Preservation Society had been trying to raise \$1.8 million to save the 20-hectare property from development. The Brown Family Trust wanted to turn the property, which represents 20 per cent of preserved old growth Douglas fir in B.C., into a 110-lot subdivision. Qualicum Beach's 7,000 res-

idents wanted to save the 400-year-old trees, the salmon-bearing stream and a stand of rare Sitka spruce. But by the end of July, the society still needed \$140,000.

At that point, the fundraising efforts went into high gear, said Paul Ryniak, preservation society president.

"We had a wild last couple of weeks. We just kept ourselves in peoples' faces. The society set up a donation table at the bustling downtown corner where Primrose meets Second. "And people just kept dropping off the cheques," said Ryniak.

In the last week, Quality Foods donated \$10,000, Thrifty Foods gave \$2,000 and local author Brad Wyde, who is writing a book on Qualicum Beach, donated \$14,000.

"It was just an amazing last month." Although the fundraising was \$18,000 short of its goal, the town of Qualicum Beach picked up the shortfall. The property is now preserved in its entirety with covenants, said Ryniak.

Ken Carlsen's memories have also been preserved. As subdivision upon subdivision presses in on Qualicum Beach, the heritage forest he played in will stand strong.

"The fact that it's been saved means a lot to me," said Carlsen. "Other families will be able to walk through this forest and feel what we felt. It's like stepping back in time."

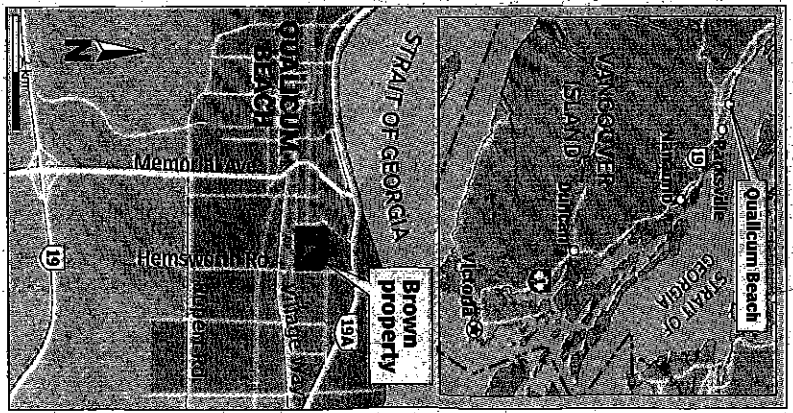
Ryniak has kept the letter Carlsen sent to him in August, along with a donation. "When my daughter was younger, she

was told the story of the gully and she too was tucked into bed with the words, 'I love you from the gully to the sky,'" wrote Carlsen. "Last year, our father passed away and on his headstone it has 'We Love You from the Gully to the Sky.'"

To our family the Heritage Forest is a special place with lots of memories."



Heritage Forest Society president Paul Ryniak stands in the gully will live on as a Qualicum Beach gem. *Ray Smith/TIC*



2004

Looking Back

Brown Property group still active into '05

By NEIL HORNER
NEWS REPORTER

When the year 2004 began, the situation wasn't looking all that hopeful for the members of Qualicum Beach's Brown Property Preservation Society.

But when the clock struck midnight to end that year, the situation was very much different.

Paul Ryniak is president of the society and he remembers that the group had a long, long way to go in their efforts to purchase the 50-acre property and save it from development in perpetuity.

"I think we had \$230,000 still to raise at the start of the year," he said in an interview Wednesday. "All I can say is that we

were optimistic as we blindly went into it, but near the end we were thinking we wouldn't make it."

Since they were formed in 1996, the group had managed to raise a whopping \$1.63 million, but by mid-April the group was still \$170,000 short of the mark — and the loan was due by September.

The group's \$200 Dash program, along with garage sales, home and garden tours and other initiatives had managed to bring the group to within \$44,000 of their goal by late August, but time was running out. There was talk of possibly selling off one lot to make up the difference, or of asking the bank to extend the loan.

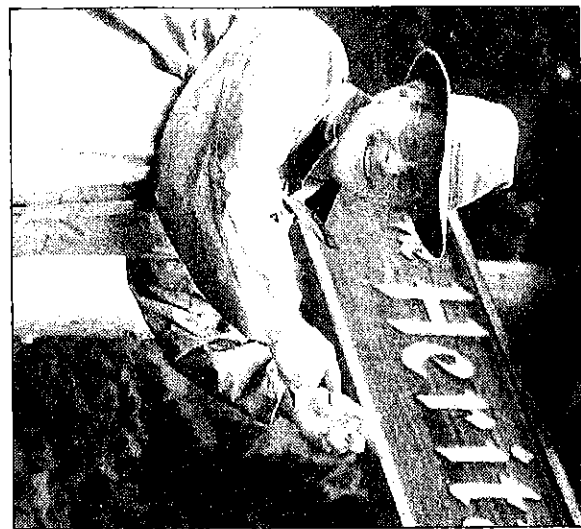
However, the last few days of fundraisers for the heritage forest proved fruitful,

and the society was able to turn the loan over to the Town of Qualicum Beach on Sept. 3 with a mere \$26,567 still owing.

"It was just great," Ryniak said. "It was a long, hard year, but it was certainly well worth the effort in the end, especially when we saw that response, because we came closer to the final total than we expected."

At this point, approximately \$15,000 still remains to be raised, and donations are still being accepted.

Meanwhile, the society is still very much active, despite the fact that their official fundraising role has been supplanted by the municipality. They plan to organize the upkeep of the trails in the park, as well as do a little bit more fundraising, this time for a permanent donor's board.



PAUL RYNIAK IS optimistic that the remaining \$15,000 will be raised to pay off the Brown Property loan.

March 22, 2005
"NEWS"

• Council will pay off the debt for the Brown property in Qualicum Beach. Acting mayor Scott Tanner notes that \$16,000 remains owing for the property, which was purchased after years of fundraising by the Brown Property Preservation Society.

Tanner says the municipality is paying about two dollars a day in interest on the loan to the Royal Bank, and it makes sense to eliminate that payment.

A total of \$1,250 has been donated to the fund since council took over the debt, and this would drop the amount owing to under \$15,000.

Coun. Jack Wilson says donations can still be made to the Brown Property Preservation Society in order to help pay off the balance of the amount. Council passed the motion.

Map found in Mansion wall

By JESSICA KERR
NEWS REPORTER 2005

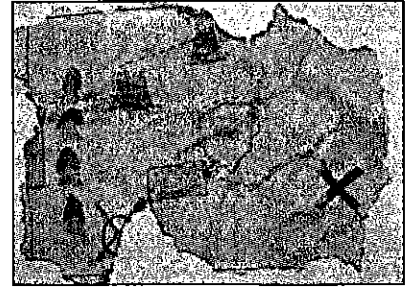
There was an air of excitement around the Brown mansion this week, with what some are calling the find of the century.

While ripping through years of old wallpaper and drywall, crews working in the mansion found what is believed to be a treasure map.

The map was found stuck between the wood paneling and the dry wall in what was believed to be Bobby Brown's office in the house. Brown, a Calgary-based oil baron, spent many summers at their Qualicum Beach mansion in the 1950s.

Those who have seen the map believe it leads to something, possibly money or gold, buried in the Qualicum Heritage Forest.

"It is unclear by just looking at the map," says Duncan McLeod, an historical document expert out



of Victoria who made the trip to Oceanside to examine the map.

The map starts at the back door of the house and shows a route through the forest to a tree where it appears a key is hidden, says McLeod.

Paul Ryniack, president of the Brown Property Preservation Society, was surprised to hear about the find, but also has some concerns.

"We are afraid people will destroy the forest in search of treasure," he says. The group worked for nine years and raised over \$1.5 million to save the forest. **SEE MAP ON A3**

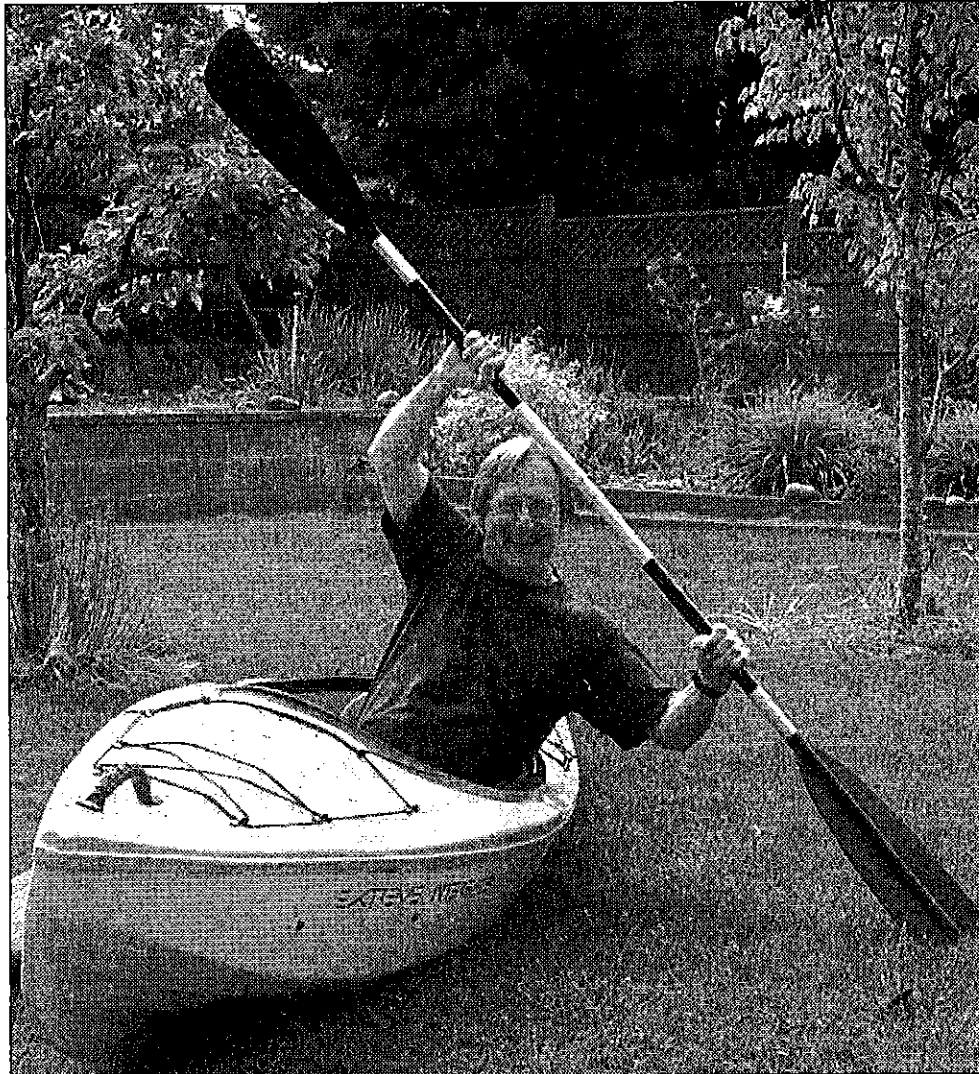
FROM PAGE ONE — APRIL FOOLS!



WE GOT YA! If you followed the front page stories here, by now you must realize you've been taken. In the spirit of the day — April 1 — today's front page is a whimsical farce. Thanks to Teunis Westbroek and Paul Ryniack for being such sports. The photos, of course, have been doctored. Page one, by the way.

news

May 24/2005

Drywater paddler

BROWN PROPERTY PRESERVATION Society president Paul Ryniak tries out the dry land handling of the Enigma kayak donated by Extreme Interface Kayaks for the raffle campaign Qualicum Beach. Tickets cost \$2 each or three for \$5. Funds raised will go towards the purchase of a proper tally board to recognize those who donated to the Brown property purchase. Tickets are on sale at the QB Farmer's Market and on Family Day.

NEIL HORNER PHOTO

QB Heritage Forest protection plan moving forward

By NELL HORNER
News Reporter

Qualicum Beach Town Council this week released a draft of the terms of a proposed covenant for the former Brown property, now known as the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

But that release didn't come easily.

Speaking at a special council meeting Wednesday morning, Councillor Scott Tanner moved that the draft be released to the general public, noting that copies were being sent to the Brown Property Preservation Society and the Heritage Forest Commission.

However, because the matter had been discussed in camera and no motion had been made in camera to remove it, council had to adjourn back into a private meeting to discuss

the move and vote to release it to the public.

The draft document calls for the forest to be maintained as a nature park in perpetuity and so would grant the property to an unnamed agency for \$1.

Restrictions proposed by the covenant would prevent the land from being subdivided and would mandate that they remain in their natural state, restricted for use only as a public nature park.

Although it would protect the land from development, the covenant would still allow the municipality to formulate a management plan for such issues as public use and access, signage and fencing, the planting of native vegetation, road maintenance and public utilities, among others.

Although council agreed to make the draft document public, Heritage Forest Commission member Coun. Jack Wilson expressed concern that council would be inundated

with comments at a time when they didn't even have any indication about who the eventual covenant holder was going to be.

"If it's the land conservancy, they probably would have ideas about how they would like to change it to be in line with what they are comfortable with," Wilson says. "This is very much in the draft stage as far as I'm concerned."

However, Mayor Tannis Westbroek stressed that many members of the community donated to the Brown property preservation effort and they should have a right to not only see the draft report, but comment on it.

Westbroek says he wants to see the two agencies complete their perusal of the document some time in August and refer it back to council for a final draft.

In the meantime, staff will work to find an agency to take on the covenant.

Heritage forest society changing

By NEIL HORNER

NEWS REPORTER Oct. 25/2005

Funds are still coming in to Qualicum Beach's Heritage Forest Society, but the amounts have dropped from large cheques to nickels and dimes, says president Paul Ryniak.

That's fine though, he says, because every little bit helps.

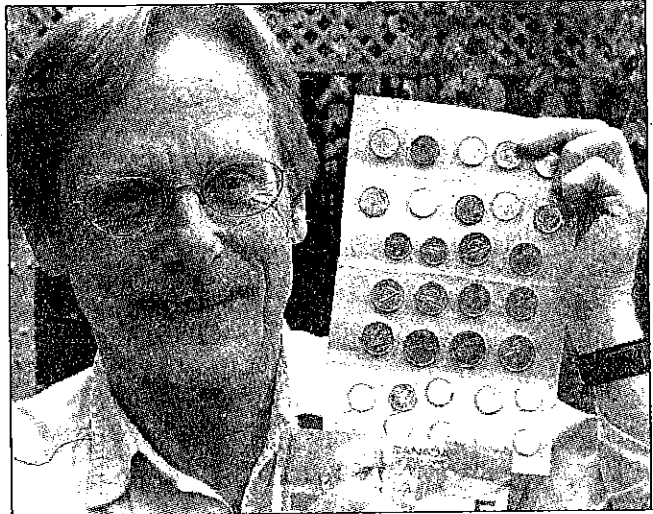
Ryniak received a letter from England this past week from a person who had holidayed in Oceanside and taped in that letter was

all the Canadian change the person had left over, along with a \$5 bill.

"It probably cost them more to send it than the face value," Ryniak says of the \$2.60 in nickels, dimes and quarters and the \$5 bill. "It's amazing that the campaign, which started in 1996 has dwindled down to some change, but it is still coming in."

How the \$7.60 and other donations will be dealt with will likely be on the agenda when the Heritage Forest Society holds its AGM from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Civic Centre in Qualicum Beach on Nov. 17.

"We will have our elections and will be able to explain to people about the covenant that is 99 per cent done," Ryniak explains. "The covenant will be there in perpetuity and will keep it a forest reserve."



PAUL RYNIK SHOWS off the latest donation to come into the Heritage Forest Society.

NEIL HORNER PHOTO

Ryniak says the group has changed focus from being a fundraising body to protectors of the forest.

"The society is basically going in a new direction," he says. "We are being proactive and will maintain and

upgrade the forest, now that it has been saved.

"For instance, when a fence comes down, we as monitors will see that and pass it on to the proper people to get the authority to repair it."

"The Saga of the Tall Trees"

2000 - 2005

Thank you!

(Last Page)

Liese L.W.

Town of Qualicum Beach HERITAGE FOREST TRAILS



Heritage Forest debt cleared

Newcomers to Qualicum Beach, the Hollingtons have green plans

By **NEIL HORNER**
NEWS REPORTER

With little fanfare, a chapter closed on the saga of the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest this week.

Appearing as a delegation at a recent regular council meeting, a couple of newcomers presented a cheque to Mayor Teunis Westbrook to retire the remaining debt for the purchase of the former Brown property.

Ed and Louella Hollington said they moved to Qualicum Beach from the Lower Mainland a year ago and wanted to do something for the environment. After talks with Westbrook, the Hollingtons decided to retire the \$6,500 debt remaining on the municipal books.

"We were very impressed with the quaintness, quietness and quality of life Qualicum Beach offers and we want to congratulate you as a council for the ambience," Louella Hollington said.

"We know how difficult it is to keep hungry developers at bay. You honour the wishes of the people by lim-



LOUELLA AND ED Hollington present council with a cheque to cover the outstanding Brown property debt.

iting growth and we salute you for preserving as much of the natural habitat as possible."

She said when the cou-

ple heard about the massive effort to preserve the Brown property, they decided to get involved, even though they came on the scene late in

the day.

"Since we learned there is a \$6,500 outstanding debt, we have a cheque to cover that amount so this project can be complete."

This prompted sustained applause from the packed gallery.

She wasn't done, however. Hollington went on to say the couple has jumped on board the push to preserve Hamilton Marsh.

"We are in the process of setting up a trust fund to start the purchase of the land," she said. "We hope the owners will sell it to the Regional District of Nanaimo to make wildlife habitat."

In response, Coun. Jack Wilson, who was intimately involved in the Brown property campaign, thanked the couple.

"It took one and a half years, but it's done now, thanks to you," he said.

Westbroek agreed.

"It was Ansel Adams who said, 'guard it well, because this forest is far more precious than money, and once it's gone you can't buy it back,'" he said. "Obviously, this forest means more than money to you and I'm absolutely delighted that you have the big picture view to protect Hamilton Marsh. Thank you."

NEIL HORNER PHOTO

news@pqbnews.com

Great ! Thank you.

Heritage Forest gets new protection from QB

By NEIL HORNER
NEWS REPORTER

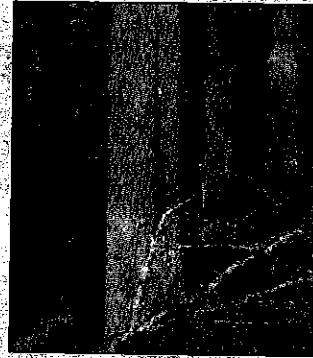
If there were any doubts about the protection of the Heritage Forest in Qualicum Beach, they were laid to rest this week with the signing of a protective covenant.

Councillor Jack Wilson announced the signing of the covenant between the municipality, the Brown Property Preservation Society and the B.C. Land Conservancy after months of tough negotiations.

The Brown Property Preservation Society, in conjunction with the Town of Qualicum Beach, purchased 35 acres of the 50-acre site in May of 1999 for \$910,000. Subsequent fundraising efforts between the society and the town led to the entire site being preserved.

The municipality has since rezoned the property to a Conservation 3 category and placed a restrictive covenant on the property to ensure it remains as an ecological reserve.

Since that time, negotiations to put the conservation covenant in place have continued, even as the society



HERITAGE FOREST IS now better protected.

recently retired the last of its debt, thanks to donations by community members.

Monday night, Wilson moved that staff be empowered to sign the covenant, a motion that passed enthusiastically and unanimously.

"Thanks to all the people involved for their tenacity and patience," Mayor Teunis Westbroek said. "Thanks also to the group of people who started this off. Twelve years ago, it seemed like a dream that was very difficult to realize, but through your involvement and so many others who worked so hard to raise awareness [it has been realized]. If there were an Olympic medal for fundraising, you would deserve them."

COUN. JACK WILSON was all smiles this week after a protective covenant was agreed to for the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

NEIL HORNER PHOTO

June 20,
2008
The NEWS



Forest frozen in time

By NEIL HORNER
NEWS REPORTER

It may be tempting, but no future council in Qualicum Beach will be able to turn the Heritage Forest into a condo development.

That's because, says Councillor Jack Wilson, council has finally been able to hammer out a deal with The Land Conservancy to put a protective covenant on the land, formerly known as the Brown property.

"It's all agreed to," he said. "We hope to have a signing ceremony in July,

right inside the forest."

Wilson said the covenant, which involves TLC, the Brown Property Preservation Society and the Town of Qualicum Beach, has been a long time coming, but is crucial, if residents want to keep a distinctive piece of urban forest — and one of Qualicum Beach's special places — intact.

"Fifty years from now people will have forgotten the \$1.25 million raised by individuals," Wilson said. "There may be a temptation for future councils to say, 'why don't we sell this

off and make a bunch of money?'"

Wilson noted the covenant details not only that the forest be preserved, but in what manner it should be preserved.

"It keeps the ideas we have currently of how the forest should not develop," he said.

"We don't want paved roads in there. We don't want parking lots. We want to keep it as natural as possible. This freezes in time what we have in mind for this."

news@pqbnews.com

There's no subdivision in the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest and there never will be, thanks to a protective covenant signed at a ceremony this week.

The document, an agreement between the Town of Qualicum Beach, the Brown Property Preservation Society and The Land Conservancy of British Columbia, protects the 50-acre site as forest land in perpetuity.

The many volunteers who worked for more than a decade to raise awareness and money for the purchase of what was formerly private land owned by the Brown family gathered in the forest's meadow Wednesday to witness the signing, along with representatives of the Brown family and the municipality.

That long road began in 1995, when the Brown Family Trust decided to sell the Brown mansion, along with its immediate five acres and the surrounding 50 acres of forest. There was no shortage of developers eager to develop the property, as residents soon found out.

"It was 12 years ago that Anne Klees picked up a piece of litter from St. Andrew's Drive, only to discover it was a detailed schematic for a 110-lot development," said Brian Lecky, president of the Brown Property Preservation Society. "Thank goodness Anne was so fastidious about the cleanliness of our community."

Klees wasn't happy about the thought of the forest being destroyed and she relayed her concerns to her neighbours. Word soon spread and before long the society was formed in an effort to save the land from becoming just another subdivision.

The society began raising money in an effort to come up with the almost \$2 million purchase price for the forest. Wednesday's signing ceremony was the culmination of those efforts.

"We started with a



NEIL HORNER PHOTO

PRESERVATION SOCIETY PRESIDENT Brian Lecky signs the covenant as Mayor Teunis Westbroek, Bill Turner and Dave Courtice look on.

A forest forever

Massive volunteer effort culminates in protective covenant

BY NEIL HORNER

www.pqbnews.com

NEWS July 18 / 2008

Brown sisters have fond memories

By NEIL HORNER
NEWS REPORTER

Lois and Pamela Brown have fond memories of the piece of land now known as the Qualicum Beach Heritage Forest.

They remember walking through its trails, riding in the paddock on their horses, enjoying the natural beauty and peacefulness of the site.

Now the property has been preserved, they will be able to continue to do so — as will their children and grandchildren.

SEE BROWN ON A16

piece of paper and we have returned to a piece of paper," Lecky said. "But this time it is to protect the forest for all generations to come, not to pave paradise and put in some building lots."

Qualicum Beach Mayor Teunis Westbroek called the signing a great day for Qualicum Beach, quoting Ansel Adams as he did so.

"This you inherit," he said. "Guard it well because it's far more precious than money and once it's destroyed, nature's beauty cannot be purchased at any price."

Westbroek praised the many volunteers who worked hard to raise the money to buy the land, often when it seemed hopeless.

"At times it was dicey," he said, noting chief admin-

istrative officer Mark Brown, Coun. Barry Avis and Coun. Jack Wilson worked particularly hard on the part of the municipality.

Bill Turner, executive director of The Land Conservancy of British Columbia, echoed the congratulations.

"We learned from this project that if you don't give up, you will succeed," he said. "The community did it all on this project. We are very pleased to be involved in it, because this is the type of project that shows what a community can really do."

The status means the Heritage Forest makes up fully 20 per cent of the protected Douglas fir ecosystem on Vancouver Island, with Milner Gardens making up another 25 per cent.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A5

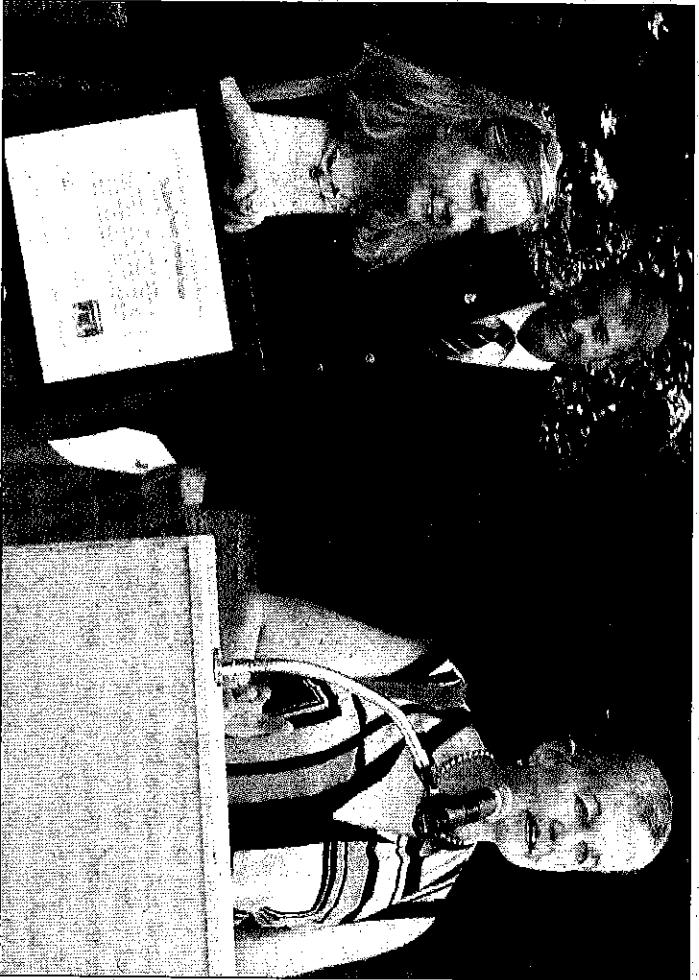
Brown family can enjoy the forest for years

Speaking at the signing ceremony for the protective covenant that will keep the forest intact in perpetuity, Pamela Brown shared some of her memories with the approximately 50 people in attendance.

"Lois and I were talking to each other as we came through the forest to be here and we had so many happy memories being here with our family," Pamela said. "We remembered being here with our horses and walking through these woods. They are lovely memories.

"There's a spirit of place here and anyone who walks through the forest recognizes it. It's a special kind of magic and we all felt it growing up, even as little kids. We still feel it now."

Pamela said she was delighted those memories will be able to be relived any time they want to come to Qualicum Beach and she thanked the many volunteers who worked hard to protect



LOIS BROWN HOLDS plaque of appreciation (left) while sister Pamela addresses the crowd and Mayor Teunis Westbroek looks on. NEIL HORNBER PHOTO

the woodland for the future. "We want to say thank you to all of you," she said. "A lot of time went by and you never gave up hope. You

kept fighting. It is now going to be preserved and we are so appreciative of that. Our family can still enjoy it and our children and grandchild-

dren can still enjoy it. It's absolutely wonderful, and it's because of the efforts you've made."

news@jqbnews.com

per year parcel tax for 15 years.

• Oct. 16, 2000 — bylaw adopted by town to establish Joint Commission (Council and Brown Property Preservation Society) to manage and preserve the Brown property forest.

• July 25, 2002 — town sold Palm Drive lot for \$76,900 to be used for Brown property purchase.

• Dec. 21, 2007 — citizen pays town last payment of internal loan \$6,464.

• August 2002 — loan obtained from Royal Bank by town and society for \$282,922.

• March 2002 — Society raised an additional \$450,000 and town purchased one half (7.5 acres) of the remaining Brown family property.

• August 2002 — final remaining 7.5 acre portion of the Brown property purchased.

• July 14, 2005 — Town pays out remain-

ing \$16,044 of bank loan.

• July 15, 2008 — covenant to preserve Heritage Forest signed by Brown Property Preservation Society, The Land Conservancy of B.C., and the Town of Qualicum Beach.

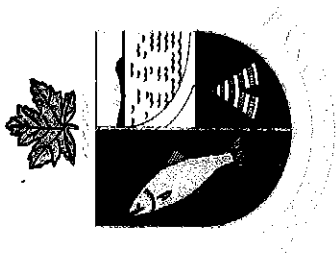
news@jqbnews.com

Addressing the gathering in the Heritage Forest Tuesday afternoon is Anne Klees, who inspired the campaign to save the property from development 12 years ago.

July 17, 08

BRAD BIRD OCEANSIDE STAR





September 18, 2004

*With Appreciation From The
Town of Qualicum Beach*



"This you inherit, guard it well, for it is far more precious than money, and once destroyed, nature's beauty cannot be repurchased at any price"

- Ansel Adams

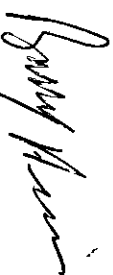
The members and volunteers of the Brown Property Preservation Society have had the wisdom and foresight to recognize the importance of Ansel Adams's insightful words. Working together for thousands of hours on various projects to raise funds, your dedication has saved this unique and priceless forest from destruction, not only for the benefit of residents and visitors to Qualicum Beach, but especially for future generations to come.

The Town of Qualicum Beach would like to thank you for your effort and dedication that has made the Heritage Forest of Qualicum Beach the crown jewel of our community's heritage and natural environment. Your perseverance has been an inspiration to us all and we celebrate your success.

With sincere appreciation,



Mayor Teunis Westbroek



Councillor Barry Avis



Councillor Anton Kruyt



Councillor Scott Tanner



Councillor Jack Wilson