PAC 5465 Filed under Nimpkish 187420-20 / LEPORE 83 Copy Parade Nimpkish TALL TREES

NIMPKISH ISLAND TALL TREES

TO: WILDERNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FROM: GEORGE LEPORE, DIRECTOR AREA D (NIMPKISH)

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF MOUNT WADDINGTON 1983

'IF A MAN WALKS IN THE WOODS FOR LOVE OF THEM, FOR HALF HIS DAYS HE IS ESTEEMED A LOAFER; BUT IF HE SPENDS HIS WHOLE DAY AS A SPECULATOR, SHEARING OFF THOSE WOODS, HE IS ESTEEMED INDUSTRIOUS AND ENTERPRISING...... MAKING EARTH BALD BEFORE ITS TIME.'

INTRODUCTION

NIMPKISH ISLAND WAS FORMED BY A BIFURCATION OF THE NIMPKISH RIVER. FED AT THAT POINT BY RICH ALLUVIUM, THE AREA STEADILY BECAME AN IDEAL PLACE FOR THE GROWTH OF TREES.

NIMPKISH ISLAND, ACQUIRED BY CANADIAN FOREST PRODUCTS (CANFOR) BETWEEN 1950-1951, IS PART OF TREE FARM LICENSE #37. STATUS OF THE LAND IS CROWN LAND (AFTER THE TREES ARE REMOVED, THE LAND REVERTS TO THE CROWN.)

THE ISSUE

THE EXTRAORDINARY HEIGHT OF THE TREES AND THE GROWING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ISLAND RAISED THE INTEREST OF MR. TOM WRIGHT (CANFOR GENERAL MANAGER UNTIL 1971) AND OF DR. V.J. KRAJINA, PROFESSOR OF BOTANY, UNIVERSITY OF B.C. (FATHER OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES IN B.C.) LEOPOLD BENTLEY (OWNER OF CANFOR) WAS CONVINCED THAT THE TREES ON NIMPKISH ISLAND SHOULD NEVER BE CUT (UNTIL CANFOR OWNS THE TIMBER RIGHTS). HIS SON, PETER BENTLEY HAS RESTATED THAT COMMITTMENT. (SEE APPENDIX # 5) THE GENERAL PUBLIC'S INTEREST WAS ALSO RAISED BY AN ARTICLE IN THE CANADIAN EQUINOX MAGAZINE (MAY/JUNE 1983 EMBATTLED BROBDINGNAGIANS) WHICH RESULTED IN CONTROVERSY OVER THE FUTURE USE OF THE ISLAND.

IN APRIL OF 1981 CANFOR INDICATED THAT THEY WISHED TO HARVEST THE WOOD ON NIMPKISH ISLAND. WHEN THE AREA WAS PROPOSED FOR AN ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, THE MINISTER OF FORESTS, MR. TOM WATERLAND, IN EARLY 1982 REMOVED NIMPKISH ISLAND FROM T.F.L. # 37 AND ADJUSTED THE ALLOWABLE ANNUAL CUT ACCORDINGLY. (SEE APPENDIX # 4) NEGOTIATIONS TOOK PLACE IN 1982 AND 1983 AND IN 1984 AN APPRASIAL WAS DONE BY REID, COLLINS & ASSOCIATES.

THREE YEARS AGO, THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF MOUNT
WADDINGTON EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THE ISLAND WITH THE
POSSIBLITY OF DEVELOPING IT AS A PARK/TOURIST
ATTRACTION.(SEE APPENDIX #8 AND 10) THE PROPOSAL THAT WAS
EXAMINED WAS TO DEVELOP IT AS A FULLY CONTROLLED AND
ACCESSIBLE PARK WITH A SIDEWALKED GUIDED TOUR. THIS WOULD
SATISFY THE PRESERVATION NECESSARY FOR AN ECOLOGICAL
RESERVE. MONEY GENERATED FROM TOURISM AND THE POSSIBLE
ACQUISITION OF GRANTS WOULD ASSIST IN THE PRESERVATION OF
THIS UNIQUE ISLAND.

BECAUSE OF THE FRAGILITY OF THE SITE AND THE NECESSITY OF TAKING EROSION CONTROL MEASURES; AND BECAUSE OF THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THIS SITE FOR TOURISTS, THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF MERIT IN CREATING AN ECOLOGICAL PARK AT NIMPKISH ISLAND. DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE CONFINED TO THE PROPOSED 200 METRE BUFFER AREA (SEE APPENDIX # 3) EXCEPT FOR A RESTRICTED CABLE BRIDGE. IN THIS WAY, THE TREES AND THE ISLAND WOULD BE PRESERVED, CONTROLLED PUBLIC ACCESS WOULD BE PERMITTED, AND LONG TERM MANAGEMENT OF THE SITE WOULD BE ACHIEVED.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF MOUNT WADDINGTON RECOMMENDS TO THE WILDERNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE THAT:

- 1) THE STATUS OF THE ISLAND BE RESOLVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WITH THE ANTICIPATION OF WORK BEING STARTED AS EARLY AS THE SPRING AND COMPLETED BY THE SUMMER OF 1986 IN CONJUNCTION WITH EXPO '86 TOURISM .
- 2) THE ISLAND AND THE ADJACENT STRIP OF LAND BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE REGIONAL DISTRICT FOR ONE (1) DOLLAR AND INCORPORATED INTO THE REGIONAL PARKS FUNCTION.
- 3) ALTERNATIVE COMPENSATION METHODS BE EXAMINED FOR THE 26,600 CUBIC METERS OF WOOD AND THE REDUCTION IN T.F.L. ACREAGE BE ABSORBED AS PART OF THE FIVE PERCENT T.F.L. WITHDRAWAL POLICY IN THE PROVINCIAL FOREST ACT.
- 4) THE CROWN COMPENSTATE CANFOR FOR THE WOOD LOST WITH EQUAL AMOUNT OF WOOD TO BE REMOVED FROM SCHOEN LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK INCONJUNCTION WITH PROVINCIAL PARK DEVELOPMENT. THIS WILL ENSURE THAT TOTAL VOLUME OF WOOD FROM T.F.L. # 37 WILL REMAIN THE SAME AND THUS NO LOGGING JOBS WILL BE LOST.
- 5) THE MONIES SAVED BE GIVEN AS A GRANT TO THE REGIONAL DISTRICT TO BE SPENT ON THE PRESERVATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A CONTROLLED ACCESS AND GUIDED PARK IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE ECOLOGICAL BRANCH AND PROFESSOR V.J. KRAJINA.

NOTE:

THE NIMPKISH ISLAND TREES ARE ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE THEY ARE YOUTHFUL, VIGOROUS, DOUGLAS FIR SPECIMENS WHICH HAVE REACHED THE HEIGHT OF 300 FEET. THEY ARE STILL ACTIVELY GROWING; WHEREAS TREES IN CATHEDRAL GROVE (PORT ALBERNI) ARE DECADENT AND HAVE CEASED GROWING. SIMILARILY THE REDWOODS IN REDWOOD PARK CALIFORNIA (340 FEET TALL) HAVE CEASED GROWING. THERE IS A POSSIBLITY THAT THE NIMPKISH ISLAND TREES OVER THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS COULD GROW TO EXCEED 348 FEET AND WOULD THUS BE THE TALLEST TREES IN NORTH AMERICA IF NOT THE WORLD.

STATISTICS

NIMPKISH ISLAND AREA:

17 HECTACRES

CUBIC METRES OF WOOD:

26,600

AREA IN T.F.L. # 37:

127,000 HECTACRES

ALLOWABLE CUT IN T.F.L. # 37: 1,090,000 CUBIC METRES

TALLEST TREE ON NIMPKISH ISLAND 317 FEET

TALLEST TREE IN REDWOOD PARK:

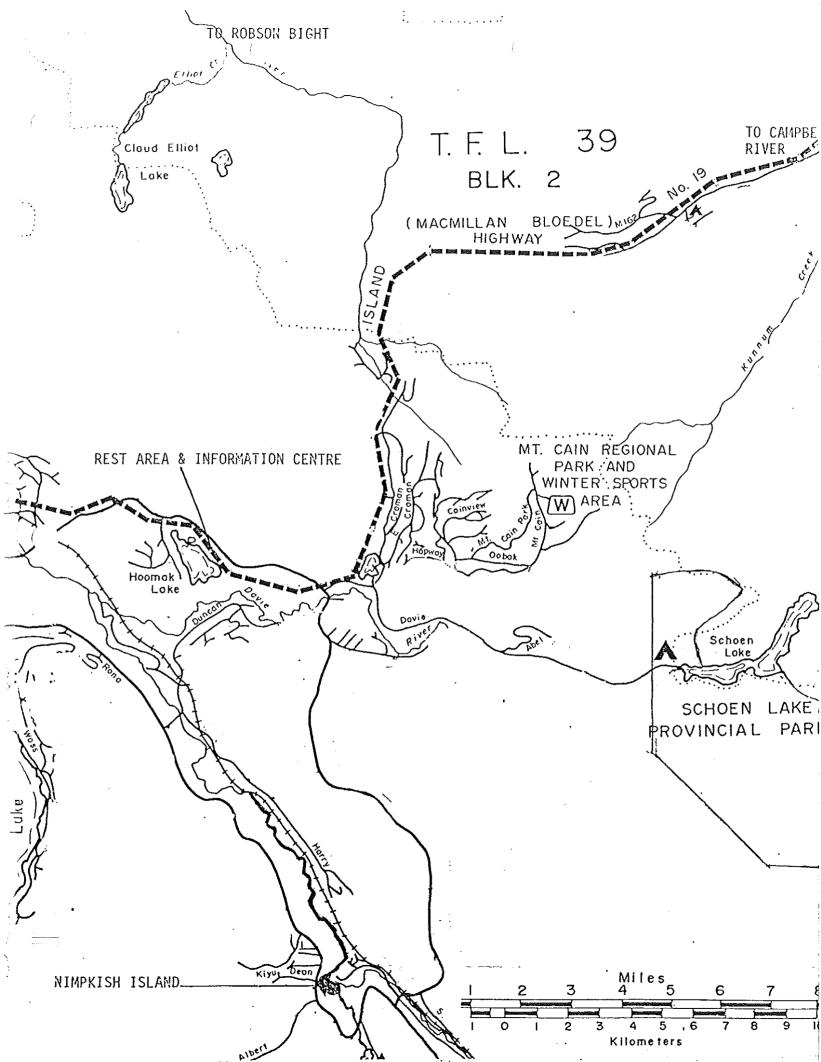
348 FEET

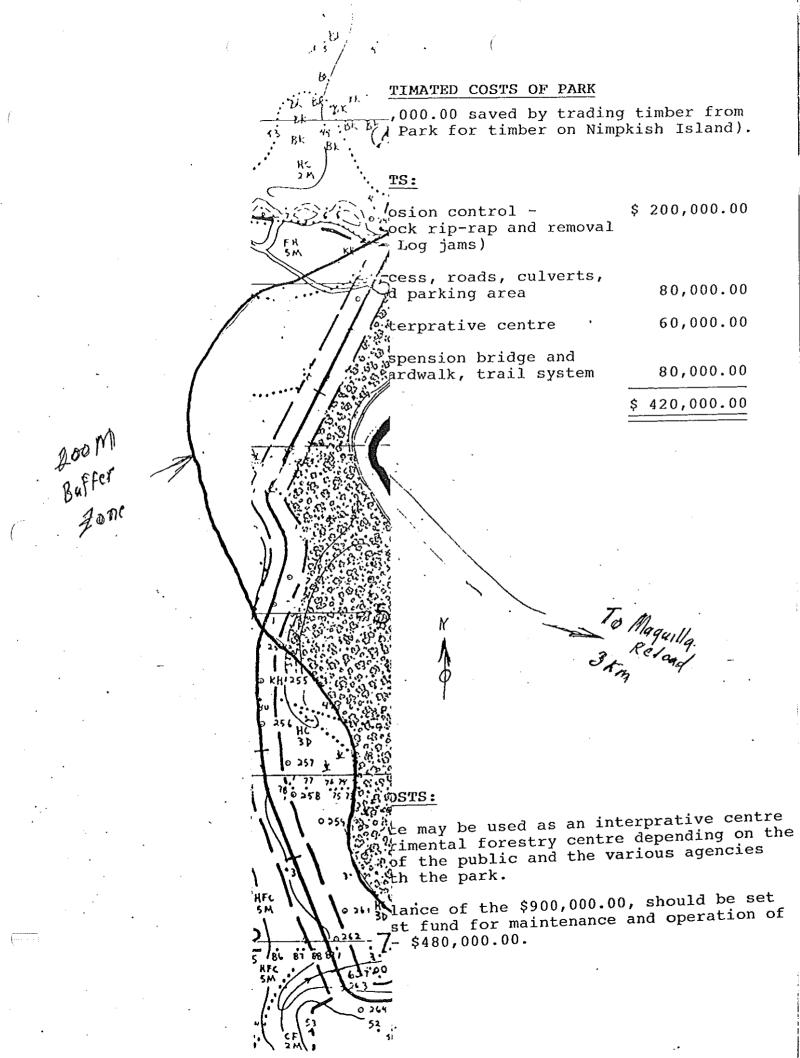
TALLEST TREE IN CATHEDRAL GROVE: 278 FEET

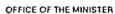
APPENDIX

- 1. MAP SHOWING NIMPKISH ISLAND IN RELATION TO VANCOUVER ISLAND.
- 2. MAP SHOWING NIMPKISH ISLAND AND SURROUNDING AREA.
- 3. MAP SHOWING PROPOSED PARK.
- 4. MINISTER OF FORESTS, JUNE 1983.
- 5. PETER BENTLEY'S LETTER TO THE EDITOR, JUNE 1983.
- 6. DR. KRAJINA, JULY 1983.
- 7. DR. KRAJINA, JULY 1983.
- 8. REGIONAL DISTRICT, OCTOBER 1983.
- 9. CANADIAN FOREST PRODUCTS, NOVEMBER 1983.
- 10. REGIONAL DISTRICT, NOVEMBER 1983.









June 21, 1983 920-1-164

Dr. V. J. Krajina, Honorary Professor, Department of Botany, University of B.C. 2075 Wesbrook Mall Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5

Dear Dr. Krajina:

Thank you for your kind congratulations on the recent election. There are many challenges for the years ahead and I am pleased to be facing them in the Forests portfolio.

As you know from previous letters, there is no question about support for the proposed reserve on Nimpkish Island. The Ministry of Forests has agreed to its creation since it was first suggested. The harvest rate on Tree Farm Licence #37 has already been reduced in anticipation that Nimpkish Island will be dedicated as an ecological reserve. The outstanding, unresolved issue is the compensation owing to the forest company for the loss of its rights. That matter is being negotiated by the Ministry of Lands, Parks & Housing which has responsibility for ecological reserves. I am therefore referring your letter to my colleague, the Honourable A.J. Brummet, who is in a better position to answer your questions regarding means of raising funds.

I read with interest the copy of your address which you attached to the letter. The acid rain issue in particular is of immense interest in British Columbia where we are so dependent on forest resources. I certainly will be doing my part to ensure that adequate protective measures are put in place while we still have the chance to learn from experiences elsewhere.

Yours truly.

T. M. Waterland,

Minister.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLU. BIA # 3259-6270 UNIVERSITY BLVD. VANCOUVER, B.C., V6T 2B1

ARTMENT OF BOTANY

July 4, 1983

Mr. Dennis N. Caldwell Secretary Regional District of Mount Waddington. P.O. Box 729 Port McNeill, B.C. **VON 2RO**

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

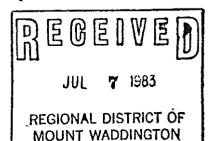
You ask me for my comment on Mr. Bentley's letter, the copy of which you attached.

I believe that Mr. Erich Hoyt's article in the Equinox (May/June 1983) deserves a better rating than that which Mr. Peter J.G. Bentley assigned to it. However, I might agree that the information, given by Mr. Bentley, supplements the above mentioned article, especially by the fact that "Canfor" made an agreement with the Ministry of Forests about ten years ago (on our initiation), that the Island may become an Ecological Reserve, if the firm will get the compensation of the half price of the standing timber there. The actual price for these tallest trees in Canada is differently estimated by the firm and differently by the provincial Forest Service. However, an "unbiased" estimation could easily solve the problem.

New to me in the statement of Mr. Peter Bentley is the part which says: "I wish to again assure your readers that the trees on Nimpkish Island are as safe now as they were when we voluntarily set them aside 40 years ago." Perhaps here are hinted the efforts of the company's chief forester Tom Wright who admirably planned the yearly cut in such a way, that he did not wish to take all the cream first and cut the less valued trees later as most of the companies unfortunately did. However, even by that plan no intention was ever performed to save these trees on their own stately value as they would be by an ecological reserve.

Our own intention was to have these trees in living status, providing that the firm will be compensated for the loss of their revenue for the trees. We were very pleased that the company promised to ask only half of their price.

I am confident that the Honourable Tom Waterland, Minister of Forests, and the Honourable A.J. Brummet, Minister of Environment, Lands, Parks and Housing, will solve the problem in the near future, before we may start to collect the necessary money by private donations. I was told that the Canadians in the east would be pleased to participate by their donations for saving the tallest trees in Canada, even if these are located in the west thanks to their environment here. By such doing we might further amalgamate our wonderful country as she fully deserves our unity.



Yours very truly,

Dr. Vladimir J'. Krajina, C.M.

Professor of Botany,

The University of British Columbia,

Vancouver, B.C., V6T 2B1

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schools.

We have been told the children want these courses lithat they provide immediately useful skills.

We think our schools owe the pupils much more than that.

It is a shame to only train school kids to work office and industrial machines which can become obsolete by the time they graduate. All that does is lull them for a few years and then turn them out to feel cheated and bitter when the jobs for which they have been trained don't exist.

The first industrial revolution replaced brute labour with machines. This one is replacing manual skills with new machines. The newest machines, which will be in widespread use by the time the children entering high school this September are graduated, are replacing more than just skills, they replace, simple judgement and decision making.

More than ever before, children who don't learn how to learn, who learn only skills and not how to read poetry, speculate and think, think, will be relegated to a lifetime spent mostly at the end of a broom or on the UIC-line. Although the brook

The middle ground of skilled labour, both industrial and commercial, is washing away to beneath our feet.

he hew ! Our school trustees do have, within the ined the considerable leeway to influence the style ileaving of local education, should they wish to do so.

> Our style has been that of the backwoods with a heavy value on manual skills, but, time is catching up with even the North Island.

It is the dream of most parents in most places at most times that the kids should have a better chance in life. Big public high schools in those neighbourhoods of central Canada which never produce the unemployable are now returning the study of Latin to the classroom. They know what the really useful

learning tools are and we feel certain that at least some of our trustees will give some consideration in the year ahead to upgrading the priority of basic education for the pure sake of education itself.

North Island Gozette

ETTERSTO

Canfor rebuts

Burrows claim

Sir:

Your May 18 edition carried a letter from R. Burrows of Sointula under the heading "Canfor pro-test being planned." The topic of the letter was the Nimpkish Island old growth timber which R. Burrows claims we "threatening to cut."-

I wish to assure your readers we have made no such threats and have no? plans to log the Island. We have an agreement !

with the B.C. Forest Ser-

vice that we will exclude the Island from our logging & plans while we negotiate? an arrangement whereby the Island can be with. drawn from our Tree Farm Licence 37 in the Nimpkish Valley. That agreement has

been in place for a decade and there is no reason for anyone to think we would suddenly case to abide by it.
I believe the concern arises from a recent, inaccurate magazine article. in which an emotional writer presented a very biased viewpoint without

I wish to again assure your readers that the trees on Nimpkish Island are as safe now as they were when we voluntarily set them aside 40 years ago.

bothering to check the

facts.

There is no need for any of your readers to go to the trouble of writing to me or Premier Bennett as was suggested

Thank you for allowing me to set the record straight.

> Peter J.G. Bentley President Canfor

Shining light at Hyde Creek

Being a resident of the North Island for the past eight years has been a unique time of my life. Many firsts have been experienced...the thrill of a soaring eagle, the quiet ecstacy of landing a fighting fish, glorious sunsets, but these pale by comparison to another phenomenon native to this area... the letter to the editor.

You will no doubt disagree, for people have been writing in as long as there have been newspapers. True.

However, nowhere else, to my knowledge, have the type of religious, personal, political, pseudo-intellectual, and miscellaneous nonsensical misinformed ramblings been given such consistant 'regular expo-

sure. In view of this, I have every confidence that this letter will be published.

The only exception to this rule has been one shining light. A man whose courage, objectivity, intelligence, vision, common sense and literary ability has made Hyde Creek an oasis in a desert of depravity. Shanging in the

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Sven McDougal score

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA 2075 WESBROOK MALL VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA V6T 1W5

JUL 18 1983

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF MOUNT WADDINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

July 13, 1983

Mr. Dennis N. Caldwell Secretary Regional District of Mount Waddington P.O. Box 729 Port McNeill, B.C. VON 2RO

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

additionally to my letter of July 4, 1983, I wish to inform you about the following three items:

- (1) In Mr. Erich Hoyt's article in the Equinox (May/June, 1983) there is a certain inaccuracy on page 33 at the end of the first paragraph in the right column: "The tallest tree here" (Cathedral Grove) "is 278 feet...". In reality, the tallest tree there is only 252 feet, whereas good many trees in the Nimpkish Island area are very close to 300 feet tall.
- (2) I enclose a copy of a letter, written to me by the Minister of Forests, the Honourable Tom Waterland, in which he mentions our problem of conserving the last remaining tallest trees in Canada. Mr. Waterland ensures me frequently that he is fully behind our ideas and that only the compensation, owing to the company for the loss of its rights, is the outstanding, unresolved issue.
- (3) I attach another copy of a letter, which was more recently sent to me by the Honourable A.J. Brummet, Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing and Minister of Environment, which is a direct response to the letter of Mr. Waterland. According to this letter, Mr. Brummet agrees that we should raise donated funds to help with the acquisition of the Island.

This is why I beg you to help us with such an action. It would be most unfortunate if your District would lose such a great rarity for Canada, which might become almost a symbol to the whole country. Your potential help will be highly praised by a great majority of people not only in your District or in the country of Canada, but also by biologists, environmentalists and tourists all over the world.

May I expect, please, that you will kindly inform me about your response.

Yours very truly.

Dr. Vladimir J. Krajina, C.M. C

Professor Emeritus, Botany,

The University of British Columbia,

Vancouver, B.C. V6T 2B1

- P.S. Attached are 2 copies of letters and 2 copies of maps, indicating the exact location of the Nimpkish River Island.
- co: Dr. R.F. Scagel, Head, Botany Dept., U.B.C. Dr. J.B. Foster, Ecological Reserves Unit, Victoria, B.C.

Regio. I District of Mount Waddington

INCORPORATED JUNE 13, 1966

MUNICIPALITIES AND ELECTORAL AREAS

ALERT BAY
BROUGHTON
NIMPKISH
PORT ALICE
PORT HARDY
PORT MCNEILL
QUATSINO

RUPERT

October 31, 1983.

TELEPHONE 956-3301 P.O. BOX 729 PORT MCNEILL, B.C. VON 2R0

Mr. Bert Gayle, Vice President, Canadian Forest Products Ltd., 2800-1055 Dunsmuir Street, P.O.Box 49420 Bentall Postal Station, Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1B5

Dear Sir:

Re: Nimpkish Island Ecological Reserve

There has been a great deal of discussion at the Regional District of Mount Waddington Board level concerning various options for Nimpkish Island. The Board has recommended that the island become a provincial or a federal park rather than a simple ecological reserve. It is felt that park status would protect the site and afford public viewing at the same time.

The regional Board would very much appreciate Canadian Forest Products' opinion on this matter. The company and company personnel have been involved in negotiations for Nimpkish Island for many years. Since the site, whatever becomes of it, will be in the middle of T.F.L.#37, and since access to the site will be via company logging roads, Canadian Forest Products will be more involved than any other agency in the long term operation (or non-operation) of the site.

Please advise us of any concerns or proposals Canadian Forest Products has with respect to Nimpkish Island.

Yours sincerely,

W. Shephard,

Regional Planner.

WS/mb

c.c. Julius Kapitany George Lepore ✓

Canadian Forest Products Ltd.

d affiliated companies



8861 B AOM

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF MOUNT WADDINGTON

COAST FORESTRY & LOGGING

November 4, 1983

Mr. W. Shephard Regional Planner Regional District of Mount Waddington P.O. Box 729 PORT McNEILL, B.C. VON 2R0

Dear Mr. Shephard:

Re: Nimpkish Island Ecological Reserve

I have your letter of October 31st in which you request our concerns with our private timber on Nimpkish Island being part of a park. I think we have made it clear several times in the past that we are not in favour of the withdrawal of any forest land from our Tree Farm Licence. This has an adverse effect on our employees and the economic viability of our company. In particular, this island contains some of our best timber and the area, therefore, is of great value to us.

At the present time, the Provincial government has engaged an independent assessment officer to make a recommendation on the value of the timber on the island. Then, we intend to negotiate with the government to see if we can agree on a fair price. Of course, the government may not wish to proceed with the acquisition once the true value is known. From that point of view, then, it really doesn't matter whether the area is an ecological reserve or a park. Indeed, if it was finally decided that this timber will be purchased from us, I suppose a park might be the most desirable alternative.

In any event, discussions will soon be underway with regard to compensation. You should make representations to the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing, but at this particular time we certainly cannot support your proposal inasmuch as it would reduce the allowable annual cut of our Tree Farm Licence.

Yours truly,

CANADIAN FOREST PRODUCTS LTD.

W.B. GAYLE

Vice President

WBG/yv

Regions' District of Mount (Vaddington

INCORPORATED JUNE 13, 1966

MUNICIPALITIES AND ELECTORAL AREAS

ALERT BAY
BROUGHTON
NIMPKISH
PORT ALICE
PORT HARDY
PORT McNEILL
QUATSINO
RUPERT

November 14, 1983.

TELEPHONE 956-3301
P.O. BOX 729
PORT MCNEILL, B.C.
VON 2R0

Mr. Bert Gayle, Vice President in charge of Coastal Logging, Canadian Forest Products Ltd., 2800-1055 Dunsmuir Street, P. O. Box 49420 Bentall Postal Station, Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1B5

Dear Sir:

Re: Nimpkish Island Ecological Reserve

In view of the number of tourists that have visited Nimpkish Island after the "Equinox" article, the Regional District of Mount Waddington wish to consider some potential management plans for the Nimpkish Island site. There are a number of factors that should be looked at, namely:

- Erosion control at various locations on the island;

- Access and a parking lot adjacent to the island;

- Foot bridge access to the island and a restricted walkway among the trees;

- Access control and management of the facility on a long term basis.

The Regional District, subject to agreement from various parties including Candadian Forest Products, wishes to prepare a site plan for a potential "Nimpkish Island Park" under their Regional Parks programme. In order to prepare this site plan, the Regional District wishes to lease the site from the Ministry of Forests under a Special Use permit and lease the trees from Canadian Forest Products under an interim agreement. The site plan as it is prepared would be circulated to all agencies and interested parties and hopefully the long term future of the site decided.

If Canadian Forest Products are interested in this approach, the Regional District would convene an ad hoc meeting of interested and involved agencies and individuals and draft terms of references for a site plan and management study.



Besides the study of the park site itself, the Regional District would like to explore the possibility of recognizing the long involvement of Canadian Forest Products' founder, Mr. Leopold Bentley; with the Nimpkish Valley. We understand that Mr. Bentley has been involved with and interested in the Nimpkish Island site for many years and we would propose to commemorate this involvement at the site whether it becomes a park or remains an ecological reserve.

Yours truly,

W. Shephard,

Regional Planner.

WS/mb