

## **MWPS TIMELINE (From minutes, letters, news clippings, legal documents)**

**APRIL, 1993** Noort Developments buys property and obtains an option to purchase a portion of Newson property which is imperative for his development plans. Releases plan to obtain rezoning for 140 duplexes.

**DEC. 23, 1993** MWPS Incorporated Number S-31412 Pattie filed papers using Constitution of Comox Hill which was supplied by Don Burns. First Board Directors: Carol Neufeld, Fran Johnson, Pattie Baker, Paul Lachapelle, Don Burns, Dorothy Jones. Mailing address of Society is Baker's 138 Croteau Rd. Phone 250-339-2623.

**MARCH 22, 1994** MWPS given Charitable Tax Status Official Registration Number 0985440-56 Donations start to come in. Pattie is Treasurer.

**MARCH 23, 1994** Noort Developments hosts public information meeting: Rezoning for "high density development" of 140 duplexes.

**APRIL, 1994** Emergency MWPS mid-day meeting at Bakers: Fran, Carol, Pattie, Peter, Bob Stiven. We have discovered Noort's option on Newson piece has expired, without it Noort cannot proceed.

"Should we pick up the option? Should we make an offer? We don't have the money for it."

"You can't not do it. It has to be done" Bob Stiven Meetings with Ted : he's in!

**MAY 24, 1994 PUBLIC HEARING** by Noort and Town of Comox tonight at 7:00 pm to present his disastrous plans for the Woods. George Newson agrees to our proposal of \$35,000 down on property that Noort had an option on. He says Kella is not sleeping nights. His kids are upset. Ted, Fran, Pattie, Peter and Carol are waiting for approval as Public Hearing is getting underway.

**\*\*SUCCESS\*\***

**Public Hearing shut down when Town of Comox announced Noort no longer has ability to present as he doesn't own the property.**

**\*\*BEDLAM\*\* Noort boys storm out, not knowing what hit them. The contract with Newson: MWPS agreed to purchase 5 acres of Newson property (the same option Noort had) with a \$35,000 downpayment. Total price of \$400,000 with 10 yrs to pay off balance.**

**The 140 duplex plan presented by Noort is out the window.**

**JUNE 13, 1994 Alicia Burns, Mayor, writes proposing property exchange to Noort.**

**JUNE 14, 1994 Town of Comox sends Letter of Support to MWPS.**

**JUNE ,JULY, 1994 Letter of support arrives from the City of Courtenay**

**JUNE 22, 1994 MWPS OPEN HOUSE at United Church Comox to present plans. Noort Developments now presenting plans for 34 single residential units, including lots on the waterfront. Realtors are walking through showing the proposed lots to potential buyers.**

**How to proceed?**

**MWPS, working with Margaret Lord, Barbara Price presents a plan for a joint purchase of property:**

**1/3 from Town of Comox**

**1/3 from Province of BC**

**District**

**1/3 from Regional**

**Noort appears interested in selling?**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 1994 Town of Comox gives preliminary approval for 34 single family units with zoning remaining R1.**

**NOVEMBER, 1994 More letters of support: Margaret Lord MLA Comox Indian Band Regional District School District 71**

**We have full support of Environment**

**Arch. Branch does study. Prepared to go in for 3 days. Come out after hours and say there is no way this midden can be disturbed. It is one of the last protected middens on the coast.**

**Ministry of Environment does study and releases results “sensitive ecosystem” and a “scarce salt marsh” that needs protection as most**

**Moe Sihota, Minister of Environments who accompanies Peter Baker, Margaret Lord and Barbara Price for a walk in the woods. Comox Strathcona Natural History Society**

**MWPS continues fund raising.**

**DECEMBER 19, 1994 Noort starts to cut trees. Rainy and windy - chainsaws start. Carol Neufeld, Fran Johnson and Ruth Masters are there and refused to leave. Chainsaws stopped, RCMP arrive. Noort goes to RCMP Station to make a report, more people arrive at the Woods. Noort and his boys return and 600 feet of snow fence has been cut and destroyed. Many people are now present in the woods. They can't cut anymore trees.**

**DECEMBER 20, 1994 The property is encircled with vehicles. People drop off keys to Baker home - many are unknown to Bakers!**

**DECEMBER 22, 1994 Fran Johnson, Carol Neufeld, Ruth Masters and Pattie Baker for MWPS are sued by Noort.**

**JANUARY 3, 1995 Property appraised at \$1.5 million by Bill Jackson**

**JANUARY 17, 1995 New MWPS Board: President Paul Lachapelle, VP Sandy Masterton, Treasurer Pattie Baker, Secretary Fran Johnson, Anne Gardner, Peter Baker, Judy Wilson, Carol Neufeld**

**JANUARY, 1995 Province of BC, Town of Comox, Regional District with MWPS as advisory group work together to raise funds for purchase of Woods from Noort.**

**MARCH 7, 1995** Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce gives MWPS President's Merit Award. Accepted by MWPS President Paul Lachapelle.

**MARCH, 1995,** Coulson of Crown Isle delivers a writ to all directors of Regional District if they proceed with Macdonald Wood purchase. He will sue them individually if they complete the purchase. He threatens MWPS as well. The Regional District folds, MWPS does not. MWPS engages environmental lawyers in Vancouver.

**MARCH 31, 1995**

Province of BC, Margaret Lord announces with outrage deal has fallen apart. Anne Gardener steps forward and says we can step up and raise the amount needed to replace Regional Districts obligation. Noort is chomping at the bit to get this done.

**APRIL 21, 1995** Province of BC Margaret Lord MLA asks Moe Sihota to come back to table and put the funds up.

Moe Sihota responds the Province will participate in the purchase.

**AUGUST 22, 1995**Ted Holekamp representing MWPS makes formal offer to Noort for \$1,675,000.00. A joint offer from Comox, Regional, BC, MWPS.

**NEW WRINKLE** Regional District getting calls for referendum. Big push by NO side re: tax increase. Developers pushing hard. Bakers maintain society address and phone number and getting threatening phone calls and trucks in drive at night flashing bright lights on house. RCMP have to be called.

**JANUARY 27, 1996**Referendum Day - The answer to funding is NO. Back to the drawing table.

MWPS decided to pick up the Regional District's part and raise \$500,000. Sandy Masterton is working with Hugh Noort to negotiate a contract. **We have a SIGNED CONTRACT with Noort and will close April 30, 1996. \$1.6 MILLION.**

Major fund raising - raising private donations. Membership is swelling. We need 200 people to ("Friends") contribute \$20 a month until paid

for. We have 63. Deal with Noort set to close April 30, 1996. We need \$.  
New Board Elected: Anne Gardner, President; Sandy Masterton, Vice,  
Pattie Baker, Treasurer; Diane Maxted, Secretary; Peter Baker,  
Membership; Fran Johnson, Lorraine Aitken, Lesley Henderson, Paul  
Lachapelle, Wayne Maxted, David McSween, Carol Neufeld, Patricia  
Smith, Judy Wilson.

We're in trouble - we need \$\$ to pay our portion. With donations and  
"Friends" donating we are still short. Many of us are to put mortgages  
on our homes and MWPS will pay those mortgages off. Sandy, Peter  
and Pattie go to Credit Union and meet with Simon. He agrees and  
Credit Union gives individuals mortgages with funds going to MWPS!

**April 30, 1996 Province of BC News Release confirms 3 way  
successful purchase of Macdonald Woods.**

Province of BC	\$520,00
Town of Comox	\$500,000
MWPS	\$580,000 + \$48,000GST = \$628,000

**Deposit to Newson \$35,000**

**Original cheque presented \$580,000 presented to Ted in his office by  
Pattie and Fran. I have a picture of it.**

**\$48,000 was requested later for GST due. We had to scramble to  
collect it. I tried to convince Revenue Canada not to implement this tax  
but had no success. We were not able to claim it as a refund.**

**WE ARE ADVISED that the NDP government went down just days  
before and the last piece of business that went through was the  
contribution to Macdonald Woods. Moe Sihota walked it through to get  
it done. SO MANY PLAYERS TO THANK For MWPS it isn't done - - and  
still isn't. We then had a huge debt load that needed to be covered.  
This is where we came from just 20 years ago.**

**January 2019 Now we are debt free and hope to stay that way. We are  
owners and custodians of another property: Fran Johnsons Wildlife  
Sanctuary, not far from Macdonald Wood. We are working to manage  
the invasive plants and ensure the covenants are honoured.**