



WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION



To:

Mike Wei

A/Senior Geological Engineer

Groundwater Section

Water Management Division

Date:

March 11, 1992

File:

92F/10

RE: PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS VACANT CROWN LAND, HORNBY ISLAND

1. INTRODUCTION:

As requested by Carol Martin, Hornby Island Local Trustee, a preliminary office assessment of groundwater conditions within the vicinity of the vacant crown property marked "CW" has been carried out (Figure 1).

2. PROPERTY LOCATION:

The subject property is a 40 acre parcel and is situated on the northwest side of Hornby Island within two watersheds (Figure 1). These watersheds have been designated as Shingle Spit-Phipps Point Region and Manning Point - Collishaw Point Region, respectively by Chwojka (1984) in his report entitled "A Preliminary Review of Groundwater Conditions on Hornby Island, British Columbia". The subject property is located on the lower reaches of Mount Geoffrey and slopes gently in a northwesterly direction. The watershed acreage has been determined as totalling 1493 acres (679 Hectares - see Chwojka, 1984).

3. GROUNDWATER CONSIDERATIONS:

Well Records:

All records of wells (located within the two watersheds) have been reviewed and tabulated (Table 1). According to Chwojka (1989), a total of 78 wells and springs are located within the boundaries of these watersheds. Approximately 16 wells drilled between 1987 and 1990 by Gulf Island Well Drillers Ltd. are located within these watersheds but are presently unplotted. Chwojka (1989) reported an increase in the number of wells constructed within the Shingle Spit-Phipps Point and Manning Point-Collishaw Point as 26 percent and 62 percent respectively over the period 1984 to 1989.

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Hydrogeology and Groundwater Conditions:

Surficial deposits overlying bedrock are thin and generally less than 15 feet (4.7 metres) within the area of the watersheds. Bedrock at surface is common. The bedrock type has been reported as mainly sandstone and shale layers. The water bearing zones include the contact between these bedrock types and fractures cross-cutting these layers. Well yields reported, based on short term bail tests by the driller, vary between 20 gph and 36 gpm (Table 1). Well/spring locations are shown in relation to the subject property (Figure 2). None of the wells have been reported as completed with sanitary seals. Sanitary seals normally provide some protection against any contaminated runoff from leaking down into the wells. Many wells report hydrogen sulphide in the water and a few wells report salty water. Presence of springs along the eastern boundary of the subject property indicate that groundwater from Mount Geoffrey Regional Park area discharges locally onto the property. However, the subject property also appears to be a recharge area for the region to the northwest (Figure 3). Development of the recharge area may compound water quality problems already being experienced downslope. If any contaminants were introduced to the subject property, those wells located within the impact area would be at risk.

Probable Impact:

It is probable that not all wells located within the boundaries of these watersheds would be impacted from development of the subject property. Only those wells nearest and downslope of the subject property would be susceptable. The most likely impact area has been approximated based on proximity to the subject property and probable direction of groundwater flow (Figure 1). The degree and type of impact would depend on the development proposed. Numerous shallow wells and springs are located within the suggested impact area. Most residential development is concentrated around or near coastal areas near the discharge end of the groundwater flow system. Development on the property (recharge area) could reduce recharge to wells located downslope and impact on the water quality. Shallow wells and springs located within the suggested impact area (Figure 1) are anticipated to be most susceptible.

3

Long-Term Groundwater Monitoring

It may be prudent to establish a long term monitoring well within the Shingle Spit - Phipps Point and Manning Point-Collishaw Point Watersheds. A suitable unused domestic well could be available for this purpose and would help to gain an understanding of the recharge and withdrawal effects to and from the bedrock aquifer and assist in the future planning of this area.

4. <u>CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:</u>

- The subject property has been classified as a community watershed and is a sensitive groundwater recharge area. This property should not be developed.
- Development of the subject property could reduce recharge to wells located downslope and impact on water quality. Shallow wells and springs located within the suggested impact area are anticipated to be susceptible.
- The Shingle Spit-Phipps Point and Manning Point-Collishaw Point Watersheds are experiencing water quality problems. Development of the recharge area could compound existing water quality problems. Wells within the suggested impact area including drilled wells may be at risk if contaminants were introduced to the subject property. All drilled wells appear to be completed without sanitary surface seals.
- Consideration should be given to establishing an observation well within the boundaries of Shingle Spit-Phipps Point and Manning Point-Collishaw Point Watershed. It is possible that a suitable unused well may be available for this purpose. Long term groundwater monitoring in this area will help to gain an understanding of recharge and withdrawal effects to and from the bedrock aquifer and assist in the future local planning of this area.

5. REFERENCES:

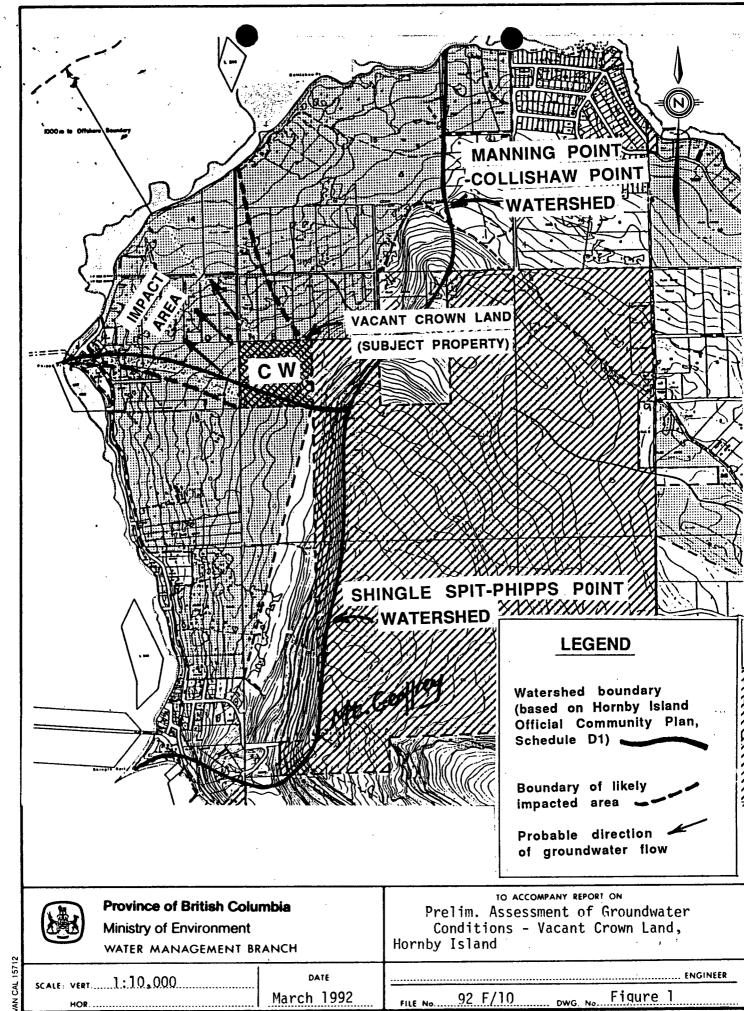
Chwojka F. 1984. A Preliminary Review of Groundwater Conditions on Hornby Island, British Columbia. Unpublished report, Groundwater Section, Water Management Branch, Ministry of Environment.

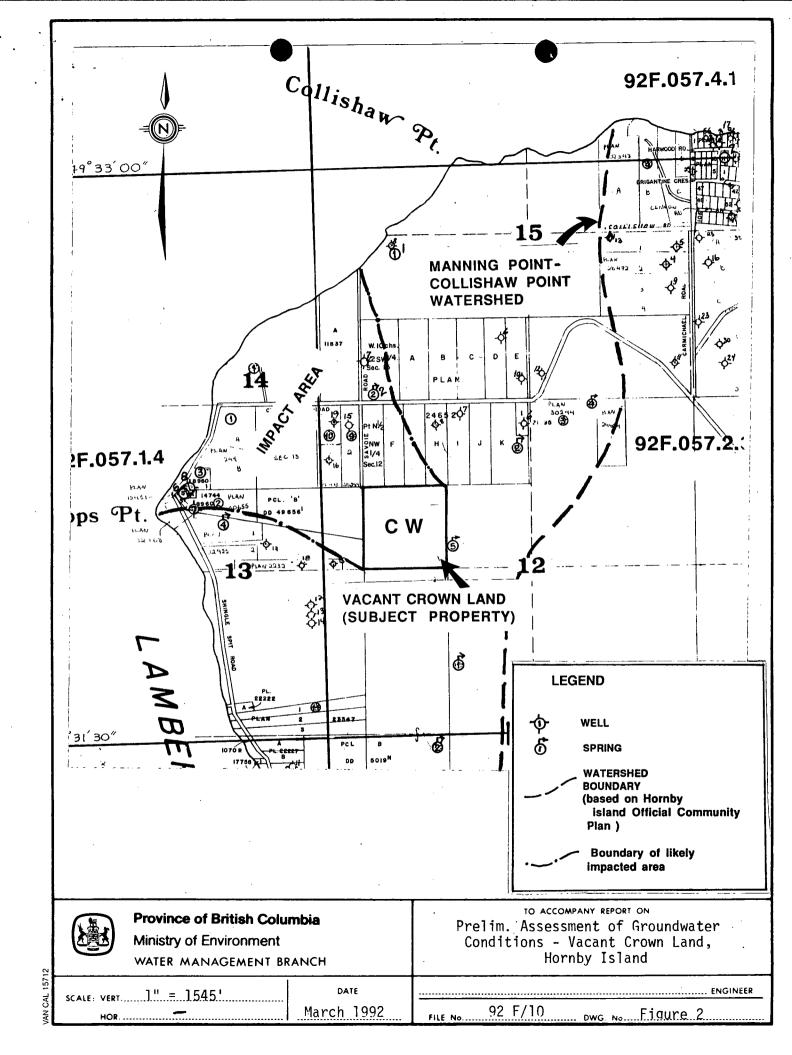
Chwojka F. 1989. Groundwater Conditions on Hornby Island. British Columbia 1989 Update and Review. Unpublished report, Groundwater Section, Water Management Branch, Ministry of Environment.

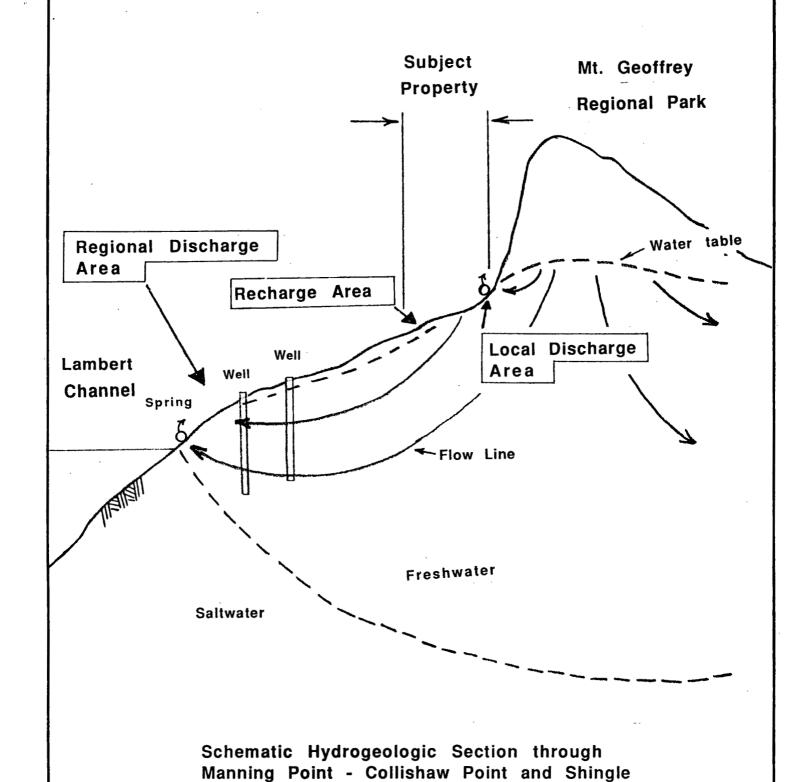
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WSH/bk W7154







Province of British Columbia Ministry of Environment WATER MANAGEMENT BRANCH

TO ACCOMPANY REPORT ON Prelim. Assessment of Groundwater Conditions - Vacant Crown Land, Hornby Island

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HOR	March 1992	FILE No. 92 F/10 DWG No. Figure 3

Spit - Phipps Point Watersheds

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Ministry of Environment - Water Management Branch - Groundwater Section Groundwater Database System Data Summary - with Legal Descriptions and Old Coordinates

BCGS Map Area	Well	Lot	Plan	Blk	ΤP	sc	RG	D.L.	z	x	Y	Old	L.D.	Owner's Name	Site	Date	Weli	Well	Drill	Const.	Well	Yld.	Depth to	Depth to	Aquif	Screen	G.W.	Chem	Che
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Ministry of Environment - Water Management Branch - Groundwater Section Groundwater Database System Data Summary - with Legal Descriptions and Old Coordinates

BCGS Map Area m Chem	Well No.		Plan No.	Blk 1	P SC	RG	D.L.	Z	x	Y Ol		L.D.	Owner's Name	Site Address	Date Constructed	Well Depth	Well Diam.		Const.	Well Yield	Yld. Unt.	to	to	Aquif Litho	Screen Interval	G.W. Rpt		Che Fld
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