

# Preface

Green City is located, high in the mountains, a perfect place for a group campout. The air is fresh, the water clean, the forest surroundings are enchanting. The location is far away from other people and allows group campers to unwind, have a good time and not be bothered by other campers (Government Campsite with strict rules). A perfect place for campers coming from the city, away, from the stressful, hectic pace, noisy congested roads and highways, and a dense population.

Green City Camping sites were of a premium and went to first come first served. Some campers arrived in fancy recreational vehicles while others pitched tents wherever they could find space. To keep up with the Joneses. Some excavated spots from the surrounding bush, pitched their tent complete with a white picket fence and a red carpet for the entrance. Due to lack of electric lampposts to light the way, the owner had a good time and could not find his way to the tent and fell asleep up against a tree. Others put up an outdoor heater to heat the night air and keep the tent comfortable. Still others had problems navigating their way home through the myriad of tent ropes, tripping on a tent peg and crashing into a pitched tent, collapsing the tent on the occupants. Amid hoots of laughter and helpful advice from the campsite. Dr. Probal was not available due to other commitments in the band.

It was a time before Cell Phones, Social Media, Netflix and all the worldwide unrest and the continuous barrage of news media.

This is the way the group started, a few couples going up to the site to camp, do some fishing and picking huckleberries. Slowly, more friends were invited to join the campout and the activities grew.

Some of these activities were preplanned and others happened spontaneously. This is when the group formed a Green City Council, complete with a Mayor (Mayor) and works department. Running water was a concern so Fred Voykin was in charge of running down to the creek with an ice cream pail and bringing it back to the campsite. Electrical Power was available providing one could provide an extension cord and plug it into a current bush.

The camping spot lacked modern day washroom facilities, so the campers improvised as the need arose. It started with a rotting stump with a hole in the middle, out in the forest. It progressed to an empty cardboard fridge box with a door cut out on one side. The cardboard box only lasted one campout as the rains and winter snows took its toll. This was followed with a rough board construction with limited facilities. At one point, a porcelain urinal was attached

to a tree for male use with a note to bring water to flush the urinal after use. An enterprising company, Seaweed Construction from Surrey, B.C., decided to build a wooden toilet in the backyard much to the awe and genuine interest from neighbors that watched the construction through knotholes in the wooden fence. There were no certified architectural drawings nor specification so the two members, Nick Ozeroff and Lawrence Popoff, had to rely on memory as to how the toilets were built in the past, This toilet had padded walls for sound attenuation and a special seating fixture that had a (willnot remover) attachment. The toilet facility also had holders for reading material on the door. The toilet was disassembled, loaded into a pickup truck and hauled to the campsite for reassembly. A problem developed when the seating fixture was installed, there was lack of enough space for feet, especially for people with size 12 feet. Thanks to the ingenuity of Larry Sapriken, who cut a neat hole in the back of the toilet to move the fixture back a few inches and allow better sitting conditions. To our knowledge the toilet is still standing and is being used by other campers. Signage around the campsite was negligible so a large signboard was constructed following the design of the Green City official letterhead complete with Bulletin Bored (Board) that listed all the upcoming activities for the campout. The sign was also imported from Surrey.

Activities varied and provided entertainment for everyone. Campers were split into groups and had to follow maps and planted directions in a treasure hunt.

The musical entertainment was provided by a local band that played for the campers into the evening hours. Their continual complaints of a non existent contract was largely ignored by the City Council.

A medical team led by Dr. Probal (Mike Varibaoff) and his staff were on hand in the imaginary medical clinic in case of required medical attention. Thank goodness that there was not a need during the campouts.

Dining facilities consisted of gas fired camp stove on a stump and meals were prepared in a communal style by rotating chefs imported from different parts of B.C.

The City Council met Sunday morning with the elected Mare in a chair. The Councilors were comprised of the remaining campers. The Mare had the often-difficult job of holding order in a disruptive meeting. Robert's Rules and Order were nonexistent. Comprehensive minutes were usually taken by Marilyn Verigin and copies of same are included in this blog.

Running for office of the Mare was preceded with electioneering signs being erected along the road to Green City which included signs to elect the pet dog. Many empty promises were made by those seeking election. The railroad principle also worked well. At one point the elected Mare did show up claiming that he had a meeting down at the coast. The meeting was actually a fishing excursion with his friends off Vancouver Island. Gossip raged on that the Mare had

absconded with the entire City treasury of \$1.49 and was no where to be found. A disbarred judge, honorable LePope (Lawrence Popoff) was called to the Bench to hear testimony on Trumped up charges of corruption in the City Council and dereliction of duty. The formidable prosecutor Fred Arishenkoff represented the people and defence was handled by Nina Voykin. Jury members were the remaining campers. After a lengthy presentation by both sides the charges were thrown out due to lack of evidence and the missing Mare who could not defend himself. Follow the minutes for detailed information on the activities.

The eventual Fall of Green City was the diminishing members that were dedicated to another Whatshan Retreat.

Written by Lawrence Popoff (**or His Right Honorable LePope**)

