

# The Saga of the Hamlet of Tahuya™

July 16<sup>th</sup> 2003 was like any other day in the hamlet of Tahuya. The “natives” were under control. The community was at peace. Life was good. July 16<sup>th</sup> 2003 only differed from all of Tahuya’s previous days in that there were the faint rumblings of concern from a few of the “natives” regarding something called the Port of Tahuya Public Access Plan. Something a few of the “natives” had just become aware of during the past two or three weeks. However, no one expected this to be a problem. It would, at worst, be nothing more than a passing “shower”. There certainly would be logical and acceptable answers to the “natives” questions and concerns. The Port of Tahuya was having one of its regularly scheduled monthly Port meetings at 7:30 PM that evening. Largely unknown to each other, the few “natives” with questions and concerns were going to attend the Port meeting. These “natives” fully expected their questions and concerns would be welcomed by their Public Servants; i.e. their duly elected Port Commissioners. Further, they fully expected their questions and concerns would be clearly and expeditiously answered. And they fully expected that that would be the end of it.

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003 will be remembered as a day of infamy for the “natives” of Tahuya. *(Infamy - a lasting, widespread, and deep-rooted evil reputation brought about by something criminal, shocking, or brutal: the highest degree of dishonor. By Webster)*

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003 is the day the “natives” of the hamlet of Tahuya lost their innocence.

Historical Port of Tahuya Port meeting attendance averages from 2 to 5 “non natives”.

Over 80 “natives” showed up for the July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003 Port meeting! The “natives” were as surprised as to their number as were the Commissioners. Suddenly it became evident there were more than just a few “natives” with questions and concerns. Further, it appeared the “natives” might even be a bit restless. No problem. The Port of Tahuya’s Port Commissioners would easily be able to handle and fully satisfy the “natives” questions and concerns. And peace and tranquility would continue as it had, allegedly, for endless eons in the hamlet of Tahuya.

Well, guess what?

The Commissioners not only did not welcome the “natives” questions and concerns, they went out of their way to offend the “natives”. For example, the Commissioners were rude, arrogant, argumentative, condescending, unappreciative, strident etc. It was evident to the “natives” that the Commissioners had made up their collective minds as to what was best for the “natives” prior to the meeting; in fact many months earlier. Further, the Commissioners were in no mood to discuss, let alone change, any aspect of the Plan they had created for their ungrateful constituent “natives”. The “natives” were, in no uncertain terms, told “its (The Public Access Plan) a done deal”. Meaning, there is nothing you can do or say that will cause us (Commissioners) to consider anything you (“natives”) have in mind.

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Needless to say, this made the “natives” more than a bit restless. As the evening progressed, and as the Commissioners became ever more offensive and uncooperative, the “natives” became ever more restless.

By the time the meeting was over, the “natives” realized the Commissioners had totally broken faith with them. One or more laws that protected the “natives” from oppression and abuse by their Commissioners (Public Servants) had been broken. Equally disconcerting, the Commissioners had violated their Oath of Office. As this realization came into focus, the “natives” became extremely restless - and even agitated in some instances.

The “natives”, like all oppressed and abused “natives” before them, went back to their families and friends and discussed what they had experienced at the hands of their elected officials. And then they organized. And 80+ “natives” became 100’s of “natives”. And then they went about the business of regaining control of the institution they had created; i.e. the Port of Tahuya. And that effort continues to occur.

And that folks, is what ex-Commissioner Hill, ex-commissioner Gilbert and soon to be ex-commissioner Olsen are now themselves all upset about. And that folks, is what their friends are all upset about because said Commissioners have failed to be forthright – even with their friends. And because of this, their friends, accepting what they have been told at face value, are defending the guilty. And that is why the Belfair Herald continues to get a flood of articles about a little known hamlet called Tahuya.

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Just One of 100’s of Tahuya “Natives”.

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