

Transcript of interview with Peter Van de Water (PV) by Brad Edmondson (BE):

BE: What were the strategies that you first pursued to slow them down? What was your first idea?

PV: Our first idea was to be positive in our title, "Save the Adirondack Park," something positive. Our strategies were to give them a lot of publicity in the papers. Letters to the editor and so forth. Our strategy eventually was to hire David Sive, more to scare the bejeezus out of them than anything else.

BE: He was a big name.

PV: David was a big name. He came up here I think maybe twice. I don't know that he actually did a lot for us, but he was our lawyer of record, and I think everybody knew he was a big name and I think that made a difference.

BE: Whose contact was he? Did anybody know David Sive in your group?

PV: No. I don't remember that.

BE: But somebody said, "Hey, he's the biggest name in this new field of environmental law. Let's ask him."

PV: Yeah, I don't know how we first contacted him. He stayed with us when he came up here.

BE: I asked him about this case, and he said that one of the things that distinguished your group was good graphic design.

PV: Good graphic design?

BE: Yes, that you made posters and you had really good-looking advertising in the newspapers.

PV: Oh, I don't think so.

BE: Really? He showed me a poster that the Citizens group made, and it was quite handsome.

PV: Oh, I think I know what you're talking about. You're talking about Bob Plumb's poster.

BE: Yes.

PV: Bob Plumb is a local watercolor artist, and Bob was part of our group. We chose one of his paintings. I have a friend who was the publisher of Salina Press. His name was Norm Poltenson down in Syracuse. He reproduced them for us for nothing. So whenever anyone would give us a contribution—ten bucks or fifteen bucks, we didn't get any real big contributions—we'd send them a poster. So that's where they came from.

BE: I think it had an impact.

PV: Yeah? It was very nice.

BE: It certainly had an impact on David Sive. He got it out from his back room and showed it to me. That was the main thing he remembered about your group, was that poster.

PV: He didn't remember Becky's breakfast?