

Wilderness Committee

ANNUAL MEMBERS REPORT 1995-96



CHRIS BRUUN PHOTO

Amisk Lake, mixed wood boreal forest near Boyle, Alberta.

You get what you fight for... no more and no less
 - Joe Foy, Nov. 23, 1995, on the day the Stein Valley received park protection.

1995 is the Wilderness Committee's fifteenth year of fighting for the preservation of wild places. We've learned through countless successful and hard fought wilderness preservation campaigns like South Moresby, Stein Valley, Carmanah Valley, the Tatshenshini and Pinecone-Boise-Burke, that you can accomplish as big as you can dream, so make sure you dream big enough!

In British Columbia we've just experienced an unprecedented wave of wilderness preservation campaign success. Since 1991, Mike Harcourt's NDP government has preserved more than 125 new parks, encompassing over 2.7 million hectares of B.C. land. No provincial, territorial or federal government has equalled this pace of wilderness preservation ever in the history of the nation!

Other jurisdictions' records of protection are dismal. Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario are even allowing clearcut logging inside their parks. At the federal level, new park creation is almost at a standstill.

In B.C. approximately 9% of the province, about 9 million hectares of land, is now protected under provincial park legislation—more parkland than any other province or territory in Canada. Only 2.2% of our country's lands, and less than 1 percent of our oceans, are protected in national parks. Less than 3% of Canada's boreal forest is protected and already over 85 percent of this vast ecosystem, the largest in the country, is committed to industry.

It is the current goal of all the political jurisdictions in Canada, theoretically at least, to bring the total protected lands up to 12% by the year 2000. But is the 12% wilderness dream big enough?

We say absolutely not! Take, for example, British Columbia. Currently about half of B.C., approximately 50 million hectares, remains in a wilderness state. The

other half is logged, roaded, dammed, mined, farmed or covered over by housing. As a result, B.C.'s salmon populations are crashing, grizzly bears, wolves, caribou and owls are all greatly diminished in numbers. Many British Columbians have already lost their favourite wilderness areas, hiking trails, fishing holes, hunting grounds, and spiritual retreats to a century-long orgy of industrial development, especially clearcut logging.

The B.C. Government's 12% goal means that our remaining 50 million hectares of wilderness will be severely degraded down to 12 million hectares. What will it be like to live in B.C. then? On Vancouver Island, where wilderness preservation is already at 13%,



Endangered Bay Breasted Warbler

it means no protection for wilderness gems like the Ursus, Clayoquot, Sydney or Klaskish river valleys. In the Lower Mainland, a 12% limit on protection means the 260,000 hectare Stoltmann Wilderness and many of the Spotted Owl's critical habitats will not get protected. In the Cariboo Mountains east of Quesnel, it means that the Penfold Valley gets clearcut. Throughout B.C., the 12% goal is a death sentence to most of the remaining wilderness. But it doesn't have to be this way.

Other jurisdictions in the world have a bigger dream. In Alaska and Costa Rica the wilderness protection network is nearly 25% of the land area. In British Columbia a 40% protected area network, recommended by some conservation biologists as the minimum needed to maintain our biodiversity, would preserve about 40 million hectares of wilderness. That's 10 million ha less wilderness than we have now. If carefully chosen, such a network has a chance of sustaining life.

Many places in the world have lost their abundant wildlife and wild rivers teeming with fish. In the United States, only Alaska, with its large wilderness preserves, has managed to maintain a rich, biodiverse landscape. In British Columbia and the rest of Canada, we still have a chance - if we dream big enough.

We at the Wilderness Committee believe that people must stop thinking about how much parkland governments will give us - and start thinking about how much of Earth's precious remaining wilderness we will allow governments to take away. We must reject the 12% limit on protected areas which has no basis in science and will not ultimately do the job of protecting wild biodiversity.

Other species, including salmon, wolves and grizzlies... and our own children and grandchildren are counting on us to dream big, stand firm in our defense of wilderness and ultimately win.

JIM BUTLER PHOTO

Celebrating Fifteen Years of WCWC's Successful Wilderness Preservation Campaigning

In 1995 WCWC celebrated its fifteenth anniversary. Thanks to the strength of our members and particularly the actions of B.C.'s current New Democratic government, we have recently celebrated a lot of wilderness wins! Here are some of the areas we've featured in our *Endangered Wilderness Calendars* and our *Educational Reports* over the years and successfully campaigned to preserve:

- **Valhalla Mountains - 1983**
- **South Moresby - 1987**
- **Carmanah (lower valley - 1990; upper valley - 1994)**
- **Khutzeymateen - 1992**
- **Wood Buffalo National Park (end of logging inside the park) - 1992**
- **Tatshenshini - 1993**
- **Chilko Lake-Nemah Valley - 1994**
- **Lower Tsitika Valley - 1994**
- **Lower Walbran Valley - 1994**
- **Tahsish-Kwols - 1994**
- **Kitlope Valley - 1994**
- **Niagara and Mitchell Valleys (part of the Cariboo Mountains Wilderness Area proposal) - 1994**
- **James Bay (hydro-electric developments on hold) - 1994**
- **Power River Valley - 1995**
- **Pinecone/Boise/Burke - 1995**
- **Surrey Bend - 1995**
- **Tetrahedron - 1995**
- **Boundary Bay - 1995**
- **Skagit Valley - 1995**
- **Stein Valley - 1995**

GET OUT AND VOTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT!

"So, which political party should I vote for in the next provincial election?" That is a question that Wilderness Committee campaigners are getting asked more often these days as a provincial election in B.C. draws near.

All voters, including our 15,000 members in B.C., should find out which party's policies would be best for wilderness preservation, fisheries restoration, clean water protection and preservation of wildlife.

Because WCWC is a federally registered charity, we are restricted from telling people whom to vote for or, for that matter, how an elected official should vote on an issue. But we can educate people so that they can make a well-reasoned choice for themselves.

We believe firmly that democracy works best when everyone participates in the political process. It is vital that you **VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATE OF YOUR CHOICE ON ELECTION DAY!!!**

It is also important for WCWC members to attend the all-candidates meetings in your area and ask questions about local and provincial conservation issues. Your voice could make a big difference in the promises that will be made and kept.

WCWC's 1995/96 Board of Directors

Kevin Bell*	naturalist (Chair)
Volker Bodegom*	author
Robert Broughton	systems analyst (Membership Secretary)
Adriane Carr	geographer (E-Team)
Alice Eaton	retired social worker (Secretary-Treasurer)
Paul George	biologist (E-Team)
Ian Mackenzie*	photographer and author
Annette Tanner*	teacher
Cameron Ward	lawyer
Bruce Wright	environmental consultant

The number of Board members is currently fixed at ten, with two of these positions appointed from the Executive Team (E-Team) of the Wilderness Committee by consensus of the E-Team. The eight other board positions are elected at an AGM, four at each AGM for overlapping two-year terms. Directors denoted by a * above were elected to two year terms at WCWC's 1995 AGM held on September 23, 1995.



RICK O'NEILL PHOTO

Grizzly bear in the Khutzeymateen Valley.



WCWC FILE PHOTO

Stein Valley gathering, summer 1985.



BRYAN EVANS PHOTO

Joe Foy and Sue Fox in front of Randy Stoltmann memorial in the Carmanah Valley.

Wilfred "Curley" Chittenden 1913 - 1995

When Curley passed away this past September, the wilderness preservation movement lost one of its most beloved elders. Curley was no stranger to WCWC's office. Often times we'd hear his gruff voice call - "come on, I'll buy you lunch, there's something I want to talk to you about." The conversation would usually be about some Lower Mainland wild place in the sights of a logging company. His assessment of the situation, whether it be logging in Vancouver's drinking watersheds or the fight to protect Pinecone-Boise-Burke would be sprinkled with tough-talk and a razor-edged humour. A conversation with Curley was sure to put a little starch in the backbone of any preservationist.

Curley's clear understanding of the effects of logging came from his love of nature, his age (he was 82 this year) and because, for most of his working life, he was a logger. Decades ago, he quit his logging job in the Skagit Valley and went on to lead the fight for its preservation. The Skagit was declared a provincial park this year - only a few days before he passed away. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered forever.

ECO-RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT ENDS IN TRAGEDY

Painfully, mention must be made to the ill-fated flight of August 31, 1995. Only a few hours into what had been planned as an all-day photo-reconnaissance of Nanaimo's watershed and Vancouver Island's last few oldgrowth Douglas fir forests, the single engine Cessna 172 crashed into the steep slopes of Mount Curan near Fanny Bay.

Mike Humphreys, a well respected environmentalist from Qualicum Beach, died in the crash. Myron Kozak, Steelhead Society Director and acclaimed wilderness photographer succumbed to injuries at the crash site. John Nelson of B.C. Wild and our Mid-Island Chapter co-chair Scott Tanner managed to crawl from the wreckage and survive.

Thanks to the speed of the arrival of the rescue team, Scott and John are home now, well along the painful road to recovery. I'm sure readers will join us in a tip of the hat to the rescue team, our heartfelt best wishes to Scott and John, and a moment of remembrance and sorrow that Mike and Myron are now with us only in spirit and inspiration.

Bob Wenman 1941 - 1995

When you walk in the tall tree groves of Carmanah Valley, think of Bob Wenman. Bob served the Fraser Valley as a Conservative Member of Parliament for 19 years, up until 1993. As an MP in the 1980s Bob argued passionately for the preservation of South Moresby, which eventually became a National Park Reserve.

In 1988, when Bob first phoned the Wilderness Committee, he was asked "what can we do for you sir?" He answered, "No, it's what I can do for you!" From that point on he turned his remarkable energies to preserving the Carmanah Valley. He helped campaigner Joe Foy distribute hundreds of WCWC's Carmanah posters to MPs in Ottawa. Bob travelled to Carmanah to help celebrate the grand opening of WCWC's trail. He commissioned a federal government study which showed that logging any of Carmanah would damage the Sitka spruce ecosystem. He stalked the halls of Victoria's Legislative Building so he could personally deliver this report to then-B.C. Forest Minister Dave Parker. He helicoptered countless officials into Carmanah, including Canada's environment minister, Jean Charest. Bob even ascended WCWC's canopy research platforms, 60 metres above the ground in a Sitka spruce tree!

Bob also cared deeply about Lower Mainland wilderness. He personally transported WCWC's first trail crew into the Boise Valley in his boat. We had so many good times with Bob. We will never forget.

WCWC Continues to Expand Clayoquot Campaign - Opens Ahousaht Office on Flores Island

1995 was a year of WCWC working in cooperation with First Nations in Clayoquot Sound. We feel particularly honoured to have been given permission to open an office in the Ahousaht First Nations reserve of Markosis, on Flores Island in the centre of the Sound. During 1995 our Clayoquot field projects and Ahousaht office activities were coordinated by Susan Jones, who worked cooperatively with WCWC campaigners Adriane Carr, Joe Foy and Paul George. This is Susan's report.

A busy year on-the-ground in Clayoquot Sound

Beginning in the fall of 1994, WCWC, jointly with Ahousaht First Nations, organized and mounted exploratory trips into the Ursus and Easter Lake areas, set up an incredible temporary Ursus research camp, conducted a preliminary Culturally Modified Tree (CMT) study in the Ursus, published and distributed a report and 130,000 copies of an educational newspaper (*Protect Ursus Valley: Ahousaht Territory*) about the Ursus trips, an art poster by George John entitled *Ursus Visions* and a poster entitled *Flores Island: Treat with Respect and Care, Ahousaht First Nations' Territory*, and initiated a Roosevelt Elk Study in the Ursus.

In the summer of 1995, jointly with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, WCWC initiated a Roosevelt Elk Study in the Upper Kennedy River and published a brochure of the *Meares Island Big Cedar Trail* and a *Clayoquot Valley Witness Trail Map and Recreation Guide*, to enable people to safely access and use the trails there.

Upon request, WCWC assisted others in their Clayoquot work. These included the renowned Scientific Panel, which requested a presentation of slides and discussion of our Ursus findings and Dr. Alan Burger, who requested logistical field support with a Marbled Murrelet survey in the Ursus. Burger's study resulted in a count of 900 to 1,000 of these birds in the 7,000 hectare watershed. Burger conjectures that the Ursus may be home to 25% of Clayoquot Sound's murrelets.

WCWC's Ahousaht office also assisted other groups, such as the terrific grade 5 class of the Maaquusi First Nations School, to explore the pristine wilderness of the Ahousaht Territory...Ursus Creek.

In October of 1995, Chief Earl Maquinna George stated that he and many Elders of Ahousaht do not wish to see any industrial activity within the Ursus Watershed.

Pretty Girl Cove - Easter Lake

In March of 1995 a joint WCWC-Ahousaht expedition into the Easter Lake area identified a wide variety of cultural and recreation features. A report which highlights the findings has been approved for distribution by the Ahousaht First Nations. Color copies are available for \$20.00 at WCWC Ahousaht Office.

Ongoing Education and Training

Slide shows, discussions and providing information to individuals are all a part of the WCWC Ahousaht office. A culturally modified tree (CMT) workshop, including training in scientifically identifying and dating CMTs, was hosted by Ahousaht WCWC office and conducted on Flores in June of 1995. Dendrochronologist Marion Parker was keen to share his skills. A CMT on the *Walk The Wild Side* ancient trail to the outside beaches of Flores Island was identified. Dating showed it to have been modified approximately 150 years ago. This tree and information are now used extensively by the guides of *Walk The Wild Side* for their eco-tours.

Flores Island - Happy Trails

In March of 1995, WCWC Ahousaht, Ahousaht Band and *Walk The Wild Side* (an Ahousaht First Nations' Womens eco-tourism initiative), submitted a cooperatively formulated grant application to Youth Service Canada. The \$195,000.00 *Wild Side Heritage Trail and Eco-Tourism Project* was approved by the federal government in October of 1995. The project will commence in March, 1996 and will see 20 youth participants engaged in trail repair, surveying and building, beach clean-up and training in eco-tourism career development.



JOE FOY PHOTO

Susan Jones on the Ursus River.



IAN MACKENZIE PHOTO

Cow Bay, the wildside of Flores Island, Clayoquot Sound.

Science Panel Vision Needs Immediate Implementation

When, in July of 1995, the B.C. Provincial Government accepted all 120 recommendations of the Clayoquot Science Panel, WCWC was happy. Why? Because of the Panel's vision that every pristine watershed over 200 ha in Clayoquot Sound must be placed under moratorium while full and thorough inventories of all forest values (including cultural, spiritual, fisheries, freshwater, soils, recreation and biodiversity) are conducted. Then, based on the inventories, areas will be preserved ("set aside") to permanently protect them.

Within days of the government decision, WCWC's mapping expert Ian Parfitt had produced a draft map of Clayoquot's pristine watersheds.

It is WCWC's belief that a resolution to the Clayoquot controversy can result from this process of thorough inventorying and subsequent permanent protection of all the values discovered and currently unprotected. "To do this," says Adriane Carr, WCWC's Clayoquot Campaign Coordinator, "it will take the cooperative effort and support of many agencies, because thorough scientific inventories are going to require substantial resources, lots of training and lots of time. This can't be a piecemeal, lacklustre effort coordinated by the B.C. Ministry of Forests. To do it right will require continued leadership from the scientific community and, most likely, the help of the federal government."



SUSAN JONES PHOTO

Ahousaht residents reading WCWC's Ursus Valley newspaper.



SUSAN JONES PHOTO

Inside our Ahousaht store, shared with Walk the Wildside.

Expeditions Mount Evidence For Preservation in Clayoquot

"I always wondered if they checked us out at night," mused Joe Foy as he hunkered down on a cold winter's night in Clayoquot. There, printed for all to see, was a story written by a bear. Foy and the other four members of the joint Ahousaht/WCWC Ursus Expedition, mounted in December of 1994, were camped beside the Bedwell River. During the night, a large black bear had walked down the sandbar, less than a dozen feet from the tents, leaving paw prints in the newly fallen snow. "Apparently the bear was not the least interested in us - he didn't alter his course one bit!" said Foy.

Days later, after a temporary research camp had been set up deep in the Ursus' oldgrowth forest, expedition member Rosealie Thomas was struck by the strong spiritual presence she felt in the Ursus Valley. Kurt John discovered a "test hole" in a huge living redcedar tree, evidence of long-ago canoe builders. Both Kurt and Rosealie are from Ahousaht First Nations, whose territories include the Ursus. Thirty sites, including bark-strip scars, canoe tree stumps and canoe building sites were documented during the 10 day Ursus expedition.

"All year long we've been working with the First Nations of Clayoquot Sound to gather information about the intact valleys and watersheds. Together, we've been out there hiking through the rainforest in all four seasons, finding evidence in the wildlife, salmon streams and cultural and recreational features that's building a case for the protection of Clayoquot Sound. It's not work that's garnered a lot of headlines - but it is essential work," said Foy.

Ahousaht Posters

WCWC's new Flores Island poster, *Flores Island: Treat with Respect and Care - Ahousaht First Nations' Territory*, was developed cooperatively with Walk The Wild Side of Ahousaht. The *Ursus Visions* art poster was developed cooperatively with artist George John of Ahousaht. The proceeds from the sale of these posters helps support cooperative Ahousaht-WCWC work, helps *Walk The Wild Side* with operational costs, and helps keep WCWC's Ahousaht office running!

Ahousaht Store and Office

During spring of 1995, WCWC assisted *Walk The Wild Side* with renovations of the Arts of Paawac (meaning artists' nesting) centre in Ahousaht so that we could share office space. Our grand office opening was held on April 8th, 1995. Yes, WCWC product is sold in the centre. Summer tourist sales were brisk!

Contacting WCWC in Ahousaht

E-Mail us at redsky@port.island.net, check out *Walk The Wild Side's* web site, <http://www.web.apc.org/wcwild/wtww.htm>. Call us (604)670-9602 or 9628 or WCWC Ahousaht Office, General Delivery, Ahousaht, BC V0R 1A0.

WCWC Alberta Branch "Tree-hugger" Central

WCWC's Alberta Branch became "tree-hugger central" in 1995 as our campaigns to stem the devastation of Canada's boreal forests blossomed.

Under the leadership of our Executive Director, Gray Jones, we produced several hard-hitting, fact-filled, full-coloured campaign newspapers. Our educational efforts focused on publicizing and stopping the destructive exploitation of the forests and native peoples of northern Alberta. The following are our top campaign priorities.

The Lubicon Cree

The Lubicon Cree in northwest Alberta are a native First Nation fighting to preserve their traditional hunting and fishing territory from the ravages of oil and gas development and industrial forestry exploitation.

The Lubicon are threatened by forest industry giant Daishowa, which may move its clearcutting further into the Lubicon's un-ceded traditional lands this winter ('95-'96). If Alberta refuses to cooperate, the land claim negotiations with the Federal Government could be stalled again.

The Caribou Plateau

The Caribou Plateau region in northern Alberta is one of the last large vestiges of totally uncompromised wilderness in Alberta. It has a fantastic diversity of lichens and is home to over 30 percent of the dwindling woodland caribou in Alberta.

Petroleum companies out of Calgary, along with Alberta Energy and Anderson Oil in the US, are now exploring the region looking for oil and gas deposits. Our campaign to protect the area from industrial development through publicity and research was featured prominently in a four-part television news program broadcast nationally in September of 1995.

At last report, ten exploratory wells for the Caribou Plateau received approval to begin drilling in the winter of '95-'96. Meanwhile we are increasing public interest in protecting this area as a National Park Reserve.

Logging on Private Lands

Large-scale, unregulated logging on private land threatens Alberta's environment and quality of life. Such logging destroys the aesthetics of rural communities, exposes soil to increased wind and water erosion and eliminates oldgrowth habitat for wildlife.

Alberta's Environment Minister Ty Lund supports private land owners' rights to do whatever they want to on their own private property regardless of the negative ecological consequences. We do not agree.

WCWC Great Boreal Forest Tour - November 1-13, 1995

In September of 1995 Gray Jones, Executive Director of WCWC's Alberta Branch and coordinator of WCWC's Boreal Forest Campaign, convinced WCWC Founder Paul George to join him on a cross-Canada tour. Organized by the Alberta Branch, in cooperation with local environment groups, they visited Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto and Vancouver. Everywhere they went they drew attention to the on-going slaughter of our climate-stabilizing Great Boreal Forest by trans-national forest, oil and mining companies. It was "an eye opener" for Paul.

JOHN YATES PHOTO



Paul George and Gray Jones protesting in front of WWF office in Toronto.

Boreal Forest Conference

August 21-29, 1994, WCWC Alberta hosted the world's second international non-government organization (NGO) and indigenous peoples conference, *The Boreal Forests of the World II*, in Edmonton and Little Buffalo, Alberta. The conference addressed the threats facing both the boreal forests and the people who live in them, depending on forest integrity for their survival.

The conference was a unique and innovative project that created a high level of indigenous/non-indigenous cooperation, cross-cultural understanding and a commitment to work together. It bolstered international efforts to exchange information and expertise on northern forest issues by strengthening the Taiga Rescue Network, a coalition of groups concerned with the protection, restoration and sustainable use of boreal forests. We continue to work with this network to bring about positive change.

Grizzly Bear Campaign

Not all of WCWC Alberta's campaigns this past year were about trees. Concerned that less than 900 grizzly bears are left in Alberta, including those living in the national parks, we launched a campaign to inform the public of the ecological requirements of the grizzly and the plight of this great animal. Our campaign goals include bringing a halt to loss of grizzly habitat and a stop to all hunting of grizzly bears in Alberta.

Our campaign in 1995 included mounting a series of presentations about the grizzly bear and distributing our educational "Adopt-A-Grizzly" package that comes with a video about the bears (available with a \$50 donation).

Clearcut in Lynx Creek near Rocky Mountain House. Sunpine/Louisiana Pacific put in 120 large clearcut in virgin wilderness last winter.



Two researchers exploring upper canopy for insects at the WCWC Boreal Forest research station.

Boreal Forest Research

WCWC's Boreal Forest Research Station was founded in the summer of 1993 on the banks of the Peace River in northern Alberta. The goal of the station is to study "boreal cove" forests that have been missed by the frequent fires caused by lightning and determine relationships between old-growth dependent wildlife and vegetation.

As the boreal forest is increasingly fragmented by industrial activity, scientists are finding that the remaining small fragments of forest have severely impoverished wildlife populations, particularly old-growth dependent birds. Some bird species, like the Connecticut Warbler, have experienced world wide population declines of 50%.

The Research Station is supervised by internationally renowned ecologist Dr. James Butler and wildlife biologist Andy Miller, WCWC Alberta's Director of Research. It is hoped that the research will result in the preservation of more boreal forests as parks that can support local communities through ecotourism.

WCWC Alberta Branch & Boreal Campaign

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The tour featured film, slides and scathing verbal presentations by the two veterans of the wilderness preservation movement. Paul and Gray, equally bristly characters at times, have not and will not compromise in their defense of wilderness.

Through the prairies, crowds were small, but key activists representing grass-roots groups met with the two and explained their dire situations. Pouring over maps, they cooperatively nailed down key areas needing full wilderness park protection.

Many of these areas are extremely threatened and have only a handful of defenders. Less than 3 percent of this vast boreal ecosystem that links all of Canada is currently protected. There are not yet effective national campaigns to save specific areas like Alberta's isolated Caribou Plateau adjacent to Wood Buffalo National Park, now threatened to be destroyed by massive gas well developments, or Duck Mountain Provincial Park, opened up to logging by the Manitoba Government, or Canada's first Provincial Park, Algonquin, where on-going logging must be banned forever.

Everywhere, the rate of boreal forest clearcutting is exponentially increasing. A four-fold increase in logging was just approved in the Cassiar District in northwestern B.C. Yet no one is studying the overall consequences of increasing deforestation occurring in all the provinces and territories across Canada.

Paul and Gray dubbed their cross-country jaunt "the grumpy old men's tour". "We were disgruntled...and justifiably so," they were heard to say, because of the intensity and rate of destruction of the boreal forests.

Both agree that WCWC must launch another "flagship" campaign to protect Canada's boreal wilderness now, before it is too late and the destruction of a global carbon sink precipitates runaway global warming.

One of the highlights of the tour was a protest on a cold winter's day in front of World Wildlife Fund's plush offices in Toronto. Paul and Gray were protesting W.W.F.'s corporately-financed backroom dealings in the prairies—selling out wilderness areas like the Caribou Mountains Plateau in Alberta.

Bob Hunter, of City TV, who interviewed them on site called it "the smallest protest that he has covered in his seven years of video reporting on the environment". With WCWC Toronto Canvass Director John Yates, they totalled only three picketers, but they made a point that needed to be made.

It was the start to WCWC's national campaign to defend Canada's Great Boreal Forest—an equal to our long-lasting campaign to protect Canada's Great Temperate Rainforest on the west coast.

STOLTMANN WILDERNESS CAMPAIGNS

In the spring of 1995, WCWC initiated a new flagship campaign—a massive push to protect the 260,000 hectare *Randy Stoltmann Wilderness Area*, located 80 km northwest of Whistler, B.C.

The Stoltmann Wilderness contains the largest cluster of unlogged valleys (including the Sims, Clendenning, Upper Elaho and Upper Lillooet) remaining in the Lower Mainland. The commercially valuable forests found in the Stoltmann Wilderness are under the control of the same giant forest companies that control the timber in the Clayoquot—International Forest Products (Interfor) and MacMillan Bloedel (MB). It is going to take an enormous effort to wrest away this control.

During summer and fall of 1995 we rapidly moved to build public interest and support in WCWC style:

- We explored the area, discovering Canada's third largest Douglas fir, the *Elaho Giant*.
- We pushed in a trail route to improve public access, successfully fighting the Forest Service for the right to survey trail under the new B.C. Forest Practices Code.
- In June we published 80,000 *Randy Stoltmann Wilderness Area - Save it Now!* newspapers and since April issued a dozen media releases.
- In August, on WCWC's 15th anniversary, we held a celebration gathering. Despite heavy rains, over 100 people camped in the 100 ha clearcut near our Stoltmann trailhead.
- We presented 15 multi-media slideshow events in communities from Vancouver to Whistler to Abbotsford.
- We sought signatures on a petition calling for Class A Provincial Park protection for the Stoltmann Wilderness, collecting over 5,000 names so far.
- We published a poster, *Stoltmann Wilderness: Preserve the ancient coastal Douglas firs' last stands*, handing out free copies to the public as we picketed Premier Harcourt's constituency office, an NDP salmon barbecue in Surrey and meetings of the *Regional Protected Areas Public Advisory Committee (RPAC)* because talk about new parks for the Lower Mainland is going on while the Stoltmann Wilderness is being logged.

Surveying the Stoltmann Trail

One clear, full moon night in September 1995, a few weeks before the trail surveying season ended, our Stoltmann trail boss, James Jamieson, scanned the moonlit ridge above him. "Listen, there it is again!" he whispered. "How many do you think there are?" WCWC's volunteer trail surveying crew were huddled around a tiny campfire on *Hundred Lakes Plateau* by our newly surveyed route deep in the Stoltmann Wilderness, listening to the wolves howling.

The day before, they had come upon a huge pit, recently ripped out of an alpine meadow where a grizzly bear had dug for marmots. Fur and marmot shreds were strewn around the heather. That afternoon the crew had discovered cougar tracks *laid over* one of the volunteer's boot tracks. "It's the deer that scare me the most!" laughs James. "When I'm walking along our survey route at dusk and they suddenly run in front of me—whew, that's a real heart stopper!"

Throughout the spring and summer of 1995 the Wilderness Committee volunteers, led by James, had snipped blueberry bushes and shrubs to clear a simple hiking trail route through the Stoltmann Wilderness from the Upper Elaho to the Meager Creek Valley. Their goal was simple. To identify the route for a trail that people can easily hike to experience the wildlife-rich Stoltmann Wilderness for themselves. Of course, under the new Forest Practices Code, we have to obtain B.C. Forest Service approval to build the final trail. In September, 1995 we got approval for the section to the Elaho Giant.

Many people, inspired by their experience on one of our wilderness trails, end up actively campaigning for the area's protection. That is what happened when the Wilderness Committee built trails in the Stein, Carmanah, Boise, and Clayoquot Valleys. All of these areas, except Clayoquot Valley, are now protected as parks.

WCWC's Stoltmann trail survey volunteers came from Vancouver, Whistler, Squamish, the Fraser Valley,



Coast mountain explorer John Clarke next to one of the ancient Douglas firs in the Stoltmann Wilderness.

Eastern Canada, Great Britain, the USA, Germany and Australia. All came to experience and help save a piece of Canada's great wilderness. Together, in 1995, they surveyed 15 km of trail, about half the route. The rest, WCWC plans to complete in the summer of 1996.

It takes money to build a 30 km hiking trail. Money to buy the large gardening snippers (called loppers) that every volunteer packs. Money to pay for a vehicle and fuel to drive back and forth the 200 km between WCWC's Gastown office and the trailhead. Money to buy large tarps, group cook stoves and pots and pans. Every volunteer that worked on the trail in 1995 chipped in as much as they could afford to help with food and transportation—but it wasn't enough to cover costs. WCWC members and supporters provided additional, crucially needed donations that kept our Stoltmann Wilderness Campaign and trail crew going.



KATE HILL PHOTO



JOE FOY PHOTO

Sims Creek - crime against nature

"I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes," said John Werring, biologist for the Sierra Legal Defense Fund. "I thought these kind of logging practices were supposed to be a thing of the past!" exclaimed Joe Foy, WCWC campaign director. The two were staring in disbelief at a logging road that was being built in the stream bed of Sims Creek.

It was May of 1995 and Joe and John were checking out International Forest Products' road building operation in Sims Creek, part of the Randy Stoltmann Wilderness Area. Sims is one of only eight remaining intact Lower Mainland watersheds over 5,000 hectares.

"It's a sneak attack," said Foy. "These guys are blasting a road into the Sims Creek valley before it can be protected as part of a Stoltmann Wilderness Park. That's why they are doing such a hurried, slap-dash job of road building," Foy continued.

Tons of rip-rap (blasted rock) had been dumped into the creek bed to form the base for the road. The creek-side cliff face had been blasted away. "Shrapnel rock" littered the sand and gravel bars beside Sims Creek. A recent clearcut had stripped the forest from a steep hillside right down to the creek - not a tree left standing. The whine and crash of a large excavator at work on a talus slope was punctuated with the rolling thunder of big redcedars being dropped by a crew of fallers along the road right-of-way that snaked up the valley. Sims Creek was going down.

"What we saw at Sims Creek was horrible," said Foy. What we learned later was even worse. Everything being done by International Forest Products (Interfor) at Sims Creek was sanctioned by the provincial government. Even though Sims Creek is a Class A fish-bearing stream, Interfor was allowed by the B.C. Ministry of Environment to build the road through the stream because a route farther up the hillside would have been more expensive to construct.

"If this is forest practices under the new Forest Practices Code, I'd say the Code isn't worth the paper it's written on," said Foy. Road construction in Sims Valley is currently on hold because of winter snow. "There is still time to save the Sims," said Foy. "We have to demand park protection for the entire 260,000 hectare Stoltmann Wilderness - including Sims Creek."

Help out in any way you can!

If you would like to donate towards keeping the Stoltmann Wilderness roadless and wild, or help out on next year's trail project, or arrange for an inspiring Stoltmann Wilderness slide show presentation to be given in your community, or learn more about the Wilderness Committee in general, phone Kerry Dawson, our Stoltmann Wilderness Campaigner and Volunteer Coordinator. Call 683-8220 or 1-800-661-WILD.

A huge 100 ha clearcut was the site of WCWC's 15th year anniversary camp-out. Stoltmann Wilderness in the distance.

International Forest Product's new logging road building in Sims Creek, 1995.



WCWC VICTORIA'S FLAGSHIP CAMPAIGN

to save the Sooke Hills Wilderness

Since our legal case last year, when the Supreme Court of B.C. ruled that the Greater Victoria Water District (GVWD) could no longer carry on a commercial logging operation on its lands, we have focused most of our energy on protecting the 45 square kilometres of GVWD off-catchment lands.

These are Water District-owned lands that do not drain into our drinking reservoir. They encompass some of B.C.'s last stands of big, oldgrowth trees in the *Coastal Douglas Fir Zone*. The GVWD off-catchment lands are the keystone in our Sooke Hills Wilderness proposal and a vital part of our Conservation Vision for Vancouver Island.

The Victoria Chapter's goal is to see a protected corridor stretching from Tod Inlet south through Goldstream Park and the off-catchment lands and southwest to Sooke Basin. Since the beginning of our Sooke Hills campaign, we have been working to raise understanding and awareness of this uniquely valuable and threatened area.

In January of 1995 we began giving Sooke Hills slide shows to local community organizations, outdoor groups, church groups, school classes and others. The slide shows have been promoting the beauty and diversity of our backyard wilderness in addition to the importance of the Sooke Hills Wilderness as the last opportunity for meaningful wilderness protection on southeastern Vancouver Island.

We've mounted a lot of other activities over the past year to raise awareness of Sooke Hills, including presentations and booths at Earth Week and National Forestry Week. These events allowed us to reach a broader cross-section of the public and to expand our support base. We also worked hard this year to produce, with the financial help of the Vancouver "head" office, two WCWC educational report newspapers on the Sooke Hills, providing people with the information they need to write effective letters to their elected representatives.

These papers have been widely distributed throughout the Greater Victoria area. In the local newspapers, several editorial pieces and letters to the editor by Wilderness Committee campaigners have kept local environmental issues in the news and on the political agenda.

Our outreach has been effective. Many Victoria groups have formally endorsed the Sooke Hills Wilderness Proposal, including Tourism Victoria, which represents over 800 member businesses in the Greater Victoria region.

Sooke Hills Biological Research Project

On April 21, 1995 we received permission from the Greater Victoria Water District Board to conduct biological research in the off-catchment lands. Because of the restricted access policy of the board, very little field work has been carried out in the area. We had to make several presentations and submissions to the board in order to obtain special permission to enter their lands to conduct our research.

When we contacted members of the scientific community about our research project, we received overwhelming support—all agreed on the importance of documenting the variety of life in the Sooke Hills, and many prominent biologists and botanists agreed to volunteer their time. Among the scientists involved in this project are Dr. Adolf Ceska and Dr. Richard Hebda of the Royal B.C. Museum; Dr. Nancy Turner of the University of Victoria; Dr. Alison McCutcheon of the University of British Columbia and Dr. Chris Pielou of Clayoquot Scientific Panel.

Our goal was to build a more complete picture of biodiversity and habitat in the Sooke Hills, including the rare and endangered species that rely on the area for their survival. Summer field work has now been



Sooke Hills Wilderness

completed and we hope to publish an interim report in January of 1996.

The scientists' comments on the biological value of the area have already been submitted to Capitol Regional District (CRD) Parks Committee for use in their report *Assessment of the Green Space and CRD Park Values for the Greater Victoria Water District's Existing and Future Non-Catchment Lands*.

The recently released CRD report supports WCWC's position that the GVWD non-catchment lands in the Sooke Hills should be protected as a park, but it excluded a critical watershed known as the Waugh Creek corridor. We encourage all our members and supporters to contact their local mayor and council expressing how they feel about the CRD report and whether or not the GVWD should place a conservation covenant on the Waugh Creek corridor.

If the Waugh Creek is not protected, logging and development could be allowed, which would fragment the Sooke Hills Wilderness.

COME SEE THE SOOKE HILLS
A Spectacular Evening of
Slides, Live Music and Theatre
A Conservation Vision for
Victoria's Backyard
McPherson Playhouse
#3 Centennial Square
7:30 pm - Thurs. Jan. 18, 1996
Admission by Donation - Don't Miss It!



WCWC Victoria Staff and canvassers.

Second WCWC Court Case Pending Against the GVWD

Although we won our court case last year against the Greater Victoria Water District in the Supreme Court of B.C., with a ruling that logging by the GVWD is illegal, there is still logging occurring in our watershed! The Water District allows Pacific Forest Products (PFP) to continue clearcutting in our drinking water drainage area under existing contractual agreements.

Consequently, we have filed another case with the courts, challenging the legality of the Water District's logging contracts with PFP. We are confident that the courts will again rule against the actions of the GVWD and we will keep you posted.

Supporting Students

Besides our campaign work, we are also proud of the support we provide to students and researchers interested in environmental issues. Throughout the year we make available research files, videos, slides, and articles for oral presentations, debates, and essays.

Current topics of interest include clearcut logging, alternative forestry, biodiversity, conservation biology, the Forest Practices Code, and the Greater Victoria Water District lands. Making good information available to the public is a priority in our office.

Thanks to Our Canvassers

A key element of our Sooke Hills Campaign, and of all the work we do in the Victoria Chapter office, is the door-to-door canvass. Most of the funds that keep our office and campaigns running come through the generosity of our supporters and the hard work and dedication of our canvassers.

A big "Thank you!" to all those who have been part of our canvass crew this year.

Volunteers Are Our Backbone

Volunteers handle our phones, provide information, answer public enquiries, and assist with clippings and filing of current information. They run our store and information booths and help out with public events. We couldn't do the job without them. Thank you, all, for making another year of wilderness defense possible.

Special thanks goes to our volunteer co-ordinator Chris Frye and to long time volunteers Joyce and Mary.

Thanks to our Members and Supporters

In all of our work and through all of our successes, our members and supporters are our most important asset. For example, the GVWD Board has this year received over 300 letters from citizens concerned about the future of the Sooke Hills off-catchment lands. That's a tremendous amount of support for a regional issue—but we need more letters to keep the pressure up.

Financially, donations to the Wilderness Committee Victoria office have literally kept our doors open. Thank you for all of your help and your determination to bring about wilderness preservation and positive environmental change.

WCWC Victoria Wish list

- 1 IBM-compatible SVGA colour monitor
- 28-8 modem
- 486 IBM-compatible computer
- 6 to 8 passenger propane canvass van

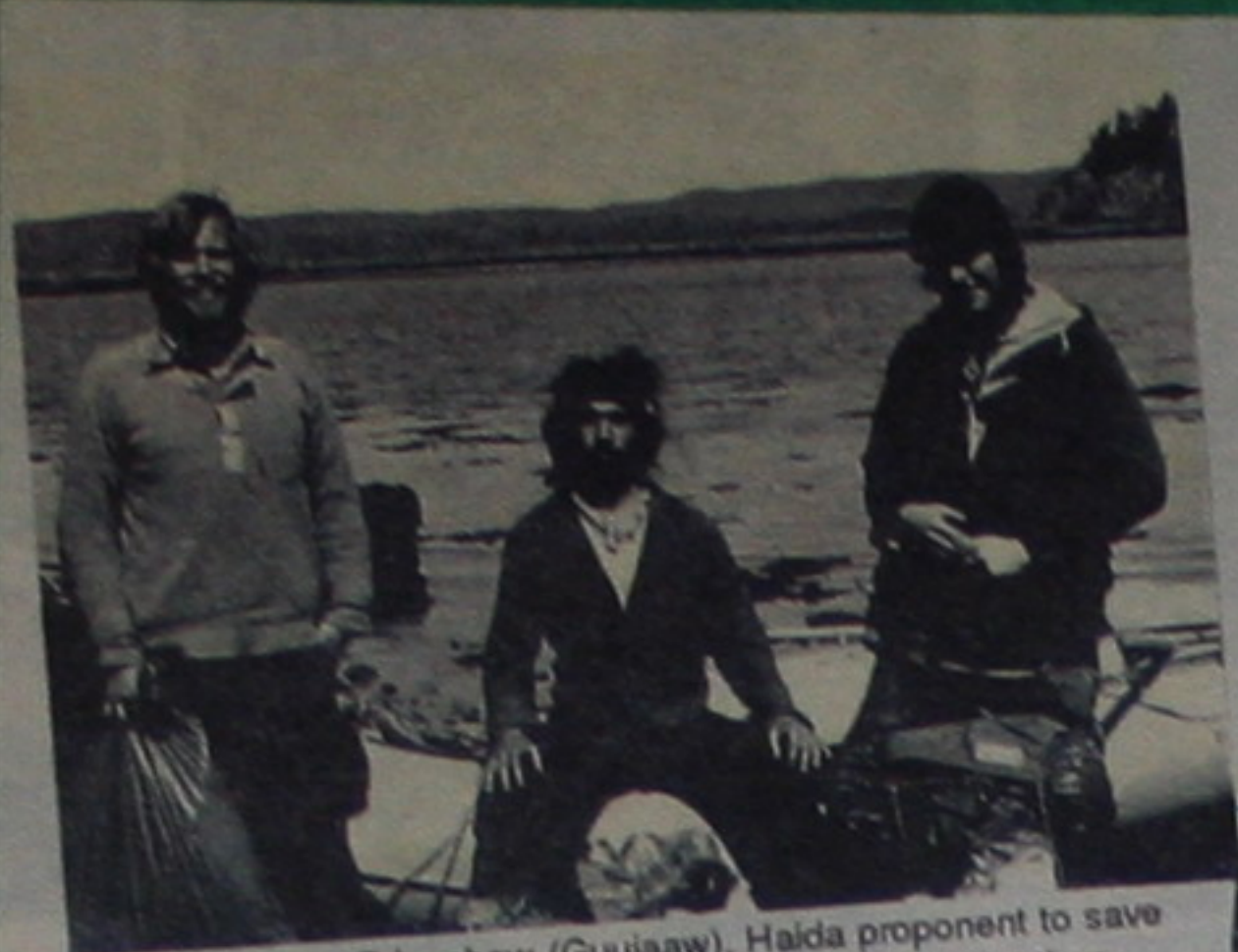
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Western Canada Wilderness Committee

15 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION

Archival Highlights



Paul George, Gary Edenshaw (Guujaaw), Haida proponent to save South Moresby; Thom Henley on Hot Springs Island in the then-proposed South Moresby Wilderness Area, summer, 1978. During this expedition, the concepts and determination to launch the Wilderness Committee, the Haida Watchmen program and the Rediscovery outdoor education program were born. Photo credit unknown.



March to demonstration in front of Western Forest Products headquarters in downtown Vancouver in 1987 a few months before South Moresby declared a National Park Reserve. Paul George holding banner, Ken Lay far left pall bearer carrying theatrical prop coffin, Joe Foy's foot (pall bearer on other side). Photo by Martin Roland.



Photo featured (in B&W) on WCWC's first educational tabloid newspaper titled *SOUTH MORESBY - A SPECIAL ISSUE* published in the Summer of 1984. Photo of Adriane Carr beside Sitka spruce taken on Lyell Island by future husband Paul George in summer of 1982 during their 27 day kayak pre-honeymoon trip.



Marion Parker and his son Ben, under contract to WCWC, conducted a study of tree ages in the Stein Valley, in 1988. Ben Parker, pictured here, takes a core sample out of a ponderosa pine in the lower Stein. By studying scars left on living redcedar trees Marion and Ben documented extensive use of cedar bark by native people in the Stein Valley dating back to the 1830s. Photographer unknown.



The Lillooet Tribal Council sponsors the first Voices for the Wilderness Festival in the summer of 1985. WCWC produces its first Stein education report and widely distributes it to publicize this event. More than 500 people gather in the Stein alpine to celebrate and dedicate themselves to preserving the watershed. Photographer unknown.



Ken Lay, WCWC campaigner, reaches clearcut on edge of Windy Bay on November, 1986 during fact-finding expedition to Lyell Island, South Moresby Wilderness Area. First published (in B&W) in our 1987 *BATTLE FOR WINDY BAY* newspaper of which 100,000 were printed and distributed. Photo by Jeff Gibbs.

Under the auspices of the Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations WCWC upgrades the Stein Heritage Trail from Cottonwood Creek to Stein Lake in the summer of 1986. Ken Lay (second from left) led the trail crew. Leo DeGroot (far left) worked with Ken for over a month, deep in the Stein wilderness. The trail building volunteers in this photo are mostly from Vancouver's Prince of Wales school and from Mt. Currie. Photographer unknown.



One of thousands who signed WCWC's petition to save the Lower Tsitika/Robson Bight on the east coast of Vancouver Island. Photo shows WCWC's Spring, 1990 newspaper about the Tsitika, published by our Victoria Chapter, which took a leadership roll in this ultimately successful campaign. Photographer unknown.





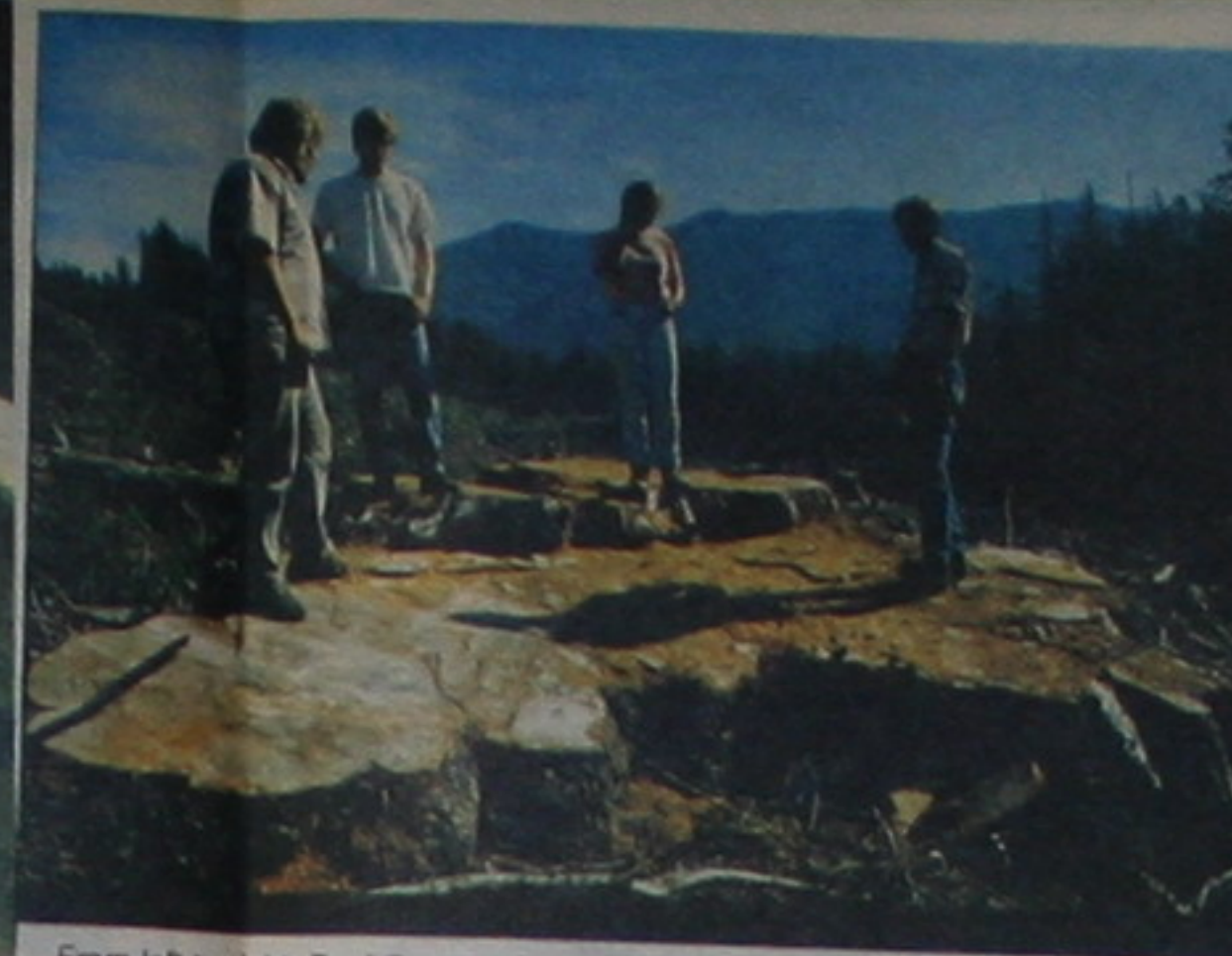
Randy Stoltmann contemplates a stand of ancient redcedars on West Vancouver's Brothers Creek Loop in October of 1986. The following year this photo appeared in Randy's Hiking Guide to the Big Trees of Southwestern British Columbia, published by WCWC. In April of 1988 Randy's search for big trees led him to the discovery of a new logging road immediately notified WCWC, thereby launching our eight year campaign to save the entire valley as a Provincial Park. Photo by Joe Foy.



WCWC organizes the first of several artists' expeditions into the Carmanah Valley in May of 1989. Famed Canadian wildlife artist Robert Bateman is pictured here, on WCWC's newly constructed Carmanah Trail. In October of 1989 WCWC released a 167 page hard cover art book, Carmanah, Artistic Visions of an Ancient Rainforest. The book featured the work of 70 artists who donated their art to WCWC. The book became a best seller and won two awards. Photographer unknown.



John Kelson, perched in an ancient Sitka spruce fifteen stories above ground in the Upper Carmanah, 1990. John helped WCWC build the world's first temperate rainforest canopy research station here. Subsequent research turned up a host of new oldgrowth canopy-dependent insect species, strengthening the case for preservation. Photographer unknown.



From left to right: Paul George, Bryan Adams, Carleen Lay and unknown person stand on a massive recently-felled Sitka stump, with Carmanah Valley in the background, summer of 1989. The vast clearcuts experienced on the journey into Carmanah prompted WCWC to launch an ongoing campaign to halt clearcutting in B.C.'s temperate rainforests. Photographer unknown.



After a week of backbreaking labour, volunteers pose by "Stumpy", the 4,000 kg stump of a 6-foot-in-diameter, 400 year old redcedar. Second to the right, Dia Roberts, crew foreman. Far right, Dr. Andrew Kotaska, who volunteered to drive Stumpy across Canada. Stumpy arrived in Ottawa a few days before the '93 Federal election.

Subsequently WCWC loaned the "publicity stump" to Greenpeace for a European anti-clearcut logging tour and a WCWC team toured it across Eastern Canada, to New York and Washington D.C. across the U.S. to San Francisco and back home to Vancouver. Stumpy is presently being held by a shipping company in Montreal. WCWC is currently negotiating with the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa to find a final resting place for Stumpy as a permanent display. Photographer unknown.



During a logger's blockade of the Carmanah access road in October of 1990, persons unknown destroyed the hiking bridge over Carmanah Creek, chainsawed one thousand metres of WCWC's boardwalk and smashed and burned our research camp. Photographer unknown.



A three kilometre boardwalk to the research camp and canopy platforms is completed by September of 1990. Hundreds of volunteers work all summer to finish the project. Photographer unknown.



WCWC volunteers work throughout the summer of 1993 to construct the Clayoquot Valley Witness Trail. Boardwalk is constructed in order to protect the delicate forest soils from impact by hiker's boots. The trail is built under the guidance of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations. Photo by Joe Foy.



During the summers of '93 and '94, WCWC's kiosk at Sutton Pass, at the side of the only road to Tofino and Clayoquot Sound, greeted visitors with information about our Clayoquot Witness Trail project and our ongoing campaign to protect the ancient rainforest in Clayoquot Sound. Set up with the permission of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, our kiosk received a lot of hassles and a lot of support. Photo by Bruce Torrie.

Joe Foy sits on a bench beside the Clayoquot Valley Witness Trail, June of 1994. The names carved in the boardwalk and bench represent some of the hundreds of donors who sent money to help build the trail. Photographer unknown.



Paul George carries an air mattress out of a camping tent set up at the entrance to the Legislative Buildings in Victoria, in early March of 1993. Paul George, Adriane Carr and Joe Foy had vowed to camp at the BC government's front door in an effort to get Premier Mike Harcourt to meet with them over the fate of Clayoquot Sound. After several days of camping, the Premier finally agreed to meet with the WCWC representatives. Photographer unknown.



Volunteers, the backbone of WCWC hard at work folding and stuffing for mailing tens of thousands of our newspaper Wild and Beautiful Clayoquot Sound: Two different futures - Which one will you help choose? Published in the Summer of 1992, with 100,000 copies printed, it advocated establishing a Biosphere Reserve. Photographer unknown.



WCWC directors Ken Lay, Adriane Carr and Paul George study the April 10, 1990 news release from Forest Minister Claude Richmond which declares that the lower half of Carmanah Valley is to become a Provincial Park while the upper half of the valley is to be opened to logging. Adriane Carr comments that it's a "Solomon's choice...cutting the Carmanah ecosystem in half is like cutting a baby in half." Photographer unknown.



70 WCWC volunteers converge on the end of Upper Carmanah road to rebuild the bridge, boardwalk and research camp. It only took two days in March of 1991 to complete the massive repairs. The new camp, named Camp Phoenix, is larger than the old one. Photographer unknown.



WCWC's Penan - Voices for the Borneo Rainforest book launch held at Vancouver's Bloedel Conservatory in 1990. Celebrities present, among others, include Mary Lou Stewart, whose financial contribution from Rainforest Benefit II made the publication possible; authors Thom Henley and Wade Davis; and David Suzuki, who wrote the forward to the book. Photo J. P. LeFrank.



WCWC - WILD co-sponsors the Penan World Tour of indigenous Malaysian spokes-persons, including Andy Mutang and Mutang Tu'o, in an effort to save their Borneo rainforest from logging destruction. They appeared on Vancouver's CKNW Rafe Mair talk show in the winter of 1990. Photographer unknown.



Stamatis Zogaris, volunteer who researched and provided the information to map the wild areas needing conservation in Greece, poses with WILD Campaign Director Adriane Carr. His information was published in WCWC's influential 16 page newspaper SAVE WILD GREECE in the Spring of 1991. Photographer unknown.

15 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL WCWC WILDERNESS PRESERVATION



WCWC volunteer Kevin Purton (right of photo) and a fellow tree hugger exploring the Boise Valley's Cedar Spirit Grove, in September of 1994. The Boise Valley trail winds through the grove. Photographer unknown.

WCWC conducts a staff planning session at Danny and Lee Gerak's Pitt Lake Lodge to plan future wilderness-saving campaigns and to savour the recently created Pinecone-Boise-Burke Provincial Park, June of 1995. From right to left in the photo - Sue Fox, Kallie George, Sylvia Algire, Joe Foy (holding map), Andrea Reimer and Anik Hahn at the Boise Valley trail head. Photographer Adriane Carr.



Nancy Bleck stands on the hiking bridge that crosses Sundown Creek. Through August, September and October of 1995 she guided people on the Stoltmann Wilderness trails, helping to build public support for preservation of the entire 260,000 hectare area. Julia Morlacci photo.



WCWC members camp in a huge clearcut in the Upper Elaho Valley, in August of 1995 to celebrate WCWC's 15th anniversary. Over 100 people attended for three days of camping, hiking and outdoor slide shows. Photographer unknown.



WCWC Stoltmann Wilderness trail boss James Jamieson discovered the Elaho Giant, July of 1995. The Giant's 10 metre circumference makes it the third largest Douglas fir recorded in B.C. It is located one km from the WCWC trail head in the Upper Elaho Valley. Photographer unknown.



Susan Jones, WCWC's Ahousaht office coordinator, takes notes about a redcedar tree with a bark stripping scar in the Ursus Valley. In December of 1994 Susan coordinated a joint WCWC/Ahousaht expedition to locate trees modified by native use. Thirty trees, stumps and logs showing signs of bark stripping and canoe manufacture were located. Photo by Joe Foy.

WCWC sets up info picket at the grand opening of the Forest Alliance office in downtown Vancouver in the spring of 1993. Volunteers handed out WCWC's parody of this Industry lobby group's newspaper. We asked who owned the province's forests, the people of B.C. or the multinationals. Photographer unknown.



NDP Backroom Trade-off Threatens Extinction for B.C. Spotted Owls

WCWC seeks court's ruling to help protect this endangered species

It was June 8, 1995, a beautiful sunny afternoon in Coquitlam. Inside the auditorium, WCWC founding director Paul George's eyes were bulging. Steam was coming out of his ears as he read the fine print in the B.C. Government's press release. Oblivious to his concern, several hundred people began to cheer.

Up on stage, Premier Harcourt was announcing that his government was making the 38,000 hectare Pinecone Lake/Boise Valley/Burke Mountain area a Class A Provincial Park. What was wrong with Paul?

WCWC had worked hard over the last four years for the preservation of Pinecone/Boise/Burke and especially hard over the last several weeks after receiving early notice of the positive decision. We knew it was important to get an appreciative crowd of WCWC members to come out to the park announcement.

But the government had, without any warning, sandwiched bad news for the environment in with the good. Hidden in the news releases and background reports given out to those attending was a sheet entitled *Spotted Owl Management and Recovery - Certainty and Security for the Regional Forest Industry*. While everyone else was applauding the Premier, Paul had been reading about a dastardly decision that would threaten B.C.'s population of Spotted Owls with extinction.



RANDY STOLTMANN PHOTO

Spotted Owl in oldgrowth rainforest habitat.

The Spotted Owl is an endangered species in Canada. It requires oldgrowth forests to survive and its Canadian range is limited to B.C.'s Lower Mainland where there are estimated to be about 100 pairs left. After decades of heavy logging in the Lower Mainland, little of the owl's critical habitat is left. In a wise move starting back in 1990, the then-Socred government had declared

"Spotted Owl Conservation Areas" off-limits to loggers while a recovery plan for the owl was prepared by government biologists.

Now, Paul read, the B.C. government was going to open up 175,000 hectares of forest lands previously designated as Spotted Owl Conservation Areas (just over half of the owls' critical habitat) to logging.

Apparently, the government had decided to throw the Spotted Owls to the loggers in a crude attempt to compensate the forest industry for loss of its right to cut the small amount of timber in the new Pinecone-Burke Park. Paul created quite a scene.

Back at work in WCWC's Gastown office, Paul got busy launching a campaign to save the Spotted Owls. He discovered that U.S. activists had successfully forced protection of the owl's U.S. habitat in the courts. And he discovered that protection of Spotted Owl habitat also ensured the protection of hundreds of other species dependant on the same oldgrowth forest ecosystem for their survival.

Paul spoke with Mark Haddock of Forest Policy Watch and with Greg McDade of the Sierra Legal Defense Fund to look at WCWC's legal options. If the NDP government wouldn't protect endangered species in B.C., perhaps the courts would. Watch for more WCWC action to protect the Spotted Owls in the coming months.

QUESTION: How do we get a mountain-side into a glass of drinking water?

ANSWER: Apply Greater Vancouver's Watershed Management Plan.

With a thunderous roar, 5,000 dumptruck loads of clay, soil, silt and gravel spewed down the steep slope and into the Capilano Reservoir - one of the three main sources of Greater Vancouver's drinking water. The next day, October 10th, 1995, the Water Manager's phone was ringing off the hook. The messages were all the same "What's wrong with my water? It's all cloudy!" The north shore mountainside was pouring into people's drinking glasses. The Capilano's pipe was immediately turned off by the Water Manager to protect people from dirty water. Then, on November 13, the Vancouver Sun announced that the Seymour Watershed had come unraveled. Another landslide had muddied the waters. Only the Coquitlam Watershed was running clean...but for how long?

Only a few months earlier the Wilderness Committee had published 100,000 copies of an educational report entitled *STOP ALL LOGGING in GREATER VANCOUVER'S WATERSHEDS NOW...before it's too late! Save the ancient temperate rainforest...*



MARK WAREING PHOTO

Washed - out road in our Vancouver drinking watershed.

nature's unbeatable water purification system. This four page, full-colour newspaper documents how logging and road building makes our watersheds more prone to wild-fire and landslides; how the

logging is perpetuated by Waterboard employees trying to justify their own logging-related jobs; and how we can save the half-billion dollar expense of a new water filtration system if we maintain the existing filtration system...the oldgrowth forest.

Biodiversity conservation through strong legislation

In March of 1995 WCWC published an eight-page, full-colour, fact-filled educational newspaper, *Protect Canada's Biodiversity*, which proved to be one of the most popular newspaper publications we have ever produced. The first run of 120,000 copies disappeared in less than six weeks, as orders from schools, libraries and environment groups poured in from across the nation. We rushed to a second printing of 50,000. (Call us if you want a copy!)

Unfortunately, the paper has yet to demonstrate its real effectiveness. Widely distributed in Ottawa and to every Member of Parliament, the paper explains the need for strong Federal Endangered Species Legislation. But proposed legislation, released in the summer of 1995 and scheduled to be formally drafted for first reading in the House of Commons in early 1996, is weak and ineffectual. It proposes to protect only endangered species on Federal Lands (a miniscule part of Canada) and doesn't require protection of critical habitat.

The government says there is still time to change the bill. We believe that only a massive public outcry will put more teeth into the legislation so that it will truly protect Canada's irreplaceable natural biodiversity--by preserving and protecting wild habitats of endangered species no matter where in Canada they live!



WCWC Carmanah Research Station.

Reforming Tenure - Challenging B.C. TFL Replacements

WCWC began to intensify its forest tenure reform campaign in late 1994. At that time, replacement contracts (offered every 10 years in a 25 year contract) for all of the B.C. TFLs up for renewal were still being negotiated. By the end of 1994, after several years of negotiations between the B.C. Ministry of Forests and the corporate license holders, agreement had been reached and the final TFL documents were ready for signature by the B.C. Minister of Forests. There had been no public consultation process. The general public knew neither the new terms nor the timing of the replacement contracts.

WCWC's Educational Report contains a history revealing that, while our Greater Vancouver drinking watersheds were once protected, they are endangered today. People will be surprised to find out that from 1926 to 1952 our drinking watersheds were completely off-limits to logging. WCWC's research shows that B.C.'s Environment Minister has the power to once again halt logging in our watersheds, forever!

If you want a free copy of WCWC's paper *Stop All Logging in Greater Vancouver's Watersheds Now!* phone us and we will mail one to you right away. Our water depends on you taking action today.



By the beginning of 1995 WCWC campaigners obtained a draft copy of the new standard TFL agreement. It was woefully lacking in environment protection clauses as well as the requirements needed to provide sustainable levels of employment. It also failed to give government the power to withdraw land to protect salmon streams and critical wildlife habitat.

Despite the NDP promise to tackle forest tenure reform, the B.C. government signed most of the licences in early 1995. Some TFLs are up for renewal in 1996, like TFL 38 which covers part of the Stoltmann Wilderness. WCWC is vigorously opposing its renewal.

Protecting Temperate Rainforest in Chile and BC

WCWC launched its international campaign called WILD (Wilderness Is the Last Dream) in 1989. The goal was big...to work in cooperation with other local environmental groups to map and protect Earth's natural ecosystems. Besides mounting a world mapping conference in Hawaii in 1990 and a major campaign to help save the ancient tropical rainforests of the Penan people in Sarawak, WILD has helped coordinate mapping projects in a number of Latin American countries and supported conservation projects in Chile.

Throughout 1995 WILD continued to work closely with environmentalists in Chile, where forests similar to ours grow in a familiar wet maritime climate. Unfortunately, the temperate forests in both Chile and B.C. are being destroyed to supply the global fibre market, with little value-added benefits for local communities and minimal regard for conserving biodiversity. In Chile, the forests are chipped and shipped primarily to Japan for paper-making, while B.C.'s forests mostly head to the U.S.A., Europe and Japan as raw logs, chips, pulp, cants (logs cut square) and dimensional lumber.

WILD works closely with CODEFF, the oldest, largest and most broad-based environmental organization in Chile, and with Fundación Lahuen, a group that focuses on protecting Chile's temperate rainforests. Thanks to

the support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), we have been able to learn from the experiences of our southern partners and to share with them some of the skills WCWC has gained in 15 years of campaigning, especially our ability to produce educational publications and increase public support for wilderness preservation.

During a week-long visit to Vancouver in the spring of 1995, CODEFF Forest Campaigner Herman Verscheure worked with the WILD team to design a poster and to prepare the "mock-up" for a joint paper on B.C. and Chilean forest practices. Herman, who is active in international forest policy issues, briefed WCWC on meetings he had recently attended related to the development of an international Forestry Convention.

CODEFF's poster was printed in Chile in July of 1995 and distributed to politicians including President Frei, activists, and academics within Chile. Some were sent to WCWC to help raise awareness about Chile in Canada. This is the third poster we have produced with our Chilean partners. Each one has been a success.

With the support of WILD and CIDA, CODEFF has developed its in-house geographic information system (GIS) capability this year, in order to map the remaining



Hernan Verscheure with CODEFF Staff in front of office, Santiago, Chile.

natural ecosystems of Chile. Fundación Lahuen has continued to expand its Cari Forest Sanctuary educational programme, visiting local schools, showing slideshows, developing and mounting a guide training programme and conducting field trips for politicians, teachers, students, and international and national tourists.

The Andes Project

WILD and Pro-Naturaleza of Peru are working together to produce a set of maps for the greater Andes ecosystem showing the region's remaining natural areas and sustainable communities. The project, now in its final year, is funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). This year, Pro Naturaleza collected information from Ecuador and Colombia as well as Peru. WILD concentrated on sourcing existing digital maps and assembling a Geographic Information System (GIS) capable of handling the large amount of data involved in this project.

GIS Hardware Expanded

In the summer of 1995, in a cooperative effort with the U.S.-based World Wilderness Committee, WCWC received a major grant of GIS training, hardware and software from the Conservation Technology Support Program of the Smithsonian Institute. This world class system, a long-dreamed-of upgrade to our current system, includes a Hewlett-Packard workstation and plotter, Arc/Info and Erdas software, and the Digital Chart of the World (DCW) on CD-ROM. WILD's director of mapping, Ian Parfitt, is currently evaluating the DCW for use as the base map for the Andes project. By showing the rarity of pristine areas, the maps produced by WILD and its partners have been extremely useful conservation tools.

Thank You!

WCWC's International WILD Campaign Team includes Adriane Carr, Sue Fox Gregory and Ian Parfitt. They say *thank you!* to CIDA and IDRC for supporting WILD's efforts to work in partnership with groups like CODEFF, Fundación Lahuen and Pro Naturaleza towards greater conservation of Earth's precious natural ecosystems.

For more information about WILD's southern partners and international projects call us at 1-800-661-WILD.

BOSQUES NATIVOS DE CHILE

This image of a wild river captures the beauty and mystery of Chile's temperate rainforest. The message translates as: *Chile's Native Forests, Their Conservation - Our Commitment.* We are sure that this poster will help to gain the popular support in Chile needed for the preservation of ancient forests - just as our posters have always been a big part of our successful campaigns in B.C.

25 1/2" X 19 1/2" full-colour.
\$20.00 (Members \$15.00)

The Berlin Climate Convention



Sue Fox, WILD's communication expert, and Gray Jones, executive director of WCWC's Alberta Branch, travelled to Germany this spring to participate in the Global Climate Convention. They had arranged to take our famous 4,000 kg redcedar stump from Clayoquot Sound, but bad luck in the form of rail and port strikes sidetracked "Stumpy" in Montreal, where it remains in custodial storage. Sue and Gray still brought the message to the global community of clearcutting's contribution to global warming. They pointed out that the rapid liquidation of Canada's boreal forest by multinational timber corporations threatens to set off a major climate change bomb. Clearcutting, planned on a vast scale throughout Canada's north, will escalate the release of huge amounts of carbon that are currently sequestered in the boreal forests and their associated peat-bogs.

"Clearcut Wall" in Berlin, Germany.

Reform Party Accuses WCWC of Improper Use of Foreign Aid- Prime Minister Comes to Our Defense

Late in 1994 several Reform Party Members of Parliament, including ex-MacMillan Bloedel employees Bill Gilmour and John Duncan, falsely accused WCWC of utilizing foreign aid funds to drag Stumpy (our 4,000 kg redcedar stump from Clayoquot Sound) across Canada and to Europe. A follow-up news article reported their accusations to be false: "Federal documents released to Gilmour show none of the money was linked to the Stumpy tours. The bulk of the money was used for international development projects in Latin America and summer job programs in B.C." (*Vancouver Sun*, March 31, 1995, p. A1). Most of this money goes directly to WILD's southern partners.

Another news article revealed that when Gilmour

complained about WCWC in the House of Commons, both Environment Minister Sheila Copps and Prime Minister Jean Chretien came to our defense. "Anti-clearcut logging groups like the Western Canada Wilderness Committee deserve the federal money they're getting, says Prime Minister Chretien." (*Victoria Times-Colonist*, March 31, 1995, p. A3.) Chretien went on to say that without groups like us, the forest industry would not be improving their practices in Canada.

In October 1995 WCWC learned that MacMillan Bloedel (MB) has received \$23,251,343.25 from the federal government in direct aid, an awful lot more than WCWC has received and redistributed to its southern partners for its cooperative mapping projects!

Fundación Lahuen, Orrego Luco 054, Providencia, Santiago, Chile.
Tel (562) 252-0243. Fax (562) 233-9768.
E-mail rlf@osprey.mic.cl

Comité Nacional pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora (CODEFF), Casilla 3675, Sazie 1885, Santiago, Chile.
Tel (562) 696-1268. Fax (562) 696-8562.
E-mail recnat@codeff.mic.cl

Pro Naturaleza - Fundación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, Calle General Recavarren 446, Miraflores, Aptdo. 18, 1393, Lima, Perú.
Tel (511) 446-3801. Fax (511) 446-9178.
E-mail postmaster@fpcn.org.pe



Boundary Bay - "Protection for Nesting Habitat Still Needed", says WCWC White Rock Chapter

A decision in June of 1995 by the B.C. NDP government to preserve the foreshore in world class bird habitat Boundary Bay, has kept members of the WCWC White Rock Chapter busy. Working with other concerned citizens, WCWC White Rock continues to fight to ensure that the adjacent uplands, critical bird nesting and feeding habitat, are also protected.

During 1995 WCWC White Rock continued its public education: monthly Nature Walks, members' meetings, a dedicated Green Line, and the distribution of information about remaining green spaces in the Lower Mainland.

Contact the Green Line at 535-2121 or write to WCWC White Rock, 1654 127th St., Surrey, BC, V4A 3S1.

WCWC Okanagan trail system sanctioned by Regional District



WCWC Okanagan Trail volunteers bone up on their trailbuilding skills in preparation for a safe summer in the woods.

After a successful AGM in February of 1995, newly energized WCWC Okanagan Chapter members began planning 1995's work on the nearly 60 km of trail in the *Okanagan Highlands Trail System*. During summer, signage was improved on several sections of the trail and a topographical map of the High Rim section of the trail was produced and distributed by Dick Pearson, a WCWC Okanagan Chapter Volunteer. New routes were scouted in the latter part of the summer for the Little White and Stirling Creek sections of the trail.

The most exciting trail news of the summer was the endorsement of our trail project by the Central Okanagan Regional District. This gesture will help increase awareness of the trail system locally and increase exposure to visitors. With more than half of the blue and red list endangered species in B.C. living in the Okanagan Valley, WCWC's Okanagan members hope to see as many people exploring the area as possible and asking the NDP for more protection of this unique ecosystem.

WCWC Okanagan Chapter will be producing an educational "Conservation Vision" report on areas of the Okanagan, like Brent and Little White Mountains, that will be ready for distribution by early 1996. If you would like copies of this report, are interested in the *Okanagan Highlands Trail System*, or would like to get more involved in local issues, please write WCWC Okanagan at PO Box 25018, Mission Valley RPO, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Y7.

Mid Island Chapter Rebuilds

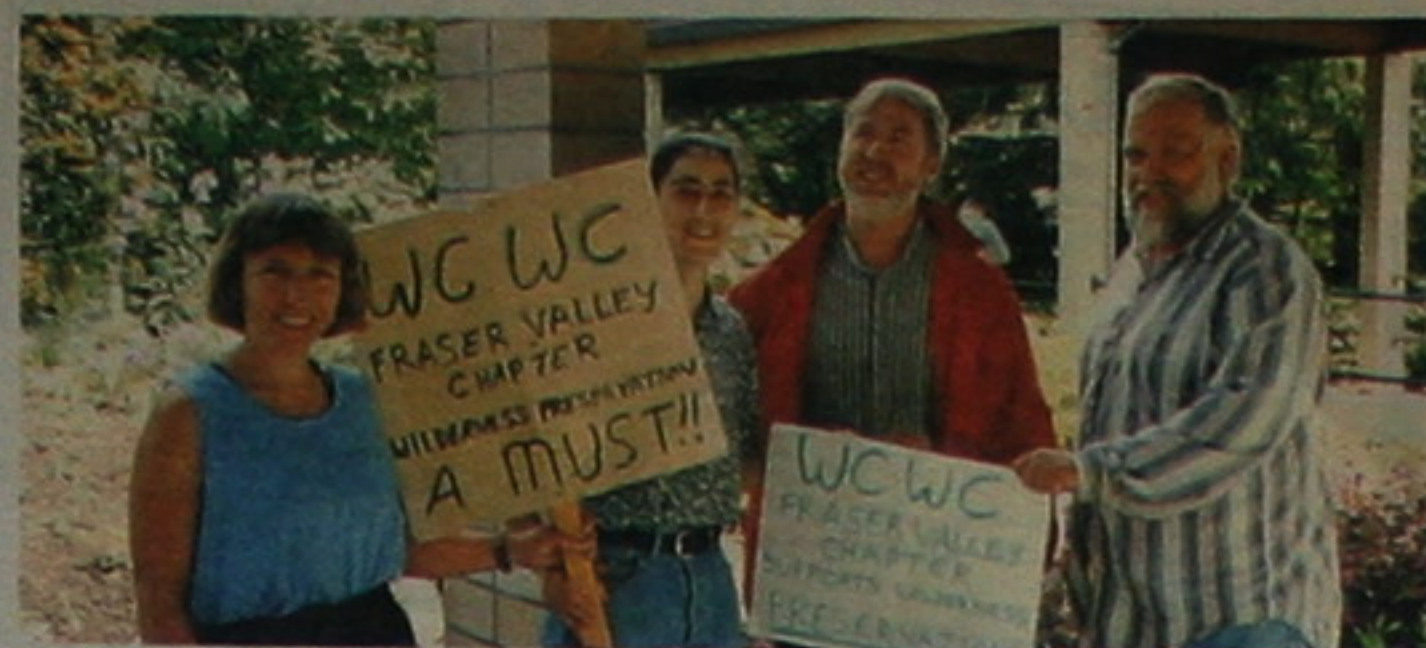
After a successful year in 1993-94, the Mid-Island Chapter fell upon hard times in the first half of 1994-95. Five members of the Board of Directors resigned because of other commitments, expenses exceeded revenues and we closed the store front office in downtown Nanaimo in June of 1995.

One chapter activity that hasn't slowed down is our monthly Issue Nights. Since 1992, WCWC Mid-Island has provided a vital educational forum for the region. Speakers and topics have included Chris Hatch, Garth Lenz, Valerie Langer of the Friends of Clayoquot Sound, and Mark Wareing and Orville Camp on sustainable forestry. Scott and Annette Tanner, Mid-Island Chapter Co-Chairs, introduced our Chapter's Coastal Douglas Fir Campaign to the public on one of our Issue Nights and established a Qualicum Beach Stream-Keepers group.

During the first two months of 1995 we reached out to the community to support the Friends of Jedediah's efforts to raise \$500,000 for the purchase of Jedediah Island. Located off the east side of Lasqueti Island, Jedediah has the largest tract of old growth drybelt Douglas fir remaining in B.C. Thanks to those who participated in this effort, the B.C. government made good on their promise to match the Friends' money and Jedediah became a class A Provincial Park in March.

Why not get involved? Give us a call at 716-9292 or write to WCWC Mid-Island Chapter, PO Box 1153, Stn A, Nanaimo, B.C., V9R 6E7.

Fraser Valley Chapter Launched!



Gabriella Friesen, WCWC Fraser Valley Chair, congratulates Joe Foy and Paul George on WCWC's wilderness-saving work in the Boise.

On May 9, 1995, concerned WCWC members gathered in Yarrow, B.C., and formed the Fraser Valley Chapter. Our goal was to bring together residents of the Fraser Valley who are concerned about a variety of local environmental issues and want to actively promote solutions.

In subsequent meetings, Fraser Valley members decided to focus attention on the need to preserve unlogged areas in Chilliwack River Valley, the traditional territory of the Sto:lo Nation. The Chapter looks forward to working closely with them on this project.

The elected directors of the Chapter are currently working towards the production of a newsletter to present a historical perspective on the Fraser Valley including an inventory and description of threatened flora and fauna. WCWC Fraser Valley is concerned about the noticeable decline in local biodiversity including fresh water lakes, pristine alpine areas, and stands of old growth forests.

The folks at the Fraser Valley Chapter are organizing hikes in the eastern part of the Fraser Valley. For information about the hikes or how to get actively involved in the new chapter's campaigns, contact chairperson Gabriella Friesen at 823-6454.

Nelson Chapter Fights to Save Local Oldgrowth



"I recognize this interior wetbelt as being unique...some of these western red cedars could rival the coastal giants in age," asserts Marion Parker, pictured here (bottom centre with hat) with Nelson Chapter volunteers at CMT workshop.

The West Kootenay region of British Columbia holds the last remaining fragments of interior wetbelt ancient forests. These forests are homes to endangered species like the grizzly bear and the mountain caribou. Numerous birds and small mammals also use the old trees for food and shelter. The canopy, similar to that in the temperate oldgrowth rainforest, houses unique and likely undiscovered insect species. In short, these forests are biodiversity treasure troves.

Last July, in cooperation with the Valhalla Society and the SINIXT Nation, we co-sponsored a culturally modified tree identification and tree-ring dating course with dendrochronologist Marion Parker. Marion's field work for the dendrochronology workshop was done on a mid-elevation bench of oldgrowth forest called New Denver Flats. Here is found the last of this old-growth forest type in the Slocan Valley, containing spectacular 250 year and older white pines.

Our research indicated that the oldest trees—redcedars—are well in excess of 1,000 years of age, although it was difficult to find a datable specimen because most of the centres of these giant cedars are hollow, rot having obliterated the annual growth rings.

There is very little oldgrowth forest left in the Kootenays. The Kootenay Land Use Plan will result in many of the oldest forests in the West Kootenays being clearcut. New Denver Flats is scheduled for 17 cutblocks, which would fragment this currently intact ecosystem. The Howser Creek Drainage (Singing Forest) is being cut now, and the cutting will continue in the spring of 1996 unless we are able to bring more pressure to bear on those who made the decision to log this unique treasure.

WCWC West Kootenays will be working towards ecosystem-based planning for the Kootenays, which focuses on what to leave, not on what to take. Our goal is to protect forests such as New Denver Flats and the Singing Forest. To help, call 604-352-9288.

WCWC Ottawa Chapter temporarily winds down

After three years of trying to rally support for Ontario wilderness, the WCWC Ottawa Chapter executive moved on to new projects. WCWC will continue outreach to its Ontario members through the Toronto canvass and from our head office in Vancouver.



Wilderness Committee

WESTERN CANADA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE (WCWC)
20 Water Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6B 1A4
Tel: (604) 683-8220 Fax: (604) 683-8223 E-mail APC: web-wc2wild

November 25, 1995

Dear Members,

For most members and donors, the financial situation of the WCWC is secondary to its effectiveness in preserving wilderness and in raising awareness of this most important issue. Nonetheless, the Committee has learned through experience that responsible, sound financial management is vital to the Committee's effectiveness, and achieving this is not an easy task.

It is therefore doubly rewarding to the WCWC Executive Team, board of directors, and, we are sure, to you the members, that in this year of unprecedented wilderness preservation victories, two "victories" also occurred on the financial front:

1. The Wilderness Committee successfully completed its first audit in its fifteen year existence. You are able to read these audited statements on this page;
2. The audited statements (combining all branches and chapters) reveal that the Committee has finally eliminated the large 1992 deficit of \$208,909 and members equity is now in a small surplus position.

Other smaller accomplishments on the administration front include:

3. An analysis of our GST account where up to \$4000 of previously unclaimed credits has been discovered and is in the process of being claimed;
4. Claiming and receiving a rebate of \$2800 from the Provincial Sales Tax for tax erroneously charged on our newspapers (we know - the government needs the money too, but we figure our need is even greater!);
5. Changing our accounting software on May 1, 1994 to a multi-user, multi-department system to enable better monitoring of the contribution that each department makes.

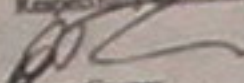
Despite members' equity being in a surplus position, it is important to realize that this is not necessarily surplus cash but reflects the amount by which assets, including inventory, exceeds liabilities. Cash is yet to be in a surplus at the Committee. Nonetheless, WCWC was able to continue its goal of selling its inventory and reducing inventory carrying values. At the same time, our old liabilities, from the 1992 deficit year were reduced to \$83,000. Just recently, we have negotiated with the last supplier on this list, and as you read this, a further \$51,000 will have been removed from this outstanding liability.

Looking over the 5 year comparative income statements reveals that WCWC revenues can be quite variable depending on the public profile of various campaigns. This variability makes management attention to the current financial situation even more crucial.

We cannot afford at any point to spend more than revenues permit. The Executive Team must always be acutely aware of the financial "envelope" in which we operate, and be willing to make sometimes very difficult decisions within these limitations.

On a final, personal note: My previous accounting experience has been in the private sector where I indeed worked with many hard-working, dedicated people. Nonetheless, I must say that the level of hard work and commitment exhibited by the staff at WCWC often in the face of really tough financial circumstances is exceptional. My thanks to them all, our financially crucial volunteers, as well as our very supportive Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,


Brian Connor
Comptroller

Achieving wilderness preservation through public education and scientific research.

Western Canada Wilderness Committee Comparative Statements of Revenue & Expenditures 1991 through 1995

	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991
	Audited	Revised	Revised	Revised	Revised
Revenue:					
Membership Dues	439,346	408,211	348,293	342,287	433,028
Donations & Grants	888,281	1,208,478	717,639	814,405	1,319,051
Sale of Goods	417,228	646,161	692,881	727,265	990,182
Special Projects	111,470	6,347			84,807
Events	22,348				
Total Revenue	1,878,673	2,267,197	1,758,813	1,883,957	2,827,068
Expenditure:					
Special Projects	154,544	32,312	3,281	105,469	1,049,953
Publication & Product Costs	424,034	538,311	684,806	870,587	924,851
Campaign & Fund Raising	940,052	1,073,128	493,714	685,711	452,787
Operations	284,290	554,000	472,916	555,475	411,670
Total Expenditure	1,802,920	2,197,751	1,654,717	2,217,262	2,839,261
Surplus (Deficit)	75,753	69,446	96,096	-333,671	-12,033
Members Equity, Opening	-43,367	-112,813	-208,909	-124,762	-136,795
Members Equity, Closing	32,386	-43,367	-112,813	-208,909	-124,762



WCWC Executive Team: Joe Foy - National Campaigns, Paul George - Founder and Director of Publications, Brian Connor - Comptroller, and Adriane Carr - International Campaigns, Fundraising and Clayoquot Campaign.

KERRY DAWSON PHOTO

New WCWC Policy on Joining Coalitions

During 1995 WCWC's campaigners questioned the wisdom of joining coalitions. A poll of members (accompanying our Biodiversity newspaper mailout) revealed that, two to one, WCWC members preferred us to not join coalitions. One member wrote, "I have always been suspect of coalitions, because once you enter them, you have to adjust your priorities at best, or your principles at the worst."

At WCWC's 1995 AGM, the following policy was unanimously passed:

WCWC has built its reputation as an effective wilderness preservation group through its strong principles, quick independent action on urgent issues and commitment to excellence in all its endeavours. WCWC does not join coalitions. WCWC does share information and work with other environment groups on specific projects such as educational newspaper publications. Western Canada Wilderness Committee believes that the strength of the wilderness preservation movement is in the diversity of its democratic, non-violent strategies.

Morgan & Company

AUDITORS' REPORT

Chartered Accountants

For 1995: 1995, 1994, 1993, 1992, 1991
1990, 1989, 1988, 1987, 1986, 1985, 1984, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1979, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974, 1973, 1972, 1971, 1970, 1969, 1968, 1967, 1966, 1965, 1964, 1963, 1962, 1961, 1960, 1959, 1958, 1957, 1956, 1955, 1954, 1953, 1952, 1951, 1950, 1949, 1948, 1947, 1946, 1945, 1944, 1943, 1942, 1941, 1940, 1939, 1938, 1937, 1936, 1935, 1934, 1933, 1932, 1931, 1930, 1929, 1928, 1927, 1926, 1925, 1924, 1923, 1922, 1921, 1920, 1919, 1918, 1917, 1916, 1915, 1914, 1913, 1912, 1911, 1910, 1909, 1908, 1907, 1906, 1905, 1904, 1903, 1902, 1901, 1900, 1899, 1898, 1897, 1896, 1895, 1894, 1893, 1892, 1891, 1890, 1889, 1888, 1887, 1886, 1885, 1884, 1883, 1882, 1881, 1880, 1879, 1878, 1877, 1876, 1875, 1874, 1873, 1872, 1871, 1870, 1869, 1868, 1867, 1866, 1865, 1864, 1863, 1862, 1861, 1860, 1859, 1858, 1857, 1856, 1855, 1854, 1853, 1852, 1851, 1850, 1849, 1848, 1847, 1846, 1845, 1844, 1843, 1842, 1841, 1840, 1839, 1838, 1837, 1836, 1835, 1834, 1833, 1832, 1831, 1830, 1829, 1828, 1827, 1826, 1825, 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Ancient history revealed on slab of Canada's oldest recorded tree

Section of tree trunk from stump of 1,835-year-old Yellow Cedar
A 1,835-year-old Yellow Cedar
A section of the tree trunk, showing the growth rings, is displayed in the WCWC's Vancouver store.



A dated round from Canada's oldest known tree was unveiled in WCWC's Vancouver store on Earth Day in April 1995. The round was cut from a yellow cedar stump in the Caren Range on the Sunshine Coast (an area still needing protection). The tree was over 1,835 years old when cut down during routine clearcutting several years ago. This free exhibit is now a major tourist attraction.

J.P. LEFRANK PHOTO



Store Manager, Chantelle Percy, beside new display in WCWC's 20 Water Street Store.

Door to Door in Toronto to Save Wilderness

Every year an intrepid WCWC canvass crew knocks on over 150,000 doors in Toronto and the surrounding suburbs, raising awareness of the need to protect Canada's biodiversity and garner support for the Wilderness Committee's campaigns.

The Toronto canvass is projected to raise \$200,000 in memberships fees and donations by the current year end. Its goal for 1996 is a quarter of a million dollars. Our Toronto canvass director, John Yates, has been carrying on this important and stressful work for the past three years.

He and his Toronto Canvass Team are proud of the role they play in helping the Wilderness Committee grow to become a national force that successfully preserves wilderness across the country.

Contact them at 416-323-1405. Or visit them in the Trinity United Church basement, 427 Bloor Street West, Unit B, Toronto, ON M5S 1X4.

KERRY DAWSON PHOTOS



Knocking on doors to save wilderness in rain, sleet, or sun

1995 has been a great year for our Vancouver door-to-door educational and fundraising Canvass Team. Together we have raised over \$108,000 to save B.C.'s remaining wilderness areas! We have also collected hundreds of signatures for our Stollmann Wilderness petition, signed up over 2,650 members, and most importantly, raised the environmental awareness of Lower Mainland, Whistler, and Okanagan residents; something to which a dollar value can not be attached.

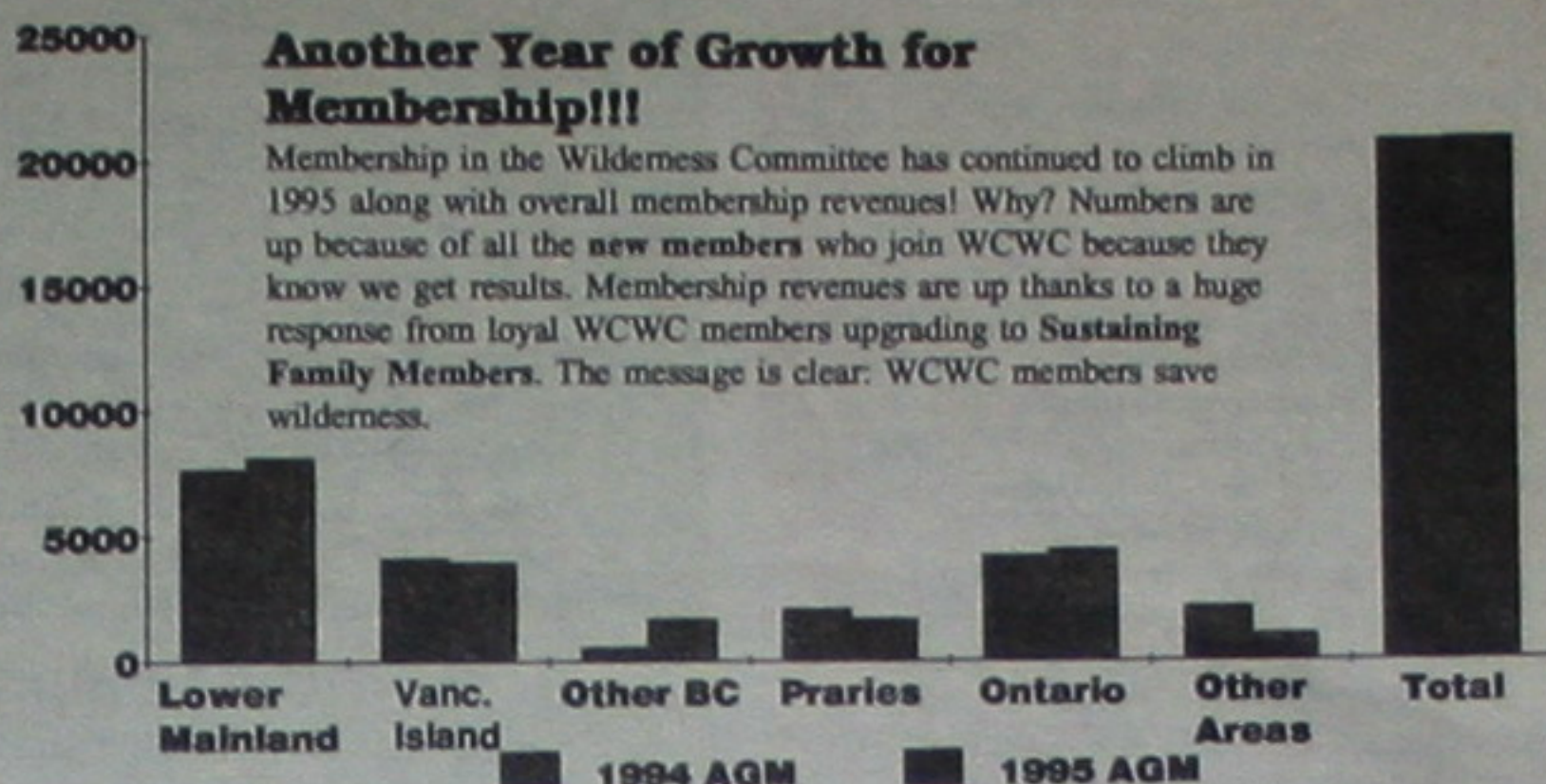
I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members who have supported the canvass over the years. Your continued support can make 1996 the most successful year ever for preserving our wilderness heritage.

David O'Connor, Vancouver Canvass Director

Membership: 1994 vs. 1995

Another Year of Growth for Membership!!!

Membership in the Wilderness Committee has continued to climb in 1995 along with overall membership revenues! Why? Numbers are up because of all the new members who join WCWC because they know we get results. Membership revenues are up thanks to a huge response from loyal WCWC members upgrading to Sustaining Family Members. The message is clear: WCWC members save wilderness.



	1995	1994	1993	1992
Membership Dues	\$439,346	\$406,211	\$340,293	\$342,282

Re-Member: It's Your Dues!

The staff and volunteers at the Wilderness Committee have been watching an alarming trend - members are letting their dues lapse for longer! So we decided to ask our members why.

The results amazed us. The number one reason for not renewing... "I forgot".

To help you remember, your WCWC mailing label now has your membership renewal date printed on the label and you may renew for more than one year at a time. Membership dues are important to WCWC for many reasons. The earlier you renew, the more money and paper we save. Most importantly, we believe that governments look at the rise (or fall) of WCWC's

RENEW BEFORE Nov. 28/95 to keep your membership current.

28241 RENEW: 11/28/95 1 1 1
Wild Campaigner
20 Water St.
Vancouver, BC V6B 1A4 XX45 (C)

membership - the largest wilderness preservation group in Western Canada - when making land use decisions. If you have any ideas on how we can help you re-member, please let us know!

WCWC's Gastown Store Gets Piece of Canada's Oldest Tree - It's a Fun Place to Talk and Shop

Our Vancouver office store, located at 20 Water Street in Gastown, continues to draw members, tourists, high-profile visitors like Robert Kennedy, Jr., activists and environmentally-minded shoppers who've heard about us as far away as the U.S., Japan, Europe and Australia! Annual gross revenues for the store, reported at the 1995 AGM, were \$144,851.81.

In 1995 the store was revamped to better display our campaign-related products and promote membership in WCWC. On April 22, 1995, we celebrated Earth Day in the store by unveiling a huge, historically-dated, museum-quality yellow cedar slab, salvaged from the stump of Canada's oldest known tree. Thousands of people have seen the 1,835 year-old slab since then.

Members and supporters are encouraged to drop by our store, view a video, get a campaign update, sign our most recent petition, and join, donate and support, with a purchase, our wilderness campaigns. You'll find our friendly store staff, when not busy with customers, rolling posters for rallies, stuffing mailouts, and generally helping to win our campaigns, too!

WCWC Vancouver Canvass
Left to right:
Scott Buchannan,
Mathew Pollack,
Jade Squire,
Tim Murphy and
David O'Connor.
Missing are:
Tamara Arden,
John Murray,
Benson Simmonds,
Manuel Grande,
Tanka Fonta and
David Bains.

WCWC on the 'Net

Thanks to countless volunteer hours and generous donations from the Bullitt Foundation, WCWC Educational Reports, press releases, and reports are now also published on the internet. You can find WCWC at:

<http://www.web.apc.org/wcwid/welcome.html>
While you're there, check out WCWC Alberta and Walk the Wild Side's Home Pages, cross-linked to WCWC's site.

WCWC 1996 Wish List

...if you wouldn't give it to family or friend please don't give it to us!

- zodiac and outboard motor - in good condition
- ocean kayak, paddles, sprayskirts, life jackets (to get to remote coastal wilderness areas)
- truck in good working condition (for back country expeditions and trail work)
- free mechanic services (to keep our vehicles running)
- Spalsbury single side band radio (to radio in to the WCWC office from our remote camps)
- Geographic Positioning System (to map field data)
- used and new climbing rope (for temporary road survey bridges over raging streams)
- climbing gear (to get into the rainforest canopy)
- good quality tarps, tents, raingear, sleeping bags, backpacks and flashlights (to equip our trailbuilders)
- camp stoves (to cook for our volunteer trail crews)
- dry goods, food (for trail crews & volunteer nights)
- video camera in good working condition (to record bad logging, WCWC's expeditions and events)
- equipment for travelling slide shows, including big screen, slide projector, dissolve unit, laser pointer
- megaphone and/or PA system (to talk to crowds)
- good quality paper cutter (to help in publications)
- cerlox (not cerrox) machine (for binding our reports)
- legal-size file cabinets (to organize our files)
- am/fm portable radio (to hear our campaigners on air)
- small TV and VCR (to show wilderness preservation videos in our store)
- fax machines (to facilitate chapter communications)
- IBM computer 386 or up (for volunteer work station)
- space for WCWC staff retreats (for strategic planning)
- winning 649 lottery ticket
- masseuse (to cope with the stress)
- 5,000 people to adopt trees in the Stoltmann Wilderness (the same number as adopted trees in Carmanah Valley)



WCWC Victoria Branch Office and Campaign Co-ordinator, Allison Spriggs in the Ursus Valley.

WCWC MISSION STATEMENT

Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) is a registered non-profit environmental society with federal charitable status working through research and education for the preservation of wilderness in Canada and around the world. WCWC advocates and promotes ecological principles that achieve sustainable communities. WCWC works only through lawful means.

WCWC VALUES

- life in all its abundance, complexity and mystery.
- wilderness, with all its natural biodiversity, as absolutely vital to the continuing health of the planet and human survival.
- accuracy in all our information and excellence in all our endeavours.
- the diversity of individual and groups whose combined non-violent strategies give the environmental movement its strength.

WCWC Policy on Civil Disobedience

We do not participate in any form of civil disobedience. We do not condemn non-violent civil disobedience by others. We condemn activities that threaten life, property or the environment.

WCWC Recognition of Aboriginal Title

We believe social justice is a prerequisite to lasting environmental protection and support the work of indigenous peoples to safeguard their traditional homelands and ensure the survival of their cultures. The rights of indigenous peoples to their homelands are inalienable; their traditional stewardship of Earth's resources can serve as examples of how we can live in sustainable harmony with our natural world.



Adopt-a-Real-Tree in the Stoltmann

One fine September '95 day, WCWC campaigner Joe Foy and his 12 year old son Jesse, walked the Stoltmann survey trail on a mission to raise funds for next year's trail-building. He aimed to take 500 photos of individual oldgrowth trees along the trail.

"It was a tough assignment. We had to use a tripod because of the dim light in the forest, and we had to average better than one photo per minute!"

"Jesse kept his eye peeled for likely trees and I just kept on shooting and moving. At the end of the day we felt like we'd seen every tree in the forest!" said Joe.

Joe's photos are mounted on Adopt-a-Real-Tree in the Stoltmann Wilderness Certificates that are given to donors who contribute \$30 or more towards WCWC's campaign to preserve the Stoltmann Wilderness.

CREDITS

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DREAM BIG! Full Wilderness Preservation Across the Nation

☐ I want to contribute to WCWC in support of full wilderness preservation across the Nation. Here is my tax-deductible gift of \$30 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 other to support WCWC's wilderness preservation campaigns. (Reg. Tax No. 0587113-21-28)

I want to ☐ renew my membership ☐ become a member of Western Canada Wilderness Committee. Enclosed is my \$30 annual membership fee.
☐ upgrade to a sustaining-family member \$22 plus \$30 regular fee.

☐ Please contact me. I want to fulfil a WCWC wish.

☐ Please call me. I'd like to volunteer for WCWC.

Name (please print) _____

Address _____ City _____

Province _____ Postal Code _____ Phone _____

Please clip and return to Western Canada Wilderness Committee,
20 Water Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1A4.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



WCWC Staff—from top to bottom, left to right:

Paul George, Founder and Publications Director, Joe Foy, Campaigns Director, Dave O'Connor, Canvass Manager, Andrea Reimer, Office Manager, Sue Fox, Graphic Designer and WILD Campaign, Adriane Carr, Fundraising and Campaigns Director, Kerry Dawson, Volunteer Coordinator and Campaigner, Alice Eaton, Director and Volunteer Receptionist, Selina Blais, Store Staff, Mona Lisa Amirsetia, Data Entry, Chantelle Percy, Store Manager, Ian Parfitt, GIS Mapping and WILD Campaign. Not available for photo: Brian Conner, Comptroller, Diana VanderVeen, Wholesale, Jennifer Duncan, Office Assistant, Lorraine Burke, Data Entry, Dolly Ezenberger, Store Staff, Barry Shellian, Store Staff, James Jamieson, Mailroom and 1995 Trail Coordinator, Margarita Schwartzel, Shipping, Nicholas Spears, Volunteer. Photo by J.P. LeFrank.