WCWC SEEKS 40 PERCENT WILDERNESS PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

How much wilderness preservation is enough? We know it’s not 12 percent! The IUCN’s World Conservation Union Jeffrey McNeely, who coined the 12 percent figure, told us that this was just his guess at how much preservation might be politically achievable worldwide—not what is necessary to maintain biodiversity, nor what could be achieved in an environmentally-aware country like Canada!

WCWC is proposing a 40 percent solution. It’s based on the Conservation Vision we developed for Vancouver Island in 1993. Mapping out the principles of conservation biology led us to the conclusion that 40 percent of the Island’s land base had to be protected in large wilderness preserves with interconnecting corridors in order to hang on to wildlife, wild salmon, and the natural ecology.

When the B.C. government, pressured by groups such as World Wildlife Fund, committed, in 1990, to a preservation goal of 12 percent, it was a 12 percent minimum preservation for all the diverse ecosystems found in the province. Through the Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE) processes for Vancouver Island, the Kootenays and the Cariboo-Chilcotin, 12 percent was turned into a preservation maximum of B.C.’s land base. Political expediency, not ecological wisdom, drove the CORE processes.

In 1995, the B.C. government embarked upon its most recent park process under the Lower Mainland Regional Public Advisory Committee (RPAC). This process, the most highly-government-manipulated of all, sowed bitter seeds of suspicion amongst B.C.’s environment groups. Here’s how it worked. The B.C. government handpicked the RPAC members, avoiding groups like WCWC and its own Parks Branch. It capped preservation at 13 percent of the land base. It required that the stakeholders on RPAC—the logging industry, labour and environmentalists—come to a consensus on which areas would be saved and which would be logged. It kept the process behind closed doors and refused to allow public review of the recommendations. And it required that those taking part in the consensus process not criticise the land use plan, including the “relaxed rules” for logging, nor work to change it afterwards. In other words, the environment groups represented could not fight on to protect more land even if circumstances changed or scientific knowledge and understanding expanded.

What a way for government to off-load its responsibility to make political decisions. What a way to divide the environment movement? Can you imagine what would have happened if this tactic had been used to legitimate the B.C. government’s April 1993 decision to save only one-third of Clayoquot Sound and open the rest up to logging?

WCWC has never sold out another group’s special wilderness area. We have never advocated trading-off protection of one wilderness area for another. We have tried to support, not discredit, any environment group that wants to fight on for more protection after a government decision has been made. When the environmental groups who created and endorsed the Lower Mainland RPAC land use plan lobbied the October 1994 decision that protected only 20 percent of the Stoltrmann Wilderness and opened the beautiful Upper Elaho and Sims to clearcutting, WCWC was rightfully angry.

The way to avoid a split in the environment movement is for all the major groups to get together and, en masse, refuse to participate in the government’s park planning processes unless the processes are open and public, unless they allow for options that permit environmental representatives to express the movement’s diversity of visions, and unless the cap on preservation is lifted to allow for decisions that will truly conserve biodiversity, wildlife and wilderness, forever.
A Special Message from the WCWC Board of Directors

On behalf of the WCWC Directors, I would like to thank our staff for their enthusiasm, hard work and dedication to conservation in B.C. While we wish the remuneration could more adequately match your high standards of work, we can offer the less tangible reward of working for a unique and respected organization throughout the province.

As the largest independent wilderness preservation organization in B.C., WCWC has developed a reputation for getting the job done with integrity and perseverance. WCWC has never relinquished its right to forcefully and strongly speak out for adequate protection of the natural environment before it is altered and destroyed by a totally outdated approach to resource utilization. We are supported in our aims by a large and growing membership.

We thank you. Wildlife thanks you. The success of this organization is owed to you, our valued staff.

Kevin Bell, Chairman

1996 was a wild, active year for WCWC’s dedicated and tireless Vancouver based volunteer team. Our volunteers came out in force to our many protests, rallies and demonstrations, including the longest-ever protest staged on the lawn of the B.C. legislature. Led by James Jamieson, an army of volunteers braved snow, sleet, and freezing temperatures to remain camped at the legislature for two months (January and February), demanding open public meetings to determine the completion of our parks system for the Lower Mainland. Other teams of WCWC volunteers were deployed in west coast backcountry from Flores Island in the centre of Clayoquot Sound. Beginning in March of 1996, WCWC volunteers made several trips to Clayoquot to set up, relocate and tear down camps for the 20 Vancouver Island youth involved in the joint WCWC-Ahousahst First Nations Ahousahst Wild Side Heritage Trail and Eco-Tourism Project.

Volunteers are the driving force in our Gastown office and mailroom. Hundreds of dedicated individuals assist with WCWC's Educational Report mailouts, with typing, filing, data entry, Web Page upkeep, research, photography, campaign support and much, much more!

Many new volunteers joined our team throughout the summer of 1996 to help clean a 28-kilometre long hiking route through the Stoltmann Wilderness. One team of enthusiastic trail-blazers, led by volunteer Barney Kern, pioneered a new temporary suspension bridge-building technique using aluminum ladders to span some of the wild creek crossings along the route. Volunteers have made possible a series of Stoltmann Wilderness community slide shows throughout the Lower Mainland, raising both awareness and funds to help save this spectacular wilderness area.

During the 90-day sign-up period in the fall of 1996, dedicated volunteers such as Doug Carter, Dennis Berryman, Evelyn Kirkaldy, Barney Kern and more than 1,700 others have been powering the pavement around the province collecting signatures on the Ban Bear Hunting Petition Initiative which the Wilderness Committee supports. A group of handy volunteers went on the road in the Bear "Care-a-Van" visiting Prince George, Williams Lake and the Okanagan in this effort to bring an end to sport and trophy hunting of bears in B.C.

Special thanks go to Alice Eaton, James Gogan, Mike Gildersleeve, Li-Ping Mok, Paul Lambert, John Thompson and Tony Hilton for their superb dedication and support. A big thanks to every single person who helped out this year — great work!

The Wilderness Committee always needs and welcomes new volunteers. We particularly need volunteers to assist in the following areas:

- reception help with our constantly ringing phones
- maintenance of the slide/photo library
- membership service assistance

Volunteers can drop in for one of our fun and social volunteer nights, every Wednesday and Thursday evening from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. I hope to see all of you who live in the Lower Mainland at one of our volunteer nights soon!

Contact Kerry Dawson, our volunteer coordinator and Stoltmann Campaigner, at 604-883-8220.
The conservation of Clayoquot Sound has been a WCWC campaign priority for over 12 years. This 262,000 hectare region of sandy-beached islands, salmon-rich rivers and forested valleys on the west coast of Vancouver Island has the largest remaining tract of low-elevation old-growth temperate rainforest left in North America.

On April 13, 1993, the B.C. government announced that it would preserve only one-third of Clayoquot Sound, leaving the rest open to logging. Its decision met with protests on an unprecedented global scale, triggering the arrests of over 900 citizens in peaceful logging road blockades and prompting international consumer boycott campaigns directed primarily at the forest company with the largest stake in Clayoquot-MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. The local Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations had not been consulted in the government’s decision.

Adriane Carr became coordinator of WCWC’s Clayoquot Campaign in 1993. Since then, the campaign strategy has focused on WCWC working with First Nations towards a solution that is both ecologically and economically sound, protecting the natural heritage of Clayoquot’s wild salmon streams and old-growth forests for future generations at the same time as creating job opportunities in fields such as eco-tourism that sustain local communities.

Since April of 1993 we have built a 29-km hiking trail in the Clayoquot River Valley, raised funds for the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations to boardwalk a portion of the Big Cedars Trail on Meares Island, opened an office in the village of Ahousait, mounted joint expeditions and research projects with the Ahousait First Nations into the Unus River Valley and the Pretty Girl/Easter Lake areas, put on hundreds of slide shows, issued hundreds of media releases, toured a giant red cedar stump and medieval show across North America and to Europe, and published four full-colour posters, three research reports (co-published with Ahousait First Nations), three full-colour maps (two co-published with Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations) and almost one-half million copies of four educational newspapers.

Our 1996 Clayoquot Campaign activities included:

- maintaining an office and local coordinator, Susan Jones, in Clayoquot Sound
- acting in a communication and liaison capacity for different stakeholders
- researching and producing a report entitled An analysis of the landslides which occurred during heavy rainfalls in Clayoquot Sound in mid-January 1996. At the request of Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations Researcher Ian Mackenzie found that previously logged areas were up to 20 times more likely to have landslides than areas of old-growth forests. There were no landslides in the large pristine valleys: the Clayoquot, Unus and Sydney
- publishing and distributing 100,000 copies of a new educational paper entitled Beautiful Clayoquot Sound: Ancient Rainforests - Pristine Salmon Streams - Fifteen-year fight to preserve this precious heritage continues.
- producing a full-colour computer-generated map of the watersheds of Clayoquot Sound
- mounting jointly with Ahousait First Nations a seven-month-long project, the Ahousait Wild Side Heritage Trail and Eco-Tourism Project. Coordinated by Susan Jones and a locally-hired staff of four others, this project hired, through the support of a Youth Services Canada grant, 20 local native and non-native youth to receive training in the field of eco-tourism and re-establish a 16-kilometre-long traditional hiking route along the picturesque side beaches of Flores Island. About 3 km of the trail was boardwalked. A trail route from Cow Bay to the top of Mt. Flores was cleared and marked. Two reports were generated by WCWC during the project: the Ahousait Wild Side Trail Survey Options Report and the Ahousait Wild Side Heritage Trail and Eco-Tourism Development and Management Options Report which was drafted by WCWC by ecotourism consultant James MacGregor.
- publishing a new poster, Ahousait Wild Side Heritage Trail - Flores Island - Ahousait First Nations’ Territory - Clayoquot Sound - Treat with Care and Respect in time for the celebration marking the end of our joint Ahousait-WCWC Wild Side trail project
- providing information to a wide variety of stakeholders about United Nations Biosphere Reserves. WCWC is currently involved in the local development of a U.N. Biosphere Reserve proposal as a possible solution to the Clayoquot Sound land use controversy. Such a proposal must leverage funds from governments and industry for research, training, economic transition and development of an alternative sustainable economy based primarily on eco-tourism, fisheries, eco-forestry and locally-owned value-added industry. A Biosphere Reserve must also institute the innovative, First Nations-negotiated Interim Measures Agreement (e.g., the continuation of the Clayoquot Central Region Board as a management body and the establishment of Tribal Parks) and the vision of the Clayoquot Scientific Panel (e.g., further protection of areas based on assessment of all forest values, including cultural, spiritual, recreational and biodiversity values.)

WCWC’s Clayoquot Campaign is entering an intense, potentially successful year in 1997.
An Act to Prohibit the Hunting of Bears - B.C. Initiative 196001
1775 dedicated volunteer canvassers prove overwhelming citizen support for more protection of B.C. Bears

On July 12, 1996, WCWC founder Paul George was formally accepted by Elections B.C. as the Proponent of An Act to Prohibit the Hunting of Bears. It was the first serious citizen-initiative under B.C.'s new Recall and Initiative Act. B.C. is the only province in Canada to have an act allowing for this kind of participatory democracy.

To get the proposed Ban Bear Hunting legislation on the ballot, we must collect signatures from at least 10 percent of the registered voters in all 75 electoral districts of B.C., some 222,000 signatures province-wide. This has to be done within a 90 day period, set for Sept. 9 to Dec. 8, 1996. Even more daunting, each signature must be witnessed by a registered voter that has been officially approved by Elections B.C. as a volunteer canvasser.

To win the subsequent referendum, the Proponent must have support votes from 50%+ of all the registered voters throughout the province. No elected government has ever received such a mandate. To top it all off, after all these hurdles are passed, the only obligation the government ultimately has is to give the proposed Act first reading in the Legislature. B.C. has by far the hardest citizen-initiative/referendum rules of any jurisdiction in North America!

Regardless of how difficult it may be to succeed, George decided to try the initiative process, convinced of the widespread public support for banning sport and trophy hunting of bears and the need to act now to protect them before it is too late. WCWC registered as a sponsoring group. Sixty-nine groups and 38 individuals registered as opponents.

In June, before the Initiative was launched, Anthony Marr, WCWC's BET.R campaigner, set out on the first of what was eventually to become three B.C.-wide road tours, seeking publicity and support for the campaign. Eight weeks and 12,000 km later, he had generated over 120 newspaper articles and dozens of hours of radio and T.V. interviews and delivered over 50 live presentations where he was often interrupted and verbally abused by large groups of hostile hunters. He also built support and established a basic network of volunteers in all but two of the electoral districts he visited.

The 90 day signature-gathering period began on September 9, 1996. Elections B.C. gave us one copy of each of the 75 different petitions (the same except for the electoral district name). We began duplicating the petitions and maps and mailing them out with instructions to the volunteer canvassers. It was a nightmare getting signatures in the Greater Vancouver and Victoria areas. The vast majority of citizens wanted to sign, but canvassers struggled to determine which one of the many electoral districts they supported. In the end, and often didn't have the right petition on hand. But these bureaucratic hurdles were a minor problem compared to the backlash unleashed by the mudslinging from one of the officially registered opponents of the Initiative. In an outrageously defamatory column in the September/October issue of the Outdoor Edge hunting magazine, Doug Walker, Executive Director of the B.C. Wildlife Federation said WCWC was in league with "terrorist groups who threaten human lives, burn houses, send razor blades in the mail and kill family pets". Only under threat of legal action from WCWC did the BCWF remove their magazines from store shelves and apologize in public media for their completely false accusation. But the damage was done. It was difficult to get canvassers in the north where the hunting lobby is strong. Long after BCWF's apology was printed, we were still confronted with their lies. There is no doubt that we got fewer signatures than we would have if such dirty tactics had not been employed.

With the publication of a one-page Initiative ad in WCWC's four-page Educational Report entitled Bears Need More Protection Now (170,000 copies printed and distributed), support grew. In three months, 1,775 volunteer canvassers were approved of by Elections B.C. Signatures began pouring in.

One volunteer had a brilliant idea: declare November 16, Municipal Elections Day, "Care for Bears Day" and have the volunteer canvassers stand on public property outside voting places to gather signatures. The Sierra Legal Defense Fund checked it out. The law only prohibited electioneering (canvassers trying to influence that day's election) within 100 meters of a polling station.

Despite this, most of the volunteer canvassers were asked or forced to move beyond the 100 metre limit. So instead of getting an estimated 100,000 signatures that day, we got approximately 30,000. Proponent Paul George is making a formal Ombudsman complaint...but there is no way to make up for the lost signatures.

As of November 29, 1996 (one week before the final Initiative deadline) 75,000 signatures (four electoral districts with the required 10 percent) had been sent in. Thousands more were on the way. Not enough, but still an incredible show of support. So much that surely the B.C. government will at least stop all grizzly bear hunting, stop the spring black bear hunt, raise tenfold the current penalties for poaching, and set aside more bear sanctuaries.

A special thanks goes to campaign workers Bonita Charrette, Lisa Moffatt, Andrea Muenza, Andy Miller, Victoria's Liera Friedman and to all those who circulated and signed the petition, donated funds, helped organize booths and "Care for Bears Day" and volunteered at Bear Headquarters. The fight to save B.C.'s bears will continue.

...Press conference, June 5, 1996, announcing the start of the Bear Referendum with Anthony Marr of WCWC, Paul George, Proponent, Sierra Legal Defense Fund lawyers Greg McCabe and David Boyd, houses, send razor blades in the mail and kill family pets. Only under threat of legal action from WCWC did the BCWF remove their magazines from store shelves and apologize in public media for their completely false accusation. But the damage was done. It was difficult to get canvassers in the north where the hunting lobby is strong. Long after BCWF's apology was printed, we were still confronted with their lies. There is no doubt that we got fewer signatures than we would have if such dirty tactics had not been employed.

With the publication of a one-page Initiative ad in WCWC's four-page Educational Report entitled Bears Need More Protection Now (170,000 copies printed and distributed), support grew. In three months, 1,775 volunteer canvassers were approved of by Elections B.C. Signatures began pouring in.

One volunteer had a brilliant idea: declare November 16, Municipal Elections Day, "Care for Bears Day" and have the volunteer canvassers stand on public property outside voting places to gather signatures. The Sierra Legal Defense Fund checked it out. The law only prohibited electioneering (canvassers trying to influence that day's election) within 100 meters of a polling station.

Despite this, most of the volunteer canvassers were asked or forced to move beyond the 100 metre limit. So instead of getting an estimated 100,000 signatures that day, we got approximately 30,000. Proponent Paul George is making a formal Ombudsman complaint...but there is no way to make up for the lost signatures.

As of November 29, 1996 (one week before the final Initiative deadline) 75,000 signatures (four electoral districts with the required 10 percent) had been sent in. Thousands more were on the way. Not enough, but still an incredible show of support. So much that surely the B.C. government will at least stop all grizzly bear hunting, stop the spring black bear hunt, raise tenfold the current penalties for poaching, and set aside more bear sanctuaries.

A special thanks goes to campaign workers Bonita Charrette, Lisa Moffatt, Andrea Muenza, Andy Miller, Victoria's Liera Friedman and to all those who circulated and signed the petition, donated funds, helped organize booths and "Care for Bears Day" and volunteered at Bear Headquarters. The fight to save B.C.'s bears will continue.

Barney and Fluffy

On November 14, 1996, nine volunteer canvassers and WCWC BET.R campaigner, Anthony Marr, joined me for a trip to Prince George in my 24-foot motorhome, dubbed the "BECARE-MA Van". I had received a contract with WCWC to increase their calendar sales and memberships in northern B.C. Since I was also a volunteer Ban Bear Hunting Initiative canvasser, I thought this would be a great opportunity to gather from the Prince George area much-needed signatures on the official petition.

Our van was decked out in large banners. We carried with us a special prop, a black bearkin rug with head attached (donated by an ex-trophy hunter) draped over a sawhorse. We nicknamed it "Fluffy". We arrived in Prince George on November 15, to a lot of media attention. On Saturday the 16th, Municipal Election day (coincidentally declared "Care for bears day" by WCWC) the canvassers were able to collect 1,500 signatures standing on public property outside the polling stations.

In contrast to the bitter cold, we were amazed at the warm welcome we received by most of the citizens of Prince George. I now know that the stereotype of people in northern communities as being insensitive to conservation needs is not true. Of course we had some people disagree with us, but on the whole it was a very positive experience.

After Prince George, three of the volunteer canvassers decided to stay on with me as I visited Quesnel, Dawson Creek, Valemount, Prince Rupert, and Terrace. The volunteers collected over 2,000 signatures in ten days. I think this proves that many people living in the rural areas of British Columbia, and not only "urban environmentalists", believe that killing bears for fun and profit is immoral and that B.C.'s bears need more protection now.

Submitted by Barney Kern.
WCWC's FIGHT TO PROTECT STOLTMANN WILDERNESS HEATS UP as B.C. Government decides to save only 20% of the 260,000 ha area

For the last two years the Wilderness Committee has been working—until recently literally around the clock—to mobilize public support to save the entire 260,000 hectare Stoltmann Wilderness area—the largest remaining area of ancient forest in the Lower Mainland. Our goal is to get the B.C. government to provide full park protection for this spectacular area.

The Stoltmann Wilderness is named after the young conservationist and former WCWC employee Randy Stoltmann, who in early 1994 submitted a formal proposal to the B.C. government calling for the protection of the area. Sadly, in May of 1994, he was killed in a mountaineering accident.

The Stoltmann Wilderness includes four large intact river valleys: Sims Valley, Clandebook Valley, Upper Elaho Valley and Upper Lillooet Valley. They contain some of the finest big-tred Douglas fir forest left on the south coast of B.C.

Since 1994 WCWC has been campaigning as hard as we can to mobilize public support for full protection of the entire area. We lost the first round. On October 28, 1996 the B.C. government announced that only 20 percent of the 260,000 hectare Stoltmann Wilderness would be protected, in a small number of existing parks: a 29,800 hectare area including the Clandebook Watershed and a 19,870 hectare area in the Upper Lillooet watershed. The rest, including the fabulous Elaho Valley, is slated for high intensity logging. Approval has already been given to InterFor for a new bridge crossing further up the Elaho Valley.

Sadly, some environment groups recommended and now endorse this short-sighted government decision. They have also agreed to remain silent regarding the clearcut destruction of the rest of the area.

But WCWC is not one of those groups and we are not going to be silenced. Fighting the government is not over. We are escalating our campaign locally and internationally and will not give up until the entire Stoltmann Wilderness is saved. The following chronology highlights our 1996 Stoltmann Campaign activities.

January 1996: WCWC Picket RPAC

WCWC staff and volunteers picket meetings of the 13-member Regional Public Advisory Committee (RPAC). Members include representatives of the timber industry, mining industry, government and government-picked environmental "moderates". RPAC's mandate is to determine by consensus those areas of the Lower Mainland to be granted park protection and those areas to be allocated to industry. It is said it can protect no more than 13 percent of the Lower Mainland's land areas—2.2 percent more than already is protected in existing parks.

WCWC pickets RPAC meetings because the public (including WCWC) is not allowed to attend meetings, nor are any open-house public meetings planned to present RPAC's recommendations to the public for their input.

February: WCWC's Flying Tent

WCWC staff and volunteers, led by Campaigner James Jamieson, set up camp on the B.C. Legislature Lawn, vowing to stay there until the B.C. government grants open house public meetings to discuss the fate of the Stoltmann Wilderness and other Lower Mainland proposed parks. When Jamieson is told he can no longer place a tent on the Legislature Lawn, puts his tent on casters and continuously moves it around the building. After objections to the rolling tent, Jamieson fills it with a dozen helium-filled balloons and floats it just above the ground. One blustery day WCWC's flying tent blows away, to be found a week later on Salishan Island.

March: Tent Moves to Premier's Vancouver Office

WCWC, after over two months of continuous protest on the B.C. legislature lawn (the longest such protest on record), moves its pickets, floating tent and all, to the sidewalk in front of Premier Glen Clark's Vancouver office in the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre. WCWC maintains its Vancouver tent for two weeks, until it becomes clear that the RPAC decision will not be made until after the provincial election.

April: 1996 Trail Survey Work Begins

WCWC volunteers return to the Stoltmann Wilderness to begin year two of trail survey work in the Upper Elaho Valley and hosts a series of artists' campaigns. Prominent Canadian and U.S. artists come to experience the Stoltmann Wilderness and paint, draw and sculpt what they see. Each artist agrees to donate one piece to WCWC for an auction in the spring of 1997 to help raise awareness and funds to save the Stoltmann Wilderness.

July: Legal Action Launched: More Trials & Artists Sierra Legal Defense Fund, on behalf of WCWC, applies for a B.C. Supreme Court order to seek an injunction to stop road building in the Upper Elaho until a full court judicial review of the B.C. Forest Service decision to allow it can be heard. WCWC volunteers begin work on the Hundred Lakes Trail that will traverse the area of the proposed trail route. Another artists' campaign is held in the Stolmman.

August: WCWC in Court: More Trials & Artists B.C. Supreme Court hears our case against the illegal InterFor logging road and denies WCWC's request to have road building stopped on the grounds that even though the road may be illegal it must be completed to prevent environmental damage. WCWC vows to continue its court battle to determine the logging road's legality. Another artists' campaign is held in the Sims and the Upper Elaho Valleys. One hundred artists have now participated. WCWC volunteers continue to work on the Stolmman Hiking Route. RPAC finally agrees to its recommendations on the B.C. government recommending that only 20 percent of the Stolmman Wilderness be protected. The entire Elaho Valley and Sims Valley are recommended for clearing loggers by InterFor. Half of the Upper Lillooet is also recommended for logging. No open-house public meetings are held.

Stolmman protesters at the RPAC announcement at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver, October 1996.

September: Stolmnn Hiking Route Survey Completed WCWC volunteers complete clearing and marking the 28 km hiking route from the Lower Mainland to the Meager Creek Hotsprings. WCWC formally applies to District Forest Service Office for official hiking trail status. WCWC publishes a hiking guide to the Stolmman.

October: Petitions, Posters and Protest WCWC presents Save Stolmman Wilderness Petitions with over 12,000 signatures to B.C.'s new Environment Minister, Paul Ramsey. WCWC publishes 3,000 copies of a large, beautiful new Stolmman Wilderness poster entitled Stolmman Wilderness • Canadian Rainforest Garden of Eden • Full Preservation • No Compromise and sends copies to media and all MLA's. On October 28th the B.C. government announces acceptance of all the RPAC recommendations, including preservation of only 20 percent of the Stolmman Wilderness. WCWC pickets the announcement press conference, calls on all environmentalists who sign the deal "sellout", and vows to work even harder to ensure that the entire 260,000 hectares Stolmman Wilderness and WCWC's efforts to save the area.

November: More Trail Work, Media and Slideshow WCWC volunteers hike through snow to build two temporary suspension bridges with ropes and aluminum ladders to replace the demolished Hiking Route washed out by winter storm high-water. WCWC produces a Stolmman Wilderness slide show and takes it on the road to communities throughout the Lower Mainland. WCWC's new video of the entire Stolmman Wilderness is going to be aired on Roger's Cable TV. CBC TV news program, Broadcast One, produces and airs a 10 minute coverage story on the plight of the Stolmman Wilderness and WCWC's efforts to save the area.

Stay tuned...there's much more to come!
WCWC Alberta Branch—growing in membership and influence

Fighting for wilderness preservation in Alberta is very difficult. Over the past two years the federal government has shifted many environmental responsibilities to the provinces. Alberta has taken this process one step further. It has officially given forest companies the right to police and monitor their own activities. In addition, the province’s protected areas plan (Special Places 2000) allows multiple use, including cattle grazing and oil and gas development, in Alberta’s wilderness areas! Yet, despite this very difficult climate, WCWC is making significant progress in building support for wilderness preservation in Alberta.

After five years of hard campaigning, WCWC’s Alberta Branch has now become the most quoted media source on environmental and wilderness issues in the province! In the month of November alone, we did 10 television, 2 radio and 9 newspaper media interviews. Our general membership and our Boreal Campaign supporters are steadily increasing. Now we have a Boreal Forest Campaign canvass office in Calgary as well as in Edmonton, with plans to open an office in Winnipeg before the end of 1997.

Caribou Mountains
Alberta’s Caribou Mountains is a plateau area of remarkable biodiversity and old-growth boreal wildlife habitat located adjacent to Wood Buffalo National Park. It is our Branch’s flagship campaign. In 1996 CTV National ran a four-part series on the Caribou Mountains, including interviews with our campaigner Gray Jones. Gray is also helping in the production of a full-length documentary on the Caribou Mountains, called “Island in the Sky”. Filming will continue throughout 1997.

Our Branch is now finalizing plans to offer eco-tours to the Caribou Mountains and have compiled the necessary information to begin formal application for U.N. Biosphere Reserve designation. Our 1997 campaign strategy also includes production and distribution of two more educational videotapes as well as reaching consensus with the Little Red River Cree First Nations regarding possible creation of a National Tribal Park for the area.

Rocky Mountain House
We believe that one of the best tools for ensuring preservation of an area is the development of a strong eco-tourism economy for that wilderness area. WCWC Alberta’s campaign to achieve provincial designation of the North Ram Wilderness Recreation Area near Rocky Mountain House involves working closely with local environmentalists and offering eco-tours directly into areas slated for clearcut logging. A publication on the proposed North Ram Wilderness Recreation and eco-tours is slated for 1997.

Al-Pac and Mitsubishi
Al-Pac is the world’s largest single-line kraft bleached pulp mill. Located in northern Alberta, its major shareholder is Mitsubishi of Japan. WCWC Alberta, in cooperation with the U.S.-based Rainforest Action Network, is preparing an educational publication for across-Canada and international distribution in 1997 which exposes the failings of Al-Pac’s ecosystem management.

Climate Change and the Boreal Forest
The large-scale clearcutting of Canada’s boreal forests (which represent 82 percent of our country’s forested lands and is a significant climate-stabilizing carbon sink) has potentially devastating effects to the world’s climate. Every year 1.6 billion tonnes of carbon are released into the atmosphere through deforestation. In 1996 WCWC’s Alberta Branch conducted research and collected existing data about climate change and the boreal forest. In 1997 we plan to increase public awareness through production and distribution of a new WCWC educational newspaper and touring a multi-media show across Canada on the issue.

Banff National Park
Early in the fall of 1996, Dr. Jim Butler and WCWC’s Boreal Campaigner, Gray Jones, intensively campaigned to curtail the over-development of Banff National Park, Canada’s first national park. We appealed to the World Heritage Site Committee to get Banff placed on an endangered areas list. At the same time, a government study of the Banff/Bow Valley area noted the threats to bears and other wildlife in the area and recommended that development be controlled. Because of the efforts of many groups and individuals including WCWC Alberta, in October of 1996 Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, announced her government’s plans to put the brakes on development in Banff.

Jasper National Park
Cardinal River Coals Ltd. is proposing construction of a strip coal mine in important grizzly bear habitat adjacent to Jasper National Park. A large percentage of the coal from this mine is slated to be shipped directly to Japan. WCWC Alberta was the first group to publicly raise the alarm about this proposed development and has produced a short video on Mountain Parks with supporter Lee Godby. Armed with some graphic posters, WCWC Alberta campaigner Gray Jones is travelling to Japan at the end of November, 1996 to let the Japanese know that development of this coal mine will not only be damaging to our threatened grizzlies but will also impact their ability to enjoy Jasper National Park as a tourist destination.

For more information about any WCWC Alberta Branch campaigns contact Gray Jones in our new office at: 310-10168 100A Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 0N5 Phone 403-420-1001. Fax 403-420-1475.
E-mail: wcwcalberta@web.net

Algonquin Park Needs More Protection Now
Algonquin is one of Canada’s oldest parks. The area inspired Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven to produce a body of paintings that have become Canadian legend. Algonquin is currently rated as Canada’s premier canoe park, attracting tourists from around the world. But the Ontario government has sanctioned logging in 76 percent of the park. WCWC is campaigning to end logging in Algonquin forever. Our parks must be wilderness and wildlife sanctuaries, free of industrial exploitation and degradation.

In September of 1996 WCWC Alberta Branch campaigner Gray Jones travelled to Ontario and Algonquin Provincial Park on a fact-finding trip, assembling photos, articles and research materials for an upcoming WCWC tabloid about Algonquin. Gray is working closely with John Yates from WCWC’s Toronto office on this issue.

Gray Jones in the Caribou Mountains. Below - Woodland Caribou.

WCWC Alberta Staff
Two years of raising public awareness, conducting research and mobilizing support for protection of the Sooke Hills has brought WCWC's Victoria Chapter closer to winning this campaign than ever before. Protection now depends on the actions of recently elected, supportive local and provincial politicians who have the mandate and power to make this dream of a sea-to-sea park a reality.

The Sooke Hills, on Victoria's western horizon, contain Canada's largest remaining tracts of old-growth dry belt Douglas fir and open woodland forests. Less than one percent of this ecosystem remains in its natural state.

In 1996 the Wilderness Committee in Victoria focused virtually all its efforts on its Sooke Hills campaign. Activities included organizing dozens of public meetings, writing countless letters, media releases and briefs, distributing the third in our series of educational Sooke Hills publications, and producing the very popular Sooke Hills - the Musical, a spectacular evening of slides, music and comical satire about the Greater Victoria Water District's attempts to stifle public input regarding the fate of the Sooke Hills.

We also published the results of the Sooke Hills biodiversity inventory undertaken by prominent B.C. biologists on three of the watersheds in the Sooke Hills. The inventory revealed a higher-than-expected diversity in plant species in the area as well as an unexpectedly high number of species that are listed as vulnerable, threatened or endangered. (Copies of this report are available at our Victoria and Gastown stores at $20 each/$15 for members).

The protection of the 100 square kilometre Sooke Hills is a crucial step in creating a connected system of ecologically viable protected areas on Vancouver Island. Currently, less than 2 percent of southeastern Vancouver Island is protected. Full protection of the Sooke Hills will double the protection for this biological region.

Province Investigates GVWD
In May of 1996, B.C.'s Environment Minister at the time, Moe Soria, appointed Special Commissioner David Perry to investigate the Greater Victoria Water District's (GVWD) handling of the fate of its Sooke Hills lands. Perry's report to government, submitted on October 23, 1996, confirmed the GVWD's lack of public accountability and failure to fairly represent public interests regarding the fate of the Sooke Hills. After conducting his own public input process, Perry recommended full protection for the Sooke Hills through a combination of Capital Regional District and Provincial Parks.

It's time now for the provincial government and newly elected municipal politicians to implement Perry's recommendations and protect the Sooke Hills. The vast majority of the public is on board.

WCWC Victoria Chapter Wish List
- a good photocopier
- plain paper fax machine
- 38-4 modern light table

New Poster for Sooke Hills
Just in time for local elections in November of 1996, WCWC Victoria published this beautiful new Sooke Hills poster, distributing copies to all MLA's and municipal candidates. Stop by our store to purchase one or more! They're only $8...a perfect gift!
A year of increased WCWC activism and cooperation to protect our precious wilderness heritage!

On November 22, 1996, WCWC volunteers and staff celebrate the B.C. government's announcement that the Stein Valley is now a Class A Park.

Andy Miller, WCWC's spotted owl campaigner, fights for parks to protect the old growth forests harvested in B.C.

On a cold January morning, WCWC staff pinku a red Federal Liberal Caucus meeting in Vancouver. The signs speak to the issues needing to be addressed.

WCWC's Andrea Zimmer takes part in a protest against the proposed diesel power plant at the Stoltmann Wilderness Area.

WCWC uses every opportunity to oppose the proposed power plant and to protect the Stoltmann Wilderness and other B.C. parks.

Doug Martin, a staunch Stoltmann Wilderness volunteer, poses with other protesters who oppose the proposed power plant.

WCWC celebrates summer with Bill Davail, who discusses the importance of protecting the Stein Valley.

Summer snow in 1995 greets WCWC volunteer "Piper" during the Stoltmann Hiking Route.

Doug Martin, a staunch Stoltmann Wilderness volunteer, poses with other protesters who oppose the proposed power plant.

LUTV film artist Jack Campbell at WCWC's Stoltmann Wilderness artist camp out, summer of 1996.

WCWC's B.C. Parks reviews Ahousat's Wild Side Heritage Trail Project.

B.C. Parks official review Ahousat's Wild Side Heritage Trail Project boardwalk route with youth participants on Flores Island.

Board by board, local youths build a boardwalk on Flores Island along ancient Ahousat Wild Side Heritage Trail route.

Tony Briggs, WCWC's volunteer campaigner, and Bryan "Bear" Kaihla, Ahousat volunteer, help put up tent frames for the youth working on our past Ahousat Wild Side Heritage Trail and Kooskashan project.

On November 22, 1996, WCWC volunteers take the "Bear Initiative" to northern B.C. in support of the Stoltmann Wilderness.

Anthony Man, WCWC's B.C. Parks advisory committee member, and June Boyer, a freelance writer, help hand out information about the proposed power plant.
WCWC Mid-Island Chapter: campaigning to protect rare oldgrowth and wildlife habitats in local communities

WCWC's Mid-Island Chapter is situated in the heart of one of the most endangered ecosystems in North America—the Coastal Douglas Fir Zone/Nanaimo Lowland Ecosystem. It covers a narrow strip of coastline along the east coast of Vancouver Island between Campbell River and Sooke. An Environment Canada publication notes that: "This region is one of the most ecologically diverse areas of North America, containing a wide range of vegetation, and fish and wildlife habitats of international significance."

Human activities, including logging and urbanization, have already heavily modified much of this ecosystem. Less than one percent of the oldgrowth Douglas-fir forests remain; in small, fragmented patches. Less than two percent of the region has been protected. The current park system is grossly inadequate to preserve biodiversity or meet the recreational needs of the growing population. Most of this part of the Island was given outright to Canadian Pacific Railway Company as the E&N (Esquimalt and Nanaimo) Land Grant in the late 1800s. These lands are now mostly owned by the big forest companies. Thus, establishing more parks requires costly private land buy-outs.

New Parks/Campaign Wins

To date, WCWC's Mid-Island Chapter has mounted successful campaigns that helped establish the 304 hectare Little Mountain Regional Park (3 minutes from downtown Parksville) and the 134 hectare Morton Creek Regional Park. These parks protect a nursery colony (one of only 2 nurseries known in B.C.) of the blue-listed Townsend's Big-Eared Bat, the monsoon-forest habitat of the Harry Vannamore, and some rare east Island oldgrowth forest.

Our Mid-Island Chapter also helped save from logging a 40 acre (16 hectare) parcel of land in Whiskey Creek. Alerted to the fact that the Port Alberni Forest District was creating vacant public lands in order to place them into permanent forest tenure, we traced the family of the original owner of the Whiskey Creek parcel (who had originally donated the lands to the crown in 1968 for a park). As a result, the government's plans to advertise the property for logging were stopped!

Hamilton Marsh, a field study site for schools in District 69, has also been the focus of Mid-Island Chapter activity. This significant wetland supports great biodiversity, including two recently-sighted Pacific Water Shrews. Our chapter helped the community campaign for the marsh's protection, but the compensation needed to acquire the private property from MacMillan Bloedel (MB) was prohibitive. MB now plans a black poplar plantation for the marsh. Our campaign will continue in 1997.

Private Property Protection

A 1994 amendment to B.C.'s Land Title Act allows environment groups to use conservation covenants as a new legal tool to protect ecologically valuable features on all or part of a piece of private property. In the spring of 1996, our Chapter formed a local community land trust in the Parksville- Qualicum area called the Rosewall-Bonnie Land Trust Society in order to place a conservation covenant on a piece of private property that would act as a buffer to the new Little Mountain Park. The covenant is being co-held with a neighbouring community land trust, the Nanaimo and Area Land Stewards.

WCWC's Mid-Island Chapter has also helped facilitate the formation of the Brown Property Preservation Society, whose goal is to purchase a 40 acre (16 hectare) parcel of oldgrowth forest in Qualicum Beach for a park. The property also contains a coho creek—a rarity in an urban setting.

Issue Nights

WCWC's Mid-Island Chapter holds regular public meetings (we call them "Issue Nights") on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Nanaimo. We feature guest speakers and slide shows on topics that keep members and the general public informed about the latest research and information on key environmental issues.

Our Chapter's Executive is spread out between Qualicum Beach and Protection Island, while our membership extends all over Vancouver Island north of Duncan. We want to get to know our members! If there are any issues in your community that need our help, if you want to start a Streamkeepers group, or if you are interested in having our Mid-Island Chapter do an issue night in your community, call Annette Tanner at 250-752-2658.

A Huge Thank-You to WCWC Mid-Island!

The Directors, Executive, staff and volunteers of WCWC would like to extend a warm thank you to WCWC Mid-Island for their generous (and interest free) loan of $4,500 to the WCWC Main Office. This loan helped us print our calendars, cards, and catalogues without relying on a loan from a financial institution...which means a lot less stress for everyone here!
West Kootenay Chapter seeks sustainable watershed management to replace oldgrowth forest liquidation

There is a forest crisis in the West Kootenays! The clearcutting of rare, oldgrowth forests in the West Kootenays continued throughout 1996 despite widespread public and local community protest.

New Denver Flats
New Denver Flats is a bench perched on the steep slopes of towering Idaho Peak in the Slocan Valley. It is an extremely wet area with unusually high biological diversity, tourism, recreation and heritage values. The area is part of the traditional territories of the Six First Nations and includes the drinking watershed for the town of New Denver.

On October 20, 1996 the Arrow Forest District approved logging and road building in New Denver Flats. Local people, including Colleen McCrory and the Valhalla Wilderness Society, have planned major protests if clearcutting proceeds. Another local group, the Silva Forest Foundation, has prepared an ecosystem-based plan for the Slocan Valley that would protect New Denver Flats. WCWC's West Kootenay Chapter is supporting implementation of this plan and is working with these local groups towards increased wilderness preservation and ecologically sustainable stewardship of our region.

Japan Activist Pledges Support
Yoichiro Kurosda, Japan's leading environmentalist and a Goldman Environmental Award winner, visited both New Denver Flats as well as another local wilderness hotspot, the Tenise Creek drainage (known as The Singing Forest). "When I walked into New Denver Flats, I was struck by the beauty of the oldgrowth forest,..." Yoichiro explained. "Old cedar, fir and pine trees told us of the world of wildlife, such as bears, deer and woodpeckers. As well, there is evidence of the native peoples' intimate relationship with this forest." Yoichiro was also struck by the beauty and rarity of The Singing Forest and spent a day photographing its beauty as well as the logging operations that are destroying it. He will be working in Japan to help protect these two endangered wilderness areas. Members of WCWC's West Kootenay Chapter were honoured to meet and work with such a dedicated environmentalist.

Okanagan Chapter fights to get LRMP to save more

The small core of active WCWC volunteers in the Okanagan had a very busy year trail-building, publicizing issues and increasing membership in the government's Local Resource Management Plan (LRMP) negotiations for new parks in our region.

Okanagan Highlands Trail
Our revived Okanagan Highlands Trail Committee, chaired by Dick Pearson, made significant progress on extending WCWC's Okanagan Highlands Trail on the east side of the Okanagan Valley. A three-day work party at Canyon Lake in mid-July made excellent progress in placing signs along the Canyon Lake to Little Whitefish section of the trail. In the second year in a row, a local high school outdoor recreation class helped clear brush from the Stirling Creek section of the trail.

In response to public demand for a more detailed and accurate Okanagan Highlands Trail guide, Dick prepared two new maps for hikers and backpackers. Now at the printers, they will be available for the 1997 hiking season.

Canvass
Tim Murphy, WCWC's former Canvass Director, was in our area from May to July conducting a WCWC Okanagan canvass. The focus of the canvass was the new WCWC educational newspaper about Central Okanagan wilderness areas that urgently need protection. Over 30,000 copies of the newspaper were distributed through the mail and the door-to-door canvass.

WCWC's Conservation Vision
Although WCWC's Okanagan Chapter is not officially a party to the Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP, two WCWC Okanagan executive members, Bruce Sumner and Clive Johnson, are "observing" the table as regional environmental representatives.

The Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP has been underway since early spring, 1996. So far, the process has been fraught with frustration as the B.C. government has decided to protect only a maximum of 12 percent of B.C.'s land base and has got to "make up" for the fact that it has exceeded the 12 percent in some areas like Vancouver Island, the Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP is only allowed to increase the protected land base in the region by one-half of one percent! This is totally inadequate for WCWC's educational newspaper, Protect Central Okanagan's Mountains and Canyons, outlines a much larger conservation vision. We are focusing our efforts on broad public education because we believe that only an increased public expression of support for wilderness preservation that goes far beyond the 12 percent mandated at the LRMP table will save the Okanagan's biodiversity for future generations.

To help please contact WCWC Okanagan Chapter at 250-762-6941 or write to P.O. Box 25118 Mission Valley RPO, Kelowna, B.C. V1W 3Y7.

Surrey Chapter gets involved in Streamkeepers program

WCWC's small but vital Surrey and White Rock Chapter has had another busy and productive year of public education activities.

Public Outreach
Throughout 1996 (except for December when we sponsored our Christmas Bird Count) we continued our monthly Nature Walks at Boundary Bay. We also hosted a well-attended Earth Day Celebration at Camp Kwomais in April, and, in cooperation with the Surrey School District, mounted another successful Annual Boundary Bay Birdathon.

Support for WCWC Campaigns
In the fall of 1996 we supported several of WCWC's broader campaign efforts, including sponsoring an exciting public debate between WCWC's BRT-Bear Campaigner Anthony Marr and a local hunter named Mark McDonald. In November we hosted WCWC campaigners Joe Foy and Kerry Dawson who presented an incredible Stoltenberg Wilderness slide show.

"Streamkeeper" Efforts
A special White Rock Chapter project emerged this year out of our concern for Boundary Bay: getting directly involved as "Streamkeepers" in protecting the waters that flow into the Bay. Over 50 people braved a winter storm in February to turn out for our two-day Streamkeepers Symposium. They have become an effective citizen force to keep our local streams healthy.

A result of the Streamkeepers workshop was the launching of a new campaign. Elgin Creek in South Surrey is a salmon-bearing stream that is threatened by development along its banks. We are looking at ways to stop the threatening development and to make sure that Surrey incorporates stream protection into its planning procedures. It is a campaign that needs lots of support!

We Welcome Your Involvement
We are an active group that has more good ideas than people to carry them out. We welcome new faces and hope that more citizens in our area will come out to our meetings and pitch in on our campaigns. For more information call Lynn Pollard at 604-531-6307 or Liz Walker at 604-591-7899.
Mark Wareing 1947-1996

Mark Wareing, a well known B.C. eco-forester, died on April 16, 1996. He worked tirelessly to educate other foresters and the general public about how natural forests provide pure water, build soils and sustain abundant wildlife and about how we must work within and sustain the natural forests’ ecological processes. He knew that a forest was infinitely more than a timber resource and he believed that a new, more gentle ethic must replace clearcutting in B.C.

After working for nearly two decades for the B.C. Forest Service, Mark took a much lower paying job with WCWC. During the five years he worked for us, he launched our campaign to protect the Lower Mainland’s drinking water and end clearcut logging in our three municipal watersheds. He always volunteered to explore the wild valleys and chart WCWC’s trial routes. His photographic documentation of bad logging practices was featured in many WCWC educational programs. His “beauty shots” and rave reviews of the wild places he visited inspired us to keep working hard to save them: especially Carmanah and Clayoquot Sound.

Through his job with WCWC, Mark launched the Forest Watch program in many B.C. communities. He worked more intensely with concerned citizens on the Sunshine Coast to stop herbicide use on Mt. Elphinstone and prepare an eco-forestry, selection-based logging plan to replace clearcutting on this prominent mountain which forms part of the drinking watershed for coast residents.

Mark felt the pain of the ongoing devastation of the forest by inappropriate clearcutting and the lack of progress in achieving real change in forest practices.

Mark’s critique of the proposed Forest Practices Code is still valid today. Mark lives on in the ecologically responsible forestry practices he taught and in the people he touched with his wisdom and vision of how things must be done in the future. He is sadly missed by the environment movement.

WCWC Alberta’s Save the Grizzly Campaign

If you were one of the 6 million visitors to Alberta’s Rocky Mountain parks in the summer of 1996 you probably met our Alberta Branch’s Grizzly Campaigner, Ken Barth. Ken’s four-month speaking tour through the parks (which contain pristine grizzly habitat) educated both visitors and residents to the threats facing the great grizzly.

The Bow Valley that runs through Banff National Park is a four-kilometre-wide migration corridor for ungulates and large carnivores, including the grizzly. This corridor also contains the Trans-Canada highway, Highway 1A, the CP rail line, an airstrip, a 27-hole golf course, three ski resorts, the village of Lake Louise and the town of Banff. Population: 7,500. The highways and railroad have led to extremely high bear mortality rates.

Reducing the road/rail speeds is one objective of WCWC Alberta’s “Save the Grizzly Campaign”. WCWC is also campaigning to stop poaching and hunting and vastly increase habitat protection.

Ken, along with other WCWC staff and volunteers, worked hard in 1996 to let the public know that despite the grizzly bear being listed as a “threatened” species, it is still hunted in both Alberta and B.C. Our efforts appear to be bearing fruit as the Calgary Herald has reported that the Alberta government is considering a hunting ban on the grizzly.

Spotted Owls...Threatened with Extinction

Spotted owls in B.C. are an indicator of the health of the fragile old growth ecosystems that they live in...and they are nearly extinct. Only 40 pairs of spotted owls have been located in B.C.—all in the Lower Mainland. Seventy percent of the owl’s low elevation oldgrowth habitat has been logged. At the current rate of logging all of B.C.’s unprotected spotted owl habitat will be irreplaceably fragmented within 5 years. Most scientists say that, in order to avoid extinction (local extinction) in Canada, the owls need all of their remaining habitat protected.

WCWC’s spotted owl campaign includes both public education and litigation. A key component is to achieve effective endangered species legislation at both the federal and the provincial levels. The legislation must require habitat protection for endangered species including the spotted owl.

In the spring of 1996, WCWC published and distributed 80,000 copies of the Spotted Owl - Who’s To Blame If It Goes Extinct? educational newspaper. The paper was co-written by retired Vancouver Province newspaper reporter Tony Eberts, and spotted owl researcher, Andy Miller. As WCWC’s Spotted Owl campaigner, Andy distributed the paper to Lower Mainland communities through a series of interactive performances about the spotted owl controversy.

In the spring of 1996, WCWC and the Sierra Legal Defense Fund initiated litigation on behalf of the spotted owl in B.C. The lawsuit was launched because of the B.C. Chief Forester’s failure to consider the habitat needs of the endangered spotted owl in the setting of the Lower Mainland’s annual allowable cut. The B.C. Supreme Court ruled against us, claiming that the magnitude of the problem makes the protection of this species a B.C. Cabinet—not court—decision. Meanwhile spotted owl habitat in B.C. continues to be logged. Our appeal will be heard March 17-18, 1997.
The BET'R Campaign

What is the BET'R campaign? These 1996 media highlights tell the story:

Chinatown News - "Chinese environmentalists campaigns to change centuries old tradition: ...on a crusade with a dual goal to put an end to the slaughter of endangered or threatened species for Oriental medicine and to elevate the reputation of his fellow Chinese.

Ming Pao Daily News - He feels that as a Chinese Canadian he can speak freely without raising the spectre of racism.

Richardson News - "As Chinese people we have to shed old ways and modernize ourselves. Part of this process is to get rid of environmentally unwise medicinal practices and superstitions," says Anthony Marr.

Associated Press - "If we carry on the way we have done and drive major species to extinction, we'll really be speared upon by the rest of the world," said Marr.

Vancouver Magazine - Poachers have already wiped out most of the bears in Asia. Canada's turn is next. As for the tigers, there are less than 4500 left, and two are poached every day. Unfortunately, very soon, the last one will disappear within a half decade.

Vancouver Sun - Anthony Marr says he'd take on cultural traditionalists who value animal parts over nature than ever does. He has a standing challenge to publicly debate them.

AM 1320 (Chinese language open line talk show) - Caller: "Why do you work for animals against people? What is more important - people or animals?" Anthony Marr: "I am working for wildlife for its own sake, yet, I work for people, too. I'm talking about our children, their quality of life, and the kind of world we are passing on to them."

CBC TV at Mageza Secondary School - Reporter: What have you learned from Anthony Marr's talk?" Chinese student: "I'll never use animal parts medicine. I don't want to show my children in the future pictures in a book, saying, 'This was a tiger and this was an elephant. They want them alive.'"

Sing Tao Daily News - Former geophysicist takes 25% pay cut to save animals. When asked why he said "It is the most meaningful thing I can do at this point of my life."

The BET'R Campaign was launched by Anthony Marr last fall as a "one man crusade," as media called it, to save the world's endangered bears, elephants, tigers and rhinos. Four species group to protect since they are the ones most devastated by the Asian tradition of using animal parts for medicinal and other purposes. Anthony launched this campaign not in spite of his being of Chinese extraction but because of it.

By November of 1995 Anthony had moved the campaign to the point where he felt that the capability of a large organization had to be brought to bear for it to succeed. According to Marr, he took his BET'R Campaign straight to WCWC because of "its outstanding reputation and integrity."

Here he met with WCWC Founder Paul George, International Campaign Director Adriane Carr and National Campaign Director Joe Foy. It was agreed that WCWC would act upon the BET'R campaign and retain Anthony as its Director.

To address the supply-and-demand nature of the $6 billion global endangered wildlife trade, the BET'R campaign employs a Yin/Yang dual strategy. The supply-side Yang track is fast and hard hitting term, attacking poaching and smuggling by means of law and enforcement. Its ultimate purpose is to buy time for the slow and soft yet long-term Yin track to work, which strives via education and economic development to permanently eliminate the global demand for endangered species body parts.

Following is an example of BET'R's Yang track. Up to June of 1996, it was illegal to import into Canada endangered species parts containing Chinese patent medicines, but they were legal to sell once smuggled in. They were being copiously displayed for sale in most Chinatown apothecaries. Marr made national news displaying these medicines and demanding that their sale be stopped.

In March of 1996, Marr received a reply to a letter he had sent to the federal Environment Minister, Sergio Marchi: "The federal government's capacity to deter this trade will increase with the proclamation of the Wildlife Trade Act this spring. Under the Act, poachers and smugglers will be liable to penalties of up to $150,000 and 5 years imprisonment. Corporations are liable to fines of up to $300,000. The maximum fine can be doubled for a second offense." In early June of 1996, the Chinese medicine passed this second and some were removed from store shelves.

Yin strategy-wise, from May 1995 to May 1996, Anthony gave presentations to thousands of high school children in the Greater Vancouver area, many of Chinese heritage. The youth were very supportive. However, on Chinese language open line talk shows, Anthony caught his share of flack. Cultural change does not come easily.

In the spring of 1997, under a CID (Canadian International Development Agency) grant, Anthony will travel to India to work with a local group, Tiger Trust, in a coordinated effort to conserve the tigers. WCWC and Tiger Trust will jointly publish educational materials, some for global distribution and some for distribution through approved educational centres which Tiger Trust will launch within India. The centre will visit communities surrounding threatened Bengal tiger reserves in an effort to mobilize citizens in support of protecting tigers and to inspire local involvement in and support for ecotourism as an alternate economic activity to poaching.

Eventually Marr wants to visit other endangered species-consuming nations such as South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore or even China, to initiate education programs with local environmental groups and/or governments.

Since the Yin strategy is slow-acting, BET'R must be a long-term campaign. Anthony is currently developing a five year plan that will aim to preserve the BET'R and related species past the turn of the millennium, to perpetuity.

WCWC'S BET'R CAMPAIGN
To save the world's Bear, Elephant, Tiger and Rhino
Wilderness Committee

WCC COMPARATIVE INCOME STATEMENT
1991 - 1996

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Audited (C)</th>
<th>Audited (A)</th>
<th>Adjusted (C)</th>
<th>Adjusted (A)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>$414,085</td>
<td>$428,396</td>
<td>$406,211</td>
<td>$428,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>$377,000</td>
<td>$390,000</td>
<td>$365,823</td>
<td>$390,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>$331,000</td>
<td>$345,000</td>
<td>$320,823</td>
<td>$345,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>$287,000</td>
<td>$301,000</td>
<td>$276,823</td>
<td>$301,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>$243,000</td>
<td>$257,000</td>
<td>$232,823</td>
<td>$257,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditures:
- Special Projects: $8,888
- Education, Publication, Products: $21,763
- Campaigns, Programs, and Services: $102,283
- Office Operations: $22,360
- Office Operations (net): $(10,050)

Net Income: $(645,165)

Members' Equity Statement, Opening: $(73,286)

The accompanying summary of financial accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Approve on behalf of the Board:

Photo top: WCC Accounting Department - Mona Lisa Amirsita, Jeremy Hoey and Brian Conner.

Western Canada Wilderness Committee

Zoological Society of Western Canada

To the Members of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee:

We have audited the Balance Sheets of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee as at 30 April 1996 and the Statements of Revenue, Expenditure and Members' Delinquency and Changes in Financial Position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Committee's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

An audit includes examining, among other things, evidence regarding the financial statements and determining the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In connection with our audit, we have received from the Committee a schedule listing all members who are not current in their payments. A member is considered delinquent if the amount of his membership dues remains unpaid at the end of the membership year.

The committee is responsible for the selection of auditors. The auditor's report is intended to serve as a basis for management's evaluation of the Committee's financial performance and for management's planning of future financial activities.

We have evaluated the Committee's internal control systems and believe that these systems are adequate for the purposes for which they are intended to be used.

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

WCC's Executive Team - Joe Foy, Brian Conner, Adriane Carr and Paul George.

Summer, 1996

Brian Conner, CMA

Comptroller
Maureen Fraser wins 1996 Eugene Rogers Environment Award

The prestigious Eugene Rogers Award is presented annually by the Wilderness Committee and the United Nations Association of Vancouver to an outstanding B.C. citizen working to protect the environment. The 1996 recipient is Maureen Fraser. selected because of her years of steadfast community work in Tofoio—building the vision of community sustainability and supporting protection of the fragile ecology of Clayoquot Sound.

The award was established in 1992 in honour of Eugene Rogers, a conservationist who worked tirelessly to protect the Stein Valley, the Fraser River and B.C.'s wild salmon and steelhead. It has previously been awarded to Terry Jacks for his work against pulp mill pollution, Joe Martin for his work to protect Clayoquot Sound, Doug Radies and Ocean Helman for their work to preserve the Canbo Mountains Wilderness, including the gravy threatened Penfold Valley, and last year to Danny Gerak for his courageous work to protect the Base and Pit River Valleys.

Expanding WCWC's Door-to-Door Educational Canvass—a sure path to wilderness preservation

Canvassing door-to-door, explaining to people why we must preserve our natural heritage and asking them to join and donate to WCWC is a hard job. It is a cornerstone, grass-roots activity that is fundamental to WCWC's goal of educating people and building the public and political will that is needed to save wilderness.

In 1996 WCWC increased our canvassing efforts and results! Much of the success is due to our hard-working Canvass Directors. In Toronto, John Yates has been coordinating our door-to-door canvass for four years. Besides keeping a wonderful crew together raising awareness in central Canada about key wilderness issues in the west, he has pushed our main office to take action on Ontario issues. John is working with Gray Jones from our Alberta Branch to produce an Educational Report on Algonquin Park early in 1997.

In Vancouver, Tim Murphy took over the Canvass Director's job this fall from Dave O'Connor who returned to school. Here's Tim's message:

"It's been an exciting year in Canvassland. Rain, snow, hail and snow have tried to beat us, but we overcame the adversity and reached the doorsteps of tens of thousands of Lower Mainland homes.

People from Maple Ridge to the Sunshine Coast heard first-hand about WCWC's campaigns to save areas like the Stollemann Wilderness and Clayoquot Sound. In two months of canvassing in the Okanagan during the summer of 1996 we nearly doubled our membership there.

The Vancouver canvass team has raised almost $150,000 in membership fees and donations this year—a 20 percent increase over last year! With the addition of a new phone canvass to urge people to renew their membership, I believe that 1997 will be our best year yet.

I would like to thank all the people that have supported WCWC through the canvass, not only for donating, renewing and signing up as a new member, but especially for inviting in cold and wet canvassers for tea or hot chocolate. Keep up your support and I'm confident we will win the wilderness protection the Earth needs to survive."
WILDERNESS CANNOT BE COMPROMISED...IT'S A LEGACY WE NEED TO SUSTAIN LIFE ON EARTH

YES, I want to help WWC protect Earth's natural living heritage, knowing that it involves protecting much more than 12 percent of our planet from industrial development. Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of $25-$50-$100-$500-$1000-$5000-$10000 other to help WWC win its campaigns to protect and preserve wilderness.

Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WWC) Federal Registered Charitable Tax Number 0587113-21-28.

I want to renew my WWC membership become a WWC Member. Enclosed is $30.

I would like to be a Sustaining-Family Member. Here is $52 ($1 per week for wilderness preservation).

Please upgrade my Regular $30 Membership to a Sustaining-Family Membership. Enclosed is $22.

Please send me information on WWC's monthly giving program.

Note: to save time and trees call our toll free 1-800-661-9453 number to donate and become a WWC member!

Name (please print)
Address
City Province Postal Code Phone

Please return this pledge form to WWC, 20 Water Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1A4.

Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WWC) 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. WWC advocates and promotes ecological principles that achieve sustainable communities. WWC works only through lawful means.

WWC 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 individuals and groups whose combined non-violent strategies give the environmental movement its strength.

WWC 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.

WWC 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.