

Wilderness Committee



1996-97 MEMBERS REPORT

Stoltmann Wilderness trailbuilders work on the bridge over Lava Creek in the Elaho Valley.

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 world-wide...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 inter-connecting 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 Caribou-Chilcotin, 12 percent was turned into a preservation maximum of B.C.'s land base. Political expedience, 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 dissension 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 legitimize 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 lauded the October 1996 decision that protected only 20 percent of the Stoltmann 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.





WCWC Staff

From top to bottom, left to right: **Joe Foy**, Campaign Director; **Paul George**, Founder & Publications Director; **Adriane Carr**, Fundraising & Campaign Director; **Tanya Hedch**, Office Assistant; **Brian Conner**, Comptroller; **Andrea Reimer**, Office & Membership; **Sue Fox**, Publications & Communications; **Jennifer Duncan**, Wholesale & Mail Coordinator; **Anthony Marr**, BETR Campaign Director; **Andrea Maenza**, Bear Initiative Campaigner; **Tim Murphy**, Canvass Director; **Tina Knowlan**, Store Manager; **Bonita Charette**, Bear Initiative Campaigner; **Mona Lisa Amirsetia**, Data Entry; **James Gogan**, Store Staff; **Kerry Dawson**, Volunteer Coordinator & Stoltmann Campaigner. Not available for photo: **Selena Blais**, Store Staff; **Helen Evans**, Store Staff; **Chris Player**, GIS Consultant; **Jeremy Hoey**, Data Entry; **Alice Eaton**, Director & Volunteer Receptionist; **Andy Miller**, Bear Initiative Campaigner.

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 organization that is respected and valued 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

WCWC's 1996/97 Board of Directors

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

The number of Board members is fixed in WCWC bylaws at ten, with two of these appointed from WCWC's four-member Executive Team by Team consensus. The eight other Board members are elected at WCWC's Annual General Meetings (AGMs). Four are elected each year for overlapping two-year terms. Directors listed with a "*" were elected at WCWC's 1996 AGM.

RECENT WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SUCCESSES

On November 28, 1995, just after we published our 1995 Annual Members' Paper, the Harcourt Government made what proved to be its last major park announcement. It was a big one, long waited for, and well celebrated.

At last, the entire 107,000 hectare Stein Valley received the protection that First Nations and environmentalists had been fighting for over two decades to gain. Many WCWC members, volunteers and staff were on hand to celebrate. At the request of the Lytton and Mt. Currie First Nations, WCWC's Paul George and Joe Foy joined with others to witness the joint management agreement between these First Nations and the Province, which was also signed on that wonderful day of celebration.

On October 28, 1996 the newly elected Clark Government made its first major park announcement—23 new parks for B.C.'s Lower Mainland region. Among the new parks were some areas that WCWC had campaigned vigorously to save. But government protected only 2,830 hectares of the Caren Range (WCWC had proposed 8,500 ha); only 8,905 ha. of the Chilliwack/Greenpdrop Lakes; only 150 ha. on Mt. Elphinstone and only 49,670 ha. (about one-fifth) of the 260,000 Stoltmann Wilderness.

The precious wilderness areas left unprotected, including pristine valleys in the Stoltmann and essential Spotted Owl habitat, and the government's vow that this was the "final solution" for the Lower Mainland tempered WCWC's celebration of these recent successes.

VOLUNTEERS--HEART OF THE WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

1996 has been a wildly 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 drenched in west coast downpours on 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-Ahousaht First Nations *Ahousaht 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 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 clear 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 slideshows 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 pounding the pavement around the province collecting signatures on the Ban Bear Hunting Petition Initiative which the Wilderness Committee supports. A group of hardy 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 servicing 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 604-683-8220.



Biosphere Reserve solution could positively resolve the Clayoquot Sound conflict

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 rainforested valleys on the west coast of Vancouver Island has the largest remaining tract of low-elevation oldgrowth 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 Nuuchah-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 oldgrowth 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 Ahousaht, mounted joint expeditions and research projects with the Ahousaht First Nations into the Ursus River Valley and the Pretty Girl/Easter Lake areas, put on hundreds of slide shows, issued hundreds of media releases, toured a giant redcedar stump and multi-media show across North America and to Europe, and published four full-colour posters, three research reports (co-published with Ahousaht 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 include:

- 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 rainstorms in Clayoquot Sound in mid-January 1996*, at the request of Hesquiaht First Nations. Researcher Ian Mackenzie found that previously logged areas were up to 20 times more likely to have landslides than areas of oldgrowth forests. There were no landslides in the large pristine valleys: the Clayoquot, Ursus and Sydney.
- publishing and distributing 100,000 copies of a



The magnificent Sydney Inlet in Clayoquot Sound. Photo by Ian Mackenzie.

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 Ahousaht First Nations a seven-month-long project, the *Ahousaht 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 from the village of Ahousaht to the wild 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 *Ahousaht Wild Side Trail Survey Options Report* and the *Ahousaht Wild Side Heritage Trail and Ecotourism Development and Management Options* report which was drafted for WCWC by ecotourism consultant James MacGregor.
- publishing a new poster, *Ahousaht Wild Side Heritage Trail • Flores Island - Ahousaht First Nations' Territory - Clayoquot Sound • Treat with Care and Respect* in time for the celebration marking the end of our joint Ahousaht-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



Adriane Carr in front of Hyatt Regency Hotel where Federal cabinet met in January, 1996.

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.



Youth who participated in building the trail.



Stanley Sam, Sr. with trail marker sign he produced for Ahousaht Wild Side Heritage Trail.

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 the supporters lived in and often didn't have the right petition at 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



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 McDade** 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 (activities 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 Charette**, **Lisa Moffatt**, **Andrea Maenza**, **Andy Miller**, Victoria's **Liora Freedman** 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.



The Bear Team and Bear Care-A-Van.

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 "BEAR CARE-A-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 bearskin 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, Williams Lake, Kamloops, Vernon, Kelowna, Penticton and Nelson. The volunteers collected over 3,200 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**



Action in the Bear Initiative office with **Andrea Maenza**, **Bonita Charette** and **Andy Miller**.

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—at times 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, Clendenning Valley, Upper Elaho Valley and Upper Lillooet Valley. They contain some of the finest big-treed 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 two small unconnected parks: a 29,800 hectare area including the Clendenning 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 silent. The fight for the Stoltmann 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 Pickets 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 told it can protect no more than 13 percent of the Lower Mainland's land area—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.

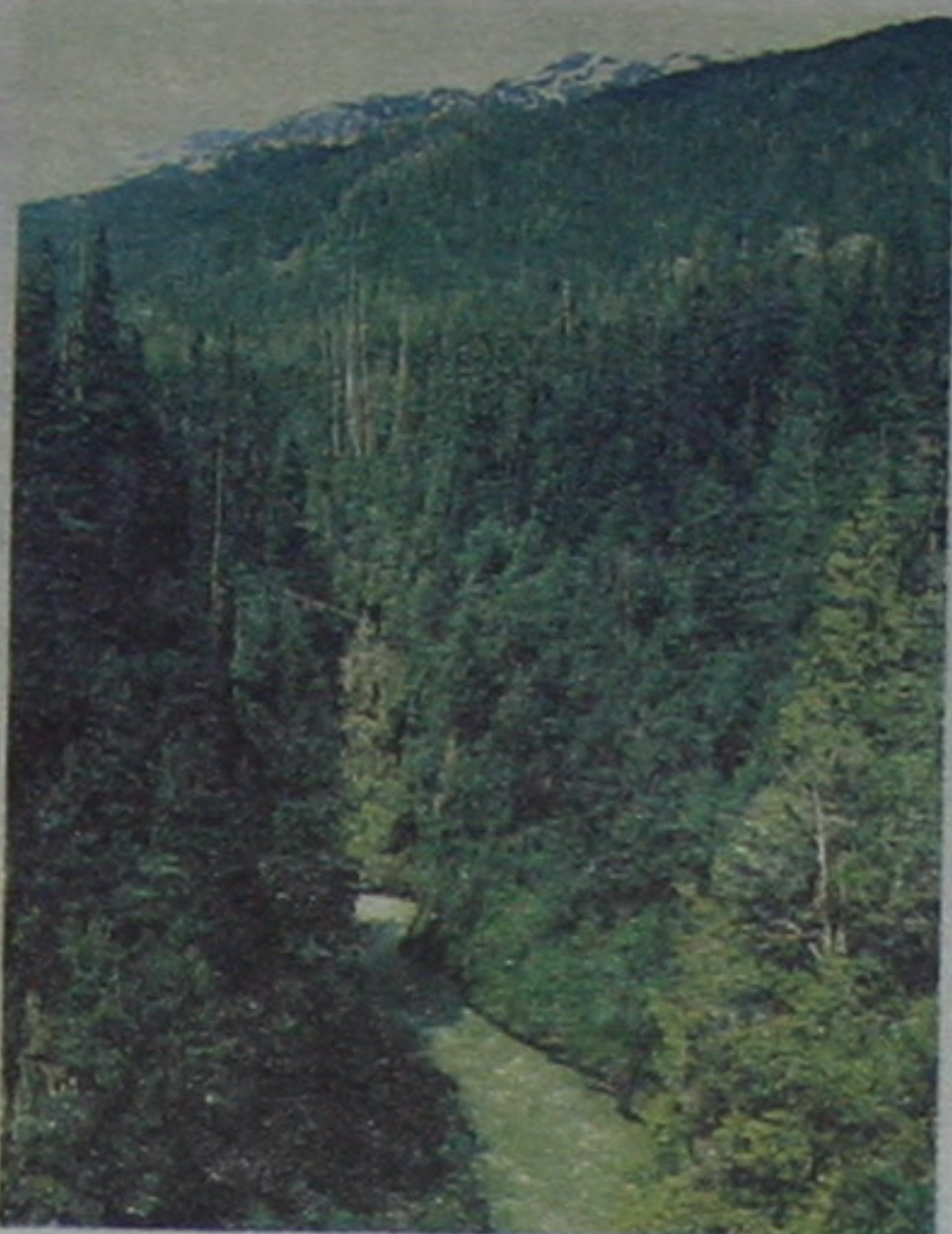
February: WCWC's Flying Tent

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 Lawns, puts his tent on casters and continuously tows 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 Galiano Island.

March: Tent Moves to Premier's Vancouver Office
WCWC, after over two months of continuous protest on the B.C. legislature lawns (the longest such protest on record), moves its pickets, floating tent and all, to the sidewalk in front of Premier Glen Clark's Vancouver offices in the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre. WCWC maintains its Vancouver tent-in 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



Looking toward Canyon Camp up the Elaho River Valley.

Valley where the finest forests in the Stoltmann grow.

May: WCWC Produces New Stoltmann Paper

WCWC produces and distributes 80,000 copies of a new educational four-page, full-colour newspaper entitled 'Stoltmann Wilderness, Save the entire 260,000 hectares'.

June: More Trail Surveying; First Artists' Camp

WCWC volunteers extend the Stoltmann Hiking Route further up the Elaho Valley and over the pass towards Meager Creek Hot Springs. Meanwhile, InterFor begins blasting a logging road three kilometres up the Elaho Valley, coming within 100 metres of the Elaho Giant, the third largest Douglas fir in Canada, discovered by WCWC volunteers the year before. InterFor lays a temporary bridge over Sundown Creek to allow its heavy machinery to cross. WCWC delivers a letter to the Squamish Forest Service office pointing out that the road building is a year ahead of schedule and illegal because a 60 day public notice has not been given by InterFor, as required by law. Road building continues. WCWC establishes a temporary camp on a large sand bar beside

Sims Creek and hosts a series of artists' campouts. 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 Trails & Artists
Sierra Legal Defense Fund, on behalf of WCWC, applies for a B.C. Supreme Court date 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 Plateau section of the proposed trail route. Another artists' campout is held in the Stoltmann.

August: WCWC in Court; More Trails and 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' campout is held in the Sims and the Upper Elaho Valleys. One hundred artists have now participated. WCWC volunteers continue to work on the Stoltmann Hiking Route. RPAC finally passes its recommendations on to the B.C. government recommending that only 20 percent of the Stoltmann Wilderness be preserved. The entire Elaho Valley and Sims Valley are recommended for clearcut logging by InterFor. Half of the Upper Lillooet is also recommended for logging. No open-house public meetings are held.



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

September: Stoltmann Hiking Route Survey Completed
WCWC volunteers complete clearing and marking the 28 km hiking route from the Upper Elaho Valley to the Meager Creek Valley. WCWC formally applies to District Forest Service Office for official Hiking Trail status. WCWC publishes a hiking guide to the Stoltmann.

October: Petitions, Poster and Protest

WCWC presents *Save Stoltmann 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 Stoltmann Wilderness poster entitled *Stoltmann Wilderness • Canadian Rainforest Garden of Eden • Full Preservation • No Compromise* and sends copies to media and all MLAs. On October 28th the B.C. government announces acceptance of all the RPAC recommendations, including preservation of only 20 percent of the Stoltmann Wilderness. WCWC pickets the announcement press conference, calls environmentalists who sign the deal "sell-outs", and vows to work even harder to ensure that the entire 260,000 hectare Stoltmann Wilderness is preserved.

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

Stay tuned...there's much more to come!

Artists FOR Stoltmann Wilderness



Artist Diana Dean painting in the Elaho Valley during one of the artists' expeditions. Photo by J. Hutin.

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 newsprint media interviews. Our general membership and our Boreal Campaign supporters are steadily increasing. We now 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 oldgrowth boreal wildlife habitat located adjacent to Wood Buffalo 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 tabloid newspapers 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 government 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 bleach 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 fallacies 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



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

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, intensified a campaign 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 people 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: wccwca@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.



WCWC Alberta Staff



WCWC Victoria Chapter - Sooke Wilderness Park just over the hill!



Sooke Hills Wilderness. Photo by Ivan Hunter

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 action 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 oldgrowth drybelt 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 attending 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.

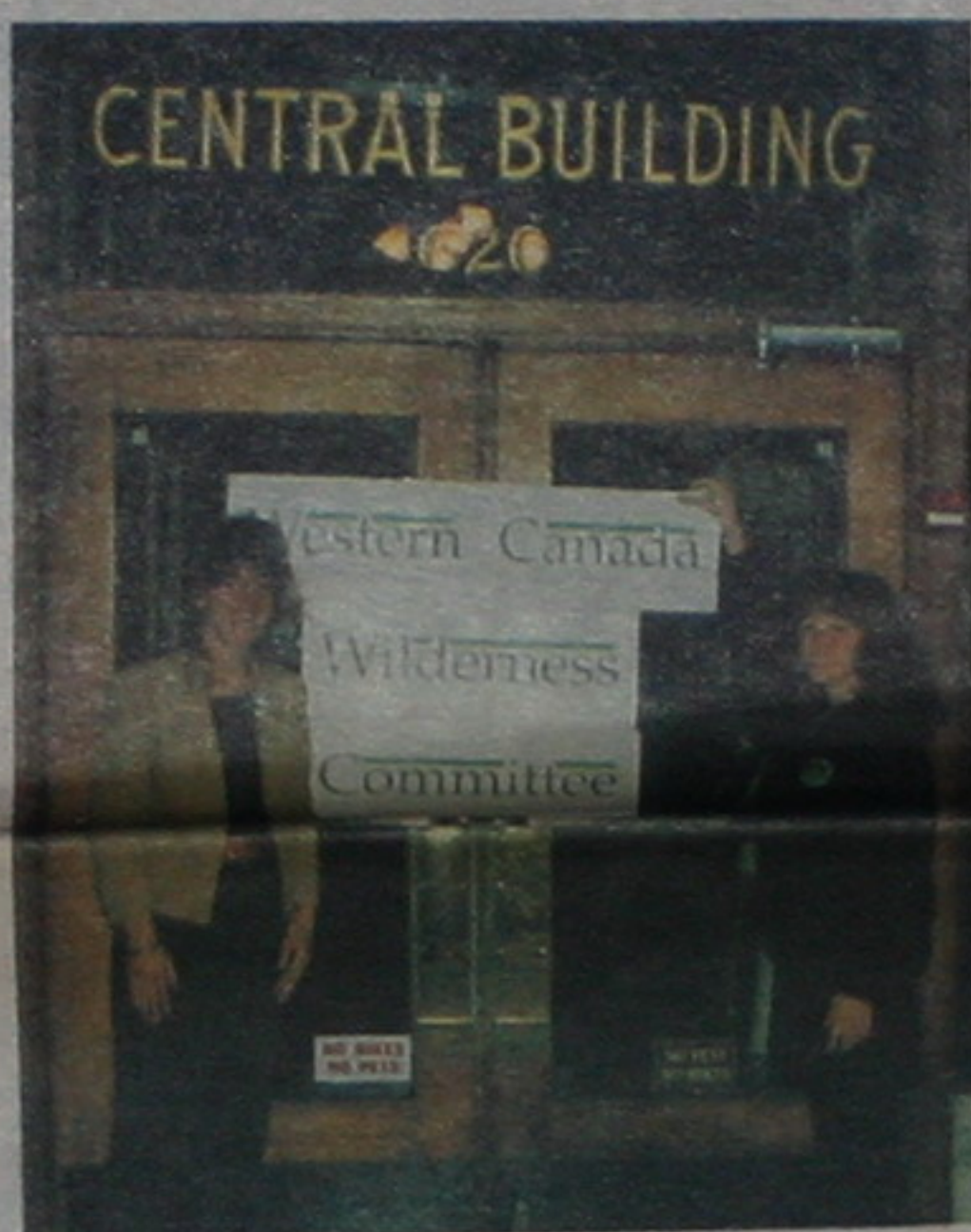
We also published the results of the Sooke Hills biodiversity inventory undertaken by prominent B.C. biologists on three of the watersheds in the Sooke Hills. The inventory revealed a higher-than-expected diversity in plant species in the area as well as an unexpectedly high number of species that are 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 Sihota, 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!



Misty and Allison in front of new office location.

We hope to celebrate soon. Watch for an announcement of a new Sooke Hills park and a final victory presentation of our popular show, *Sooke Hills - the Musical*.

We've moved to 620 View Street

After six years in Bastion Square, WCWC's Victoria office and store have moved to the Central Building (620 View Street, Suite 507). It's in the same building where WCWC opened its very first office in the early 1980s! Come in and meet our new store manager and volunteer coordinator, Jessica Snider. Check out our big, big sale on posters and WCWC products. Watch for our mobile store (Wilderness on Wheels) at recreation centres and malls around town...special thanks to volunteer Marnie Philips and family!

Thanks for your support!

Support for the work of the Victoria Chapter on local campaigns like the Sooke Hills is almost entirely raised by our door-to-door community canvass and membership mailouts. When a WCWC canvasser comes to your door this year please renew your WCWC membership so that we can continue to protect Vancouver Island wilderness. We send a very special thanks to all our volunteers, canvassers, members and donors for supporting us through this very active campaign year! Thanks for coming out to events and writing letters to government!

To reach us any time call Alison Spriggs or Misty MacDuffee at 250-388-9292. Visit our office and store at 507-620 View Street in Victoria or contact us by e-mail: wc2vic@islandnet.com.

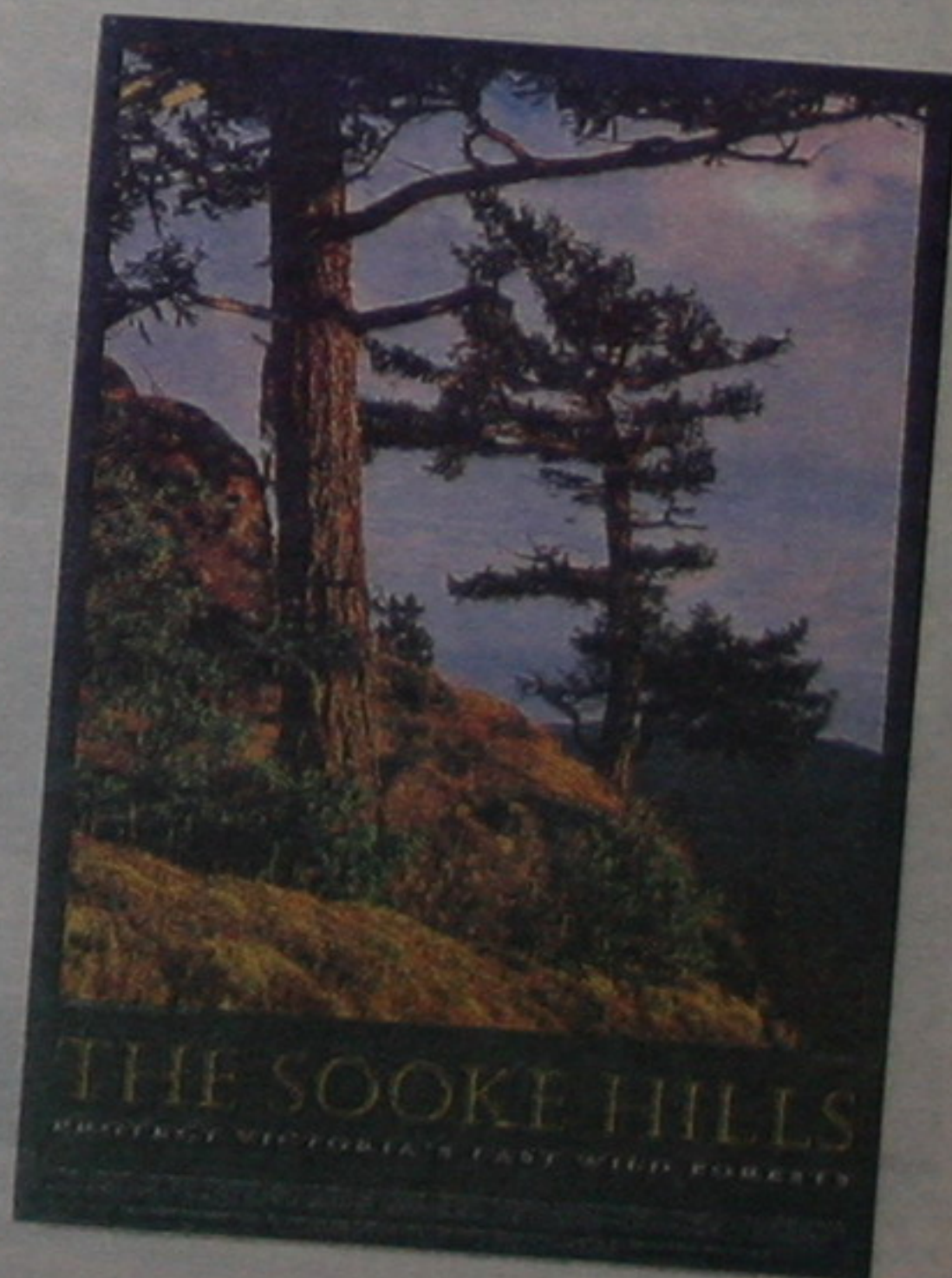
Our Victoria Chapter Wish List

a good photocopier
plain paper fax machine
28-8 modem
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 MLAs and municipal candidates. Stop by our store to purchase one or more! They're only \$8...a perfect gift!



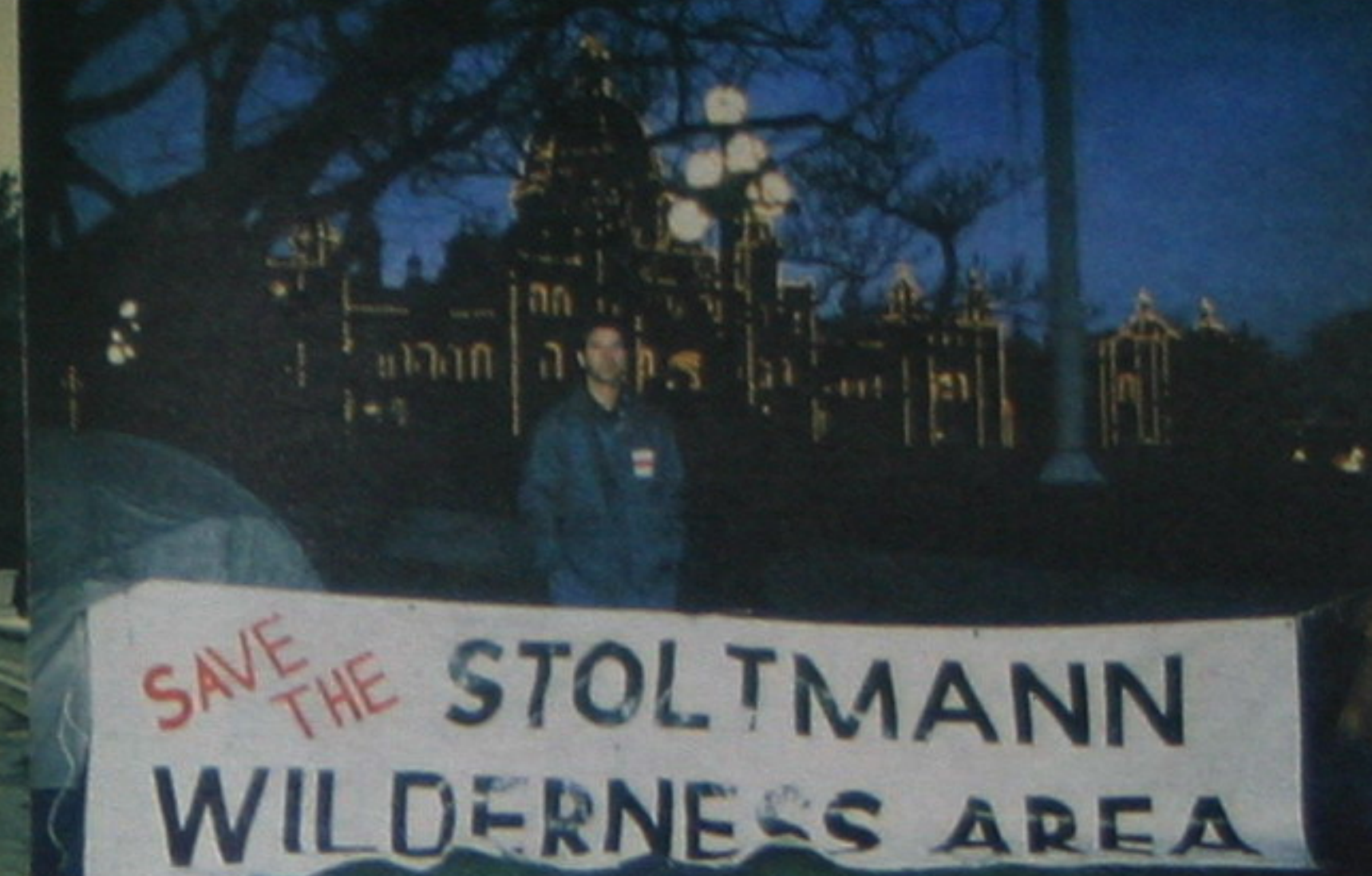
1996 - A year of increased WCWC activism and cooperation to protect our precious wilderness heritage!



On November 22, 1995 WCWC volunteers and staff celebrate the B.C. government's announcement that the Stein Valley is now a Class A Park.



Andy Miller, WCWC Spotted Owl campaigner, fights for parks to protect the owls' old growth forest habitat in B.C.



Left - WCWC's Andrea Reimer takes a turn towing our floating tent, protesting un-public RPAC process at the B.C. Legislature. Above - for two long months WCWC demonstrates for full Stoltmann preservation and open public meetings on Lower Mainland parks.



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



WCWC uses every opportunity to oppose the closed-door RPAC process and press for full Stoltmann preservation and public meetings about new Lower Mainland parks. Protests include (far left) on the Legislature lawns and (near left) at RPAC's secret meeting on Vancouver Island last winter.



WCWC celebrates summer solstice with Bill Devall, "father of deep ecology", leading a Council of All Beings on the Victoria Legislature lawn. Artist Evelyn Roth brings her inflatable salmon and costumes for children...and daring adults...to wear. The weather was perfect.



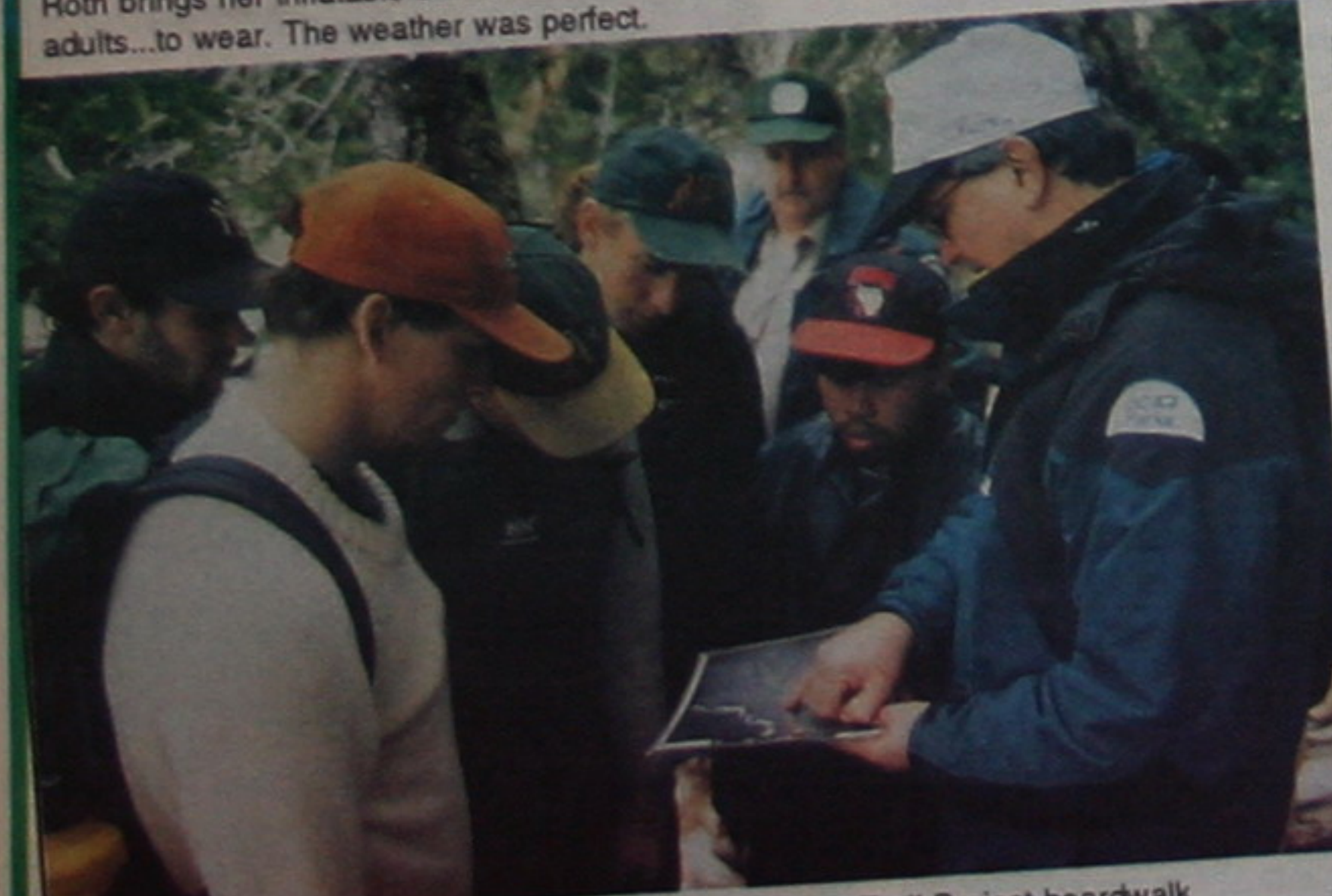
Summer snow in 1996, greets WCWC volunteer "lopper crew" along the Stoltmann Hiking Route.



UTV films artist Jack Campbell at WCWC Stoltmann Wilderness artist camp-out, summer of 1996.

Doug Carter, staunch Stoltmann Wilderness volunteer, poses by ancient Douglas fir veterans that populate the rainforest in the Upper Elaho. Of the Stoltmann Wilderness' four large valleys, the Elaho has the richest forests. The October, 1996 B.C. government decision on Lower Mainland parks opened up the Elaho to logging.

InterFor blasts road into the Upper Elaho Valley while volunteer artists attend WCWC artists' camp-out to help save the Stoltmann Wilderness. WCWC continues to press court case contending the road (above) is illegal.



B.C. Parks official reviews Ahousaht Wild Side Heritage Trail Project boardwalk route with youth participants on Flores Island, Clayoquot Sound in April 1996.



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



Tony Briggs, WCWC volunteer carpenter, and Betsy "Bear" Keitlah, Ahousaht project cook, help put up tent frames for the 20 youth working on our joint Ahousaht Wild Side Heritage Trail and Ecotourism project.



Anthony Marr, WCWC's BETR Campaign director and tireless fighter for endangered species, at work.



In November, WCWC volunteers take the "Bear Care-A-Van" to northern B.C. in support of the Initiative Petition to ban bear hunting.

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 Ecoregion. 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 (5 minutes from downtown Parksville) and the 134 hectare Morison 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 northern-most habitat of the Hairy Manzanita, 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 cruising 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-Bonnel 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.



Oldgrowth forest in downtown Qualicum.



Small fry coho and crayfish in urban stream.

Streamkeepers

In the summer of 1995 our Mid-Island Chapter helped form the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers Society. Throughout 1996 we spent many weekends out in the woods monitoring and assessing stream quality and teaching these skills to others. Our goal is to protect and restore our region's wild streams.

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

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!



WCWC Mid-Island Executive.

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 Sinixt 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

Yoichi Kuroda, 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



The "Flats" are the oldgrowth-forested benchlands directly above New Denver along Slocan Lake in the Kootenays.

into New Denver Flats, I was struck by the beauty of the oldgrowth forest," Yoichi 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." Yoichi 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.

Jumbo Pass

The Jumbo Pass proposed ski development is still of great concern to our West Kootenay Chapter. A new application for a commercial backcountry recreation license by Radium Hot Spring Glacier Skiing Ltd. (R.K. Heli-Ski Panomara Inc.) into sensitive alpine areas threatens local wildlife as well as the survival of the threatened grizzly population.

We always need more help!

To help out on any of our West Kootenay Chapter campaigns contact Marilyn Burgoon at R.R. 1, Group 16, C9, Winlaw, BC V0G 2J0. Phone 250-226-7324.

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 wilderness issues, and monitoring 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 White section of the trail. For 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, now WCWC's Vancouver 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. Because 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!

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 25018 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 Blackie's Spit on 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 BET'R/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 Stoltmann 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 Simon 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 trail routes. His photographic documentation of bad logging practices was featured in many WCWC educational papers. 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 Wareing measuring big trees in Carmanah Valley.

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.



Ralf Kelman in front of big Douglas fir.

Amazingly big and tall old trees found less than ten kilometres away from downtown Vancouver

A partially logged valley on Vancouver's North Shore abounds with groves of giant ancient cedars and Douglas firs. Designated as the Seymour Demonstration Forest about ten years ago, recent research by a big tree enthusiast leads us to believe that its higher use would be a park. There are enough demonstrations of logging in the province and no city has such a fabulous recreational resource so close to its centre.

Ralf Kelman, an artist who searches for big trees, has spent the last few years systematically exploring the Seymour Valley area and flagging hiking routes to its groves of big trees, including ones that are near-world-record-sized for their species. The 300-foot-tall Douglas fir (shown in photo above) is one of several such giants found in a grove Kelman calls the "Temple of Time".

WCWC plans to publish a hiking guide map to these groves in the spring of 1997 as part of a campaign to end all logging in the area and have it designated as a regional park.

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 prime 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 lead 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 forest 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 owls' low elevation oldgrowth habitat has been logged. At the current rate of logging all of B.C.'s unprotected spotted owl habitat will be irreparably fragmented within 5 years. Most scientists say that, in order to avoid extirpation (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.



WCWC's International WILD (Wilderness Is the Last Dream) Campaign was launched in 1988-89 with the vision of establishing a network of groups dedicated to identifying and protecting the world's remaining natural ecosystems. WCWC's Adriane Carr and Sue Fox, part of the group who originally founded WILD, maintain the vision and communications for WCWC's international work.

WILD's global mapping project was launched in 1990 through a conference we held in Hawaii, attended by 150 people from 26 different countries. From 1991 to 1993, WCWC worked with partner groups from 9 Latin American countries, supported by a grant from the **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)** to produce a set of maps that would help them in their campaigns to protect indigenous homelands and wild ecosystems.

WCWC's WILD Campaign team continues to work on a mapping project with Pro Naturaleza of Peru (formerly the Fundacion Peruana para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza). Funded by Canada's **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**, the goal of the project is to collect, map and analyze information regarding the remaining natural ecosystems in the Andes, including the traditional, sustainable use of these ecosystems. The resultant information is being forwarded to a working group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) that is preparing a U.N. Biosphere Reserve proposal and land use plan to protect the natural ecology of the Andes region.

In 1996 WCWC wrapped up three years of working with two Chilean partner groups towards the protection of Chile's ancient temperate forests: Fundacion Lahuen and Comité Nacional Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora (CODEFF/Friends of Earth Chile). This **CIDA-funded** project achieved some great results.

- Our Chilean partners produced, for the first time, three posters featuring the awesome beauty of Chile's ancient temperate forests. The posters are being used to raise funds and increase public and political support for the protection of wild forests. Thirty media turned out to the release of CODEFF's *Protect Chile's Forests* poster!
- CODEFF also co-produced with WCWC its first WCWC-style newspaper, about the crisis in forest management in Chile. Released in the spring of 1996, 30,000 copies are being distributed within Chile and internationally.
- Fundacion Lahuen has worked at the local level developing community capacity and involvement in ecotourism near a nature reserve (the Capi Sanctuary) that they helped establish. Five guides and at least a dozen spin-off services are now sustained by the new ecotourism activity.

In the summer of 1996, WCWC was awarded a new **CIDA** grant, working with **Tiger Trust** of India, a partner group we first met at our 1990 WILD conference in Hawaii. This project will support Tiger Trust's work to save the endangered Bengal Tiger and will be coordinated by Anthony Marr, WCWC's BET'R Campaign Director.

The BET'R Campaign

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

Chinatown News - *Chinese environmentalist 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.*

Richmond News - *"As Chinese people we have to shed old ways and modernize ourselves. Part of this process is to get rid of environmentally unsound 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 spat 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. Unless Marr is very successful, 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, or Feng Shui over trees. 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, yes, but 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 Magee 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.' I want them alive."*

Sing Tao Daily News - *Former geophysicist takes 25% pay cut to save animals: When asked why, he said simply, "This 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. Anthony chose these four species groups 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 adopt 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 but short term, attacking poaching, trafficking 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 media 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 offence..." In early June of 1996, the minister made good his word and these products 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 CIDA (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 a mobile educational centre 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 Members and Supporters:

WCWC's Executive Team was not happy with the financial results for 1996. After three consecutive years of surpluses, in 1995-1996 we posted a deficit of \$60,000. Revenue declined \$240,000 while expenses were only curtailed by \$104,000. Cash balances declined by \$30,000, and members' equity was put into the negative by \$28,000. All WCWC branches and chapters posted a deficit. A number of factors combined to bring about this situation:

1. Sales of goods declined by \$100,000, primarily due to the fact that our inventory now no longer includes many "high value" items such as books;
2. High paper costs boosted our calendar costs by about \$15,000;
3. Private grant funding was down in the main office, our Alberta branch, and the West Kootenay chapter;
4. The Bonnie Raitt benefit-reception we enjoyed last year along with its \$12,000 net profit did not reoccur;
5. The Ottawa branch closing meant a revenue drop of \$9,000 and a \$4500 write-off;
6. WCWC's Main office spent \$36,000 more on newspapers and mailouts over the previous year but total mail receipts actually declined by \$48,000.

Fortunately, there were some bright spots in the picture:

- Our Toronto and Vancouver canvasses, and our Water Street store all improved their performance;
- Our balance sheet is now quite conservative in accounting terms: our inventory is now valued much below its ultimate sales value; our fixed assets (e.g. computers and vehicles) are carried on the books well below replacement cost. This will mean proportionately lower costs in future periods.
- Finally, a substantial portion of this year's loss is due to non-recurring accounting entries charged to the 1996 fiscal year.

On the administrative front, we have continued to implement improvements:

- For the first time in Wilderness Committee history, audited financial statements were available in time for the AGM in September;
- The cost of the audit was reduced from \$27,000 last year to \$10,300 this year;
- The main office computer network was up-graded, greatly increasing administrative speed and efficiency;
- 4 years of GST returns were corrected: so that our previously reported \$14,000 GST liability became an \$8,000 refund.

The deficit in the 1995 - 1996 year has also served as a wakeup call to the WCWC Executive Team. We are now more resolved than ever to eliminate the 1996 deficit, and, as soon as this is achieved, to begin systematically generating annual surpluses so that reserves for calendar costs, economic downturns, and emergencies can be established. To do this we have implemented the following policies:

1. Rolled back salaries 5% in March, and 5% more in August;
2. Frozen capital spending including lease purchases;
3. Cut back budgets for calendars, catalogue and other merchandise by \$23,000;
4. Revved up canvasses in Calgary and Victoria and doubled the Vancouver Canvass;
5. Increased store sales with an emphasis on selling higher margin, WCWC products;
6. Encouraged greater self-sufficiency in our branches;

As I write this, 6 months into our 1996 - 97 fiscal year, we are on course toward achieving our financial goals. Revenues are up over \$200,000 over the same period last year at Main Office, and the bottom line has improved \$37,000. With our members continued wonderful support, and the ongoing incredible efforts of WCWC staff and invaluable volunteers, I look forward to writing a much happier financial report next year.

Sincerely,

Brian Conner, CMA
Comptroller

Photo top: WCWC Accounting Department - Mona Lisa Amirsetia, Jeremy Hoey and Brian Conner.

WCWC Executive Team - Joe Foy, Brian Conner, Adriane Carr and Paul George.



WCWC COMPARATIVE INCOME STATEMENT 1991 - 1996

	Audited 1996	Audited 1995	Reviewed 1994	Reviewed 1993	Reviewed 1992	Reviewed 1991
Revenue:						
MEMBERSHIPS	\$416,005	\$439,346	\$406,211	\$340,293	\$342,282	\$433,028
DONATIONS, GRANTS	\$858,216	\$888,281	\$1,208,478	\$717,639	\$814,405	\$1,319,051
SALE OF GOODS	\$318,085	\$417,228	\$646,161	\$692,881	\$727,265	\$990,142
EVENT RECEIPTS	\$43,920	\$22,348				
SPECIAL PROJECTS	\$1,936	\$111,470	\$6,347			\$84,807
	\$1,638,162	\$1,878,673	\$2,267,197	\$1,750,813	\$1,883,952	\$2,827,028
Expenditure:						
SPECIAL PROJECTS	\$2,888	\$154,544	\$32,312	\$3,281	\$105,469	\$1,049,953
EDUCATION, PUBLICATION, PRODUCTS	\$281,782	\$424,034	\$538,311	\$684,806	\$870,962	\$924,651
CAMPAIGN, MEMBERSHIP, FUND RAISING	\$1,179,974	\$940,052	\$1,073,128	\$493,714	\$685,719	\$452,787
OPERATIONS	\$229,603	\$284,290	\$554,000	\$472,916	\$555,475	\$411,670
OTTAWA BRANCH SHUTDOWN	\$4,480	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$1,698,727	\$1,802,920	\$2,197,751	\$1,654,717	\$2,217,625	\$2,839,061
Net Income	(\$60,565)	\$75,753	\$69,446	\$96,096	(\$333,673)	(\$12,833)
Members' Equity/Deficiency, Opening	\$32,386	(\$43,369)	(\$112,815)	(\$208,911)	\$124,762	\$136,795
Members' Equity/Deficiency, Closing	(\$28,179)	\$32,386	(\$43,369)	(\$112,815)	(\$208,911)	\$124,762



BDO

BDO Chartered Accountants and Consultants

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300 - 100 Bannockburn Street
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Auditors' Report

To The Members of
Western Canada Wilderness Committee

We have audited the Balance Sheet of Western Canada Wilderness Committee as at 30 April 1996 and the Statements of Revenue, Expenditure and Members' Deficiency 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.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, the Committee derives a portion of its revenue from membership dues, contributions and donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Committee and we were not able to determine whether any adjustment might be necessary to membership dues, contributions and donations revenue, excess of revenue (deficiency) over expenditure, assets and members' equity.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to completely verify membership dues, contributions and donations as explained in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Committee as at 30 April 1996 and the results of its financial operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The comparative figures were reported upon by other auditors.

Vancouver, British Columbia
25 July 1996

BDO Chartered Accountants
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Western Canada Wilderness Committee Balance Sheet

30 April	1996	1995
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 34,972	\$ 70,325
Accounts receivable	3,406	21,443
Inventory	117,530	160,503
Prepaid expenses	3,754	4,432
	159,662	256,703
Capital assets, note 1	37,618	30,842
	\$197,280	\$287,545
Liabilities		
Current		
Bank indebtedness, note 2	\$ 1,814	\$ 8,274
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	194,743	215,016
Note payable, note 3	28,902	31,869
	225,459	255,159
Members' equity (deficiency)		
Members' equity (deficit)	(28,179)	32,386
	\$197,280	\$287,545

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

Approved on behalf of the Board:

Robert S. Bragdon Director
Mona Lisa Amirsetia Director

Western Canada Wilderness Committee Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Members' Deficiency

For the Year Ended 30 April	1996	1995
Revenue		
Membership dues	\$416,005	\$439,346
Contributions and donations	858,216	888,281
Sales of educational material	318,085	417,228
Special projects	43,920	111,470
Admission to educational events	1,936	22,348
	1,638,162	1,878,673
Expenditure		
Special projects	2,888	154,544
Education, publication and products	281,782	424,034
Campaign, membership and fund raising	1,179,974	940,052
Operations	229,603	284,290
Costs associated with wind-up of Ottawa Branch	4,480	
	1,698,727	1,802,920
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditure	(60,565)	75,753
Members' equity (deficiency), beginning of year	32,386	(43,367)
Members' equity (deficiency), end of year	\$ (28,179)	\$ 32,386

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

WCWC Gastown Store



Tina Knowlan joined us as our 20 Water Street Store Manager in May of 1996 when our long-time manager Chantelle Percy returned to school. Our dedicated store staff continuously put the word out about all of WCWC's campaigns to the thousands of people who visit the store. In the first six months of 1996 we increased revenues by 13 percent over last year during the same period. WCWC's posters and cards are the store's most popular items. With our members' support, we anticipate a great 1996 holiday season!

Maureen Fraser wins 1996 Eugene Rogers Environment Award

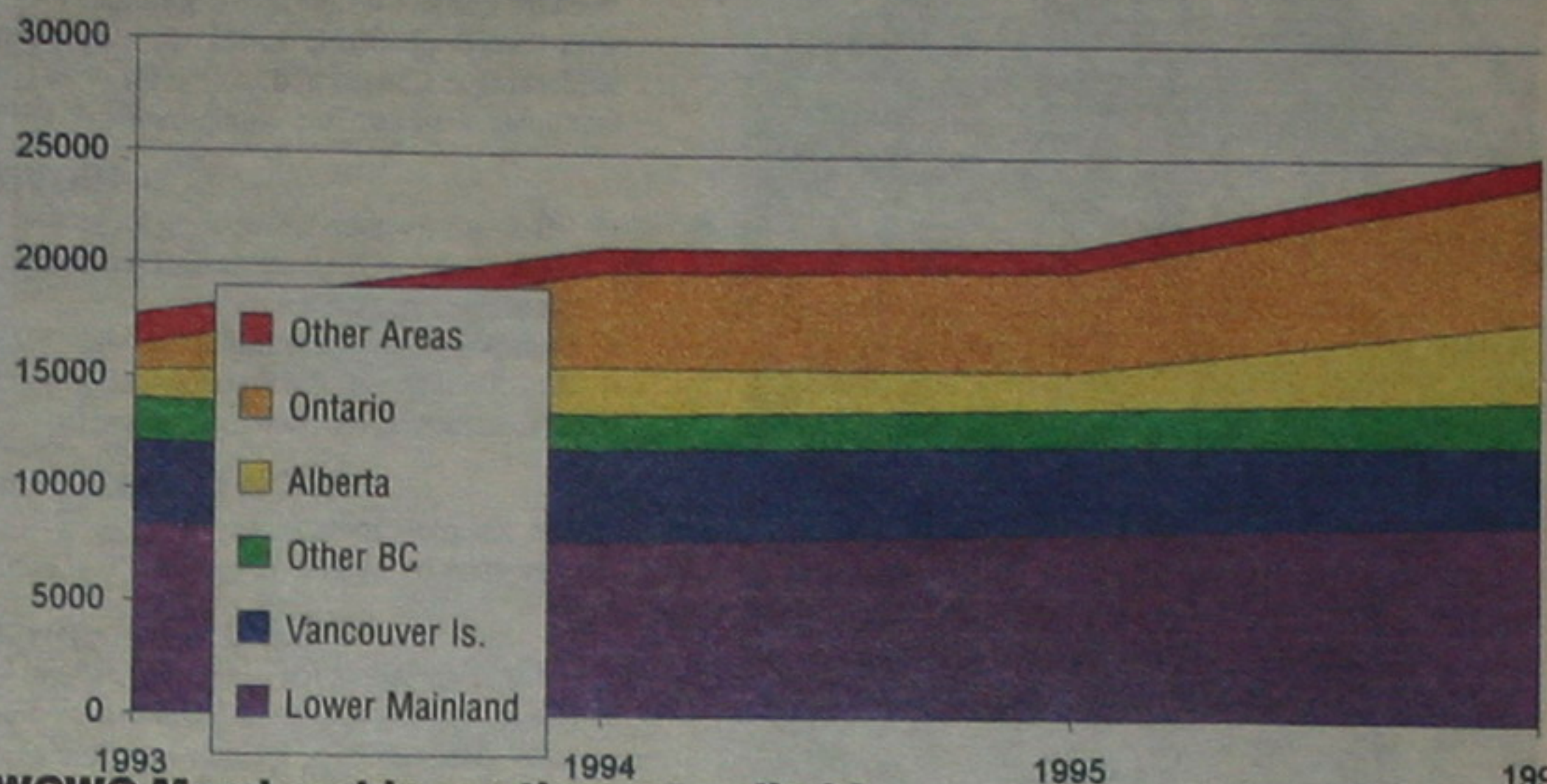
The prestigious Eugene Rogers award is presented annually by the Wilderness Committee and the United Nations Association of Vancouver to an outstanding B.C. citizen working to protect the environment. The 1996 recipient is Maureen Fraser, selected because of her years of steadfast community work in Tofino—building 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 Hellman for their work to preserve the Cariboo Mountains Wilderness, including the gravely threatened Penfold Valley; and last year to Danny Gerak for his courageous work to protect the Boise and Pitt River Valleys.



Toronto Canvass: Left to right, back row: Ken Hudson, Tom Artiss, Chris Mills, Megan Reiter, Chris Prior, Michelle Groskopf, Gillian Stecyk. Front Row: Sue Froom, Alison Chan, Jeremy Le Baron, Brad Batten. Not present: Juno Mills-Cockell and Eric Buchanan. Photo John Yates.

WCWC Membership Distribution 1993-96



WCWC Membership continues to climb!

1996 has been a great year for membership in WCWC. We have consistently achieved a 55 percent renewal rate (up from 18 percent in 1992), brought in more new members, especially with new canvasses in the Okanagan and Calgary, and continued to upgrade more members to Sustaining-Family members. In June of 1996, WCWC's Board of Directors decided to count Sustaining-Family members as two members, a standard practice by other groups. It more accurately reflects the total number of people represented by membership dollars. Our current membership, including the members "not in good standing" (the up-to-one-year-lapsed members we are legally obligated to service) is now 25,214.

In the first six months of the 1996/97 financial year we raised \$7,000 more in membership revenues than in the same period last year. With better membership servicing, stronger campaigns, and expanded canvasses, we believe our membership could reach 30,000 by December of 1997!

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. But 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 sleet, 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 Stoltmann 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."



Vancouver Canvass Team: Left to right, back row: Adam Ballagh, Jayme Stone, Suko Thanh, Corrina Vangerwen, John Murray, Tim Murphy, Chris Ruttan. Front row: Vance Reidy, Ken Wu, Nkoya Fitzpatrick and Paul Ferarra. Not present: Tina Symko, Tom Wysom, Tom Anselmi, Arizona Meslier and Garry Sarina.



Kerry Dawson, WCWC Stoltmann Campaigner, by the Elaho Giant in the Stoltmann Wilderness.

WCWC Wish List

Regarding our requests...if you wouldn't give it to your mother, daughter, husband, or son, please don't give it to us!

Trail Gear

- zodiac - with all its floor boards and no holes - a good motor, and safe lifejackets.
- Spilsbury single side band radio
- chainsaws in good running condition
- come along jack (for bridge building)
- loppers to replace the 12 pairs stolen from our office storage area
- good quality cooking gear (for lots of people)
- climbing gear (to get to the rainforest canopy)
- good quality tents, raingear, sleeping bags, and backpacks to keep our volunteers comfortable!

Slideshows & Rallies

- portable screen
- dissolve unit
- laser pointer
- megaphone
- video camera

Other Stuff

- winning lottery ticket
- 40,000 members... 1,000 for each % of B.C. wilderness that needs preservation!

Office Equipment

- flatbed/slide scanner
- paper cutter
- folding machine
- desktop photocopier
- laser fax machines
- IBM 486+ computer w/28,800 baud modem
- waxer
- desktop light table
- more RAM
- free office space!

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 individuals 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.



Paul George, Adriane Carr, Joe Foy and Sue Fox in WCWC's production room.



1996 WCWC educational newspapers. Since 1981 WCWC has published 112 newspapers totalling 7,733,500 copies.

WILDERNESS CANNOT BE COMPROMISED...IT'S A LEGACY WE NEED TO SUSTAIN LIFE ON EARTH

- ☐ YES, I want to help WCWC 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 other to help WCWC win all its campaigns to protect and preserve wilderness.

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

I want to ☐ renew my WCWC membership ☐ become a WCWC 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 WCWC's monthly giving program.

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

Name (please print) _____ Address _____
City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____ Phone _____

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

Credits

Published by Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC), 20 Water Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6B 1A4. Tel: (604) 683-8220 Fax: (604) 683-8229 E-Mail: wc2wild@web.net

WCWC is a non-profit charitable society dedicated to winning wilderness preservation. Writing: Adriane Carr, Joe Foy, Paul George, Anthony Marr, WCWC Branch & Chapter representatives and other WCWC staff. Editing: Adriane Carr. Proofreading: Kerry Dawson. Design/Layout: Sue Fox. Production Assistance: Andrea Reimer. Photos: Kerry Dawson, Joe Foy and many others. Thanks to all our photographers!

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