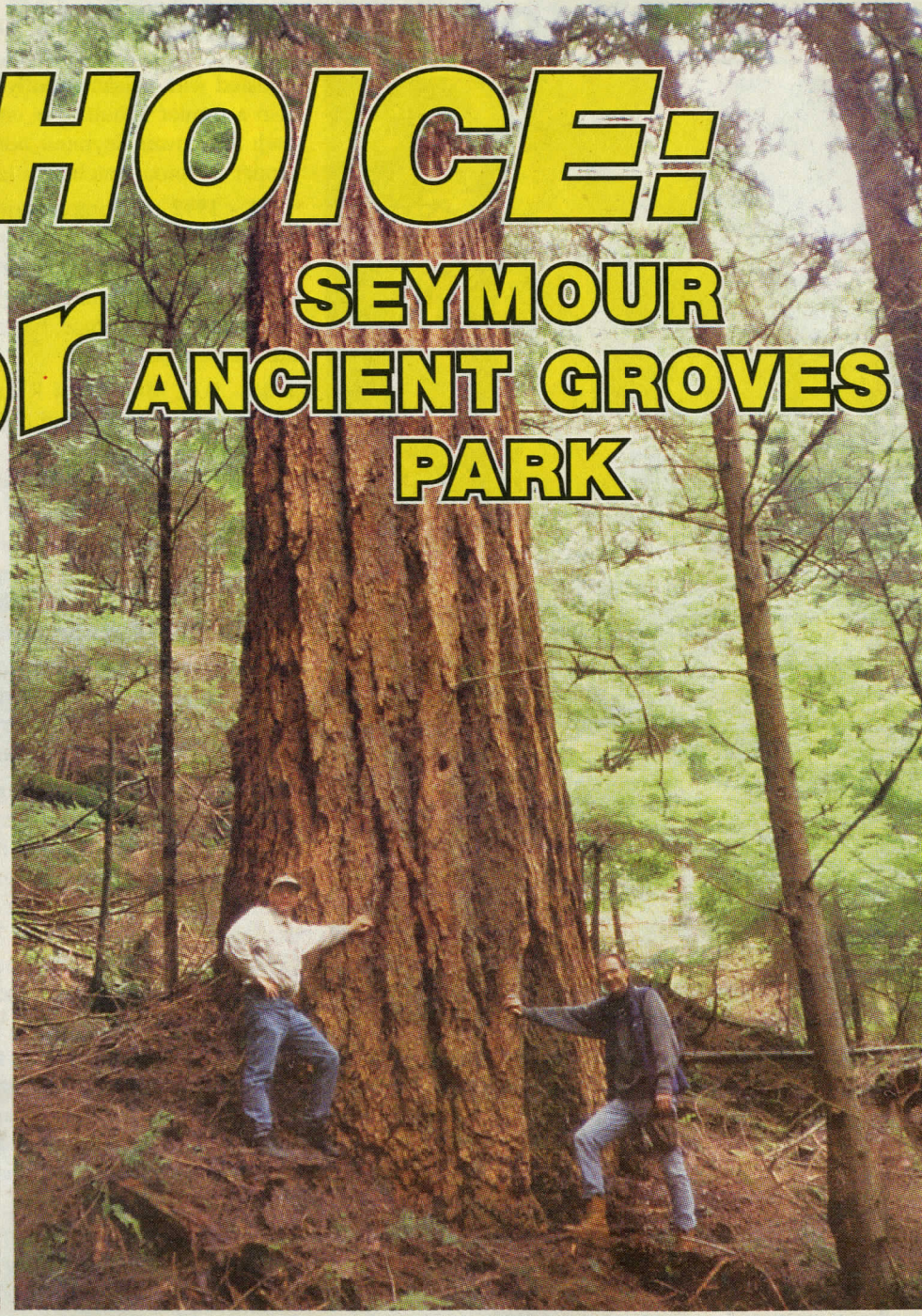
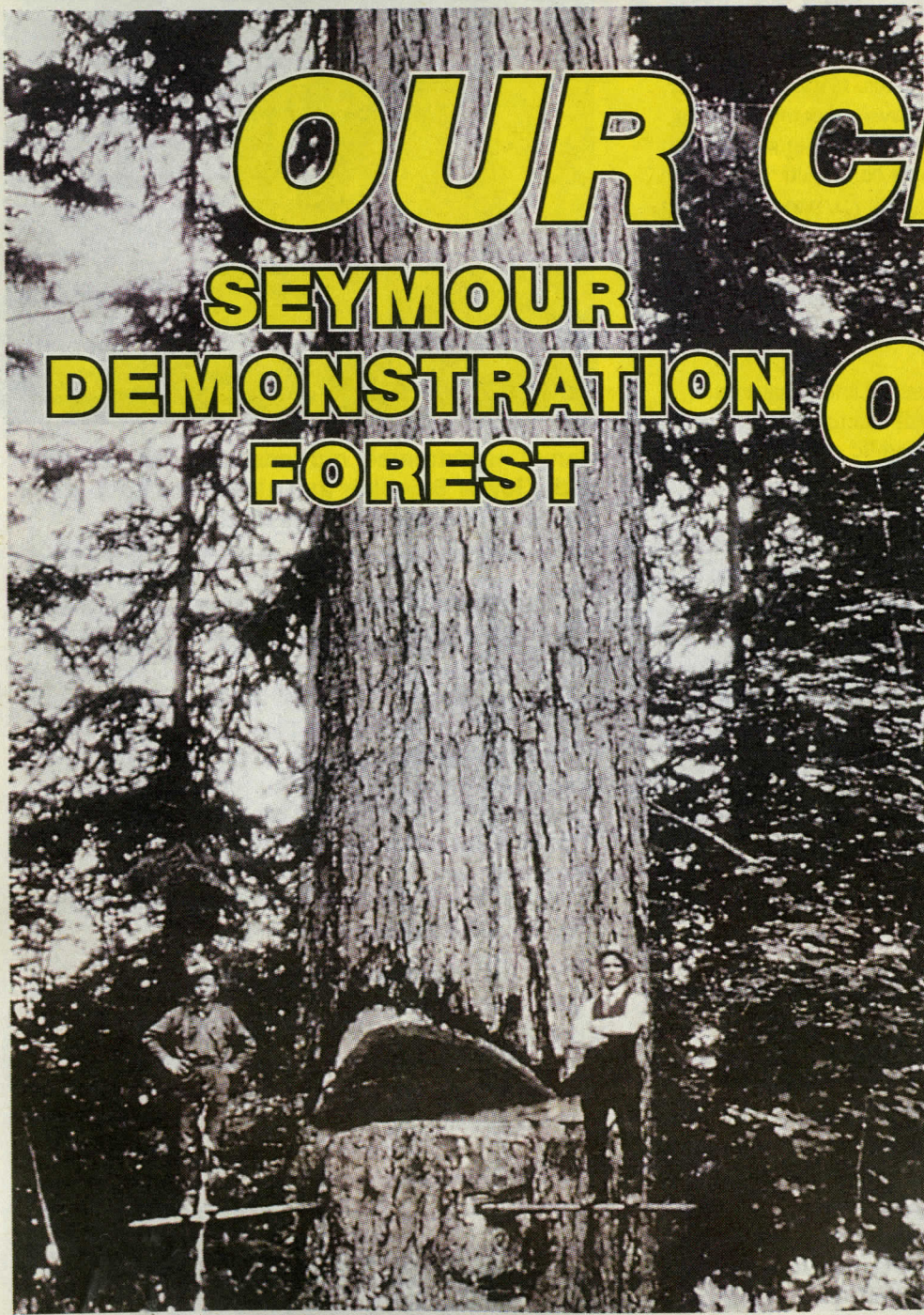


OUR CHOICE:

**SEYMOUR
DEMONSTRATION
FOREST**

or

**SEYMOUR
ANCIENT GROVES
PARK**



AN INCREDIBLE RAINFOREST WITH GROVES OF IMMENSE TREES ON VANCOUVER'S DOORSTEP--TO PLUNDER OR PRESERVE?

It is hard to believe that right on Vancouver's doorstep are some of the finest groves of ancient temperate rainforest imaginable. Less than a one-half hour bus ride from downtown Vancouver grow behemoth trees 3 to 4 metres in diameter towering 80 to 95 meters high--taller than 25-storey-high buildings and bigger than any others left in B.C. These huge ancient trees are found in an area known by locals as the Seymour Valley. Sandwiched between the Upper Lynn Valley Regional Park and Mt. Seymour Provincial Park, the Seymour Valley forests are not currently protected. They are part of the lands managed by the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD). But they are "off-catchment" lands--their water flow isn't being collected for Greater Vancouver's drinking water. And the GVWD says they'll never be needed because a lower Seymour dam is not cost effective.

Since early this century, citizens have clashed over whether the area should be protected or logged. Extensive clearcut logging began in the 1960s after the GVWD hired forestry consultants to give it advice and the upper Seymour dam was built, leaving the Lower Seymour lands as "off-catchment" and ripe for logging exploitation.

Ten years ago the GVWD bowed to forest industry pressure to have these publicly-owned lands managed as a "Demonstration Forest" rather than a park. There was no public consultation. The goal of the Demonstration Forest is to log the oldgrowth forest and show the public that industrial forestry's management for "multiple use" works.



Paton Creek ancient cedar grove in a proposed cut block near the Seymour Dam water intake.

The big trees that thrive in the Seymour Forest are a well kept secret. Most citizens don't even know that these trees exist, let alone that they are accessible by city bus and a day's hike. **Imagine the Seymour Valley as a park:** a protected place where city dwellers find solitude and inspiration. A place where ordinary people experience healthy, thousand-year-old trees. A place where these trees, amongst the oldest, largest living beings on Earth, are safe from harm, for future generations to enjoy. You can make it happen.



Very tall firs grow along Meyers Creek in centre of photo. Note huge burn from escaped logging fire just showing on top right side of photo.

A THIRD OF OLDGROWTH SURVIVES

About one-third of the 5,200 hectare Seymour Ancient Groves area still has its original ancient forest intact. And not all of the Seymour's second growth forests are even-aged plantations like those found after clearcutting today. Some of the forests have "veterans" that were left as seed trees. In other areas, only one tree species was selectively cut 70 years ago, leaving the rest of the forest to thrive.

Some of the logging, especially in the lower end of the Seymour Valley, took place at the beginning of this century. Here, the more productive valley bottom soils have exceptional fertility. Now these 80+ year-old naturally-regenerated second growth rainforests are beautiful. Many of the trees, if left to flourish, are potential record-sized giants-to-be a few hundred years in the future.

Artist searches for giant trees

For the last seven years, Ralf Kelman, an artist fascinated by the rich, ancient rainforest ecosystem, has devoted his spare time to searching the lower Seymour Valley for big trees, and then flagging hiking routes to the groves of giant firs and cedars he has found. It's a big job, for the area is 13 times the size of Vancouver's world-famous Stanley Park. Many of the hiking routes featured on WCWC's map (see centrefold) were pioneered by Ralf who believes that this legacy must be preserved.

This is what Ralf Kelman has to say:

"As a child I played on the banks of the Seymour River. Our family picnicked there often. My father, Earl Kelman, loved the mountains and the Seymour Valley and recognized their great natural attractions and recreational potential. An IWA shop steward, he originally was a supporter of Jack Munro, but ultimately became disenchanted with the raw log exports, the undervaluation of increasingly rare oldgrowth timber and the destruction of our magnificent forest legacy."

Valley are privately purchased for future logging.

1906 - Vancouver is concerned about its water supply and the provincial government places a reserve on the remaining unalienated lands in the Seymour for future water supply protection.

1907 - Some Vancouver City Council members predict that the undeveloped Seymour Valley might eventually become a "magnificent" tourist attraction.

1908 - City of Vancouver taps Seymour River as a water supply.

1913 - 1914 - The Provincial Water Rights Branch and the Ministry of Forests conduct a study of the Seymour Valley and recommend that the Seymour Forest be protected from logging.

1915 - 1917 - Greater Vancouver medical health officers petition the government to protect the Lower Seymour Valley from future logging and human contamination.

1924 - E.A. Cleveland, the provincial water comptroller, says in a speech to the Engineering Institute: "The watersheds on the north shore are a heritage for this whole area....To allow anybody to get entrenched on Seymour Creek with logging and shingling operations would be almost criminal."

1926 onwards - The Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) is formed. Its mandate: to protect the Seymour, Capilano and Coquitlam watersheds from logging and mining interests. Private unlogged lands above and logged areas below the Seymour water intake are purchased by the GVWD and the provincial government leases all the Crown lands to the GVWD for a term of 999 years. The Seymour watershed is placed under restricted entry. E.A. Cleveland was the GVWD Commissioner from 1926-1952.

1928 - Small dam and reservoir completed at Seymour Falls.

1953 - 1956 - GVWD hires forestry consultant C.D. Schultz Co. to provide an inventory of the Seymour and two other watersheds (Capilano and Coquitlam). The Schultz company recommends that sustained yield logging occur in all watersheds and that off-catchment lands, such as the Lower Seymour, be logged immediately as pilot projects.

1958 -1960 - Current dam on the Seymour constructed. Forest cleared for reservoir by former Schultz Co. employees. Foresters announce that amabilis (balsam) fir

1995 - Plans are unveiled by the Seymour Advisory Committee to log the Demonstration Forest on a sustained yield basis, pending an "ecological inventory".

1996 - "Don't use the word park. We've just battled for two and a half years to avoid that designation," says Don Lanskail, chair of Seymour Advisory Committee and former president of the Council of Forest Industries, at a Seymour Advisory Committee meeting.



A nearly 300' tall 8' diameter Douglas fir on Meyers Creek on the "Will Koop" Trail by the 7 kilometre marker on the Seymour Mainline road.

managers is to log the area, including its remaining world-class giant trees. But you would never know this from reading their brochures which stress nature walks, educational talks on native plant use, a butterfly garden, fisheries enhancement and other activities normally associated with a park.

Nary a mention is made of the prime purpose of the Seymour Demonstration Forest: to demonstrate active logging. In 1993, when environmentalists discovered that some of the best oldgrowth trees were targeted for logging, they created a public outcry that forced the plans to be scrapped. Since then, little logging has taken place. But in the spring of 1997, the Demonstration Forest managers again presented an aggressive logging plan, the 1995 Bell-Irving Report, which was rejected by the GVRD Board two years ago.

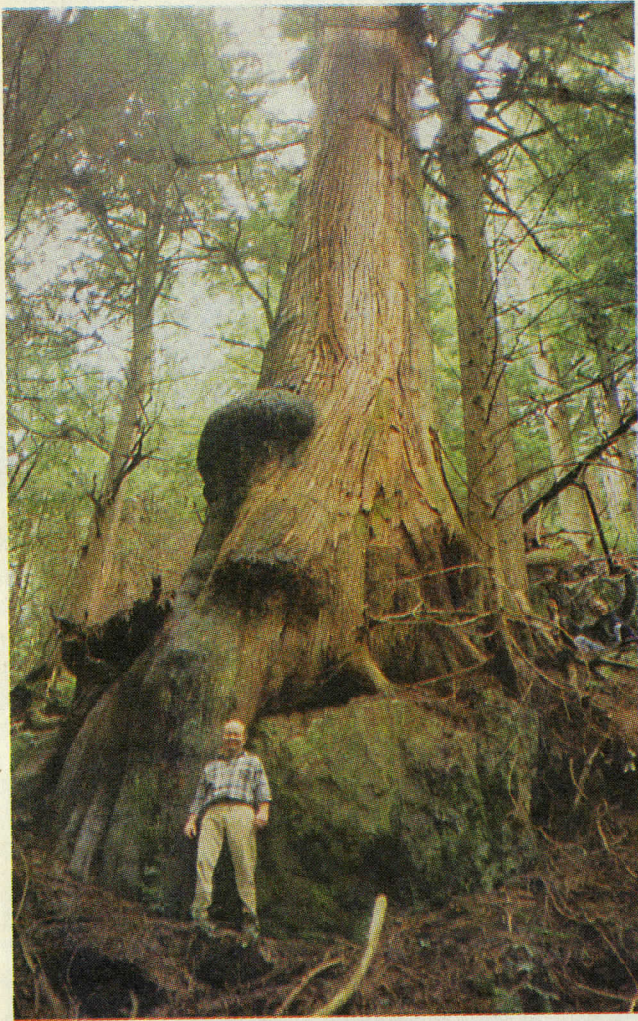
If given the chance to express their opinion there is little doubt that people would vote to have an Ancient Groves Park which preserves the Seymour's magnificent trees and not to have just another place where ancient trees are felled and the forest "managed" for "multiple use".

Park status would permit many uses except for industrial logging activities

Over one-quarter of a million people a year use the Seymour Valley off-catchment lands today, including mountain bikers, roller bladers, hikers, movie makers and Sunday strollers. The proposed Seymour Ancient Groves Park would enhance, not curtail, these park-compatible activities.

But the chain saws, bulldozers and trucks of industrial logging would be banned...so that they no longer threaten the peace, sanctity and future of the Seymour's ancient trees and thriving wild forests.

SEYMOUR VALLEY CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS



Watershed researcher Will Koop stands beside the very tall "Tolkien Giant" cedar in the "Temples of Time Grove".

Before 1850 - For millennia the Seymour River was a rich natural salmon stream fished sustainably by the Squamish First Nation.

1850 to the late 1800s - The undeveloped Seymour Valley is proposed as the main route from Vancouver to the B.C. interior—the Lillooet trail.

infested with balsam woolly aphids. GVWD's forester, also a former Schultz Co. employee, recommends that both the Lower Seymour non-catchment lands and the Upper Seymour catchment lands be logged.

1961 - 1992 - During this time the GVWD builds roads and clearcuts the private lands which it purchased from loggers in 1926. Most of the Lower Seymour valley-bottom oldgrowth, including giant Douglas fir, western red cedar, Sitka spruce, balsam, and western hemlock are clearcut for profit.

1965 - B.C. Minister of Recreation and Conservation shows interest in making the off-catchment lands of the Lower Seymour Valley into a public park. The GVWD hires a consultant to look into the area's public recreation possibilities.

1967 - The GVWD and provincial government establish Tree Farm Licence #42 to legislate sustained yield logging for all the lands under GVWD control, including the Lower Seymour.

1983 - Proposals are made to allow public access for recreation in the Lower Seymour. The Lynn/Lower Seymour Recreation Advisory Committee formed. The Committee works towards both areas becoming parks.

1985 - Lynn Headwaters Regional Park is created. To counter the proposal to have the Lower Seymour become a park, the GVWD hires two forestry consultants to propose that the area become a demonstration forest to "demonstrate" multiple resource use: logging and recreation. The Seymour Advisory Committee is established, comprised mostly of high profile forest industry representatives, with no public process on the matter.

1987 - The Lower Seymour is officially named as a Demonstration Forest and opened to the public. The forest industry, the B.C. Ministry of Forests, the Federal Ministry of Forests, and the GVWD contribute funds for operational costs, reports, and for "educational" publications and tours.

1993-1994 - After watershed logging is put on hold in 1992, the Seymour Advisory Committee twice proposes to log the "Temples of Time Grove" in the Seymour Demonstration Forest (see map on right). Concerned environmentalists succeed in stopping the proposals.



Many fine extremely old redcedars still remain in the lower Seymour and elsewhere throughout Greater Vancouver's watershed lands.

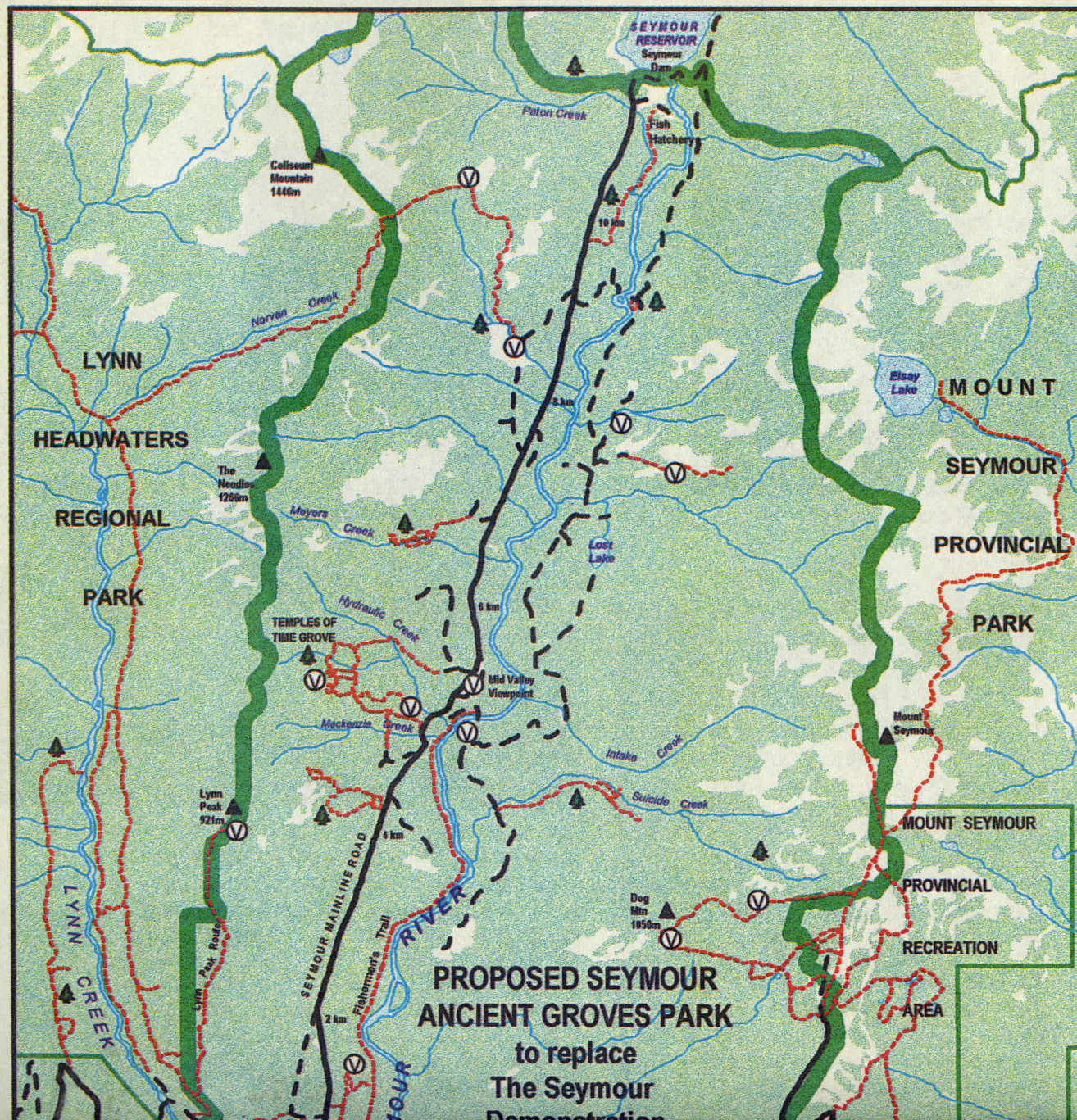
Demonstration Forest never built promised trail system

When the Seymour Demonstration Forest opened ten years ago, the original plan included building a large trail system for public access and recreational purposes. These plans were evidently de-railed by the pro-forestry lobby. The one single trail started (to an oldgrowth Sitka spruce forest near the Seymour dam) remained unfinished for years due to "lack of funds". Completion of this trail has finally been funded through Forest Renewal B.C.

With the establishment of a Seymour Ancient Groves Park, this would change. Unencumbered by a logging agenda, park managers would be proud of the world-record-sized trees and the Seymour's evolving oldgrowth forests. They would provide a world class trail system to enable citizens to see the Seymour's ancient groves and marvel at these timeless treasures.

**DEMONSTRATION
FOREST'S LOGGING
AGENDA WELL HIDDEN**

PROPOSED SEYMOUR ANCIENT GROVES PARK



- Forest covered lands
- Non - forested lands (bare ground, rock, alpine)
- Urban lands
- Park boundaries
- Proposed Seymour Ancient Groves Park boundary
- Hiking trails and routes
- Paved roads
- Loose surface roads
- Big tree groves
- Mountain peaks
- V View points
- P Parking areas
- 292 BC Transit routes to Seymour's ancient groves
- 228
- 214
- 210



OFFICIAL PETITION to create a SEYMOUR ANCIENT GROVES REGIONAL PARK

To the Chairman and Members of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) in Council Assembled this Petition of Greater Vancouver Regional District residents and other concerned citizens humbly sheweth:

WHEREAS the 5,200 hectare lower Seymour Valley which was designated a "Demonstration Forest" ten years ago without full public input has some of the Greater Vancouver Regional District's finest oldgrowth forests with some of the world's largest trees. These groves of oldgrowth ancient rainforest have immense scientific, inspirational and recreational value and are worth much more to Greater Vancouver residents left standing than cut down and sold; and,

WHEREAS creating a Seymour Ancient Groves Park will unite the Lynn Valley and the Seymour Mountain Park into one large protected area that will better be able to conserve biodiversity and will provide an opportunity for all visitors and citizens of Greater Vancouver to enjoy the majesty of the ancient cedars and Douglas fir giants that grow in this low elevation habitat; and,

WHEREAS recently Greater Victoria Regional District made its similar off-catchment water district lands into a park rather than a demonstration forest; and,

WHEREAS there are millions of hectares of "working forest" for the forest industry to establish another "demonstration forest" nearby Vancouver--land that is not directly owned by the people of the Vancouver Regional District and that would be more suitable to showing the growing, tending and harvesting of trees.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the undersigned Greater Vancouver voters and other concerned citizens request that the Greater Vancouver Regional District change the land use of the Greater Vancouver Water District off-catchment lands in Lower Seymour Valley below the Seymour Reservoir Dam from being a Seymour Demonstration Forest to being a fully protected Seymour Ancient Groves Regional Park.

NAME (please print)

SIGNATURE

FULL ADDRESS (please include postal code)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



A sad legacy of super stumps up to 53' in circumference (16' diameter) serve as reminders of the incredible original oldgrowth rainforests that carpeted the valley bottoms around the Greater Vancouver region.

Each of your letters represents the voices of hundreds of others

Send one letter to:

Premier Glen Clark
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 1X4

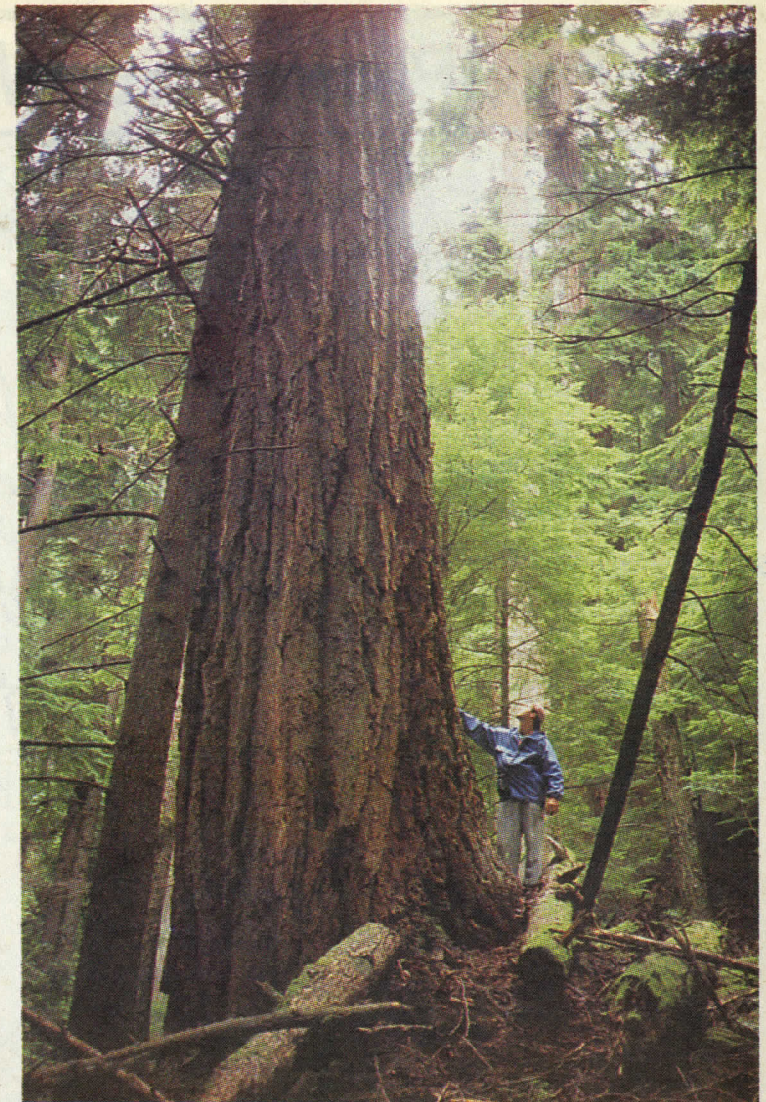
Ask him to consider protecting the Crown-owned "off-catchment lands" in the lower Seymour Valley just as he recently did with the Victoria Watershed off-catchment lands in the Sooke Hills.

Send the other letter to:

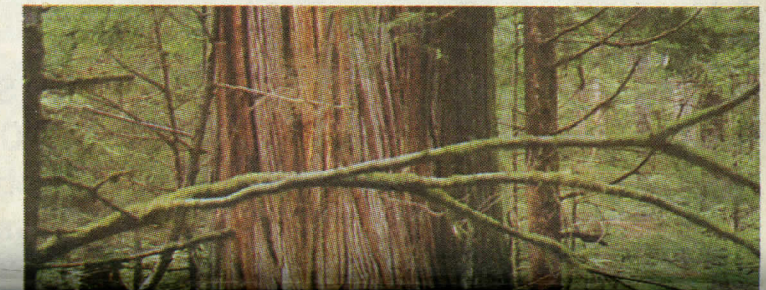
The continued management of the Seymour's publicly-owned lands as a Demonstration Forest (even though there is currently little logging) serves as a fantastic public relations tool for B.C.'s big company-dominated forest industry.

It mis-informs people about the true nature of industrial forestry's "multiple use" (which, everywhere else in B.C., means clearcuts and profits come first) and it helps legitimize the aggressive clearcut liquidation of B.C.'s ancient forests.

CREDITS



The "Curley Chittenden Giant" is one of eight great Douglas firs averaging over 9' in diameter in the "Temples of Time" grove.



Councillor George Foul, Chairperson
Greater Vancouver Regional District
4330 Kingsway
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4G8

Tell him how you feel about protecting the ancient groves of huge trees in the Greater Vancouver Water District's lower Seymour Valley off-catchment lands. Let him know your choice--a Seymour Demonstration Forest managed for logging and "multiple use" or a Seymour Ancient Groves Park managed for recreation and preservation of this world-class, big-treed ecosystem.

(WCWC), 20 Water Street, Vancouver, British Columbia,
Canada V6B 1A4. Tel: (604) 683-8220 Fax: 683-8229
E-Mail: info@wildernesscommittee.org
Home Page: www.wildernesscommittee.org

WCWC is a non-profit charitable society dedicated to promoting, through research and education, wilderness ecosystem preservation.

Research: Ralf Kelman and Will Koop

Writing: Paul George Editing: Adriane Carr

Design/Layout: Sue Fox

Map: Chris Player - WCWC GIS

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In 1992 WCWC helped save this beautiful grove of redcedars with 13' diameter trees near Paton Creek from the Demonstration Forest loggers.



I'VE MADE MY CHOICE!

I WILL HELP YOU CREATE A SEYMOUR ANCIENT GROVES PARK.



Here's my **tax-deductible contribution**:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

Federal charitable number 11929-3009-RR0001

Please use my gift to continue your educational campaign to establish full park protection for the Seymour Forest, including its magnificent groves of ancient, record-sized trees and encourage the establishment of a "Demonstration Forest" elsewhere.

☐ Here's \$20 for a copy of your detailed topographical **hiking map** (20" x 30") to the Seymour Ancient Groves.

This covers the cost of all taxes, postage, and shipping.

I understand that some of the "trails" shown are only flagged hiking routes and that people use these trails and routes at their own risk. I also understand that WCWC assumes no liability regarding their use. This is mountainous country with rapidly changing weather. Caution and common sense are paramount.

I would like to **join with WCWC's 25,000 members!**

Enclosed is my annual membership fee for a:

☐ \$30 Individual membership

☐ \$52 Sustaining-Family membership

Members receive regular Wilderness Education Reports about threatened wilderness areas as well as a free copy of our beautiful full-colour *Western Canada Endangered Wilderness* wall calendar. Sustaining-Family members also get a companion *Canadian Endangered Wilderness Calendar*.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

PROVINCE _____

POSTAL CODE _____



Please clip and return to the **Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC)**, 20 Water St. Vancouver, B.C., V6B 1A4
To join and donate by credit card phone **1-800-661-9453** (683-8220 in the Lower Mainland)

