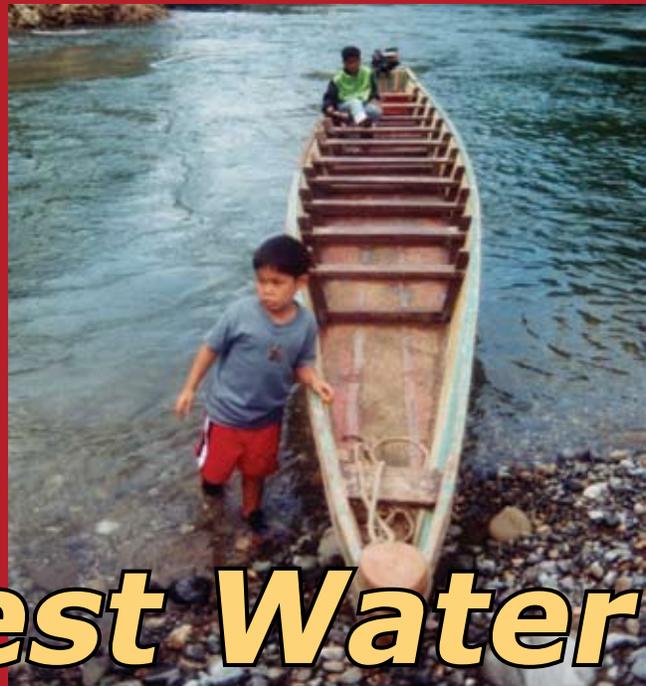
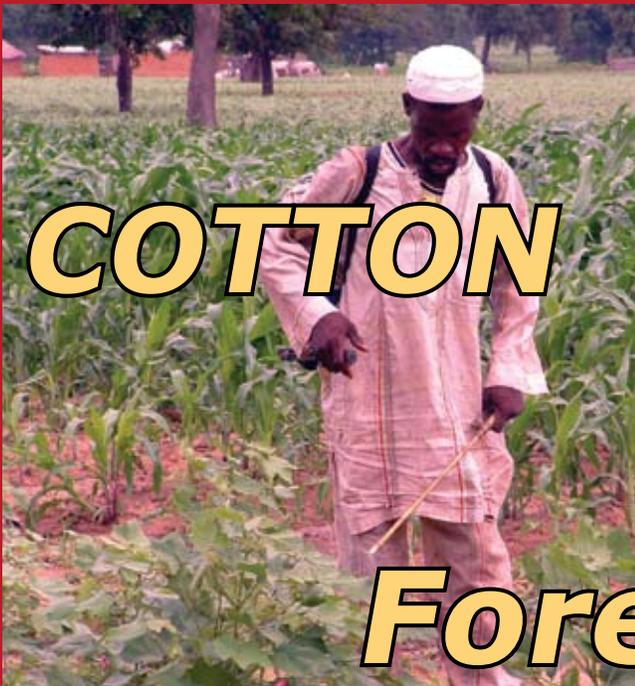


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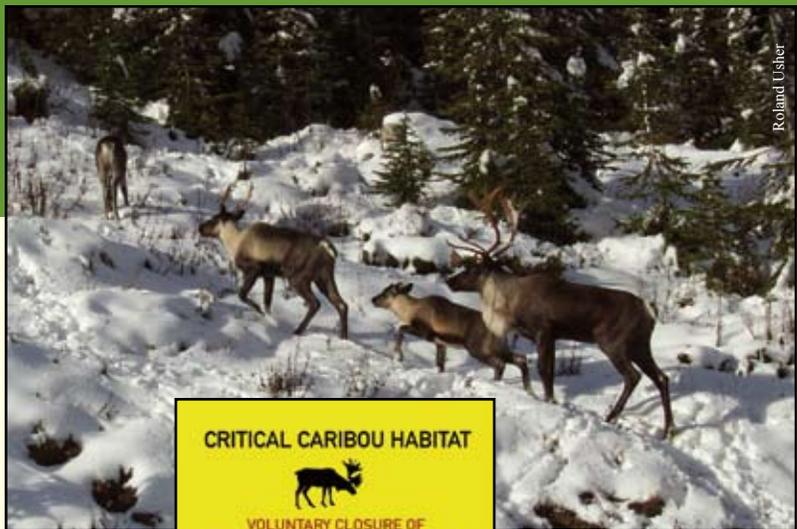
March / April 2007
Newstand Price \$4.50

Environmental News from BC and the World



A little respect For caribou

Mountain caribou are getting a little peace and quiet in some of their special places this winter, thanks to cooperation between snowmobilers and conservationists. The Cranbrook Snowmobile Club has agreed to a voluntary closure of several key pockets of critical caribou winter range. Wildsight, a conservation organization in Canada's Columbia and Southern Rocky Mountains, with funding from the Columbia Basin Trust and Ministry of Environment, partnered with the club to install signage indicating closed areas. As few as 20 caribou remain in the Southern Purcell mountains west of Cranbrook, down from close to 100 as recently as 1994.



Roland Usher



—Wildsight,
January 2007
For more information visit www.mountaincaribou.ca.

In every season the Watershed Sentinel brings you a sense of what's going on and what's coming down, in special places and on sacred paths. **Subscribe Now!**

A Canada-wide movement to eliminate the preventable causes of cancer

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT
CANCER: IT'S ABOUT PREVENTION. IT'S ABOUT TIME!
May 24-27, 2006,
at the University of Ottawa

EARLY BIRD RATES STILL AVAILABLE

According to the most recent Canadian cancer statistics, more than one third of all females and close to 50% of all males in Canada will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives. In 2006 alone, over 153,000 Canadians will hear their doctors say, "You have cancer." In 2006, more than 70,000 Canadians, ranging from early infancy to old age, will die prematurely from one form or another of this terrible disease. There are more 'potential years of life lost' to cancer than to all other major illnesses combined. **Here is the most shocking fact of all: Well over half of all cancers are preventable.**

Prevent Cancer Now believes Canadians are missing major opportunities to act for cancer prevention. Hence, we are convening a landmark conference in **Ottawa, May 24-27, 2007**, to address these gaps and to develop practical plans for all Canadians to take action to stop the cancer epidemic.

For more information, please contact us at:
Prevent Cancer Now
192 Bolton Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 5B3
Phone: 613-482-8124 info@preventcancer.org,
www.preventcancer.org

Watershed Sentinel



March-April 2007

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled process chlorine-free newsprint, with vegetable inks since 2002.
Cover printed on 100% post-consumer recycled process chlorine free coated paper.

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BC's drinking watersheds were once protected from logging, but government failed the people; the maps were hidden in the archives and no one knew they were legal reserves.

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Most of us like cotton because it feels more natural, but industrial cotton is the world's dirtiest crop.

No matter where on Earth we live, we are all residents of a watershed. Throughout history clans, tribes and all organized groups have endeavoured to protect their home watershed or territory. Sentinels were stationed throughout the highlands of a watershed to herald the coming of friends or of threats in the form of encroachment, floods, fire or hostile armies.

Threats to our watersheds exist to this day whether they come from careless individuals or insensitive corporations. The *Watershed Sentinel* keeps watch and informs.

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Cover Photos:
Kwagiulth, Ingmar Lee; Cotton Grower, Pesticide Action Network UK; Phillipine River, Joe Foy

MARCH - APRIL 2007



Watershed *Sentinel*

Editor Delores Broten
Publisher Watershed Sentinel
 Educational Society
Associate Editor Don Malcolm
Cover and Graphic Design Ester Strijbos
Advertising Terri Smith

Special Thanks to Horizon Publications, Hugh McNab, Craig Petit, Ryan Durand, Ralph Keller, Maggie Paquet, Jim Cooperman, Julie Williams, Dani Rubin, Tammy Morris, Norberto Rodriguez dela Vega, Gloria Jorg, Peter Ronald, Clara Broten, Kathy Smail, Ray Woollam, the writers, advertisers, distributors, and all who send information, photos, and ideas. This magazine would not happen without you.

Published five times per year
 Subscriptions \$20 one year,
 \$30 two years Canada, \$26 US one year

Distribution by subscription, and to members of Friends of Cortes Island and *Reach for Unbleached!* Free at Vancouver Island and Vancouver area libraries, in BC colleges and universities, and to sponsoring organizations.

Member British Columbia Association
 of Magazine Publishers

ISSN 1188-360X

For photocopy reproduction rights, contact
 CANCOPY, 6 Adelaide St. E., Ste. 900,
 Toronto, Ontario M5C 1H6

Publication Mail Canada Post Agreement
 PM 40012720



Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:

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 Ph: 250 339-6117

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EDITORIAL

Time to Reason Together



“Be careful what you wish for,” goes the old saying. It surely applies to the climate change and energy debate.

Who would have guessed, just a few years ago, that the back of denialist opposition to the concept of human-induced climate change would be broken under the weight of public common sense? That pro-corporate rulers like Stephen Harper, Gordon Campbell, and even The Shrub would be forced by public opinion, if not the evidence, to speak and maybe even act, as if they cared?

It’s a dream come true for those who have spent years howling in the wilderness about the dangers ahead: climate change due to greenhouse emissions from fossil fuels, and paradoxically, the challenge of Peak Oil – the easy-to-get oil is pumped out of the earth and burned, which is why the Tar Sands mess spreads like cancer across Alberta’s boreal.

And the gentlemen named above may be able to achieve more with their corporate constituency than any other party.

But the dangers are great. Suddenly nuclear power, with the help of world-manipulating PR firms, is portrayed as a saviour, not the Pandora’s box it is.

In BC, the green debate is swirling over the advantages versus the destruction of Site C, BC Hydro’s long-promoted third dam on the mighty Peace River. Some are adamant that society can thrive by reining in our unholy consumption and living a moderate, localized life. Others dream of hydrogen highways and biofuels. Some fight the unsightly futuristic profile of wind farms. Others want to burn garbage or coal. Some deplore the channelling of hundreds of wilderness streams in run of river hydro.

What a cacophony of competing fears and desires, all stirred in a heady mixture of Gold Rush avarice. How can it be sorted out, cutting through the partial information, the unknown assumptions, the NIMBY and the Not On Planet Earth (NOPE)?

In BC, we already have had a successful experiment in a new model for important society decision-making. Premier Campbell’s greatest achievement broke the mold in a new structure of non-partisan democratic debate.

What we at the *Watershed Sentinel* wish for is a Citizens’ Assembly on Energy to examine the facts and the options, the technical challenges and opportunities, the toxic trade-offs and land use limitations, to cut through the competing fiscal interests, to provide a forum for debate, and develop the map for our path to Energy Futures. We want to see many minds reasoning together.

We need it. We deserve it. We know how to do it. Time’s wasting. Our future’s at stake.

Delores Broten, Comox BC, March 2007

WHEN YOU WANT YOUR MESSAGE TO REACH THOUSANDS OF CONCERNED AND ACTIVE READERS, PLEASE CONTACT US FOR OUR RATE SHEET AND MEDIA KIT, AT ADS@WATERSHEDSENTINEL.CA OR PHONE OUR OFFICE AT 1-250-339-6117 OR SEE WWW.WATERSHEDSENTINEL.CA



Climate Notebook

£25 fridge gadget

A three inch wax gadget that fits around the thermostat in fridges and freezers is being touted as an exciting new tool for energy efficiency. The British invention mimics food, so that the thermostats turn on and off according to the temperature of the food, rather than the circulating air inside the fridge. It is expected to be particularly effective in commercial coolers, where the door is opened frequently. Fridges and freezers consume about a fifth of all domestic electricity in the UK and the \$57 gadget is expected to cut carbon dioxide emissions by more than 2 million tonnes a year.

—*The Guardian March 17, 2007*

Synchronized traffic lights save gas

A company that built a natural gas power generation plant in Eastern Oregon has paid \$533,000 to synchronize the traffic signals on 18 roads in Portland, as a greenhouse gas offset. The traffic signal adjustment saves drivers about 1.6 million gallons of gas a year that, if burned, would inject more than 15,000 extra metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, adding to global warming. It also saves the car drivers about \$3.5 million a year in gas costs. In 1997 Oregon became the first American state to make new power plants control or offset carbon emissions, and the acceptable projects range from street lighting updates to tree plantations.

—*The Oregonian, March 11, 2007*

Logging the Boreal Worse than Cars

Failure to change logging practices and protect Ontario's intact boreal forest will dangerously accelerate climate change, according to a new report from Forest Ethics. The report, *Robbing the Carbon Bank: Global Warming and Ontario's Forests*, details how logging the intact boreal forest is escalating carbon dioxide levels and increasing global warming.

The report's findings include:

- Logging in Ontario releases an estimated 4 Mt C (15 Mt CO₂) per year, or 19 tonnes of carbon per hectare. That is roughly equivalent to the carbon emitted from all light-duty gas-powered trucks in the province and 7% of Ontario's total GHG emissions.
- Canada's boreal forests store a whopping 47.5 billion tons of carbon -- 7 times the entire world's fossil fuel

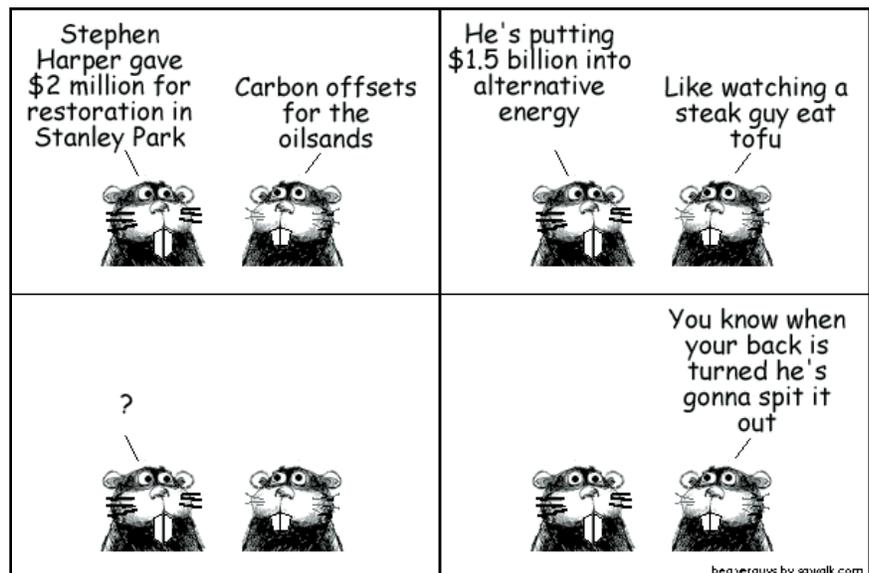
emissions- a giant carbon bank account.

- According to the Stern report, released in Britain in November of 2006: "Action to preserve remaining areas of natural forest is urgent."

"Protecting our Boreal forests must be a key component of any government climate plan," said ForestEthics' Strategic Director, Tzeporah Berman. "Logging forests in Canada releases more greenhouse gases than the use of all of Canada's passenger vehicles. We need to stop this wholesale looting of our common carbon bank if we want to mitigate global warming."

—*ForestEthics, March 13, 2007*

For more information and to view the report online, visit www.forestethics.ca



From Our Readers

Lead Shot Not Really Banned

Your text in the WS makes it sound like lead shot is banned all over the country, period. What this old press release says is that the ban covers hunting “most” migratory game birds in wetland areas across the country, and then only “within 200 metres of any water course or water body.” Swampy areas and shallow lakes that are mostly dried out or swampy for a time don’t count, enforcement-wise, and if a hunter is shooting at upland game birds or other exempted species and their bullets land in wet areas, or the dead birds do, then that’s where the lead shot lands. It’s a feeble ban.

Two other hugely important factors make the situation even worse: American hunters on the US side of the border have no such restrictions and birds get poisoned over there and then many make it to the Fraser Valley before they die... skeet shooters and target practice clubs use lead shot. Their shot is a massive source of lead all over the place. They have no restrictions on the type of shot they use.

Maggie Paquet, Port Alberni BC

Lead Sinker Response from the Feds

Dear Ms Broten,

Sorry for the delay in responding to your request. As part of the regular risk management process used in applying the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, we are working with representatives from the sportfishing industry to determine the best means to reduce the release of lead-containing sinkers and jigs into Canada’s waterways. This process is expected to take several more months with the outcome not presupposed, therefore, a regulation similar to that which was proposed is not necessarily the solution that will be applied.

Thanks for your interest.

*Garry Donaldson, Conservation Biologist,
Canadian Wildlife Service, Gatineau, Québec*

Where is the Rest of “50 Ways to Prepare for Peak Oil?”

Ever since I received the latest edition of the Sentinel I have wanted to ask you...where are the other 25 ways to prepare for peak oil? Did I miss something?

Beverly Tanchak, Sechelt, BC

Editor: It’s coming in the NEXT issue Beverly, in May. We figured we would print the summer and fall To Do’s in our early summer issue, for maximum usefulness.

The Watershed Sentinel welcomes letters but reserves the right to edit for brevity, clarity, legality, and taste. Anonymous letters will not be published. Send your musings and your mis-sives to: Watershed Sentinel, Box 1270, Comox BC V9M 7Z8
editor@watershedsentinel.ca

Carbon Trade Offs and Site C

About the proposed Site C dam on the Peace River system: Which is worse? To flood 50 square kilometres (of which about 10% is farmland), or to allow continued deforestation of the interior of British Columbia, up to 500,000 square kilometres of vanished forest, because of global warming?

Of course it’s not a simple either/or choice. Producing renewable electrical power from Site C will allow us to move quickly to 100% renewable electrical energy generation in BC by eliminating gas-fired generation, but that won’t alone stop global warming in its tracks. Still, it’s a good step. The sheer numbers of 50 square km versus ten thousand times that area are compelling.

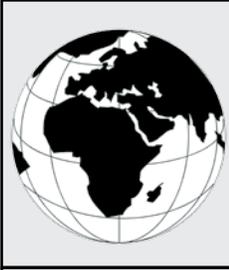
But the news gets better. Site C will give us three consecutive reservoirs on the Peace River system. We need to think of these not as suppliers of electricity, but as reserves of electricity to be used when wind and other intermittent green sources are not available. They can then have a ‘multiplier effect’ on the total renewable energy we can produce if we couple them with extensive wind generation.

Large bodies of water moderate temperature extremes. If we lose 5 or 50 sq km of farmland to flooding, the amount of adjoining prairie that becomes farmable may increase by a larger amount. Back in the 1960’s, wheat crops in this area would get frost-damaged every second year, on average. That happens less now, and will happen even less with the moderating effect of a nearby lake. Site C can also allow a return of the downstream flow of the Peace River to its more natural cycle. The Bennett and Peace Dams operating alone have disrupted that cycle, and have had disastrous effects on the world’s largest freshwater delta at Lake Claire and Lake Athabaska. We have the opportunity to repair that damage by retaining water in a third reservoir, to be released in a seasonal pattern.

Site C did not seem justified when first proposed about thirty years ago, but many factors have changed since that time. It’s time to re-examine the pros and cons of Site C in the context of today’s world.

Chris Aikman, Comox BC

See More Letters on Page 23 ⇨



Around The World

Incremental Progress on Many Fronts

Compiled by Delores Broten

Activists' campaigns around the world and particularly in the United States began to bear fruit this spring, from international co-operation to bring toxic polluters in Africa to justice, to solid downhome victories on the US home-front.

Company Fined for Deadly Dumping

In February, Trifigura, a Dutch oil company, paid almost \$200 million to secure the release of three executives from an Ivory Coast prison and settle claims that it dumped toxic waste that killed at least 10 people in Abidjan. The company denied responsibility, claiming it contracted a local company to dispose of the waste; the local company dumped the hazardous sludge from an oil tanker into several local landfills in the middle of the night, sickening thousands in the city. The sludge contained hydrogen sulphide. Greenpeace had barricaded the ship in port until authorities acted. The Dutch government is also investigating whether the tanker should have been allowed to leave Holland when its cargo was discovered to be unusually toxic.

—Associated Press, February 14, 2007

US Courts Push Back GE Crops

In February, the US federal court ordered the US Department of Agriculture to stop all new field trials of genetically engineered crops until more rigorous environmental reviews are conducted. The judge ruled that approvals of field trials of Roundup-tolerant GE bentgrass from Scott and Monsanto were illegal. Pollen from the grass had dispersed over 12 miles and bred with conventional plants.

In related news, a California judge ordered a halt to sales of Monsanto's genetically engineered alfalfa, saying that the 2005 environmental impact assessment had been flawed. Such genetically engineered seeds are grown in 200,000 of the 23 million acres of US alfalfa, used for hay and grazing.

—Center for Food Safety, Feb 6, 2007, Associated Press, February 7, 2007, LA Times, March 13, 2007

Safeway Goes BGH-Free in PNW

This spring, Safeway milk processing plants in Portland Oregon and Seattle Washington will require producers to supply only milk free of Bovine Growth Hormone. Safeway house brands Lucerne and Dari-Glen will thus become free of the ubiquitous Monsanto hormone, joining almost all other products made in the US Pacific Northwest. The move follows a long campaign by Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility that was bolstered when Starbucks, a Safeway customer, declared it would go BGH-free. BGH has never been approved for use in Canada, but imported milk products may be produced with milk from cows treated with the hormone.

—Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, January 19 2007

Iceland Fights Alcan Smelter

Icelanders are calling for "a summer of international dissent against heavy industry" starting in July to oppose expansion of the Alcan aluminum smelter at Hafnarfjordur. Activists lost a battle over a new huge smelter for Alcoa, which will open this year despite court challenges. However, the struggle continues to halt Alcan's aluminum expansion, which requires zoning changes and which is opposed by 60% of the population. Iceland's cheap and abundant thermal power has attracted the aluminum giants.

—Montreal Gazette, March 13, 2007, See also www.savingiceland.org

Bringing the Earth to School: Fruit Tree Tour

This spring, Common Vision in California will run its fourth annual Fruit Tree Tour, a 20-city tour planting over 1000 fruit trees at schools from San Diego to Sacramento. Traveling in a veggie oil-powered caravan, 25 earth educators from Common Vision will teach students about sustainable ecology through a daylong program that includes West African agricultural drumming and earth-conscious hip-hop.



Pesticides Banned in Europe, Not in Canada

Health Canada allows 60 pesticides banned in other countries

By Anne Sherrod



2,4-D: A member of chlorophenoxy herbicide family, after 60 years, it is the third most widely used herbicide in Canada and the United States. It is mainly used in agriculture (wheat and small grains, sorghum, corn, rice), but it is also used for lawn care purposes.

Four New Zealand groups — the Safe Food Campaign, Pesticide Action Network, Soil & Health, and the Breast Cancer Network — have put the pesticide Endosulfan at the top of their list of hazardous substances that ought to be banned. This organochlorine is sprayed on vegetables and fruits, leaving residues in soil, water, air, and food. It has been linked to breast cancer, hormonal disruption, and fetal, genetic, neurological, behavioural, and immune system damage at very low doses.

The New Zealand groups say it is also urgent to ban 2,4-D, an organochlorine weedkiller that is widely used on lawns and golf courses,

and Chlorpyrifos, an insecticide used on many vegetables, fruits, and grains. 2,4-D is an organochlorine that has been linked to prenatal brain damage, breast and other cancers. Chlorpyrifos is an organophosphate that can damage development of the brain and nervous system in children (Pest Management Regulatory Agency, REV2007-01.) Both Endosulfan and Chlorpyrifos are toxic to many species of fish and wildlife.

A recent report from the David Suzuki Foundation, *The Food We Eat*, (David Boyd, 2006), says Endosulfan has already been banned in the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the European Union. The Pesticide Action Network cites 20 countries across Europe, the Mideast, and Asia that have banned it. These countries are using safer alternatives for pesticide control.

According to the David Suzuki Foundation report, Health Canada permits the use of 60 pesticides no longer permitted in other countries, and Endosulfan is one of them. Ten products containing Endosulfan are registered for use in Canada. The US and Canada will accept Endosulfan Minimum Residue Levels of 7 parts per million (ppm) on fruits and vegetables, whereas Australia allows only 0.2-2 ppm. (Boyd, 2006).

Twenty-nine insecticides containing Chlorpyrifos are registered for use in Canada on peaches, nectarines, and strawberries, a wide variety of vegetables, and grains including barley, wheat, oats, canola, and flax. Aerial spraying is currently allowed.

Meanwhile, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in Canada. Links between breast cancer, birth defects, and pesticides continue to emerge from scientific research. A recent study in Manitoba (Magoon, 2006) examined thousands of hospital records and showed that areas with higher incidence of birth defects and other health problems also had a higher level of pesticide use.

For more information see:

Boyd, D. *The Food We Eat*, David Suzuki Foundation, 2006, www.davidsuzuki.org

Pesticide Action Network, "Position Paper on Endosulfan," 2006, www.panap.net

Pest Management Regulatory Agency, "Update on the Re-Evaluation of Chlorpyrifos," Jan. 5, 2007, <http://www.pmr-arla.gc.ca/english/pubs/rev-e.html>

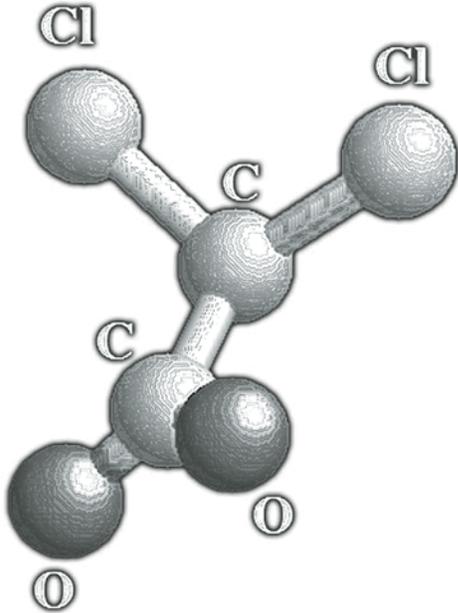
Anne Sherrod has been writing on environmental issues in BC for 25 years. She is currently Chair of the Valhalla Wilderness Society.

What You Can Do

Endosulfan, Chlorpyrifos, and 2,4-D are currently under re-evaluation at Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). You can contact the PMRA at: pmra_infoserve@hc-sc.gc.ca; Fax(613)736-3798, 2720 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, ON, A.L. 6606D2, K1A 0K9.

Please consider requesting that all three pesticides be banned from use in Canada.

Dichloroacetate



Hope for Cancer Treatment

The University of Alberta is accepting donations to further the human testing of DCA, an odourless, colourless, inexpensive, relatively non-toxic, small molecule that may be an effective treatment for many forms of cancer.

Dr. Evangelos Michelakis, a professor in the Department of Medicine, has shown that dichloroacetate (DCA) causes regression in several cancers, including lung, breast, and brain tumors.

DCA has been used for decades to treat children with inborn errors of metabolism due to mitochondrial diseases. Mitochondria, the energy-producing units in cells, have been connected with cancer since the 1930s. The U of A researchers found that DCA normalized the mitochondrial function in many cancers. The other function of mitochondria is to order abnormal cells to self-destruct.

The DCA compound is not patented or owned by any pharmaceutical company, so it would likely be inexpensive but of little interest to pharmaceutical companies.

Michelakis' research is currently funded by the CIHR, the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Canada Research Chairs program, and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research.

*University of Alberta ExpressNews,
January 17, 2007*

THE RIGHT
TO KNOW

GREENPEACE

Canadian data proves danger of Monsanto GE 863 corn

A new study released in Europe shows that biotech giant Monsanto used incomplete data to obtain approval of its genetically modified corn, and that laboratory rats fed with a genetically engineered (GE) maize produced by Monsanto have shown kidney and liver toxicity.

The study, published in *Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*, analysed results of safety tests submitted by Monsanto to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) when the company was seeking authorisation to market its GE Maize variety MON863 in Canada. The data shows that MON863 has significant health risks associated with it. Nonetheless, in 2003 the CFIA approved the maize for unconfined release into the environment and for consumption by both humans and animals. The incriminating evidence was obtained by Greenpeace following a court case, and evaluated by a team of experts headed by Professor Gilles Eric Seralini, a government expert in genetic engineering technology from the University of Caen.

The results verify the conclusions of the Royal Society of Canada's expert panel on biotechnology, which warned in 2001 that the lack of independent verification of company-produced data could lead to the approval of improperly tested and potentially unsafe products.

Greenpeace is now circulating a petition calling for mandatory labelling of GE products in BC. "As many as 70% of the processed foods on store shelves in BC could contain GE ingredients, and there is absolutely no way for consumers to know this important fact," said Eleanor Boyle of GE Free BC. "Consumers have a right to know what is in the food they eat, so they can make the decision whether or not to consume this untested and risky technology. BC has the opportunity to lead the way on this issue in Canada. Premier Campbell should listen to British Columbians who want mandatory labelling of GMOs and take action before the next provincial election."

A recent Greenpeace poll found that 79 per cent of BC residents support legislation requiring all GE food to be labelled, and indicated that the issue could be significant in the next provincial election.

—Greenpeace Vancouver, March 13, 2007

To download a copy of the petition, go to the Greenpeace website at www.greenpeace.org/canada/



Forest

Shares

How Subsidies Cheat First Nations Communities

by Andrew MacLeod

Beating drums and wearing traditional black and red blankets, a large group of Kwakiutl protesters gathered one day in mid-February outside the British Columbia legislature in Victoria. They'd made the 500-kilometre trip from northern Vancouver Island, where their ancestors have lived for thousands of years, to show their outrage.

Two weeks earlier, the BC government had announced that Western Forest Products would be allowed to remove 28,283 hectares of private land from its Tree Farm Licenses (TFL) on Vancouver Island, a large part of which lies in traditional Kwakiutl territory. For decades, the company had managed the lands as part of the TFLs, a concession made in exchange for access to huge tracts of publicly owned forests.

"Western Forest Products stands to recover millions of dollars from the sale of those lands," says a Kwakiutl statement. "This is the primary reason the provincial government approved their application to transfer to private lands." The transfer amounted to a handout, the statement

says, and the first nation should have been consulted before the government agreed to it.

Inside the TFLs, the land was subject to provincial regulations that restricted the sale of raw logs and protected salmon streams and other wildlife habitat. Once it's out of the TFLs, the company can more or less do what it wants, including clearing it for lucrative real estate development.

"This just stinks to high heaven," says Will Horter, a lawyer and executive director of the Dogwood Initiative in Victoria. "There's absolutely no public benefit. It's like writing them a cheque. Their lands are worth a fortune as private lands. They're not worth anything otherwise. This is just a windfall gift."

The move is ironic, he says, coming as it does from a government that claims to apply business smarts to its decisions on behalf of the public. "As the fiscally conservative government, they should be trying to extract benefits for the public, not give them away. They're the subsidy government."

Subsidized from coast to coast

He has a point, though the BC Liberal government holds no monopoly on subsidizing the forest industry. It's common practice throughout Canada and has been for decades—a point at the heart of the softwood lumber dispute with the United States.

Forest observer Jim Cooperman of the Shuswap Environmental Alliance Society says the Americans are absolutely right — in Canada, both our provincial and federal governments do subsidize logging companies in numerous ways. For starters, there were the "softwood adjustment funds" the federal government handed out to "soften" the impact of paying duties to the Americans until the dispute was settled in 2006, despite the fact most companies remained profitable while paying the added taxes. In BC, the tenure take-back initiated by the Liberal government after 2001 — where the govern-

Amount Quebec promised in 2005 "to ease the industry's pain" for softwood tariffs: \$450 million

Added amount Quebec promised in February 2007: \$721 million

Amount Ontario promised in 2006: \$330 million

— CBC, Globe and Mail

FORESTS

ment pays companies to give up their licences to log a portion of a TFL—has given the companies millions of dollars as the province bought back timber that already belonged to the public. The companies, by the way, could still get the wood through the auction system. He says, “This compensation was actually a big subsidy.”

Also, the Liberals slashed forest management regulations around the same time, he says, introducing a ‘results based’ system that excuses companies from preparing the detailed plans that had previously required them to employ foresters.

But one of the biggest subsidies is also one of the most long-standing: the stumpage system itself.

Stumpage is the fee per tree governments charge forest companies for logging on public land. It is difficult to generalize about the fees, which vary by province, tenure type, and the value of the timber in question, but every province has a minimum fee.

In BC, about one in every three trees is cut at the rate of 25 cents per cubic metre. A cubic metre of tree makes a log the size of a telephone pole. “Even for firewood it’s worth more than a quarter,” says Dogwood’s Horter. “There is nobody who would argue that these trees aren’t worth more than a quarter. If they aren’t, leave them standing.”

In 2002, according to the latest data available on the forest ministry’s website, the average stumpage rate in BC was around \$20 per cubic metre.

Indeed, low stumpage rates were one of the main concerns of the United States during the softwood lumber dispute, settled in October 2006, after over two decades of wrangling. A 2001 briefing note for the US Congress says, “The US producers argue that they have been injured by unfair Canadian competition. They argue that the provinces set ‘stumpage fees’ (for the right to harvest trees) administratively at less than their market value.” The producers also

complained that they couldn’t get direct access to Canadian timber and that Canadian companies were dumping their product on the US market at low prices.



The BC government announced that Western Forest Products would be allowed to remove 28,283 hectares of private land from its Tree Farm Licenses on Vancouver Island, a large part of which lies in traditional Kwakiutl territory.

To make up for these subsidies, the US Department of Commerce charged a duty of 17 or 18 percent on Canadian lumber entering the US. The Americans also charged individual companies anti-dumping fees that added to the duties they paid.

The Canadian government fought the duties through the North American Free Trade Agreement and World Trade Organization

dispute channels. In the Canadian media, the companies played to nationalist sympathies. But observers like Horter and Cooperman say they think the Americans were right—we do subsidize our forest industry. Even when the dispute was settled, the Canadian government agreed to forfeit 20 percent of the \$5 billion the US Department of Commerce had collected. Many read the compromise as an admission that there was substance to the American claim.

Colonial thinking must change

Simon Fobister, the chief of the Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek, or Grassy Narrows First Nation, in northwestern Ontario, says subsidies like low stumpage fees are a result of the colonial thinking that still dominates the Canadian logging industry. The land and forests are seen only as resources to exploit.

“That’s kind of like the gold rush mentality, the last frontier mentality,” he says. Settlers arrived and grabbed land where they could, not caring who had a prior interest. “That’s still the same mentality. They don’t respect the environment. They don’t respect the people who live in that environment. The whole thinking has to change.”

Continued on Page 10 ⇨

⇐ *Forest Shares continued*

Over the past few years, the first nation has frequently erected blockades to stop logging in their territory. Then in January, the protest escalated when the Grassy Narrows leaders, including Fobister, notified logging companies and government representatives that they were placing a moratorium on the industry in their traditional territory. The first nation has had little choice but to fight, he says. "It's like any abuse that won't stop until a stand is made. It will go on and on till you get up and say enough is enough."

Before logging continues, the first nation needs to be consulted properly and needs the resources to hire its own technicians to assess development in the region and decide whether the industry is beneficial to the community. The Supreme Court of Canada said several years ago, in a ruling on a case brought by BC's Haida nation, that that kind of consultation is necessary, but so far Ontario hasn't put the required process in place.

When Grassy Narrows is at last consulted, says Fobister, the question will be "Whether we agree with it, whether we can be a part of it, or maybe not." There's little doubt that opportunities are needed. "Billions of dollars of resources are leaving our territory, whether that's timber or minerals. We're not benefiting at all from these activities."

Grassy Narrows has 800 people living on the reserve and another 400 living off reserve. The unemployment rate is 75 percent. Over 200 band members survive on cheques from Ontario Works, the province's welfare program. The few jobs that exist are mostly in local government and social services, not logging or mining.

Grassy Narrows is typical of many Canadian first nations. While some have done alright economically, the vast majority have rates of poverty and unemployment that far exceed the Canadian averages.

Corporate profits boom

The forest companies, meanwhile, have done very well. When the companies are negotiating with governments on

Total wages paid in the industry, 1990-2002, on average annually: \$9 billion
Average annual corporate profits during the same period: \$4 billion
Average annual return to governments: \$2.2 billion
Countervailing duty charged by US to make up for Canadian forestry subsidies, average annually: \$1 billion. Total collected: \$5 billion
 —Statistics Canada, US Embassy, Globe and Mail

stumpage rates or the easing of regulations, they claim hard times. But data from Statistics Canada tell another story.

The industry is cyclical, and profits rise and fall depending on various factors, including the strength of the US housing market and the value of the Canadian dollar, but it consistently makes a profit. They don't bear the costs of soil degradation, ecosystem havoc, carbon deficits, or the loss of the boreal forest.

Even in the "bad" years, the industry has done well. In 2006, profits were down from a year earlier, but wood and paper companies still took a \$3.3 billion profit for their shareholders. They made those profits at a time when they were paying large duties on softwood exports to the United States. In the worst year in a decade, 2003, StatsCan reports that the industry made a \$2.4 billion profit.

On its own, Canada's biggest forest products company, Canfor Corp. made a \$471.8 million profit in 2006, partly from a refund on duties the United States had collected during the softwood dispute. As with the industry as a whole, even while paying the duties, the company had been profitable.

Canadian wood and paper industry profits in 2006: \$3.3 billion
 —Statistics Canada

And profit, which tends to disappear into corporate bonuses, shareholder dividends and businesses interwoven by accountants, may not be the best measure of activity. The most recent figures available from the National Forestry Database Program show forest exports were worth over \$34 billion in 2004, about double what they were in 1991.

In 2004, the companies returned \$1.9 billion to provincial and territorial governments in Canada, including stumpage fees and other taxes. That works out to about 5.6 percent of their exports.

This year, Canfor and the other companies are set to make windfall earnings as softwood duties continue to be returned. Ironically, companies like West Fraser are already using some of that money to buy mills in the US from American companies, like International Paper, that pushed the softwood subsidy complaint.

Splitting the wealth

The question of how much benefit communities get from the forest industry is key. Most Canadian logging happens on public land, which in the past has meant an expectation that companies were responsible to give back extensively to local communities and government coffers. In many cases they were expected to run mills in communi-

FORESTS

ties near where the logs came from. But more and more, as with BC's decision to release Western Forest Product's land from public regulation, governments are allowing corporations to avoid their responsibility to local communities.

If politicians were interested in restructuring the forest industry, there are numerous suggestions available. Cooperman points out, for instance, that a never-implemented 1991 Forest Resources Commission report advocates selling at least 50 percent of tenure, or licenses to log particular areas, on open markets. About 20 percent is now sold that way, and he says increasing it would make stumpage rates mirror more closely the value of the trees being cut.

A January 2007 report by Ben Parfitt, a journalist and researcher with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, looks at steps taken in recent years to distribute wealth from BC forests. He examines 130 accords signed between the province and first nations and finds they don't go far enough. "The current situation leaves first nations with few dollars and minimal access to timber with which to diversify their economies and alleviate poverty and unemployment in their communities," he writes in a summary of *True Partners: Charting a New Deal for BC, First Nations and the Forests We Share*.

BC collects about \$1 billion a year in stumpage fees, Parfitt says, but only about 3.5 percent of that flows back to first nations. He suggests a radical re-ordering of the industry, with half of all stumpage dollars channeled to first nations. He also recommends the province give first nations the chance to manage forests over longer periods than the five years currently offered.

The lisaak experience

One place first nations have been more intimately involved in forestry is Clayoquot Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island, where five of the Nuu-chah-nulth tribes jointly own Iisaak Forest Resources. The company was created after the protests of the early '90s as a way to make opportunities for aboriginal people, build a "green" economy and bring logging back to the Sound.

After eight years, says Gary Johnsen, the chair of Iisaak's board, the company is still figuring out how to be viable. It has managed to turn a profit in just two of the years it has existed. There's a plan to create some kind of secondary manufacturing — turning wood into a value added product — that would build steady, year-round jobs.

Average annual amount BC collects in stumpage fees: \$1 billion
Portion that goes back to first nations: 3.5 percent

—Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Board feet of lumber exported from Canada to the US annually between 1998 and 2001: 18 billion

Factor by which this exceeds exports in 1952: 6

—Congressional Research Service

But so far, he says, the company hasn't had the capital needed to make it happen.

"I'm hopeful for the future, I guess," says Johnsen. "I think there are lessons to be learned. Often that's at the expense of Iisaak." While there's reason for optimism, it would be tough to set it up as a model for others just yet.

Part of Iisaak's financial challenge is scale. The company logs about 100,000 cubic metres of wood a year from Clayoquot Sound. That's about 10 percent of what would have been taken by corporate loggers in the 1980s or early '90s. Iisaak is looking at ways to get access to more timber, which would make the company more economically viable, but in some ways the problems it faces are the same as everywhere on the coast.

"The heyday of the virgin valley is gone," says Johnsen, who worked 23 years for Macmillan Bloedel. The volume cut on the coast now is half what it was two decades ago, and much of what is available now is second growth that's nothing like the huge old growth on which the industry was built.

Community management

The realities facing Iisaak hold true across the province and the country. For decades the forests have been logged at a rate that can't be sustained, and that decision has reduced options in the present.

Chief Fobister at Grassy Narrows has also seen opportunities disappear as forests are clearcut. Not only has the first nation been cut out from the benefits of logging, he says, but the industry has made it much more difficult for local people to survive. After forests are chopped down, the trap lines stop producing. There's erosion. Mercury poisoning from a paper mill up river harmed fishing in recent decades, taking away a food source. The loss of fish affected guiding as well, since tourists no longer wanted to cast their lures into a poisoned river.

"Most of our people were laid off from seasonal employment," says Fobister. "It's very different than it was in the heyday of the late '60s and '70s. Everything declined... Human activities and the pollution have had an adverse

Continued on Page 12 ⇨

⇐ *Forest Shares continued*

impact on the environment and the ecosystem, plus it has impacted on us as well.”

How areas are logged is intricately linked with who benefits and who is harmed. In Grassy Narrows, Fobister describes logging that is destroying a way of life while income from the forest disappears to somewhere outside the community. Increasing the return to first nations — either by splitting stumpage fees with them or charging a tax on lumber exports to replace the softwood duties — would no doubt help in the short term. But given a chance, Grassy Narrows and other communities might well prefer to make decisions foregoing immediate financial gain in exchange for the chance to make decisions that would sustain the community. There’s much more dignity in living as part of a functioning ecosystem, whether by fishing, tourism, hunting or forestry activities, or some combination, than there is in living in a wasteland, dependent on receiving a government cheque.



Andrew MacLeod is a journalist who lives in Victoria, BC and writes for *Monday Magazine*.

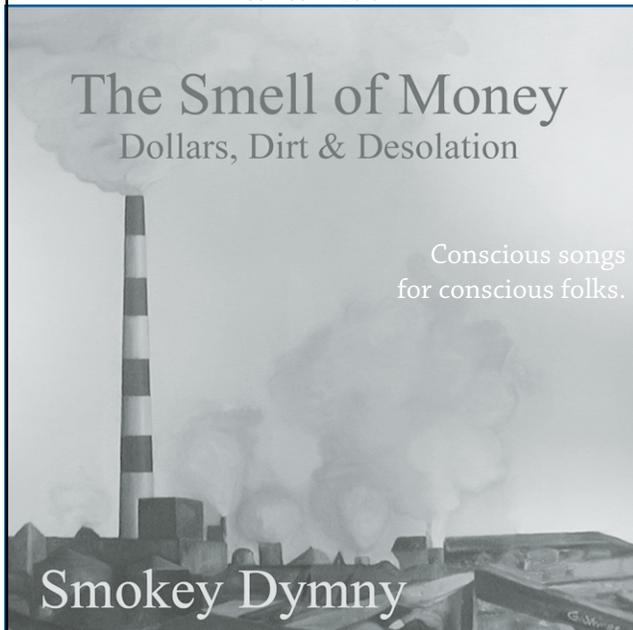
Hectares of Crown land clearcut in 2004: 783,886
 Value of forest exports in 2004: \$34 billion
 Revenue to provincial governments from Crown land timber sales in 2004: \$1.9 billion
 Approximate stumpage paid to BC annually \$1 billion
 Return on Capital Investment in BC forest and paper industry in 2004: 15 percent
 Return on Capital Investment across Canada in 2004: 4.4 percent

—National Forestry Database Program,
 Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP

COMING NEXT ISSUE — ANOTHER LOOK:

Softwood - stumpage, export duties, American bullies, foreign owners, raw log exports, chips to Japan....It’s enough to make your head spin. Are the Americans right? What do stumpage fees tell us about who gets what from the forest?

To be relatively conscious is to be in rage almost all the time
 - James A. Baldwin



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Have You Heard

Deh Cho leader calls for Tar Sands Moratorium

At the end of January, Grand Chief Herb Norwegian of the Dehcho First Nations, called on Canada and Alberta to support a moratorium on further development of Athabasca Tar Sands “until some sanity can be brought into this situation.” A delegation of chiefs and elders had toured Suncor operations out of concern for the Mackenzie River. Norwegian called the Tar Sands extractions “out of control...like a cancerous tumour.”

—*Canadian Dimension, February 8, 2007*

Highways harm lungs

A new study warns that people who live within 500 metres of roadways risk lifelong lung damage, even including children who show no sign of asthma. Researchers studied 3,677 children in 12 areas of southern California where

a wide range of air qualities was recorded. They measured their lung capacity according to three measures annually between the ages of 10 and 18. They found “significantly reduced” rates of lung growth, even for those whose areas were otherwise near clean green spaces. The study suggests that diesel fumes are to blame.

—*The Guardian, January 29, 2007*

Metals damage smell in fish

Copper entering streams from urban and agricultural runoff can damage salmon’s fine sense of smell. This disrupts their predator-avoidance behavior and puts them at risk of predators. The damage is not limited to copper, but also extends to all other metals tested, and is not limited to fish but seems to extend to all levels of aquatic life.

—*Environmental Science and Technology, March 2007*

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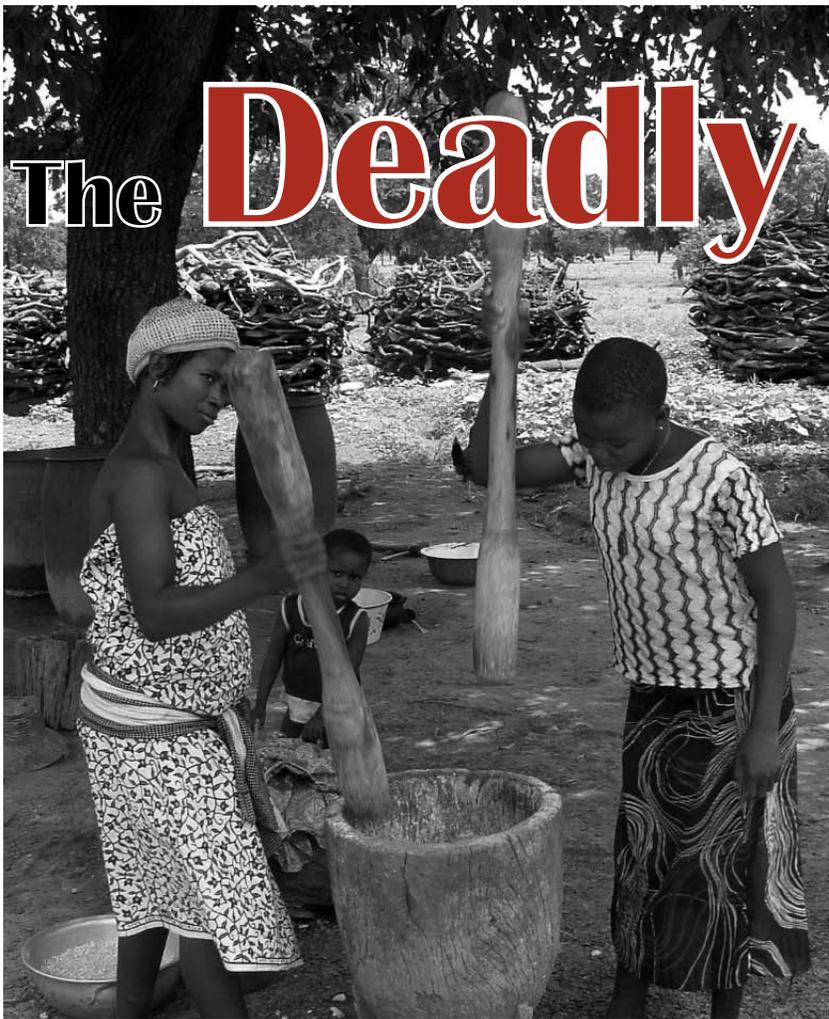
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The Deadly

Chemicals in Cotton

Since the 1980s the global consumption of cotton has risen dramatically; almost doubling in the last 30 years. With demand now in excess of 25 million tonnes annually, the world's consumers buy more cotton today than ever before, and that cotton is routinely dosed with hazardous chemicals. The authors of a new report advise consumers to "Pick Your Cotton Carefully" and choose organic, fairly traded cotton.

As more and more people choose cotton for its feel of natural fibre and its ability to "breathe" more than synthetics, serious concerns are growing about the ways it is cultivated and its impact on local people. European campaigns for environmental and social justice are ramping up to promote organic cotton and to expose the problems. It is not a pretty picture.

The Deadly Chemicals in Cotton, a new report by the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), in collaboration with the Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK), reveals the routine use of harmful chemicals, including nerve agents and neurotoxins, on cotton crops.

Vomiting, paralysis, incontinence, coma, seizures and death are some of the many side effects suffered by farmers and children in the developing world who are routinely exposed to pesticides, many of which are banned or restricted in use in the West.

A 2004 study conducted by researchers at the Technical University of Łódź, in Poland, has shown that hazardous pesticides applied during cotton production can also be detected in cotton clothing.

Cotton, the most valuable (legal) non-food agricultural product, is the world's "dirtiest" crop:

- * US\$2 billion's worth of chemicals are sprayed on the world's cotton crop every year; almost half of the pesticides and herbicides are considered toxic enough to be classified as hazardous by the World Health Organization.

- * Cotton is responsible for the release of 16% of global insecticides – more than any other single crop.

- * In total, almost 1kg of hazardous pesticides is applied for every hectare of global cropland under cotton.

- * Aldicarb, a powerful nerve agent, is one of the most toxic pesticides applied to cotton worldwide. Despite its World Health Organization classification, "extremely hazardous," US\$112 million's worth is applied to cotton crops each year.

- * Endosulfan — attributed to serious health problems, including coma, seizures, convulsions and death – remains as one of the most widely used pesticides in the world: in India, over 3,000 tonnes is applied to cotton crops annually. Endosulfan is thought to be the most important source of fatal poisoning among cotton farmers in West Africa. [See also page 5 – ED]

Children are inherently more vulnerable to the negative impacts of exposure to pesticides. In countries such as Uzbekistan and India, children work in the cotton industry, live near cotton fields or are at high danger of pesticide exposure from reused pesticide containers and food.



Steve Trent, Director of EJF, says “With no less than 99% of the world’s cotton farmers living in the developing world, the pesticides are applied in fields where illiteracy is high and safety awareness is low, putting both

the environment and lives at risk.” He adds “The dangers faced by poor illiterate children and farmers, to keep our clothes cheap, is unacceptable.”

“Today, only 0.15% of the world’s cotton is guaranteed to be pesticide free. This means that the majority of the cotton we wear is likely to have contributed to the poisoning of lives and the environment in some of the world’s most vulnerable communities,” says Linda Craig, Director of PAN UK. “If the fashion industry is truly concerned about its impact in this world, then it needs to clean up its act and demand organic cotton.”



For more information or the full report, *The Deadly Chemicals in Cotton*, as well as other reports on cotton and child labour and social justice, see the Environmental Justice Foundation website www.ejfoundation.org. For information on organic cotton and other pesticide issues visit the Pesticide Action Network UK, www.pan-uk.org or www.WearOrganic.org

Photos: Left - Women cotton farmers prepare neem mixture to spray on cotton from local neem seeds
Above - Child playing with pesticide containers, which are resold and reused to carry drinking water and other goods

Photos compliments of Pesticide Action Network UK

Household Tip

There is a lot of choice out there for organic cotton baby clothes and diapers, and sometimes bedding, shirts and clothing. Organic cotton fabric, on the other hand, is hard to come by. The best source we can recommend is the website Guide to Less Toxic Products, <http://www.lesstoxicguide.ca/> sponsored by the Environmental Health Association of Nova Scotia. There you will find not only hundreds of products, but sources of fabric as well. And the Guide goes way beyond material to cover all kinds of products in our daily lives, from baby care soap to personal beauty products.

<http://www.lesstoxicguide.ca/>



Organic cotton

Organic cotton production offers a strong alternative to current production methods. Consumer demand for organic cotton currently stands at between US\$800 million and US\$1 billion, and is growing so rapidly that demand currently outstrips supply. With strong demand, organic cotton production not only offers a more environmentally and socially sustainable alternative, but is economically viable. Cotton traders and investors (public and private) should encourage the conversion of conventional cotton production to organic methods.

People Protecting Special Places



The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia celebrates the conservationists who are such good neighbours to us all. We salute BC's Land Trusts which make it possible.



Thousands of people across BC have left a legacy for future generations of protected places in or near their communities through support and participation with land trusts. Protecting natural areas is the best way of absorbing carbon from the atmosphere, providing a landscape adaptable to change and the conservation of water.

In March, BC's land trusts are celebrating the protection of over half a million acres of land (equivalent to Greater Vancouver) in the last decade. The date marks the 10th anniversary of the umbrella organization – The Land Trust Alliance of BC. Since 1997, over 32 land trusts have formed across BC, working as charitable non-profit organizations to protect BC's natural and cultural heritage. Land trusts work with British Columbians to protect areas of ecological diversity, native grasslands, and heritage sites, wetland and riparian areas. Other lands are models for sustainable working farms, ecoforestry, "organic chocolate factories" and family ranches.

The following 12 people are a cross section of the thousands of British Columbians who are protecting places in their communities and backyards through a combination of

conservation tools and help from land trusts. They have left a legacy of natural and cultural diversity in BC.

* Ruth Masters wanted to be sure that the trail she had created on her 20 acre property along the Puntledge River would remain "when I'm on the other side of the grass." She donated 18 acres to the Regional District of Comox-Strathcona and registered a conservation covenant with two land trusts on title to protect it.

* Judy and Brian Bloomfield restored a salmon-rearing channel on their 20 acre property in the Agricultural Land Reserve on the outskirts of Courtenay. They donated a conservation covenant to the Comox Valley Land Trust on a 6.5 acre section protecting the channel and the adjacent riparian forest.

* Daniel Terry worked with the Denman Conservancy Association to register a Conservation Covenant on his 4 acre chocolate factory property. Located on a ridge, this property contains threatened

Douglas fir and arbutus, which are now protected through the covenant.

* Ilse Leader, a grandmother and weaver on Salt Spring Island says, "I think it's a wonderful idea to preserve the nature on your property for future generations. It was a wonderful place for my kids to grow up. It sounds like eve-



Since 1997, over 32 land trusts have formed across BC, working as charitable non-profit organizations to protect BC's natural and cultural heritage

rybody else is saying it, but the changes on the island are happening so fast, I felt that I could do something.”

* David Price, of Mandalay Developments purchased the Matson Lands in Victoria to build residential condominiums. He agreed to donate 2.5 acres of endangered shoreline Garry oak habitat through Environment Canada’s Ecological Gifts Program, creating a conservation area now owned and managed by Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT).

* Ab Singh leases his Delta organic vegetable farm from Ducks Unlimited Canada, who purchased it from him in 1995. Ab follows a management agreement in which he harvests vegetables and then plants a winter cover crop (such as winter wheat or barley) as grazing forage for thousands of waterfowl annually.

* Dale and Anita Lehman donated their 60 acre old-growth forest with artesian springs near Osoyoos as a nature reserve to TLC The Land Conservancy of BC.

* The Thomson family donated a portion of their farm for wetland restoration and a wildlife sanctuary in Kelowna.

* Hugh McLuckie, manager and Ray van Steinberg, owner of Pine Butte Ranch protect wildlife and native grasslands on their cattle ranch in the East Kootenays due to agreements with The Nature Conservancy of Canada.

* Brian McKenzie of Tech Cominco Metals Ltd. facilitated the sale of 600 acres of company lands at bargain prices to retain community trails, a heritage site and wildlife habitat.

* Elizabeth White, volunteer fundraising coordinator, raised millions in individual and corporate support to protect Burgoyne Bay, one of many parks in BC that have been protected through the collaboration of people and land trusts.

In addition to the 32 land trusts already working across BC, two new First Nation Land Trusts have recently been registered, currently awaiting charitable status. They will use education, restoration and stewardship tools, in addition to some acquisition projects to protect natural and cultural heritage sites.

—Thanks to the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia

To find a land trust near you, to donate to current purchases, or to download a pdf of *People Protecting Places*, see www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca

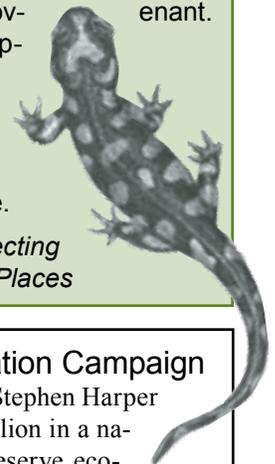


CONSERVATION COVENANTS

A conservation covenant is a voluntary legal agreement that allows landowners to permanently protect specified features of the land, while still retaining ownership and use. It can cover all or part of a parcel of property. Differing from common law restrictive covenants, conservation covenants are often held by one or more land trust organizations (also referred to as conservation organizations). A conservation covenant helps protect specific features, areas or uses in perpetuity. The landowner and their successors still hold title to the land and can continue to use it within the terms of the agreed restrictions within the covenant.

...Since 2000, donations to approved conservation charities of ecologically-sensitive land, or easements, covenants and servitudes on such land, have been eligible for special tax assistance.

—Excerpt from *People Protecting Places*



National Land Conservation Campaign

In mid-March Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced plans to invest \$225 million in a national campaign to acquire and preserve ecologically sensitive land in partnership with the private sector. The Government’s lead partner in the campaign is the Nature Conservancy of Canada which will work with Ducks Unlimited Canada and members of the Canadian Land Trust Alliance. They will identify ecologically valuable land and seek donation, purchase or preservation agreements with landowners. Where land purchases are involved, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and its partners will seek to raise funds at least matching the government’s contributions.

The campaign will focus on lands that have national or provincial ecological significance, that provide habitat for species at risk or migratory birds, or that connect to existing protected areas such as National Parks. The government investment is expected to result in the long-term protection of up to half a million acres of ecologically sensitive land across southern Canada.

Last year the government also encouraged donations by exempting private donations of land to conservation groups from capital gains tax.

—Prime Minister’s Office, March 14, 2007

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Catalyst Towns Need New Tack

by Arthur Caldicott

Since Norske Skog cast it loose, Catalyst has been like a freighter adrift on the corporate high seas, without a visible strategy that is more than Captain Horner yelling threats over the gunnels that we better get those municipal taxes out of the way or shipwreck is certain. Third Avenue Management has boarded the ship, and the ship is now heading ... somewhere.

Catalyst Paper makes more pulp and paper than any other company in British Columbia. Its three mills on Vancouver Island, a fourth in Powell River, and its Vancouver paper recycling plant support employment for 3800 people. Its sales last year were \$1.8 billion and its assets are \$2.7 billion.

It stands today as the largest producer of phone book paper in the world and one of North America's largest producers of newsprint and mechanical paper. It is one of the world's few producers of sawdust-based pulps, and owns the largest paper recycling facility in Western Canada.

Originating with BC Forest Products in 1946, the company became Fletcher Challenge Canada in 1987, Norske Skog Canada in 2000, and NorskeCanada with the acquisition of Pacifica Papers in 2001.

And then the ship NorskeCanada hit perilous seas.

The bottom fell out of the pulp and paper markets. Pulp prices fell in one year from about US\$700 a ton to \$400. Paper prices fell about 25%. US newsprint demand has declined by 25% since 2000. The Canadian dollar has risen more than 40% against the US dollar. By 2005, some three dozen mills or machines were shut down across Canada, resulting in the loss of 7,000 jobs.

How did NorskeCanada weather this chaos of uncontrollable events – commodity prices, exchange rates, product demand?

Industrial tax rates are crippling us, claimed CEO Russell Horner. He began an all-out assault on the four communities in which his mills were located: Powell River, Campbell River, Port Alberni and North Cowichan.

In a campaign that vilified these greedy BC towns, Horner enlisted the support of other large industrial corporations in BC and of the BC government itself.

The Competition Council, the Premier's own hand-picked industry advisory group, said that municipalities need to reduce tax rates on the pulp and paper industry, and if they don't they need to be subject to "an imposition by the Province." "There are communities in British Columbia that have dined out on the industrial complex of taxes for

too long," warned Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman.

Norske Skog, the corporate owner of NorskeCanada, was not happy with its money-losing Canadian operation. And it was getting out of British Columbia – something a lot easier to do with capital than with four mills.

In 2005 the separation began when NorskeCanada assumed the name Catalyst Paper. In early 2006 Norske Skog sold its interest in Catalyst to a private US investment group called Third Avenue Management.

Third Avenue Management has a solid track record of acquisitions of distressed companies which have ultimately proved profitable.

And not everything is a disaster with pulp and paper in BC. Wood fibre prices – a primary cost to the industry - have declined steadily for twenty years. Electricity costs for large industrial users in British Columbia remain among the lowest in Canada and in the world. Pulp and paper prices have recovered almost completely from the 2001-2002 debacle. And the shutdown splurge of a few years ago overshot the drop in demand.

Third Avenue's Amit Wadhwaney says, "Sometimes things get too cheap."

We can expect Third Avenue to play hardball, particularly on the cost side of the operation. More layoffs. Pressure to ease off environmental protections. And municipal taxes, especially since the industry has the support of government.

The four local governments have let themselves be picked on individually and each has conceded some ground to Catalyst. Disunity has not best served them. A better response, especially now with Third Avenue at the helm, might be to form a Catalyst Communities Council to deal with the company collectively. It is not too late.

Will Third Avenue shut down any mills? Catalyst's only assets are its mills, worth \$2.7 billion. Shut down, any one of them becomes an expensive non-producing liability. And very hard to sell. It's not likely.

Horner? With \$4 million in his pocket and Catalyst off his back, he's bound to be a much happier man. The remaining crew on the ship Catalyst may be happier as well.



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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Getting Closer

Ocean Power Technologies Inc and PNGC Power, an Oregon electric power distribution co-operative, have agreed to work cooperatively on development of the Reed-sport OPT Wave Park in Oregon. As part of the initial program, OPT expects to install its ocean-tested PowerBuoy® systems, initially generating a total of 2 MW approximately 2.5 miles off the coast at a depth of 50 meters. OPT has been issued a preliminary permit for up to 50 MW of capacity at the site, and plans to develop, own, and operate the initial 2 MW wave power park.

Meanwhile, the Comox Strathcona Regional District on Vancouver Island has granted its first Tidal Power Generation zoning, for Canoe Pass Tidal Energy Corp's demonstration project between Quadra and Maude Islands near Seymour Narrows and Discovery Passage.

—Ocean Power Technologies, February 22, 2007

Foresters must investigate ethics

The BC Supreme Court has again ordered the general counsel and registrar of the Association of BC Forest Professionals to reconsider his decision to dismiss the complaint of the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association. The Sunshine Coast activists have been fighting since 2003 to have the foresters' association investigate the ethics of clearcut logging and its impact on the endangered marbled murrelet.

—Vancouver Sun, February 14, 2007

No funding for seismic testing

BC environmental groups are applauding the decision by Canada's National Science and Engineering Research Council to withdraw funding for the Batholiths Project that proposed harmful seismic blasting in North Coast waters, which are home to a rich diversity of marine life, including humpback whales, orcas and stocks of migrating salmon.

—Living Oceans Society, March 9, 2007

from our islands .com

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by Kathy Smail, Executive Director

Time spent here in the Friends of Cortes Island (FOCI) Resource Centre, especially on a Friday afternoon, is always busy, eclectic and very informative.

Our location helps; we are adjacent to the busy Friday Market at the community hall and folks coming to get mail, do banking, have a cuppa, or do their weekend shopping, will pop by for a bit of social chit chat. A quick query will often turn into a fluid exchange of ideas and advice.

Having a resource centre with a lending library contributes to the conversation as those returning books or movies provide spontaneous reviews; what was practical, what worked, what didn't. More often than not there will already be a FOCI director here busily sorting out some project details, keen to join in on a lively debate.

Through this process, spontaneous gems of knowledge are offered up, small treasures winnowed from the everyday experiences of rural life on our little island. It could be anything from observations on the relationship between woodchip garden paths and the exploding woodlice population to the new fuel injection system for two stroke boat engines that is halfway as good at lowering emissions as a full-fledged four stroke.

It really is nothing less than "Reality Farmer's Almanac," Cortes style. And it is interesting! Interesting enough, (at least to us Cortesians) that FOCI will be sponsoring a

column in one of our local community advertising flyers inviting folks to share ideas and discoveries.

SHIFT HAPPENS, Community Solutions to Global Warming is one grassroots approach to working together and sharing home-tested ideas that are practical, affordable, and doable. Norberto Rodriguez dela Vega is championing the column under the editorial skills of the flyer's new publisher, Shanaya Nelson. We hope to air some of the more globally applicable comments in future FOCI pages of the Watershed Sentinel.

My jewel of the month came from Noba Anderson, Cortes-raised activist and recent recipient of the Young Leaders in Rural Canada Award. While discussing the essence of the work done by our little grassroots society, we came to the realization that FOCI goes beyond environmentalism. Noba captured it in the simple phrase, "It's all about people and place."

To check out the **Cortes Community Flyer**, and other tidbits of Cortesian interest, you can go to www.cortesisland.com The Friends of Cortes Island Resource Centre is adjacent to Manson's Hall and you'll find Kathy there on a Friday afternoon.



◆
Welcome
to this year's FOCI Board!

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**Thank you to all those listed
and to the many others without whom this magazine simply
could not publish!**



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Friends of Cortes Island sponsors public education features about sustainable living for Georgia Strait and the islands — features that focus on renewable energy sources, environmentally friendly building materials, alternative sewage treatment, practical tips on “Living Green.” To receive a tax receipt, **please make your donation to FOCI.**

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From Our Readers

Rivers of Riches

Thank you for your excellent January-February issue. I'm a long time but occasional reader of the *Sentinel* through the free copies you send to the West Kootenay EcoSociety. Your coverage of Independent Power Producers (IPP) and the politics surrounding them has incited me to take out my very own subscription, if for no other reason than to support your work.

The article "Rivers of Riches" was not only profoundly informative, it was inspirational. I promptly sat down and wrote the enclosed article about our own local IPP projects here in the Columbia Mountains. Enclosed you will find an additional \$5 to purchase a hard copy of the article.

As a cooperative owner of a truly "micro"-hydro system (8kw), I am a long-time supporter of green energy alternatives. I'm glad the article discussed the public green washing that these so-called "run-of-river" medium sized hydro-electric are attempting. At the same time, as we face down the Glacier/Howser IPP, we cannot help but compare their impact to the historical and stunning devastation of mega-hydro projects and dams for flood control. Though no one is offering to dismantle any of the mega-dams on the Columbia River system which laid waste to most of the rich, valley bottom ecosystems of the Inland Temperate Rainforest, I do wonder, if we were starting out from scratch with power generation, if medium-sized projects that were ecologically sound and publicly owned wouldn't represent the lesser of evils. That's a lot of "ifs", I agree.

The least of evils would be dealing, as a society, with our overblown, consumerist demands for power of all kinds: fossil fuels, electricity, political leverage and economic greed. I'm hoping that people are smart enough to connect their requirements for electrical gadgets like dishwashers (other than the two we were born with known as hands), dryers, etc. with the ecological devastation they see around them. Electrical power is required to meet rising demands: it's not complex.

Thank you again, Watershed Sentinel staff and supporters for all you work,

K. Linda Kivi, Bird Creek, BC

Privatized Prison, Pissed Betty

Okay, so maybe pissed isn't a nice word for a great-grandmother to be using but I find I don't care, nice is not what is happening. Prisoners are being mistreated at Alouette Correctional Centre for Women and the press is not allowed in to report it. Are the women being beaten?

Yes and no. Not with whips, but with privatization of the prison. Women are re-



Read more about micro hydro, and run-of-river projects, including the Glacier Creek proposal, at www.watershedsentinel.ca. We invite our readers to send letters on all aspects of the Energy issue to editor@watershedsentinel.ca and we will post the best on our website.

quired to work at Alouette. Prisoners' pay? Two dollars and fifty cents a day. That's a day, not an hour. Before privatization, women prisoners were paid four dollars and fifty cents a day.

Cut it in half, was Campbell's solution. And privatize everything. Including the food. Especially the food. Eggs? Well, we wont have to worry about cholesterol. Two eggs a week. Fruit? Four pieces a week. Milk? A little powdered milk poured out of a pitcher by an attendant on a half a bowl of cereal for breakfast, a cup (that's a cup, not a glass) of powdered milk for supper. Meat, when there is any, has been frozen for awhile and sometimes can't even be cut with the plastic knives. And the paucity of fresh vegetables is a crime. But this is a private food service and the company has to make a profit out of the prisoners.

Betty Krawczyk is currently serving a sentence for contempt of court over her refusal to obey injunctions against blockading the Eagle Bluffs highway expansion.

Water Stewardship on Hornby

Wishing you, your staff and Watershed Sentinel a successful year in helping everyone learn about the serious condition of water and what we must each do to protect it from overuse, pollution and the dangers of our governments allowing industry to destroy Canada's precious surface and groundwater -- and often giving them a subsidy to do so!

One Water Stewardship project on Hornby concerned "Lids for dumpsters." For many years 2 huge lidless containers for storage of non-recyclable garbage have been leaking 'enriched rain' down into the groundwater. It took years, many letters, phone calls, meetings with recycling folks, and whoopee! 2006 was the year - the Regional District came through!

For Hornby Water Stewardship

Cathie Howard, Hornby Island BC

Seedling Scam

E. Strijbos

As the BC government becomes converted to action on climate change, it is expecting carbon credits for BC's vast plantations of young trees. But the carbon cycle is complicated and plantations stand revealed as just one more forest fraud.

by Dave Neads

As Minister Penner stated when commenting on the new carbon credit system the BC government is putting in place, things can get “complicated.” Just how complicated becomes readily apparent when you examine the newest scheme to make us look climate friendly and make money to boot.

Here in the Interior, we get, on average, 125 cubic metres of tree mass per hectare. It takes 125 years or more for trees to achieve this size. Most of the beetle kill and most of the old growth logged here is 125 to 200 years old. The ministry has set the lower limit of loggable forest down to 60 cubic metres per hectare. That is about the same amount of wood that is contained in one big old coastal cedar. Or one off-highway logging truck load for every 2.5 acres of land laid bare.

The question is: What happens to the carbon when these trees are clear-cut? With coarse woody debris, slash burning, diesel release in the cutting down of the trees, transport of logs to the mill, processing the logs into lumber and the subsequent transport of dimension lumber to the building site, coupled with the usual life span of 30 to 40 years before the dimension ends up burned in a landfill, all that carbon from the trees plus all that carbon from the manufacture and disposal of the forest will go into the atmosphere.

So, we plant seedlings. Diesel and natural gas to heat the greenhouses, diesel to transport the trees, propane and diesel to feed and house the tree planters.

Once the little guys are in the ground, it will take them as long as it did the old forest that was cut before they pull the equivalent amount of carbon out of the air to replace what those old trees had locked in their wood. When you add in all the additional carbon for the cutting, transport, milling, delivery of dimension, disposal of materials, and

growing and transport of the seedlings, even in the full 125 year cycle, it is impossible for the new forest to remove as much carbon from the system as was released in the whole process of manufacture and eventual discarding and replanting of the forest.

Impossible.

Young trees absorb carbon at a faster rate, but the amount they can lock up is nowhere near what the old trees had until they are the same age as the tree they are replacing. Period. Even as they are dying, old trees continue to add carbon as long as they live. Managed Stands? Faster growing? Sure. Just add fertilizer, go in and limb, space, do 20 year thinnings — all those carbon releases again.

Managed forests are a dream. It will never happen. Not on the millions of hectares in the Interior anyway. There is no money in it and the companies admit it: that is why they are asking for hundreds of millions of dollars for “rehab.” In other words, if the taxpayers won't pay for it, it won't happen. But, even if this money were to come from the public purse and some rehabilitation was done, the costs and side effects are far more damaging to the system; the overall carbon release will still exceed any possible removal by the trees.

Beetle killed? As the trees die, fall over and rot, they will release carbon. Typically that process to release all the carbon will take 30 to 60 years in this climate. As well, some of the decay is fixing carbon in the soil. So letting a dead forest stand, then fall over and decay is by far easier on the carbon cycle than logging the trees. Remember you have to add in all the carbon released in the whole process. Not to mention that clearcut logging removes all young trees under two feet, effectively setting the forest recovery clock back to time zero. In stands left to

If we were serious about reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we would end clearcut logging immediately. We would leave as much structure on the land as possible, we would protect regen, we would get rid of this false notion that a scraped and burned piece of land covered with 18 inch high seedlings is somehow good for the planet.

rot naturally, where there are already young trees in place, by the time the old trees are rotted, there will be 30 to 60 year old trees in the same place, locking up considerable carbon. So, when the full release of carbon from the dead forest is achieved, half of it will have been taken up by the forest standing right there.

Beetle-killed forests actually lower the long term fire risk in a forest. Once the needles fall, in two or three years, the forest is less fire prone than when it is green. It is the green needles with all of the oils and turpentine in their cells that cause the explosive high temperature fires that race across the landscape. In the red attack phase, the needles are drier, so there is a 10 to 15 percent elevation in risk of fire, but the speed of spread, the size and duration of the fire takes on a life of its own. Racing crown fires follow their own dictates according to wind and topography. I've seen them race across clearcuts, road corridors, beetle-kill and green forest alike, no difference.

To say that logging followed by planting seedlings to replace forest is a way to reduce greenhouse emissions is a full and utter scam. Then to sell these seedlings to the world

as a way to raise money to defray the costs of clearcutting just adds to the farce.

If we were serious about reducing green house gas emissions, we would end clearcut logging immediately. We would leave as much structure on the land as possible, we would protect regen, we would get rid of this false notion that a scraped and burned piece of land covered with 18 inch high seedlings is somehow good for the planet. If we are serious, these are the things that need to change, along with the continued hallucination that what is good for the US housing market is good for our forests or the carbon cycle.

Minister Penner is right, it is very complicated indeed, let's see if he has the wherewithal to set the record straight.



Dave Neads is a long time conservationist who has been involved in Mountain Pine Beetle issues since the late eighties. He is currently working with several local and provincial organizations to promote economic and biological diversity in these changing times.

Swings, Beetles and Global Warming

Remember when you played on a swing as a kid? It was difficult to get started, but once even a little swing happened, all it took was a series of small pushes to keep the momentum going, each push making you go higher and faster. Global warming is like that. Now that it is started, all it takes is a little push to make it move faster and higher. All around the globe there are millions of little pushes acting on the climate change swing, each one adding a bit more to the size and scope of the event.

One such little push is coming from the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) epidemic here in BC's Chilcotin-Cariboo. This is ironic, because it is global warming that created the epidemic in the first place, and now that very epidemic is pushing the scale of climate change in the Chilcotin-Cariboo higher and faster.

At one level, global warming is very simple. All it means is that more

heat is coming to the Earth than is leaving it. Right now there is more heat entering the Earth system than is being reradiated back into space. One of the main culprits in this trapping of heat is carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is made from a combination of carbon and oxygen.

There is a lot of carbon here on planet Earth and much of it is tied up in the trunks and branches of trees. Forest soils also have large carbon deposits that have accumulated over the millennia.

When the Mountain Pine Beetle kills the pine trees, the picture changes radically and rapidly. All of the energy that previously went into the chemical reactions to fix carbon now passes directly to the ground, heating the soils and the woody materials both standing and fallen. This heat is given back to the atmosphere as infrared, the very energy that is trapped by carbon dioxide to cause global warming.

The heated soils now become net exporters of carbon, not sinks. This adds to the overall carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, increasing the rate of temperature rise. As this local example shows, the positive feedback for global warming when the MPB kills pine stands is far outweighing the negative dampers...

This series of events is a prime example of how global warming works. Some effects are larger than others, but any single one would not be enough to cause the problem. It is the combination of millions of processes interacting, changing the way they operate, and producing feedback that can be either positive or negative that creates the overall pattern.

Pandora has opened the box. We need to help the local situation by rethinking our policies around salvage and the removal of mixed stands. Riding the climate swing will be tough enough. We don't need to make it

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From Wisdom to Tyranny

Communities in British Columbia originally enjoyed protection for the watersheds which provided their drinking water, but over the years, that protection for the Commons has been systematically eroded, its memory "disappeared," and the public trust betrayed.

By Will Koop, Coordinator, BC Tap Water Alliance

The protection of drinking water sources is an ancient wisdom of the Commons practiced throughout the world. A report to the Albany Institute on June 4, 1872 by New York state senior librarian Henry Home, described how the city of Constantinople's drinking watershed, located along the ridges of the Balkan Range, with its ancient chestnut and oak forests, had been protected for 1,500 years. Home stated that it was a wise "custom and a stringent law" originating from the "edicts of Greek Emperors." Wars, over-population, corruption, change in ruling authorities, etc., sometimes resulted in the abandonment of these customs to the detriment of the watersheds that provided people with clean, healthy water in Europe, Russia, and Asia. The lessons were well known by the time of the first colonizers' arrival in North America and resulted in some of its earliest legislation.

For over one hundred years the protection of intact forested drinking water sources in British Columbia was a well established legislative tradition. However, this purpose

and the administrative instruments dedicated to maintaining a healthy abundant supply of domestic water were later systematically obscured from public and municipal/community administrators. Beginning in 1975, three successive governments, Social Credit, the NDP, and the BC Liberals undertook the purposeful dismantling of "Community Watershed Reserve" policy, procedure and legislation nullifying the traditional oversight mandates of the Ministries of Environment and Health.

From the mid-1960s, short term timber supply of old growth at the current rate of cut was recognized to be unsustainable. Instead of adjusting the Allowable Annual Cut accordingly, provincial administrators, principally with the Forest Service, began to eye forested Watershed Reserve lands to bridge the predicted shortfall before the second growth forests were ready for harvest.

No public investigations

This disturbing story is investigated in my book, *From Wisdom to Tyranny: A History of British Columbia's Drinking Watershed Reserves*. It is the outcome of more than a decade of research and collaboration with many watershed activists. It describes the path from governance in the public interest to governance where elected officials and appointed administrators conspire to defraud the public and hide their actions from scrutiny. To date, there have been no public investigations by government other than internal findings of a 1970s inter-departmental task force on public drinking water supply sources.

The Auditor General released a critical review in March 1999 on *Drinking Water Protection*, the first report of its kind in BC history. Two years later, the Chief Medical Health Officer released a related provincial report on drinking water, also the first report of its kind in the Ministry of Health's history. Not one word about Community Watershed Reserves was included in either of those reports. Meanwhile the Ministry of Forests was beginning to include the Watershed Reserve lands in Community Forest licenses being granted, by circuitous proxy, to the forest

Opposite: Watershed Reserve Collage of old map notations from the BC Archives, in

From Wisdom to Tyranny: A History of British Columbia's Drinking Watershed Reserves, by Will Koop. Self-published, June 2006, 276 pp.

ISBN 0-9781012-0-0. \$25.00, shipping charges for BC residents are an additional \$10.00.

This book contains the details of the author's research into the old watershed reserves, including lists of reserves on record, photographs, memorandums, and maps. Chapters of the book explore various case studies as well as the historical chronology. The history of the legal struggle for the Bull Run Watershed in Portland Oregon is also given. Overall, the historical case is an "eye-opener."

To order send cheques to:

BC Tap Water Alliance
P.O. Box 39154
3695 West 10th Ave., Vancouver, BC, V6R 1G0

Continued on Page 28 ⇨

↳ *Watershed Wisdom continued*

industry throughout BC. We made the decision to col- late and publish the BC Tapwater Alliance research in re- sponse.

When *From Tyranny to Wisdom* was published in June 2006, Globe and Mail reporter Mark Hume wrote: “The sto- ry of how the watersheds holding British Columbia’s drink- ing water came to be logged is a deep and murky one.... he has gone where no researcher has before – deep into the provincial government’s own watershed reserve archives – and he has surfaced with findings that have to be taken seriously. If he’s right in his assertions, British Columbians have been robbed by their own government, of the right to clean water.”

Robbery, or theft, implies a criminal offence. Our find- ings reveal that many community watersheds are supposed to be fully protected from resource exploitation as Water- shed Reserves under the BC Land Act. Government docu- ments detail how the six hundred or so community water- sheds, under half of which are Watershed Reserves, were supposed to be excluded from the timber harvesting land base, but were instead covertly included in the new pro- gram of Allowable Annual Cut determinations.

Evidence from multiple documents suggests a strong and sustained collusion with the US timber industry; its as- sociations and interests were extended into and intertwined with BC’s. In the United States by the late 1940s, strong forces were at work to achieve the same ends in American protected federal, state and municipal drinking watersheds. The outcome of these dealings, which some now find hard to believe, was accomplished largely by obfuscation. North Americans who had nurtured a long-held belief in the pro- tection of drinking watersheds were completely unaware until, in many instances, it was too late. And yet public

criticism was immediate and sustained. The public “felt” this wasn’t “right.” Our research reveals that the public’s in- stinct was correct: there is a body of policy and legislation hidden in government’s closet, confirming that intuition.

The public desire to protect drinking water sources in North America was strongly voiced in the late 1800s during the often lawless and opportunistic exploitation of eastern US and Canadian forests. From 1850 to the early 1900s, cit- ies and settlements, primarily in the east, had their drinking watersheds ruined. As stated in many history books, there were few laws and little regulation of forestry practices in the 1800s, a time of rampant destruction of forests in the New World. Widespread public concerns, given voice by academics, led to the birth of the conservation movement and emphasis on the protection of forests. Early conserva- tionists and environmental scientists understood the rela- tionship between the protection of forest cover and water runoff, critical in drinking water sources and for the pre- vention of flooding and erosion. They lobbied for new laws recognizing this fundamental relationship. In contrast to today, the importance of intact forests and their rela- tionship to water protection was common knowledge. With the establishment of National Forest Reserves, later called National Forests, many US cities had their drinking water sources protected.

Here in BC, reflecting the North American consen- sus, New Westminster had its Coquitlam River drinking watershed, owned at that time by the federal Crown, pro- tected from logging and public trespass through a federal order-in-council in 1910. The City of Victoria’s privately owned drinking watersheds were unlogged until the 1950s. In 1927, the Greater Vancouver Water District obtained control of the Seymour and Capilano watersheds through a provision in the 1908 Land Act which granted a 999 year lease of the Crown lands. On southeastern Vancouver Is- land, the Nanaimo Water District’s Jump Creek watershed lands, privately owned by two or three separate corpora- tions since the two million acre E&N railway land grant, were not logged until after the mid-1950s.

Land Act Watershed Reserves

Dozens and dozens of drinking watersheds in BC were protected through *Land Act* Watershed Reserves in the early 1900s, and continued to be granted through the 1970s and 1980s. As Victoria City’s first hired professional forester H.J. Hodgins stated in 1949, his proposed sustained yield logging of Victoria’s pristine watershed forests “was the first such policy put into effect in Canada.”

But the spin emanating since the 1950s, from the ex- tensive public relations machine of US and Canadian tim- ber interests began bearing fruit. In some quarters of the

“The growing number of citizens and groups who belong to the water justice movement and the global justice movement at large who are fighting for a water secure future, believe in the beauty of this dream: that the global water crisis will become the source of global peace; that humanity will bow before Nature and learn to cooperate with the limits that Nature gives us and with each other.”

—Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke, 2005

BC environmental community, advocates began proposing ‘alternative’ or ‘community forestry’ in both community watersheds and the Watershed Reserves. During the 1990s, NDP provincial land use planning processes received directives to seek a mandate to log (and mine) in community watersheds, coupled with secret orders not to include mention of the Watershed Reserves in any of the plans, (or maps –Ed.) even though the legislation clearly said they should be included.

Activists did not know

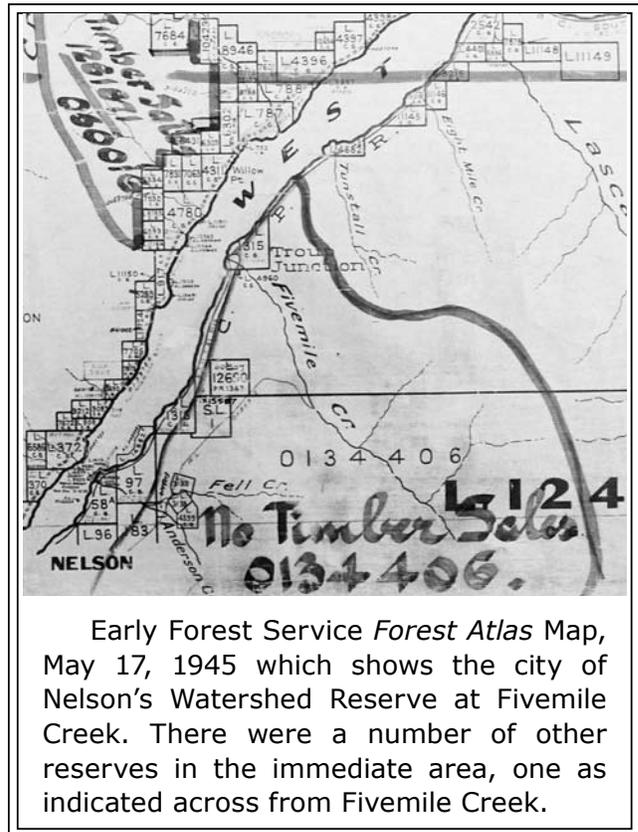
Unfortunately, during this time the BC environmental community was ignorant of the Watershed Reserves and their legislative status. This is evident in the 1984 creation of the BC Watershed Protection Alliance, and the famous first meeting of the For Love of Water (FLOW) August conference in Nelson. Sixty-six environmental organizations, Water Improvement Districts, water users, ratepayer associations, clubs, Tribal Councils, a legal association, etc., had passionately merged on the prevailing provincial issue of watershed protection. Many were opposed to logging and cattle grazing in their drinking watersheds.

A long confidential legal brief prepared for the FLOW meeting contained a summary of all relevant provincial legislation related to the Water and Municipal Acts for the administration of public and privately held watersheds. Yet in that document there was, oddly, no mention of Watershed Reserves and their legislated function, even though they were clearly marked on all Ministry of Forests’ Forest Atlas and Ministry of Environment’s Legal Survey maps. This common map information showing the Reserves was unfortunately completely overlooked by those community activists!

It was not until 1991 that the first questions about the status of these *Land Act* Watershed Reserves were raised by committee members of the Tetrahedron Local Resource Use Plan. This LRUP was a component of the Chapman Gray Integrated Watershed Management Plan, on the Sunshine Coast.

Forest Stewardship Council standards

On June 21, 2001, the BC Tap Water Alliance (BCTWA) provided formal objections during public input hearings by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) about public certification of logging in community drinking watersheds. The FSC group for BC, part of an international FSC body, proposed and accepted logging in Watershed Reserves, as FSC accepts logging in community watersheds globally. Former ‘single use’ drinking watersheds were redefined, internationally, as High Conservation Value Forests, where logging was endorsed.



Early Forest Service *Forest Atlas* Map, May 17, 1945 which shows the city of Nelson’s Watershed Reserve at Fivemile Creek. There were a number of other reserves in the immediate area, one as indicated across from Fivemile Creek.

The BCTWA stated:

This is in contrast to the current trend where logging in domestic watersheds, such as Portland, Seattle, Victoria, Greater Vancouver, the Sunshine Coast Regional District, and Nelson is discontinued.

It is our position that there should be no logging in domestic watersheds, and that the FSC should not support so-called alternative logging tenure applications and practices for certification in domestic water supplies.

Rather, the FSC should help British Columbians to reenact provincial legislation to protect domestic watersheds from agricultural and industrial activities. Associated with this is the long term process needed to rehabilitate domestic watersheds that have been degraded by diverse, and in some cases, prolonged industrial practices. In doing so, we will develop consistent standards and achieve public confidence to help in alternate forestry practices that will lead to the long-term protection and integrity of our forests — and the protection of our domestic water supply sources.

Continued on Page 30 ⇨

↩ *Watershed Wisdom continued*

Sunshine Coast referendum

The ongoing struggle for community control of drinking water sources is still being played out in the Sunshine Coast Regional District's two Reserves, Chapman and Gray Creeks. Logging on Crown land within these watersheds has not occurred since 1993. When community activists re-discovered during a lengthy Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) process that the District's water sources were Land Act Watershed Reserves, the Ministry of Forests stonewalled and refused to acknowledge the Reserves' legislative significance. In fact, no reference was made to their existence in any of the IWMP documents.

However, the discovery of the Reserves' status eventually led to community rejection of the Ministry of Forests Chapman/Gray Integrated Watershed Management Plan by referendum in 1998. After the public referendum, where voters rejected any further logging as well as proposed gravel mining in the Watershed Reserves, Regional District representatives met with provincial government representatives seeking clarification about the Reserve status. None was forthcoming.

Even after a Watershed Accord to protect the drinking water sources from logging and mining was established by the Sechelt First Nation and the Sunshine Coast Regional District, the new BC Liberal government continued to ignore public sentiment. They turned a blind eye while the Sunshine Coast Forest District highjacked the new provincial 'community forest' initiative to seize administrative authority over the Watershed Reserves. The Minister of Forests then directly awarded the Reserves to local forestry interests on the Sunshine Coast, over the sustained objections of 'the community' and in spite of the fact that the proposal had failed to meet the evaluation criteria established by the provincial government.

The Ministry of Forests and the community foresters

"The Reserves, created under the provincial Land Act, were public lands specifically set aside and protected as community drinking and domestic water sources. Early Forest Atlas maps — the central information reference for all Forest Service activities — displayed, in large letters, a standard disclaimer over these drinking watershed sources: **NO TIMBER SALES.**"

—*From Wisdom to Tyranny*

made no mention of the two Reserves or their legislative significance in any of their public documents and plans. They wilfully ignored and did not document the significant public opposition to the inclusion of the Chapman and Gray Creeks Watershed Reserves in the Community Forest land base. The only nod to community concern about its drinking water sources is in the Stewardship Plan, where they commit to protecting, not water quality and timing of flows but, the water intake structure "unless this will unduly impact timber supply."

In *From Wisdom to Tyranny*, the BC Tap Water Alliance presents all the evidence necessary to conclude that our birthright to an adequate supply of clean, healthy water, enshrined in provincial legislation, has been systematically 'disappeared' by the Ministry of Forests. For the past four decades, watersheds dedicated for community water supply have been covertly assigned to short term timber supply, while all costs and impacts have been cynically assigned to the taxpayer. Logging, mining and cattle husbandry in community watersheds have proven to be unmitigated disasters with long term health and financial consequences for the residents of those communities.

Based on our research, the BC Tapwater Alliance is recommending to government:

- The reinstatement of the Land Act Watershed Reserves in accordance with the intent of the designation;
- A forensic audit of provincial planning processes; and
- The suspension of all tenured activities in the Watershed Reserves to be undertaken immediately in the public interest.



Will Koop is Coordinator of the BC Tap Water Alliance. He has devoted many years to protecting drinking water sources, and researching and reporting on environmental issues.

Aquifer Study Before Pipeline

In February, the Manitoba provincial government rejected the license application for a \$10 million, 95 kilometre pipeline to carry a million gallons a day of drinking water from the Sandilands aquifer to west of the Red River. The Manitoba Clean Environment Commission had recommended denial of the license until an integrated aquifer and watershed development plan is completed for the Manitoba portion of the Red River Valley. The Commission said, "Development must take place in a way that does not jeopardize either the sustainability of the aquifer or the role that the aquifer plays in relation to the eco-system in which it is situated."

—*Steinbach Carillon, Feb. 15, 2007 - <http://www.thecarillon.com/>*

Films Over Troubled Waters

The life-sustaining waters of our beautiful blue planet are being polluted, diverted, bottled and stolen from the commons at an accelerating rate.

In early 2005, as I was thinking about this assault upon the earth, the threat of more destruction and suffering motivated me to act. I chose film as my tool for raising awareness because it is the medium I am most familiar with. I believe it is the ideal means for touching the hearts and minds of people.

I began by inviting the international film community to create and submit works about water. These submissions led to the creation of Reflections on Water, a collection of short films, first screened at the World Peace Forum in June, 2006.

Since then Reflections on Water has been shown at various venues to appreciative audiences. For instance, a teacher who attended the June event, was inspired to create her entire grade 3 and 4 curriculums around water.

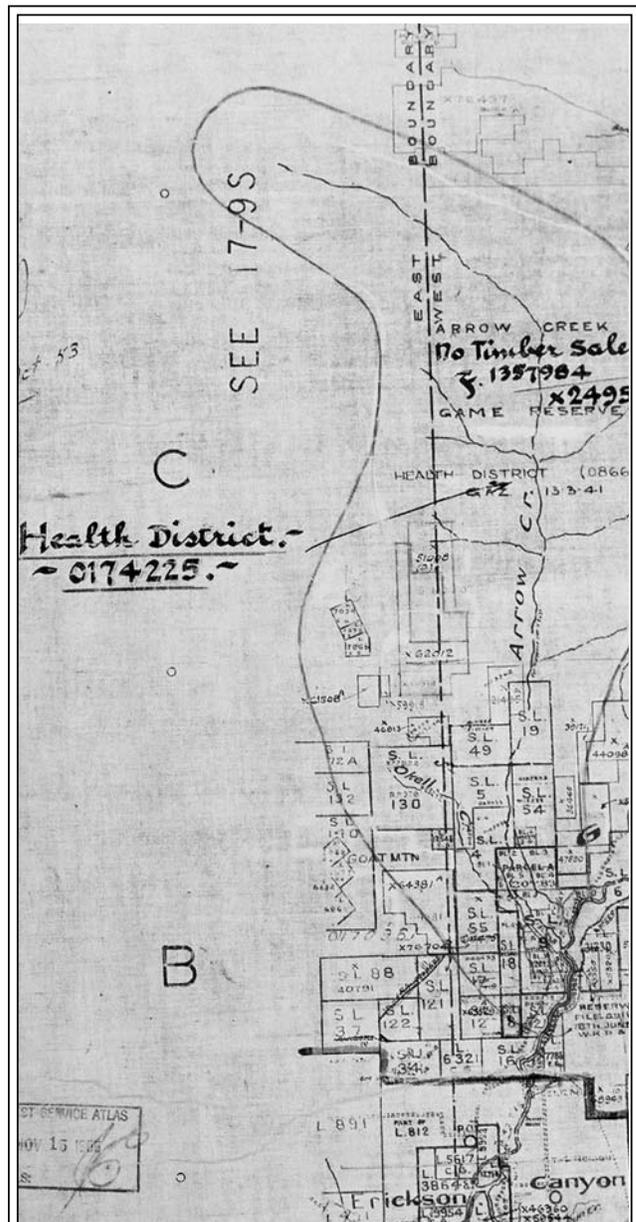
At present I am working on *water*, a website and cross country screening initiative undertaken by the National Film Board's CITIZENShift (<http://citizen.nfb.ca>). The online component of *water*, will officially go live on March 19th but early March will bring blogs, interesting links and screening locations across Canada, and information on organizing community screenings.

The program includes films that deal with environmental, social, political and economic issues surrounding water. All are Canadian except one from the US about the effects of hydroelectric power on the Manitoba Cree.

"My hope is that more of us treat water as a basic right for both the earth and its inhabitants, that more of us see the earth and the universe in a holistic and sacred manner, that we live more engaged and cooperative lives, care for one another across the world, and of course, care for the watersheds in our own backyards."

—Curatorial Statement, *Reflections on Water*,
Hadas Levy, 2006

Hadas Levy uses film and video to inspire dialogue and citizen engagement on environmental and social justice issues. Hadas has lived in a number of eco-communities around the world for the last 17 years but for the last four years has lived at Community Alternatives Co-op in Vancouver.



Forest Atlas Map, November 15, 1955 showing Arrow Creek Watershed Reserve, Game Reserve and Health District, with the standard disclaimer *NO TIMBER SALES*. According to Elvin Masuch, the former long-standing chair of the Erickson Improvement District Trustees, the public had never seen this map before BCTWA research. The map was never shown in the 1984-1988 Integrated Watershed Management Plan and public process for the Duck-Arrow Creeks.

Joe Foy is Campaign Director for the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Canada's largest citizen-funded membership based wilderness preservation organization. WCWC currently has 28,000 members from coast to coast.

Wild Times Rainforest Reflections

by Joe Foy

Joe in a protected Philippine old growth forest

It's a funny thing about rivers in oldgrowth rainforests. When I'm sitting down next to one of them they remind me of home, no matter where in the province or world that I am.

I guess the happy sound of water on the move, the feel of smooth stone on the hand and the rich smell of the rain forest, all work to put me at ease.

On a trip to the Philippines to visit with my wife's relatives, our family had some great times poking around a few of the local creeks and rivers. I soon found out that there are many things that BC and the Philippines have in common.

For one thing, both BC and Philippines have old growth rainforests. The Philippine rainforests are tropical while ours are temperate. All of the rainforest rivers flow into the Pacific Ocean or associated inland seas. And the rivers and rainforests in both places have sustained tribal peoples since time immemorial. The rainforests in both places are incredibly beautiful and mysterious.

We also have other things in common. Industrial logging has hit both of our old growth rainforests hard. Both places have had a long history of logging. But the three decades of the 60s, 70s, and 80s was when the most damage was done. The companies really boosted the cut, and as a result wildlife populations of old growth rainforest dependent species collapsed. The largest eagle in the world, the Philippine eagle, today survives only in the most remote rainforest valleys, a victim of the relentless pace of logging. So too the few remaining survivors of BC's spotted owl population huddle in increasingly isolated stands of old growth rainforest on BC's southern mainland.

But in the 1990s something remarkable happened. Ordinary people in both places came together and demanded change. In the Philippines, farmers, tired of floods and

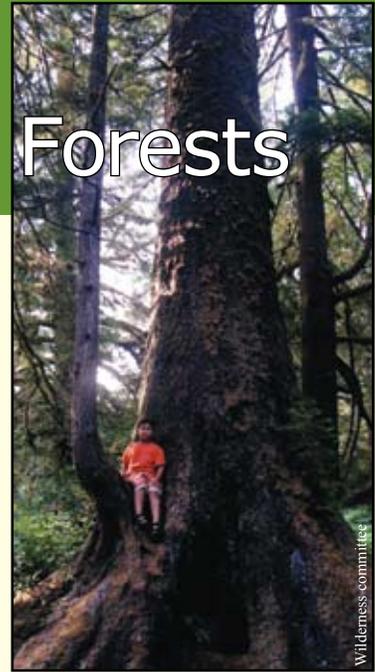
mudslides, demanded that the logging companies be reined in and prevented from stripping the hillside headwater areas. In BC the unrest culminated with the great Clayoquot Sound protests of the early 1990s. Tribal groups in both places were at the forefront, having the most to lose from the rainforest destruction. As a result new parks and protected areas were designated in Philippine and BC rainforests.

But in the Philippines something else happened too. In many places the remaining old growth rainforest, whether it was inside or outside of a park or protected area was designated off-limits to logging. New Zealand too has followed this course of action. The benefits have been huge. Helping to hold on to endangered wildlife, protecting water quality, and sustaining tribal traditions are just a few of the dividends.

And now, here in BC the Wilderness Committee has just published a four page educational paper calling for the banning of old growth logging on Vancouver Island. The latest satellite photos show that 73% of Vancouver Island's old growth forests have already been logged. Even worse, fully 90% of the Island's valley bottom old growth forests have been cut. Valley bottom old growth forests grow in the richest soils, under best weather conditions, and have the biggest trees and the most wildlife habitat.

In other areas of Vancouver Island, like Clayoquot Sound and the northwest coast, great old growth rainforest valleys still stand strong, bursting with promise and life. The Wilderness Committee calls for an immediate logging ban in the most endangered old growth forests, and a phased-in ban in areas of the Island where significant old growth still exists. By 2015 the ban on old growth logging would be island-wide, with lumber and value-added wood products made from second growth forests only.

End the War on the Woods Stop Logging Old Growth Forests



If you like the idea of a ban on old growth logging and want to help spread this idea across the province, why not give the Wilderness Committee's Victoria office a phone call and help distribute some of their educational papers in your community? You can reach them at (250) 388-9292.

Throughout the southeast portion of Vancouver Island, 99% of the old growth Coastal Douglas fir forests have been logged down. Local populations of Roosevelt elk and coho salmon hang on, refugees in a landscape of the tattered remains of the old growth, a heartbeat away from disappearing.

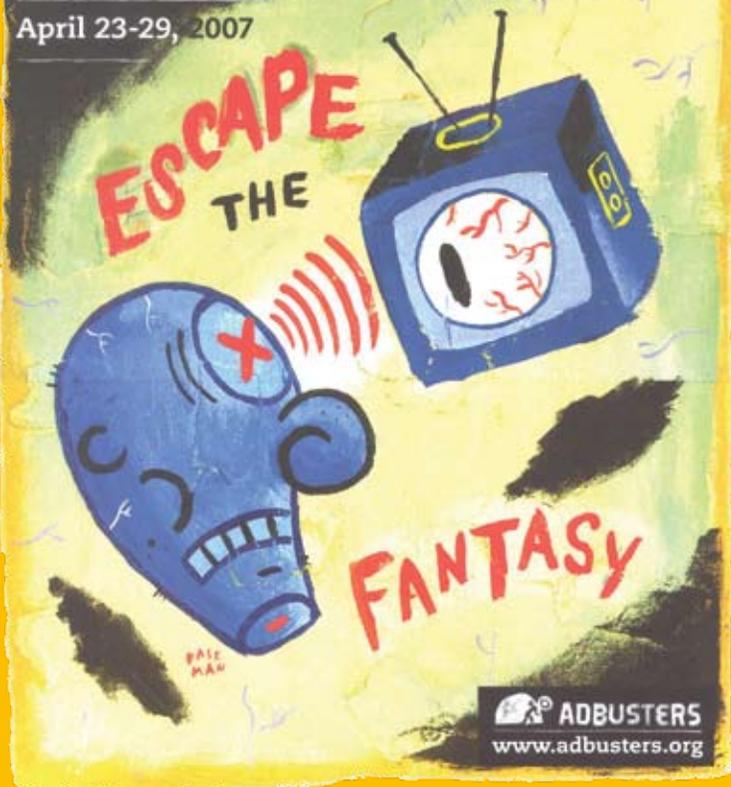


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