

# BC environmental

r e p o r t

Spring 2004

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## Our Network is 250,000 strong!

### Taking the next step in the BCEN renewal process

When you add up all the people who have membership in BCEN member groups, it comes to more than 250,000 individuals. This is a group whose common voice – not to mention vote – on any issue could change government policy and industrial practices that are the primary cause of our social, economic and environmental problems. This is a population whose coordinated actions could 'green' the business of British Columbia!

This is the real BC environmental network. This is the network that we must reach and work with in order to make environmental values and ethics become mainstream influences on political, social and economic decision-making.

The BCEN is the coordinating body that makes contact with the environmental community, government and the general public. We recently broadened our network to include sustainable businesses. The BCEN is ideally situated and equipped to take the next step, to reach deeper into our traditional sector of support, to combine and expand the role

of the environmental community in a potent way across our province. With cooperation from our members, the BCEN can accomplish this.

The environmental community has come together in the past, and with solid ground rules and clear understandings

*The environmental community has come together in the past, and with solid ground rules and clear understandings we can do it again.*

we can do it again. The environmental movement in BC needs to talk about taking the next step. We need to develop protocols on how our movement works with the issues, and how we, the participants, work with each other. We need to build

trust. On that foundation we will build a healthy future.

Those who choose to participate in the Network share the benefits of a broad and deep connection to the community. Your participation, agreement and commitment are essential. Please attend the 2004 AGM in Vancouver on May 1st.

#### NATIONAL WRITING & ART CONTEST

### Robert Bateman Wildlife Week

**R**enowned Canadian wildlife artist and conservationist Robert Bateman has extended his concern for the environment and genuine dedication to helping young Canadians in learning to care for the planet into a national awareness campaign for Canadian youth.

The objective of the Robert Bateman National Wildlife Week Writing and Art Contest is to encourage Canada's youth to learn about species at risk and climate change and express their findings creatively through writing or art. His prem-

ise for the program is that caring begins with knowing. He wants young Canadians to "Get to Know" those other species who are their neighbours, and learn the requirements of their lives. He considers this to be the foundation of environmental literacy, and participation in this public education and outreach campaign a positive step in encouraging young people to care for the planet.

Launched in March 2000 by Federal Environment Minister David Anderson in Vancouver, BC, the project has grown

rapidly. All materials are available in both official languages and the program is now available in every province and territory. More than 140,000 entries have been received over the last four years from young Canadian conservationists, and we hope to add significantly to that total this year. The 2004 contest was launched at various zoos and aquaria across Canada on March 4th. It closes on April 22, 2004. Students are encouraged to visit the official contest website at [www.gettoknow.ca](http://www.gettoknow.ca) where they can access rules and regulations for entering.

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## A new face for the BCEN

Changed circumstances require different ways of doing things and this is what we've done with the BC Environmental Report. We think we have a format that gives you the best of both hard copy and digital media. The BCER content is designed to tweak your interest and give directions to where you can read more extensively on the topic described – at the author's website.

A special 'thank you' to all our BCER contributors. We've edited everything to fit the hard copy form and will host the full unedited articles on our website. We hope this works for you. Please send your comments and suggestions to editor@bcen.bc.ca.

Changes are coming soon to the BCEN website. These changes will provide a wider range of services for our members and make management of the content much easier for BCEN staff. Please visit the BCEN website and see for yourself.

The BCEN is changing its operations and will close the Vancouver office on April 30. The BCEN will continue to operate using the magic and convenience of the website, accessorized by cell phones and forwarded voice messaging and other high tech wonders.

*Changes are necessary to maintain core services, but it will take more to revitalize the organization*


All these changes are necessary to maintain the core services of the BCEN, but it will take more to revitalize the organization. It is essential that members participate in the BCEN. Please visit the BCEN website, use the event calendar and the job posting pages, and recommend businesses to the Sustainable Business Network. Finally, please come to Vancouver on May 1 for the BCEN AGM ready to stand for election to the BCEN Board of Directors.

As the BCEN works through our own challenges we also recognize that the environmental community is undergoing immense difficulties as a whole. It is important for us to work together as we have in the past, and in new ways as well. It is important that we persevere. I want to thank you for all the work you do; for the sacrifices you make, for your bravery in the face of daunting odds.

*Beverly Tanchak*

BCEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### BCenvironmental REPORT

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The BCEN thanks Environment Canada, the Canadian Environmental Network, Vancouver Foundation, Van City and Tides for their support.

**THE BCEN** The B.C. Environmental Network is an association of environmental groups that advocate environmental responsibility. The BCEN facilitates communication among organizations, individuals and other sectors through four program areas: public education, alliance-building, government liaison, and capacity building. The BCEN is an affiliate of the Canadian Environmental Network.

**THE BC ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT** The Report is distributed to subscribers across Canada and the US; Libraries in BC and US; BC Municipalities and Regional Districts; BC First Nation Bands and organizations; Select Media; BCEN members groups and through them to the BC environmental community. Opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily represent those of the BCEN.

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES** : We welcome articles between 200 and 300 words with website links and camera ready art work in Vector EPS or Quark Express (Mac) at 300 DPI. Email stories, letters and artwork to: info@bcen.bc.ca. Please provide a telephone number and, if available, an e-mail address. **REPRINTING** Articles appearing in the BCER may be reprinted with permission from the editor and with attribution to the BCER. **SUBSCRIPTIONS**: \$15 within Canada \$20 outside Canada. Contact the BCEN

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## Sustainable Business Network connects principled buyers to ethical sellers

The power of consumer choice in the BCEN

**We** are all consumers, and everything we consume has environmental consequences. The BCEN recognizes the opportunities and the challenges in this fact and has responded by initiating the Sustainable Business Network. "Among the most powerful actions we can take to sustaining a healthy environment are the choices we make when buying products and services," says Beverly Tanchak, BCEN Executive Director. "Our dollars are like votes on the most important of all issues – consumption and its consequences."

The Sustainable Business Network (SBN) works in two ways, it helps conscientious consumers to make choices which support their values, and at the same time links principled commercial vendors with a constituency and potential market for their goods and services. By supporting sustainable businesses, BCEN members reward those businesses who have environmental values.

Existing BCEN members act as a 'green screen' of businesses interested in becoming SBN members. BCEN members and the public can be confident in doing business with SBN business knowing that all SBN businesses have been recommended by environmentalists.

The SBN is unique in its ability to connect businesses with an already identified and organized consumer sector. No other 'green' business organization is set up to communicate with the educated and motivated market that emerging sustainable businesses need in order to survive and flourish.

"In creating the SBN, the BCEN developed a new tool for the environmental community to use in attaining their goals," says Tanchak. "Two things need to happen now to make the SBN successful. BCEN members need to recommend businesses and teach their members how to use the BCEN service."

SBN members receive the full range of BCEN membership benefits apart from voting rights in internal organization matters. The BCEN promotes social, economic and environmental policies that support environmentally friendly business practices.

Visit [www.bcen.bc.ca](http://www.bcen.bc.ca) for full info.

### AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR SALE

## Local food security no longer certain

The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) has preserved BC farmland since the early 70's. Prior to the ALR, BC lost about 6000 hectares annually; since its inception we have maintained a constant 4.5 million hectares. There are growing demands to exclude ALR land for industrial and residential purposes, especially in the areas with Canada's best farmland. Abbotsford is considering removal of 1100 acres, Chilliwack 700 acres, Barnston Island 1100 acres. The Okanagan and Vancouver Island are under assault.

The ALR is critical to our future. Agriculture generates over \$2.2 billion on 21,000 farms and processing facilities, creating over 220,000 jobs. 50% of the food we eat in BC is grown locally. All of this is accomplished on less than 5% of the provincial land base. But populations are increasing and property taxes are the single biggest revenue

### 2004 BCEN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**SATURDAY, MAY 1  
THE YWCA OF VANCOUVER  
535 Hornby Street  
Weldwood Room**

The AGM will be a business meeting only, including reports from the Board of Directors, financials, and other official business. An election for the 2004-05 BCEN Board of Directors will take place.

Please check [www.bcen.bc.ca](http://www.bcen.bc.ca) for confirmation of times.

source for local government. With industrial land revenues more than five times those of agricultural land, a lucrative incentive exists for local officials to promote changes in land usage.

Before municipalities pursue these approaches we must exhaust all other opportunities. The Prime Minister has committed to help resolve the revenue problems of the municipal sector. Local governments need to lobby for that help soon. Critical alternatives, including better utilization of the existing developed land base must be considered. We can build two story's where there is one or consolidate existing land to make more efficient industrial sites. These are only two of many alternatives that need to be fully explored before we make decisions to undermine the ALR in a manner we might well live to regret.

Go the full article...

## Port Alberni Citizens' Stewardship Coalition wins 2003 Clean Air Award

Local activist group stops downtown gas-fired generator construction.

Citizens' Stewardship Coalition, organisationally speaking, is a new kid on the block. Our society was incorporated in late 2002, largely as a result of the successful campaign by Port Alberni citizens to stop a natural gas-fired electricity generating plant being built in the middle of town.

As many of you may know, Port Alberni has a somewhat wet climate for at least six months of the year (understatement). The massive amount of steam emissions from the Norske paper mill generates many "extra cloud days" for residents of the Valley, especially in winter. If a gas plant were to be built in this "land of the inversions," we could only look forward to many more weeks of grey days (not to mention the more noxious emissions we'd be subjected to).

Our successful routing of BC Hydro and Calpine of California resulted in our group being awarded the 2003 Clean Air Award, jointly sponsored by *Canadian Geographic Magazine* and Environment Canada. Flush with this success, we formed a society that focuses on issues promoting community sustainability, encouraging citizen participation in decision-making, and providing opportunities for citizens to

actively contribute to the health of the Alberni Valley. Clean energy, community forests, and clean air and water are some of our concerns.

We spearheaded and are engaged in the Clean Air Project, funded by the Vancouver Island Health Authority Community Fund and directed by the Port Alberni Clean Air Council. We fostered the formation of Friends of the Log Train Trail Society, and many of our members were active participants in establishing Alberni 20/20 Outlook—a community-based council tasked with developing a 20-year visioning process for the Valley, complete with bench-

marks and indicators for success.

New projects we're working on include holding an open workshop on the Natural Step Process, in collaboration with the Alberni Environmental Coalition, and staging a public dramatisation of a simulated rezoning hearing regarding Wal-Mart coming to Port Alberni.

We've been members of the BCEN since our beginnings, and one of our directors is the Mining Caucus rep on the CEN National Council.

We don't have a website yet, nor anyone who could set one up (hint, hint), so if you'd like to contact us, phone 250-723-4643, 723-8802, or email Keith Wyton at [kwyton@island.net](mailto:kwyton@island.net) or [maggie\\_paquet@telus.net](mailto:maggie_paquet@telus.net).

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

## Cariboo Chilcotin camp for kids

The Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society (CCCS) has a focus on Parks and Protected Areas. Over the past few years we have tried to create more awareness in our region of the beauty and fragility of our ecosystems. Through sponsoring an annual art, photography and writing exhibition—*Our Parks Our Heritage, and publishing the BC Parks, Trails & Sites of Interest in the Cariboo Chilcotin & Coast*, we try to spread our vision that the beauty we are surrounded by must not be taken for granted.

Currently, the CCCS is involved in the Environmental Education program for School Districts 27 & 28 for 2004. CCCS is sponsoring a teaching module—*Ecological Webs and Protecting Spaces, a closer look at Species at Risk in our Region* at the Gavin Lake Education Centre. We will introduce over 700 students from the Quesnel, Williams Lake

and 100 Milehouse area to a three day outdoor learning experience in the Gavin Lake Camp, an ideal setting for learning about the environment and how we can preserve it.

We use games and wildlife and habitat displays specific to the Cariboo Chilcotin region. Teaching resources include information on Species at Risk legislation, the species and their habitats of our region, websites with further information, as well as student exercises. With these tools the children of our region learn how to become better stewards of the environment, and come to appreciate the incredibly interconnected, complex system we all are a part of. For more details on the Species at Risk in the Cariboo Chilcotin region, the CCCS website at [www.cconserv.org](http://www.cconserv.org) has details under Public Education, Species at Risk within the Cariboo Chilcotin Region.

#### GET MORE COPIES!

Do you need more copies of this BC Environmental Report? Would you like to forward an electronic copy to all your members by email? Visit [www.bcen.bc.ca](http://www.bcen.bc.ca) for a PDF copy, and print and distribute freely. You can also access all articles as originally submitted, before editing. We hope you have enjoyed this economical format of publishing. – The Editor

## Touched by Diamonds

The Canadian Institute of Sustainable Living ('One Sky') is contributing to solutions on the land and in the communities of Sierra Leone, ravaged by both war and the ruthless mining of diamonds during the 1990's civil conflict. 'One Sky' is working to ensure that diamond mining benefits the people of Sierra Leone and that consumers buy diamonds that are truly "clean". Go to the full article...

## Keeping BC's Wild Heart

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, founded in 1963, is Canada's grassroots voice for wilderness and over 40 years has played a significant role in protecting over 100 million acres of Canada's wild spaces. We are working to prevent logging, minimize lodge development, restore interpretation programs, and increase funding for provincial parks. Keeping BC's great parks and ecosystems truly wild at heart, forever, is our vision. Go to the full article...

## Our Food is the Earth

EarthSave Canada advocates the moving towards a plant-based diet for better health, environmental sustainability, and compassion toward non-human animals. Social gatherings, cooking demonstration, meals and lectures are used to motivate our eating lower on the food chain. A bookstore, email service and newsletter are supported. A program in development will introduce plant-based food options in school cafeterias. Go to the full article...

# Canadian Environmental Network annual conference on environment

After a successful first Annual Conference on the Environment (ACE) in October 2003 in Montreal, planning is underway for the next ACE, in October 2004, Montreal. This year's theme will consider the environmental challenges and options posed by human settlement, particularly in large cities.

The CEN now has in place a National Council of voting delegates from each of the affiliate networks and national caucuses, and a new Board of Directors which includes three directors from the previous Transitional Board.

A workshop with Environment Canada (EC) representatives resulted in

an agreement to create a Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) Working Group, made up of members from the caucuses. The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) has agreed to write the position paper that will come from this contribution to the Five-Year Review of the Act.

CEN's relationship with EC has been steadily improving under the excellent guidance of Executive Director Brigitte Gagne, and we are confident that we will be able to maintain our current level of support to our affiliate networks for the coming year. Go to the full article...

## ACTIVIST INGMAR LEE SPEAKS OUT

# 'The Corporation' and our marmot

Conservation deal between ENGO's and Corporations further endangers the V.I. Marmot.

Weyerhaeuser continues to destroy Vancouver Island's magnificent forests with impunity. The World's Wickedest Wrecker of Wilderness suffers pot-shots from an assortment of volunteer activists, but these are just mosquito bites to Weyerhaeuser. Activists at the 'Cutting Edge' risk beatings, arrest and jail, but no word of complaint is heard from the large transnational and American Enviro-corps which dominate BC's environmental dialogue.

Weyerhaeuser's depredations on Vancouver Island include the destruction of 1000-year-old cedar forests in the Walbran Valley, clearcutting the final ancient stands of the Coastal Douglas fir ecosystem, destruction of the wilderness jewel, Valdes Island, and the imminent destruction of East Creek, the 85th of 91 Vancouver Island

watersheds to face the axe.

Opinions are changing! In the film 'The Corporation' there was a flash of the Vancouver Island marmot, demonstrating that people recognize a clear link between the marmot's extinction and insatiable corporate greed. As a vocal critic of the farcical Weyerhaeuser and TimberWest-backed Marmot Recovery Foundation's 'greenwashing' program, I'll take some credit for that. But why is Canada's endearing marmot facing extinction with zero help from the Enviro-corps? In my opinion it's because Vancouver Island has been sacrificed for the 32% Great Bear 'consensus' signed between Forest Ethics, Sierra Club, Greenpeace and Rainforest Action Network and the logging industry. It appears these transnational Enviro-Corps have promised not to undertake any actions against Weyerhaeuser. Ingmar can be reached at [ingkhai@uvic.ca](mailto:ingkhai@uvic.ca)

## A canopy of hope: progress in Great Bear Rainforest and North Coast

Great Bear Rainforest 33% protected: North Coast enters final stage of negotiations.

**T**he campaign to protect the Great Bear Rainforest – one of the most ambitious and longest running forest campaigns in the province – recently reached a new milestone. In December 2003, the Central Coast Land and Resource Management Planning (CCLRMP) table came to a consensus on the land-use recommendations for British Columbia's Central Coast. The table recommended that over 1 million hectares be off-limits to logging, placing in total about one third of the landbase under some form of protection. Under this scenario, about 22 percent of the landbase would receive full protection from industrial development; the other 11 percent would be off limits to logging but open to mineral exploration and development due to the provincial government's "two-zone" mining policy. Stakeholders also agreed to adopt Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) across the entire 4.5 million-hectare LRMP region.

In November 2003, key findings from independent analysis demonstrated that 40-60 percent of the landbase would need to be conserved in order to protect at least 30 percent of the habitat of rare and threatened species. The table's protection recommendation falls short of this threshold, so managing activities outside of the protection areas and ensuring strong implementation of EBM become critical issues in ensuring that EBM hits the ground in an ecologically-defensible manner. No multi-stakeholder process is ever going to produce a 'perfect' environmental



*BC Government stands by while EU bans Grizzly trophy imports.*

PHOTO: IAN McALLISTER

solution; the imperfections here are clear and the challenges enormous. The North Coast LRMP table concludes March 30, while the Haida Gwaii table continues until the end of 2004. All LRMP's will be followed by negotiations between First Nations and the provincial governments.

ForestEthics, Rainforest Action Network, Greenpeace and Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter will be working over the coming months to solidify the EBM standard and encourage governments and industry to implement a comprehensive solution. BC has an incredible opportunity here to set a global precedent for biodiversity protection and forest management practices. This opportunity would meet scientific and market expectations for sustainability and support local community development. For the full article, independent scientific reports and maps, please go to [www.savethegreatbear.org](http://www.savethegreatbear.org). Kate Castelo, Rainforest Solutions Project. Go to the full article...

### Protect BC's Grizzlies

The European Union has banned the import of grizzly hunt trophies in response to the BC government's failure to protect the species. Grizzlies are under attack from the gutting of regulations that protect critical habitat and the allowing of a sport hunt that scientists have been warning for decades is unsustainable. Raincoast Conservation Society continues to be denied access to grizzly kill location data in order to carry out an independent scientific analysis. Go to the full article...

### Active on the ground

The BC Stewardship Centre keeps hands-on stewards around the province connected and informed. The centre's governance is in revision and many members are participating. Services provided include website support, online forums, practical literature for planners and developers protecting natural systems, and a database of funders specializing in stewardship issues. Go to the full article...

### SPEC monitors pesticides

Vancouver City Council's Planning and Environment Committee approved a by-law on January 15 to restrict the use of harmful, non-essential pesticides in the City of Vancouver. An education and information program about alternatives to chemical pesticides will precede the by-law, which comes into full force in early 2006. Go to the full article... More info at [www.spec.bc.ca/pesticides](http://www.spec.bc.ca/pesticides).

## We were oversubscribed for this issue. Please find the full text of the following contributions on the BCEN website

**THE WATERSHED SALMON SOCIETY** brings Sea Lice Science to the Public with facts sheets describing the effects of lice on salmon and the role of salmon farming in the infectious cycle. Go to the full article...

**REACH FOR UNBLEACHED** is assisting the Crofton Airshed Citizens Group investigate Norske-Canada's proposal to burn coal, shredded tires, creosoted railway ties, and wet, salty bark and sludge from its treatment ponds. <http://www.croftonair.org> and <http://www.rfu.org> Go to the full article...

**SIERRA CLUB OF CANADA, BC CHAPTER** announces its first Grassroots BC Environmental Stories Contest. 1500 words; closes May 21st. Check <http://bc.sierraclub.ca/> or contact Jill Thompson at 250-386-5255 ext. 237 or [jill@sierraclub.bc.ca](mailto:jill@sierraclub.bc.ca).

**THE GRANBY WILDERNESS SOCIETY** is appealing the use of herbicides which claim the food plants of the endangered tiny population of Granby Grizzly Bears. Visit [www.granbywilderness.org](http://www.granbywilderness.org). Go to the full article...

**THE COMOX VALLEY NATURALIST'S SOCIETY** is asking Minister Abbott of MSRM to review the government sale of forty acre Lannan Forest on the Comox peninsula. Go to the full article... [www.comoxvalleyvalue.com/forum/lannan.htm](http://www.comoxvalleyvalue.com/forum/lannan.htm).

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PLANNING** with a neutral facilitator and participants who voluntarily represent their environmental or corporate values is the specialty of Juergen Hansen at [commonsproject@vip.net](mailto:commonsproject@vip.net). Go to the full article...

**BC WATERSHEDS** Rules and regulations affecting BC's rivers and streams are now easy to access at [www.bcwatersheds.org](http://www.bcwatersheds.org). This website gives water activists a place to go and find out how the law can be used to help them. Go to the full article...

**THE GSX CONCERNED CITIZENS COALITION** promotes sustainable energy and particularly opposes BC Hydro's strategy of meeting new electricity needs by burning natural gas in turbines on Vancouver Island. Better solutions are proposed at [www.sqwalk.com](http://www.sqwalk.com). Go to the full article...



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*clip out or photocopy*

# Cathedral Grove logging signals start of old growth forest campaign

Activists and government in standoff over old growth removal for parking lot

One hundred years ago, visitors to Cathedral Grove recognized its splendor and spiritual presence, reminding some of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, England. Joni Mitchell fans will appreciate that the provinces' most popular park is about to be seriously whacked in order to build an oversized parking lot in the wrong place. The lack of planning, studies and public involvement is reminiscent of the previous government's fast ferries fiasco. No visitation or safety studies have been conducted to justify the plan, but this Soviet-style radical government is stubbornly pushing ahead.

Recent studies calculate that the planned removal of trees will create a 20-60% chance of blow-down because the parking lot is located in line with an existing wind chute. About 10% of the Giants were lost in 1997 from wind. Ironically, the Roosevelt elk herd will lose a significant amount of lower elevation winter habitat at the hand ministry whose mission it is to protect them. Eighteen or more valuable giant Douglas Fir will make their contribution towards balancing next years budget. Could this be what motivated the placement of the lot, that it pay for itself?

This is an "environmental" news story of the decade. Already protesters have been defying loggers for a full month while waiting for an injunction, which if served will see them



*Paving Paradise in Cathedral Grove will generate "Hot" wood.* PHOTO: SYD HASKELL

repaid with serious jail time. In the past, the heavy hand of the law has been victorious in less than a week. The "good news" is that local MLA Gillian Trumper, the woman who tried to log Carmanah, will doubtless paper this wonderful old-growth site with pre-election public service signs bragging about her governments' "Enhancing of Public Safety". When these "HOT" trees are removed and mixed with the provincial wood supply, we will finally have an icon for an old growth campaign across the Island. I definitely don't want this timber used in my home and I doubt that many others do. It's time to protect Cathedral Grove and the rest of the provinces old growth. Please get involved. Visit the trees, and also visit [www.carmanah.bc.ca](http://www.carmanah.bc.ca) and [www.cathedralgrove.com](http://www.cathedralgrove.com).

*Syd Haskell, President Carmanah Forestry Society  
250-381-1141.*

*I definitely don't  
want this timber used  
in my home and I  
doubt that many  
others do.  
It's time to protect  
Cathedral Grove  
– Syd Haskell*

