



Sunshine Coast Conservation Association

Newsletter Issue 2

Post Office Box 1969, Sechelt, British Columbia, V0N 3A0

Winter 2000/2001

Logging Continues in Mt. Elphinstone's Fragile Living Forest

by Maria Hunter

Another road into the sensitive 1500 hectare proposed protected area of Mt. Elphinstone was completed last fall and industrial harvesting began on a 12 hectare block in mid-January. This activity has spurred active logging protests.

Studies show that logging is devastating the forest's ability to absorb and purify storm water. In the specific 1500 hectare piece of the forest that has been identified by the community for full protection, logging is leaving homeless rare and vulnerable species of plants, animals and fungus. Logging is also spoiling a place of peace and joy, a place that the community has a tradition of visiting

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Profile: Gambier Island Conservancy

The Gambier Island Conservancy is a community-based environmental stewardship group founded in 1995 to address mounting concerns about changes in Gambier's natural habitat. We believe that enhanced public awareness and increased environmental knowledge are essential to sustainable development on the island, one of the most beautiful, unspoiled and natural locales in the Georgia Basin. This is reflected in the Conservancy's mission statement, which is:

"to develop appropriate management strategies to preserve and restore Gambier's biological diversity, and to enhance and share knowledge of its ecosystems."

One of the first projects undertaken was the creation of a Streamkeepers Program under the able direction of Lois Kennedy to assess, rehabilitate and manage fish habitat for Gambier's six main salmon streams. An active member of the *Sunshine Coast Salmonid Renewal Partnership*, Lois has successfully obtained funding from the *Urban Salmon Habitat Program*, *Fisheries Renewal BC* and *BC Hydro*. Last summer's work includes transforming the stream and wetland mapping and fish habitat assessments into accurate, high resolution watershed maps and compiling and integrating stream information from different data bases into a compendium of known information.

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Elphinstone Living Forest members, kids and their dogs demonstrate outside Forest Minister Wilson's Sechelt office, November 13, 2000. Dan Bouman photo

Complaint Update

by Daniel Bouman

In March of last year the SCCA lodged a complaint with the Forest Practices Board of BC regarding the failure of the office of the District Manager (DM) of the Sunshine Coast Forest District (SCFD) to conserve biodiversity as required under *Section 41-1b* of the *Forest Practices Code Act of BC*. Since then the complaint has been under active investigation by the board and several important issues are emerging. Here's a little background information.

When government brought the Forest Practices Code (FPC) forward in 1995 clear commitments were made to the public that the Code would not be used to roll back previously

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SCCA Annual General Meeting

Saturday, March 10 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sechelt Library - It will be a busy year!

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Marbled Murrelet Research

by Sean Cullen

A search for the rare marbled murrelet was the focus of several research projects on the Sunshine Coast this summer. This endangered seabird inhabits near-shore coastal waters, feeding primarily on small schooling fish and invertebrates. To successfully breed, they are dependent on old growth forests that provide large mossy limbs broad enough to hold a nest.

In a study I co-ordinated for the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, we counted the number of murrelets flying from the ocean to inland nest sites using high frequency marine radar. These surveys took place at the entrance of watersheds ranging from Howe Sound to the top of Bute Inlet. Marbled murrelets were observed throughout the entire region.

Interestingly, the highest numbers of murrelets were detected entering watersheds around Toba Inlet, and for the first time we documented murrelets flying into the forests of Bute Inlet. This information is for habitat managers to consider during forest use planning, and to establish a baseline population estimate that can be used in the future to evaluate the effectiveness of management decisions.

A British Columbia Conservation Foundation project went into the forest to assess the current provincial management strategy of allocating inoperable forests, whenever possible, to



Marbled Murrelet

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Logging in Fragile Living Forest

and valuing--a tradition well demonstrated by the 17-year campaign for special practices and protection of Mt. Elphinstone. This tradition is part of the Sunshine Coast social, economic and cultural fabric.

The Mt. Elphinstone campaign to protect 1500 hectares is the focus of a Western Canada Wilderness Committee Educational Report. You can find the report in the usual locally owned cafes and stores. If you are a Sunshine Coast resident you may have already received your copy in the mail.

We have asked the SCCA to include our three-part mailer in this newsletter. Many readers may have already signed and sent the cards, and if you have, please help by finding a friend or neighbour who hasn't yet. Every single one is important.

Letters, e-mails, phone calls and faxes to Premier Dossanjh's office now are particularly important also. Please ask

meet old growth forest retention targets. One of their results was that lower elevation, operable stands had the greatest abundance of nesting platforms, while high elevation, inoperable stands had the lowest density of platforms that are suitable for breeding birds. A Simon Fraser University team in Desolation Sound and Toba Inlet used helicopters to track birds with attached radio transmitters to locate specific breeding trees. Larger trees in old growth forest patches dominated the type of nest site locations they found. Loss of old growth forests is the main threat to this species.

Please contact Sean Cullen, sacullen@sfu.ca, with questions regarding the radar study and for contact information to other research projects on Marbled Murrelets. "



SCCA Welcomes New Group

The SCCA is very pleased to welcome a new organization into our association. The Sunshine Coast Species Survival Network has recently formed to undertake research and education projects in support of endangered and threatened species and their habitats within the Sunshine Coast Forest District. Maria Hunter is spearheading the organization. She brings the experience of many years of community and conservation advocacy to the job. We are sure that Maria's research of the last two years in the areas of biodiversity law, policy and implementation will open new avenues of action for the SCSSN. Welcome aboard! (Please see the SCSSN Action Alert on page 4).

You can reach the SCSSN to join and/or contribute at: Sunshine Coast Species Survival Network C/o Maria Hunter, 1760 Blower Rd., Sechelt, BC V0N 3A1 Or by email at: speciessurvivalnetwork@dccnet.com "

him to postpone logging in the proposed park until an LRMP has been completed for our area.

The 1500 hectares is only 1/1000th of the total forest district area, and since we only have approximately 1% of low elevation forests in the district protected, it is imperative that this area be kept intact until completion of the LRMP.

Additional information, slide shows and presentations are available. Guided forest walks are held the first Sunday of every month. Special tours are available on request. Contact the Mt. Elphinstone campaign:

Community Forest Project: Colin Campbell 740-0567

Forest walks and slide shows: Rick O'Neill 740-0022

Presentations and campaign information: Beverly Tanchak-885-2330.

Elphinstone Living Forest is working to protect a core 1500 hectare area on the mountain as a provincial park, as well as to establish an ecoforestry-based community forest on the rest of Mt. Elphinstone. "

Proposed *Safe Drinking Water Act* up for discussion

by Daniel Bouman

The Sunshine Coast Water First Society has been very active in seeking local autonomy for our community watersheds so they can be managed by the SCRd and the Sechelt Indian Band, not the Ministry of Forests. Space does not permit a description of every effort that has been made, but we will be posting some of the briefing notes and correspondence that has been written to government officials as soon as the new SCCA website is up and running. Meanwhile it appears that in the wake of tragic events in Walkerton, Ontario and in response to intense pressure from many communities, including ours, the provincial government is bringing forward new legislation to protect drinking water in BC. Public meetings will be held in numerous locations around the province to discuss the draft legislation. This could be the opportunity that we've been working for! Unfortunately, the draft is not yet available but will be posted on the Ministry of the Environment website. Check it out at: <http://www.elp.gov.bc.ca/wat/wq/dw/>. It may be possible that government will concede the changes we need after the public input period. Stay tuned! "

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Complaint Update

existing measures of environmental protection. Various processes were embedded in the Code to insure that this would be so. Deer and Mountain Goat winter ranges, for example, were recognized pre-Code, in Timber Supply Reviews and on the Forest Development Plans (FDPs) of most timber licensees. The FPC required that these lands were to be "grandparented" into the Code by October 15, 1998.

On the afternoon of October 15th the office of the District Manager of the SCFD rejected the winter range documentation supplied by the Wildlife Branch. Since that date there has been no formal recognition of goat or deer winter ranges in the SCFD. When Interfor's 2000-2004 FDP came before the public in January of last year we had our first opportunity to see what had happened to the ungulate winter ranges. Unfortunately, we found many examples of cut-block approvals in formerly recognized winter range. In the course of its investigation the Forest Practices Board has asked the Ministry of Forests for an explanation and will decide if that explanation is acceptable under FPC Act. Meanwhile the complaint has given us the opportunity to raise wildlife issues in public and with senior levels of government. Both the Ministers of Forests and Environment have been personally briefed on this situation.

There are other extremely important issues raised in the complaint. The apparent targeting of remaining low elevation old growth, and the question of whether it is reasonable, or contrary to the intent of Code legislation, to draw-down old growth to below minimum levels recommended in the Biodiversity Guidebook will be discussed in future newsletters. "



George Smith talks about the Northern Rockies
Brad Benson photo

Local Environmentalist Honoured

by Brad Benson

George Smith of Gibsons, who began his environmental career on the Sunshine Coast, recently received the prestigious Conservation Leadership Award from the Wilburforce Foundation.

The Wilburforce award, which was the first of its kind, was presented in recognition of George's long and persistent efforts in protecting the vast area known as the Northern Rockies of British Columbia.

Working as National Conservation Director for CPAWS (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society), George spent a total of eight and a half years involved in LRMP table negotiations (Land and Resource Management Plan) including, Ft. Nelson, Ft. St. John, and Mackenzie. All in all, 16 million acres of parks and special management zones were protected, encompassing one of the richest wildlife areas on earth. Conservation biologists call it North America's first large-scale conservation system that puts in practice the science of conservation biology.

Always an outdoor enthusiast, George joined the Tetrahedron Ski Club shortly after moving to the Sunshine Coast in the '80s. He was soon championing a proposal to build cabins and ski trails in our undisturbed high elevation forest, which was then called the Tetrahedron Wilderness Area. When logging threatened, George and fellow enthusiasts created the Tetrahedron Alliance whose campaign to protect the area drew over 1200 supporters and led to the creation of the Tetrahedron Local Resource Use Plan (LRUP), a process whose function was to advise on the future use of the area. This was George's his first experience at a land-use negotiating table, and that process, which took over four years, led to the protection of the area through the creation of Tetrahedron Park.

Busy as he is, George will still take time to see that local issues get provincial attention. He will also be an invaluable resource when our Sunshine Coast LRMP gets going. Congratulations, George, you deserved it and we are all proud of you. "

Suggested Action Letter

(from SSCCN)

Dear Premier Dosanjh, with copy to Gordon Wilson, Minister of Forests (see P. 8 for addresses)

I am very concerned that critical wildlife habitat has been approved for logging in the Sunshine Coast Forest District. I would like you to take immediate action to defer harvesting in areas of old growth deficit, and marbled murrelet and mountain goat range.

I believe it is unacceptable that the minimum protection for biodiversity under the Forest Practices Code is being pre-empted before it is implemented.

The fact that the Sunshine Coast Forest District has only 3% protected in parks makes it particularly urgent that a moratorium be placed on old growth logging in landscape units that are at or below the minimum required for biodiversity protection.

I care about the species that depend on these old growth areas for their survival and would like you to make this issue a high priority. Thank-you.

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Gambier Island Conservancy

These watershed stream maps will be the basis for developing watershed management plans. Plans that will assist in the protection of salmon-bearing streams, providing the necessary information and land use guidelines for these sensitive areas.

In addition to the watershed mapping, a 'Stream Team' will be working on fish habitat enhancement and rehabilitation projects in Whispering Creek, Mannion Creek, Grennon Creek, Long Bay Creek and MacDonald Creek.

Gambier is about 2/3 Crown land, and over the years, trails, many on abandoned logging roads, have been established on the island's public land. The Conservancy, in association with local summer camps, and with support from the SCRDC has been marking these existing trails using standard signage.

Much time has also been invested in developing a Geographical Information System (GIS) for Gambier by collecting available geographical, environmental and cadastral digital data. This system has proved to be an indispensable analytical tool supporting many of the Conservancy's initiatives.

Over the past three years the Conservancy has enjoyed a beneficial partnership with the *Capilano College Environmental Science Program* and the *Real Estate Foundation of BC*. Students have spent a total of 18 person months doing environmental studies on the Island as part of their required course practicums. These studies have included an overview of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) on Gambier, a biophysical inventory of the riparian lake areas, and an old-growth forest study for Gambier.

Several developments effecting Gambier are being closely monitored by the Conservancy. These include;

- The inclusion of Gambier's Crown Land in CanFor's timber supply area.
- The West Howe Sound Port Authority Project feasibility study.
- The Island's Trust's Public Land Strategy initiative. "

Red Listed Species Being Logged

by Adrian Belshaw

The snow dewberry, *Rubus nivalis*, was found inside a hotly contested cutblock on Mt. Elphinstone during a visit by Forest Practices Board investigator Paul Kroeger in 1999. He collected the mysterious bramble and informed Adolf Ceska at the Conservation Data Centre of his identification. As the snow dewberry had not been collected before on the Sunshine Coast, and was disappearing from other localities in BC, Ceska himself came to the Sunshine Coast and confirmed Kroeger's report on the ground. Ceska then returned in the summer of 2000 and mapped the dewberry's locations via GPS.

The snow dewberry is found throughout the contested



The Snow Dewberry, Rubus nivalis Dan Bouman photo

cutblock and in other locations less than a kilometre away. Elphinstone's 1500 hectare park proposal encompasses all of this habitat and is also home to *Tricholoma apium*, a mushroom which is critically imperiled in North America.

This single population of Snow Dewberry is still the only population confirmed within the Sunshine Coast Forest District. The snow dewberry is listed as "endangered" in the Conservation Data Centre's Red List for BC, as it has fewer than twenty localities in BC and it appears to be declining as a result of logging. There are four other endangered plant species within our forest district, but it is unusual for a forest interior species to be red listed. Most of BC's red listed plants are found in more specialized habitat types, such as grasslands or rock outcrops. "

Critical Landscape Planning

by Linda Williams

In less than a month your opportunity to comment on government's strategy for managing the forests that surround us will have passed. The Chapman and Sechelt Landscape Units, the second and third landscape units that are planned for the Sunshine Coast, have already been assigned a "draft" low biodiversity emphasis option (BEO) by government, which essentially translates into dedicating our forests to resource extraction. The low designation would allow industry to draw-down old growth to below the minimum levels established by the Biodiversity Guidebook of the Forest Practices Code of BC Act and postpone the requirement to protect older mature forest stands to make up the current shortfall immediately. If this draft BEO is approved, all other forest resources including water, wildlife habitat, and visual quality would, as a result, be subordinated to resource extraction and be relegated to areas considered inaccessible or of little value to the forest industry.

Under this plan Sunshine Coast forests from Nelson Island to Langdale will not attain the minimum acceptable Code conditions described for landscape units dedicated to logging until 2240, two hundred and forty years into the future. The Ministry of Forests has tabled an enhanced forestry option, which completely ignores thirty years of community input and overlooks the fact that these landscape units are situated within the most biologically diverse and complex ecosystems in Canada.

Recommending the low BEO for the Chapman and Sechelt landscape units has been primarily justified by characterizing the Sunshine Coast as an "urban" area. Ministry of Forests maps detailing the Chapman Landscape Unit Plan show private land in bright yellow, as if the area is unforested. However, ecological conditions within and adjacent to the "urbanized" area actually paint a completely different picture. Our communities and areas immediately adjacent to them contain significant stands of maturing forest with which to begin implementing a rehabilitation plan.

Evaluation criteria used by government to justify designating local forests exclusively for resource extraction were based on limiting impacts to timber supply. However, given the impact of the low designation on the social, economic and cultural sustainability of our communities, a case should be made for eliminating the low option from consideration. Assigning the low biodiversity emphasis is not a reasonable option based on the necessities of protecting community water supply and the well-understood need to diversify the local economy. Conserving both the full range of biological organisms and the full spectrum of goods and services freely provided by our environment for future Sunshine Coast generations precludes dedicating the Chapman and Sechelt landscape Units for intensive forestry.

Healthy, productive and sustainable communities require a healthy, productive and fully functioning environments. The low biodiversity emphasis/intensive forestry option proposed for the Sunshine Coast addresses none of those needs. "



This lone sentinel stands guard near the crest of Mt. Steele in Tetrahedron Park. Brad Benson photo

Sechelt Inlet Trail Update

by John Dafoe

Chatelech grade 12 students Grad students Joel, Mat and Talia have been gaining volunteer hours for their graduation in the career preparation program by helping with the trail. SCCA directors Brad Benson, John Field and John Dafoe joined Chatelech grad students in trail route making in the area of Piper Point during December.

Chief Feschuck and the Sechelt Band Council have received a copy of the renewed application for trail permit with an apology for previous use of Aboriginal Heritage to promote the trail. No response from the chief and council has yet been received.

On the Trail front, it is of interest that Powell River Greenways has disbanded in protest to recently logged-over trails and lost access to longstanding trails on the North Sunshine Coast.

I would like to commend the positive initiatives that License holder Terminal Forest Products has engaged in since the time when the community protested a contentious cut block and the establishment of a log dump at Skaiakos Point on the Sechelt Peninsula's inlet shores. Terminal is now seeking Forest Stewardship Certification for at least some of its Sunshine Coast Timber and forest products, and many feel that timber harvested from the vicinity of the Sechelt Inlet Trail are likely candidates for certification. I feel that this change in approach is likely the positive result of the Forest Practices Board complaint lodged in June 1999.

The Sechelt Inlet Trail Committee is engaged in dialog with Terminal in a genuine effort to create the Inlet Trail, along with Terminal's commitment to logging practices that are worthy of the original intent of the Forest Practices Code. I wish to thank Terminal's staff who have given insights and encouragement to the Inlet Trail and are including trail routing on their maps. "

Angus Creek Protected!

by Gertrude Pacific

On September 15, 2000, the provincial Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks granted the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), a water license on Angus Creek based on the conservation of fish. There had been concern that water levels would not accommodate both spawning salmon and golf course irrigation for a large new development planned next to Porpoise Bay Provincial Park.

Spawn to Be Wild, a stream stewardship group concerned only with Angus Creek in Porpoise Bay, began its conservation efforts in the spring of 1998. Our group learned scientific stream flow monitoring techniques, staged public educational and cultural events, and initiated a letter writing campaign to support the DFO application.

We are happy to report that the computer monitored field station that we helped build and install in Angus Creek is working well. Sincere thanks go to expert hydrologist, John Termuende, who led us in this effort and who volunteers his time to monitor and regularly download the station's data. This valuable conservation information, along with colourful photographs, is available to the public as well as the government on his website at www.edutechcorp.com. "

Offer Made On McQuarrie Property

by Peter Robson

The Francis Point Marine Park Society (FPMPS), through the Nature Conservancy of Canada, has put in an offer of \$3.9 million to purchase 210 acres of the McQuarrie family's privately-held waterfront property on Francis Peninsula in Pender Harbour.

FPMPS has been working tirelessly for the past several years trying to acquire this spectacular waterfront acreage for a park. The site is unique in that it is one of the last large parcels of undisturbed forest ringing the Strait of Georgia. Biologists who have surveyed the property say it represents one of Canada's most endangered ecosystems (CWHxml), of which less than 2% is protected in BC. Most importantly, this property is in its natural state, whereas most properties along the shoreline of the Strait of Georgia have already been developed for housing. In addition, the three kilometres of shoreline fronting the property are fast becoming a major scuba diving attraction, offering a huge variety of marine life, a range of dive sites and depths suitable for divers of all experience levels.

The ability to put in an offer on the property came largely from a \$1.9 million donation from the US-based Paul G. Allen Forest Protection Fund, \$1.5 million from the BC Nature Trust and \$200,000 from the Sunshine Coast Regional District. The FPMPS has also raised another \$100,000 through donations and pledges from individuals, local companies and other conservation groups. The Society still has to raise the final \$200,000.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada has been working hand-in-hand with the FPMPS for over a year and they are named as the purchaser of the property. The Nature Conservancy is an organization dedicated to preserving biological

Invasive Plant Control

by Joop Burgerjon

After the establishment of Sargeant Bay Provincial Park in 1990, wetland rehabilitation in 1991, footpath to Kenyon Road in 1993, Colvin Creek Trail in 1994, Triangle Lake Trail in 1995, Triangle Lake park addition in 1996, one might well think that the Sargeant Bay Society had got about everything it wanted.

Not so. Several areas around the wetland were already infested with Himalayan blackberries (*Rubis discolor*) at the time the park was established. This successful invader was spreading rapidly, replacing the diverse native vegetation along with more benign introduced species. When a patch of Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) appeared on the berm in 1997, the Society realized that in a few more years these two species would become the dominant shrubs around the wetland. They would obstruct its view and access while destroying the vegetation that was, along with its wildlife, the reason for establishing the park in the first place. The Society decided that something had to be done about it.

The broom was eliminated by volunteers in 1997 and a team of UFAWU workers started to counterattack the blackberries. Summer students hired by the Society continued the work in 1998 and 99 with some help from a BC Parks E-Team. However, it was clear that this level of effort was not going to be enough to get the blackberries under control.

Therefore, supported, in part, by an EcoAction 2000 grant from Environment Canada, the Society hired a well qualified and motivated team armed with a heavy duty-brush cutter and loppers. The goal was to eliminate the blackberries to the point where any new growth can be controlled with moderate effort. The vines are selectively cut close to the soil, without disturbing the existing vegetation, which would take over to shade out the blackberries. This strategy will take persistence and the project will continue through 2001. "

diversity throughout North America through acquiring and conserving natural areas of ecological significance, outstanding beauty and educational interest. Typically, they assemble capital from a variety of sources to secure private natural lands or private sector rights on public lands. Since 1962, they have helped to secure over 1.6 million acres (615,000 hectares) across Canada involving over 800 properties.

FPMPS spokesperson Howard White said that if and when the property is purchased, the BC government will likely adopt the site as a provincial Marine Park and will dictate the exact classification of the park. "Due to a lack of funds for park development," he says, "it is not expected that there would be any development of the site in the immediate future. Eventually, we expect the park would resemble Garden Bay Marine Park or perhaps Smuggler Cove Marine Park, with a limited trail network. Development would also be limited due to the fact of the rare forest type and sensitive habitat." "

Executive Director's Report

by Daniel Bouman

Welcome to the New Year and the second publication of the *SCCA Newsletter*. It's been a while in coming but, as I am sure you are aware, everyone has been extremely busy. In starting to work on this issue I became immediately aware of the difficulty in trying to cover every conservation initiative that members and member groups have recently undertaken. There is a lot going on and the scale of activity reaches right from your backyard to the highest levels of our national government. Are we seeing results? We are seeing spectacular results and the good news is that there are also a lot of solid results that are not so easily seen.

On the subject of spectacular accomplishments, congratulations are in order to George Smith and staff at the local *Canadian Parks and Wilderness* office in Elphinstone for their remarkable contribution to the Mackenzie Land and Resource Management Plan. Well done! Few people know that in addition to his provincial level initiatives, George is a regular go-to guy for

help and council with local issues. Can't thank you enough, pal!

Speaking of Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP), Ric Careless and Dona Reel and the crew at *BC Spaces For Nature* in Granthams were major contributors to the highly successful Okanogan/Shuswap LRMP which was recently accepted by cabinet. Looks like there will be lots of experience around when our own LRMP gets rolling later this year. Incidentally, even a brief encounter with Dona Reel is a sure cure for any form of environmental depression.

How about that new park in Pender Harbour! The Francis Point Marine Park secures a rare forest type and a very beautiful piece of low elevation old growth for the enjoyment and edification of the public. Congratulations and thank you to Howard White and *Francis Point Marine Park Society*. Of course there are a few more dollars to raise and wrinkles to work out but not to worry, Howard and friends are immune to the effects of a slammed door.

Speaking of solid results not easily seen, the *Sunshine Coast Regional District* has responded to our request for assistance by passing nine recommendations supporting protection of wildlife and biodiversity within the Sunshine Coast Forest District.

There was virtually no coverage in the local media of these resolutions even though our regional government is unique in undertaking these actions.

Two more examples: Gertrude Pacific and *Spawn To Be Wild* have succeeded in protecting the integrity of Angus Creek which sustains vulnerable stocks of wild salmon. You won't read about it the local papers but it's pretty good news (see page 6). Good luck on your next project, Gertrude, and please keep us informed!

Very few people on the Sunshine Coast have a grasp of the ecology of Gambier Island, but the members of the Gambier Island Conservancy have been working diligently for years to create a scientifically credible inventory of the island's sensitive habitats. It isn't glamorous work and doesn't generate much attention but will allow the association to approach conservation issues in an informed way. Keep up the good work, and when can I come for a visit?

So what's the big picture here? I would say that although there are deeply felt frustrations and setbacks, steady progress is being made and the pace of change is accelerating. We just need to continue and persevere. See you at the AGM on March 10th! "

Carpe Diem!

by Edmund Butler, Chair, SCCA

There are now such a significant number of people willing to acknowledge the value of restoring the once thriving link between the oceans and the land that the depletion and virtual extinction of salmon may soon become one of this century's outstanding environmental renewal stories. In this Forest District, through the LRMP (Land and Resource Management Plan) and other processes, we now have the unique opportunity to effect a long-term rejuvenation of salmon stocks by making responsible, visionary, goal oriented land use decisions. With the health of this magnificent species comes the Eagle, Orca, Grizzly and countless other related organisms. That web of interdependence is weak in Knight Inlet, just to the north of here; conservationists this year saw only a few signs of one grizzly while recalling their 25 full sightings just two years ago. There are some ongoing, apparently quite heated, discussions about the accuracy of the BC government's grizzly population estimates and the extent to which hunting is affecting them. The population is definitely small, historically. It may soon be nonexistent.

To the South, 1000-year-old trees are still being cut from the Elaho valley, headed south.

In this Forest district, biologists are using modern techniques to research Marbled Murrelets, and in Toba Inlet

they are finding large numbers of birds because of the proximity of abundant old growth forests in which to breed; a situation that is rare in other areas of this district. Logging in Robert's Creek goes ahead amid protest, mistrust and uncertainty. The high grading of prime timber despite its effects on wildlife habitat and other shortsighted forestry practices remain the standard for most of these areas, which in many cases provide our drinking water - our lifeblood. With the Sunshine Coast LRMP, which is to be announced as this Newsletter goes to press, we are now blessed with an opportunity to change that permanently. An LRMP process has the ability to provide core protection for biodiversity and is the process in which the 16 million acres known as The Northern Rockies was created.

The current board of directors is proposing to improve the members' integration with the board through a motion at the AGM to allow each member group and affiliate members, as a group, to nominate one representative to the Board. We feel that this will broaden the networking aspect of The SCCA and in turn, allow us to provide the necessary comprehensive overview of regional conservation issues that a successful and effective LRMP demands. Please come and support this motion and then work to create a progressive, regional, environmental management strategy by sharing your vision and diverse talents. "

Contacts:

Ujjal Dosanjh, Premier
Rm 232, Parliament Bldgs.
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Tel: (250) 387-1715*
Fax: (250) 356-7156*
Email from:
www.gov.bc.ca/prem/feed/

Joan Sawicki, Minister
Environment, Lands and Parks
Rm 116 E. Annex
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Tel: (250) 387-7156*
Fax: (250) 356-7156*

Gordon Wilson, Minister
Ministry of Forests
Rm 128, Parliament Bldgs.
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Tel: (250) 387-6240*
Fax: (250) 387-1040*

Greg Hemphill, District Manager
Sunshine Coast Forest District
7077 Duncan St.
Powell River, BC V8A 1W1
Tel: (604) 485-0708*
Fax: (604) 485-0799*

*** Inquiry BC****1-800-663-7867**

By calling this toll free number you will be connected by telephone or fax to any individual or department of the BC government.

Newsletter of the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association

Newsletter Editor: Brad Benson

Articles & photos may be submitted by sending them to Brad Benson at bjbenson@sunshine.net or faxed to 886-0069.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to this publication.
Printed on chlorine free 30% recycled paper.

Directors**Brad Benson**bjbenson@sunshine.net**Dan Bouman**daniel_bouman@hotmail.com**Edmund Butler**[tara@uniserve.com](mailto: tara@uniserve.com)**John Dafoe**[coastwisejohn@hotmail.com](mailto: coastwisejohn@hotmail.com)**John Field**[john-field@sunshine.net](mailto: john-field@sunshine.net)**Michel Frenette****Alda Grames**[alda_grames@hotmail.com](mailto: alda_grames@hotmail.com)**Marianne Larsen**[mlarsen@sd46.bc.ca](mailto: mlarsen@sd46.bc.ca)**Pam Robbins**[pamelarobins77@hotmail.com](mailto: pamelarobins77@hotmail.com)**Linda Williams**[linwil@sunshine.net](mailto: linwil@sunshine.net)**Member****Organizations:**

BC Spaces for Nature
Elphinstone Living Forest
Francis Point Marine Park Society
Friends of Caren
Friends of Homesite Creek
Gambier Island Conservancy

Halfmoon Bay Greenways
Native Plant Society of BC,
Sunshine Coast Chapter
One Straw Society
Pender Harbour and District
Wildlife Society
Sargeant Bay Society
Spawn to Be Wild

Sunshine Coast Heritage Society
Sunshine Coast Natural History Society
Sunshine Coast Species Survival
Network
Tetrahedron Alliance
Tuwaneke Ratepayers Association
Water First Committee

Sunshine Coast Conservation Association*Box 1969, Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0*

"PURPOSE: The purpose of the Sunshine Coast Conservation Association is to preserve the natural biodiversity of the Sunshine Coast Region for the present and future benefit of humanity and all life; specifically to:

1. Conduct research to inventory and describe our remaining natural areas with the goal of identifying land and waters important for the preservation of biodiversity. All information collected will be freely available to the public.
2. Work to retain such lands and waters in a natural state and make them available for the public enjoyment where possible.
3. Raise public environmental and conservation awareness by sponsoring educational programs and workshops and by building access infrastructure for low impact recreation."

Our constitution requires that Membership in the SCCA is conditional upon acceptance of the Purpose of the SCCA stated above.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

Name _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Web site: _____

 \$10 - Group Membership

• SCCA Representative/Contact: _____

• Alternate: _____

 \$10 - Affiliate Membership (Individuals) \$ _____ Donation

I accept the purpose of the SCCA: Signature: _____