

FRIENDS OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES NEWSLETTER

FALL 1988

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last few months have seen many changes in the structure of the Friends.

Firstly, we must apologize for the lack of a summer newsletter. Rudy, the husband of the former newsletter editor, Dorothy Field, suffered a serious accident in July, he is now recovering well but it did change everyone's plans.

In September both our vice-president Lynne Milnes and our treasurer Brian Pinch regretfully resigned because they both felt that their other job and family commitments were so demanding that for the time being they could no longer volunteer their time.

It is a great loss, Lynne was the original driving force in the establishment of the Friends in 1983 while she was still working with the Ecological Reserves Branch. Because of her work there she brought extensive knowledge of the ecological reserve program and of the wardens. Over the years Lynne wrote countless letters answering inquiries and was a very constant, sane voice on the board on all issues.

Brian has successfully steered us through four years of extensive fundraising and allocations of funds especially for the Khutzeymateen research project and was interested in all the issues, we will miss him.

I have also, in the last year, taken on more commitments. I am a Director of the Sierra Club of Western Canada which allows me to be involved on a larger scale and to express my concerns regarding the destruction of B.C.'s coastal temperate rainforest. This, of course, does overlap with Friends' concerns in areas such as the Tahsish/Kwois, Tsitika/Robson Bight, Khutzeymateen, Clanninick Creek/Carmanah and others. Our ecological reserve system is far from complete in protecting representative examples of our complex forest ecosystems.

In recent months I have averaged one or two slide shows a week on behalf of both organizations to groups as diverse as the Rotary Club of Victoria, the Concerned Citizens of the Cowichan Valley and Oak Bay High School. On Tuesday, October 25 at 7 p.m. I will be speaking on the Khutzeymateen at Pacific Cinemateque, Howe St., Vancouver for the Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society's special series.

I was phoned the other day from Outdoor Canada Magazine in Toronto, they told me that they considered the Khutzeymateen to be one of the major wildlife issues in Canada today. This is a far cry from four years ago when no-one knew the name, what it was and certainly not how to spell it!

Khutzeymateen

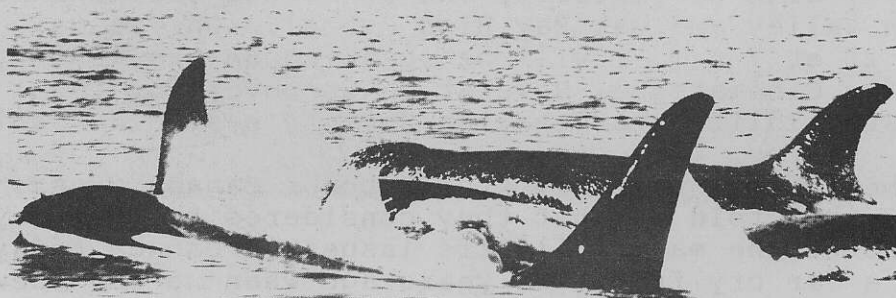
Khutzeymateen research proceeded well this Spring with grateful thanks to World Wildlife Fund, Martin R. Haase, McLean Foundation and an anonymous B.C. sponsor. Herb Hammond, registered professional forester helped by a forest technician with Wayne McCrory and Erica Mallam, wildlife biologists, did extensive timber cruises in the valley and examined the ecological sustainability of logging. We're in the process of adding this data to our earlier data on the economics and the ecological sensitivity of timber extraction on the entire valley. There is some further work required to examine the ecological sensitivity of proposed timber extraction. Upon completion of this work a final report on our findings will be issued. We have felt for a long time that this forestry information is critical to our efforts to protect this valley.

In May, Wayne McCrory and Erica Mallam guided a BCTV cameraman and a reporter in the Khutzeymateen and they gathered remarkable footage of the valley and the grizzlies which was subsequently shown on the news. In early August Wayne guided Minister of Environment, Bruce Strachan in his first visit to the valley. Dan Culver of Bluewater Adventures is also to be thanked for helping to organize that trip. In late summer Monte Hummel, president of World Wildlife Fund, our major research sponsor, visited the valley and was again guided by Wayne and Erica as were other visitors including Dr. John Schoen of Alaska, foremost authority on the impact of logging and humans on grizzly mortality. So many thanks to both Wayne and Erica for the wonderful job they have done this past summer.

It is thought that because of the Friends extensive research and data gathering program that the B.C. government has finally been encouraged to act on this issue. Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forests have initiated a three year grizzly bear and forestry study in the Khutzeymateen to start in the spring of 1989 and finish in the fall of 1991. They will identify the key grizzly habitat areas of the valley and try to predict the potential impacts of logging as well as forestry and fishery studies that are yet to be determined.

The Friends are still very concerned about the terms of reference of the government studies and their possible recommendations. Dave Parker, Minister of Forests, states that "Cabinet has accepted the recommendations of the Wilderness Advisory Committee for Integrated Resource Use (logging) within the valley rather than preserving the entire area as an Ecological Reserve." However "If the options indicate that the impact on grizzly bear habitat is unacceptable then logging will be reconsidered". Obviously the Khutzeymateen is still under considerable threat and continued Friends and public involvement is still vitally necessary.

-Vicky Husband



Vicky's Award

Last June, Vicky Husband was honoured with a United Nations Global 500 Award for her outstanding contributions in the environmental field. As President of F.E.R., director of the Sierra Club of Western Canada and hard-working member of the National Committee to Save South Moresby, Vicky has worked voluntarily and tirelessly for the cause of preserving our valuable natural heritage. She was flown to Bangkok, Thailand and presented the award by the Queen of Thailand on World Environment Day. Knowing Vicky, I'll bet she took the Khutzeymateen and Carmanah posters and our B.C. environmental concerns across the seas !

UPCOMING FIELDTRIPS

This fall's field excursions will focus on the Gulf Islands reserves, their forests, and forestry issues.

Sunday, Oct. 30th Mt. Tuam and Mt. Maxwell Ecological Reserves Saltspring Island. The wardens, Bob Andrew and Paul Linton will guide us through the Douglas-fir and arbutus forest of Mt. Tuam. A trail going through the reserve leads to a controversial logging area. After Mt. Tuam we will go to Mt. Maxwell which Bob refers to as "a rare piece of land". Mt. Maxwell contains the largest protected stand of Garry oak in B.C. Perhaps we will find a prickly-pear cactus and catch a view of Samsun Narrows!

Meet at the Swartz Bay Ferry terminal at 8:45am to catch the 900 am ferry and pool rides to Fulford Harbour. Phone Trudy Chatwin at 592-3559 or Bob Andrew at 653-9246 or the Friends office 386-8644 for further information.

Friday, November 11th Galiano Island

We will visit the proposed Galiano Bog reserve (a unique quaking bog lake), hike the boardwalk to the Porlier Pass lighthouse, and look at proposed logging plans for the north end of the island. An exciting (but optional) part of this trip is dinner at the "Pink Geranium" restaurant. We have reserved spots for up to 12 people. Phone Trudy at 592-3559 to book a space at the restaurant. The ferry leaves for Galiano (from Swartz Bay) at 9:45am and returns at 5:00pm or 9:15pm.



OPERATION LIFELINE and SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Last May Trudy spoke about the Khutzeymateen's grizzlies to the Kindergarten class of Cameron Elementary school. Here is the letter they wrote:



David Cameron Elementary

2320 ALICIA PLACE, VICTORIA, B.C. V9B 2E6

TELEPHONE 478-7621

Dear Ms. Chatwin,

We learned about bears and
we want them to have a safe home.
We hope the money we made from
making chocolate bear suckers will help
the Grizzly Bears so that no one chops
down their trees.

TRAVIS Your friends,
Mrs. Foley and the Kindergarten
LORNE
EDWIG
Lindie
Jantine
KYLE
MIL
Joshua
Mick
Blanda
Robill
Christa
Johnny
Lyndsey
Michelle
RACHEL
KEVIN
MILES
Brand on

This year Trudy will take part in OPERATION LIFELINE a World Wildlife Fund - Canada Life Assurance Co. program bringing wildlife into the classroom. She hopes to be able to take some classes to local Ecological Reserves and talk more about the Khutzeymateen.

Canada Life and World Wildlife Fund with assistance from Vicky on behalf of F.E.R. are cooperating on a program to initiate Youth Wildlife Clubs this fall in the schools in the Victoria area. Through the clubs students will learn about wildlife and their habitat. The grizzly bear will be the first animal to be focussed on and students will raise money for research to protect the Khutzeymateen grizzlies.

AN EVENING WITH ROBERT BATEMAN

Internationally renowned wildlife artist Robert Bateman, who is one of F.E.R.'s honorary directors, will be speaking on November 28 at 7.30 at the Newcombe Theatre

As this is a Benefit for the Friends, admission charge will be \$5
We encourage you to come early to be assured of a seat.

A new Ecological Reserve at Robson Bight

On March 18, 1988 the estuary of the Tsitika river and a portion of shoreline was added to the Robson Bight Reserve. The upland protects a strip of land adjacent to the killer whale's unique rubbing beaches. The estuary is the only undisturbed estuary on the east coast of Vancouver Island and supports a wide diversity of fish, migratory bird, invertebrate, and plant species.

This September, the warden (Bill McKay) and myself took a group of Friends and Univ. of Alberta participants to the reserve and estuary. We were thrilled by the Orcas feeding, surfacing, and swimming. The estuary was impressive with its open spruce forest, spawning pink salmon, cutthroat trout in the river, and sandpipers feeding amidst the shoreline grasses.

We were saddened to think that the forested slopes behind the Bight are slated for logging. The impact of logging will be disturbing from both the tourist's visual and the whale's point of view (Orcas do not like disturbance when they visit the rubbing beaches).

While we were in the reserve, we observed two infractions of the Ecological Reserves Act. Bill shepherded two sets of campers out of the reserve. He noted that funding for a paid summer warden to watch out for boaters disturbing the whales or illegal campers was not granted in 1988. We hope the warden will be returned next year as she was very effective in solving some of this important reserve's problems.

HELP !

The Friends needs someone who can do a little typing now and then. In particular, the member's addresses need to be typed into Vicky's computer.

We are also are in need of a Treasurer and Secretary. Anyone interested in helping out please call Vicky Husband at 478-0388 or the Friend's office at 386-8644.

NEW MEMBERS

The Friends would like to welcome the following new members:

Blaine Rahier, Naniamo
Maggie Oliphant, Victoria
Connie Atkinson, Calgary
Janet Hawksley, Victoria
Ernie Carson, Vancouver

Jeannie Stoner, Victoria
Mel Moffat, Esquimalt
Maggie Paquet, N. Vancouver
Stephen Ruttan, Victoria
Gwen Walter, Victoria
Jennifer Birch, Victoria
Graeme Davy, Vancouver
Robert Love, Nanaimo
Paul Linton, Ganges

Mary Graham, Victoria
Allison Gentry, Creamona, Alberta
Eric Lofroth, Smithers
Jim Rawling, Victoria
Paul, Deborah, and Emily Gaskin, Victoria
Jenny Balke, Nanoose Bay
Lucinda Shapiro, Victoria
Susan Cottier, Victoria
Krista Moriarity, Calgary, Alta.
George Nairn, Sidney
Pauline Stiles, Sidney
Robert Fahrig, Duncan
Bob Andrew, Fulford Harbour

WELCOME ALL!

TEMPORARY EDITOR'S NOTE

Pardon us for not having a section from the Ecological Reserves Unit and for the lack of 'eco-information'. We rushed this issue together in order to advertise the field trips in time.

Next issue promises an Update on outstanding Ecological Reserve Proposals, and hopefully an article on Marine Ecological Reserves.

-Trudy Chatwin

F.E.R.: FRIENDS OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

P.O. BOX 1721, Postal Station "E"
VICTORIA, B.C. V8W 2Y1



J pod cow breaching off Saturna Island.

CARMANAH CREEK BIG TREE JAZZ BENEFIT

George Essihos Duo
Jazz with the classical touch
(Piano and Bass)

Al Pease Sextet
Swinging dixieland jazz

Come hear some of Vancouver Island's best jazz and support the Sierra Club of Western Canada's fight to save the Carmanah Valley.

For more info contact:
The Sierra Club at 386-5255

☆ CASH BAR ☆
☆ SLIDE SHOW ☆
of the Carmanah



Friday, October 28th
8:00 p.m.
Newcombe Theatre

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
In Victoria:
McPherson Playhouse Box Office
Harbour Square Ticket Sales
Hillside Ticket Centre
The Sierra Club
Island Alpine Equipment

In Duncan:
Volume One Bookstore

In Sidney:
Ty's on Beacon St.

TICKETS \$10.00 EA