

FRIENDS OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 1989

Many moons have passed since our last newsletter. This is not a sign of inactivity. Quite the contrary! As you will read, the Friends have undertaken many projects through the spring and summer of 1989. We have lots more on the go for the fall. We need more volunteers to help with the newsletter, letter writing, fund-raising, and field trips. Our small executive is stretched to the limit. Next year, I will be leading trips to East Africa, West Coast Vancouver Island, the Queen Charlottes and Johnstone Strait. This means I need help for the next newsletter, baby sitting, and with our projects.

Vicky is extremely busy with speaking engagements, lobbying, Sierra Club commitments, and generally saving the World. She needs help with typing, letter writing, and filing. Her article demonstrates the tremendous energy and commitment she has made towards saving the environment.

Gwen is busy making and marketing non-disposable shopping bags to save trees and plastic bag use. Wilf has been indispensable himself in helping get this newsletter to press and sorting out memberships. Many thanks to Josette Weir for computerizing our membership and mailing list. Thanks also go to Rosemary Partridge for her sketches.

Join us on our Fall Field trips. . . Sorry for the short notice! If someone would take on the organization of mainland trips we could offer more trips in different areas. Thank you all for your continued support.

Editor - Trudy Chatwin

VICKY HUSBAND'S REPORT: CONSERVATION ON THE MOVE!

I want to thank all the Friends for supporting me in my five years as President. I am unhappy to leave but feel certain about the continued success of the organization. I feel the Friends has accomplished a great deal in the last four years from expanded membership and awareness of the Ecological Reserves Program, to our very successful research work in the Khutzeymateen. We have raised the profile of the Khutzeymateen from a local issue to national and international prominence. I am very proud of our small organization's achievement in raising over \$100,000 in research funds. We are hopeful that the government's studies will complement our own and recommend protection for the whole area.

The last few months have been very busy for including two trips to Ottawa to meet with the Hon. Lucien Bouchard, Minister of Environment and other M.P.'s to discuss forestry issues in B.C. At this time, I also participated in the Canadian Environmental Network Conference. July was very busy with numerous talks and travel. In August I travelled with friends on the west coast of Moresby Island in the Charlottes. On our return we stopped and had a wonderful visit with Jim Borrowman, the volunteer warden at Robson Bight. He took us out in the *Lukwa* and we watched a pod of killer whales near the Bight while discussing some of the problems facing the area.

Onwards to Clayoquot Sound, then I returned to Victoria for a speaking engagement with the Victoria Horticultural Society before leaving again. I was asked to speak at an American conference in Minneapolis on Managing America's Enduring Wilderness Resource. (I changed the title to Managing North America's Enduring Wilderness Resource!). Then on to Toronto to speak at the 'Our World' Conference and then home to a busy round of weekly trips to Tofino regarding the Clayoquot Sound Task Force. I am now an official representative of Tofino on the Task Force and anticipate a very difficult job ahead trying to balance all uses of the area into a workable sustainable development plan for Clayoquot Sound. I am also committed to work on protection of the lower Tahsish and planning for balanced resource use in the Kyuquot area.



UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3 : 7:30 p.m. Newcombe Auditorium, RBCPMuseum
Around the World with Bristol Foster

In 1957 and 1958 ecological consultant Dr. Bristol Foster travelled around the world by Land Rover, documenting the rich ecosystems of three continents. Thirty years later he returns from an 'Equinox' magazine sponsored repeat journey and reflects on the changes he found in the environments, people, and wildlife management practices. Don't miss this thought-provoking slide presentation presented by one of our directors!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6: 7:30 p.m. Newcombe Auditorium, RBCPM
Wildlife in Old-Growth Forests & Old-growth Forests; B.C.'s Forgotten Resource

Dr. Fred Bunnell and Dr. Ken Lertzman, scientists from U.B.C. and Simon Fraser University will present ecological information regarding the value of our old-growth forests.

A large portion of B.C.'s wildlife reside in old-growth forests. Are there ways we can maintain viable populations of wildlife in this diminishing resource? Dr. Bunnell will present slides, facts, and figures regarding the research he and his students have conducted regarding wildlife in relation to the forest resource.

Dr. Ken Lertzman has just completed important research on the structure of old-growth forests. His slide talk will focus on the ecological function of an old-growth forest.

These events are jointly sponsored by the Friends of Ecological Reserves and the Friends of the Royal B.C. Provincial Museum. Admission is \$3.00 - General, \$2.00 for FER, FRBCPM, and students, and \$1.00 for children.

FALL FIELD TRIPS

GALIANO ISLAND - OCTOBER 28-29

Join the Friends for a fall adventure... On Saturday (weather permitting) we will sail out to **Rose and Canoe Islets Ecological Reserves** and Trincomali Channel. We'll keep a sharp eye out for marine mammals and seabirds. For dinner we have reserved at the famous Pink Geranium restaurant, then overnight at Montague Harbour Park or Sutil Lodge depending on your budget. On Sunday we'll hike Bodega Ridge to the Galiano Bog Ecological Reserve Proposal. This is a special area with some very imminent forestry concerns.

Phone Trudy at 592-3559 for information, costs, and to reserve a spot!

WEST COAST - NOVEMBER 11th, 12th, and 13th

This trip is for those who love the mists, surf, and the autumn feel of Vancouver Island's west coast. We have reserved two cozy cottages on Mackenzie Beach (cost - ca. \$25.00/person/night) which will be a base for exploring. Weather permitting we go out by boat into Clayoquot Sound to watch for seabirds and mammals, perhaps to Hotsprings Cove. Otherwise we will hike to Radar Beaches and other areas in Pacific Rim Park. We will visit the Sutton's Pass Adder's Tongue Ecological Reserve en route. Please phone Trudy for details: 592-3559.

MERV WILKINSON'S WOODLOT - DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

There will be a trip to Merv Wilkenson's woodlot some time this fall. Merv is renowned for having a tree farm which he selectively logs on a true sustained yield basis. Please phone the office if you are interested in this field trip -386-8644



Hooded Merganser

Illustration by Rosemary Partridge

The 1989 Annual General Meeting

This year's annual meeting of The Friends of Ecological Reserves at Vicky Husband's house was very well attended. After a good hike to Mt. Work, the meeting commenced with a financial report, election of officers, voting on project expenditures and much talk of preservation of old-growth forests.

FRIENDS OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES EXECUTIVE APRIL 1979

President- Vicky Husband Vice president - Trudy Chatwin
Treasurer - Bernie Keppler Secretary - Gwen Walter
Membership Chairman- Wilf Medd
Directors - Bristol Foster, Steve Ruttan, Peggy Frank

Please note that as of August 1989 Bernie Keppler and Vicky Husband stepped down from their positions due to increasing work loads. At present Trudy is filling in as president and Diana Wooton is performing bookkeeping duties. Vicky will continue as director. We are interested in having more directors and volunteers to help keep the executive going.

PROJECTS FOR 1989

1. RESEARCH

Friends agreed to support Dr. Tom Reimchen in his continuing predator-prey interaction and evolutionary research in Drizzle Lake Ecological Reserve, on Graham Island, Queen Charlotte Islands. Our \$2000 grant may be matched by the University of Alberta to give Tom the much needed funds to continue his field studies. Tom mostly used the funds to hire research assistants and local help on the Queen Charlottes.

Two thousand dollars was also granted to Jane Watson for her sea otter ecological research in Checleset Bay Ecological Reserve. Jane is studying population dynamics and ecological interactions between sea otters and their environment. Our funding allowed her to continue her field research this summer. She will be reporting in our next newsletter.

Friends are continuing to fund Herb Hammond's Forest Economic-Ecological Sensitivity Study in the Khutzeymateen. He was looking at other old logging in adjacent areas in Khutzeymateen Inlet and making predictions on slope stability effects in the Khutzeymateen. His work will cost approximately \$8000.00 this year.

We also voted to set up a Continuing Annual Research Fund available to researchers and students conducting field research in Ecological Reserves and Ecological Reserve Proposals. Peggy Frank agreed to help write the Terms of Reference for this grant application. We would especially be interested in funding research in forested Ecological Reserves.



FENCING

It was agreed at the Annual Meeting to put some emphasis and approximately \$1000 into fencing of Ecological Reserves to protect reserves from feral animals and A.T.V.'s.

To this end we made an application to the Provincial Ministry of Environment's Youth Corp program to sponsor fencing projects in both Mt. Tzuhalem and Mt. Maxwell Ecological Reserves. However due to the huge response to applications for the Youth Corps Program our proposals were "placed on a reserve list". We had hoped to get going on fencing this summer but that was not to be! Our plan is to apply to the Federal Governments Environmental Partners Fund for assistance with Fencing Projects. If the Mt. Tzuhalem and Mt. Maxwell projects are successful, we would like to work on McQueen Creek Grassland Reserve near Kamloops. Is there a Friend in Kamloops that would help us with this application?

UNDERWATER CAMERA FOR WARDENS OF RACE ROCKS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Funds raised from past Race Rocks field trips were put towards a \$374 donation to the Pearson College Diving Service for the purchase of an underwater camera. The camera will be used to continue the photo documentation of underwater research plots. The camera will be essential in maintaining the integrity and continuity of the research in this fabulous marine reserve.

FRIENDS PRESENT WARDENS WITH AWARDS

Three volunteer wardens that made outstanding contributions towards the management of their Ecological Reserves were presented with Northwest coast ceremonial bowls hand carved by artist, Henry Nolla. Vicky obtained the bowls due to a long standing friendship with the artist. Gary Fletcher received his bowl for work in Race Rocks Ecological Reserve. Edith Maynard received her bowl for her work in the Whipsaw Creek Reserve. Anna Roberts, warden of Westwick Lake Reserve near Williams Lake received the third award.

Trudy, Gwen, and Wilf were able to attend the Annual Volunteer Wardens meeting held at Pearson College on April 15, 1989. We participated in Marine Invertebrate Workshop and in the Warden reports. Trudy gave a slideshow on the Friends role in the Ecological Reserves Program. We were very sorry to hear Louise Goulet's report that she did not know what would be occurring with the Ecological Reserves Unit in the upcoming year. We hope to be able to support the Ecological Reserves Program in any way possible, as we believe Ecological Reservers are an important part of a world-wide strategy to both learn how our ecosystems function and to set aside representative and unique examples of our natural heritage.

NEW OFFICE LOCATION

Through a series of moves the Friends office has finally been located in Room 204, Central Building at 620 View St., Victoria. We are desperately looking for help in the office. Our phone number is 386-8644 if you can offer any form of office assistance. Is there an artist out there that would make us a new office sign?

Erratta: In the March edition of the Newsletter, I forgot to mention the role that Steve Cannings played in the Osoyoos Arid Zone Ecological Reserves, particularly Hayne's Lease Reserve. Steve was one of the original proponents of this reserve and was the first chairman of the 'Osoyoos Arid Committee'.

WHALE RESEARCH IN SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

Pam J. Stacey and Robin W. Baird

Research projects in ecological reserves around southern Vancouver Island include monitoring trends in strandings of whales, dolphins and porpoises and studying the behaviour of transient killer whales. We are involved these studies, with the killer whale research undertaken under permit primarily in the Race Rocks and Oak Bay Islets Reserves, where transient killer whales frequently are seen hunting harbour seals. Although the permit for collection of stranded animals covers all marine and coastal ecological reserves, only a few strandings are reported each year. Whales, dolphins and porpoises that die at sea often wash ashore, and when they do there is much information that can be gained from the animal. Readers can assist this research by calling 756-7777 or 380-1925 if you have any information about a dead or live stranded whales or dolphins anywhere in B.C., even if it was in past years. Sightings of whales, dolphins and porpoises around Victoria can be called in to 380-1925, and elsewhere in B.C. to the toll-free Whale Hotline at 1-800-334-8832.



The British Columbia coast has one of the most accessible populations of killer whales anywhere in the world. Studies have been undertaken since the early 1970's, and it has been found that the killer whales here belong to one of three populations. Transient killer whales are one of these populations, and are the least known. They feed on marine mammals, and therefore are frequently found where harbour seals tend to haul out such as the Ecological Reserves mentioned.

We have been undertaking research on transient killer whales over the last four years, in the area around southern Vancouver Island. We study aspects of their behaviour, concentrating on foraging and feeding biology. For instance, we have found that transients are usually feeding on harbour seals in this area, and that they sometimes engage in prolonged "play" with the seal before it is consumed. This may be a function of how hungry the whales are, or in some cases may be an opportunity for younger whales to learn more about prey handling. Current sightings of killer whales in the Victoria area can often be used to locate the animals for our research.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS HEAD TO VANCOUVER ISLAND'S NORTHWEST COAST TO HELP KYUQUOT RESIDENTS SAVE REMAINING REMNANTS OF COASTAL FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

Sea otters wrapped in fronds of kelp floating in the smooth almost molten ocean of Checleset Bay, ancient poles peering out from a deserted village, surf-swept beaches and islands beautiful beyond description, tracks of elk and black bear along the banks of the Tahsish, towering Sitka Spruce and Douglas Fir forests green and moist with mist, spring salmon swimming upstream to spawn, dippers singing their fall song as they forage in the clear Tahsish waters, and a vibrant village of West Coast people that care about this beautiful place on the west coast of Vancouver Island between Cape Cook and Tatchu Point. This previously unknown part of our coast is a naturalist's paradise. It has occupied a special place in my heart since I conducted marine research here with the Ecological Reserves Unit in 1978.

However, since my last visit in 1979, this beautiful area has become ravaged by destructive logging practices. When I discussed visiting Kyuquot with Peter McAllister, Chairman of the Sierra Club, he said, "If you don't think this is the worst logging you ever seen, I'll eat my hat". A group of 24 people including Sierra Club Executive, FER Executive, a National Geographic writer, BCTV crew, wilderness tour operators, and the B.C. Outdoor Recreation Council were hosted by the Kayras of Kyuquot, the native people of Kyuquot, Jerry Lange of West Coast Expeditions, and the local environmental group, K.E.E.P.S. Indeed, we saw the best and the worst of this area in the three days of our visit.

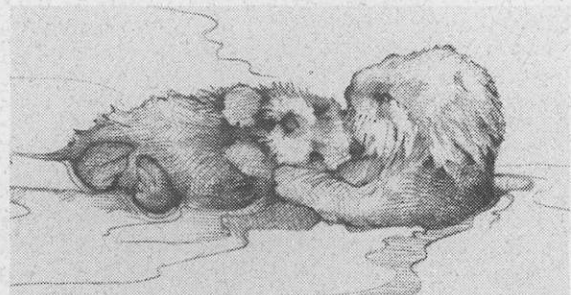
Once forested hillslopes were clearcut to the water. Mt. Paxton and St. Pauls Dome above Kyuquot are bare and scarred with landslides. We saw kayakers paddling by sea caves overshadowed with logging slash. Then there was Malskope Inlet (south of the Brooks Peninsula provincial Recreation Area); some areas logged 25 years ago were one giant landslide. Apparently, despite three attempts at reforestation, nothing would grow on this slide except pearly everlasting herbs. The lack of consideration for the other resources in this area, the lack of proper terrain, recreation, and wildlife sensitivity studies demonstrate the need for a moratorium on further clear-cut harvesting in this beautiful coastal area.

Especially, at threat is the lower **Tahsish River** and Kwois forest. On June 13, 1989 the Ministry of Forests gave MacMillan Bloedel the go ahead on its' plan in the Tahsish River. The upper Tahsish is already logged, and the logging roads are getting very close to the lower Tahsish. The lower Tahsish is the area's best salmon producing river and the best elk habitat on Vancouver Island. The small Ecological Reserve Proposal will not preserve the Roosevelt Elk winter Range, or the integrity of the forest and river ecosystem.



HOW TO GET THERE

- Fly Nootka Air from Gold River or Tahsis.
- Sail the Uchuck Saturdays from Gold River
- Drive the scenic route to Fair Harbour — Phone ahead for water taxi; 332-5212 or 332-5211.



What can Friends do?

1. Write Premier Vander Zalm. Tell him you would like to visit the Tahsish forest and the Kyuquot area. Tell him you would like to see logging deferred in the lower Tahsish River area. Ask him to take a look for himself at the forest destruction that has gone on in the Kyuquot area.
2. Become involved. Join us for our summer camp at Spring Island next summer. Prove to the government that tourism and a diversified economy can be a viable alternative to logging.
3. Send \$5.00 to K.E.E.P.S. in Kyuquot, B.C., VOP 1J0 and become informed on this issue.

P.S. I didn't eat my hat!



FRIENDS OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

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

Last August 9th five Ecological Reserves within the Tsitika River drainage were created and 100 upland hectares were incorporated into the Robson Bight Ecological Reserve. These areas include:

Tsitika Mountain - a series of terraced wetlands with some alpine ecosystems,

Mt. Derby - a steep but representative cross-section of Coastal Western Hemlock, Mountain Hemlock, and Alpine Tundra Biogeoclimatic Zones

Tsitika River - Cedar pine swamps with a small area of typical mid-elevation forest ecosystem and elk summer range

Mt. Elliot - an alpine lake and subalpine forest

Claud Elliot Creek - productive and representative montane forest for forestry research. This area is also deer winter range.

The land portion of these reserves total 2321 hectares out of approximately 50,500 hectares (less than 5%) of the Tsitika watershed area.

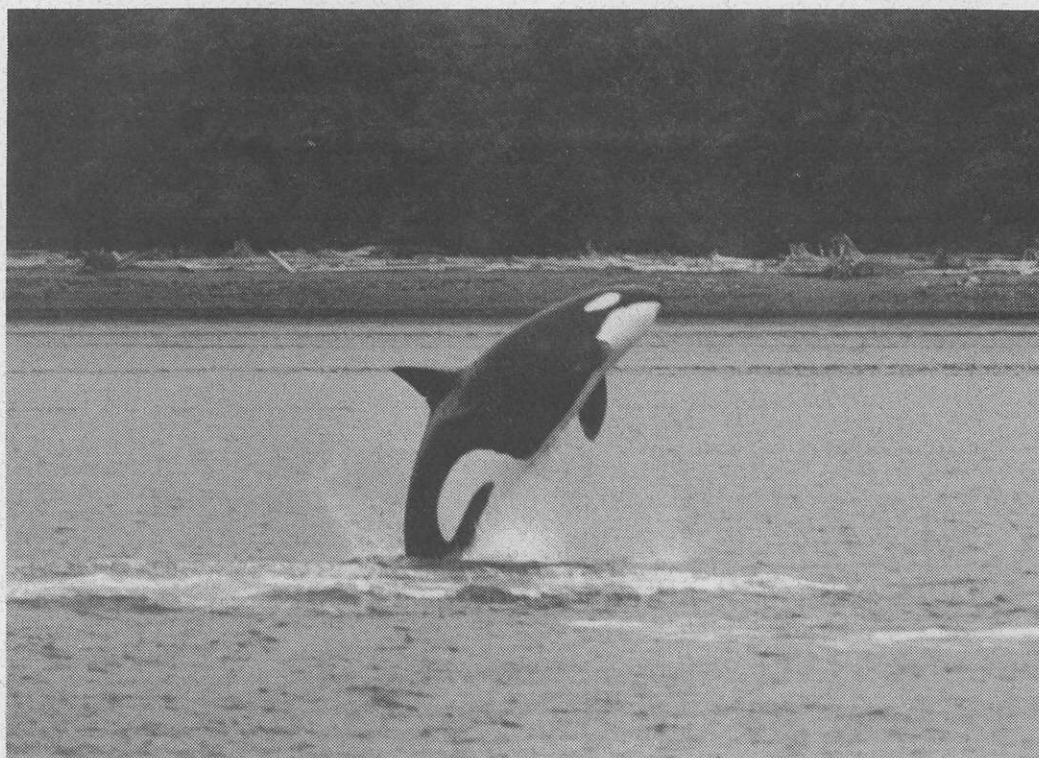
If 95% of the Tsitika watershed is logged will the last undisturbed estuary on east Vancouver Island remain intact? Will Roosevelt Elk and Black-tailed deer habitat remain intact? Will the Tsitika River's spawning habitat for trout, salmon, and steelhead remain intact? Not likely.

Tens of thousands tourists visit and pass by Robson Bight all summer long. Most are interested in observing and photographing the whales. Myself, I take groups to Johnstone Strait to see whales, the Tsitika estuary, and visit the native villages. My groups are shocked to see the extent of logging in this coastal area. Is Robson Bight going to look like the rest of Vancouver Island with clearcuts scarring the slopes? Photos of whales with a background of clearcuts are not becoming to our growing tourist industry.

At present MacMillan Bloedel's logging road is within one to two miles of the Robson Bight tidemark. If MacMillan Bloedel has its way, logging will begin in the lower Tsitika next year. Western Forest Products has already logged right down to tidewater at the south-east border of the Ecological Reserve right adjacent to the sensitive rubbing beaches!

This summer in response to tourist outcry, the wardens Jim Borrowman and Bill Mackay delivered a petition with over 1500 signatures asking Premier Vander Zalm to stop the logging in Robson Bight.

Please write Premier Vander Zalm, Parliament Buildings, Victoria V8V 1X4, and tell him you would like to see the lower Tsitika and the visual area along Johnstone Strait including Hanson Island reserved from clearcut logging. Your letters will really count in saving this important area. It is an international wildlife treasure!



Killer Whale Breaches in Johnstone Strait

Photo by T. Chatwin

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ECOLOGICAL RESERVES NEWSPAPER INSERT

The Friends believe that if more people knew more about the province's Ecological Reserve Program they would be more interested in both supporting the creation of Ecological Reserves and in the protection of existing Ecological Reserves. We would like to publish a widely distributed newspaper supplement regarding Ecological Reserves in British Columbia.

What is an Ecological Reserve? Why are Ecological Reserves important? How is an Ecological Reserve created? Who can use an Ecological Reserve? Which important Ecological Reserve Proposals are outstanding?

These are some of the questions to be addressed by our supplement. Ecological Reserves are becoming more valuable as our environment changes so quickly. They are fast becoming islands of naturalness in a sea of change. With the program and job descriptions of the staff changing the Reserve Unit changing, now is the time to lend support to Ecological Reserves if they are to survive!

We believe this project will cost \$2500 to \$3000. We are in the process of applying to the Mountain Equipment Coop for project funding. Western Canada Wilderness Committee has agreed to help us with layout and publishing. If you can help in any way please let us know.

ECOLOGICAL RESERVE ADDITIONS IN THE TSITIKA WATERSHED WILL THEY PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF ROBSON BIGHT?

Robson Bight on the north-east coast of Vancouver Island is known as the world's most likely spot to see Killer Whales in the wild. It is also the mouth of the Tsitika River, which until about 1980 was the last unlogged watershed on the east coast of Vancouver Island. In 1972 the entire watershed was proposed to become an Ecological Reserve by the late biologist and author, Ian Smith. The reserve purpose was to protect an intact watershed as Roosevelt elk habitat. Public hearings were held with Roderick Haig-Brown speaking passionately for protection of the Tsitika. The provincial government then recommended a multi-disciplinary committee be set up to resolve the conflict between forest and conservation interests.

From 1976 to late 1978 a Tsitika Planning Committee met and deliberated on the fate of the Tsitika watershed. This committee was chaired by the Ministry of Forests, with at least one representative each from Canadian Forest Products, MacMillan Bloedel, and Western Forest Products. On the side of conservation were one Fish and wildlife, a Federal Fishery representative, and Ecological Reserves representative. Public and union members were also on the committee. Basically it was decided to log the watershed, setting aside a few small Ecological Reserves which would quiet the public outcry and serve research purposes. MacMillan Bloedel planned to build a log dump in the Tsitika River estuary which was then their private holding, bought way back in the 1930's by H.R. MacMillan for \$1.00.

However Killer Whale research in the late 1970's and early 1980's was starting to indicate that Robson Bight (the bay at the mouth of the Tsitika River) was something special. It appeared to be a core area for seven to eight 'resident' pods of Killer Whales (totalling 65 - 85 out of B.C.'s total population of around 300). Robson Bight is visited by the whales mainly from June to October. When the whales are present in Johnstone Strait there is an 80% chance, they will visit the Bight several times per day. The whales behave differently in Robson Bight; there is less travelling, less feeding, more resting, more play, and perhaps more sexual activity than in any other place on the B.C. Coast. Then it was discovered that the whales use certain beaches along the Bight for a "rubbing ritual". The researchers also found that the whales were more sensitive to disturbance when they were at the rubbing beaches, or in the Bight. As a result of these findings and public pressure a 1,248 hectare totally marine Ecological Reserve was created in June 1982 to protect this core Killer Whale habitat.

Over the years the Ecological Reserves Unit negotiated for the purchase of the M.B.'s private holding in the estuary. With funding from the Nature Trust, the \$1.00 lot was purchased for the province for over \$400,000. In August 1988, the estuary and a narrow upland strip of land totalling 412 hectares along the Bight was incorporated into the Ecological Reserve. At its narrowest the reserve boundary is only 160 metres from the ocean.



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

CHILLIWACK RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

On April 23, 1989 Gladys Brown (warden of the reserve) and Vicky Husband led a group of Friends on a walk along the east bank of the Chilliwack River, south to the U.S. border. Songs of varied thrush, winter wren, yellow-rumped warblers and American dippers filled the air as we walked past some large western red cedars, black cottonwoods, amabilis firs, grand firs, and spruces. According to Randy Stoltmann's Hiking Guide to big trees of S.W. British Columbia, spruces in this area are thought to be a hybrid between the coastal Sitka spruce and the interior Engelmann spruce. This must explain why we had trouble identifying spruces!

The largest grand fir on record is also along this trail. At 2 metres in diameter and 71.3 metres tall it is quite impressive! Randy Stoltmann's guide also solved the mystery of unsightly red paint markings on some beautiful specimens of cedars and firs. They were marked due to their near perfect form for a forest research project. The trip ended with a good look at a yellow-rumped warbler and a red-breasted sapsucker near the south end of the Chilliwack Lake. Several mourning cloak butterflies were sighted along the road to Sardis.

Many thanks to Gladys Brown for organizing this very interesting field trip!

-Kelly Sekhon.

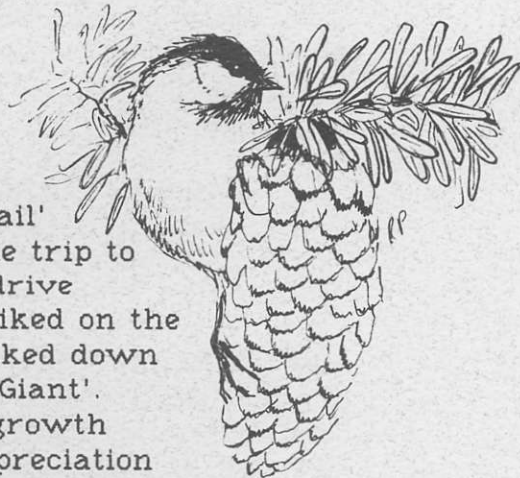
RACE ROCKS

The sky on the morning of April 2nd was black and intermittent downpours kept many of the Friends slated for the Race Rocks trip in bed. Too bad for them as the day improved and Garry Fletcher and the Pearson College diving services students helped make this a great field trip. We first had a lesson in marine biology from Sean and Aengus in the Marine Sciences Lab then we headed out in the 'Uba Tuba' to Race Rocks. Mick, Nicholas and Olivier helped with the boat and gave us a very informative history of the Race Rocks Lightstation and Ecological Reserve. We all managed to get a wonderful view of the sea-lions from the top of the light. Each step and fixture had been painted and polished to perfection by the light-keeper Charles Redhead and his new assistant.

We saw oystercatchers, gulls, pigeon guillemots, pelagic cormorants, and got close views of a sea-lion with an attached antenna through my new telescope. As we ate our lunch on the rocks, the sun poured through the clouds over the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Can you believe it, we didn't get a drop of rain!

CARMANAH

Kids, 'Grannies', loggers, citizens, and even a 'Globe and Mail' reporter joined us for this expedition. Over 40 people came on the trip to the Carmanah forest. The day was sunny and after the dusty drive through the clear-cuts, and the hike down to the creek, we picnicked on the gravel bars. Children of all ages played in the river. We all walked down the 'fallen giant' spruce and some even hiked to the 'Carmanah Giant'. There was much discussion about the value of setting aside old-growth forests. . . There was also time for moments of reflection and appreciation of the trees and the sparkling river winding through the groves of spruce. **Carmanah forever!**



MT. TZUHALEM ECOLOGICAL RESERVE- May 6th, 1979

Our annual spring flower jaunt! Rebecca Finlay ably lead this lovely trip. The colours were at their best. Carpets of sea-blush, camas, and blue-eyed Marys spread out beneath the Garry oak's fresh green leaves. Molly Lines identified songs of pileated woodpecker, dark-eyed juncos, flickers, and the many warblers whose spring notes filled the misty air. We were in good time to see the yellow-flowers of balsam-root and a pair of nesting western bluebirds. We hiked up through the reserve and inspected the proposed location of a fenceline to keep out A.T.V.s. This hike was so lovely, I took my mother up here a week later on mother's day!

FRIENDS OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES SUMMER FIELD CAMP

After visiting Kyuquot on Vancouver Island's west coast this fall, we felt that Jerry Lange's Camp on Spring Island would be an ideal spot and situation for a summer field camp. Jerry; a biology teacher and gourmet cook provides all food, accommodation, and boat transport. Come and photograph sea otters, fabulous scenery, and marine life in Checleset Bay Ecological Reserve. Become involved in the struggle to save the lower Tahsish Valley from logging. We will visit Ecological Reserve Proposals in the Tahsish, a beautiful sand beach on Rugged Point that was once a reserve proposal, native sites, and a fossil island. There will be field sessions on marine ecology, forest ecology, and native uses of plants. This area is one of the most diverse and beautiful of any on our coast. Unfortunately it is being ravished at an unprecedented rate. The camp will be about a week long in July or August 1990 and will cost about \$550.00 (everything inclusive from Fair Harbour). Please call Trudy to indicate interest - 592-3559.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE KHUTZEYMATEEN?

The Provincial Governments' Khutzeymateen research project has been very active this summer. The Grizzly study team of John Nagy and his assistant, Grant have been trapping, radio collaring, and monitoring movement, habitat selection, and activity of the bears. As of September, they had captured 16 grizzly and 17 black bears, then radio-collared seven grizzly. The female bears seem to be providing most of the data. One female named 'Grey' has been monitored with one of her three cubs. In late May they seemed to be consorting with the boys, spending time fishing in the creek, and eating berries in floodplain habitats. The males seem to move great distances and are more difficult to locate. Large carnivores like grizzly have huge home ranges, and to protect their habitat it is necessary to set aside large areas of varied terrain such as the entire Khutzeymateen Valley.

The researchers know that at least 37 different grizzly used the Khutzeymateen during the spring and summer. The estuary seems to be an area of high use, with 148 sightings in 33 days of observation. Eight bear beds were found along the corridor area. The Khutzeymateen is definitely a valley of the bears!

Chris Clement, Sandra Thompson, Terry Wood, and Martin Geerstema of the Research Branch put in over 300 vegetation plots for a habitat mapping project. Ray Wehr and Shane worked all summer conducting slope stability and terrain mapping projects at a 1:10,000 and 1:50,000 scale. They are trying to evaluate mass wasting and surface erosion potential in the watershed and comparing it to other drainages nearby.

Our researchers Herb Hammond (forester) and Wayne McCrory (wildlife biologist) spent a week in the Khutzeymateen this September. They were guiding the CBC television crew of the "Fifth Estate", and at the same time completing Ecosystem Sensitivity studies to tie in with Herb's Forest Economic Study. Herb will be submitting his research report at the end of November.

As mentioned there has been lots of media interest in the Khutzeymateen. I hope you were able to watch the 'Fifth Estate' on Tuesday October 2nd at 8:00 pm for their documentary. A 'Nature of Things' film crew spent a couple of weeks in the watershed filming, so look forward to this coverage. Sheila Copps, the Liberal Environment Critic flew into the Khutzeymateen in September. She said that it was the highlight of her B.C. environmental tour. With all the interest in the Khutzeymateen, Friends would like to make it clear that we encourage visits only with a knowledgeable biologist or tour company such as 'Adventure Canada' or 'Pacific Synergies'. The Khutzeymateen is really meant to be for the bears, and we do not wish to disturb the bears or have any negative bear-people encounters.

