



Spring 2002

Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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## Clayoquot – Japan Connection: Interfor's Trade in Ancient Forests



Mt. Fuji was silhouetted – the sun sinking to the west of Tokyo in a stunning display of red and yellow, fading to blue-green twilight above. Our host informed us that Mt. Fuji is best viewed from Tokyo – the slopes are even, no bumps or imperfections. We pondered the Japanese people's connection to place, where this kind of knowledge is part of the common lexicon.

This was our second trip to Tokyo. In the past few years, hundreds of companies in Europe and North America have pledged to go ancient forest free. Japan, BC's second largest market for wood exports, will be next to make the shift. Once again, the Friends of Clayoquot Sound (FOCS) are leading the way.

Our trip was superbly organised by Lima Kimura, working for FOCS. Our sea kayaking slide shows were hosted at Patagonia Japan's stores. Over 200 people came out to learn about Interfor's destructive logging on Vancouver Island, in places like the Klaskish Valley and Clayoquot Sound. We also took our message to 200 students in local schools. Canadians often forget that other temperate rainforests in the world (for example in Tasmania) are not inhabited by large mammals such as bears, wolves, and cougars. People could not believe these beautiful creatures are still threatened by logging in BC.

We met with Canada's Ambassador to Japan. The Canadian Embassy spends your tax dollars promoting BC ancient forest products abroad (can you say subsidy?). Last year, they wrote Japanese companies to say BC rainforest issues had been resolved by the Great Bear Rainforest deal, even though only 20 valleys received protection, and that protection is not yet legislated (68 other valleys in the GBR remain at risk and unprotected).

We also met with many of Interfor's customers, including some of the largest corporations in Japan. They were quite interested to hear our first hand account, and were shocked to see the level of devastation permitted under the Forest Practices Code, which the BC government claims is the best logging in the world. We are hoping that some of these companies will cancel their contracts with Interfor!

These companies understand that in order to be competitive in the global marketplace, they must give their customers what they want. Consumers do not want to be part of the destruction of the world's

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last ancient temperate rainforests. Especially when products can be made from sustainable alternatives such as agricultural waste and certified second growth tree plantations.

**Acknowledgements:** Thanks so much to Patagonia Japan, Kenji Shino, Lima Kimura, Takehiro and Yoko Shibata, JATAN, Friends of the Earth Japan and Sara Shinkai for all your help organising and hosting our visit. Special thanks to Patagonia USA for funding our trip.

**A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words:** Thanks also to all the photographers who donated photos for our slide shows, including Jacqueline Windh ([www.windhphotos.com](http://www.windhphotos.com)), Mark Hobson ([www.markhobson.com](http://www.markhobson.com)) and Adrian Dorst ([www.pacoasis.com/dorst.htm](http://www.pacoasis.com/dorst.htm)).

*Dan Lewis and Bonny Glambeck operate Rainforest Kayak Adventures in Tofino*

## Give to “Get Us Wheels” Fund

The Friends have been car-less for almost a year. We’ve been begging, borrowing (but not stealing) vehicles to get us to our many public education and campaign meetings, presentations, etc. Now, we’ve set up a “Get Us Wheels” fund, and eagerly anticipate receiving \$5,000 from you, our loyal supporters, so that we can buy wheels (used) ASAP. Please earmark your cheques “car purchase”. Thanks! We can’t wait to get rolling.



## Why market based campaigns?

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Market campaigns have been negatively characterized by the BC industry and government as undermining the economy, but conservation and efficiency are positive goals for the environment and business. When institutions such as Citizens Bank or the Vancouver Folk Music Festival reduce their overall paper and wood consumption, that is both good for the environment and good for their bottom line. Market campaigns aim to reduce or eliminate the demand for environmentally damaging goods, whether that is ancient forest wood and paper products or farmed salmon. It’s supply and demand being worked for an environmental advantage.

The Friends of Clayoquot Sound pioneered market based campaigns in BC, beginning in 1992 with our first venture to Europe. Since that time market campaigns have become more sophisticated. We see them as opportunities, not just to pressure one logging company to move its equipment out of a contentious area, but also as an opportunity to

build conservation of resources into the front end of corporate purchasing policies.

We continue to build on the work of the Markets Initiative project, which recently succeeded in having 22 major Canadian book publishers commit to use only “ancient forest friendly” papers ([www.marketsinitiative.org](http://www.marketsinitiative.org)). Those publishers are now using recycled paper. With demand from such big purchasers, we hope economy of scale will make tree-free papers more competitively priced. FOCS has also begun a market campaign in Japan (see front page article). The Japanese domestic lumber industry has been undermined over the last 20 years by cheap wood imports from BC, the Amazon and Australia. We have hired a Japanese employee to wean the Japanese off old growth and increase their reliance on their domestic wood supply. We are now turning our eyes to the market for farmed fish as well. Markets are powerful places these days. If we want to effect change we must be there.

*Valerie Langer*

# BC Civil Service – Anyone Home?

In May 2001, the Liberal party won a landslide election victory in BC, taking 77 out of 79 Legislative Assembly seats. The Liberals immediately began a “core review” of all government ministries and agencies, with a view to cutting costs and making government more “business-like”. In January, Premier Gordon Campbell announced the results of his core review.

The Liberals’ job and program cuts are the most drastic any government has ever made in Canadian history. Over the next three years, the provincial civil service will be reduced by 35% – 11,700 out of 34,000 jobs will be cut. Across the board, British Columbians will face reduced government services, such as health and education cutbacks, closed courthouses, tighter welfare, etc.

Without a doubt, environmental protection will also suffer. The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (WLAP) will lose 31% of its staff over the next three years, and the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management 36%. Wildlife biologists and other WLAP experts will no longer provide comments on logging plans. The Ministry of Forests will lose 35% of its staff and

budget over three years and 36 of its offices will close. These reductions will make it more difficult to police logging practices, as well as revenue scams such as stumpage evasion.

Here in Clayoquot Sound, the local pre-treaty resource use agency, the Central Region Board, survived the core review. As for the recommendations of the Scientific Panel for Sustainable Forest Practices, the previous NDP government had already downsized their implementation. It appears that the watered down version of the Panel’s recommendations also survived the core review.

Now back to the bigger picture. Last June, the newly elected Liberals gave 2 billion dollars in tax cuts, mostly to the highest income earners and to corporations. The recent civil service and program cuts are designed to help BC out of a deficit budget and to save 2 billion dollars. Hmm ... interesting coincidence. BC continues to live

up to its reputation as the province with the wackiest politics.

*Maryjka Mychajlowycz*



## Clayoquot Biosphere Trust

The Biosphere Trust is a pot of money (\$12 million) donated by the federal government to the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve. It is managed by a Board of Directors made up of representatives from seven communities in the region. This includes the community of Ucluelet, which refused to have the Biosphere Reserve’s boundaries extended to include it, but which insists on benefiting from the Reserve’s financial windfall. The Trust is to manage the money in the interests of research, education and training and to fulfill the Biosphere Reserve mandate of conservation and sustainable development.

A year and a half after the Trust’s

inception, it has accomplished little that one would consider worthy of the big steps Clayoquot is capable of taking, but hopefully this is just the Trust finding its legs. The other issue is that since \$6 million was invested in the stock market and the market took a dive, the Trust doesn’t have much money to work with! A new executive director will be hired very soon. We look forward to someone with expertise, imagination (and fundraising skills) taking the tremendous opportunity to help build Clayoquot Sound into a model of conservation and sustainable development.



*Valerie Langer*

# Staff Profile: Valiant Valerie

Bits of crude oil splattered onto the walls of the Premier's office as Valerie gestured, clutching an oil-soaked dead bird. The year was 1989. Val and I had come to Victoria to let the government know that the Nestucca oil spill had killed hundreds of birds, which were now washing up on the beaches near our home in Tofino.



Nicole Ryeroff

Valerie standing up for what she stands on, Catface Mountain, 1998.

“Never apologise, never explain. Get the deed done, and let the critics howl!” This quote from Canada's feminist pioneer Nellie McClung seems to capture the philosophy and *modus operandi* of Valerie Langer.

Although many are familiar with Valerie's public face, few know that she has a degree in semiotics (look it up), speaks Portuguese and, as a young adult, performed in an Italian circus as the “woman with the longest neck in the world”!

Arriving on Vancouver Island from Ontario in 1988, she was introduced to the Friends of Strathcona Park, got involved with the likes of Ruth Masters and Des Kennedy, and was soon arrested for protecting BC's oldest provincial park from mining.

I first met Val in Clayoquot Sound in July of 1988, when we and 34 others were arrested for blockading an illegal road being punched into Sulphur Pass by BC Forest Products. While doing time together in a maximum security prison in Burnaby, we decided to head down to the gym to get a little exercise. There we were

confronted by a woman substantially taller than ourselves. She asked in a menacing voice, “Are you people *baby-huggers* or *tree-huggers*?” (anti-abortionist activists were also serving time). Val and I glanced at each other, searching each other's eyes for the right answer. Looking back at the woman, we timidly replied “Tree-huggers?”. “Good!” she smiled, and proceeded to tell us about her favourite childhood tree, and how it had been cut down.

I can still picture Valerie, perched on a log suspended over Bulson Creek in 1991, stopping the logging trucks for many hours before they figured out a way to arrest her safely. She talked non-stop the whole time to her captive audience, quoting forest facts and figures long after they had lost interest.

It is this passion and persistence that have kept Valerie on the front lines for 14 years, helping the Friends of Clayoquot Sound make enormous strides forward. In 1993, she helped organise the largest peaceful civil disobedience action in Canadian history, and helped initiate the markets campaign in Europe in 1992. Since then, hundreds of companies have pledged to stop buying wood from the world's ancient forests. That's kicking ass!



Adrian Dorst

Valerie "out on a limb" over Bulson Creek, 1991.

When Valerie is not at work, you're likely to find her foraging for wild mushrooms, sloshing through wetlands searching for red-legged frogs, or stomping up a storm on the dance floor at the Legion.

As comfortable bush-whacking through salmonberry thickets as she is in a corporate boardroom, Valerie is someone who knows the territory she fights for, and is able to communicate her passion for wild places with courage and irreverent humour. Thanks, Valerie, for continuing to inspire us all!

Bonny Glambeck

# Forest Watch: Dream vs. Reality

I dreamt I was writing the following Forest Watch update: “The best case forestry scenario has finally been achieved in Clayoquot Sound. Interfor has pulled out for good. The other logging company, Iisaak, has stopped logging old growth and is only cutting small amounts of second growth, without building roads.” Alas, the above is not true (yet), although we’re working on it. Instead, industrial logging grinds on in Clayoquot’s ancient forests.

Last year, Interfor experienced a 5-month lull in logging, while two major amendments to its Forest Development Plan (FDP) were being approved. The amendments have shaken down to 30 new cutblocks, with an estimated volume of 506,000 cubic metres of wood to be cut. This supply of approved blocks should keep Interfor chainsawing for 5 to 8 years.

In November, Interfor started up in the Hesquiaht Harbour area of northern Clayoquot. This is the first time, since it moved into the Sound in 1992, that Interfor has operated in Hesquiaht First Nation territory. A logging agreement, signed between the company and the Band Council in 2000, paved the way for the current cutting. Even so, at the last minute, the Hesquiaht, and other Clayoquot Sound First Nations, got nervous about approving the FDP amendments, realizing that their future treaty settlement could be diminished by granting Interfor legal approval for so many cutblocks. However, Interfor persuaded the Hesquiaht with the promise of jobs, and of a road connection between their current settlement of Hot Springs, and their ancestral home of Hesquiaht Harbour, where they want to build again.

In January, Interfor resumed logging in the Kennedy Lake Flats, near Pacific Rim National Park. Although severely (60%) clearcut, this area

still has huge ancient cedars, easily 1,000 years old and each worth tens of thousands of dollars. The Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation has still not agreed to all the cutblocks Interfor wants in the Kennedy Flats. Hence, 6 blocks were dropped from the approved FDP amendment, and may or may not re-appear in future amendments.

Some of the worst news in the Interfor scenario is that the company plans to push 13 kilometres of road and two cutblocks into pristine Sulphur Pass, an area still untouched because of a blockade in 1988.

Clearly, Interfor is determined to hang on in Clayoquot Sound, despite the ‘challenging conditions’ here.

Although Clayoquot represents a tiny portion of their BC operations, it is the only place that can give them the green-wash they want (Biosphere Reserve, Science Panel) and can also provide an entry point for the Forest Stewardship Council eco-certification they will be seeking.

By comparison with Interfor, Clayoquot Sound’s other logging company, Iisaak Forest Resources, is operating on a much smaller scale, but still in old growth. Their only logging so far consists of 10,000 cubic metres on Catface Mountain, in the fall of 2000. Late last year, Iisaak’s new FDP was approved – it calls for cutting 90,000 cubic metres in 3 years. April is the scheduled start up for Iisaak’s next logging, in Shark Creek and Millar Channel. Shark Creek, just south of Sulphur Pass, is a contentious area, site of blockades in 1988 and 1995. Due to pressure from Tofino’s eco-tourism operators, Iisaak has deferred a cutblock next to the scenic falls at the mouth of Shark Creek, but is proceeding with two other blocks in the watershed.



*Maryjka Mychajlowycz*

# Wild Salmon Under Siege

So far, 2002 has been a bleak year for wild salmon and wild salmon advocates in BC.

First, there was the escape of thousands of Atlantic salmon from three Pacific National Aquaculture (PNA) farms in Clayoquot Sound during an early January storm. Then, on January 31, the provincial government announced plans to lift the moratorium on salmon farming expansion in BC as of April 30, 2002.

Both of the above events received a great deal of media coverage, generating discussion and debate about the problems associated with growing Atlantic salmon in open netcages in the Pacific Ocean. To many, the escapes clearly demonstrate the fallibility of current salmon growing systems, not to mention the fact that the industry, as well as the federal and provincial governments, is not doing enough to ensure that risks to wild salmon stocks and the marine environment are addressed effectively.

Not surprisingly, industry and provincial government representatives are touting the lifting of the moratorium as an economic boon to coastal communities. Additionally, they have repeatedly emphasized that the industry will expand in an environmentally responsible manner, implementing policies that will result in “the most comprehensive regime of any jurisdiction in the world for managing the salmon aquaculture industry”.

Such statements are not supported by history or fact. When the moratorium was implemented in 1995, a Salmon Aquaculture Review was undertaken by the provincial government. The review was intended to identify and address environmental problems associated with the industry including pollution, disease, escapes and other risks to wild salmon. To date, less than half of the 49 recommendations have been implemented, despite promises that the moratorium would be lifted only when all concerns had been dealt with.

As part of the review, 36 salmon farms were ordered to relocate in order to reduce immediate risks to wild salmon habitat and stocks. At this time, only 7 relocations have been



Jacqueline Windh

*Ahousaht First Nation declares war against PNA salmon farms in Clayoquot Sound.*

completed.

The Salmon Aquaculture Implementation Advisory Committee, a government advisory committee made up of First Nations, commercial fishermen, environmental groups and industry representatives, was not informed in advance of the moratorium decision. Four members have since resigned in protest.

Both the escapes and the lifting of the moratorium have angered First Nations, environmental groups, commercial fishermen and even the Governor of Alaska, Tony Knowles, who has publicly denounced the moratorium decision.

When the escapes occurred in January, Ahousaht First Nation fishing boats immediately began efforts to recapture the escaped Atlantics. PNA, however, failed to provide any assistance. Representatives of the Ahousaht, angered by PNA’s inaction in the face of an environmental calamity of its own making, stated publicly that the industry was trespassing in First Nations territory and not living up to its promises regarding environmental protection.

In early February, Atlantic salmon were seen in Tofino Harbour and Tofino Inlet in Clayoquot Sound. This follows on reports from the fall that Atlantic salmon were found in three

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major salmon spawning rivers in the Sound.

There can be no denying that salmon farming, both in the Sound and BC generally, has negative consequences for the environment and for local communities. So far, these impacts have not been mitigated by the weak and poorly enforced provincial and federal regulations currently in place. Nor can it be expected that such regulations, in combination with cuts to the provincial agencies responsible for enforcement, will be able to keep up with the uncapped expansion of the number of salmon farms once the moratorium is lifted.

BC's anti-salmon farming activists are gearing up to challenge this expansion and counter the negative impacts of the industry on BC's coast. Already a massive faxing campaign

objecting to the Campbell government's decision has been undertaken. This is only the beginning of our efforts to show the salmon farming industry that it will be held accountable for the health of BC's wild salmon and ocean ecosystem.

*Melissa Nelson,  
FOCS fish farm campaigner*

**Contact BC's Fisheries Minister.** Tell him to maintain the fish farm moratorium and to convert existing fish farms to safe, closed containment systems on land. John Van Dongen, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, PO Box 9058, STN PROV GOVT, Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2. Tel. (250) 387-1023. Fax (250) 387-1522. Email: john.vandongen.mla@leg.bc.ca

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## Ocean Pollution from Salmon Farming

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Salmon farming is currently conducted in ocean netcages that are open to the marine environment. As a result, the waste from these farms is discharged directly into that environment, causing pollution. The types of pollution can be divided roughly into two classes, organic and chemical. Organic pollution consists mainly of uneaten fish feed and feces. Chemical pollutants include antibiotics, pesticides, feed additives, paints used on netcages and boats to prevent marine growth (antifouling paints), and disinfectants.

Many of these chemicals were originally developed for land-based agriculture. The effect of most of them on the marine environment has not been studied. The few studies that have been done mainly focused on the short-term effects of antibiotics and of pesticides (such as ivermectin, cypremethrin, dichlorvos and azamethiphos) on marine sediment organisms in the vicinity (within 100 metres) of farms. These pesticides have been found to be toxic to a broad range of marine organisms.

Fish feces and uneaten feed make up the bulk of sewage from salmon farms. Researchers



have shown that, for each square metre of seabed, 14.7 to 52 kilograms of waste can accumulate beneath a farm. It's been found that this waste can dramatically alter the benthic (sea sediment) community structure to at least 240 metres from a fish farm. While the total weight of organisms increased near

farms, the benthic community was dominated by only 6 or 7 opportunistic species, which feed on sewage. This represents a large reduction in species diversity.

Studies in British Columbia (BC) have not looked at effects on the benthic community beyond 240 metres, nor have they looked at the time it takes for an impacted community to recover. On the east coast of Canada, in the Bay of Fundy, the regional impact of salmon farm sewage on the benthic community has been studied. The reduction to benthic biodiversity was seen regionally, covering areas of several square kilometres. It was also found that, one year after salmon farms were removed from an area, the benthic community had not recovered much.

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Besides the impact on the benthic community, two other regional impacts of fish farm sewage are the fertilization of plankton blooms and the introduction of disease pathogens.

When sewage decomposes, it releases nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous into the water. Research outside of BC has shown that this can alter the structure of the plankton community, increasing the incidence of blooms. In one study, a link was established between blooms of a toxic alga, which killed 750 tonnes of salmon and rainbow trout in fish farms in a Norwegian fjord, and the nutrient loading from those farms.

Fish that get sick from bacteria or viruses often have high levels of pathogens in their feces. When disease outbreaks occur on salmon farms, the waste provides a mechanism for pathogens to be dispersed into the marine environment.

Taken as a whole, the sewage from open netcage salmon farming releases a substantial amount of pollution into the marine environment.

This results in an industry that is subsidized, by not having to pay for the environmental impact it causes.

Sergio Paone



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# Green Economy

Economies are imbedded in ecosystems. An economy is simply a subset of our social structure, which includes other important things like family, systems of educating our children, and what we consider to be enheartening, enlightening and good. There are hundreds of tools in the economics toolkit, but only a few are being utilized. The predominant “resource base economic theory” has failed to create economies that are healthy for the environment or for people. We need to break out some new economic tools that take into consideration the things we value besides money.

Changing our shared understanding of what drives the local economy is a first step to eliminating fear of developing a green economy. The myth that resource extraction is the base of any economy flies in the face of the facts.



Through the 1990s in BC and the US Pacific Northwest, resource extraction industries were in constant decline while the rest of the economy was booming. Goods and services, knowledge and information – not just extraction of resources – can form a “base” of an economy. We have learned that diversification can bring more stability, but what can we do to make our economy not only more stable, but sustainable over the long-term?

Economies are about what we choose to formally count as “of value” and how we count it. For example, we can reform tax systems so that environmentally destructive or human-exploitative industries carry a “negative values” tax. Eliminating public subsidies to socially or environmentally negative industries is a logical step (none of the environmentally destructive industries in the

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world could survive without public subsidies). We could initially shift those public monies to help communities transition to a green economy. We could set a maximum income, so that the highest paid person in the land makes a maximum of ten times what the lowest paid person makes (because gross levels of resource consumption come with gross levels of excess income). There are lots of options ranging from moderate to radical.

In Clayoquot Sound, we have made some first steps by recognizing that the environment is of value and by implementing some changes in resource extraction practices, but the fundamentals that drive environmental degradation are still strong. The imposition of limited constraints on the old economic base has not laid out a path to a socially and environmentally healthy economy.

We have yet to identify whether we have

set aside enough lands and waters to ensure ecosystem health. We need to identify the linkages between the economy and well-being (for example, drinking pop rather than tap water is good for the economy but bad for well-being; forest fragmentation figures positive in the Gross Domestic Product but is bad for the environment). And we can evaluate our options for self-reliance (energy, food) so that we can reduce our ecological footprint and avoid achieving local sustainability at the expense of the global environment.

We need our new economy to formally reflect our values and we need to manage our consumption so that we don't drive up the demand for resource extraction. We can achieve this if governments recognize the difference between economic change and economic decline ... and if we have the will.

*Valerie Langer*

## SAVE VANCOUVER ISLAND'S EAST CREEK!

[www.saveeastcreek.com](http://www.saveeastcreek.com)

For the last 10,000 years, Vancouver Island's coastline has been a thing of wonder, with 90 large primary valleys draped in majestic ancient rainforest from sea to skyline.<sup>1</sup> Now, after just a few generations of industrial logging, although still beautiful, Vancouver Island is sadly diminished.

BC Ministry of Forests' statistics show that only six of our 90 large primary watersheds are still intact as ancient forest. Three of these (plus the Bulson<sup>2</sup>) are in Clayoquot Sound. The others are clustered around the Brooks Peninsula, on the island's northwest coast.

Currently the score on Vancouver Island stands as follows:

# Large Primary Watersheds	90
# Logged	84
# Intact and Protected	4
# Intact but Logging Planned	2 (+ Bulson)

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*Mark Hobson*

*Mouth of East Creek*

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Even worse, one of the two intact but unprotected valleys has just been approved for logging. LeMare Lake Logging plans 20 cutblocks, mostly clearcuts, and 30 km of road in the East Creek watershed, just north of the Brooks Peninsula. Road building is planned for this spring, with the road coming through Interfor's new clearcuts in the Klaskish watershed (formerly intact until 1999) and over the height of land into upper East Creek (map available at [www.saveeastcreek.com](http://www.saveeastcreek.com)).

East Creek is in the middle of the largest remaining intact ancient forest on Vancouver Island north of Clayoquot Sound. This vast forest is a welcome sight amid the clearcuts and plantations that now dominate the north island (e.g. Kyuquot Sound, Red Stripe Mountain) and gives us all pause for reflection on millennia of post-glacier evolution. In fact, the intact valleys surrounding the Brooks Peninsula may hold special clues to the whole island's evolution because the Brooks Peninsula escaped glaciation, and was likely the source of recolonization in the wake of scouring ice sheets.

Despite large changes in public values, increased scientific concern for endangered species, a UN call on Canada to retain our intact forest ecosystems<sup>3</sup>, and clear indications that eco-tourism is a growing and sustainable part of economic diversification efforts, the BC government has so far failed to show leadership by helping to create a different future for East Creek. Given that almost every other major watershed on Vancouver Island has been used for industrial logging, the Sierra Club believes it is very reasonable to try something different here!

More information, including what you can do, is available at [www.saveeastcreek.com](http://www.saveeastcreek.com)

*Jill Thompson, Sierra Club of BC*

<sup>1</sup> Wilkinson, John F., Ministry of Forests Recreation Branch. "Undeveloped Watersheds on Vancouver Island Larger than 1000 Hectares. 1990. Technical Report 1992:3"; Hall, B.M. and J.F. McLellan, Ministry of Forests Inventory Branch. "Alphabetical List of Major Unlogged Watersheds on Vancouver Island". June 12, 1990. These documents list 90 major (>5000 hectares) primary (to tide water) watersheds on Vancouver Island. At time of publishing 8 were intact but since then 2 have been fragmented.

The six remaining are 1. East Creek ([www.saveeastcreek.com](http://www.saveeastcreek.com)) 2. Nasparti River (protected) 3. Power River (protected) 4. Sydney River (Interfor tenure) 5. Megin River (protected) 6. Moyeha River (protected).

<sup>2</sup> Ecologists include a 7<sup>th</sup> large intact primary valley — the Bulson River in Clayoquot Sound. Ministry of Forests excludes it from the "large watershed" category by dividing it into "upper" and "lower" Bulson, which is not ecologically justifiable. The Bulson is not protected.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Environment Program. August 2001. "An Assessment of the Status of the World's Remaining Closed Forests". Available at [www.unep.org/DEWA/](http://www.unep.org/DEWA/)

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## Shorebird Spring

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One night last spring, I was awakened by the sound of birds. They weren't songbirds signaling the sunrise, nor were they owls. Rather, I was hearing a great flock of shorebirds flying low over the town of Tofino, setting off on the next leg of their northward spring migration.

The arrival of shorebirds is indeed a harbinger of spring. Beginning in earnest in mid-



*Jacqueline Windth*

*Whimbrels*

to-late April, flocks of shorebirds – sandpipers, sanderlings, plovers, whimbrels, dunlins, dowitchers and others – pass through the Tofino area of Clayoquot Sound. We are blessed with wonderful shorebird habitat – a combination of expansive mudflats and long stretches of sandy beach. These habitats

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provide ample opportunity for hundreds of thousands of shorebirds to feed and rest. The birds move and feed in concert with the rise and fall of the tides, staying near the water's edge and moving from mudflats to sandy beach as the tide, or presence of predators or other disturbances, dictates. During a stop here birds will almost double their weight.

Of the 40 or so species of shorebirds that have been seen in our area, the western sandpipers are the most numerous; 250,000 or more have been known to touch down in a single year. Western sandpipers are also the most



Jacqueline Windh

Yellowlegs

abundant shorebird in our province and a large percentage of the world population (two to five million) passes through B.C. during the migration. The two major staging areas in B.C. – the Fraser River delta and the Tofino area – are their last chances to fuel up before their next known stop, the delta of Alaska's Copper River. There they join six to eight million shorebirds that gather to put on a last bit of fat before dispersing to breeding grounds even farther north.

Sometime in late February or early March western sandpipers, which don't weigh much more than a golf ball, will leave their winter home on the mudflats of Panama and begin the spring migration that will end 11,000 kilometres and several weeks later. It seems remarkable that western sandpipers, and indeed any shorebird, can make such incredible journeys, flying for thousands of miles between stops. Recent studies have provided some insight into their migration. It turns out that western

sandpipers depend on strong tailwinds to push them northwards. They can fly as high as 6,000 metres, where they navigate through turbulent winds and air currents, riding ascending and descending jets of air. By doing this, the birds conserve energy, enabling them to cover distances that they would be unable to do without more refueling stops, were they flying in lesser winds.

When shorebirds touch down along the migration route, it is imperative that they feed undisturbed to put on the fat that will sustain them through the next step in their journey. Tofino provides shoreline habitat that is fairly intact, but impact from humans and their pets can be problematic. A flock of shorebirds

twisting and turning in synchrony, flickering from silver to brown and back again, is a stunning sight, but such flight also results in the use of valuable energy stores. Shorebirds will naturally move *en masse* as they feed and will take to the air in huge flocks to confuse and evade predators such as peregrine falcons and merlins. However, harassment by people and dogs is detrimental and must be avoided. Thankfully, this problem can be overcome given education and diligence on our part. During the shorebird migration, stay clear of flocks of shorebirds and keep dogs under control, on a leash if necessary. Remind others to do the same. If you sit quietly nearby and use binoculars or a spotting scope, you will be able to observe the birds without disturbing them.

Adrienne Mason is a writer and naturalist living in Tofino



# The Great Clayoquot Give-Away

Guess what stumpage tax logging companies pay to the BC government for the trees they cut on public land in Clayoquot Sound. In 2000, Interfor paid \$6.67 per cubic metre, and Iisaak \$2.75, for a grand average of \$4.40 per cubic metre. By comparison, in 2000, the stumpage rate in coastal Washington state was \$82 (Cdn) per cubic metre, and that in coastal BC \$18.75.

Why does Clayoquot come so cheap? – because companies get a stumpage reduction to subsidize the “extra cost” of doing “Science Panel” logging. Clayoquot for a song, anyone?



## SUPPORT THE WILD!

We are a grassroots organization advocating protection for the ancient temperate rainforests and marine ecosystems of Clayoquot Sound, and all of Vancouver Island. We are part of an international movement calling for a shift of consciousness in the way humans relate to the Earth. We need your support to continue to educate, and to inspire people to action. Please keep writing those letters to politicians, sending donations, and joining us to take a stand for the environment.

### Please contribute generously to:

Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Box 489, Tofino, British Columbia, Canada, V0R 2Z0

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships: Individual, \$25; Family, \$40; Sustaining, \$200.

NOW ACCEPTING  VISA  MASTERCARD

no. \_\_\_\_\_ exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

signature \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

please charge my donation to my credit card noted above

### PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT NOW AVAILABLE!!

Pre-authorized debit allows you to donate the same amount of money every month directly from your bank account. For example, a painless \$10 per month results in an annual donation of \$120. To make monthly donations please fill in this section.

I (we) hereby authorize Friends of Clayoquot Sound to draw on my (our) chequing account a debit in electronic form in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ every month beginning \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Account Holder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Account Holder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please include a sample cheque marked VOID for banking information purposes.

