



Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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What's Up in this issue

Clayoquot Not Saved
- Canadians Want to Help

Ahousaht First
Nation Says NO to
Copper Mine on
Catface Mountain

Canadian
Environment Award

Does Farmed Salmon
Deserve Organic
Label?

Farmed Salmon
Exposed

Watering
Down Canada's
Fisheries Act

Variable Retention
- Here Today, Gone
Tomorrow

Private Land
Logging Comes to
Clayoquot Sound

It's All About Water
- how logging &
climate change affect
our drinking water

Exploring Intact
Threatened Valleys
- Satchie & Hesquiat
Lake Creeks

Photo: Diego Garcia

CLAYOQUOT NOT SAVED

Canadians Want to Help

In August, the ongoing battle to safeguard Clayoquot Sound intensified once again. Much to the dismay of Clayoquot supporters, the BC government and Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations approved Science Panel 'watershed plans' that could open up the remaining intact old-growth valleys in Clayoquot Sound to logging. The 2000 designation of Clayoquot Sound as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve has led many to believe that Clayoquot's forests are now protected under government legislation. This assumption could not be further from the truth. In fact, less than one quarter of the productive ancient forest of Clayoquot Sound is legally protected. The decision to allow logging in Clayoquot's intact (pristine) valleys was met by Canadians with a mix of disbelief and rage, and the world observed a sudden revitalization of the most notorious environmental battle in Canadian history.

An explosion of media coverage throughout the first 2 weeks of August confirmed that Clayoquot Sound has not been forgotten. Telephones rang off the hook at the Friends' office as allies called to express their

Ancient cedars in intact valley of Hesquiat Lake Creek.

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Ahousaht First Nation Says "No" to Copper Mine on Catface

Story on next page.

Catface Mountain

Canadian Environment Award

Photo: Jacqueline Windh



Nicole Rycroft from non-profit organization, Markets Initiative, won the 2006 Canadian Environment Gold Award in the Sustainable Living category.

Nicole was recognized for her work to shift the Canadian publishing industry to "Ancient Forest Friendly" paper, made from recycled, eco-certified or agricultural fibres. Since 1999, when Nicole started Markets Initiative, over 170 companies have committed to use this paper, thereby helping to save ancient and endangered forests. As a result of her work, publications such as the Harry Potter books have been printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

Congrats! to Nicole and the staff at Markets Initiative. You rock!

Clayoquot Not Saved - Canadians Want to Help, continued from cover.

astonishment, inquiring when the next blockade will be. Merve Wilkinson, a 93-year old arrestee from the 1993 Clayoquot protests, was especially taken by the imminent threat and eager to put himself on the line once more to protect Clayoquot Sound.

The watershed plans are clearly inconsistent with a 1999 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Iisaak Forest Resources (the First Nations logging company in Clayoquot) and five leading environmental groups. Signatories agreed that all pristine valleys within Iisaak's forest tenure are "eehmiis" (very precious) and should remain off-limits to logging.

Although the watershed plan approval was initially interpreted as cause for alarm, it's turned out to serve as a catalyst for change, compelling all parties involved to finally move forward. One week after the plans were announced, representatives from Forest Ethics, Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Greenpeace, Western Canada Wilderness Committee and Sierra Club of BC met with members of the Central Region First Nations to discuss the existing MOU. The meeting was considered a success and both sides have committed to finding solutions that will accommodate aboriginal rights and title and ensure that the ecological and cultural

integrity of Clayoquot Sound is mandated. Potential resolutions are likely to entail the exploration of alternative green economic opportunities.

The battle is far from over, however, and the ensuing months will be a critical phase in the determination of Clayoquot Sound's long-term fate. It's important to show your support now and let the government know that Clayoquot Sound has not been forgotten.

Michelle Gaudry

How You Can Help

Please write a letter to BC's premier demanding that all pristine valleys within Clayoquot Sound be protected under legislation and that resources and infrastructure be identified in order to create economic alternatives in the region.

Premier Gordon Campbell
PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E1
Email: premier@gov.bc.ca
Phone: (250) 387-1715
Fax: (250) 387-0087

COVER STORY

Ahousaht First Nation Says "No" to Copper Mine on Catface Mountain

The principal Chiefs of Ahousaht First Nation have said "no" to Doublestar Resources' plans for an open-pit copper mine on Catface Mountain. The mountain is spiritually and culturally important to the Nuu-chah-nulth people and is a renowned landmark in Clayoquot Sound, clearly visible from the town of Tofino. In a press release dated September 27th, Doublestar says the company will await the results of a proposed referendum to be held at the Ahousaht Annual

General Meeting tentatively scheduled for November 22-24, 2006.

According to the company's website, negotiation of a development protocol with Ahousaht has been underway for the last six years. Principal Chiefs Lewis George, Billy Keitlah and Shawn Atleo told company executives recently the mine could not proceed. "Ahousaht people said 'no' to touching Catface, and the hereditary chiefs said 'no,'" says Chief Lewis George. "There's

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no need to bring [new proposals from Doublestar] back to the people again."

The Catface deposit is owned 100 per cent by Catface Copper Mines Ltd., of which Doublestar is majority owner. Falconbridge Ltd., a major producer of copper and nickel, with investments in zinc and aluminum, holds rights to a working interest in the Catface property. The deposit was discovered in 1960, and extensively explored by Falconbridge between 1961 and 1971. Although copper is the principal deposit, gold, silver and molybdenum could also be mined.

For hundreds of years, areas of Catface Mountain have been used by First Nations as places for spiritual and cleansing preparation before major hunts, training areas for whale hunting chiefs, as burial sites, and as meeting places where tribal groups planned for war. Other parts of the Mountain are used for hunting, berry picking, and harvesting of cedar. Clam beaches and salmon-bearing creeks lie at the base of Catface.

Mining is a short-term activity with significant impact on the environment, leaving behind waste rock, acid mine drainage, poisoned water and divided communities. Throughout BC and across Canada, the profits of this boom and bust industry go to the mining companies while communities are left to deal with the aftermath. According to Mining Watch Canada, consultations with aboriginal organizations indicate that mining creates enormous social problems in communities. Differences of opinion over the role of development and distribution of any benefits from mining create divisions that do not go away.

The relationship between mining operations and communities is a difficult one. Mining can bring opportunities for economic development, jobs and training. It can also bring cultural change and environmental destruction while fundamentally changing the ways people view and use the land.

Chief George cites the spiritual and traditional values of ch'itaapi [Catface] and the will of the community as reasons for stopping the open-pit mine. However, he also recognizes the need to develop other economic opportunities for the people of Ahousaht, where unemployment is chronically high.

Celina Tuttle

Keeping Organic Sustainable

Does Farmed Salmon Deserve Organic Label?

There is currently a strong push by the salmon farming industry to develop certifiable organic standards for farmed salmon.

In British Columbia, the Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC) is working on a set of draft standards for salmon farming. The United States Department of Agriculture National Organic Standards Board is drafting organic standards for aquatic species, and farmed salmon is being considered.

Accepting a carnivorous species, such as salmon, into the organic farming paradigm would be a major move in a new direction, and one that would strongly question the legitimacy of organic certifications. If farmed salmon standards are accepted, we could see salmon produced in Clayoquot Sound labelled as organic.

A fundamental tenet of organic production is that the activity should maintain or enhance the ecological integrity of the surrounding environment. For open-net-cage salmon farming, organic standards put forward thus far fail to address:

- contaminated waste dispersing into the marine environment
- escaped farmed salmon, both from mass escapes and normal operational leakage
- killing of marine mammals and other natural predators attracted to salmon farms
- natural tendencies and innate behaviour of the species not realized
- disease transmission from farmed salmon to wild salmon
- depletion of wild fish stocks to make feed for farmed salmon.

We need to ensure that any potential standards to certify farmed salmon maintain the ecological integrity of the marine environment and keep the organics name credible. Closed containment technology for farmed salmon is a promising solution that could protect wild salmon and the marine environment. Instead of twisting open-net-cage salmon farming into the organic realm, a bold new approach to farming salmon is needed.

In the end, farming a carnivore might never qualify for organic status. However, this does not mean that major production changes can't be implemented, making farmed salmon a more sustainable choice than it currently is.

Dom Repta

To let the COABC Board know you support strong organic standards where wild salmon, the marine environment and global sustainability are protected visit:

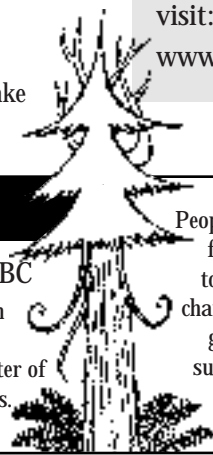
www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca

Donor Appreciation

Joyce Douglas, Courtenay, BC

We thank Joy for the significant donation she gave recently, in addition to being a monthly donor. Joy is a long-time supporter of the Friends and other environment groups.

People like Joy make it possible for non-profit citizens groups to exist and to make positive change. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Joy and all our supporters – you recharge our coffers and our spirits.





Farmed Salmon Exposed: Global Week of Action

For years, First Nations, scientists, conservationists and academics worldwide have been warning that salmon farms are impacting the marine environment, and jeopardizing the economies and communities of coastal areas. Problems include drastic population declines in some BC stocks of wild pink salmon from farm-origin sea lice epidemics, massive escapes of farmed salmon in Norway, and worker exploitation and deaths in Chile. Nevertheless, governments and industry continue to deny that problems exist.

The latest government and industry denial comes on the heels of a new, peer-reviewed scientific paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. The paper, a collaborative effort by a team of international biologists and mathematicians, concludes that sea lice from salmon farms are killing up to 95% of juvenile salmon migrating past the farms.

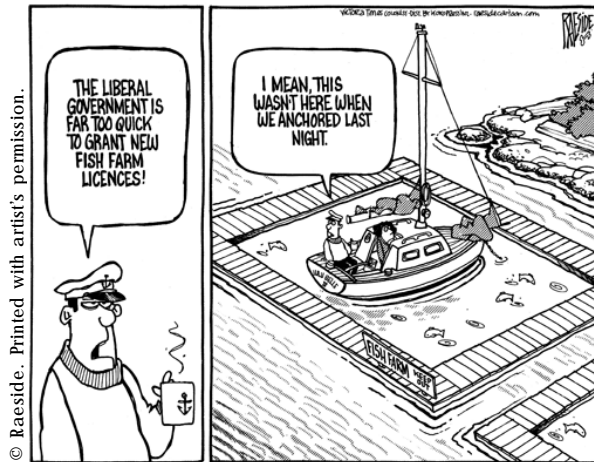
Friends of Clayoquot Sound and the Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform teamed up with a global network of partners concerned about the impacts of salmon farming. Groups from Canada, Chile, Ireland, England, Scotland, Spain, and the United States took part in Farmed Salmon Exposed - Global Week of Action (www.farmedsalmonexposed.org).

Between October 9th and 13th public events took place globally, demonstrating worldwide concern over salmon farms and demanding that the industry clean up its act. Events focused on the message that "Behind the attractive price, farmed salmon has embarrassing cost" including:

- waste and contaminants being dispersed into the marine environment
- disease and parasite impacts on wild salmon
- health risk to consumers from elevated levels of PCBs and dioxins in farmed salmon
- unsafe labour conditions: 18 reported labour-related deaths in Chile since 2005
- depleting the global supply of wild fish to make feed for farmed salmon.

Remember, don't buy farmed salmon until it is safe for us and safe for our oceans.

Dom Repta



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Watering Down Canada's Fisheries Act

Wild fish and fish habitat, the rivers, lakes and streams from which we get our drinking water, and human health are under threat by corporations demanding the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) weaken the Fisheries Act. The Fisheries Act – which prohibits the release of harmful substances into Canadian waters and the destruction of fish habitat – is one of Canada's most powerful environmental laws.

A coalition of BC business groups, including representatives from mining, forestry and agriculture, says the Act delays resource development projects, stunts economic growth and costs businesses billions of dollars. Supported by the BC Chamber of Commerce, the coalition submitted a position paper to the federal government in August, seeking less regulatory interference by DFO. The submission focused in particular on habitat protection and pollution prevention regulations, including environmental

assessment of projects. The environmental assessment process requires study of negative environmental impacts before projects begin and allows communities to have input into the decision making process. In addition to industry, municipalities across Canada are lobbying to undermine the Fisheries Act, as it applies to the treatment and disposal of sewage effluent.

Wild salmon are a cultural, ecological and economic mainstay of BC. Clean water is a basic human right. The oceans and rivers, lakes and streams are public commons. Weakening the Fisheries Act to allow industry to avoid the costs of environmental protection and boost profits puts corporate interests ahead of the public good. Instead of promoting industry interests, our political leaders' single biggest concern at present should be the protection of wild salmon and their habitat.

Please contact Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Loyola Hearn, and also your federal Member of Parliament and provincial MLA. Ask them to ensure protection of wild fish, oceans and freshwater resources through better regulation and monitoring of industry. Tell them you oppose potential weakening of the Fisheries Act and ask what they are doing about it.

Remember, letters carry more weight with politicians than faxes, emails or phone calls. Most important, however, is that you state what you think and what you want. As a voter, or as a visitor to Canada, your views can make a difference.

Celina Tuttle

WRITE TO

Hon. Loyola Hearn
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
Parliament Buildings, Wellington St
Ottawa, Ont, K1A 0A6
min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Variable Retention

Here today, gone tomorrow...

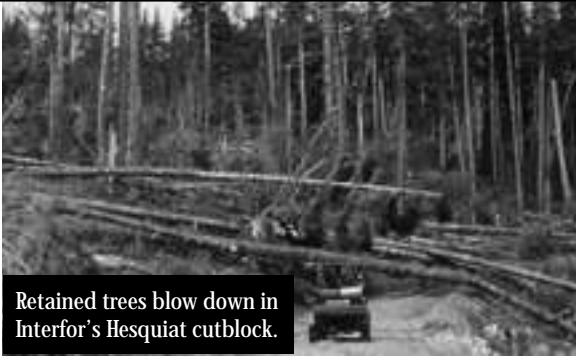
This summer, a team from Friends of Clayoquot Sound visited Interfor's logging around Hesquiat Harbour in northern Clayoquot Sound. The old-growth logging we checked out – big clearcuts with variable retention – was done by Interfor from 2002 to 2004. We were dismayed to see that many hundreds of retained trees had blown down already.

Steve Charleson of the Hesquiaht First Nation, who was our guide, described what we saw: "The area we are looking at is a disaster area. It's not good to have so many trees blown down. They should all be standing up and alive."

Because variable retention, as currently practiced, tends to blow down, is that an argument for reverting to unabashed clearcutting? Not at all. In Clayoquot Sound, the Scientific Panel stipulates that a minimum of

15% of trees should be retained per logging site. Elsewhere in BC, variable retention can be as low as 5%. Whereas true retention logging means the opposite – the forest is left standing, with only a small percentage of trees removed. And when it comes to old-growth, 100% retention needs to happen, as old-growth forests are too rare and ecologically valuable to be cut at all.

Maryjka Mychajlowycz



Logging companies in coastal BC boast they no longer clearcut the forest. Rather, they practice "improved" logging called "variable retention". This generally means that clumps of trees or individual trees are left standing in the clearcuts.

Variable retention tends to vary to zero over time because the retained, exposed trees are toppled by wind. In BC's coastal temperate rainforest, we have on average one storm every 3 days during the fall-to-spring rainy months. Not surprisingly, many retained trees blow down in these intense storms.

Private Land Logging Comes to Clayoquot Sound

In 2005, a newly formed logging company, Island Timberlands, gained control of several parcels of private land in southern Clayoquot Sound. This August, the company began road building in preparation for logging.

These parcels of private land used to be managed as part of MacMillan Bloedel's, and then Weyerhaeuser's, Tree Farm License. However, the parcels were removed from the TFL, and are no longer subject to the same Ministry of Forests regulations as before. Instead, they're now subject to a much lower standard of logging, known as the 'Private Managed Forest Land Act'. The re-zoning of these parcels was part of a Vancouver Island-wide deal in 2004, whereby the BC government allowed privatization of forests that used to be managed as public forests.

Island Timberlands now owns about 200,000 hectares of private forest land on Vancouver Island. Luckily, it owns very little in Clayoquot, only 1,350 hectares, all near Kennedy Lake and Kennedy River. The Kennedy Flats have been severely degraded by clearcutting, but pockets of old-growth remain, including in Island Timberland's parcels.

It's easier to export raw logs from private land

than from public. There is also no cap on the annual rate of cut, as there is on public land. Hence, Island Timberlands has been busy liquidating old-growth, as well as cutting second growth, and has become Vancouver Island's second biggest exporter of raw logs. Island Timberlands can also sell its private land for development (after it's logged, of course).

As for Clayoquot Sound, Island Timberlands said it does not intend to follow the improved standards recommended by a Scientific Panel in 1995 (the recommendations do not apply to private land). That attitude earned the company a meeting with the Central Region Board, Clayoquot Sound's resource-use committee. At the meeting, the Board member from the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation ordered Island Timberlands to stop all activity on the tribe's traditional territory until consultation takes place.

At last report, Island Timberlands is continuing to build roads into its 3 Kennedy old-growth cutblocks, but has postponed its start date for logging until after the meetings happen.

The company plans to log about 25,000 cubic metres in Clayoquot in 2006, and about the same in 2007. Plans for 2008 are not worked out yet.

Maryjka Mychajlowycz

Petition to Stop Old-growth Logging on Vancouver Island

www.viforest.org

Join the campaign to stop the logging of ancient forests on Vancouver Island. Enough already! Three-quarters of the island's productive ancient forests have been clearcut logged.

Please sign a petition prepared by the Western Canada Wilderness Committee. The petition calls on the BC government to implement sensible measures, such as phasing out all old-growth logging on Vancouver Island by 2015. You can sign the petition online at www.viforest.org. Better yet, you can print the petition from the website and distribute it to be signed.

Let's help the Wilderness Committee collect 100,000 signatures! Everyone is encouraged to sign, not just BC citizens. Canada-wide and international signatures are just as useful.

There's no time to lose.
Sign on now!



It's All About Water:

how logging and climate change affect our drinking water supply

The “Drought of 2006” in Tofino was the trigger needed for this small resort town in Clayoquot Sound to take a long hard look at water use, water conservation, and water infrastructure. But it's also a trigger to think about the bigger picture: what are some of the biggest impacts we humans are having on our water supply? How do our actions change the way water moves through the hydrologic cycle?

The hydrologic cycle is the constant movement of water from atmosphere to land to ocean and back to atmosphere. Forests play an integral role in the proper functioning of this cycle. A healthy, forested landscape acts as a giant sponge: holding water, filtering it, and slowly releasing it. Rain is intercepted by tree leaves and trunks, falling on understory plants and eventually hitting the forest floor. There, water is absorbed by woody debris and other rotting organic material; it infiltrates the soil where some of it is absorbed by roots and some percolates into underground aquifers; and the remainder flows laterally along the forest floor. It's intuitive that creeks and rivers are fed by this surface flow in heavy rains, but they're also fed by the slow release of water from organic material on the forest floor, and by the underground aquifers. This slow “squeezing of the sponge” is responsible for most of the water flow throughout the summer when precipitation is low, and sustains the animals and plants that depend on water for life.

Deforestation removes many of the sponge-like qualities that a properly functioning hydrologic cycle depends on. Removal of the canopy results in more impact to soils by heavy rain,

often causing compaction. It also reduces shade over creeks and rivers, increasing water temperature, which impacts fish and insect populations. Removal of tree roots and organic material on the forest floor limits the landscape's ability to retain and filter water. Instead, surface flows increase and creeks fill more quickly. Less water percolates through soil into underground aquifers, affecting the ability of creeks and rivers to naturally recharge during dry summers. Increased surface flows combined with lack of tree roots to hold soils result in erosion such as landslides. Erosion in turn results in sedimentation in rivers – that's why some rivers and creeks turn brown during heavy rains – affecting fish and freshwater invertebrate populations, and even affecting intertidal life in estuaries.

Unlike other BC towns and cities, Tofino doesn't draw drinking water from logged watersheds. This is good news, in part because there are fewer water quality issues for the municipality to deal with, but most importantly because the town has relied for years on the ability of the forest “sponge” to slowly release water during our dry summer months. Until recently, Tofino did not need large reservoirs to supply the town's residents and visitors with a consistent and plentiful supply of water during the summer: existing reservoirs were recharged by the Sharp Creek and Ginnard Creek “sponges” on Meares Island, even without summer rain. But two things have changed. First, demand has grown with increased development. Second, which is equally as important but often overlooked, the supply of water is diminishing, at least during the summer months.

Although extensive logging in Clayoquot

Sound watersheds has impacted the hydrology of those watersheds, climate change is affecting the hydrology of unlogged watersheds too. Climate change simulations made with the Coupled Global Climate Model developed by Environment Canada show a predicted decrease of 10% in annual precipitation in Southwestern BC, due to warming of the land and its effect on evaporation. Such a decrease is unlikely to be even throughout the year. Most likely the seasonality of precipitation will change: winter precipitation will go up, but summer droughts will become more frequent and longer. Both deforestation and climate change are affecting our coastal temperate forest ecosystems, and the “Tofino Drought of 2006” is probably just the beginning of changes that will affect how our town stores, conserves, and uses water from now on.

Josie Osborne (pictured above) is a biologist and environmental educator living in Tofino.

Editor's note: In 1985 Friends of Clayoquot Sound, First Nations and other community members prevented MacMillan Bloedel from logging Meares Island, thereby protecting the “forest sponge” that regulates and purifies Tofino's drinking water.

LINK

National Annual Precipitation Scenario: 2050

<http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/maps/climatechange/scenarios/nationalannualprecip2050>

Exploring Intact Threatened Valleys in Clayoquot Sound

Satchie and Hesquiat Lake Creeks

This summer, Friends' staff and volunteers explored Satchie and Hesquiat Lake Creeks – two remote wilderness valleys in northern Clayoquot Sound. The expedition was part of our ongoing campaign to protect these intact (pristine) valleys from imminent logging.

Our team visited the area as guests of the Hooksum Outdoor School, run by Steve and Karen Charleson of the Hesquiaht First Nation. With Steve as our guide, we boated from Hooksum to the north end of Hesquiat Lake, to the mouth of Satchie Creek and the mouth of neighbouring Hesquiat Lake Creek. From there we explored the valleys on foot, bushwhacking along the creeks, taking photos and video footage.



Satchie Valley (at R) and Hesquiat Lake Creek (at L, with 2 small lakes). Hesquiat Lake is in foreground.

To be in wild valleys where life has unfolded for thousands of years, free from the destruction of industrial disturbance, is to be filled with a sense of wonder. In Satchie, the creek's water flows amber gold and the banks are padded with emerald moss and yellow violets. Waterfalls punctuate the creek and ancient towering trees stand in the temperate rainforest – western hemlock, western red cedar, Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, amabilis fir.

Adjacent Hesquiat Lake Creek is equally spectacular. Just above its mouth are two waterfalls, one above the other, and then two small lakes. Along the shore of one of the lakes stands a grove of magnificent cedars with massive trunks. Evidence of Hesquiaht First Nation's traditional use of cedar trees is visible in this grove and elsewhere in Hesquiat Lake Creek – bark-strip scars on trunks of living trees, and occasional stumps of cedars felled for dug-out canoes and house planks.

Wolves, cougars, bears and other wildlife roam Satchie and Hesquiat Lake valleys as they have for millennia, but the animals are elusive. We noticed only a few signs of their presence – a deer hoofprint, a bear trail, bear claw-

marks on trees.

Being in these intact valleys was a memorable and life-affirming experience.

But industry has no reverence for the wild and refuses to recognize that intact temperate rainforest valleys are globally rare, ecologically precious and need to be protected from industrial degradation.

Satchie and Hesquiat Lake Creeks are both in Interfor's approved logging plan. In February 2005, Friends of Clayoquot Sound mobilized media attention, public outcry and market pressure, and stopped Interfor's logging road just as it crossed over the ridge-top onto the upper slopes of Hesquiat Lake Creek. The road, and the logging blocks it was heading for, remain undone.

In Satchie, we found red flagging tape and a helicopter landing platform on the site of a proposed logging block. A logging road and clearcut, done in 2004, already sit perched at the ridge-top of Satchie. The road is poised to descend into the valley – 22 kilometres of road and 6 logging blocks are planned throughout Satchie. We say, "No way!"

We know you will agree these two intact valleys should not be turned into pulp and boards.

Maryjka Mychajlowycz



Satchie Creek.



Support the Wild!

Friends of Clayoquot Sound is a grassroots organization advocating protection for the ancient temperate rainforests and marine ecosystems of Clayoquot Sound. 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 send in your donation today to help protect one of the most spectacular places on earth. Visit our website to find more ways to help.

Send your donation to:

Friends of Clayoquot Sound

Box 489, Tofino, B.C., Canada V0R 2Z0

Ph: 250-725-4218 Fax: 250-725-2527 Email: info@focs.ca

Office: 331 Neill St., Tofino Check out our website: www.focs.ca



Name: _____

Address: _____

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Total Donation: \$25 \$40 \$100 Other _____

Become a member of our Protector's Circle with your gift of \$500 or more.

All members receive the informative Friends of Clayoquot newsletter hot off the press!

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Please charge my donation to my credit card noted above.

Join our Wilderness Team!

Your monthly donation will allow us to plan ahead more effectively and reduce administration costs.

To make monthly donations please fill in this section.

I hereby authorize Friends of Clayoquot Sound to draw on my credit card as noted above, the amount of \$ _____ every month beginning _____.

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.

DREAM JOB



In August we welcomed our new Office Coordinator, Kevin Bruce. With over 10 years experience in technology management, computer programming, and administration, Kevin calls working at Friends of Clayoquot Sound his "dream job". "I love Clayoquot Sound and it feels great to be working with such a dedicated and hardworking group who are doing incredibly important work."