

STOP ALL LOGGING

in GREATER VANCOUVER'S WATERSHEDS NOW...before it's too late!

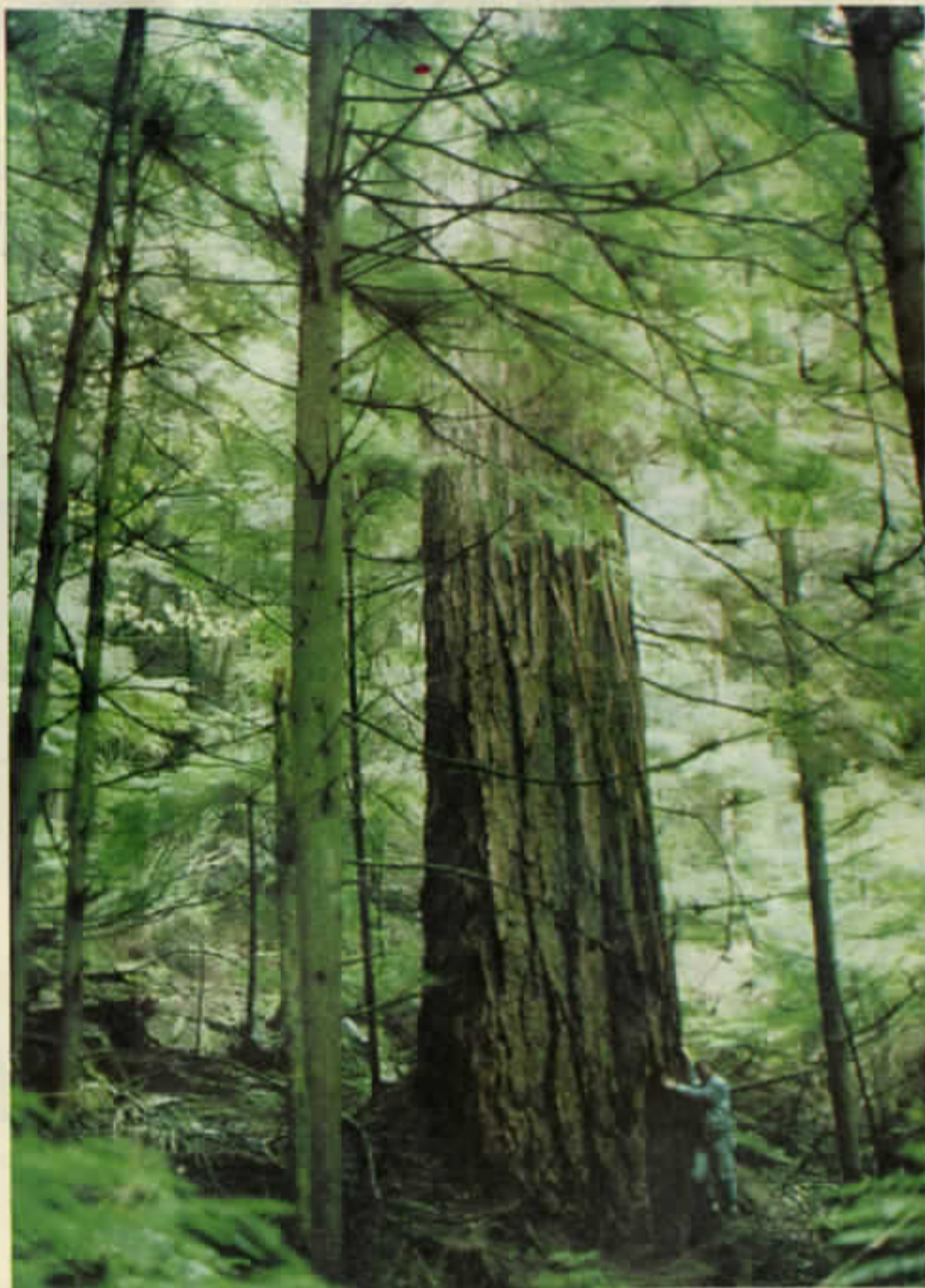
Save the ancient temperate rainforest... nature's unbeatable water purification system.

"The district's (GVWD) policy is to preserve all the timber--both commercially loggable and otherwise--in the watersheds...so that neither now, nor in the future, will filtration or sterilization of the water be required."

Greater Vancouver Water District Commissioner, Ernest Cleveland
- November 30, 1936

Vancouver is surrounded by water. From the deep blue ocean to sparkling pure mountain streams to the powerful Fraser River, water has shaped the development of Greater Vancouver's Lower Mainland.

But, as local supermarkets prove, Vancouver's fabled pure drinking water, drawn from three reservoirs in the North Shore mountains, is not what it once was. Shelves full of bottled spring water bear witness to the fact that many Lower Mainland residents no longer trust, nor drink, tap water.



Douglas fir in Seymour Watershed, Hydraulic Creek.

Watershed logging causes landslides...and dirty drinking water.

Western Canada Wilderness Committee believes that logging and road-building in the three Lower Mainland drinking watersheds—the Capilano, Seymour and Coquitlam—have degraded our water quality. Logging has accelerated erosion and disturbed the natural forest ecosystems that once provided clean, clear, safe drinking water.

Striking stands of towering Douglas firs and massive western red cedars are still found in Greater Vancouver's watersheds. They harbour many of the largest oldgrowth trees left in B.C. The oldgrowth trees play a vital role in protecting our drinking water. Their roots secure stream banks and steep slopes, preventing landslides from contaminating the reservoirs.

Since the mid-1950's Greater Vancouver politicians, taking advice from certain forestry consultants, have permitted logging in our three drinking watersheds. The jobs of some watershed management bureaucrats now depend on continued logging. It's no wonder this bureaucracy flatly denies that logging has anything to do with silty water. But the truth is evident in the increasing frequency of muddy tap water. Watershed roadways built to allow logging and clearcuts themselves have caused increased erosion and landslides. The silt in our reservoir waters (measured as "turbidity") ends up in our drinking glasses, especially after heavy rains, and threatens public health with parasitic and bacterial pathogens.

Increased chlorination and half-billion-dollar filtration plants are not the answer to our water quality problems. We must outlaw all commercial logging and other industrial activity in Greater Vancouver's three watersheds—the Capilano, Seymour and Coquitlam. We must preserve their remaining ancient forest, decommission the current roads and allow the areas that have been clearcut to grow back and resume the ancient forest functions of land stabilization and water purification.



Landslide in Jamieson Creek, November 1990.

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OUR DRINKING WATER--ONCE P



Ernest Albert Cleveland, 1926-52.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS: CAPILANO, SEYMOUR and COQUITLAM WATERSHEDS

1889 - First water main completed from Capilano catchment area across Burrard Inlet to Vancouver.

1905 - Coquitlam Lake dammed to provide first hydroelectric power for Vancouver.

1908 - First pipeline to draw water from Seymour River completed.

1920s - Expansion of logging in the three watersheds raises health concerns.

1922 - Ernest Cleveland, B.C. comptroller of water rights, completes report on Seymour and Capilano Valleys. Notes logging caused damage to drinking water supply and calls for an end to logging in these watersheds.

1925 - Summer fire in Capilano logging slash lasts for weeks. Burns 1,400 hectares and sparks great public protest leading to the creation of the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD).

1926 - Cleveland becomes GVWD's first Commissioner. He launches a strict no-logging policy with the heartfelt statement: *They will log that watershed over my dead body.*

1927 - The province of B.C. leases the Seymour and Capilano Watershed lands to the GVWD for 999 years. With municipal money, GVWD begins buying out private holdings and mining and timber leases.

1942 - Despite Cleveland's objections, Ottawa orders chlorine be used to purify GVWD water based on a war-time request by the United States Navy.

1952 - After 26 years as GVWD Commissioner, Cleveland dies.

1953 - Cleveland's no-logging policy begins to crumble. The GVWD commissions a survey of watershed timber stands by forestry consultants C.D. Schultz and Co.

1956 - Schultz's pro-harvest report spurs the GVWD to re-consider its no-logging policy in the watersheds.

1958 - Loggers begin felling 195 hectares (487 acres) of timber to prepare for the Seymour Reservoir.

1961 - Logging spreads outside the Seymour Reservoir basin as the GVWD adopts a policy that permits cutting of timber theoretically posing a fire hazard or threatened by an aphid infestation.

1967 - Lands Minister Ray Williston rubber-stamps GVWD request for permission to log watershed trees under an Amending Indenture to provincial lease.

1969 - GVWD compiles forest cover inventory of all watersheds.

1971 - GVWD becomes part of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) municipal government structure.

1972 - Roadbuilding and logging begins in the Coquitlam Watershed.

1977 - GVWD issues a report on restricted public access to the Capilano, Seymour and Coquitlam watersheds.

1979 - GVWD "formalizes" its road standards and begins work on a construction program to minimize the "potential for erosion and sedimentation".

1986 - Chlorine levels in local drinking water increase dramatically.

1988 - WCWC begins campaign against watershed logging.

1989 - GVWD begins a comprehensive review of watershed policy, including its forest management program.

1990 - Drinking Water Quality Improvement Plan is introduced by GVWD to calm public concerns.

- WCWC publishes 100,000 copies of a four page newspaper titled *HALT WATERSHED LOGGING.*

1992 - GVRD issues a 10-week ban on watering gardens and summer lawns--a Lower Mainland first.

- Record-size redcedar and Douglas-firs are catalogued in the Capilano watershed.

- Some environmental protestors block logging-trucks but logging continues.

1994 - GVWD holds public input sessions about water filtration and purification systems and commissions an ecological inventory.

"They will log that watershed over my dead body." GVWD Commissioner Ernest Cleveland - 1926



Capilano Timber Company clearcut logging in the early 1920s.



Capilano Crown Creek Douglas fir-over 9ft. in diameter.

TOO MUCH WATERSHED LOGGING ALREADY

The Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) was formed in 1926 by Ernest Cleveland—a public servant with a clear vision who saw the need to protect our drinking water by preserving the old-growth forest in the catchment areas. Based on his observations of logging at the time, he reported to the public in 1922 that logging was degrading the quality of Vancouver's drinking water.

As the guardian of our watersheds, Cleveland brought a stop to logging there for over 30 years. After his death in 1952 the timber industry's "managed watershed philosophy" gradually took over and the big trees in the Capilano, Seymour and Coquitlam watersheds began to fall again.

Because provincial legislation requires that any logging in the three watersheds can proceed only if it enhances or preserves water quality, it has been necessary for GVWD officials who want to log to claim that old-growth stands were decaying and threatening our drinking water. Downed tree snags were deemed to be forest fire hazards, requiring road-building to facilitate their removal. This con job worked for over two decades.

The three watersheds, totalling 585 square kilometres, are in part owned outright by the GVRD. The rest of the land is leased from the province for a period of 999 years under the 1926 legislation that founded the GVWD.

Some 300 kilometres of logging and access roads were built between 1961 and 1992 and more than 10,000 hectares (25 Stanley Parks) of trees have already been logged; some 4,000 hectares clearcut between 1960 and 1993. WCWC believes that this logging and roadbuilding has unleashed excessive erosion that has led to gradual degradation of our water quality.

Following public hearings in 1994, GVWD officials announced plans to expand existing chlorination plants at Vancouver's reservoir sites and add 20 re-chlorination stations throughout the GVRD area at a cost of \$190 million. Extra chlorine is needed now to kill bacteria and maintain safe drinking water. Silt and organic material reduce the effect of disinfectants like chlorine, so more is used.

The GVWD has also recommended installation of additional filters at the three reservoirs, burdening taxpayers with nearly a billion dollars in capital expenditures and huge ongoing costs to maintain them.

PROTECTED, NOW ENDANGERED

Greater Vancouver Water Supply Areas' (Watersheds') Current Forest Cover

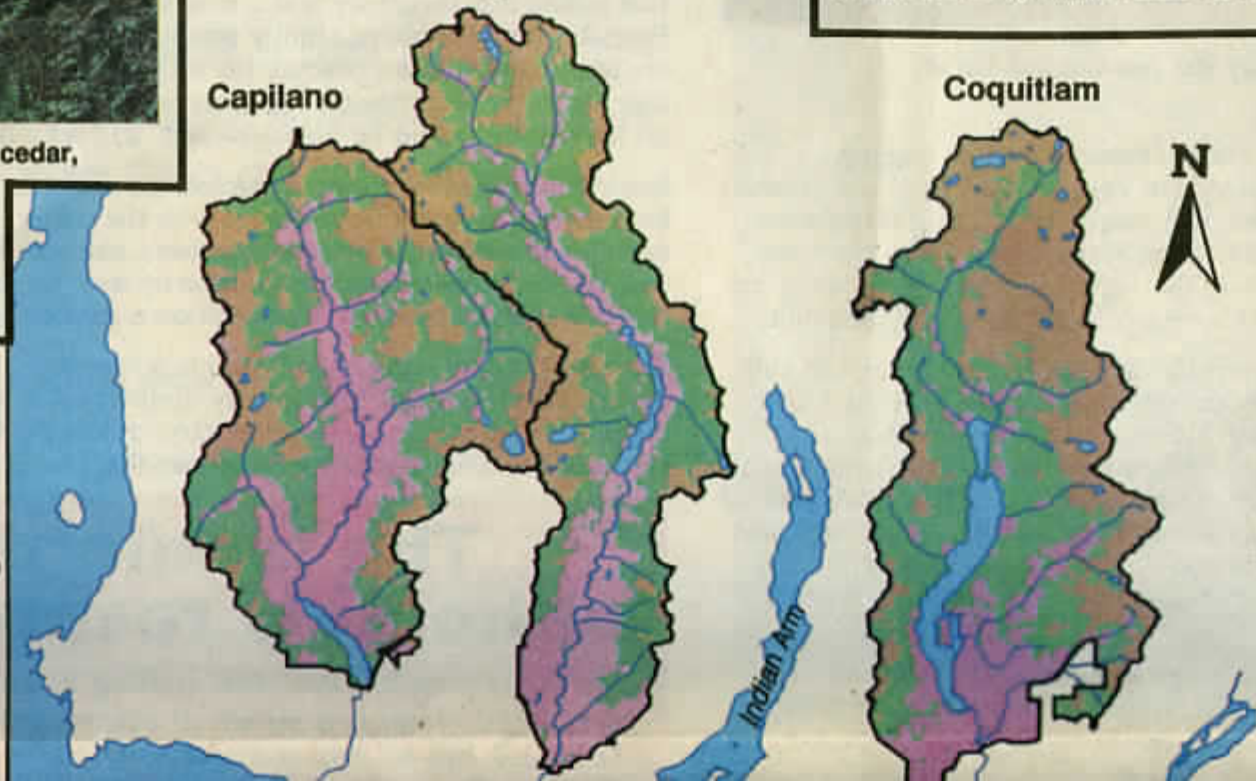
Percentage of Forest Logged

Capilano	Seymour	Coquitlam
35%	32%	28%

Seymour

Capilano

Coquitlam



North east Coquitlam Watershed ancient forest.

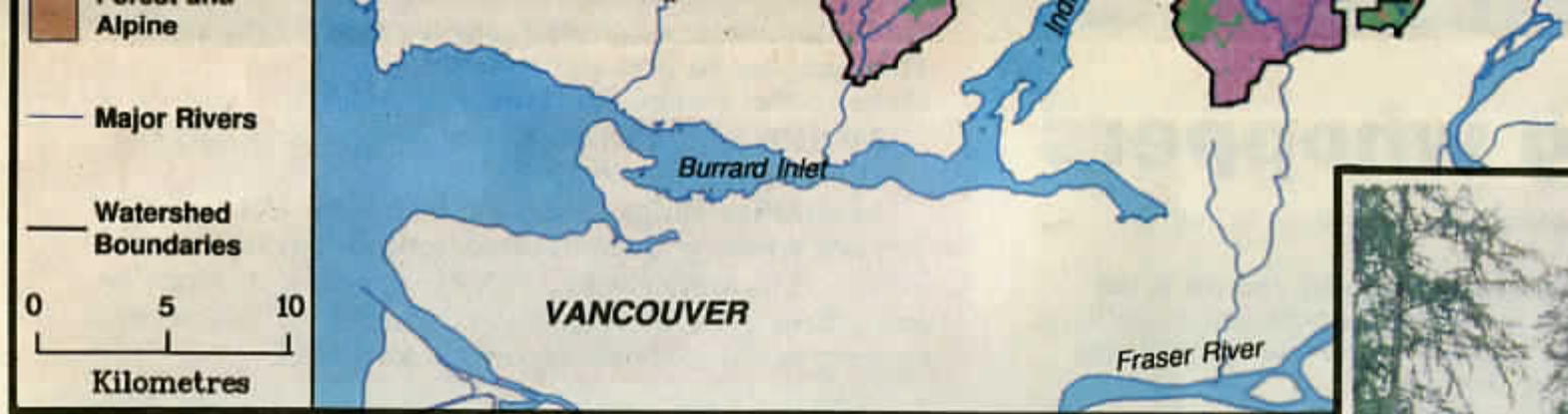


Cedar Creek, Coquitlam Watershed, storm slide on south facing slope.



Over 40 foot in circum. cedar, East Cap Creek, Capilano Watershed. Has it been cut down?

- Ancient Forest (old-growth)
- Clearcut Lands (second growth)
- Non-productive Forest and Alpine



Capilano Watershed slide area along old logging road takes silt into the reservoirs.



Meech Creek Road (rip/rap road through clay bed) built in 1992, Coquitlam Watershed.



Meech Creek fir in centre, the tallest Douglas fir measured in Canada.

Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) believes the GVWD should quit logging and roadbuilding in the watersheds, decommission the existing roads, and allow the natural old-growth forest system to heal and regrow. Then the forests will once again operate as the best and most cost-effective method of filtering and preserving healthy drinking water.

The GVWD has responded to recent public pressure and say they now log "only to improve water quality or reduce fire risk." WCWC believes the idea that logging can improve the water is fraudulent. (See *Three Big Whoppers*, p. 4)

"Since 1922," says Paul George, WCWC's watershed campaigner, "documented evidence points to the fact that logging increases the natural rate of erosion and threatens our water quality. Now it's going to cost Greater Vancouver taxpayers an awful lot of money to cope with silty water, and the GVWD is still refusing to admit that logging is the problem. It looks like increased public pressure on the top official in charge, B.C.'s Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks, is the only way to achieve an end to logging in our watersheds."

"From a standpoint of public health it is essential that no logging be allowed on the watersheds of Seymour and Capilano. No logging operations...could ever be carried on without imminent danger of pollution.

Should the timber be removed, the unchecked erosion would not only increase the amount of suspended matter (in drinking water)...but also eliminate the retention of run-off."

Provincial Water Rights Board - August 1916

STOP THEM FROM LOGGING YOUR WATERSHEDS



Douglas fir log from approximately 800 year-old tree cut in Capilano watershed, 1993.

In late 1993 Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) logging included cutting extremely rare stands of very tall and large old-growth Douglas fir trees in the Coquitlam watershed. The cutting was passed off as part of a stream bank stabilization programme. These trees are some of the most spectacular left of their species in the world. They are healthy trees in their prime, not prone to disease or insect infestation.

These trees are also extremely valuable as premium-grade lumber and veneer. In one of its own reports, the GVWD concedes that the huge revenue potential of logging these old-growth trees (some are individually worth more than \$40,000) enticed officials into expanding logging criteria. GVWD's 1991 Final Summary Report states, "A gradual shift has occurred from programs driven by salvaging...diseased timber towards a sustained-yield, production-oriented forest." The report ominously notes that this pro-logging policy risked lowering water quality while raising revenues.

The GVWD's nearly-completed ecological inventory of the three watersheds is a sham, prejudiced in favour of the pro-logging policy. It



GVWD log sort, 1993.

was supposed to inventory flora and fauna and identify risks to water quality, but has dropped all wildlife studies and is identifying areas which could be targeted for logging within the watersheds.

Just before this inventory was commissioned, former provincial Chief Forester, John Cuthbert, bluntly reminded the GVWD not to let environmental studies obscure the ultimate goal of sustained-yield logging in the watersheds. His letter warned that any new restrictions on harvesting would be "unwarranted" and set a dangerous precedent.

Environmentalists working to protect the watersheds say that GVWD bureaucrats have not been honest with the public about their logging agenda. These bureaucrats have resisted attempts by groups like SPEC and WCWC to evaluate the situation by denying their scientists' access to the watersheds and making their own studies hard to get.

But the efforts of citizens and groups across the Lower Mainland have had an effect. Logging was greatly diminished in 1994. This lull in logging could, however, be temporary, unless the B.C. government rescinds the 1967 Amending Indenture that makes logging mandatory!

The landlord is ultimately responsible

For years people have been writing to the GVRD and to appointed water committee directors with little result. The buck has to stop somewhere!

Three big whoppers

Whopper #1: Logging our watersheds is only done to improve water quality.

Truth: Logging increases erosion, run-off and silt in our reservoirs which inevitably degrades water quality. Logging is done because the bureaucrats in charge of it want to keep their jobs.

Whopper #2: Logging reduces fire hazard.

Truth: Logging leaves cut-over areas with slash open to the direct sun which dries out and increases fire hazard.

Whopper #3: Oldgrowth rainforests are full of sick, diseased and decadent trees. A young forest is more healthy.

Truth: Oldgrowth rainforests are healthy ecosystems which have evolved over thousands of years to be more resistant to insects and disease. They are naturally regenerating, with trees of all different ages. Decaying wood retains water and supports new life. The needles of big, old trees filter water and their roots hold soils in place. A young even-aged forest which follows clearcutting is much more prone to fire, insects, disease and erosion.

appointed water committee directors with little result. The buck has to stop somewhere!
Write to the watershed's landlord:

Minister of the Environment, Lands, and Parks
Honourable Elizabeth Cull
Legislative Bldgs., Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4.

Tell her where you stand on logging in Greater Vancouver's watersheds....Ask her where she stands on rescinding the 1967 Amending Indenture which permits logging in Greater Vancouver's watersheds.



VANCOUVER GIANTS
purify drinking water...naturally

CREDITS

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yes!

I want to preserve the ancient forests remaining in the Capilano, Seymour and Coquitlam Watersheds.

I support your campaign to stop logging there—source of half of B.C. residents' drinking water.

I want ancient forests re-established to act as "Nature's perfect, unbeatable water filtration system".

- Here is my tax-deductible donation of ___\$25___\$50___\$100___\$500___\$1000 ___other to help you win this campaign! WCWC's Rev. Canada Tax Reg. No. is 0587113-21-28.
- I want to join/renew my membership in the Wilderness Committee. Enclosed is my \$30 annual membership fee. Members receive regular education reports and WCWC's *Endangered Wilderness* wall calendar.
- Send me a copy of your large 28" X 39" full colour *VANCOUVER GIANTS - protect and purify water naturally* poster. Enclosed is \$15 to cover all costs including shipping tube, postage and taxes.

Name (please print) _____ Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Please return to the Wilderness Committee, 20 Water Street, Vancouver BC V6B 1A4