



Annual Report

for the year ended 30 April 2008



WESTERN CANADA
**WILDERNESS
COMMITTEE**



Climate Changes

Over the past year the Wilderness Committee has expanded our wilderness and wildlife-saving campaigns to include significant support for local, provincial, national and international efforts to combat global warming.

Our involvement in this campaign is strategic since climate change is a major threat to the wild Canadian spaces and species we work to protect. But as we have learned more about global warming and the human-caused greenhouse gas emissions that have created this slow motion catastrophe, we also believe that action to reduce those emissions is a moral responsibility for everyone and every institution, and we are no exception.

Of course because we are an environmental organization, a lot of our action looks pretty *active*! Over the past year, we've researched, educated, rallied, petitioned, advocated, worked with and, hopefully, inspired people and organizations from many sectors to make positive individual, collective and government changes. We've also reviewed our own practices and are working hard to reduce our carbon footprint.

From top left: Executive Director Andrea Reimer and Wilderness Committee member Jim Stephenson were selected to join Al Gore's Climate Project; Dr. David Suzuki spoke at our "D7 - Climate Action Rally"; members rallied to reduce emissions at many events.





Welcome *from the Executive Team*

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Chair

Mike Geldersleeve

Treasurer

Alice Eaton

Directors at Large

Bob Broughton

Jennifer Campagnolo

Paul Morgan

Ross Muirhead

Dr. Tom Perry

Heidi Sherwood

Annette Tanner

Diana Vander Veen

Executive Appointees

Joe Foy

Matt Jong, CMA

Dear Wilderness Committee Member,

What we will remember the most about this past year is how we stepped up our efforts to protect nature upon hearing reports of Canada's starving polar bears and melting arctic ice caps. Climate change and its deadly consequences were our loudest call to action in 2008.

It was a big honour to be invited to join Al Gore's climate action team, taking his message to more than 10,000 people in schools, government, unions and community gatherings. We actively supported every step governments took towards real action to fight climate change, such as BC's enactment of the carbon tax. We fought bad projects like the wrong-way Gateway freeway plans for Metro Vancouver, and Alberta's dirty tar sands operations, Canada's climate change shame.

Of course wilderness and wildlife preservation remained for us top of mind and deed. We celebrated when BC legislated the Upper Elaho Valley into protected area status. We battled to stop a proposed private hydropower scheme aimed at wrecking the Upper Pitt River, a wild salmon system near Vancouver.

This year we've been active all across western Canada, working to end logging in Manitoba's park system, advocating protection for Alberta's boreal flyway, stumping for an end to logging in southwest BC's remaining old-growth rainforest and so much more.

Most of all it's been another wildly hopeful year! Canadians throughout the nation have been showing up, lending a hand and chipping in, doing their very best to save nature and defend our common future. You can read all about it in this report. Thanks so much for being a part of it all!

2007-08: A Wild Year

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Joe Foy
Campaign Director

Gwen Barlee
Policy Director

Andrea Reimer
Executive Director

Matt Jong
Comptroller

Our Wild Vision

The Wilderness Committee works to protect Canada's remaining native biodiversity. Our programs focus on five priority areas.

Wildlands

Boreal River Valleys • Clayoquot Sound • East Shore Wilderness Area • Inland Rainforest • Okanagan-Similkameen National Park • Rocky Mountain Wilderness • St'át'imc Old-growth Forests • Vancouver Island Ancient Forests • Wild Spirit Places

Wildlife

BC Species at Risk Act • Federal Species at Risk Act • Grizzly Bear • Marbled Murrelet • Mountain Caribou • Orca • Spotted Owl • Woodland Caribou

Public Lands Defence

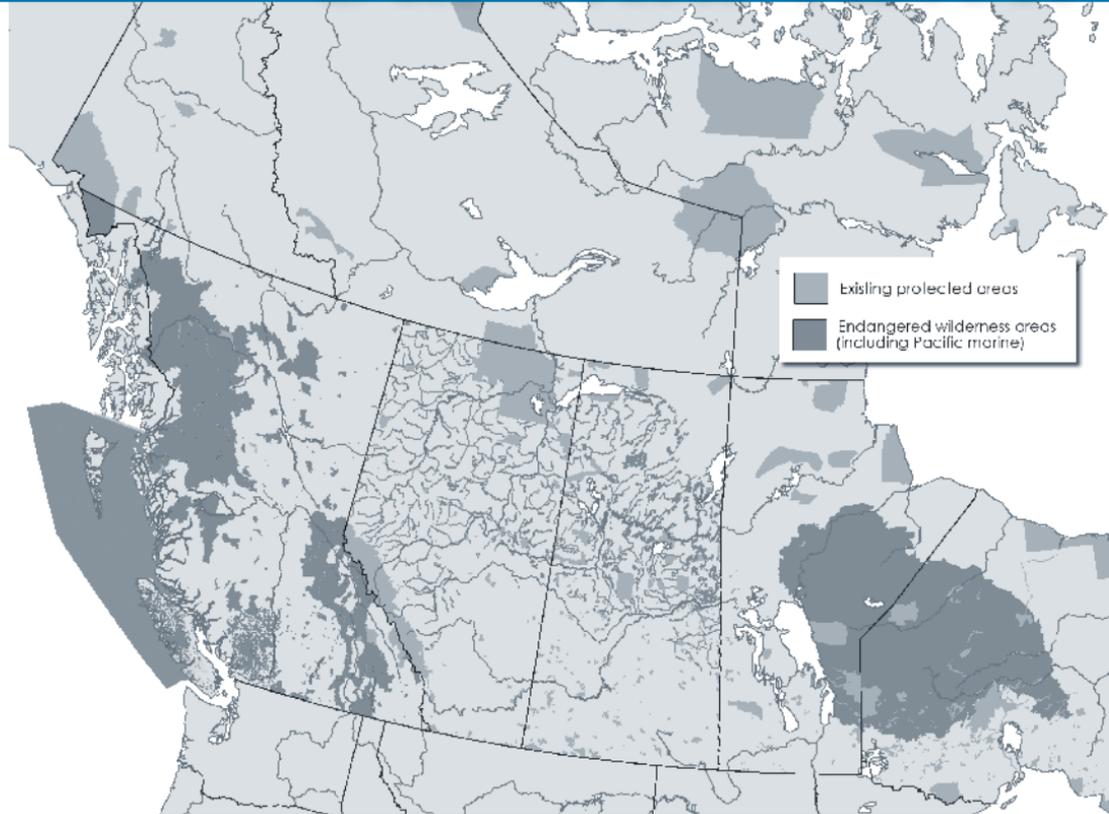
Parks Defence (BC & Manitoba) • Stop River Privatization

Wild Salmon

Offshore Drilling Moratorium • Stop Salmon Farms • Wild Salmon Rivers

Healthy Communities

Agricultural Land Defence • Climate Action • Drinking Water • Stop Gateway Highway Expansion • Turning the Tide on Toxins





Formed in 1980 by a small band of citizens determined to preserve Canada's natural biodiversity in the face of growing industrial development, the Wilderness Committee has since grown to over 30,000 members. We have five staffed offices across the country and several volunteer-run chapters. We've had many successes over our 27 years, helping gain protection for over 40 major wilderness areas, including critical wildlife habitats and some of the world's last large tracts of temperate rainforest and boreal forest.

But much remains to be done: the march of industrial development is relentless and our wild vision is large.

Scientists predict that, due to current trends of accelerating resource use and natural ecosystem disruptions by humans, one-quarter to one-half of the estimated 30 million different species now living on Earth will be forced into extinction over the next 50 years. If allowed to happen, it will be the worst die-off of life in the history of the planet. Already an estimated 27,000 species are going extinct each year — a thousand times the normal rate.

The majority of species are found in Earth's wild ("frontier") forests. Less than 20 percent of Earth's wild forests are left intact. Yet, according to conservation biologists, about 50 percent of the land base should be protected in order to fully conserve biodiversity, still leaving enough land for people to live comfortably and sustainably. Canada is one of the only jurisdictions with sufficient wilderness left to be able to protect 40 percent of our land base in wilderness preserves.

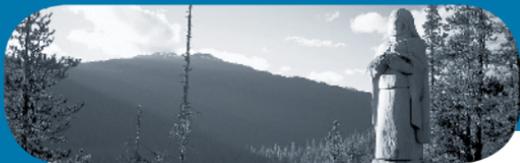
The Wilderness Committee's current efforts are guided by a five year plan which spans 2004-2009. This plan prioritizes protection for Western Canada's most threatened ecosystems such as remaining old-

growth forests in southern BC, the 'pocket desert' in the Okanagan-Similkameen, and large intact boreal forests in northern Alberta, Saskatchewan and eastern Manitoba.

Our wildlife program targets protection for the habitat of Canada's most critically at-risk species such as the spotted owl, sage grouse and Manitoba's woodland caribou. At the same time, we are working to strengthen legislation so that citizens can be assured of protection for all species at risk.

In addition, our wild pacific salmon program focuses on marine protection from salmon farms and offshore drilling. Even when protection is gained for an area, changes to protected areas legislation and funding cuts have eroded the ecological integrity of our parks. Thus, a necessary part of our work is defending parks and ensuring they have the resources they need to maintain biodiversity. Other policies which protect public lands — such as tackling proposed river privatization hydroelectric projects in BC — are also campaigns we aim to win.

The urgency of our work is underlined by ever-increasing scientific evidence of the impacts of climate change and widespread toxic pollution, and the stress these two massive threats are placing on our remaining wild places. These concerns have led us to include programs aimed at fighting highway expansion, protecting local farmland and diminishing toxins in our environment. This compliments our other work to support healthy communities: supporting local economies by standing up against raw log exports and working to protect drinking watersheds.



Victories!

Carrying a Big Stick

Over our 28 year history we've helped to gain protection for over 40 major wilderness areas in Western Canada, including millions of hectares of critical wildlife habitats, and some of the world's last large tracts of old-growth temperate rainforest and boreal forest. This year saw new victories: working in conjunction with others, we helped to extend new protections for wildlands, wildlife, parks and healthy communities.

Remember the Elaho?

No achievement stands out larger for us this year than the BC provincial government decision to protect the **Elaho** and **Sims Valleys**. Located just west of Whistler, BC in the Squamish Nation's traditional territory, these are the largest remaining unprotected old-growth forested valleys in the region, and are home to the most southerly portion of coastal grizzly bears and moose as well as the oldest known living Douglas-fir trees in Canada.

Since 1995, the Wilderness Committee has produced and distributed over a million copies of seven different educational reports on the area; created five separate videos; held almost 100 rallies and marches around the province; held the longest ever campout on the lawn of the Legislature in Victoria; and built a 28 km trail in the region that attracted thousands of hikers and which allowed the Wilderness Committee to bring local, regional, provincial, national and international politicians and media into the area.

Winning this decade long wilderness battle was truly a triumph of perseverance, and the collective action of our members and supporters.

Power to the People — Pitt Win!

Hoots, hollers and popping champagne corks resounded around the Wilderness Committee's National Office in Vancouver in late March. It was all because of an announcement made by BC's Environment Minister, Barry Penner, that he would not allow a power line to be pushed through Pinecone Burke Provincial Park.

Minister Penner's announcement came the day after over a thousand people attended a public meeting in Pitt Meadows to tell a private company, Northwest Cascade Power Ltd. and the BC government that the power project was too environmentally damaging to fish and wildlife habitat, and park values to go ahead. The public meeting was an amazing coming together of First Nations activists, loggers, fishers, tree huggers, hikers, naturalists and just about everyone else.

Unfortunately, many more rivers are at risk with hundreds of similar projects awaiting approval as a result of a provincial decision to open up wild rivers to private power producers. The Wilderness Committee is calling for a moratorium on all new private hydro projects until government policy ensures they are completely publicly owned, regionally planned and environmentally appropriate.





Alberta extends ban on grizzly hunt

With a roar of enthusiasm, we applauded the Alberta government when they extended their provincewide ban on grizzly hunting. Our cheers were tempered, however, with the knowledge that bear populations are lower than earlier estimates suggested, and our resolve was reinforced to continue our decade-long fight for the protection of this species and its habitat.

Cool It!

While the federal government dragged its feet instead of taking action to tackle the negative impacts of global climate change, the BC government stepped up to the plate in their February 2008 throne speech. After intense work, we were successful in achieving a commitment of \$1 billion from the BC government for emission reduction efforts as well as securing one of the best designed carbon taxes in the world with all money raised going back to individuals and businesses via tax cuts. The province also committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions 33 per cent by 2020. These major victories were the result of 16 environmental groups uniting and working tirelessly.

Orca Win

After a year's delay, and, as a direct result of the threat of legal action from the Wilderness Committee, the Georgia Strait Alliance and the Sierra Legal Defense Fund, the federal government

finally released the long-awaited recovery strategy for orcas on Canada's west coast. The recovery strategy identified all critical habitat which sets a very important precedent: if habitat can be identified for a migratory, ocean-based, cross-border species, it's very difficult for a government to claim it can't be identified for species with much more discreet habitat needs.

Moratoriums: Holding the Line

When the BC government announced logging plans for the intact watersheds of Clayoquot Sound, the Wilderness Committee joined with other environmental groups to issue a renewed call for protection of the area. Following a nation-wide public outcry, the moratorium on logging Clayoquot's intact valleys was maintained. The environmental groups and the aboriginal owners of the territory are meeting to find solutions that both protect ancient forests and provide for local livelihood.

Similarly, the St'át'imc (pronounced Stat-lee-um) Nation have ensured that the moratorium on any industrial development in Lost Creek Valley and Melvin Creek Valley is maintained while they continue government-to-government negotiations.

Campaign Updates All Year Round...

...available online at www.wildernesscommittee.org



Partnerships

Making Friends

Part of the Wilderness Committee's mission is to bring people together in the community around environmental issues. This year was a banner year for partnerships in every area of our campaigns, helping us get the message out further and exposing us to the great work of many more amazing environmental activists in local communities.



WILDLANDS

Blackwater Stewardship Group
Castle Crown Wilderness Coalition
CPAWS - BC Chapter
CPAWS - Manitoba Chapter
Dogwood Initiative
Fisher River Cree Nation
ForestEthics
Friends of Clayoquot Sound
Grasslands Conservation Council
Greenpeace
Purcell Alliance for Wilderness
Save the Cedar League
Seton Lake Band Council
Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission
Sierra Club of Canada - BC Chapter
South Okanagan Naturalists Club
Squamish Nation
S't'at'imc Tribal Council
Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation
Wildsight
World Temperate Rainforest Network

WILDLIFE

Castle Crown Wilderness Coalition
CPAWS - Manitoba Chapter
CPAWS Wildlands League
David Suzuki Foundation
Ecojustice
Environmental Defence
ForestEthics
Georgia Strait Alliance
Granby Wilderness Society
Greenpeace

Sierra Club of Canada - BC Chapter
Valhalla Wilderness Society
UVic Environmental Law Clinic

PUBLIC LANDS

Alouette Field Naturalists
Alouette River Management Society
AWARE
BC Citizens for Public Power
BC Creek Protection Society
BC Government and Service Employees' Union
BC Wildlife Federation
Bow Valley Naturalists
Burke Mountain Naturalists
COPE, local 378
Comox District Mountaineering Club
Council of Canadians, BC and Yukon
CPAWS - BC Chapter
EarthCare Society
Federation of BC Naturalists
Fraser Headwaters Alliance
Friends of Strathcona Park
Jasper Environmental Association
Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society
Save Our Rivers Society
Sierra Club of Canada - BC Chapter
West Coast Environmental Law
West Kootenay Eco Society
Wildsight

WILD SALMON

Living Oceans Society
Oil Free Coast Alliance
Rivers Without Borders
Union of BC Indian Chiefs

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Against Port Expansion in Delta (APE)
BC Tapwater Alliance
Boiling Point Action Network
Blue Mountain - Kanaka Creek Conservation Group
Burns Bog Conservation Society
Campaign for Open Government
COPE, local 378
Citizens Against Urban Sprawl Society
Community Climate Change
David Suzuki Foundation
Ecojustice
Environmental Justice Organizing Initiative
Formosa Nursery
Gateway 40
Gateway Sucks
Georgia Strait Alliance
Green Club
Greenpeace
Kwantlen Student Union
Lake Errock-Deroche Environmental Stewards
Liveable Region Coalition
Rail for the Valley
Save our Valley Alliance
Smart Growth
Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC)
SUCCESS
Sunbury Neighbourhood Association
Surrey Environmental Partners
Toxic Free Canada
Voters Taking Action on Climate Change
Wildlife and Environmental Activist Network
Youbou Timberless Society



if you want to go far, go together

There is a saying that if you want to go quickly go alone but if you want to go far you go together. We have found that with the right partners you can travel quickly together. A few highlights this year:



BC's Rivers at Risk

Our success in turning back the power grab that threatened the Pitt River in Burke Mountain Provincial Park was truly a triumph of many hands. The volunteer-run Burke Mountain Naturalists rang the alarm calling in other regional grassroots groups including the Pitt River and Area Watershed

Network (PRAWN), Pitt Polder Preservation Society, BC Outdoor Recreation Council, BC Creek Protection Society and Save our Rivers. Then came the Council of Canadians, BC Citizens for Public Power and COPE 378, the union that represents Hydro workers. Then came the venerable Rafe Mair and another former environment minister, John Cashore. By the time we were done, MLAs, city councillors, fishers, hunters, outdoor enthusiasts, local business owners, and citizens from every walk of life had phoned, emailed, talked to their friends and neighbours, sent letters to the editor, and, most importantly, attended the public hearings. It was truly a triumph of the community coming together to stand up for the public interest.



Taming the Tar Sands

Working together with Greenpeace, ForestEthics and Environmental Defence, we ramped up attention on the nationwide impacts of Alberta's tar sands. It started in January when Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach was greeted at a Council of the Federation meeting by a joint protest against the runaway global warming emissions and widespread pollution from oil and gas extraction in Alberta's tar sands. In the spring, we combined efforts to produce a nationally-distributed newspaper calling for Canada to clean up the tar sands or shut them down.



Toxic Free Communities

Last year we asked the question, what would it take to create Canada's first toxin-free community? Working with Toxic Free Canada and the Seton Lake Band we've been attempting to answer that question, researching sources of pollution in the Seton Lake Band's traditional territory and ways to diminish those sources. That led to the creation of a new community garden which will reduce residents' exposure to toxins in their food supply and is an important way to reduce economic pressures for more damaging developments in the community.



Public Outreach

Creating Community

When we **inform** people, through our publications, at rallies or in news reports we call this the 'one-way conversation'. When people become interested in what we have to say they become **engaged** and contact us to learn more. We call this the 'two-way conversation'. When engaged citizens become **activated** and contact their elected representatives to demand positive change we call this the 'three-way conversation'. When enough citizens become activated, we win!



inform

When the Wilderness Committee was founded in 1980 there was little information available to the public on Canadian wilderness and wildlife issues. We focused on our mission to research, publish and distribute information about threatened Canadian wilderness and wildlife in order to build broad public support for preservation. We dreamed we would become a leader in public education campaigns. Twenty-seven years later we have achieved that dream, reaching out to twelve million people every year through door-to-door canvassing; printing and distributing educational materials such as newspapers, mail-in opinion cards, calendars and books; holding rallies and events; tabling booths; conducting school talks; maintaining outreach centres in five Canadian cities; and through our web sites and local, national and international media coverage. Together, these actions have helped to save millions of hectares of wilderness. Projects in 2007-08 included:

EDUCATIONAL REPORTS

Wild Salmon Rivers of Canada
Welcome to St'át'imc Territory
Western Canada's Provincial Parks:
How does BC measure up?
How does Manitoba measure up?
Turning the Tide on Lake Winnipeg
Power Grab: BC's rivers at risk
Stuck in Traffic? We have a choice
Canada's Tar Sands: What the government doesn't want you to know

MINI-REPORTS

Rivers of Life
Get Wild! Quarterly Newsletter
There Is A Valley: Alberta's National
Parks Threatened
Cattface: Stop the mine

MAILERS

Welcome to Clearcut Provincial Park:
Manitoba's Shame
BC Rivers: For Sale

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

Seven websites (National Office, Victoria, Manitoba, four campaign-specific) and three email newsletters.

EVENTS & RALLIES

107 events and rallies in BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario.

EDUCATIONAL CANVASS

Year-round: Edmonton, Toronto, Winnipeg, Victoria, Lower Mainland
Seasonal: Bowen Island, Calgary, Orillia, Ottawa, Sunshine Coast, Southern Gulf Islands, Whistler

MEDIA COVERAGE

191 stories reaching an estimated 43,000,000 people.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Chinese Language Outreach

The Wilderness Committee partnered with the Green Club and the Georgia Strait Alliance to raise awareness about environmental issues in the Lower Mainland's Chinese-speaking population. The program distributed over 5,000 information papers at community events, and trained 27 outreach volunteers at 3 workshops. For more information, see story on next page.

Al Gore's Climate Project

We supported our Executive Director in her role as an Al Gore trainee. Through this work over 10,000 people received presentations about climate change in southwestern BC. For more information, see story page 2.



engage & activate

Finding opportunities for members and supporters to meet, talk through issues and take action is critical to the long term success of the environmental movement. In 2007-08 we re-committed to this effort in a big way. Some highlights:



Vancouver Island: Old-Growth Forests

The main focus of both our Victoria Office and the Mid-Island Chapter is to protect old-growth forests on Vancouver Island and both use public outreach very effectively towards this goal. For

example, the Victoria Office organized the largest environmental rally at the provincial Legislature in 15 years, gathering 1,300 people including many forestry workers. This office also worked to raise awareness about raw log exports and the threats posed by suburban sprawl from the deletion of Tree Farm Licenses by Jordan River and the Sooke Potholes. The Mid-Island Chapter organized hikes and slideshows to help protect the old-growth forests of Cathedral Canyon and held public meetings about proposed de-regulation on private timber lands. As a result of this work, we also succeeded in getting the Qualicum Beach Municipal Council and the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities to call for a moratorium on the sale of private forest lands for real estate development.

Manitoba: Sub-Zero Rally for Wilderness



If it's challenging to hold a successful rally in coastal BC, imagine convincing people to brave Winnipeg's bone-chilling winter winds! But this February, 130 hardy souls joined us for the first ever winter rally for wilderness outside Manitoba's Legislature. The Conservation Minister was so impressed he showed up in person to receive 10,000 postcards calling for an end to logging

in Manitoba's provincial parks.

Chinese Language Outreach Project

An exciting development this year has been our Chinese language outreach campaign aimed at bringing together the English-speaking environmental movement with Canada's growing multicultural community, especially in major urban areas. Working with Joseph Lin's Green Club and the Georgia Strait Alliance we have developed Chinese toxins awareness outreach materials and have 27 trainees who are lining up their own presentations. Through their efforts we hope to reach several thousand people, and inspire them to take action on reducing toxic pollution and develop new programs on other environmental issues.



Research



Out In the Field

Research is the backbone of the Wilderness Committee's work. Over the past few years we have intensified our research programs working to **study, map** and provide **on-the-ground documentaion** of damage in a record number of areas. In addition, our growing expertise in **Freedom of Information requests** has allowed the public access to important information about the state of wildlands and wildlife.



EXPEDITIONS

Boreal River Valley Migratory Bird Surveys, AB & SK
Blackwater Creek Valley – Northern Spotted Owl & St'át'imc Cultural Area
Cathedral Grove/Cameron Canyon
Castle Crown/Andy Russell proposed park, AB
Echo Lake proposed Bald Eagle Sanctuary
Glacier/Howser Creeks
Lost Valley/Melvin Creek
Metro Vancouver farmland & wildlife habitat affected by Gateway project
Nopiming Provincial Park – Industrial Developments Survey, MB
Norrish Creek Valley – Mission Drinking Watershed
Northern Spotted Owl Habitat, Logging & Management Area Surveys, and Research Camp (various locations)
Bugaboo National Park Proposal
Robson Valley Conservation Corridor, northern Inland Rainforest
Seton Portage Irrigation & Community Farm Rehabilitation
Upper Walbran Valley

MAPPING PROJECTS

Agricultural Land Reserve
Boreal River Valley Migratory Bird Flyways, AB & SK
Clayoquot Sound – Catface Mountain
Clayoquot Sound – Pristine Valleys
Clayoquot Sound – proposed Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation Kennedy Watershed Tribal Park
Drinking Watersheds – Protected and Unprotected in BC
East Side of Vancouver Island
Fisher Bay Park Reserve, MB
Ghost Pass/Eighteen Mile Creek
Lake Winnipeg Watershed, MB
Lost Valley/Melvin Creek/Cayoosh Mountain Range
Marbled Murrelet Critical Habitat Mapping Project
Northern Wild Salmon Rivers/Sacred Headwaters
Northern Spotted Owl Habitat, Logging Plans & Management Areas
Proposed Gateway Highway & Deltaport Expansion Projects
Private Hydropower Projects
Sea to Sky Greenbelt
Squamish Nation Wild Spirit Places



St'át'imc Nation Land Use Plan
Seton Portage – Historic Sources of Toxic Pollution
Tar Sands, AB
Upper Pitt River Valley proposed Private Hydropower Project

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Assisting with Squamish Nation Land Use Planning
Boreal River Valley Migratory Bird Flyways
Examination of Logging plans in Northern Spotted Owl Habitat and Proposed Critical Habitat for Protection
Grizzly and Wildlife Highway Overpasses
Mountain Caribou Recovery Strategy Analysis
Salmon Farming – Impacts and Solutions Research Forum
Sacred Headwaters/Northwest BC proposed Mining Projects Impact Backgrounder
Problems with Nuclear Power in Alberta backgrounder



TRAIL PROJECTS

Ghost Pass (completed!)

RESEARCH REPORTS

Clayoquot Sound – Catface Mountain proposed mining project impacts
Glacier/Howser Creeks proposed Private Hydropower project impacts
Toxins in Lake Winnipeg Study Guide

ground-breaking research

Underlying our efforts to inform, engage and activate the public is good, solid research. Whether we're bush-whacking through the rain or tilling earth in the scorching sun, our on-the-ground research work is both enlightening and satisfying. Some highlights from the past year include:



Manitoba Parks

Our Manitoba Office has long fought its provincial government's policy of allowing logging in provincial parks and "protected" areas. Much of this work involved

on-the-ground visits and surveys — 14 just in the last year — which often uncover heartbreaking evidence of destruction in areas that the public believes have been set aside for biodiversity and recreation.

This past spring was no exception when a staff expedition found, among other industrial activities, a 14-kilometre road recently bulldozed along the Manigotagan River, and a path left by a tracked vehicle in an area near Beresford Lake that was not supposed to be disturbed.



Ghost Pass

The 13 km Ghost Pass Trail was completed in record time thanks to the coordinated efforts of volunteers, staff, First Nation youth, and funding from the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission. This is the first time we've finished an entire trail in one season. Ghost Pass, originally recommended for protection in the 1941 Manning Park Master Plan, was later excluded for the purpose of logging but was never logged. Recently, we found road flagging and decided it was time to complete the vision of seeing Ghost Pass protected in Manning Park. Another first — a joint BC Parks/Wilderness Committee sign marks the trailhead.

Beetle Kill

This past summer, the Wilderness Committee was part of a groundbreaking co-publication by major environmental and labour organizations in the province. These former adversaries came together to warn of climate change impacts, and worsening prospects for workers and communities should large numbers of healthy trees continue to be logged indiscriminately, along with beetle-killed pine in British Columbia's interior. The research was undertaken by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (BC Office), and included five major recommendations for managing forestry operations in beetle-kill areas of BC and Alberta to ensure healthy, resilient forests and communities.



Financial Statement *for the year ended April 30, 2008*



2007-08 REVENUES

Our revenue growth continues to be strong, up 22% this year and 53% over the past five years. This year's growth is as a result of increased grants and donations from individuals. The apparent drop in membership dues actually reflects converting annual members to monthly giving members, an overall increase in revenues.



REVENUES	2008	2007
Membership dues	415,764	457,030
Donations	1,442,428	1,090,861
Grant Revenue	212,312	92,928
Sales of ed. material	146,180	153,365
Unreceipted donations	44,199	50,149
	2,260,883	1,844,333

EXPENDITURES

Campaign & grant project costs	1,219,341	957,073
Sales costs	184,215	168,798
Canvass costs	232,707	272,601
Membership costs	236,292	221,642
Administration costs	169,593	149,704
Amortization	89,390	26,873
Interest to Finance Assets	5,007	5,163
	2,136,545	1,801,854

Net Income (loss) for the year	124,338	42,479
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Members' equity, beginning of year	368,195	325,715
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Members' equity, end of year	492,533	368,195
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ASSETS	2008	2007
Current		
Cash and equivalent	205,587	174,146
Restricted funds	72,896	58,272
Short term investments	163,000	—
Accounts receivable	21,719	17,969
Inventory	85,497	96,609
Prepaid expenses	14,661	11,231
	563,360	358,227
Capital assets	136,757	213,281
	700,117	571,508

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current		
Bank Indebtedness	20,813	3,117
Accounts payable	82,856	60,120
Deferred grants	30,933	23,785
Loans payable	—	38,437
Current portion of mortgage payable	72,982	4,897
	207,584	130,356
Mortgage payable	—	72,958
Net Assets	492,533	368,195
	700,117	571,508

Auditor's Report *for the year ended April 30, 2008*

To the Members of Western Canada Wilderness Committee

We have audited the statement of financial position of Western Canada Wilderness Committee (the "Committee") as at April 30, 2008 and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Committee's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, the Committee derives revenue from unreceipted donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Committee and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to unreceipted donation revenue, excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures, assets and net assets.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to verify the completeness of the unreceipted donations referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as at April 30, 2008 and the results of its operations and the changes in its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

"Dale Matheson Carr-Hilton LaBonte"

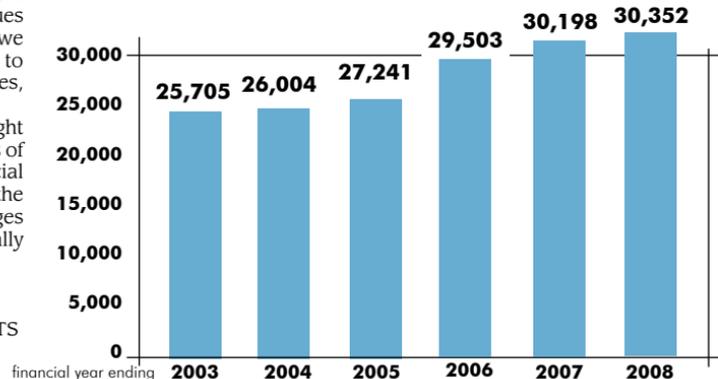
DALE MATHESON CARR-HILTON LABONTE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
White Rock, B.C. July 25, 2008

2007-2008 Auditor

Dale Matheson Carr-Hilton
LaBonte Chartered Accountants

Report on Membership

The Wilderness Committee is proud to be Canada's largest membership-based wilderness preservation organization. Membership reached 30,352 this year, maintaining our five year plan of 30,000 members and giving us a 20% increase in membership over the past six years.





With over 30,000 members, and 40,000 additional donors and volunteers, the Wilderness Committee is Canada's largest membership-based wilderness preservation group. We've helped to gain protection for over 40 major wilderness areas in Western Canada, including millions of hectares of critical wildlife habitats and some of the world's last large tracts of old-growth temperate rainforest and boreal forest. But much remains to be done.

Join us. Your \$35 membership fee makes a world of difference.

Front cover: East Shore Wilderness Area, Garth Lenz
Back cover: Lost Creek Valley, Jeremy Sean Williams.
Printed in Canada on recycled paper. © 2008 Wilderness Committee.

WESTERN CANADA **WILDERNESS COMMITTEE**

227 Abbott Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 2K7 CANADA

Toll free: 1-800-661-9453

Phone: (604) 683-8220 Fax: (604) 683-8229

www.wildernesscommittee.org

NATIONAL OFFICE

341 Water Street, Vancouver, BC

Phone: (604) 683-8220 Fax: (604) 683-8229

VANCOUVER STORE & OUTREACH CENTRE

227 Abbott Street, Vancouver, BC

Phone: (604) 683-2567

VICTORIA OFFICE, STORE & OUTREACH CENTRE

651 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1M7

Phone: (250) 388-9292 Fax: (250) 388-9223

ALBERTA OFFICE

10429 79 Ave, Edmonton, AB T6E 1R7

Phone: (780) 421-7335

MANITOBA OFFICE

3rd Fl. – 303 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 2B4

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204 - 425 Queen Street W, Toronto, ON M5V 2A5

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