

SPRING MAY: / 86

SPECTRUM

Society Promoting Environmental Conservation
2150 Maple Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3T3
Telephone: (604) 736-SPEC

p.2 IRRADIATED
FOODS

p.4 SITE C

p.7 SPEC REPORTS
FOR 1985

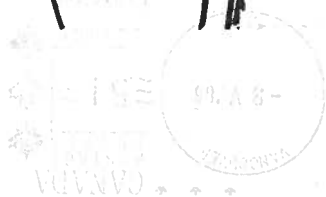
p.9 BRANCH
REPORTS



MEMBERSHIP EXP DATE: 01/87
PAMELA/TOM GRAHAM
215 W 18TH AVE
VANCOUVER B.C.
V6L 1A3

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APRIL 86



President's Report by Cathy Fox

First the Bad News:

The past year has been a difficult one for SPEC. Federal project grants didn't come through and provincial matching grants have been cut off due to restraint so that the organization is operating currently on a shoe-string budget. Unfortunately a salary has not been available for our Executive Director, Ruth MacDonald for six months now even though she puts in a full day's work every day for SPEC. Ruth will be leaving her position the middle of May - we will miss her very much and thank her for dedication to SPEC.

But the Good News is:

SPEC volunteers and directors have been busy writing funding proposals, organizing committees on environmental issues, organizing a speaking tour for England's Friends of the Earth's Des Wilson and keeping SPEC active in environmental issues, as you can see from the 1985 Year End Report on SPEC's activities in this issue of SPECTRUM. You'll also see notices of a Rumage Sale and a Casino Night that are being held to raise funds for SPEC, as well as a seminar on flouride pollution. You'll read articles on issues that are currently being investigated by SPEC, such as the proposed irradiation of food and dioxin pollution. Our Annual General Meeting is coming up and you're all invited to attend. We're even having a Social/Pot-Luck Dinner honoring our dedicated volunteers and members without whom SPEC could not have survived this past year. A heartfelt thank you for your continuing support.

You Are Invited to Attend

SPEC'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SOCIAL

Saturday May 31, 1986
at Vancouver
Energy Information Centre
2150 Maple St., Vancouver

Agenda

- 9:30 Registration
- 10:00 President's Welcome
- 10:10 Financial Report
- 10:30 Report on SPEC Activities in 1985
- 11:00 Constitutional Changes
- 11:15 Coffee Break
- 11:30 "Poisons in the Park".
A discussion on the use of pesticides in parks, playgrounds, hospitals, etc. and the ramifications of the "Right to Know" bylaw that is being considered by Vancouver City Council. That will see signs posted warning citizens of pesticide use.

Speaker: Marilyn Kamsky
Executive Dir.
West Coast
Env. Law Ass.

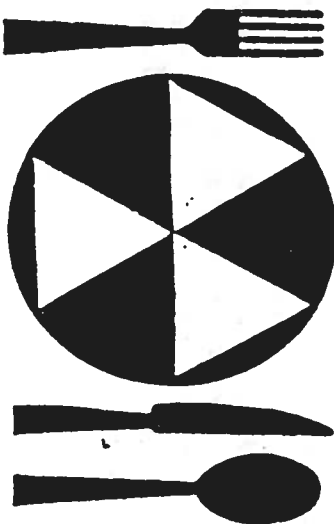
- 12:30 Lunch (courtesy of SPEC)
- 1:30 Elections of Directors
- 2:00 Issues-Discussion-Resolutions
- 3:00 Coffee Break
- 3:15 Issues (continued)
- 4:30 Adjourn
- 5:00 Pot Luck Dinner/Social Honoring SPEC's dedicated Volunteers "Bringing a Dish and Share in a Feast"

WORKSHOP:

FLOURIDE POLLUTION
by Len Greenhall

Monday May 26, 1986
8:00pm

at SPEC House
2150 Maple Street
Vancouver, B.C.



IRRADIATED FOODS

Irradiation - have you heard of it? Did you know that right now Health and Welfare Canada is debating not whether to use the process on our foodstuffs, but whether or not they need to label these irradiated items as having been irradiated! Did you also know that one of the largest irradiation plants in the world sits in Richmond, B.C. awaiting this decision?

Yes, indeed, you might well have a few questions.

It is not a new process: The United States instituted a post war "Atoms for Peace" program in 1953, and experimented on the boys in uniform. Its acceptance among international atomic energy agencies and even the World Health Organization, has led us to the point where gamma irradiation is currently approved in Canada for use on potatoes, onions, flour, spices, and dehydrated seasonings. Pending the changes of the Food and Drugs Act, irradiation will be approved for the preservation of fresh poultry and fish. It can be used to preserve food in any form: loose, fresh, frozen, or packaged. As irradiation does not raise the food's temperature it is called a "cold process".

Gamma treatment works as follows: "Electrons from atoms or molecules in the food are displaced, creating ions. The ionized, activated atoms and molecules form unstable second-ary products called free radicals. At low radiation doses, free radicals inhibit cell division and thus stop growth (as in the case of radiation treatment of cancer) at higher doses. Cells are killed outright. So, for example, a low dose (100 kilorads) will stop the cell division responsible for the sprouting of stored potatoes and onions. While higher doses (up to 10,000 kilorads) will kill the bacteria that causes meat fish, and poultry to spoil and insects that infest flours and grains.

The chemical result of irradiation is the formation of stable compounds called radiolytic products. In an overall sense, the desired results of food irradiation are the biological effects it produces while the "by-products" of the process are the chemical effects, some of which are of nutritional and toxicological significance. It is critical to understand, however, that irradiated food cannot be "does not become radioactive." (Linda Pim, Probe Post, December 1983)

Now we know that the food will not actually glow in the dark. But what are these chemical byproducts? What about the nutritional value of the food? What are the toxicological implications?

Gamma treatment of food can produce unique radiolytic products (URP's) which are found only in irradiated foods; very little is known about the chemical identity of URP's, their levels in treated foods,

U.S. Federal Department of Agriculture studies show that if food irradiated at 100 kilorads comprises more than 0.1% of the diet, there are so many unique byproducts in the food that further testing should be done. (Science, February 17, 1984) There is evidence suggesting that irradiation of food may cause chronic reproductive and mutagenic effects: long term, subtle effects from gamma treated food, such as carcinogenesis and mutagenesis, simply are not known.

Food nourishment is depleted. Strong evidence exists to show that vitamins A, C, and E and the B complex are destroyed by irradiation. As well, alterations in amino acids and proteins take place. Fats, fatty acids, lipids, carbohydrates, nucleic acids, enzymes have all, under experimentation, shown varying degrees of sensitivity to gamma irradiation.

There are bacterial problems as well, though irradiation sets out to solve many of the problems with bacterial contamination of food, it may actually cause "microbiological havoc". In essence, bacteria can be or become radiation resistant, and it becomes possible that radiation can breed a whole new microflora.

Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. recently released a whole volume of reassuring information in their regular publication, *Ascent*. The report is careful to note, "why the critics don't like it" pointing directly to Linda Pim's work for Pollution Probe. The publishers agree that the public need to be educated. If irradiated foods are to be accepted by consumers when they arrive on the supermarket shelves. Does education here represent enlightenment or pac-

that "there are 135 commercial irradiators now operating safely in 42 countries around the world..." Somehow I think of the line my grade two teacher gave me: "If Johnny told you to jump in the lake, would you?"

Cobalt-60 is a byproduct of the nuclear industry and 95% of the cobalt-60 used in these irradiation plants is produced in Canada. Is this really an issue of food preservation, or low level nuclear waste disposal? Suddenly a bag of groceries takes an ominous proportions.

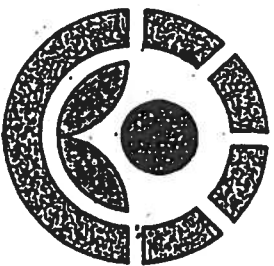
If you want to express your feelings on irradiation, please write or call:

- Your local political representative
- The Honourable Jake Epp Minister of Health and Welfare and
- The Honourable Michael Cote Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs
- House of Commons
- Ottawa, K1A 0A6

If you would like more information on the issue and process of irradiation, please call or write:

- SPEC
- The Health Action Network Society
- 5338 Ewart Street
- Burnaby B.C. 435-0512
- The Pollution Probe Foundation
- 12 Madison Ave
- Toronto, Ontario
- (416) 926-9876

Ruth MacDonald



This symbol could be the only labelling we will see on irradiated foods!

SITE C UPDATE

Building the \$5.2 billion Site C hydroelectric project is a bad deal for B.C. It would mean a loss of control over the British Columbia's largest Crown corporation with no assured market for the energy produced. And we would lose the opportunity to develop flexible, low-cost and efficient energy alternatives. If B.C. wants to export hydroelectricity there are many cheaper alternatives to building a 900 megawatt dam on the Peace River near Fort Saint John.

Exporting energy on a long-term firm basis creates jobs in the U.S., not in B.C. A recent U.S. study suggests that long-term Canadian exports should be encouraged to assist states in retooling their economies and help them become more competitive.

While the U.S. economy benefits, residents of B.C. will be draining their pocketbooks to pay one million dollars for every job created at Site C - these jobs will be temporary, not permanent. At the end of construction, this extravagant project will provide only 25 permanent jobs.

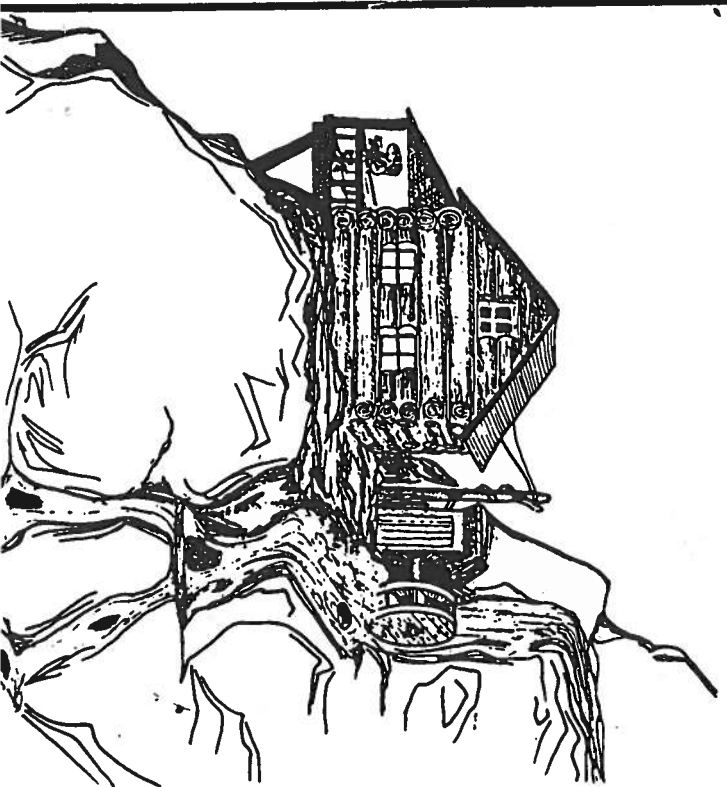
British Columbia has a history of making bad power deals with the U.S. In 1961 B.C. sold 30 years worth of power from the Columbia River to the U.S. for the lump sum payment of \$275 million. Although the money was touted as a great bonanza at the time, the province ended up on the short end of the deal. The money did not even cover the cost of building the three dams required under the Columbia River Treaty. The Pacific Northwest states, however, received approximately \$500

investment and, one estimate suggests, \$300 million annually in new production and foreign exchange because of the cheap power from B.C.

In light of these past expensive mistakes, we should take a careful look at the costs and benefits before proceeding with Site C.

Economist Harvin Schaffer, in a recent report, shows that delaying a large irreversible capital investment like Site C could save British Columbians in excess of \$100 to \$200 million dollars.

In addition to losing jobs and resources, British Columbia could also lose control of B.C. Hydro, its largest Crown Corporation. B.C. Hydro Chairman, Chester Johnson, has been trying to negotiate a deal with Bonneville Power Authority (BPA), the largest U.S. utility, to build Site C now and integrate B.C. electricity with the entire U.S.



Pacific power grid. If that happens, the provincial government will lose its ability to direct future energy development. B.C. Hydro would only be one of many utilities making these decisions. What this means, in the long term, is that B.C. would necessarily become an exporter and suffer the consequences of resource exploitation and environmental damage to support energy consumption in the U.S.

If B.C. needs more energy, whether for domestic use or export, there are many low cost, flexible alternatives to Site C.

Firstly, B.C. Hydro has never taken a serious look at conservation as a source of energy supply. The Northwest Power Planning Council, a U.S. Federal Agency, found the equivalent output of the Site C dams could be generated at an average 2.3 cents per kilowatt hour (KWh). The lowest cost estimate for Site C power, ignoring environmental costs, is about 4 cents KWh. Even BPA recognizes the advantages of conservation energy.

First, according to BPA, it is typically less costly than generation alternative available in the Pacific Northwest, and probably in British Columbia as well. Second, it is a resource that can gradually be "phased-in" and is, therefore, more flexible. An additional bonus to a province with high unemployment, like B.C., is that conservation will create six times as many jobs for each dollar invested as in high projects like Site C.

Another alternative for generating electricity and creating jobs is the use of waste wood products from the forest industry. A recent estimate suggests the current potential in B.C. is about equal to that of the proposed

Site C dam at a cost of 2.5 cents/KWh. However, Hydro actively discourages cogeneration by refusing to buy the power at all when the utility has a surplus, and by offering the lowest industrial price when it is willing to buy.

Another alternative would be to hook up with a thermal system rather than another hydroelectric power grid. B.C. Hydro's forecast is driven by the most pessimistic prediction of water levels in our reservoirs. These low water conditions should occur, statistically, about three times per century. If B.C. Hydro could hook up with a thermal, rather than hydroelectric system, those low water years could be covered by buying thermally generated power.

Alberta has a primarily thermal power system. Linking up with the Alberta system through transmission lines, the Alberta intertie, will free B.C. Hydro from building all that excess capacity with all that needed only three times per century, if at all. The B.C. Hydro - Alberta intertie is scheduled for completion in January 1986. This connection can provide B.C. with 800 MW, almost the capacity of Site C at a fraction of the cost.

There are numerous other sources of energy less costly than Site C. Instead of building Site C, B.C. should consider legislation like the Public Utilities Regulatory Act (PURA). Passed by U.S. President Jimmy Carter in 1978, this act made it mandatory for all U.S. utilities to buy lower cost independently produced power. Almost overnight, thousands of privately owned hydro, wind and industrial steam generators hooked up to grids. In five years, independents had added the equivalent of about eight Site

C projects, and thousands of megawatts were coming on line each month.

There are 54 sites in B.C. where small hydro dams can generate power at less cost than Site C and eight sites where small hydro is urgently needed to replace high cost diesel plants. Developing these sites would promote independence and innovation, and create an estimated 2,500 construction jobs.

Surely one million dollars of taxpayers' money can create more than one job. Many large U.S. utilities now accept that the "bigger-is-better" and build everything-in-sight thinking is the downfall of many utilities in the country"

To maximize job creation and provide affordable secure electrical power, B.C. should be encouraging the development of small-scale, easily built, flexible and efficient power resources. As even the vice-president of Southern California Edison (one of the largest electrical utilities in the U.S.) recently observed, "The age of the dinosaur is just about over.."

It's time to learn from our past mistakes. Somebody should tell B.C. Hydro before it is too late.

Dr. Adrienne Peacock coordinated the participation of a major intervenor at the Site C Hearings in 1981-82. She is currently a biology instructor at Douglas College.

RUMMAGE SALE

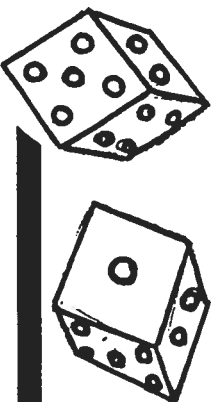
Now's the chance to clean out your house and help SPEC at the same time.

Location: Park Royal Mall
West Vancouver
Date : Tuesday May 13

ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING NEEDED
BUT NOT CLOTHES

Please contact Ann Ferries
at 921-7950
or SPEC 736-7732
for drop off or pick up

Sponsored by West Van SPEC



SAVE YOUR PENNIES!
CIRCLE YOUR CALENDAR!
TAKE A CHANCE ON SPEC!
SPEC CASINO NIGHT

July 3, 4, 5

at

Polish Community Centre
4015 Fraser St. Vancouver

Being held with Coast Promotions to raise funds for SPEC

During the last year SPEC has moved through many stages of work and development. It was the year of the disappearing government grant. Not only SPEC but many of the non-profit social and change organizations have suffered from the same disappearing act. It seems the government is ready to support fledgling businesses over non-profit social service organizations. Therefore, it has been a year of dramatic change and adjustment.

SPEC has always run largely on volunteer initiatives; the loss of various working grants really only points to a renewed vigor from our volunteer core of staff and advisors. As in house staff and board members strategize new ways to bring in funding, our volunteer core has been working alongside to make sure that SPEC continues to provide the public a reliable resource centre for the environment. And so...on with report '85.

Recycling
During 1985, SPEC continued to run the multi-material CEGY-ing drop off depot. This pick up service was one of the first of its kind in the Lower Mainland, and was designed to service regular householders as well as seniors and those with no transportation. The SPEC depot has been running since 1982, the culmination of many years of advocacy work in the name of recycling. Our recycling services have helped to initiate a wider variety of recycling depots and pick up routes across the Lower Mainland: the power of suggestion and example.

Following the wrap up of a Canada Works Grant that made operating the pick up service possible, the SPEC executive decided that it was time for SPEC to leave the business of recycling to the competing market forces. With funding as difficult to attain as it is, the board felt strongly that it is appropriate for SPEC to act in the field of education, lobbying and information services in relation to the continuing need for expanding recycling. Therefore,

as of March 1986, the SPEC recycling depot and services will be closing their doors. We would like to thank our members, the city of Vancouver, and supporters in and around Vancouver who kept the SPEC depot a vital recycling centre.

Recycling Hotline
SPEC continued to man the CEGY-ing hotline, a full time directory service that our staff mans under contract to the GVRD. The hotline provides the residents of the Lower Mainland a current listing of all recycling agents and services in the area, and which recycler is most suited to the callers' need and location.



Solid Waste
SPEC was an active participant in the Lower Mainland refuse projects and yet, with the completion of the Keith Henry report and its proposal for nine incinerators and a landfill in Langley, the real project of waste management in the Lower Mainland is by no means finished. The Langley landfill turned down, and one incinerator on its way to completion in Burnaby, a management plan that encompasses the whole of the Lower Mainland is still being hammered out. SPEC, and in particular, Evelyn Feller, has constantly been pushing for greater public involvement in the ongoing process of decision making. Currently...and slowly...negotiations with the GVRD continue.

Sewage
In 1985 (February and June) the GVRD okayed proposals for the queuing of raw sewage into the English Bay and the Fraser River. The first instance was to allow workmen into the sewers to check...for general buildup. The second was to make way for the Anacis Island bridge. In both cases foresight and planning could have alleviated the need to dump raw sewage into our precious waters. SPEC protested both cases, and helped to organize local protests, and to publicize the

possible ramifications and alternatives to dumping. SPEC hosted a public meeting including GVRD chemists, engineers, local residents, and biologists to discuss the issue of raw sewage dumping and sewage treatment in Vancouver and the lower Mainland. SPEC continues to push for secondary, and tertiary treatment, and for the development of alternative forms of treatment - i.e. biologically with the use of plants.

Pesticides and Hazardous Waste
SPEC was instrumental in gaining a right to know bylaw in the City of Vancouver and in pressuring the Vancouver Parks Board into adopting an integrated pest management system for the City. Working closely with West Coast Environmental Law, SPEC researchers Thelma McAdam and Gray Jones helped force real and positive anti-pesticide reform. Thelma kept City Health and Parks Board officials, as well as the media, busy - uncovering the pesticide poisoning at Hillcrest Park in Vancouver and the cucumber pesticide poisoning in the Lower Mainland. Further afield, Gray was instrumental in halting the widespread use of Roundup in Whistler, Pemberton and Kyngst. As well, SPEC was able to help call a halt to a proposed experimental spraying of DDT over the area of Terrace/Kittlingale. By helping to set up a base for community protest SPEC was a part of a powerful peoples' precedent: to stop a joint Federal and Provincial Forestry experiment over the hunting, fishing, housing and recreational land of natives and non-natives alike.

PEC became one of the founding members of BCCAP - B.C. Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides. This coalition of organizations from across B.C. works towards the education and promotion of wise pest management techniques on all levels: household, government services and industrial.



Until her death in August 1979, Lille D'Easum played many roles: teacher, mother, writer, environmentalist and humanitarian.

In the 1950's Lille helped refugees from Guatemala, Spain and Korea. After joining the Voice of Women, she became interested in environmental issues and northern development issues. As well she was a charter member of Greenpeace. As one of the founders of the B.C. chapter of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility she was a prominent opponent in Canada's CANDU nuclear reactor.

Lille D'Easum's life spanned 81 years; much of that filled with work for causes and people. In her fight for nuclear disarmament. We can do well to remember her words: "The governments are not going to stop it, the multinationals are not going to stop it. The people have to."

Shortly before her death, Lille gave many of her books and papers to the SPEC library, which is now appropriately named the Lille D'Easum Memorial Library.

Consider a contribution to our library. All contributions will be acknowledged as charitable deductions. Remember to state on your cheque or money order that your contribution is for The Lille D'Easum Memorial Library Fund; and help us to keep the SPEC environmental library vital and growing.

Publication List

SPEC

1. Farmland in British Columbia - \$1.00
2. Pest or Guest, Alternatives to Pesticides in the Home and Garden - \$5.00
3. SPEC Homeowner's Guide to Energy Conservation - \$1.00
4. Gardening - \$0.50

OTHER

1. Vision Quest - \$1.00
2. "Protect the Stein River Watershed" T-Shirt - \$9.00
3. "Meares Island Tribal Park" button - \$1.00
4. "Protect the Stein Watershed" button - \$1.00
5. "Protect Lyell Island Haida Country" button - \$1.00
6. "Protect the Stein" bumper sticker - \$2.00
7. "Stop Destroying Nature Its about the Stein" bumper sticker - \$2.00
8. "Exploring the Stein River Valley" hiking guide to the Stein River Valley - \$5.00
9. "Voices for the Wilderness" poster - \$4.00
10. "Nitinat Triangle" poster - \$4.00
11. "The Last of the Giants" poster - \$4.00
12. "Meares Island, Protecting a Natural Paradise" - \$12.00
13. Joe David Prints - Meares Island - 2nd and 3rd editions - \$20.00
14. Joe David Prints - Stein River - \$18.00

**Note: Are available at SPEC - 2150 Maple Street (corner of sixth street and Maple). For direct mailing, add \$1.00 to price, except for the "Exploring the Stein River Valley", add \$2.00 to price. Unfortunately we cannot send the posters in the mail.

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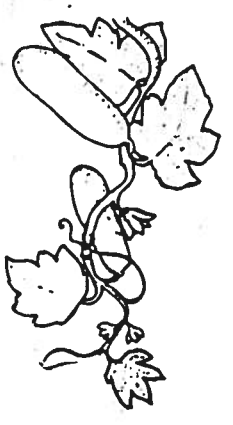
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In conjunction with City Farmer, SPEC continues to support the growth of the Vancouver Demonstration Food Garden and Greenhouse. Out back of the Energy Information Centre are raised beds in a pesticide free environment; fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers that are nurtured all year round. Work is directed by City Farmer, and is largely aided by volunteers - who also help to reap the harvest.



SPEC is also an active member of the Hazardous Waste Management Coalition (HWMC). The aims of the HWMC are to converse with government and industry to insure that B.C. is actively pursuing a wise and longer term hazardous waste management plan. In the past year the coalition has met with the Provincial and Waste Management Branch and the deputy Minister of Environment to hear out their plans, and lobby for a complete public involvement in the decision making process. There is still much work to be done: hazardous wastes are building up and going nowhere in particular.

EGRETT SPEC provided a base for coordination of Necker Island, South Hecatey Island and the Stein River Valley campaigns from the Lower Mainland. All three of these precious ecological systems have garnered support from a wide spectrum of social and political groups. SPEC provided a volunteer base, a meeting place and communications centre for Vancouver, the Lower Mainland and various groups from the Islands. SPEC, in particular, Will Paulik, is in the process of forming a society/foundation to inventory and protect old growth in B.C. As well, we took part in the NDP Ecocentric Hearing, held at Douglas College, New Westmin-

The Centre SPEC continues to CUD and BAO The Vancouver Energy Information Centre and is open to the public 9-5 Monday to Friday. We are ready to accommodate schools, homeowners and builders, as well as any interested group of individuals. Displays on the energy efficient and retrofitted home are up year round.

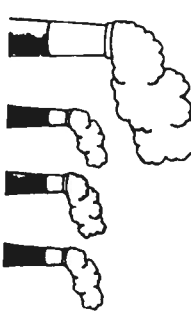
1985 was the third year that SPEC provided a free home energy audit program for the residents of Vancouver. With assistance from a grant from Canada Works, SPEC employed six people to offer free home inspections to any household in the ridings of Vancouver South and Centre. Sadly, the grant was not renewed, though the Vancouver householder proved most interested in such a service.

SPEC continues to provide a Environmental Liaison Centre, a meeting space for environmental groups. SPEC rents out the meeting hall, keeps a unique Environmental Library, and information in any environmental field, as well as compiling current directories for environmental organizations around the province, and across the country. SPEC's executive director continues to sit on both the regional ENGO Steering Committee, as well as the national steering committee for environmental organizations and thus provides a conduit for both local and national events and information.

SPEC is constantly sending out information on EGRETT - this past year the public proved most concerned with indoor air pollution, pesticides/herbicides, household hazardous wastes and the economic and environmental impacts of the proposed Site C dam. SPEC is also recipient to regular calls from citizens reporting environmental pollution, degraded spraying, dumping and other environmentally degraded activities. With a staff composed largely of volunteers, SPEC provides a reference service, and if possible, on site information and assistance in guiding the individual/group/community towards the most effective action: whether it be through media, government, industry,

SPEC was invited by the Open Learning Institute to take part in a television program on water. The main discussion centered on the export of water, sewage treatment, and drinking water contamination.

SPEC hosted an environmental hearing initiated by Charles Feller, Federal Liberal Environmental Officer, that was attended by local environmental organizations, the B.C. Medical Association, Environmental Committee, and concerned citizens. Our reports and comments were forwarded by Mr. Caccia to Ottawa, where they were distributed to federal politicians.



SPEC joined the Canadian Coalition for Acid Rain, pushing for a 50% reduction on emissions of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen by the end of this century - with particular attention being paid to non-ferrous metal smelters. The coalition also concentrates a substantial effort in the United States in order to lobby congress and educate the public as to the devastation that American acid rain sources are causing in Canada. Currently, there is a bill before the U.S. House of Representatives to reduce emissions from coal-fired plants, smelters and boilers by one half and cut nitrogen oxide emissions from cars and trucks by one quarter - to be paid on a surcharge on electric bills. This is a great step forward, and makes Canada's commitment to the same by the end of the 20th century far more meaningful.

SPEC continues to publish the SPECIRB - a compendium of local and provincial environmental concerns as well as particular SPEC business and information.



BRANCH REPORTS

SPEC KIMBERLEY Report for 1985 and Projections for 1986

Note from SPEC Central:
During the summer we were pleased to hear from Kent Goodwin that there were plans afoot to reinstate the SPEC branch in Kimberley. Following are excerpts from two letters from Kent:

Summer Report:

1. The city of Kimberley is facing in the next ten to twenty years the demise of its major industry, the Coninco lead/zinc mine. As a result, the city's Economic Development Commission held a series of public meetings in March asking for ideas about the town's future. Jim Patterson, about the only remaining active member of SPEC in town at the time, drafted a brief and presented it.

2. In the 70's, when SPEC first formed in Kimberley, the local chapter talked City Council and Coninco into setting aside 3200 Acres of forested land within the city limits as a nature preserve. We have just this spring secured a government employment grant to hire 10 students for the summer and clean up the trails, post signs, develop a map, etc.

3. This spring we learned that Crestbrook Forest Industries was developing a plan to log our main municipal watershed, Mark Creek. We prepared and presented a brief to City Council explaining our opposition to such logging and asking Council to take action against the plan. They responded by writing a letter to the Ministry. In our brief we mentioned improper logging practices in Mathew Creek a watershed that the city tapped into a couple of years ago. As a result the city sent its engineers up to investigate with some Forestry and Crestbrook officials.

4. Our group feels that nuclear war is definitely a threat to "the maintenance of a healthy, livable environment for all life." Because of this and the fact that Kimberley does not have an independent disarmament group, we have decided to make nuclear disarmament one of our focuses. In conjunction with a small group of students from [unclear] middle school we

decorated a truck and entered it in a local parade in June. We won first prize in the "club" category.

5. The creek that flows through our town has been devoid of life for 35 years because of pollution from the mining operation and city. That pollution has largely been cleaned up in part because of efforts by the SPEC group in the 70's. We have made initial inquiries with government agencies and Coninco about getting trout back into the creek. We feel this (though it may not be possible) would be a very positive project for this town, the company, and our group.

So, now you're up to date. Here are a few things we have in mind for the future:

1. Officially constitute the local chapter of SPEC and get enough active members to keep it going for the long term.

2. Continue to monitor logging in Mathew Creek and oppose future logging in Mark Creek. Possibly push for a referendum.

3. Make Kimberley a nuclear weapons free zone start pentwinning, sister cities, student exchanges, etc. etc.

4. Start a natural history project and resource center in conjunction with the nature preserve.

5. Investigate and monitor sources of pollution in the area including mine, pulp mills, municipal dumps etc.

6. Monitor and attempt to reduce chemical control products in the area.

7. Investigate recycling prospects in the area.

8. Formulate and submit an education proposal to the local school board in response to their new educational initiative.

9. Establish a network of local contacts with various groups. (Wildlife, Watershed Protection, Disarmament etc.)

10. Try to find out more about a provincial parks proposal to establish new small high-use parks at the expense of wilderness areas which would be opened up for development.

Winter Report:

It's been an interesting winter and spring here. In December we held a special meeting and invited three officials from the Waste Management Branch of the B.C. Department of Environment, speak and answer questions. Concerns ranged from woodstove pollution to toxic wastes in municipal dumps. Our area is now the first in B.C. to be monitored for wood smoke levels and hopefully, with a little prodding we'll have some standards for woodstove manufacture someday soon. At that meeting the Waste Management people agreed to set up tours of the two major polluters in this area. In March, eight of our members received the Crestbrook Pulp mill and had a tour of their state of the art pollution control system. During high water periods in the Kootenay river they dump effluent directly into the river, during low water a little ways away and let it seep in. The government standards for their air discharge are five times lower than for mills near population centres (hardly anyone lives out here.) At the end of the month we'll be visiting the Coninco concentrator and fertilizer plant here in town. Coninco may be closing its operations here in the next 10 to 20 years and one of our jobs will be to make sure they clean up their mess.

In January we had the public meetings of the Wilderness Advisory Committee. We submitted both written and verbal briefs after considering a boycott. In our briefs we told them that wilderness was important, there should be more protected areas and the committee's terms of reference, makeup, and time frame were a sham. Our brief was endorsed by a whole bunch of local wildlife, trapper, nordic skiing, guide outfitter groups and we're having a meeting with all of them April 19th to maintain the solidarity of the W.A.C. catalysed.

We are continuing to maintain a representative on a joint committee that is monitoring the logging of a burnt section of our municipal watershed. A major forest fire last summer almost reached the town and the need to remove the dead but not badly burnt timber before it burns again meant logging would take place. They appear

to be trying to be careful but modern clear-cut logging is extremely messy at best and the City of Kimberley and Ministry of the Environment are sampling the water weekly.

With spring here and summer coming several of us have formed a committee to coordinate works in the Kimberley Wildlife Sanctuary. This is 3300 acres of forested land within the city limits that was recognized in an agreement between SPEC and Coninco in the 1970's and is now part of the Kimberley Master Plan. City Council recently gave our committee the go ahead to do some long range planning for the area and we are developing a trail guide, making and erecting trail signs and hopefully this summer will be developing a natural history program with a strong environmental protection slant to it that we'll run out of the city's campground. We've also applied for some Challenge 86 Federal Student Employment grants to clean up trails etc.

SPEC VANCOUVER ISLAND REPORT FOR 1985

On Vancouver Island there are some of us who continue to operate under the name of SPEC. The activities have been limited to Meares Island support and sponsoring a grant for research on renewable energy.

Five people worked for five months to produce a report called "Renewable Energy, the Potential for the Regional District of Nanaimo". The project formally ended early in September, but was actually finished by volunteers. It is 130 pages long, and covers all feasible energy sources, including the brand new ACDS process which may soon revolutionize ethanol production.

From this large information base a commercial venture is being planned, for energy consulting and insulation work. Now the acute state of the wilderness issue is prompting a renewed interest in organizing a group in Nanaimo, but we will have to see what develops.

The report (which applies to the whole Pacific Northwest) is available for \$10 or a membership. Please call or write for more information:
PO Box 132
Nanaimo B.C.
V9R 5K4
753-3070 Hendrick
753-5580 Jack

WEST VANCOUVER SPEC REPORT FOR 1985 PROJECTIONS FOR 1986

The West Vancouver Branch has continued to be active of the Municipal Task Force Committee. A resolution is going to Council setting the goal of a 30% reduction in the waste stream. One possibility is to tackle the organic component. Two students were hired last summer to make an inventory of the waste stream from representative commercial and industrial businesses and to look into the feasibility of Waste Exchange (they recommended more recycling). The task was too big for the number of man-hours funded and we were left with the job of analysing their findings and writing a report. Due to the dedicated efforts of Morris Carley, this has now been completed and copies of the report have been sent to the GVRD, provincial and Federal Departments of the Environment, RCBC, SPEC Central and a number of other bodies.

Two members are working on a four-color West Van Recycling Directory Card Insert to go in with the Tax Notices.

Other members have formed a committee to press for the banning of backyard burning of garden refuse and to come up with practical, acceptable alternatives.

Others are working on an entry for this year's parade. The theme in West Vancouver is Wheels and we will probably do a variant of Uni-cycle, Bi-cycle, Tri-cycle, Re-cycle.

For more information contact:
Ann Ferris: 921-7950
Dave Davies: 922-8089

HAPLE RIDGE SPEC REPORT FOR 1985

This branch has been relatively quiet through 1985, but is still alive and kicking. Recycling has been the major concern and there are plans afoot for 1986 Environmental Week to take a teaching kit to the schools in Haple Ridge regarding recycling and hazardous materials in the household. For more information contact Julie Cohen:
467-6280



The GVRD Waste Management Plan - the Solution to our Garbage Problems?

In November 1985 the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) approved a solid waste management plan for the Greater Vancouver Regional District. The approval was the culmination of six months' of intensive negotiations amongst a committee of mayors and aldermen after the release of the concept plan proposed in the Lower Mainland Refuse Project. What has been the reaction of the public interest groups to the November waste management plan? To be fair, the committee of mayors had a daunting task in reaching an agreement about the form of the plan. Each mayor had the interests of his own constituents to take into account as well as the welfare of the region as a whole. No one would want to risk one's political future by substantially increasing tax costs for refuse disposal or agreeing to one's municipality becoming the host for a waste disposal facility. However compromises had to be made. It is many of these compromises and the process through which the compromises were made that has been cause for public concern.

In essence a number of elements of the Lower Mainland Refuse Plan have been adopted into the new plan. The essential elements of the plan are: construction of an incinerator at the Belkin site on Annacis Island, continued use of Burns Bog, a Resource Recovery Plant on the closed Coquitlam Landfill Site, a recovery facility for office waste on Main Street, closure of the notorious Premier Landfill site for unconsolidated refuse but continued use of this site for baled refuse

until incinerator comes on stream, and increased recycling. Where are the problems?

1. Process

The public interest group had been consulted to the point of the Lower Mainland Refuse Project concept plan. Then public consultation lapses except for a local open house dealing with the Burnaby incinerator. The public interest groups were given no open forum to discuss and express their concerns about the new plan. There were certain elements in this new plan which were different; and if our government and municipalities subscribe to the notion of open public consultation, then a public forum about these differences would be necessary.

2. The Expansion to the Surrey Landfill

One of the compromises the municipalities made, to have access to Burns Bog - if only for incinerator residues - was to attempt to reduce their own wastes with-in the municipalities - a laudable strategy. The wastes of New Westminster, Surrey, Coquitlam and Burnaby are ultimately targeted for the Burnaby incinerator. However in the interim these wastes are to go to an expanded landfill at the Port Mann site in Surrey. Naturally Surrey residents, expressing concern about expanding the Port Mann site. Already the Municipality has been taken to court for allowing toxic leachates to escape from the site to the Fraser River. The Budget for upgrading the site has allegedly already been spent on upgrading the leachate control system. Surrey residents question the

need for the expansion per se and see an expanded landfill as becoming a permanent fixture: "The Eastern Landfill that the GVRD has always wanted" rather than a temporary measure.

3. The Burnaby Incinerator

While Burnaby council voted against doubling the capacity of the incinerator, the Mayor of Burnaby supported the doubling. (Citizen opposition in Burnaby to the expansion now seems to have waned.) Initially the public groups felt that a small pilot incinerator with the best emission controls be built. Here its actual performance under local conditions could be monitored. It was felt that keeping the incinerator small would minimize any problems. Perhaps expanded capacity may not create the problems projected but if it does, then the magnitude of these problems will increase. A public forum with incinerator and air quality experts might have helped to allay or confirm about the council concerns about the wisdom of expansion.

4. The Selection Process for the Recovery Plants

During the process of the Lower Mainland Refuse Project there was the opportunity to review costs and benefits of various incinerator systems. The decision of what type of recovery plant to use was made by the mayor's committee. The public was not given any opportunity to review the systems tendered for consideration not to suggest alternative systems. What assurances have we that the most cost effective and environmentally sound method has been chosen?

5. The Philosophy of the Plan

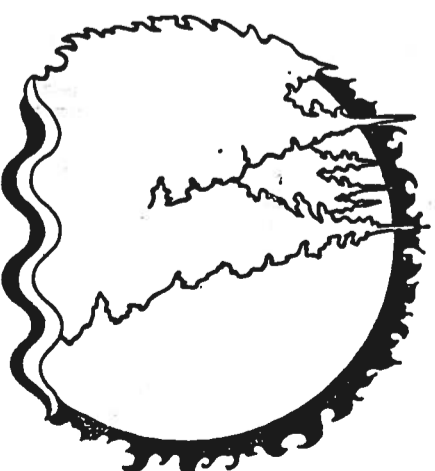
While the plan is to be commended for emphasizing waste reduction, resource recovery, and recycling, there still seems to be the desire to pursue landfill sites outside the region or in the eastern part of the region. Public interest groups maintain that if a recycling, waste reduction strategy was seriously pursued, then the need for an eastern landfill is questionable. The pursuit of landfills seems to indicate that the GVRD has not progressed in its approach to waste management.

6. Budget

Individuals researching the implications of the plan feel that its real costs especially those of environmental mitigation have been considerably understated. Such individuals feel that the real costs of the plan should be realistically stated to the public.

Public interest in refuse management issues appears to be at an all time low. Have we been worn out by the participation process? Or does it mean we are satisfied with the work of the GVRD?

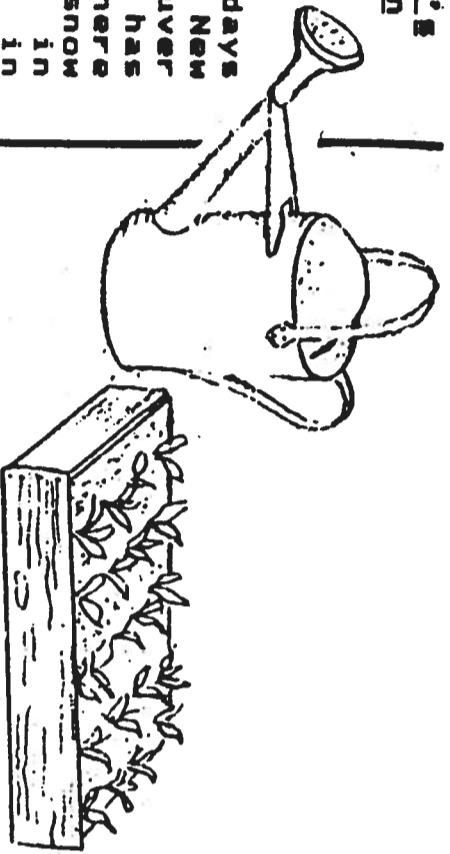
Evelyn Feller



Spring 1986 at Vancouver's Demonstration Food Garden

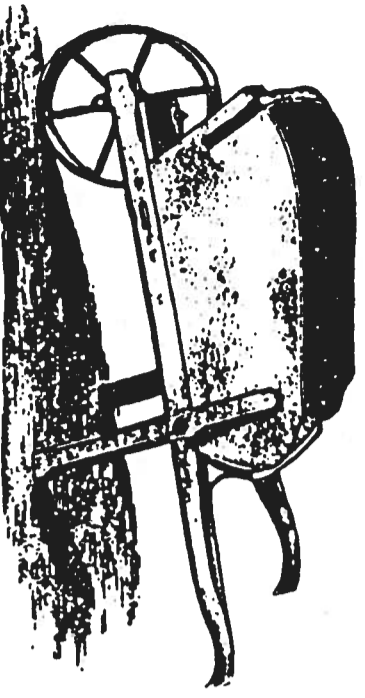
by Michael Levenston of City Farmer

A few, sunny, warm days coming any time after the New Year convince many Vancouver gardeners that spring has arrived. But spring here means the possibility of snow in February, light frost in March, and weeks of rain in April and May.



Regardless of these grey facts, head gardeners Catherine Shapiro and Chris Ferris began seeding lettuce inside the Demonstration Garden's solar greenhouse on February 5th this year. "Prizehead", "Bibb", and "Ruby" lettuce planted in soil-filled milk cartons officially opened the fifth season of research and education on urban agriculture at the Energy Centre.

On February 26th the gardeners dared to plant cold hardy Asian greens outside in the rich soil of their well-cultivated raised beds. "Wong Bak", "Pak Choi", "Nozaki Early", and mixed mustard were seeded and carefully covered with plastic to warm the soil. Once the seeds sprouted and broke through the earth, the plastic was raised by means of wire hoops to form cloches.



These were the beginnings of what became an orgy of planting. At this writing, now the third week in April, visitors will see a greenhouse full of hundreds of seedlings, and outside, raised beds dense with mature greens still protected by either plastic or Reemay, a spun-bonded polyester fabric.

Many of the lettuces and Asian greens are now ready to be harvested for both salads and stir fry, which proves that the wise Vancouver gardener who knows the correct horticultural techniques can get a real headstart on the rest of the country who won't be busy in their yards till May.

Every Wednesday of the year from 9am till noon the public is invited to come to the Demo-Garden, take part in the work under the direction of Catherine and Chris, and learn the simple yet effective methods of growing a good deal of nutritious food in small areas.

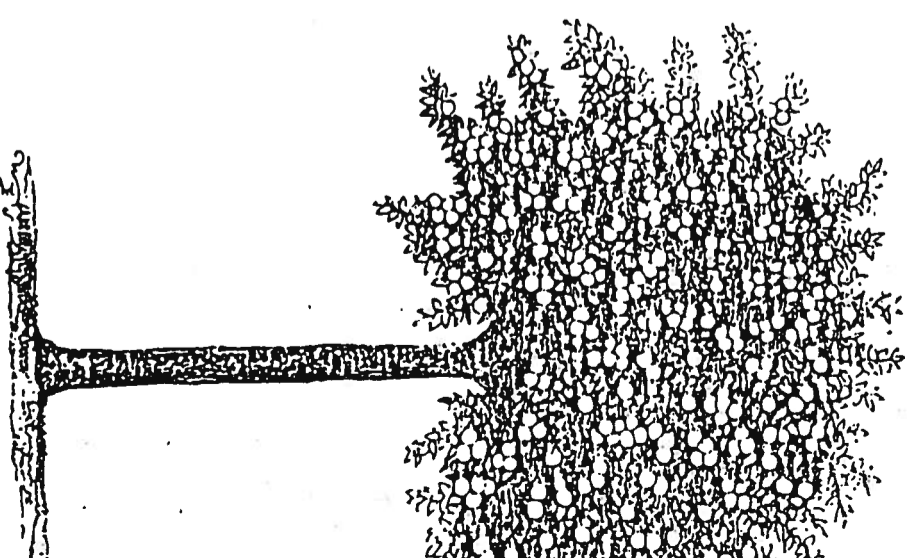
The garden's work reaches thousands of people via the attention given to it by the media. Also, research conducted at the garden is printed in various forms by the

garden staff. For example, in the January/February 1986 issue of Hargrow-Smith Catherine's appraisal of "Blondy" okra, a new variety, was reported. In the coming summer issue of Hargrow-Smith an article by this writer on Reemay, a valuable insect screen, and cloche used in the garden, will be printed.

Through 1986 a series of information sheets will be produced at the Demonstration Food Garden on such subjects as "winter gardening", "cloches" and "non-poisonous pest control". A generous donation from the Vancouver Foundation is contributing to this project.

If you think it's still too early to begin your garden, the following list of crops now growing at the Food Garden will tell you how wrong you are: Tomatoes—"Sprinter", "Early Girl", "Early Cascade", "Glacier", "Siberia", "Oregon 2", "Ropreco", "Kootenay",

"Tiny Master",	Tim",	Onion—"Ring Master",
"South Port Red Globe",	"Autumn Spice",	"Alaska",
"Slice",	Summer "Squash—"Crook Neck",	"Zucchini",
"Green Bell",	"Sure Fire",	Globe Artichoke, Strawberries,
Rhubarb,	Raspberries,	Cur-
berries,	Gooseberries,	Tay-
son",	Broccoli—"All Sea-	White Pearl",
Cauliflower—"Snow Giant",	Shallots,	Peas—"Rebrant",
"Sugar Anne",	Chives,	Pot-
atoes,	Radishes,	Garlic,
Beets—"Little Ball",	Red Orach,	Spinach—"Bloomsdale
Long Standing",	"King of Denmark",	"Melody",
"Butter Crunch",	"Salad Bowl",	"Red Sails",
Jersey Wakefield",	Parsley—"Italian",	"Curly",
"Curly",	"Mitsuba",	



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:Ruth MacDonald - Executive Director
:Kathleen Kulpus - Bookkeeper
:Ingrid Butters - Receptionist/Computer Operator

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:Julie Cohen - Maple Ridge SPEC
:Anne Ferris - West Vancouver SPEC
:Dave Davies - West Vancouver SPEC

Volunteers

:Chris Neilson
:Carole Neilson
:Mark Evans
:Cecile Helton
:Christine Monford
:Niko Kozobolidiz
:Angela Dodwel
:Louise Ward-Whate

FINAL NOTE

In one month, SPEC will have a new board of directors. We expect to see some new people and fresh ideas come on line. Please consider your own interest in sitting on the board, chairing a committee, or volunteering some hours. We are an organization of many faces and one aim: to promote a healthy environment for all living things...and though this is no easy task in today's world, we are moving towards our goal. Together, all concerned will make the journey.

If you are interested in getting more involved, attend the Annual General Meeting - May 31, 1986 - or give Cathy Fox, SPEC President a call at 942-8478

SPECIAL THANKS...

To Carol Fader, our fundraiser, who has decided to go on to other ventures: Thanks for all your good energy and enthusiasm.

To Niko Kozobolidiz, for organizing the SPEC Film Event at the Ridge Theatre - featuring "This Borrowed Land" and "Never Cry Wolf". With Niko's dedication we broke even and made a wee profit...next time we'll plan further ahead. And thanks too for your long hours of organizing Des Wilson's Vancouver Tour.

To the SPEC Depot cleanup crews and all who joined in: John and Cathy Fox, Susie Coulter, Gwen White, Valerie Hedben, Barb Allernburn, Lorenzo Bouchard, Chris Neilson, Christine Bergsaa, Loyd Henshaw, Emmie Wong Leung, Richard Bergan, Dim, Maria...there's probably more.

To Ed Witzke for being at the end of a phone line when we need him, for energy calls and broken furnaces.