



Newsletter of the
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Free

**SPEC
TURNS
30!!!**

PERSPECTIVE

By David Cadman, SPEC President



Thirty years ago some far-sighted people got together to form SPEC. They did so to address specific environmental concerns. At the time they didn't realize that by the end of the millenium environmental conservation would be the critical issue facing humanity. Nor could they foresee 500 environmental groups in British Columbia, 3000 across Canada and even more making up a global movement.

But this movement is different what has come before. Unlike civil rights, labour, and the women's movement that organized specific constituencies, the environmental movement is organizing on behalf of the natural world- water, air, land and nature. As environmentalists we are trying to change the way we live. The way we race for economic growth and only succeed in destroying the means for surviving as a species. Deep down we know we cannot consume and despoil the natural world at the rate we have since the end of the Second World War. We know the planet cannot absorb another 50 years of consumption by the industrialized countries; much less the pent up expectations of developing countries. We must use the new millenium as an opportunity to critically reflect upon the unsustainable road we are set upon and change to a sustainable path that measures life in qualitative rather than quantitative terms. Money means nothing if the ecosystem is collapsing.

The environment and its well being must become the prime concern for humanity. Each of us must take responsibility for modifying our individual and collective actions. The transition is not going to be easy. Nor will it be without disruption or dislocation. But the longer we put it off, the harsher will be the disruption and dislocation. The more difficult, painful and costly the change.

To move on this new path environmentalists need to build a movement that is non-partisan and universal as we can make it. We cannot allow the future of the planet to become the dividing line between political tendencies. We need to convert the broad public consensus around environmental concerns into a common project that engages the entire community and becomes the common and most pressing political agenda of candidate seeking office.

All people need pure, clean drinking water free of additives. We all need clean air to breath. And we all want the natural world with its wondrous biodiversity left in tact for future generations. Our consumption should produce a minimum of risk, damage and dislocation to the environment. We cannot allow the pursuit of profit to compromise the well being of the entire planet. To turn a phrase, "It's not just the economy stupid!" Without a healthy environment you can't have a healthy economy. Now there are only rising costs in coping with increasing cancer rates and other afflictions brought on by ozone depletion, industrial pollution, climate change and tinkering with the very fabric of life.

It is important to celebrate our accomplishments, reach out to new constituencies and chart new visions. SPEC has achieved a lot in 30 years, but the tasks ahead are pressing. As environmental devastation and disruption grow, this is no time for "I told you so." Now is the time to engage new energy and approaches in reshaping our society.

This is an opportunity for the hundreds and even thousands of activists who have supported SPEC over the past 30 years to renew your memberships. This is also the time to committ your support to SPEC by becoming a financial sustainer.

It is said no man is an island. But planet earth is; a living island floating through space and protected only by a thin skin of atmosphere. This fact must never be forgotten as we choose those paths that ensure that humanity, and all the species with whom we share planet Earth, survive to celebrate the next millenium. The choice is that stark. The time for decisive change is now.

David Cadman first worked on SPEC's 1976 Fraser River Coalition slide show. Former GVRD communications director, David is knowlegable on watersheds, urban land use and public transit issues. David is co-chair of the BCEN and chairperson of the CEN.

spectrum

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In the Beginning....

SPEC was born in the Coquitlam home and hearts of Gwen and Derrick Mallard.

By Derrick Mallard

In the 1960s my wife Gwen and I happily canoed many lakes and rivers in BC. Occasionally we went wilderness canoe camping, enjoying the beauty and serenity of wildlife and scenery. Traversing sections of the Fraser in the Lower Mainland, we were appalled by the sewage, industrial and agricultural wastes pouring into waterways. Locals were also appalled but felt powerless. We began to delve into these problems and read disturbing environmental reports published by the UN. The sum of our personal experience and our studies sparked us to action. In December 1968, we held meetings with concerned friends in our Coquitlam home. Besides Gwen and myself, Ralph Lundahl, Barney Hagel, Larry McConnell, John Stigant and Dr. Bert Turnbull of SFU attended. Except for John, most were from Coquitlam. And closely associated were Joy and Horst Nuemann of North Van. The outcome of the meetings was to set up an action oriented environmental organization. Our objectives were to make the community aware of environmental problems, investigate causes of the problems and get offenders and politicians to initiate remedies. People flocked to SPEC. Volunteers formed branches across BC. We pursued so many issues and answered so many calls for help, information and action that we were inundated. And the diversity of our projects and actions in those first years was astounding. Gwen and I remember all the volunteers with sincere gratitude. We had similar objectives though our approaches diverged, and that led to strong debates. The early years were hectic, the learning curves steep. SPEC made an impact on the community. Though some industry people and politicians didn't give us bouquets, SPEC became a force on what was at that time the front line of the environmental movement. In July 1972, we returned to Victoria and set up Citizens Action to Save the Environment Society. We look back on our SPEC years with pride. We drove ourselves hard and some had difficulty with the pace (hope they forgive us). It was needed to start what has become a movement.

"I was involved with Gwen and Derrek Mallard who were there at the beginning of SPEC. They are people who were very close to me. Their achievement was putting the environment on the political agenda of this province.

"SPEC has been very important and effective in shaping the political agenda over the last 30 years. The early involvement and support of SPEC for the Agricultural Land Reserve was very important for both our government and for the future of the people of this province at a time when few people understood what we were trying to do. SPEC understood the significance and importance of the land reserve which has proven to be one of the most significant pieces of legislation ever undertaken in BC.

"Today environmentalists need to make alliances on the basis of performance and not promises. The Greens in Germany are an example of activists who have learned the necessity of making alliances, though it took them 10 years to figure it out. Life is a compromise and environmentalists who are purists will never get anywhere if they don't grasp the significance of compromise."

Dave Barrett

SPEC's Roots

An early SPEC activist recalls people and Initiatives that changed BC and the environment

by Gary Gallon

SPEC was born in 1969 in the Coquitlam living room of Gwen and Derrick Mallard. They were a middle-aged couple, greying at the temples, neither radical nor hippy. They had a desire to protect BC from its first mega-strip coal mine and an Alaska supertanker route along the coast. It was a vibrant time with people awakening to environmental threats. Oil spills off California and Britain killed seabirds and shut down fisheries. Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, on pesticides struck a chord. So when Gwen and Derrick formed a new group in Vancouver, shoulder-length haired hippies in bell bottoms and silver haired retirees flocked to join.

While keeping its roots in the fight to stop strip-mining and tanker traffic, SPEC took on issues from pesticides and farmland preservation, to recycling and fighting nuclear power plants.

SPEC grew rapidly. Branches sprung up through the province and across the Prairies. At its zenith in 1972, SPEC had 43 branches and 35,000 members. The movement was a social phenomenon. Some predicted it was a fad like hoola hoops, go-go boots and mini skirts. But SPEC had deep roots that spawned other groups.

In the early 1970s SPEC helped form several organizations. Bob Hunter, Paul Watson and Jim Bohlen of the Don't Make a Wave Committee, back from a trip to stop US atomic tests in Alaska, created Greenpeace. I was on Greenpeace's board and their first office was in SPEC House on Fourth Ave. in Kitsilano. In 1973 SPEC helped create the West Coast Environmental Law Centre with a law student from Toronto, Anne Rounthwaite. We got a Local Incentives Program (LIP) grant to set up the first environmental law centre. Terry Chantler was our creative artist and did cartoons and posters.

At night he entertained us with his guitar and poetry. Ken Pattern coaxed our outdated mimeograph and printing press into action, while researcher Steve Boyce was a thin young man whose eyes blazed with commitment. Tom Thompson was a strategic genius. He translated our idealism into real gains.

Activists lived on an alphabet diet of LIPs, OFYs and UIC. SPEC raised money, but it went into printing and events. OFY paid about \$200 a month, LIP almost \$300. A dozen of us coordinated the efforts of 30,000 members. Scores of volunteers helped. Coquitlam SPEC's Marian Doucet countered chemical industry bafflelegab with incisive studies on DDT and other pesticides. Canada and the US eventually banned them. SPEC and other groups stopped a CANDU reactor from being built on Vancouver Island. The heroine in this fight was Lille d'Easum.

We helped stop a Third Crossing bridge- freeway to the North Shore by pasting stickers on stop signs so they read STOP Third Crossing. At night in Terry Chantler's VW Beetle, Ken Pattern and I would jump out and slap the stickers on stop signs and scramble back in for a fast getaway. When the NDP took power SPEC helped write the Land Commission Act to protect farmland. By the late 70s, SPEC branches were running 20 recycling depots that collected tons of paper, glass and metal. We cleaned up False Creek, put environmental workbooks into schools and got a moratorium on oil exploration. SPEC laid the foundation for a movement that has is still growing in energy and commitment.

After seven years with SPEC, Gary Gallon got a UN job in Nairobi in 1977. Later he was a policy advisor in Ontario's environment ministry. Today Gary runs the Canadian Institute for Business and the Environment.

First Initiatives

“You stick your neck out in this province, you get penalized!”

Christine Nicholl remembers being concerned about dustfall. “The petroleum refineries and actually all the refineries on Burrard Inlet exuded large quantities of soot,” recalls Nicholls. “I lived in North Burnaby and would sweep it off the porch. At that time it was cheaper for them to let it go into the air from the catalyts. So Gwen Mallard was organizing a protest. “ At the time, in the early 70s, I was teaching chemistry to people going to work for the pollution control branch and was giving technical advice to SPEC. But it was really tricky. I was between a rock and a hard place. Well you know, BCIT is not exactly distinguished for its degree of academic freedom. Its difficult to teach this stuff in a non-political way. I was cautious because I needed my job, but I got my wrists slapped - never got promotions. It was a chilly and hostile atmosphere. “I quit my BCIT job because of the hostile atmosphere but continued to work on contract. I nearly lost a contract when I went to a WC² demo at Fantasy Gardens over Meares Island. A woman there was screaming insults of a personal nature at VanderZalm and I shut her up because she made us all look like fools. So I challenged Vander Zalm with forestry figures that a friend fed me. While I was speaking some journalist had a video camera trained on me which he sold to a national news station. It must have been a low-news weekend because there I was on television. I got strange glances when I went into work Monday morning. If they could have hired another instructor in time I would have been out.

“As I was a technical advisor for SPEC, I got called about various campaign ideas. Once someone asked what I thought about banning DDT. I said it was a wonderful idea but really wasn’t practical! It was widely used, then. I was cautious because I couldn’t afford to lose my job. If you don’t have a job, you don’t have the technical contacts, either, and then your usefulness is limited.

“A the Howe Sound pulp mill they moved to using peroxide in an attempt to eradicate chlorine. But then the water treatment plant died. They hired me on contract and I set up a pilot project. I figured out the problem, provided them with a whole report and video but felt ambivalent about helping them. I mean, why should we help a pulp mill continue to be a pulpmill? But when I presented my conclusions and a way to fix the problem, they just said thank you very much, but were going back to using chlorine. I got a little bit of money out of it and they got a nice video so it wasn’t a total waste of time.

“I remember the first campaign to get rid of the refineries. Measurements of carbon monoxide were taken along Hastings Street. High levels indicated refineries were causing pollution. But when I analysed the readings, I discovered carbon monoxide was concentrated at stoplights. SPEC had a big meeting and Harry Rankin was there. When I suggested it was a traffic problem and that apartments shouldn’t be near intersections some people turned on me, outraged that I suggested it was a traffic problem.

“This new generation has a whole different level of scientific background. What the environmental movement has to focus on in the next century is the problem of the automobile. The trees will all die of pollution if we don’t deal with car numbers.”

Christine Nicholl lives in Victoria and still works on environmental issues.

Voice from the Hill

Dr. Alfred Turnbull got involved when a notice at Simon Fraser University was sent around protesting treatment of the environment. “I was the official spokesman of SPEC for a time in the late 1960s and early 70s,” said Turnbull. “We tried to win support among the general public for ecological issues. I guess we were successful because membership rose considerably. But we were thought of as a bunch of nuts. We were troublemakers trying to upset business and the economy. We weren’t considered too legitimate. The general public thought environmental concerns were trivial.

SPEC invited people interested in the general area of ecology to meetings, including Vancouver Sun columnist Bob Hunter. “Some said we were all talk and no action, and went on to form their own organization which was Greenpeace,” said Turnbull. “I thought of joining them for a time, but I thought they were kind of crazy. Awareness and attention has been greatly increased since our day. For example, at our time there was no such thing as environmental assessments or public reviews. I find that people who are enthusiastic aren’t necessarily well informed on the issues. You have to get substantial information, do

your research, or else you lose credibility. This requires dedication.”

For Turnbull SPEC meetings were a frustrating exercise. “I felt I was preaching to the converted, while no substantial policy changes were being made. I left SPEC because it was becoming very quarrelsome. It got nasty, and finally frustration took its hold.”

Dr. Alfred Turnbull is retired from a career teaching and researching biology at Simon Fraser University.

The Great Cross Canada Eco-Hike

Two SPEC activists carry oil spill message to Ottawa and Washington.

By Alice Coppard

Monday, May 3, 1971 dawned bright and sunny. Gwen and I were on the Grandview entrance to the Trans-Canada Highway prepared to hitch-hike across Canada. We were taking a 60,000 signature petition opposed to West Coast Alaska oil tanker traffic to Ottawa and Washington, DC. TV and press were waiting for us at the freeway where friends had gathered to see us off. When the photographing and interviewing ended and Gwen and I gathered our packs a pressman asked “Surely you’ve got a ride arranged?”

“No,” replied Gwen, “We’re hitch-hiking!”

The news people were astonished and kept taking pictures as a young mailman drew up in a Volkswagen van and offered Gwen and I our first ride. We were finally on the road. He let us off at Abbotsford and a short ride later we found ourselves by the Sardis freeway entrance. We were novices at this game. Gwen spotted a sleek blue car and raised her thumb, elated when it drew beside us. The elation was dispelled when an RCMP officer stepped out and politely, but firmly, told us we couldn’t hitch-hike on the freeway, though he recognized us as the oil petition hikers. Laboriously picking up our packs backed off the freeway to the on ramp where a van with three young men gave us a short ride. Before letting us off they showed us how to make signs and gave us advice on where to stand.

Feeling bolder we started walking by the freeway. Our packs were heavy and we stopped for nuts, raisins, honey, cheese and apples - our staple “road diet.” Maybe this energized us as almost at once a

truck stopped and Tom offered us a ride to Merritt. The miles and hours sped by in conversation. Tom regaled us with highlights of his fishing exploits and even his love life! He dropped us off at a lake by the road. It was 5:30 p.m. with the landscape stretching miles around us and not a sign of habitation. We were glad when a beat up pick-up pulled over with three young Native lads in front. We asked where the nearest place was.

“Quilchena,” they answered, “climb in back and we’ll take you.” Clambering over the side we discovered the truck was used to carry soil. Choosing strategic sites to sit we wrapped scarves around our heads and 10 wind-blown bumpety miles later were glad to reach Quilchena. It was a lovely evening as we sat by the road waiting for a ride to Kamloops. Eventually a car came along and a young couple greeted us. “We want to sign your petition, we saw you on TV!” They knew the president of SPEC’s Kamloops branch and drove us to his home where our first day on the road ended.

Early the next morning we were driven to the freeway and three lifts later made it to Salmon Arm. Finally a truck with a load of manure stopped. We hesitated but jumped in the cab and put our packs on the manure load. Joe the driver entertained us with his adventures and complicated love-life. We wondered what it was about us that elicited amorous confessions on such short acquaintance! We finally made it to Calgary where the press were waiting for us.

A few days later and on the freeway again. A short ride to Brooks and then on to Strathmore in a VW Bug. I was glad it was a short haul as I shared the backseat with a golf buggy, golf clubs and our packs! A ride in a truck that broke down with a driver who was narrow minded and suspicious, then a short hop to Medicine Hat in a luxury car with “Mr. Pomposity.”

“I just had to pick you up to find out what two women your age are doing on the road.” Then he subjected us to a tirade against hitch-hikers and people who “waste my tax dollars.” We were glad to part company with such an intolerant man. Standing by the road with our thumbs out, a car driven by a woman passed. The male passenger glared at us his face distorted with hate and shaking his fist! Maybe this area breeds men of this type. Luckily Olaf pulled his truck over when he saw our Regina sign and took us the whole way. Our first long haul. Olaf was excellent company. Gwen and I felt we repaid his kindness by letting him preach to us. Olaf was of the Pentecostal faith. He drove us to the Regina YWCA where we insisted he join us for a meal and gently steered conversation away from biblical redemption. In Regina we talked at a shopping centre meeting. One young newsman was concerned about our hitch-hiking across Northern Ontario. “It’s wild country with lots of bears.”

“Oh, that’s all right,” said Gwen. “We’ve got two pots of honey. If a bear attacks us Alice will give him hers, while I run and hide mine.” Still very serious, the young reporter advised us to stand close to any driver to see if we could detect alcohol before getting in. I wondered if he’d done any thumbing himself. We made Winnipeg a few days later and stayed with local Pollution Probe people. Setting out again it was very cold. I donned woolen long-johns, extra top, cardigan, gloves and hat. Packs slightly lighter we were hardly on the freeway when a car with three lively young French Canadians took us to Kenora, Ontario. It was well we didn’t have to wait long. It was so cold with occasional snow. And this was May! A few rides later we reached Thunder Bay, an uncomfortable hostel and a press interview.

The next day was very cold. Three young men in a van asked where we were going. We replied Sault Ste Marie - eventually Toronto. “That’s where we’re going! Climb aboard.” Hearing the experiences of these young voyagers was enjoyable. Not so the traveling. The weather was grim and a blizzard slowed us down. It got colder and colder. There was no heat and only ear penetrating rock and roll from a cassette player. Frozen and exhausted they dropped us off at the Toronto YMCA at 4:30 am. I went to a beauty salon and had my hair set and washed, ready for the day’s work. We went to Pollution

probe at Toronto University and made posters for a table at the youth market where a constant stream of people signed our petitions. The next day we got a ride to Ottawa and camped in the Pollution Probe offices at Carleton University. The plan was to hold a demonstration on the steps of Parliament and take the petitions to Minister Jack Davis. Unfortunately the box of 60,000 signatures was misplaced while sent by bus from Vancouver. By the time we tracked down the heavy box we postponed the Ottawa meeting and left for Washington, DC to keep our appointment with Interior Secretary Jack Horton. We took a single pack and the box of petitions on a bus. At the border guards scrutinized each page of the petition. We arrived in Washington in pouring rain. It was rather pleasant as the rain was warm, but we were soaked on arrival at the YWCA.

The next morning the Dept. of the Interior referred us to someone lower in the hierarchy. Gwen, however, was armed with a letter confirming Horton would see us and after a 3,558 mile journey we would not be put off. Eventually we got an hour with Mr. Horton. Maybe our idea that there should be a moratorium on oil tanker traffic made little impression on Jack Horton. His exposition on what little harm drilling and shipping oil would do to the environment did not impress us. At least we made our position clear and left with heads unbowed. We did see Washington; not just the glamorous part, but the slums. Little had been done to repair riot devastation following the death of Martin Luther King. All this ugliness and squalor within half a mile of the White House. The next days we spent humping the petition around Capitol Hill. We talked with Wisconsin representative Les Aspen and the assistants to Senators Musk and Gravel. They said if Canada took a strong position it would give them more leverage to stop Alaskan tanker traffic. We missed the bus back to Ottawa and rather than wait 10 hrs. for the next bus, decided to try our luck thumbing. Not sure if it was legal, we went to a police station. They were friendly and as we didn't look like hippies they felt state police wouldn't trouble us. One jovial policeman volunteered to make us a sign. On a piece of cardboard he outlined the names "Wateton" and "Ottwa" in bright orange felt pen. Thanking him I disappeared around a corner, turned the card over and printed "Watertown" and "Ottawa" in thick black felt.

Out on the highway we were drenched by pelting driving hail. It was a trifle as long as the heavy box of petitions remained dry and intact. A few rides later we made the border, the same crossing that we had trouble with. This time our driver Jack was the trouble. He bought a bottle of liquor but had been over less than 24 hours. Gwen signed his declaration allowing him to keep his duty free bottle. Another ride in a red Mustang and we got to Ottawa a three hours ahead of the bus. The next day's cold and bleak cancelled any demonstration. We contented ourselves with presenting the petitions to Jack Davis. I held the scroll while trying to smile for press cameras. Despite our care the petitions had gotten wet. We humped that box for the last time into Parliament and left them in Davis' office with a mingled sense of relief and loss. The box had been with us so long. Our target now was home. Having disposed of the petition, our literature and posting superfluous possessions home, we shouldered our lighter packs in true professional style and caught an early lift on the freeway west. There may be places in the world as horrible, but Sudbury stunned us. On our way across we went through at night. Now we saw what man's greed, wanton destructiveness, stupidity and lack of social morality could do. It looked as if there had been a volcanic eruption. Life was making an effort to grow under impossible conditions of belching smoke, dirt and stink.

We visited the Natal SPEC branch. Gwen was from the area and wanted to explore the mine. We wandered around where the settling pond had spilled horrid black sludge into the creek. One of our rides near Osooyos was with Lawrence who worked for the Dept. of Agriculture. His job was disposing unused pesticides. Gwen and I learned something of another facet of the pesticide problem.

In retrospect I feel our eco-hike made an impact. It made people think. This is good if followed by action. From a personal point of view I gained much. The camaraderie of the road was refreshing and we had good rapport with most of the people who gave us rides. I also sensed desperation to break the

vicious circle in which we are trapped. Some are breaking away and living a more fulfilling life in contact with Nature.

As Gwen and I travelled we realized that the scarring and ugliness was man-made - strip-mining, car graveyards, garbage and slums. There are buildings and monuments to man's achievements, but at what price? Destroying nature and depriving other human beings of food, water or shelter. Man must leave the environment unspoiled and uncontaminated. Science, technology, industry and each individual must take up the challenge.

Where is our social conscience? Is it dead? If it is then our civilization will die. We must bring it back to life and reality.

Gwen Mallard was 53 and Alice Coppard 64 when they made their trek. It took them 22 rides to get to Ottawa and 58 to get back. The trip cost a total of \$177. At 94, Alice is still active as honorary SPEC president.

Tweaking the Beast!!

Early SPEC Initiatives were marked by commitment and radical tactics.

During **Gary Culhane's** time with SPEC, the Initiatives were concentrated on mining and forestry. And the tactics were radically outrageous.

"The Utah mine on north Vancouver Island was a big issue," said Culhane.

"As a result of SPEC's campaign, environmental conditions were attached to their permit. Before that, if a mine wanted to set up everyone just said 'go ahead' because it would bring jobs to the community. Those environmental conditions paved the way for what became the environmental review process.

"When SPEC started lots of people wanted to get on board. At that time there were no environmental organizations in BC, except the Sierra Club (First Sierra Club in BC established nine months after SPEC, Ed.) but they were from the states.

Robin Harger popularized SPEC. A plain speaking scientist, he was a UBC ecology prof. when he was SPEC president. He later worked for UNESCO until he retired this year.

"The October Crisis had a big impact on SPEC. It was never the same after. The question was should SPEC take a stand? Some said "What does it have to do with the environment?" My position was if we didn't oppose the War Measures Act, how could we solve environmental problems? It was similar to MAI. It took away our choices. Such measures, if instituted, annihilate our ability to function and it's necessary to fight them. It's ludicrous to say they have nothing to do with the environment.

"I wanted to take a stand and the board passed a motion denouncing the War Measures Act. At the AGM, however, many from the Interior didn't agree. After that the radical "Ginger Group" left and moderates under the Mallards took over. Until then, Vancouver drove the agenda. But without a defining platform branches like Prince George pushed local issues. The whole thing kind of fell apart."

SPEC's goal were to legitimate ecological concerns and, according to Culhane, implement fundamental change. "You inevitably alienate people, but you have to choose. Standing alone is hopeless, but you have to risk losing support if it means compromising.

"Environmental work is hard. You have to get your facts straight. It takes a unique individual willing

to work hard and take risks. When you do something you have to do it with maximum force. The best example of was SPEC's forestry campaign; the first time anyone took on big forest companies.

"In 1970 Robin Harger and I gained enough credibility with all three forest unions the IWA, PPWC, and CPU - that they gave us access to their membership. We got affidavits from workers about conditions and environmental practices in the mills. We got unions to take on environmental issues by instituting environmental committees.

"An effective SPEC action was a dinosaur poster aimed at Mac& Blo which discredited the forest industry by depicting them as clear-cutting dinosaurs. The Sun wouldn't print it, but the Georgia Straight printed it for free. The action was effective. We sent it to SPEC branches around the province.

"We clowned around and rented 17th century costumes, got a real horse and staged an action on the courthouse steps. We charged Mac&Blo with the crime of polluting. It got us three minutes on national TV and Mac& Blo raged and threatened legal action. But they didn't sue. Our strategy was to appear crazy, but the whole thing had a solid foundation. The moderates disassociated themselves from us, but when they saw success they wanted to be part of the action group.

"In 1972 we did an action at a COFI conference at the posh Bayshore Inn hotel. We staged an Easter egg hunt with a giant egg. We broke the egg and inside was a baby pulp mill which we toured through the meeting as Sacred minister Phil Gagliardi was making a speech. We had people outside in vans who addressed the media and we were gone by the time the police got there. No charges were ever laid."

Gary Culhane, son of long-time social justice activist and prisoners' rights reformer Claire Culhane, lives and works in Vancouver as a labour lawyer.

Thinking Locally

Terry Slack joined SPEC during the struggle to save the University Endowment Lands in 1973. Slack was a member of the Point Grey SPEC branch and worked to stop development of the UEL west of Camosun Street.

"I carved the first SPEC sign out of a driftwood log and it was used at the office at East Sixth Avenue. At the time it was the first natural wood sign made from beach driftwood and very appropriate to our organization's ecological aspirations. As the chairman of Point Grey SPEC I was asked to make signage for both SPEC Central's Vancouver office and the 'Save the Skagit Valley' campaign.

"SPEC was one of the first environmental groups to get involved in neighborhoods and local communities. Today SPEC needs to re-establish itself as an umbrella organization and re-instate satellite groups in neighborhoods though out the city."

Terry Slack is a commercial fisher active with the Dunbar Residents Association and with the Fraser River Coalition.

Lifelong Lessons

Tom Thompson worked at SPEC between 1973 and 1976. He was 26 at the time and had just moved west from Toronto where he had been in the insurance business. A meeting with SPEC researcher Steve Boyce introduced Thompson to environmental activism and to SPEC. “We had a complex split structure where Steve was executive director and I was executive secretary,” recalls Thompson. “My job was coordinating projects. The issues we were involved with included the Agricultural Land Commission Act and stream bank protection. SPEC was on side with Dave Barrett’s on those issues.

“By the time I got to SPEC, Greenpeace was in the press and doing demos. SPEC tried to come in behind them with a reasoned approach. Greenpeace members were also members of SPEC. They hit the streets while we wrote reports and lobbied. The environment was a hot issue for the new NDP regime.

“The NDP were pretty green. I remember even working with Mac&Blo. At that time there were people at Mac&Blo who were trying to make changes. I know they say the same now, but they’re a bit late. Unfortunately Mac&Blo people who were open to change didn’t prevail. There were also IWA guys in SPEC, so we worked through the unions.

“We had some excellent branches. The Vernon branch worked on a sewage and agricultural land initiative. It was a very innovative project that has really taken off. SPEC was the action group, though at times I thought it was turning into a debating society, but we all worked long hours. The important thing was that people learned to organize. That’s the reason I’m supportive of groups SPEC. They provide opportunities for young people to get experience. In the 1970s we had LIP grants, LEAP, UIC; we used whatever programs we could.”

In 1976 Thompson got a job at BC Hydro. “They were dealing with environmental problems and opposition to projects. Local people were saying no to Hydro. They hadn’t faced opposition before. So I was hired to work on an environmental group for six months. Seventeen years later I was senior vice president still responsible for the environmental working group.

“My experience with SPEC influences the way I do things today. At ICBC we hired 170 young people this year to do road safety. That’s straight out what we did at SPEC. I enjoyed my time at SPEC. It was a positive experience that changed my life’s direction.”

Tom Thompson is Chief Executive Officer of the Insurance Corporation of BC.

No nukes is good nukes!

interview by Heather Mahony

Early SPECtre **David Garrick** was at the forefront of perhaps one of the most significant and precedent setting Initiatives for environmental protection in the 1970s. His diligent activism in coordinating community groups from all over the province pressured the provincial government to hold a Royal Commission into uranium mining, milling and exploration. The result was the expulsion of uranium companies from B.C. and spin offs in other jurisdictions where uranium mining was also completely banned. Throughout the last three decades, David Garrick has worked tirelessly on environmental and native justice issues. His trip to Wounded Knee, South Dakota during the 1973 occupation solidified his conviction and his life's work.

“After that experience I saw that my life would be involved in native justice issues as they pertain to ecology,” Garrick said. That belief has persisted to David's life today on Hansen Island where he researches culturally modified trees.

David's association with SPEC began when Greenpeace was working out of SPEC 's Fourth Ave. offices in 1975 and '76.

“Greenpeace was trying to discover itself while working out of the SPEC office. We were a grassroots organization of hippies who thought up weird schemes like finding the Russian whaling fleet and sitting in front of harpoons in a zodiac. That was an affirming process, because when Greenpeace actually pulled this off, people said we can dream up anything and act on it.”

In the 1970s David looked at energy policies and how developments in response to the energy crisis of 1973 were affecting Native People. “City dwellers had no idea what was going on and believed the propaganda that we need independence from the Arabs. So to make changes in North America required going into the countryside to mega projects; cataloguing, describing and dealing with them.”

David's connections with South Dakota, which was undergoing uranium exploration, led to “cross-pollination of experience” with Wounded Knee. When Uranium companies came to B.C. in 1977 and '78, David was able to frame the issue within an international context. As uranium was heating us as a BC issue, Garrick ran into political trouble at Greenpeace with Patrick Moore. Garrick resigned having prepared the groundwork for Greenpeace's nuclear Initiatives.

Meanwhile uranium companies undertook a systematic reconnaissance of BC. “Within a number of months,” David said, “40 properties across the province were identified as having mine potential.” David approached SPEC's Cliff Stainsby and Cathy Fox about a uranium campaign. SPEC agreed. David became SPEC's uranium campaign coordinator in the fall of 1977. He wrote a 100-page fact sheet and called a meeting of people experienced in nuclear issues. They decided to push for a Royal Commission on uranium mining and exploration in the province.

Two main uranium sites were at Beavertell near Rock Creek on the Kettle River, the other was at Clearwater. There were also other sites, some in the weirdest places.

There is a deposit on Quadra Island where the ore is so hot you need a robot to handle it. It's 30 per cent metallic uranium.

“BC was at a crossroads in the development of uranium as a strategic resource. Until the mid 1970s, uranium was taken from lands which were remote; often native lands. Where nobody is affected except First Nations, nobody knew about it. And that was the case with uranium development everywhere. A lot of Navajo uranium miners were dying from cancers. In Australia it was the same

thing. But nobody put it all together. BC development plans brought uranium companies into the back yards of non-native communities for the first time. So this was a chance to not only bring this into the political forefront.”

A working group, including SPEC, the Sierra Club, the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, and the Telkwa Foundation, held meetings in affected communities all over the province. Residents in targeted areas “began to take things personally” and set up their own local organizations. Unions, teachers, the B.C. Medical Association, and West Coast Environmental Law got involved. “As it turned out, I was pretty much coordinating the whole thing, making sure it happened,” said David. “We had a broad coalition of people coming from so many different levels, we could mount a coordinated campaign that involved everything from civil disobedience, to street theater, with everything in between. We had volunteers going into parties where the mother of the Premier was serving tea and talking to people about uranium mining in their back yard and getting the Premier’s mum on board. We had people standing outside of churches giving out buttons.”

Eventually the Government gave in to public pressure and held a Royal Commission. The working group, including SPEC, made sure that certain conditions were met. “We threatened to boycott if the mandate and so on were not correct.”

In the end a Royal Commission headed by UBC Prof. of Medicine Dr. David Bates was set up to cover the entire issue. A key concern was that Bates deal with not only mining, but also milling and exploration. Another concern was that funds be available for intervention by technical experts and lay people. “We wanted the widows of uranium miners in Navajo country to be recognized as lay experts and we forced the Government to go along with it.” In the end \$260,000 was made available for intervenors.

The Environmental Alliance Against Uranium Mining (EAAUM), including SPEC, the Sierra Club, The Federation of B.C. Naturalists, the Telkwa Foundation, and Greenpeace, was set up to intervene at the Commission. EAAUM’s office in the Dominion Building on Hastings St. across from Victory Square was home to groups when they were in Vancouver. “We set up a base where everybody could use phones and fax machines. It worked well. We coordinated the groups and brought in experts. The next step was to coordinate everyone who got intervenor funds so we wouldn’t duplicate spending. It was tempting to pay myself a salary, but had I done so other groups would want paid coordinators. So I thought we’ll run this thing and take no money. All funds were spent on the issue.”

“It was a public issue,” said David. “The effort of community groups from around the province simply overwhelmed the Commission. And we didn’t stop here. When the Commissioners went to examine the industry in Australia, someone inside the Commission office slipped me their itinerary. I got that to anti-nuke groups in Australia and the Commission was met at the airport by Aboriginals talking about death in their families.”

The level of public support was matched by the degree of information presented during the hearings. “There were technical hearings and community hearings. The technical phase was broken into sections. The biggest, the environmental section, never got underway. We were so successful in the original phases in cross examining government and company witnesses that they couldn’t convince anybody it was safe to develop uranium at Clearwater and Beaverdell. One of our witnesses, a tailings expert, took the plans they had for the tailings facility and showed it would leach through.

“Meanwhile all these serendipitous events seemed to fall into place. The largest tailing dam in the United States collapsed, spewing radioactive tailings. It was like - thank you!!! And then there was a collapse in northern Saskatchewan. So the companies tried to outspend us and the government tried to slough us off. But it didn’t work out. In the end public opposition forced Premier Bill Bennett to give in. “The Commission was getting too much

information obviously going against the companies. The government decided rather than waste another million dollars finishing the inquiry, to simply declare a moratorium on uranium development before the environmental phase had begun. So we never presented all the information on the environment. It is too bad. I was peeved, but in another sense, we were ecstatic. The seven year moratorium has since expired, but no uranium company is ever going to come into BC.”

In the same year as the 1979 Royal Commission, a Black Hill Survival Gathering was hosted by the Sioux people near Wounded Knee. David attended with 80 other BC activists.

“It was an incredible forum that drew activists from around the world. We held uranium workshops at the Black Hills with people from Spain, Scotland, Australia and Saskatchewan.”

The significance of the Bates Commission was to bring uranium out of the closet,” said David. “It was considered such a strategic military resource found only in remote areas that nobody knew about it. Once ordinary people found uranium crews staking out their back yards, this groundswell of opposition began to look serious. The record around the planet, the death of miners in Elliot Lake, Ont. and New Mexico was out there. It became a health and environment issue. “The spin-off was great. Uranium mining was banned in Labrador, Vermont, New Jersey and Spain. It was rolled back in Australia and never

happened in South Dakota. We had a tremendous impact on the planet. The uranium working groups became the B.C. Energy Coalition which from 1979 to 1981 were able to mop up the energy issues in BC.” “SPEC was punished as a result of the uranium campaign,” says David. “All the money dried up. We lost our grants. During the Royal Commission there were about a dozen people at SPEC getting \$600 bucks a month. It paid rent and food. Even that dried up after the Commission.

“It would be good if SPEC did an analysis of energy and nuclear issues in B.C. It would determine how much average people benefit from not having built the reactors planned for Vancouver Island. I don’t know how much the average citizen has saved in taxes, but I’m sure it’s close to \$1000 a year per person. Environmentalists were blamed at the time for fighting those projects. But look at people in Ontario. They’re still paying for their reactors. Aside from looking at the environmental degradation, the economics make no sense.”

In early 1979 David Garrick was sentenced to 45 days in a Washington State jail for protesting US Navy Trident nuclear submarines at Bangor, Wash. SPEC is still campaigning to stop those same subs from testing weapons at Nanoose Bay, north of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island.

Chalk One Up in the Win Column

From stopping nuclear reactors on Vancouver Island to banning the bomb, SPEC's 30-year-long nuke campaign is paying off.

by **Norman Abbey**

Lille d'Easum almost single-handedly educated a whole generation of activists about nuclear issues as a SPEC campaigner before her death in 1980. She is remembered today in SPEC's Lille d'Easum Memorial Library, but her work set the pattern for efforts to stop nuclear energy and weapons use.



In 1994 SPEC president Paul Hundal was concerned that nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed US Navy attack submarines regularly pass Vancouver on their way to test weapons at Nanoose Bay north of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. Hundal asked Premier Mike Harcourt for "...an Environmental Review of the risks associated with allowing these mobile nuclear reactors to travel so close to our population."

That demand was repeated in 1997 by current SPEC president David Cadman who told Premier Glen Clark that "SPEC believes a Federal Court challenge by the Nanoose Conversion Campaign of toxic dumping by the US Navy at Nanoose Bay deserves your attention and support."

SPEC has worked closely with the Nanoose Conversion Campaign which took federal Environment Minister Sergio Marchi to court for exempting US warships from Canadian environment regulations that prohibit ocean dumping of toxic substances. The US Navy has been testing torpedoes and other weapons at the Nanoose underwater test range for the past 25 years. In the process they have dumped tons of lead, copper, lithium and other toxic materials into Georgia Strait.

Sierra Legal Defense Fund (SLDF) lawyer Jane Luke told a Federal Court judge in Vancouver on Nov. 06, 1997, that Marchi's exemption of US Navy vessels from Canadian law violates both the spirit and intent of a Parliamentary statute. Luke pointed out that illegal dumping is a criminal offense and Canadians face heavy penalties for dumping lead and other toxics. The judge, however, thought that the minister has the discretion to exempt US warships from Canadian law and is allowing the dumping to go on. SLDF is appealing the decision.

On Feb. 26, 1998, SPEC nuclear campaigner Norman Abbey flew to Ottawa where he appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (SCFAIT). The committee which includes NDP Svend Robinson, Liberal Ted McWhinney and Conservative senator Doug Roche, was directed to review Canada's nuclear policy in light of a 1996 World Court ruling that the threat of nuclear weapons is contrary to international law.

Explaining that US Navy operations at Nanoose are "part and parcel of that threat", Abbey argued that U.S. policy includes the right to use nuclear weapons. Abbey explained that Canada is the only country that still lets US nuclear subs regularly test weapons. Japan, Britain, the Philippines, Italy and Spain have cancelled similar deals that used to see US nukes in their waters. Abbey asked the committee to cancel the Canada-US Nanoose Agreement that allows US ships to test torpedoes in BC.

Abbey also asked the SCFAIT to scrap Prime Minister Chretien's scheme to import surplus weapons plutonium from the US and Russia and burn it in Ontario's problem ridden Candu reactors.

On Dec. 10, 1998, the SCFAIT released a report that supported SPEC's position. The committee

recommended scrapping Chretien's "totally unfeasible" plutonium experiment. More significantly, it is urging Canada to "argue forcefully within NATO that the present reliance upon nuclear weapons must be re-examined and updated." Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy has already indicated Canada will raise the matter at this Spring's NATO summit in Brussels. If Axworthy follows through on the SCFAIT report, it would be a significant step towards victory in the 40-year-long campaign to "Ban the Bomb." It would also ally Canada with Germany's radical new Green foreign minister Joseph Fischer who will be pushing for the abolition of all nuclear weapons at Brussels. The down side of these historic events is that Lillie d'Easum is not alive to see her effort and commitment achieving results. In the environmental movement it can take decades to make changes. It is all too easy to feel negative and assume nothing can be done. Lillie never gave up. Nor did she doubt the truth of her convictions. Her life and work is proof that change, real change, is possible.

Norman Abbey is SPEC's nuclear issues campaigner. He is also a director of the Nanoose Conversion Campaign. In 1993 Norm and his 83-year-old mother Irene Abbey were arrested at Clayoquot Sound.

Picking Up the Pieces

First SPEC branch was set up by concerned neighbours in West Van. They also established first recycling depot.

by Ann Ferries

Eagle Harbour beach was closed by high coliform counts in July of 1969. Hamish McIntyre, who lived nearby, gathered a small group to see what could be done. At that time Neil Armstrong was taking his first steps on the moon and some of the group grumbled they'd prefer being home watching it on TV. Those images from space of the earth, so small, so vulnerable and precious, caught our collective consciousness. We kept meeting and learning the facts about pollution. What could we do? What should we do? We heard of a new organization being started and invited Liberal MP Jack Davis to a packed meeting in West Van. We elected an executive and called ourselves the West Vancouver branch of SPEC.

It seemed that many of our problems were not caused maliciously. Quite the contrary, they were due to not thinking of the ramifications of our actions. To get people to appreciate the consequences of their consumption choices, we started a monthly Recycling Day for news papers, glass and cans. We naively thought the municipality would see the benefits and in a few months would initiate door-to-door recycling. Well, it was more like 23 years before it eventually happened. Another disillusionment was learning many people simply did not "think it through." They felt virtuous bringing us unsorted muddles but became indignant when asked to separate it into proper piles. Yet more education was needed.

We took part in May Day Parades, distributed flyers, put posters on buses, protested BC Rail spraying, and staffed displays in shopping malls. It was fun coming up with ideas on how to reach people. And by acting in a positive manner we staved off despair.

Ann Ferries has been West Van SPEC treasurer since 1969. In 1996 Ann took over SPEC's finances as well.

Birth of the Bottle Bill

by Helen Spiegelman

In the early 1960s, beverage companies introduced the revolutionary new concept of convenient "no deposit-no return" bottles. By the mid-sixties there was a growing backlash against the disposable bottle because of the proliferation of roadside litter. The governments of Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta and at least three US states were "seriously considering" bans on disposable glass bottles. In 1970 British Columbia's Social Credit government became the first to pass a law to deal with this litter problem. The solution was not to ban disposable bottles and cans, but instead to require stores to take back empty containers and provide a cash refund. Our pioneering deposit-refund program was born— as part of the B.C. Litter Act.

The political backing for this strong legislation came from the B.C. Federation of Agriculture, the B.C. Wildlife Federation and the B.C. Nature Council. Not from the newly formed "Scientific Pollution and Environmental Control Society." SPEC founder Derek Mallard was dismissive of the new legislation in comments quoted in both the Vancouver Sun and Province (May 25, 1970). Mallard felt that the deposit-return system was "one minute step forward;" no more than "a drop in the bucket." Mallard wanted to see the government go after the big polluters like the wood and paper industries that had created a "paper bag culture" by marketing brown paper grocery sacks. Mallard suggested that litter laws only scratch the surface of the much larger problems in our disposable society. Meanwhile, SPEC chapters all over the province were providing volunteer-run community recycling programs for newspapers as well as bottles and cans.

It is a curious irony of history that a generation later, the soft drink industry would use Mallard's same reasoning to argue against the deposit system, and to push for expanded taxpayer-funded community recycling as the "comprehensive" solution for disposable products and packaging. SPEC by that time was lobbying for expanded deposits. Social Credit Minister Ken Kiernan who brought in the deposit law would be proven right when he claimed that the B.C. Litter Act represented a "new philosophy" in approaching environmental problems. For all its shortcomings, and they were many, the pioneering B.C. Litter Act established the historic "polluter pays principle" as B.C. policy and created an economic instrument that would drive not only 80 per cent recycling rates, but also package redesign for easier recycling.

Even though pop and beer cans are just "a drop in the bucket", the principle of producer responsibility was established. Like a genie in a bottle, it was ready to be released and applied to other throw-away products. It took a generation, but starting in 1992 B.C.'s landmark product stewardship programs (for paint and household hazardous products) carried the work forward. We are systematically shifting the burden of waste management where it belongs – on producers of products that end up as waste.

This year we also saw the long-awaited expansion of deposit-return to include all beverages but milk. Like the original legislation, this update faced pressure from industry and awkward last-minute compromises.

In 1970 the government bowed to pressure from three companies who sold beer or pop in cans and claimed they'd be ruined by the new mandate. They got an exemption (which in fact was rescinded before the law came into effect). This year, a coalition of juice producers put the screws on the government. One of its members, SunRype, threatened SPEC with a SLAPP suit for publicizing their hardball eleventh-hour lobby campaign. They got a one-year extension for deposits on "drink boxes", which must now be returnable, recyclable – or banned on Oct. 1, 1999.

SPEC's goal for 1999 is to lead a nation-wide campaign for recycled content in certain plastic containers, which would create stable markets for the milk jugs you put in your blue box – as well as water jugs you return for refunds. Stay tuned. . .

Helen Spiegelman is a director of SPEC and chairs the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee. She was involved in setting up the BC Recycling Council and is no stranger to corridors of power in Victoria.

SkyTrain Extension Bad Deal for Transit and Environment

by Deming Smith

The SPEC Transportation/Air Quality/Land Use Committee is involved in the campaign to halt the provincial government plans to “fast track” construction of a new SkyTrain extension from New Westminster along the Broadway Corridor to Glen-Clark Dr. in East Vancouver. SPEC's opposition is based on several factors; chief being our belief that better bus services are needed and should be the first transit spending priority. Buses are the backbone of the transit network and account for 85 percent of all trips. Building an extension to SkyTrain without providing badly needed new buses is a bad decision.

Other aspects of this project are also troublesome. Premier Glen Clark's unilateral decision to counter previous studies and opt for SkyTrain rather than follow established plans for a cost-effective and attractive street-level light rapid transit (LRT) system, is of grave concern to public transit advocates. The decision on SkyTrain technology was, amazingly, made without calls for proposals from other providers of rapid transit technologies. The public now risks being left with a SkyTrain system that will cost close to \$3 billion, rather than the \$1.5 billion estimated to build conventional LRT. Clark's decision caught everyone by surprise; including BC Transit and GVRD staff as well as affected municipalities.

As a result transit planners doubt whether the new Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority (GVTA) can deliver other promised (and overdue) transit improvements. Greater Vancouver transit users could be left with an over-priced and underutilized new SkyTrain extension, but with even worse bus services than we currently endure. The outcome could be an under-funded bus service no longer able to compete with the comfort and convenience of driving a car. Users may find the transit experience so frustrating and unreliable that many will choose to drive rather than endure transit hassles.

It is true SkyTrain is fast, effective and relatively pleasant - if it happens to serve your destination. The trouble is for most transit users, SkyTrain doesn't take them where they want to go. A more viable solution for improving services is the addition of more buses. Every transportation study in the last 10 years agrees that adding buses should be the highest transit spending priority. This is not to say that the addition of any rapid transit line would be an inappropriate expenditure of transit dollars. But rapid transit should come only after bus services are increased. This is the plan agreed to by Victoria and the GVRD - and they should stick to it.

The existing SkyTrain has caused a severe and negative impact on Transit's ability to place adequate numbers of buses on the road. When SkyTrain went into service 12 years ago, buses were curbed to

accommodate new SkyTrain stations. In some areas bus service still hasn't reached previous levels because Transit has such high SkyTrain debt costs that little is left for other transit needs.

BC Transit's 1996/97 budget was approximately \$527 million. Of this a staggering 36 per cent - \$192 million - went to SkyTrain debt service charges. SkyTrain's excessive debt load means transit operating costs have increased dramatically over the past decade, thus making the addition of new buses that much harder. Consequently, Greater Vancouver now has fewer buses per capita of any major Canadian city. It is easier to catch a bus in Calgary, Montreal, Ottawa, Edmonton, Toronto or even Mississauga, Ont. than in the Lower Mainland. This isn't much of a surprise to long-suffering transit users. The fact remains buses are the most important component of any transit system. They are cheaper and more efficient to operate than the expensive SkyTrain.

The problem is Victoria is not building SkyTrain for transit purposes, perse. Rather, they are hoping that the \$1.2 billion they pour into this project over the next 2 years will serve as a job-creation tool, which presumably would also help to stimulate the region's economy. While job creation may be a laudable objective, we feel strongly that meeting this objective should not come at the risk of bankrupting the region's transit system. Decisions regarding investments in public transit should be based on what's needed to build the best transit system we can build – rather than decision-making based on other objectives and agendas. Maintaining a strong and healthy transit system is too important to this region's social and environmental well-being to be put at risk by another costly and ill-timed SkyTrain project.

SPEC is urging Lower Mainland residents to contact their provincial MLAs, municipal councilors and members of the GVTA Board of Directors to express their concerns about this project. Ask them what they are doing to protect and promote the health and viability of regional transit. If they care about transit, they shouldn't be supporting this new SkyTrain boondoggle.

Since arriving in Vancouver from Southern California in 1990, Deming Smith has studied transportation and land use issues for SPEC. Deming has been a SPEC director since 1991 and is currently Chair of the Transportation, Air Quality and Land Use Committee, and sits as SPEC's representative on the GVRD's Lower Fraser Valley Air Quality Advisory Committee.

After the June announcement of a new SkyTrain extension, Deming was instrumental in organizing a coalition of groups including BEST, Sierra Legal Defence Fund, West Coast Environmental Law and Transport 2000 which became known as the "Coalition for SkyTrain Review."

The Coalition held meetings with Finance Minister Joy MacPhail and others, and was successful in persuading the provincial government to reverse a previous decision to bypass the B.C. Environmental Assessment Act. A Special Commission on SkyTrain Review, headed by Derek Thompson, was subsequently established to conduct a public environmental review of the proposed SkyTrain extension project. Deming is currently acting as coordinator for the Coalition for SkyTrain Review.

One Year After: Post Kyoto Politics of Climate Change

by Ivan Bulic

One year ago, 120 world leaders descended on Kyoto, Japan determined to do more than just talk about the weather, they were going to change it. A legion of reporters went along and put climate change on the front pages world-wide. For a short time, global warming was on the top of the political agenda. When many of those same leaders assembled in Buenos Aires this November for the Fourth UN Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention, the story was buried on the back pages or in the business section with some petroleum producer predicting economic doom if oil production stops growing. So what happened since Kyoto?



Scientists are compiling more evidence of global warming. 1998 will go on record as the warmest year in history. And the most destructive weather event experienced in Canada - the Eastern Ice Storm - occurred this year. More convincingly, the conservative Munich Re corporation, the world's largest insurer, puts 1998's weather related losses at a staggering \$130 billion. That includes Hurricane Mitch which killed 10,000 in Central America and caused \$6 billion damage. This year's losses dwarf 1996's record \$98 billion. Insurance companies don't need convincing that humans are tampering with the climate.

"More and more there's a human fingerprint in natural disasters in that we're making them more frequent and more intense and we're also making them more destructive," says Seth Dunn, Munich Re's climate researcher. "When hillsides are clearcut, rainfall will rush across the land or into rivers without being slowed by trees and allowed to be absorbed by the soil or evaporate into the atmosphere. This leads to floods and landslides strong enough to wipe out roads, farms and fisheries."

In BC the largest source of greenhouse gases that are warming the climate come from the exhaust pipes of millions of cars. The Lower Mainland's car population is growing faster than people. And despite a 1995 BC government commitment to cut emissions below 1990 levels, emissions continue to rise about 20 per cent a year. And across Canada emissions are still rising, despite Prime Minister Jean Chretien's Kyoto commitment to cut emissions to six per cent below 1990 levels by 2008. The problem isn't that Chretien doesn't know the latest science or hasn't seen the insurance numbers. The problem is political.

David Manning, head of the Canadian Petroleum Producers, says if Ottawa keeps its Kyoto pledge it will "wreak havoc on the economies of Alberta and the other energy producing provinces." He adds that "potential actions would likely have to include a doubling of consumption taxes on fuels as well as limiting families to no more than one small, energy efficient vehicle."

Ralph Klein is blunter. "It (complying with Kyoto) would have devastating consequences for Alberta. There is no deal as far as I'm concerned." And BC is following Klein's lead.

"With provinces like BC that are still undergoing considerable economic growth, there has to be differentiation," said Environment Minister Cathy McGregor. For McGregor differentiation means variable levels that let BC and Western fossil fuel provinces increase emissions while other provinces bite the greenhouse gas bullet. "In some provinces there is a natural decline in emissions as a result of the ending of certain types of economic activity," said McGregor. In BC according to McGregor, the problem is cars and people moving into the province as well as long distances that people have to drive.

At this October's environment ministers' meetings in Halifax, the discussion focused on emissions trading schemes. The idea is to establish a world-wide pool of greenhouse gas credits with producers assigned credits which can be traded, bought and sold. Petroleum producers and Environment Canada favour schemes which allow corporations to buy credits from developing countries. As a result, Canada could increase emissions while getting credits for doing something about greenhouse gases. Cash strapped ex-East Bloc economies are already jockeying to sell credits to North American producers. The scheme was condemned by David Suzuki Foundation's Jerry Scott who walked out of the Halifax meetings. But neither environmentalists, labour nor anyone else is part of government's policy process.

When Chretien got back from Kyoto he set up a \$150 million Inter-Ministerial Secretariat on Climate Change. The new bureaucracy, run by Agriculture Dep.-Min. David Oulton, spent millions on full page ads, a 1-800 information line, glossy brochures and Issue Tables to involve Canadians in setting policy. The hitch is that Oulton's notion of Canadians seems restricted to industry and high-level bureaucrats. Workers and consumers are marginalized on the Issue Tables. The process is so lopsided labour is backing out.

"Representation on the Issue Tables was strongly stacked in favor of business," said Dick Martin of the Canadian Labour Congress. "... the mandate of the Issue Tables is so feeble it is clear to us that the government has no intention of responding positively to the Kyoto Agreement. We will not encourage further labour representation, since we have had no indication that the Issue Tables... serve any useful public purpose."

But labour criticism hasn't dampened Env.-Minister Christine Stewart's enthusiasm for emissions trading. Alberta and BC fossil fuel companies may be happy, but for the rest of the planet that is suffering the effects of human actions on the climate, it isn't good enough.

Ivan Bulic is SPEC campaign coordinator.

SPEC House is born

Creating an energy information centre for Vancouver.

by Ivan Bulic

"The whole idea for the Energy Information Centre started after Habitat in about 1977," said Cathy Fox, SPEC executive director in the early 1980s. SPEC was a member of the city's conserver society steering committee formed during the 1976 UN Habitat Conference in Vancouver and chaired by

Mayor Mike Harcourt.

“The committee decided it wanted some kind of demonstration project and SPEC was thinking about doing the same kind of thing in a house,” said Fox. So SPEC president Cliff Stainsby did a lot of fast talking and the two ideas slowly merged. The city would provide the building; an old electrical workshop at Maple and Sixth Avenue in Kitsilano. The feds and provincial government would kick in \$105,000 while SPEC would raise the balance of \$15,000.

“There was a lot of lobbying and cajoling before things worked out and the project almost fell through several times,” said Fox. “Work finally resumed early in 1981 and then things moved fast. The 339 square metre building was gutted and solar energy expert Chris Mattock redesigned the interior. The result was a demonstration project that works. It incorporated the latest in solar technology, is packed with energy information and developed into an education centre on the conserver society.”

SPEC House has double glazed windows, rooftop solar collectors and heavily insulated walls and floors. It also contains airlocks between outside and inside doors and low energy lighting. A gas furnace supplements heat when needed but the building insulation is so effective the furnace is seldom used except on the coldest winter days.

“Nothing in this building is very exotic because we wanted to show only things that are applicable to any household or small commercial building. Everything is cost effective but some of the equipment took only a few years to pay for itself in energy savings.” In the solar greenhouse the north wall is made of steel cylinders containing plastic tubes full of water which radiates heat back into the greenhouse. A fan switches on automatically at 24 degrees C. and blows hot air from the greenhouse into the basement. SPEC still operates the Environmental Information Centre which takes up the front offices in the SPEC House. An extensive library of periodicals, bound publications and archives are open to public. Students can often be found researching projects in the library.

“We didn’t have all the answers when we opened, but were always able to refer people to the right places for information,” says Fox. “What we tried to do was get the building used as much as possible.” Seventeen years later, SPEC House is busier than ever. Environmental and social justice groups share office space while the landscaped back yard garden is home to the Vancouver Demonstration Gardens and City Farmer’s Compost Hotline.

This article is based on an interview with Cathy Fox at the opening of the SPEC House. Fox currently works at the Western Canada Wilderness Committee’s Vancouver office.

Goddamn the Pusher Man....

by Alan Fossen

After graduating from UBC with a BA I got a job at Mac& Blo as a cost accountant. A year there convinced me that capitalism was harming the environment. I met some people at SPEC, quit Mac& Blo and started at SPEC in June of 1970. I was 25 years old.

My first job at SPEC was coordinating the Mission to Dewdney section of the Fraser River study. There were about 20 of us, including Dave Boehm, and we got \$400 a month from an OFY or LIP grant. It was great. \$400 clams went a long way then, and we’d get UIC the rest of the year. Ken Pattern used to break us up with a song based on the Mickey Mouse club tune:

**U-I-C See ya real soon,
O-F-Y Why, because we like you,
L-I-P That's for me!**

On the Fraser project I used this little chicken-shit test kit to measure pH content of the water. We then publicized the results. The overall study was published with a big toilet on the front cover and is still, I believe, a landmark study of its kind. I talked to Haney Socred MLA George Mussallem. He was a local car-dealer, but looked more like an old undertaker. Anyway, he was very civil with me assuring me his government had everything under control and that the Fraser was being cleaned up. Then he goes on some local Valley radio station and calls me a communist and tries to smear SPEC in true McCarthyist fashion.

Over the summer of '71 we did field work on pesticide use in the Fraser Valley. I used to go out and talk to the farmers about the heavy duty chemicals they were spraying on their fields. A lot of them could barely speak or read English, yet they were handling these incredibly toxic materials.

The next campaign I was on was trying to stop DDT spraying along the Canada-US Border. Steve Boyce had mapped out where they would spray every day so we'd go out in teams of five and stand in front of the guys with spray tanks on their backs. The RCMP used to show up and threaten us but we'd stay until the sprayers would give up for the day. Then we'd go back to SPEC House, it was in an old house on East 6 Ave near Main St., then, smoke dope and wait till they started spraying again. In the end they stopped using pesticides along the border.

Working with some of the people at SPEC was a real trip. I particularly remember Allison Applebe and Gary Gallon. Allison was into media and is now a reporter for the Courier. Gary was SPEC's mouthpiece. Originally from Toronto, he "tuned in and dropped out" of a Howe St. stock broker job and came to work at SPEC. Gary was good at press conferences and speaking to politicians. He was very believable - very cool. Terry Chantler was an artist from England who lived in the West End. He did the graphics and cartoons in the SPECTRUM. One of his posters on the nitrogen cycle was particularly well done and quite beautiful. Then there was Lindsay Bickford. He was a civil engineer who used to work for BC Hydro. He was very straight and stuck out among all the heads and hippies at SPEC. At some point in his career a bridge or some other structure he was working on at Hydro failed. Hydro fingered Lindsay and he was unfairly fired. So Lindsay came to work at SPEC and applied his technical expertise to our studies. It made a huge difference and contributed to the effectiveness of much of that early work.

The SPEC House moved to an old house on West 7 th. in Fairview Slopes. It had a great roof view of False Creek where we'd go and smoke dope. There were neighbourhood kids who used to hang around SPEC House: real urchins. One little guy Rhett, about six, used to come in and eat chocolate which he smeared all over his face. So Ken Pattern and I took his picture and put it in the Perspective, as the newsletter was then called, and captioned it "our new president." Well all the straight people at SPEC were outraged over that one. In one issue of the newsletter I wrote an article calling the BC Dept. of Agriculture biggest pusher of dangerous drugs in the province. I titled it Godamn the Pusher Man after the Steppenwolf song popular at the time. I used a pen name "Dr. Alien Gossett."

Well the people at the Dept. of Agriculture freaked out when and demanded to know where this Dr. Gossett earned his Ph.D. We replied the "University of Alienation."

Alan Fossen is a member of the La Quena Collective, editor of Class Antagonist and a fixture on Commercial Drive.

Early Days at SPEC

by Will Paulik

I recall a recycling meeting held in the early 1970s at the SPEC office on West 7 Avenue chaired by Gwen Mallard. In attendance were reps. from Richmond Anti-Pollution Assoc., Powell River and Hendrik De Wilde from Nanaimo. We got involved in recycling by commissioning Refuse Bins to be placed at specific mall locations so people could recycle newspapers and cardboard. Each day would be allocated to a different SPEC or related group and funds from paper sales would go to that group.

SPEC's Linda Bundrant set up a neat collecting system with a storage building and used old post office delivery trucks for pick-up. Unfortunately they broke down all too often.

1974 stands in my memory. We met with Liberal Minister Jack Davis on airport development as part of a committee chaired by UBC's Dr. James Tyhurst. Other activities touched on waterfowl ponds at Richmond Nature Park, setting up Bowen Island's Crippen Park, field trips to Pitt Polder, attending a wildlife conference in Victoria, and working closely with the Fraser River Coalition on wetlands. We worked with UBC's Dr. Michael Feller on forestry issues. His wife Evelyn was executive director at SPEC. Of those issues many resulted in success. SPEC was instrumental in protecting Surrey's Green Timbers Nature Preserve, the Stein Valley, the Skagit Valley, the HBC Brigade Trail in northern BC, Surrey Bend, Serpentine Fen, and Caren Range on the Sunshine Coast.

In 1976 SPEC director Gary Gallon came to Richmond Council and supported my brief to protect Steveston Island from development. Councilor Harold Steeves, a long-time SPEC supporter, spoke for preservation on this and many other issues.

We need to thank the volunteers at SPEC branches in West Van., Nanaimo, Powell River, Kelowna as well as groups like the Heritage Forest Society, Greenpeace and WCWC. And thank you Raging Grannies for your humor and spirit.

We should remember those no longer with us. Randy Stoltmann, founder of the Heritage Forest Soc., Curly Chittenton, Save the Skagit pioneer, Doug Manley, Hydro engineer who worked on Fraser study, Dr. Philip Haddock, a forestry Prof. who studied Cypress Creek, Steven Zablosky, a fish technician active on Burns Bog, Dr. Barry Leach who initiated Serpentine Fen, Henry Pranto, outspoken critic on Coquitlam River, Linda White, of the Natural History Soc. who worked on Richmond Nature Park, Lille d'Easum, SPEC's nuclear issues campaigner, and June Black who worked to make streets safe for cyclists and pedestrians.

Will Paulik is a director of SPEC and the Heritage Forests Society. Will's father, Dr. Max Paulik, was an outspoken critic of BC forest policy who set up the Lynn Valley Demonstration Forest.

SPEC's Struggle to Save Vancouver's Water Quality

by **Paul Hundal**

Since joining SPEC's Board in 1991 I headed a campaign to stop logging in the watershed that supplies drinking water to almost two million people in Greater Vancouver. Since 1991 SPEC has sent a steady stream of correspondence to GVRD politicians who should be accountable to the public for water quality. Clearcut logging of old growth was stopped in 1995 as a result of SPEC's efforts. However, this unofficial "moratorium" is temporary and the fight to permanently stop logging in our watershed will be coming to a head this year.

As past president of SPEC, I am proud of how we worked within the system to fight this battle. We educated the public on what is really happening in our watersheds and have gone to decisionmakers to bring about change. It is tedious attending every Water Committee meeting and monthly GVWD Board meeting. But it keeps us up to speed with the politicians and helps them face the facts. The pro-logging bureaucrats within the GVWD try to "handle" the politicians by controlling information they receive. SPEC informs GVRD politicians on facts that Water District bureaucrats leave out and by doing so we keep the system honest by putting all the facts before the public. The Water District bureaucracy fought SPEC all the way and obstructed access to Water District information. SPEC's diligence, however, has overcome these obstructions in the ongoing struggle so that giant old growth trees continue to provide Vancouver with high quality water 100 years from now.

Environmental lawyer Paul Hundal was SPEC president from 1994 to 1997.

SPEC TIMELINE

December 1968

Social activist Gwen Mallard outraged by Socred Premier WAC Bennett's approval of Kootenay strip-mining. Gwen and husband Derrick, an SFU psychology instructor, invite UBC biologist Dr. Robin Harger, Bernard Hagell, SFU biologist Dr. A. Turnbull, electrician Ralph Lundahl, Amalgamated Transit Union head John Haywood and Larry McConnell to meeting in their Coquitlam, BC home to start environmental group.

1969

January 29, 1969

200 academics, and hippies cram Simon Fraser University Room AQ3150 to hear about new "ecology" society. John Stigant, 34-year-old engineer, opens meeting by tipping barrel of oily Burrard Inlet water onto floor. "We are the filthiest animals on this planet," Stigant tells startled audience. He is followed by John Haywood, Howard Paish of BC Wildlife Federation and UBC chemist Ian Gay. Meeting next night at Vancouver Planetarium attracts 75 people to hear Conservative lawyer John Fraser, UBC soil scientist Jan de Vries and BC Occupational Health director Dr. John H. Smith. They talk about urban sprawl, pollution from too many cars, offshore oil spills, pesticide use, lack of public transit, and deteriorating water quality.

Voice in crowd jokes that Vancouverites could end up buying bottled water if they don't protect North Shore watersheds.

Derrick Mallard invites crowd to join new group he calls Scientific Pollution and Environmental Control Society.

February 16, 1969

First formal SPEC meeting chooses Stigant acting-pres., Larry McConnell vice-pres. Four committees set: research, finance, information and action. Five

Initiatives launched: offshore oil drilling, strip mining, pollution in Mica Lake, pollution in Burrard Inlet and pesticides. Gwen Mallard to coordinate Initiatives. Executive decides SPEC will be apolitical and defines goals as "the preservation and development of a quality environment through the stimulation of public interest, and consultation and cooperation with industry, government, labour and academic communities."

March, 1969

First elected executive: lawyer Bill Ellis pres., Derrick Mallard and Larry McConnell v.-pres., Len Greenall treas., Barney Hagell sec., Joy Neuman and Mary Hamill communications, with Emmott Caferkie finances. Lawyer Gary Culhane heads advisory board of ecologists, biologists and lawyers.

May, 1969

Gwen Mallard presents SPEC's first brief to Legislative Standing Committee on Railways and Mines. and criticizes Socreds for letting Kaiser Resources strip-mine Kootenays. Federal Environment Minister Jack Davis ignores warnings. In 1972 SPEC's fears confirmed when three million gals. coal slurry from Kaiser's Natal mines devastates Michel Creek.

May 28, 1969

SPEC midnight vigils stop Reichold Chemicals from dumping effluent into Burrard Inlet.

June, 1969

"Gulf Oil refinery in Port Moody is emitting 14 tones of sulfur dioxide per day into the air." From SPEC press release. Gulf pumping millions gallons of deadly phenols into Burrard Inlet.

June 7, 1969

SPEC anti-pollution rally - first in Western Canada- draws 600 supporters to Port Moody. Placards read : Ban DDT and Stop Breathing, You May Kill Yourself. Liberal leader Pat McGeer, MP Ray Perrault, MLAs Gordon Dowding, Eileen Dailly and Jim Lorimer at rally. Letter of support from Coquitlam MLA Dave Barrett read out. Mallard and Bill Ellis urge public tear up Gulf credit cards. In June Gulf builds \$750,000 sulfur extraction unit. Meanwhile Reichold Chemical bows to pressure, stops dumping into Burrard Inlet.

June, 1969

Vol./No 1 of SPECTRE published out of Mallards' Coquitlam home. Bill Wilson is editor. Future film director Sandy Wilson does layout. SPECTRE features strip mining in Elk Valley, noise pollution, Howe Sound mill effluent and fluoride.

June 13, 1969

"A group has been formed here in Vancouver called SPEC, Society for the Prevention of Environmental Collapse (sic)... I have several reasons for supporting this group. The main reason is that our civilization has gone into a tail-spin and the human race appears to be heading for one of its periodic smash-ups - perhaps its last." Bob Hunter Vancouver Sun.

September, 1969

First issue newsletter, Ertceps (Spectre backwards) welcomes West Van. branch and Sierra Club to BC. Oct. 02, 1969 - SPEC activists join in demonstrations against US plans to test nuclear bomb in Alaska. "The Monday noon demonstration against the Amchitka Island A-bomb test has begun... Who are we? A collection, initially, of very proper and respectable and decently paid and serious and a bit less than illiterate citizens, some professors and some ministers and housewives involved in the Society for Pollution and Environmental Control who have recently discovered that, as one speaker will put it shortly, 'there is no doubt any longer that if things continue the way they are for another 20 years we

will all be dead'." Bob Hunter, Vancouver Sun.

October 10, 1969

After considerable debate at SPEC's first general meeting, the group is incorporated as the Canadian Scientific Pollution and Environmental Control Society of British Columbia. It is commonly known as the Society for Pollution and Environmental Control or simply SPEC. Derrick Mallard elected president.

November, 1969

The national Star Weekly magazine publishes a feature "Organized Resistance: It Works" about SPEC's success at stopping Reichold Chemical. The Star Weekly tells its readers "perhaps we still have a hope of avoiding a reeking, disease-ridden, violent, incurably polluted Canada in 1980."

December, 1969

SPEC opens office and information centre at 4857 Kingsway, Burnaby. There are 4000 members in branches in Victoria, Kamloops, Kelowna, North Vancouver, Courtney-Comox-Campbell River, Nanaimo and Duncan. Another 21 recreation and community groups affiliated. Greenacres TV star Eddy Albert joins. Fees \$5 for individuals, \$6 for families and \$1 for students. Derrick Mallard and John Chant establish Pollution Probe in Toronto as national organization. SPEC a charter member. SPEC brief calls for independent commissioner to replace political BC Pollution Control Board, and urges pollution control devices on cars. In first year, SPEC issues 7000 fact sheets on air, water pollution, detergent phosphates and pesticides. "Start-Up" kits sent to help communities organize environmental groups. SPEC handbooks include Taxpayers' Guide to Sewage Treatment, Mercury Pollution Guidelines and Requirements for Pulp Mill Installations in Your Area.

1970

January, 1970

SPEC begins second year with \$200 budget.

January 16, 1970

SPEC brief, Marine Transportation of Oil along the Pacific Seaboard, to Federal Transport Commission recommends foreign tankers meet Canadian standards, pay one cent a barrel to cover oil spill costs.

February, 1970

GVRD applies for permit to discharge 180 million gals. sewage into Fraser River from Annacis primary treatment plant. New Westminster and Coquitlam branches, UFAWU, BC Fed. of Labour and Sierra Club demand secondary treatment. SPEC invites NDP MLAs Colin Gabelman, Harold Steeves and Carl Linden to inspect Annacis. NDP pass resolution for secondary treatment at 1971 party convention.

March, 1970

Derrick Mallard calls BC Hydro “environmental outlaw and disease on society” for spraying herbicide 2,4,5-T on power line right-of-ways. He urges customers “the next time you pay your Hydro bill print a large black (plague) spot on it.”

April, 1970

Reacting to plan to ship Northern Alaska oil down West Coast, SPEC joins Sierra Club, Liberal MP David Anderson and other groups to stop project. SPEC collects 63,000 signatures - 11,000 from Alberni branch- on petition which Gwen Mallard and Alice Coppard take to Ottawa. Gwen and Alice hitch-hike across Canada on Eco-hike speaking at meetings on way.

Pollution Probe holds welcome rally in Toronto.

May 26, 1970

Gwen and Alice present petition to federal

Environment Minister Jack Davis. They go to Washington, speak with Interior Secretary. Alice Coppard says Eco-hike succeeds in “bringing the words ‘ecology’ and ‘environment’ out of the dictionary.”

Summer, 1970

SPEC increasingly divided in two camps: moderate academics who started SPEC vs. hippies, yippies, US Viet Nam war resisters and supporters of radical Vancouver Liberation Front for whom environmentalism part of revolutionary struggle to smash capitalism, racism, imperialism and sexism. Grants from Vancouver Foundation, Vancouver City Council, BC Educational Research Council and BC Dept. of Health and Welfare fund SPEC projects. Jack Shadbolt and Toni Onley donate paintings for raffle that raises \$16,000.

June, 1970

SFU v.-pres. George Suart fires Derrick Mallard for alleged conflict of interest. SPEC calls firing “savage reprisal, character assassination, and a frightening attitude of repression against SPEC.”

June 18, 1970

Derrick Mallard quits as SPEC pres. to work as executive director for \$650 a month. 32-year-old UBC biologist Dr. Robin Harger becomes pres. Dr. Ed Levy and brilliant young UBC geneticist David Suzuki are vice-presidents. Jim Marunchuk is communications director, Sue Van Lear secretary, Gwen Mallard project chairperson while Alice Coppard gets \$100 a month for chairing membership ctte. Education chair is Bill Johnston, physical environment is Dennis Chato, graphic communications covered by Ken Pattern while Kathy McBurnie Director at Large. Legal committee includes Sid Filkow, Al Lucas, Bill Deverell, Stewart Leggett and Pat Staplin. SPEC moves offices to old Mt. Pleasant house at 44 W. 6 Ave.

July 13, 1970

SPEC and Pollution Probe get \$39,000 for study of Fraser River. David Boehm coordinates 75 activists including Charles Purpora, Andrew Reeve, Rick Outhet, Bill Valentine, Alan Fossen and Bryan MacNeil to measure sewage and industrial effluents

July 16, 1970

BC Hydro boss Gordon Shrum says pesticides safe and drinks glass of diluted 2,4,5-T on TV. "Our chemists told me the only problem I had was getting the taste out of my mouth. It was like dirty crankcase oil, but I found that vodka was good for rinsing out my mouth. In any case the exercise was good publicity for combating SPEC - that's the Society for Promoting Environmental Crap-propaganda. Gordon Shrum.

July 17, 1970

Delta SPEC activist Bill Brewer chains him-self to BC Hydro building to protest pesticide spraying. "I was too long a member of the silent majority," Brewer tells Sun reporter Scott Honeyman. "My employers (BC Tel) won't like this protesting, but there comes a point where you believe so strongly you don't care."

July, 1970

At SPEC urging Squamish passes no spray by-law. Other municipalities consider implementing same. Shrum ignores by-law, keeps spraying.

SPEC activists dress in 17th C. costumes and read proclamation on Vancouver Court House steps declaring Mac& Blo environmental outlaw for "its wanton acts, its deceptions, and its recent designs upon the environment.." The proclamation is accompanied by 1000 posters depicting Tyrannosaurus Rex against clear-cut landscape with caption Mac&Blo the King of Polluters. Vancouver Sun editor Patrick Nagle refuses to print poster saying "I'm not going to consider favourably every half-baked, half-assed, woolly-headed individual who comes through the door." Georgia Straight editor Dan Macleod puts poster on cover.

Mac&Blo calls T-Rex poster "a libelous, inaccurate piece of trash which totally disregards the fact that MacMillan Bloedel has spent more on pollution control than any company in British Columbia."

24-year-old Jim Fraser and six young SPECtress buy old school bus for \$350, refit to burn propane, paint flowers and peace symbols, load slides, fact sheets, theatrical equipment, camping gear, and set off on province-wide Ecology Caravan. The idea for Caravan comes from SPEC youth worker Bill Darnell. Caravaners cover 2700 miles in 10 weeks playing music and raising environmental awareness.

North Van. SPEC complains of lack of consultation over T-Rex poster which it says hardens forest companies against responsible representation from SPEC.

August 1970

Hendrik de Wilde and Marjorie Stewart of SPEC Nanaimo stop Hooker Chemical from dumping chlorine into Northumberland Channel.

Ecology Caravaners confront WAC Bennett in Prince Rupert; give him gift wrapped jar of pulp mill effluent. Bennett retreats to limousine claiming "we are fighting pollution every day." Caravaners paste Don't Beat BC to a Pulp placard on Bennett's car as he drives off.

Derrick Mallard tries to test new noise pollution equipment at Led Zeppelin concert at Pacific Coliseum. Led Zeppelin manager Peter Grant thinks Mallard is making bootleg tape and bouncers smash equipment and rough up Mallard. Police issue warrant for arrest of Grant and Led Zeppelin. Grant coughs up \$2300 for damaged equipment. SFU's Hildegard Westerkamp takes on SPEC noise pollution work, produces a 24-page hand-book SSh! about urban noise.

SPEC legal director Gary Culhane and Robin Harger tell provincial Forestry Inquiry that industry clear-cutting and pulp mill effluent discharge needs to be regulated.

September, 1970

Duncan SPEC pres. Kurt Horn and SPEC Ecology Caravan organizer Bill Darnell and deep-sea diver Jim Bohlen, Quaker lawyer Irving Stowe and UBC students Paul Cote and Patrick Moore of Don't Make A Wave Committee plan trip to Amchitka, Alaska on fishboat Phyllis Cormack to protest US nuclear bomb tests. Darnell suggests re-naming the boat Greenpeace.

October, 1970

Pierre Trudeau imposes War Measures Act when FLQ assassinate Quebec Minister Pierre Laporte. SPEC pres. Robin Harger and Gary Culhane blast Trudeau. Mallards and moderates argue outside SPEC mandate and could cause public backlash. Majority vote favours Harger who issues press release "the Central Executive of SPEC... urges the immediate replacement of the War Measures Act by legislation calculated to deal specifically with the situation."

UBC pres. Walter Gage learns of War Measures press release and fires Harger citing SPEC activities "do not fall within the restricted academic definition of ecology." SPEC condemns firing as "... shortsighted and not in the public interest. Dr. Robin Harger's community work on serious environmental issues, such as the SPEC Federation's presentation to the Forestry Inquiry, must be applauded as the beginning of a necessary trend in the university's becoming more relevant to and involved in the community which finances its operations."

November, 1970

SPEC sponsors screening of British environmental movie No Blade of Grass. Nov. 11, 1970 - Reacting to War Measures press release, Langley branch votes 17 to 15 to force Central Executive to agreement of all 40 branches for resolutions. Harger and Culhane interpret Langley resolution as non-confidence motion and resign.

SPEC convention creates Federation structure to "weld the 32 SPEC branches into the largest grassroots, anti-pollution organization on the continent." SPEC Provincial Federation Council

forms 21-member executive committee from 15 regions. Council sets policy while Vancouver committee handles daily matters.

SPEC Fraser River Report recommends secondary sewage treatment plant on Annacis Island, urges Ministry of Lands set up waste disposal office. Sacred Minister Ray Williston and Council of Forest Industries call report "amateurish" and "without scientific objectivity." GVRD says secondary treatment too costly and unnecessary.

December, 1970

SPEC excluded from BC Pollution Board Hearings on Utah Mines' application to dump 9.3 million gals. of tailings from Port Alice copper mine into Rupert Inlet. SPEC forces Utah Mines to undertake environmental assessment, thereby setting precedent for future projects.

SPEC has 8000 members in 40 branches across BC, Prairies and Eastern Canada. Fifteen more in process of forming. SPEC Central operates with \$4500 monthly budget. SPEC hires 157 OFY students to work on 22 projects from recycling, public transit, oil and air pollution.

1971

January, 1971

SPEC Central, Burnaby, New Westminster and Coquitlam branches set up 21 depots to recycle news-papers, cardboard, magazines, aluminium cans, and glass containers.

February, 1971

Bowing to pressure from SPEC, other groups, BC Legislature endorses motion that Federal Government "use every available resource to persuade the Americans not to use tankers to ship Alaskan oil through the Strait of Juan de Fuca."

March, 1971

Sacreds approve GVRD plan to dump sewage into

Fraser River. SPEC's Will Paulik calls the decision "a permit to pollute."

April, 1971

Robin Harger, Gary Culhane and 10 others carry mock dinosaur eggs into COFI forest industry convention at Bayshore Inn. Harger and Culhane call companies "dinosaurs."

May, 1971

SPEC's Bill Terry rides bike in Vancouver Sun commuter race beating car, bus and runner.

SPEC's Kurt Horn goes to Juneau, Alaska for Amchitka nuke hearings.

July, 1971

"Whether material progress affects the balance of nature with adverse future consequences for humanity is a consideration which even today has into the thoughts of either scientist or technician." George Woodcock SPECTRUM literary editor.

Lake Cowichan SPEC study on beverage containers recommends provincial deposit legislation for all drink containers.

August, 1971

Gwen Mallard organizes demo. at BC Hydro building to protest herbicide spraying. Young SPEC activists hand-clear half acre of Hydro right-of-way to demonstrate alternative to herbicides.

October, 1971

SPEC joins Ben Swankey and Citizens Committee for Public Transit to stop East End Freeway.

Ideological debate surfaces at 1971 AGM with Harger and Culhane challenging Derrick Mallard's "moderate" leadership. Mallard stays on but left pressure builds.

3000 protesters from SPEC, BC Wildlife Fed., Sierra Club, Boy Scouts, Mountaineering Clubs

and Audubon Society go to Skagit Valley to stop Seattle City Light Corp.'s from flooding Skagit Valley to supply power to Seattle.

December 1971

PERSPECTIVE newsletter reports on traffic congestion in Vancouver. Points out 46 per cent of ground space devoted to parking, gas stations and related services.

1972

January, 1972

SPEC opposes Third Crossing of Burrard Inlet with downtown freeway link. SPEC report Air Pollution and Transportation stresses need for improved transit, not freeways.

SPEC pres. Bill Terry opens first recycling depot for cans, glass and paper at John Lawson Park in West Van. Feb. 01, 1972 - SPEC's Dr. John Marko urges park status for University Endowment Lands.

SPEC and Citizens' Coordinating Committee for Public Transit organizes Third Crossing rally at Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

February, 1972

SPEC collects 21,000 name anti-Third Crossing petition and sends to Premier Bennett.

SPEC toxics biologist Merrian Doucet advocates ban on Viet Nam War herbicide Agent Orange. Report supported by National Action Committee on Status of Women.

April, 1972

Derrick Mallard resigns as exec- director because "fighting environmental issues is a full-time task. But to fight internal problems as well is debilitating." Steven Boyce becomes executive director. Gwen Mallard resigns as campaign chair. Mallards move to Vancouver Island, set up Citizens Action to Save the Environment Society.

May, 1972

SPEC moves to offices at 1095 W. 7 Ave. in Fairview Slopes. Financial difficulties result in staff losses. Membership falls to 4500.

June, 1972

Tanker World Bond spills 2000 gals. of oil off Arco's Cherry Pt., Wash, refinery fouling 42,000 feet of Crescent Beach. Surrey-White Rock SPEC joins clean-up effort.

SPEC organizes 500 person rally at Peace Arch to protest oil spill.

August, 1972

Surrey - White Rock parents protest Inter-national Border Commission's spraying 2,4,5-T along border. SPEC flying squads form human chains which block spraying. Police threaten protesters with six month jail terms.

Dave Barrett's NDP win provincial election.

September, 1972

SPEC flying squads stop when Border Commission abandons spraying. 1973 - SPEC moves to 2007 W. 4 Ave. Perspective newsletter changed to Spectrum. New pres. is JP Daem.

1973

February, 1973

SPEC's Gary Gallon and Bob Hunter protest French nuke tests at Mururoa Atoll in South Pacific. Speakers on small boat welcome French warship Jeanne D'Arc to Vancouver with "peace-oriented music from Woodstock."

Gary Gallon takes brief to Legislative Committee on Oil Spills.

SPECTRUM columnist Crawford Killian on how to clean oil-soaked ducks.

March, 1973

SPEC wants transit corridor for Arthur Laing Bridge.

SPEC helps draft Agricultural Land Reserve; debates BC Federation of Agriculture which calls ALR "confiscation without compensation." SPEC in provincial Land Use Project - freezes development of 158 acre Spetifore Lands in Richmond.

June, 1973

Gary Gallon investigates Mackenzie Delta oil exploration. His book, A Trip North: Observations of an Environmentalist, concludes oil exploration will "destroy ecosystems in Canada's north."

July, 1973

SPEC asks Premier Barrett to stop flooding of Skagit Valley.

August, 1973

SPEC urges First Nations land claims settlement.

September, 1973

SPEC researcher Merrian Doucet briefs BC Royal Commission on Use of Herbicides and Pesticides recommending moratorium on DDT, 2,4,5-T, phenoxy herbicides, aerial mosquito spraying. As a result BC Rail, Trans Mountain Pipeline and Dept. of Highways ban phenoxy use.

December, 1973

Barrett squashes plan to flood Skagit Valley; establishes park.

1974

February, 1974

Mike Jessen new pres. Branch AGM focuses on declining revenues and membership. Vice-pres.

Ken Pattern says dissension and bad press hamper fundraising. The problem is generational, says Pattern, “ young people are isolationist and only join SPEC when an issue affects them directly. They seem to be turning away from any form of political activism and if they are concern-ed with ecology, they show it by returning to the land and isolating themselves in communes.”

March, 1974

Canadian Arctic Gas Pipelines Ltd. asks permit for Arctic pipeline. Gallon coordinates SPEC opposition to pipeline at Justice Thomas Berger Commission. SPEC legal team Bill Deverell and Sid Filkow argue financial difficulty keep NGOs from intervening. As a result Berger funds interveners and sets precedent for subsequent NGO participation in public hearings.

BC Hydro stops 2,4,5-T spraying.

April, 1974

MP John Fraser speaks at AGM. New CO-OP Radio live coverage of AGM.

May, 1974

SPEC and BC recycling depots form Recycling Council of BC. NDP Harold Steeves introduces BC Recycling Corp. bill. Vancouver takes over SPEC Granville Island recycling depot which processes more than 25 tones a month.

June, 1974

Nanaimo SPEC's Marjorie Stewart stops Nanaimo Estuary dredging plan.

September, 1974

Salt Spring SPEC's Mike Larmour and author Beth Hill , with help from SPEC's David Watmough, address sewage plan for Ganges Harbour.

November, 1974

SPEC receives only \$18,000 of expected \$56,000 LIP grant. SPEC Central forced to lay off Gary Gallon, asst. co-ordinator Freida Schade, secretary Wendy Gilroy, pub-lications manager Kathy Gallon and Zoe Hunter, daughter of Greenpeace's Bob Hunter.

1975

Money trouble preoccupy unpaid committee of Steve Boyce, Thom Thompson, Gary Gallon, Ken Pattern, Diane Baigent, June Jensen and Frieda Schade who run SPEC. SPEC Central rents space to Greenpeace to offset expenses.

May 1975

SPEC praises Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act - first provincial act making environmental reviews mandatory - and asks NDP Minister Bob Williams for similar legislation. Williams says will consider idea but no legislation forthcoming.

August 1975

SPEC's Lille d'Easum and Alice Coppard along with Voice of Women, Greenpeace and 11 groups form Canadian Coalition on Nuclear Responsibility. d'Easum sets up BC chapter of CNR and SPEC produces anti-nuke information kits for Vancouver schools.

December 11, 1975

Gary Gallon one of 20 NGOs at Ottawa meetings to plan UN Habitat Conference for Vancouver. SPEC is con-cerned housing and urban growth respect environment.

SPEC Christmas wish list from Province is for Freedom of Information Act and separate environment ministry. Victoria finally sets up new Ministry of Environment.

1976

January, 1976

\$52,000 grant funds SPEC's "People's awareness of environmental problems associated with urban ex-pansion." Materials sent to schools and community groups as part of Habitat.

Gary Gallon asks Socred Pat McGeer to use gas tax for public transit.

SPEC spokes-person Patrick Moore announces start of six-month public education program on urban sprawl on Fraser Delta.

SPEC oil activist Rod Marining charges federal Liberal's lax on oil tankers.

February, 1976

Gary Gallon, Don Ellsay and John Symon brief Env. Minister Jim Neilsen on Skagit Valley, mining in parks, recycling and nukes. No benefits to be gained from being negative and confrontation-minded," says Neilsen.

Artist Terry Chantler develops slide shows on Fraser pollution for Vancouver Public Library, GVRD and Vancouver and New Westminster Councils.

March, 1976

Lille d'Easum and Irene Abbey produce Danger:Radiation booklet .

SPEC sponsors Ralph Nader's Vancouver visit.

April, 1976

SPEC moves to offices at 1603 W. 4 Ave., under the Granville Bridge.

"Forests in crisis," Smithers SPEC's Richard Overstall .

May, 1976

Will Paulik shows Fraser slide show to Socreds; asks Env. Minister Jim Neilsen for moratorium on development. Neilsen only says will "oppose projects if impact studies indicate development would harm the area." Paulik says not good enough because "channeling, filling and building of the Fraser flood plains have eliminated 71 per cent of the vital salt marsh."

Gary Gallon appears before Berger Arctic Pipeline inquiry's Vancouver hearings at Hyatt Regency. Also making presentations: Ald. Harry Rankin, whale researcher Paul Spong, BC Fed.'s Len Guy, Victoria Bishop Remi de Roo.

Socred MLA George Mussallem wants environmentalists to "stop knocking the water quality of the Fraser" which he says is "one of the cleanest in North America." Mussallem says he drinks Fraser River water despite Boundary Health Unit Dr. W. G. Meekison's warning "the Fraser doesn't meet standards for re-creational water by a long way."

Gary Gallon challenges Mussallem to drink Fraser water from New Westminster to Steveston. Mussallem drinks one glass in front of TV crew, but goes no further. Gallon sends him silver goblet for "deep service to the community by making the outlandish statement that the waters of the Fraser are not badly polluted." SPEC gets LIP grant to take Fraser project into 1977.

At AGM Mike Jessen calls for Hydro boss Robert Bonner's resignation for "engaging in scare campaign to equate energy conservation with economic recession." Bonner says environmentalists responsible for power blackouts if they slow Hydro expansion.

Delegates from 100 countries attend Habitat Conference. SPEC Central runs walk-in information centre on environmental housing.

June, 1976

Anthropologist Dr. Margaret Mead speaks at SPEC demonstration against nuclear power. In Vancouver for Habitat conference, Mead tells SPEC activists "generations are being endangered

by a ruthless, thoughtless, irresponsible grab of nuclear energy which is of interest only to military and special interest groups.” Demo. features 550 ft. black plastic Trident nuke submarine carried by 40 young activists.

Jessen loses job with BC Fish and Wildlife Branch. SPEC “concerned that BC citizens cannot speak out on important issues without fear of losing their jobs.”

July, 1976

Gary Gallon calls proposed nuclear reactor at Sedro Woolly, Wash. “en-vironmental aggression against BC.” The plant would be only 60 miles from Lower Mainland.

September, 1976

SPEC critical of Pat McGeer’s scheme to route BC Ferries from Iona to Gabriola, Island.

Socred Grace McCarthy turns down SPEC grant to finish Fraser study.

Jessen appears at hearings on Hydro’s application to build Revelstoke Dam. Jessen questions energy exports, need for Revelstoke Dam, coal-burning Hat Creek Thermal and Peace River Sites C and E. Bill Bennett okays Hydro plan.

October, 1976

Environment Minister Jim Neilsen refuses a SPEC grant application. “Private organizations are becoming too dependent upon government grants to continue their programs.”

Winter, 1976

Fundraising brings 20 per cent increase in memberships. SPEC moves to 1603 W. 4 Ave. Jessen predicts “SPEC survived the energy crisis, the more recent recession, and we are here to stay. While we are no longer a mass citizens’ movement, we have become a very powerful lobby.”

1977

SPEC produces ECO-WATCH on CO-OP Radio.

January, 1977

SPEC joins Sierra Club, BC Wildlife Fed. and Fed. of Naturalists to fight logging in Stein Valley.

February, 1977

SPEC organizes 19 groups that make up 75,000 supporters into Kitimat Oil Coalition to stop oil port in Kitimat. SPEC member Tony Pearce coordinates campaign.

Environment Minister Jim Neilsen cuts SPEC grants by 80 per cent.

March, 1977

Kitimat’s Alcan Aluminum Smelter workers concerned about fluoride poisoning. SPEC supports union demand to remove fluoride from town water.

May, 1977

Berger backs SPEC position and recommends moratorium on Arctic pipeline.

SPEC AGM elects Don Ellsay president. 2,000 members in SPEC.

Gary Gallon at four-day Victoria cabinet Revelstoke Dam hearings. “The Revelstoke Dam hearings looks like a modern remake of the David and Goliath epic. Taking on the massive BC Hydro power authority is the almost-facetiously-tiny SPEC. During the four days of hearings SPEC executive director Gary Gallon took to a sleeping bag on the floor of a supporter’s home while Hydro officials and their lawyers were lodged at taxpayers expense in the fashionable Executive House hotel.” Harvey Oberfeld, Sun Victoria Bureau.

June, 1977

Kelowna branch pres. Jackie Webster calls 2,4-D

spraying on Vernon school “grossly irresponsible.” Local school manager Jack Wills claims spray is safe and assures will “not harm legendary water serpent Ogopogo if it ends up in Lake Okanagan.”

July, 1977

Canada Works grant lets SPEC hire 11 people for Energy Conservation program. They include John Delaney, Lennox Moses, Kathy Sopko, Paul Willies and Sylva Sawchuck.

September, 1977

Gary Gallon resigns as exec-director to work for UN in Nairobi. SPEC Federation elects 29-year-old Fraser River Coalition founder Cliff Stainsby new exec-dir. Other staffers: nuclearpower Martin Osberg, Fraser River project Greg Reif, natural gas Michael Margolick and education Mike Anderson. SPEC office run by Deborah March. Volunteer Ken Pattern fills gaps. Kelowna SPEC gets BCGEU grant to publish SPECTRUM .

SPEC and West Coast Environmental Law Assoc. score victory with changes to Pesticide Control Act.

SPEC Federation pres. Don Ellsay of Kamloops resigns citing “ that SPEC Central in Vancouver is too dominant and is usurping the function of the branches .” He is replaced as Federation head by Jacques Auffray of Chilliwack with Nela Leja and Mei Lin Yoell as vice presidents.

October, 1977

Environment Minister Jim Neilsen calls SPEC “unrealistic” and claims “environment not endangered by either increased population, large developments or industry.”

SPEC mock burial on Legislature steps to protest ALR changes.

November, 1977

SPEC’s Will Paulik on Fraser River Co-alition with UFAWU, Citizens Assoc. of Delta, Fed. of BC Nat-ralists, Van. Natural History Soc.,

Richmond Anti-Pollution Assoc. and BC Steelhead Soc.

1978

January, 1978

As part of Energy Awareness Education Program, SPEC publishes Energy and Us handbook along with traveling slide shows Our World, Our Energy and Energy: In Search of Harmony. Cliff Stainsby and Terry Chantler go to Ottawa for National Energy Board Hearings.

SPEC says without Freedom of Information Act public can’t get information of industrial polluters.

February, 1978

Cliff Stainsby says CLC’s Donald Montgomery irresponsible for saying “jobs must be placed before the environment.”

March, 1978

Oil Tanker Inquiry commissioner Andrew Thompson recommends Kitimat oil port not be built. Terry Chantler and Cliff Stainsby meet with Federal Environment Minister Len Marchand who nixes Kitimat oil port.

April, 1978

Pesticide campaigner Merrian Doucet prepares phenoxy herbicide report which airs on CBC TV’s Fifth Estate.

Federal Science Minister Judd Buchanan says up to industry to voluntarily recycle. SPEC’s Deborah March calls for legislation.

Lille d’Easum and Alice Coppard collect 20, 000 names on petition opposing nuclear power plants and call for inquiry on nuclear industry.

June, 1978

Okanagan SPEC activist Thelma MacAdam and Merrien Doucet monitor 2,4-D spraying to control

Eurasian Milfoil weed on Skaha and Okanagan Lakes. While Greenpeace canoes patrol lake, SPEC sends telegram to Premier Bill Bennett demanding stop to 2,4-D use.

Agricultural Land Commissioner Gary Runka tells SPEC AGM vigilance needed to protect BC land.

August, 1978

SPEC opposes City of Vancouver's plan to add fluoride to drinking water.

October, 1978

SPEC blows whistle on Greenwood Forest Products chemical leak into Okanagan River.

November, 1978

SPEC energy researcher Mike Margolick intervenes in National Energy Board decision to expand natural gas exports. Margolick tells federal Minister Alistair Gillespie "the NEB attaches more importance to the short term profits of a largely foreign controlled industry than to the long term economic security of Canada."

1979

SPEC's offices move to 3253 Heather St.

January, 1979

SPEC protester David Garrick sentenced to 45-days in jail for protesting Trident nuclear subs at Bangor, Wash.

February, 1979

SPEC gears up for provincial Uranium Inquiry and opposes US nuclear submarine tests at Nanoose Bay.

March, 1979

SPEC, Greenpeace, Sierra Club and BC Naturalists form Environmental Alliance Against Uranium Mining to participate in Bates Commission on uranium exploration in BC. EAUM coordinator David Garrick presents hearing briefs.

SPEC calls for review on impacts of expanded Roberts Bank Superport off Tsawwassen.

Federal and provincial government hold no public review.

April, 1979

10th Anniversary AGM. "We've been around for 10 years and consider that we've been instrumental in bringing about a revolutionary new concept of looking at the environment," said SPEC pres. Jacques Auffray. "Our second decade must be a transition in our life-style from senseless consumerism to sensible coexistence with all forms of life." Nelson branch's Mike Jessen succeeds Auffray at SPEC Federation. After lengthy debate on name change, AGM accepts vice pres. Tony Pearce's suggestion of Canadian Society Promoting Environmental Conservation. Change made official in 1981. Other possibilities were Society for Protection of Environmental Canada, Study of Pollution and Environmental Consciousness Concerns, Social Promotion of Environmental Conservation Concerns and Social Promotion of Ecological Consciousness.

June, 1979

SPEC report demonstrates ineffectiveness of 2,4-D in containing Eurasian Milfoil in Okanagan. Victoria bows to pressure, lets municipalities decide on spraying.

August, 1979

BC Hydro to bypass environmental review on Cheekeye-Dunsmuir transmission line to Vancouver Island. Cliff Stainsby asks Environment Minister Rafe Mair for review of "environmental and social impacts of the proposed gas transmission system." Mair lets Hydro go without review.

Lille d'Easum dies at 81. She worked for social justice including aid for Central American refugees in 1950s. Lille lobbied and wrote on dangers of nuclear power and was instrumental in persuading the Barrett government to adopt anti-nuclear policy.

Lille donated her books and papers to SPEC. The collection is core of SPEC's Lille d'Easum Memorial Library.

Jacques Auffray critical of Land Reserve exemptions. SPEC demand disclosure of ALR decisions.

November, 1979

SPEC opposes Dome Petroleum plan for Britannia Beach tanker port in Howe Sound.

1980

Negotiations with City of Vancouver and federal-provincial committee to re-fit old city owned building at 2150 Maple St. SPEC to lease old electrical shop for \$1 and operate as public facility. Building incorporates energy features: air lock doors, double-glazed windows, full insulation, solar heat and solar greenhouse.

February, 1980

SPEC's Cliff Stainsby wants disclosure of Hydro plans. "It's time we had public disclosure and involvement in all energy projects."

March, 1980

Bill Bennett declares moratorium on uranium mining. SPEC staffers pour into street for celebration.

Vancouver City Council asks province and feds for \$55,000 to convert city building at 2150 Maple into SPEC-run solar-powered energy information centre. SPEC pays \$15,000 balance for construction.

Summer, 1980

SPEC air pollution researcher Pamela Graham launches clean air campaign.

June, 1980

Analysis by SPEC researchers Dr. Michael Margolick and Tony Charles show Hydro's proposed Site C Peace River dam not needed.

July, 1980

Dep. exec.-director John Vance telegrams Environment Minister Stephen Rogers to stay oil company application to dump oil sludge on Iona Island.

August, 1980

SPEC hesitantly joins government committee to probe industrial waste. John Vance asks Minister Stephen Rogers to include labour and First Nations.

September, 1980

Former SPEC exec.-director Gary Gallon says corporations like Mac&Blo destroying rainforests in Brazil and Malaysia. "Third World environmental groups are facing same sort of problems SPEC faced 10 years ago."

SPEC's John Vance asks Minister Stephen Rogers not to exempt GVRD on pollution charges at Iona sewage plant. Rogers holds closed meetings with GVRD directors.

October, 1980

At SPEC all-candidates civic election meeting moderated by Cliff Stainsby, in-dependent Ald. Mike Harcourt wants rapid transit and recycling. TEAM candidate Martin Zlotnik wants rapid transit, but not elevated SkyTrain as proposed by Municipal Affairs Minister Bill Vander Zalm and Mayor Jack Volrich.

1981

January, 1981

John Vance calls for public inquiry into Pollution Control Board after leaked report shows government failure to clean Fraser River.

April, 1981

John Vance welcomes Environmental Appeal Board replacement of Pollution Control Board. Cliff Stainsby steps down as exec-director to work full time as intervener on Site C Dam.

May, 1981

Conservative critic John Fraser, UFAWU's Bert Ogden and NDP critic Bob Skelly join SPEC's Will Paulik on pollution tour of Fraser aboard UFAWU fishboat.

August, 1981

Mayor Mike Harcourt opens SPEC House at 2150 Maple St. SPEC to run facility as Vancouver Energy Information Centre.
"This centre came out of the Habitat Conference of 1976 and will be the start of a new era"
Harcourt tells 60 invited guests. Five energy centres planned for Cranbrook, Port Coquitlam, Victoria, Dawson Creek and Prince George. One only built in Victoria. Today only SPEC House still operating. SPEC House staff include: Cathy Fox exec-director, Deborah March education coordinator, Linda Bundrant reception, Michael Clarke librarian, Jay Lewis energy economist, Cliff Stainsby researcher and John Vance deputy director. Volunteer Evelyn Feller contributes SPECTRUM articles.

October, 1981

Open Conference on BC Environment co-sponsored by SPEC, Greenpeace, BC Wildlife Fed., West Coast Env. Law, T. Buck Suzuki Foundation and Sea Shepherd Society. Groups tackle Site C, Trident subs at Nanoose Bay, salmon fisheries and off-shore oil drilling.

November, 1981

John Vance denounces Minister Stephen Rogers' plans to develop Fraser as "devoid of any integrity."

1982

April, 1982

Kelowna SPEC activist John Warnock says Okanagan milfoil dying naturally and asks Bill Bennett to stop use of pesticide 2,4-D.

June, 1982

SPEC lawyer Tom Rafael supports Hydro rate increases at BC Utilities Commission. Hydro lawyer Ken MacKenzie declined SPEC assistance, "I don't think Hydro is in need of assistance from SPEC."

December, 1982

Nanaimo SPEC's Jim Erkiletian intervenes at Quinsam Coal Mine hearings in Campbell River. Cliff Stainsby represents SPEC on Solidarity Coalition.

1983

April, 1983

Will Paulik blasts GVRD dumping of raw sewage into Fraser.

October, 1983

Pamela Graham presents SPEC air pollution brief to Vancouver Council.

November, 1983

SPEC air quality brief given to BC Medical Assoc. by Pamela Graham

Winter, 1983

Recycling Hotline set up.

1984

Spring, 1984

Pamela Graham takes air quality brief to Fraser Valley municipalities.

Summer, 1984

Cliff Stainsby leaves SPEC to work full time on Solidarity Coalition.

1985

January, 1985

Scott Paper's plan to log New Westminster's Poplar Island criticized by Will Paulik.

GVRD gets okay to dump 600 million litres of raw sewage into English Bay. Will Paulik says dumping "example of need for secondary sewage treatment at Annacis plant."

March, 1985

SPEC, GVRD and Port Moody Council appeal Burrard Thermal permit.

1986

May, 1986

SPEC AGM elects: Cathy Fox president, Alice Coppard honorary president, Jay Lewis and Gary Jones vice president, Ed Witzke secretary. Office and research staff include: Ingrid Butters, Terry Brown, Leslie Cuthbertson, Colleen Mars and Robert Rainer.

June, 1986

Pamela Graham gets Can. Meteorological Soc.

award for air pollution work.

December, 1986

Will Paulik blows whistle on midnight dumping of deadly chlorophenols by Fraser River lumber and paper companies.

1987

February, 1987

SPEC launches Water for Tomorrow campaign directed by Leslie Cuthbertson, Terry Brown and Rob Rainer.

Pamela Graham intervenes at Environmental Protection Act hearings.

March, 1987

Fraser Estuary Management Group claims river being cleaned up. Will Paulik says "they're not going out to do a thorough protection job. They're going through a bureaucratic exercise."

1988

February, 1988

Will Paulik alarmed City's Clarke Dr. outfall pouring sewage into Vancouver Harbour.

Pamela Graham opposes exemption of pollution regs. for Port Mellon pulp mill.

May, 1988

SPEC AGM elects Pamela Graham to board.

August, 1988

Pamela Graham speaks before Central Fraser Reg. District on Hydro's plan to fire up Burrard Thermal.

September, 1988

GVRD invites Pamela Graham to sit on Air Management Plan committee.

December, 1988

SPEC's Kory Palmer calls for pulp mills to stop dioxin pollution and compensate Howe Sound fishers for pulp mill related fish closures.

1989

February, 1989

Pamela Graham meets with BC Hydro officials re. Burrard Thermal emissions.

March, 1989

SPEC's Pamela Graham intervenes at National Energy Board hearings.

SPEC exec-direct. Roz Mellander resigns to take job as recycling co-ordinator for Capital Regional District.

May, 1989

SPEC AGM: Michael Mahoney pres, Rick Smith, Pamela Graham, Will Paulik and Olga Schwartzkopf vice-pres, John Fraser hon-patron, Alice Coppard hon. pres. Directors: Eronne Ward, Vito Palmieri, Bev Clement, Ed Witzke, Dorothy Beach, Judy Toth, Barbara MacLean and Lenore Herb. Exec-dir. Donna Passmore.

June, 1989

SPEC president Mike Mahoney presents SPEC Award for Environmental Initiative to Indisposable Diaper Company and Paper Choice Industries for recycling paper.

July, 1989

SPEC board meet Vancouver Sun editorial board.

September, 1989

Pamela Graham urges public to report tailpipe polluters to Motor Vehicle Department. SPEC demands auto emission testing stations for Lower Mainland.

December, 1989

Will Paulik receives Canada Volunteer Award of Merit.

1990

January, 1990

SPEC board briefs Mayor Gordon Campbell.

June, 1990

SPEC organizes Leave Car at Home Day.

AGM: Lenore Herb pres., Paul Hundal, Dermot Foley, Will Paulik v-pres., Helen Spiegelman sec. Directors: Ed Witzke, Ed Moore, Karen Smith, Stuart Hertzog, Barbara Atkins, George Walkem, Bill Phillips, Thomas Lapierre, Judy Cross and Andy Telfer.

Pamela Graham awarded by BC Env. Minister.

July, 1990

Plans for provincial car-emission test stations "too little, too late" according to SPEC president Lenore Herb.

October, 1990

Former California transportation expert Deming Smith is SPEC rep. on Vancouver's Clouds of Change report on air quality.

December, 1990

Lenore Herb criticizes Environment Ministry list of polluters as "failing to attack the province's real pollution problems. There's been no attention paid to source pollution."

1991

Spring, 1991

SPEC researcher Dermot Foley condemns Van. Aquarium whale capture.

May, 1991

AGM: Lenore Herb pres., Paul Hundal v-pres., Ron Konst sec., Bryan Fair tres. Directors: Barb Atkins, Bruce Edwards, Anne Ferries, Will Paulik, Bill Phillips, Judith Plant, Deming Smith, Andy Telfer and Ed Witzke.

June, 1991

Will Paulik says fed. Enviro. Minister Jean Charest wasting \$65 million on industry handouts instead of Fraser River clean-up.

June, 1991

IWA head and Forest Alliance chair Jack Munro lauds GVRD's watershed logging operation which brings in \$8.5 million in log sales.

September, 1991

GVRD's Greg Halsey-Brandt says GVRD study shows logging hazard to water.

SPEC's Barbara Atkins starts community gardens on boulevard of Sixth Ave. between Cypress and Maple Sts.

SPEC's Lenore Herb calls GVRD directors "dinosaurs" on recycling.

October, 1991

Will Paulik gets Richmond Award. "Every community needs people like Will. I'm not always thrilled with what he has to say, but he brings things to our attention that we might otherwise miss." Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt

SPEC pres. Paul Hundal reveals GVRD conflict of interest in logging report.

Vancouver Parks Board chair Nancy Chiavario stops herbicide spraying of local parks after SPEC and local residents stage sit-in.

Heritage Forests Society and SPEC urge park status for Sechelt's Caren Range.

1992

January, 1992

SPEC and Bicycle People, City Couns. Libby Davies, Gordon Price stage "critical mass ride" at Cassiar Connector show city bike policy inadequate.

SPEC research director Dermot Foley wants study of Bacillus Thuringiensis (Bt) before aerial spraying of gypsy moths in Vancouver.

February, 1992

Paul Hundal asks GVRD for watershed logging moratorium. IWA's Jack Munro claims stop in logging "will lead to loss of 100 direct and indirect forest jobs, goddammit!" Council of Forest Industries says "a hands-off approach that allows nature to proceed without human intervention would allow for decline in forest health... leading to degradation of water quality."

April, 1992

SPEC opposes Asian Gypsy Moth spraying in Vancouver.

May, 1992

Pamela Graham intervenes at BC Utilities hearings on Burrard Thermal plan to export energy.

SPEC activist Marek Czuma stages 3-day hunger strike at MLA Darlene Marzari's office to protest clearcutting old growth forest.

June, 1992

Will Paulik and Gwen and Derrick Mallard get BC Environmental Awards. "Will Paulik was a

tenacious environmentalist long before it was fashionable. His unfaltering perseverance has helped protect the Fraser.... Gwen and Derrick Mallard have been working diligently for the environment's welfare since the 1960s when they formed SPEC. They are role models of environmental consciousness." Env. Min. John Cashore.

"The things Will Paulik has done for Richmond are unfathomable in terms of bringing to the public's attention environmental problems." Rmd. Ald. Harold Steeves.

July, 1992

Colleen McCrory, Joe Foy and Paul Hundal form coalition including SPEC, Sierra Club, Western Canada Wilderness Committee and Valhalla Wilderness Soc. to stop GVRD logging in Watershed.

September, 1992

Paul Hundal and Katherine Steig of Friends of Cypress Provincial Park oppose Cypress Bowl Recreations Inc. plan to log old-growth cedars for new ski runs.

October, 1992

Will Paulik calls federal-provincial report on Lower Mainland environment "just a lot of fancy words but not much action."

December, 1992

Will Paulik awarded Governor-General's Commemorative Medal for environmental work.

1993

February, 1993

SPEC staffer Cheeying Ho researches Vancouver smog, poor air quality.

March, 1993

Pamela Graham presents air pollution slide show at GVRD conference.

July, 1993

SPEC bike survey urges city bike routes.

1994

March, 1994

SPEC's Cheeying Ho organizes conference on public participation in energy planning. Co-sponsors BC Utilities and BC Energy Council.

September 1994

Pamela Graham speaks at UBC colloquium on Lower Mainland air quality.

SPEC activist Arne Hansen calls for action on disappearing salmon stocks.

October 1994

SPEC presents brief to federal govt. Climate Change Workshop.

1995

February 1995

Pamela Graham asks Vancouver Health Officer Dr. John Blatherwick to take action on environmental illnesses. Blatherwick declines, says provincial responsibility.

April 1995

Vancouver Sun publishes Pamela Graham article on air pollution.

1996

January 1996

Pamela Graham asks BC Health Minister Paul Ramsey for action on environmental illness. Ramsey says municipal responsibility.

Pamela Graham appears on BCTV feature on environmental illness.

June 1996

Environment Minister Moe Sihota gives Pamela Graham award for "Raising awareness of air-quality issues in the Lower Mainland."

August 1996

SPEC co-produces film maker Jim Hamm's 48-min. *The Air We Breathe*.

November 1996

Pamela Graham meets BC Health Minister Joy MacPhail on environmental illness.

1997

January 1997

SPEC AGM: David Cadman pres., Paul Hundal past-pres., Sunee Vektoor v-p., Cathy German sec., Ann Ferries treas. Directors Norman Abbey, Doug Abberley, Don Alexander, Liz Bannister, Guy Wera, Steven Chan, Carol Christopher, Marian Halle, Arne Hansen, April Hurmuses, Jared Irwin, Shirley McGrew, Will Paulik and Helen Spiegelman.

March 1997

Pamela Graham again asks Blatherwick about environmental illness. Blatherwick says "I cannot concur that this is a neglected issue."

April 1997

Inessa Ormond new Admin. Coordinator.

April 1997

Nanaimo SPEC's Ivan Bulic, Norm Abbey draw 85 to John Clarke slide show.

May 1997

SPEC dir. Don Alexander urges City Council to approve urban ecology plan for Southeast False Creek.

June 1997

SPEC peace-ecology activist June Black killed by speeding car. June advocated for public transit after son killed by car 20 yrs. earlier.

David Cadman, Paul Hundal speak at GVRD public meeting on watershed logging. Crowd says no logging.

July 1997

SPEC directors Marion Halle and Jared Irwin work with Nuxalk Nation to build cob earth-architecture structure in Bella Coola.

September 1997

David Cadman on Van. Lab. Coun. Env. Forum with T. Buck Suzuki's Mae Burrows, BCGEU, CEP and CAW's Roger Crowther.

Jillian Skeet of End the Arms Race, UBC Prof. Mike Wallace, NCC's Norm Abbey meet on APEC at SPEC.

October 1997

Pamela Graham asks Minister Joy MacPhail about environmental illness. MacPhail says is Blatherwick's responsibility.

November 1997

SPEC asks 700 labour, civic, NGO groups to write

local mayors to stop watershed logging.

1998

January 1998

SPEC AGM: David Cadman pres., Alice Coppard hon.-pres., Paul Hundal past. pres., Helen Spiegelman v-pres., Ann Ferries treas. Directors: Liz Bannister, Steven Chan, Carol Christopher, Will Paulik, Don DeMille, John Whistler, Ivan Bulic, Deming Smith. Geoff Berner and 40 supporters attempt SPEC takeover. The Berner bid is defeated.

March 1998

Inessa Ormond admin-coord.; Ivan Bulic campaign coordinator. Long-time vol. Cecile Helten in office.

April 1998

SPEC nominates 900 Clayoquot protestors for Enviro. Minister's awards.

Heather Mahony, Nathan Popkin hold watershed meetings. 75 hear health officer Dr. Mark McLean

SPEC press conference for Sierra Club director Elizabeth May's BC book tour.

Pamela Graham asks federal Health Minister Alan Rock to deal with en-vironmental illness. Rock says is provincial responsibility.

Alberta Court landmark ruling legitimizes environmental illness claim.

SPEC urges Health Min. Priddy to stop chlorophenoxy pesticide spraying in Vancouver schools.

May 1998

SPEC staff join Communications Energy Paperworkers Union Loc. 2000.

Longshore Union backs SPEC call for nowatershed logging. Union writes North Van.

Council.

SPEC president David Cadman says Van. Council off track to blame False Creek sewage on hippy boaters.

No. Van. first municipality to ask GVRD to stop watershed logging.

UBC's Dr. Michael Feller debunks watershed fire myth at SPEC meeting.

June 1998

Duthie's distributes 5,000 SPEC safety bookmarks for Bike-to-Work Week.

ETeam interns Josée Lebel and Amanda Thompson work on stream restoration, climate change.

SPEC hosts Winds of Change climate change conference. MLA Joan Sawicki, MP Libby Davies, Coun. Gordon Price, researcher Todd Litman, labour, First Nations and NGOs produce 11-pt. Action Plan. Funding from VanCity.

SPEC volunteer appreciation awards dinner.

SPEC and Coalition of BEST's Cheeying Ho, SLDF's Mike Magee, lawyer Bill Andrews, WCEL's Chris Rolfe, Transport 2000's Ian Fisher and UBC Prof. Peter Boothroyd oppose Minister Joy MacPhail's exempting SkyTrain from public review.

July 1998

Pamela Graham advises federal Minister Rock of Alberta environmental illness decision. Rock does not reply.

August 1998

Helen Spiegelman blows whistle on Cathy McGregor deal to exempt SunRype's Tetrapak drink boxes from deposit regs.

September 1998

SunRype Inc. threatens to sue unless SPEC backs

off. SPEC ignores threats.

BCEN's Anne-Marie Sleeman, SPEC, Van. Library, VanCity sponsor Toxics series.

Victoria agrees with SPEC and Coalition; sets Derek Thompson SkyTrain review. Deming Smith is Inquiry Coalition coordinator.

SPEC information picket urges boycott TetraPak drink containers.

SPEC opposes Energy Minister Dan Miller's plan to drill oil off North Coast.

October 1998

SPEC and Suzuki Fnd. critical of McGregor for no action on Climate Change.

APEC Inquiry reveals Military Intelligence spied on Sept. 08/97 SPEC meeting. Secret doc. lists SPEC and 60 "anti-APEC" groups including BC Fed., Van. Lab. Council, BCEN, Greenpeace and First Nations as "threats."

November 1998

Cathy McGregor makes exemptions to Environmental Reviews.

December 1998

SPEC and Bruce Ferguson of Native Aboriginal Youth Advisory Soc. co-sponsor project with six Native ETeam interns.

David Cadman calls for judicial review of police at SPEC co-sponsored Dec. 08 Hyatt SprayPEC Demo.

1999

January 1999

SPEC celebrates 30 years of environmental activism!