

Walk Softly

*Newsletter of the Yukon
Conservation Society
September 1997*

INSIDE: *Log Exports ♦ Habitat ♦ Global Economics ♦ Wildlife Management*



Upstream, Downstream: *Creating Sustainable Watershed Communities*

In the 1960's and 70's, many (non-aboriginal) North Americans held the belief that the term "upwardly mobile" meant having the resources and ability to pick up and relocate to a better location at the drop of a hat. There was little sense of belonging (let alone getting involved) as part of a "community." Twenty years later, industrial pollution and social problems are rampant everywhere so there are fewer and fewer places to move that offer much improvement over "staying put." As a result, people are beginning to take greater interest in long term solutions for social issues and healthy local ecosystems in the places they presently call home.

Viewing the community as part of a watershed is an exciting new perspective which is working for a number of communities around the globe. In some parts of Wales, for example, people believe that their watersheds are like their countries. With this view, residents take a very protective and proactive approach to planning and development in their region.

So, a watershed approach starts with engaging community interest in the dynamics of "their" watershed. This includes everything from understanding basic ecological and hydrological functions of the area through to identifying current attitudes, commitments and management processes which affect the area and potential or existing conflicts in priorities.

Developing community vision, strategies and indicators through an inclusive process of community involvement is a key approach to sustainable community planning (described in *Sustainable Community Planning*, Walk Softly, June 1997). People need to participate in the process of change, not have it imposed upon them. In order to validate their role in the process, people also need to be taking action, monitoring and evaluating results.

In the Salmon River area in the interior of BC, area residents were actively involved in a five-year riparian restoration project. The planning and implementation of the project required many different kinds of expertise, equipment and skills. By combining all available community resources, the community was successful in revitalizing the river that they all depend upon.

Building community sustainability through watershed

planning may be triggered by a particular problem (erosion, habitat loss, contamination) or by a specific development proposal which has the potential to create a problem. Ideally however, this planning approach should begin before problems occur.

What kinds of initiatives can inspire community interest in a watershed approach to long term community planning? There are many examples in other jurisdictions, but one recent Yukon example was initiated and delivered by YCS in partnership with DIAND and CYFN in the spring of 1996. The Environmental Training workshops, a series of three-day workshops held in five Yukon communities, were designed to help build grass-roots interest in the environment. The workshops included participants from all Yukon communities.

The three day sessions included presentations and group discussions on environmental quality, ecosystems, watersheds, waste and land use. A mapping exercise helped to focus participants on activities and developments occurring in their watershed. These workshops, funded by the Gordon Foundation, were part of the Building Sustainable Communities project.

During a "go-round" at the Community Development Institute conference last month in Sechelt BC, I briefly described the project, the workshops and some of the follow-up activities in which YCS is presently involved. Other participants and facilitators were extremely interested in the grass-roots focus and the proactive nature of the workshop approach. They were impressed with our process, which directly involved First Nations and other community people in planning and logistics for the workshops and the purposeful inclusion of youth and elders.

Two things struck home for me when I considered this project in terms of building sustainable Yukon communities. One was that the workshops which YCS delivered succeeded in raising community awareness of environmental issues and the resources available through YCS. This has been evident over the past year as contacts and connections made during the workshops continue to prompt follow-up requests to YCS on issues of local concern. The second thing is that YCS is in a position to carry on with this grass-roots approach to community



involvement in an inclusive way which seems to cut through some of the barriers of a more institutional or bureaucratically designed process.

Over the next few years, the Yukon will evolve into new ways of doing things, through the settlement of land claims and devolution in particular. One of the most significant changes will be greater community involvement in decision-making. The focus on long-term community and ecosystem health can only be enhanced by

the maintenance of a healthy watershed. If we start thinking like that now, we'll stay ahead of the game.

janne hicklin

At the end of July, Janne, Kim Barlow and Alice Hartling attended a five-day Community Development Institute workshop, with financial assistance from NorNet, the Yukon Forest Commission and YCS. They plan to organize an evening workshop later in the fall (or early winter) to share some of the information and ideas from the conference.

Sailing

John Masefield wrote "I must down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky, and all I ask is a tall ship and star to steer her by..."

Buckminster Fuller suggested that sailors were the first great technologists. They studied the stars for navigation, realized the Earth was a globe, harnessed the wind, invented block-and-tackle devices (the first cranes) and understood the basics of meteorology.

In one sense technology is just the transforming agent of an energy base, in our case fossil fuels and to a lesser degree moving water and nuclear power. History can be thought of in terms of energy succession, from wood, to water and coal (the steam age), to the present age of oil. Each step up the ladder has been towards a more complex system and mode of transformation.

As fuels become scarce new technologies are developed to exploit new resources. With fission, the nuclear industry once promised electricity 'too cheap to meter'. Just the clean-up cost alone for Chernobyl (to say nothing of the long term health costs for those affected) is in the \$20 billion range. Playing Russian roulette with radio-active waste, or spewing more life threatening greenhouse gases into the atmosphere (or damming more rivers for that matter) has become untenable.

Greater generating capacity at one end or more energy efficient technology at the other is our choice. Until recently utilities have seen their interests threatened by

such simple common sense. Our total energy consumption here in Canada can only be described as voracious. In Haiti, the annual per capita consumption of energy was equivalent to about 68 pounds of coal a few years ago. By comparison, we were using the equivalent approximation of about 24,000 pounds per person annually.

I believe it was Jung who posed the question "Can a society become dysfunctional and out of touch with reality?" He concluded yes. My own belief is that as the grand toolmaker has advanced from flint to microchips, so has our alienation from what I can only describe as 'reality.' The reality of wind, and rain, and rock. The reality of the storm, of lightening, of thunder. The reality of silence. The reality of geese flying over in the fall. The reality of wolves. The reality of death. The reality of the loons call. The reality of the rainbow.

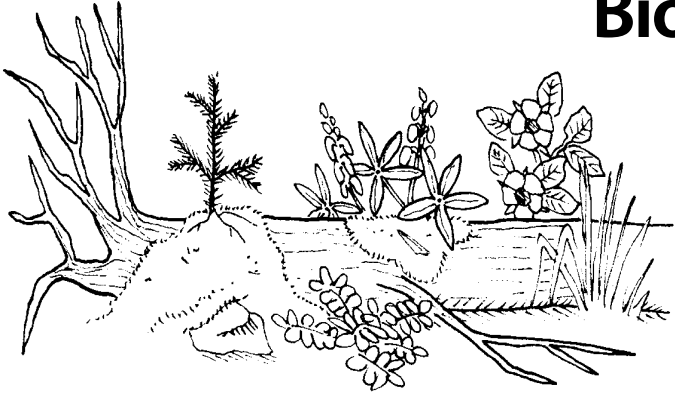
As an industrial technological civilization we are out of touch. Neoclassical economics is still in the stone age. We seem to have only a dim perception of the truly staggering debt we've accrued over years of environmental degradation. The piper has to be paid one way or another. Technology can be applied wisely and work elegantly. We will never feel the wind at our backs in quite the same way those early mariners felt it, but we can go down to the sea 'again' to find that star once more to guide us.

andrew macdonald





Biodiversity



The following information is excerpted from a Yukon Conservation Society information pamphlet prepared by Randi Mulder, "Maintaining Biodiversity in Yukon Forests." If you'd like to have a read of the whole pamphlet contact the office or stay tuned. More information will be highlighted in future newsletters.

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity, or biological diversity, is the variety of life and its processes. It does not just refer to the number of plant and animal species in a given area, but also to variety in ecosystems and landscapes and in the genetic make-up of organisms.

WHAT AFFECTS BIODIVERSITY?

Both natural and human-induced processes influence biodiversity and shape Yukon forests.

NATURAL PROCESSES:

Wildfires

On average, a given area of Yukon forests burns every 80-200 years. Fires change a forest's structure and habitat pattern, leaving patches of living trees of various sizes as well as standing and downed dead trees. Fires are a normal part of the disturbance regime of boreal forests.

Insect Outbreaks and Diseases

These too are a normal part of a forest ecosystem. Insects and disease-causing organisms decompose wood fibre and leaves and are a food supply for birds and small mammals. The dead trees that result from insect outbreaks and diseases provide food and shelter for numerous other organisms.

Windthrow

Uprooted trees create new habitat for vegetation. Fallen trees open the canopy and allow more light to reach the forest floor. As well, they expose mineral soil and allow soil mixing. In time, the decaying trees themselves may be colonized by tree seedlings and other plants. All this creates a diversity of habitats and encourages natural regeneration of a forest.

HUMAN-INDUCED PROCESSES:

With the exception of lodgepole pine, much of the forest cover in the Yukon is composed of multi-age trees of different species. The practice of clearcutting and replanting to a single species creates forests of uniform age and species.

While stands of lodgepole pine are often of uniform age, they may also have extensive lichen cover which takes more than fifty years to establish. Clearcutting lodgepole pine forest may therefore result in a reduction of lichen cover, which in turn may affect the organisms that use the lichen cover and reduce the forest diversity.

Clearcutting does not have the same beneficial effects as windthrow and fire because the soil is not mixed (unless it is mixed mechanically). Instead, clearcutting may cause soil compaction which will make recolonization much more difficult.

Logging roads can fragment the forest habitat, may interfere with travelling corridors used by animals, or result in excessive hunting.

Snags and large, decaying logs are often removed during timber harvesting. In Yukon forests, 22 species of birds depend on snags for shelter and nesting. When snags are removed, bird species may be lost too.

Example: Caribou and Lichen

Lichens are slow growing and therefore slow to recover when impacted by logging. In addition to mechanical damage, logging causes changes in moisture and temperature which may dry lichens out and further slow their recovery.

Between 50 and 80% of winter forage for caribou consists of lichen.

Clearcutting may thus remove a large proportion of their winter food.



Editorial

Walk Softly

is published by the Yukon Conservation Society for members. Memberships and information about the Society can be obtained by phoning the YCS at (403) 668-5678, (fax 668-6637), by writing to Box 4163, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3T3, by visiting the YCS office at 302 Hawkins Street, Whitehorse or by e-mail at ycs@polarcom.com

We welcome newsletter submissions and letters to the editor. Views expressed in *Walk Softly* are not necessarily those of the Society.

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When reading this issue of Walk Softly you will notice that underlying most of the articles is a need for us all to consider what our actions cost the environment and how economics tries to steer us in certain directions. We must all take personal responsibility for the environmental effects of our lives and our decisions.

The following lyrics are from "Three Simple Rules"; a song by Remy Rodden from his recently released CD "Think About The Planet."

*And now I am a person of the twenty-first century
And I wonder how to live my life responsibly
For I know that there are limits and we can't go on and on
Consuming and polluting 'til everything is gone
And I know that the answers are as old as they can be
If my great grand-dad were here today he'd say these
words to me*

*Respect all life
Take only what you need
(and for the planet's sake)
Use all that you take*

Wise words, indeed. Remy has put out a fine CD that is filled with catchy tunes which sometimes raise awareness and sometimes challenge the listener to consider their role in the environmental health of the planet. The CD is appropriate for older children and adults. Like me, you may find yourself singing along the first time through to "What's that, Habitat?" and "Garbage."

Buying locally, and supporting individual and organizational efforts towards our common good are excellent criteria to apply to consumer decisions. YCS has Remy's CDs for sale at the office. We encourage you to come by and consider our merchandise when you are looking for an environmentally ethically correct gift. Your support helps us to continue to work for the conservation of Yukon wildlife and wilderness. Additionally, a portion of the proceeds from this CD goes toward environmental education and wildlife conservation projects.

shelley gerber



To export or not to export?

One of the main issues the Yukon forest “industry” has long been concerned about is the restriction on whole log exports out of the Yukon, whether overseas or down the highway. Restrictions on exports, spokespeople for the loggers argue, are unreasonable as the facilities do not exist here to process the portion of the annual allowable cut (AAC) that is supposed to be processed in the Yukon. They also contend that limiting exports limits the ability of people to raise the capital which they could use to develop more local mills. In the short-term, in the absence of adequate milling facilities in the Yukon, “let us export” they say.

Without getting into the details of regulatory interpretations about exports that have recently evoked great concern from industry, suffice it to say that industry, particularly those that had been dependent on the export market for their profits, are not happy. Industry believes that many operations will not survive without a greater ability to export. However, their efforts to change regulatory interpretations or increase exports in any way have met with resistance from some, including the Yukon Conservation Society.

At the heart of the debate for and against exports is the question, are log exports good for the Yukon economy? Those currently involved in making money through raw log exports — and those in related secondary industries — argue yes, the revenues received are benefitting loggers and supporting industries. In the Watson Lake area this is particularly felt to be true.

However, others view the issue differently. Although it is tempting to argue that logging for export is ecologically unsustainable (as so much of the exported timber is logged using clearcutting practices and large scale equipment), the rate of logging and the type of harvesting are important but separate issues.

The question of export is primarily one of economics. The argument against exports is simple: the logged tree should provide the maximum economic value possible to the community and if that value can't be realized in the short term, then the tree should be left standing as a future investment (it will, after all, continue to provide other benefits to the ecosystem).

Maximum value means that the each cubic metre of wood cut provides the maximum number of possible

jobs. Cutting a tree for export employs fewer local people per cubic metre than cutting the same tree and processing it locally. It means fewer dollars are generated within the community. So common sense dictates that the more jobs that can be extracted from logged trees the better for the community.

Of course, the industry response, at least for the short term, is that there is little local ability to provide those processing jobs so let that timber be logged for export. Others assert that those trees should provide maximum benefits and, until they can do so, they should stay where they are to provide all the other benefits they do (e.g. ecological, aesthetic, recreational). They contend that the continued export of Yukon logs is a continued export of future jobs and that governments must limit the loss of future jobs. Those currently dependent on log export markets need to adjust their business plans in recognition of this reality.

When compared to the longer history of small scale operations which have produced logs and other products for the local market, the export of Yukon timber is a recent phenomenon. With the dramatic jump in pulp prices about five years ago, investment in the export market increased dramatically. Numerous people bought new equipment, or brought machines in from elsewhere, and joined the ranks of “Yukon” loggers. Very low stumpage fees combined with record high market prices made it a lucrative business for some.

But following the boom came the bust. Market prices went down and stumpage fees went up. Competition for the timber continued with no guarantees to established or new loggers for a portion of the next year's allocation (continued changes to management approaches and the impending devolution of responsibility for forest management from the federal to territorial government have added to the frustration and uncertainty for many members of industry). The concern about log exports does not really rest on economics alone as related environmental and social factors weave in and out of the discussion. In particular, the kind of economy fostered by a community determines the long-term sustainability of the town. Boom-bust economies, based on the extraction of raw resources, have long been the history of northern towns and are usually recognized as socially undesirable. They are also environmentally



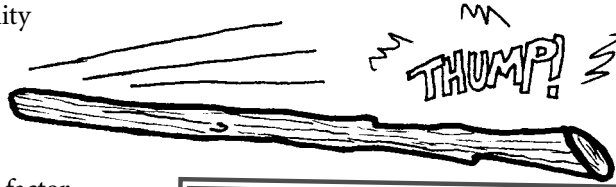
undesirable as a rooted, stable community is one that is more likely to take care of its backyard than the transient communities that arise from boom-bust scenarios.

There are also other factors related to the export of wood. The trend towards an increasingly global economy goes against many principles of community sustainability. Rather than increasing our reliance on transportation — of raw goods out and processed goods back in — we should be working to minimize our “ecological footprint.” And to be fair, we must factor into the debate the quality of the processing of our trees. In addition to looking at the number of jobs per cubic metre, we must strive to use processing facilities which maximize the use of our trees.

It is important that when we are designing a sustainable forest policy for our future that we account for those currently working in all forest related economies and try to address their needs and future opportunities. However, it is also critical that we do not build a policy

on short term situations arising out of a boom-bust scenario. The focus must be on what the Yukon needs to ensure long term economic, environmental and social sustainability.

jennifer ellis



Over the coming year, a lot of work will be done on developing a new Yukon forest policy. This is the time to get involved and speak out on how you want to see our forests and forest economies managed. Call YCS for updates on issues and to find out how to plug-in!

Taku

The Taku Wilderness Association is a small grassroots environmental organization located in the small village of Atlin, British Columbia right on the northern edge of the Taku River Watershed. We were formed in the summer of 1995 in response to the application filed by Redfern Resources, a Vancouver-based junior mining exploration company listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, to reopen the Tulsequah Chief mine situated near the confluence of the Tulsequah and Taku Rivers. The possibility of seeing this un-fragmented and essentially untouched area opened to industrial development and road-building 160 kilometres in length without having a comprehensive Land Use and Management Plan in place, to assess whether the Taku could handle this sort of massive intrusion, alarmed a large number of citizens in the Atlin area. It is the opinion of our association that carving a road through the heart of this watershed will compromise the possibility of there ever being a community-driven Land use Plan implemented in the area. It will also impose a southern development and “full access” agenda which will bypass community and First Nation concerns over the fate of the Taku.

The direct threats to the Taku River system from re-opening the Tulsequah Chief Mine (in particular the impacts of the road) are many and varied and, even with the implementation of stricter environmental measures promised by the BC government, the Taku Wilderness Association feels that the re-opening of the mine is potentially a grave mistake. The grizzly bear, salmon and migratory bird species are extremely rich and varied in the Taku basin. In the confines of the steep and narrow river valleys of this region, these creatures will not be able to handle the disruption of increasingly intrusive human development if access, in the form of Redfern Resources mining road, is granted. The Pandora’s Box of increased mineral resource extraction and expanded logging activity which will result within the Taku will irreversibly alter the balanced ecosystem which presently exists there. We feel this decision must be carefully considered and that a proper planning process, with full community input, must be in place before the Taku is opened up to increased development.

What our organization is asking for is TIME. Time to create a proper management plan for the Taku, a plan



created with the interests of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation being paramount. A plan created around the principle of protection and conservation which would allow only those forms of development that are low-impact and non-invasive in nature. The Redfern Resources proposal of development, as it is currently presented, cannot fit into such a criteria and therefore we are asking for support from the public in our effort to influence the decision-makers.

What we are asking of members of the Yukon Conservation Society is that you contact your representatives in the Yukon Legislature and express your concerns about the issue. There are a number of implications for the Yukon with this issue regarding the transportation of the ore concentrate from the mine-site to Skagway. Road up-grades will be required for the Atlin Road, the Alaska Highway, and possibly the Tagish Road, due to ore and logging truck traffic. The question of subsidy and whether Yukon taxpayers will be asked to pay for these upgrades is unclear and the resultant impact on tourism must also be taken into considera-

tion. There are many outstanding questions on the Taku issue and at present very few answers.

The Environmental Assessment process in BC requires the mining proponent to make public presentations to the people who will be directly affected by their development plans. As a result Redfern will be making public presentations in Atlin at the Recreation Centre (Sept 30), and in Whitehorse at the Gold Rush Inn (Oct 2). Open houses will be held between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. and presentations and questions periods will be between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. We encourage you to attend and bring other interested individuals. The full project report is also available for public review in the libraries in each of these communities. The deadline for comments to the BC process is November 6th. The politicians, press and the company will be studying the public mood very carefully and it is critical that you make your concerns known. We hope you will view this issue as important enough to contact the following government leaders and express your concern about the future of the Taku.



Please Contact:

Piers McDonald, Government Leader
 Dave Keenan, Minister of Community &
 Transportation Services
 Trevor Harding, Minister of Economic
 Development
 all at Box 2703 Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Please also send letters by November 6, 1997 to the government leaders listed below and request that the mining certificate for the reactivation of

the Tulsequah Chief mine be denied. Please request that Public Hearings be held into Redfern's proposed development Plans in the Taku.

Premier Glen Clark
 Executive Branch
 Room 156
 West Annex Bldgs
 Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Cathy McGregor
 Minister of Environment, Lands & Parks
 Room 337
 Parliament Bldgs.
 Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Norm Ringstad
 Project Assessment Director
 Environmental Assessment Office
 2nd Floor, 836 Yates St.
 Victoria, BC V8V 1X4



Read All About It!

New additions to the YCS library are longing to break free and spread their words. Read them and absorb a wealth of information, much of it never revealed before! Here are but a few...

Shopping with a Conscience — The Informed Shopper's Guide to Retailers, Suppliers, and Service Providers in Canada

EthicScan Canada & co.

Is your car made by a company whose environmental performance is unacceptable? Are you wearing clothing made by a business who received a failing grade on labour relations? What is the degree to which company decisions are made in Canada? How about gender and family issues, community responsibilities, and candour? Grab this book now and check out how the businesses you frequent most stack up to this book's tough grading system. Is it time for a change?

Caring for the Future — Report of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life — A Radical Agenda for Positive Change

"This timely, path-breaking report examines the challenges that face all countries, both rich and poor, in the last years of the century. The Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life, headed by Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, former Prime Minister of Portugal, outlines a radical agenda to confront the economic, human, and environmental crises facing the world today." This book is sure to be a goner, so hurry in today!

Ecoforestry — The Art and Science of Sustainable Forest Use

Edited by Alan Drengson and Duncan Taylor

This book is for anyone from foresters and loggers to environmentalists, restorationists, planners, policy analysts, students and ordinary citizens (like me, for example!). *Ecoforestry* focuses on the philosophy, goals, policies, and practices of ecologically and economically sustainable forest use. Encyclopedic in scope, the topics covered include ecoforestry principles and practices; forest ecosystem components and restoration; ethnobotany; fire and ecosystem management; community forestry; wood and forest products certification; the deep ecology movement; and current ecoforestry practitioners and techniques. "The New Paradigm for the Forest Industry!" Check it out!

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The Hiker's Guide to Alaska

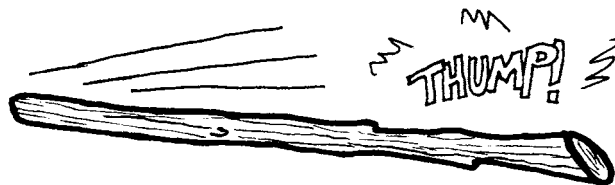
by Evan and Margaret Swansen

Planning a trip to Alaska? Want to know a good hike that will showcase the best of this rugged, beautiful state? From short strolls to multi-day backpacking, *The Hiker's Guide to Alaska* details 90 hikes for all ages and abilities. It includes maps for each hike and features sections on safety, backpacking ethics, weather and bugs. *The Hiker's Guide to Alaska* is the perfect introduction to hiking the great state of Alaska, with millions of acres of wilderness just waiting to be explored.

Economic Renewal Guide — A Collaborative Process for Sustainable Community Development

by Michael J. Kinsley, Rocky Mountain Institute

This in-depth guide to creating successful communities focuses on how anyone with a will can bring about a brighter future for his/her community. Rather than looking to expensive, short-term plans for improvement, the *Economic Renewal Guide* shows down to earth ways of increasing a community's economic development without going beyond its limits and the hands of its citizens.



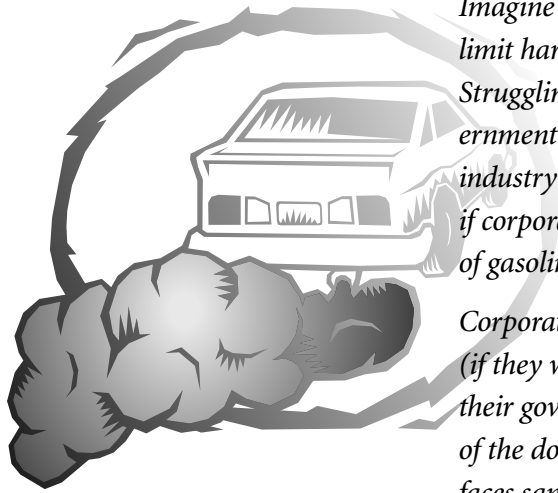
Members!

Your membership dues don't just buy you this newsletter, a vote at the AGM, and a warm fuzzy feeling. It also gets you access to the YCS library! Come on down to check out one of these books, or one of the many others on the shelves.



What Are You Willing to Trade?

Global economics versus environmental protection



Imagine a scenario where a government passes regulations that are designed to limit harmful emissions from gasoline in highly polluted areas of the country. Struggling with the need to establish a baseline for gasoline composition, this government disallows the selling of gasoline that is any more contaminated than the industry average for 1990. Domestic gasoline producers are given some flexibility if corporations can produce accurate records of past performance and composition of gasoline sold. All imports are automatically subject to the 1990 standard.

Corporations in other countries that face expensive upgrades of their refineries (if they want to continue exporting to the country with the new regulations) lobby their governments to file a trade complaint as they are treated differently than some of the domestic companies. The complaint is successful and the clean air country faces sanctions of up to \$150 million a year if it doesn't change its regulations.

This gasoline ruling is, unfortunately, a true story with the US Clean Air Act Regulations being the target of complaints by Brazil and Venezuela. The trade complaint was the first to be dealt with by the fairly new, and very powerful, World Trade Organization (WTO). Set up in January 1995, the WTO administers several multilateral trade agreements (including the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), facilitates future trade negotiations and oversees trade dispute resolution on behalf of the more than 120 countries that are parties to the trade regime.

The WTO “represents a watershed in the process of establishing a truly global economic order and it is likely to exert a more profound influence over the course of human affairs than has any other institution in history.” This is the warning put forward by the Common Front on the World Trade Organization, a coalition of Canadian public interest and labour groups, in its new, detailed environmental guide to the WTO.

The guide notes three reasons for placing such global and historical significance on the WTO. The first points to the dramatic amount of control by and influence of transnational corporations of the world's assets and its production and distribution systems. Economic decisions are made irrespective of regional and national boundaries. In an era where the global economy is increasingly based on international trade, it is worth

noting that 40% of all international trade takes places within the same corporate family.

The second reason for the Common Front's concern centres on the extent to which trade rules have reached into every facet of the economy. Historically, trade agreements focused on the trade of manufactured goods and natural resource products across international borders. Now these agreements include investment measures, intellectual property rights, domestic regulatory initiatives, and services. Most areas of social, economic or environmental significance can now be said to have some relationship to trade and are, therefore, subject to trade agreements.

Finally, the guide points out that the WTO has enormously powerful enforcement tools for ensuring adherence to international trade laws. The \$150 million a year in sanctions noted above is one example. While earlier trade regimes had similar sanctions, they could only be implemented with the consensus of all GATT members, including the offending country. Under WTO, rulings are automatically implemented unless blocked by a consensus of WTO members. Now the offending country must convince all other countries, including those who filed the complaint, to oppose the sanctions. Furthermore, these sanctions can be applied to any aspect of the offending country's international trade (i.e. where it will be felt the most).



The Common Front argues that the agenda of this powerful institution and the agreements it administers is to constraint the ability of governments to interfere with the activities of large corporations. Some of the measures are directly related to trade activities like limits on resource exports or controls on endangered species trade or bans on tropical timber imports. Others, however, affect regulations or programs that indirectly influence trade. Recycling regulations, energy efficiency standards or bans on toxic substance are a few examples of far reaching environmental implications of these agreements. Even issues which have nothing to do with trade, such as the regulation of foreign investment, are dealt with by WTO agreements.

One of the essential elements of free trade agreements is that WTO parties treat “like products” from one country as favourably as those from any others or from their domestic market. Thus lumber harvested selectively from a second growth forest in one country must be treated the same as lumber from a clearcut in a old growth rainforest. Tuna from nets that kill dolphins can not face import restrictions that “dolphin-friendly” tuna does not face. Like products must be treated the same, regardless of the process used to produce them.

The WTO does have a Committee on Trade and the Environment (CTE) which has the broad mandate of considering the interrelationships between trade and the environment. This committee, which includes some environmental group representatives, has tended toward supporting the primacy of trade over environmental policy. Some argue the CTE does little more than strategically deflect and neutralize environmental criticism of the WTO.

The Common Front notes that the value of the work of the CTE is only that it has revealed the significant work that needs to be done to address environment and trade issues. Although the picture painted by the environmental guide is daunting, hope is offered.

Environmentalists, it is argued, need to shed light on what our governments are promoting in international

trade discussions. The Canadian government, the guide notes, has played an important role in trying to extend the reach of WTO rules to constrain the use of eco-labeling and weakening multilateral environmental agreements like those on trade in endangered species, ozone depleting substances and the transport and disposal of hazardous wastes.

What Canadian environmental

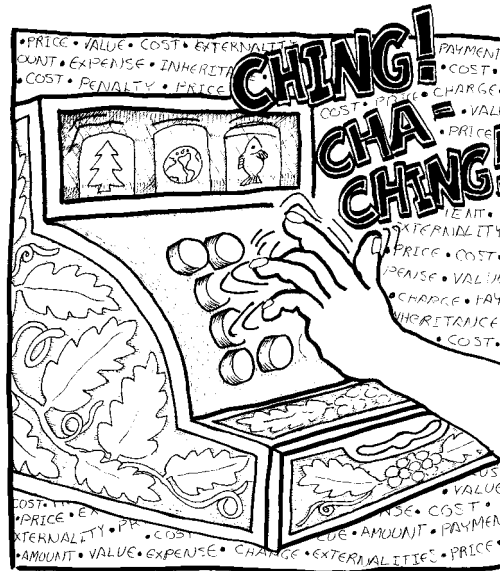
groups and others need to do is expose the lack of public support for Canada's positions and lobby the government to support progressive environmental proposals forwarded by other countries.

The Common Front says it is imperative that we convert the WTO into an institution that will foster rather than undermine the goals of sustainable development. “Admittedly this will be a difficult challenge, but it is not entirely unlike the one that confronted environmen-

talists several decades ago when governments and courts were uninformed about, and indifferent to, the principles of environmental protection and resource conservation. We struggled for years to overcome the resistance, but we succeeded in mobilizing public opinion, by fostering scientific research, and by forcing governments to respond with progressive environmental initiatives.”

Hope also comes through an appreciation of the need to establish strong international regimes to confront global ecological problems and the WTO may be viewed as a model for implementing such regimes. The challenge is convincing governments that problems such as climate change and biodiversity loss are as important as protecting investment and intellectual property rights. “If we can, then trade agreements may be harnessed as a powerful force for bringing about environmental and conservation reforms.” Truly a challenge of global proportions.

Further details on trade issues affecting forestry, agriculture, fisheries and other areas can be found in the Common Front's 53 page “Environment Guide to the World Trade Organization”. It is available in YCS's resource library.



jennifer ellis



Evil Transnationals

evil adj. 1) harmful or tending to harm 2) causing misfortune (from The Concise Oxford Dictionary)

Although I am the first to admit I find there's a rather satisfying ring to the phrase "evil transnationals", there are also a number of strong environmental reasons to be aware of the threat to sustainability that these giant companies pose. It is undoubtedly true that those in control of these organizations are not actively on a mission to destroy the planet. But neither are they necessarily globally responsible capitalists à la Ayn Rand out there making the world a better, harder working place. And, regardless of their intentions, in their role as movers and shakers in the world economy, they are much more closely linked to the rise and fall of the global environment than is first apparent.

Just what is a TNC?

A transnational corporation (TNC) is one whose business activities — sales, distribution, extraction, manufacturing, and research and development — stretch into a number of different countries so that the company is financially dependent on operations in 2 or more countries. Because of this, its management decisions are made based on regional or global alternatives (eg. cheaper labour in this country, let's move our manufacturing components there; taxes too high here, let's move our head office there, etc.)

The goals of TNCs are to grow and accumulate wealth. The recent decades' major technological advances in transportation, communication, and the transfer of capital has allowed them to expand and flourish in a way that was never possible before. The United Nations reports that of the world's largest 100 economies, 47 are now transnationals (1991 statistics). This means that approximately 138 countries of the world — the vast majority — have smaller economies than these giant companies. TNCs do 80 to 90% of the industrial world's trade. They control 80% of the world's land cultivated for export-oriented crops. In a world where money talks, this is power.

Not Accountable

Although TNCs are collectively the world's most power-

ful economic force, no intergovernmental organization is charged with regulating their behaviour.

Governments at least have to pretend that they are working towards the public good; TNCs have no such constraints. Because they are not held accountable to the public, TNCs can make their decisions solely on a short-term economic basis and the bottom line. And yet the impacts of their decisions can be much further reaching.

For example, we don't use asbestos in Canadian buildings any more but Canadian companies still make profits exporting it to Third World nations. In the late 1980's, 25% of total US pesticide exports by TNCs were chemicals that were banned, unregistered, cancelled, or withdrawn in the US itself. Finding new markets for these unsavory substances is a bottom line coup, but it still means that food chains are being disrupted, people are being poisoned and soil is being made unproductive. Because we are in a closed circuit, this will come back to haunt us sooner or later.

Their backyard is our backyard...

TNCs have lobbied vigorously to lessen government restrictions on their movement and ability to maximize returns. Organized corporate lobbying on the world stage at the 1992 UN Conference on the Environment at Rio meant that some proposals (including proposals to regulate the practices of global corporations) never even made it to discussion. Although the days of overt banana republics are hopefully over, TNCs still have great ability to exert leverage directly by employing government officials, participating in economic policy making committees, making financial contributions to political parties, and bribery.

Burdened by debt, low commodity prices, and unemployment, less industrialized countries have been clamouring to attract TNCs by liberalizing trade restrictions, offering lower wages and fewer health and environmental regulations than industrialized countries. Environmental realities have shown us that just because we let our production methods trash somebody else's backyard doesn't mean we won't pay for it eventually. By allowing TNCs to keep going to the lowest common denominator of environmental regulations, we are toying with the future of the whole planet.



Sustainability

TNCs play important roles as owners, partners in joint ventures, and suppliers of technology in the mining and manufacturing sectors of many developing countries, especially in environmentally sensitive areas like petroleum, metals, paper, and automobiles. They also dominate world trade in many primary commodities.

Developing countries need foreign currency but they also need to protect their resource base and use it sustainably. Because they won't be held accountable for what happens to the country when they leave, a TNC can be very ruthless in how it exploits these resources. With an eye on the bottom line and operating as a smart company should, they have every traditional right to maximize profit, use up the resource and move on.

Economic and ecological links between countries have grown rapidly. The now classic Bruntland Commission Report, *Our Common Future*, showed conclusively that the economy and the environment are inseparably entwined and the environmental well-being of the world is unattainable while the majority of the world's populations spiral ever deeper into poverty. The actions of TNCs in less developed countries affect the whole planet's environment.

Transnational corporations and their trading blocs will argue that a world without trade barriers will produce enough economic growth to end poverty and generate resources for environmental protection. Unfortunately this is the same type of development which has led to the overexploitation of land and natural resources, air, water and soil pollution, ozone depletion, global warming and toxic waste generation.

Rethinking Trade

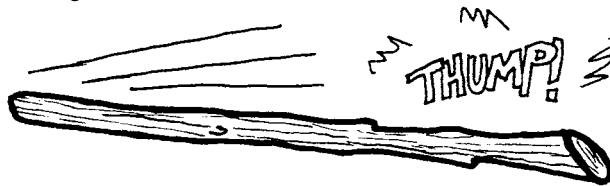
As our understanding of sustainable development grows, more and more basic ideas have to be rethought. Trade can no longer be seen as merely a matter of economics, it must be seen as a tool for improving the economic, social and environmental living conditions of all citizens. Without a minimum set of economic, social and environmental standards to guide trade relations, short-sighted, profit-gaining decisions will lead unerringly to environmental degradation and an unsustainable economic system.

Paradigm-shift type environmental problems like this are difficult for individuals to see how they can begin to make a difference. A big part of the solution is noticing that there's even a problem with the way we've been thinking or going about things. Other activities include supporting globally responsible organizations like Bridgehead and other alternative trading organizations, going through the extra effort to buy local, and being

concerned about

where your money
is being invested.

tanya handley



Further details on transnational corporations and their effect on the environment can be found in the YCS resource library. An interesting website on the topic is <http://www.corpwatch.org>

BEAN BLURB

Bean North Specialty Coffee Roasters is a locally owned and operated coffee roasting business. We purchase our green coffee beans through the alternative trade organization, Equal Exchange, who buys directly from small scale farmer owned and operated cooperatives. Most of these premium coffee beans are certified organic, the others are working toward this goal.

Bean North is proud to put the Fair TradeMark Canada seal, (or TransFair Canada), on our coffee packages.

For further information about Bean North, our fresh roasted coffees, Equal Exchange and Fair TradeMark Canada, please contact us at:

Site 19, Comp. 37, Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 5X3
(Mile 5.5, Hotsprings Road)

Tel: (403) 667-4145; **Fax:** (403) 393-3193

E-mail: beannorth@yknet.yk.ca; **WWW:** <http://www.yukonweb.wis.net/business/beannorth/>



It Works!

Promoting a conservation ethic and boosting environmental awareness through educational programming was the purpose of the fourteen walks and talks of this summer's successful Summer Nature Appreciation Series. Both local folks and visitors to the Yukon found a variety of subjects to choose from.

Late night bat viewing with Brian Slough, and a salmon life cycle talk by Trix Tanner brought large crowds of curious folks of all ages. J.P. Pinard discussed alternative energy on Haeckel Hill. CPAWS left us spellbound with images of the Yukon's eco-regions. Jack Schick presented low impact camping and Eric Simanis offered advice and answered dozens of questions about landscape photography. Julie Lefebvre lead us on an urban wildlife walk, and Joy Snyder took us through the city landfill. Conservation Officer Kris Gustafsen had all the facts on bear safety, while Gail Faulkner answered our queries on the re-creation of fish habitat in the Yukon River. Fish, birds, and the development of upper and lower McIntyre Creek were explored by Dennis Kuch, Nick De Graff, and Al von Finster. Joan Eamer and Rick Janowicz explained the Wolf Creek biodiversity plot and climate monitoring stations. From learning about local fish and wildlife species to developing an understanding of the role humans play in the fragile ecosystems of the north, participants of the Summer Nature Appreciation Series gained a better awareness of the natural world around them.

When assessing the value of the Nature Appreciation Series and other educational programs it is important to consider all aspects in which education benefits not just the individual but the community as a whole. One might argue the sometimes small participant group size of the Summer Nature Appreciation Series (ranging from 2-20 participants) could indicate a lack of interest or need for such a program in our community. From the perspective of YCS, a non profit organization fuelled by volunteer efforts, is this program a valid use of our valuable volunteer hours? It is easy to see the value of this program to the individual: to notice the enthusiasm; the number of questions asked; requests for more information and how often participants returned for more than one event throughout the series. But how do we value worth to the community?

In answering this one must consider the objectives of

the YCS educational programs. They are outlined in the YCS Strategic Plan as follows:

- 1) to instill a conservation ethic by increasing public awareness of the impacts of human activity on the environment and opportunities to reduce these impacts
- 2) to facilitate an increase in the capacity of Yukon communities to address environmental issues and concerns.

Clearly, we must look beyond attendance records when assessing the value of any educational program and consider the quality of the program and the potential spin off effects.

When Trix Tanner's Wolf Creek talk, 'All In The Life Of A Fish' prompted a critical discussion between several participants, I was satisfied the Summer Nature Appreciation Series had achieved its objective.

Questions pondered and discussed in the group examined the relationship between beavers, bears, salmon, campers and residents of the Wolf Creek area. Is it right to destroy or remove beavers in order to open streams for fish migration? How much effort is required to keep salmon in this creek, and how successful will this program ultimately be? Will bears be attracted to the increased salmon in the stream? Do bears belong in this popular recreational and residential area? How will bears be managed if they become a pest? How do our actions fit into this whole muddle of ecosystem manipulation?

This educational program provided facts on the salmon life cycle, but more importantly seeded the ideas and set the stage for both objectives of YCS educational programs to be achieved. Participants gained an under-





standing of the frailty of the northern ecosystem and the wonders of the intricate relationships within it, at the same time gaining an awareness of the impacts of human activity on the environment. Informal group discussion and building of ideas increases the capacity for these individuals to further address environmental issues and concerns, perhaps through further informal conversations with friends and family, and perhaps through community meetings or environmental groups such as YCS.

The contribution of educational programs to both the individual and the community is immense and rather difficult to measure. The success of this summer's Nature Appreciation Series can be ascertained through

discussions such as the one described above, through the interest expressed by the community and by the enthusiasm of the participants. As the organizer and a participant of the Summer Nature Appreciation Series I strongly support the educational programs run by YCS this summer. Be it one, or dozens, who participate, education is always valuable. A little can go a long way toward developing environmental awareness in the Yukon.

A gargantuan thanks to all who contributed their time, efforts and enthusiasm to this program. We couldn't have done it without such dedicated and knowledgeable resource people.

rosa brown

Don't Miss This!!

Classified Advertising

TO GIVE AWAY Free to a good home. One heavy "desktop" paper shredder. Come by the YCS office to view.

TO GIVE AWAY Come by YCS to pick up free windows (single pane with storm windows). They were removed from our building this summer when we put in energy efficient triple pane windows.

FOR SALE At reduced rates! Recycled paper products from YCS. All stock 15% off. Come by and buy our notepads, looseleaf and envelopes.

HELP WANTED For years YCS sold recycled paper. Now we are getting out of the business (because recycled paper is available elsewhere). We need someone to sell off the remaining stock. Can you help us out?

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY YCS will provide recycled paper stock at cost for fundraising endeavors of other community groups.

YCS needs your help!

This summer one of the tasks given to the trail guides was to assist us in collecting YCS archive information. A few gaps in the YCS record keeping have been discovered. This is where you come in. If you can help us fill in these blanks, please give Shelley a call at the office.

Recipients of the Ted Parnell Memorial Scholarship

1991 – unknown

1983 – unknown

1982 – unknown



Names of previous Trail Guides

1985 – unknown

1983 – Sally (last name unknown)

Mary Gellatly

Ralph Simpson



Habitat Degradation

The following article has been excerpted from a report authored by Brian Horejsi entitled *Some relationships between wildlife habitat loss and ungulate population decline with application to the Yukon*. If you would like to check out the rest of the report, there is a copy in the YCS library.

Incremental degradation and fragmentation of habitat has yet to be widely recognized as the most serious threat to the long term integrity of ecosystems and the subsequent viability of wildlife populations. Despite the general recognition that there have already been significant losses of biodiversity, including declines and fragmentation of wildlife populations and habitat, as well as extinctions of populations, the documentation of these losses and the processes involved is relatively incomplete.

Significant scientific and ecological obstacles stand in the way of assembling population histories. First, most changes in wildlife populations are gradual or incremental, and these changes proceed over many years, often decades, before substantial change is confidently documented. Second, habitat change is often associated

with direct mortality, which masks the changes in habitat availability and effectiveness that will incrementally degrade carrying capacity (K). Third, few wildlife populations exist in a stable state, thus populations, even in degrading habitats and under varying human induced levels of mortality, often fluctuate away from, or toward, K, which in most cases is also changing with time.

In addition to the problems associated with scientific detection and documentation, there are sharp management and political impediments to the collection of long term wildlife population and habitat status data.

First, most wildlife research is a reaction of management and research agencies to a human development or proposed development. This is a highly unsatisfactory state in which the effort is hampered by significant deficiencies. In most cases, the mandate, funding, and resources for these efforts is consistent with a regulatory approval process and is uncommonly continued beyond a "permit granted" or "project approved" stage. The conflict (and disparity) between this process and that necessary to assemble a sound scientific data base and monitor long term (10 to 50 or more years) consequences is immense. I identify these problems to draw attention to the relative absence of such long term

Habitat Hopes

As many of our wildlife species have such large ranges, the percentage of their habitat disturbed by a development project may appear to be minuscule. However, as Horejsi notes in his report "*Some relationships between wildlife habitat loss and ungulate population decline with application to the Yukon*" it is difficult to measure what the impact will be on wildlife from the incremental loss of habitat. Wildlife biologists are often asked to prove impact, rather than the proponent being asked to prove the project won't have long-term impacts.

At times the impacts may be obvious to the assessment body. If the project occurs right in the middle

of a caribou herd's calving or post-calving ground area that is used nine years out of ten, arguments that the development would significantly impact the herd would be hard to refute (not that development would be stopped of course)

But what if it is in the area that is used only one year out of five, ten, or twenty? Perhaps an early spring, or substantial winter snowfall, or reasons no one really knows makes the area the best option for reproductive success that year. The potential for impacts may be acknowledged, but it wouldn't be surprising for the proponent and reviewers to downplay the impacts by noting the primary use area is elsewhere.

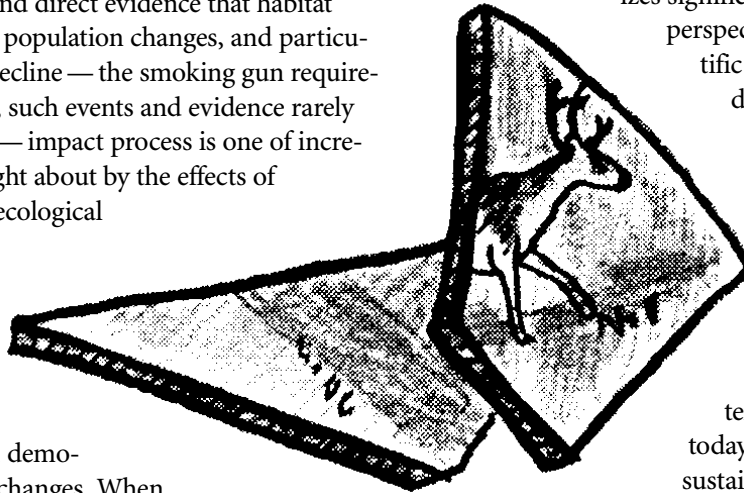


wildlife population studies, particularly those that could be categorized as “case study histories.”

Land (habitat) managers, the public, but especially politicians and corporate land users, are fixated on seeking immediate and direct evidence that habitat degradation leads to population changes, and particularly to population decline — the smoking gun requirement. Unfortunately, such events and evidence rarely exist, for the habitat — impact process is one of incremental change brought about by the effects of increases mortality, ecological and behavioral accommodation by individuals and eventually populations, and gradual nutritional, physiological, demographic and genetic changes. When a threshold is hit, “suddenly” a population is fragmented, isolated, no longer viable! Another body, essentially, has been “discovered.”

By the time management agencies or the public recognize the “smoking gun” of degraded habitat effectiveness, the “bodies” of formerly abundant, diverse, and viable wildlife populations litter the ecosystem. The many relic caribou and sheep populations — the “living dead” — across North America are stark evidence that

by the time we recognize the smoking gun, the ecological “bodies” will litter the landscape. This demand for near absolute evidence has paralysed the decision making and regulatory processes and neutralizes significant historical and scientific perspectives, brushes aside scientific and logical reasoning and deduction, and virtually guarantees “business as usual.” Much of the following discussion is evidence that this process has brought extreme and irreversible damage to North America’s ecosystems and “stays on course” today in spite of much profiled sustainable development rhetoric.



Brian Horejsi of Western Wildlife Environments Consulting Limited in Calgary Alberta has a PhD in behavioral ecology of large mammals. He has completed field studies in NWT, Yukon and Alaska.



But if that one year falls within the years of operation, what then? If the herd is one like the Finlayson caribou herd that had already experienced a significant decline, so much so a wolf control program was carried out to boost the herd’s numbers, what would that one lost year mean? Or what if the project is in the middle of a migration route for the herd? And if fatalities from truck/caribou encounters are predicted? If the project is the only one being assessed, but everyone knew there were other activities also impacting caribou in the area, and that more future projects were likely, what then?

One would hope that the government that spent so much money (and political capital) on the quick fix wolf kill would have also taken significant steps, like protecting critical habitat areas, to help ensure the herd’s long-term survival. One would hope.

One would think that when mining activity in the Aishihik area, another wolf kill area, highlighted the vulnerability of unprotected caribou habitat to development that wheels would spin and action would be taken. One would think.

One would really hope that when a huge exploration staking rush then happened back in the Finlayson herd’s home range that all possible tools would be amassed — and created if needed — to fend off impacts to, and losses of, critical areas. One would really hope.

And one would look at the Aishihik herd’s habitat and be thankful that gold prices are low and cross their fingers that great deposits will not be found... because hope is wearing thin.

jennifer ellis



The Cost of Solitude

Thoreau Searched For Solitude Too...

The disturbance of birds and other wildlife by man-made noise is a topic of increasing importance to wildlife managers. An animal can have a wide variety of responses to noise, depending on the source and type of noise, and noise intensity, duration, distance, and frequency of occurrence. The natural behaviour of the animal may also affect the reaction to noise. For example, a bird sitting on a nest may freeze in response to noise, whereas a feeding bird may move away from the source of the noise, by walking, running, swimming or flying.

Some effects of noise on animals may be: loss of foraging time, resulting in decreased energy intake; increased energy output due to reaction and movement in response to noise; abandonment of an ideal habitat for one that is less suitable but quiet; decreased reproductive success resulting in a lower population size; increased predation during movement away from ideal habitat; abandonment or loss of juvenile animals by their mothers; and alterations in normal behaviour. An ongoing study of the reaction of moose to snow-machine noise indicated that the moose do not react immediately to a passing snowmachine by walking or running away, but the moose population will gradually abandon an area where snowmachine noise is frequently heard. When one considers that the moose presumably choose a habitat because it represents an ideal situation to them, the abandonment of the ideal habitat may mean that the moose are moving into substandard habitat.

Many studies on the reaction of animals to noise have been done using a variety of techniques, but the most definitive studies are those that relate the effects of noise to every expenditure of animals reacting to the noise. The energetic cost of behaviours caused by noise has been calculated using the Basal Metabolic Rate (BMR), which is the amount of energy per day required to support life in an animal doing nothing and is expressed in kilocalories per day. All other activities require energy in excess of the BMR for a given animal and are then expressed in multiples of the BMR.

Some of the best of these noise studies have been done using waterfowl. For example, a black duck uses

1.7 x BMR to walk, a snow goose uses 2.2 x BMR for swimming, and a moulting brant uses 2.8 x BMR for running and 4.2 x BMR for flightless wing-flapping. Using these energy requirements, a researcher can measure the amount of time a bird spends reacting to noise by walking, swimming or wing flapping and calculate the actual energy cost to the bird, following closely measured responses to repeated noise events.

The researcher can calculate the cost of noise to a bird. For example, one study of snow geese that were staging for a migration flight, found that a certain type of measured and repeatable noise event, (“a distinct noise signature”) occurring at a rate of one event every two hours caused a 20% reduction in energy reserves that the bird normally requires for successful migration. Disturbances occurring more often than twice an hour actually caused a negative energy balance in the snow geese, meaning the birds will lose weight at a time when they need to be gaining weight for their migration.

Interestingly, upon detection of a threat, such as load noise from a helicopter, snowmachine, airplane, etc., a snow goose uses 2.1 x BMR just to become “alert.” Going on alert is a preparation for the “flight-or-fight” reaction and allows for a faster and more effective response. But such preparation is paid for in terms of energy expended, at a rate that is greater than walking and almost as much as the cost of swimming. Thus an animal may pay a high cost in lost energy reserves in response to noise without making any movement away from the noise.

Responses of wildlife to noise is a complicated topic which is difficult to study because of the many variables present. However, the reaction of wildlife to noise is an important topic for assuring the maintenance of healthy wildlife populations.

What exactly was Thoreau searching for at Walden Pond? Ask the Wildlife.....

damian sedney

Damian Sedney is a biologist from Alaska coordinating a new international effort designed to measure the possible impacts of noise predators on “primitive” wildlife species.





Turning Over A New Leaf

Suddenly it's fall and the leaves are beginning to turn. This is an important time of year for many northern households and businesses!

On the home front, our thoughts inevitably turn to preparations for the coming winter — hauling and stacking wood, gathering and canning berries, harvesting the garden and making sure our homes are ready for the cold weather.

On the business front, it's the end of a busy summer and many people have a little more time to breathe and think about innovative ways to reduce overhead costs and keep the business thriving through the winter.

Speaking of "turning over a new leaf," how about taking your business on a "Green" journey this winter? YCS recently published a handbook called a Green Action Plan. It's an environmental audit handbook aimed especially at small businesses, offering tips, suggestions and local examples of how to save money and help the environment at the same time!

The handbook was designed as a step-by-step checklist on four main topic areas which most businesses have in common. The four main topics include purchasing practices, waste reduction, water conservation and reducing energy use.

One business that participated in the project was the Alpine Bakery in Whitehorse. Many aspects of this bakery were planned with attention to environmental impacts. From the design and construction of the building and all of its systems through to the use and promotion of exclusively organic ingredients, this business takes their operating byproducts (waste, energy and water) as seriously as they do their purchases.

Although this particular case study surpassed many of the environmental targets of the Green Action Plan, many other businesses in the Yukon can boast of smaller but still significant accomplishments. Every single step a business takes toward achieving environmental excellence is worth it, and many actions will save money too!

You might decide to spend a few hours on those long autumn afternoons going through the list of products which your business uses and considering alternatives which would have less impact on the environment, insulating the hot water tank, repairing a leaking faucet or making storage space for recyclables in a back corner.



Here is an excerpt from the "Green Action Plan" manual which describes some environmentally friendly purchasing guidelines for small businesses.

Greening your business purchasing practices can take some time, but a few basic criteria can be used to get the ball rolling. Environmentally friendly purchasing guidelines could include:

- Purchasing products with recycled content
- Ordering supplies in bulk to reduce packaging
- Replacing disposable items with non-disposable or refillable alternatives
- Purchasing products which carry the "Environmental Choice" Logo
- Researching non-toxic alternatives to all products and materials
- Purchasing

equipment that is energy efficient and designed to reduce waste



Support for this project was received from the Arctic Environmental Strategy, the City of Whitehorse and the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources. The manual is available from YCS for \$5.00. For more details contact Janne or Shehnaaz at 668-5678.



What's Happening at YCS?

The leaves on the shrubs in front of our building have changed colour, letting us know we are well on our way towards winter. As you can see, we have had a busy summer with lots going on.

Interpretive Programs!

Thanks to Sara Nielsen for organizing our Guided Nature Walks and Canyon City Interpretative Programs this year. And congratulations also to Genny Musial, Greg Kubica, Owen Williams and Sarah Bryce for jobs well done as interpreters.

Reaching Out!

The Community Tourism Outreach Project has also come to an end. Rosa Brown did a great job reaching out to tourists and Yukoners and with her here we were able to extend our (Spring) Nature Appreciation Series through to the end of August. Those activities has come to an end for now but soon we hope to have some public education evenings starting up.

Fundraising!

A whole fleet of YCS volunteers provided security (in exchange for cash) at this summer's Dawson City Music Festival. Thanks to Alice Hartling for organizing everything and everybody.

A Family Affair!

National Family Week is October 6-12. YCS is planning an interpretive outing on how animals prepare

for winter for October 11th. Call the office for more details.

Committee meetings!

Now that is fall and folks are available again, committee meetings are restarting. If you are interest in getting involved with the Forest, Mining, Wildlands or Alternative Energy committee, call the office to get signed up.

Development Assessment Process!

DAP is coming. If you want to help YCS provide input to the working committee or if you just want to be kept up to date on our perspectives, contact our office.

April 24, 1968!

YCS will be celebrating its 30th birthday on April 24th, 1998! We want to have a big event to mark the occasion. If you have any ideas or want to be involved in the celebration, give Jennifer a call at 668-5678.

Sustainable Forestry!

YCS, with support from the Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation and the Yukon Science Institute, brought Merv Wilkinson to the Yukon in September. Merv has been practicing sustainable

forestry in BC for over 50 years. While here, Merv gave a number of talks to enthusiasts around the Yukon. YCS continues to be busy working on policy & regulatory issues.

Go volunteers go!

Volunteer hours for April through to the end of August total 1516!

Ted Parnell Scholarship!

YCS awards a \$500 scholarship annually to a student pursuing undergraduate studies in an environmental field. If you want to know more about the scholarship, or to apply for 1998, contact the YCS office. Congratulations to Kenneth Dahl, this year's recipient of the Ted Parnell Memorial Scholarship.

