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Vancouver B.C. CANADA  
V6J 3T3

SPECTRUM, Volume 7, Number 1, Winter 1985  
Newsletter of the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation  
B.C.'s oldest citizen action environmental organization

A stylized graphic featuring a silhouette of a forest on the left and a series of wavy lines representing water or land below. The text "PROTECT MEARES ISLAND TOFINO, B.C." is centered over the graphic in a bold, sans-serif font.

# PROTECT MEARES ISLAND TOFINO, B.C.

Meares Island, located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island across from Tofino, is an island in crisis. Covered with mature forest made up of cedar, hemlock and balsam, Meares is home to a wide variety of fish and wildlife including eagles, wolves, deer and salmon. The island is also home to the Clayoquot people with an archeological history dating back at least 4,000 years.

MacMillan Bloedel gained the legal right to log the timber on Meares as part of Tree Farm License (TFL) 44. The island represents 0.9 to 1.2% of this TFL. In 1980 Mac Blo applied for permission to begin logging operations on the island despite the objections of the village of Tofino, local fishermen, oyster farmers and the Clayoquot people. Because of this public outcry the provincial government initiated a Regional Resource Planning Team consisting of representatives of the Forest Service, IWA, Mac Blo and other companies, the Federal Government and local citizens. This group met for three years and the result was the Meares Island Planning Report.

The report, unanimous with one exception, developed three planning strategies for the government to decide on: a. Preservation, b. Log Half/Save Half or c. Log Half/Defer Half for 25 years. The report also recommended that a study examining the impact of logging on the social, cultural and economic values of the area be undertaken. Macmillan Bloedel then left the public planning process, lobbied the provincial government, and received permission to CLEAR CUT 90% of Meares Island against all recommendations of the planning team.

Last Easter the people of Tofino designated the island their garden while chief Moses Martin declared Meares a tribal park on behalf of the Clayoquot People. The village of Tofino supports this declaration since it satisfies the town's water development needs, recreational requirements, tourist economy and the fisheries and mariculture industries.

Both Mac Blo and the natives have gone to court, each seeking injunctions to prevent the other from having access to the island. No matter what happens in court, the people, the wildlife and the old growth forests of Meares desperately need your help to preserve what has always been the garden of Meares as the Creator made it.

The people of Tofino as well as natural history and environmental organizations are requesting a moratorium on logging of the island until a proper social, cultural, environmental and economic assessment of the impacts of logging can be done. Please lend your voice to this issue.

We encourage all SPEC members to write Premier William Bennett, Environment Minister Tony Brummet and Minister of Forests Tom Waterland at the Parliament Buildings, Victoria B.C. V8X 1Y4 or call us at 736-7732 for more info on how you can help.



# SPECTRUM

## Langley loses 4-2

Probably the least popular person in Langley in mid-July was Lower Mainland Refuse Project manager, Keith Henry. The GVRD hotline was certainly kept very warm by irate Langley citizens because four of the six potential landfill sites (see map below) were in their backyard. A number of citizen's groups were formed to oppose the sites and the issue became "international" with groups in Blaine voicing opposition to the Border Gravel site.

As well as the Landfills Report (in which the sites were proposed) two other reports- a Recycling and Resource Recovery Report and an Incineration Report were published. While recognizing the effort that went into these reports there are immediate criticisms that one can make. In the Recycling and Resource Recovery Report it was claimed that the maximum potential amount of the waste stream which can be recycled is 11%. At the recent 6th National Conference on Waste Management in Canada examples were given of successful recycling programs that utilize 20-30% of the waste stream (Portland, Oregon; Kitchener, Ontario).

In the land-fill report it was claimed that "the public notion that landfill leachate is toxic...must be replaced by the view that it is comparatively innocuous. As far as the toxicity of leachate goes, one only has to go to the key references used by the Landfills Report- The Fraser River Estuary Report on Landfill Impacts (at water) to see that leachates from landfills have continued to be toxic after their closure. Representatives of public interest groups on the LMRP are proposing to publish a critique of these reports as well as presenting some alternative scenarios and strategies.

Since July there have been numerous workshops and economic strategies and the report is now complete. Unfortunately for Langley residents, options which include a Langley land-fill are the least costly according to the figures of the economics strategies committee. One innovative piece of economic work that the project has commissioned is developing a mechanism through which social costs such as loss of property values and pollution costs can be included in the analysis.

The concepts report which outlines a number of waste management strategies has now been published.



### SIX TOP RANKED SITES

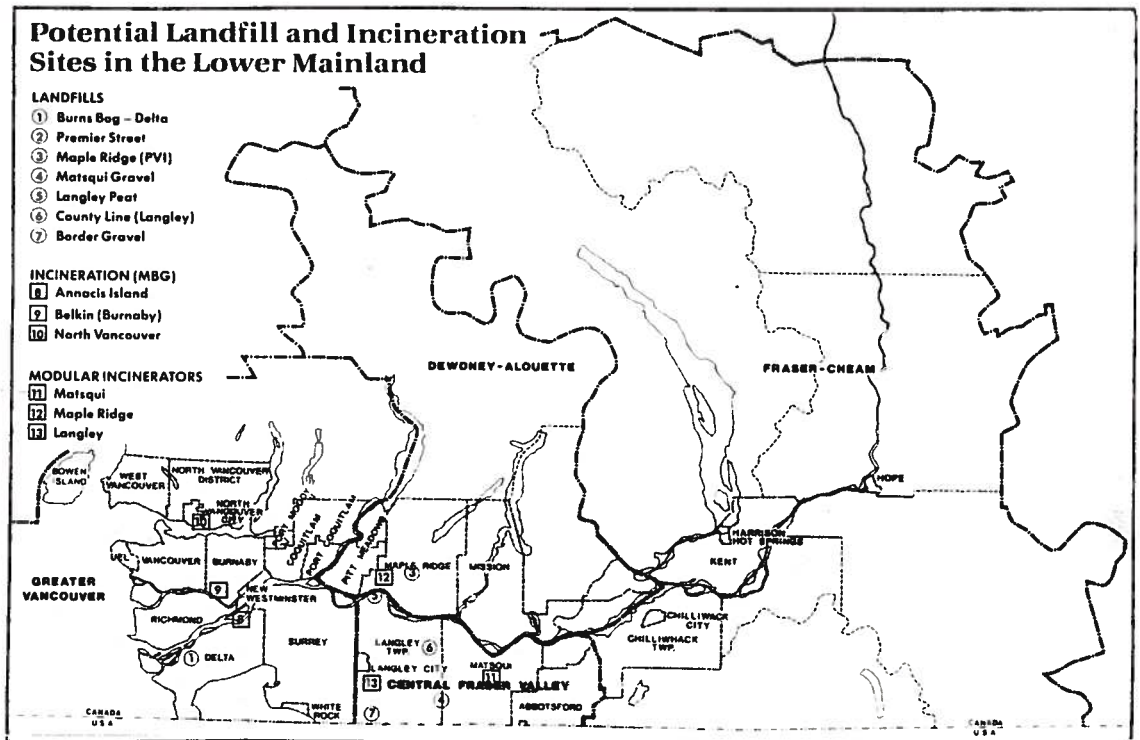
- BORDER GRAVEL (7)
- BURNS BOG (1)
- MATSQUI GRAVEL (4)
- LANGLEY PEAT (5)
- COUNTY LINE (6)
- MAPLE RIDGE PVI (3)

### Potential Landfill and Incineration Sites in the Lower Mainland

- LANDFILLS**
- ① Burns Bog - Delta
  - ② Premier Street
  - ③ Maple Ridge (PVI)
  - ④ Matsqui Gravel
  - ⑤ Langley Peat
  - ⑥ County Line (Langley)
  - ⑦ Border Gravel

- INCINERATION (MBG)**
- ⑧ Anacis Island
  - ⑨ Belkin (Burnaby)
  - ⑩ North Vancouver

- MODULAR INCINERATORS**
- ⑪ Matsqui
  - ⑫ Maple Ridge
  - ⑬ Langley



# FRC fights on!

In 1977 the Fraser River Coalition was formed. Twelve citizen groups including SPEC joined forces to attempt to halt loss of habitat and recreational land as well as reduce pollution in the Fraser River Estuary. The group has been a strong advocate of wise management of the river so that development can occur with minimal environmental impact. They have been extremely active during the past eight years and can count two successful court cases against polluters and the development of an award winning slide show as part of its many achievements. The Coalition continues to be active. Tours of Fraser River "Hot Spots" are part of its ongoing activities. In September members reviewed the destruction of marsh through misguided rehabilitation efforts at McDonald Slough, debated sewage treatment methods while being overcome by Iona's fumes, expressed outrage at the development of fuel storage sites on Sea Island, which could increase spill hazard and reviewed further potential habitat destruction areas under the Oak Street Bridge (potential Richmond market), at Captains (residential development), and at Richmond Landfill (Fraser Port). The tour was informative but extremely depressing.

The Coalition has recently sent a critique of the Implementation Strategy for the Fraser River Estuary to federal and provincial governments. The document would still be moulding in bureaucrats' desks had not Charles Caccia (former environment Minister) taken action after complaints by the Coalition's Chairman David Aldecroft.

The battle for the estuary continues and the Coalition can always use the energy of new members to write letters, organize tours and attend public meetings. The most pressing development to fight is a log booming dredging program disguised as a recreation development at Wreck Beach (the Eikos Proposal). Monthly meetings are held every third Thursday at U.B.C. For information contact Evelyn Feller 736-7732.



## The Stikine

ANOTHER WILDERNESS RIVER SUFFERING MULTIPLE ABUSE

After the plan to dam the Stikine canyon was deferred, environmentalists perhaps thought the river's wilderness character could be maintained. How wrong we were! 1984 saw the Residents for a Free Flowing Stikine and other public interest groups fighting a proposal for logging to occur in the Lower Stikine - an area highly prized by recreationists. Once again the public found itself critiquing a forestry report which presented three options ranging from clearcutting to wilderness. The report was extremely deficient in identifying the real value of resources other than forestry, and failed to acknowledge international recognition of the area. It became very obvious that the logging operation was extremely marginal economically, and that the number of jobs lost in other resource enterprises such as fishing and tourism by logging impacts would far exceed those maintained in logging operations. Predictably the decision was made to log the area (the multiple-use option!).

One can only be extremely skeptical of the MCF regional manager's claims that other resource values will be "considered" in the plan. The Ministry has not had a good record in this area and budgets for reforestation and environmental mitigation are almost non-existent. In any case, there is no way that the loss of wilderness qualities can be "mitigated"!!

'ENERTIPS' FROM ED WITZKE  
Furnace Tune-up...

Furnaces are a common cause of wasted energy and dollars. For warm air circulation both gas and oil furnaces have a drive motor, fan and filter. Old air filters should be replaced with new ones. There are many good quality furnace filters now on the market. Be sure to clean the filter if it is a permanent one or replace it monthly throughout the heating season.

The fan itself will need to be removed and cleaned once every three years. The alignment and tension of the drivebelt, if there is one, should be checked. A maximum of 1 1/4 cm movement is recommended. When there is no "permanent" lubrication the drive motor and fan bearings require very light oiling. Fan bearings may also have grease cups--supply them with adequate grease. Replacing worn bearings and the drive belt will reduce both noise and power requirements. When examining other areas of the furnace, the heat exchanger for example, it is best to consult a furnace service mechanic.

BRIAN MULLRONEY HAS NO "CONFIDENCE" IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Environment Ministry  
the First to be Cut!

When the throne speech was read for the new session of parliament some SPEC members expressed concern that there was no mention of the environment. Concern changed to outrage when considerable cuts were announced in the Ministry of Environment. Critical programs that will be cut are:

- National Research Council work into toxicological effects of herbicides and pesticides.
  - Axing of the new toxicological laboratory.
  - Monitoring of dioxin levels in the Great Lakes.
  - Elimination of research programs of the Canadian Wildlife Service into Wildlife/forestry interactions.
  - Elimination of research programs of the Canadian Wildlife Service into pollution impacts upon wildlife.
  - The Federal Fisheries Ministry was also affected by the axing of a new fisheries laboratory in Vancouver.
- Members should write expressing their concern to the new federal Minister Dr. Suzanne Blais-Grenier, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa Ont K1A 0A6.

# MEARES BENEFIT



ISADORA'S CO-OP RESTAURANT  
GRANVILLE ISLAND  
FEBRUARY 4, 1985  
6:00 P.M.  
Featuring: Bob Skelly, Moses Martin, Joe David, Bob Bossin, Vancouver Pro Musica, Native foods and much more....Call SPEC at 736-7732 for tickets.

## Roundup axed

Earlier this summer residents from the Vedder Mountain area sought advice from SPEC about how to appeal an application by the B.C. Ministry of Forests to spray glyphosate in their watershed. We rather pessimistically told them that appealing a herbicide application was a hard battle to fight since no appeals had been won. Nevertheless, Mr. Bob Farrer and Mr. Harry Peters persisted and the Ministry of Forests permit was ultimately withdrawn. Mr. Farrer believes this occurred because he was raising trout on his property and other neighbours were raising chickens. The important lesson for environmentalists here is that although the odds may be overwhelming, we must still fight. Battles can be won!



PROJECT ELF

thanks Evelyn. . . hi Cathy

It is with considerable relief that I write this report. Cathy has returned to pick up the exhausting schedule that confronts the director of this organization and it is a relief to have some respite from the pressures of these duties. It is also a relief to hand back the organization in a relatively healthy position. Our finances have improved somewhat and the staffing situation maintained. We must not, however become complacent since funding is still greatly needed in many key areas.

Volunteer help has been critical in keeping SPEC operating and response to volunteer requests has been much appreciated. We have been able to employ Will Paulik to coordinate volunteers and he is doing very well in this position. Thanks is extended to Mike Down, Bill Grainger, Constance Lin for their research work; Don Meakin and Roy Morten for library work; Ron Santos for office assistance; Sandy Kline for word-processing; and Noreen Isotani, Anne Blackmore, Mike Blythe, Lars Rees-Hansen, Scott Tuplin and Keane Dipinsky for their help in a number of activities.

We have also been lucky to have three members from the federal government's Katimavik program Al, Karen and Val who hail from Toronto, P.E.I. and Winnipeg respectively working for us at the depot and the centre.

Members of Federation Council have also contributed a lot of time and energy. A number of sub committees have been working in areas such as funding, accounting procedures, energy and recycling depot development. The work of SPEC staff has been improved because of the "hands on" approach of this Federation Council.

Sometimes there are some "perks" with the job. In the fall the Outdoor Recreation Council invited us to participate in a pre-B.C. Rivers Day raft trip down the Fraser through Hells Gate. The purpose of this trip was to get official recognition of a Corridor Policy to protect important rivers and trails by Environment Minister Tony (why don't you write me a letter?) Brummet. I am sure all trip participants, Mr. Brummet included, were once again impressed by the grandeur of the river, its abundant resources, the negative impacts of careless developments and the need to manage this resource wisely for all users!

IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK !!! After a week like we've just had I sometimes long for the days when the biggest decision was what to feed the baby!

First of all I'd like to thank Evelyn Feller for the fine job she did as Acting Executive Director. Her background in resource management and knowledge of forestry issues has been an invaluable asset these past few months with SPEC's involvement in the Refuse Project, Pearse Commission, Mearns Island and the People's Commission. My hope is that we will get sufficient funds to keep her with us.

1985 is only a few weeks old, but it's already shaping up to be a busy year for SPEC. Working on tips received at the office we alerted the public to an oil sludge spill at C.P. Rail's Port Coquitlam yards which threatened wildlife habitat in the nearby Pitt River. We were also alerted to the millions of gallons of raw sewage that was to be pumped into the Burrard Inlet and are currently working to convince the authorities that there are alternatives.

The garbage issue will also be picking up steam with the publication of a response by public interest groups, including SPEC and West Coast Environmental Law, to the proposals of the LMRP with respect to landfilling and incineration. We'd like to see a greater emphasis on waste reduction and recycling. Please attend one of the upcoming open houses and express your views or there may be a garbage dump coming to as localtion near you (Phone 585-1217 for more info).

Mearns Island will also be a lengthy battle which SPEC is fully committed to. We have been organizing meetings, information pickets and are helping with an upcoming benefit at Isadora's Co-op Restaurant on Granville Island. We have been working with government and industry for two years to formulate a policy to protect our Old Growth forests. Because of the plans to log Mearns Island the need for this policy is more urgent than ever.

Add to the preceding the individual branch work on pesticides, recycling and wildlife protection and cutbacks in the provincial and federal environment ministries and I think you'll agree---THIS IS GOING TO BE A BUSY YEAR FOR SPEC!!!

Cathy Fox

24-D/245-T

The controversy about the safety of dioxins, 24-D and 245 T continues. Industry, boosted by Justice Nunn's decision to allow spraying in Nova Scotia, has intensified its efforts to overcome public fears and opposition. In areas as diverse as incineration of municipal waste and forest management SPEC members have witnessed industry's attempts to make opposition to incineration or forest spraying appear unreasonable. Given the two following performances our opposition has strengthened:

The recent forum on forest herbicides given by an ad-hoc committee on forest pesticides perhaps should have been more correctly entitled "Let's discredit Ted Sterling" (For those of you new to the topic, Dr. Sterling is a computer science professor at SFU who has extensively analyzed many of the studies related to dioxin and has a very firm stand against the use of herbicides where dioxin contamination is a potential hazard). SPEC members were appalled at the one-sided nature of the discussion and the fact that the representative of the BCMA, Dr. Schmur, so cheerfully advocated the use of 24-D and 245-T. There was little debate of the studies, and the sanest observation made was that of Dr. Terry Simmons who stated that human susceptibility to chemicals varies a great deal and it is for that reason we must err on the cautious side when contemplating the use of various chemicals.

At one of the Lower Mainland Refuse Project Open Houses a paper written by a Dr. Clinton Kemp was distributed to public representatives. Dr. Kemp was attempting to allay fears that high concentrations of dioxins might be emitted from incinerators. Dr. Kemp maintains emission levels of dioxin will be infinitesimal and that in any case there is no proven connection between dioxin and cancer or birth abnormalities.

Dr. Kemp gave a paper on dioxin problems at the 6th National Conference on Waste Management in Canada at which I was given the opportunity to question him. When asked what he thought the cause of health problems of the Vietnam Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange was or the cause of birth disorders in communities where 245-T spraying occurred Dr. Kemp cheerfully asserted that these were all problems that could be statistically accounted for. He dismissed studies which implicated dioxin as being the cause of cancer, the Swedish studies for example, as being totally unsatisfactory. I am still far from convinced!

In an earlier paper given by David Hay from the National Incinerator Testing and Evaluation Program, Mr. Hay noted that the Canadian Expert Advisory Committee on Dioxins stated: "...Unless incinerators are properly designed, controlled and operated, the emissions of dioxins in fly, ash and flue gases put substantial quantities of all 75 dioxin isomers into urban areas." He also pointed to the difficulties in effectively identifying and analyzing dioxins from emissions.

Dr. Kemp is scarcely an impartial evaluator of dioxin problems. He is a member of another of those ad hoc committees composed of industrial representatives. The objective of such committees is not impartial evaluation but to massage the public into accepting whatever industry concocts. One can not be bullied by claims that every precaution will be taken when using chemicals like 24-D and 245-T or in operating incinerators. One court action has been taken by provincial fisheries against careless herbicide use by B.C. Ministry of Forests. One of most vivid statements by the Nova Scotia opponents to spraying were the descriptions of careless use of herbicides by applicators.

We must also remember that there are alternatives. There are other chemicals far less toxic than 24-D and 245-T, if indeed chemicals must be used. In many areas mechanical brush control is becoming a more appropriate and more economic alternative. Environmentalists may have lost a battle in Nova Scotia but we must continue to actively debate and critically review the evidence both for and against dioxin, 24-D and 245-T.

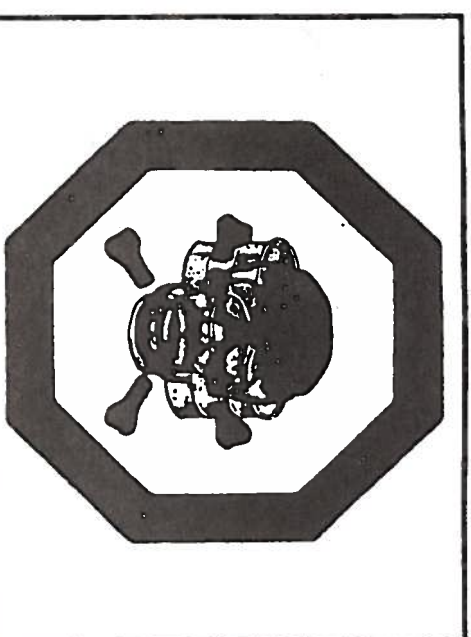
### "CITIES TAKING CHARGE"

Sixth Annual Cities and Energy Conference

March 5 - 8, 1985

Vancouver, B.C.

Telephone (604) 681-0388.



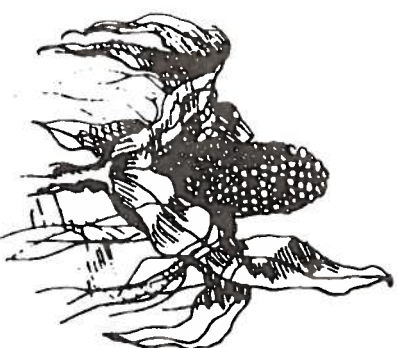


Dear Duncan Finer:

In November of 1984 you distributed the items pictured on the left to who knows how many households in the Lower Mainland. This package consisted of:

- 1) a brochure describing the product inside and content entry form
- 2) a plastic foil containing a clear plastic bag which contained coffee (I won't go into what they contained)
- 3) the preceding items were in a cardboard box which I have lined with a plastic packaging material

I want you to know that I consider this wasteful and unnecessary. Please don't send me anything more like this. A concerned citizen



## Not For Profit SEED SAVING Organizations

### SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE

c/o Kent Whealy, Rt. 2, Princeton, MO 64673

The Seed Savers Exchange is a non-profit organization of gardeners dedicated to finding and spreading heirloom vegetable varieties before they are lost forever. Kent compiles a yearbook each winter which contains the names and addresses of 450 current members, the vegetable seeds they have to offer and lists of vegetables they are trying to find. Each yearbook contains detailed instructions for growing and storing seeds to maintain true seed and viability. The SSE is not a seed catalog or company but a "unique preservation project which can be easily damaged through overuse by the merely curious. . . . Only with the help of dedicated growers can we continue to enlarge the collection we are offering and ensure that the vegetable varieties that we have already located are not lost."

A year's subscription to SSE costs \$8. This gets you the current 224 page Winter Yearbook, the Fall Harvest Edition, free membership and Plant Finder service listings, and seeds from the Growers Network (which is currently maintaining a collection of 1600+ bean, 450 tomato, 200 squash, 60 potato varieties and much more).

## In Case You Forgot...

### editorial

This is the first newsletter produced by "The Society for Pollution and Environmental Control" to keep its members and other interested parties informed on the latest efforts by ourselves and others on the fight for Pollution Control. We would like you to send us your comments on this publication, as we are not exactly editors for the "Sun" or "Playboy".

S.P.E.C. got its start last fall in an urge for a better environment by our now past president Mr. John Stigant. He gathered a group of dedicated and competent people, and within a matter of days S.P.E.C. was born. The Society has no political affiliations whatsoever, on the contrary, no matter which party is in power we will continue to present briefs, keep the public well informed, and take stronger measures if all other action is ignored. To do this, however, we need the help and support of you, the public. We need your membership support, and if you can talk to a friend, explain to him or her the importance of a good clean environment and ask for his support. It is especially important to the younger members of our society, for it is their future that is at stake. Remember, that without the proper environmental controls — your inheritance will be the refuse of a former generation. Ed and

### SPEC CENTRAL

STAFF  
1985

Anne Bussell	Fraser River Slideshow
Evelyn Feller	Fraser River/LMRP
Gayle Ferguson	Energy Researcher
Cathy Fox	Executive Director
Kathleen Kulpas	Bookkeeper
Don Meakins	Librarian
Will Paulik	Volunteer Co-ord/Old Growth
Jim Rowed	Old Growth/Mearas
David Roy	Funding/Spectrum
Ed Witzke	Energy Researcher

### RECYCLING DEPT

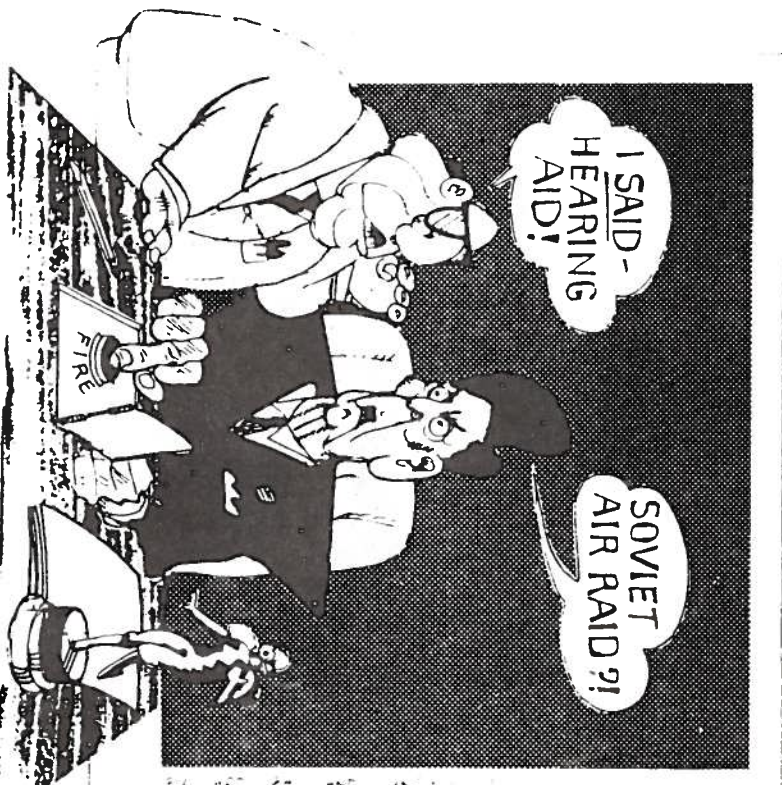
Lin Bundrant	Co-ordinator (on leave)
Mark Evans	Recycler
Trevor Alley	Driver

### KATIMAVIK

Paul Fleming	Recycler
Ken Lowmberg	Recycler
Wendy Murphy	Reception/Research



PROTECT  
MEARES  
ISLAND



## The Garden

### - A Special Thanks

One of SPEC's most successful projects, in conjunction with "City Farmer", has been the urban garden. Its success has been the result of the dedication and hard work of City Farmer director Mike Levenston, head gardener Katherine Shapiro and many volunteers.

One special volunteer has been Heidi Balaban. The landscaping of the front of the office has been a labour of love for Heidi and the wonderful sweet smelling display in the fall and summer exhibited her considerable talents. If Heidi was given many more hours in a day we would have the whole block from Maple to Burrard beautifully landscaped! Thank you Heidi!!

i. Letter to Surrey Council and Mayor  
Requesting further information regarding the Surrey Planer Mill noise problem. No reply has been received. It appears that this letter was recently read at Council meeting, the consensus of council opinion indicated that no reply would be given. Council also questioned "the legitimacy of S.P.E.C." and described us as "a bunch of trouble makers".

Reprinted from our first  
newsletter (SPECTRE)  
Volume 1, Number 1  
June 1969

### A COURAGEOUS COURT RULING ON HERBICIDES

The U.S. Supreme Court in Oregon is to be applauded on its decision to prohibit use of herbicides and pesticides on lands under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, until producers of herbicides and pesticides can PROVE that these substances are not harmful! Justice Nunn (who ruled that 24-D and 245-T could be used without harmful effects) has not had the last legal word!

Ann Bussell is updating the Fraser River Slideshow. Anyone with slides of the Fraser Estuary (recreational, etc.) who wouldn't mind having them copied please give her a call at 736-7752.