

1 The Audain Foundation was set up by Michael Audain BC developer & philanthropist - has started the non profit Grizzly Bear Foundation with \$100,000 grant from the Foundation. His first mandate is to have a series of hearings to various BC residents, First Nations, gov't & other organizations, on the bears status. He came to this decision when he visited the Great Bear Rainforest and watched mother bear with 3 cubs - she knew where he was sitting but accepted him, he had only seen grizzly bears in zoo before. Those joining him on the foundation board are Grouse Mt Resort pres, Stuart MacLoughlan, wildlife veterinarian Dr Ken Macquisten & chief headgates Neasloss of Kitasoo/ Xai'xais First Nation. They'll be having these hearings this fall throughout BC & will release a report to BC gov't by February. They will asking questions like - are there threats in the area, of climate change, lack of outside food source, threats of economic developments, & urbanization - will also look at the issue of BC's trophy hunt. Neasloss said his community banned the trophy hunt in 2012 - says now that wildlife tourism is more lucrative, the issuing of permits is crazy and they are right in the thick of it. They patrol the Great Bear Rainforest & enforce the ban & they've a huge decline in hunting.

The owners of Grouse Mt resort have a for sale sign now it has been given to a broker who will advise the Co. on marketing & selling & it will go on as is, but the owner Stuart MacLoughlan has signed on as a founding board member to Michael Audain's Grizzly Foundation.

2 Once again people are opposing a logging site this is for cut block 787125 in the forest above Roberts Creek. Peninsula Logging won a BC Timber sales auction for the 23H mixed forest earlier this year. They are very upset by the protesters who are camping in the woods

and are now escalating <sup>with</sup> blockades & rallies and some have even entered the worksite. 9 people have been arrested on the forest service road - so Peninsula obtained a temporary injunction to stop them. The protest group Elphinstone Logging Focus, attempted to stop the injunction but was unsuccessful ELF lodged a complaint to the Forest Practices Board telling them the worksite & surrounding area should be protected as a vulnerable & blue-listed ecosystem with similar characteristics as the Great Bear Rainforest but that investigations will take months. Opponents claim the cut block is in an area of emerging old growth - an old growth forest razed by fire. The block falls within the boundaries of a 1500 H expansion of Mt Elphinstone Provincial Park - the park is divided into 3 widely separated parcels totalling 139 H. The Park as it is today is divided into 3 tiny ecological islands and they would like to see a contiguous park in place. They hope their protest will raise the profile of the park expansion campaign and make clear to BC timber sales that cut block sales within the park expansion are unwelcome. Peninsula will pay about 1.3M to the province for the right to harvest cedar, fir, hemlock, much of it for utility poles and lumber to be processed by Deal Jones & Coastland Wood Industries in BC, project will employ 10 people for 6 months.

### Wild Salmon

The wild catch of BC Salmon has declined nearly 80% since 1990 - Statistics <sup>are</sup> by the dept Ministry of Agriculture & Aquaculture has replaced nearly all of that and today produces 3/4 of BC's total salmon haul.

The Fraser River sockeye fishery has been closed this year based on spawners returning, estimate of just 853,000

fish, once in the 10's of M. The worst return in 120 years according to P. Pacific Salmon Commission. According to a study by William Cheung of UBC Oceans & Fisheries estimates that the geographic range of commercially important fish in BC will move north 10-15K per decade in the coming years permanently altering viability of fisheries on S Coast. Salmon abundance is also affected by decadal fluctuations in ocean temperature in which warm parts of the cycle are associated with poor fishing in southern waters.

Sockeye are very sensitive to temperature. Higher temp in the Fraser are associated with high mortality & high temp in the Fraser also resulted in more sea lice which led to increased infestation on ocean based farms & on wild salmon. Sea lice are associated with increased mortality in juveniles.

Fisheries & Oceans issued 4 new aquaculture licenses for West Coast last summer with 40 beginning operations this year. Ag Minister Norm Hilnick says their plan is to increase 12,000 T (metric) about 14%. That's all the growth they have planned, mostly Salmon. The goal is to take applications but they're on hold for now, as the minister wants a report from the advisory committee on farmed fish that will make recommendations on future of marine-based aquaculture <sup>or</sup> industry as they have to consider that aquaculture operations are socially & ecologically sustainable & can co-exist with our wild fisheries. The food industry favour farm fish because of size and cost of the fish is consistent & available, the high fat content keeps cooked portions from drying out. There is a market for farm fish just about everywhere outside of BC. They are looking now to be certified which was developed by the World Wildlife fund in co-operation with the aquaculture industry. It's very labour intensive.

Despite all the progress with farms it still remains very polarized. The Cohen report said there are many

stressors on wild Salmon, some we can't change, but let's identify which ones are within our reach to change and create a situation in which wild Salmon can head out to sea in the highest possible number. Mining, logging, oil & gas. These industries have evolved. It's now time for fish farms to move to land-based closed containers to evolve. The question is less clear at the DFO where scientists are sorting thro' a messy smoking gun to explain the decline. What's affecting the health of the Salmon ~~are~~ <sup>is</sup> very complex, compounded by the fact that much of their life cycle occurs beyond our observation in a kind of oceanic black box - solutions have been inconsistent. This year they are wondering if the infamous warm blob is responsible for weak sockeye returns, but some stocks have done well!

Conservation was the cornerstone of the Royal visit to BC's central coast. The Duke and Duchess offered a royal endorsement of the Great Bear Rainforest under the Queen Commonwealth Canopy - which promotes conservation of indigenous forests. William told the audience during the dedication at Bella Bella that environmental protection and collaboration with indigenous people is a priority for Queen Elizabeth II. The Commonwealth has at the heart always been about values that bind it people when we protect our rivers, oceans, atmosphere & forests we are telling our children that their future prosperity can't be disconnected from the health of the Natural World.

With the forest practices in many of the  
 & hemisphere Island races have during the cyclone  
 time think Haiti