

Tape sets off alarms

By Fred Davies - Parksville Qualicum Beach News

Published: September 22, 2008 4:00 PM

Approximately 40 people attended a meeting held in response to cut-block logger's tape discovered around Labour Day Lake, headwaters of a drinking water source for Qualicum Beach and Dashwood.

That, according to Annette Tanner, head of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee's mid-Island chapter that organized the Sept. 18 get together at Qualicum Beach's Civic centre in a bid to raise public awareness of logging practices in and around the old growth forested area.

"Labour Day Lake is surrounded by some of the last old growth forest that has not yet been logged in Cathedral Grove," said Tanner. "Not all of the trees are valuable at that elevation and it's going to cost a lot of money. They'll have to build bridges that are going to destroy our pristine water source. The area is the reason for the quality and quantity of water we have within that watershed."

Tanner said logging tape reveals plans for lumber extraction in an area already subject to nearby clear cuts and historically known for its recreational benefit.

"That is how it got its name," she said. "The lake has been kept pristine as a fun place for loggers and their families to go where there was a real nice place for recreation.

"How much logging is enough? I'm trying to get [Environment] Minister Barry Penner to come up here so he can really see the style of logging that has taken place ... If I have to personally go to his home riding of Chilliwack I will do that.

"I'm trying to have a meeting with Island Timberlands but it's really up to the provincial government to step in and protect our watershed," Tanner continued.

"This is an officially designated community watershed. It makes you think there should be some form of protection."



CRAIG EVANS, holds up logger's tape recently seen around Labour Day Lake. The discovery has renewed concern around old growth logging.