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Which is why we have started a campaign urging British Columbians, Canadians and the international community NOT to visit Whistler until the mayor promises that the old-growth trees will not be cut.

We realize this community forest issue has been very cleverly structured so that no one has to accept responsibility for killing the trees. And that's very convenient for the sake of guilt-free sleep. But no matter how many excuses people offer that make it easier for them to look in the mirror, the result will be the same: these

## We are wiser than this. At least, we should be.

ancient trees will die. And with the resulting soil erosion and our changing climate, they will never come back.

So no excuses are acceptable. No pleadings of "I'm only doing my job" or "It's in the contract" or "Our hands are tied" will do when it comes to killing 300-year-old living organisms.

We are wiser than this. At least, we should be.

To view our video calling for the boycott of Whistler, go to YouTube and type in "Whistler Old Growth".

Oly and the Fat Cats & Van Clayton Powell  
Whistler

### LOGGING OUR HERITAGE

Soon the chainsaws and grapple yarders synonymous with the logging industry will be starting in on the old-growth forest in the Callaghan Valley. When you look at the slopes of Blackcomb and Rainbow mountains, the evidence of Whistler's logging history is still clear today, almost 40 years after those areas were logged. When the hamlet of Alta Lake became the Resort Municipality of Whistler, a clear decision was made at all levels of government that the local forests were a far more valuable asset standing than their worth in milled board feet. That is, until recently.

We don't have any local logging companies and the last local logger I know moved away almost 20 years ago. We don't have a local sawmill and since the Woodfibre Mill closed, we don't even have a pulp mill in the region. The company contracted to carry out the logging in the Callaghan is based in Richmond. We are, however, just as dependent on a single industry as any provincial company town, and that business is tourism. Every time CSA takes a group through those forests, it showcases Whistler as a unique and beautiful resort. At a time when Whistler is struggling, destroying an asset such as an old growth forest is total folly.

That the RMOW is involved in this blows me away. The RMOW put out a FAQ sheet that works

hard to downplay the fact that they are taking 20,000 square metres of forest annually. I'd like to point out that it will take 500 logging truck loads to haul that away, and that will be each year that they log. I keep hearing the refrain that there's nothing they can do about it (and that's not just the Callaghan logging issue) and they have to go along, but I find that a weak excuse. During the '80s and '90s when the local forestry industry was at its peak, nobody was able to force logging inside the municipal boundary. Council should be standing up for the values of the vast majority of Whistler residents, not capitulating to the Ministry of Forests.

David Buzzard  
Whistler

### WHAT DO OUR POLICIES STAND FOR?

From a municipal perspective, the Official Community Plan and Whistler2020 are our foundation, the touchstone of everything we do as a community. The vision incorporated into these documents should form the litmus test for every big decision we make — does this action help achieve our vision? Here's a reminder of Whistler's oft-quoted vision: "To be the premier mountain resort community — as we move toward sustainability."

Do you believe that locating a toxic asphalt plant permanently beside a residential neighbourhood, less than 400 metres from the nearest doorsteps, helps us achieve this vision? I don't.

Do you believe that doubling the size of a rock quarry, also located right beside this same neighbourhood, and without any solid rationale, helps us achieve this vision? Do you believe that increasing a quarry to 60 acres, without even knowing the remaining lifespan of the current quarry, and destroying old growth forests and other sensitive ecosystems designated for conservation/preservation under the RMOW Protected Areas Network in the process, helps us achieve this vision? I don't.

Incredibly, these are the proposed actions that members of our council (except Zeidler and Forsyth) are currently supporting.

To top it all off, these decisions that consider major contraventions to Whistler's current Official Community Plan — significant decisions about land use planning and zoning designations in a contentious area beside Whistler's newest, greenest and densest neighbourhood — are being made just as the community-wide process kicks off for a formal and comprehensive revision of our OCP. Don't you think it would be prudent to demonstrate due and sincere respect for this process and allow the OCP update to evolve and solidify our land use vision for the future, and then decide what to do about the asphalt plant, instead of making hasty decisions that will negatively impact our community? I sure do.

T. Symko  
Whistler



Spacious 4 bedroom townhome right  
Large sun deck, underground parking  
fully equipped kitchen and wood bur  
Twin Lakes townhomes also offer a  
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### #3 SNOWY CREEK

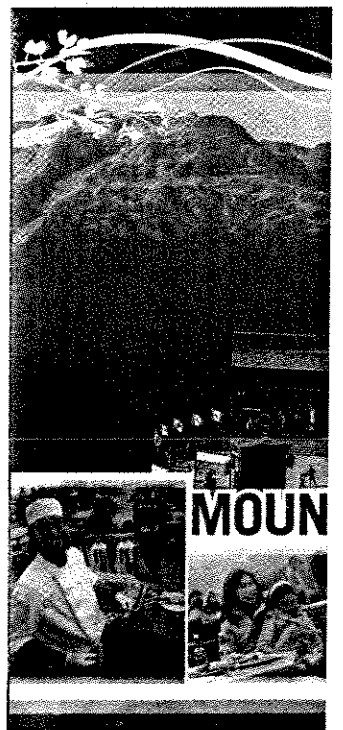
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- 4 bedrooms, + loft + den and 4 bath
- Hot tub, complex alongside creek

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### SIZZLING EVE

evening at the Ro  
mountain-top BB

Friday Evenings: W  
Saturday Evenings:  
Sunday Evenings: F