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## **Press Release**

Friday, October 3, 2008- for immediate release -

### **Island Timberlands Appears Unstoppable**

#### **Cutting Down the Last of the Ancient Forest in Cathedral Grove**

**Qualicum Beach, British Columbia** – This weekend, visitors to Cathedral Grove, Canada’s most famous oldgrowth forest, may be able to catch the sound of Island Timberlands’ chainsaws cutting down the last of the remaining bits of oldgrowth forest left in the world famous Grove.

“News that visitors will be able to hear and possibly get to see Island Timberlands logging just outside the MacMillan Provincial Park boundaries this weekend, came as a shock to the community that has been trying to preserve the Cathedral Grove watershed for over a century, since the first settlers arrived in the 1800’s,” explains Annette Tanner, Wilderness Committee, Mid Island spokesperson.

“MacMillan Park is one of BC’s most beloved and most visited provincial parks,” Tanner continues. “Logging companies since MacMillan Bloedel have worked with land trusts and the provincial government to contribute towards enlarging and expanding the park for more and more visitors and future generations to be able to experience one of the rarest and most accessible oldgrowth forests left in the world.”

“We almost lost the entire park with the 1997 winter storms that flooded the roots and undermined the ancient giants until they were blown down by the seasonal winds that become very strong as they compressed through the tight steep Cameron Valley mountains,” Tanner adds. “More logging in the Grove will put more of the park at risk of flooding and windthrow. The time to stop logging the Cathedral Grove watershed, is now.”

There will be a rally to protect the Grove on Sunday, 11:00 am in the Cathedral Grove parking lot and also on Monday, 11:00 am at the Island Timberlands Nanoose office located on the Inland Island Highway at the top of the Nanoose Hill. “We are asking the public to bring signs,” Tanner concludes. More information about the rally at: 250 752-6585.

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