

Cathedral Grove

"You don't know what you've got . . . till it's gone"

Q Why British Columbia?

A When I came out here, I just couldn't believe it. It's wonderful. British Columbia has it all: mountains, rainforest, lakes, wild animals and birds, some real wild places. British Columbia just stole my heart away. And then when I saw the way it was being treated by the logging companies and governments, I just couldn't bear it. I began a phase of activism that I had not experienced before.

Q Do you remember the moment you decided to become an environmental activist?

A Very distinctly. Late one night I heard this roaring sound out in my little cove in Clayoquot Sound. The next morning, when I got up to get some water from the creek, I discovered that there was



no creek. It was totally covered by a *huge* landslide. It looked like half the mountain had come down and covered the entire cove, right to the beach. Fish were floating on top and there was an immediate death cycle. I thought: how ungrateful to have treated the Earth in such a ferocious manner. I couldn't stand it. I complained to everyone and no one would listen. So I made up my mind; I was on the first blockade.

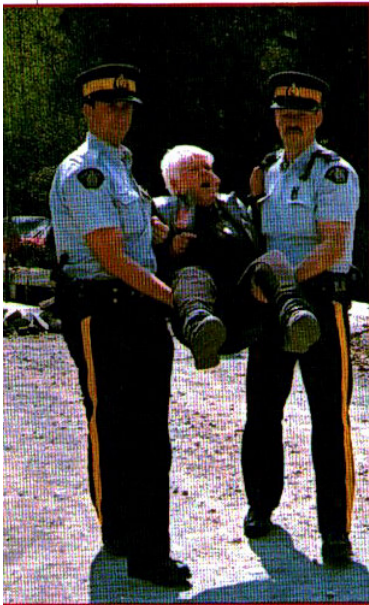
Q And you've been arrested for participating in environmental protests?

A Eight times! They really don't want to put me in jail. At the same time they can't have me running around loose, because I'm a "loose cannon."

What I found about being in jail is that if you have a very firm vision of what you'd like the world to be, of what you'd like society to be, then it doesn't really matter a whole lot if you're in jail. I take my experiences in wilderness, and with my family, and I carry them in my heart. It doesn't really matter in the sense that I suffer in prison. It's not pleasant to be in prison, because it is sad, and very regimented. Prisons are just a microcosm of what's happening outside. So it's just more of the same, only a little more so.

I spent my 65th and 75th birthdays in prison. . . . Someone usually makes me a little cake.

Q Does your family support your activism?



• Krawczyk was arrested twice for participating in 2003-2004 logging blockades in the upper Walbran Valley. While Vancouver Island's Carmanah Walbran Provincial Park protects lower Walbran Creek, logging continues in the upper valley.