



'A walk in the forest' in the city

Providence, September 3, 1976

While most Vancouverites have easy access to wooded trail walks, few are able to identify tree species, explain accurately the trees' reproductive cycles, or fully understand photosynthesis as it relates to tree growth.

The VanDusen Botanical Gardens' just-opened MacMillan Bloedel Place will give city residents and visitors a chance to better understand a forest's life and death processes. The attraction, open daily on a year-round basis, allows visitors a "walk

in the forest" with touch and smell displays that clearly demonstrate the forest's growth, life, and regeneration.

Visitors to the site will be able to "turn on the sun" to simulate photosynthesis; walk inside a tree trunk to learn how trees grow in length and girth; make the wind blow to demonstrate how pollen is carried from tree to tree; experience attacks on the forest by fire, insects, and disease from an audio-visual tunnel; learn why leaves change color as the seasons pass;

and operate a variety of other teaching machines that explain further aspects of forest life.

MacMillan Bloedel Place is a gift to the city from the MacMillan Bloedel company, who will staff and operate it. The centre, first proposed by the forestry company in 1973, integrates the expertise of professionals in forestry, biology, botany, and other related sciences at both universities and a number of B.C. firms.

Admission to the centre is free to Garden visitors.



Heather Begg and Tom Williams play the tree identification game. Object is to line up the leaves, cones and bark of the same tree in a vertical line on the three levels — when a buzzer sounds and a light comes on.