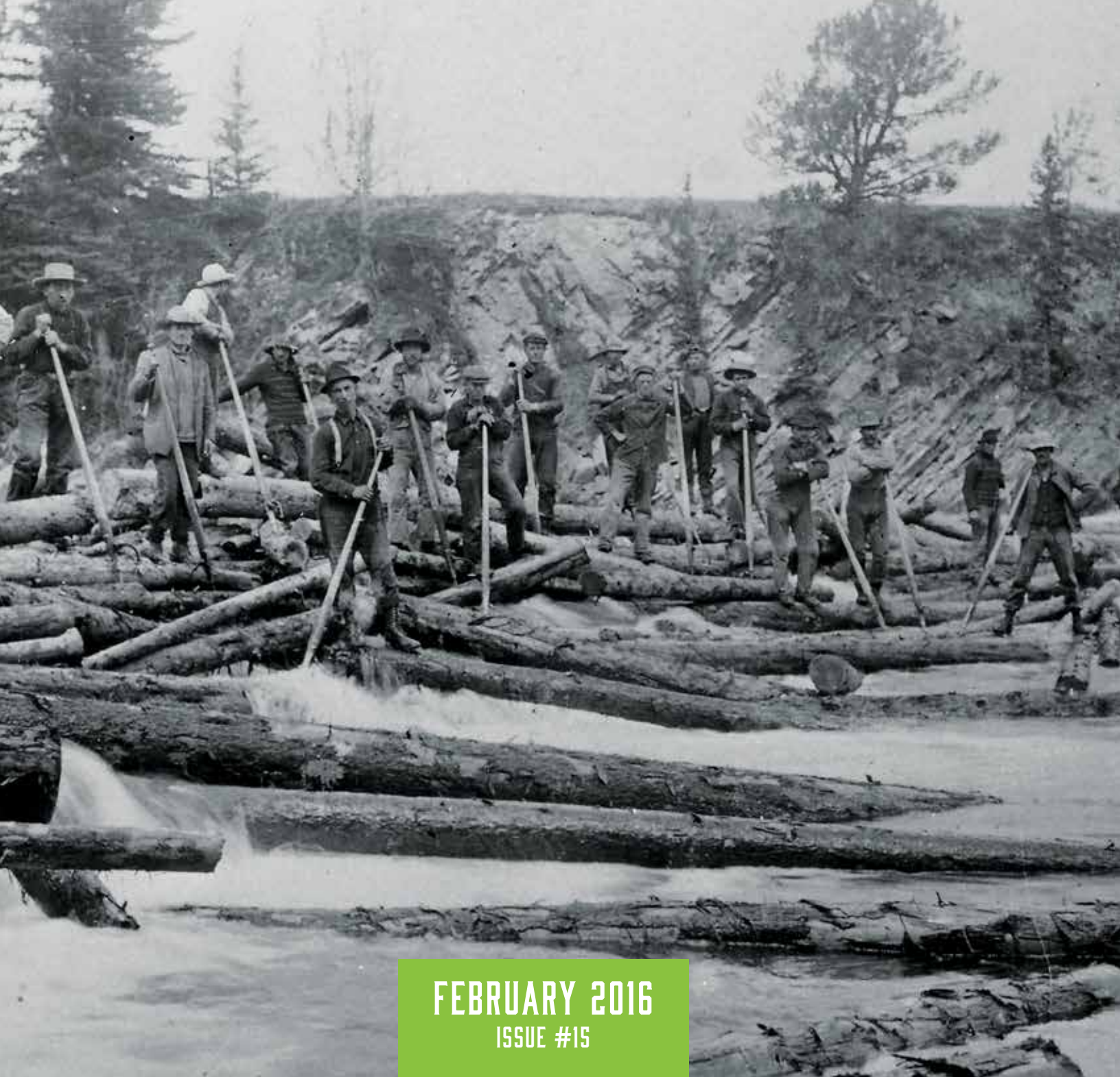


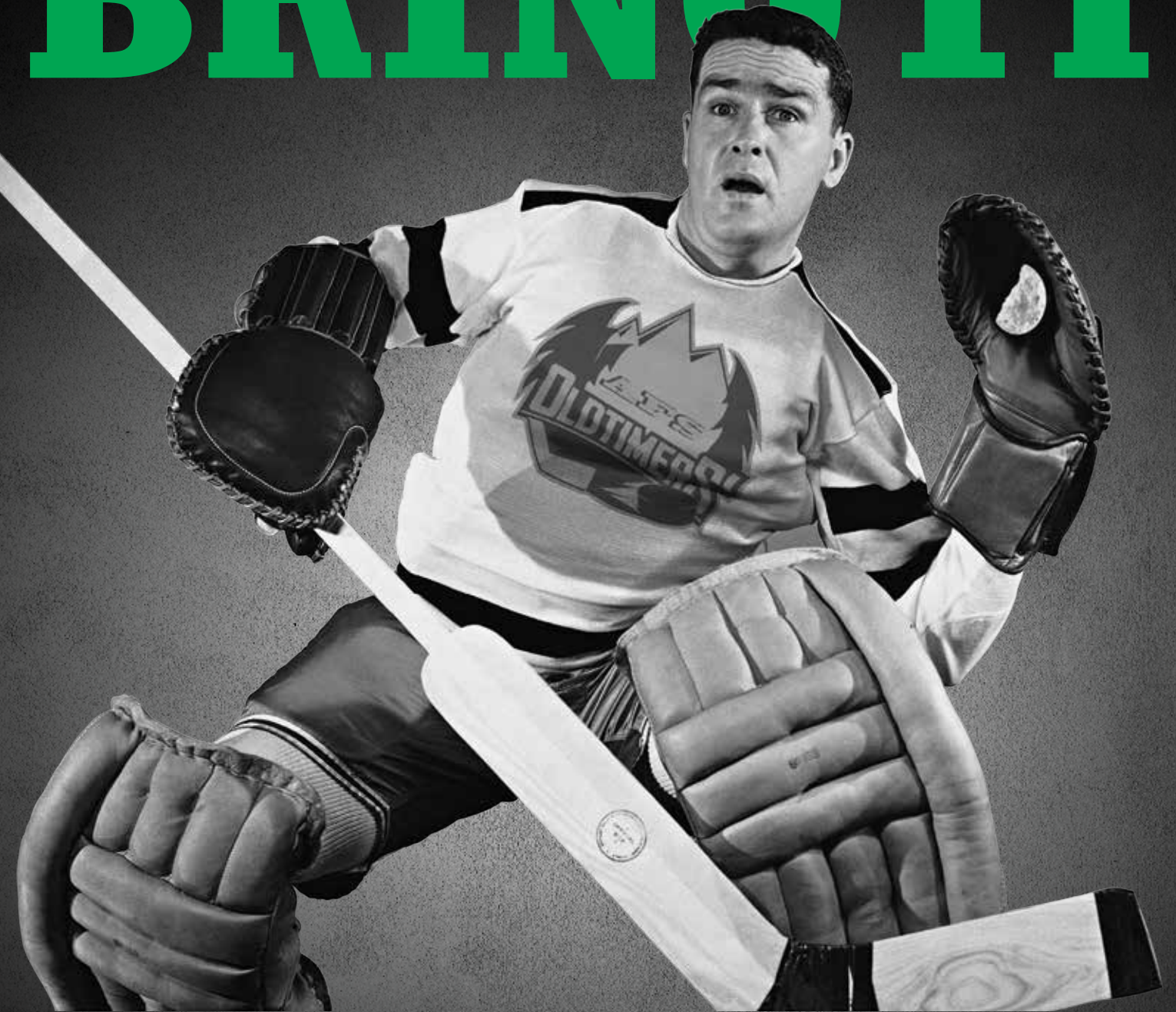
TRAILS & TALES

PUBLICATION OF THE FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA



FEBRUARY 2016
ISSUE #15

**DON'T FORGET YOUR TEETH AND
BRING IT**



31ST
ANNUAL

**AFS OLDTIMERS
HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

MARCH 5-6, 2016

ATHABASCA MULTIPLEX | ATHABASCA, ALBERTA

Contact Charlene Guerin at Charlene.Guerin@gov.ab.ca to register to play hockey and/or help with the tournament (volunteers and referees needed).

8

THE HINTON 55ERS



27

FORESTRY AND LUMBERING IN THE CROWSNEST PASS



SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

This 15th issue of the Forest History Association Alberta Trails and Tales is celebrating Anniversaries – 50th of the Junior Forest Rangers, 50th of Aboriginal firefighter training, 25th of Alberta Newsprint Company, 50th of Canfor, 60th of West Fraser, 31st AFS Oldtimers and 40th annual E.S. Huestis Curling Bonspiel.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	A HISTORIC EVENING
8	THE HINTON 55ERS
18	THE FUTURE OF THE PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA
20	NORTH WESTERN PULP AND POWER
27	FORESTRY AND LUMBERING IN THE CROWSNEST PASS
32	WEST FRASER ANNIVERSARY
34	CANFOR'S ANNIVERSARY
36	ALBERTA NEWSPRINT MILL'S ANNIVERSARY
37	HOT OFF THE PRESS
38	MEMORIES OF A MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT – 1961
42	CHOPPING ALBERTA'S LUMBERJACK HISTORY DOWN TO SIZE
48	MARK YOUR CALENDAR
49	JUNIOR FOREST RANGER – 50TH
55	ABORIGINAL FIREFIGHTER TRAINING - 50TH
60	PINTO LAKE CARVINGS
62	RETIREMENTS
71	OBITUARIES
76	FOREST HISTORY PHOTO CORNER

ON THE COVER:

Lineham Lumber Company crews, log drive Junction Creek, early 1900s; Library and Archives Canada NA-897-2



2015 MEMBERSHIP: 123

(MEMBERSHIPS TRACKED ON A CALENDAR YEAR BASIS)

A HISTORIC EVENING

FHAA 2015 AGM



Peter Murphy providing opening remarks

Bruce Mayer opened the meeting thanking the nearly one hundred in attendance for their support. Directors in attendance were Bruce Mayer, Peter Murphy, Cliff Smith, Rob Thorburn, Bob Udell, Bob Newstead, Norm Denney and Ken Yackimec. Missing was Butch Shenfield.

A welcome was given to Robin Huth and his friend Marion Kelch, and Peter Murphy, presenters for the evening. Special thanks were given to Janelle Lane, on hand to video the evening presentations; Jane White, Charlene Guerin and Tammy Decosta, who managed the front registration table; and Sheldon Belanger, who was to take still photographs throughout the night.

Peter Murphy started off saying how invigorating it was to see the interest by all of those in

attendance. He complimented the work on the newsletter, saying that it put the history association on the map. Peter singled out Rob Thorburn and thanked him for his effort to interview Lorne Larson and to scan photographs that Lorne had in his collection. A rare picture of surveyor M.P. Bridgland was in the collection and appeared on the cover of the March 2015 Trails & Tales newsletter. In considering doing interviews with people, Peter also talked about tailoring the sessions to the individual. Dan Jenkins wasn't comfortable with a formal interview, but spent time to write his personal story and after having the work transcribed, is now ready to publish his stories in a book of his own. Sam Fomuk, a 50 year lookout person with the Alberta Forest Service would only allow Peter to interview him by phone, at a time prescribed by Sam. Although this took time,

another great collection of stories and personal history was recorded for future generations. Peter's view was that you can "create your own footprint, leave your own record for the future". Peter closed by reaching out to any genealogy experts or enthusiasts who would be willing to do research on names from the past to see if there were current descendants that could be contacted for information on past relatives. A treasure trove of information might be found in any number of locations.

Doug Hutton, President, King Motion Picture Corporation was on hand to provide a status update on the initiative he has undertaken called Canada's Forest Treasures, Celebrating 150 years of Natural and Cultural Heritage, 1867 to 2017. Forestry has bonded the country from its white pine masts



and fur trade in the forests in the early years to urban forests, innovation, forest education and youth. Doug was also working with staff in the North West Territories to document the new forests coming to life from the wildfires they experienced in 2014.

Kat Spencer, Logger Sports coordinator introduced herself as a "little girl with really big dreams". Kat gave a quick overview of the 2014 Stihl Timber Sports Western Qualifiers that was held in Fort Saskatchewan, a good stepping stone for reintroducing timber sports back into Alberta. Kat provided special thanks to Terry Kristoff for supplying the logs; logs which competitors were very complementary on as being the "best they'd seen in years". Kat announced the double headers planned – June 20th in Fort

Saskatchewan and June 21st in Morinville for the St. Jean Baptiste Festival. She is looking to get education of the sport noticed again.

Brett Spady, Junior Forest Ranger Specialist with Environment and Sustainable Resource Development started off saying in 1965 the Montreal Canadians won the Stanley Cup, Canada got its new flag, and Peter Murphy started the Junior Forest Ranger program. Since then 5,000 alumni (members, leaders, etc.) have been through the program. In 1965, members earned \$5 per day, and in 1972, Rob Thorburn's pay stub showed \$7 per day with 20 cents off for taxes. Although celebrations would be throughout the year, the main event will take place at Bull of the Woods at Cold Creek in August. He is interested in stories, photographs,

and names of people to add to the celebrations.

The evening presentations involved Robin Huth talking about his experience being part of the historic Hinton 55ers, and Peter Murphy with the story of the Great Fire of 1919.

1. Doug Hutton providing an update on the Canada's National Treasure project

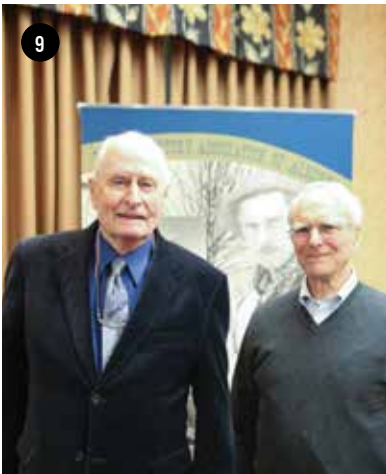
2. Kat Spencer providing a summary of recent activities with the Timber Sports program

3. Brett Spady providing comments and thanking Peter Murphy for his foresight in establishing the Junior Forest Ranger program in 1965

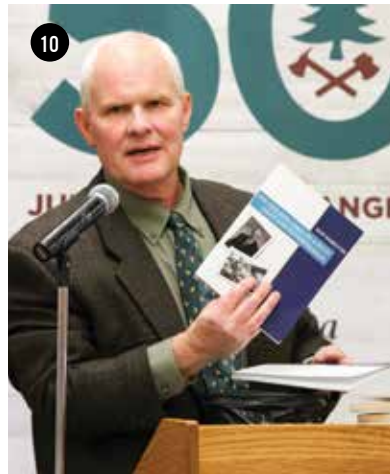
4. Robin Huth – Hinton 55ers

5. Peter Murphy – 1919 wildfires





9



10



11



12



13



14

1. Father and son duo –
Linden and Pat Rehn

2. L to R: Evelynne Wrangler, Darren
Tapp and Keith McClain

3. L to R: Dave Blackmore, Evelynne
Wrangler and Cliff Henderson

4. L to R: John Belanger and
Rob Thorburn

5. L to R: Jane Price, Tammy
Decosta and Charlene Guerin;
registration desk

6. L to R: Bill Bereska and
John McLevin

7. L to R: Bob Udell and Bob Morton

8. L to R: Bob Bott, Jan Schilf and
Dave Patterson

9. L to R: Robin Huth and
Peter Murphy

10. Bruce Mayer with the
Don Hamilton biography

11. L to R: Wes Nimco, Bruce
MacGregor and Hugh Boyd

12. L to R: Lorne Larson and
Peter Murphy

13. L to R: Fred McDougall,
Brett Spady and Derek Bakker

14. Dalibor Houdek paying
membership fee to Jane Price

**12TH ANNUAL
FOREST HISTORY
ASSOCIATION AGM
MARCH 16TH, 2016**

**DAYS INN & SUITES
WEST EDMONTON
10010 - 179 A STREET**

7:00 - 10:00PM





1. L to R: Kevin Freehill, Rick Keller and John McLevin

2. Bob Bott

3. L to R: Robin Huth and Marion Kelch

4. L to R: Con Dermott, Cliff Smith and Bob Newstead

5. L to R: John McLevin and Forrest Barrett

6. L to R: Robin Huth and Bruce Mayer

7. L to R: Bernie Simpson and Dale Thomas

8. L to R: Brett Spady, Peter Murphy and Robin Huth

9. L to R: Jason Pankratow, Shawn Barraclough and Chad Morrison

10. L to R: Con Dermott and Al Hovan

11. L to R: Peter Murphy and Henry Dejarlais



2015 FHAA EXECUTIVE

Peter Murphy,
President

Butch Shenfield,
Vice President

Bruce Mayer,
Secretary Treasurer

Bod Udell, Director
Bob Newstead, Director
Cliff Smith, Director
Norm Denney, Director
Ken Yackimec, Director
Rob Thorburn, Director



THE HINTON 55ERS

Robin Huth (writer, author, story teller, ranger, policeman, timber cruiser, human resource manager, etc.) told the following story about his experiences and the many others who became known as the Hinton 55ers. This year, 2015, is the 60th anniversary of those hearty people (workers and families) who created forest history in the province!

(Photos courtesy of Robin Huth)

1. Robin Huth timber cruising

On June 6, 1955 the bus from Calgary to Hinton was taking me, a former City of Calgary policeman, to a complete new experience. Turning west at Edmonton, we struck the Jasper Highway, a narrow graveled road at that time. About 280 kilometres (or 180 miles) up the road we arrived at our destination. When we passengers stepped from the bus we found that we were at the hamlet of Hinton sitting on the edge of nowhere. All there was to see was a hotel, a general store, a two-room school, a service station-garage, and a few cabins. But visible, less than a mile away, was the new Hinton in her birth pains. Concrete and steel understructures and frameworks indicated the beginning of Alberta's first multimillion-dollar pulp mill. Alongside the construction were bunkhouses for 800 laborers and tradesmen. That evening I had the opportunity to walk around and look at the noisy, dusty, busy site. The din of racing Letourneau's and earth-gouging bulldozers was everywhere, as men and machines leveled the mill site, which was the size of two football fields. During the next few weeks I noticed an air of expectancy and excitement that must have paralleled Juneau and Nome, Alaska during the Klondike gold-rush days. Competing in the general racket were huge cats, road packers and an army of men who were laying out the ribbon of road bed for the approach to which would be the new Hinton.



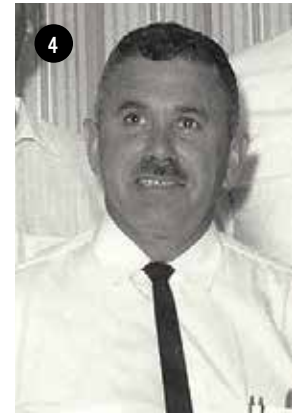
2. Hinton Hotel

3. Hinton pulp mill under construction



Back at the Hinton Hotel I tried to find myself a glass of beer, but couldn't get into the crowded beer parlor. I could hear the clinking coins and clanking glasses as the waiters rushed from table to fountain and back. They were that busy. Packed full there was a line-up outside waiting for a vacant chair. The place was a hornet's nest of incessant noise. Presently a man approached me and introduced himself as Tom Lewko the Woodlands Clerk. He had been looking for me. I went to bed early that night to prepare myself for my first day as a timber cruiser. The next morning I met Gordon McNab and Des Crossley. McNab had been Woodlands Manager in Ontario for St. Regis and had transferred to Hinton as Woodlands Manager. Des Crossley had started as Chief Forester for North Western Pulp and Power on May 1, 1955. He came from a family of settlers from the Battleford area of Saskatchewan. He'd been a research scientist for the Canadian Forest Service and was known for his expertise on how spruce and pine regenerate and grow. Des Crossley and Tom Lewko were the first two staff employees of North Western Pulp

and Power. A few days later I met Stan Hart, Woodlands Manager for St. Regis who had moved to Hinton to be with the woodlands group. In 1954 he was part of a reconnaissance cruise to check out the forestry potential of the area. A few days later I met Jim Clark who had been hired as Assistant Chief Forester. Jim's ability as an illustrator and cartoonist has given us a visual record of this era. Phil Gimbarzevsky, a pioneer in the use of aerial photography for mapping and site classification had been hired as a photogrammatist. Forester Ken Williams who had studied forest engineering at UBC was an assistant to Phil Gimbarzevsky, and prepared maps for the lease area. Norm Tomkiw was a contractor for the company. And there were a number of us who started out as timber cruisers. The majority of the timber cruisers had hailed from Ontario where pulp mills had been big business for a long time, however I was from Alberta and had been an Alberta forest ranger prior to becoming a policeman. All of us were housed and fed in a large ranch house away from the noise and clamor of the construction site. Our office was in an old building



a short distance away. Thirteen men, besides myself, were hired that year to become the nucleus of the staff of North Western Pulp and Power. We and our wives became known as the 55ers.

Meanwhile life in the town was booming. With barely enough time to straighten up between jobs, the mechanics in Hinton's only garage were overloaded with a bewildering number of vehicles needing repairs. The general store seemed to be always sold out of something as dozens of men bought writing paper, tobacco and socks. Soon the Bank of Nova Scotia established itself by hauling a rough lumber shack on skids near the store, sticking a sign over the door and opening for business in good old boom-town style. Next door Pat O'Hara and his wife were selling men's clothing out of another hurriedly put together shack. A small hardware store was being built beside it.

Initially, housing for the 55ers was a significant problem. The company had located an old tourist camp from somewhere and had dragged in the cabins. These were placed beside Chief Forester Crossley's house for us to use during the winter so we could bring our wives to Hinton. Because my wife and I had the most children we were given an extra cabin. With the help of a bulldozer we dragged the cabin over and attached it to the first one. Then we punched a hole in the wall so there was free entry from one cabin to the other. The wives of the other men had begun appearing. Finally twelve families were set-up in their tourist homes for the winter. This became known as The Woodlands Community.

Many unfortunate decisions were made in those early days. The first one was to dig our sewer and water lines only two feet deep. Naturally they froze with the first

serious frost and did not thaw until spring. The company also piped in electricity with a generator that wasn't nearly large enough to do the job. Our electric lights gave us just enough glow to prevent us from stumbling over furniture. Those of us that did not have a private supply of coal oil or gas lamps had no opportunity to read during the long winter nights. That winter, the cold broke 75-year records with a temperature of minus 60 degrees Fahrenheit or minus 51 degrees Celsius. This happened only one night but there were many 40 degree below zero days. The propane in the big cylinders behind each cabin congealed. The fires went out and families awoke and were unable to get back to sleep because of the cold in these un-insulated cabins. Many nights the men crawled out of bed at 2 or 3 o'clock to light wood fires under the propane tanks in order to get the propane circulating again. There was a time when the visiting father of one of the 55ers awoke in the morning to find his false teeth frozen in a glass of water. When my wife, Dorothy, got up one night to check on our baby, she found that her slippers had frozen to the floor. Almost ceaseless trials befell the families. The lack of water was legendary. Hardisty Creek was almost dry and frozen to the bottom. Because our water lines were frozen, each family was issued a ten-gallon container that they filled from a truck that delivered water several times a week.

The evening moon looked down on the men as they lined up in the dark to get their water. I remember one evening my wife, Dorothy, asked me for a glass of water. Would I go next door and borrow a pot of water from Stan and Ruth Hart? "I haven't the nerve," I replied. "I borrowed two pots the night before last and I haven't paid them back yet." Many of the families with children



1. Tom Lewko
2. Des Crossley
3. Stan Hart
4. Jim Clark
5. Phil Gimbarzevsky
6. The Hinton 55ers

found it very difficult to do the wash with such a shortage of water. If it was possible to wash clothing, it was even harder to get it dry. Frozen diapers hung for days on the clotheslines. Because of the long, cold and dark winter, the following fall inevitably saw the arrival of more babies.

Many of the 55ers were required to do things outside their job descriptions. Chief Forester Des Crossley became known as the "reamer", for having to ream out many sewer pipes in March 1956. The sewer pipes and toilets were plugged so often that the toilet plunger became the emblem of the 55ers. Tom Lewkow had some interesting things to do in addition to his job as Woodlands Clerk. Lewkow's extra assignments included picking up the mail from the post office for us 55ers. Sometimes the post mistress was

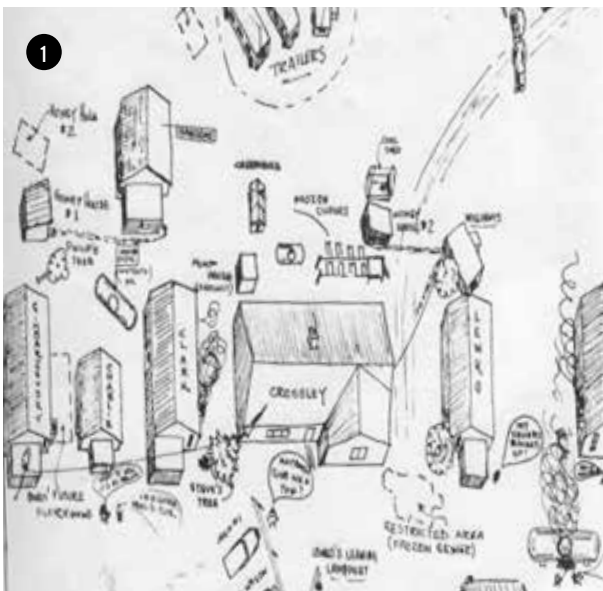


so busy he had to sort the mail himself. Another of Lewkow's memorable tasks had to do with laundry. On Friday's when the workers came in from the bush they would throw all their dirty clothes into big plastic bags. It was Lewkow's job to take the bags up to the laundry building. However, this building was also allegedly the house of ill repute, employing several ladies of the night. Lewkow a devout Anglican would sneak up the long stairway leading to the house, looking this way and that hoping no one would see him entering the building. During their spare time the ladies would hand wash the men's underwear and apparel. About four days later Lewkow would once again sneak up the entrance stairway still hoping no one was watching to pick up the laundry, all neatly folded and put in bags.

To lift their spirits the 55ers would occasionally hold costume parties. We often wore vests sporting a plunger, the symbol of the 55ers. While enduring these difficult living conditions, the 55ers were hopeful because they realized that new houses were being built for them and better times would come to Hinton. Actually by now there were two Hinton's, it was the longest skinniest town in the west, consisting of the valley and the hill. As the houses went up the merchants swarmed in. Soon there was a grocery store on the hill and one in the valley. A barbershop on the hill, and one in the valley. A theatre on the hill, and one in the valley. A drug store on the hill, and one in the valley. And so on. There was one approach to Hinton from the east on Highway 16

and the valley merchants erected an enormous sign. 'Welcome to Hinton, turn here', followed by an arrow pointing to the right. Beside this sign the hill merchants erected just as large a sign with the words 'Welcome to Hinton, 3 miles straight ahead', followed by an arrow pointing to the left. It's a wonder a few tourists didn't drive into the ditch trying to decide to turn or drive on for another 3 miles. It was difficult for the Department of Education to keep up with the swift population growth. At first the children attended a country school, in what was to become the Hill Subdivision. While layers of dwellings were being constructed, the children attended class in some of the basements while carpenters continued to erect houses over their heads. Lynn Crossley, who was 15 in the summer of 1955, reports that a two room high school consisted of a table for 6 at the back of one of the rooms. On the first day of school the teacher announced that everyone would be in Grade 11, and the next year everyone would be in Grade 10. Since her parents had big plans for her to eventually go to University, Lynn was sent to University for high school. This situation cleared up when a new school was built.

As the construction of the mill was nearing completion, I was promoted to Employment Supervisor. My boss told me I had to hire as many pulp wood cutters as I could and as fast as I could. The first thing I did was flood all of the rural Alberta and Ontario newspapers with advertisements calling for pulp wood cutters.





The result was a deluge of applicants filling my door and lining the highway. In my ignorance, I'd never done any hiring before. I thought a hiring procedure necessitated a formal interview. But this procedure resulted in me falling behind in my daily quota. Finally I changed tactics. Screening ten men at a time in my office I asked them only two questions. "Who has experience falling trees?" The other one was "Who has his own saw, axe and equipment?" The ones without equipment were rejected and the remainder were sent to the camps. Senior management was now more than satisfied with my daily quotas. However, a new problem developed, almost as many men were quitting as I was hiring. I quickly realized two causes, all of those trying to earn a living with swede saws were giving up after one or two days, and no one could possibly survive at the rate we were paying if they had a chainsaw. The greatest number of quits were Albertans. Unlike the men from Ontario, the Albertans were simply not used to a high powered daily grind in the bush. From then on the applicants from Ontario had top priority, and no one without a chainsaw stood a donkey's chance of being hired.

In the fall of 1956, most of the 55ers began moving into their new houses. The average cost of a house and lot was around \$12,000. The women were ecstatic to finally have all the conveniences of a modern home. Dorothy, my wife, and I had hoped that the town planners would leave a little bit of the forest so that each family could at least look out their windows and see a few trees, but bulldozers mowed the area down like grass leaving not even one tree. Most of the 55ers played important roles in helping develop the community. They were elected to town council, people building a United Church, so on and so forth. Later I became Public Relations Manager and many of the other 55ers were also promoted to better positions.

-
1. Jim Clark drawing of Woodlands community
 2. Hinton 55ers costume party
 3. Hinton directional signs
-

**UNLIKE THE MEN
FROM ONTARIO, THE
ALBERTANS WERE
SIMPLY NOT USED TO A
HIGH POWERED DAILY
GRIND IN THE BUSH.**



Soon after my appointment to my new position the resident manager called me to his office. "I have a big job for you Robin, the mill start up is fast approaching and we must be prepared to introduce ourselves and our product to the people of Alberta and pulp consumers in North America. I remind you that we are the first pulp mill in Alberta, our processes are the most up to date and we are the most modern pulp mill on the globe. I want you to spearhead a celebration to proclaim our formal opening. Our guests will be top people in the Alberta government and industry from both Canada and the U.S.A." My head was swirling, I'd never done anything like this in my life. I was given a planning committee and a budget of \$64,000. The list of invitees was a who's who of industry and government.

Honored guests included the Lt. Governor John J. Bowlen, the Premier of Alberta Ernest Manning, the Provincial Treasurer and various Ministers. Many details had to be considered including the design of the invitation, keeping the guests amused in slack moments and transportation arrangements to Jasper Park Lodge. Protocol was one of the biggest problems. We'd hired most of the Jasper town for two days. Who should get the top suites at the Jasper Park Lodge? Who then would be given quarters in Becker's Bungalows? The company's department heads, such as myself who were at the bottom of the pecking order, were assigned to a railway car we'd hired from the CNR. Another facet of our job was to choose competent guides to take our guests on a tour around the

town and the mill, and another set of guides to tour the woodlands, and a third set to keep the visitors happy during the bus trip to Jasper. The commentators on the five large courier buses were given a script to memorize that told about the points of interest we'd pass on our way to Jasper. For me to write the script I talked to the old timers about that part of the country, the ghost towns, the trapper's cabin, the deserted Grand Trunk Railway station and the names of some of the major mountains. When I think of the size of the project, which should have been contracted out to a public relations firm, and to think the whole thing was left up to a small group of foresters who knew nothing about the hoopla and the event planning, I'm really filled with wonder. I felt myself under greater pressure than



1. Norman Willmore, Dexter
Champion and Scouts 1959

2. Robin Huth at opening ceremony

**FOR ME TO WRITE THE SCRIPT
I TALKED TO THE OLD TIMERS ABOUT
THAT PART OF THE COUNTRY, THE
GHOST TOWNS, THE TRAPPER'S
CABIN, THE DESERTED GRAND
TRUNK RAILWAY STATION AND
THE NAMES OF SOME OF THE
MAJOR MOUNTAINS**

I'd ever known. At times I wished I was back on the police force. Then the great day arrived, June 28, 1957. Everything went perfectly; even the weather was on our side. At 9 am the five busses left to take our guests on a tour of the two townsites and the mill. After that we travelled to Camp 1, where we had built bleachers alongside of the beautiful little lake on whose shores the camp sat. Patiently the guests listened to various speakers, the sun shown from a cloudless sky, five wild ducks put the finishing touches to the entire scenario. Swimming back and forth while gazing at us in curiosity they thrilled the onlookers. Some of the guests probably thought we'd arranged for the ducks to be there. After the tour that showed a couple of cutters falling and skidding trees, the guests had a cutters dinner in the

mess hall. Professional cameramen randomly took photos, both of the guests and the press. And of course the press were given royal treatment. The Leader reciprocated with tremendous coverage of the event. Then the entourage travelled to Jasper for the guests to book in and prepare for the banquet at the Jasper Park Lodge. The Lt. Governor John J. Bowlen rode with me in my car, he didn't like bus travel. The next morning my boss congratulated me on a job well done. Although I had done the footwork, it was the imagination and enthusiasm of the members of the formal opening committee the success that it was. I'm sure the wives of these men contributed a lot behind the scenes. A few months later storm clouds began to appear. The company's accident record was a provincial disgrace, starting out with the death

of one of our laboratory chemists. This was a prelude to a number of serious and lost time accidents. Another big problem was the plants dubious production record. One day the plant manager came into my office and muttered, "things look grim Robin, if we don't get that mill working I don't know what will happen". The pulp consumers had been promised the highest grade pulp in the world; however we were unable to bring the quality up to that standard. The mill overflowed with technicians and experts from all over the continent who'd arrived to solve the problem with no success. Meanwhile the 55ers and their families were deeply worried that all would be for nought that everyone would lose their jobs and have to move away from Hinton. The company fired the top manager and did a complete clean out of



various engineers and production supervisors. I too feared for my job. The new manager was given full authority to do whatever was needed. He called me into his office; I expected my department to be phased out and for me to be given my walking papers. Instead I was given a healthy raise in pay and designated assistant manager of industrial relations. Eventually the mill produced pulp of unparalleled quality and increased production almost weekly. Everyone breathed a deep sigh of relief.

Hinton proved to be a great place to bring up children. Because of the young age of the town citizens, for years nearly no one in Hinton had gray hair, the overall energy and vigor of the people probably exceeded that of any other town in the province. Some children had their own saddle horses; others enjoyed playing imaginative games in wild places. I helped set up the first Junior Forest Wardens in Alberta. They were the sons of the earliest employees of North Western Pulp and Power to arrive in Alberta. Eventually Hinton's two townsites came together in

peace and friendship and the town continued to thrive during the next few decades.

WHERE EVER THEY ARE THE 55ERS AND THEIR FAMILIES HOLD THE FONDEST MEMORIES OF THOSE DAYS IN HINTON, WE HOPE HINTON WILL REMEMBER US.

The 55ers contributed in numerous ways to the growth of the community. The 55ers for many years continued to celebrate their arrival in Hinton. Their parties were as wild as the bush lands they overcame. As the Alberta economy flourished and times changes, inevitably the families moved away one by one to better jobs in other

locations. The tourist cabins that we first resided in were long ago demolished. The frozen diapers that hung on the lines for days have long since dried. The children who played among the tall evergreens have departed, some to higher education and others contributing to society in many ways. Where ever they are the 55ers and their families hold the fondest memories of those days in Hinton, we hope Hinton will remember us.

In that winter, the 55ers suffered from lack of heat, electricity and water. It was a winter never to be forgotten. These episodes are some of the lifelong bonds that even sixty years later hold together the 55ers.

-
1. Des Crossley and Tom Lewko
 2. The Hinton 55ers



INTRODUCTION BY NORMAN WILLMORE, MINISTER OF LANDS AND FORESTS, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA IN THE PULP AND PAPER MAGAZINE OF CANADA, 1957

Forest industry has been in Alberta since the late 1800s, but the first formal forest management agreements and capital infrastructure mills were not developed until the mid-1950s. In 2015 the Hinton 55'ers, West Fraser, Canfor (North Canadian Forest Industries) and Alberta Newsprint Company all celebrated anniversary events. This issue of Trails & Tales documents a few of those events.

This new story of Alberta's forest industry starts with articles from the Pulp and Paper Magazine of Canada – The Hinton Trail, North Western Pulp and Power Limited, 1957.

THE FUTURE OF THE PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA

The importance of the forest of Alberta economically to the pulp and paper industry is dependent upon many factors which must be evaluated. It is necessary to take into account the relative suitability and cost of wood from Alberta with other sources in Canada, the United States, and the rest of the world. Due allowances must be made for such factors of commercial significance as transportation charges, labor supply, power, effluent disposal, and proximity to markets in which the pulps must be sold and the competition to be expected from pulp produced elsewhere. Pulps are a world commodity and, as such, tend to sell on the basis of a world price. But probably the most important to the stability and continuity of the industry is the size, kind and quantity of the species growing in Alberta and the government's forest management policy, because the majority of the forest in the province grows on crown-owned land and is administered by the province.

Many of the factors mentioned above can be assessed only by the industry itself through an intensive study, but it is well known that pulpwood has become a major use of timber and competition for wood is increasing, particularly for the softwood species. It is logical to

expect that this will intensify as the national economy expands and populations grow. With one large pulp mill already established and other prospective ones being studied, there is every reason for Alberta to expect further expansion of industry here.

This expectation is sound because the province is rich in natural resources, particularly for sources of power with its abundance of natural gas, oil and coal. Many of the rivers are large, rising in the glaciers of the mountains and flowing across the province providing a plentiful supply of water and a possible source of power.

The recently completed provincial forest inventory shows that Alberta is also well favoured with timber resources and with natural conditions to produce successive crops in abundance. In addition, the inventory has shown that this resource is suited to diversification and integration, i.e., the combining of solid wood and fibre utilization. But on account of the smaller sizes as maturity of the majority of the stands, tree growth is more favourable to cellulose production.

We are living in an age of kaleidoscopic changes characterized by the mechanization of industry, mass production, highly developed communication and transportation, complicated processes of distribution and financial control, new products, uses and methods. With these changes economic pressures are tending to push most industries into larger and more integrated units. This trend applies to forest industries as well as to farming, retailing and other service industries and it appears that the trend will continue into the future. This is bound to have a tremendous

impact on forest utilization. At present, our forest industry is composed of many comparatively small industries which are not too dependent on long-range supply to liquidate plant investment and which are reluctant to go further than to process basic spruce saw logs into lumber which is known to be in short supply. But it is desirable in a democratic country such as this to continue to extend to any firm, regardless of size, an equal opportunity to purchase and use our timber resources. On the other hand, it is most important to a sound forest industry to process more fully the more abundant poplar and pine as well as the smaller diameter and yet mature stands of spruce. It is well known that less than half of the merchantable wood content of a tree cut for lumber alone is delivered in the finished product.

Here is where integrated utilization has a future important role to play, and our objective of successful forest management in this respect may require a timber sale policy where the criterion becomes integrated use which provides utilization of waste and the use of the more plentiful pine and poplar species.

We have to face-up openly to the fact that with a forest we are dealing with a long-time proposition and cannot operate successfully on a day-to-day basis. The quantity of forest products available to the future will depend greatly on present day policies and management. Therefore, it is our government's policy to have a comprehensive program of forest management dealing adequately with all phases of a sustained timber supply for the years to come and all the benefits that such a program implies. This means a

continued step-up in protection to provide against our forests greatest enemy – "fire" – and to a lesser degree, insects and diseases, and thus save for future timber production, millions of seedlings and saplings now destroyed each year. It also means that the volume of cutting must be planned so that, barring catastrophe, there will be annual harvest commensurate with the productive capacity of our forest land. If the growing stock is deficient, in certain areas, for such annual harvest, the plan of cutting must provide for building it up while maintaining, if at all possible, a steady flow of merchantable products possible at a substantially lower rate. For management units which have a back-log of mature or over-mature timber, cutting must be rationed so that no waiting period will be necessary for second growth to come to maturity.

It is my firm belief that the public forest should continue to play a positive role in the economic development of the Province on a long-term basis, which means that we should attain the level of allowable cut on the sustained yield principle as soon as possible. In this way we can attain conservation of a renewable resource and at the same time keep our forest industries in good economic health.



NORTH WESTERN PULP AND POWER LIMITED – THE HINTON TRAIL

BY FRED A. PRICE, ASSISTANT
TECHNICAL EDITOR, PULP
AND PAPER MAGAZINE OF
CANADA, 1957

THE INCEPTION OF NORTH WESTERN PULP AND POWER LIMITED

In mid 1949 Frank Ruben, president of New Pacific Coal and Oils Ltd., was visiting the company's Byran Mountain coal mine in the foothills of the Rockies west of Edmonton. While he was in the vicinity he was impressed with the vast stands of lodgepole pine and white spruce growing untouched in the general area. He felt that there was an undeveloped asset which only

needed money, cheap fuel and technical knowhow to turn into marketable products. The first two, he and his associated companies could supply; the latter was harder to find.

However, first things come first, and before he could search for a partner with the technical background it was necessary to obtain the forest cutting rights to an area sufficient to support a good sized enterprise. With this in mind, he approached the Alberta provincial government

Photographs supplied by Robin Huth, Phil Gimbarzevsky collection (son Boris), Hinton West Fraser (Bob Udell) and FHAA



in the persons of N. E. Tanner, then Minister of Lands and Forests, and his Deputy Minister John Harvie. Fortunately the government had recently completed a forest inventory of the "green belt" on lands earmarked for forest use, and were looking for groups willing and able to harvest them on a perpetual use basis. With a common end in view and good will on both sides, it was not long before Mr. Ruben had completed a timber reservation agreement with the Province of Alberta. The next step was to provide a corporate entity to take over and operate this agreement and North Western Pulp and Power Ltd. was formed as a wholly owned subsidiary of New Pacific Coal and Oils Ltd. and the reservation was handed over to the operating company.

During the subsequent years until 1953 New Pacific Coal and Oils Ltd. spent a considerable amount of time and money in timber and market surveys and in engineering reports on the various combinations of pulp and/or paper mills that might be built to take advantage of the timber available from the reservation. At the same time Mr. Ruben approached several groups actively operating in the pulp and paper industry, with a view to interesting one or another in joining New Pacific in their proposed development. No great interest was shown by these outside groups and it became apparent that New Pacific was of insufficient stature to attract the type of partner desired by Mr. Ruben. The directors of North Canadian Oils Ltd., of which Mr. Ruben was president, then decided to purchase North Western Pulp and Power and to actively promote a pulp or paper project. This was acted upon and in June 1953 the change of ownership took place.



Once the new owners took over, an additional large amount of money was spent in obtaining a detailed evaluation and inventory of the pulpwood contained in the reserved area. Armed with this additional information the company approached several of the larger pulp and paper companies. None at first contacted showed much interest, and it was only in April of 1954 that Frank Ruben met Roy K. Ferguson, then president of the St. Regis Paper Company, who was immediately impressed with Mr. Ruben's ideas. By early May a reconnaissance party of St. Regis officials had taken back their report to New York and to their president. Then followed a series of inter-company meetings and by mid-June an agreement had been reached. This was confirmed in a joint announcement by St. Regis and North Canadian Oils on June 17, 1954, when they stated that plans had been finalized for the financing and construction of a bleached sulphate pulp mill in Alberta. The agreement did not stipulate an exact

1. Boutin pulp hauling truck

2. Crew from the Photographic Survey Corporation, completing Alberta's first aerial survey program; late 1940s, early 1950s (Bob Steele centre of picture)

3. Crew from the Photographic Survey Corporation, completing Alberta's first aerial survey program; late 1940s, early 1950s (John Hogan centre of picture)

location for the proposed pulp mill but at the time, it was generally understood that it would be built in the Edson area, some forty-five miles east of its present site. At the same time North Western signed an agreement with Byran Mountain Coal Company, having a deep seam hard-coal mine some 30 miles from Edson, for the entire fuel requirements of the pulp mill for a period of 15 years.

The partnership agreement between St. Regis and North Canadian Oils stipulated that each should supply half the equity capital required by North Western and the balance of the cash required for the construction and initial operating period was obtained through a special financing arrangement concluded with the Royal Bank of Canada and the Bank of Nova Scotia. St. Regis was to direct the design and construction of the mill to manage its operations and to sell its output through its sales organizations in the United States, Canada and abroad. In addition, a portion of the new mills production was to be used by St. Regis in its own paper mills. With this general agreement in effect the St. Regis engineering and operating advisory staff started studies of the proposed mill design. These were initiated under the direction of Justin H. McCarthy, vice-president and chief engineer of St. Regis, assisted by U.J. Westbrook, supervisor of all St. Regis pulp mills. The project being several thousand miles away from the general area of St. Regis's head office and main operations, it soon became obvious that the optimum method of procedure would be to engage a consulting engineer with an office nearer the mill site and to have him look after the major portion of the engineering

and drafting involved. As a result H.A. Simons Ltd. of Vancouver, B.C. was engaged for this work and subsequently took over the supervision of the mill construction and ordering of the mill equipment. This arrangement necessitated a very close liaison between the consulting engineers and the St. Regis officials and no major features of mill design or layout were approved without joint agreement.

TENDERS WERE CALLED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION CAMP, REPAIR SHOPS, MAIN OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE IN MARCH 1955 AND THE GROUND WAS BROKEN AND CONSTRUCTION STARTED ON MAY 23, 1955.

Shortly after the mill studies commenced it became apparent that the area around Edson was not entirely suitable for the mill location and further possible sites, along the Athabasca River, were investigated. This led to the ultimate choice of Hinton as the mill site and shortly afterwards the designers stated that it would be preferable to use natural gas as fuel rather than coal. This preference was expressed mainly to save expensive coal handling equipment and to avoid the coal dust problem, always a hazard in making a high brightness pulp. North Canadian now advised North Western Pulp and Power Ltd. that it was prepared to take over the fuel contract from Byran Mountain and to provide the mill with natural gas instead of coal, provided the fuel contact

could be extended to 20 years from the original 15 years at a price which would give North Western the same fuel cost per B.T.U. as it would have paid under the original fuel contract. This was agreeable, an amending agreement was signed and North Canadian Oils took over the job of finding an adequate supply of gas for the mill and providing a means of transporting the gas to the mill site.

With this major change out of the way, it was possible for the engineering to proceed rapidly and by March of 1955 this work was substantially completed. During this period consideration had been given to the best method of handling the mill construction. The normal procedure of having the work done by a general contractor was given much thought but ultimately was discarded because no general contractors from western Canada with pulp mill experience were available and free for the construction period. As a result, it was agreed to have the job done by individual contractors, each looking after his own special field, and to have the consulting engineers act as coordinators and supply a job manager and field staff. Tenders were called for the construction camp, repair shops, main office and warehouse in March 1955 and the ground was broken and construction started on May 23, 1955.

THE OVERALL PROJECT

The initial phase of this article emphasis was placed on the availability of ample wood and natural gas at reasonable cost in the foothills region of Alberta. This was the point of departure for the studies, economic and engineering, which had to be made to determine



the end product to be manufactured. The St. Regis officials, with a wealth of experience to fall back upon, proposed that bleached sulphate kraft should be produced and that the mill design should be for an annual production of 150,000 tons. There were various reasons behind their thinking in this matter. The first was the existence of a ready market in the U.S.A. for a high brightness, high quality bleached kraft pulp, much of which was then being imported from Scandinavian countries. Secondly, the initial capital cost and power requirements of a mill of this nature would be less than for a mill producing newsprint or fine papers; and thirdly, the forecasted economic return from bleached sulphate pulp appeared to be better than from any other end product. This reasoning was accepted by the board of directors of North Western, and the design of the pulp mill was started under St. Regis direction.

The Woodlands Department, the first operating department on the scene at Hinton, was organized in May of 1955 and immediately began assembling staff of trained foresters and operating personnel. The first steps were aerial and ground cruises of the area and from the data gathered, initial management and cutting plans evolved. Contracts for the cutting of pulpwood were let and the construction of modern camps in the various working circles commenced. During this initial period particularly, there was extensive and cooperative contact with various officials and sections of the Department of Lands and Forests of the Province of



1. Dignitaries at North Western Pulp and Power grand opening, 1957
2. Camp 1 Direction Sign, North Western Pulp and Power grand opening, 1957

Alberta, resulting in the perfection of formal agreements relating to the management of the area set aside for company use. A program of cutting 175,000 cords of pulpwood was commenced, preparatory to the hauling season of 1956-57, to assure the mill of sufficient wood to operate from the time of its proposed start-up in the spring of 1957 until the 1957-58 hauling season. Plans were also projected for the procurement of the 300,000 cords required the following season to support a full year's operation. The main sources of supply were the company supervised logging contractors; additional wood was also purchased from farmers, settlers, and independent lumber operators. The species cut consisted mainly of white spruce and lodgepole pine.

The pulp mill was established at Hinton for several reasons such as unlimited water supply of good quality, being in the centre of the wood supply, on a main railroad and alongside an excellent highway. In addition a good level site was available where piling would be unnecessary. Hinton experienced its first boom in 1912 when it was the headquarters for the firm of

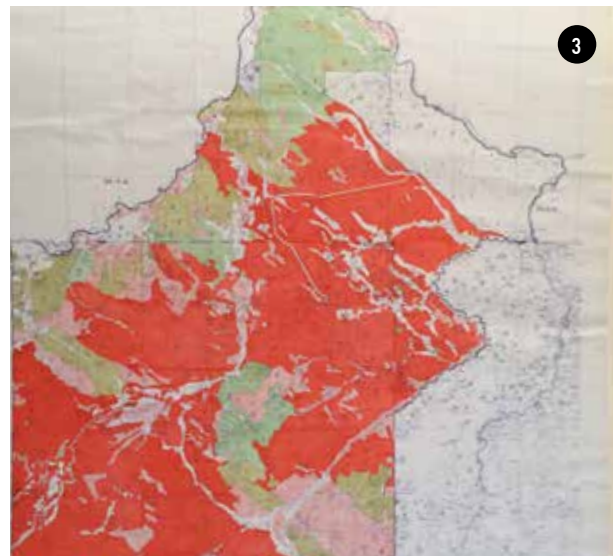
Foley, Welsh and Stuart, builders of the Grand Trunk Railroad grade to Jasper. Still earlier, Hinton was an important outfitting centre on a trail originating in Montana, following the foothills through Rocky Mountain House and Luscar, to Dawson Creek, British Columbia. The trail was known as the Great North Trail and was the main route to the Peace River country. Hinton was known as Hinton Trail in those days and its post office was named after W. D. Hinton, vice president of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad. The plant design is not that of a conventional type sulphate mill as generally understood. First, it was designed for a primary purpose: to make the highest quality bleached pulp at the lowest possible cost; it was designed to operate with the local conditions in mind; it was also built with future expansion in mind and laid out for that eventuality. The equipment is of the most modern design available and some is completely new to the industry in North America. The plant is designed to operate with the lowest manpower per ton of any mill now producing. The plant is staffed with high quality personnel, all of whom have passed through a standard training program. With excellent

equipment, first-rate design and top operators the mill should produce a top grade, high brightness, high quality pulp of complete uniformity.

ALBERTA GOVERNMENT POLICY

It is our government's policy to have a comprehensive program of forest management dealing adequately with all phases of a sustained timber supply for the years to come and all the benefits that such a program implies states the Honorable Norman Willmore, Minister of Lands and Forests in the Alberta Provincial Government. This categorical pronouncement by the minister can leave little doubt in the mind of anyone connected with the management group in the pulp and paper industry. The government intends to develop their forests along sound scientific lines and any company wishing to participate in this development will have to work in harmony with the policy. In the May issue of the magazine we carried an excellent article by R.D. Loomis of the Alberta Department of Lands and Forests and in it we find some of the reasons for this policy. Some years ago it was thought by many in the province that the forest was a deterrent to progress; that it was a barrier to easy settlement of new farms and ranches. In fact, after cutting what was needed for a homestead, most settlers set fire to the woodland and destroyed thousands of acres of a valuable asset. However, as markets developed for sawn lumber, and latterly for pulpwood, the settlers began to realize that here was an asset which was complementary to farming or ranching and which could provide an additional and welcome cash income during the four or five winter months.





In 1930 the province took over control of their forest lands from the federal authority and subsequently made certain administrative decisions of initial importance. The first of these was set up, in conjunction with the federal government, a Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve. This is operated by a joint board as a watershed protection area, principally to ensure an optimum yield of water to the Saskatchewan River and its tributaries. The other decision of significance was to set up two major land divisions covering unsettled crown lands in Alberta. These were commonly known as the "yellow" and "green" areas. The former was open to new agricultural development and the latter was reserved for forest exploitation only. This "green" area comprises 142,000 square miles and, at the time when it was established, had no protective services whatsoever. However, a start was made by the new provincial forestry administration, fires were fought, cutting was done on a diameter limit basis and cut inspection and slash disposal were inaugurated. At the same time the public began to realize the economic importance of this natural resource which nature had so abundantly supplied.

During the war years little advance could be made and it was not until about 1948 that the next major step was taken by the administration. This consisted in starting a complete forest inventory of the "green" area. It was undertaken by contract with a private company and the expense was born by the province; later, after 1951, the cost was shared with the federal authority for subsequent work performed. Additional work after 1952 was taken in hand to cover areas north

of the 57th parallel and this was carried out jointly by a private contractor and by the provincial forestry staff. Today this inventory is complete and consists of two parts: (a) classification of land according to forest growth and (b) estimates of merchantable timber 4 inch d.b.h. and up. Of this, 142,000 square miles, 38,452,000 acres or 43 per cent of the "green" area is classified as productive forest land, 25,598,000 acres or 28 per cent is potential forest land and comprises old and new burn and clear cut areas which have not reseeded. The balance, or 29 percent, is classed as non-productive and consists of water, swamp and barren or alpine lands. The merchantable timber is recorded by species and shows over 500 million cunits of wood, 4 inch d.b.h. or above. This is divided into 25.3 percent white spruce, 3.3 percent of black spruce, 2.1 percent balsam or alpine fir, 22.3 percent jack and lodgepole pine and 47 percent of aspen, poplar and other deciduous species. In addition, the survey has indicated potential agricultural land in the "green" area which may, at a future date, be removed from the forest and opened up for other use. With the completion of the inventory it has been possible to prepare tentative management plans for much of the land dedicated to forest growth. To facilitate this, the

1. North Western Pulp and Power mill, Alberta Hi-Brite Bleached Kraft Pulp, Hinton 1958

2. Jack Wright using a recorder while timber cruising

3. Compartment maps made from aerial photographs

"green" area has been divided into units averaging 1,000 square miles. The plans include a culling program geared to a sustained yield, a protection plan with the object of reducing losses to a minimum compatible to the sustained yield target and an improvement program for each management unit to facilitate attainment of these objectives.

A temporary cutting control plan has been set up for many of the management units where need appeared the most urgent and where commercial exploitation was in progress. These plans are flexible and may be changed as new conditions introduced by outside influences have an effect on the forest stand. It is expected that individuals and companies leasing cutting rights on a portion or more of a management unit will work closely in cooperation with the authorities of the department and will, in their own interest, supplement the work of the department in a more detailed fashion. Briefly the work accomplished to date allows the "green" area to be administered

under definite policies and with definite objectives. The operation and welfare of the forests rests with the Forest and Wildlife Division of the Department with headquarters in Edmonton. It is broken down into six branches called administration, protection, management, surveys, radio and wildlife. The more important of these branches to the timber operator are the forest management branch which administers all work in connection with the utilization of the forest, the protection branch which is concerned with fire protection and supervision of the forestry field force, the surveys branch which is responsible for providing statistical data and maps on volume, growth, age class and species distribution, and the administration branch responsible for coordinating and administering all the work involved.

The authority for the administration of Crown timber is contained in the "Forests Act". It specifies in great detail the means of obtaining cutting rights, the powers of the Minister, rights of licencees, etc., etc. It provides for the legitimate needs of established industry by

giving the Minister authority to offer timber for sale by tender or auction to the public. And under special circumstances, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may authorize agreements whereby timber is made available for a new industry. An agreement of this nature was made a few years ago covering a lease of 3,000 square miles for the establishment of a new pulp mill at Hinton. In this agreement the company is required to provide a satisfactory forest inventory and management plan for sustained yield of the leased area. The plan may be approved as submitted or altered to suit the department requirements. The company must also provide annual cutting plans for approval by the Minister before operations may commence in any one year. This agreement covers a period of 21 years and is renewable provided the lessee has carried out the provisions of the lease in good faith. In addition to this lease, the government has agreed to hold in reserve an additional 3,000 square miles of woodlands, contiguous to the leased lands, for 14 years for possible expansion of the output from the pulp mill. This is the basis upon which North Western Pulp and Power Ltd. obtained their source of raw material and retention of their lease will be contingent upon a company operation which follows the general policy mentioned in the previous paragraphs.



Philip Gimbarzevsky making prints from aerial photography, 1963



FORESTRY AND LUMBERING IN THE CROWSNEST PASS

BY CHARLIE DRAIN;

Photo Companion – Crowsnest and its people, 1900-1950, Published by the Crowsnest Pass Historical Society, 1990

Jammer loading logs, Burmis Lumber, Lynx Creek, 1950s



The forests in the Crowsnest Pass had been relatively undisturbed for eons to be awakened by the coming of the railway which had its beginning in 1897. This developed a need for ties for the grade and timber for bridges. During the 1880's, some logs had been driven down the various river systems of the Oldman River watershed. They were used for building native houses and the development of Fort Macleod. This was the original reason for the granting of the timber leases here. By 1897, the McLaren Lumber Co. had a steam mill in place, which was modern for those times. The railway now found it practical to export to the outside world.

The timber consisted mostly of fir, spruce, and Lodgepole pine. Logging was a piece of cake for the early loggers. Near the Crowsnest River flumes were built for floating logs down the river to the mill. By the 1930's, the easy timber was gone, and with the Great Depression, there was a lull in logging. The resurgence of the war years (c. 1939-1945), made it practical to use logging trucks. Logging was important to the mining industry in the Pass. They needed a seemingly endless supply of timber to support the roof and sides of mine workings.

Logging history is associated with many families in the Pass, whether it was a small or large sawmill. Sam Sagoff received a contract to cut timber for the International Mine and established the York Creek and Allison Creek area mills. Charlie Sartoris, along with "bush" camps (logging) had a large mill on the outskirts of Blairmore. Names, other than that of Charlie Drain, are Mr. Germain, Mr. Mickels, Pete Bodio, and Van Wyck.

Logging has been and still is a very important component of the economy in the Crowsnest Pass. It is now a must to replace cut-over areas with new forest growth, using better methods which have recently been developed. With this concern for the future by the forest industry, it can be concluded that logging will continue to play an active role in the economy of the Crowsnest Pass.

Though provision had been made for the setting up of the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserves at the turn of the century (1900), this was not done. Instead, a system of fire rangers was set up at the edge of

the settlements where employment was based on the fire hazard. There was some justification for this since the Royal Canadian Mounted Police records show that one of their main duties was preventing the early settlers from burning up the country by inadvertently setting fires.

The year 1910 was a very dry year and the incidence of fire was very high. About the eastern half of what is now the Crowsnest and Bow River Forests burned off. The Dominion Government, who controlled the resources of the Prairie Provinces, rushed the setting up of the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserves. George Ritchie, who was a ranger in the Cooking Lake Forest near Edmonton, was transferred to Coleman in late 1910 or early 1911. The Crowsnest Forest was set up with headquarters in Pincher Creek. The area south of the Carbondale River to the U.S. Border was a combined forest park area.

Ranger Ritchie hired a bookkeeper, Teddy Blefgen, from McLaren's Mill to be his assistant. About 1914 Ranger Ritchie was transferred to the Castlemount Ranger Station in the park forest area. Having come from Cooking Lake, this area was likely the basis for his move. Mr. Blefgen became the ranger at Coleman. He had as his assistant an experienced bushman named Jack Morden. Sometime in 1914, Harry Boulton also became employed as an assistant. Blefgen was promoted and Morden became the ranger in charge of the Coleman District with Boulton as his assistant. About 1917, Morden resigned and Boulton became ranger in charge of the Crowlodge (Coleman) District until his retirement in 1944.

The next ranger was Irve Frew, a former member of the Montreal Canadians hockey team. (He played with the Coleman Grands hockey team while in Coleman). The forest headquarters was relocated in Blairmore with Al Freeman as chief ranger. He resigned in 1950. Del Hereford then became chief ranger of the Crowsnest Forestry and the ranger in charge of the Crowlodge District.



1. Dozer with cables skidding trees, Burmis Lumber, North Fork Castle River, 1950s

2. Logs being moved by flume, McLaren Lumber Co. near Blairmore, c1910

3. McLaren Lumber Co. bush crew, Camp 3, Blairmore area, 1910



INDUSTRIES IN THE CROWSNEST PASS

BY DEL HEREFORD;

Photo - Companion - Crowsnest and its people, 1900-1950, Published by the Crowsnest Pass Historical Society, 1990

MCLAREN LUMBER CO.

Forest industry in the Crowsnest Pass started with the takeover of a sawmill located at Mountain Mill set up for the Blood Indians, which was not successful. When the Crowsnest Railway was started in 1897-1898, McLaren moved to the Pass and a modern mill was constructed up Allison Creek. A flume was built to carry the lumber to the railroad near what is now called Sentinel. When a forest fire burned the mill in 1917, a new mill was constructed west of Blairmore; logs were hauled or flumed, dumped in the Crowsnest River, and driven to the Blairmore Mill. A dam was built on the Crowsnest River near the lake to control the water for the log drive. By 1920 large areas to the north around Crowsnest Mountain had been burned off. In later years the Company logged extensively in the Star and York Creek areas. The Company ceased operations in 1932.

RANKINS MILL

The little-known Rankin Mill was located behind Crowsnest Mountain. Without doubt the early forest fires put an end to the operation by the 1920's.

BURMIS LUMBER CO.

In 1936 Cornelius Van Wyk of Sundre, Alberta started the Burmis Lumber Co., which logged the old timber berth 80 located on the Carbondale River watershed. The controlling interest was sold to H.G. Allen of Calgary in 1939.

THE BLAIRMORE SAWMILLS

Charles Sartoris and partner Joe Bielli started a logging operation around Lille with the mill located near Boseley (Bois Joli) in 1920. In 1937 the partnership was dissolved and the mill was moved to where the Crowsnest Mall now sits. Logging started in Lynx Creek in 1939. Tony Koinberg ran the bush camp.

THE PELLETIER SAWMILL

The Pelletier sawmill was constructed about 1905, near the head of Blairmore Creek, and operated until the 1920's. The early forest fires often terminated an operation prematurely.

BODIO SAWMILL

1947-1964, Pete Bodio in partnership with Pete Sartoris started a sawmill just south of where the York Creek Lodge is now located. They logged dead trees for mine props on the ski hill location. At first lumbering was the chief mainstay of the Crowsnest Pass. With the advent of the railway and the opening up of the coal mines, coal mining became the chief industry.

1. Log being squared for sawing, Burmis Lumber, North Fork Castle River, 1950s

2. Hauling logs on sleigh with horse, McLaren Lumber, Crowsnest Pass, 1912

3. Logging in the Blairmore area, c1900 (Library and Archives Canada)

4. McLaren Lumber Co. new mill in Blairmore, 1911 (note burned hillside in the background, result of the 1910 wildfires)

5. Logs being moved by flume on the Oldman River near Blairmore, 1912 (Library and Archives Canada)



WEST FRASER LUMBER 60TH ANNIVERSARY

West Fraser Lumber Ltd. had its beginnings in 1955 when Sam, Pete and Bill Ketcham bought the Two Mile Planer in Quesnel, B.C. Six decades later the company has grown from the original 12-person crew to one with over 8,000 employees in two Canadian provinces and nine U.S. states. Owned by North Western Pulp and Power and operated by St. Regis at the time, the first Forest Management

Agreement in Alberta was signed in 1954 for the now West Fraser Hinton Pulp Mill, with the first logging operations commencing during the winter of 1955-56. This story is further expanded within this edition of Trails & Tales. West Fraser's Alberta operations are located at Manning, Hinton, Edson, High Prairie, Slave Lake, Blue Ridge, Whitecourt, Edmonton, Rocky Mountain House and Sunde.



1. Staff at the Rocky Mountain House Laminated Veneer Lumber plant, August 9, 2015

2. Celebrations at West Fraser's Alberta Plywood plant in Edmonton, August 22, 2015. L to R: Chris Flynn, Quality Control; Larry Hughes, VP Finance and CFO; David Ehl, Plant Manager; Mark Kube, Agriculture and Forestry; Ray Ferris, VP Wood Products; Dennis Chadukiewich, Lead hand; Seamus Nome; Kevin Kirby, Maintenance Superintendent

3. Agriculture and Forestry Deputy Minister Jason Krips presenting to James Gorman and Dave Lehane a plaque to commemorate West Fraser's 60th anniversary; September 24, 2015. L to R: James Gorman, Jason Krips and Dave Lehane

4. West Fraser staff members participating in hatchet throw, High Prairie operations



CANFOR'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN ALBERTA

Canadian Forest Products (Canfor) is a multi-national company started in the late 1930s, when brothers-in-law John G. Prentice and L.L.G. "Poldi" Bentley and their families left their native Austria as the clouds of war gathered over Europe. They relocated their families to England, and then to British Columbia after their family business, one of the largest sugar mills in Austria, was nationalized by the Nazis. They first started a textile business but soon realized there was more opportunity in the forest sector, and in 1938 began Pacific Veneer Plywood. At about the same time, the Royal Air Force

was cut off from its Scandinavian plywood supply so the young company soon found it was the largest supplier of plywood for the RAF. Within a year, they had 1,000 employees and, among other things, they were making plywood for wings of the now-famous Mosquito Bombers. In 1947, they purchased a small firm called Canadian Forest Products and soon reorganized all of their operations under that name. In 1955, Canfor purchased 50 per cent of Northern Plywood Ltd. in Grande Prairie, Alberta. The other 50 per cent is purchased later, along with several other bush mills in the

area. The Alberta government and North Canadian Forest Industries (name of the Grande Prairie sawmill operation) signed a Forest Management Agreement on May 29, 1964. The Hines Creek mill in Alberta is built in 1969 and production begins in early 1970. Don Kayne was appointed President and CEO on May 5, 2011.

Further information on the early Grande Prairie operation can be found in the Roy Bickell obituary later in this newsletter



1. L to R: Mark Townsend, Craig Brown, Bruce Mayer, Jon Taszlikowicz, Darren Tapp, Dan Lux and Rob McLaughlin; Grande Prairie; July 16, 2015

2. L to R: Dwight Weeks, Jon Taszlikowicz and Rob McLaughlin; Grande Prairie; July 16, 2015

3. Lift of lumber being wrapped for transport

4. Agriculture and Forestry Minister Oneil Carlier presenting Don Kayne, President and CEO Canfor, a plaque recognizing 50 years of a Forest Management Agreement in Alberta



ALBERTA NEWSPRINT MILL'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Alberta's first and only paper mill, Alberta Newsprint Company (ANC), is a joint venture formed in 1989 of The Stern Group (Whitecourt Newsprint Company Limited Partnership) and West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd. ANC began operations in 1990 and have a Forest Management Agreement for lands west of Whitecourt, south and west of Fox Creek. A celebration marking ANC's 25th anniversary was held on September 10, 2015.



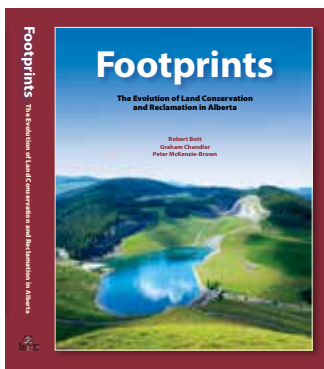
1. L to R: Ron Stern, Mac Millar, Oneil Carlier, Craig Armstrong and Ted Seraphim; September 10, 2015

2. Ted Seraphim, President and CEO West Fraser, providing comments

3. Ron Stern, President Stern Group, thanking staff for the last 25 years

4. Agriculture and Forestry Minister Oneil Carlier providing congratulations to ANC on behalf of the Government of Alberta

HOT OFF THE PRESS



FOOTPRINTS: THE EVOLUTION OF LAND CONSERVATION AND RECLAMATION IN ALBERTA IS THE STORY OF HOW ALBERTA'S LAND CONSERVATION AND RECLAMATION PROGRAM CAME INTO BEING AND HOW IT HAS PROGRESSED OVER THE PAST HALF CENTURY.

The goal is to provide an objective description for current and future generations. The book will be of interest and value to soil scientists actively engaged in the numerous conservation and reclamation components, to landowners whose land is being disturbed, to industrial users responsible for the disturbance, to elected and appointed officials having a moral duty to see to the land's reclamation, and to college or university students considering a career in this or a related field. The book was initiated by several dozen retired or still-active land reclamation practitioners whose careers, in some instances, reach as far back as the 1960s. Some are still employed in public or private life, conserving and reclaiming our rich natural heritage. It is intended to help assess how effectively we have been, or are, conserving our land base and providing the stewardship required to pass our legacy on to our progeny.

Those participating in the book's creation included professional writers, former and current government regulators, researchers, academics, and former to current industry reclamation managers or practitioners. Some contributed text, memories of their actions and observations, photographs, and documents to help piece together this history. Robert Bott, Graham Chandler, and Peter McKenzie-Brown wrote the main text, and former senior official Henry Thiessen provided a first-hand account of regulatory developments prior to 1983. The book was edited by Robert Bott, Charlene Dobmeier, and Chris Powder.



MEMORIES OF A MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT – 1961

BY ROBERT GUEST, AUGUST 16, 2015

For me the mountain experience started in 1961. I was 23 years old and a student in my third year at the Alberta College of Art in Calgary. I was flown into Copton Lookout in a small helicopter known as a “Hiller”, partly because it could be used high but also in very small places. All I had for that first season was a small boxer dog for company – a very good companion. Compared with the years that followed, this was my most memorable one where I learned how to survive in a lonely, rugged environment. The building

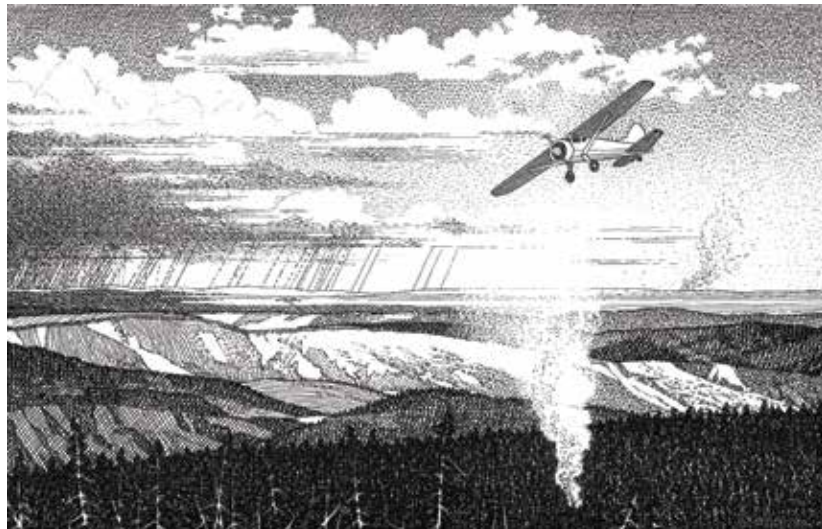
itself was built in 1956 on the summit of a long ridge at the 6,088 foot level. Scarcely a mile away to the northwest was a small upland lake of 100 yards across situated on the very backbone of the mountain. This was ideal for washing and serious swimming for the dog and myself on those long summer evenings. Because of the high elevation the water in the lake was clear and almost free of weeds, etc. Copton Ridge was close to the front ranges of the Rocky Mountains not far from Jasper National Park. Mount

Sir Alexander could be seen easily as its snow-capped peak stood on the southern horizon a few miles southwest. In later years I hiked around that peak and made sketches on location.

The period I refer to here was before there were luxuries such as fridges, propane cook stoves and oil burning heaters. It was still the age of firewood, sawed and carried up on one’s back from below the tower where a forest of dead and dried rails marked the edge of an ancient fire. These dried logs when cut and split were stacked in the porch of the cabin to be used in both stoves. I carried many dry logs up and assembled a very impressive log pile for the following spring. Wood stored in this way for the next season was very good insurance. With firewood split and stacked in the porch good use was made of this extra space which was also handy for a makeshift kennel for a dog and a snow shovel. Then with the door closed the wind and blowing snow could not come in and you would have a

1. Robert Guest presenting his painting of Kvass Lookout to Bruce Mayer as a donation to the Forest History Association of Alberta, October 23, 2000

2. Sketch by Robert Guest of a fixed wing aircraft checking out a smoke near Copton Tower



nice dry storage space. Once, when using a quiet old bucksaw to cut down a dry snag, it came down with such a crash that it startled a sleeping grizzly bear and her two cubs. They were in the huckleberry bushes out of sight and I didn't know they were there – about 50 feet away. Instantly the three bears tumbled downhill in a great rush in the opposite direction from where I was standing. I felt very lucky that they went the other way.

To warm the cabin, the old airtight heater was probably standard for most of the lookouts. These were easy to start on a cold morning and easy to clean the ashes out. Such a heater was essential in the cold spring weather when sudden snow storms could sweep the area with periods of low cloud and fog that obliterated visibility. Among chores that had to be done and took time was the search for good drinking water. I needed a water source that could be counted on: a spring was ideal but most of them were at least a half mile downhill from the tower. About the best way I found, was to take a canvas Wajax bag and fill it about half full of water for the

return trip to the tower. Half full was almost too heavy. Even with the Wajax strapped on my back I had to crawl on hands and knees on some of the steeper parts of the hill. On a hot day, sometimes the bag would leak and icy cold water would trickle down my back and into my boots: a bit of a cold shock until I got used to it. A trip like that was a real treat for the dog who loved the outing and found a nice pool to sit down in. Surprisingly there was quite a bit of water left in the bag when I got to the top. Spring water was much better for drinking than rain water collected in a metal barrel from the roof that tasted like painted shingles: rain water doesn't make very good tea! If available snow drifts were good for melting provided they were not too far away or on a dangerous incline. From my experience, most drifts have melted away by early July. In those days hauling water to the mountain towers seems to have been out of the question.

There were many odd tasks that took time. These were in addition to the daily schedule of things that had to be done on a routine basis

such as weather reporting and taking care of the power plants, etc. To discover a smoke and to help "work" a confirmed wildfire, it meant that any personal plans such as doing artwork were put aside until later. At Copton, since I was so far away from headquarters in Grande Prairie, I was actively engaged in helping to relay messages to and from the firefighting camp in my area. Because of their low spot, their radio transmitter was not able to get out but I could receive from both parties and did my best to relay back and forth. This was done quite often in 1961 and I was soon quite experienced in talking on two-way radio to ground crews and aircraft as well as Grande Prairie when the need arose. It was a good example of learning on the job. It was very nice at the end of the season to actually meet many of these people for the first time face to face: ones I had only talked to over the airways during a long summer. Many of these people asked to see some of my artwork done during the past months. There was a real interest.

In 1961 there was a record number of fire outbreaks throughout the



Green zone of Alberta as well as in the foothills and wild forested areas that were inaccessible. And the fire hazard for most of the season was in the extreme range. It has been said that 1961 was Alberta's record forest fire year judging by the number of wildfires and the amount of territory that was destroyed. Possibly this record still stands. This included other parts of Canada as well. When I first started at Copton, on the fourth of June, a lightning strike touched off a small fire very late in the evening. It was only six miles from the tower. I reported it but being new on the job Forestry decided to wait until morning to see if the smoke was still there. Possibly they thought I could have made a mistake and they wanted to double check before sending men out to fight a fire many miles from headquarters that didn't even exist. They had to be sure. Next morning it was still there and had grown in size. Should I go over and put it out I asked them? No was my answer - it was too dangerous and

they would come in with men and take care of it. That fire eventually got to be 9,000 acres and took two weeks to extinguish. In those years there was very little available in the forms of assistance from aircraft. For instance helicopters were not very common and there were no bombers available. All of the fire fighters were able-bodied men who were picked up on short notice as there were no trained fighting crews available. Before the middle of June, I had discovered six other fires in my immediate area and there were many smokes popping up in the surrounding country almost any direction I looked. Most of those smokes were never found. This was typical of what was happening especially in the foothills from south almost to the U.S. border, along the eastern slopes of the Rockies as far as the Yukon. This helped set quite a record. Bad visibility on account of intense smoke haze was very widespread for days at a time. Some of the smoke I experienced at Copton

came over the border from British Columbia. It became very difficult to spot new fires in my own area. To the best of my knowledge, I am not aware of missing a fire in my own area.

During the fire outbreaks in 1961 in north and west central Alberta it seems there were few if any trained fire-fighting crews available. So it was necessary to round up men who were able-bodied and willing to help join the crews to help fight forest fires. At one point there was pressure to shanghai men from farms, beer parlors and hotels, as well as some who were travelling on the highways and many who were unemployed and fit enough to do the work. These people were needed urgently and there was not time for training or much in the way of orientation. I personally remember seeing some of the people in Grande Prairie and was impressed by their positive attitude in helping wherever they could. I spoke with a few of these fellows when helping to prepare lunches for them at the Forestry warehouse before I was shipped out to Copton later the same day. I felt I was lucky to be able to help prepare meals and mix with the volunteer fire fighters.

As a windup to this topic and what I was doing in 1961 at the fire lookout I would like to say that in spite of a fairly heavy workload I still got some artwork done. I was also interested in studying timber wolves in their natural setting. I did see some! When I mentioned this to the forest superintendent at Grande Prairie headquarters he was very encouraging about my goals and he looked forward to seeing my work at the end of the season. Other forestry personnel thought the same



1. Robert and Myrtle Guest at the Grande Cache Ranger Station October 23, 2000

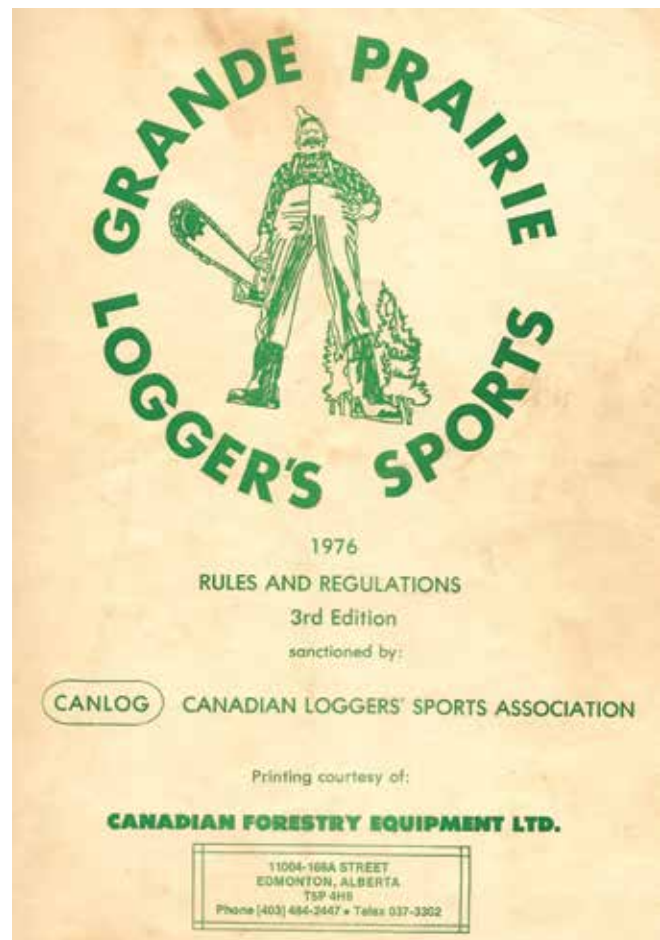
2. Robert Guest and his Adams Creek Lookout painting on display at the Nanaimo Art Gallery, February, 2016

way. Having a chance to complete personal artwork at the tower had benefits to myself and eventually to the Forestry Department. On various occasions pen drawings were used for department periodicals as well as other official publications. I was happy to volunteer my work for their purposes. An example of a pen drawing done in 1961 was a study of a fixed-wing aircraft (FHN) checking out a spot fire just north of Copton lookout. This is in their excellent anniversary book of 2005. I have also donated paintings to their Forestry historical archives and for the art collection of Forestry Training School at Hinton. I was a student at that school and still believe they are doing a good job. It was the opinion back then that by having an added interest in addition

to their regular work it helped people stay focused and contented on the towers. Once in a while there were delays in towermen having to wait for their monthly grub supplies and sometimes this caused depression and it was said that towermen left without permission. This kind of thing led to bad press.

1961 was my first and longest season. If my memory serves me correctly I was at Copton for the first heavy snowfall and was there to see the mountain country under the light of a full moon. It was amazing! Next day I left by helicopter for Grande Prairie on November 14, 1961.

The Forest History Association of Alberta recently loaned the Adams Creek Lookout painting to the Nanaimo Art Gallery as part of their exhibition Silva Part II: Booming Grounds. Booming Grounds is an exhibition informed by the shifts that occur when trees become commodities. In South Nanaimo great log rafts float in limbo before moving further down the commodity chain as raw logs, lumber, wood chips, and pulp, to be distributed both locally and globally. This process begins before the trees have been cut, and sometimes even before they have been planted. Forestry has always been a mobile industry: logging camps move with the trees, prices rise and fall, mills open and close, and communities boom and bust. The exhibition Booming Grounds offers visitors a place to pause and consider this cycle through a wide range of artworks that respond to contemporary and historical forestry practices. Robert Guest is one of the many featured artists and will tell stories from his summers on Alberta lookout towers, observing and painting the landscape.



CHOPPING ALBERTA'S LUMBERJACK HISTORY DOWN TO SIZE

By Katherine Spencer

When industry and community combine to promote their common interests great things can happen! This was the vision of the Grande Prairie community, the forest industry surrounding it and other allied industries. The first Grande Prairie Logger Sports show was held the August long weekend of 1973. It hosted exciting chopping, sawing and tobacco spitting events, in an attempt to promote Grande Prairie as the "Timber

Capital" of Alberta. This event was small and new to the community. It was the start to an event that became known worldwide as one of the best logger sports competitions with some of the best prize money and unique events.

The Grande Prairie Logger Sports, also known as the "Alberta Lumberjack Championships" ran for over 20

Logging sports appeal wide



Kevin Heft, 6, was timed in 22.5 for pine cone event

years, from 1973 until 1994, with over \$10,000 in prize money annually. The Grande Prairie Loggers Sports Association began to construct a logger's sports park, in 1976, complete with a log house facility, birling pond and climbing poles. Two new Canadian Championship events unique to the Grande Prairie show were introduced: the Swede Saw Bucking event and the World Loggers Pentathlon. The pentathlon was a consecutive series of five grueling events to determine "The Super Logger of the World". The pentathlon consisted of standing block chop, swede saw, obstacle pole bucking, chokerman's race and single buck sawing. A true test of speed, strength, agility and endurance, with \$3,000 in prize money. This event was unique to the world of wood chopping, not seen anywhere else and offered more prize money than any other single event anywhere.

Another unique event offered in Grande Prairie was the accuracy cutting event. The contestants demonstrate their power saw skills by making a series of cuts on a log, and then balancing them one on top of another. The event is complete when there is a free standing balancing act of wood disks and a wood bolt. This Alberta originated event called the "Grande Prairie Accuracy Cut" can be seen annually in Campbell River,

British Columbia. This event carries on the innovation of The Alberta Lumberjack Championships and the impact that Grande Prairie's competition had on the sport nationwide. In 1974, Norman Gagne was working in Grande Prairie, Alberta, as a professional tree faller. He knew what it was to do manual labour and work in the woods, most men of his generation did, but as new and modern technology replaced those skills, where could his be used? He was told by a colleague to enter into the Grande Prairie Logger Sports Competition being held on the August long weekend. Norman took his work axe and swede saw and entered the local competition. He had only ever run a chainsaw and swede saw but was not unfamiliar with an axe. His first year (1974), he was Bull of the Woods.

At this first competition the Grande Prairie Logger Sports Association brought in professional wood choppers to demonstrate the entertaining yet dangerous "Spring Board" event. Norman watched in awe as these skilled axemen chopped pockets, inserted boards and then sliced a log in half at the top. He was hooked! This was the event he was going to master. Without coaching, the proper axes, or practice set-up, he would go on to place in his first ever competition spring board chop and win multiple Canadian Championships.



Logging show top level

By GARY HICKLING
of our staff

High-calibre logging competition will again be seen at the 8th annual logging sports show, held in conjunction with next week's County Fair by the Grande Prairie Logging Sports Association.

Logging sports promotion director Brian Adams said the event features 17 logging events including the world championship super logger competition — a

The loggers are competing for a total of \$15,000 in prize money. The Canadian championship sports earn the winner more than \$350 in each event. It is expected that more than 45 loggers will compete, but only 38 professional loggers have registered to date although organizers expect last-minute registrations.

Competitors are placed in four categories, with top professionals in the open category, followed by intermediate, novice, and local competitors. The open category is attempting for the prestigious title of "super logger," while in-
novice aiming for

Loggers' skills dazzle fairgoers

By KATHY MURRIE
Herald-Tribune staff

When the screech and wood chips finally settled on the Loggers' Bowl last night, several thousand fans had witnessed some of the best loggers on the continent in action.

Normand Gagne, a 47-year-old logger from Canal Flats, B.C., earned the world-champion Super Logger trophy and \$1,500 in prize money for the gruelling five-event competition. It was a homecoming victory of sorts for Gagne, who lived and worked here for two years in 1975.

"I was at the first competition (logging sports) in Bear Creek Park in 1974. This

The competition includes a standing block chop, woods saw event, obstacle pole locking, chokerman's race and cross-cut sawing — all run consecutively. Only nine loggers took part, and the top three were just five seconds apart.

Gagne's time of 2:43.30, bested a field that included Jack Wrenth-John of Williams Lake, B.C., at 2:44.32, 1985 event winner Elyer Adams of Kamloops, Man., at 2:47.20, and 1984 winner Glenn Erickson of Hinton, B.C., at 2:56.38.

Grande Prairie's George Barnes collected several awards: Bull of the Woods trophy as best novice/intermediate level competitor and Ted Goodson Memorial award as best Peace Country competitor. Adams also won the Canadian

chop and under 80 cc stock powersaw bucking.

Adams earned the Logger of the Day trophy and prizes worth \$300.

Stealing the show though, was Gagner. Gagner, Ed Lacey, former air competitor Art Williams, exhorting atop the new 90-foot tall climbing poles in the forest. In a 10-minute show each day, full in a forest and carrying a bottle of "climbing juice," did a slow ascent and descent with the crowd and commentator Lou Hood. Once up he did a little jig and a handstand on the summit before a heart-stopping descent down a guy-wire over the crowd.

Williams, a 46-year-old logger from Lethbridge, B.C., developed his hair-raising act over 20 years ago as a "topper" — logging the tops off trees at MacMillan-Bloedel's Vancouver Island logging camp.

"I used to sit on top of the trees, shaved standing and

Double Bucking — novice, Doug Fleming and Leo Perry in 13.58 seconds; local novice, Rick Holmes and Brian MacMillan in 14.97; open, father and son team of Bob and Carson MacMillan in 15.52.

Super Saw — local novice, Cliff Sydnor in 13.60.

Standing Block Chop — novice, Sydnor in 10.56; open, Carl Blechard in 22.25.

Albert Lohr's memorial accuracy cut for local novice — Shane Sydnor in 21.02.

Underhand Choy — open, Elyer Adams in 19.67.

Powersaw Bucking stock 80-100 cc — Ed Braun in 15.00; 101-140 cc open — Braun with 16.55; unlimited — Blechard in 16.30.

Chokerman's Race — Braun in 15.14.



1. Bull of the Woods Norman Gagne (L) and runner-up Robert Clerque, both of Hinton
2. Logging article by Gary Hickling
3. Logging article from the Herald Tribune by Kathy Murrie
4. Norman Gagne

Once, Norman even used a traditional heavy broad felling axe in the hard-hitting underhand chopping event. In this event, the least number of swings in the fastest time to sever the log into two determines the winner. Norman didn't win the underhand chopping event, but he did win the hearts of spectators who watched a small Frenchman swing a giant axe with all his might.

Once Norman learned these skills he felled six logging trucks of timber in Canal Flats, BC to practice his standing block chopping techniques. He used these logs to build his home from the ground up; every inch of it done by hand and utilizing his logger sports skills and traditional trades. Norman was introduced into logging sports in Alberta. He annually flaunted his skills in Grande Prairie where he broke records, triumphed and set the path for his future. Norman not only competed across North America, he also made a living doing travelling wood chopping entertainment shows.

He chopped wood at venues like Sea World, and was sent to Rio, Chile in 1985 by the Canadian Government to represent Canada as the iconic Canadian Lumberjack image.

Norman still competes today and has passed his love of lumberjack sports on to his family. Norman still performs in wood chopping shows as he creates history with three generations of his family chopping: grandfather Norman, son Gerald, and grandchildren. This year Norman's great-grandson is 7 years old, and Norman plans to awe the crowds with a fourth generation in the lumberjack show! His passion and his drive and his interest in the history of logger sports started in 1974 with the Grande Prairie Logger Sports Show. Norman Gagne's first logger sports event had a phenomenal impact on his life. Alberta will impact many others by continuing to offer these events, while promoting the forest industry, its history, and sparking interest and inspiration to study the past.



1. Kat Spencer announcing next event, Fort Saskatchewan; June 20, 2015
2. Children's axe throw contest, Fort Saskatchewan; June 20, 2015
3. Cookie cutting event – head to head, Fort Saskatchewan; June 20, 2015
4. Axe throw, Fort Saskatchewan; June 20, 2015
5. Kat Spencer in the single buck saw event, Fort Saskatchewan; June 20, 2015



Currently initiatives are underway to develop a permanent logging sports facility in Morinville, Alberta. With help of the forestry community and any interested parties, ECHO Chainsaws, "Lumberjack" TV series, has proposed to film and promote logging sports in Alberta and its sponsors in 2017. Interested contributors are asked to contact Kat Spencer for information on how supporting wood chopping events can promote businesses and forest history in Alberta!



As part of her research into Logger Sports or Timber Sports in Alberta, Katherine Spencer is looking for any information available on the Grande Prairie Logger Sports Association, history of the Rocky Mountain House Lumberjack Competition, the Alberta Logging Association and any other wood chopping events in Alberta.

If you have information regarding any of these or similar events please contact Kat Spencer at Katherine.j.spencer@gmail.com or (780) 914-9609.

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22 Hutchinson Place, St Albert, AB T8N 6R3

For more info contact Bruce Mayer
Phone: (780) 644-4656
Email: bruce.mayer@gov.ab.ca

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



MARCH 16, 2016 FHAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Days Inn & Suites West
Edmonton, Edmonton, Alberta

Contact Bruce Mayer at
Bruce.Mayer@gov.ab.ca
for further information



JUNE 13–17, 2016 ALBERTA WILDFIRE COMPETITION

Cache Percotte
Hinton, AB

Contact Philip Reid at
Philip.Reid@gov.ab.ca
for further information



AIRSPRAY

JUNE 30, 2016 (SUBMISSION DEADLINE) AIR SPRAY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

2017 marks 50 years in business for Air Spray! Visit their 50th Anniversary Project page on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/AirSpray50th/>) to learn more about what is going on next year. If you're not on Facebook - no problem. They are looking for stories, photos, videos and newspaper clippings from years past to be part of our 50th Anniversary Book and year-long celebration. Anything and everything!

Email Lynn Hamilton at Air Spray (Lynn.Hamilton@airspray.com) and you will be provided with more information as to how you can send memories and be part of the celebration. Deadline is June 30, 2016!



JUNE 25–26, 2016 LOGGER SPORTS COMPETITION

Morinville, Alberta

Contact Kat Spencer at
Katherine.J.Spencer@gmail.com
for further information



AUGUST 23–24, 2016 JUNIOR FOREST RANGER BULL OF THE WOODS

Cold Creek
Fire Base Camp

Contact Brett Spady at
Brett.Spady@gov.ab.ca
for further information



JUNIOR FOREST RANGER PROGRAM – 50TH

SUBMITTED BY JANELLE LANE AND BRETT SPADY

The Alberta Junior Forest Ranger (JFR) program celebrated its' 50 year anniversary in 2015. The summer featured many events to commemorate the occasion, including planting twelve trees across the province. From Fort Vermillion to Calgary, these trees mark a living legacy of a program that continues to evolve.

The annual Bull of the Woods

(BOTW) competition was the perfect setting to cap off the celebrations. Alumni came from across Alberta to celebrate. In true JFR fashion, the spirit of former Jiffers was put to the test with a friendly alumni competition. About 40 alumni put their names forward to relive the glory of BOTW past. Visitors also took a step back in time in a history tent displaying the rich story of the program. Since its beginnings,

more than 5,000 people have been a part of the JFR program as crew members, supervisors, cooks, or other support staff. According to a recent survey, approximately 60 per cent of alumni have gone on to pursue careers in forestry and natural resource management.

1. Fire starting competition



ROOTS OF THE PROGRAM

1960s

In 1964, Dr. Peter Murphy, then director of the Forestry Training School in Hinton (now the Hinton Training Centre), proposed a “ranger assistant program”. Over the next year, Dr. Murphy spearheaded the program, with the support of Deputy Minister Eric Huestis. Using similar programs throughout Canada as a guide, the goal was to offer young men an introduction to various aspects of forestry in Alberta and create an opportunity for transition into the newly formed forestry school in Hinton.

The Junior Forest Ranger program was officially launched in 1965. That summer, 36 young men, age 17 and 18, were split between three crews in the Clearwater, Edson, and Crowsnest Forests. Crew members were paid a wage of \$5.00 per day (or \$0.63 per hour) for their eight-hour work day. In 1966, the program was expanded and a fourth crew was added in Grande Prairie, with pay at \$125 per month. A fifth crew was then added in 1967. Crews at that time focused on building bridges and trails, and campground maintenance. They were also introduced to the tools and tactics of the forest industry. At that time, crews worked a six-day work week, one of which was dedicated to educational tours or activities.

1. Michele Thornton learning use of chainsaw, 1976

2. Single bucksaw competition

3. Bruce Mayer (left) presenting Peter Murphy with a certificate and commemorative belt buckle for his work initiating the Junior Forest Ranger Program

JUNIOR FOREST RANGERS BLAIRMORE JULY AND AUGUST 1965

BY EMANUEL DOLL

Supervising a group of Junior Forest Rangers in Blairmore during the summer of 1965 was a great experience. I was directed by Peter Murphy, Training School Superintendent, to oversee a group of Junior Forest Rangers that were assigned to the Crowsnest Forest in Blairmore. Alf Longworth was the Superintendent there and Bernie Simpson was the Divisional Forester.

I was issued a new 3-ton truck along with a purchase order book. The truck bed was fitted with a standard issue wooden box with convertible take down sides. The configuration included benches and overhead tarp for transporting the crew similar to what the military used.

Camp was established near the Livingstone Ranger District. I recall going to Blairmore on a weekend to pick up the crew members and purchase groceries. The owner of the first grocery store I went into declined our purchase order. He suggested "Mr. Longworth drop by next week and provide authorization to purchase groceries". Fortunately the owner of the second grocery store was more accommodating. The entrepreneur was an Italian gentleman, who seemed very interested in the new JFR concept. He dished out some Capocola samples and eagerly provided the groceries we needed.

Alberta Corrections had a 25 man minimum security crew camp located nearby. Two armed guards were in charge on a rotational basis. We played softball against them every Sunday. Our team was very competitive and they never lost a game. Bill Wuth, the District Forest Ranger at Livingstone was very supportive of our unit. Our main projects were: tree thinning, tree planting and

new bridge construction. We planted a large volume of seedlings and constructed an elaborate wooden log bridge complete with log crib abutments for piers, side rails and surfaced it with rail corduroy and track slabs. The JFR's felt very accomplished when this project was completed. I was told some members returned in later years to show the bridge to members of their family. Another project was building wooden log tables with benches for the local campsites. It was a wet summer; however fire suppression was not mandated as one of our responsibilities. Fortunately we never had any bear encounters. One incident resulted in a crew member taking medical leave as a result of accidentally scalding himself with hot water while removing a pot from the stove.

Educational sessions were very well organized. A syllabus was provided by the Forestry Training School. Visitors included John Wagar, presenting his educational segment, Peter Murphy and Bernie Simpson making their presentations during the summer. I worked on a summer assignment collecting and identifying plants for Dick Altmann's class. On the day we all said our farewells to return home the JFR group presented me with a large bale of pressed plants.

I feel very strongly that this was one of the most positive experiences I had with the Alberta Forest Service. The crew was motivated, ambitious, and loyal and contributed in all the aspects of the program. A number of members continued on with a career in Forestry. It's great to see that 50 years later the JFR program is still going strong.

Peter Murphy asked three students of the Hinton forest technology program to run Junior Forest Ranger crews during the summer of 1965, the inaugural year of the program. Emanuel Doll, Horst Rohde and Larry Huberdeau were the three chosen as crew leaders; the above is Emanuel Doll's story of that summer.



1970s

The 1970s were full of milestones for the JFR program. Early in the decade, the minimum age for crew members was lowered from 17 to 16 years, which made the program more accessible to high school students. In addition, crew member wages increased from \$6.00 per day in 1970 to \$20.00 per day by the end of the decade. As the JFR program continued to expand, women were first welcomed into the program in 1974 and the first all-female crews were formed. Since then, more than 1,300 young women have completed the program as crew members and supervisors.

1980s

Throughout the 1980s, the JFR program continued to offer the same opportunities to high school students. Crew member wages increased slightly from \$21.00 per day to roughly \$23.20 per day (\$2.90 per hour). By 1989, there were seven crews that spanned the four corners of the province from Blairmore to Fort Chipewyan and Grande Prairie to Lac La Biche. In addition, the assistant crew supervisor or sub leader position was created to organize the members more efficiently.



1990s

Following the 25th anniversary of the JFR program in 1990, the program began building formal partnerships with various forest industry companies. In exchange for providing the funding and facilities for the crew members and supervisors, forest companies benefitted from specifically tailored work projects and increased exposure to future potential employees. During the 1990s, companies like Weyerhaeuser, Weldwood, and Alberta Pacific all benefitted from partnerships with JFR crews.



1. JFR members, leaders and parents at the JFR 50th Anniversary and 2015 Bull of the Woods Event, August 18, 2015

2. Grass dancer Jason Skani at the 50th Anniversary and 2015 Bull of the Woods; August 18, 2015

3. The McLoughlin sisters at the JFR Bull of the Woods, August 18, 2015

4. Brett Spady presenting to the Aboriginal elder an offering of sweetgrass and a blanket

5. Flags paraded in during opening ceremonies for the JFR 50th Anniversary and 2015 Bull of the Woods; August 18, 2015. L to R: Kevin Wirtanen, Bill Bresnahan, Bob Young, Gail McLoughlin, Peter Murphy and grass dancer Jason Skani

6. Grass dancer Kona Jackson from Whitefish Lake was a JFR crew member in 2014 and 2015



2000s

In 2003, three crews were formed in partnership with First Nation host communities. Originally, these crew members worked during the week but lived at home. Today some crews also live in camps Monday to Friday while doing JFR work. In 2005, the JFR program celebrated its 40 year anniversary at the Hinton Training Centre – where it all began. The Aboriginal community-based partnership model is still ongoing and in 2013, the 10 year anniversary was celebrated at Bull of the Woods. For the past three years, a community partnership with Treaty 7 has fielded crews that camp for the entire summer as well. Since 2003, the JFR program has created partnerships with 22 different indigenous communities across our province. A partnership was also created with Jalisco, Mexico in the late 2000's where a Jalisco employee spent two summers working with and learning about the JFR program.

2015

Today, all crews are built on the pillars of stewardship, traditional ecological knowledge, leadership, and partnerships. A half century of programming is a testament to the strength of the roots established in Hinton in 1965.

1. Bruce Mayer and Peter Murphy planting the ceremonial tree recognizing 50 years of the Junior Forest Ranger Program, July 31, 2015

2. Plaque mounted at the JFR 50th ceremonial tree, located on the east side of the Alberta Legislature grounds



Sam Sinclair during a training course of Aboriginal firefighters, 1960s

50TH ANNIVERSARY ABORIGINAL FIREFIGHTER TRAINING IN ALBERTA

SUBMITTED BY JANELLE LANE

THE LEGEND WAS THAT WHEN A RANGER GOT A FIRE, HE'D ARRANGE TO HAVE A TRUCK BACKED UP TO THE BACK OF A BEER PARLOUR AND HE'D GO IN THE FRONT AND HE'D SAY HE HAD A FIRE AND HE NEEDED FIREFIGHTERS. IT'S A LEGEND AND MAKES FOR A GOOD STORY - BUT IT'S NOT FAR FROM THE TRUTH

Alberta's Aboriginal wildland firefighters have a rich history in the province. 2015 marked the 50 year anniversary of the emergency firefighter training program, a program made up primarily of Aboriginal peoples. We took the opportunity to look back and pay tribute to some key players who developed the program and thank the thousands of emergency firefighters who have protected Alberta's forested community for the past five decades.

While training was spread around Alberta in 1965, a few key events and people helped give it direction. Dr. Peter Murphy, the first director of the Forestry Training School in Hinton, describes the old conscription method of securing wildland firefighters. "The legend was that when a ranger got a fire, he'd arrange to have a truck backed up to the back of a beer parlour and he'd go in the front and he'd say he had a fire and he needed firefighters. It's a legend and makes for a good story - but it's not far from the truth," Murphy said.

Wildfires were a part of every forest ranger's job and in 1951 the Alberta Forest Service began developing natural resource training programs for their staff. Training took place at a facility in Kananaskis, a big step up from just hiring men off the street. The ten-week course was held in borrowed facilities left over from the Barrier Lake prisoner of war camp. It soon grew to a



I LEARNED ABOUT FIRE BEHAVIOUR BEFORE I ACTUALLY TOOK ANY COURSE ON FIRE BEHAVIOUR. NOW THAT I LOOK BACK IT WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS INGRAINED IN THE CULTURE



twelve-week course with wildfire being one of the topics taught.

In 1956, a large wildfire south of Hinton burned through valuable timber, timber that had recently been sold for Alberta's first Forest Management Agreement. North Western Pulp and Power told the Alberta Forest Service that if they were going to spend a lot of money building a pulp mill, Alberta needed to do a better job at wildfire protection. This was a catalyst for change. The forest protection system started improving thanks to key players like Frank Platt and Ted Hammer. Fire behaviour and fireline safety was on the minds of forestry officials around North America throughout the 1950's. In 1959, representatives from the Alberta Forest Service participated in a new fire behaviour course in Montana. From crew sizes to training and command systems, the idea to train firefighters was gaining momentum. "One approach would be to have

so-called standby crews to be hired on full-time on standby, so they'd be available on first call for fires, and they were four man crews to begin with. They were given a modicum of training, but were left pretty well on their own because the ranger had other things to do," Murphy said.

1959 marked the last year using the facilities in Kananaskis. Slave Lake district ranger Sam Sinclair, a proud Metis man, did well in the school, showed strong leadership and positive initiative. He brought all his training back to his home district and put it to use training local Aboriginal people. He drummed up enough funding on his own to train a group of men as firefighters in the spring of 1960. On top of showing them the tools and fundamentals of the trade, he also lit a practice fire to apply those techniques.

While Sam Sinclair was teaching local Aboriginal men how to fight wildfires, the new Forestry Training



School (now the Hinton Training Centre) in Hinton was opened and the full-time forestry training facility began to take shape. With fire a fundamental part of Aboriginal culture it was easy for Sam Sinclair to tap into the strong cross-generational mentorship model of indigenous people. Paul Courtoreille, an Aboriginal firefighter from the Slave Lake Wildfire Management Area remembers learning about wildfire as a child. "I learned about fire behaviour before I actually took any course on fire behaviour. Now that I look back it was something that was ingrained in the culture," Courtoreille said. Sinclair used those fundamentals and is remembered as a man who stood up for his people. "I went on a few fires with my dad and uncle as well. It was good that they were available if I wasn't sure about how I was doing something. Plus experience. The years of experience were invaluable," Courtoreille added.

In 1962, Frank Platt initiated the first venture in training non Alberta Forest Service people, headed by Jack Macnab. Fireline foremen and standby firefighters who had shown dedication in their own backyards were selected to take part. After completing the four and a half day



1. Sam Sinclair (left) and Ben Shantz, firefighter training, Glenevis, 1960s

2. Meander River crew winning the firefighter competition, Footner Lake Forest, 1973

3. Firefighters learning helicopter safety, Fox Creek, June 1967

4. Firefighter training in Assumption (now Chateh), Habay District, Peace River Division, 1964



course, each was given a card certifying them to a position level based on their performance. The week culminated with a 'mock fire'. Mock fires had been used in training as early as 1955, but this one produced Alberta's first 'certified' firefighters. By 1963 a second training session was held at the Forestry Training School.

Meanwhile Sam Sinclair, and others like Harry Edgecombe in High Level and Ben Shantz in Whitecourt, continued to train firefighters locally. That year, a fire on Upper Kananaskis Lake inspired the first crew export. A crew from the Wabasca area was flown to Calgary and then bused to Kananaskis to put out the fire. The need for formalized training had never been clearer. In 1965, the emergency firefighting training model was implemented across the province. On top of learning how to fight wildfires, the soon-to-be certified firefighters learned all aspects of camp life. "The focus was to keep these real good experienced firefighters going and keep them trained. It's no different than being a coach on a basketball or hockey team. If you can get the returnees you are going to be a lot more effective," said Gordon Bisgrove, retired Whitecourt Forest Superintendent.



Training continued to evolve with the addition of standards for certification, re-certification and hands on tools like the fire simulator. The majority of certified positions were held by individuals of Aboriginal ancestry. The Alberta Forest Service simultaneously developed a fireline organization structure with defined systems of command, creating more need of training programs. "It structured the whole fire regime from the firefighter on the line, right to the head of fire in Edmonton. Everybody was on an org chart somewhere. That in my mind was one of the biggest advances in the organization, which then brought on all the training required. We had firefighter training, crew boss, sector boss, and that kicked in very intensive training for a very long period of time," Bisgrove added.

The role Aboriginal firefighters have played continue to shape the way wildfires are fought in Alberta. Countless men and women have been trained and contributed in keeping Alberta's communities safe from wildfire. Hugh Boyd, retired Executive Director of the Wildfire Management Branch remembered how important it was to tap into the local knowledge of the Aboriginal people in each area he was stationed. "It was invaluable. It was something that made the Alberta Forest Service what it was. They shaped the Alberta Forest Service. They were the structural backbone for us to do all our wildfire management," Boyd said.

1. Fire camp, Caribou Mountains, 1994
2. Strawboss certification card, Dumas Tremblay, Conklin, August 1966
3. Frank Platt, Fire Control, Edmonton, 1960s
4. Ted Hammer standing
5. Harry Edgecomb, Fire Instructor, Forestry Training School, Hinton, 1960s

PINTO LAKE CARVINGS

SUBMITTED BY BARRY SHELLIAN AND KEVIN GAGNE

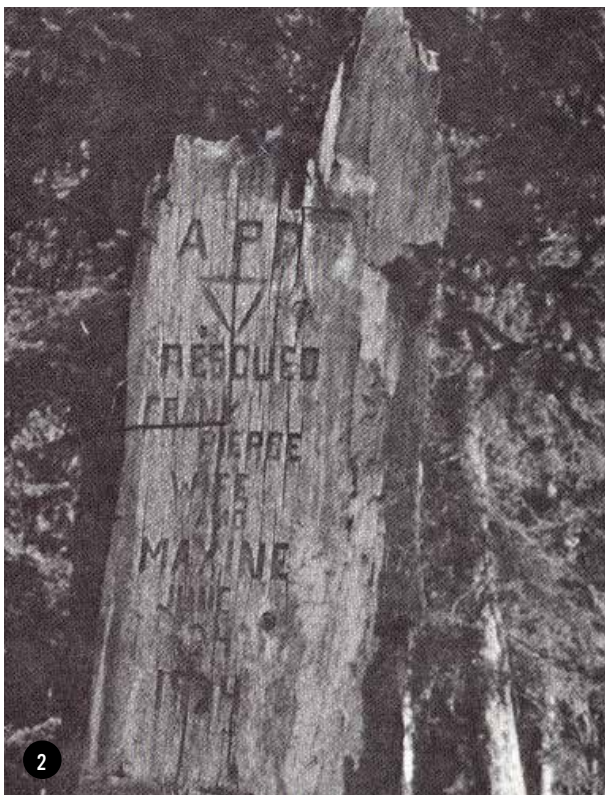
FRANK ACCIDENTLY SHOT HIMSELF IN THE ARM WITH A SHOTGUN. BECAUSE OF THE COMPLICATIONS AND THE REMOTENESS OF THE AREA, MRS. PIERCE WAS FORCED TO AMPUTATE HIS ARM.

Staff from Environment and Parks and Agriculture and Forestry recently “rescued” tree carvings depicting a family rescue at Pinto Lake in 1924. The carvings are on display in the Rocky Mountain House office. Two versions of what actually happened at Pinto Lake have been documented.

In the December 22, 2015 Rocky Mountain House Mountaineer, Editor Laura Button outlined the story from their archives. “According to The Mountaineer of July 2, 1924, Dr. Shillabeer went to Pinto Lake to treat the man the previous fall. He amputated Frank Pierce’s shattered arm and tried to persuade the family to return to Nordegg, but Pierce refused. J. Tansey of Nordegg joined the Pierces for the winter. When Tansey returned to Nordegg in June, 1924, he reported that Pierce was in bad shape. A duo from the Alberta Provincial Police was dispatched to bring the family out. On their way, Detective Holmes and Constable English met Pierce who was taking the trail out. The officers continued on to bring Mrs. Pierce and the girl out.”

In 1986, the Alberta Forestry Association presented the following story. “In the Fall of 1923, Frank Pierce, his wife, their daughter Maxine, and one cow, moved out to his trapline cabin on the east shore of Pinto Lake. The lake is the headwaters of the Whitegoat River, later named the Cline. During the winter, tragedy struck. Frank accidentally shot himself in the arm with a shotgun. Because of the complications and the remoteness of the area, Mrs. Pierce was forced to amputate his arm. The family had no hope of getting out during the winter. Through it all, the remarkable Mrs. Pierce was able to carry on as doctor, nurse, and family provider until someone chanced upon them. In early June, 1924, the nearly impossible happened when the family was discovered by a party of First Nations. The First Nations in turn notified the authorities in Nordegg, where a rescue party was quickly formed. The rescue party, consisting of three officers of the Alberta Provincial Police named English, Holmes and Watson, removed the Pierce family on June 24, 1924. The inscriptions carved by the rescuers are monuments of the family’s brush with fate and their spirit to carry on.”

These trees stood until the wind blew them down in 2013. The Alberta Government removed the carvings for preservation.



- 1 + 2. Carvings describing the Pinto Lake rescue from the 1986 Trees of Renown
- 3. Plaque to be mounted at the Pinto Lake location where the carvings were removed
- 4. Carvings displayed under glass in Rocky Mountain House

RETIREMENTS



JIM STEELE

Jim graduated from NAIT's Forest Technology program in Wildlife Recreation in 1975. Others in the class were Dave Bartesko, Andy Davison and Ken Sloman. Graduates in the Forest Technology program included Hugh Boyd, Rick Arthur, Rory Thompson and Jim Maitland. While at school and following graduation Jim worked variously for Alberta Parks as a seasonal ranger, wildlife technologist for the Canadian Wildlife Service (1975-78) and the provincial Fish and Wildlife Division (1979-81). Jim joined the former Alberta Environment 34 years ago in April 1981, on contract to assist with the public liaison work to site a hazardous waste treatment facility in Alberta, the first in North America. As the department liaison with the Town of Swan Hills, his work at this time contributed significantly to the siting of the waste treatment facility near that community.

Jim remained on contract with the department until September 1985, at which time he joined the Waste Management Branch on a permanent basis as their delegate to the Pollution Emergency Response Team (PERT), and to conduct compliance inspections on approved facilities, with particular emphasis on hazardous waste. Jim's time with the PERT team remains a personal highlight and one of the most rewarding experiences of his time with the ministry. In 1988, Jim was assigned to the Investigations Branch of the Pollution Control Division where he had the opportunity to work closely with the Environmental Law Section and Alberta Justice as well as other mainstream enforcement agencies in ensuring Alberta's environmental legislation, both old and new was being adhered to. Jim remained with the Investigations group until 1999 at which time he joined the Regulatory Assurance Division, and was exposed to policy development for the compliance-related business of a newly amalgamated department comprised of former environment, fish and wildlife, forestry and parks ministries. He was also responsible for developing compliance annual reports for submission to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation in support of NAFTA, and for broader compliance reporting to the Alberta public. In 2002, Jim was asked to undertake the role of Regional Compliance Manager in the former Central Region on an

acting basis, a role which evolved into a permanent placement in the new Upper Athabasca Region of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. In retirement, he is looking forward to catching up on his many personal interests.



KEN MALLET

A retirement party was held for Ken on May 8, 2015 to honour his 30 years with the Canadian Forest Service. Ken did all of his post-secondary education at the University of Alberta; a BSc Biology in 1978, an MSc Plant Pathology in 1981 and a PhD Forest Pathology in 1985. His long career was notable in its outstanding contributions to both science and management. Ken's research career focussed on important tree diseases, and he remains recognized as the authoritative expert on Armillaria root disease in Alberta. He was a key collaborator in the

establishment of several long-term research studies, including EMEND, studies on spruce budworm, and root diseases. Ken has contributed in leadership roles with the Canadian Institute of Forestry, the Canadian Phytopathological Society, the Alberta Forest Genetics Council, the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta and the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre. He has also served as an associated editor with the Forestry Chronicle. Ken is one of the original and key architects of ProMIS and has served as the Project Coordinator for the Fire project since its inception in 2007. He has provided the leadership to develop sector-leading health and safety practices at the Northern Forestry Centre.



DAVE BARTESKO

Born and raised in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Dave graduated from NAIT's Forest Technology program in 1975 as a Forest Technologist. Other graduates included Hugh Boyd, Rick Arthur, Rory Thompson and Jim Maitland. Dave's career with the Alberta government started in May 1975 as a Forest Officer in Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray and Hines Creek. From 1980 to 2002, Dave

was a member of wildfire overhead teams, specializing in service/logistics. Dave moved to Edmonton in 1986 to work in Forest Land Use. In 1998 he took on the role of Manager of the Exploration program and then Section Head in the Land Management Branch of Lands Division in 2002. Following a short stint developing the Integrated Land Management program he was seconded to the Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management office in 2005 to develop the Land-use Framework, and later became the Director, Consultation with the Alberta government's Land Use Secretariat. He retired after with just over 40 years with the Alberta government. Dave now lives in the Bella Coola valley on the central west coast of British Columbia.



ELAINE PENNER

Elaine began working at the Hinton Training Centre on a part time basis in October 2003 as the Accounts Payable contact. She also helped to cover off the Pay and Benefits position when needed. She received a full time position in 2005 and in 2006, became the Unit Leader for Finance/HR a role she held until her retirement on August

28, 2015. Upon her departure she stated that she "enjoyed working with management and employees that are dedicated to delivering the best training, food and care for the clients." She was proud to be part of the HTC team.



MARG BISH

Marg retired from working at the Hinton Training Centre on August 28, 2015. She had worked there for over 24 years, initially on a part time basis as an assistant to the NAIT instructors. Eventually she received a full time position working in the administration office and finally working in Finance/HR. Marg stated she would miss working with all the wonderful staff at HTC but is extremely happy she no longer has to do the filing.



MIKE SHERMATA

Mike retired from the Alberta government January 2016 after 30+ years. Mike was a Junior Forest Ranger in the Whitecourt Forest in 1978 and in the Bow Crow Forest in 1979. After graduating from NAIT's Forest Technology program in 1980, he spent a couple of summers as a Seasonal Park Ranger at Wabamun Lake Provincial Park and was a tower person in Cypress Hills. In 1982, Mike was hired on at Energy and Natural Resources in Edmonton as a Tech Aide. In 1990, he got a position with the Alberta Forest Service in Peace River as a Mapping Technologist, remaining there until his retirement in 2015. Mike's most recent role in Peace River was as the GIS Team Lead, Peace Region, Environment and Parks. During the 1998 Virginia Hills wildfire, Mike was joined by Don Page and Bonnie Hood, where they were able to work with overhead and firefighters to combine GIS and GPS technology for mapping.



TERRY SEABORN

Terry began working as a Clerk Typist I-II with the Forest Administration Branch, Department of Lands and Forests on June 4, 1969, retiring on June 30, 2015 after 46 years. Terry spent all her career in Edmonton in various roles supporting program delivery. Throughout the years Terry worked in three governments and under nine Premiers (Social Credit – Harry Stom; PC – Peter Lougheed to Jim Prentice; and NDP – Rachael Notley), for eight departments (Lands and Forests, Energy and Natural Resources, Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, Environmental Protection, Environment, Sustainable Resource Development, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Agriculture and Forestry), 22 Ministers, 14 Deputy Ministers and nine Assistant Deputy Ministers.



DEBORAH PERRAULT

Debbie began working as a Clerk Typist III with Social Services and Community Health on January 14, 1975, retiring on June 7, 2015 after a 40+ year career. Debbie moved to Energy and Natural Resources in October 1985 and since then has worked in two governments and under eight Premiers (PC – Peter Lougheed to Jim Prentice and NDP – Rachael Notley), for seven departments, 19 Ministers, 13 Deputy Ministers and eight Assistant Deputy Ministers. Debbie's retirement plans involved that reading time with her granddaughter Bridgette.



DARRYL JOHNSON

A retirement party was held for Darryl on October 24, 2015 to celebrate his 38 years with the Alberta government. Darryl began his career as a Junior Forest Ranger in Lac La Biche in 1977 and then as a timber management compassman and cruiser in Lac La Biche the summer of 1978. Darryl graduated the NAIT Forest Technology program in 1979 with others like Bev Wilson, Mike Poscente, Patrick Guidera, Conrad Gray and Steve Donelon. Following graduation Darryl returned to Lac La Biche as a timber cruiser and then went to Edson as a Forest Officer on wages. In December 1981, Darryl moved to Swan Hills as a Forest Officer, then in August 1981 to Fort Assiniboine, Whitecourt Forest as a Forest Officer II. On October 15, 1982 Darryl took a lateral transfer to the Ghost Ranger District, Bow Crow Forest. In April 1986 Darryl and family moved to High Level, Footner Lake Forest, where Darryl was the Forest Officer III. In 1988 another move took the family to Whitecourt with Darryl as a Forest Officer IV in Forest Protection. A promotion to Chief Ranger took Darryl to DA2, Fort



Mackay, Athabasca Forest in May 1991. Although not his last job, the last move Darryl and family made was to Blairmore, Bow Crow Forest as Chief Ranger. His roles and titles changed many times after that from District Manager, Crowsnest District to Forest Area Manager, Crowsnest Forest Area to Land and Range Manager, Regional Planning Lead, Acting Area Manager Prairies Area and finally Regional Resource Manager, South Saskatchewan Region. Darryl's official retirement is on March 31, 2016. Throughout his career Darryl has been an active volunteer in local search and rescue and fire departments. Darryl and Judy have three children and nine grandchildren, plenty of places to visit.

In Darryl's retirement note he said the following. "Today is one day shy of 38 years since I first started with the Alberta Forest Service back in 1977 – it has been an awesome career, some incredible experiences and wonderful opportunities to live and work throughout Alberta. My time with GoA has taken me through all of this great province of ours – my 'stomp-around-Alberta-tour' enabled me to work in such

places as Lac La Biche, Beaver Lake, Calling Lake, Grande Cache, Hinton, Swan Hills, Fort Assiniboine, the 'Ghost' (northwest of Cochrane), High Level, Whitecourt, Fort McKay/Fort McMurray, and finally Crowsnest Pass. I would not have traded any of these places for the friends I made and the experience gained. My career assignments have allowed me to enjoy some of the most incredible opportunities to support the management of natural resources in this ecologically diverse province of ours – from forests to rangelands, boreal forests to the rocky mountains to the mixed grass prairies, from fisheries to wildlife, with water from the 'highs' of floods to the 'lows' of droughts, from broad landscapes to airsheds, land-use planning and of course 'species-at-risk'. In looking back, the diversity of opportunities which I was afforded has made the past 38 years literally fly by. The 'fabric' of this organization is made up of the people within it and how we collectively pull together on assignments and during times when we all need a shoulder to lean on."



KEN GROAT

Ken's long and distinguished 40 year career started in November 1975. He had just finished off a six month job in Northern B.C., which wrapped up at the end of October when hunting season closed for the year. After spending a few days in Fort St. John he called his Mom in Brule to check on the rest of the family and she said someone had called from North Western Pulp and Power for him, she thought they had a job for him if he was interested. Ken called the HR office a couple of days later and they put him in contact with Bob McKellar the Forestry Department Superintendent whom he already knew as he had spent a year scaling in the bush in 1971. Bob said he was looking for a bush foreman for a company crew and would like for Ken to give it some thought. After arriving in Hinton, Ken met with Bob and he told him there was no guarantee that he could hire him yet as he was waiting for approval from head office. They talked about what the job would entail and Bob hoped to have approval before Christmas, so Ken hung out in Brule for that month. Christmas came and went with no word so Ken had kind of written the job off when Bob

phoned him on December 28th and said to come in tomorrow and sign up. Ken was now a crew foreman and had two choices for work location – Edson or Robb. Edson was the choice and after finding a place to live the big day came when he went out to the bush north of Edson and met the crew. Ken worked under the senior foreman Ken Mulak, who was a laid back guy and taught him lots about how things were done. The crew consisted of 12 power saw fallers and 12 skidder operators along with one cat skinner, two mechanics, one garage, office, cold storage shed and what we called a warm up shack, a power plant, and three-1,000 gallon fuel tanks all portable.

As time went by the Company made many changes to the way they logged. The one faller, one skidder concept changed to one faller, two skidders. We called this "hot logging". The faller was no longer responsible for hand limbing as there now was a magical machine that looked after all the limbs, "the flail". The 230 Timberjacks were traded in for 664 Clark Skidders and skidded to landings or cleared areas. This new method of logging had a huge impact on the volume of wood that could be logged by one faller in a day. There were individuals that could fall close to 1,500 trees a shift, with no problem for two skidders with, main-lines and chokers to handle. Hot logging was the way of the future. Next up was to figure out was how to change the use of a dragline as the log loading practice.

In 1989, all of the Company operations were moved to Hinton. It was that year that Ken started the first stump to dump contractor to work on the Forest Management

Agreement (FMA). This was a great experience with a family of five experienced loggers and three sub-contractors from Mackenzie, B.C. The following year another contractor from Slave Lake came to work on the FMA under Ken's direction. This was the start of all stump to dump contractors on the Hinton FMA. In 2004, an opportunity came along for Ken to work at the Hinton log yard scales and with the log haul fleet. This position included the management of the log yard including the scale house and Government sample scale program. After a year or two in this position, a rebuild for the Sawmill was in the works and Ken was instrumental in helping to ensure we had success in the log yard changing from primarily tree length to cut to length logs.

Over 40 years Ken has worked for six different companies – North Western Pulp and Power, St. Regis, Champion, International Pulp and Paper, Weldwood and finally West Fraser, all in Hinton. A remarkable feat many will not complete in today's age. From those early days when Ken was a young school guy travelling around with his Dad to different logging camps shoeing skid horses, to the present day where Ken and his wife now enjoy working with the society they started, Rocky Mountain Wilderness Society (RWWF.ca), we congratulate Ken on his 40 year career and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Submitted by Bruce Alexander



NEIL ANDERSON

A retirement luncheon was held for Neil on December 10, 2015 after over 14 years with the Alberta government. Neil joined the Wildfire Construction and Maintenance group in May 2002 on contract moving to Peace River in 2005. Neil spent six years there before moving back to Cochrane as the Regional Facilities Coordinator for the Calgary and Rocky Mountain House Wildfire Management Areas. Prior to working for the Alberta government, Neil worked 19 years for the City of Calgary Facilities Department as a carpenter, cabinet maker and eventually a foreman.



BARRY COLEMAN

Working in Ontario and Alberta in warehousing and construction, Barry realized that maybe construction wasn't what he wanted to do for the rest of his life. He enrolled at NAIT and graduated from the Forest Technology program in 1995. Other graduates in his class were Liana Luard, Rick Hoddinott, Stuart Kelm, Kathy Doerkson, Cal Dakin, Kim Bauer and Mike Fedun. During his summer at NAIT Barry worked as an initial attack crew member out of the Hinton Ranger Station. Following graduation he worked seasonally as a Forest Officer on wages out of Hinton and initial attack crew member in Cypress Hills Provincial Park, and back to Hinton as the initial attack crew leader and Forest Officer on wages. Still working in Hinton, Barry received his first permanent Forest Officer posting in 1999 and was promoted to Forest Officer II in 2000. He remained there until moving to the Provincial Forest Fire Centre in Edmonton as a Wildfire Detection Officer in 2008. In August 2011, Barry became a Provincial Wildfire Prevention Officer, a role he held until his retirement on January 29, 2016. As part of his next adventure Barry has a few things planned, bicycling

from Jasper to Banff, canoeing and camping around Burleigh Falls, Ontario and volunteering at the Fringe and Edmonton Humane Society.



NICOLE BUCKLEY

Nicole came to Alberta in 1972 from Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec, knowing almost no English. New applicants to the Provincial government were required to take an aptitude test and then the job interview. In 1974, Nicole started working as a wage Clerk 1-2 for Joe Lowe in the Timber Management Branch mapping section. Six months later, she moved to the Local Timber Permit section under Tony Saldhana. In 1975, she began working for Bill Lumsden, manually entering timber returns and recording all timber production on SEE-FAX Cards. Nicole left the Alberta Forest Service in 1979 starting her family, returning in 1983 working for Doug Quinnell in the scaling section. Later, Nicole started a new role as (what would be later called) a Revenue Analyst working for Claudette Lapointe, becoming permanent in May 1998. This was following 15 years on wages. When Nicole started under Claudette, the work was being converted over

to computers and TREES was the first computer program she had to learn. Being familiar with timber returns and the quota system, the timing of this move couldn't have been better. When Nicole first started working on timber returns under Bill Lumsden, everything was done manually. The TREES program (Timber Revenue Economic Evaluation System) was then followed by FRS (Forest Revenue System) and then TPRS (Timber Production Reporting System). TPRS will soon be replaced by FOREST (FOREST is FOREST). On the financial side of things, Nicole has also worked with MARS (Mutual Aid Resource Sharing), CARS (Corporate Accounting and Reporting System) and CARS2, as well as LSAS (Land Status Automated System) and GLIMPS (Geographic Land Information Management Planning System).



CARMEN JARRAH

Carmen began with the Alberta Forest Service in 1982 in the Lands Branch working as a technologist drafting sketches and plans and writing legal descriptions for land conveyance, eg. grazing leases, oil and gas dispositions, farm development leases and various

protected areas. From 1987 to 1996 Carmen managed a multi-disciplinary team of technologists involved in researching and determining land ownership and boundary delimitation and authored reports with a lands focus on treaty land entitlement, water boundaries, plan standards and gifting land to the Crown. In 1997 Carmen became the assistant to the Director of the Land Administration Division moving then to executive assistant to the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Land and Forest Service in 2000. In 2001 Carmen moved to Wildfire Prevention and has been involved in data analysis, research and report writing. She was also engaged in the documentation unit on wildfires and worked as an information officer during the 2013 flood in High River. Over the last number of years Carmen earned a degree in communications from MacEwan University and wrote her first book, *Smuggled Stories from the Holy Land*. A retirement tea will be held for Carmen on February 26, 2016.



DARYL GILDAY

Daryl began working for the old Alberta Forest Service in the Forest Research Branch in Spruce Grove

as a Maintenance Service Worker in March 1987, moving to a Forestry Aide II and III from February 1988 to October 17, 1988. In his early years he worked with Grant Klappstein and Leonard Barnhardt under Dr. Bela Sivak with the Research Branch doing ecological site classification work. He moved to a position of Forester with the Reforestation Branch in downtown Edmonton, working for Kerry DesChamps on October 19, 1988. In the summer of 1989 he became the Forester in charge of the Reforestation Monitor Plot project and did this for three years before moving down to the Timber Management Branch. There he became involved as a field forester in Permanent Sample Plots, Stand Dynamics Survey, RSYA survey, WESBOGY, deciduous timber cruising and other field duties. He took over the running of all growth and yield projects in 1995 till 2010 when he was transferred to the Alberta Tree Improvement Seed Centre (ATISC). He had many duties at ATISC, genetic field measurements, planting trials, establishing Climate Change Emissions Management Corporation sites, field training crews, white bark and limber pine and pine cone collections, aerial pine cone collections and teaching Bear Awareness and Avoidance courses, ATV courses and UTV courses. Daryl's final day is February 13, 2016. He will be switching gears and will continue to work in the forestry field. He has started his own Arbor Grove Forestry Services Inc. company and hopes to keep working in the forests of Alberta for another five or six years.



AL LAW

After decades of carpentry and contracting work, Al is retiring on February 15, 2016 to begin a new adventure. He grew up along the south bank of the Fraser River where it meets the ocean, in a little farming, fishing village called Ladner. As a young teenager he worked for local fisherman, gillnetting salmon and eventually going out on the ocean shaking herring. Al says that he must have read way too much Farley Mowatt as he had a powerful call of the North, and by the time he was sixteen, in what would be a lifelong trait, he couldn't wait any longer. At the duress of his parents, he loaded his backpack and hitchhiked north. His first job was forestry related, working on a green chain at the old Giscome sawmill just east of Prince George. That was character building!! After the mill closed he found himself working for BC Rail, building a rail line into northwest BC heading for Dease Lake. After those stints, Al intermittently furthered his education, worked framing houses, worked on the railway, at a Lafarge concrete plant, then eventually headed out to Alberta in 1976, and worked the CNR line through Tofield and Bruce ending up in Wainwright. Friends

then asked him to come to Peace River to assist with a house they were building. As he rolled down the west hill in his 1963 Beetle, he had a feeling he was home. He has been there ever since, completing his apprenticeship there, then received his journeyman carpenter ticket, got married there and raised his children.

Al started his own company the day he received his journeyman papers and started working around Peace River. He met Rob Manwaring in 1982, just prior to Rob being transferred from High Level to Peace River as the Carpenter Forman, and started contracting to Forestry late that year building and renovating different facilities. Lorne Goff was Superintendent of the Peace River Forest at that time. Budgets were small and Rob was a master at spreading them out, and the crew moved and renovated many structures including the old Dixonville Ranger office to Haig Lake, the Keg River kitchen to the Chinchaga fire base for an office, the Tall Cree kitchen to Loon River for a recreation building and many others that are still in use today.

During those years Al also started supervising construction projects overseas on different factories building a large repertoire of stories as he found himself in many adventures, including being in Sofia, Bulgaria building a sausage factory during the fall of the iron curtain in 1990. A revolution is one thing to see on television and another to be in the middle of! The airport was closed for six weeks. He built projects in some of the most remote areas of China and in the Yucatan as well. The project built in northern Manchuria was a Canadian International Development Agency

project in response to the Black Dragon fire of 1987, by all accounts the largest recorded fire in history. There he built industrial freezers for the silviculture folks to grow and store seedlings for reforestation. He also did an ice cream factory in Shanghai and a vegetable factory in Gazhou, a location in the jungle down along the border with North Vietnam. The job in the Yucatan was a seafood factory, built to export seafood to the Japanese market.

By 1996 he was contracting to Forestry full time. Memorable people and moments are many including Al's first solo project of moving and setting up a camp at Margaret Lake, north of Fort Vermillion. The 6-wheel Commander got a flat half way in and Mullen Trucking told him there was nothing they could do, and that he was on his own. Al then had a helicopter long line the 1,000 pound spare tire along with three 20-ton hydraulic jacks to the site. Al, Laurier Houle, Les Croy and a couple others then did a tire change at 30 below, using a chainsaw to make fulcrums and levers to change a front tire on a 36 thousand kilogram machine. One story in a thousand Al says, acknowledging the wonderful history of Forestry people known for being resourceful and independent. In the early 2000's capital budgets started to increase and by 2002 a Provincial Construction and Maintenance program was in place. Over the past 15 to 20 years Al has been part of several programs to upgrade or replace fire facilities in the Province. These included replacing tower cabins and lookout steel towers, modernization of the wildfire base camps, and the design and replacement of all the airtanker bases, the last with the completion of the Rainbow Lake

airtanker base. Mountain top cabins were built in three pieces and transported by heavy helicopters; many boreal lookouts have very difficult access and included the use of D7 cats dragging bed trucks up steep hills, at times two cats were needed, one pulling one pushing. Al's final comments are that it has been a wonderful career and he couldn't wait any longer for the next adventure to begin.



RICK BONAR

Rick retired from Hinton Wood Products, a Division of West Fraser in January 2016. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1974 from the University of Victoria and a doctorate in 2001 from the University of Alberta. As a Registered Professional Biologist in both Alberta and British Columbia he has over 40 years' experience working for government, industry, and as a private consultant. In 1988, he began working for Weldwood of Canada Ltd. (now Hinton Wood Products) in Hinton. As Chief Biologist and Planning Coordinator, Rick was responsible for operational planning, wildlife programs and implementation of sustainable forest management. Rick was co-author of the original

Foothills Model Forest proposal in the early 1990s and served as the board chair from 2004 to 2012. In 2010 Rick became President of the Foothills Research Institute (now fRI Research) a role he will hold until a replacement is named by the fRI Research board in 2016. Speaking to Rick's capabilities in 2010 on his appointment as President, retired West Fraser Chief Forester Jim LeLacheur said "Rick is an effective leader and spokesperson for integrated resource management. He appreciates the rewards and challenges of research, and understands the value of creating partnerships between scientists and resource managers. He is renowned for his skill in bringing together researchers from different backgrounds to approach opportunities in new and innovative ways. He possesses the right combination of scientific leadership and strategic planning abilities to lead fRI into the future." Rick and his wife Norma enjoy travelling to many places throughout the world.



GERALD KRESS

A Saskatchewan farm boy, Gerry graduated from NAIT Forest Technology in 1981. Other classmates included Herman

Stegehuis, Henry Greirson, Ray Luchkow, Shawn Milne, Wes Nimco, Karl Peck and Steve Otway. He started on an initial attack crew in Fort MacKay in the summer of 1981 and then became a Forest Officer there from 1981 to 1986. In 1986, Gerry became the Assistant Land Use Officer under Herb Walker in Fort McMurray, Athabasca Forest, a role he held until November 1994. Gerry then transferred to the Land Administration Division in Edmonton as an Investigations Officer. From October 1996 to March 2011 he was the Deputy Registrar of Land Agents. In March 2011 he began a new role as Industrial Resource Specialist in the Oilsands Branch, and in September 2013 became involved in Environmental Assessments. He retired in January 2015. Gerry has two daughters Jerrica and Jenna, is a cartoonist, enjoys travelling in his motorhome and has a summer home in Edmonton and a winter home in Florida. A retirement tea was held for Gerry on January 15, 2015 to recognize his 35 years with the Alberta government.

OBITUARIES

BRUCE MACMILLAN, '79 BSC (FORESTRY)

On April 25, 2015 Bruce Macmillan and his wife Kathy were killed in the earthquake and subsequent avalanches in Nepal. I am Seena Handel; Bruce was my uncle and played a significant role in my life. When starting to write this I was not sure what perspective to share; a professional, a family or an individual perspective. In the end I chose some of all perspectives as it is still so closely mixed in my mind. Bruce retired from a Strategic Management Forester role with Weyerhaeuser in the fall of 2013. Bruce was extremely well respected in the forestry profession. He had a distinguished career that covered contract work, government, education and industry roles. I literally have never come across someone who had a less than a warm opinion of Bruce. The memories and ways that foresters across the province have remembered him show our integrity as professionals and make me proud to be a forester. On a personal level, my family and I are honored at the meaningful ways forestry professionals, in particular those at Weyerhaeuser, have honored Bruce.

Bruce and Kathy had been trekking in Nepal after travelling in Bali and Thailand and spending time at ashrams in India. They had recently met their two sons, Jay (Rachelle) in Bali and Fraser in India and were planning to meet them all again

in Katmandu, Nepal on April 27, 2015. The time immediately after the earthquake was very intense and emotional for our family. We immediately registered Bruce and Kathy with the Red Cross and the Canadian consulate. The next 5 days were spent trying to locate where Bruce and Kathy would have been along the trail, locating groups of survivors within the valley, and trying to communicate with someone in the valley who may have seen Bruce and Kathy and knew of their whereabouts. In the end it turned out that there were three different sections of the valley. The top part was where it plateaus and groups of survivors were clustered together needing supplies and medical attention. There was the lower part of the valley, where survivors were walking out to larger communities and able to get in communications from there. The last section was the middle part of the valley where there was very little communication or information because of many landslides covering the area. We were very fortunate to receive communication from a woman whom had been trekking and recalled Bruce and Kathy at a tea house. She indicated that they would not have made it through the earthquake, aftershocks or landslides given their location. We are so fortunate to receive such a high degree of closure so soon after the earthquake. The woman showed unbelievable courage to share such devastating news and I am grateful that she did so. I see Bruce and

his incredible sense of humor in his two sons. When Jay and Fraser returned to Canada, from India, from having survived the earthquake, and having learned of their parents' death, they told the funniest story of their accommodations in India. There were many extended family members listening raptly to their tale and laughing heartily. It takes an incredible soul and resiliency to be able to shine in a time of such dire circumstances. I believe that Jay and Fraser got those pieces in equal parts from their parents.

Bruce was calm about many things. His manner and his tone was something that I have always wanted to listen to more. A few years after I had got my driver's licence Bruce and I were returning from B.C. and driving the Coquihalla highway together. There was construction but Bruce had allowed me to drive his ¾ ton Ford truck. I was driving at a speed that would have made most normal people shout some choice words at me, but Bruce calmly asked me to slow down. He did it a way that didn't make me feel foolish or embarrassed but in a way that made me want to achieve the goal he set out. He had serenity that I hope to achieve one day. Bruce made forestry look like fun and something I wanted to do. Bruce said it was because he would always turn up with quads and trucks. But for me it was more than that, it was happiness and easy going attitude that I saw as desirable and that I didn't see people in other professions having. I wanted the joy that I saw Bruce

had most of the time. Bruce was passionate about his work. Not in an overly intense way but in a quiet way that made you want to follow him, despite the uncertainty ahead. I saw the life that forestry could build for a family, as it did for Bruce and Kathy's family. I knew that the long term investment was worth it; a life that affords you to follow your interests and show your kids great things about the outdoors.

Bruce and Kathy were adventurous souls. Their stories of their travels and their views on their experiences were a source of inspiration for me. I will miss Bruce and Kathy.

Submitted by Seena Handel

ROY ALLEN BICKELL

Roy Allen Bickell – born October 2, 1930 in Grande Prairie, Roy passed away on March 21, 2015 at 84 years of age. Roy grew up on a grain farm in the DeBolt area and began his schooling at the Edson Trail School. In 1942, the Bickell family relocated to Grande Prairie for better educational opportunities, where his father and partners owned a large planing mill at which Roy worked, while attending school. Following graduation Roy began work at the family lumber mill north of DeBolt. In 1951 Roy married Noreen Katherine Coogan. They established a home on his Grandfather's original homestead north of DeBolt and took over the Bickell family operations. At this time Roy continued to work in the woods for Canfor. In 1968 the family moved to Grande Prairie. Roy continued to work with Canfor for 37 years, during which time, he held a variety of increasing responsibilities, including moving to Vancouver in 1984, as the Director of forests products. While

in Grande Prairie and Vancouver, Roy continued to manage the family farm. Through his time with Canfor, Roy joined the board of directors for AGT, which continued for 18 years through the takeover of Edmonton Tel, BC Tel and ultimately, the amalgamations into what is now known as Telus. He retired from Canfor in 1991 as the President and Chief Operating Officer and relocated back to Grande Prairie to enjoy family and retirement, where he took on a number of consulting roles including but not limited to Ainsworth Lumber and doing an OSB plant study in Vietnam. Following Roy's consulting work, he finally had some free time to get back to one of his passions, fossil collecting. Roy could be found on most sunny days with various wonderful friends and family on the side of a riverbank or in an old dried up creek bed with his pick and hammer. This passion resulted in amassing one of the largest private collections of fossils in private hands. He has chosen to donate his entire collection to the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum and had previously donated several pieces to the Grande Prairie Center 2000, Grande Prairie Museum and DeBolt Museum. From his hard work and dedication to the River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Museum Society (Philip J. Currie Museum) the bridge, which Roy created along the trail to one of the bone beds for, was named the Bickell Bridge in his honour.

GERRY MATTHEWS

Gerry passed away on July 18, 2015. He graduated from NAIT Forest Technology in 1977 and worked as a Forest Officer out of Kinuso, Blairmore, and Slave Lake offices throughout his 32

years with the department, across many program areas including forest protection, recreation, land management and forest management. Gerry retired in December of 2011, after working as a Forest Officer out of Manning for the second half of his career. Gerry was the AUPE Local 005 Treasurer for nearly nine years and was honoured with a Life Membership in 2012. After retiring, Gerry relocated to Cochrane to be closer to friends and family. He enjoyed golfing, camping, volunteering, and long walks along the Bow River.

JEROME MARSH

Born February 11, 1942, Jerome passed away on October 28, 2015 at 73 years of age. Jerome worked for the Alberta Forest Service as a communications technician in the old Bow Crow Forest, from 1963 to 1996. Tim Klein recalled Jerome telling him he rode his horse to every lookout in the south. Jerome worked in an era of huge communication changes and innovation.

TREVOR WAKELIN

Trevor passed away on November 5, 2015 at 70 years of age. A background of Trevor's history is included in the 2012 Trails & Tales. The following was provided by Janet Millar.

Through his dedication and hard work, his vision and foresight, Trev left an indelible mark on Alberta's forest landscape and on the province's forest industry. Trev's career in the forest sector spanned almost 50 years, and extended all the way from New Zealand to three Canadian provinces. He came to Alberta and joined Millar Western

in 1986. And, in his 25 years with our company, he transformed our approach to woodlands management, setting new standards in forest management planning, and introducing innovative forest technology and practices that ranged from the early adoption of GPS and cut-to-length harvesting to key advances in stand tending and enhanced forest management.

But Trev was an advocate not just for Millar Western, but for the entire Alberta forest industry and, indeed, for the profession of forestry as a whole. As a result, Trev was well known throughout our industry. He was admired for his dedication and determination. He was noted for his persistence and perseverance. And he was respected – sometimes feared! – for his bulldog tenacity. The kind of tenacity that sometimes made politicians want to duck and run (they could run, maybe... but no one could run for as long or as fast as Trev, so they certainly couldn't hide). The kind of tenacity that sometimes found colleagues pleading for mercy at the end of a long day -- or night -- of reviewing, with painstaking thoroughness, each minute detail of a plan or agreement. If Trev said he wanted to sit down with you at 5 o'clock to review a 2,000-page DFMP, he meant he wanted you to bear with him, paragraph by paragraph, and word by word, through the whole document – and that he'd be wanting to impart his wisdom not just on key points of forest science, but on the vocabulary, punctuation and font choices on each page.

Trev was recognized as a man of integrity – a highly principled person who was trusted, throughout our industry, to put his own and his company's interests aside, and to fight for the common good. He was

fair-minded in negotiations, and he was honest and straightforward in his dealings with all parties. But of all the characteristics we who worked with him so valued in Trev, perhaps the one trait that surprised and impressed most, was his kindness. Trev developed a great many lasting friendships in Millar Western, and throughout our industry. And for all that he might sometimes have had the outward demeanor of a bulldog – or a bulldozer – one thing each of his friends would learn, was just how caring he was, and how concerned for the welfare of others. Indeed, it was Trev's ability to form strong relationships that made him such a true leader within our industry, serving as president, director and committee chair in the Alberta Forest Products Association, he helped to advance our industry's performance on many fronts; as chair of the Alberta Softwood Lumber Trade Council and director of the Canadian Lumber Trade Alliance, he played a key role in protecting Alberta's and Canada's interests in softwood lumber negotiations; as president of the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta, he helped to create a model for forest stewardship that is without equal, anywhere; and, as Canadian Advisor to Habitat for Humanity International under the SLA Meritorious Initiatives program, he provided diligent oversight of the Canadian industry funds spent on Habitat projects, ensuring every dollar would be used, as intended, to help people in need. This initiative meant a great deal to Trev, by the way. Having visited communities hit hard by Hurricane Katrina, he was very moved by the plight of those still left homeless many years later. In fact, he had

hoped, on retirement, to be able to go down and do some hands-on work on the building projects. And, he remained in his Habitat for Humanity role, and continued to take conference calls, right through the final stages of his illness.

Trev's exceptional service in representing our industry, and his profession, was not only well known among his peers, but celebrated publicly, with awards that included an honorary membership of the Alberta Forest Products Association, the Canadian Institute of Forestry's Tree of Life Award and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. But no matter how far his career advanced or how great his responsibilities became, Trev was, first and foremost, what he had started out to be - a forester. As he would explain it, that meant his job was a simple one, he just wanted to grow more trees. But that simple statement masked the huge complexity of the tasks he set for himself and the example he set for all of us in the industry. For almost 50 years, Trev worked to promote better ways to manage forests, in all their diversity. He promoted new technologies and championed progressive practices. And, as one of the most active members of our industry, he took on some of the most difficult issues we faced: softwood lumber trade, the Land-use Framework, caribou range planning, and many others, and then he committed himself tirelessly to seeing them through. In all of this work, Trev demonstrated his exemplary forestry skills, his extensive industry knowledge and his extraordinary work ethic.

Above all, Trev exerted the courage needed to face down any and all obstacles – including his diagnosis with ALS. That was Trev's toughest battle, of course, and we all watched

in awe as he tackled it, with the same determination we had seen him bring to a drawn-out battle with a trade opponent, or to the final miles of a marathon.

DOUG NICHOL

Born May 14, 1949, Doug passed away at 66 years of age on December 6, 2015 while vacationing in Mexico. Born in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Doug graduated from Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Arts and Science with a Diploma of Technology in Renewable Resources in 1972. Doug worked for the Alberta Forest Service from 1978 to 2002, and then for the City of Calgary Department of Parks and Recreation. In his younger days, Doug always looked forward to family camping trips with his wife and children, often meeting up with extended family and friends. He was an avid sports fan and enjoyed attending games and supporting teams in Calgary. He leaves behind his wife Dianne of forty-two years, three children and three grandchildren.

LAURENCE JOHNS

Born in Peace River on July 24, 1937, Laurence passed away on December 30, 2015 at the age of 78. Laurence was raised in the Clear Hills District (north and west of Grimshaw), he attended Hazel, a one room school grades one to eight, which was about two and a half miles from home. When he was old enough he would walk to school and stoke up the air tight heater, having the school warm for when the teacher and students got there. He took most of grade nine by correspondence, and then grade 10 to 12 at PRBI in Sexsmith.

Laurence started with the Alberta Forest Service, Forestry Lands and Wildlife on September 1, 1959. His first posting was in McLennan, in the Peace River Forest, as an Assistant Ranger with Hylo McDonald. In the fall of 1961, Laurence attended the Forestry Training School (FTS) in Hinton, taking the Basic Ranger course. In early June 1962, Laurence moved to Fort McMurray as a Forest Ranger. In October 1963, Laurence, wife Margaret and tiny baby Barbara moved from Fort McMurray to the Embarras Ranger Station alongside the old Federal Department of Transport station and airstrip along the Athabasca River, across from Wood Buffalo Park. In spring 1964, Laurence went back to FTS taking the Forest Technician course, and then moved to Grande Prairie on May 17, 1964, where he worked in timber management. From September 1968 to February 1969, Laurence was back at FTS taking the Advanced Ranger Course. In early March, 1969 Laurence moved his family to the Slave Lake Forest where he worked with A.R.D.A. until December 16, 1969, when they moved one last time back to Grande Prairie. From 1973 to 1982, Laurence worked at Canfor (North Canadian Forest Industry) in Grande Prairie. On December 1, 1982, Laurence again accepted a job change, back to the Alberta Forest Service working with Chuck Rattliff in land use, retiring on August 16, 1988. Laurence loved the bush, whether it was working, hunting or trapping within it. Laurence started to curl after moving to Grande Prairie in 1964, and was heavily involved in Horseshoe Pitching, taking on a leadership role in the 1970s. He is a Hall of Fame member in both the Alberta Horseshoe Pitchers Association and Horseshoe Canada Hall of Fame (1992).

DEBORAH PERRAULT

Born in Hillsborough, Oregon on June 7, 1950, Debbie passed away on January 3, 2016 at 65 years of age. Recently retired from the Alberta government, Debbie enjoyed the quality time she spent with her "Little Debbie" granddaughter. Debbie was like a second Mom to many and her memory will live on in all those who loved and cherished her kind, warm, generous and loving nature.

ALFREDO (FRED) FACCO

Born in Saunders Creek, Alberta on January 22, 1929, Fred passed away on January 5, 2016 at the age of 86 years. Fred lived in the region until moving out and joining the Alberta Forest Service in 1956. His career with the AFS and later Public Lands brought him and family to Edmonton in 1966, where Fred retired as Head, Land Use in 1987. Fred graduated in 1957 from the Forestry Training School at Kananaskis and later from the Forestry Refresher Course in Hinton in 1964, and the first Advanced Ranger Course in 1966.

DR. IAN REID

Born May 27, 1931, Dr. Reid passed away on January 18, 2016 at the age of 84 years. He practiced medicine for nearly 60 years, first in Hinton and then Edmonton. He also served as an MLA for 11 years in the Edson (renamed to West Yellowhead) riding, and Minister of Solicitor General, Labour and then Environment. Dr. Reid was pivotal in getting the Regulated Forestry Professions Act passed in 1985. Peter Murphy in an extract from the history of the Alberta Registered Professional Foresters Association

wrote, "The fourth event in 1984 was a little 'dinner' sponsored by Frank Appleby. The 'Appleby Dinner' was held in November 1984 during a Fall sitting of the Legislature. It culminated a series of briefs and representations that year to which there had been no particular responses. Frank suggested to some selected legislative colleagues that since they had to have dinner anyhow during the break between an afternoon and evening session that a few of them join a small group of foresters to talk about forestry legislation. Included in the information gathering was Hon. John Zaozirny, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources; Hon. David King, Minister of Advanced Education; Jack Campbell, Caucus Committee on Forestry; and industry representatives Arden Rytz, Mac Millar, Jim Clark and Jim Pearson. After Frank outlined our case, David King commented that he had heard enough, that he was convinced of our case, but that he preferred to see us recognized under their proposed Umbrella Act. John Zaozirny immediately remarked that in his view, forestry was sufficiently important and that it deserved separate legislation, lending his positive endorsement. King, having to leave early to get to another meeting, said he would consider it and invited us to submit reasons why our case was so compelling - so we did, getting a two-and-a-half page summary to him the following week. Meanwhile, Dr. Ian Reid had been elected MLA from the Jasper-Edson region. Since he was from Hinton, he was aware of forestry practice in that area from dealing with such foresters as Des Crossley, Bob Udell and Jim Clark. He was made further aware of the nature of the practice through his

later involvement on the Caucus Committee on Forestry. Dr. Reid had also been encouraging us to keep trying for separate legislation. In January 1985, Dr. Reid became Solicitor General and also assumed responsibility for Professions and Occupations. He resolved that he would rationalize the provincial policy. Of particular significance, he indicated to us that he would like to see the forestry profession recognized through separate legislation, and invited us to work through his Bureau of Professions and Occupations and the Legislative Counsel to develop a suitable Act for presentation at the spring session of legislature - only a few months away! Howard Pratley and Arden Rytz became immediately involved in our three-member team working with Bruce Baugh in the Legislative Counsel office. Bruce was a tremendous individual, understanding, helpful, and very fast. He would respond to our suggested changes and revisions almost on an overnight turnaround. The result was that the Act was ready in time. Frank Appleby was given approval to sponsor the Bill, even though he was not the Minister. He introduced it, spoke on it, and it was passed in June 1985!

CLAYTON ANDERSON

Clayton passed away January 21, 2016. He was the Chief Grade Inspector for the Alberta Forest Products Association from 1960 to 2003. He gave forty-three years to the association, teaching and mentoring the art of grading lumber to AFPA Grade Bureau staff and members. His professionalism was admirable and his dedication to the Association never wavered. Clayton was instrumental in developing the

grading school curriculum that is still in use today. He also played an integral role in developing the National Lumber Grades Authority; the Canadian grading rules.

He was known and respected by many across the nation for his lumber grading knowledge and his ability to translate the rule so that it could be understood by those who had never taken the lumber grading course before.

FOREST HISTORY PHOTO CORNER



BILL ADAMS COLLECTION

These photos are from the personal collection of Bill Adams. As a young man he left the dustbowl by jumping a freight train out of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan in about 1927. He drifted back and forth doing short term work mining, farming and trapping but the real game changer was working in the forestry sector starting about 1933. The photos were shared by Bill's son Barry Adams (recently retired as the Head, Resource Rangeland Management Program) who thinks they were taken around 1934 to 1936 during his father's multiple winters working for the Corser's near Hinton.

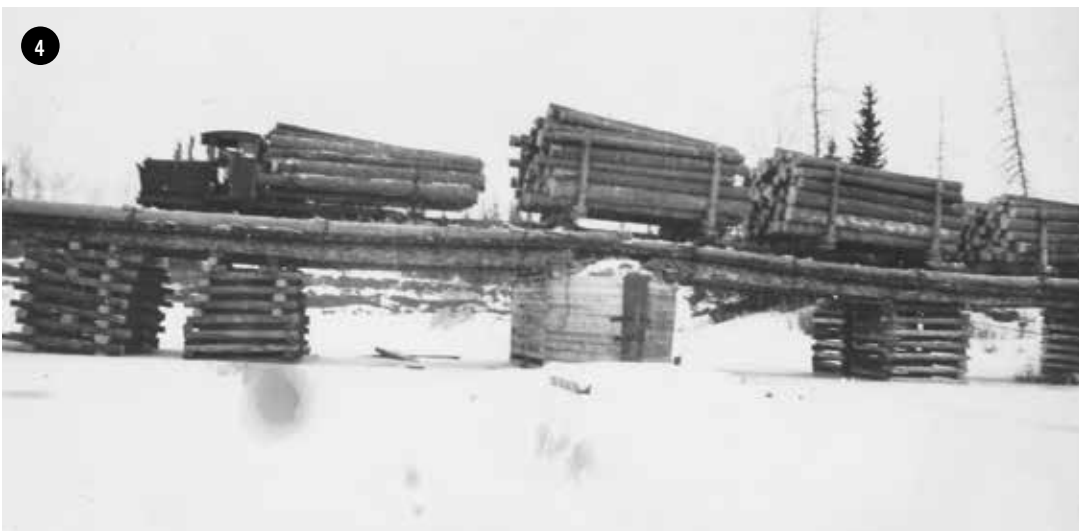
Peter Murphy explained the following on the Linn Tractor. "The Linn was a gasoline powered tractor. It was an advance over the pioneering LaCroix steam tractor, it was used in the Prince Albert Sask area during the 'teens, at least by the Prince Albert Lumber Co., and possibly by Ladder Lake Lumber also. Both sawmills closed a year after the "Great Fire" of 1919. The Machinery Museum in Prince Albert has one of these in their yard; I saw it about 20 years ago. An ex-logger explained that the water tanks for the steam engine blocked the engineer's view, so they had a man sitting out front to steer to keep in on the winter road".

1. Bill Adams, inside of a Linn Tractor, Corser operations near Hinton, mid to late 1930s

2. Linn Tractor, workhorse of early logging operations, Corser's near Hinton, mid to late 1930s

3. Corser sawmill near Hinton, mid to late 1930s

4. Logs being hauled by Linn Tractor on sleighs, Corser operations near Hinton, mid to late 1930s



E.G. (GUNNAR) WAHLSTROM COLLECTION

These photos are from a collection of Erik Gunnar Wahlstrom photographs from the Swanson Lumber operations at Sweetgrass in Wood Buffalo National Park. Wahlstrom was the operations manager for Swanson Lumber, managing the mill operations in the Slave Lake, High Level and Wood Buffalo locations. The Sweetgrass Landing mill (known as Camp 6) was built around 1957 on the Peace River, an area it turned out prone to ice-jam flooding. The mill operated until the early 1970s. These are some of the early pictures.





1. New buildings at the Swanson Lumber sawmill, Sweetgrass Landing, 1958

2. Erik Gunnar Wahlstrom, Sweetgrass Landing on the Peace River, 1958

3. Swanson Lumber sawmill and burner, Sweetgrass Landing, 1958

4. New buildings at the Swanson Lumber sawmill, Sweetgrass Landing, 1958

5. Lumber being transported by barge on the Peace River from the Swanson Lumber Sweetgrass Landing sawmill, 1958

6. Lumber being loaded onto a barge, Swanson Lumber, Sweetgrass Landing, early 1960s

7. Freight being barged to the Swanson Lumber sawmill, Sweetgrass Landing, 1958

8. Log pond with jackladder at infeed, Swanson Lumber, Sweetgrass Landing, early 1960s



EAU CLAIRE AND BOW RIVER LUMBER COMPANY

The following pictures are of logging operations by the Eau Claire and Bow River Lumber Company in the Ghost River area, north west of Cochrane, in the 1910s and 1920s. The color pictures show remnants of the dams that were constructed.

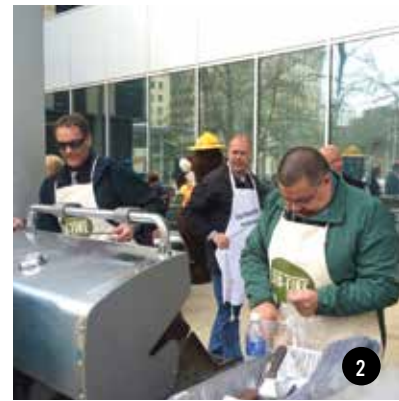


1 + 2. Remnants of Eau Claire and Bow River Company dam on the Waiparous Creek, behind the old Ghost Airstrip Group Camp, July 1985

3. Log dam constructed on the Ghost River, Eau Claire and Bow River Lumber Co., 1923

4. Logs piled for drive on the Ghost River, Eau Claire and Bow River Lumber Co., c1910s (Library and Archives Canada)





1. L to R: Jean Lussier, Jody Seymour (East Slope Contracting), Dan LaFleur (Spray Lake Sawmills), Doug Smith, Rob Mueller and Jason McAleenan; inspection of harvesting in the Ghost; December 23, 2015

2. Alberta Forest Week barbeque; Edmonton; May 7, 2015; L to R: Patrick Loewen, Rick Blackwood and Morgan Kehr

3. L to R: Bruce Mayer, Morgan Kehr, Wes Nimco and Wally Born; Leismer Staging Camp; May 27, 2015

4. Alberta Forest Week barbeque; Edmonton; May 7, 2015; L to R: Darren Tapp, Bruce Mayer and Darin Stepaniuk

5. Alberta Forest Products Association of Alberta Board of Directors; Jasper; September 25, 2015. L to R: Jason Boucher, Mark Feldinger, Dave Lehane, Fred Dzida, Howie Ewashko, Craig Armstrong, Barry Mjolsness, Mike Putzke, Agriculture and Forestry Minister Oneil Carlier, Kris Hayman, Nathan Corser, Paul Whittaker, Ashley Zavisha, Greg Schellenberg, Ken Vanderwell

7. Al Benson (left) and Bill Tinge reviewing maps at the EMEND site, Peace River; June 24, 2015





1. Al Benson in the EMEND Cathedral, catching up on inspections; June 24, 2015

2. Products produced at the Norbord Oriented Strand Board mill, Grande Prairie; October 1, 2015

3. L to R: Bruce Mayer, Jennifer Zentner, Morgan Kehr and Wally Born; Birch Mountain airstrip; July 9, 2015

4. Peter Koning and Bill Tinge, fRI Research EMEND field tour; Peace River; June 24, 2015

5. Ghost field visit; November 9, 2015; L to R: Bruce Mayer, Ross Spence, Darren Tapp and Jean Lussier

6. Spray Lake Sawmills mill and log yard; Cochrane; July 8, 2015

7. Spray Lake Sawmills Top Spray truck and chip bin; Cochrane; July 8, 2015

8. L to R: Bruce Mayer, Doug Smith, Morgan Kehr, Kevin Quintilio and Shawn Barroclough; Fort McMurray; July 10, 2015

9. Tolko Athabasca Oriented Strand Board Mill, Slave Lake; November 20, 2015. L to R: Allan Bell, James Ostrander, Darren Tapp and Dave West

10. Neptune Aviation Services BAE146 jet retardant airtanker; Grande Prairie; July 10, 2015

11. Oriented Strand Board production, Norbord; Grande Prairie; October 1, 2015





1. Friends gathering at the memorial service for Jerome Marsh, November 8, 2015. Back Row (L to R): Gerald Stuart, Darryl Johnson, Dan Boisvert, Gerald Carlson, Leonard Kennedy, Ray Hill, George Smith. Front Row (L to R): Brian Orum, Al Funk, Dan Ferguson, Bob Young, Fred Schroeder, Lynne Denis, Roger Tessier, Karen MacAulay, John Phillips (behind Karen), Gary Flath, Brent Davis, Not Identified, Bob Thomas, Angela Braun, Jim Nowasad, Neil Rempel



2. L to R: Hugh Boyd, Zack Powder (mid 80s) and Bruce MacGregor in Fort Mackay; December 17, 2015

3. L to R: Elvira Adams, Anita VanWaas, Lin Newton, Connie Kadyk, Gail Matthews (front), Terry Seaborn and Sandi Karpo; Terry and Debbie's retirement; June 11, 2015

4. L to R: Cliff Henderson, Doris Braid and Craig Quintilio; September 10, 2015

5. Norbord Oriented Strand Board, Grande Prairie; October 1, 2015. L to R: Robert Fouquet, Gord Weeber, Agriculture and Forestry Minister Oneil Carlier and Wes Nicholls

6. Spray Lake Sawmills, Cochrane July 8, 2015. L to R: Jason Krips, Minister Oneil Carlier, Barry Mjolsness, MLA Cameron Westhead, Arnold Fiselier, Scott Harris and Keith Gardner

7. Students working on the EMEND project, John Spence left in blue and Stan Blade front centre; June 24, 2015







1. L to R: Craig Quintilio, Cliff Henderson, Bruce MacGregor, Steve Ferdinand, Keith Branter, Dennis Quintilio, and Bob Stevenson; September 10, 2015

2. Final photo from a week in the Willmore and Dolly Lake at the north end of Jasper, Rock Lake trailhead, 1993. L to R: Gerry Wilde, Peter Murphy, Doug Cameron, Harry Edgecombe, Larry Stordock and Arnie Johansson

3 + 4. Bertie Beaver cakes made for the 2015 United Way cake decorating contest; November 5, 2015

5. L to R: Jean Lussier, Craig Quintilio and Mark Storie; Darryl Johnson retirement; Calgary, October 24, 2015

6. L to R: Terry Seaborn, Annette Krumm and Debbie Perrault; Terry and Debbie's retirement; June 11, 2015

7. L to R: Nathene Arthur, Bev Wilson and Rick Arthur; Darryl Johnson retirement; Calgary, October 24, 2015

8. Government, University, FRI Research, FPInnovations and Industry representatives with EMEND students at the EMEND project, Peace River; June 24, 2015





**OHVs CAN
START WILDFIRES**

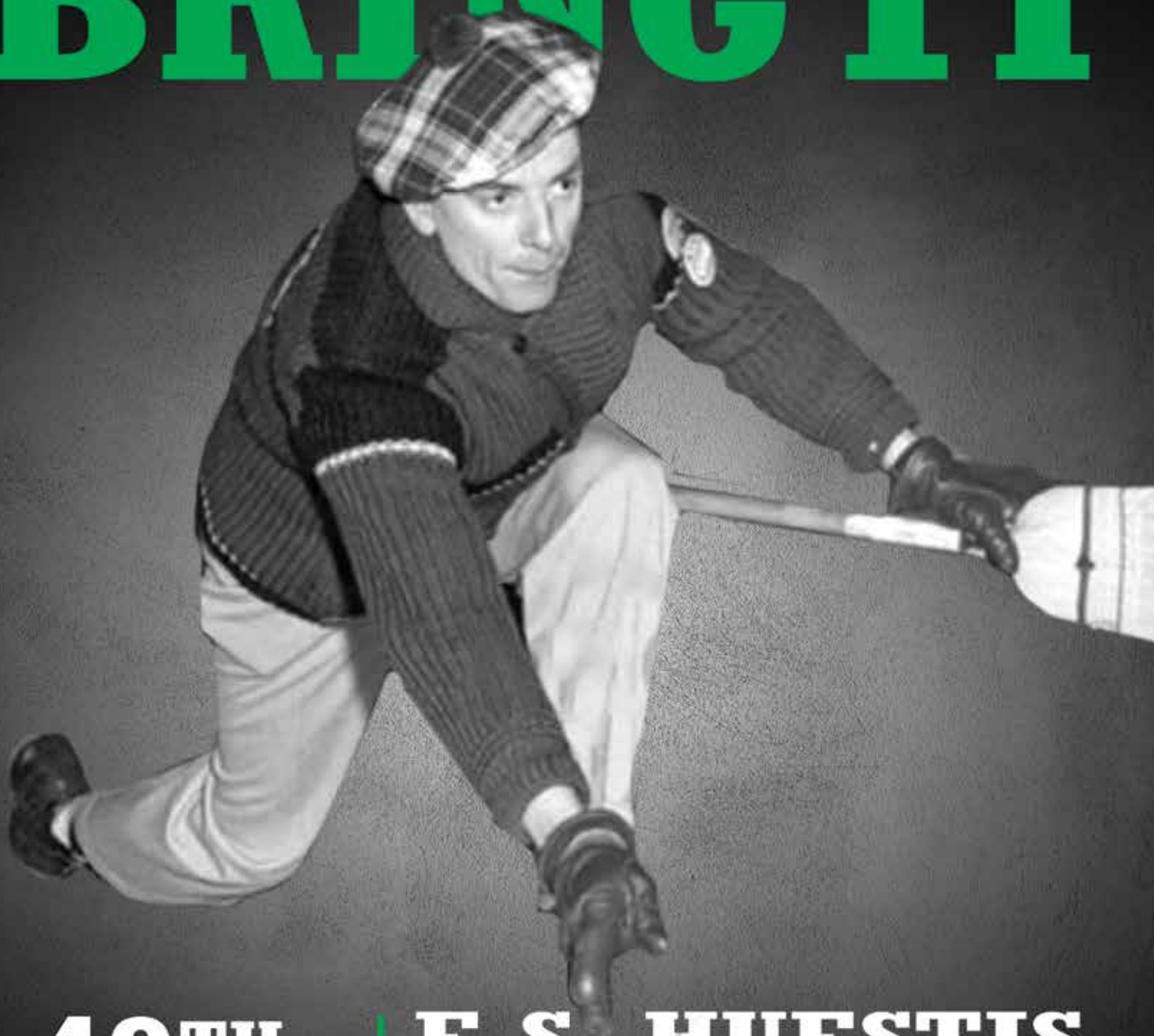
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Alberta Wildfire

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MARCH 5-6, 2016

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TRAILS & TALES

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