

PUBLICATION OF THE FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA







34TH AFS OLDTIMERS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

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forest history association Alberta

2017 MEMBERSHIP: 139 (MEMBERSHIPS TRACKED ON A CALENDAR YEAR BASIS)

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ON THE COVER: Dan Jenkins to the left, Edwin Preece holding trophy, Bertie Beaver to the right; Alberta Forest Service parade float; Edson Forest; 1966

FOREST HISTORY PHOTO CORNER

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OVER 100 ATTEND THE 13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Bruce Mayer opened the meeting with introductions and provided an overview of the documents for review which included the draft agenda, draft minutes from the March 16, 2016 meeting and a copy of the draft financial statement. Also included on the tables was the latest edition of the Trails & Tales, hot off the press. Directors in attendance were Bruce Mayer, Peter Murphy, Cliff Smith, Rob Thorburn, Norm Denney, Ken Yackimec and Butch Shenfield. Guest speakers introduced were Sheila Willis, Glen Zavisha and Marie-Pierre Rogeau. Special thanks were given to John Ivanc for the projector and sound system set-up; Jane Price, Charlene Guerin and Tammy DeCosta, who managed the front table registration; and Sheldon Belanger, who took the group picture and still photographs throughout the night.

President Peter Murphy opened his remarks by saying he was "blown away, and so impressed with the company tonight, the range of introductions and breadth of spirit". He then went on to thank Bruce Mayer for the recent work on Trails & Tales, another testimony to the spirit we've got as an organization. When considering his opening remarks. Peter had jotted down a number of activities that were underway, and said "it was too damned long to read out", but that we all should be proud of the work we do to preserve forest history in Alberta. A summary of some activities was provided within Peter's opening remarks. Peter reminded all of us that the Forest History Association of Alberta (FHAA) is part of a national network, with British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Canada as partners. The Canadian Institute of Forestry

also provides an important role with their Old Growth section in the Forestry Chronicle. The Canadian Forest Service (CFS) strongly supports the broader history network by hosting conference calls every couple of months. In recognition of Canada's 150th in 2017, the CFS is also arranging a meeting in Quebec City in August, in conjunction with the Forest History Society's meeting.

The FHAA continues to focus on collecting photographs on Alberta's forest history. Peter mentioned he enjoys getting emails from Bruce, with a photo and a question such as "do you know who is in this picture, or where and when it was taken?". Additionally, the FHAA is still searching for that right photo program that we can use, similar to what was used in the AXIA production to capture the Dominion

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Forestry collection. Peter passed on a request from Doug Hutton looking for any horse-logging operations within a 100-mile vicinity of Edmonton, as he'd like to take some high definition film for his Canada's Forest Treasures project. Recognition was given to Dave Morgan for photographs his sister-in-law, Teresa Craig-Morgan, retained of her grandfather, Harry Parker. In researching the collection, it was discovered Harry Parker attended the forestry program at the University of Toronto, volunteered with the Canadian Army in 1917 in the First World War, and then returned to complete is degree. In 1920, Parker was appointed head of the Cypress Hills Forest Reserve, a flagship forest of the Dominion Forest Reserves at the time.

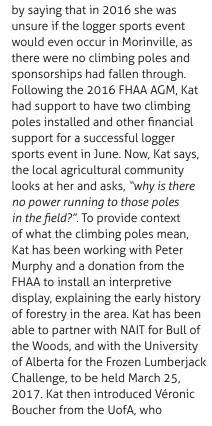
Yellowhead County is building a set of interpretive panels just above the hamlet of Brule, to commemorate David Thompson's travels and the beginning of the fur trade through the area. Material for historical accuracy was supplied by Peter and others. Research on tie logging operations in the Whirlpool during the 1920s that Peter has been doing with Tom Peterson and Mike Dillon will be put on display at the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum and Archives later in 2017. Peter closed by saying forest history is generating interest outside of our own group



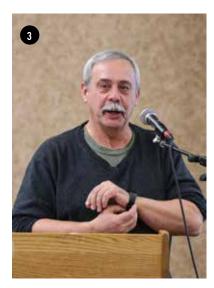
and many other research activities are underway, including the work that Robert Udell and Robert Bott are doing with fRI Research on their 25-year history.

Noel St Jean told attendees the 2018 Canadian Institute of Forestry national conference will be held in Grande Prairie, September 18 to 20, 2018, hosted by the Rocky Mountain Section. Followup will occur by meeting with individual companies and emails via the Alberta Association of Forest Management Professionals. The theme for the conference is Sustaining Resources and Enhancing Communities, Looking Back and Going Forward. The intent is to recognize and incorporate learnings from the past as we move forward in forest and land management.

Logger sports participant and supporter, Katherine Spencer began







- 1. Bruce Mayer opening the 13th annual Forest History Association AGM
- 2. Peter Murphy with the President's opening remarks
- 3. Noel St Jean providing information on the planned Canadian Institute of Forestry AGM in Grande Prairie, September 18 to 20, 2018
- 4. L to R: Kat Spencer, Kevin Martens and Véronic Boucher with an overview of upcoming logger sports activities in 2017



through her work developing the Frozen Lumberjack Challenge has been coordinating with NAIT, the University of British Columbia and Lakeland (Portage) College to create a bigger community and network, and get students more involved in sports related to their forestry degree; and Kevin Martens from NAIT who, as well, is trying encourage students to embrace logger sports and promote the forestry programs at the various schools.

Rick Arthur provided an overview of the project he has been working on with Agriculture and Forestry to collate all the old wildfire files from 1930 to the 1970s, where pages were scanned and saved individually. As part of the initiative he is collating the names of rangers and other individuals, with their districts and locations. The work to date was posted on the walls in the meeting room, where attendees could fill in the blanks and provide more linkages or information, either on names, locations, Northern Alberta Forest District numbers, etc. The information will be a valuable piece of the old forest service history when completed.

Butch Shenfield conducted the evenings society director elections. Gordon Sanders was elected to fill the vacant forest industry position, with Bruce Mayer and Rob Thorburn acclaimed as representing the government and public positions.

Ken Yackimec asked for a few minutes at the meeting to tell attendees that he was in the process of organizing a 35th reunion for the 1983 NAIT forest technology graduating class, likely in the fall, 2018. He recognized that many other classes have been doing these events on a regular basis, and recommended that those that do have these events, provide the history and photographs to the FHAA.

Sheila Willis provided an overview of the new software application that the Friends of Historical Northern Alberta Society developed called History Check App. This application is a collaborative initiative supporting the efforts of various northern historical organizations; is Apple IOS and Android friendly; and will capture the history of northern Alberta that is slowly being forgotten. The information gathered



also combines history of an area with traveller information, making travels entertaining for the whole family. The History Check App is planned for launch in May, 2017. Their website is http://fhnas.ca/.

With third generation Ashley Zavisha in the audience, Glen Zavisha provided an entertaining history of the Zavisha sawmill operations in Hines Creek, dating back to 1943, nearly 75 years. Beginning with Henry and Lena Zavisha, Glen's story showcased advancements over time, from the original bush sawmills, to the first steam powered sawmill, crawler tractors used for road building and skidding trees, the first skidder



and bucking saw, the planer mill, and eventually the new sawmill operations in Hines Creek.

Having recently completed her PhD through the Canadian Partnership for Wildland Fire Science, Marie-Pierre Rogeau provided a historic overview titled The Story of Fires and Fire Regimes in Alberta before 1950. As a 'detective', M-P searches for evidence of wildfires in old photographs, historic documents, on standing dead and live trees previously burned, and more importantly, from fire scars left in growing trees. The information is useful in forest restoration projects, forest harvest planning, FireSmart planning, and education programs.



- 1. Rick Arthur describing his project on documenting names and locations of individuals involved in wildfires from 1930 to 1970s
- 2. Butch Shenfield conducting the elections for Directors
- 3. Sheila Willis and the Friends of Historical Northern Alberta Society History Check App
- 4. M-P Rogeau with an overview of fires and fire regimes in Alberta before 1950
- 5. Glen Zavisha and the nearly 75 years of Zavisha Sawmills history





















- 1. FHAA Attendees
- 2. L to R: Bert Ciesielski and Garry Ehrentraut
- 3. L to R: Gerald Carlson and Bruce MacGregor
- 4. L to R: Ashley Zavisha, Glen Zavisha, Carl and Marilyn Leary
- 5. L to R: Andrew Mostowich, Arnie Mostowich and David Wall
- 6. L to R: Byron Grundberg and Kevin Freehill
- 7. Dave Heatherington
- 8. Bernie Schmitte reading through Trails & Tales
- 9. L to R: Andy Gesner, Marie-Pierre Rogeau and Peter Murphy

2017 FHAA EXECUTIVE

Peter Murphy, President

Butch Shenfield, Vice President

Bruce Mayer, Secretary Treasurer

Norm Denney, *Director*

Bob Newstead, *Director*

Gord Sanders, *Director*

Rob Thorburn, *Director*

Ken Yackimec, *Director*

Cliff Smith, Director









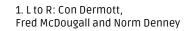












- 2. L to R: Kevin Gagne and Bert Ciesielski
- 3. L to R: Wayne Johnson and Gerald Carlson
- 4. Caleen Warren reading through the recent Trails & Tales
- 5. L to R: Ed Pichota, Mike Lutz and Andy Gesner
- 6. L to R: Rick Arthur and Bruce MacGregor
- 7. L to R: Chad Morrison, Patrick Loewen and Brian Lopushinsky
- 8. L to R: Carl and Marilyn Leary reading the Trails & Tales newsletter
- 9. L to R: Wally Born, Shawn Barraclough, Dan Lux and Kevin Gagne

























- 1. L to R: Ken Yackimec and Kevin Martens
- 2. L to R: Wes Nimco and Kevin Freehill
- 3. L to R: Mathew Christie, Tulene Steiestol, Kris Heemeryck, Olena Loskutova
- 4. L to R: Morgan Kehr and John Belanger
- 5. L to R: Dave Morgan, Dave Kiil and Herb Cerezke
- 6. L to R: Terry Jessiman and Andrea Sharpe
- 7. L to R: Terry Jessiman, Kevin Gagne and Brent Rabik
- 8. L to R: Ryan Good, Mark Newman and Andrea Sharpe
- 9. L to R: Gerald Carlson and **Gary Davis**
- 10. L to R: Bruce MacGregor and Kevin Parkinson

















- 1. FHAA 2017 Attendees
- 2. Forest History Association of Alberta Directors

L to R: Peter Murphy, Ken Yackimec, Gordon Sanders, Norm Denney, Rob Thorburn, Butch Shenfield and Bruce Mayer; Absent: Cliff Smith (he was in attendance, but was missed in the picture); Bob Newstead was absent from the 2016 AGM

- 3. L to R: Jane Price, Tammy DeCosta and Charlene Guerin; Registration table, Fred McDougall and Brian Lopushinsky
- 4. L to R: Glen Zavisha and Cliff Henderson
- 5. L to R: Dave Coish and Doug Krystofiak
- 6. L to R: Bob Morton and Gordon Sanders









MEMORIES OF A LOOKOUTMAN

CHAPTER 3: MORE NOTES FROM MY TOWER YEARS

BY ROBERT GUEST, NOVEMBER 21, 2016

Editor's Note: This is the last lookout history article Robert Guest wrote prior to his passing on June 13, 2017. Bob spent 25 years on lookouts in Alberta and began writing about that experience. This is the third submission of Bob's story, his last season at Copton Tower, before taking a role as Display Artist on staff at the new Provincial Museum and Archives in Edmonton.

If there was a transitional period at Copton, it could have been 1965, my fifth year. The lookout opened by the middle of May when it appeared the helicopter, piloted by Harvey Trace, could land safely not too far from the buildings. I had to do some shoveling to get the door open, then I discovered some lesser drifts across the kitchen floor and in the radio room. These took a few minutes to clear away so we could carry in the groceries and luggage brought along that day. It looked as though there were cracks where the winds of winter blew in the snow that had accumulated. Possibly there was a window not quite closed from last fall, or maybe some visiting hunters came in. Once in a while a window had been broken from falling ice from the radio masts where a shutter had been knocked off. It had happened before. Soon there was a warm fire in the oil heater which made it seem like old times. The dog loved it too, but not as much as bouncing around madly over the snow drifts outside around the building.

Along with daily chores around the cabin and engine shed, I spent quite a bit of time planning the season to follow. A lot of equipment had to be set in place and I practiced making observations – just in case. I was also thinking ahead to a

new project. Before the summer was out I would have various projects to solve. For example, I made a new heavy rock wall around the back of the engine shed for a windbreak. Before I left civilization, I picked up a two-man sized rubber boat with an air pump and set of metal oars. It was inflatable and portable. I had it in mind for a special objective: to see how deep the lake was and check for any hidden hazards that might be risky when swimming alone, such as underwater logs. I would have to wait for real warm spring weather to melt all the snow and ice first. Initially, the flat appearance of the snow covering the lake made it look like ordinary snowy meadows, and unless you were there before you would never know the difference. On the way to the tower several people who saw the boat scratched their heads wondering where on earth I would find enough water around Copton to use it.

After the ice went, the place looked a lot different. In previous years, I had often gone swimming in the lake but always had concerns about personal safety. From the shore I could not tell if there were any dangerous submerged logs with branches or snags, or deep holes that could be risky. But with a small boat I could make surveys from the surface of the water and know when I could take chances. Once, a large bull moose crossed this lake about the middle. I noticed that he walked all the way and at no time had to do any swimming. This was a clue; the bottom must have been fairly even and not particularly deep. Usually swimming was advisable when days had been very warm, to go out in the evening when everything was quiet and take the dog, that was a real pleasure. Compared with most towers I had been at; this lake was a Godsend! In off time, there was nowhere else to go locally for relaxation away from the job. The water was clear and clean enough to drink. But it was not deep enough for stocking fish because it would freeze to the bottom in winter at that altitude -6,088 feet. The past supervisor, Mr. Ray Smuland (Superintendent, Grande Prairie Forest), explained this to me when I asked. In windy weather, or if it was cold, the water could be ice cold and might cause cramps. When I last saw Harvey Trace, who took me to the tower in 1965, he was interested to know how my experimental boat had panned out. Someday I might have a chance to tell him.

During the last week of August, I wanted to try another project that was important to me. I got permission to leave the building and, after the evening sked, walked to the junction of Copton Creek with La Force Creek. Its location was east of the lookout and by the map looked to be six miles away (twelve miles return trip). So when the right day came and weather was good, I had to move fast and get everything done so I could leave the tower by the evening sked (5:00 p.m.). Then everybody wished me good luck. I was allowed to make this kind of trip only once as there were risks involved. I was asked to contact Sam Fomuk, towerman at Nose Mountain, when I departed and when I arrived back, preferably before dark. My objective was to follow game trails because there were no roads in those years and I kept to the height of land for better visibility. When I arrived at my destination, which took about three hours in good daylight, I went down into the valley to see the famous set of creeks and old abandoned airstrip. I was lucky to get there in good time just before the sun set and take a couple of photographs before a quick swim in the creek, followed

1. Bob Guest taking pictures to support his artwork; 2003

Ode to a Missing **Burning Barrel**

that big burning barrel is gone!

sometime during the night, it must have taken flight,

and rolled a mile or two, down to the trees - out of view.

How far it went, I cannot

but to try and drag it back - all uphill,

that would be the day!

What got it started? Stormy wind or a bear, no doubt,

in the dark, not even in pyjamas,

kind of glad I wasn't out!!

Bob Guest, Adams Lookout - 2001

(Based on an actual happening here at the top of the world! (7,250 feet elevation)

The poems were included to Bruce Mayer in a 2011 letter from Robert Guest.



"OLD-TIMERS SAY
THAT SOAP HOLES
ARE DANGEROUS TO
MAN AND BEAST. I WAS
VERY LUCKY WHEN I
CRAWLED AWAY"

The Last Mountain Lookout

It was evening and would soon be dark.

There was a small building with a tiny light in the window, on the top of a far off hill.

On the very top.

To some, it was a memory and a ghost, the last of the mountain lookouts.

Bob Guest, Adams Lookout – August 2010 (Inspiration for a painting) by a lunch with the dog. I found a curious rock fossil and carried it back and, years later, it was accepted by the Tyrell Museum. Then, as quick as I could, I tried to retrace my steps because there were no good trails. Already in the heavy forest it was getting quite dark and I had to bush whack which wasted precious time. Before I left the main valley I ran into a unique problem. I walked through a flat level area covered with dry leaves and forest litter and was in for a surprise. The dog ran ahead of me and half way across jumped off to the side as though spooked by something. I did not see anything at first then I noticed something odd. I could not believe what I saw. The ground for about twenty feet around me was heaving and shaking like a big jelly. Instantly I decided to get out of there. My first impulse was to drop on my hands and knees and try and crawl to the nearest edge without breaking through. I could feel it and knew it was very dangerous. The first thing I did was to throw my packsack as far as I could to lessen body weight. What I had stumbled over was a typical soap hole. These are like quicksand and trappers say they are bottomless. Quite often wildlife such as deer and young moose fall in and are unable to get out; even livestock have been lost in the watery blue-grey ooze. Old-timers say that soap holes are dangerous to man and beast. I was very lucky when I crawled away; if you stop too long, or stand up you may go through and disappear. Nobody would know where to look for you!

Then I was delayed further when I had become disoriented and lost my sense of direction because of the dark trees and brush. The white dog was still with me as I caught sight of her once in a while. But I did not know in what direction I was heading. I did not want to admit to myself I was lost! Before I got too panicky I had an idea. I would dig my trusty army bugle out of the pack and give a few blasts to clear the air. Then I



- 1. Gordon Fowlie (left) was the first lookout observer on Adams Creek Lookout in 1941. Robert Guest finished his 25th season with Forestry on Adams Creek Lookout in 2010. Photo was taken by Myrtle Guest on April 21, 1999
- 2. A memorial celebration was held for Bob in Grande Cache on October 14, 2017

noticed something, the echo bounced back faster from above than from down below. In other words, there was a cliff on my left side that would lead me to the top of the ridge. I scrambled up as quickly as I could and found the top of the long ridge was about 200 feet above. This was very good news. When I go to the top I was able to correct my sense of direction and although it was dark, I could see the distant outline of Copton against the night sky. It would take me about two hours to get there. As soon as I reached the building I dashed in to make a radio call to Sam Fomuk. He was as good as his word and was still up waiting for me. I told him I was sorry to be so late but had been lost and stumbled over a soap hole. He said I was late but to think nothing of it as no one would ever know. I thanked him and wished him goodnight. I was shocked to see that the time was 2:30 a.m. It was the longest hike I had ever made. It had been experimental and was quite as success – but barely. This story account might be of some help to anyone who reads it. Surprisingly, few outdoor people have ever heard of a soap hole!

Climbing for the Moon

Alone at dusk against the sky, with heavy steps toward the top.

A mountain side of weathered scree;

rock, grey and mottled black.

Almost as far as the eye could see.

And at the top, from summit ridge I watched,

where the rising moon should be.

Bob Guest, Adams Lookout – August 2010 (Inspiration for a painting)

Excerpt from Robert Guest's letter to Bruce Mayer on November 22, 2016

From the fall of the same year (1965), I was surprised when I was notified that I had won the position of Display Artist on staff of the new Provincial Museum and Archives in Edmonton. I had applied earlier but forgot all about it. So I left the tower a bit early to catch a bus so I could start in Edmonton as soon as possible. I mention this so you will know why there were no further installments until some years later. Eventually, I was encouraged back to Forestry where they were holding a position for me at the fire lookout tower I had before. The truth is, I was not a city person and looked forward to being back in the natural environment. Forestry seemed to like my work and I stayed on for a number of years.





ADAMS CREEK LOOKOUT CONSTRUCTION – 1958

BY DON CRAWFORD

In 1958, the Alberta Forest Service Edson headquarters sent their three-man carpentry crew and a cook to build a new lookout at Adams Creek. Adams Creek Lookout was in the Berland District; the district I oversaw. I provided support to the crew on the project. The construction was part of the upgrading the Alberta Forest Service was doing to their fire detection and prevention infrastructure in the Edson Forest, due to the construction of the new Northwest Pulp and Power mill in Hinton. Northwest Pulp and Power had just entered into a lease with the Alberta government for most of the timber in the Edson Forest.

During the construction of the lookout, the carpentry crew and myself stayed in Adams Creek cabin, which was at the foot of the lookout range. At the time, I owned a quarter ton Willys army jeep that I used to transport the crew up and down the mountain every day. We were quite a sight going up the mountain, 3 guys seated in the vehicle, and one on the hood to help hold the front end down! Building material was trucked to the foot of the Adams Creek lookout range, and the truck was then towed by the forestry D6 cat to the summit. The new lookout was built with the cupola being on the second story, giving the lookout person

more space; a light plant replaced the gas lantern, and overall it was a more appealing workplace.

During initial construction, before the roof was on, or windows put in, one morning when we arrived, we discovered a mother ptarmigan with a family of chicks, cleaning up the flying ants off the floor! Then there was the resident marmot, tamed by Lookoutman Morris Turner, who sat on the lap of the carpenter and ate bannock from his hand. A family of golden mantle ground squirrels were also part of the entertainment.

Construction went smoothly and I did this until we had the roof on the lookout, at which time the crew was able to stay in the lookout to complete the construction. I then went back to my district cabin at Cabin Creek and carried on with my other district duties. I was the last ranger to service that lookout with horses, ie. pack food supplies and mail, pick up the lookoutman's diary and grocery list for the following month, etc. Horses were replaced by helicopter, and four-wheel drive vehicles after a road was constructed along one side of the river for lookout access. The old lookout was eventually moved by helicopter to the town museum site in Grande Cache.









- 1. Carpentry crew led by Ranger Gordon Campbell; L to R: Morris Turner, lookout observer; Bob Adams, head carpenter, Edson; Not Identified; Carpenter Helper; standby crew member, Entrance; cat skinner; Forest Officer Gordon Campbell; cook; carpenter; 1958; Don Crawford collection
- 2. Morris Turner, Adams Creek Lookoutman checking out horse packboxes at the old Adams Creek Lookout; 1958; Don Crawford collection
- 3. Dozer preparing approach to the ford on the Big Berland River crossing; 1958; Don Crawford collection
- 4. Building materials and truck being towed up the mountain with D6 dozer; 1958; Don Crawford collection
- 5. Alberta Forest Service D6 dozer clearing the site for the new Adams Creek Lookout; 1958; Don Crawford collection
- 6. New Adams Creek Lookout under construction; 1958; Don Crawford collection
- 7. Completed Adams Creek Lookout; 1958; Don Crawford collection
- 8. Ranger Don Crawford packed and ready to head up the trail; 1958; Don Crawford collection





Editor's Note: Upon reading the Robert Guest story in the February 2017 Trails & Tales magazine, and seeing the picture of Adams Creek Lookout on the front cover, retired Forest Ranger Don Crawford, and his wife Carol, contacted Bruce Mayer with a story and photographs that Don had taken during construction of the second Adams Creek Lookout in 1958.

BLEFGEN FAMILY VISIT TO ALBERTA

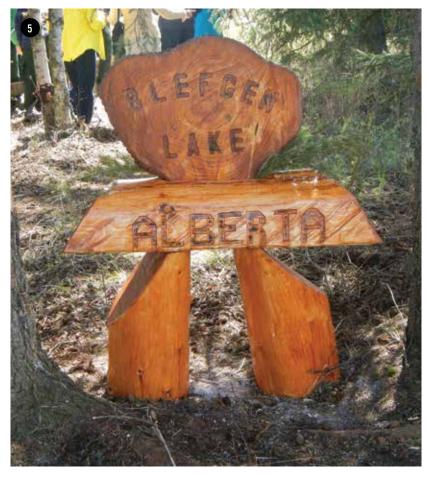


On May 17 and 18, 2017, Ralph Blefgen, son of Ted Blefgen, met in Alberta with other family relatives and was interviewed by Peter Murphy and Bruce Mayer about Ted Blefgen, an early pioneer with the Alberta Forest Service, and his family history. With Ralph were his daughters Holly, Laura and Ellen; nieces Denice and Linda (daughters of Ralph's brother Howard); and grandson Jeff (Ellen's son). The interview took place on May 17, 2017 in Edmonton; the family then travelled to Chisholm Tower on May 18, 2017 and met up with Wes Nimco, Leslie Lozinski and others from the Lac La Biche Forest Area team. They then travelled to Blefgen Lake for smokies and a quick dip in the lake. Blefgen Lake is located east of Highway 44, north of Westlock and south of Smith, southeast of Chisholm Tower.









Ted Blefgen was born and raised in Spokane, Washington around 1893. He began working for contractor Pete Hansen in southern Alberta while in high school, rebuilding parts for the Canadian Pacific Railway line between Winnipeg and the west coast. Around 1908, he worked after high school for the McLaren Lumber Company at Blairmore, Alberta, starting as a clerk in the office, later timekeeper at a logging camp north of the Oldman River. There he learned to cruise timber and scale logs, and was then made a yard foreman and shipper. He became acquainted with Forest Ranger George Ritchie at that time, who, impressed with his riding skills and knowledge of the bush and lumber industry, offered him a job. In an interview with Robin Huth for the Alberta Forest Service's 50th Anniversary, Horses to Helicopters, Ted Blefgen said 'I was a yard foreman and shipper for the McLaren Lumber Company, and they came along looking for someone to join the Forest Service. I had different camps, I checked and scaled for two or three years, and then they came along'. Blefgen joined the Dominion Forestry Branch on May 1, 1911 and was posted at Lynx Creek, 11 miles across the valley from George Ritchie's station at Castle River. His first assignment was to build a cabin on a flat meadow beside Lynx Creek. On June 1, 1917, Blefgen was promoted to Ranger in Charge, later Forest Supervisor of the Lesser Slave Forest Reserve. On July 1, 1927, Blefgen was promoted to Supervisor of Fire Ranging, based in Calgary. He continued in that role for the Dominion Forest Service, until the transfer of resources on October 1, 1930, where he was appointed the first Director of Forestry of the new Alberta Forest Service. Ted Blefgen retired early in 1948 as a result of illness.

- 1. Blefgen family in Edmonton to discuss history of Theodore (Ted) Blefgen; L to R: Bruce Mayer, Peter Murphy, Holly Blefgen, Ellen McKay, Jeff McKay, Ralph Blefgen, Denice Blefgen McPherson, Linda Blefgen and Laura Blefgen Togashi; May 17, 2017
- 2. L to R: Laura Blefgen Togashi, Ellen McKay, Holly Blefgen, Jeff McKay, Ralph Blefgen (in helicopter), Linda Blefgen, Denice Blefgen McPherson; Chisholm Tower headed to Blefgen Lake; May 18, 2017
- 3 and 4. Markers that Lac La Biche Forest Area wildfire crews built to commemorate the Blefgen family visit to Blefgen Lake; May 18, 2017
- 5. Installed marker at Blefgen Lake; May 18, 2017





- 1. Blefgen family in Edmonton to discuss history of Theodore (Ted) Blefgen; L to R: Linda Blefgen (oldest daughter of Howard), Ellen McKay (youngest daughter of Ralph), Peter Murphy, Denice Blefgen McPherson (youngest daughter of Howard), Holly Blefgen (oldest daughter of Ralph), Ralph Blefgen (son of Ted Blefgen), Laura Blefgen Togashi (middle daughter of Ralph), Jeff McKay (son of Ellen, grandson of Ralph); Bruce Mayer taking the picture; May 17, 2017
- 2. L to R: Peter Murphy and Ralph Blefgen; Ralph Blefgen is describing old photographs from his father Ted Belfgen's collection; May 17, 2017
- 3. L to R: Ellen McKay, Jeff McKay, Forest Officer Tyler Kehr, Ralph Blefgen and Laura Blefgen Togashi; pre-brief of flight to Blefgen Lake; Chisholm Tower; May 18, 2017
- 4. L to R: Ellen McKay, Jeff McKay, Ralph Blefgen, Holly Blefgen, Linda Blefgen (kneeling), Denice Blefgen McPherson, Laura Blefgen Togashi; Blefgen Lake; May 18, 2017









THEODORE (TED) FRANCIS BLEFGEN HISTORY

Editor's Note: The following summary of Ted Blefgen's career is from an except in the history of the Alberta Forest Service 1930 – 2005, Protection and management of Alberta's forests.

5. Crowsnest Cache; Not Identified, Ted Blefgen, JP Alexander, Not Identified; mid-1910s; Ted Blefgen collection

6. Ted Blefgen; Crowsnest Forest; 1910s; Ted Blefgen collection Ted Blefgen was the first Director of Forestry for Alberta, taking up the reins upon the transfer of resources in October, 1930. Eric Huestis, his successor, neatly reviewed Blefgen's career in 1948 after Blefgen's early retirement for health reasons. "The Director of Forestry, Mr. T.F. Blefgen, has risen from the ranks to head the Forest Service. He started as an Assistant Ranger in the Crowsnest Forest on May 1, 1911, received various promotions to Ranger, Assistant Supervisor, Supervisor, Assistant District Forest Inspector under the Dominion Government, and with the transfer of the Natural Resources from the Dominion to the Province in 1930, became Director of the new Alberta Forest Service. His service was broken only by the period spent in the air force in the First World War. A great deal of credit is due to a man who rises from the lowest in an organization to the highest. It gives him, in his experience in the field, a wider and more lasting knowledge of the work of the Forest Service and gives him an intimate knowledge of the problems from the very lowest to the highest. It also gives him an intimate knowledge of the various Forests, making it possible for him to give better decisions on details in view of his close relationship to these details over a period of years."

Blefgen began his work as Director in a positive vein, resolved to maintain the level of programs started by the Dominion. However, he immediately faced the economic consequences of the Depression and forest fire loads during the drought years of the 1930s. Then he was confronted with the impact of the Second World War and its increased demand for wood and a shortage of staff. His most significant achievement was to keep the Forest Service functioning during this time. In fact, through innovation, the AFS continued to build lookouts, trails and cabins, built a forest nursery at Oliver and introduced radios to lookouts and ranger districts.



"HIS MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT WAS TO KEEP THE FOREST SERVICE FUNCTIONING DURING THIS TIME [SECOND WORLD WAR]."









That Blefgen respected his staff was revealed in his annual report for 1942-43. After describing the great difficulties created by the war effort and staff shortages, he stated 'In the face of this definite increased demand for products of the forest, and the great difficulty in assisting inexperienced operators in starting, the majority of the Forestry staff have put forth Herculean efforts in keeping up their work as well as possible, and are to be heartily commended as a result. They are to be especially commended in such times as these when every hand is urgently required to help with the view of keeping this country free of Europe's tyrants.'

In his reports during the early 1940s, Blefgen wrote about future needs for reforestation, the contributions of rangers to fish and wildlife work, introduction of bulldozers to firefighting, trials by the RCAF of aerial photography, preparatory surveys to distinguish agricultural and forested area, and interest by pulp and paper companies in Alberta forests. But, even in his last







- 1. Coleman hockey team at Pincher Creek; Ted Blefgen back row, second from left; 1915 or 1916; Ted Blefgen collection
- 2. Ted Blefgen chopping firewood; 1920s; Ted Blefgen collection
- 3. L to R: Barney Barnes, Herb Hall, Ted Blefgen and C. Bailey; Lesser Slave Lake: 1918
- 4. Dominion Forestry Branch Headquarters; Sawridge (Slave Lake); 1920-21; Ted Blefgen collection

- 5. Floods in Slave Lake; 1920s; Ted Blefgen collection
- 6. Craig and McGregor, North West Lumber Company; banking ground on the north shore Lesser Slave Lake; 1920-21; Ted Blefgen collection
- 7. The first Directors of Forestry; L to R: Ted Blefgen, Eric Huestis and Bob Steele; 1970
- 8. Alberta Forest Service Executive meeting; November 22, 1946. Meeting was held at the Edmonton Royal George Hotel. Ted Blefgen is fourth from the left, middle row. Full description is on Page 80, Alberta Forest Service 1930-2005 history book.

report, for 1946-47 he repeated the main constraint imposed on him '... during the depression years we were definitely informed that no money could be made available, and during the war years the necessary labour could not be secured.'

He did, however articulate his vision and lay the groundwork for achieving it. He would have gained great satisfaction later as his ideas became reality through the establishment of the Green Area in 1948, the aerial photography and forest inventories of 1949, the revised Forests Act of 1949, negotiations for pulpwood lease areas, and the hiring of new foresters in 1949. He prevailed during a time of great challenge and, with Eric Huestis, set the state for a rapid unfolding of the forestry sector in Alberta.









- 1. Wooden forestry tower, Lesser Slave Lake; note fire killed forest in background; 1920; Ted Blefgen collection
- 2. Telephone crew; Lesser Slave Lake; 1917; Ted Blefgen collection
- 3. Blefgen house with new porch and paint; 1920-21; Ted Blefgen collection
- 4. Blefgen family standing alongside deck of trees at sawmill; Back Row: (L to R): Not Identified, Not Identified; Front Row (L to R): Not Identified, Ralph Blefgen, Howard Blefgen, Ethel Blefgen, Not Identified, Ted Blefgen; Lesser Slave Lake; 1926; Ted Blefgen collection





FROZEN LUMBERJACK CHALLENGE

The University of Alberta held its Frozen Lumberjack Challenge in Morinville on March 25, 2017. Véronic Boucher provided pictures of the event.



- 5. Double buck saw event; March 25, 2017
- 6. Standing log chop event; March 25, 2017
- 7. Double buck saw event; March 25, 2017
- 8. Morinville Festival Society's Ray McDonald Sports Arena Field; poles in the background; March 25, 2017













YOUTH AND LOGGER SPORTS IN MORINVILLE

BY KATHERINE (KAT) SPENCER

Morinville 2017, was all about inspiring and teaching youth about historical logging skills. Kat Spencer with assistance from Alberta Junior Forest Rangers set up an array of traditional activities for kids of all ages to try.

There was plastic hatchet throwing through a tire for the very young ones, and real hatchets for older kids. Choker races with metal chokers that had traditional key locking mechanisms on it to teach kids how logs are skidded and moved out of the bush. Plus, the feature event was log rolling! Log

rolling taught everyone about the history of the log drive, and the role of the most dangerous profession in the woods, "the log driver". Yes, we did play the Log Drivers Waltz repeatedly over the speaker!

Log rolling lessons started on the ground, learning the pitter-patter up and down stepping motion that allows the log to roll underneath the feet, and arms reaching forward and back holding on to an imaginary rope for balance. Then they tested their skills in on a high-tech plastic Key Log, designed for log rolling anywhere, as it only weighs 60

pounds when drained, versus the 200+ pounds of a real red cedar log of the same dimensions.

Over 120 children entered the frigid log rolling tank, built and sponsored by Jackson Rentals, and liner sponsored by Vanderwell Contractors, Slave Lake. There were some natural log rollers in the crowd and some excellent falls that provided hours and hours of family entertainment. Overall the event was an even bigger community hit than previous competitions, because of the interactive aspect of the event.









NAIT HOLDS THEIR BULL OF THE WOODS

BY KEVIN MARTENS

On October 21, 2017 we held our annual Bull of the Woods event that is put on by the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) second year Forest Technology students. This year it was held at the Morinville Festival Society's Ray McDonald Sports Arena Field. It was a great opportunity to be able to introduce people to traditional timber sports events as well as some of our own events.

Timber sports we held included: axe throw, double buck, choker race, and stock saw, along with a few others. This gave people the opportunity to

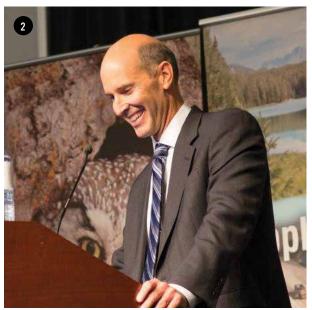
see how these events are run and also allowed them to try them first hand, which was really exciting.

We had approximately 40 participants for a variety of events. These participants ranged from NAIT Forest Technology students and staff, University of Alberta students, and alumni. Hosting this event is a great networking opportunity between these two schools and introduces a wider audience to the timber sports world. Hopefully we can continue the growth of the sport.

- 1. Young logger learning to log roll on the KeyLog Roller; 2017
- 2. Choker races, part of logger sports history; 2017
- 3. L to R: Tyler Struyk and Ally Dubetz, leaders in the Junior Forest Ranger program, supporting the Morinville Logger Sports event; 2017
- Kat Spencer (right) teaching a young logger the art of log birling; 2017
- 5. A proud hatchet thrower; 2017
- 6. Axe throw event; October 21, 2017
- 7. Axe throw event; October 21, 2017
- 8. Log toss event; October 21, 2017
- 9. Double buck saw event; October 21, 2017







40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOREST INDUSTRY **LECTURE SERIES**

BY DR. PETER MURPHY, PROFESSOR EMERITUS

The Forest Industry Lecture Series (FILS) began and was developed as a collaborative event by members of the "forestry community" in Alberta to enrich the Forestry Program at the University of Alberta. The first Forestry class had enrolled in the fall of 1970, initiated as a Faculty program through the vision of Dr. Fenton MacHardy, then Dean of Agriculture. In 1975, Dr. Allan A. Warrack, then Minister of Lands and Forests in the new Peter Lougheed government, made an offer to Dean MacHardy, saying that he had done well in developing the forestry program, but students needed enrichment through speakers from outside who could bring in fresh insights. The offer was that his Department

would match any outside funds the Faculty could raise to support a position of lecture series.

Several of the larger forest products companies in western Canada immediately responded and for two years, in 1975 and 1976, this new outside funding supported two visiting lecturers: Maxwell MacLaggan and Dr. Desmond I. Crossley whose expertise were respectively: forest industry, logging and forest products: silviculture and forest management.

In the meantime, Arden A. Rytz encouraged the sawmilling and plywood industries to add their support through the Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA), of which he had become executive director.

Arden Rytz was a forester, graduating from UBC after wartime service in south-east Asia. This collaborative approach to shared funding has enabled this lecture series to achieve the level of success that it enjoys today.

The first designated Forest Industry Lecture was given in 1977 by the noted Canadian and internationally respected forester Dr. Ross Silversides, who spoke on Industrial forestry in a changing Canada. The University and the Department of Renewable Resources in particular, deeply appreciate the support of its many sponsors. Past lectures and upcoming invited speakers can be found at www.fils.ualberta.ca.

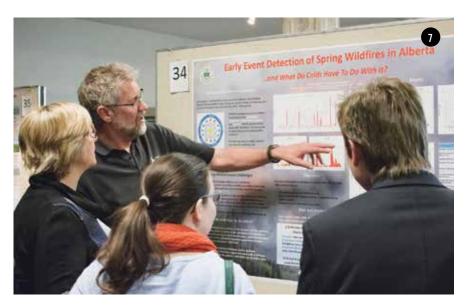












- 1. Peter Murphy outlining the history of the FILS lecture to the attendees; 2010
- 2. FILS Speaker Paul Jannke; November 3, 2016
- 3. L to R: Robert G. Wagner and Vic Lieffers; November 8, 2007
- 4. FILS dinner, early 1980s; Left: Fred McDougall, Deputy Minister, Forestry, Lands and Wildlife
- 5. L to R: Andreas Hamann, Phil Comeau and John Spence; 2000s
- 6. L to R: Dr. Barbara Thomas, FILS Academic Lead; Dr. Monica Emelko, FILS Speaker, University of Waterloo; and Dr. Ellen Macdonald, Chair, Department of Renewable Resources; November 2, 2017
- 7. Cordy Tymstra explaining poster at FILS lecture; 2016

REMEMBERING THE FIRELINE IN THE 1960'S

MEMORIES FROM LAWRENCE BERLAND BY LESLIE LOZINSKI

We were proud to be wildland firefighters. Those were good jobs in those days – they're still good jobs. We were hard working boys from the country. The pay was between 65 cents to 90 cents an hour. We filled in time sheets and were paid in vouchers from local stores that we could use for things like groceries or boots. Later on, we got cheques and we had to pick them up at the Beaver Lake Ranger Station. There were about 1,100 of us, so it was a big operation.

Wildland firefighting was something else in those days, it really was a way of life. One summer we worked 53 days straight, going from one fire to the next. We fought fire like they do today, but it was more manual. We walked in to most fires, laying miles of hose and using relay tanks. Everybody had a shovel and hand tools. We carried our tents in and all of our supplies. We built outhouses and set up fire pits for cooking. Sometimes we would go by train to a fire and then walk in from there. Once we went to BC to help on a wildfire, this was the first time many of us had been on a big airplane. Hauling hose up a mountain was a real challenge.

Safety was a real priority for us. We usually walked a long way in to a fire and there was no way to get anybody out if there was an accident. There were no phones back in the day, so we had to make do until the plane or chopper came back. We were careful!

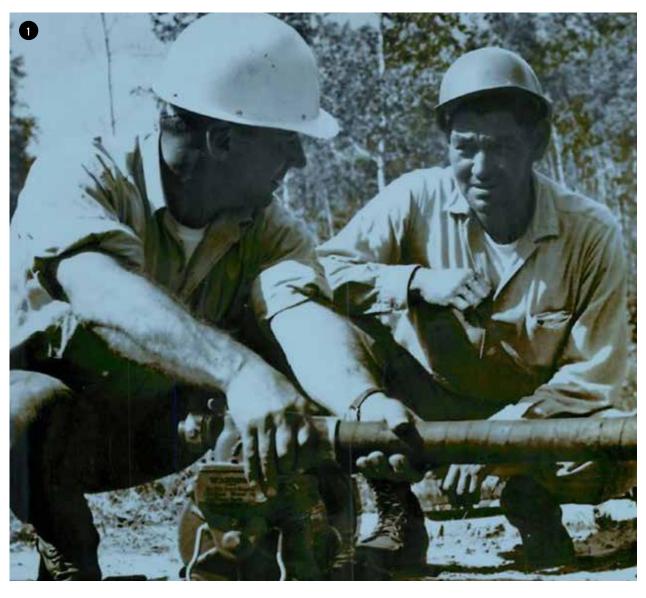
Sixteen hour days were the norm then. We would work long into the night after the fires settled down. Not too many fires got away from us. We didn't see anything big like Slave Lake or Fort McMurray's wildfires. Working at night meant less bugs too. Water was a luxury on the fireline. There was no such thing as a hot bath or a hot shower. We were lucky if we set up camp by a lake because we could wash in the lake and do laundry.

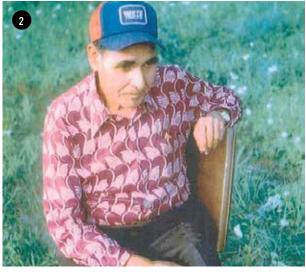
Sometimes our pants would stand up by themselves before we forced ourselves to do the laundry.

We were in the Pow Wow Days parade back then! And we participated in Crew Races and Competitions with Beaver Lake, Kikino and Big Bay. George Berland's crew usually won. Those were good days.

Roger Desjarlais was the head cook and Joe Desjarlais was his right hand help. Their day started at 0200, making eggs and bacon that they kept stored in a hole in the ground because there was no fridge (called a 'meat pit'). They would go through three 100 pound sacks of potatoes each day for the 1,100 firefighters working in the forest. Everything was cooked over an open fire; turkeys were boiled and made into stew. Some firefighters would hunt chickens and rabbits which also went into the stew pot. They would bring drinking water and water for cooking in by helicopter, but we washed dishes and clothes in the lake.

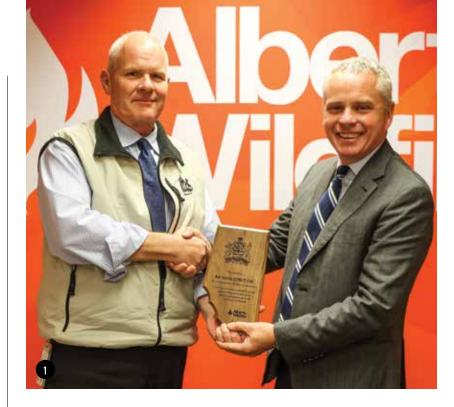
Harry Jeremy came to the Alberta Forest Service from the Army. He was pretty strict and ran a tight ship. George Berland was a crew boss for over 43 years. He trained everyone including Wes Nimco, the current Forest Area Manager in Lac La Biche. George knew the land and the trails really well. His crew cleared the Touchwood Lake road, cutting trees by hand, burning as they went, sometimes up to their necks in swamps. They carried their own tents and gear. This was long before dozers were used to clear and pile! His crews also cleared Sir Winston Churchill campground with axes and pulaski's, digging stumps and roots, sometimes using a winch, and hand piling. Decades later, George's granddaughter Tina Aldred worked seasonally for the Wildfire Management Branch in the Lac La Biche Forest Area.





THOSE WERE GOOD JOBS IN THESE DAYS – THEY'RE STILL GOOD JOBS.

- 1. Forest Officer Harry Jeremy and Crew Boss George Berland; Lac La Biche Forest; 1960s
- 2. Cook Joe Desjarlais; c.2012







50 YEARS OF AIR SPRAY (1967) LTD.

BY LYNN HAMILTON

Air Spray (1967) Ltd. was officially incorporated as a wildfire suppression company in 1967. However, while 2017 marks our 50th year in business, Air Spray (1967) Ltd.'s roots actually began 13 years earlier with its predecessor company Air Spray Ltd., in 1954. The original Air Spray Ltd. was incorporated as a crop dusting company in the Wetaskiwin, Alberta area. It later expanded into mosquito control with a contract awarded by the City of Edmonton in 1956. In the meantime, the aerial wildfire suppression industry was in its infancy with government agencies seeking a solution to the ever growing problem of controlling wildfires destroying timber and threatening communities. In response to this need, Air Spray Ltd. was one of several companies in North America that shut down its crop dusting operations and converted its aircraft to fight wildfires.

With the conversion of two Stearman bi-plane aircraft to airtankers in 1958, Air Spray Ltd. was awarded the first ever aerial wildfire suppression contract issued by the Alberta Government. This contract continued until 1961, when Air Spray Ltd. switched to the larger and faster TBM Avenger aircraft. While the early years of the original Air Spray Ltd. were

relatively successful, the company was wound up in 1966. This hiatus was short lived as the company was reincorporated in 1967 and renamed Air Spray (1967) Ltd. to distinguish it from the first company. Not only did the new company have a new name, but it also had a new airtanker in the works - the A26.

The A26 was seen as the ideal aircraft to become an airtanker. Built in the United States between 1944 and 1945, and used extensively during the Korean war, its powerful twin Rolls Royce engines provided the aircraft with speed and the ability to carry a large payload of fire retardant. It also came equipped with a bomb bay ideal for the installation of a tank to hold the retardant. Several companies throughout North America saw the potential of the A26 and the industry rapidly grew with dozens of A26s converted to airtankers during the 1960's and 1970's.

Unfortunately, the conversion cost of the A26 was high and while the company could afford to purchase the aircraft, Air Spray (1967) Ltd. needed cash to complete the project. The person to provide the cash turned out to be Alberta bush pilot and entrepreneur, Don Hamilton.







Having experience flying throughout Northern Alberta throughout the 1950's, Don Hamilton saw the devastation wildfires caused to vast areas of forests and saw the incredible benefit of using aircraft to fight the wildfires. Don also had savings from his air transport business flying between the Edmonton Municipal Airport and northern communities, and thought an investment in the company looked like a good opportunity. With the investment, the A26 conversion was completed in 1970 and Air Spray (1967) Ltd. was awarded a contract with the Alberta government to fight wildfires with the newly converted A26, Tanker 1, CF-PGF. The first year turned out to be a huge success and Don offered to buy the whole company. The purchase was agreed to and now as sole owner, Don began in earnest to develop an airtanker fleet.

The company continued to grow over the years with contracts awarded for fighting wildfires in Yukon and other provinces and territories throughout Canada. During the 1970's Air Spray (1967) Ltd. owned and operated 22 A26 aircraft as airtankers. However, while the aircraft were successful throughout the 1970's and into the 1980's, Air Spray's government customers began requiring newer and faster aircraft able to carry larger loads of retardant to fires at longer distances. Don eventually retired the B26s and replaced them with the four engine turbo prop L188 "Electra" currently operated by Air Spray today.

Throughout the years, Don grew the business with a dedication to providing safe, innovative and reliable airtanker services to all of Air Spray's customers. Unfortunately, Don Hamilton passed away in 2011 at the age of 86 - just two months after induction into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame. With his passing, the ownership of the company passed to his daughter, Lynn Hamilton. Lynn is proud of the history of the company and dedicated to continuing the success of Air Spray for the next 50 years as it expands beyond its Canadian roots and looks to new aircraft and tank systems that meet the ever increasing need for effective aerial wildfire control.

Note: The use of A26 and B26 has been interchangeable since the 1940s. The aircraft were all built as an A26; three versions – A26 A (attack), A26 B (bomber), A26 C (recognizance). When the B26 Marauder (Widow Maker) was retired, the A26 became the B26. Use of both is correct.

- 1. Bruce Mayer with Paul Lane, 50th anniversary plaque, October 25, 2017
- 2. Airspray's CF-PGF in the air with retardant tank door open; late 1960s. The first conversion to an airtanker occurred in 1967 and 1968 on CF-PGF, with CF-PGP completed in 1970
- 3. Airspray's CF-PGF; B26 airtanker; showing aircraft and drop tank to Alberta Forest Service staff; late 1960s
- 4. Presentation to Paul Lane for 50 years of Air Spray (1967) Ltd.'s partnership with the Alberta government; L to R: Ross Katterhagen, Chief Engineer; Bruce Mayer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Forestry Division; Jesse Baron, Air Attack Officer; Perry Dancause, Director of Flight Operations; Paul Lane, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Greg Boyachuk, Provincial Airtanker Program Supervisor; Dennis Chrystian, Chief Pilot and Quentin Spila, Manager, Wildfire Aviation and Geomatics
- 5. Don Harrington's Airspray Ltd., Grumman TBM Avenger; fighting wildfire on the Northwest Pulp and Power Forest Management Agreement. The airtanker refueled and loaded with retardant at the airstrip in Jasper National Park; 1956
- 6. Air Spray Tanker 485, an Electra Long Liner, at the Rainbow Lake airtanker base; May 2016



25 YEARS OF PHOENIX HELI-FLIGHT

BY PAUL SPRING

Like most boys I had a fascination with flying machines from a young age and had several family members in the airlines and RCAF that allowed me to get close to the industry. In my last year of high school, I was working evenings and weekends as a snowmobile mechanic when I came to know Frank, a local snowmobiler and real estate broker who had his own Cessna. Frank saw my potential beyond a sled mechanic, and offered to take me flying in his plane and let me have the controls. That was the moment; within weeks I had enrolled in flight school at the Guelph Airpark in Ontario to obtain my private fixedwing license. As soon as I passed my private flight test I enrolled in the commercial pilot course.

I continued with my passion obtaining a commercial fixed-wing

licence, and graduated in 1981 as an aircraft maintenance technician (AMT) from Canadore College. The summer between the two years of the AMT course, I took a job in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, with Apex Helicopters, as an apprentice AME. About a week into my new profession, I was sent on my first field job to fix a broken 206A JetRanger, at the Keane Tower airstrip. To get there I was flown in a small Piper to the Cluff Lake airstrip, where I was picked up by a future co-worker, Palmer Peterson, in an Associated Helicopters JetRanger. Talk about trial by fire. Palmer dropped me off at the fire camp located on the burned-over Keane airstrip, with a sincere but seemingly nervous "good luck" and a wave goodbye, as he throttled up and flew away to the fireline.

My farm experience from central Ontario had prepared me to work long hard days but not for the harsh environment of a forest fire suppression operation in 1980. It didn't take me long to find my machine and pilot in this black and sandy hell, and I had the helicopter back in the air in short order after replacing the starter/generator. With the machine serviceable, the pilot Denis flew away with what I would come to know later as one of the Devil's finest creations, the Griffith water bucket. On my own in this new world, I set out to locate whoever was in charge to find out where I would be staying, so I could stow my gear. I finally located a logistics person in an Alberta Forest Service uniform, and was handed my accommodation in the form of a disposable sleeping



- 1. First revenue flight, inspecting facilities; L to R: Gary Dakin, Rick Arthur, Carl Gaede; early 1990s
- 2. Paul Spring and his AS 350BA; burning from Stan Clark in the background; 1995

bag. After a couple of nights sleeping under the stars due to a tent shortage, my machine was sent to Uranium City and I spent the rest of the summer maintaining JetRangers and living out of a duffle bag while chasing fires in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories. No days off back then; it was four months of fires and helicopters every day until returning to classes with a bundle of beer money.

After graduating as an AMT, I returned to Apex Helicopters, now in Saskatoon to complete my apprenticeship. After obtaining my aircraft maintenance engineer (AME) license for helicopters, I began apprenticing on airplanes and obtained my fixed-wing AME license one year later. This led to seasonal work with Frontier Airlines out of Denver who would overnight a Boeing 737 in Saskatoon where I looked after a "turn around" inspection before the plane headed back to the United States each morning. The urge to fly was always there so I applied to the Canadore College helicopter pilot program and returned to school in September 1983. Upon graduation I returned to Apex in May 1984, but the helicopter industry was

already in a steep decline, after the huge ramp up between 1979 and 1983. My new wife had a job offer in Alberta so we moved to Medicine Hat; it was a good move as creditors forced Apex into liquidation early in 1985. Looking for work, I got an offer from Time Air to fly a King Air out of Lethbridge, but before I could get to the final interview I received an offer from Associated Helicopters in Edmonton, who were looking for AMEs with experience on AS350s. Fortunately for me Apex had been one of the first companies in Canada to operate both 350D and 350B helicopters, and I had spent most of my time working on these aircraft. Joining Associated Helicopters is what landed me in Fort McMurray for good. I worked all over Alberta, Northwest Territories and British Columbia in 1985, as a roaming AME, although still based in Medicine Hat and going wherever the machines needed me. The Fort McMurray base pilots, pleased with my work, thought I could also help with the mundane test runs and small flying jobs, so the director of maintenance Don McKinnon agreed to share me with flight operations and Bob Heighington gave me my first JetRanger commercial pilot proficiency check on September

11, 1985. In April 1987, with 580 hours as pilot in command, I became the lowest time pilot ever checked to fly the AS350 at Associated, which was followed by a promotion to Base Manager in the fall.

Life was good in Fort McMurray, my wife had moved up from Medicine Hat to join me in the spring of 1987, and by the fall we purchased a house. Our first child Cameron was born in 1988 and in September 1990 we were looking forward to our second child in November. Then the big change happened. Although Associated had been part of the 1988 mega merger with Okanagan, Toronto Helicopters and Sealand Helicopters into the new Canadian Helicopters, there hadn't been much change to daily operations. With the departure of long time operations manager Paul Kristapovich, his replacement Fred Nelson had instituted a cost cutting program, all the western base managers were advised their pay scale would change by the end of 1990. I set up my own company on October 4, 1991, and began the process of obtaining a Transport Canada Air Operator Certificate. Investing my life savings as seed money, I leased a helicopter from Aerospatiale in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Eurocopter and the Canadian division of the French manufacturer didn't exist then. I flew my last trip for Canadian in AS350 MIV on January 20, 1992 and left them with a total of 4,200 hours a pilot in command, and all the experience I would need to start my own company, or so I thought!

On February 28, 1992 I left Texas using my FAA recreational pilot's license to ferry home N150BH an American registered AS350B helicopter. This machine was from the manufacturers lease inventory and the last operator had "rode her hard and put her away wet". At the last fuel stop in Red Deer before home, I discovered an alarming fuel leak on a supply line for one of the start injectors. Once started, this wouldn't be a problem as long as a fire didn't erupt during the start. A copious amount of electrical tape was applied to the source of the leak and the engine started without issue. Back in Fort McMurray with an aircraft now, I resigned from my position with Canadian and set about painting the helicopter (with Tremclad, sprayed not a roller) and working with Transport to check all the boxes that would allow the start of revenue flight operations.

With all the paperwork done the now famous C-FNFU made its first revenue flight on May 14, 1992 for the Alberta Forest Service, with passengers Gary Dakin, Rick Arthur and Carl Gaede. The next flight three days later was a medevac, and that has been the tone ever since, emergency services work. In October 1993, the lease helicopter was returned to Texas and the C-FNFU registration was put on reserve when I bought Phoenix's first machine C-FHLF, an old Viking Helicopters AS350B. This helicopter was flown in its stunning all white livery for

the first year and then given the Phoenix airbrush treatment in time to become the media star of the Mariana Lakes fire in 1995. Although 1995 was a short fire season in Fort McMurray (end of May to end of June) it was intense, and my first time flying ignition with Bill Bereska, who taught me the term "think global" when planning a burn. After a couple of weeks on the Mariana Lakes fire, Bill and I were sent to High Level for some more ignition work.

During the winter of 1997, C-FHLF was converted from a B to a BA model AS350 to give it more lift capacity. Between 1992 and 2002 forest fires and natural gas exploration/production were the staple activities providing Phoenix with revenue. Phoenix had ordered the first Canadian EC120 when it was introduced in 2006 but had to lease AS350s in 1998 and 1999 to keep up with demand after the 120 delivery was delayed. Both 1998 and 1999 were big fire years in Alberta. Phoenix brought the original FNFU registration back from reserve when we took delivery of the first new EC120 in 2000 and then developed the first company owned hangar on a 'green field' piece of land located on the northwest corner of the Fort McMurray airport. The first EC120 went to the Edmonton Police on lease to start the Air 1 service in 2001, and was replaced by C-GIJZ, which was sold the next year to

the Calgary Police and replaced by C-FLCN. In 2002 the Alberta oilsands was getting globally recognized as a resource and the next boom began. Phoenix continued to grow with this boom adding a B2 which was registered as C-FNFU after the Edmonton police bought the EC120 and changed the registration to EPS, this famous registration remains on the B2 to this day and may move to another aircraft in the future, but it won't leave the company. EC120 LCN was subsequently sold to Canadian helicopters as a trainer for the Penticton base and replaced at Phoenix with a new 120 C-GFHF in the spring of 2004 along with the addition of Canada's first EC130B4 in December 2004. Phoenix added a second 120 in 2006 to meet increasing activity and then added Canada's first AS355N TwinStar to meet international oil and gas aviation requirements. Another Canadian first, and our second twin engine machine the AS355NP was added in 2009, and the first North American AS350B3 with dual hydraulics was bought by the company in 2010, this B3 also included the company's first 'glass cockpit' instrument panel.

The problem with all the growth and new aircraft deliveries was the lead time, new aircraft had to be ordered three to four years ahead and our second hangar was ordered in 2008 to be ready for 2010. This

TRAILS & TALES MARCH 2018







- 1. L to R: Terry VanNest, Kurt Frederick, Hugh Boyd, Jules LeBoeuf; 1998
- 2. Crew inspection, Fort McMurray; L to R: Paul Spring, Dennis Driscoll, John Belanger, Howard Herman; 1990s
- 3. Phoenix Heli-Flight fleet; August 2014

caught Phoenix buying and building as the global economic crisis began to cause serious problems for everyone. Phoenix experienced substantial financial losses in 2009 and 2010, but cost cutting measures and an economic rebound, including a busy 2011 fire season, helped the company recover completely. In 2013, Phoenix took delivery of two new glass cockpit AS350B2s and ordered a new EC135T2e to begin dedicated 24-hour EMS operations. To get the medevac program going as 'day only' while waiting for our new 135 to be built and certified to operate with night vision goggles, the company leased an EC135P2 from VIH for 16 months. Phoenix took delivery of its new EC135 in July 2014, and immediately began work to create a registered charity to facilitate the medevac portion of the business. The Local Helicopter Emergency Response

Organization Foundation (Local HERO Foundation) was granted charity status in June 2016 and now manages the funding of this important lifesaving helicopter.

Flying helicopters has been deeply satisfying for me over the years, although everyone who works with helicopters knows tragedy can be one error away on every flight. My worst fear came true on July 22, 2007, when a Phoenix pilot made a fatal judgement error. Returning to Fort McMurray, after day basing at Johnson Tower with an initial attack crew, the pilot's maneuvers induced servo transparency at low altitude, causing the crash of C-FHLF and killing firefighter Patrick Watters-Michaud. The lessons learned from this event transformed Phoenix into an industry leader in the proactive use of flight data monitoring technology. Since 2007, I continue

to share Phoenix's learnings from this crash and our proactive safety initiatives with helicopter operators from around the globe at numerous annual safety symposiums.

Although Phoenix has grown and diversified over the years, I'm always proud to say we are a firefighting company, the roots of the company were grown with fire. Without the fire component of our work the equipment and facilities Phoenix employees and customers enjoy today would not have been possible. There is always room for improvement in any organization, but I can easily say the wildfire helicopter operations in Alberta are the best in Canada. The friends and relationships I have gained while fighting wildfires in Alberta are the best anyone could wish for.



ALBERTA FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION TURNS 75!

Editors Note: The following is the opening address Paul Whittaker, President and Chief Executive Officer, gave at the 75th Anniversary of the Alberta Forest Products Association Annual General Meeting, September 2017. The notes are based on work Arden Rytz completed on the AFPA history in the mid-1990s.

Following supper, Peter Murphy took the audience on a journey of forest products, from the first trade dispute with the U.S. dating back to the 1700s, to modern day Alberta and the Alberta Forest Products Association.

Now as we know, this year we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the AFPA. I think you will agree that in such a young province, 75 years of operation is a real milestone. When you think back to the year we were established, it was a very different world. The year was 1942 and Canada, along with our allies, was at war. We were still two years away from D Day. In many ways though, the AFPA was born because of the war. The federal government had imposed restrictions on the sale and use of timber as a strategic, wartime resource. All production, sales and distribution were controlled under the Federal Minister of Munitions and Supplies. Wood was being used to build barracks, airplane hangars and the like. So Alberta's lumber producers banded together to create the AFPA to deal with these supply challenges and to deal with the federal government.

After the war was over, the controls on lumber slowly came off and issues like railroad freight rates became the issue of the day. Given some of the railroad capacity and cost issues we have faced in the last few years, it really is obvious that history repeats itself. Later that decade forest fires were also a real challenge and the AFPA worked closely with the Alberta government of the



day to put in place restrictions on when and where settlers could set fires when clearing land. We also dealt with the Alberta government on stumpage dues and on worker's compensation. Moving in to the 1950s, the Alberta government signed its first pulp mill lease agreement in 1954 and this changed the industry again.

Later in the 1950s it became clear that the association needed to establish its own lumber grading system using established rules. In 1959, the US government made it mandatory, that all lumber imported into the U.S. had to be grade stamped. The Canadian government followed suit, and as a result, standards across the country were developed and agreed to. The AFPA put in place a uniform grading system and our membership expanded significantly to address this new requirement. As an aside, prior to establishment of a uniform grading system, only about 6% of Alberta's production was going to the U.S., but over the course of the 1960s our exports to the U.S. grew ten times over. By the end of the 1960s we were shipping over 50% of our production to the U.S.

The 1960s saw a great deal of work between the industry and the government of Alberta to develop the quota system and to provide security of tenure in exchange for forest management responsibilities. One could say that Alberta's forestry industry today was shaped through those practices developed in the 1960s. The 1970s saw the industry reach out to new and growing markets. Alberta's industry took part in the Lougheed government's first trade mission to Japan, a tradition that continues to this day.

The end of that decade saw the AFPA host its meeting for the first time in Jasper, in October, 1979. The existing structures of the Association (the Board of Directors, the committee structure and formal AGMs) all solidified during this period. The 1980s saw us pay a price for our success in U.S. markets with the U.S. slapping, for the first time, countervail duties on our softwood lumber trade shipments. This was the first round of what is now five rounds over the last 40 years, again, history repeats itself.

The 1980s saw us work closely with the government of Alberta to develop strategies to grow our industry here in the province, to expand our markets

- 1. Barry Mjolsness awarded a life-time membership from the AFPA; L to R: Paul Whittaker, Barry Mjolsness (Spray Lake Sawmills), Oneil Carlier (Minister, Agriculture and Forestry), Howie Ewashko (Northland Forest Products); September 28, 2017
- 2. Normand Boucher awarded a lifetime membership from the AFPA; L to R: Paul Whittaker, Normand Boucher (Boucher Brothers, retired), Oneil Carlier (Minister, Agriculture and Forestry), Jason Boucher (Boucher Brothers); September 28, 2017



Celebrating 75 years



and to jointly ward off US trade action. Up to the 1980s, the Association was focused on lumber, but in 1988 the Association took the step of expanding membership to include panelboard and pulp and paper products, which saw the organization grow yet again.

The 1990s and the 2000s saw us take a leadership role on issues like the environment and land use that continue to hold importance to this day, but in many ways the issues we have encountered in each decade of our existence seem to loop back repeatedly.

Responsible land stewardship aimed at ensuring the health and vitality of our forests for future generations; Continuing to invest in order to make our operations more efficient and more environmentally responsible; Outstanding quality control of an ever growing array of forestry products; An effective health and safety regime aimed at ensuring our 19,000 workers go home safely at night; A focus on expanding our markets here in Canada, in the U.S. and abroad; Building on our constructive working relationships with the municipalities and the people in the 70 communities in which we operate throughout the province; Continuing our close working partnership with the Government of Alberta to develop a safe, reliable, economically strong industry; Companies, many of whom have been operating for 50, 60, 70 years and more, working together to make the industry strong and resilient.

All these themes are found throughout our 75-year history and will be a feature of the next 75 years.

- 1. L to R: Norm Dupuis (AFPA, Director Grade Bureau), Bev Yee (Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Forestry), Normand Boucher (Boucher Brothers, retired), Ken Vanderwell (Vanderwell Contractors); September 28, 2017
- 2. 19th AFPA AGM; November 1961
- 3. 20th AFPA AGM; November 1962
- 4. 21st AFPA AGM; Wells Studios; November 1963









SEEKING EDGECOMBE STORIES

Wanda Edgecombe, Harry's widow, and son Merv have been working with Peter Murphy to assemble a collection of stories by Harry and about Harry. They have photographs and interviews with Harry about his early days on the Clearwater Forest, but relatively few stories later on in his career. They would appreciate any stories about Harry and/or photos of Harry, especially during his times at Fort McMurray, High Level, Grande Prairie and fire training at Hinton.

If you can help, please contact Bruce Mayer at Bruce. Mayer@gov.ab.ca or FHAA@albertaforesthistory.ca, he will pass the information on.



1. Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board and Alberta Forest Service staff meeting; 1959. Note new portable radios on laps of individuals.

Front Row (L to R): Doug Allen, Dick Mackie, Not Identified, Maurice Verhaeghe, Bill Shankland, Fred Facco, Not Identified, John Elliot, Ben Shantz

Middle Row (L to R): Not Identified, Del Hereford, Ron Lyle, Rex Winn, Bill Balmer, Ray Hill, Not Identified, Not Identified

Back Row (L to R): Far left, Hiram Baker; far right Vic Schneidmiller; the remaining six have not been identified

2. Harry Edgecombe on a pack trip near Willow Creek; 1988



THANK YOU TO CONAIR

Conair has been a long-time supporter of the Alberta Junior Forest Ranger program. Presentation made by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry to Conair on November 2, 2017.

- 3. L to R: Trevor Nichols, Junior Forest Ranger Program Specialist; Bruce Mayer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Forestry Division; Matt Bradley, President and Chief Operating Officer, Conair; Jeff Berry, Director Business Development, Conair; November 2017
- 4. Conair, part of Alberta's forest history
- 5. Conair, part of Alberta's forest history







DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS AWARDED TO PILOT OFFICER D.S. FLORENCE

The following is an excerpt from the Annual Report of John Harvie, Deputy Minister of the Department of Lands and Mines for the year ending March 31, 1941.

A name to be brought forward [from a report of the Department of Defence] for special mention is that of Pilot Officer D.S. Florence, D.F.C., R.C.A.F. Mr. Florence was for many years a member of the Forestry Division of this Department. He resigned from the Department some time before the war to take up work with a large Alberta lumber company. With the declaration of war, he entered the Canadian Air Force. Since then he has seen considerable service in many air raids over France and Germany. On September 20, 1941 the report was received that he had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for meritorious work in air-raids over enemy territory.

The official citation is quoted as follows: "This officer has proved himself as an enthusiast for night photography and had obtained photographs containing valuable information. Despite weather conditions and enemy opposition, the courses he

had given his captain invariably were accurate. A very thorough and persevering navigator, he has done much to raise the standard of photography and navigation throughout the unit. As a bomb aimer he has been equally successful."

Recognition and honour of this nature are of a very high calibre. That they should have been bestowed on someone who for so long was associated with this Department is an incident of which the Department is justifiably proud. An expression of this pride has been sent to Pilot Officer Florence by his old comrades in the government service.

WHAT IS A PODCAST?

Remember book tapes? Close ... Wikipedia says a podcast is "an episodic series of digital audio or video files which a user can download and listen to".

Second generation forester, Matthew Kristoff created Your Forest, after noticing a gap in information on conservation and forestry that was in a format that was easy to listen to and absorb. Your Forest, is "a podcast about the natural world. Regarding the environment, renewable resources, conservation, forestry, hunting, fishing, etc."

Up to #18, the latest podcast is an interview with Ryan Hee, the new President of the Association of Alberta Forest Management Professionals.

Your Forest is located at https://yourforestpodcast.com

Join Us in Grande Prairie for the Canadian Institute of Forestry's 2018 National Conference and Annual General Meeting

The Rocky Mountain Section (RMS) of the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF) will be hosting the 2018 National Conference and Annual General Meeting in the wonderful northern Alberta community of Grande Prairie from September 18 to 20, 2018.

The conference was proposed for Grande Prairie to highlight the beauty of northern Alberta, the majority of the activity occurring, and the resource development occurring along with the enhancement of communities in the Peace Area of Alberta and British Columbia.

The theme and concept of the conference will be Sustaining Resources and Enhancing Communities: By Looking Back and Going Forward.

The Four Key categories focussed on in Grande Prairie, will be:

- Community wildfire management, Aboriginal communities, agro-forestry
 - Wildlife caribou, grizzly, wolverine, endangered fish species
 - Site Restoration reclamation, silviculture, MPB stand restoration
 - Land Management Planning, Forest Management Planning

Further information can be obtained at https://www.cif-ifc.org/2018-agm-conference/, or from Dan Wilkinson, at DWilkinson@albertaforestproducts.ca.



MEMORIES OF WILLIAM (BILL) BALMER

Editor's Note: George Balmer provided Bruce Mayer with the obituary of his late father, William (Bill) Balmer, a forest ranger stationed at the Sheep Ranger Station in the 1950s. George Balmer also provided the following about his background. "I spent about a year and a half working in the Grande Prairie Forest for Collin Campbell, Keith Bennett (that's where I met Don Wohlgemuth), etc. I then did forestry at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton and came back to work for the federal government in Yukon Forestry, and a further ten years with Fish and Wildlife. I quit and went to finish my BSc in Geography/Morphology at the University of Victoria. Upon graduation, I spent a few years as Superintendent of Kluane National Park, then back to the federal government as head of Yukon Enforcement Program (Federal Fish and Wildlife and Environment). Following that I went back to the Yukon Territorial Government Fish and Wildlife and teaching at Yukon College."

Peter Murphy provided the following on Bill Balmer. "Bill was in the first class of our Forestry Training School class of 1951, the one led by Vic Heath and Bill Bloomberg. He was in good company, his fellow students were much of the same mold, independent and individually capable. As I recall, he was ranger at the Sheep when I came along in 1954. Ray Hill and Ted Loblaw were earnest East-Slopes assistant rangers in that class, Ray was in my first class of 1956 at FTS. The Sheep produced some fine rangers. Chuck Ratliff came along soon after and worked with us training new students, after we had moved the training school to Hinton."

LIFE AT THE SHEEP RANGER STATION – AS A SIX YEAR OLD

BY GEORGE BALMER

My dad was a cowboy at heart, his early years were about that life and those people. This is my personal recollection of my early life on the Sheep Ranger Station as the son of the Ranger [William Balmer] and cowboy himself. In the 1950s, from birth, until I was going into primary school, we lived on a remote Ranger Station in southwestern Alberta. There was no TV nor radio. I had no playmates outside my dog and my younger brother Lyle. The nearest community was a day's journey away, or more depending on weather.

The only mentors available were a series of "Rangers" and "Cowboys". The former (my parents) bravely allowing me to interact directly with the latter (a collection of men who carried the label "character" as a badge of honor). During those very early formative years we were required to entertain ourselves. Stories replaced television or radio. Stories formed a major part of any social setting, whether it was a coffee and smoke scented break from the job at hand, lunch, dinner, or an after-hour get-together.

I struggled to understand why these men (there were never women) would sometimes appear to pay strict attention while someone told a story we had all heard before, the best of the stories several times. Occasionally even the facts would appear to change to fit the current situation. I recognized there must exist an unwritten set of rules that guided the telling of these stories. It appeared that, at least in the 1950s, so long as the setting was right, and the purpose was for entertainment and not for self enhancement, even plot changes or exaggeration was allowed. At least it seemed, until the teller made the mistake of either expecting his audience to believe the story, or worse, believing it himself. That was an unpardonable sin in the world I grew up in, and committing that sin would change a person's reputation from story teller, to bullshitter, and even, God forbid, a liar.

For those cowboys the most valued possession was their reputation, and as a consequence any attempt at self-enhancement or bragging was met with disdain. Those readers with experience in this world will understand that true cowboys are the masters of understatement, and that in their world, especially in the 1950s, the only virtue of consequence was modesty. And yet I learned that there could still be as many versions of any story as there are participants. What I also learned as a five-year old child without standing

1. First graduating class of the Forestry Training School, outside on porch of the Colonel's Cabin; Kananaskis Forest Experiment Station; 1951

Back Row (L to R): Rusty Esson,
Bill Forbes-King (jacket over shoulder),
Joe McGrath, Jack Kilgore (behind
Macnab), Jack Macnab (officer cap),
Bert Varty, Bill Adams, Frank Theirault,
Harry Edgecombe, Tad Garland,
Bill Balmer (at back in front of door),
Ray Moss, Sandy Brown, Neil Gilliat.
Front Row (L to R): Jim Hereford,
Mike Reap, Des Crossley (hand on chin),
Phil Nichols, Victor Heath (Instructor
i/c), Buck Rogers, Jim Stewart (sitting
very front), Bill Bloomberg (Instructor
2i/c), Johnny Doonanco

2. Early forestry class; L to R: Wally Harrison, Dick Radke, Stu Height, Bill Balmer, with Vic Higgins front left corner; 1946 in the conversations, was that in life one needs to recognize one's own folly and be ready to laugh at onesself when things take a turn for the "interesting". If any shortcoming in character was involved in the story only the owner of said shortcoming was permitted to tell it.

Humour was a key ingredient in any story. My own sense of humour was likely permanently warped by experiencing the interactions of these "Rangers" and "Cowboys", both took no mercy on us because of innocence. I recall an early example occurred when I was no more than six and my brother, Lyle, five. The "men" encountered us and invited us to have lunch in the bunkhouse. This rare opportunity to be included needed no further discussion. After a hearty lunch of SPAM (an amorphous meat by-product in a can) on store-bought dry bread the lead hand announced it was time to "cut cards for the dishes".

Old hands that Lyle and I were at cards of course we lost. The rest of our afternoon was spent at the sink scrubbing every dish, pot and pan in the bunkhouse. This was likely the only time that summer those dishes were actually washed and dried. Being brought up like that could have a lasting effect on anyone.

I was much younger than that when one of the cowhands introduced me to that most delightful childhood confection the "marshmallow". I recall playing down by the fire cache while some of the men were loading groceries. A bag of fluffy white spheres was broken open and one was dropped. I was on it like a raven on a French fry. One cowhand then discovered that if he threw the next one underneath the government truck my low clearance allowed me to run underneath to retrieve it, and promptly stuff it in my mouth. I recall the cowboys grin, and the twinkle in his eye as he reached into the bag and threw down one after another, happy I suppose to encounter the zen like joy of feeding stale bread to the ducks. Today that might be called abuse.

In my search for entertainment one morning I followed my dog into her dog house where she then delivered half a dozen lab-type puppies. I must have found the process all-consuming because when I crawled out later in the afternoon it was to an enthusiastic reception from my mother. The entire crew at the Ranger Station was in advanced search and recovery mode, somewhat precipitated by the presence of a bear in the yard, consistent with my noticed time of disappearance. Other than my disappearance, the presence of a bear in our yard was not unusual, nor were

wild sheep, goats or other animals, wild or domestic.

My parents frequently abandoned me for long periods to some fisheries biologists at a remote research camp, they being the only babysitters available. As a child I was frequently accused of exceeding my vocabulary and its likely no wonder. I was quoting tobacco chewing cowboys and university grad students in the same sentences.

I was given a .22 caliber rifle at my birth. I devoured the first salmon fly I ever got my hands on and produced the same undamaged in my next diaper. I was thrown from my own pony before I was five. My first climbing accident occurred when I made the famous first ascent of my mother's china cabinet (top-roping might have saved some of

her cherished knic-knacs). I hid in culverts to escape fly-rock from blasting, and rode bulldozers before I could walk. We were being programmed differently from very early on.

Since those years I held many different jobs including thirty years working for our governments regulating the wilderness and activities taking place there. Of course during this time, I collected a few of my own stories. Like my dad's, my stories are based on the truth, or at least my recollection of the truth, except where a total adherence to facts and objectivity distracts from the telling.



1. The Sheep Ranger Station office and house as it was in 1982, likely build in late 1950s, early 1960s. There would have been previous structures on site during the tenure of Bill Balmer.



MAGNETIC NORTH IMAGES

Thank you to Brian Hohner and Magnetic North Images, for supporting the Forest History Association of Alberta (FHAA) and the Canadian Fallen Firefighter Foundation (CFFF), by donating a portion of the proceeds from sales of his print Descent to YZH. Brian is renowned for his aviation related art work, but is equally talented with landscape images and birds.

See Brian's website at www.magneticnorthimages.com.

For further information, contact Brian at info@MagneticNorthImages.com.



- 1. Descent to YZH, a painting Brian completed of Alberta's 4-CL215T skimmer airtankers. Proceeds from sales of this print are donated to the FHAA and CFFF.
- 2. Brian's recent painting, LongLiner, an Electra airtanker with retardant load.





WESTERN ARCHRIB 65TH ANNIVERSARY – THE HISTORY, THE FUTURE

BY DAWN FARGEY

Following World War II, there was significant growth in construction, communities and the economy throughout Canada. Like today, when a new product is introduced to the market there is a multitude of entrepreneurs that jump in with both feet, some not as well prepared as others. So it was the case for the glue laminated wood products industry. From 1945, laminated arches, were a new alternative building product primarily for farm buildings, however, the product line expanded quickly. Lumberyards

began producing glue laminated (glulam) arches, however, not many continued, as it was a very specialized product which required additional resources not common to a lumberyard.

Cecil Fargey, founder of Western Archrib had owned and operated a lumberyard in Winnipeg, Manitoba between 1947-1950. Moving from Winnipeg in 1950, Cecil recognized the opportunities that were growing in Alberta. He and his family, Irene (Cumming) his wife, two daughters, Margaret and Marion relocated to Edmonton. Jim, their son had

already moved to Alberta and was in the banking industry at the time. Jim Fargey started with the company in the summer of 1952.

The venture began in 1951 with Cecil buying the first site for the manufacturing operation. This location is now the home to Shaw Cable, at the southeast corner of 50th Street and Sherwood Park Freeway. On October 1, 1951, Cecil Fargey formally incorporated Western Archrib with an initial capital investment of \$17,000. Starting with supplying glue laminated arches for farm buildings,





- 1. Cecil Fargey, opening of Western Archrib's new facility; 1966
- 2. L to R: Jim Fargey, Invited Guest, Invited Guest, Cecil Fargey; 1966
- 3. Aerial view of the Western Archrib facility; 1950s
- 4. Western Archrib's new office; 1966

the market quickly evolved into large ice rinks, curling rinks and storage facilities. A major project undertaken in 1952 and 1953 was the installation of storage facilities for Sherritt Gordon in Fort Saskatchewan. At the time Sherritt Gordon was building a processing plant for its ore mining operations, however, required very large storage facilities until the plant was operational. This was the largest of Western Archrib's projects at the time.

Cecil recognized early on, that to succeed he needed a strong team of employees and manufactured wood product professionals. In 1954, while in Vancouver purchasing equipment, he met with Hans Wieberdorfer and Bert Argent, both who had been released by a defunct competitor. They joined the team in Edmonton and Western Archrib's reputation for knowledgeable and exceptional staff and products became a recognized standard of the company.

By the late 1950's the awareness and demand of glulam beams

and arches as visually pleasing, functional building alternatives were recognized and being incorporated into free standing grocery stores (eg. Safeway), churches, pedestrian bridges, recreational buildings, homes and much more. At that time the longest beam built by Western Archrib was 85 feet long; quite an accomplishment, yet only a beginning. Today, the longest beam produced on record is 148 feet long, weighing 33,000 pounds.

The 1960's were a busy time with many diverse efforts to further the business and this new industry. Cecil and Jim Fargey pushed the federal government and its National Standards Council into developing nationwide standards and codes for manufactured wood products. Western Archrib was already meeting and exceeding these standards and making a name for themselves as visionaries. Stretching into areas of research and development, welcoming challenges and new ideas have become the hallmark of Western Archrib. Constantly pushing the industry and client expectations with innovative











"HE [JIM FARGEY]
ALWAYS HAD THE
HIGHEST REGARD FOR
HIS EMPLOYEES AND
THEIR FAMILIES"

outcomes. By 1966, the time had come to evolve the business and industry further. Western Archrib purchased 10 acres of land on what is now 4315-92 Avenue for the development of a major manufacturing plant. This provided the ability for the Company to grow to meet the demands of the future.

Due to this expansion, Western Archrib was able to take on the production for the first potash storage facility in 1969. From there the opportunities and challenges to tackle major projects was ever present. Buildings and structures across North America have Western Archrib beams, arches and structures sustaining and beautifying them. It was not just the hard assets that gave Western Archrib the edge, it was their mission, as we call it today: To be constantly improving through knowledge, expertise and skills and more importantly, their strong and committed staff.

During good times and bad, Jim Fargey was a stalwart leader, he always had the highest regard for his employees and their families. The dedication, loyalty and high ethical standards that the staff has exuded continuously over the years has been a foundation block of the company. Many employees stayed with Western Archrib for 30 and 40+ years.

It is through commitments and collaboration that has grown Western Archrib into a strong nationwide business. The many partnerships with associations and institutions such as the Canadian Wood Council, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Laminated Timber Institute of Canada, the University of Alberta, and competitors, have grown a well-recognized manufactured wood product industry. So strong was Jim Fargey's commitment to the growth of the industry, the Canadian Wood Council recognized Jim with the Paul Bunyan Award in 1999, as a leader and builder of the industry. This prestigious award is not an annual award; it is only presented to those who have made significant contributions to the wood industry.

Over the years and many economic and political cycles, some of the competitors have been purchased by Western Archrib. In 1987, Western Archrib bought the assets of Dring Laminator and its Boissevain, Manitoba plant. This is a full manufacturing plant, somewhat smaller than the Edmonton operation and just as robust. In Edmonton, the land that was

1. Fargey family at the Western Archrib 65th anniversary celebration; April 6, 2017

Front Row (L to R): M. Joan Fargey, Jim Fargey, Marion Brooker, Elmer Brooker

Middle Row (L to R): Joan Fargey, Alex Kearney, Dawn Fargey, Talyse McDonald, Kyrsten Brooker, John Mellon, Catherine Page

Back Row (L to R): Ian Brooker, Don Buchanan, Carolyn Orth, Alex Brooker, Dave Filipchuk, Michaela Bily, Delphine Brooker, Roger Page, Kent Fargey



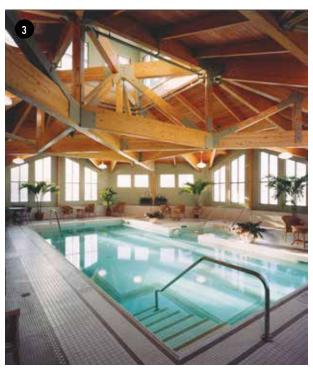


bought in 1966, provided the much needed space for the expansion of the manufacturing facilities and the office on the same site. The current office was built in 1987 and has had a few renovations over the years.

There was a transition period in the mid-1990s when Jim decided it was time for him to step out of the day to day operations as President (at the age of 67) and appoint the best candidate as his replacement. Given the family members were still young to the business, Jim appointed Brian Watson, a long term and highly qualified employee. Maintaining the family legacy Joan Fargey, CA, started in an advisory capacity in the mid-1980s and full time in 2003, and Kent Fargey came on in 1987, as the Junior Sales person, later rising to President.

When giving back to the community, the philosophy has been to provide a hand up, give people the tools and they shall achieve success in their own family's lives. This has an echo effect, resounding throughout the community, schools and City. Habitat for Humanity shares these values and is a partner in improving lives, and our society in a long and sustainable way. Since the birth of the company in 1951, to the milestone of opening the major manufacturing plant in 1966, to the latest technological adoption, Western Archrib has always been willing to change. This ongoing change is required to satisfy the desire to improve, the service and to exceed the standards and expectation of the clients, partners and industry.

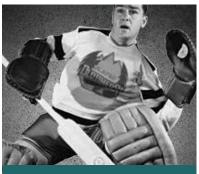
On April 6, 2017, the Fargey's and their Western Archrib family celebrated the first 65 years.



- 2. Example of glue laminated beams constructed by Western Archrib; 2000s
- 3. Example of glue laminated beams constructed by Western Archrib; 1990s

AlbertaForestHistory.ca

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



FEBRUARY 9-10, 2019 AFS OLDTIMERS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Athabasca, Alberta

Contact Charlene Guerin at Charlene.Guerin@gov.ab.ca for further information



FEBRUARY 9-10, 2019 E.S. HUESTIS CURLING BONSPIEL

Athabasca, Alberta

Contact Greg Boyachuk at Greg.Boyachuk@gov.ab.ca for further information



MARCH 21, 2018 FHAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Days Inn & Suites West Edmonton, Edmonton, Alberta

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

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2018 NAIT 1983 CLASS REUNION

The NAIT Forest Technology 35th
Class Reunion will be held at the
Devon Lions Campground.
For further information contact
Ken Yackimec
at kyackimec@mscnet.ca

2019NAIT 1969 CLASS REUNION

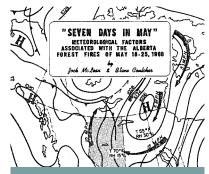
The NAIT Forest Technology 50th Class Reunion will be held in 2019.

Anyone who graduated in 1969, Please contact dmbadger@shaw.ca or wbowles1@telus.net



MAY 2018 HAPPY 60TH BIRTHDAY BERTIE BEAVER

For further information contact Melissa Crawford at melissa.crawford@gov.ab.ca



MAY 2018 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEVEN DAYS IN MAY

If you have stories of the 1968 Fire Season, contact Bruce Mayer at bruce.mayer@gov.ab.ca

RETIREMENTS



KELVIN HIRSCH

After 35 years with Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service (CFS) Kelvin Hirsch retired in May 2017. As a youngster Kelvin spent many summers camping with his family and going on backpacking trips into the mountains. These experiences combined with the influence of his mother's love of trees and father's sense of stewardship for the land led Kelvin to enroll in the forestry program at the University of Alberta (graduating in 1984). Kelvin began working with the CFS in 1982, as a summer student in the forest fire research unit at the Northern Forestry Centre (NoFC) in Edmonton. Having a keen interest in fire, within a few weeks of starting this position he found himself at an experimental burning project in the Northwest Territories with the CFS' most renowned fire scientists. Bitten by the "fire bug" Kelvin worked two more summers with the CFS, and then as a temporary fire research assistant. In 1985, he

a Forest Fire Technology Transfer Specialist based at the CFS District Office in Winnipeg, Manitoba. During his 5 years in Manitoba, Kelvin spent a great deal of time working directly with operational fire management staff and provided fire behaviour predictions to overhead teams on several large wildfires, including in 1989 when a record 3.6 million hectares burned and 32 communities were evacuated. In 1990, Kelvin returned to work at NoFC as a Fire Suppression Research Officer. He conducted technology transfer workshops across Canada on the Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction System and was a guest fire behaviour instructor at the Hinton Training Centre. He also began working on wildland-urban interface issues such as fuels management studies in Banff National Park, and was one of the original signatories, when the Partners in Protection Association was officially incorporated in 1993. Additionally, he collected information on the effectiveness of initial attack crews and analyzed this data as part of his master's thesis completed in 1996 at the University of Toronto. In 1997, Kelvin became a fire research team leader at NoFC. He and his team members worked directly on the first FireSmart manual and also collaborated with government and industry on studies to enhance the integration of fire and forest management. In 2001, Kelvin joined the NoFC management team as a

started a permanent position as

research advisor. He took on new roles in climate change serving as the manager of the forest node of the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network.

However, after the devastating fires in 2003 in BC, and other parts of western Canada, he was drawn back into fire and played a key role in analysis and development of the Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy, which was signed by Forest Ministers from all of the Canadian provinces, territories, and federal government in 2005. Kelvin became the Director of Climate Change and Forest Research at NoFC in 2008 and served as the national leader for the CFS' Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Project. He also led the Technical Advisory Group of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers Climate Change Task Force. Working hand-in-hand with experts in the provinces, territories and CFS, a series of 11 reports, including a comprehensive guidebook on adaptation and sustainable forest management, were published and disseminated through workshops across Canada. At this time, he also played an active role in the development and implementation of the CFS' Innovation Management System which focused on increasing interdisciplinary research, crosscentre collaboration, and the integration of science and policy. During the last three years of his career with CFS, Kelvin spearheaded a new initiative aimed at creating stronger linkages between the

forestry and oil and gas sectors in Alberta and this has led to a new research program aimed at using knowledge of forest ecosystems to enhance reclamation in both the in-situ and mineable oil sands.

Since retiring from the Government of Canada Kelvin has been able to spend more time with his wife of 33 years, Mary, and visiting their sons Matthew and Russell who live in Toronto and Vancouver. respectively. He also is enjoying working around the house and garden and taking long walks in Edmonton's beautiful river valley. Being life-long learners, Kelvin and Mary are looking forward to exploring new places in Edmonton and all across Canada as well as seeing which of their many interests may become full-fledged hobbies. In looking back over the years Kelvin feels very fortunate to have been able to collaborate with so many knowledgeable and dedicated individuals in Alberta, Canada, and around the world who collectively sought to enhance the sustainable management of forests. He is grateful for the opportunity to have worked with the CFS in a variety of positions and on numerous cutting-edge issues in both science and policy at the regional and national level. Most significantly, he is thankful for the chance to experience the tremendous creativity, productivity, and impact that can be achieved when individuals with diverse skills and expertise work together as a team for the good of the whole.



MARTY O'BYRNE

Marty took his first year forestry at the University of New Brunswick, finishing his degree at the University of Alberta in 1978. Jobs were scarce then, so he began his work as a resource professional in Valleyview with Public Lands as a resource agrologist in August 1979. He moved on to Peace River in 1980 to work developing grazing reserves, planning construction and supervising contractors in the field. From 1981 until 1990, Marty was a land management coordinator working in Edmonton as a White Area forest management and general support and planning specialist to the Public Lands field offices. In February 1990, Keith Branter hired Marty as a silviculture forester with the Alberta Forest Service, focussing on developing the regeneration standards manual and teaching the survey. He then took a field position with the Forest Service in Peace River in 1992. There were a number of job title changes and departmental reorganizations over the next 25 years. Marty worked as a field silviculture forester and moved to senior forester for Peace Forest Area for a number of years, then took a position with Forest Management Branch in

2004, essentially focussed as a provincial silviculture specialist but remaining based out of Peace River. He retired on April 28, 2017 with almost 38 years of service. Marty has been a mentor and expert in silviculture activities, a role he had great passion for. At his retirement function, Marty's words of wisdom were to "be flexible and adaptable, to trust in yourself as a professional, continue to learn and build from the things you experience and accomplish, and be decisive in decision-making". Retirement plans include lots of family time, renovations, travel, music and other general hobbies and recreation, choosing to remain in Peace River for the near future. Marty also plans to remain active in Alberta's forest management community in a number of ways his skills may assist.



DOREEN LEICHNITZ

Doreen began working for the Alberta Forest Service in November 1986 as a mapping assistant, in the Edson Forest. From May 1987 to October 1995, Doreen was the radio operator and dispatch supervisor in Edson. In November 1995, Doreen moved to Whitecourt, Northern East

Slopes as the regional computer coordinator. She held that role and other administrative support roles in the following departmental reorganizations, retiring after nearly 30 years, on June 30, 2017. During her career, Doreen supported wildfire operations in finance and administrative roles, including export to Helena, Montana in their dispatch centre. Plans for retirement include camping, restoring furniture, and a trip to China in September 2017.



BARRY NORTHEY Submitted by Bev Wilson

Barry is an Ontario boy who made good working in the forests, streams and mountains of Alberta. His interests in forestry prior to coming to Alberta started with summer work in supervising planting crews and site scarification in Ontario. He moved to Alberta in the early 1970's and enrolled in the BSc Forestry Program at the University of Alberta.

Following graduation, he started his career with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) on a temporary assignment, establishing and sampling growth plots. Following this he became involved in

watershed management working in the Bow Crow Forest and the Tri-Creeks Experimental Watershed Program. His duties in Calgary as a watershed forester varied from streamflow and water quality monitoring, and public awareness programs addressing the effects of forest management on watershed values.

In 1986, Roger Tomlinson (known as the grandfather of GIS) was hired by the Alberta Forest Service to explore how GIS could help the AFS do its job. His efforts had a major impact on Barry, who vowed that he would get GIS on everyone's desktop before he retired, if given the chance. He had a vision of how GIS technology could be applied to forest management. A secondment opportunity in 1995 to Edson, allowed Barry to begin implementing GIS in the field. Upon return to Forest Management Branch, a Forestry GIS coordinator position was created for Barry to continue his GIS outreach. In 2000, Barry worked with departmental IT to deploy ArcView through Citrix, later creating an online training course for staff. The next step for Barry and team was to ensure that the most up to date data sets were available to those requiring the information. While Barry's contribution to sustainable forest resource management may be indirect, he has given literally hundreds of foresters and technologists the tools and spatial data that are needed for decisionmaking in support of department business. These tools we now take for granted. For his work over the years, Barry received departmental recognition, the GIS Community of Practice friends and colleague's recognition in 2014, and the 2016 Canadian Institute of Forestry

Tree of Life Award. Barry was very involved in the Alberta Registered Professional Foresters Association, serving several years on Council. Barry made a major contribution to the formation of the College of Alberta Professional Foresters, for which he was recognized with the Frank Appleby Professional Award in 2000. Barry retired on November 11, 2017, after nearly 37 years with the government of Alberta.



JOHN WITHAM Submitted by John Witham

I was born in North Battleford, Saskatchewan in 1962 and moved in 1970 to Lloydminster, Saskatchewan where I graduated high school. My family was always very outdoorsy, be it fishing, hunting or long summers at my parent's cabin at the lake. My forestry career was a result of this love of the outdoors and the recommendation of my grade 12 teacher to my parents that I attend university. I did not immediately go to university upon completion of high school but bounced from job to job for two years before enrolling in 1982 at Lakeland College in Lloydminster in their university transfer program. In 1983, I ventured off to the University of

Alberta to finish my schooling and graduated in June 1987, with my BSc in Forestry. As was very common for new forestry graduates back then, I started my career on the timber management crew with the Alberta Forest Service, working in the Lac La Biche (Calling Lake), Fort McMurray, Peace River and finally Edson Forests, before getting my first wage forester position in Edson, in November 1988, under the new Public Lands Development Program. Next was a transfer and promotion in May 1990, to project forester which eventually became a permanent position in 1994 in Whitecourt working on the new Alberta Newsprint Company Forest Management Agreement. One constant with government is change, and in 1995 with the organizational changes, I found myself being transferred back to the Edson Forest as an operations forester working out of the Cold Creek Ranger Station. In January 2005, I was seconded/transferred to the senior forester position looking after the newly restructured Coniferous Community Timber Permit Program for the Forest Operations Branch before ending up in the Forest Management Branch in 2006. I also successfully completed the Alberta Advanced Forest Management Institute program at this time. I maintained my office in Cold Creek until the office was eventually closed in December 2013, at which time I transferred to the office in Drayton Valley. Over my 31 years with the government it was never the job but always the people I got to work with, both fellow employees and clients who made my career so rewarding. Oh, the job offered opportunities to do and see some memorable things, but it will be the people I remember

most. So many characters and fun times. In retirement, I plan to travel some, master guitar, fish and hunt a lot and hopefully get a game or two of golf in.



ELDON LUND

A retirement party was held for Eldon Lund on October 3, 2017, after 42 years with the Alberta government. He started with Alberta Environment, Water Resources in September 1975 as a Maintenance Service Worker at Lambton Park. working in the mechanical section. While there he completed a fouryear heavy equipment technician apprenticeship at NAIT, receiving his Journeyman and Interprovincial Red Seal Certificate in 1981. Eldon returned to NAIT over the years to take welding and many upgrading courses. He travelled to many remote locations in Alberta, repairing equipment used in the construction and maintenance of dams and water control structures. including the Dickson and Paddle River Dams. Eldon became the mechanical supervisor in 1988. Repairs were made to all makes and types of heavy equipment, vehicles, marine, off road and small equipment. Mechanical and welding services for Alberta Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife and Alberta Environment were consolidated in 1997, at the Forestry warehouse location, with Eldon as the mechanical supervisor. Eldon recalls that 1998 was a year to remember, "as it was a very bad fire year, and my first year of a very quick learning curve". He continued supervising mechanical operations until his retirement in September 2017.

Throughout his career, he managed to coach hockey for 12 years (three boys playing), and spent many years driving the boys throughout Alberta to competitively race motocross. Eldon was also the head mechanic, not only for his own kids, but several others when needed. After the kids had moved out. Eldon and his wife Tina ioined Tae-Kwon Do, and after many years of training (not to mention a few broken bones), they advanced to a Black Stripe. Eldon is looking forward to spending time with his four grandchildren, camping, travelling, hunting and fishing.



VAL HOOVER

On December 22, 2017, Val Hoover retired after 35 years of government service. Val joined the department of Energy and Natural

Resources in 1982, to assist with the creation of the first automated land registry system (LSAS). She joined Public Lands Division in 1986 and had a progressive career as Team Lead and Manager in a variety of business areas. Since 2002, Val has been the Director of the area responsible for business administration associated with the Public Lands Act. She especially enjoyed new challenges, working with her colleagues on a variety of projects, and assisting Albertans with their land requests. Retirement plans for Val include travel and lots of unscheduled leisure time!



JAN PATTERSON

Jan Patterson retired on December 31, 2017, after 45 years with the Alberta government. Edmonton was home for Jan through her childhood, though her family has farmed in the Bruderheim and Lamont area for more than 100 years. With a passion for sports, Jan took an academic route, considered unconventional for girls at the time, and trained in physical education and human resources. Jan knew two things for sure, she loved coaching but not teaching high school physical education. Fortunately for her, the Director of Soil and Feed Testing in

Alberta Agriculture was also a big sports fan and took a chance on the fresh faced graduate with an interest in the farming world. Jan started her government career in the Soil and Feed Testing branch, and for the next eight years she was responsible for overseeing all the computer work. Once the lab testing was completed this information was then entered into a system providing reports for the applicants. Jan did field work during the summer and she assisted staff members working on their masters and or PhD's in plant pathology and soils. One of the biggest opportunities working with Agriculture was the ability to travel to many countries to learn about agricultural practices. She was fortunate enough to travel through Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, South America and parts of Asia. This position worked well for her as the department provided her time off for national and international travel with various men's volleyball teams. Jan attended four Olympic Games either working or representing Canada and continued her volunteer work with volleyball in administration for 25 years.

In 1980, it was time for a change. Jan applied with the Department of Energy and Natural Resources where she became a land administrator in agriculture lands. Missing computer work, she moved onto to Land Management within the department. Here she was responsible for setting up a computer system to track government vehicle expenditures and was responsible for the fleet of vehicles in the Lands Division. At the time, she started tracking forestry vehicle expenditures and working very closely with Wayne Barker and Barry Fenby at the Forestry warehouse. Jan was given freedom to expand and diversify

her role in land management and began organizing and facilitating yearly Lands conferences. She was involved in a woman's management program, and ended up working at the forestry warehouse as a manager. As we all know, in government all things change and the agriculture component of Lands Division was moved to the Department of Agriculture in 1991, leaving the forestry work behind. In Agriculture, Jan's role was primarily computer work and facilitating workshops for the department and the Lands Division. Jan was somewhat involved with "Roping the Web," the first GoA website. This new position involved increased communications work along with training and working on Lands FOIP requests. Her role included assisting staff with publishing documents and manuals for print.

In 2001, agricultural lands administration was moved to the new Department of Sustainable Resource Development, where again Jan's role and duties changed. In her new role as communication officer, she was responsible for all of Lands web content. In 2005, Public Information and Educational Outreach (PIEOPS) was established and was put in charge of the department's external and internal website and Lands FOIP requests. In addition to her regular duties, Jan was also responsible for chairing the department's annual recognition event, something she did for ten years. In 2005, Jan started working on forestry's web content by assisting Kurt Gonzales. One of the highlights of this work was helping to develop the wildfire phone application. Jan's last few years of work were spent with the Communications Branch where she took her web skillsets and led

the team responsible for the department's website. Jan was still looking after Lands and Forestry Divisions web content along with the overall website and the department's social media upon her retirement.



RAY AULT Submitted by Ray Ault

Born in Calgary, our family lived in Alberta until I was six. when we moved to California. We moved to Williams Lake, B.C. in 1971, living there for a few years. After I graduated high school in Salmon Arm, I worked on the B.C. Forest Service student crew, followed by three summers on the suppression crew. In 1980, the B.C. Rapattack Program moved to Salmon Arm, and I was lucky to be one of the local hires on the new provincial crew. In 1982, three Alberta Forest Service staff (Don Pope, Mike Poscente and Denis Sanregret) visited Salmon Arm to scout out the program and determine if rappel was suitable for Alberta. Following that visit, I was offered a job in Alberta. I arrived at the Depot (Provincial Forest Fire Centre) in the spring of 1983 to help implement a rappel program, as part of the

new provincial Helitack initiative. In the first year, Denis and I were coordinators working for Terry Van Nest. My role was to get the rappel program up and running, and this included rappel training and writing a rappel operations manual. I worked with Ken South in Hinton to develop a course outline. There were 10 - seven person crews, two of which were trained in rappel in 1983, followed by an additional two crews in 1984. In 1985, seventy firefighters were rappel trained. Revie Lieskovsky took over the program in 1985, and Jack Burbidge and I were the coordinators that year. Eight crews were on shift at one time, and were assigned to one of eight medium helicopters. Basing and logistics were coordinated from Edmonton by Lou Boulet and Mike Dubina. By 1985, Alberta was operating the largest rappel program in North America. Over the three years I was involved with the Helitack program I made some great friends. Fellows who were on those first crews who I still cross paths with include: Dave Coish, Brent Schleppe, Wayne Crocker, Gord Glover, Marc Freedman, Joe Lyons, Morgan Kehr, John Kuzemka and Gary Lynch. I left Helitack in 1986 to start a contract wildland fire company which I ran until the mid 1990s.

In January 2001, I returned to Hinton with Judi Beck and Greg Baxter working for the Forest Engineering Research Institute (FERIC). Gary Dakin joined us on secondment soon afterward followed by student Rex Hsieh. The five of us, with the support of managers Marv Clark and Alex Sinclair in Vancouver, developed

PROVINCIAL WAREHOUSE AND SERVICE CENTRE

When asked for her work history, Marie Halladay instead provided thoughts on the work that her, Fred Malott and Julie Jarry participated in over the past many years. Major wildfires and incidents that the warehouse service section supported include Virginia Hills, Chisholm, Mitsue, House River, Lost Creek, 2011 Flat Top (Slave Lake), southern Alberta floods in 2013, Peace River floods, a very busy 2015, 2016 Horse River (Fort McMurray), and most recently the 2017 Kenow Mountain (Waterton) wildfire. On top of that were the prescribed fires and the export and import resource work. Marie said that "basically any wildfire that called for extra equipment in any area, we were involved with, whether getting the equipment ready, trailer support needs, assisting in the imported crews and imported equipment". The team also spent time out at wildfire camps assisting with support needs and logistics.

Julie experienced her first wildfire camp in the Red Earth Creek area in 2011 (Utikuma wildfire); Fred was at his first wildfire camp at Steen River base camp in 2009. Marie's first wildfire experience was during her time in Slave Lake. At that time, warehouse people also supported many other roles, including food camp assistants and delivery drivers. The area covered was from north of Red Earth, across to Wabasca, north of High Prairie and south of Chisholm Tower.

In closing, Marie stated that her, Fred and Julie "have seen and heard things we do not discuss for fear it may incriminate us. That's what being a warehouse person is. You see the evil but never speak of it".



FRED MALOTT

Fred joined the Alberta government in 2004 after 25 years with the Canadian military, three years with EMCO and two years with the Nestle distribution centre. He retired April 28, 2017 with 13 years at the Forestry Warehouse and Service Centre. At his retirement, colleagues reflected that Fred was respected, stubborn, and known for getting the job done. He was also credited for being a good mentor to new staff. It was estimated he put together 11,000 pump kits, 11,000 saw kits and went through miles and miles of packing tape in doing so. Fred was successful in his election bid in October 2017, and will continue his community involvement with the Town of Legal as a new Councillor. Fred and his wife Barb celebrated their 26th anniversary on April 26, 2017.



MARIE HALLADAY

Marie started her career with the Alberta Forest Service in the Slave Lake Forest warehouse, working there from 1988 to 1995. Moving to Edmonton, Marie was hired on as an emergency warehouse stockkeeper in spring, 1998 to assist the provincial warehouse during the Virginia Hills wildfire. She stayed employed and in 2003 became acting supervisor of the warehouse section. In 2004, Marie became the permanent warehouse services supervisor. Marie retired January 2, 2018.



JULIE JARRY

Julie was hired as a seasonal stockkeeper in spring, 2005 for the fire season, returning again in 2006. This was the year that the department hired hundreds of staff to deal with the mountain pine beetle inflight from B.C. Julie stayed throughout the winter supplying camp, and chainsaw equipment to the crews. In June, 2007, Julie was hired on as a permanent stockkeeper. Julie retired January 2018.

a practical, operational wildfire research program based at the Hinton Training Centre. It was a lot of fun and a terrific job. Over the years we accomplished many projects, with a bunch of terrific folks in the field; sprinkler testing for wildfires, wildland firefighter footwear, smoke detection cameras, airtanker and retardant drop patterns, etc. Our access to the fireline and the support we received from wildfire staff made our program unique and contributed to the success. Many people made contributions to the program, including Dave Schroeder, Jon Large, Roy Campbell, Rory Thompson, Steve Hvenegaard, Colleen Mooney and Jim Thomasson. Chad Gardeski took over the role of research leader for the wildfire program this fall. FERIC was amalgamated with other forest research programs in 2007 into FPInnovations. My retirement plans are still under development. For now, we will stay in Ranfurly on our hobby farm with our herd of alpacas. I will travel and work at keeping fit by maintaining the old initial attack fitness standard.



STEFAN DEMHARTER

After having completed a 35-year career in the forest sector, Stefan Demharter, Vice President, Wood

Products, will be retiring on March 31, 2018, to spend more time with his family. Stefan graduated from the British Columbia Institute of Technology, Forest Products Technology program in 1982. He is also an Applied Science Technologist and Project Management Professional. He joined Millar Western in 2001 as Operations Manager, Whitecourt Wood Products, following an 11-year career as Area Manager with Tolko Industries Ltd., and three years with Slocan as a Division Manager. In 2003, Stefan was appointed General Manager, Lumber, and in 2006, he was named General Manager, Wood Products, with responsibility for lumber and woodlands operations. He was named to his current position in July 2012. Within Canada's lumber industry, few can surpass Stefan's knowledge of lumber manufacturing and facility optimization. Under his guidance, Millar Western's Wood Products Division has earned a reputation as one of the most efficient and cost-effective in the industry. Stefan led the development of several major capital projects, including optimization of the Whitecourt sawmill, which involved the design and installation of a second production line, as well as integration of Mostowich Lumber into our business and the subsequent rebuilding of the Fox Creek sawmill. Responding to a challenging fibre situation, he has recently spearheaded the development of an aspen lumber program, to make better use of an underutilized species, and improve the long-term viability of our lumber operations. As a member of the executive team, Stefan has always championed the best interests of the company and its people and has been especially passionate about creating a safe

work environment for employees. An active member of the communities he's lived in, Stefan has been the President of the Barriere Chamber of Commerce, a hockey coach, and vice president and president of local minor hockey associations.



DR. JOHN SPENCE Submitted by Ellen Macdonald

John grew up in Pennsylvania, completed his BSc at Washington & Jefferson College, followed by an MSc at University of Vermont. He came to Canada to complete a PhD at the University of British Columbia and never left. Immediately following his PhD in 1979, he was recruited to the Department of Entomology, in the Department of Agriculture & Forestry at the University of Alberta (U of A), as a Killam Postdoctoral Fellow. The U of A quickly realized his promise and recruited him into a position as Assistant Professor. John continued with the department, including its dissolution and incorporation into the Department of Biological Sciences in the Faculty of Science in the early 1990s. He was persuaded to return to his original Faculty (now Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences) in 2001, to take on the position of Chair of the Department

of Renewable Resources, a position he held for ten years. During that time, he oversaw a period of unprecedented growth and turnover in the department ushering in a large cohort of new, young academics, and supporting a many-fold increase in research funding and activity.

John is a forest entomologist with a deep passion for the most biodiverse group of organisms, and the one that typically receives the least attention. He is especially fond of beetles. John authored or coauthored over 300 scientific articles, was the recipient of the Canadian Forestry Scientific Achievement Award, the CIF Tree of Life Award, the Gold Medal from the Entomological Society of Canada, and the Scientific Achievement Award from IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations). Throughout his career, John enjoyed many productive collaborations with colleagues near and far. He had especially close ties with colleagues in Scandinavia and in recent years enjoyed his time doing field research in China. He is well known for his outstanding skills in academic writing and has been heavily involved in editorial duties for academic journals with particularly long, and notable, service with the international journal Ecography. As an instructor he is rigorous, yet engaging, and he has inspired many, many students into a fascination for, and appreciation of, invertebrates. John is widely recognized for his excellence as a mentor and he supervised nearly 100 MSc and PhD students during his career; many have gone on to prominent roles in academia, government and industry.

John, along with Dr. Jan Volney, was instrumental in establishing the Ecosystem Management **Emulating Natural Disturbance**

(EMEND) research project near Peace River. EMEND was recognized with an Alberta Emerald award, an ASTech Award (Alberta Science and Technology), the Canadian Forest Service Award of Merit, and the Natural Resources Canada Departmental Award; it has been used by the government of Canada as an exemplar of Canada's leadership in sustainable forest management, and for 20 years has been producing solid science in support of innovative approaches to managing forests in ways that will support a diversity of economic, ecological and social values. John retired from the University of Alberta in 2017.



TERRY KRISTOFF Submitted by Terry Kristoff

Raised on a mixed farm near Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, Terry started work as a tree planter for Simpson Timber in the summer of 1977. He ended up loving the work and the people, grass root values foresters have. After completing a Bachelor of Education from the University of Regina in 1978, Terry returned to work for Simpson as a tree planter, regeneration surveyor, planting supervisor and silviculturist during summer months, and in the

sawmill and log yard in the winter until 1980, when he returned to school, this time the University of Alberta. He graduated with a BSc in Forestry in 1982, and spent one year as the executive director of the Alberta Forestry Association, working for Arden Rytz (Alberta Forest Products Association) and Chuck Geale (Alberta Forest Service). With a thirst for knowledge, Terry pursued a Masters in Timber Supply Modeling at the University of Alberta under Jim Beck, graduating in 1986.

In May 1986, Terry hired on as a summer student with Zeidler Forest Industries. This was the same year the strike began, Terry got experience as a sawmill foreman, eventually ending up in the bush. By 1989, he was promoted to woodlands superintendent. He logged and delivered 450,000 cubic metres to the yard annually, but also did all the "book learning stuff", as his boss Garry Labby would say. Terry was active on a number of Alberta Forest Products Association committees, including growth and yield, and as the chair of the forest management committee. When West Fraser purchased Zeidler in 1999, his role changed to management forester developing and implementing forest management plans for the two Forest Management Agreements (FMA), and on the company quotas in other company FMAs. His working title the last few years has been planning superintendent for West Fraser, Slave Lake Region. Terry retired January 1, 2018, and has been enjoying every minute.

On his career, Terry remembers doing regeneration surveys with his best friend Jim Kitz in the 1970s, looking for two 2-year-old spruce in a plot, and discussing how that standard didn't seem right, and likely would

not ensure future forests. That has changed over the last 30 years, and Terry was proud to be part of that process. His future will likely involve a little teaching, as his wife MJ and he have always enjoyed that aspect of the profession. Retirement also includes travel, he would like to see all of Canada and the U.S. at a more leisurely pace with their travel trailer. They also have an African Safari in the works.

Terry and MJ were married in September 1987, and have three children; Matthew, Shauna and Sarah. Matthew and Sarah are second generation family working in forestry, Sarah at Tolko in High Level and Matthew at GreenLink Forestry in Edmonton. Shauna is a registered nurse at the Slave Lake hospital. Terry's entire career has basically been in Slave Lake, a beautiful countryside in which to raise a family. There are no plans to leave Slave Lake, the cabin at Marten Beach is for summer time fun. Slave Lake is still one of the best places to hunt and fish in Alberta. Retirement will also mean more golfing, x-country skiing, hiking and enjoying stress-free days. Terry is a die-hard Saskatchewan Rough Riders fan, and his wife MJ, is a big time Edmonton Eskimos fan; football games are a fun time in the Kristoff house.

Over the years Terry has been a community supporter with his involvement in Junior Forest Wardens, youth soccer and hockey, church council, support for the wildfires in 1998, 2001 and 2011, and the floods of 1988 and 2011. Terry is a board member for the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation, and spends many hours on field trips with youth, teaching them about the forest and the resources in the forest. He has also been teaching a university forest science

course for the Indigenous Teacher Education program at Northern Lakes College, since 2004. Colleagues are unanimous in their praise for Terry; he is a great leader, a terrific mentor, and he will be missed!



DIANE RENAUD Submitted by Richard Briand

Diane Renaud earned a degree in forestry (with honours) from Lakehead University in 1981. Her early work experience included working as a Forest Farm Worker for Canadian International Paper between 1978 and 1980. At the Forest Farm, she planted trees, felled, bucked and extracted wood in clean-up cuts, commercial thinning and commercial seed orchards. She gained valuable experience in nursery culture systems, and in labour intensive practices, in a small bareroot and container tree nursery. She built on that experience in 1981 as a tree planter for Roots Reforestation. Being a hard-working individual, Diane reminisces that it was many years before her professional salary surpassed what she earned as a tree planter! From 1981 to 1988, Diane worked for the British Columbia Forest Service, initially as a Timber Resource Assistant, but

her passion for silviculture led her to roles as a Silviculture Technician, and then a District Silviculturist. In 1988, Diane left B.C. for a job with Millar Western Forest Products in Whitecourt as a Silviculture Forester. At Millar Western, she supervised site preparation and tree planting activities, but also worked on procedures for improving stock handling, regeneration performance, survival monitoring and formalized pre- and post-harvest silviculture prescriptions.

In 1992, Diane left Millar Western to join the silviculture team with Weldwood of Canada in Hinton. In addition to traditional silviculture duties, she managed the company tree nursery, and the initiation of the company's tree improvement program. Diane was appointed to the role of Tree Improvement Forester in 1996. In this capacity, she coordinated the planning, implementation, delivery and monitoring of tree improvement programs for white spruce, lodgepole pine and black spruce. She was a driving force behind the creation of the Huallen Seed Orchard Company and many of the tree improvement cooperatives that exist in Alberta today. Finally, in 2003, Diane was asked to lead Hinton's silvilculture department, and her group was responsible for implementing reforestation and reclamation program on the million-hectare Forest Management Area (FMA). Her role was to deliver on programs that were integrated both strategically and tactically in accordance to higher level plans, as well as changing societal and regulatory environments. She embraced her role as a coach, and focused on developing staff and other necessary resources for the delivery of a cost effective,

environmentally sustainable and safe reforestation program. West Fraser acquired the Hinton operation in 2005 and the company wisely decided that she should continue in her role as the silviculture lead. In 2013, her role was expanded to include the Edson FMA which West Fraser purchased. Diane was a Registered Professional Forester in Alberta and B.C., was actively involved in many committees including the Alberta Forest Products Association Silviculture Subcommittee, the Alberta Advanced Forest Management Institute, the Northern Silviculture Committee, the Forest Genetics Resource Council and the Forest Herbicide Task Force.

Diane's positive attitude, experience, expertise, work ethic and dedication will be missed by her colleagues. Over the past several years, Diane has picked up the fiddle again and has enjoyed playing with a local group. In retirement, she also plans to work on other artistic interests, including painting!



MAXINE LIGHTFOOT
Submitted by Maxine Lightfoot

I was born and raised on a farm just outside of Grande Prairie and graduated from the Grande

Prairie Regional College with an Office Administration Diploma in 1977. Someone asked why I took this job, it was simply because I needed one, and working for the government would probably be OK. I commenced January 2, 1978 in Grande Prairie for the Alberta Forest Service as a Clerk-Steno (steno designation meant that you could take and translate shorthand) for the Timber Management Section. The Forest Superintendent was Cliff Smith and section head was Craig Quintilio. The current building on 108 Street and 84 Avenue was new then, and housed forest headquarters on the main floor, and DG2 Grovedale District in the basement. The office had "modern" electric IBM typewriters, but it would be a couple of years before we got the "new" self correcting models.

I moved into the Clerk III role in the early 1980s, taking on the role of paying bills, staff and tracking budgets. I then moved into the role of Office Manager/AO1 in 1984, and continued in that role until April 21, 2017. There have been many changes in how we did business; going from manual handwritten ledgers for tracking budgets, to computers and main frame computer access. Although the processes have changed, the quest to forecast and track budgets is still a challenge today. Managers over the years included Mort Timanson, Ed Ritcey, Jim Maitland, Don Cousins and Wally Born. Departmental changes in government over the years were constant, proving to be very challenging. The 2015 department changes, left the Finance and Administration staff with Environment and Parks, working under a Service Level Agreement to provide Agriculture and Forestry

with finance and administration support. Although never a Junior Forest Ranger, I did suit up in the "orange" firefighter coveralls for the annual Grande Prairie Stompeed chilli-cook off. And I was also fortunate to wear the Bertie Beaver costume a couple of times. The emergent nature of the wildfire program was always fascinating, and provided opportunity to use my skills in the field, and be a part of the team that was very focused on the task at hand. The one thing that has not changed in wildfire, is the instant payment required for emergency firefighters, by physically writing cheques, as they were released from duty. It was the practice in 1978, and is still the practice today. Wildfire was a good training ground for the mountain pine beetle invasion of 2006. This proved to be huge challenge for the next 12 years in the Grande Prairie area, and is still ongoing.

The challenges and the support of all staff in the organization is what kept my interest in my job. There was always a feeling that we were in this together and wanted to lead, make changes and make a difference. I have been fortunate to have worked with many people who are committed and have made a difference. Thank you to all those that supported me over my career, I am very fortunate to have worked with you. My husband, Larry, and I have two children that we are very proud of, and a granddaughter we adore. Retirement plans are simply to take life at a little slower pace, to travel and enjoy family.

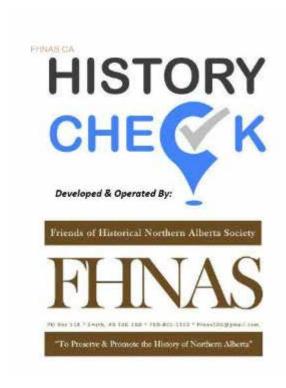


GORD LEHN

Gord graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science in Forest Science in 1977, and a Masters in Forestry in 1979. Other graduates included Bill Rugg, Steve

Luchkow, Brain Davies, Matt Gibbon, Margarete Hee, Jean Lussier, Tim Juhlin, Horst Winter, Jim McCammon, Lindsey Kirkoff, Jim Stevenson and Don Gelinas. From 1979 to 1988, Gord worked in the Whitecourt Forest for the Alberta Forest Service in a variety of positions, from landuse planning, woods operations and silviculture; moving to Edmonton in 1986 in woods operations. In 1988, Gord took on the position of Woodlands Manager with Spray Lake Sawmills until 2012. During this time period he also played an active role with the Alberta Forest Products Association, participating on a large number of technical committees, several Ministerial advisory committees and was a member of the Board of

Directors for 15 years. During the last 5 years, Gord took on a modified role with the company, focussing on First Nations consultation and community relations. Highlights over Gord's tenure with Spray Lake Sawmills included consolidating the company's quotas into a Forest Management Agreement, achieving different forest certification schemes, and overseeing the development of a forest management plan in a highly challenging part of the province. Gord retired from Spray Lake Sawmills in October, 2017. Plans for retirement include motorcycle touring, hunting (mostly bird hunting with his pointing lab), scuba diving, travelling, wood working and anything else that happens to tickle his fancy along the way.



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OBITUARIES

PATRICK "BUTCH" WILSON Submitted by Gary Davis

Patrick passed away January 12, 2017 at the age of 71 years. Pat started with the Alberta Forest Service in the fall of 1964 where he worked with the Slave Lake timber management crew. This was a very busy time for timber management in Alberta, the quota reconnaissance cruising was to start in early winter, 1965. This provincewide timber cruise was initiated to determine the volume of timber available, with different age classes, so that a sustainable annual allowable cut could be determined. This timber cruise became the backbone of the new quota system established in 1966. Patrick moved on and became a Forest Officer in the Slave Lake Ranger District, Slave Lake Forest. In 1970, he then moved to the Whitecourt Forest as a Forest Management Technician, where he remained until 1973. Patrick then went to work for Millar Western Industries in their woodlands section and stayed with Millar Western until 1979. He then worked for B and B Wilson as a grader operator until 1981. On leaving, he then took a job with the Town of Whitecourt in their recreation department, remaining until 1993. Patrick then returned to work for B and B Wilson where he remained until his passing in 2017. Pat was a very good curler, as those that took part in the Huestis bonspiels can attest to. He also spent a lot of time on the golf course. If you ever wondered on

how good a curler, golfer or timber grader operator Pat was, all you had to do was ask him. Pat had many personal quality traits, but lack of confidence was not one of them.

NEIL GILLIAT

Born February 16, 1928 near Edenthorpe, South Yorkshire, Neil William Winn Gilliat passed away in Red Deer, Alberta on February 8, 2017, at the age of 88 years. After being honourable discharged from the Black Watch Regiment, he travelled to Canada with the intent of working his way to Australia, but never made it past the Rocky Mountains. Neil became one of the first Forest Rangers in the newly created Department of Lands an Forests in Alberta. He started as a ranger in Entrance, Alberta, met his wife Jean in Hythe, and finished his career with forestry as the Forest Superintendent in Slave Lake. After a few years with Regional Economic Expansion, he struck out on his own, first owning a car dealership in Slave Lake, then as a consultant helping to bring new business ventures to Alberta such as Westcan malting (now Rahr Malting Co) plant in Alix, Alberta. He authored two books on his life, If Moose Could Only Talk and Watch Over the Forest.

Neil was born in the United Kingdom and emigrated to Canada in the late 1940s with his cousin Rex Winn. The 'two English Guys' went to work with the Alberta Forest Service at Entrance. Following that Neil had a number of roles, ranger in Hythe District in 1952, audit branch in Edmonton in 1956, Assistant Superintendent Edson 1956, Assistant Superintendent Rocky Mountain House 1959, Assistant Superintendent Whitecourt 1963, and Superintendent Slave Lake Forest 1963. Neil was appointed coordinator of Human Resources in 1968, a socio-economic programme in the northern region aimed at assisting Aboriginal people to cope with the changing times. Neil left government in 1972 starting a number of new careers, founder of a waferboard plant in Slave Lake, Gilliat Motors in Slave Lake, world's largest malt plant in Alix, Alberta, a biochemistry plant in Leduc, and at 84 assisted his daughter in the pub business at the Alix Hotel.

Joe McWilliams from the Lakeside Leader in Slave Lake wrote the following about Neil Gilliat and his career.

Neil Gilliat, who passed away recently at the age of 88, was a significant figure in Slave Lake's 'boom town' period. He came here as the Slave Lake Forest Superintendent in 1964, also serving in a community development leadership role before going into private business. A resident of Red Deer for the past 25 years or so, Gilliat died on February 8, 2017 at a hospice in that city, after a period of illness. Gilliat started in the Alberta Forest Service in 1948, along with his

cousin Rex Winn. The pair had come over from England a year earlier, first trying their luck with jobs in Ontario before heading west. They figured they'd work the summer in Alberta, then head for Australia. Sent to work building telegraph lines in the Rockies for the Forest Service, they fell in love with the land and the lifestyle and stuck around. And by the time Gilliat was posted to Slave Lake as superintendent, he had served in Entrance, Hythe, Rocky Mountain House and Whitecourt. Gilliat told the story of his arrival and early years in Slave Lake in the book Watch Over the Forest, the second volume of memoirs, published in 1999. It followed, If Moose Could Only Talk, which came out a year earlier and covers his early years in the mountains with the Forest Service.

Con Dermott arrived in Slave Lake as a young government forester at about the same time as Gilliat, who became not only his boss but also his mentor. He remembers a man whose interest in community and economic development went far beyond the customary role of a district superintendent of forestry. "This whole industrial area out here (Mitsue Industrial Park) was one of his ideas", Dermott says. Dermott says there was only the vaguest notion of what sort of timber resources existed in the northern part of the district. Gilliat, who was keen to promote the development of the industry, wanted that cleared up, and he ordered Dermott to get out there and get some numbers. And you learned not to ask 'how', because the boss's response would be: 'That's what I hire you for! Get it done!"" "It was so much fun", Dermott recalls. "He was a great boss."

The major highlight of Gilliat's forestry tenure in Slave Lake was the 1968 Slave Lake Fire (Vega Wildfire), another of those nasty May blazes that defy all attempts to control them. In Watch Over The Forest, he called it 'The Holocaust'. It was followed by flooding, a combination not seen again until 2011. It was a hard act to follow, and Gilliat was willing to try something new. Later that year he accepted the positon of manager of the Housing and Rural Development Authority (HRDA), which looked for ways to use provincial and federal funds flowing in to fix the economically depressed state of communities in the area. All sorts of things came out of that effort, including a new school (Roland Michener), a new highway (Highway 88), and the Mitsue Industrial Park. Lorne Larson was one of Gilliat's colleagues on the HRDA board. He recalls him as "an astute political actor", who knew how to get things done. One of the things he found most endearing about Gilliat, he says, was Gilliat's self-deprecating claim (also related in one of his books) that, 'There wasn't a horse in the West that couldn't throw me". Dennis Barton was one of the local 'movers and shakers' of Slave Lake at the time and a colleague of Gilliat's in community development initiatives. He remembers Gilliat as a guy who "opened a lot of doors", and knew how to "cut through government red tape". Barton says to this day he uses methods he learned from Gilliat in dealing with government.

CONRAD BELLO

Conrad Bello, longtime resident of Rocky Mountain House, passed

away on February 14, 2017, at the age of 87 years. Conrad was born in Mountain Park in 1929. In 1962, he joined the Alberta Forest Service, which would become his life career. In 1971, Conrad and Doreen moved to Rainbow Lake, where they lived for 18 years. Upon retirement in 1989, they returned to Rocky Mountain House where he lived until his passing.

TOM BREWER

Born June 22, 1944, Tom passed away on February 18, 2017 at the age of 72. Tom spent his elementary school years at the Sedbergh School, Montebello, Quebec, finishing high school in Toronto. He went to Lakehead University for two years in their forestry program, transferring to the University of New Brunswick, graduating with a BSc in Forestry in 1970. He then reconnected with elementary school friend Steve Beaufoy. He then worked for a small sawmill company based out of Oxford, Nova Scotia, before joining Procter and Gamble in Grande Prairie in 1973. Tom left Procter and Gamble in the first half of the 1980's and opened up the Fireside Shop in Grande Prairie, doing forestry consulting on the side. Tom was an active member of his community, President of the Kinsmen Club, a Rotarian, Vestry member of the Christ Church Anglican, president of the Shores Condominium Society, member of the Grande Prairie College Board, and several other committees and community organizations.

DONNA CARTER

Born April 5, 1960, Donna passed away on March 3, 2017 at the age of 56 years. Donna retired from the Alberta government on May

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1, 2015 after nearly 34 years of service working in financial and administrative roles. Donna was more than just a hardworking and dedicated co-worker and colleague to many who knew her. During her years she was a great co-worker, friend and mentor to the staff she interacted with both in Edmonton and around the province. She formed many long term friendships with her workmates who will miss her greatly. Recently she had come out of retirement to assist Forestry.

ROSS GATES

Ross Robert Gates was born on March 23, 1948, in Beaverlodge, Alberta and passed away on February 18, 2017 at the age of 67 years. Ross lived his younger childhood years in Beaverlodge, Jasper and Penticton. His family moved to Ponoka, Alberta in 1965. He attended High School in Ponoka and worked at several jobs in the community as well as in the oil fields during his later teens and early twenties. Ross started working at Alberta Hospital Ponoka in 1969. Ross married Billie Savage on February 27, 1971. After their wedding Ross went back to school to work on a registered nursing degree at Red Deer College and during this time worked in Red Deer while living in Sylvan Lake. Ross decided to make a change in career paths and applied to the Alberta Forest Service for a position as a forestry lookout observer. His first position was at Sunshine/O'Chiese Tower on the O'Chiese Reserve and the Rocky Tower, both near Rocky Mountain House. He and Billie were practically adopted by the local First Nations people as he had developed such a strong relationship with them. Ross was later posted to the White Mountain

Tower in the Saddle Hills near Spirit River, where he spent most of his 37-year career with the Alberta Forest Service. He was recognized as being one of the longest serving and most dedicated members of the Forest Service. Ross made friends easily with everyone he met. His quick wit and great sense of humour endeared him to everyone. Ross was a very kind and compassionate person.

ROGER HAMILTON

Roger Hamilton passed away at the age of 76 years on March 15, 2017. Roger was born on December 19, 1940 in and raised in Calgary. He graduated from the University of British Columbia with a degree in forestry in 1965. As a Registered Professional Forester, he spent his career with the Alberta Forest Service, primarily in silviculture. Roger spent many years at the Pine Ridge Forest Nursery, living in Smoky Lake.

JIM MILLAR

Born July 6, 1940, Jim passed away March 17, 2017, at the age of 76 years. Co-Chairman, alongside brother Mac, of Millar Western Forest Products Ltd., Jim spent his entire career working in the Millar group of companies. A civil engineer by training, Jim first worked in the construction arm of the family business, in its day a major force in Alberta's road and bridge building sector. As President of Western Construction and of Millar Western Industries, Jim was responsible for hundreds of kilometres of roads in northern Alberta, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and many large bridge projects, including five structures

across the Athabasca River; two major spans across the North Saskatchewan; and Alberta's largest suspension bridge, which crosses the Peace River at Dunvegan.

Following in the footsteps of their grandfather, father and uncles, Jim and Mac oversaw significant growth and expansion of Millar Western, as it added capacity and diversified into new ventures, such as pulp. Jim was largely responsible for the company's acquisition of the Boyle sawmill, helped oversee the rebuilding of the Whitecourt sawmill, and was a force behind the purchase and rebuilding of the Fox Creek sawmill. He was very pleased when, with these lumber assets, Millar Western's capacity came to exceed half a billion board feet per year – quite an accomplishment for a family operation, and one he felt his grandfather would have been proud of.

Millar Western Forest Products built an enviable reputation under Jim's principled leadership. As company President and CEO Craig Armstrong has noted, the word "gentleman" is not used often these days, perhaps because the qualities of modesty, steadfastness, loyalty, empathy and conscientiousness are too rarely exhibited. But if ever there was a person who embodied the traits of a true gentleman, it was Jim Millar: humble, honest, a good businessman and a good person, whose counsel and friendship will be missed.

WILLIAM BALMER

Born March 7, 1925, William (Bill) Thomas Balmer passed away April 21, 2017, in Grande Prairie, at the age of 92 years, only a few miles from where he was born and raised. Bill began his life off the farm working for Yukon Southern Airways, then joined the Air Force during the Second World War. He returned to work for the Alberta Forest Service and then ran a mechanical repair shop in Grande Prairie. He finally retired to work part time for the Alberta Forest Service in Spirit River.

BILL ANDERSON

On June 3, 2017, William (Bill) Anderson passed away in Grande Cache at the age of 77 years. Bill was the warehouse person at the Edson Forest Headquarters warehouse from 1965 to the early 1970s, when Don Bailer took over from him. Bill moved to Edmonton then Peace River, before retiring in Grande Cache.

ROBIN HUTH

Born April 12, 1921 in Brandon, Manitoba, Robin passed away on June 5, 2017 in Wainwright, Alberta at the age of 96 years. He spent is youth in Regina, Yorkton and Brandon. Robin began adult life as a fur trapper in the wilderness of northern Manitoba. Then when Canada went to war, he joined an unusual unit of the Army called the First Special Service Force - also known as the Devil's Brigade. As commandos they were trained in parachuting and enemy infiltration. After the war, he married, and became an Alberta forest ranger in Coalspur, Lynx Creek and Jumping Pound where he lived with his family for five years before becoming a policeman for the City of Calgary in 1951. After five years in the city, and pining to get back to the bush, he accepted the position of timber cruiser with North Western Pulp & Power in Hinton, and eventually became

their personnel manager. Robin and his wife Dorothy were members of the "Hinton 55ers", the first families that moved to Hinton during the set up of the pulp mill. He later became Industrial Relations manager for Fibreglas Canada in Edmonton. After twenty-six years of city life, he and his wife built a house near Nakusp, on the Upper Arrow Lake in B.C. and resided there until moving to Salmon Arm in 1998. Robin later moved to Alberta where he spent his last eight years in a country home with Marion and Wily Kelch. His hobbies included free-lance writing, crosscountry and downhill skiing, and mountain climbing. He has scaled many of the peaks in the Rocky Mountains. Robin is the author of four books; The Five Minute Break, Outdoor Junkie, From Horses to Helicopters, and Guardians of the Forest - A History of the Alberta Forest Service. He is a recipient of the Alberta Centennial Award.

EDWIN "LEROY" FJORDBOTTEN

LeRoy Fjordbotten was born on November 4, 1938 and passed away June 8, 2017 at 78 years old. LeRoy farmed northeast of Granum and loved the farm life. The seeding, watching the crops grow and ripen and the busy harvests were a fulfilling way to spend his time on hearth. LeRoy loved to fly and could be seen many mornings, checking out the crops as he flew his plane around the rural area he knew so well. He was a member of the Flying Farmers of Alberta. In his spare time, he also enjoyed skiing and golfing. In 1979, he was inspired to run as a Conservative under Peter Lougheed and served his constituents and Alberta for 14 years. He was a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta (1979-1982); Minister of Agriculture (1983-1986); Minister of Tourism (1986-1987); and Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife (1987-1992). During his time as MLA, he also served on Priorities, Finance and Coordination Cabinet, Agriculture and Rural Cabinet, and Economic Planning Committees. He was also a member of the Treasury Board. LeRoy was honored when the Peigan Tribe named him "Running Crow".

AKSEL (AXEL) PORSILD

Born on June 4, 1935 in Whitehorse, Yukon, Aksel passed away on June 23, 2017 at the age of 82. As a pilot with Associated Helicopters, Aksel flew many Alberta Forest Service (AFS) rangers on patrols, wildfires and projects in the 1970s. Bob Petite said "I recall flying with Aksel many times in the Bell 47Js. I had a letter from him back in February 1990, where he said he got into commercial aviation back in 1967. He trained in Penticton, B.C. in 1967 in Bell 47G CF-ISG with Okanagan Helicopters. He flew other Bell 47s for Associated Helicopters, most of which were Super G-2s." In his letter, Aksel said, "The other machines that Associated operated were of course the Bell 47Js that the Company converted to AJ-2s, with the supercharged Lycoming, engine giving the helicopter much better high altitude performance. The AJ-2s were very useful in the early construction of the mountain lookouts of the AFS. We still used the Bell 47Js with AFS in the late 1970s when they were becoming obsolete. I have some good memories of Forest Service staff and spent a quite pleasant six years flying the "green tails."

ROBERT GUEST

Beaverlodge-born artist Robert Guest passed away suddenly June 13, 2017 at the age of 79 in Nanaimo B.C. He will be deeply missed by his surviving wife Myrtle, daughter Moya, son-in-law Shawn, grandchildren Shawna, Stewart, Tyler, his sisters Margret, Colleen, brother Phillip and many family and friends. Throughout his life Robert was a renowned artist, educator, long term Alberta forestry towerman, wilderness advocate, keen historian, published author and story teller. His legacy will remain through his family, friends, artwork and many contributions to the community. He has left us with many memories to be forever treasured. A celebration of Robert Guest's life was held on October 24, 2017 at the Grande Cache Tourism Centre.

MIKE DUBINA

Mike Dubina, born May 16, 1939 in Grenada, Alberta passed away on August 4, 2017 at 78 years old. Mike spent 43 years with the Alberta Forest Service, graduating the Advanced Ranger Course in Hinton, in 1974. Other classmates included Lou Boulet, Phil Dube, Bob Hilbert, Don Lalonde, Cyril Lanctot, John Branderhorst, Dennis York and Bruce MacGregor. Mike spent time at Alder Flats, Fox Creek and later Edmonton. In Edmonton, Mike focused on firefighter training, and engaging Aboriginal firefighters in the program. He was an ardent Edmonton Eskimos fan, and went to their games for 62 years.

EDO NYLAND

Submitted by Barbara Nyland, with friends Peter Murphy and David Morgan

Edo Nyland, a pioneering western and northern Canada forester from 1952 to 1982, passed away peacefully in bed at home with his wife Barbara at Sidney, B.C. on August 13, 2017, at age 89. Edo was born in Amsterdam, Holland (the Netherlands) on December 22, 1927. At age 13 he became a member of the Netherlands Youth Group for Nature Studies. His major field of interest at the time was the study of botany. He established his own "Garden of Edo", which held more than 300 types of wildflowers. His high school years occurred during the German occupation. During that time, he followed the war effort and focused on learning. In 1947, while studying botany at the University of Amsterdam, he was required like other Dutchmen to complete two years of military service (1947-49). He spent much of that period with the Medical Corps at an Army Hospital in Djakarta, Indonesia, where he served as a medic, treating survivors of Japanese concentration camps and casualties of war, and assisted ophthalmologists with eye operations. In 1949, Edo was decorated for action under fire in West Java. He explained, "I helped with the evacuation of wounded and gave medical aid under fire; and experienced first-hand the degrading fanaticism, brutality and decadence of atrocities committed on both sides of this tragic conflict."

Edo had an interesting experience during this period. Native Indonesians were trying to achieve independence from Holland. Kusno Sosrodihardjo (know more commonly as Sukarno) was the leader of the nationalist movement.

He spent over ten years under Dutch detention before being released by invading Japanese forces in 1942. Sukarno declared independence August 17, 1945 when Japan surrendered to Allied forces. At one point before independence during Edo's time in that country, Sukarno was a prisoner of the Dutch forces. One of Edo's tasks was to act as a guard when Sukarno had to be transported to a new location.

After his military experience he returned to Amsterdam, where the military paid veterans to attend specialized training. With his practical mind, Edo took a cabinetmakers course. In the meantime, he decided to build on his interest in botany by taking forestry in Canada. Faculty of Forestry Dean George Allen responded to his inquiry to the University of British Columbia to say that if he completed first-year courses in English, mathematics and chemistry that he could be accepted into their Forestry program. With this in mind, he left Holland in the spring of 1952 and travelled to Edmonton to live temporarily with his brother Herman and his family. He immediately found work for the summer with Dr. Unrau in the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Alberta, applying his botanical knowledge on a genetics study on the University Farm. He enrolled in first year science that fall. He completed his required courses by the spring of 1953 and was accepted at UBC to begin the same fall. To find summer work before going to Vancouver, he applied through the U of A student-employment office and was fortunate to be hired by Dr. David Etheridge with the Federal Insect

and Disease Survey in Calgary. Their study of root rot took them through the foothills from Rocky Mountain House to the Crowsnest Pass. Along the way he met many of the other scientists who later became part of the Canadian Forest Service, including Dr. Vidar Nordin, William McGuffin, Des Crossley, Roy Shepherd, Bud Smithers and Bob Bourchier. He and Larry Kennedy, also enrolling at UBC, drove together to Vancouver at the end of the season. They both joined the Varsity Outdoor Club and tripped together on weekend trail hikes and mountain climbing.

Edo worked two summers with B.C. Forest Products under Gerry Burch on Vancouver Island. He was proud of the work he did near Port Renfrew on the southwest coast of Vancouver Island laying out cutblocks and preparing reforestation plans for those cutblocks. His third summer was spent with the Parks Branch of the B.C. Forest Service at Cultus Lake and Manning Parks doing surveys and planning. On graduation in 1956, Eric Huestis, Alberta's Director of Forestry, offered him a position as Forester on the Whitecourt Forest. This was a new position intended to involve graduate foresters more with the forest management, silviculture and forest industry aspects of the Forest. Rein Krause was Forest Superintendent. Edo was quickly involved in these aspects along with fire control and land use. Rapidly expanding exploration and development of oil and gas on the forest soon became a dominant concern. In 1968 Edo was transferred to Edmonton as a land-use specialist. It was in this position that Edo worked on the Cooking Lake Forest area, a

distinctive extension of the boreal forest into the prairie-parkland. The area also piqued his interest in the history of this former Dominion Forest Reserve and of forest history in general. He wrote several stories, including one on Cooking Lake and one on railway logging in the Whitecourt area; and, by example, inspired others to do the same.

Northern Affairs and Natural Resources Canada advertised in 1971 for a Chief Forester to take charge of their forests in the Yukon Territory, then mainly management and fire control. Edo was the successful applicant and held that position until his retirement in 1982. As Regional Manager of the Federal Yukon Lands and Forest Service, based at Whitehorse, his main tasks were modernizing and building of the Yukon Forest Service, which included staff training; fire prevention and suppression; supervision of land use activities related to road. bridge, airstrip and seismic line construction by many oil and mining companies; environmental protection; control of timber harvesting and silviculture. During his time in Yukon, Edo championed some imaginative initiatives. Taking advantage of his Alberta experience, he contracted Erling Winquist, a seasoned Alberta Forest Service Phase 3 Forest Inventory interpreter, to prepare an inventory map of the Whitehorse area. It provided the basis for development of a fire hazard reduction plan for the City similar to how FireSmart is used today. Another of Edo's initiatives involved developing a plan to stabilize the eroding slopes below the Whitehorse airport. The airport is located on bench several hundred feet above the Yukon River valley and downtown Whitehorse.

The plan called for suitable vegetation to be established on the slope to reduce erosion. On a more personal scale Edo used his woodworking skills to create a carved pew for his church.

At age 55, Edo and Elizabeth, his second wife, retired and relocated from the Yukon to North Saanich on Vancouver Island. It was the autumn of 1983 when they discovered John Dean Provincial Park and first explored the trails and viewpoints. They adored the impressive stands of old-growth. However, Edo observed, "a pervading air of neglect in the garbage along the main road and the deterioration of the facilities and trails." Having worked for years in the area of landuse, Edo clearly understood the importance of preserving natural places. A year later, Edo and a group of local residents founded the Friends of John Dean Park on May 10, 1984. Between 1984 and 2001, Edo steered the Friends Society and physically carried out volunteer work throughout the park. In 1984, Edo began a new adventure as a student of the Basque language and its influence north through ancient Ireland. He published Linguistic Archeology in 2001 (revised 2016) in which he challenged traditional thinking about the origins of European languages. He was able to translate the runes (an ancient written language used by peoples like the Germanic tribes and the Vikings), a task that had stumped linguists for many years. The Catalonia Government was so impressed by his work that it paid for Edo and his wife to fly to Spain to present his work. His book, "Odysseus of Scotland" appeared in 2013. It argued that Odysseus had actually circumnavigated the United Kingdom rather than

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spending 10 years returning from north Africa to Greece. He also published his memoirs, "Life is Full of Surprises", in 2007.

DAVE SCHENK

Born in Grande Prairie, Alberta on November 3, 1931, David "Dave" Schenk, resident of Grovedale, Alberta, passed away on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at the age of 85 years. Dave was raised in the Rycroft area. He attended the Forestry Training School at Kananaskis in 1956, where instructor Peter Murphy recalled Dave in his "youthful and enthusiastic persona, a positive influence in the class". Other classmates included Oliver Glanfield and Ray Hill. Dave served as a Ranger at the Woking, Wapiti, and Edson Ranger Districts, retiring in 1987. Dave enjoyed outdoor activities and was an avid hunter and fisherman. In later years, he grew to love quading.

JESSICA PARKER

Jessica was born July 17, 1976 and passed away on November 9, 2017 at 41 years of age. Jessica graduated from the Grande Prairie Community College with a diploma in business administration, accounting major, and gained work experience with jobs in Valleyview, Edson, Grande Prairie and eventually Peace River. In Peace River, she began her career with forestry starting in logistics and working her way up to a more administrative position in finance. Having worked there for fourteen years, Jessica gained a family through work, fostering many friendships both in and outside of her work, out on the fireline and during professional development.

She will be remembered for her professionalism and passion, going over and above to complete projects. Working with forestry gave Jessica the chance to visit many areas in Alberta and B.C. to aid in their wildfire management programs.

DR. W. JAN A. VOLNEY

Jan Volney was born in Aruba in 1946, and passed away in Edmonton on November 24, 2017 at 71 years. Jan was a well-known, well regarded forest entomologist and scientist. At the Canadian Institute of Forestry annual general meeting in 2010, Dr. Volney was recognized as "following a sound, no-nonsense program for conducting research throughout his career and has helped collaborators and students to see the wisdom of this straight-forward approach". Jan received his BScF Forest Entomology from the University of New Brunswick in 1970; his MSF in Forest Ecology from Yale University in 1972; an MA in Math and Statistics from the University of New Brunswick in 1977 and his PhD in Forest Entomology from the State University of New York at Syracruse in 1977. Spending his career with the Canadian Forest Service, Jan authored or co-authored over 60 peer-reviewed publications, was the recipient of the Canadian Forestry Scientific Achievement Award in 2010, was co-editor of the Canadian Journal of Forest Research from 1998-2002, and contributed to the development of students, both as an undergraduate instructor and graduate supervisor. Jan and Dr. John Spence were instrumental in establishing the Ecosystem Management **Emulating Natural Disturbance** (EMEND) research project near

Peace River, that has carried on for over 20 years and which serves as a living legacy to Jan's commitment and love of forestry.

DAVE HARMAN

Dave was born May 11, 1956 in Stockton-on-Tees, County Durham, England, and passed away in Fort McMurray, Alberta on November 28, 2017 at the age of 61 years. He graduated from Lakehead University with a BSc in Forestry in 1979, and spent the majority of his career working with various companies in Saskatchewan as well as being an independent consultant. Dave was well known and regarded thru the prairie forestry community. About two years ago, Dave joined Northland Forest Products in Fort McMurray as Director, Business Development and Forestry.

ROSS HEATHERINGTON

Born in 1928, Ross passed away on December 13, 2017 at the age of 89 years. He started with the Alberta Forest Service in 1975 and retired on May 14, 1986. Ross had previously worked with Alberta Housing Corporation from 1969 to 1975, and the Federal government from 1965 to 1969. Ross earned his Journeyman plumber ticket before he was 21, and worked in the trade through the 1950's and early 1960's, out of Edmonton, Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, Red Deer, settling in Edmonton in 1965. He later became certified as a draftsman. From the day he started with the Alberta Forest Service to his retirement, he felt fortunate to be with the AFS, saying it was a very well-run organization, where everyone pulled together. Ross filled the position of Provincial Manager for Construction and

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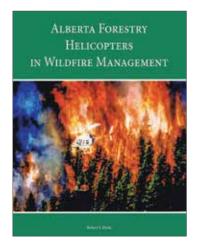
Maintenance, following Jack MacGregor's retirement. Through his time with the Alberta Forest Service. Ross was involved with the design and implementation of the provincial warehousing and inventory computer system, land acquisition for AFS facilities, in-house planning, design and development of rangers stations, heli-pads, fire towers and airtanker bases. Sites Ross either planned, designed or led with both Alberta Infrastructure and the Alberta Forest Service spanned the province, from the far north with Fort Vermilion, High Level, Footner Lake, Red Earth, Fort McMurray, south to Grande Prairie, Grovedale, Grande Cache, Edson, Beaver Lake, Wandering River, Slave Lake, and Whitecourt; down to Rocky Mountain House and the Bow Crow Forest Headquarters. There likely was not a forestry facility that Ross did not have a hand in working on or managing in his career with the Alberta government. His son Dave graduated from the NAIT Forest Technology program in 1983, working in northern forests cruising and as a Forest Officer. He moved to the newly created Alberta Energy Regulator in 2015.

ROY THOMPSON

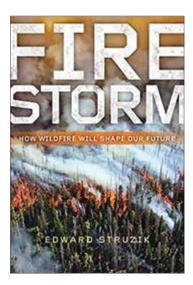
Born June 6, 1941, Roy passed away on June 28, 2017 at the age of 76 years. Colleague Bruce Mackenzie provided the following information; "I first met Roy in 1974 when he was Bob Hunter's (Manager Cartographic Services, Technical Services) senior technologist responsible for the base mapping program within Lands and Forests. I believe Roy had joined Bob's mapping group 10 or 12 years earlier. Roy 's principle focus in those years was the improvement of procedures and technology used for the update of the department's resource base mapping program. After a few years of research and development, he was instrumental in introducing the use of orthophotos as the key source of planimetrically accurate update information for the 1:50000 and 1:20000 base mapping series. In about 1980, Roy was promoted to Manager, Cartographic Services, reporting to Bob Hunter who was Branch Head, Resource Mapping, in the Technical Services Branch of the recently formed Resource Evaluation and Planning (REAP) Division.

Roy's next major accomplishment was in the introduction of digital mapping systems for forest inventory, land-use planning and base mapping. He was a key contributor to the planning and implementation of the department's mapping automation in the 1980s. Another technical innovation that Roy assisted in in the 1990's was the introduction of satellite imagery to be used as the principle source of update information for departmental mapping. Roy was a highly intelligent, innovative and highly valued staff member of REAP Division, who never lost his connection and loyalty to the programs of the Alberta Forest Service. He worked extremely closely and effectively with Forestry headquarters and field staff to provide his expertise and technical services. Roy retired in 2001, after 40 years of highly valued services."

HOT OFF THE PRESS



Alberta Forestry Helicopters in Wildfire Management; a new book written and being published by Bob Petite; no timing on delivery



In Firestorm, journalist Edward Struzik visits scorched earth from Alaska to Maine, and introduces the scientists, firefighters, and resource managers making the case for a radically different approach to managing wildfire in the 21st century. Wildfires can no longer be treated as avoidable events because the risk and dangers are becoming too great and costly. Struzik weaves a heart-pumping narrative of science, economics, politics, and human determination and points to the ways that we, and the wilder inhabitants of the forests around our cities and towns, might yet flourish in an age of growing megafires.

THANK YOU

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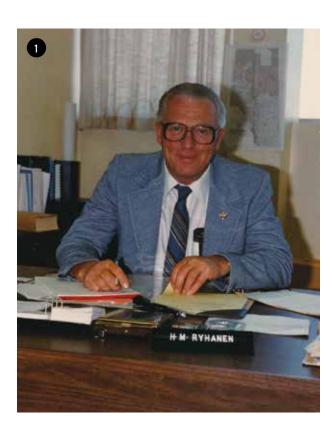




FOREST HISTORY PHOTO CORNER

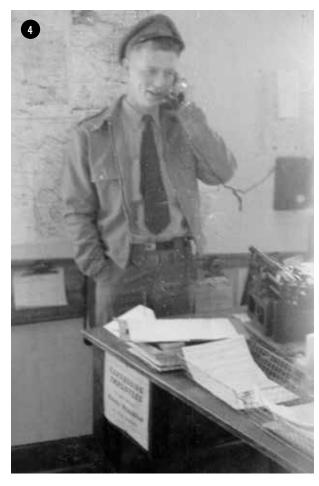
HANK RYHANEN COLLECTION

Hank Ryhanen joined the Alberta Forest Service in 1949, after a short career with the RCMP. He was quoted as saying "he got into the business because the RCMP wouldn't let him get married back in 1949. The Alberta Forest Service would and besides, it paid better." There were few roads in those days, he carried out his duties on horseback. Enforcing game regulations, inspecting timber operations and patrolling for fires were the mainstay of his job. But sometimes his duties called for unusual action. One fall, he camped for five days on a tiny island on Chip Lake to catch a muskrat poacher. "I didn't dare light a fire in case smoke was observed," he says, adding he cooled his heels waiting until he caught his prize. [Editors note: Quotes are from an unknown newspaper article by Cathy Lord.] Photo collection was provided by Hazel Ryhanen.











- 1. Hank Ryhanen, Director Forest Protection; prior to his retirement in 1980 after a 31-year career with the Alberta Forest Service
- 2. Frosty morning at Kvass Tower; Edson Forest; 1967
- 3. Leaving the RCMP; Hank Ryhanen;
- 4. Forest Officer Hank Ryhanen; Edson Forest; 1950s
- 5. Hank Ryhanen and pilot; Bell 47J CF-KEY; lunch break; 1960s

DON TANNAS AND PETER MURPHY, 1955 TIMBER CRUISE COLLECTION

Peter Murphy started work for the Alberta Forest Service on May 4, 1954. The following collection of photographs belong to Peter Murphy and Don Tannas, who was a compassman as part of Peter's cruise party in 1955. The crew worked first in the Clear Hills, north of Eureka River, and then south of Grande Prairie, in the Musreau Lake area. Don Tannas went on to become the MLA from High River, from1989 to 2004, serving four terms. He served on many Cabinet committees and was Deputy Speaker during his last term. Don worked as a teacher and principal in the High River area before entering politics.

The collection of Don Tannas and Peter Murphy slides and photographs provide insight into tent camp life, travel, and the remoteness of the areas being cruised.







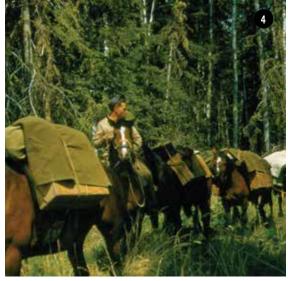
1. Alberta Forest Service timber cruise; south of Grande Prairie in the Musreau Lake area; 1955. Back Row (L to R): Don Tannas earned a degree in education, taught in High River, two years in Africa for CIDA, elected MLA for High River 1989 to 2004, named Deputy Speaker of the House 2001-04; David Crawley studied at University of Manitoba, was ordained as an Anglican Minister in 1961, appointed Bishop and served as Archbishop of Kootenay and Metropolitan of British Columbia and Yukon from 1994 to 2004; Ed Burdinsky rose to prominence in the energy sector; Peter Murphy went on to develop the Forest Technology School at Hinton, then professor and chairman at the University of Alberta and got a MSc and PhD; Glen Paul got a PhD and worked in forest soils research with Canadian Forest Service. Front Row (L to R): Julian Guay got a PhD in biology and taught at the University of Lethbridge; Bob Swindlehurst got a PhD in Chemistry and became a full professor at University of Alberta; Bill Dwyer - Cook, do not know where he went; Bill Kammermayer got into Land Use with the Alberta Forest Service, later successfully consulted out of Edmonton; Jack Robson joined the Alberta Forest Service as a ranger then moved to Hinton, became an electrician and raised four boys in a house that he built himself.





- 2. Full crew at the first cruise camp; L to R (back row): Dave Crawley, Don Tannas, Bob Swindlehurst, Ed Burdinsky, Bill Kammermayer, Glen Paul; L to R (front row): Peter Murphy, Julian Guay, Bill Dryer, Jack Robson; 1955
- 3. Looking south towards the Town of Peace River, with the only bridge across the Peace River at that time, railway and road combined; 1955
- 4. Packhorses with camp gear, including bedrolls; with packer; heading to the second camp; 1955
- 5. Tent at the third camp; L to R: cook Bill Dwyer, Glen Paul and Bob Swindlehurst; 1955
- 6. Lead packer Ed Stoney (age 81) on left, and Sam Keleo (age 64) on right, loading horses up at Big Mountain Creek; Grande Prairie Forest; 1955
- 7. Crossing the Cutbank River with 18 horses; the crew walked, some forded the river at the crossing, others hitched a ride on a saddle horse with Sam; 1955





























- 1. A rock in the Kakwa River; L to R (back standing): Julian Guay, Glen Paul, Jack Robson; (front kneeling) Ed Burdinsky and Bill Kammermayer; 1955
- 2. Peter Murphy with supper; six grayling at the Musreau and Kakwa Rivers; 1955
- 3. Arriving at second camp further south near Musreau Lake
- 4. Packing to leave camp; L to R: Bob Swindlehurst, Jack Robson, Glen Paul (at end of tent), Roy (packer), Bill Kammermayer (with hat bending over), Ed Burdinsky, Peter Murphy (at other end of tent); 1955
- 5. Third camp location; 1955
- 6. Ready to unpack the packhorses at fifth camp; 1955
- 7. Camp kitchen and meal line;
- 8. "Home-made" table at the fifth camp; Left side: Bill Kammermayer, Jack Robson, Glen Paul; Right side: Julian Guay, Ed Burdinsky, Bill Dwyer (cook), Bob Swindlehurst, Dave Crawley; 1955
- 9. Inside tent, ready for bed; L to R: Glen Paul and Don Tannas; 1955

















- 1. Bob Swindlehurst and Bill Dwyer (cook) at camp kitchen; 1955
- 2. L to R: Jack Robson, Julian Guay, Bill Kammermayer, Ed Burdinsky, Don Tannas; before heading to the fourth camp; 1955
- 3. Bill Kammermayer outside the Grande Prairie Alberta Forest Service office; 1955. Note the Keep Alberta Green, Prevent Forest Fires posters in the windows.
- 4. Bill Kammermayer standing above meat pit; storage for food while at camp; 1955
- 5. Confluence of the Smoky and Kakwa Rivers; 1955
- 6. Don Tannas with wooden calipers in a white spruce stand (Sw4B - white spruce, height class 4 over 80 feet, B density partly open); 1955
- 7. Sam Keleo and Peter Murphy smoking meat; 1955
- 8. Dunvegan Ferry on the Peace River; heading to Grande Prairie from Clear Hills; 1955





RAY HILL COLLECTION

Ray Hill began working for the Alberta Forest Service in 1955 as a cat operator on the Bow Forest portion of the forestry trunk road, working out of the Red Deer Ranger Station for the first two months. He was hired by Stan Hughes, who was the Forest Superintendent in Calgary at the time, and moved to the Sheep Ranger Station June 1, 1955, as assistant ranger. There he worked for Bill Balmer. Ray married Margaret in July 1956, and attended the Forestry Training School at Kananaskis that fall. Peter Murphy was in charge of the training program. In 1957, Ray transferred to the Red Deer Ranger Station under Maurice Verhaeghe, gaining experience with the oil industry around Panther Corners, and doing grazing horse back patrols in the Ya Ha Tinda. In July, 1960, Ray transferred from the Red Deer to the James River sub-station, replacing Ranger Bert Hadley. That fall, Ray and Marg transferred to the Ghost Ranger Station, spending 16 years there. Gordon Matthews was the assistant ranger, stationed at Harold Creek. On top of the oil and gas and timber work, the Ghost had a heavy fish and wildlife enforcement workload. In mid-December, vehicles would line up for miles, for people to cut their own Christmas trees. In 1976, Ray transferred to the Canmore Ranger Station, retiring after 32 years in 1987 This collection was provided by Ray through his son Cal.











- 1. Ghost Ranger Station office; Bow Forest (This office had been moved there from its original location at the junction of the Forestry Trunk Road and the Fallen Timber West Road.); 1960s
- 2. Burnt Timber lookout almost finished; Bow Forest; 1965
- 3. Peter Bifano, Forest Ranger at the Red Deer Ranger Station; Bow Forest; 1960s
- 4. Ghost Ranger Station; Bow Forest; September 1960
- 5. Red Deer Ranger Station; Bow Forest; 1960s
- 6. Construction of the Burnt Timber lookout; Bow Forest; 1965





FOREST HISTORY PHOTO CORNER



















1. Weyerhaeuser meeting in Jasper; September 22, 2016

L to R: Wendy Crosina, Wayne Roznowsky, Fred Dzida, Minister Oneil Carlier, Stan Holmes. Photo was taken prior to Wayne's retirement;

- 2. Bertie Beaver and family in Christmas celebration; constructed and painted by Bruce and Elaine Mayer in late 1980s: resurrected by Mike Pasula: December, 2015
- 3. Jasper Place Junior Forest Warden float; Klondike Days; July 12, 1965. Donna Brown photograph
- 4. Grande Prairie Forest Area staff meeting; Graham Fire Base; September 9, 2016

Back Row (L to R): Lorna McNeil, Clint McRae, Rick Hoddinott, Michael Pinnock, Forrest Barrett, Emile Desnoyers, Robert Anderson, Gavin Hojka, Tyler Pinnock, Mike Kingsbury, Melinda Paplawski, Dylan Simpson

Middle Row (L to R): Bruce Mayer, Devin Letourneau, Owen Spencer, Wally Born, Daniel Martin

Front Row (L to R): Kelly Burke, Kari Matechuk, Kari White, Megan Doyle, Valerie Orich, Melissa Poirier

5. Kyle Wells from West Fraser provides an overview of the West Fraser pilot lignin facility; Hinton; September 23, 2016

L to R: Kyle Wells (West Fraser), Glenn Mason (Natural Resources Canada), Mike Norton (Natural Resources Canada), Derek Nighbor (Forest Products Association of Canada)

6. Ed Barnett celebration of life; Wandering River; September 10, 2016

L to R: Billy Tchir, Don Bunter, Gary Nelson, Bob Yowney, Bruce Mayer, Everett Normandeau, Mike Pozniak, Tim Burggraaff, Jennifer Bowlby, Kathleen Doerkson, Bill Black, Kay Hankinson, Dave Lind, Terry Zitnak, Wally Peters, Mike Dempsey, Ken Yackimec, Robert Stronach, Adrian MacDonald, Denise Mutlow, Johnathan Stewart-Dawkins and Benjamin Bartlett

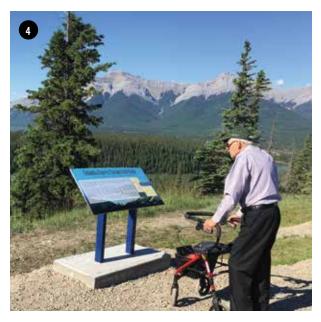
7. Ed Barnett celebration of life; Wandering River; September 10, 2016

L to R: Bob Yowney, Mike Dempsey and Dave Lind

8. L to R: Bruce Mayer and Ray Hill; Brent Davis retirement party; October 15, 2016



















1. Marty Alexander receiving the Wright Award at the Wildland Fire Canada 2016 conference; Kelowna; October 26, 2016

L to R: Dana Hicks, Marty Alexander and Steve Taylor

Courtesy Heather Alexander

2. L to R: Paul Lane, Air Spray; Scott Elliott, Agriculture and Forestry; Patrick McIllwayne, Agriculture and Forestry and Paul Spring, Phoenix Heli-Flight; presenters at the Alberta Aviation Museum on the role and use of aircraft on the Fort McMurray wildfire; November 17, 2016

3. L to R: Ken Yackimec and Norm Olson; Alberta Aviation Museum; November 17, 2016

4. Columbia Express: Passage to the Pacific. This display was completed by Yellowhead County to commemorate David Thompson's travels and the beginning of the fur trade through the area. Tom Peterson (shown in picture) and Peter Murphy worked with Cindy Leclercq and Yellowhead County on the narrative and pictures; June 27, 2017

5. Melissa Cutler in the special collections room; Library and Archives Canada; September 18, 2017. Melissa inventoried Dominion Forestry Branch photographs with a relevance to Alberta.

6. Forest management field tour; Pembina area; December 18, 2017

L to R: Bruce Mayer, James Bonang, Darren Tapp, Darcy Evanochko, Kevin Gagne, Wally Born

7. A good Alberta day in Ottawa! University of Alberta students win the Canadian Institute of Forestry Quiz Bowl, NAIT students were runners' up, in the all Alberta final. Students here seen wearing their Alberta Forestry hats; September 29, 2017

8. L to R: Jon Taszlikowicz and Mark Cookson; Carson Lake area; November 24, 2017

9. L to R: Rob Stauffer, Dave Wall, Brian Coburg; Carson Lake area; November 24, 2017























- 1. Forest management field tour; Whitecourt Forest Area; November 24, 2017
- L to R: Bruce Mayer, Keith Murray, Shawn Barraclough, Rob Stauffer, Con Dermott, Mark Cooksen, Gordon Sanders, Jon Taszlikowicz, Darren Tapp, Bob Mason, Peter Andrews, Dave Wall, Brian Coburg
- 2. Red Deer Ranger Station sign; Sundre Museum; November 5, 2017
- 3. Marmot Basin study tour; L to R: John Pomeroy, Barry White, Jean Lussier; August 18, 2017
- 4. L to R: Peter Murphy, Chester Mjolsness, Barry Mjolsness; Sundre; November 5, 2017
- 5. Artifacts from Spray Lake Sawmills history; Sundre Museum; November 5, 2017
- 6. L to R: Oliver Glanfield and Peter Murphy; student and instructor – 1956 Kananaskis; November 11, 2017
- 7. L to R: Andy Benowicz, Wally Born, Darren Tapp, Donna Palamarek, Cole Schneider; Alberta Tree Improvement and Seed Centre; Smoky Lake; June 9, 2017
- 8. Peace River Unit Crew; Canada Day 150 celebrations and parade; Peace River; July 1, 2017
- 9. L to R: Bruce Mayer, Oliver Glanfield, Gordon Graham and Peter Murphy; November 11, 2017





















- 1. L to R: Ken Greenway and Marty O'Byrne; March 9, 2017
- 2. L to R: Bruce Mayer, Kevin Gagne, Wally Born; Whisker Creek Patrol Cabin; Rocky Mountain House Forest Area; July 18, 2017
- 3. Whitecourt Helitack, Unit Crew, Firetac and staff with Minister Oneil Carlier; Canada Day 150 celebrations; July 1, 2017
- 4. L to R: Kevin Gagne, Wally Born, Lookout Observer Denis Oullette; Ram Lookout; Rocky Mountain House Forest Area; July 18, 2017
- 5. Ed Bobocel sawmill and log yard; May 20, 2017
- 6. L to R: Ross Spence, Bruce Mayer, Michael Wagner, Tim Juhlin, Darren Tapp; Highwood area forest management field trip; July 14, 2017
- 7. L to R: Dennis Driscoll and Lloyd Seedhouse; Mike Dubina's memorial; August 17, 2017
- 8. L to R: Greg Schellenberg, President; Oneil Carlier, Minister Agriculture and Forestry; Josh Sawatzky, Assistant General Manager; Spruceland Millworks; January 9, 2018
- 9. Dale Huberdeau cabin dedication; Fort McMurray Heritage Park; Roseann Davidson, Carmen Ramstead, Paul St John; July 1, 2017

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