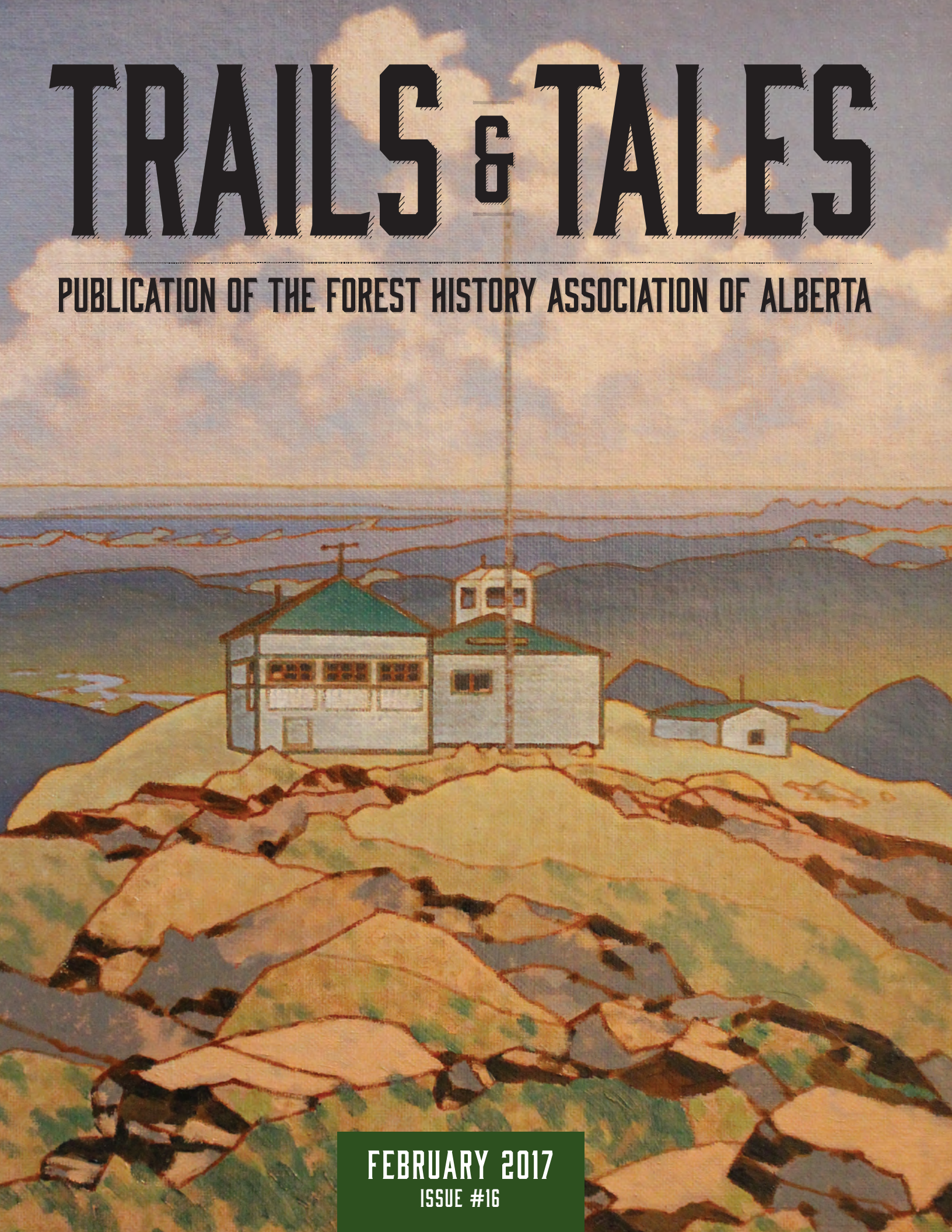


# TRAILS & TALES

PUBLICATION OF THE FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA



FEBRUARY 2017  
ISSUE #16



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



**33<sup>RD</sup>**  
ANNUAL

**AFS OLDTIMERS  
HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

**MARCH 3-4, 2018**

**ATHABASCA MULTIPLEX | ATHABASCA, ALBERTA**

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



# 12

## MEMORIES OF A LOOKOUTMAN CHAPTER 2 ADAMS CREEK LOOKOUT TOWER



# 19

## FORESTRY "GREEN TAILS"



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## CLASS OF 6TO REUNION



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### ON THE COVER:

Two Cabins of Adams Creek Lookout, by Robert Guest, 2016. This oil painting was done from sketches of the two old lookout cabins as they stood for about 50 years on the summit of Adams Creek Ridge.



**2016 MEMBERSHIP: 114**

(MEMBERSHIPS TRACKED ON A CALENDAR YEAR BASIS)



# 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING A SUCCESS

FHAA 2016 AGM



Bruce Mayer opened the meeting with introductions and provided an overview of the documents for review, the draft agenda, draft minutes from the March 18, 2015 meeting and a copy of the draft financial statement. Also included on the tables was a fRI Research Note on the Forest History Program provided by Bob Udell, and the latest edition of the Trails & Tales, hot off the press. All directors were in attendance - Bruce Mayer, Peter Murphy, Cliff Smith, Rob Thorburn, Bob Udell, Bob Newstead, Norm Denney, Ken Yackimec and Butch Shenfield. Guest speakers introduced were Arnie and Liz Mostowich and Rick Arthur.

President Peter Murphy welcomed all first time attendees and those who regularly attend. Thanks were given to Bruce Mayer for organizing the meeting and completion of

the most recent Trails & Tales newsletter. He went on to say the Trails & Tales was more than a "newsletter", it was a major report. Peter stated that Bruce is regularly contacted by members of families associated with forestry either with information, or looking for information. The most recent was the grandson of Ranger Larry Waikle, a name Peter remembered Eric Huestis talking about when referencing old rangers in the Clearwater, Brazeau and Edson area. Mr. Waikle's grandson was looking for what information we had on his grandfather, but unfortunately all we really knew was the timeframe he worked for the Alberta Forest Service, 1933 to 1943. Without diaries, memoirs or photographs, there isn't a footprint whereby his story could be told. Peter went on to say together we need to make some footprints we can leave

behind. Start simply with a resume or biography of yourself and your friends for the record, information easy to keep with current technology. He further asked people to write their own stories, or stories about others, or do an interview. Maybe find someone who has photographs and ask them tell the story behind them, seeing if they could be borrowed for scanning. An example Peter used to emphasize the importance of "the story" and information behind photographs, occurred while reviewing a 1954 Forestry Training School photograph Dave Blackmore had of his fathers. A number of names were identified, but based on its age, the rest likely never will be.

Saving history can be done in many different ways. One example is what Marie-Pierre Rogeau has done in fire history. By using tree ring and



dendrochronology techniques, she was able to parlay the information into a PhD, recording an important history of eastern slopes forests themselves. Cordy Tymstra, a current PhD candidate, has also saved an important part of history with his documentation of the 1950 Chinchaga wildfire, a very well done project. These are the types of things that should be encouraged. Peter reminded all of us that the Forest History Association of Alberta 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. Referencing Dan Jenkins who was in the audience, Peter congratulated him on writing "his story". An articulate story teller, Dan was encouraged to write one story and he did, it was about a hunting trip. This then led to story after story, all hand written on foolscap paper, line after line. The combination of those stories is now a published book that Dan has shared.

Doug Hutton, President, King Motion Picture Corporation provided a status update on the initiative he has undertaken called Canada's Forest Treasures, Celebrating 150 years of Natural and Cultural Heritage, 1867 to 2017. The



story is about forests, and there isn't anything more common in Canada that unites and bonds us like forests. The boreal forest for example is coast to coast, and when you see it on a map it is pretty impressive. Doug continues to work with top professional photographers and videographers using the latest in technology. This is a great story, but there is a long way to go.

Passionate and tenacious is how Kat Spencer describes herself with logger sports. She first provided thanks to Slave Lake Tolko and West Fraser operations, specifically Terry Kristoff, for being consistent sponsors that have allowed the logger sports event to go on year after year. 2016 will be the third



year for logger sports in Morinville, where the goal is still a permanent facility. Kat had a thank-you for the contacts she has made through the Forest History Association, particularly Peter Murphy. When first pitching the logger sports idea to Town Council in Morinville, they asked what they have in common with the sport. Talking with Peter, Kat was able to show council that one of the first water powered sawmills was located near the community on the Sturgeon River. The third logger sports event is being planned for Morinville during the St. Jean Baptiste Festival on June 25 and 26, 2016. Kat also explained that she was heading to Rocky Mountain House shortly to interview their local logger sports



1. Bruce Mayer opening up the 12th Forest History Association AGM

2. Peter Murphy with the President's opening remarks

3. L to R: Peter Murphy and Dan Jenkins with the autobiography Dan wrote

4. Doug Hutton providing an update on the Canada's Forest Treasure project

5. Kat Spencer describing her research on Logger Sports and the upcoming event in Morinville on June 25 and 26, 2016



## Annual General Meeting

committee on how they kept the passion in the sport for so long.

Teresa Stokes provided an overview of Forests without Borders. Forests without Borders, is a registered charity in Canada established by members of the Canadian Institute of Forestry. Understanding the synergies between proper forestry practices and sustainable development, Forests without Borders works independently or with existing non-government organizations to protect, conserve and restore forested lands, and to educate the public about the importance of healthy forested ecosystems nationally and internationally. Teresa explained that Alberta has a local chapter with a number of volunteers, chaired by Pat Wearmouth. The local chapter is organizing a film night on April 7, 2016 to raise funds, and Teresa was extending an invitation to all in attendance.



Special recognition is extended to Bob Udell for his drive and leadership in the Forest History Program. Many important publications have been created for future generations capturing important forest history, an enormous "footprint".

The handout on each of tables, Bob Udell explained, was a summary of the fRI Research Forest History Program, that began in 1996. The program is winding down with only a few projects left to complete, the last being the 25 year anniversary of the Foothills Model Forest, now fRI Research. Bob wanted to provide thanks to many in attendance for their help in the past on projects completed:

- Peter Murphy and Bob Stevenson for their support from the very beginning;
- Bruce Mayer and the FHAA for their support over the years;
- Bob Bott, primary author, Peter Murphy and Bob Stevenson for work on the first book, *Hard Road to Travel*;
- Rob Mueller and Peter Murphy on *Mountain Trails*;
- Steve Ferdinand and Bob Stevenson for the *Resilient Forest*;
- Tom Peterson, who has worked on a number of the projects, ensuring all aspects of local history were explored and captured; and
- Fred Pollett for writing and supporting the Northern Rockies Highway Guide.

Brett Spady, Junior Forest Ranger Specialist began by thanking people for their support of the 50th JFR anniversary year, recognizing that youth are tomorrow's work force. He had the chance to hear from hundreds of alumni over the year, with tree planting celebrations held throughout the province. Over 5,000 alumni (members, leaders and administration) have been through



the program since 1965, with 60% of the JFRs pursuing a career in natural resource management. A short overview video was shown celebrating the 50th anniversary.

Liz and Arnie Mostowich gave an entertaining overview of Mostowich Lumber, from Steve's first sawmill in 1944 off the Cynthia Road, to his last and newest sawmill in 1986, east of Fox Creek. Although both Arnie and Liz are on to new endeavors, it was clear from the presentation that forestry was still in their blood.

Rick Arthur presented on his research paper *Using Historical Photographs to Identify Indigenous Burning Patterns*. The project involved comparing historic and current landscape vegetation using paired photographs from the Mountain Legacy Project. The photographs, together with the documents, show a pattern of burning in the late 1800s and early 1900s that can be attributed to Indigenous people and their use in hunting and gathering.





1. Bob Udell providing an overview of the fRI Research Forest History Program

2. Brett Spady thanking the audience for their support in the successful 50th Anniversary of the Junior Forest Ranger program

3. Teresa Stokes talking to the audience about the Forests without Borders program

4. Arnie and Liz Mostowich – Mostowich Lumber history

5. Rick Arthur – Historical Photographs and Indigenous Burning



**13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION AGM  
MARCH 15, 2017**

**DAYS INN & SUITES WEST EDMONTON  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA**

Contact Bruce Mayer at [Bruce.Mayer@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Bruce.Mayer@gov.ab.ca) for further information









1. Attendees at the 2016 Forest History Association AGM; March 16, 2016

2. L to R: Ken Yackimec and Darren Tapp

3. Audience at the 12th Forest History Association AGM

4. Bob Bott

5. Shawn Barraclough reading latest addition of Trails & Tales

6. Bob Stevenson

7. L to R: Bruce MacGregor and Cliff Henderson

8. L to R: Andy Gesner, Butch Shenfield and Doug Hutton

9. L to R: Bruce Mayer and William P. Allen III



## 2016 FHA EXECUTIVE

Peter Murphy,  
President

Butch Shenfield,  
Vice President

Bruce Mayer,  
Secretary Treasurer

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









1. L to R: Fred McDougall, Cliff Smith, Arnie Mostowich, Liz Mostowich and Con Dermott

2. L to R: Brett Spady, Janelle Lane, Sheldon Belanger and Chad Morrison

3. L to R: Carl Leary and Kevin Freehill

4. L to R: Therese Yacyshyn and Corrie Fordyce

5. L to R: Norm Denney and Daryl D'Amico

6. Darren Tapp

7. L to R: Wally Born and Hugh Boyd

8. L to R: Greg Baxter, Cordy Tymstra, Bill Tinge and Shawn Barraclough











1. L to R: Collin Williams and Deanna McCullough

2. L to R: Cliff Smith, Carl Leary, Con Dermott, Tony Sikora and Corrie Fordyce

3. L to R: Hugh Boyd and Bruce MacGregor

4. Herb Cerezke

5. Marty O'Byrne with historical reforestation documents.  
L to R: Marty O'Byrne, Jan Schilf and Peter Murphy (Rick Arthur hidden)

6. Bruce Mayer holding a picture donated by Carl Leary, another record of history retained

7. L to R: Doug Krystofiak, Bob Udell and Bob Stevenson

8. L to R: Arnie and Liz Mostowich

9. L to R: Kris Heemeryck, Graham Legaarden, Chad Morrison and Stephen Mills







# MEMORIES OF A LOOKOUTMAN

## CHAPTER 2

BY ROBERT GUEST, APRIL 21, 2016

1963 was my third season at good old Copton Lookout. Compared to 1961, the weather was generally colder, cloudy and quite wet. There was occasional snow on the ground, even during the warmest part of the summer. As a result there were fewer smokes and not many fires throughout the entire Grande Prairie Forest. Instead, there were lots of thunderstorms with moderate to heavy rainfall. At one point in July, Norm Smith, the radio technician came out to Copton in his Land Rover, successfully crossing the Kakwa River, staying up at the tower for approximately three days. The purpose of his welcome visit was to make adjustments and repairs on the radio equipment and power plants. On the same occasion he removed the wind charger which had been in

operation since the tower opened in 1956. Another change that took place that year was the closing of the Ground Observer Corps which meant that all the forestry towers south of Grande Prairie and along the mountains would no longer be required to identify or report foreign aircraft. This was in some way connected with the Distance Early Warning Line across Canada's north. Another change of note was the introduction of propane cook stoves, propane fridges, and oil heaters in place of wood burning air tight heaters and stoves. The change was very welcome and meant a lot less work splitting firewood and hauling out ashes, and trying to keep food cool enough for safe consumption. It took time to get used to these improvements. At a personal level,

I sort of missed the company of a snapping warm fire in the old cook stove, like I remembered out on the farm. But I did not miss a room full of smoke when it would not go up the chimney because the wind had changed direction. So Copton had joined the 20th century.

Even though it was a wet cloudy season I still had lots to do. I had no time to get bored with lots of chores keeping equipment in good order and the building reasonably clean, and a variety of weather records to keep and report daily over the radio system. Even though I had few visitors at Copton in wet weather, a few hardy souls showed up on foot or horseback and brought news from the world outside and stayed long enough for some hot mulligan and fresh bannock loaves. It was always



nice to see them and I felt better when I got word they got back to civilization safely within a few days. There were occasions when search parties were organized and no one was lost for very long, at least during my tenure. It should be pointed out that Copton Lookout was miles away from the main roads and was a difficult journey day or night. Because of weather extremes there was always intermittent visibility with almost no chance of looking over the surrounding terrain for wildfires or smoke. When visibility was nil or if it was very wet out, I had time to work on my own pen sketches and other artwork in the form of paintings done in watercolor or oil paint. At those times I was planning ahead so I would have enough pieces for an art exhibit in Grande Prairie at season's end. In the meantime, on certain occasions, helicopter pilots and sometimes other visitors would take souvenir paintings home with them. I would have them sign the Visitors' Book for posterity and eventually the archives. Most of my emphasis at the time was on recording in paint or sketches of the sub-alpine environment.

Mountains and foothills have been a choice subject for me, and continues to be so to this day. Most of my friends prefer this as well. One of my favorite pastimes was hiking with a dog named Sojo, which also meant going out in the evenings after the final tower sked. Not many people knew at the time but I covered many miles gathering small sketches and taking a few photographs with my Hawkeye camera. I was also making reference maps at the end of each trip. With a few exceptions I usually arrived back at the lookout long after dark, as each trip seemed to take much

longer than it should have. I often underestimated the distance and time and rough walking conditions, frequently through a lot of deadfall. There was wildlife around but I did not have much time to worry about it. Always, I thought, my trusty well behaved dog was close at hand; and I took my German army bugle in my packsack. This could be heard miles away and helped to "clear the air" in unknown bear country. I once told a true story about a camp of big game hunters who were new to the high country and one night happened to hear my bugle call after midnight. They had no idea about the lookout cabin on top of the mountain or that I was even there. This was a nasty surprise for them! They moved camp the next day. It was said that the hunters heard a weird, ghostly sound and were so spooked they lost no time



1. L to R: Bill Tinge and Bob Guest at Adams Creek Lookout; August 17, 2010

2. Ground Observer Corp medallion recognizing 3 years of service






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**"MOUNTAINS AND  
FOOTHILLS HAVE BEEN A  
CHOICE SUBJECT FOR ME,  
AND CONTINUES TO BE  
SO TO THIS DAY."**

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in getting out of there. I had quite a collection of similar stories based on strange happenings during my tower years. On some rare occasions I have told these stories to live audiences with some success. During my years at Copton, I would make six-mile (one-way) walks down the old forestry road to the ford on the Kakwa River where I met the ranger, Dave Schenk, and others who brought out mail and a few groceries from Grande Prairie.

The river was a bit too high to cross with their truck, so I took my boots off and waded across to meet them at the old forestry cabin. The dog was smart and waited for my return at the other side of the river. It was good to see them for a while, have a cup of hot tea and catch up with the news from town. Then I crossed the river again, got the dog and headed back up the dark lonely trail to the tower. It was too dark to see the bear tracks in the mud and I didn't

have time to worry about them. It took about two hours before I reached the top. One of the last things said before I left them at the river was, "We don't envy you one bit for the return trip you have to make tonight!" It started to snow when I got near the top. I was so thankful to get to the cabin where it was warm and I was out of the wind. There were many memorable occasions. For one thing, when I went to my first towerman training





session in the basement of the Provincial Building in Grande Prairie, Pete Murphy was my first instructor. He was one of my best teachers and made quite a hit with everybody. This was in March, 1961. When I reached Grande Prairie after the tower closed I had a problem about what to do with my wilderness companion, Sojo. Fortunately I met a kindly person who liked dogs and would take good care of her until the start of next year's fire season. She found a happy home.

#### **Ground Observer Corps** *Information from Wikipedia*

*During the Cold War period, the threat of nuclear attack on North America by manned bombers from the U.S.S.R. was taken seriously. Air defence radar stations, staffed with American and Canadian personnel, were set up in three systems across Canada to detect incoming Soviet bombers (Dew Line, Mid-Canada Line and the Pinetree Line). In addition to the radar networks, a manual backup system called the Ground Observer Corps (GObC) was created in 1951 and remained in operation until 1964. The GObC was a reporting system consisting of a network of observation posts across Canada manned by over 50,000 civilian volunteers who observed and reported aircraft movements. Reports were forwarded to "Filter Centres" which verified the information and passed it on to Air Defence Command.*

*At a time when nuclear war was considered a real possibility, the Ground Observer Corps gave anxious citizens an opportunity to do something they thought would help protect Canada. Recruiting ads were titled "Ground Observer Corps – the eyes and ears of the RCAF". The Alberta Forest Service played a role by training their lookout observers in aircraft identification to support the Ground Observer Corps.*

1. Two Cabins of Adams Creek Lookout, by Robert Guest, 2016. This oil painting was done from sketches of the two old lookout cabins as they stood for about 50 years on the summit of Adams Creek Ridge.

2. Aerial view of Adams Creek Lookout, Edson Forest Area; August 17, 2010





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# TOWERMAN TRAINING AND WEATHER

BY PETER MURPHY

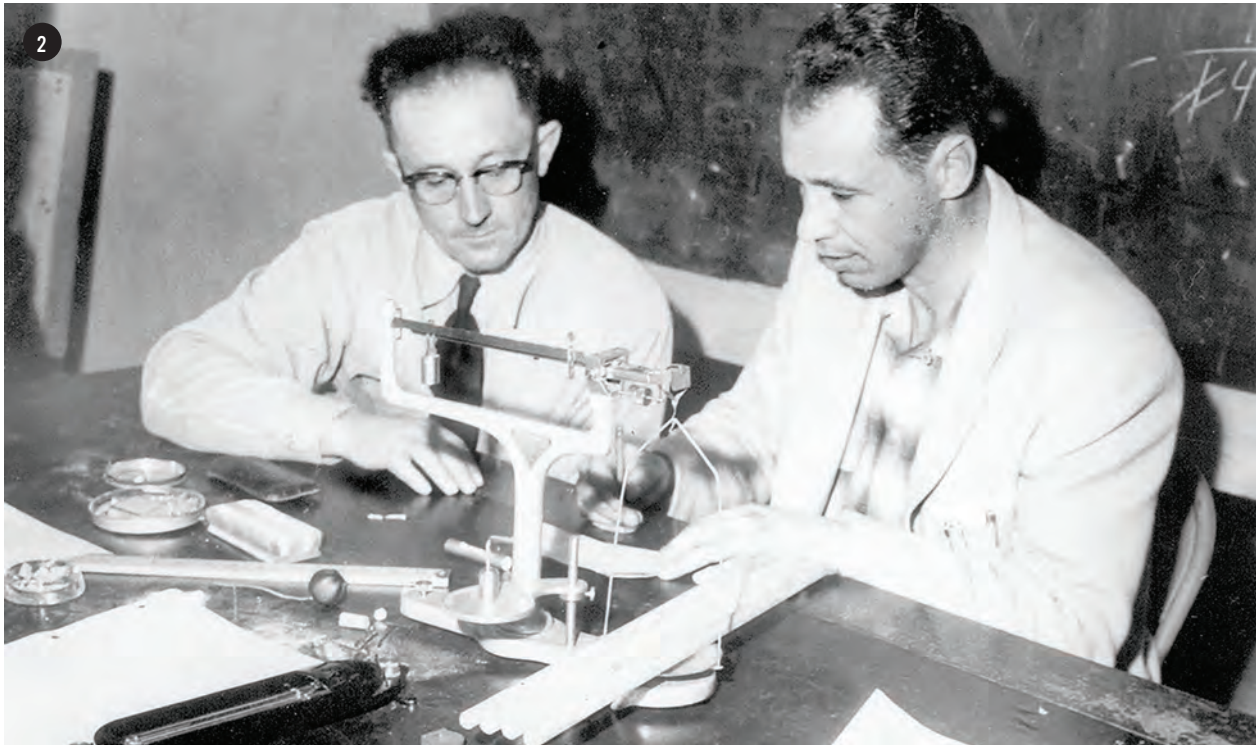
When we formally got into towerman training in the late 1950s I worked a lot with the Radio Branch staff, especially Doonie Donovan and Ron Linsdell - also with Forest Protection staff, especially Frank Platt and Jack Grant. Radio technicians also installed weather stations at the lookouts, later assisted with the network of stations at selected ranger stations in the Northern Alberta Forest District (for which I think the wives got paid a dollar a week for taking readings). So when we trained towermen at Forest Headquarters in March, radio techs came along for the day we did weather. And in Edmonton, Frank and Jack needed a hand setting up a way to handle all the weather data coming in by radio and teletype, so we developed a map of weather stations so Jack could plot the indices and warnings, and trace contour lines of the fire weather index.

When we moved the training in Hinton in 1960, we got help from DOT (Canada Department of Transport - weather service). They sent someone out from their Climatological Section to talk about the weather stations and how to use the instruments and keep records. Av Mann came along around 1965 - believe he was in charge of instrumentation at the time. The trainees, a lot of them with lookout experience, were keenly interested in weather, asked some good questions, which Av appreciated and had informative discussions. We added to the classroom time with Av, and he began to talk more about weather. We also talked about fire behaviour so we all gained an understanding about weather and fire. Av was then invited to talk at our initial courses in fire as well. Av was a great instructor and took the level of instruction to a much higher level.

I think first we talked about relative humidity and the warning level of 30%; that then became part of an advisory as well as for the record.

Av then talked about atmospheric instability and temperature lapse rates and the indicators in cumulus clouds - and I am confident that the lookouts understood the principles as a result. He introduced cloud formations and systematically explained how to identify the different kinds and consequences. I remember the three altitude levels: stratus, alto (middle) and cirro (high). And the vertical-development clouds - cumulus, cumulonimbus (cb possible downdraft winds) and cumulonimbus castellanus (cb+) - an indicator of mid-level instability and possible thunderstorm development later. The lookouts were able (and encouraged) to pass on warnings of weather indicators





in addition to just sending the data. With this knowledge I am sure they felt much more a part of the fire control system as a result.

I often thought of Av and his demonstration of the power of teaching and learning - never underestimate the potential of students. This was something I had begun to appreciate in my first class in 1956 with crusty old-timers who responded so positively to the opportunity to learn. Av had a much greater influence than he would probably have been aware. And the Murphy kid's tee-heed about meeting someone named "Mr. Man", which he took in good humour.

1. Meteorologist Wilbur Sly (centre) discusses the "convective index" with tower staff Ike Doerkson (left) and Sam Fomuk

2. Lookout observers learning to weigh fuel moisture sticks, Ike Doerkson on the right, 1960s

3. Avar 'Av' Mann providing weather training, Forestry Training School, 1963



*Peter Murphy provided this history about towerman training and weather when he heard of Av Mann's passing.*





# EARLY HELICOPTER HISTORY

Still in its infancy, the helicopter has already been used in firefighting. It needs only an opening in the timber for a landing site. Its use is not restricted to costly and widely separated landing fields. It can fly slowly to permit thorough scrutiny of any spot that looks suspicious to the observer. It can almost stand still in midair while the patrolman plots the location and conditions of a fire.

During the summer of 1947, a helicopter quickly moved a large crew of firefighters from the road end in the valley bottom to the point of critical need on a fire high up on an inaccessible mountain. There was no landing strip, only a brush-free spot on the mountain, but the task was accomplished without mishap.

Helicopters now do not carry enough pay load to make them a major factor in delivering supplies, men, or fire-extinguishing bombs, but that might soon be overcome. If the hovering type of aircraft is made capable of carrying a ton or more, it will be the final answer to the dreams of fire fighters. It will follow lightning storms across the forests, hovering at treetop level to examine each strike. The patrolman can be lowered to the ground by rope ladder to extinguish a smoldering spark. He will climb back into the helicopter and proceed systematically to the next danger spot, stopping in midair here and there to scrutinize suspected areas. When a small blazing fire is discovered, the helicopter will hover directly above it, just out of reach of the heat, and water or

chemical will be poured or squirted directly on the fire. Smokejumpers will be replaced with "heli-firemen", and the most dangerous and spectacular action in fire control work will be discontinued in favor of an easier, safer, yet as effective, method of getting to the point of attack. Then, when the last spark is killed, the "heli-firemen" will not face that long, hard hike, 20 or 30 miles cross-country under a heavy back pack, to the old landing field. He will merely radio for the helicopter and climb-up the rope ladder to a good comfortable ride back to the base.

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1. Practicing with the new ski-genie winch on CF-AFK; mid-1960s

*This article was used by Joe Smith in a Slave Lake Forest newsletter in the late 1980s. It is an excerpt from a 1949 article on the use of aircraft in fire suppression. Author and publication are unknown.*





# FORESTRY “GREEN TAILS”

BY BOB PETITE

Helicopters are an integral part of wildland firefighting operations today all across Canada, the United States and the world. The Department of Lands and Forests, Alberta Forest Service (AFS), was first introduced to helicopters in forest firefighting back in 1956. The commercial helicopter industry was only ten years old at the time. In a January 1954 meeting of Forest Service officials in Edmonton, forestry staff asked about utilizing helicopters in firefighting, however at the time all agreed they could be very expensive. The Department of Lands and Forests planned to contact the Federal Government

to see if Sikorsky S-51 search and rescue helicopters stationed in Edmonton might be used for firefighting purposes. In February 1955, field staff inquired about using the helicopter to help in locating suitable fire lookout sites, again turned down due to the high costs. There was continued pressure from the field to use helicopters in forest protection work.

The first recorded use of a helicopter on a forest fire in Alberta occurred on May 3, 1956 northeast of Slave Lake. The 10 acre wildfire had resulted from a burning rubbish pile on a campsite during the

construction of a radar installation for the Royal Canadian Air Force. AFS ranger E. A. Johnson and eight firefighters were transported via a military Sikorsky S-55/H-19 helicopter to the fire. Between May and July helicopters were used with success on 13 forest fires throughout Alberta. The helicopters were contracted from Okanagan

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L to R: Ted Hammer, Reg Loomis, Des Crossley, Frank Platt and Rein Krause viewing a new Bell 47J-2 Ranger helicopter on display at a Canadian Institute of Forestry, Rocky Mountain Section meeting, mid-1950s



Helicopters and Associated Helicopters to oil companies carrying out exploration programs. Rangers were able to utilize the contract helicopters in close cooperation with the oil companies. The helicopters were used for reconnaissance and assessment, moving in firefighters and equipment, and placing crews along the fireline. The value of this type of transport to get to the fires when small and more easily controlled was becoming quite apparent to the organization. There were a total of 69 helicopters on the Civil Aircraft Register across Canada in 1956.

Associated Helicopters Chief Pilot Tellef Vassjo said, "At the time the AFS became interested in the use of rotary wing aircraft, there were only a few helicopter companies in Alberta. Associated Helicopters already had seven years' experience in Western Canada. In November 1956, the AFS approached Associated to see if they would assess the new four-place Bell Model 47J helicopter for its suitability, reliability and performance in a variety of forest roles. I was dispatched to the Bell factory in Texas, and completed a thorough evaluation on the basis of the Forest Service's fire suppression needs. The conclusions were satisfactory and the AFS made a decision to contract a Bell 47J for a two-month period in 1957, and as a result Associated Helicopters purchased one aircraft." The Bell 47J helicopter was superior for forest protection work and cruised at 85 mph with a 750 pound payload. The Bell 47J carried three passengers, had internal loading for freight, and could be equipped with an electric hoist. Forest Protection Superintendent Ted Hammer said, "For fire suppression work



there is no doubt the helicopter is superior to other fixed wing aircraft. Again it is the combination of the two which is now considered the most effective method."

Helicopters were used on 19 wildfires during the 1957 fire season. The Associated Bell 47J contract during May and June was very successful in enabling rangers to get to fires in a much shorter period of time. Just over \$13,000 was spent using helicopters. "For scouting fires the helicopter is again so advanced of anything the Forest Service has ever done. Numerous lightning strikes were spotted with ease and close

inspection and pinpointing was possible after travelling along storm paths. "The advent of air travel in the Forest Service is by far the most important advance in its history," said Hank Ryhanen, Edson Division Forest Superintendent. After careful review and study, the AFS decided the best option was to purchase their own helicopter for fire suppression work. Charter of helicopters was very difficult in Alberta as most were under contract to the Federal Government or the oil and gas industry. The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests was the first Provincial government to purchase a helicopter, originally

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**"FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION WORK THERE IS NO DOUBT THE HELICOPTER IS SUPERIOR TO OTHER FIXED WING AIRCRAFT. AGAIN IT IS THE COMBINATION OF THE TWO WHICH IS NOW CONSIDERED THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD."**

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2

purchasing a Bell 47D-1 helicopter in 1953 for firefighting evaluation.

Bell Helicopter sold a new Model 47J Ranger helicopter CF-KEY, serial number 1745 to Alberta Lands and Forests on March 19, 1958, for \$72,720 US. The 47J was designed for transportation of personnel, equipment and supplies, and for general utility missions. It came with a hoist kit and rotor brake. Through contract, Associated Helicopters supplied pilots and maintenance. The Bell 47J featured a Lycoming VO-435 250 hp engine allowing it to perform at higher altitude on hotter days. Hydraulic boost control eased pilot handling and reduced fatigue. The main rotors were made of wood while the tail rotor was metal. A synchronized tail elevator provided increased center of gravity latitude. The baggage compartment in the tail boom handled up to 200 pounds of cargo. There was seating for three passengers on a bench seat behind the pilot. The new helicopter was painted White and

Glasspar Green, with cruise speed of 87 to 94 mph and a maximum range of about 190 miles. Fuel capacity was 29 imperial gallons using 80/87 gas. The service ceiling at gross weight of 2,565 pounds was 13,050 feet. Useful load weight was 1,027 pounds.

The first season CF-KEY was flown by Associated Helicopter pilots Tellef Vassjo and Lloyd Anderson. Their first jobs were opening fire towers in the Whitecourt Division.

The forestry helicopter actioned four fires in May while a second leased Associated Bell 47J worked on two fires. In late July both Bell 47J helicopters were used on a Peace River Division 150,000 acre fire in north western Alberta. The fire continued into the late fall. By October, helicopter CF-KEY had over 500 hours on its airframe. This new purchase was well received by rangers in the field. Training in the safety of helicopter operations was stressed throughout the 1958 fire season, including use

of the hoist. Helicopters played a big part in helping to suppress wildfires during the year, one of the worst fire seasons on record.

Helicopters were used on 42 wildfires during 1959 with the AFS Bell 47J working on 12 fires. The remaining fires were actioned using two Bell 47J helicopters leased from Associated Helicopters. The AFS decided to add a second Bell 47J to its helicopter fleet in 1960, the Bell 47J being deemed the most suitable for fire suppression duties. Helicopter Bell 47J-2 Ranger CF-AFK was ready for pickup in April, 1960.

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1. Forest Officer Ed Johnson scouting wildfires

2. Newly purchased AFS helicopter CF-KEY inspected by (L to R) Eric Huestis, Director of Forestry; Heber Jensen, Deputy Minister and Minister Norman Willmore; Spring 1958





The improvements over the first Bell 47J included a 305 hp Lycoming VO-540 engine, new metal main rotor blades, hydraulic boost control, larger capacity fuel tanks, fixed horizontal stabilizer plus an electric 400 pound hoist kit. All for just \$76,480 US.

The first major job for CF-AFK was assisting in the construction of Cline Lookout near Abraham Lake southwest of Nordegg. People and equipment were staged out of the Upper Saskatchewan Ranger Station. During 1960 helicopters took action on 43 fires, the AFS helicopters were used on 25 fires. Two additional Bell 47J helicopters were leased from Associated Helicopters. During 1960 the Timber Management Branch began to use the helicopters for timber work, and Fish and Wildlife used them to carry out game surveys. By 1961, five Bell 47J helicopters were available for forestry operations, two owned by the AFS, and three leased from Associated Helicopters. Helicopters were making a major impact in the field on how fires were now fought.



The AFS decided to add a third Bell 47J-2 to its fleet by purchasing CF-AFJ from Associated Helicopters on February 19, 1963. At that time there were 13 commercial helicopter companies operating in Alberta. The electric hoist was replaced in 1964 with the Sky Genie for rappelling by rope from the Bell 47J. The new system was much lighter and cheaper to purchase. One was able to lower themselves while controlling their decent to the ground. In late 1966, Associated Helicopters converted the AFS Bell 47J-2 helicopters with a supercharged engine installation. This upgrade greatly increased performance and safety.



Helicopter Bell 47J-2 CF-KEY was damaged in an accident north of Fort McMurray near Johnson Lake while working a wildfire on June 21, 1966. Disaster struck during landing onto a hastily built landing pad when part of the pad gave way resulting in the helicopter moving forward and the main rotor contacting the ground. The tail section was fractured by the impact and broke loose. Fire broke out with the front of the helicopter erupting in flames. Pilot Ralph Huff was able to escape without any injury. CF-KEY was a write-off. The Bell 47J-2 had 4,030 hours on the airframe at the time of the accident. A replacement Bell 47J-2, registration CF-AFI, was purchased for \$38,000 US in July 1966. In 1967, a monsoon bucket was tried for the first time with some success. The potential in putting out hot spots was quite evident with this new tool. 1968 was a disastrous year for fires in Alberta, with





1. Hauling supplies to Cline Lookout; May 1960
2. Helicopter CF-AFK at Cline Lookout; May 1960
3. Newly purchased AFS helicopter CF-KEY outside the Associated Helicopters hanger; Edmonton Municipal Airport; Spring 1958
4. Pilot Lloyd Anderson outside helicopter CF-AFK on the Brazeau Road; February 1961

52 helicopters used, flying 8,505 hours at a cost of \$1.2 million. The AFS forestry Bell 47J-2 helicopters flew 2,128 hours. CF-AFI logged 797 hours, CF-AFK logged 459 hours and CF-AFJ logged 872 hours. Helicopters were finding a niche in their ability to transport water to forest fires using heli-buckets slung under the rotary wing aircraft. They were becoming an effective way for pinpointing the bombing of small fires with water and even retardant in the late 1960s.

The AFS looked at replacing the Bell 47J-2 fleet at the end of the 1972 fire season. The Bell 47J-2 helicopter was still doing an excellent job, but it was time to go to the larger and faster light turbine helicopter. The Bell 206 Jet Ranger was the helicopter of choice. Bell 47J-2 CF-AFI was sold to Rocky Mountain Helicopters on

March 31, 1973. The AFS received its Bell 206B, registration CF-AFH, in April 1973. In 1974, the AFS purchased three additional Bell 206 Jet Rangers, bringing its turbine fleet up to four helicopters. In June 1975, all government owned aircraft in the AFS were brought together under the new Alberta Government Services for administration purposes. The AFS retained control and dispatch of the DC-3, 2 Dornier DO-28 aircraft, and 6 helicopters during the fire season.

The Alberta Forest Service had started with one helicopter back in 1958, at a time when helicopters and operators were scarce in Alberta. By 1975, the AFS fleet had grown to six helicopters. It was the end of an era when the Forestry fleet of aircraft and helicopters were turned over to Alberta Government Services. The AFS had seen many changes in the last 25 years in

regard to the utilization of the timber resources, land management, and forest protection, evolving into a fire control organization recognized across Canada. Alberta Government Services operated the two Bell 47J-2 helicopters CF-AFJ and CF-AFK up until 1978, mainly for timber management and some fire work. Helicopters CF-AFJ and CF-AFK flew 942 hours in 1977 and 883 hours in 1978, and both were sold in 1979. Today CF-AFK is in storage at the Reynolds-Alberta Museum in Wetaskiwin waiting for restoration back to Alberta Forest Service colors. The Alberta Forest Service Bell 47J-2 Ranger helicopters flew for 20 years in government service. The Bell 47J-2 Ranger affectionately called the "Green Tails" were a good effective and efficient forestry helicopter carrying out sterling work giving many rangers their first introduction to rotary-wing flight.





# MILLAR WESTERN CELEBRATES 200 MILLION<sup>TH</sup> TREE PLANTING

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY MILLAR WESTERN

On September 30, 2016, Millar Western marked a major milestone by celebrating the planting of their 200 millionth tree seedling. To commemorate the achievement, company employees, along with Chairman Mac Millar and President and Chief Operating Officer Craig Armstrong, unveiled a plaque and planted a tree near the site where Millar Western began its Alberta forest operations, nearly a century ago. Joining them for the ceremony were the Honourable Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry; Jon Carson, MLA, Edmonton-Meadowlark; Mayor of Whitecourt Maryann Chichak; Chief Tony Alexis of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation; and other guests.

Millar Western planted the 200 million trees over a span of nearly 40 years, after assuming responsibility for managing its forest areas from the Alberta government in 1977. In reflecting on the accomplishment,

Mr. Millar noted his family's long history in the forest sector. "During our many decades in the business, we have witnessed, first-hand, the benefits of sustainable forestry," said Mr. Millar. "We have seen harvested areas returned to healthy forests that support biodiversity and other environmental values, as well as the economic well-being of thousands of Albertans and dozens of communities across our province."

Based in Edmonton, Millar Western is Alberta's largest home-grown forest products company, producing lumber, pulp and – soon – bioenergy at facilities in Whitecourt and Fox Creek. The company employs 550 people on a fulltime basis, as well as many hundreds of contractors in forest renewal, harvesting, hauling and mill maintenance, making it a major regional employer.





# NORBORD GRANDE PRAIRIE OPERATIONS CELEBRATE 20<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

On September 10, 2016, General Manager Wes Nicholls and General Manager Woodlands Noel Roberts hosted an event celebrating 20 years of the Grande Prairie Oriented Strand Board operations. Originally built by Ainsworth, Norbord Inc. took over the mill on March 31, 2015. "Norbord Inc. is the leading global manufacturer of wood-base panels and is the world's largest producer of oriented strand board", said general manager Wes Nicholls in an interview with the Grande Prairie Daily Herald-Tribune. The mill's annual capacity is approximately 730 million square feet and employs about 195 workers, including the woodlands department. Since it produced the first press load 20 years ago, the mill has gone on to produce more than 2.6 million press loads.

1. L to R: Craig Armstrong, Mac Millar, Minister Oneil Carlier, Mayor Maryann Chichak and Chief Tony Alexis

2. L to R: Craig Armstrong, Minister Oneil Carlier, MLA Jon Carson, Chief Tony Alexis and Mac Millar

3. L to R: Noel Roberts and Minister Oneil Carlier; Norbord's Grande Prairie Operations 20 Year Anniversary Celebration; Grande Prairie; September 10, 2016





# TOLKO INDUSTRIES CELEBRATES 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

1. North Peace Tribal Council and Tolko Industries signing Memorandum of Understanding; 2016; L to R: Chief Trevor Mercredi, Beaver First Nation; Brad Thorlakson, President and CEO, Tolko Industries; Grand Chief Joe Pastion, Dene Tha' First Nation; Chief Rupert Meneen, Tallcree First Nation; Chief Gus Loonskin, Little Red River Cree Nation; Cameron Alexis, CEO North Peace Tribal Council

2. Tolko lumber product wrapped for transportation and sale

What began as a small family owned business, Tolko Industries celebrated its 60th Anniversary in 2016. The privately-owned Canadian company employs more than 3,300 people and is the fourth largest forestry products company in North America. Their roots trace back to the late 1890s when Thorlakur and Ingibjorg Thorlakson left the harsh economic conditions of Iceland. They met and married in Winnipeg, moving to the Okanagan Valley and raising their children on a ranch. Here, the children were expected to contribute as they grew, creating a generation of hardworking entrepreneurs. Fourth son Harold began logging in the early 1950s, while his youngest brother Joe moved around the region with a portable sawmill cutting railway ties. In 1956, Harold bought the Lavington Planer Mill, starting what would become Tolko Industries. Since then, Tolko has purchased and built a number of facilities where products include lumber, plywood, veneer, oriented strand board, unbleached kraft papers, and a growing number of wood products in its operations across Western Canada.



# THE BALLOON BOMB OFFENSIVE

BY KEN YACKIMEC

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A shot-down fire balloon reinflated by Americans in California. (Wikipedia photo)



I first heard about the surprising fact that the Japanese had directly attacked Alberta during the Second World War when I read Peter Murphy's *History of Forest and Prairie Fire Control Policy in Alberta* that was published in 1985. Since then I have done a bit more reading about the subject and found that it involved a very technologically advanced initiative on the part of the Japanese and a very successfully deployed defence strategy by the United States and Canada. Except for a quirk of nature and some luck the balloon bombs may have done much more damage than they actually did. (6 fatalities and some small fires.) The impetus for some type of response to the 1942 Doolittle Raid (U.S. air raid on Tokyo) was the motivation to first try to develop some type of bomb attack on the United States and when it became apparent hordes of manned bombers in the American sky could not be made possible, given Japan's dwindling resources, the idea of unmanned attack was fully examined.



The Japanese were quite advanced in their study of upper atmospheric air currents (now called the Jet Stream), thanks to a pioneering meteorologist named Wasaburo Ooishi, and they eventually worked out that during the winter and spring months these currents could carry unmanned balloons that could be engineered to deliver bombs as far away as North America. Even at the time it was realized this was not the optimal time to cause large forest fires, but the initiative was continued for the uplift in morale it would cause. Even though reports of actual large forest fires never reached the Japanese, the Japanese public was informed that massive fires were in fact raging across North America.

Given the scarcity of strategic materials such as silk or rubber that Japan had available at that start of the war, balloons had to be made of available materials such as layered Mulberry paper held together with a vegetable based glue that were assembled in large halls or gymnasiums by school girls who were drafted for this project. An interesting side note for Japan at this time, food was scarce enough that the girls had to be watched so that they would not eat the paste.

By late 1944 they were ready. Paper balloons, with cleverly engineered height controlling and timing mechanisms that would allow the dropping of a mixture of incendiary bombs and high explosives, began to arrive over North America by November 1944, indiscriminately in the United States and Canada. Examination of some recovered units gave the military some insight into the unguided missiles, and the defence strategy became twofold. In order that the Japanese not become aware of how successful their technology was, no publicity was to be given to any incident or damage related to these balloon bombs, and secondly, the balloons themselves were to be recovered wherever possible and examined to glean whatever intelligence that could be gained. Biological or chemical warfare was the biggest fear, and salvaged remains that had some mysterious liquid in onboard containers were very carefully examined. Thankfully no traces of this type of substance were found. (The liquid was determined to be a sort of antifreeze for the onboard batteries.) Canada had its own program to do this but information was freely shared with the United States.

In Alberta, the Alberta Forest Service and the RCMP were the primary collectors of balloon incidents and pieces in Alberta. Even though the Alberta Forest Service had only seven full time ranger staff during

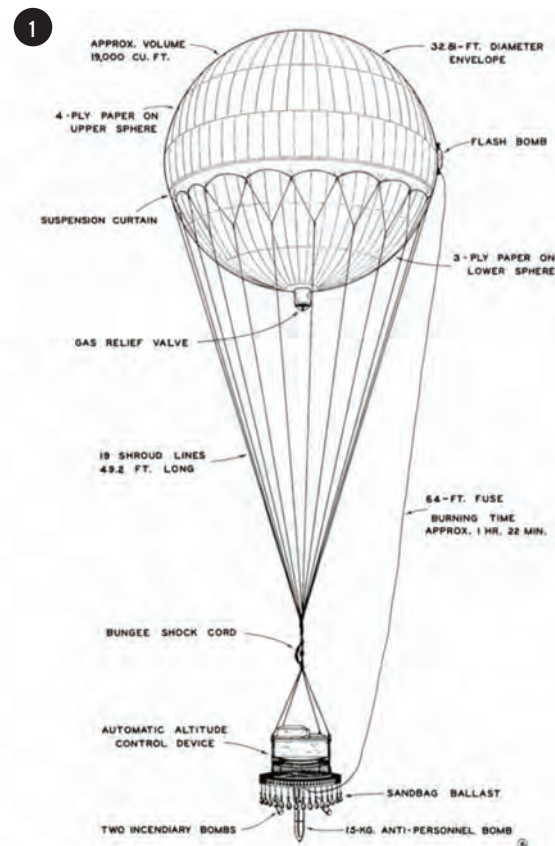


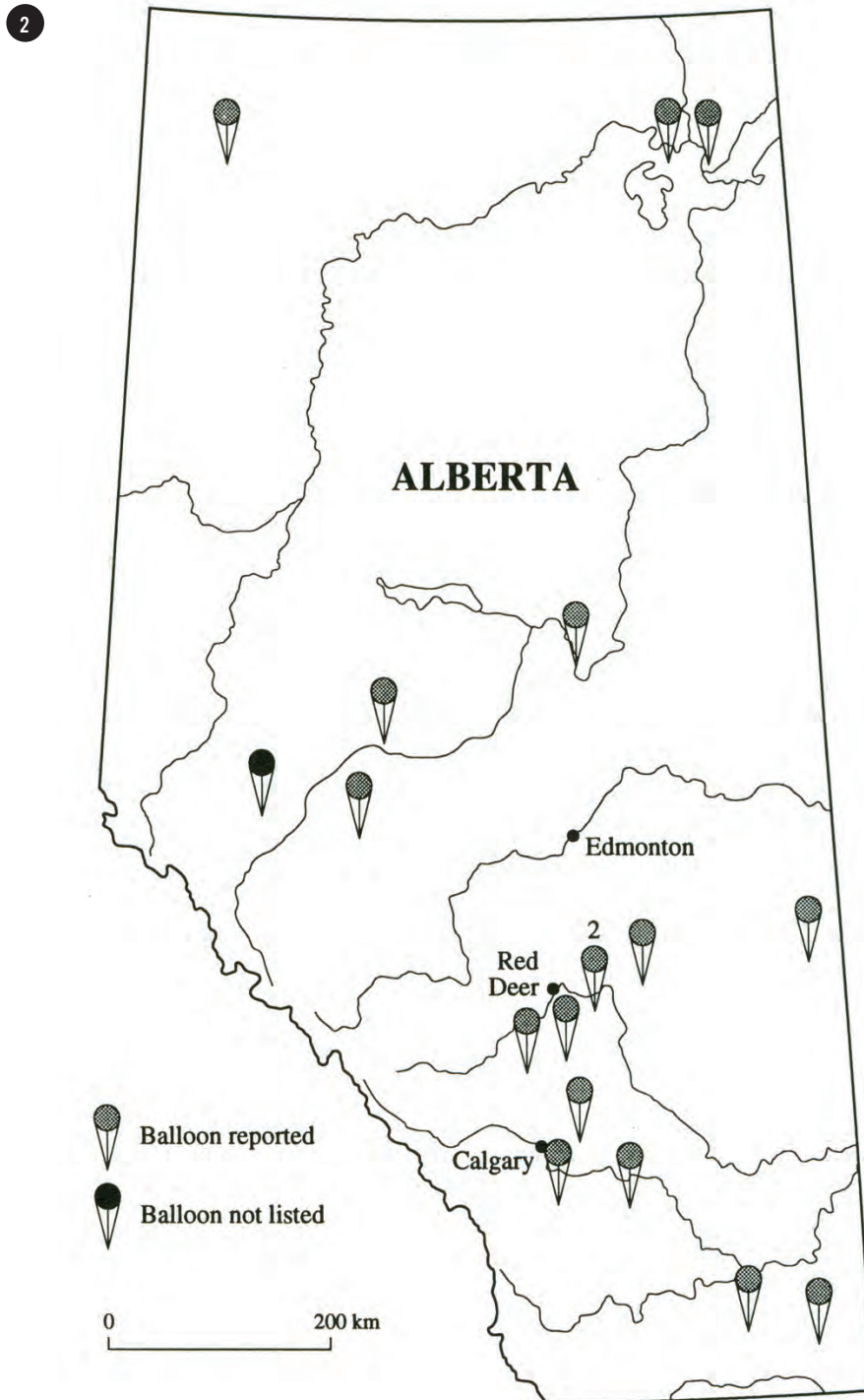
Figure 39. General arrangement of Japanese paper bombing balloon.

this period, its entire formal and informal organization was alerted to gather reports of these arriving in the province on a need to know basis. A complete balloon was actually recovered on March 11, 1945 near Edson.

According to another well-researched article by Frank Chiovelli titled *The Japanese Balloon Bomb Offensive On North America: An Alberta Perspective* (published in *For King And Country-Alberta In the Second World War*, editor: Ken Tingley, 1995), a number of bomb pieces were recovered by Albertans and brought to local offices. Due to the lack of publicity on this, some were handled in rather chilling fashion, such as the southern Alberta rancher who assumed what had tangled up with his cows was a weather balloon. He threw the assembly into the back of his pickup where it bounced around for a week before he turned it in angrily to the local RCMP, who turned pale.

The Alberta Forest Service recovered several, notably in the Edson area, one of which (disarmed) was on display at the Edson Forestry Office for years.

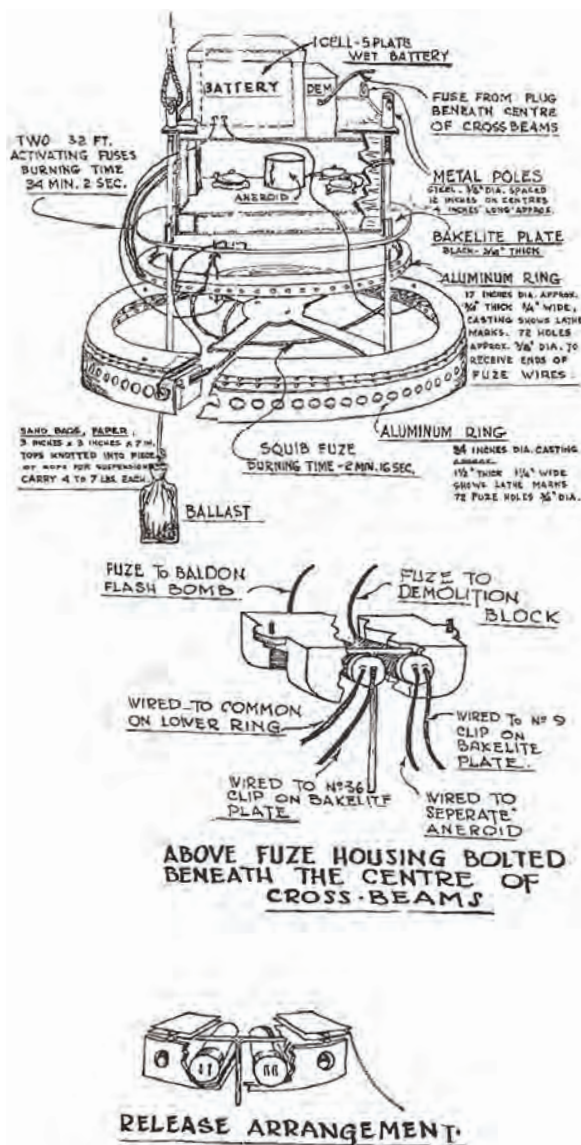




1. A sketch of a Japanese balloon bomb

2. Alberta map showing location of Japanese balloon bomb recoveries





Sketch of the bomb component of the  
Japanese balloon bomb

As many as five balloon remains were simply taken to the local dump in the Edson-Coal Branch Area.

According to the comprehensive data base of all Balloon Bomb incidents in the United States and Canada as published in the 2014 book *FU-GO*, by Ross Coen (University of Nebraska Press), 18 balloons were reported in Alberta out of the 285 total incident reports. Mr. Chioveli speculates in his article that there may have been as many as 1,000 undetected bombs throughout North America and some may have very well have caused forest fires in remote areas that might have be ascribed to other causes.

It is interesting to observe about all the incidents but particularly the ones in Alberta is that they tend to have been reported where there was some kind of population centre. It is tempting to speculate how many more may have landed in the much larger areas of Alberta that had no one to observe or report them. Around 9,000 balloons were actually launched from Japan and approximately 3% were reported but, as Mr. Coen puts it, "It seems probable that at least one, or dozens, or possibly hundreds await discovery." For instance, in a recent conversation with Agriculture and Forestry Forester Tim Juhlin, who works in the Crowsnest Pass area, he told me that he knows of a balloon site that was discovered some years ago by a local trapper. Is there a reasonable chance of still stumbling across the remains of these balloons more than 70 years later?

The balloons themselves were completely made of organic material so there would be no trace of these at this late date but some of the metal parts such as the aluminum main ring and other mechanisms may still exist. Some of the bombs, may still be intact and dangerous depending on how the balloon came down, so a very careful approach to anything that looks like remnants of these devices is still warranted. Be careful out there!



# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO REUNIONS HELD IN ALBERTA

BY ROBERT UDELL



The University of Toronto established the first professional forestry school in Canada in 1907, under the leadership of Dean Bernard Fernow. Foresters from U of T played an important role in the history of forestry in the Hinton area and Alberta generally, starting with Stan Clark, U of T Class of 1913 who came to the Hinton area after graduation, one of the first professional foresters in Alberta. He did much of the pioneering work establishing the Athabasca Forest Reserve. Willis N. Millar, a Yale Graduate who came to Alberta in 1911 to work under H.R. MacMillan and in 1912 replaced MacMillan as Inspector of Forest Reserves, briefly supervised Stan Clark. Millar left Alberta in 1914 to teach forestry at the University of Toronto, soon leaving to enlist in the U.S. Army. When he returned in 1919, he resumed his teaching career in the faculty until 1933. When Millar left Alberta he was replaced by Ernest Finlayson (U of T Class, 1912) who in turn was replaced in 1920 by Charles H. Morse (U of T Class, 1915) who remained as the Director of Forest Reserves until the Transfer of Resources to the Province in 1930. In the meantime, Ernest Finlayson was promoted to Ottawa as Forest Protection Specialist, later appointed Director of Forestry in April 1924, a position he held until his death in 1936.

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Stan Clark (Class of 1913) and Charles H. Morse (Class of 1915) in the Hinton forestry office, ca 1913. Note Stan Clark's U of T Sweater. Morse was named Inspector of Forest Reserves in Calgary in 1920.



In 1955, when the fledgling North Western Pulp and Power (NWP&P) operation started up in Hinton, it was a 1935 U of T graduate, Des Crossley, who was enticed away from the Canadian Forest Service to become its first Chief Forester. For the first time in Alberta, a forest company was given full responsibility for sustained yield forest management. Fired by his passion to put his research knowledge to practical application on a large scale, he developed a sustained-yield forestry program at Hinton that became renowned in Canada and internationally. To help with this, he frequently turned to his alma mater when recruiting new foresters for his Hinton forestry program. This preference was so overt that the staff of the NWP&P Forestry Department began writing an irreverent history, King James Bible-style, of the Department entitled "The Gospel According to St. Fernow", and kept it current until the late 1980s when Forestry and Woodlands were merged into one Forest Resource Department. Crossley was President of the Canadian Institute of Forestry in 1966, and was awarded its Forestry Achievement Award in 1969. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Toronto in 1982, and gave the convocation address.

In 1957, Crossley persuaded Jack Wright, a Forestry 5T3 graduate to join the Forestry Department and take on the important assignment of working with John Miller, a seconded forester from the St. Regis Paper Company, to develop a forest inventory and management program at Hinton. This led to the first ever sustained yield-based forest management plan for the Hinton FMA, and indeed for Alberta in 1960. Jack succeeded Des Crossley as Chief Forester in 1975 and continued to play an important role at Hinton as well as in Alberta and the national scene.

In 1964, Crossley recruited R.D. (Bob) Carman, a gold medalist (highest achievement combined scholastic and sports) University of Toronto forestry graduate (Class of 5T4) then working with the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. Carman had experience in containerized seedling growing, and Crossley had an interest in this emerging technology. Carman, among his other achievements, developed the first containerized nursery program in Alberta, the first post-harvest

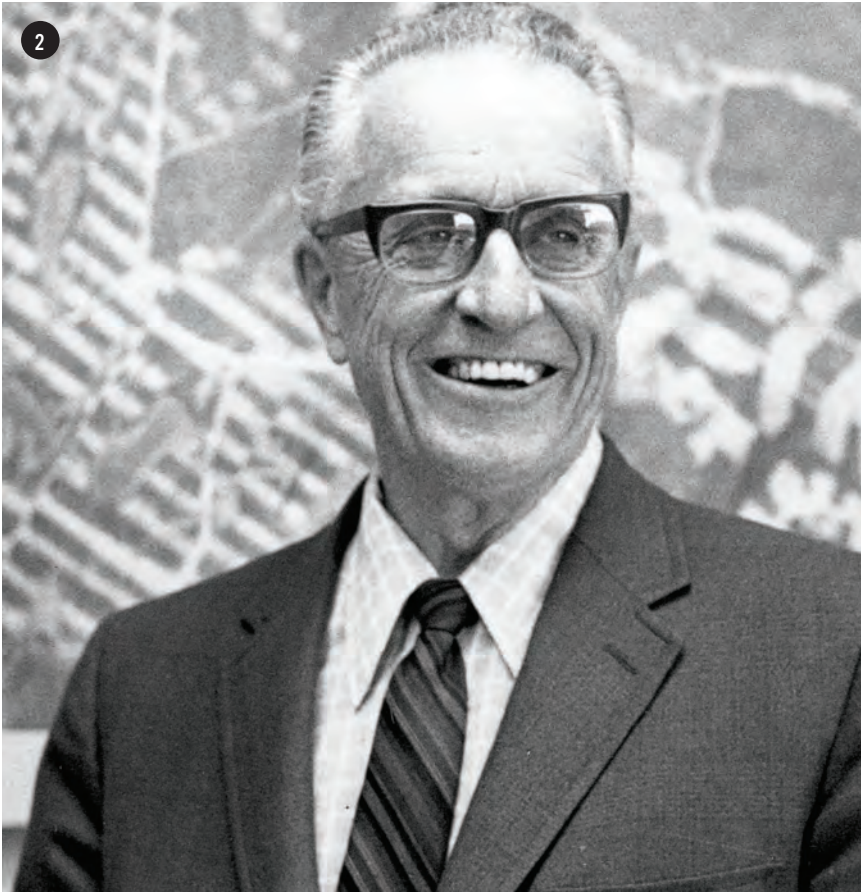


silviculture prescription program and established a number of silviculture research trials on the FMA. After leaving Alberta, Carman rejoined the Ontario public service and rose high in its ranks, receiving an Order of Canada in 1995 for his services.

U of T forester hiring's continued in the 1960s with Russell Powell (Class of 6T5 – Gold Medal) and Bob Udell (Class of 6T6) who assumed increasingly senior roles in the Forestry Department. Powell left in 1968 and Udell left briefly in 1970, returning in 1975 to take over Wright's role as Management Forester. Udell went on to author the ensuing two management plans and became first president of Foothills Model Forest. Jim Boeking (Class of 5T1) was also hired by the Woodlands Department in the late 1960s.

More recently, David Andison (Class of 1982) began working with Foothills Model Forest in 1994, studying the role of natural disturbances, primarily fire, in sustaining ecosystem diversity and function in the





foothills forests of Alberta. Managers realized that a focus on individual species (Fine Filter Biodiversity) would be insufficient to ensure maintenance of all environmental services and some sort of Coarse Filter Biodiversity program, a broader-scale management approach would be needed. He continues this work today through the Healthy Landscapes Program at fRI Research. This work extends across western Canada into Ontario and is having a significant influence on approaches to landscape management across Canada.

Given the role that University of Toronto foresters have played in the foothills around Hinton since the early days of the 20th century, it seems only fitting that the Class of 6T6 celebrated its Golden Anniversary with a reunion in this historic forestry area of Alberta. The Class of 6T0 celebrated 56 years sharing stories and sights in Alberta around the same time. Hiring of U of T foresters in Alberta was not limited to those working for North West Pulp and Power. The Alberta government hired Bob Fessenden (Class of 6T5), Keith McClain (Class of 7T1), Steve Price (Class of 7T2) and Robert Stokes (Class of 7T9).




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1. Jack Wright, early days, 1957  
Courtesy Jack Wright

2. Des Crossley

3. Bob Udell





# CLASS OF 6TO REUNION

BY DAVID KIIL, CLASS OF 6TO

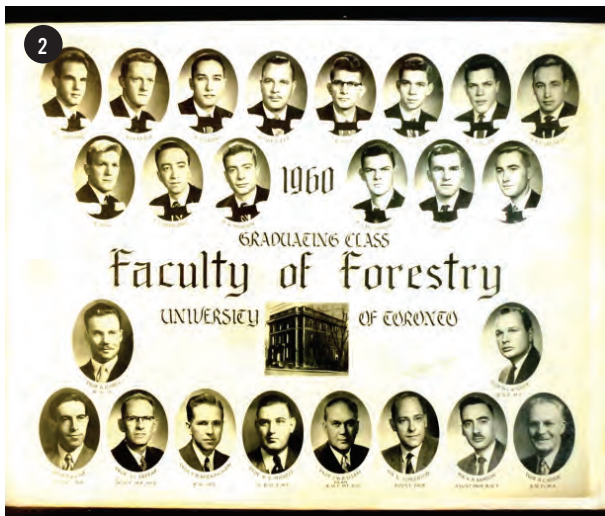
About 25 high school graduates enrolled in the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto in 1956, 14 graduated in 1960. Aside from the usual academic course work, they participated in interfaculty sports, field trips to familiarize themselves with forest management activities, enjoyed social events at the University of Toronto Farm, and gained experience in various field activities at Spring Camp in Dorset, some 150 kilometres north of Toronto. The relatively small size of the class and social activities meant that we became good friends during the undergraduate years. Most graduates gained employment with federal and provincial governments and industry in Ontario, but also in Newfoundland and western Canada.

Ken Reese spent virtually his entire career with Ontario Lands and Forests, later with the Ministry of Natural Resources. His work was with tree nurseries at several locations, including the Head Office in Toronto, Dryden, Kirkland Lake and Midhurst (Barrie). Following retirement in 1994, Ken has worked on the history of lumbering around his Muskoka cottage and his family history. Another classmate, Don Dickson's first job was with KVP Co. at Espanola as a District Engineer. Beginning in 1964, he worked with forest companies

in Newfoundland as a Logging Engineer, Sawmill Superintendent and Chief Forester. From 1974 to 1998, Don worked with Boise Cascade Canada at Fort Frances in northern Ontario. He considers himself an industrial forester working in all aspects of harvesting operations, but also reforestation, stand tending and management planning. Following a brief stint with Ontario MNR, Stan Byrne entered teaching. His career consisted of three years at Dryden High School and 32 years at Bracebridge High School. Stan retains a serious interest in forestry, nourished by his association with the reunions of the U of T graduating class.

Dave Kiil spent his career with federal government departments in Ottawa, Calgary, and Edmonton. In the 1960s, he conducted prescribed burning experiments on the FMA limits of Northwestern Pulp and Power at Hinton and later coordinated fire and pest control programs in the North west Territories and Yukon. Delivery of federal forest research programs at the Northern Forest Research Centre and management of federal-provincial forestry agreements in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba were important activities in the 1980's and 1990's, followed by retirement in 1994 as the Director General.





Our first reunion was held in Toronto 25 years after graduation, followed by 50, 52 and 54 anniversary gatherings in Ontario and on Vancouver Island. The three-day reunion from September 1 to 3, 2016 in Edmonton was attended by six couples and one widower. The Varscona Hotel served as a friendly and convenient pre-dinner gathering point with a selection of wine and cheese, and nearby restaurants provided enjoyable meals and enabled the group to reconnect with "the good old times", involving post-retirement lifestyles and interests. In fact, exhilarating storytelling apparently resulted in diners at the other side of a restaurant distancing themselves from the retiree's enjoyment of the evening!

Bruce Mayer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, arranged for presentations by his staff about the status of integrated resource and wildfire management in the province. The very informative presentations were followed by an enthusiastic question-and-answer session about sustainable resource management. A visit to Fort Edmonton Park enabled the group to go back in time more than 150 years to the days of the fur trade and pioneering years. Costumed interpreters and demonstrations brought the Fort's past to life. A visit to the Muttart Conservatory in the North Saskatchewan River Valley featured pyramids displaying plant species found across three biomes. Visits to the Telus World of Science and West Edmonton Mall were other highlights during the reunion.



Great distances, work and family obligations made it difficult to convene reunions during the first half-century since graduation. However, planning is already underway by the members of the U of T Forestry Class of '60 to celebrate their 58th anniversary in Ontario in 2018.

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1. Class of 1960 within a cutblock on a field lab, spring 1960

Front Row (L to R): Stan Byrne, John Copeland, Bert Post, Ed Osler, John Simpson, Ralph Yanni

Middle Row (L to R): Don Dickson, H. Van Bers

Back Row (L to R): William Wonk, Ken Reese, Dave Kiil, Doug Gerrard, Not Identified, Bill Weistra, Ted McHale

2. University of Toronto Forestry Graduating Class; 1960  
Courtesy University of Toronto

3. University of Toronto 1960 Forestry Graduates and spouses at Fort Edmonton; L to R: Ken Reese, Pat Reese, Dave Kiil, Don Dickson, Ralsh Yanni, Rhoda Dickson, Pat Yanni, Wendy McHale, Ted McHale, Stan Byrne, Helen Byrne; September 2016





# CLASS OF 6T6 REUNION

BY BOB UDELL, CLASS OF 6T6

On September 22 and 23, 2016, members of the 1966 Forestry Graduating Class from the University of Toronto convened in Hinton to celebrate 50 years since graduation. Hosted by their classmate Bob Udell and the Forest History Program at fRI Research, the delegates and their spouses enjoyed two days together reminiscing about their four years studying at the University under professors who were and still are well known across Canada. These included, for example, John Farrar (Author, *Native Trees of Canada*), Ken Armson (Silviculture, Soils Professor, Author, later Ontario Chief Forester and recipient of the Order of Canada 2016), Bob Day (Former CFS Researcher in Alberta who joined U of T in 1965).

In the early 1960s, University of Toronto was one of only four professional forestry schools in Canada. Others included universities of New Brunswick, Laval, and British Columbia. Toronto grads were well regarded, partly because of the well-rounded and comprehensive nature of their studies which put them in a good position to either embark on immediate careers or go on to further studies in any field of their choice. From the first class in the fall of 1962 to the last class in the spring of 1966 the classmates were never separated, everyone attending all the same classes ranging from traditional forestry studies to more esoteric pursuits such as philosophy, law, history and English. The small

faculty of only about 100 students was also renowned for its sports teams. This combination of a small class with shared experiences fostered lifelong friendships and a continuing desire to get together as they have done every five years since then.

Graduates of Forestry 6T6 worked across Canada and internationally in careers that included provincial public services, Ontario Hydro, the Canadian Forest Service, the Forest Products Laboratory, University Schools of Forestry in Canada, New Zealand and the USA, Urban Forestry departments, international consulting firms and so on. Many continued their studies for post-graduate degrees. Some left forestry to go





teaching and a couple went into the clergy. Of the 32 students who enrolled in 1962, 18 graduated and 12 attended the reunion.

The 2016 reunion was a great chance to talk about student days, share news about family and careers over the years, discuss past reunions and to talk about classmates who have passed away or for whom illness prevented travel to Alberta for the reunion. Particularly poignant were thoughts of classmate Reverend Fergie Wilson who died in August and whose memorial service was held in Ontario during the reunion. We shared our memories of Fergie and sent them to classmate Terry Johnson, who was unable to make the reunion but attended the memorial and read them on our behalf.

An enjoyable two days included a tour of the Cache Percotte training site with its historic cabins, a visit to the Alberta Forest Service Museum and the Wildfire Simulator at the

Hinton Training Centre with an excellent presentation by Scott Elliott. Following lunch the first day, Ryan Tew, the new General Manager of fRI Research gave an overview of organizations programs, and Bob Udell talked about the Forest History Program at fRI. Then it was off to Hinton's Beaver Boardwalk where fRI Research President Rick Bonar gave an overview of the development of the boardwalk, followed by an interpretive tour. On the second day, the delegates headed west on Highway 16 for an interpretive tour based on the Northern Rockies Ecotour book.

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1. University of Toronto First Year Forestry Class; 1966  
Courtesy University of Toronto

2. University of Toronto 6T6 Forestry Class; Lake Annette; September 23, 2016

L to R: Hans Zuuring, John Ambrose, Ron Neilson, Tom Griffiths, Derek Coleman, Bob Udell, Bob Wanless, Bob McGee, Ron Alton, Murray Derrington, Crandall Benson, Lloyd Burridge  
Courtesy Joan Udell





# WILLIS MILLAR AND HARRY PARKER

BY PETER MURPHY

*In 2016, Dave Morgan contacted Peter Murphy with photographs his sister-in-law Teresa Craig-Morgan had of her grandfather's, Harry Parker. These photographs are a valuable addition to Alberta's forest history, showing day to day life, work and geography of the Cypress Hills National Forest (Forest Reserve) in the 1920s. The photographs are being scanned and annotated and will be presented in the next Trails & Tales newsletter.*

The photograph of W.N. Millar on Keno was probably taken by Harry Parker in the early 1920s at Cypress Hills. Parker was a University of Toronto forestry graduate, Class of 1920<sup>1</sup>. He was hired by the Dominion Forestry Branch (DFB) as a Forest Engineer and served as Supervisor of the Cypress Hills Forest Reserve until the Transfer of Resources to Alberta in October 1930. He continued his career with Dominion Forestry at their headquarters office in Calgary. At the time of the photograph, Millar was then a lecturer at the University of Toronto, working as a seasonal advisor to the DFB, giving him a chance to ride the Cypress Hills with his former student.

Willis Norman Millar started his career with a degree in science from the University of Pennsylvania, followed by a degree in Forestry from Yale in 1908<sup>2</sup>. Willis started work with the U.S. Forest Service, soon becoming Supervisor of the Kaniksu National Forest, with headquarters at Priest River, Idaho.

One of Millar's classmates at Yale was Harvey Reginald MacMillan, who went to work with the Dominion Forestry Branch. In 1908, MacMillan was sent west to survey

Forest Reserves in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Towards the end of the field season, MacMillan was working at Waterton Lakes and in the Crowsnest Pass area. It was probably at that point he travelled south to visit Millar in Idaho, as illustrated in the DFB photograph with the two of them together.

Millar moved to Canada in the fall of 1911 to take a job with the DFB, perhaps with the encouragement of MacMillan. Soon after, in 1912, H.R. MacMillan was invited to become Chief Forester of the newly-created British Columbia Forest Service. In 1919, he founded H.R. MacMillan Export Company, a company that eventually morphed into MacMillan-Bloedel Ltd., a major forest products industry.

Meanwhile, Millar was based in Calgary to take charge of the recently formed Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve (RMFR). It was an opportunity for him to apply his experience to organize the administration of this large area that extended from Waterton Lakes in the south to headwaters of the arctic-flowing Smoky River. Millar travelled widely through the RMFR to obtain a thorough understanding of the countryside and its forests and





1. H.R. MacMillan (left) and W.N. Millar at Kaniksu National Forest, Priest Lake, Idaho; Fall 1908. MacMillan and Millar were classmates at the Yale College of Forestry, graduating in spring of 1908. This picture was also used in the Forest History Society story "A Fortuitous International Meeting of Two Yale Foresters in 1908: H.R. MacMillan and W.N. Millar; Peter Murphy and Robert Stevenson; 1999

2. Willis N. Millar on Harry Parker's horse Keno, leading packhorse Little Blue, at the Cypress Hills Forest Reserve (National Forest) headquarters Photograph Harry Parker; 1920s

wildlife. He initiated surveys to determine the extent of the timber resource and instituted fire control systems.

Millar's primary objectives were to continue the improvements of fire control and establishment of ranger stations, cabins, lookouts and phone lines. Recruitment of staff to meet the needs of a new organization in rugged land was an ongoing function. W.N. Millar was a "hands-on" administrator who visited much of this important watershed and timber producing reserve, insuring that well maintained primary and secondary trails connected the new ranger stations. Numerous patrol cabins were placed at intervals about a day's horse travel apart. Lookouts and telephone lines followed as the DFB became established. The efforts of Millar formed the patterns of the present-day forest and wildfire management regimes throughout much of western Canada.

Of particular interest was W. N. Millar's vision of creating wildlife preserves outside the Dominion parks. In fact, in 1915 he published a comprehensive documentation of big game species in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Millar let it be known that steps were necessary to provide protection to big game species such as elk, moose, mule deer, caribou, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, grizzly bear and black bear. To this end, he proposed to establish game preserves within the Forest Reserves adjacent to the Dominion Parks, while allowing programs for timber extraction,

watershed protection and limited grazing of domestic livestock. These initiatives recognized the value of wildlife including benefits accrued to tourists, outfitters, guides and sport hunters. Similarly, Millar pointed out in two national reports the merits in reducing apparent Aboriginal overkill of bighorn sheep in specific areas of the Canadian Rockies. One of his reports was published as a Forestry Branch Bulletin.

In later years, wildlife protection zones were established in essentially the same areas proposed by Millar. From his earlier recommendations, a variety of sustainable land management strategies have evolved to enhance elk and bighorn sheep population levels, which now afford reasonable hunting opportunities for residents and non-residents.

In September of 1914, Millar left the DFB to teach in the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto, but he was retained as an adviser to the DFB. The U of T offered Canada's first university forestry program, established in 1907 with Bernhard Fernow as Dean. It was Fernow who recruited Millar to fill a vacancy on staff. Millar stayed on at the University through 1933, except for war-time service. The new Dean, Dr. B. Sisam, commented: "About this time the staff was considerably strengthened with the return of Professor Millar from military service at the beginning of 1919." Millar's experiences influenced a whole generation of foresters.<sup>iii</sup>

<sup>i</sup> The University of Toronto lists him as "Parker, Henry Albert" in the Forestry Class of 1920, but he evidently used the name "Harry".

<sup>ii</sup> Drushka, Ken 1995. HR – a biography of H.R. MacMillan. Harbour Publishing.

<sup>iii</sup> Text adapted from Murphy, Peter J. and Robert E. Stevenson 1999. A Fortuitous International Meeting of Two Yale Foresters in 1908: H.R. MacMillan and W.N. Millar. Forest History Today, Spring 1999, Forest History Society, Durham NC. Pp. 17-20.



# A HOME WAS ALL THEY NEEDED

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE LOGGER SPORTS ASSOCIATION HISTORY

BY KATHERINE SPENCER

The struggle of not-for-profit groups happens in all sectors. We at the Forest History Association of Alberta (FHAA) push and persevere to gather and document historic information on forest history within Alberta. Logger Sports organizers bring the history of the forest industry to the public realm across Canada. When a small and vibrant group of people come together for a purpose they can achieve great things. But if they start to fight a constant uphill battle their enthusiasm may wain. This is the story of a passionate and dedicated volunteer group called the Rocky Mountain House Logger Sports Association.

Alberta's Boreal Region was named the Forest Capital of Canada in 2005-2006. Rocky Mountain House had a history of forestry in Alberta and even though it was not in the Boreal forest they wanted to capitalize on this crowning achievement for the province. A lively community member named Louise Fischer had grown up in Grande Prairie and always enjoyed the logger sports competitions they held. She posed the idea of a local logger sports competition to a few other active community

members Carmen Jensen, Myles Jensen and Allan Titford. These individuals pooled together, and in 1996 started fundraising and growing exposure for the exciting event that they wanted to bring to the community.

At that time Rocky Mountain House was the only logger sports competition in the province. These diligent volunteers approached all of the local businesses and forestry related groups to support this event. They set a steep fundraising minimum goal of \$15,000. They researched all necessary equipment, insurance, and details to run a world class logger sports competition. They also researched some of the logging and forest history in Rocky Mountain House to show the community why an event like this had so much context in the community and supported their rich local heritage.

Between each member they had the necessary skillset. Allan Titford owned a heavy equipment company. The group knew they wanted the crowd favourite event, log rolling. Canadian Logger Sports Association (CANLOG) rules stated

that a 30 foot by 30 foot log rolling tank was required to host the event. Allan got approval from the community to dig a log rolling tank. The issue with this amazing effort and time investment was that they did not have community approval for a permanent site so the huge log rolling tank hole-in-the-ground had to be filled the very next day. Allan had never seen a birling tank and only had the CANLOG rule book to guide him in dimensions. A birling pond was dug and refilled for the 1996, 1997 and 1998 competitions. Allan used a geotextile fabric to hold water in the tank and hauled sand to put over top of it. He then hauled over 20 loads of water totalling around 50,000 gallons. The group also had 100 foot climbing poles donated to them, and yet again Allan used his heavy equipment business to install the poles and then take them out again because they could not secure community council support for a local venue.

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1. Rocky Mountain Lumberjack Competition advertisement; 1998



1

Rocky Mountain House & District Chamber of Commerce  
Proudly Presents Alberta's Only CANLOG Sanctioned

# Rocky Mountain LUMBERJACK COMPETITION



## SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 1998

Rocky Mountain House, Alberta  
Stampede Grounds

### COMPETITIONS

Start at Noon Both Days

### ELIMINATIONS

Begin at 9 a.m.

### BEER TENT

EQUIPMENT &  
PRODUCT DISPLAYS

### SUPPER & CABARET

Saturday Night - Curling Rink

Featuring Danny Hooper

Tickets \$25.00 Each

Admission: Adults \$5.00

Children 6-14 \$2.50 • Under 6 Free

Supplement to

**The Mountaineer**





Photos courtesy Rocky Museum

## Forestry plays a major role in Rocky's history

Probably the first use made of lumber products in this area was by the nomadic plains Indians who came to the foothills in search of long, straight pine to cut for tipi poles and travois. These trees came to be known as "Lodgepole pine."

Later the North West Company of traders and the Hudson's Bay Company cut local timber to build their trading posts, stockades and York boats. Hudson's Bay Company records mention the men constructing a whip saw over a pit to supply some rough boards for furnishings and shelving in the post buildings.

From this small beginning developed an industry that nourished every person in this area right to the present day. Probably no other district in Alberta was so dependent on the timber industry to provide the grub stake for homesteaders, transient labour and small town business.

The early forestry industry not only produced lumber for construction, but also produced mine props for the developing coal mines in Norddegg and along the North Saskatchewan River valley, ties for rails at the mine sites and for the railways in the area, fence posts, firewood, telephone poles and power poles.

Hewing ties on the two sides was an art from we will never see again. Big Bill Chabayo was one of the last of the men

around here who was an expert with the broad ax. One man named Skagen broke all records one winter when he cut, hewed and piled 100 ties a day. Others averaged 35 a day.

In cutting ties, the lumberjack used a broad ax to hew the six, seven or eight-foot logs flat on two sides, picked them up and packed them on his shoulders to a pile along the trail where teamsters could pick them up. Another crew, using a draw knife, peeled the two sides that hadn't been hewed before they were loaded onto the box cars for shipment.

That, too, was a job for a strong back. Oldtimers remember Slim Fene and George and John Hammer loading ties. They developed a rhythm like a gymnast that was beautiful to see. The leader picked up the 300-pound tie, balanced it on his shoulders and strode at a half run up the gang plank into the car and piled it snugly with 850 to 900 others to fill the car.

Props, posts, ties and firewood were cut on homesteads by permit and on government land for a small fee. A man often cut all day, loaded the sleighs and the next day he or a member of his family left before daylight to deliver the load to the buyer in town.

Revenue from the timber fed and clothed the homesteader or the itinerant worker, for a milk cow and a new team of horses. Eventually a few essential pieces of machinery were

**2 Masters of Ceremonies**

Three masters of ceremonies will help enliven the Rocky Mountain Lumberjack Competition.

Returning for a third year is Wayne LeBlanc. LeBlanc is a former professional competitor in lumberjack competitions and has held Canadian Championships. He is an area representative for Canlog – the Canadian Logging Sports Association – which has sanctioned this competition.

Along with describing the action to the audience, LeBlanc is responsible for overseeing safety preparations to ensure that competitors are protected.

Sharing the duties for MC'ing with LeBlanc are two local celebrities.

Commentating on Saturday is Gary Hiney. Gary has a long connection with sport in Rocky Mountain House, including his role as chairman of Rocky's edition of the Central Alberta Summer Games. He has maintained a strong interest in the community since he moved to Red Deer to pursue his business interests.

Sunday's duties fall to CHBW radio personality Jason LaCroix.

**About the Rocky Mountain Lumberjack Competition**

The Rocky Mountain Lumberjack Competition is in its third year of offering competitors of all levels, from beginners trying the fun events to seasoned professionals after Canadian titles, a chance to take part.

This event is Alberta's only sanctioned lumberjack competition, allowing professional competitors to collect points toward overall standings. Canlog, the Canadian Loggers Sport Association, was pleased with the results of the first competition held in 1996, and has made Rocky Mountain House the site for Canadian championships in Tree Climbing and Obstacle Pole Bucking in 1997. This year, it has awarded five Canadian championships to the event.

A lumberjack competition was proposed as part of Rocky Mountain House's year as Alberta Forest Capital. The idea developed quickly and volunteers soon had the willing participation of sponsors to offer a total purse of \$20,000. The 1996 event filled the grandstands and attracted professional competitors from all over the world. It proved to be the second largest event on the 1996 circuit, only smaller than the Pacific National Exhibition event in Vancouver. Weather hindered the 1997 competition, but the cold and rainy day on Sunday did not stop the open class competitors from entraining an equally heavy crowd with exciting performances.

Comments from competitors have been positive and word has spread. This year, even more competitors are expected to take part in the open (professional) categories.

The committee has worked to improve the show from year to year. Two days of competition will allow the Fun, Novice and Intermediate class winners to be determined Saturday afternoon and the Open class winners on Sunday afternoon. It promises to be even more fast paced this year.

Ladies' Stock Saw Event

Louise Fischer was the main visionary for Rocky Mountain House Logger Sports. She had watched the Grande Prairie logger sports competition growing up and as an adult could reflect on what a success it was for the community with huge crowds and international competitors coming to town. Louise initiated a huge portion of the fundraising and ensured a fundraising platform was in place that would attract sponsors and give them the appropriate recognition. She put in countless hours looking to advertise across the province for this one of a kind event. Her passion helped push forward the other group members who knew relatively little about the sport.

Carmen Jensen played a critical role in community outreach. Carmen has an enthusiasm that is infectious. She organized kid's events with the schools and other community groups. She and her husband Myles even designed rubber throwing axes for young children to safely throw. The handles for these children's throwing axes came from broken axe handles supplied by the local forestry office. Carmen headed up fundraising with Louise Fischer. In one instance they were approved for an advertising grant that they used to purchase "Jack" a 12 foot blow-up lumberjack with a removable advertising patch on the back to change the show dates each year. Jack the mascot was also printed onto colouring contest sheets that were distributed to schools where an ingenious marketing tactic was used, free admission for the child with a submission of coloured-in Jack. Of course kids can't go alone, so this meant parents and their admission dollars were pulled through the event gates. Jack travelled all over town to other events and school functions! Jack was a huge community hit. One day, in a parade, the generator powering his air blower flooded as they drove down the hill; Jack slowly deflated and the crowd gawked. Then as the truck glugged up the hill on the other side the generator came back to life and Jack perked up just in time for the crowd to cheer loudly!

Myles Jensen was the treasurer for the group. He was the jack of all trades, making the kids rubber throwing axes, doing the books, getting gear and the multitude of supplies that are required to run a successful logger sports show.



The first competition was August 1996, and with all of that planning, and fundraising efforts, it was a snowy, icy summer day, not the ideal weather they had hoped for. Crowd numbers were lower than expected. The group knew that they could not control the weather, nor its impact on their event, so they had faith that the following year the weather would be better. They continued to trudge on and plan for the 1997 event. For the competitions from 1996–2006 and 2008 they had professional and local events. The local Best of the Bush event encouraged businesses to submit teams to get them involved and experience the thrill of logger sports. This local event got even more community buy-in. It had lots of entries, and by advertising at the Hinton Training Centre they had car-loads of firefighters come down to compete. Each year, the association, organized and hosted novice training nights prior to the event, and media night the Friday before the event. The local logger sports event was one of Rocky Mountain House logger sports top events and even in years the full professional competition wasn't held, there was still enough demand to keep the local Best of the Bush thriving.

The first two years the Rocky Mountain House Logger Sports competitions were held in the local rodeo grounds, 1996-1997. A school was proposed to be developed on the old rodeo grounds so the competition had to be moved. They worked with the Rodeo Club to put together a proposal for a multi-use facility that met the needs of both the rodeo and logger sports groups; council denied their request. When they realized their event would not get permanent grounds they asked the town if they could at least ensure that the bleachers at the rodeo grounds were portable so that they could move and use them for other events; the bleachers were made permanent at the new rodeo grounds. The Rocky Mountain House logger sports group pushed forward by moving the bleachers from the ball diamonds to make their event happen.

It was not that the event was not wanted by the public nor financial supporters in the community. They had great attendance and local involvement and met their fundraising goals every year. But without a permanent home the costs of set-up and time invested by volunteers continued to skyrocket and became burdensome and tiring to the organizing committee. Louise Fischer expressed her dismay with the town, "we got as much support as we're going to get", meaning the town would not compromise on a multi-use facility

that incorporated logger sports or portable bleachers that could be used by other groups in the new rodeo grounds. They wouldn't even allow the permanent placement of two climbing poles that, with installation, was a donation worth over \$10,000. They had depleted all of their energy jumping from venue to venue and they no longer could host a large professional scale event. The organizers thought that if they could just get the local show sustainable, then they could start growing again. Eventually, the committee convinced the town to let them use the arena to host a local logger sports event, but this was only allowed for one year. In an additional attempt to find a permanent home they tried moving the logger sports show out of Rocky Mountain House and partnering with the Leslieville Antique Days. Yet again they could not find a home for logger sports. The Rocky Mountain House logger sports group had trials and tribulations but persevered; they had enthusiasm and goals, but ultimately could never find a home to put it all.

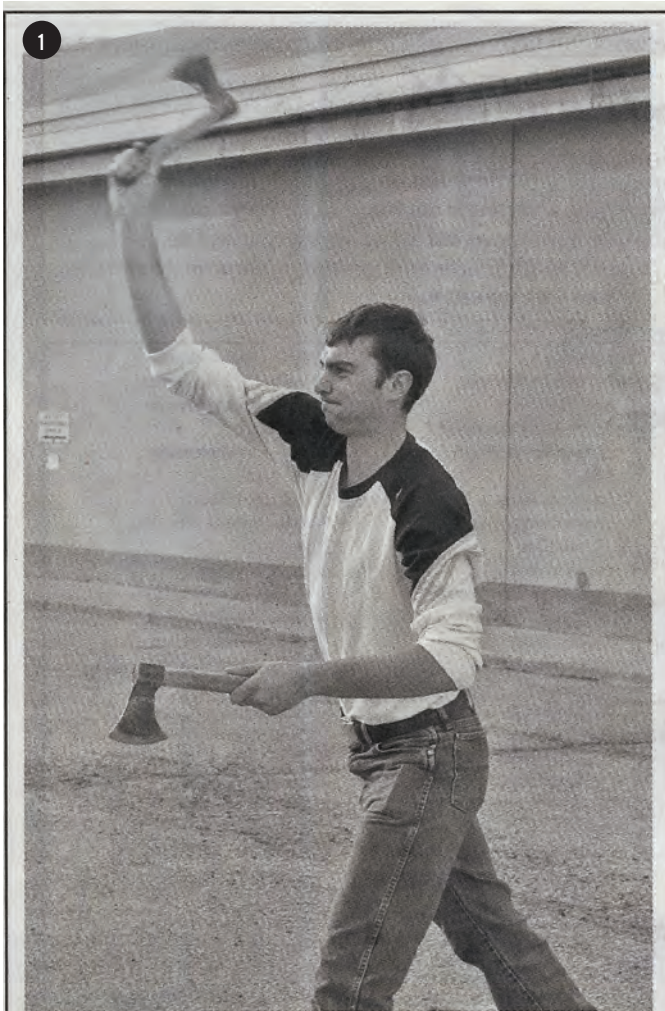
I interviewed Allan, Louise, Carmen and Myles in March, 2016. It had been years since Rocky Mountain House had held a competition but they still meet as an association and submit financials to meet provincial requirements in the hopes that one day they may be able to revive this event. Seeing my enthusiasm and energy they agreed as a group to generously pool all the years of their efforts for infrastructure, like sawing and chopping stands, bow saws, the colouring contest, Jack, and the final balance of their bank account to support logger sports in Morinville. The Rocky Mountain House Logger Sports Association has now dissolved. Their generosity ensured that I am able to continue this rich heritage in Alberta and share logger sports with many others. Perhaps one day in the future, a child who comes to see Morinville logger sports will be inspired like Louise Fischer was and bring this heritage sport to their community. Many local participants may feel the thrill of logger sports for themselves!

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1. Forestry plays a major role in Rocky's history; newspaper article; 1998

2. Rocky Mountain Lumberjack Competition; newspaper article; 1988





**WATCH OUT** Robert Peake gets ready to toss an axe in preparation for the Best in the Bush event. This includes the axe throw, double buck and stock saw. Five teams have already confirmed their entry and more are on the way. Contact the Rocky Mountain Lumberjack Association at 403-845-8954 or 403-845-6697 to get your business signed up.

*photo by Nathalie Nobert*



1. Robert Peake throwing hatchets as part of the Best of the Bush competition; Rocky Mountain House; 2008

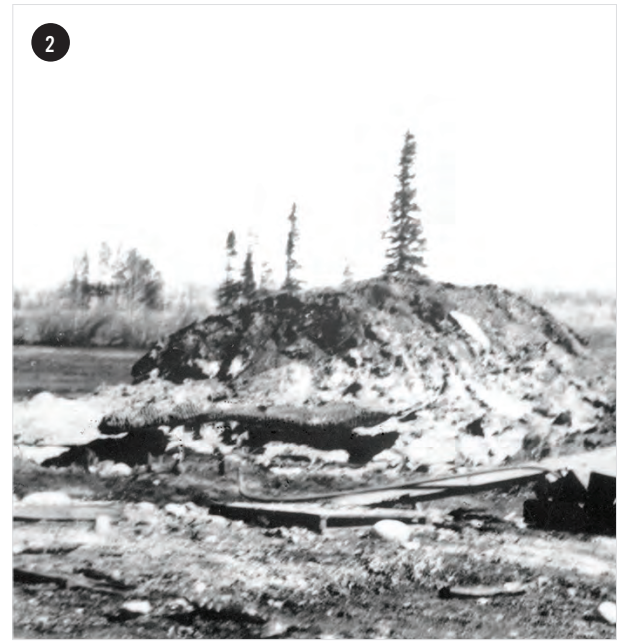
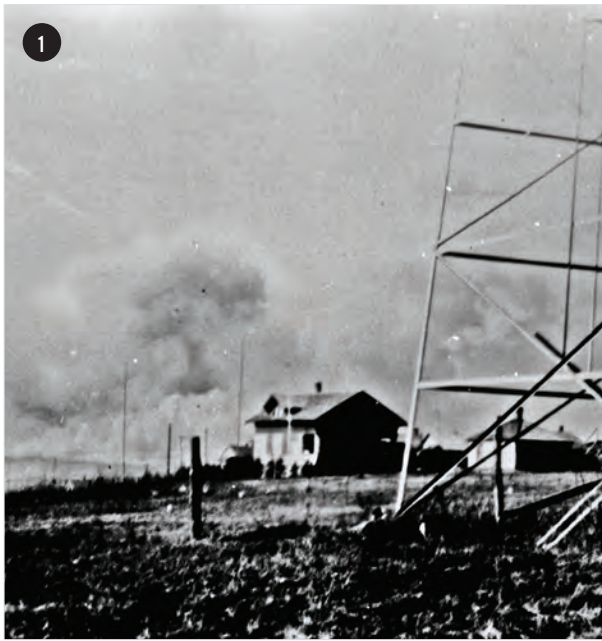
2. Tree climbing competition; Rocky Mountain House; 1999

3-9. Rocky Mountain House Logger Sports competitions; 2002









# FEBRUARY FIRE AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

BY ERIC HUESTIS

Actually, when I went to Rocky Mountain House in 1930 at the Transfer [of Resources], we didn't have enough firefighting equipment in that area to put in your eye. The only vehicle we had was an old Model T light-delivery and it was old. It was the only thing we had and we used it - we used to tear out and do what we could on fires and so on and we had a tough time. But we did make an effort to stop the fires. We had a speeder on the track and we used the railway track up to Nordegg as far as it went. There was no highway up there at that time; the road only went as far as about 10 miles west of Rocky Mountain House. No roads in the [Forest] Reserve, all trails.

I brought along a picture that may be of some interest to you. We had a fire in the spring of 1931 in February; the fire started about 9 miles west of Rocky with an 80 m.p.h. wind. I took a picture from the tower which is at the old headquarters on the top of the hill at Rocky Mountain House, and you just see it starting out. Then I took another one from the ground and about half an

hour later and you can see it going and it was really travelling, it moved very fast. It headed straight for the town and what we did was we gathered up every able-bodied man, we told the women to be ready to evacuate the town and we headed down to the riverbank thinking that the fire wouldn't jump the Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan came in from the west, makes a bend and leaves Rocky here if you're not familiar with the country. The fire came down to within about a mile of the river and I'll tell you a cute little story that happened.

I was tearing up and down the town bringing people I found down with the Model T. The last guy I found on the street was the Anglican Minister - so I picked him up. I didn't know what I'd do with him once I got down there, but he was the key man in that whole fire.

What actually happened was that as we drove down and got a few of the men across the river, he said, "My God, what are you going to do?" "Well sir, as far as I'm concerned the only thing we can do is



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## "IT WAS SO HOT – IT BURNED THE TIES AND BENT THE RAILS"

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start praying." So I stopped the car, he got out on his knees in the ditch and started to pray. Fifteen minutes later the wind came in from the north and it started snowing. I don't know to this day whether this was on the way, or whether the praying did it. But he rode high, wide and handsome for several years after that. It saved the town and saved the bacon.

The fire did jump the river, blew across, it went across a stubble field and farm, burnt all the stubble black and left all the straw piles sitting in the middle. It never touched them. We went around to the other side because we knew there was a farmer over there and the back of his house and shed was on fire – so we started working on this. This fire in February was so hot. When it turned and blew across the river it had to cross the CNR tracks. It was so hot - it burned the ties and bent the rails. This other picture was a water tower full of water and the fire passed by and that is all that is left. This was a mill and that is all that is left after the fire passed by.

This was the middle of February so anything can happen in this country, when you start getting into fires. Don't think you're out of the woods because anything can happen at any time, as long as the conditions are right - and all the equipment in the world won't stop it. The Lord has to help you, always keep that in mind.

1. View of fire taken from lookout tower in Rocky Mountain House; February 1931

2. Remnants of the Rocky Mountain House water tower; February 1931

3. Bent railroad track following the fire; February 1931

4. Remnants of the sawmill that burned; February 1931

5. Forest burned outside of Rocky Mountain House; February 1931



*Excerpt from a talk by Eric Huestis, former Director of Forestry and Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests. This talk was given on January 31, 1972 to a group of new Forest Officers at the first Orientation Course held at the Forest Technology School in Hinton. This story was recorded with his permission and transcribed by Peter J. Murphy. A small reference to the wildfire was made in the local newspapers on March 3, 1931. It is likely that there were other wildfires occurring at the same time in February and March 1931.*





# CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

The Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation (CFFF) is a registered, non-profit charitable organization dedicated to honouring Canada's fallen firefighters. The Foundation honours all types of firefighters whether volunteer/part-time, paid/full time, industrial, military, urban, rural, wildland, airport, or marine. The Foundation's directors, who volunteer their time, include members from all areas of the Canadian Fire Service as well as representatives from the business community.

The objectives of the Foundation are:

- To operate the Canadian Firefighters Annual Memorial Ceremony and update the memorial wall.
- To provide financial subsidies to families of fallen firefighters for transportation to and lodging in Ottawa during the memorial weekend.
- To provide support programs along with scholarships and bursaries for the children and spouses of firefighters whose line of duty death is recognized by the Foundation.

Since 2004, the Foundation has operated the ceremony with the assistance of Fire Services and organizations from across Canada acting as honorary hosts in Ottawa who represent the Canadian Fire Service with pride. The cost of running a large scale ceremony is daunting and the Foundation would like to thank all of our past and current sponsors for supporting this event. The Foundation operates solely on fundraising from private donations, local fundraising events, and sponsorships from the business community.

With the construction of the Canadian Firefighters Memorial in 2012, the Foundation has now reached all of its initial goals laid out in 2004, but the work is not over. The Foundation will now begin to broaden its assistance to the families of fallen firefighters while continuing to honour them at the annual national ceremony.

The CFFF Doug Lock Education Fund provides scholarships and bursaries to the children and spouses of Canadian firefighters whose line of duty





death has been recognized by the Foundation. The Foundation's ultimate goal is to provide education assistance to every child of a fallen firefighter. The CFFF also provides funeral assistance and supports Camp F.A.C.E.S. for the families of the fallen.

This year's CFFF/Doug Lock memorial scholarship was presented to Amberly Tilley Neilson daughter of pilot Brian Tilley who died in the line of duty in 2010 when his airtanker crashed while working a wildfire in British Columbia. Amberly is studying to become a Dental Assistant in Edmonton.

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1. Alberta representatives at the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial; September 2013

L to R: Jeff Henricks, Chris McGuinty, Morgan Kehr, John Belanger

2. Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Doug Lock memorial award presented to Amberly Tilley Neilson

L to R: Wally Born, Executive Director, Alberta Wildfire Management Branch; James MacKinnon, CFFF Wildland Director; Amberly Tilley Neilson; Annette Tidball; Kevin Tidball





# MARK YOUR CALENDAR



## **MARCH 4–5, 2017** **AFS OLDTIMERS** **HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

Athabasca, Alberta

Contact Charlene Guerin at  
[Charlene.Guerin@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Charlene.Guerin@gov.ab.ca)  
for further information



## **MARCH 4–5, 2017** **E.S. HUESTIS** **CURLING BONSPIEL**

Athabasca, Alberta

Contact Greg Boyachuk at  
[Greg.Boyachuk@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Greg.Boyachuk@gov.ab.ca)  
for further information



## **MARCH 15, 2017** **FHAA ANNUAL** **GENERAL MEETING**

Days Inn & Suites West  
Edmonton, Edmonton, Alberta

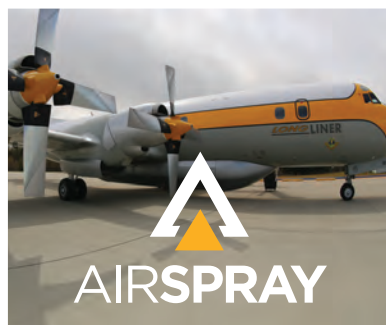
Contact Bruce Mayer at  
[Bruce.Mayer@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Bruce.Mayer@gov.ab.ca)  
for further information



## **JUNE 16–18, 2017** **LOGGER SPORTS** **COMPETITION**

Morinville Festival Days  
Morinville, Alberta

Contact Kat Spencer at  
[KatherineJ.Spencer@gmail.com](mailto:KatherineJ.Spencer@gmail.com)  
for further information



## **2017** **THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY** **OF AIR SPRAY**

Visit their 50th Anniversary  
Project page on Facebook  
[facebook.com/AirSpray50th/](https://facebook.com/AirSpray50th/)  
for further information



## **2017** **75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE** **ALBERTA FOREST PRODUCTS** **ASSOCIATION**

Contact Brock Mulligan at  
[Brock.Mulligan@albertaforestproducts.ca](mailto:Brock.Mulligan@albertaforestproducts.ca)  
for further information



# RETIREMENTS



**LEO DRAPEAU**

After forty-five years, Leo Drapeau retired from the Alberta government on May 5, 2016. A retirement tea was held on November 2, 2016 with many friends in attendance. Leo got his interest in forestry as a Junior Forest Ranger first in Sudbury in 1966 and again in Rocky Mountain House in 1967. He enrolled in the Forest Technology Program at NAIT in 1969 with 65 others. At the end of the first year, 25 remained. His first job between first and second year was supervising a tree planting operation with North Western Pulp and Power in Hinton. When the work ran out he talked with Hank Ryhanen in Forest Protection about work. This led to his first job in the Footner Lake Forest in 1970. He was put on the midnight bus from Edmonton by buddies, after spending the night "talking" in the bar, arriving in High Level the next morning ... in the rain and mud. Getting a short briefing from

Emanuel Doll, he was put on a Gateway Aviation Beaver heading north. After what seemed forever, he arrived at his new home, Yates Tower, eight miles south of the Northwest Territories border. There he was briefed in his new role as the spare tower person, and cook for a helicopter pilot and engineer who were supporting fire crews working on a wildfire near White Sands River. Leo graduated from NAIT in 1971. Other classmates included Lloyd Seedhouse, Don Podlubny, Daryl Rollings, John Bradley, Rick Stewart and Gary Mandrusiak. Following school, Leo worked on the timber management crew and then as a Forest Officer in both the Footner Lake and Edson Forests. In 1979, Leo transferred to the Provincial Forest Fire Centre (PFFC) in Edmonton where he worked in the aircraft dispatch section for two years. Leo returned to the field in 1981 as a Forest Protection Technician in the Grande Prairie Forest, heavily involved in wildfire training, air attack and safety programs where he helped develop the first official chain saw training course along with snowmobile and then trike training for staff. From 1987 until 2000 Leo was the Initial Attack and Helitack Program co-ordinator back at PFFC, and in 2000, he became the Forest Protection Division (later Wildfire Management Branch) coordinator of the wildfire safety program. He held that role until his retirement in May 2016. Leo was most proud

of his work in developing a wildfire safety program, and providing support to the development of the Critical Incident Peer Support program with Joy Craig.



**DARRELL HEMERY**

Growing up in Edmonton, Darrell envisioned being a lawyer when he was researching careers while in junior high. He soon realized that wasn't what he wanted to do. In high school he worked at a number of jobs, an Esso service station, Woodward's in the automotive department and then with the City of Edmonton Parks and Recreation department. There he was introduced to outside horticulture activities, working as a tree pruner with an old Russian individual who mentored him. This along with the family fishing, hunting and camping trips led Darrell to apply for the NAIT Forest Technology program. He was one of 78 students accepted in 1975,



out of over 300 applicants. Darrell worked on the timber management crew in the Edson Ranger District, Edson Forest as a timber cruiser and doing regeneration surveys during the summer 1976. The crew also worked out of the Robb Ranger District cruising red-belt in the Tri-Creek Watershed. After graduating in 1977, Darrell was accepted to the Forest Officer eligibility list, the first step in certification for a permanent position, and then moved to the Bow Crow Forest on the timber management crew out of the Ghost, Canmore and later Blairmore Ranger Districts. Other graduates with Darrell were Rod Houle, Pieter Broersen, Bruce Cartwright, Buck Dryer, Tom Grant, Butch Shenfield, Dave Redgate and Russ Stashko. He was successful in a permanent position in the geophysical unit, Forest Land Use in January 1978. There were only three people in the section, manually approving all the geophysical applications, section head Karen Kemp, Al Goodfellow and Darrell.

A short while later Darrell was successful in a Forest Officer I position in the Red Earth District (DS5), Slave Lake Forest, working with Chief Ranger George Benoit and Forest Officer Ken Orich. Carson MacDonald was the Forest Superintendent, Howard Gray was the Forest Protection Officer, and Keith Branter was the Forester. Initial orientation was to Red Earth, Peerless Lake and Graham Lake, all locations from where firefighters were obtained. Part of the summer was spent with the carpenter and initial attack crew renovating the old Panny Fire Base. This turned out to be perfect timing, with the number of wildfires in the area in 1979 that were actioned out of Panny. Ken was replaced by

Bill Lesiuk and later Dave Brown; George was replaced by Jamie McQuarrie. Reading was the main past-time with unreliable radio and no television. This led to Darrell's move to the Whitecourt Ranger District (DW3), Whitecourt Forest under Chief Ranger Ed Dechant. He lived in one of the houses at the old Blue Ridge Ranger Station, a place he chose for his wedding when he married Judy on June 12, 1982. Work involved the usual land use duties, a large timber management file with Blue Ridge Lumber, and grazing. Timber management became a strong suit of Darrell's. Cliff Henderson, the Whitecourt Forest Superintendent, was very supportive of his staff being exported where needed to help and gain wildfire experience. Darrell recalls one export to High Level where American Eskimo firefighters from Alaska were imported to assist. The weather on this wildfire picked up with winds gusting to 80 kilometres per hour, resulting in multiple heads and evacuations of crews with seven camps destroyed. The next day a Hercules transport dropped several pallets of gear by parachute on the airstrip near the wildfire, with enough sleeping bags, duffle bags, hard hats, PPE, tents and military rations to supply all the crews that were evacuated.

Darrell was promoted to Forest Officer III in the Cold Creek Ranger District, Whitecourt Forest in May, 1983. There he worked for Gordon Japp, a firm but fair Chief Ranger. The area had a history of timber thefts, and a large focus of time with Edmonton and Cold Creek staff was spent tracking actions and auditing records. Gordon Japp retired in 1985 and was replaced by Jurgen Moll and then Don Sarafinchin. In January,

1988, Darrell and his family, now with three children, moved to Bellis, Alberta, where Darrell took on the role of Forest Officer III in charge of the container seedling program at the Pine Ridge Forest Nursery. Carson MacDonald was the Superintendent then at Pine Ridge. Darrell spent time learning about seed extraction from Roger Hamilton and then growing seedlings in containers from Barry Wood. At the same time there was a requirement to become more efficient at what was done. Darrell commented that "growing trees is as much a science as an art, but also totally depends on the weather for growing conditions". Around 1990-91, the container program peaked its production at 21 million 40 cc Spencer Lemaire seedlings. The demand was also growing. At the same time the Commercial Tree Nursery program began with Larry Lefluer, Barry Wood, Anne McInerney and Deanna McCullough working to initiate a private nursery sector in Alberta. Barry Court took over as the grower for the container program and Tjerk Hiussman was hired as the bareroot program grower. A highlight of Darrell's career was the visit by the Princess of Thailand. With the privatization of the nursery program, Darrell moved into Edmonton in 2001 in the Forest Management Branch.

In Edmonton, Darrell was tasked with cleaning up outstanding files where money was owed to the Crown, working for Hid Kanji. He also worked for Paul Short, dealing with business opportunities such as use of poplar seed as an insulating property, and the use of woody debris in a fast pyrolysis technology to produce electricity. Over the last 16 years of his career, Darrell worked on a



number of initiatives and priorities in the Forest Management Branch and the Forest Tenure, Trade and Policy Branch (previously Forest Industry Development) – Canadian Council of Forest Ministers, Jalisco agreement, coordinating incoming delegations, development of a comprehensive Quota history tree, work on the Alberta-BC Trade Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement, and coordinator for internal and external trade files. Darrell is proud of the nearly 40 years he provided to the Forestry organization.



### BILL TINGE

*Submitted by Bill Tinge*

Born in Edmonton, raised in St. Albert, Alberta, my forestry career was a result of a science teachers' need for a test subject to complete his training as a guidance counselor. Since I had always enjoyed camping and fishing growing up, the tests inevitably led to forestry. Following high school, I immediately enrolled in the Forestry program at the University of Alberta, class of 1974. I made it through the first year, but as I became increasingly interested in climbing, hiking and skiing in the mountains, I simply didn't have the motivation to

continue. A whole series of life events, paying off a wrecked truck, a French girlfriend, toiling in the construction industry and maybe a touch of maturity, brought me back to the guidance counselor's path of forestry, this time at NAIT.

Carol and I were married in August, 1977 and a week after our honeymoon, I was at forestry school, camped at Kidney Lake for fall camp. Imagine how much fun that was. But, I stuck it out and graduated in 1979. I spent the next three and a half years involved with tree planting and sample plot re-measurements for the pulp mill in Hinton. Another of life's curveballs resulted in my career with Alberta government, starting in Red Earth Creek as a seasonal crew member continuing to its conclusion 31 years later in June of this year, 2016. With the incredible support of Carol, we bounced around the Province, benefiting from the diversity of each community we lived in; Hinton, Slave Lake, Wabasca, Rainbow Lake and Edson. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have initiated my career with the Alberta Forest Service, albeit in its concluding years. Living on the fireline with 25-man fire crews, almost godlike approval authority on wellsite locations and release of cutblocks for harvesting, Chief Rangers, etc. But the world evolved and I was able to evolve with it, taking advantage of the opportunities that change presents. District Forest Officer, Senior Ranger, Land Use Forester, Senior Forester, Forestry Program Manager and finally the General Manager of fRI Research, a world class research organization, were all steps in my career progression.

As I write this on a beach in the Mediterranean, my wife beside me, not quite able to see the tallest mountain in the eastern Pyrenees that I stood on top of yesterday, you get a sense of what my retirement plans are. Time with my two wonderful daughters and my only grandchild (so far), travel, mountains, riding my motorcycle for as long as I can hold it up and turning perfectly good wood into sawdust, will occupy my time. Should be great fun!



### BRENT DAVIS

Brent retired on June 30, 2016 after 41 years with the Alberta government. A retirement party was held on October 15, 2016 where friends gathered to wish Brent well. He started with the Alberta Forest Service on Raspberry Ridge lookout in 1975, where he had the opportunity to learn the skills of a lookout observer and practice his skills in rock climbing and mountaineering. In 1980, Brent moved from Raspberry Ridge to the role of the Bow Crow Forest Lookout and Warehouse Stockkeeper. In 1985, Brent took over from Herb Laing as the Warehouseman, a role he held until his retirement in June 2016.



Brent worked through the many department names and service delivery changes with the same consistent approach, "service with a snarl". He also saw these changes as the way to improve the wildfire management program. Brent was involved in delivering the first foam program, was a strong proponent and leader in the Occupational Health and Safety program and led development of the tower rescue program. With Brent's cave rescue and mountain climbing experience, he knew ropes. Combining this skill in developing and implementing the tower rescue program, Brent says that Alberta is now "a leader in rope rescue" with this program. In his closing address, Brent said his most fond memory were the people, the team. Brent has a passion for history and in retirement, between climbing and cave crawling, will continue documenting lookout history in the "old" Bow Crow Forest.



#### DAVE LEHANE

Born in New Westminster, B.C. in 1957, Dave graduated from the University of British Columbia in Forestry in 1981. He joined the forest industry because he needed a job, and hoped for a career where he could work outside. Somehow the idea of flying in helicopters and sleeping in a tent appealed to him. During school he worked in the Grande Cache and Fox Creek areas in 1979 to 1981 timber cruising for British Columbia Forest Products. He says he's fortunate to have worked in both British Columbia and Alberta in the forests and the mills, having lived in Mackenzie, Williams Lake, Hinton and Quesnel. In 2002, Dave moved to Hinton as the Vice President Alberta Operations for Weldwood, returning to Quesnel in 2005 following the West Fraser purchase. Most recent, Dave was the Vice President Woodlands at West Fraser. Highlights of his career have been the people, and living in great communities. Dave comments that "as Foresters our roles are ever changing as we learn more every day. I recommend Forestry to students every chance I get. We are fortunate to be able to work and play in the forests of Alberta. It is an industry that has a bright future

and lots to offer young people who want to go on an adventure while making a good living." In retirement, Dave plans to slow down a bit and spend much more time with family, hunting, fishing and skiing.



#### MURRAY ANDERSON

Murray Anderson officially retired from the Government of Alberta on June 30, 2016. His career spanned over 40 years with the Government of Alberta and nearly five years with the Government of British Columbia. Murray grew up on a farm and ranch in southern Alberta and subsequently graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science degree. He worked for one summer during university with the Department of Lands and Forests in Alberta. His master's program at the University of Alberta involved the effects of fire on plant and range ecology. In order to do this many prescribed burns were carried out in the aspen parkland. Following graduation, Murray moved to Kamloops, B.C. where worked with Lands, Forests and Water Resources. While there he was involved with ways to improve resource management including Coordinated Resource Management. One project he co-led was the development



of a land management plan to protect the Adams River Fishery, the highest producing Sockeye Salmon fishery in the world.

Alberta drew him back where he worked with Energy and Natural Resources managing grazing reserves, including the development and construction of new areas. While there he was able to expand the prescribed burning program on some of the military bases. This involved working with military personnel and carrying out prescribed burns for range improvement. Murray moved to the Alberta Forest Service in Forest Land Use where he spent the majority of his career. As the organization evolved over time, he has worked for all the Department names except for the first one. These include Lands and Forests, Energy and Natural Resources, Forestry, Forestry Lands and Wildlife, Environmental Protection, Environment, Sustainable Resource Development, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and finally Environment and Parks.

Murray has had a strong linkage with land and forest management and worked across the province on many projects relating to timber, grazing, timber damage, reforestation, herbicide, forest pest management, wildlife, fisheries, parks, enhanced resource management, enhanced land management, freedom of information and protection of privacy and working with Aboriginal interests including consultation. He worked with many different industry land users including forestry, grazing, agriculture, sand and gravel, oil sands, oil and gas, electricity, energy, recreation, motorized recreation, parks, fish, wildlife and Aboriginal. As well he

led many of the legislation changes relating to forestry and lands and worked with the staff to modernize most of the legislation. As such much of Murray's career since 2000 has been involved in working with senior government officials to scope out how the various resources could be regulated in a practical manner. In addition he led some major policy areas including sand and gravel, the oil sands as well as one for nuclear power in the Department of Energy. This latter project successfully carried out a major public consultation to obtain Albertan's views on nuclear power without eliciting major public protests and demonstrations. Murray also worked with many different volunteer and professional organizations. The one common thread that made the job interesting and valuable was the people. The staff within the organizations have been incredible to work with and extremely helpful and always provided a perspective that made all worthwhile.

Following retirement from the Government of Alberta, Murray plans to spend more time with his wife, Jolayne, his five children and grandchildren who have strongly supported him throughout his career. As well he will continue his involvement with volunteer and professional organizations. Murray will continue his interest in photography and electronics, as well as continue to expand his professional knowledge and interest.



**GARY DODSWORTH**

Gary grew up in an Air Force family and lived in many locations across Canada and in Germany over a 20 year span. His intentions growing up were to work with animals and wildlife, either as a veterinarian or in Fish and Wildlife. He graduated from Sir Sanford University taking a two-diploma course in 1979, Fish and Wildlife and Forestry. While going to school, Gary spent three summers in the Sioux Lookout, in northern Ontario on fire crews, and then worked on a black spruce gene survey the winter following graduation. In 1980, he moved to Nappanee, Ontario and worked on a prism-plot woodlot survey for the Ontario government. Gary moved to Alberta in the fall of 1980 working for Basil Delaney as a photo interpreter in the Resource Evaluation and Planning program (REAP) in Energy and Natural Resources. When REAP was being phased out, Gary moved to Fort McMurray as a Forest Officer. He spent five years there before moving on to Edson in the fall of 1987. Throughout his time in Edson, Gary witnessed many organizational and name changes, officially retiring on June 17, 2016 after 35.5 years with the Alberta government. Gary and his wife Judy have been



fostering children for the past 25 years, and expect they will do so for another 10 years. The children keep them young, physically and mentally. When they don't have foster children in the house, they will share their home with students and teachers on exchange programs and travellers stopping through on the Couchsurfing program. Hobbies for Gary include baking, gardening and snorkelling. Gary and Judy will continue to travel the world in their retirement years.



#### DON WOHLGEMUTH

A retirement tea was held for Don on September 29, 2016 to celebrate his 34 years with the Alberta government. Don had trade tickets as an auto mechanic, partsman, heavy duty mechanic and welder. He began his career working in Grande Prairie as a partsman and auto mechanic at Loveseth Ltd. in 1965, and working for North Canadian Forest Industries before joining the Alberta Forest Service in 1976 as a mechanic. In 1980, Don moved to Canmore with Alberta Parks as a Maintenance Service Worker II using his mechanic and welding skills. In 2002, Don joined Sustainable Resource Development as a mechanic in the

Warehouse and Service Centre, working there until his retirement on September 30, 2016.



#### WAYNE ROZNOWSKY

Wayne was born in Canora, Saskatchewan, moving to Prince Albert at an early age, where he took his schooling. Wayne then attended the University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon) in engineering, but left before completing his degree. Wayne was a journalist from 1973 to April 15, 1996 working at both the Prince Albert Daily Herald and the Moose Jaw Times Herald. From 1978 to 1996, he was the managing editor of the Prince Albert Daily Herald, a 10,000 circulation daily newspaper. In 1996, Wayne applied for a communications role at Weyerhaeuser, a position aimed at supporting public engagement for the development of an environmental impact statement for the new 20-year forest management plan for the Prince Albert FMA. The move was one he never regretted. As the communications manager, Wayne supported the Timberlands organization. In 1997, he moved into the role of Saskatchewan public affairs manager supporting

Timberlands, Lumber, Pulp and Paper and OSB operations. He held that role until 2006 when he moved to Grande Prairie, Alberta as public affairs manager for the Alberta and Saskatchewan operations. In 2008 he became the Canadian public affairs manager. British Columbia, Ontario and federal government responsibilities were added to this new role. Wayne retired after twenty years with Weyerhaeuser on October 28, 2016.

When asked what challenges he's seen or been involved in, Wayne said, "The greatest challenges have related to the changes our industry has undergone over the past two decades. The consolidation that has occurred has made the existing mills very competitive, however, there have been difficult decisions made that have seen mills close and people lose their jobs, or at least become displaced from their community. My role has seen me on the forefront of dealing with communities, elected representatives and media when those decisions were announced. Those are not easy conversations. As a result of these experiences, I have been very determined to support the success of our operations. Anything that I could do to make our operations more successful was a key for me. Certainly, no single individual can achieve significant breakthroughs by themselves; it always takes an effort by many parties. We have been fortunate to work collaboratively with governments, industry partners and communities in the development of transformational programs. Examples have been the federal Green Transformation Program or the Alberta Bioenergy Producer Credit Program. Both



of those programs led to very significant capital investments that improved the energy efficiency, environmental performance and economic viability of forest products operations. My annual performance was judged on real bottom-line benefit to our operations. I'm proud to say I was able to meet or exceed my goals annually. By doing that, I believe I helped keep mills running and people working. A significant challenge that the forest industry faces is the growing disconnect between the urban population base and the people who live and work in the resources sectors. Urban populations benefit from the resource sector but they don't seem to understand that. You see that disconnect not only in forestry-related issues but with the energy sector, pipelines, etc."

Over the years, Wayne volunteered his time with many organizations including the Prince Albert Sports Council, Prince Albert and District Chamber of Commerce, Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, Saskatchewan and Prince Albert Special Olympics, and the Canadian Down Syndrome Swimming Association. Wayne, his wife Wendy and son Ryan moved to Coaldale, Alberta, where their daughter Ashley, son-in-law Wade and their three sons live. Immediate plans are to be active grandparents with their three grandsons, ages 2, 7 and 9. They are all "busy". Their son Ryan continues to swim with Special Olympics and at world Down Syndrome swimming competitions, so his training and travel will keep Wayne and Wendy busy as well. They are only two blocks away from a golf course and Wayne has purchased new clubs and plans to work on his golf game.



### DAN BOISVERT

Dan has been part of the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) family since joining in April 1981. He started as a Radio Operator in Peace River after receiving his Dispatcher training with Transport Canada in Cornwall, Ontario as a Flight Service Specialist, then working at airports in the Arctic. The 1981 fire season in Alberta was exceptionally busy, with Dan exported to wildfires in the Birch Mountains and later helping out in the Footner Lake Forest. In the 1960's the AFS had upgraded its data transmission system from Morse Code to a "Teletype" system. This involved manually and mechanically creating lengthy paper tapes with seven vertical holes representing each individual letter. There was limited editing with accuracy the key. If the tape didn't jam in the machine, it would noisily send a few words per minute. In fall 1982, Dan accepted a permanent position as senior Radio Operator in Slave Lake. Under the patient guidance and mentoring of Communications Officer Gerald Carlson, Dan started installing cables, antennas and lightning protection equipment on 100 foot lookout towers. He conquered his fear of heights, as in those years, work was done with

a simple leather waist belt and single lanyard, free climbing into position and tying off to work on radio antennas and wind speed instruments. Dan transferred to Provincial Forest Fire Centre Edmonton as Communications Officer in September 1986, pitching in downtown typing / faxing hundreds of messages to Ottawa and Washington during the initial Softwood Lumber Dispute. After their first daughter was born in November 1987, Dan accepted a transfer to Peace River as Communications Officer. Dan's family was very happy to return home to the Peace Country. Dan and his wife Claudette raised their three children on an acreage south of Peace River near the hamlet of Marie Reine. Outside of numerous wildfire exports throughout the Province, Dan kept busy involved with the local Community Hall and being elected to the regions first Francophone School Board in the area for four years. Work involved installing 65 foot Delhi towers at staging camps and airtanker bases, rewiring new cabins and lookout towers. After being out of school for 25 years Dan challenged himself by attending NAIT during the off season and acquiring his Apprenticeship Communications Technician Certificate, receiving top marks provincially in his 4th year. He was then re-classified to Communications Technician.

The highlight of Dan's career was in August 2001 when he was exported to Yakima, Washington as a Communications Technician on the large Wenatchee National Forest wildfire. This experience allowed Dan to see how wildfire communications were deployed in other jurisdictions. Alberta's evolution of communications



equipment in Dan's career has been remarkable, with staff using a PT500 radio the size of a small lunch kit holding 11 D-cell batteries, to the present small handheld radios that can easily access a provincial network of over 100 FireNet repeaters interconnected via satellite. What started for Dan as a six month summer job in spring 1981, ended up being a rewarding 35 year career full of variety, challenges and personal development. Dan retired in November 2016 and has evolved into his follow-up career as an elected Municipal Councillor for Northern Sunrise County. He enjoys helping residents with their concerns and sits on various local and provincial committees. Dan and Claudette enjoy spending time together with their adult children and grandson Kellan. They frequently travel to southern remote islands, diving and snorkeling.



#### KEVIN FREEHILL

Kevin was born in Mannville, Alberta and grew up on a farm near Marwayne, the oldest of ten children. Growing up in rural Alberta, he had an interest in the outdoors, plants, animals, soils and

water at a young age. He began his career with the Alberta Forest Service in 1973 in the Footner Lake Forest as a compassman, cruiser and Assistant Party Chief on the timber management crew. He worked there from May 1973 to August 1974. Kevin moved to Edmonton and upgraded his math and science in the evenings, working at the Home Depot warehouse during the day. With these courses complete, he was successful in admission to the Forest Technology program at NAIT in 1976. He returned to Footner Lake in the summer of 1977 as the Assistant Party Chief on the timber management crew. Following graduation in 1978, Kevin worked in Fort Vermilion as a Patrolman, early winter in Footner Lake on the timber management crew and later as Assistant Land Use Officer, returning to Fort Vermilion again as a Forestry Aide III Patrolman. In June 1979 he obtained a Project Forest Officer I position on the Maintaining Our Forests project in Calling Lake. Graduates in Kevin's class included Johanna Bush, Aaron Doepel, Connie Down, Murray Heinrich, Howard Herman, Bob Mazurik, Wally Peters, Bruce Sanders and Ken Scullion. In June 1980, Kevin moved to Keg River as a Forest Officer I. He transferred to Beaver Lake, Lac La Biche Forest in June 1982 as a Forest Officer II. In April 1988, Kevin was promoted to Forest Officer III and moved to the Manning Ranger District, Peace River Forest. He was promoted to Forest Management Technician and returned to Footner Lake in February 1990. He remained in that role through the number of district and organizational changes until moving to Edson in August 2001 as the Wildfire Prevention Officer, a new role created within the new

Forest Protection Division. Kevin retired in December 2016 after a 36 year career. In all the roles Kevin held, he was viewed as a mentor for staff to learn from. In retirement Kevin has a whole list of home improvement projects, enough to keep him busy for several years. He is looking forward to enjoying summers, doing some fishing and exploring Canada. Time will also be spent with his family, watching the grandkids (daughter – 2 girls, live in Bruderheim; son – 1 girl who currently lives near Fort St. John) grow into young adults. Leather work, fly-tying and reading will fill any spare time. On his career, Kevin said "I always enjoyed being outdoors and learned something every day. I was so fortunate in my career to work with great mentors and peers, learned so much from each, and hope that I was able to pass on that passion, dedication and interest in learning to others. I learned that we can accomplish so much more when we work cooperatively with others towards common goals. What a career, so many great people and many great experiences. We in the forestry profession are so fortunate."





### BOB SLEEP

Originally from Ontario where he obtained his degree in Geography from University of Waterloo and his certificate in Cartography/Surveying at Algonquin College, Bob arrived in Edmonton, Alberta in 1978. For his first two and half years Bob worked in the surveying industry, initially as a chain person to eventually running his own survey crew. He worked on a variety of projects including subdivision surveys, powerline right-of-way's, pipelines, railways, and other related projects. This job provided him a great opportunity to see large parts of Alberta from Milk River and Brooks, to around Edmonton, and into B.C. (Prince George and New Hazelton). This work provided him the background for his next career. In 1980, Bob met Julie and with their upcoming wedding decided that he would like a job closer to home. With help from a friend, Bob obtained a job in the Survey Control Division within the Alberta Bureau of Surveying and Mapping, Alberta Transportation, in May 1981.

The job was to perform office duties to support field crews within his section. He eventually found his way out into the field assisting the Survey Control Branch within

their various field activities. One memorable field campaign was conducting surveys on mountaintop monuments using helicopters along the BC / Alberta boundary southwest of Grande Prairie. He remarked that he never thought when he left Ontario he would have the opportunity to view the countryside from atop the mountains and fly in a helicopter. Bob then took a role as Survey Technologist 1 with Public Lands Division, moving to the Alberta Bureau of Surveying and Mapping as a Cartographic Technologist. There he was trained as a Survey Integrated Technologist, a role that integrated survey plans into a cadastral database comprised of the large and small municipalities within the province. In 1994, the Bureau was disbanded and amalgamated into the Resource Information Management Branch, Alberta Environmental Protection. Although his position was phased out, Bob began a new role and career working with Ken Dutchak (and later Bogi Stankovic) on projects using satellite imagery to produce information datasets (eg. Alberta Ground Cover Classification, the Central and Peace Woodlot Datasets, etc.). Additional course work was obtained through the Earth Observation Laboratory at the University of Alberta, and internal training in PCI, ArcInfo and ArcView.

In 2001, this small group of remote sensing specialists were transferred to the GIS Informatics Group within Wildfire Management, Sustainable Resource Development. Many advancements in technology occurred in the last 15 years helping Bob to work on and complete the following roles and projects:

- Use of Landsat imagery to produce the Alberta Ground Cover Classification inventory dataset – used where Alberta Vegetation Inventory is not available
- Integration of MODIS and VIIRS datasets to aid hotspot identification and mapping on large wildfires – product developed in partnership with the four western provinces and the United States Forest Service
- Working with Dave Morgan, began the initial purchasing of LiDAR imagery for the green zone in the province – Digital Elevation Modeling and Wet Areas Mapping are but two derived products
- Supported wildfire operations by providing imagery and information derived from satellite imagery to evaluating contractors supplying remote sensing products; most recently coordinating international satellite data acquisition through the Disaster Management Treaty – used for Slave Lake and Fort McMurray wildfires and the southern Alberta floods
- GIS and Remote Sensing specialist on wildfires
- Initiating the use of radar to classify wetlands and map wildfire events, many opportunities with the ability of the imagery to see through clouds

Retirement for Bob after his 35 years includes time with the family, golfing and travelling.





### DOUG SMITH

Born in Edmonton, Doug was raised on a farm near Elk Point, Alberta. He attended the AVC Forestry Crew Worker Program in the winter of 1980-81, later enrolling in the NAIT Forest Technology program, graduating in 1983. Classmates included Ken Yackimec, Darnell McCurdy, Mark Storie, Dave Kent, Bart McAnally, Roger Marchand, Brent Schleppe, Elaine Pape, Barb Hamel, Bruce Mayer, Peter Koenig, Joe Lyons, Brent Schleppe and Dave Heatherington. Many are still working! He worked seasonal roles from 1981 to 1986 as an initial attack firefighter in La Corey, Lac La Biche Forest; compassman and cruiser in Blairmore, Bow Crow

Forest; Forest Guardian in the Jumpingpound, Bow Crow Forest; and sector boss at Beaver Lake, Lac La Biche Forest. In the fall, 1986, Doug worked as the assistant party chief in charge of a 6 to 12 person timber management crew in the Lac La Biche Forest until the end of 1987. After paying off student loans, Doug travelled around Europe and the Middle East, and living in a kibbutz in Israel doing some volunteer forestry work. On January 1, 1988, Doug was hired to his first permanent posting (the first of eight different postings) as a Forest Ranger in Fort Chipewyan. He then transferred to Slave Lake for five years, and then to Edson for another year and a half. In July 1996, Doug was promoted to Forest Protection Technician in Manning, Mackenzie District, Peace River Forest. In September 2003, he transferred to Lac La Biche in the same role. He only stayed there for six months, before moving to the Woodlands Wildfire Management Area in Whitecourt as the Wildfire Operations Officer. In 2010, Doug moved to High Level as the Forestry Program Manager, later transferring to Calgary in April 2014. Doug is retiring after 33 1/2 years of public service, having spent time in much

of the province. Doug explains that "as I progressed through my career I was exposed to all aspects related to Forestry – land-use inspections, recreation guardian, timber cruising, running planting projects, scarification projects, inspecting timber operations, mountain pine beetle surveying, and fighting forest fires". Throughout his career, his passion grew for firefighting, spending his last 18 years on Type 1 teams, the last 10 years as an Incident Commander. Asked about highlights, Doug said "working on the 'beaver dam' fire early in my career with Morgan Kehr; working with an American overhead team in Montana; working as Logistics Chief on a complex of fires in Terrace Bay, Ontario; living on a barge while fighting wildfires outside of Bella Coola, B.C; and taking Spanish lessons and then training Mexican firefighters in Guadalajara, Mexico". Plans for retirement are to continue travelling the world with his wife and doing some volunteer work. He said he might even find a job cutting grass at a golf course. To date Doug has travelled to all seven continents and 92 countries – few more to go.



# OBITUARIES

## AVARD "AV" MANN

Born November 18, 1927 in Sylvan Lake, Av Mann passed away on February 26, 2016 in Edmonton at the age of 88 years. Av graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in meteorology. In the 1960s, Av taught weather to new lookout observers at the Forestry Training School in Hinton. (See article on Towerman Training and Weather.) Av spent many years at his property in Calling Lake, kayaking the lake and riding his bike. He was one of the initial founders of the Calling Lake Community Association, was responsible for forming and/or serving on a number of boards and committees in the community. In addition, he helped found and establish the Calling Lake Sailing Club and the Calling Lake Library. He was a founder of the Calling Lake Historical Society, and an active birder through the Edmonton Bird Club, doing bird counts annually along his route in Calling Lake.

## CHUCK OGILVIE

Born May 22, 1946, Chuck passed away on February 17, 2016 at 69 years. Born and raised in Redcliff, Alberta, he relocated to Edmonton to study at NAIT. He spent his career in Fire Research with the Canadian Forest Service. After retiring, he became a motorcycle aficionado extraordinaire, restoring vintage motorcycles and enjoying off-road

riding. Through work by Chuck in cooperation with the Alberta Forest Service (Revie Lieskovsky and Bob Young), the first Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) was installed on a fixed-wing Birddog aircraft in 1991. The work demonstrated that FLIR scanner imagery offered several cost-saving measures due to improved airtanker efficiency, fire intelligence information and mop-up or hold over activities. The FLIR has become standard equipment now on all Birddog aircraft in Alberta's wildfire program. Chuck was also the proud and deserving recipient of the Canadian Forest Service, Northwest Region Achievement Award for his major contribution to the implementation of FLIR technology in aerial forest fire suppression. This award was presented annually, by the CFS, to individuals and organizations demonstrating innovative practices in the field of forestry in the Prairie Provinces and Northwest Territories. Chuck also supported Alberta's implementation of the original Resource Tracking System, configuring and trouble-shooting aircraft components and field repeaters; and worked on improving lookout visible area mapping.

## ERNEST JOHANN "ERNIE" STROEBEL

Born April 3, 1927 in Eyb, a small village on the outskirts of Ansbach in Bavaria, Germany, Ernie passed away on February 18, 2016, just shy of his 89th birthday. He came

to Canada in the spring of 1953 and began working with the Alberta Forest Service cruising timber with the Forest Surveys Branch in 1957. Two vehicles drove Ernie and his crew out to the Entrance Ranger Station their first day, Reg Loomis and his assistant Gordon De Grace were the drivers. Ernie had the pleasure of riding with Mr. Loomis. He then moved to Calling Lake, Lac La Biche Forest, as the Assistant Ranger in 1958. When Bill McPherson retired, Ernie took over as District Ranger, with Owen Bolster as his Assistant. Ernie was stationed in Calling Lake from April 1959 to July 1964. He then moved to the Muskeg Ranger Station, Edson Forest as the District Ranger taking over from Mansel Davis. Joe Smith worked for Ernie from December 1964 to May 1966. Norm Rodseth recalls when he first met Ernie, he said "he would be the Ranger-in-charge at Muskeg". The next time Norm saw Ernie, he was the Ranger-in-charge. When Ernie fully lost his vision he moved to the Edson Forest Headquarters as the radio operator, a role he held until his retirement in 1987.

Though blindness restricted him, Ernie's heart and soul always remained with the wild in the forests and mountains.

## GAIL MATTHEWS

Born June 23, 1953 in Calgary, Gail passed away on March 10, 2016 in Edmonton at 62 years of age. Gail started her career with the Alberta



government in 1971 and had over 44 years of dedicated service. She spent most of her career in the department that was responsible for Forestry, whether it was Lands and Forests, Energy and Natural Resources, Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, Environmental Protection, Environment, Sustainable Resource Development or Environment and Parks. For the past couple of decades Gail was focussed on budgeting and forecasting. She was passionate about understanding the needs of the program and working with all to ensure that program needs were met. During her years she was a great workmate, 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.

#### GLENN URICHUK

*Submitted by Tim Klein*

Glen passed away in March 2016 having worked his entire lookout career in the Peace River country. Whitemud Tower was his first lookout. While working there from 1982 – 1991 he would occasionally walk several miles through the bush to the nearest farmer to drop off some mail rather than wait for “air mail” helicopter or walk the very long and often time’s muddy tower road. In 1992, he moved to Kimiwan Tower because there was a new store in Peace River that offered 24 hour shopping. Portions of this road were often rutted and muddy but he would drive into Peace River for shopping late in the evening with his old car – a challenge that often daunted rangers in 4X4 pickups. Rookie lookout observers fresh out of the lookout course were often sent to

Glen for a few days of mentoring. Glen developed a detailed check list for this purpose and would not move on past any given point until he was sure that the new recruit fully understood what was required and how to do it. This mentoring was truly part of his daily routine and working with the neighbouring lookouts never ended. That mentoring wasn’t limited to just lookout observers – many rangers learned about lookouts from him. Junior Forest Rangers would often be brought to “Glen’s tower” for a day where he would patiently answer their questions and once they were trained for climbing, spend some time “upstairs” in the cupola looking out over the forest. When cell phones were first introduced to the lookout network, Glen developed a log for tracking incoming and outgoing calls so that he could account for every minute of the precious airtime. If there was one aspect of Glen’s lifestyle that everyone noticed it was his drive to keep his place neat and tidy. Every tool in the engine shed had a specific place and the yard kept in pristine condition. Glen Urichuk passed away at his home in early March, 2016. He would have turned 72 on March 12, 2016. Glen received a 30 year plaque from the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees in 2012.

#### MAURICE BOLDOC

*Submitted by Bob Yates*

Maurice Bolduc was born February 2, 1941 at Wanham, Alberta. He was raised on the family farm in the Wanham district, where he completed his schooling. Maurice started work with the Alberta Forest Service as a lookoutman at Copton Lookout, during the 1959 and 1960 fire seasons, then moving to

Puskwaskau Tower for the 1961 and 1962 fire seasons. He then moved on to the Slave Lake Forest where he worked as a Forest Officer in the High Prairie, Salt Prairie and Smith District’s for a few years. He completed the Basic Ranger Training Course in 1963. When he left the Alberta Forest Service, Maurice and his family moved to the Flatbush area near Cross Lake Provincial Park. There they operated a boat rental and concession for a time at Cross Lake Park. While living at the acreage near Cross Lake they got some calves to raise, the kids thought they were pets, named them and tamed them as if they were pets. In the fall the calves disappeared. They didn’t know until years later where those calves went, possibly the freezer. The family moved to Lynn Lake, Manitoba where Maurice worked in the mining industry for some years. He then moved on to the oil industry, seismic with Western Geophysical where he worked for several years. He worked in the Arctic, California and Norman Wells in the Yukon.

Maurice was a lookout man at heart; he loved the life, the work and the solitude. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and trapping, anything that was outdoors. He had his favourite spots for picking huckleberries, but he never told very many people where they were. He returned to work with the Alberta Forest Service at Zama Tower during the summer of 1983, in the Rainbow Lake District. He went farther north in 1984 to Petitot Tower, where the mosquitoes almost got the best of him. In 1985 he came back to Grande Prairie Forest, Kakwa Tower, where he spent the next 27 fire seasons. He was an excellent lookoutman, took great pride in his job, the tower site and his



garden. The place was always in immaculate condition. The engine house floors were so clean you had to remove your shoes before entering. His lawn, grass, around the site was always mowed. I think he trained the grass to only grow to specified height. He got annoyed with the local rabbits that dug in his lawn for the roots of the clover plants. He enjoyed the wildlife that frequented the area and passed through his yard. Moose, deer, grizzly bears especially. He always talked about the grizzlies in around his cabin, looking in the window. Maurice was always following the weather, forecasts, watching lightning storms and looking for smokes. When he reported a smoke you could be sure there was a smoke there. We maybe didn't always find it; they do have a habit of going out on their own from time to time. He quite often said, "they didn't get there fast enough, or didn't look hard enough" when they couldn't find his smoke.

Maurice passed away on March 28, 2016 after a hard brave battle. Maurice was a good friend and co-worker. He had many friends and acquaintances throughout the area. He always kept in contact with family and friends, written letters, phone calls, drop in visits. He was always thinking of others. He was a humble man and never spoke an unkindly word about anyone. He really appreciated all the support he received during this very difficult time. His children were his life, they are honoured he was their dad.

### HELGE ESKELSON

Born in 1928, Helge passed away on March 29, 2016. Helge was a helicopter pilot for Associated Helicopters flying many forest

officers with the Alberta Forest Service in the 1960s and 1970s.

### WILFRED "JOCK" KAY

Born on July 14, 1928, at Saunders Creek, Alberta, Jock passed away on April 12, 2016, Rocky Mountain House, at 87 years of age. Jock worked in the mines at Saunders, Alexo and Nordegg. When the mines closed down he moved to Rocky Mountain House and went to work at the Ross Garage. In April, 1956, he started his career with the Alberta Forest Service. His first posting was at the Clearwater Ranger Station working for Ron Lyle. Much of the early work involved timber harvest and inspecting sawmills before oil and gas activity increased. The rangers were also involved in construction of the trunk road from Clearwater to Nordegg. He then moved to the Shunda Ranger Station, back to Clearwater and lastly to the Strachan Ranger Station where he retired as Chief Ranger. There were over thirty sawmills in the Strachan Ranger District that Jock and the rangers inspected, many of them farmers logging and sawing timber in the winter. The largest was the Fisher operation south of the Clearwater River, up on the North Fork. Jock spent his 32 year career in the Rocky Clearwater Forest.

### JOHN BRADLEY

John passed away on April 14, 2016 at 65 years of age. Following graduation from the NAIT Forest Technology program in 1971, John started his career as a Forest Officer for the Alberta Forest Service working out of the Fort Vermilion District office. Class mates included Leo Drapeau, Gary Mandrusiak, Daryl Rollings, Dennis

Giggs, Ken Orich and Don Podlubny. He has worked out of Alder Flats, McLennan, Grovedale and Grande Prairie District's over the course of his career with the department. He retired a number of years ago after a lengthy career, however he recently returned on wages to assist with the Public Lands workload in the Grande Prairie office. John enjoyed all sports, particularly hockey and football. As a youth he was active in Cubs, Navy League and Sea Cadets. These lifelong interests carried on through his adult life coaching sports and leading scouting groups, as well as cheering his grandchildren on from the sidelines as they pursued their activities. He also enjoyed musical theatre and plays, spending many hours building and painting sets and volunteering backstage on lights and stage management for The College Theatre. Forestry was John's life-long career and he lived and worked in numerous places within Alberta. He loved the days spent amid the trees and wildlife of Alberta's forests. John was a dedicated, passionate and caring individual and remained family throughout the numerous departmental changes that occurred over his career.

### HERB MACAULEY

Born August 22, 1947 in Banff, Alberta, Herb passed away on May 9, 2016 at the age of 68. He was proud to be a third generation Banffite, prouder to be the eldest of six children, and proudest to be "Dad" to his son, Currie. Except for a few years in Vancouver he lived almost all of his life in Banff and stayed true to the decade he loved best, the '60s, by valuing ideas, ignoring trends, and insisting on personal freedom. He set his



own pace, embodying Thoreau's belief that "to affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of arts." He enjoyed a varied career working for many years with both the Alberta Forest Service and Banff Transportation. He was a devoted student of Banff's history and was a long-time volunteer with the Banff Heritage Corporation. He loved good books, deep thought, long walks, blues guitar, esoteric philosophy, easy conversation, heated debate, sumptuous meals, NASCAR, and the Habs. He did not like convention, short haircuts, cats, or blue cheese. He insisted that milk be poured into his cup before hot tea was added - something to do with creating an emulsion - and he was adamant that he could taste the difference. He was as well-read and intelligent as he was wise and kind. With the Alberta Forest Service, Herb was a lookout observer in a number of locations in the eastern slopes starting at Keystone Tower in 1976, Hailstone Butte from 1977 to 1980, and Raspberry Ridge from 1982 to 1984. He was also an air attack officer in the early 1990s.

### JOHN BENSON

Born October 25, 1936, John E. Benson, BScF, RPF Retired, quietly passed away at the Grey Nuns hospital in Edmonton on May 11, 2016 at 79 years of age. Upon graduation from the University of New Brunswick in 1959, John began a 35 year career with the Alberta Forest Service, starting as the Forest Protection Officer in the Grande Prairie Forest. His career led him to Hinton as an instructor in Fire Control at the Forestry Training School, Superintendent in Edson and Bow-Crow Forests; to Edmonton as Director of Forest Land Use, and

retiring as the Director of Forest Protection in 1993. In addition to his passion for forestry, John was an athlete and obsessed hockey fan. He played both football and hockey in University receiving honours in both sports. As a fan he was regularly fond of sending correction letters to the Hockey News. Brydon Ward said of John, "the Class of 1968 at the Forestry Training School considered John as a leader on and off the ice."

### OTTO JOHN "HAP" SCHAUERTE

Hap Schauerte passed away on May 29, 2016 at the age of 89 years. Hap was born and raised at Pincher Creek, Alberta; where he received his education and also met his wife, Agnes Mary Fitzpatrick. Hap had a long standing career with the Alberta Forest Service, first as a Park Warden and then as a Forest Ranger. His career spanned thirty years in many different communities. After a short time with the Banff Warden Service, Hap began with the Alberta Forest Service in spring 1957, in the Bow Crow Forest with John Hogan as Forest Superintendent. He worked as a Forest Ranger at the Skyline Ranger Station with Ray Mustard, then manned Ironstone Lookout. That fall, Hap went to the Forestry Training School at Seebe to work as a clerk for Peter Murphy. The following year he attended the training school as a Forest Officer I taking his Basic Ranger training. Following training, Hap moved to the Lac La Biche Forest. In spring 1958, he moved to Fort McMurray. That summer while fighting fires, Hap experienced travel by Beaver and Norseman float planes, his first helicopter flight (then piloted by Jack Lunan), and transporting crews both by air and by box car on the Northern Alberta Railroad

at Anzac. In an interview, Hap recalled having to purchase tickets for the fire crew to travel by rail at the Anzac Station, not a normal practice of the Northern Alberta Railroad. It was explained to him that it was for insurance purposes. On one fire, a Norseman float plane loaded with firefighters took off from Goodwin Lake to Lac La Biche, when it crashed in a black spruce muskeg. Luckily no one was hurt. The pilot and crew were flown to the Conklin Northern Alberta Railroad Station, and sent via rail to Lac La Biche for examination by a doctor and released. The aircraft was hauled out the following winter and, while damaged, it was repaired and put back into service. Hap also had the experience in Fort McMurray helping to break horses for use in packing equipment and supplies into and out of fires. This never occurred since the AFS was already extensively using fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft. After two years in Fort McMurray, Hap transferred to the La Corey Ranger Station, where he supervised construction of access roads to Siebert Lake Cabin and Sand River Tower. With Cold Lake Air Weapons Range being in the district, Hap joined representatives from Lac La Biche County, La Corey and the Saskatchewan Forest Service to receive training on opening cockpits of jets to rescue pilots should their aircraft crash. After four years, Hap moved to the Fox Creek Ranger Station, Whitecourt Forest. There he had the privilege of using the first ski-doo issued by the Alberta Forest Service. He was also part of the crew that helped construct Carrot Creek Tower. From Fox Creek, Hap moved to Rocky Mountain House (DR6) in the Clearwater Forest for a few months, before being promoted to Forest



Officer II in charge of the Alder Flats Ranger District (DR7). While there he attended the Advanced Forestry Training Course in Hinton. The transfer from Rocky Mountain House to Alder Flats was the only move made where he and his wife did not have children in school. At Alder Flats, he was involved in working with two Fish and Wildlife districts, two R.C.M.P. detachments and three counties. The field work in this area involved land use and oil patch, grazing, forest harvesting and recreation. Two towermen that Hap praised were Ernie Kramer, at Alder Flats Tower, and Jerry Maxwell, at Buck Mountain Tower. Both were competent and reliable, and when they called in a smoke, you knew they had a smoke. After twenty-two years with the Alberta Forest Service, Hap left and started his own oilfield consulting business.

### HERMAN MEUNIER

Born May 31, 1923, Herman Meunier passed away June 12, 2016 at 93 years of age. Herman and Ambrose Meunier began logging operations around Topland, Alberta, in 1954. The company was originally set-up as Meunier Brothers Lumber and Construction Ltd., later becoming Meunier Brothers Lumber when they got out of the construction business. From 1954 to 1966, the Meunier Brothers logged and sawed timber during the winter and farmed during the summer. From 1963 to 1967, the Meunier's began logging as a contractor to Eagle Tower Lumber, from a millsite in 16-13-64-16-W5M. In 1967, they purchased Eagle Tower's quotas continuing to operate at the same site for another two years. In 1968, they purchased William O'Brien's quotas and operated

from his millsite on the east side of the Iosegun hill, in 11-25-61-18-W5M. In 1969, the Meunier's purchased Logan Lumber and the Whitecourt operations of Swanson Lumber, including the Martiniuk Brothers millsite in 11+14-06-62-22-W5M. Other quotas that were purchased belonged to Lawton and Kamaitis. In 1971, the Meunier Brothers began construction on a centralized millsite, south-west of the Amoco South Kaybob Gas Plant, in 01-02-62-20-W5M, 16-35-61-20-W5M [south of Fox Creek]. This millsite had a modern sawmill, dry kiln, planer mill and rail spurs which allowed for access to U.S. markets. The operations were sold to Simpson Timber Company (now Blue Ridge Lumber), in 1975. Herman Meunier continued logging in the Swan Hills area for another two years, before selling that operation to Simpson Timber.

### RICHARD HENRY HILLSON

Born in Stirling, Scotland on December 18, 1926, Richard Hillson passed away on June 20, 2016 at the age of 90. At age 10, he moved to the midlands of England with his mother Isobel and older sister Betty. As a young man, England became his home base for his trips to many parts of the world. He was a sailor with the Royal Navy and served during the latter stages of WWII, he was a sugarcane plantation worker in Trinidad, a colonial civil servant in Nigeria, and he took part in a British expedition to the Antarctic. His love of travel and adventure and his strong sense of service to his country took him to South Georgia, the Falklands, Argentina, Malta, Uruguay and the Mediterranean.

Working on his stepfather's farm in England deepened his love of plants, animals and nature, and it influenced his future careers in forestry and horticulture. He worked on reforestation projects in Scotland. Emigrating to Canada in 1959, he began work at the Provincial Horticultural Centre in Brooks, Alberta. He later worked for the Department of Forestry and was the Superintendent of the Provincial Tree Nursery at Oliver. He met his former wife Pat on the SS Empress of England as they travelled to Canada. Together they raised four children in St. Albert and Rochester, Alberta. While raising his family, he pursued a BSc in Botany from the University of Alberta and then an MSc in Plant Science from the University of London in England. When the family returned to Alberta in 1970, he taught courses at NAIT in Forestry as well as Report and Letter Writing. He was recognized for his ground-breaking work on the propagation of native plants in Alberta. In 1974, he established the Hillson Nursery in Rochester, where he lived until 2002. He was active in the community, coaching his boys in hockey and employing local kids at the nursery. He loved the peace of working on his own rural tree nursery with his dogs, cats and nature around him. He and Pat divorced but maintained a close friendship until her death in 2014. He continued to explore the world, volunteering with reforestation projects in Panama and India where he shared his knowledge of horticulture with people who became his friends. He taught ESL classes at the Mennonite Centre in Edmonton; there he met his partner Helgard, who has had his heart for the past 18 years. Together they enjoyed the local beauty of Alberta and also visited Scotland,



the Orkneys, Germany and the Bahamas. Over his nearly 90 years, he had many lasting friendships. He was a Scot forever, but he loved his adopted country and was very proud to become a Canadian citizen. He loved music and literature, and he followed politics and world events passionately. He was not shy about expressing his opinions.

### ED BARNETT

Born March 19, 1946 in Minto, New Brunswick, Ed Barnett passed away in Wandering River, Alberta on July 8, 2016 at the age of 70 years. Ed was just beginning his new journey into retirement after 35 years with the Alberta government when he passed away. Ed spent his entire career in the public service. He was an RCMP Officer and a Corrections Officer each for eight years, before joining the Alberta Forest Service in 1980. He started as a Forest Guardian in Kananaskis Country (Turner Valley area) before moving to the Fox Creek District, Whitecourt Forest in 1981 as a permanent Forest Officer. Ed spent the last 20 years in Wandering River as a public lands officer. A remembrance celebration was held for Ed on September 10, 2016 at the Wandering River Ranger Station. Many will remember Ed from his fishing and hunting stories, his attendance at slow-pitch tournaments, and his curling adventures. Ed had a way to make us all laugh - he was one of a kind!

### PIETER "PIET" BROERSEN

*Submitted by Ingrid Thompson, sister*

It is with extreme sadness that the family of Pieter "Piet" Broersen announce his death on July 29,

2016 at 60 years of age. Pieter was a true forestry professional, dedicated to his profession since he started his career as a Junior Forest Ranger in Alberta, in 1975 (earning \$7 a day)! Pieter graduated from the NAIT Forest Technology program in 1977 with fellow classmates Bruce Cartwright, Buck Dryer, Dave Redgate, Butch Shenfield, Tom Grant and Russ Stashko. He began his career with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) on the timber management crew in the Whitecourt Forest, eventually in the role of assistant party chief. During 1981 he supervised a 10-man Regional Initial Attack Crew in Swan Hills - the first "helitack" type fire crew established in Alberta. His forestry experience with the AFS expanded while he worked at various locations, including, Manning, North Star and Hines Creek, Alberta. In 1994, Piet crossed the border to British Columbia where he began a 21.9 year career with the British Columbia Forest Service. His first job in B.C. was with the Horsefly Forest District, at the Likely Field Office on beautiful Quesnel Lake. It was at this time that Piet raised concerns about the mountain pine beetle infestation even before other authorities recognized it. In 1999, Piet journeyed to northern B.C. settling in the beautiful Peace country. In 2012, Pieter was a Glen Evely Award nominee for his compliance and enforcement work. He found great satisfaction in preparing the how-to procedures manual for gravel pit management for the ministry. His diverse career ended in Charlie Lake with Compliance and Enforcement. Pieter strongly resisted "retirement" - after all forestry was his passion, truly his "calling" in life.

Piet was much more than just a forestry professional. He was a multi-faceted man; delving into music, photography, sketching, gardening, fly tying, making axe handles, collecting forestry memorabilia, caps, stamps, and Chinese coins. His collection of Chinese coins were displayed at The Exploration Place in Prince George. And he sure made a mean pot of chili! Throughout his life, Piet's dogs; Dusk, Gus and Trapper were his devoted companions. Most importantly Pieter valued genuineness, sincerity, honesty, loyalty, integrity and a strong work ethic. Life was not always easy for Piet in the last few years, but he always walked with integrity and strongly opposed unfairness and injustice. To those who sincerely took the time to get to know Piet they discovered a kind and gentle man with a huge heart; and as one friend described him, a "very good hearted soul". He was an awesome brother and a unique and loyal friend to many.

### ADOLF PORCINA

On September 11, 2016, Adolf Porcina of Elk Point passed away at the age of 76 years. Adolf spent 11 years with the Alberta Forest Service from 1964 to 1975 as a Forest Officer and Chief Ranger in Manning, and Land Use Officer in the Peace River Forest.

### ALLAN WAHLSTOM

Born and raised in Czar, Alberta, Allan passed away on September 11, 2016 at the age of 87 years. In 1947, Allan move to Slave Lake to begin what was to be a forty-four year career in the lumber industry that he loved. He worked



for Swanson Lumber Co. Ltd. until 1981. At that time the company was purchased by Canadian Forest Products Ltd. (Canfor). In 1982, Allan transferred to the Canfor office in Grande Prairie and continued working there until 1990. From 1988 to 1990 he served as President of the Alberta Forest Products Association.

### LOIS ELLEFSON

Born in Lamont on March 6, 1924, Lois passed away on September 13, 2016 in Athabasca at the age of 92 years. In 1945, Lois married Lawrence Ellefson and they established L. Ellefson Construction, a logging and road construction company that built all the roads leading to Athabasca. They also logged in and around Calling Lake. In discussing his time at Calling Lake, Forest Officer Ernie Stroebel said of Lawrence Ellefson, "We had a very good sawmill, or rather a very good operator. Ellefson was a totally human man. He employed always many more men than he really needed, just so he could employ more of the local people. He run a nice sawmill, even when everything was a little haywire or homemade".

### GERALD STUART

Born December 6, 1936, Gerald passed away on November 28, 2016 at the age of 79. During the summer of 1955, Gerald worked at Charlie Bruce's sawmill in Rocky Mountain House, located where the present Rocky Mountain House Co-op store is. A co-worker was planning to work at Ram Lookout when construction was finished, but changed his mind passing on Gerald's name to Chief Ranger Bill

Adams. Gerald started working on Ram Lookout on August 1, 1955, staying there until the end of September. He was then sent to the ten-week Forestry Training Basic Ranger Course at Seebe, Alberta. This site was the old German prisoner of war camp during World War II. Other graduates included Howard Morigeau, Ken Janigo, Lou Boulet, Bernie Brouwer, Bud Klumph, Gordon Campbell and Bill McPhail. Upon completion of the course he went to the Clearwater Ranger Station as Assistant Ranger under District Ranger Ron Lyle. He lived in the old log house on the site which had been built by his Uncle, Bill Scott in 1921. Rent was \$7.00 per month. Ike Adams was the other Assistant Ranger at the Clearwater and when he moved to Rocky as forestry mechanic, Gerald then moved into the newer Assistant Ranger house on site in 1956. Jock Kay started then as Assistant Ranger and moved to the old log house. As the forestry trunk road was only a few years old, there was a lot of tourist travel through the district. A key role for rangers at the time was ensuring all travelers entering the forest reserve registered. During the fall hunting season, the rangers were also game officers. Gerald recalled one fall where around 600 head of elk were legally taken and checked out through the Clearwater Ranger Station. Similar counts were also made at Prairie Creek and the Nordegg checkouts. After hunting season was over the forestry personnel worked at the Forestry sawmill which was located just west of the Clearwater Ranger Station. Ranger staff were brought in from other districts along the east slopes to help with the milling operation during the

winter. The timber sawed was either traded for treated lumber or used for bridge construction on the forestry trunk road. Every fall they put up hay on the flats at the Clearwater Ranger Station in order to feed forestry and personal horses used by staff to carry out different jobs within the district. In July 1957, Gerald was transferred to the Nordegg Ranger Station as Assistant Ranger under Harry Edgecombe. Ken Janigo and Fred Facco were also there as Assistant Rangers. The workload was very similar to that of the Clearwater, a lot of tourist travel and registering, fire protection and tower servicing, construction of campgrounds and campground maintenance. There were a number of timber cruising parties from Forest Surveys Branch for which they used horses to pack supplies into them, especially up in the Camp 15 area. In addition, hay was put up hay at the Meadows Ranger Station for the horses, with 18 head of horses at Nordegg at the time. One of the jobs one summer was to roll up phone wire, the old communication line that was strung all along the east slopes as some wildlife, especially elk were getting their horns tangled in it. In the winter months there were timber operations to inspect, and an influx of seismic operations, all dozer lines at that time. When it was too cold to work outside, they worked in the shop building picnic tables and toilets for the campgrounds. On May 1, 1959, Gerald was promoted to District Ranger-in-Charge of the Cadomin Ranger District. Angus Crawford was moved into the Edson warehouse in 1960, and Gerald then took on Mountain Park as well. His assistant ranger at the time was Jim Monroe. The workload consisted of fire



detection and patrols, campground maintenance, road construction and game patrols. Problems in the area included mine shafts caving in and the underground burning.

In the summer 1961, a competition for land-use technicians was advertised to support the approvals and regulatory work for the increased oil activity in the Drayton Valley and Whitecourt areas. On September 1, 1961, Gerald was successful on the position in Drayton Valley. Johnny Johnson, Bill Sanregret and Steve Zacharuk were stationed in Whitecourt. As the oil activity increased a Land Use Section was created in the Forest Headquarters offices with Gerald moving to the Rocky Clearwater Forest Headquarters in Rocky Mountain House in May 1962. Johnny Johnson was moved to Peace River, Steve Zacharuk went to Slave Lake and Bill Sanregret remained in Whitecourt. Over the next number of years the Alberta Forest Service established many rules and regulations for construction and reclamation for the oil and gas industry to follow. In October 1976, Gerald was promoted to Land-use Coordinator in Edmonton, there developing policies on the use of the forest reserve (commercial trail riding, head tax grazing permits) and dealing with conditions for districts to use with all types of land use applications such as oil and gas, seismic hand cut and helicopter lines, etc. He took all of the current and best practices being used and developed a Resource Handbook for field officers and industry to use. On May 4, 1980, Gerald transferred to forest protection as an Air Attack Coordinator for the province. In that position he was in charge of the water bombers

and birddog personnel, placing them around the different forests depending on where the fire hazard and wildfires were. During this time, a B26 airtanker crashed on a wildfire off the airstrip in Slave Lake killing the pilot, Teras Kitzul. A CL-215 skimmer airtanker was brought in from Quebec for testing, an alternative to the aging Canso airtankers. In October 1980, following the fire season, Gerald moved to the Bow Crow Forest in Calgary as the land-use officer, a role he enjoyed in the field. There was a lot of activity occurring in the south at that time from the development of Kananaskis County, drilling of wells, seismic activity and construction of three major gas plants in the Burnstick Lake, Panther River and Bragg Creek areas. Many best practices were developed from the concerns raised by environmentalists and the public. Gerald retired from the Alberta Forest Service on August 1, 1990 after 35 years at the age of 53. He went farming in Rocky Mountain House upon retirement, hired seasonally for a couple of years issuing fire permits for forestry during the summer.

#### DENNIS SAMPIETRO

Born June 26, 1945, Dennis passed away on December 17, 2016 at 71 years of age. Dennis was a long-time forestry staff member in the Lac La Biche area, starting in 1981 as an equipment operator. He was instrumental in the construction and design of the first wildfire aerial ignition trailer in the province. Those that worked in the Lac La Biche area will remember Denny for his hard work ethic and easy going approach to life.

#### ROBERT REID

Rob Reid passed away on December 28, 2016 at 91 years of age. He grew up in Vermilion, Alberta, the son of a railroad man. In 1942, Rob enlisted in the Air Force during World War II, and was assigned to the west coast. There he was a gunner navigator on a Canso Flying Boat based in the Northern Queen Charlottes, spending much of his time searching for Japanese U-boats that might reach Canada. Following his war service and an education opportunity, Rob went to university graduating with a Forestry degree, later obtaining his PhD focussed on the study of mountain pine beetle. Rob spent 31 years with the Canadian Forest Service from 1949 to 1980. As a research scientist Rob worked out of the Forest Zoology Laboratory in Calgary and the Kananaskis Forest Experiment Station. In the mid-1950s, he along with other federal forestry staff helped construct a field station in Banff National Park, called the Castle Mountain Field Station. From there he began research studies on the population, behaviour and host tree selection and interactions of the mountain pine beetle. The field season was spent between Invermere, B.C., the Castle field station and the lab in Calgary. One of the highlights of Rob's research was to identify and characterize MPB bluestain fungi and host pine tree interactions for an understanding of host tree resistance. At the time of Rob's retirement in 1980, he was the Assistant Director of the Northern Forest Research Centre in Edmonton. There he strongly supported the integration of federal research and provincial wildfire operations, and was forward looking and instrumental in development



of the world renowned Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System. Next to his wife Betty and family, Rob's great love was for horses and mountain valleys that did not have road access. Rob was a "king in the horse world", and practiced what he studied and learned firsthand from professional horse trainers that he associated with over the years. Rob trained and rode horse in many disciplines including show, trail riding, cutting, even fox hunts in Texas. Along the way, he developed friendships with many accomplished horsemen who he describes in his publication, "Our Alberta Home", which can be accessed on his website at <http://ouralbertahome.com>.

#### **GARRY LABBY**

*Submitted by Terry Kristoff*

On December 24, 2016, Garry Labby of Slave Lake passed away quietly at the Norwood Palliative Care Unit in Edmonton after a courageous struggle with cancer. Garry was a prominent force in the forest industry in the Slave Lake Region for decades. Shortly after high school in Kinuso and, a brief stint in the oil patch, Garry hired on with the Alberta Forest Service in 1968. Garry worked with the likes of long time forestry personnel such as Con Dermott, Lou Foley, Wray Adams, Dickie Churchill, Horst Rhode and Phil Dube. Garry was just a hard working local farm boy who started as a compassman but quickly became the timber cruiser and eventually Assistant Party Chief. This experience and work ethic captured the attention of Tom Stewart, woodlands manager of Zeidler Forest Industries Ltd. and enabled him to secure permanent employment in 1971 with that company as a field

technician. At that time Zeidler had a sawmill operating at the Nipisi Site (Junction of Highway 88 and 754) but also supplied deciduous (balsam poplar) peeler stock to the new plywood line running in Edmonton. The deciduous bolts were trucked to the railhead and shipped directly to the plant in Edmonton. The switch to conifer plywood happened in 1975 with the completion of the new veneer line in the Mitsue Industrial Park, east of Slave Lake. Shortly after the passing of Tom Stewart, Garry was named Woodlands Manager in Slave Lake. Under his leadership, Zeidler grew from a small quota holder to a large enterprise with numerous quotas and a substantial woodlands staff operating throughout the Slave Lake Forest. He stayed on with West Fraser when they acquired Zeidler until his retirement. Garry was a pleasure to work for as he always "had your back". His support and guidance helped many young and inexperienced forestry professionals learn the "ropes". He always let his staff have their own say in operations and only stepped in if it was doomed for failure. This leadership allowed young professionals the opportunity to show their stuff and ultimately resulted in the company being progressive and forward thinking. Garry was well respected within both industry and government. Garry was an avid outdoorsman enjoying hunting and fishing. He had a lifelong passion for baseball and curling. Garry retired in 2011 and the loss of the family home in the Slave Lake wildfire made it easy to relocate to Edmonton and ultimately St. Albert. Garry leaves behind his wife Sharon, his son Blaine and wife Jodi, daughter Janelle and husband Darrin, the lights of his life his grand babies

Kyani, Holden, McKenzie and Linden. Another great tree has fallen within the forest!

#### **TREAR MATIJON**

On December 21, 2016 Trear Matijon passed away. He worked for the Alberta Forest Service from 1973 to 1994, retiring as the Forestry Warehouseman at the Provincial Forest Fire Depot.



# FOREST HISTORY PHOTO CORNER

## ARTHUR CREIGHTON "BUCK" ROGERS COLLECTION

A.C. "Buck" Rogers graduated from the first Alberta Forest Service Forestry Training School graduating class held in Kananaskis (Seebe) in 1951. He worked as a Forest Officer in Nordegg, Manning and Slave Lake. Rob Thorburn received the attached certificate and two pictures from Buck Rogers' daughter Sue Werbicki in November, 2016.





## ERNIE STROEBEL COLLECTION

Ernie Stroebel's first job with the Alberta Forest Service was as a compassman in 1957, working for the Forest Surveys Branch. The timber cruise work was in the Entrance, Grande Cache, Muskeg and Berland River Ranger Districts. This photo collection was provided by his son Len, and captures a unique view of the role a forest surveyor and forest ranger had in the 1950s and 1960s.



### ARTHUR CREIGHTON "BUCK" ROGERS COLLECTION

1. Graduation certificate presented to Arthur Creighton Rogers; Signed by Victor Heath, Forester in Charge, and Eric Huestis, Director of Forestry; Department of Lands and Forests; Forests and Wildlife Division; 1951

2. A.C. "Buck" Rogers in field uniform, beside a late 1940s Willys Jeep Truck; Nordegg Ranger Station; 1950

3. Dick Radke on top of ladder, A.C. "Buck" Rogers on the bottom, Rowdy the dog; Nordegg Ranger Station; 1950

### ERNIE STROEBEL COLLECTION

1. Cruise party drying socks and pants; Berland River area; summer 1957

Names: Frank Smeelie (Party Chief, became Divisional Forester, Slave Lake Forest) on the far left; Ernie Stroebel far right and Jim Lee (was the cruise complier working out of the Little Berland Cabin), hidden behind Ernie; Frank Nuspel (hidden, 4th from the right). Norm Rodseth said the project was split into two cruise parties, with Chuck Geale (Party Chief), Doug Caldwell, Bill Bennett, Otto Barrett, Herb Cerezke, Arnie Fowler, and one Maritimer whose name he does not remember, and himself on one crew. Cliff Smith joined the crew later in the summer. Frank Smeelie ran the other crew (the crew that Ernie Stroebel's pictures are from).

2. Muskeg Ranger Station compound with Ranger houses; Ernie Stroebel; 1964

3. Muskeg Ranger Station garage and cache with an Alberta Forest Service 1962 GMC single axle dump truck; Ernie Stroebel; 1964









1. Friends of Ernie's gather at his funeral; Edson; February 26, 2016

Kneeling (L to R): Ray Olsson, Jurgen Moll, Ross Graham

Standing (L to R): Cyril Lanctot, Kent McDonald, Hylo McDonald, Cliff Smith, Dave Finn, Len Stroebe, Don Carr, Wayne Bowles, Kevin Freehill, Norm Rodseth, Don Bailor, Fred Anderson

2. Calling Lake Ranger Station garage, with 1958 Chevrolet single axel dump truck (Prevent Forest Fires), Ernie Stroebe's 1961 Volkswagen Beetle and a 1959 or 1960 International Travelall; Ernie Stroebe; 1961 or 1962



3. Construction just finished on the new Forestry Training School; Hinton, Alberta; 1960. This building included the Forestry Training offices, a dining room and the Mountain View residence.

4. Doug Lyons and Ernie Stroebe at the Muskeg Ranger Station; 1958. Doug was the overall Party Chief for all the forest survey crews, and was based in Edmonton.

5. Forestry Training School; Hinton, Alberta; 1960. This was the year the Hinton Training Centre (as it's called today) opened in Hinton under the leadership of Peter Murphy.

6. Ernie Stroebe at the Little Berland Ranger Station; 1950s (no exact date known)

7. Ernie Stroebe at the Calling Lake Airstrip Cabin; early 1960s

8. Ernie Stroebe and the Motor Vessel Calling River (nicknamed the Inchworm), on the Calling River; early 1960s







## CHARLES E. WHITE COLLECTION

The Charles E. White photo collection was donated by his daughter Lois Fleck. Lois remembers her father as a Forest Ranger in the Coal Branch where she was brought up. Charles White was a University of New Brunswick Forestry grad, Class of 1920. Dominion Forest Service records show he was the Acting Forest Supervisor in 1929, in the Brazeau Forest Reserve located at Coalspur. Henry deVeber is listed as a Forest Engineer Grade 2, based out of Calgary. They both had a salary of \$225 per month. There is not much information available from the photographs other than the scenes of the field camps, the float planes, and a list of names on the back of the large crew picture. Both Charles White and Henry deVeber's names are on the credits to many of the early Dominion Forest Service pictures.







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1. L to R: Charles White, J.B. Craur (or Craw) and unknown person; mid-1920s

2. Charles White's forest survey tent camp in an open area, remnants of an old wildfire visible; June 29, 1925

3. Henry deVeber's forest survey tent camp in a closed canopy forest; mid-1920s

4. 1925 Dominion Forest Service cruise party; L to R: Bill McCrae, Ruf (?) Rigg, Bill Phipps (U of T Forestry Grad 1926), Fred Downes, Alvan Hall, H.A. (Henry) deVeber, J.B. Craur (or Craw), C.E. (Charles) White, A.L. Cornish, A.A. Costell [Note – spelling for the names may not be accurate, from the writing on the back of the photograph.]

5. L to R: Charles White with possibly his brother Bill, and dog Tab

6. Western Canadian Airways of Winnipeg Fokker Super Universal G-CASQ float plane at Finlay Forks, BC; early 1920s

7. Western Canadian Airways Fokker Super Universal G-CASQ at Finlay Forks, BC; early 1920s. Charles White is standing on a float of the aircraft. Aircraft to the right is possibly a Vickers float plane.



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## RUDY BLUETCHEN COLLECTION

Rudy Bluetchen was born in Sachsen, Germany on September 15, 1912 and spent his childhood there. In 1926 he attended a Baker's School and graduated after completing a three year course. With the depression in Germany and lack of jobs, he left for Canada arriving in Halifax on July 29, 1930. He then met up with an uncle in Stony Plain and from 1931 to 1936 worked at various jobs – sawmilling, farming and carpentering. In 1938 he began driving a truck for Assinger Lumber. Over the years he worked at the Eckles Lumber in Breton, Assinger Lumber at Grenada, Albrecht Lumber outside of Stony Plain and Gainford, and ran a crew for Imperial Lumber north of Marlboro. The photo collection was provided by his son Larry through his grandson Jeremy.







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1. Malcolm Groat removing chains on sleigh load of logs; Eckles Lumber; Breton; 1940

2. L to R: Rudy Bluetchen, Will Garth and Adam Albrecht; Albrecht Lumber sawmill; 1931-1933

3. Rudy Bluetchen's Engelmann Camp and sawmill north of Marlboro, logging for Imperial Lumber; 1960

4. Rudy Bluetchen's Engelmann Camp and sawmill north of Marlboro, logging for Imperial Lumber; 1960

5. Logs ready for sawing at the Albrecht Lumber sawmill; 1931-1933

6. Rudy Bluetchen driving Assinger Lumber truck, hauling for Swanson Lumber; Grenada; mid 1930s

7. Loading ties on truck and sleigh; Assinger Lumber; Grenada; 1934

8. Albrecht Lumber and Johnson Company sawmill; Gainford; 1935

9. Horse team with sleigh load of logs; Eckles Lumber; Breton; 1940



## A.H. “BERT” PROWSE COLLECTION

Albert Henry Prowse was born in Bangalore, India on December 27, 1897 – son of a British Field Artillery Sergeant. He grew up in England and immigrated to Canada in 1920, joining his sister and brother-in-law in Lethbridge, Alberta. What records are available indicate he worked for the Alberta Forest Service from 1935 to either 1963 or 1965 (he would have turned 65 in December, 1962). He worked in the Leyland area (south of Cadomin) in the late 1940s and early 1950s, before moving to Edson. He was married to Pauline Webber (Polly) in the late 1940s – the aunt of Kathleen Dyck, who saved and has shared these photographs from Bert’s history.







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1. Bert Prowse as a child in England; early 1900s
2. L to R: Bert Prowse and possibly H. Casey; Leyland Ranger Station; early 1950s
3. Luscar Lookout, old tower and newer cabin; early 1950s
4. L to R: Bert Prowse, unknown friend, Pauline (Polly) Prowse; 1950s
5. Bert's retirement in 1963; potentially Charlie Clark thanking Bert for his service
6. Forest Ranger Bert Prowse in uniform; Leyland Ranger Station; early 1950s
7. Leyland Ranger Station, with vehicles and an Aeronca fixed wing CF-FMK; early 1950s



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## HERB CEREZKE COLLECTION

Photographs from the Alberta Forest Service Forest Surveys timber cruise, Grande Cache area summer 1957. These were from Herb Cerezke who was on the timber cruise. His photographs are a valuable addition to those that Ernie Stroebel took during the same timber cruise.







1. Getting ready to move camp; AFS contracted Daniel Wannyanidie (older man in the center); Doug Caldwell on left, and Daniel's grandson Kelly Joacham on right. Pack horses in the background; 1957

2. Timber cruise near the Simonette River; L to R: Unknown (Newcome?) and Chuck Geale (on right); 1957

3. Fly camp set-up near Simonette River; 1957

4. Timber cruise near the Simonette River; L to R: Chuck Geale, Unknown (Newcome?) and Arnie Fowler; 1957

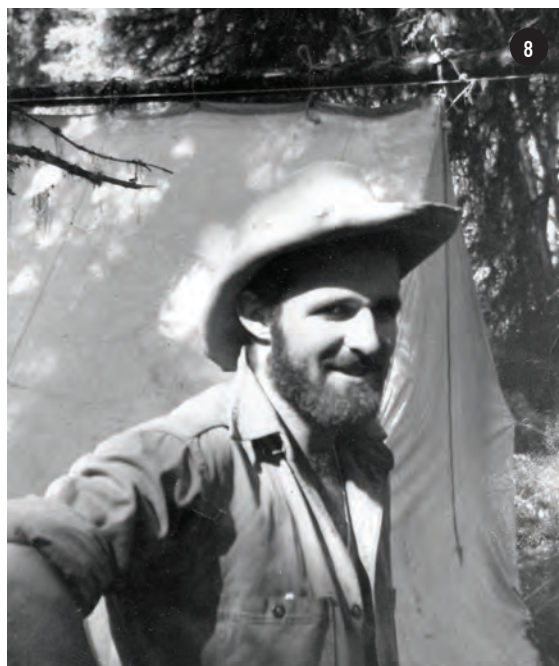
5. Timber cruise camp set-up near present day Grande Cache; L to R: Bill Bennett, Unknown, Norm Rodseth, Doug Caldwell, Unknown (Ed) and Otto Barrett; 1957



6. L to R: Doug Caldwell, Norm Rodseth, Unknown and Unknown from PEI; 1957

7. Timber cruise fly camp with Doug Caldwell on left, Herb Cerezke in center, and Chuck Geale on the right; 1957

8. Party Chief Chuck Geale; Simonette River; July 1957





## ROLLAND (ROLLY) JOURDAIN COLLECTION

Rolly Jourdain spent his career with the Alberta Forest Service on lookouts, as a detection aide and a warehouse person. His son Randy continues the tradition working as a lookout observer. The photo collection was provided by Randy Jourdain.







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1. Bluehill Lookout, Bow Crow Forest; 1965
2. Raspberry Lookout, Bow Crow Forest; 1965
3. Jack Carter at Junction Lookout with Big Bertha, 1988
4. Unknown participants in the Lookout training course, Forestry Training School, Hinton; 1965 or 1966
5. Lookout Instructor Training; Forestry Training School; 1969

Back Row (L to R): Not Identified, Bert Varty (Lac La Biche), Lee Watson (Lac La Biche), Jack Naylor, Tom Stewart



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Middle Row (L to R): Harry Freeman, Colin Campbell (Grande Prairie), Irv Frew (Bow River), Bruce Byron (Lookout), Emanuel Doll (Footner), Lou Boulet (Peace River), Len Smith (Footner)

Kneeling (L to R): Rollie Jourdain, Len Allen (Slave Lake), Not Identified, Cliff Henson, Floyd Schamber (Rocky Mountain House)

6. Lookout Instructor Training; Forestry Training School; 1969

Left Side: Chuck Ratliff, Lou Boulet, Jack Naylor, Not Identified

Right Side: Cliff Henson, Not Identified, Irv Frew

Front (L to R): Len Smith, Harry Freeman, Bert Varty



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7. Unknown participants in the Lookout training course, Forestry Training School, Hinton; 1965 or 1966









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## CARL LEARY COLLECTION

### ROLLAND (ROLLY) JOURDAIN COLLECTION

1. Grande Lookout, Athabasca Forest; 1960s
2. Moberly Lookout, Edson Forest; 1960s. Original lookout constructed in 1922
3. Ghost Ranger Station, with Bell 47J CF-AFK in the yard; May 1965. Boy on the steps is either Cal or Cam Hill, son of Chief Ranger Ray Hill
4. Yellowhead Tower, Edson Forest, 1964
5. Chief Ranger and Assistant Ranger houses; Ghost Ranger Station; May 1965

### CARL LEARY COLLECTION

1. Comparison of trees and truck loads from Forest Management Unit F23 (72 logs on the truck to the left) and Wood Buffalo Park (8 logs on the truck to the right); winter 1982-83
2. Three Creeks Ranger Station (DP-6), Peace River Forest, 1961
3. Eight logs on a truck being hauled from Wood Buffalo National Park to the Swanson Lumber mill in High Level; winter 1982-83
4. Alberta Forest Service Senior Leaders – Forest Superintendents, Program Directors, Assistant Deputy Minister and Deputy Minister; 1986
5. Alberta Forest Service Senior Leaders, Forest Management Tour; Whitecourt Forest; late 1988

L to R: Con Dermott, Rod Simpson, Mort Timanson, Don Fregren, Gordon Armitage, Brydon Ward, Jorden Johnston, Howard Gray, Carson McDonald, Cliff Henderson, Gordon Bisgrove, Carl Leary, Bill Fregren, John Benson

L to R: John Benson, Not Identified, Jorden Johnston, Con Dermott, Cliff Smith, Ken Higginbotham, Howard Gray, Carson McDonald, Lorne Goff, John Drew, Cliff Henderson, Brydon Ward, Don Fregren, Lou Foley and Gordon Armitage



## GORDON BLACKMORE COLLECTION

Gordon was raised on a farm alongside the QE II Highway between Blackfalds and Lacombe. He had a passion in hunting, fishing and all things outdoors. By 1941, Gordon had completed High School and a year in Normal school qualifying as a teacher. He taught school briefly, but upon receiving a draft notice for the Army, promptly volunteered for the RCAF. After basic training, he trained as a wireless mechanic in Ontario and Quebec. He was stationed in Grande Prairie on completion of his Number 4 Wireless School training. Upon discharge, he returned to teaching at the Flying Shot Lake School near Grande Prairie. In the late 1940s, Gordon left teaching and returned to central Alberta working with his parents on their farm, sawmilling with his wife Lois's family near Breton, working at Safeway in Red Deer and at a coal briquette plant in Blairmore. Gordon began working for the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) as a lookoutman at Alder Flats in 1952. He worked through the next winter as a timber checker on Highway 16 at Entwistle and then as an Assistant Ranger under Chuck Geale at Nordegg, in the Clearwater Forest. In 1954, Gordon attended the 10-week AFS Forestry Training School at Kananaskis. Following graduation he was a Forest Officer II at the Woking Ranger Station, Grande Prairie Forest, later transferring to Hythe. He stayed there until 1959, when he began a new career as a Mobile Equipment Licence Inspector, Municipal Affairs. Gordon retired in 1985. Gordon's son Dave provided the narrative and photographs for this story.

Gordon Blackmore married Lois Bogart on December 18, 1943. The Bogarts farmed and logged around the Breton area. Lawrence Bogart continued to log all his life for North West Pulp and Power, then moved to Rocky Mountain House. He died in a hand falling accident in the mid-1960s. Lawrence's son-in-law, Lawrence Lyda continues logging through Lyda Logging, part of the Lydell Group out of Drayton Valley.







1. Carrot Creek Tower; May 7, 1952

L to R: Milton Blackmore, Unknown, Danny Blackmore and Gordon Blackmore

2. Forestry Training School graduates; Kananaskis (Seebe); 1954

Back Row (L to R): Byron Whelton, Don Clark, Gordon Blackmore, Roger Sund, Bill Mustard, Dexter Champion (Instructor), Bill Hanington, George Rochester, Ed Beebe, Harvey Trace

Front Row (L to R): George Sebastian, Don Crawford, Mat Eberle, Art Lambeth, Sam Phillips, Bob Diesel, Pat Foley

Missing from photo: Joe Passamare, Dwight Williams, Bill McGhie, Steve Orlesky



3. Lawrence and Bill Bogart family logging in the Breton area where they farmed; 1940s

4. Bogart family logging; 1940s











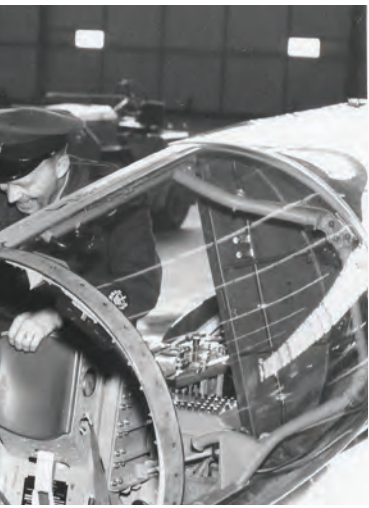
## ALBERTA FOREST SERVICE COLLECTION

1. Alberta Forest Service Bell 47AJ-2, DC3 and Dornier aircraft; Lac La Biche; 1979 wildfires
2. Alberta Forest Service DC-3 being refuelled; 1970s
3. Alberta Forest Service Bell CF-AFK alongside new bridge being constructed on the Forestry Trunk road; early 1960s
4. Alberta Forest Service Helio-Courier CF-IYZ; 1960s
5. Alberta Forest Service Bell 47J helicopter CF-AFI; early 1960s
6. Alberta Forest Service DC-3 CF-IAE, with Bertie Beaver on the tail; 1970s
7. Prevent Forest Fires prevention logo, with Bertie Beaver, on the Alberta Forest Service Dornier CF-AFC; 1960s
8. Ranger Carl Larsen using the Alberta Forest Service Dornier for testing para-cargo equipment; 1960s
9. The Bell 206 helicopters replaced the Bell 47Js in the late 1970s. Picture here are four of the Alberta government Bell 206B helicopters outside the Alberta government hangar at the Edmonton Municipal Airport; 1980s









## FOREST HISTORY PHOTO CORNER

1. Helicopters and Canso airtankers at the Lac La Biche airtanker base; Lac La Biche Forest; 1979

2. Canadian Forces personnel at Primrose Lake providing rescue training to Alberta and Saskatchewan resource management staff on how to rescue downed CF-104 pilots; L to R: RCAF Flight Officer Herman, Unknown Saskatchewan Conservation Officer, Dennis Howells, O.J. (Hap) Schauerte, Andy Kostiuik, Unknown Alberta Forest Service Forest Officer, John Barker (?), Stan Olszowka, Mike Gagnon, Unknown AFS Instructor

3. Murray Anderson is helped by grandchildren Logan Funk (left) and Carson Funk (right) in opening a retirement gift. Granddaughter Brooklyn Funk was helping with other gifts. Edmonton; June 28, 2016

4. Barry Gladders on the radio during the 1979 fires season in the Lac La Biche Forest

5. Dave Lehane cruising timber in Forest Management Unit E8; British Columbia Forest Products; early 1980s

6. Four Presidents of the Canadian Institute of Forestry

L to R: Peter Murphy (1993-94), Don Gelinis (2001-02), Evelynne Wrangler (1998-99) and Mark Kube (2011-12)

7. Lieutenant-Governor Ralph Steinhauer presents the provincial firefighter first place trophy to Delmar Lozotte, straw boss on the winning Fort Vermilion squad. It was the second year in a row that a Footner Lake Forest squad has won the competition; mid-1970s

8. Lookout observer Glen Urchuk with his 30 year award from the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees; August 19, 2013









1. Michelle Shesterniak and Kevin Freehill; High Level; July 6, 2015

2. L to R: Steve Price (Alberta Innovates), Keith Carter (West Fraser), Minister Oneil Carlier, MLA West Yellowhead Eric Rosendahl; Lignin Recovery Plant; April 6, 2016

3. L to R: Andre Savaria, Kevin Sanderson and Chris Breen conducting a Forest Operations Monitoring Program field inspection; Whitecourt; 2015

4. L to R: Ian Whitby, Jerry Sunderland, Dave West and Howard Gray; Meeteetse, Wyoming; 2015

5. Refurbished Cardinal River Forestry Cabin; Cache Percotte Forest; 2016. Wade Berry was instrumental in bringing this cabin back to life

6. Trip to Tallcree First Nation; Fort Vermilion airport; April 8, 2016

L to R: Bruce Mayer, Terry Jessiman, Dan Lux, Darren Tapp, Doug Schultz and Paul Ebert

7. Help Prevent Fires sign along the Athabasca River; north of Fort McMurray; May 5, 2016

8. L to R: Minister Oneil Carlier and Incident Commander Doug Smith; Fort McMurray Horse River wildfire; May 8, 2016

9. L to R: Doug Smith (Incident Commander), Bruce Mayer, Shane Schreiber (Alberta Emergency Management Agency), Premier Rachel Notley; Fort McMurray; May 4, 2016



1

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. McPherson,  
Ranger.  
J. D. Champion,  
Timber Insp.,  
Athabasca.

DATE: Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> - 51

Re Property inventory

3 Cabins, 2 Cook Stoves, 1 air-tight heater.  
2 Forestry locks, 2 tarpaulins 14 x 16 ft.  
16 axes DB, 25 short-handled shovels,  
4 long handled shovels, 3, Wild Bats, hands  
2 Bleach tools, 8 Wa-Jax Bags and Pumps  
3 Sando-Sans, 52 in., 1 Canvas Bucket.  
3 Pack Saddles, saw-hacks, 1 Pa snowshoes  
1 Forestry Radio, 1 Fire Fighters Manual,  
1 carrying Bag, 1 Forestry Bible,  
1 Gas Pump, engine wa-jax  
2200 ft of Hose, 1 inline hose, 2 Nozzles,  
1 Disposal connection.  
Pelican Tower, two cabins  
1 cook stove, 1 air-tight heater  
1. cot-pass, 1 Forestry Key.  
Mrs. McPh







1. In December 1951, Calling Lake Ranger Bill McPherson reported to his supervisor, Dexter Champion, the inventory of his district. This was an annual requirement.

2. Hidden Creek forestry tour; September 15, 2016

L to R: Tim Juhlin, Janis Braze, Jean Lussier, Mike Wagner, Doug Smith, Craig Herriott, Bruce Mayer, Rob Popowich, Wally Born

3. Fort McMurray Horse River wildfire; May 13, 2016

L to R: Darby Allen (Fire Chief, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo); Premier Rachel Notley; Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; Chad Morrison (Senior Manager, Wildfire Prevention)



4. L to R: Carolyn Sales, Morgan Kehr and John Phillips; October 15, 2016

5. L to R: Bev Yee, Patrick Loewen and Katrina Bluetchen; Fort McMurray wildfire; May 11, 2016

6. The 1981 NAIT Forest Technology program graduates celebrated their 35th anniversary with a weekend event; September 17, 2016

Back Row (L to R): Wes Nimco, Kenton Miller, Dane McCoy, Leslie Sullivan, Steve Otway, Dave Wallace, Kelly Drolet, Lorne Johnson, Dave Lind, Norm Volk



Front Row (L to R): Gerald Kress, Len Stroebel, Herman Stegehuis, Shawn Milne, Robert Toma, Barb Taylor, Terry Yanke, Andre Backman

7. Calgary Stampede parade; L to R: Doug Smith, Maggie Shortt (Stampede Queen), Mark Newman; July 8, 2016

8. L to R: Leah Lovequist, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Brian Lopushinsky and Marc Freedman; Horse River wildfire; May 13, 2016









1. Visit to the Mann Gulch memorial site, where 13 firefighters lost their lives in 1949; Missouri River, Montana; September 11, 2016

L to R: Wes Nimco, Bruce MacGregor, Hugh Boyd

2. L to R: Kevin Freehill and Mike Kakoullis at Kevin's retirement tea; Edson; November 3, 2016

3. L to R: Mike Taje, Brian Orum, Brent Davis and Roger Meyer; June 30, 2016

4. Lieutenant-Governor Ralph Steinbauer (R) "tries" his firefighting coveralls on for size after he was made an honorary Alberta Forest Service firefighter. The coveralls were presented by Grande Prairie Forest Superintendent Cliff Smith (L) at the provincial firefighter competition at Comeau Creek; mid-1970s

5. Wildfire Recognition Ceremony; October 31, 2016

L to R: Chad Morrison, Premier Rachael Notley, Jennifer Zentner, Bernie Schmitte, Bruce Mayer and Minister Danielle Larivee

6. Operations briefing; Fort McMurray wildfire; June 3, 2016

7. Unknown surveyors at the Owen Creek Dominion Forest Service Cabin; part of the M.P. Bridgland topographic survey; 1924

8. Southern Rockies Watershed Project field tour; Star Creek area; August 12, 2016

Back Row (L to R): Jean Lussier (AAF), Vic Adamowicz (UofA), Ronda Goulden (AEP), Tim Juhlin (AAF), Uldis Silins (UofA), Monica Emelko (UW), Barry White (AAF), Miles Dyck (UofA), John Hatalcik (Canfor), Bruce Mayer (AAF), Grant Neville (Canfor), Kelsey Kundert (Calgary Water Serv.), Rick Blackwood (AEP), Cathy Maniego (AEP), Axel Anderson (UofA/AAF), Sheena Spencer (UofA), Eric Camm (Calgary Water Serv.), Andre Corbould (AEP)

Front Row (L to R): Amanda Martens (UofA), Doug Smith (AAF), Melonie Zaichkowsky (Canfor), Brett Purdy (AIEES), Darren Tapp (AAF), Kari Stuart-Smith (Canfor), Chris Williams (UofA), Kalli Herlein (UofA), Carolyn Bowen (Calgary Water Serv.), Mike Wagner (AAF), Michael Stewart (UofA/UW), Mike Stone (UW), Milly Corrigan (UofA), Norma Ruecker (Calgary Water Serv.), Nancy Stalker (Calgary Water Serv.)

9. L to R: Bruce Mayer, Rick Arthur and Kevin Gagne; Mountain Legacy Project; Owen Creek Dominion Forest Service Cabin; August 26, 2016











1. Lookout observer Jeff Cole took this picture of the Milky Way from Obed Tower; summer 2016

2. Morgan Kehr presenting Leo Drapeau a chrome Pulaski at Leo's retirement tea; November 1, 2016

3. Norm Rodseth speaking at Leo Drapeau's retirement tea; November 1, 2016

4. Presentation to Henry Auger for becoming an elder with the Woodland Cree First Nation; Peace River Forest Area Meeting; December 2, 2016

L to R: Councillor Johnny Cardinal, Sophie Cardinal, Henry Auger, Chief Isaac Laboucane-Avirom, Councillor Frank Whitehead and Councillor George Merrier Whitehead

5. L to R: Agriculture and Forestry Minister Oneil Carlier, Bertie Beaver and Bruce Mayer; Lac La Biche Forest Area; Pow Wow Days Parade preparation; July 27, 2017

6. L to R: Doug Smith, Tim Juhlin and Jean Lussier; Hidden Creek forestry tour; September 16, 2016

7. Mike May, Aerial Ignition Boss, attaching an aerial ignition torch to support wildfire operations on the Fort McMurray Horse River wildfire (MWF-009-2016); May 18, 2016





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

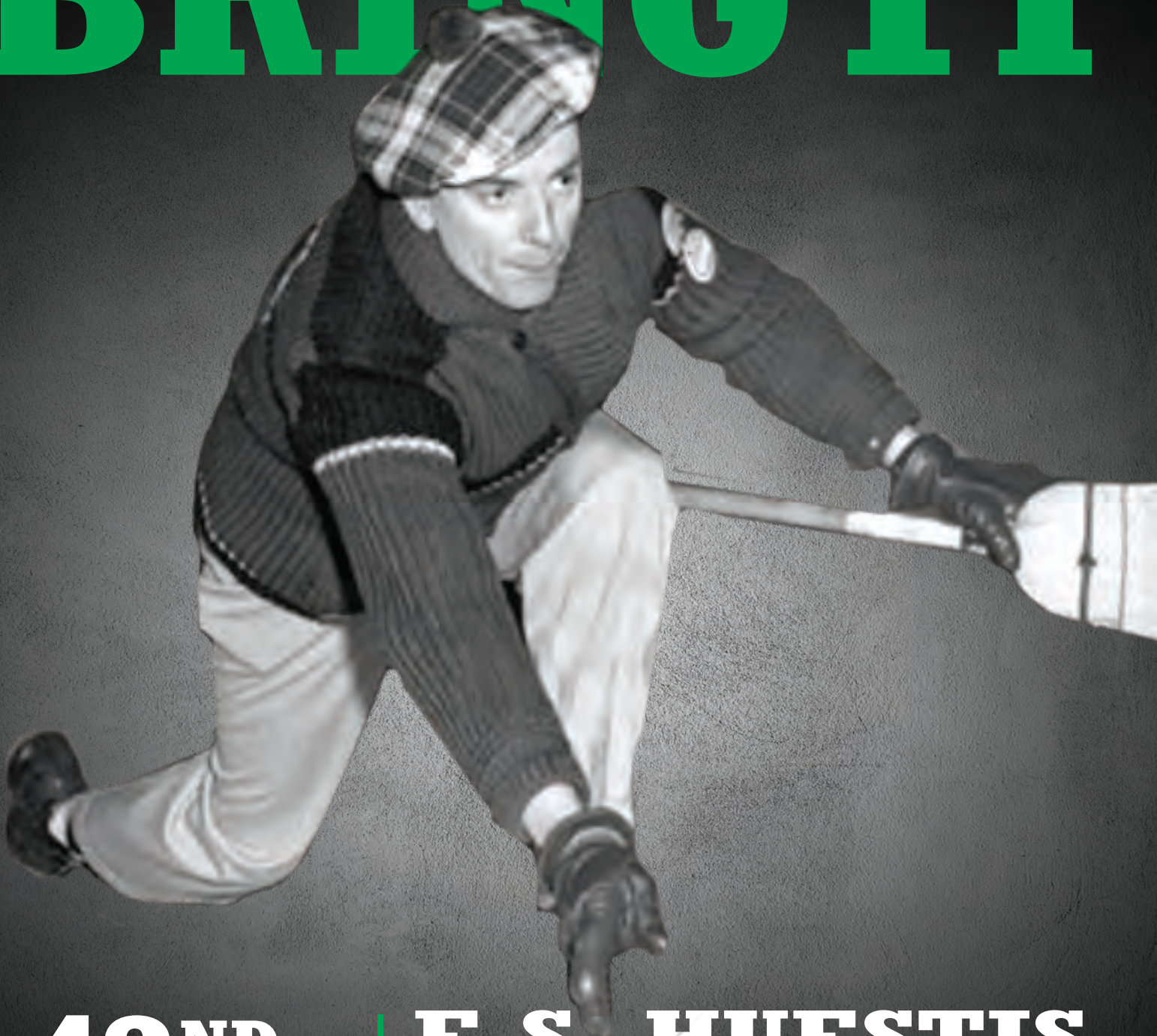


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BRING IT**



**42<sup>ND</sup>**  
ANNUAL

**E.S. HUESTIS  
CURLING BONSPIEL**

---

**MARCH 3-4, 2018**

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Contact Greg Boyachuk at [Greg.Boyachuk@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Greg.Boyachuk@gov.ab.ca) for futher information.





# TRAILS & TALES

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