

TRAILS & TALES

Newsletter of the Forest History Association of Alberta

Third annual general meeting biggest and best ever

A RECORD 40 FHAA MEMBERS ATTEND THE 2007 EVENT

The FHAA held its third annual general meeting on March 14, 2007 at the Coast Edmonton Plaza, with forty members in attendance. Six who attended were new members. President Arden Rytz opened the meeting with a short reflection on the phenomenal growth and development of the forest sector and business activities since his arrival on the scene in 1950. Bruce Mayer reviewed the minutes of the previous AGM and highlighted the two issues of the FHAA newsletter "Trails & Tales" that were developed in the past year. Mayer also provided updates on the 2006 financial statement. Elections were held for three executive positions with Fred McDougall, Bob Stevenson and



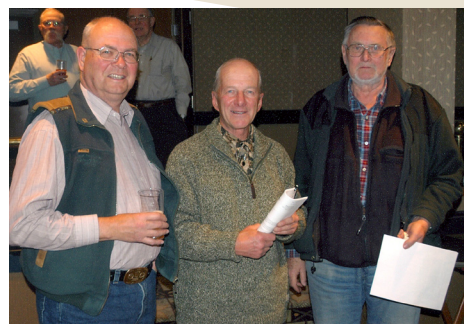
Dennis Quintilio and Bob Newstead

Butch Shenfield elected by acclamation.

Following the AGM business meeting, Bob Udell gave an informative slide presentation on the Foothills Model Forest's Adaptive Management and Forest History Project and Peter Murphy captured the audience's attention with a summary presentation on the forthcoming publication Hard Road to Travel

– Land, Forests and People in the Upper Athabasca Region. FHAA members Bob Udell, Bob Stevenson and Tom Peterson are co-authors of this historically and ecologically important publication.

Numerous historical photo CDs, prints and autographed forest history books were given away as door prizes.



Bob Newstead, Bob Stevenson and Steve Ferdinand. In back Cliff Henderson and Fred McDougall



Fred McDougall and Norm Denney

Join the Forest History Association of Alberta!

Sign up today to be part of Alberta's only Association dedicated to perserving and promoting our unique forestry heritage.

Yearly membership fees are:

\$25 - Individual
\$40 - Family
\$250 - Corporate

Send your information and membership fees to:

Forest History Association of Alberta
22 Hutchinson Place, St Albert, AB
T8N 6R3.

For more info contact Bruce Mayer at
(780) 644-4656 or via e-mail at
bruce.mayer@gov.ab.ca

Name (Individual, Family or Corporate)

Mailing address

Ph _____ **Fax** _____

E-mail _____

Arden Rytz - FHAA President

Raised and schooled in Edmonton, Arden served in the Air Force as a radar mechanic in both the United Kingdom and south-east Asia. In 1950 he graduated from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver with a forestry degree. He spent his summers gaining experience working with the Canadian Forest Service at the Kananaskis Forest Experimental

Station during the summers of 1947 and 1948. The summers of 1949 and 1950 were spent in northern Alberta doing various growth and inventory studies.

In September 1950 Arden was hired by Imperial Lumber Company of Edmonton as a forester for their seven operations in the province. At that time, these operations ranged from Rocky Mountain House in the south, to Marlboro in the Edson Forest, Athabasca, Lac La Biche, Kinuso, Barrhead, Blue Ridge and eventually Grande Prairie, Topely and Burns Lake in B.C. In 1955, Arden was made production manager of the Imperial operations, with expansions occurring in the Grande Prairie and Footner Lake Forests. Arden believes that during the period from 1955 to 1960 'Imperial Lumber Company was the only operation in Alberta to produce over 100 million board feet of lumber in one year'.

While he was with Imperial Lumber, Arden was also very active in the Alberta Forest Products Association, serving as president from 1963 for three terms to 1966. During that period, as a member of the Forestry Liaison Committee, he prepared the brief



(L to R): Arden Rytz, Bob Udell and Butch Shenfield, looking through the 'treasure trove' of history that Butch brought to the March 2007 AGM

that the Association presented to its membership asking it to accept the concept of timber tenure that would lead to a Quota System. Arden still remembers vividly how pleased he was that the Association membership unanimously voted to approve this approach to government at the 1964 Annual Meeting. The presentation by the Association on this

brief to government, ended up with the establishment of the Quota System in 1966.

In 1968 Arden became the Executive Director of the Alberta Forest Products Association, a position he held for 20 years until his retirement in 1989. During Arden's tenure, major changes to the timber management regulations were made to address new procedures such as weigh scaling, metric measurement, and inventory volumes in respect to timber cut below a 10 inch diameter stump. Regeneration standards were developed which are periodically amended and updated. Arden also spent many hours representing

forest industry's position on timber harvesting on public lands to the Environmental Council of Alberta. Arden and Bob DeGrace were instrumental in the formation of the Canadian Lumber Standards Accreditation Board, and subsequent formation of the National Lumber Grades Association. Arden was also the Canadian liaison on the American Lumber Standards Committee with the US Department of Commerce. He was recognized in 1989 by the Canadian Wood Council

2008 Executive

Arden Rytz, President

Peter Murphy, Vice President

Bob Newstead, Secretary

Bruce Mayer, Treasurer

Cliff Henderson, Director

Fred McDougall, Director

Bob Stevenson, Director

Butch Shenfield, Director

Bob Udell, Director

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for his efforts with the prestigious Paul Bunyon award. Prior to his retirement, Arden was instrumental in creating 'one voice' for forest industry with the addition of the panel board and pulp and paper industries to the Alberta Forest Products Association.

Arden was recognized by his peers for his contributions to forestry in Alberta with designation as RPF 001 of the Alberta Registered Professional Foresters.

Arden is a strong champion of sustainable forest management in Alberta, and has a deep interest in saving, promoting and sharing our valuable forest history. Since retirement Arden and Sophie continue to travel and spend quality time with their children and grandchildren at their cabin at Muriel Lake.



Arden Rytz cruising timber and doing growth and yield studies for the Canadian Forest Service in the Kananaskis Valley, 1948

Eric Huestis - a short history

Eric Huestis was Director of Forestry from 1948 to 1963 and Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests until 1966. He was also Commissioner of Fish and Game from 1941 to 1959.

Huestis was raised in Red Deer and obtained his forestry education from the University of British Columbia. During the summer of 1923 he worked in Slave Lake for Ted Blegen, and in the next year, worked in the Brazeau and Cypress Hills areas. After completing his studies in 1925 he returned to the Dominion Forestry Branch. He worked on most of the forest reserves before moving to Edmonton as Assistant Director of Forestry in 1940. When the Game Branch was transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Lands and Mines in 1941, Huestis received the additional responsibilities of Fish and Game Commissioner for 18 years.

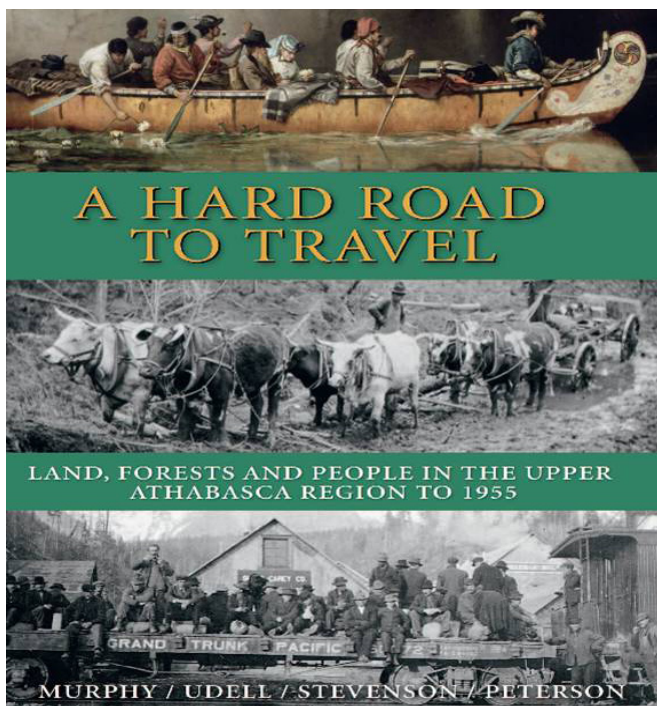


Huestis became Director of Forestry in 1948. He initiated several visionary actions during the 1940s; the green-yellow zone regulation in 1948 rationalizing agricultural settlement; the first provincial forest inventory in 1949 which became the basis for forest management; and recruitment of noted forester Reg Loomis in 1949 to manage the inventory. One of his many legacies were the revisions made to the 1930 Forests Act. Under the 1949 revision, Huestis ensured a significant unique clause was added to the Forests Act enabling industry-provincial collaboration in management and protection of provincial forest resources. Creation of Forest Management Agreements with a goal to ensure "perpetual sustained yield" was a major policy commitment at that time. With his dual responsibilities for forestry and wildlife he affectionately referred to them as a unit – Forests and Wildlife Division. He believed in the integration of land-based resources and did his best to resolve different points of view. He also forged a strong working relationship with the University of Alberta regarding forestry, wildlife and fisheries.

Huestis provided strong leadership during those years of initial economic expansion. His knowledgeable background, determination and firm resolve guided the major developments within the Alberta Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife during his 46 years of service. The Alberta government named Mount Huestis, near Nordegg, in his honour.

(Article written by Peter J. Murphy for the Institute of Public Administrators of Canada book 100 Years of Excellence in Public Administration)

A Hard Road to Travel chronicles forest history



BOOK FOCUSES ON LAND, FORESTS AND PEOPLE IN THE UPPER ATHABASCA REGION

Authors Peter J. Murphy, Bob Udell, Bob Stevenson and Tom Peterson, 2007

The book is a forest and forestry history of the upper Athabasca-Jasper area from before the fur trade through the railways around 1910, the start of the forest industries and events that led to the first pulp-mill at Hinton. It describes the land and people, and is both a natural and human history spanning a period of two centuries. It includes the story of David Thompson's crossing of Atha-

basca Pass during the winter of 1810-1811 and the subsequent 40-plus years of what became the 'Hudson's Bay Express' of fur brigades between York Factory and the mouth of the Columbia on the Pacific, so it is timely for his bi-centennial celebrations. Fur trade historian Ian MacLaren, professor at the University of Alberta, wrote the foreword.

Copies of the book may be purchased through the Foothills Model Forest.

(The Forestry Chronicle; Volume 83, No. 4, July/August, 2007)

Obituary - Jim Clark (past FHAA member)

Jim Clark (1924-2007), retired Woodlands Manager of Hinton Forest Products' operation at Hinton died Sunday, August 12, 2007 in Hinton.

Jim had a long and distinguished career. Among other things he was among the eight University of British Columbia graduates that were hired by Eric Huestis in 1949 to bolster the capabilities and expertise of the Alberta Forest Service and help implement a new era of sustained yield forest management in the Province.

In 1955 Mr. Clark was hired as an inventory forester by North Western Pulp & Power's Chief Forester Des Crossley. He rose through the ranks to become Assistant Chief Forester before moving to Woodlands in 1960 as District Superintendent, later becoming Assistant Woodlands Manager. He left the Company in 1966 to become Woodlands Manager for the new pulp-mill being developed in Prince Albert. He returned to Hinton in 1968 as Woodlands Manager, where he remained until retirement in December, 1985. Following retirement, he entered the field of forest consulting where his contribution continued for several years.

Jim gave back to his profession and industry as president of the Alberta Forest Products Association (1982-84), and the national Canadian Institute of Forestry (1984-85) and served on a number of other boards and associations before and after retirement.

FHAA PHOTO CORNER



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Published by the Forest History Association of Alberta.

2007 membership: 123

Layout by Rob Harris

Please send story ideas to
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