

# TRAILS & TALES

Newsletter of the Forest History Association of Alberta

## Huestis curling bonspiel re-'generated'

**14 teams from across the province compete in the big event**

A new generation of forestry curlers rejuvenated the E.S. Huestis Forestry Bonspiel at the Athabasca Curling Club on January 26 and 27, 2008. A total of 14 teams from across the province joined in the action, which saw the team of Lowell Lyseng (Skip), Dan Grahn (Third), Mike Poscente (Second) and Brad Pickering (Lead) win the final draw and the E.S. Huestis trophy. The Erling Winquist trophy went to the Russ Stashko rink of Russ (Lead), his two boys Dustin (second) and Wyatt (third), and Jim Skrenek (Skip). The 'C' Event winners were Wendell Pozniak (Skip), Brian McKelvey (Third), Wendy Pozniak (Second) and Mike Pozniak (Lead).

Two curling veterans were back on the ice to show their stuff; Jim Skrenek who played his first Huestis bonspiel in 1967; and Lowell Lyseng who played his first Huestis in 1974.

Named after Mr. Eric Huestis, the first bonspiel was held in 1966. The winning team from the inaugural E.S.

Huestis Bonspiel consisted of Fred McDougall, John Kokotilo, Doonie Donovan and Jock McLean. In the tradition of the original Huestis bonspiels, the trophy was piped in on Saturday evening. Congratulations go out to Greg Boyachuk and his team for organizing a great event.



2008 Winning team of Lowell Lyseng, Dan Grahn, Mike Poscente and Brad Pickering.



1966 winning team of Fred McDougall, John Kokotilo, Donnie Donovan and Jock McLean.



Top: Jack Lunan piping in the E.S. Huestis trophy to the evening banquet, early 1970's.

Left: Ted Soltys piping in the E.S. Huestis trophy on Saturday, January 26, 2008.

## AGM News

Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual General Meeting to be held on **Tuesday, March 18, 2008** at the Coast Edmonton Plaza starting at 7 p.m. The first hour will be devoted to business requirements, and then we have the pleasure of Mr. Trev Wakelin and Ms. Janet Millar to do an overview of the historic Millar Western operations.

# Peter J. Murphy, Vice President of the FHAA

Born in Quebec in 1930, Peter Murphy graduated from the forestry program at the University of New Brunswick in 1953. Forestry was a natural field after year-round activities in the Laurentians and south shore of the St Lawrence River. He worked first for the B.C. Forest Service on forest inventory in 1952 and returned on graduation in 1953. He moved to Alberta in March 1954 with the Alberta Forest Service. Those first years Peter worked on the forest survey crew out of Fort McMurray area. Peter recalls that “we were a 5-man forest survey crew – two cruisers (Paul Dworshak and me), two compassmen (Bill McPhail and Jack Robson) and a cook (Al Baisley). We drove to Lac La Biche, stayed overnight at the AFS bunkhouse and caught the Northern Alberta Railway “Muskeg Flyer” to Waterways, an overnight trip. We spent a couple of days at McMurray fixing up the canoes – three 18-foot Chestnut freighter canoes – and got a grub order. Ranger Mike Gagnon took us in the AFS Scow to Fort McKay and on to Bitumount where we started the inventory cruise. We got supplies once a month and would check with trappers along the way to get supplies for them while we were going. It was a neighbourly but spread out



Peter with 4,200 year old log on Solomon Creek, 1999



Moving camp gear along the Athabasca River, north of Fort McKay, 1954. Peter Murphy in back, Bill McPhail sitting in middle, Jack Robson at front taking picture.

community along the river.” Murphy led field cruise parties into the Clear Hills of the Peace River Forest and south of the Cutbank in the Grande Prairie Forest in 1955, travelling with horses.

From August to December 1955 he tried the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board based in Calgary. In 1956 Peter became head of the AFS Training Branch that ran the Forestry Training Schools at Kananaskis; provided opportunities to start towerman training courses; and worked in fire weather until Jock McLean took over. The Training Branch led to establishment of the Forestry Training School (now Hinton Training Centre) in 1960.

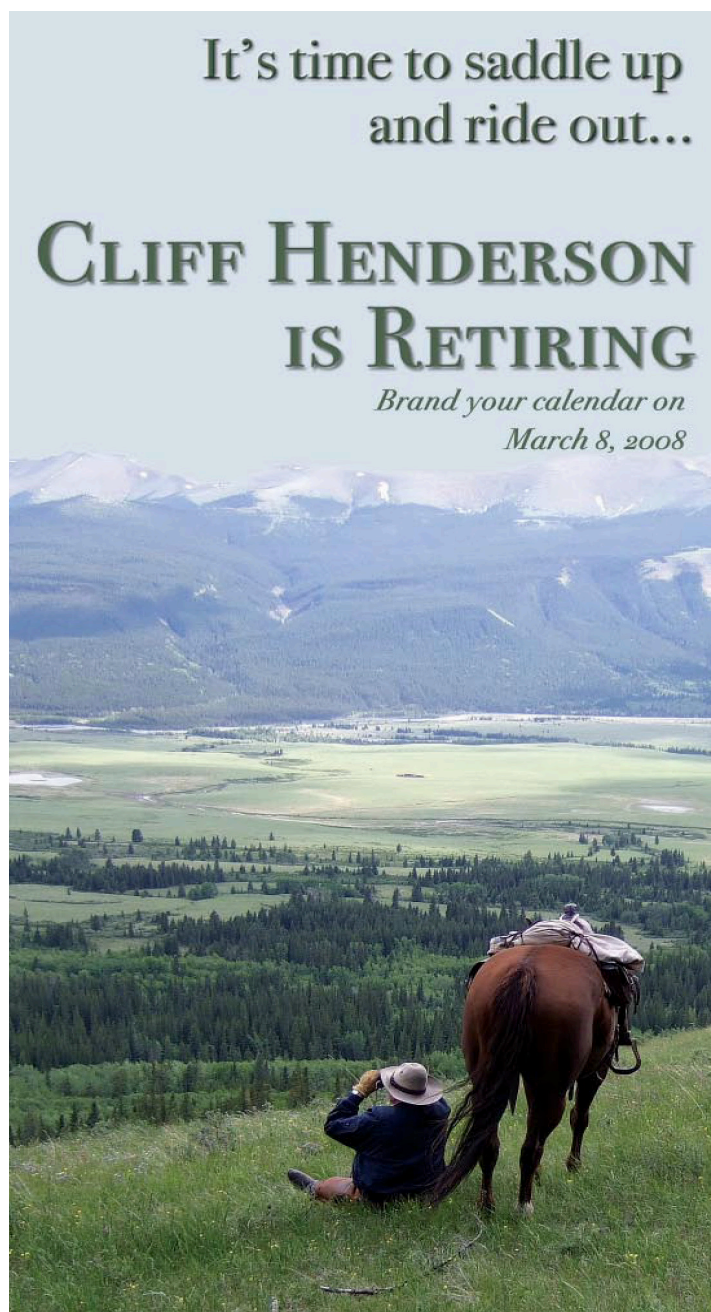
In January 1973 Peter took a position as associate professor in the Department of Forest Science at the University of Alberta and in 1975 became department chair; later associate dean for forestry, positions he held variously until his retirement in 1995. There Peter taught and conducted research in forest policy and forest fire man-

agement. He completed an MScF at the University of Montana in 1963 and a PhD at the University of British Columbia in 1985. His particular interests are in forest policy, forest fire behaviour, fire history and history of forestry. Peter has authored and co-authored a number of papers and books, including the History of the Forest and Prairie Protection Act; Learning from the Forest; A Hard Road to Travel; Protection and Management of Alberta’s Forests - The Alberta Forest Service 1930-2005; and a contributor to Culturing Wilderness. Peter’s professional contributions include Chair of the Technical Committee on Sustainable Forest Management for Canadian Standards Association 1998-2004 and member from 1994 to the present; President, Canadian Institute of Forestry 1993-94; President of the Forest History Society Inc. (Durham, NC) 1993-95; President, Alberta Registered Professional Foresters Association 1985-86; and member of the Forest Management Science Council, Alberta, 1996 to 1999. With Bruce Dancik, Peter served as co-chair of the Trees of Renown project in the 1980s. This program was re-established in 2007.



Backpacking on fly-in cruising camp southwest of Fort McKay, 1954. Maps being used did not show the 1950 burn that the crew had to traverse through. Note Peter using ‘tump’ line on forehead to help balance and carry the heavy pack.

# Cliff Henderson retirement Saturday March 8



After 43+ years of service Cliff Henderson is retiring. Cliff has long been recognized as an ardent supporter and advocate of recording forest history within the province. Please join us on Saturday March 8, 2008 at the Mayfield Inn and Suites to honour Cliff and celebrate his career. Tickets are still available; contact Tricia Ashton at (780) 427-3542 or Tricia.



Ashton@gov.ab.ca. Further information can be found at [www.cliffhenderson.ca](http://www.cliffhenderson.ca).

## Billionth board foot of lumber sawn - 1983

On November 30, 1983 the one billionth board foot of lumber for the year, was sawn in Alberta. This was a one-year record for the forest products industry of the province. The log was sawn at Millar Western Industries in Whitecourt.



## JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY! 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

Name (individual or company): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of spouse (family membership): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Send your application and fees to:

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

### For more info contact Bruce Mayer

Ph: (780) 644-4656  
E-mail: [bruce.mayer@gov.ab.ca](mailto:bruce.mayer@gov.ab.ca)

## Quotable

I'd like to emphasize with all my strength that the object of a forester is not to protect trees from being cut. There would be no foresters employed in this or any other country if there were no lumbering operations. It is the forester's business to produce wood, and if he can make money in cutting and selling trees three inches in diameter he is doing perfectly legitimate business. The guiding principle in forestry is to see that wood production is continuous for all time; to see that areas that have been cut over shall come up again in commercial trees; that areas having been burned over shall be regenerated with commercial trees; and that waste lands and areas unfit for agriculture shall be made to bear commercial trees

*The Forester – Dr. C.D. Howe, 1925*

Editor's note: This was the sentiment in the early to mid 1900s. Today the role of the forester is more complex; he continues to ensure that the best value is obtained from the commercial forest, but must ensure he is balancing social, economic and environmental concerns in any action taken. Sustainable forest management is the cornerstone of today's forester.

## Stay tuned...

The Forestry History Association of Alberta will soon be unveiling a new website and e-mail address. Stay tuned to the next edition of Trails & Tales for more details.

## Other history news

The Forest History Association of British Columbia will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2008.

The Canadian Institute of Forestry celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2008 at the September conference in Fredericton. The theme of this year's conference is "Canada's Forests, Manage for Change."

The British Columbia Forest Service will celebrate its centennial year in 2012.

Visit the Forest History Society of Durham, NC website at [www.foresthistory.org](http://www.foresthistory.org).

If you're interested in seeing landscape changes over time, visit the Mountain Legacy Project website at <http://mountainlegacy.ca>

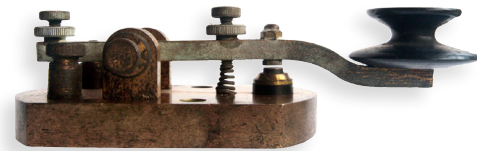
# Bertie Beaver turns 50!



Born on the drawing boards of Walt Disney's Buena Vista Studios, Bertie Beaver was offered as a gift to the Alberta Forest Service in appreciation of support provided to Walt Disney's film crews working in Kananaskis Country in 1956 and 1957. For 50 years Bertie has been a messenger of stewardship, land and forest management and fire prevention; with a simple message 'Keep Alberta Green'. He has been to many schools and community events over the years and has assisted young 'rang-ers' plant thousands of trees. Happy Birthday Bertie!

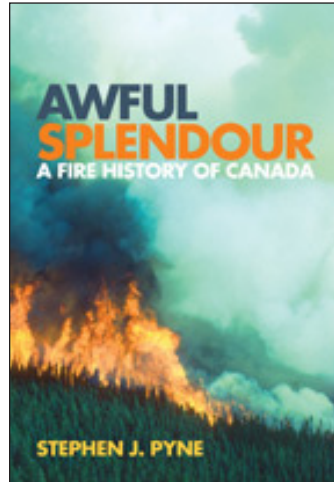


# Hot off the wire



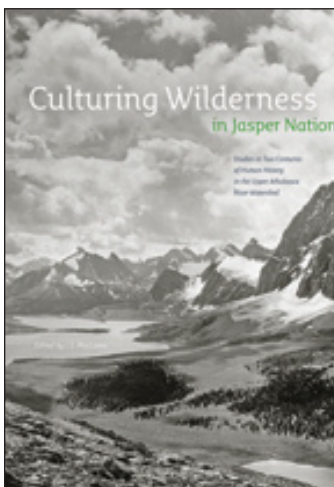
## **Awful Splendour** – Stephen J. Pyne

Fire is a defining element in Canadian land and life. With few exceptions, Canada's forests and prairies have evolved with fire. Its peoples have exploited fire and sought to protect themselves from its excesses, and since Confederation, the country has devised various institutions to connect fire and society. The choices Canadians have made says a great deal about their national character. *Awful Splendour* narrates the history of this grand saga. It will interest geographers, historians, and members of the fire community.



## **Culturing Wilderness in Jasper National Park** –

*I. S. MacLaren, Michael Payne, Peter J. Murphy, Pearl-Ann Reichwein, Lisa McDermott, C. J. Taylor, Gabrielle Zezulka-Mailloux, Zac Robinson, Eric Higgs Foreword The Rt. Hon. Jean Chrétien*



unrecorded past of the upper Athabasca River watershed, and bring to light two centuries' worth of human history, tracing the evolution of trading routes into the Rockies' largest park. Serious history enthusiasts and those with an interest in Canada's national parks will find a sense of connection in this long overdue study of Jasper.

Adults need playgrounds. In 1907, the Canadian government designated a vast section of the Rocky Mountains as Jasper Forest Park. Tourists now play where Native peoples once lived, fur traders toiled, and Métis families homesteaded. In *Culturing Wilderness in Jasper National Park*, I.S. MacLaren and eight other writers unearth the largely

## **Lens of Time** – Cliff White, E.J. (Ted) Hart

The *Lens of Time* is a unique collaboration between two observers who have, for more than twenty-five years, been examining landscape change in the Canadian Rockies – national park biologist Cliff White and Canadian Rockies historian Ted Hart. Working with historical photographs, White has retraced the steps of the original photographers and taken new shots in the same locales, a technique known as “repeat photography.” Comparing these images side-by-side, the authors show the dramatic changes to the Rockies landscape that have occurred over the years.

The sets of photographs generally follow ecological regions moving west from Calgary and the foothills, ascending through the low elevation montane zone of Banff National Park, upwards into the lower and upper subalpine. The authors then follow the historic photographers' routes for brief forays onto the west slopes of the Rockies in the Columbia River watershed of British

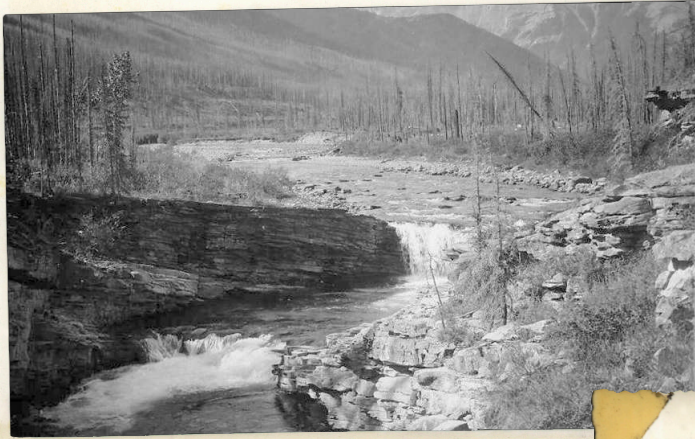
Columbia, and east into the Front Ranges along the Red Deer and North Saskatchewan rivers. Moving north, the photographs depict the high windswept alpine zone and glacial ice of the Colum-

bia Icefield, before passing through Jasper National Park and turning eastward to descend to the parkland region at Edmonton, Alberta.

Useful captions describe the landscape changes visible in each “then and now” view, and five essays more fully explore the historical, political, and ecological processes at work. Illustrated throughout with striking images, *The Lens of Time* is at once a showcase for the beauty of the Rocky Mountain landscape and a valuable source of information about ecological change in this world-famous region.



# FHAA PHOTO CORNER



Sheep Falls, 1920



Pettepher-Pederson Lumber Co. Ltd.,  
Harlech, Alberta. Logs in creek and yard;  
and lumber stacked drying in yard. 1928



Hauling ties, Fire-Ranging District #2,  
Clearwater Forest, 1925



Sheep Falls, 2007



Hoist pulling a loaded sled up from the river flat to the bench where  
the Phoenix Lumber Co. mill is situated, Clearwater Forest, 1923



Loaded sleighs arriving at landing of  
Pettepher-Pederson mill, 1928

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