

# TRAILS & TALES

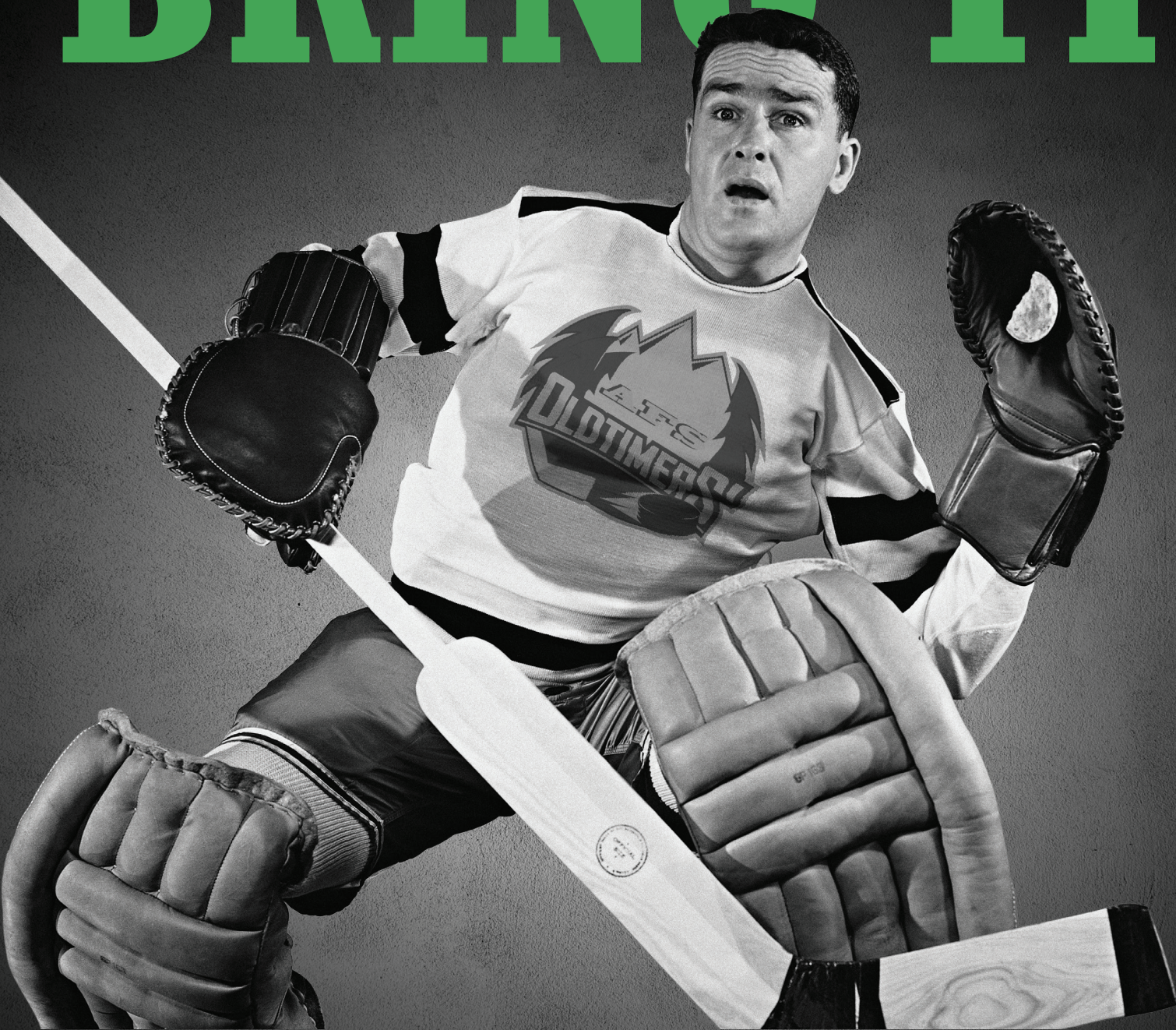
PUBLICATION OF THE FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA



MARCH 2020  
ISSUE #19



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



**36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**AFS OLDTIMERS  
HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

**FEBRUARY 6-7, 2021**

**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.



# 14

HINTON AND EDSON WOODLANDS,  
300 MILLION TREES PLANTED



# 28

LA CRETE MILL TURNS 30



# 44

THE LUMBER INDUSTRY IN BRETON



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**2019 MEMBERSHIP: 149**  
(MEMBERSHIPS TRACKED ON A  
CALENDAR YEAR BASIS)

### ON THE COVER:

Associated Helicopters Hanger 10,  
Edmonton Municipal Airport; 1950s





Bruce Mayer opened the meeting with introductions of those in attendance and provided an overview of the documents for review, which included the draft agenda, draft minutes from the March 21, 2018 meeting and a copy of the draft financial statement. Also included on the tables was the latest edition of the February 2019 Trails & Tales, hot off the press.

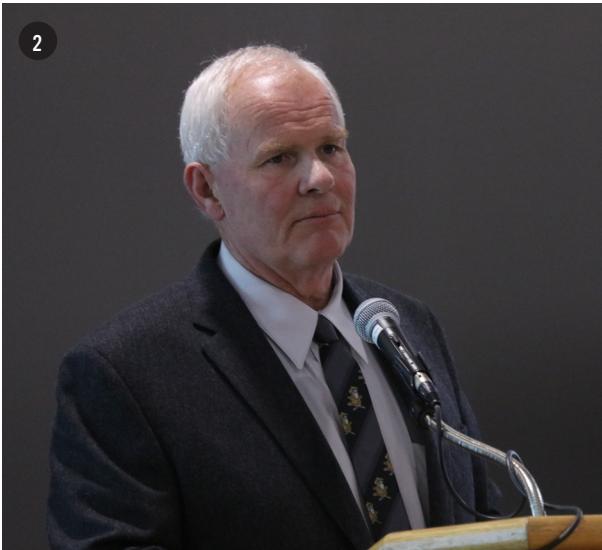
The book, *A History of Forestry in Canada* by Gilbert Paille, published by FPIInnovations in 2013, was provided as a gift for all those in attendance by the Société d'histoire forestière du Québec. Directors in attendance were Bruce Mayer, Peter Murphy, Norm Denney, Ken Yackimec, and Katie Lamoureux. Guest speakers introduced were Allan Goddard with the Breton Museum, and Barry Mjolsness from Spray Lake Sawmills. Barry also generously provided a copy

of the Spray Lake Sawmills 75 Years history book. Special thanks were given to Travis Fairweather for the projector and sound system set-up; Jane Price, Tammy Decosta and Rick Harrison, who managed the front registration table; and Travis Fairweather and Randy Sneep for taking photographs throughout the night.

Peter opened up commenting on the impressive group, lots of familiar names and faces. He said driving to the meeting, he had heard on the radio it was National Happiness Day, a theme he was happy to see in the room. Peter first gave thanks to the vision of Arden Rytz for all he had done to get the forest history association to where it is today and thanked Bruce Mayer for his work supporting the association. To provide context of the importance of the association, Peter went through a PowerPoint

he had developed for the meeting. When the CPR was built through Alberta in the early 1900s, the sense was the forests burning were a result of CPRs actions. Some, for sure was a result of the CPR, the reality could also have been the weather conditions and older forests. The Dominion Forestry Branch hired John William McLaggan in 1908 to oversee the right-of-way clearing and brush disposal from Edmonton to Jasper. McLaggan also had the unpleasant job of notifying and evicting Métis families from Jasper Forest Park. In 1910, McLaggan was appointed as the first superintendent of Jasper Forest Park. He was recognized for the work he did supervising the CPR clearing, and was appointed Chief Fire Ranger for Northern Alberta in 1911. The southern boundary went from the Red Deer River east and then north, to the Northwest Territory border.





With the help of FHAA members Kevin Parkinson and Graham Legaarden, contact was made with Bill Gano, the great great grand nephew of McLaggan. To Peter, this showed the power of the work done through the Forest History Association, and linked 100 years of history.

As history goes, there is usually another twist. It turns out Norman Willmore, previous Minister of Forests and Lands, and namesake to Willmore Wilderness Park, is another great great uncle to Bill Gano. Norman Willmore was on hand to open the Hinton Forestry Training School in 1960, when Peter Murphy was the Director of Training.

Cynthia Strawson provided an overview to the attendees of the University of Alberta forestry 50th anniversary planned for 2020. The first class started in 1970, and since then over 1,600 people have graduated the various forestry programs. An email would be going out to all graduates looking for pictures to create a 2020 calendar.

Ken Yackimec provided an overview of the project he has spearheaded the last number of years. He has gathered most all the old NAIT Forest Technology yearbooks, scanning approximately 2,100 pages. From 1966 to 2000, Ken was still looking for yearbooks from 1988, 1994 and 1999. The yearbooks are now available digitally for those who are missing their copy.

During 2018, the association collected photographs and scans from various collections: Bud Sloan, through widow Viney Sloan; Charlie Ghostkeeper collection, through Con Dermott; Herb Walker collection, from Herb himself; Whitecourt office collection, through Cory Rhett; Frank Lewis collection, through widow Margaret Lewis; Albert Smith collection, from Albert himself; and the NAIT Forest Technology 50th anniversary collection, through Ed Pichota. Thanks was also given to Michelle McBride for her continuing creative



flair and layout skills on the newsletter; and to Bob Newstead for his support in reviewing and editing draft newsletter content. Interviews conducted in 2018 were with Norm Dupuis, Paul Rizzoli and Albert Smith.

There are nine directors within the association, elected on a three-year rotation; three representing government; three representing forest industry; and three representing the public. The directors provide oversight, guidance and focus on the yearly work of the Forest History Association of Alberta. Positions up for election at the 2019 AGM were the government position held by Graham Legaarden, the forest industry position held by Norm Denney and the public position held by Rob Thorburn. Graham Legaarden (government)



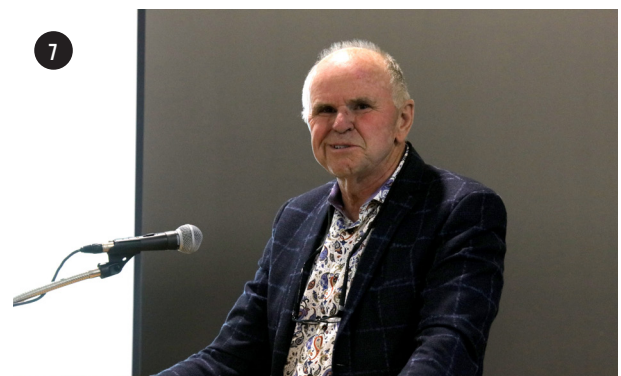
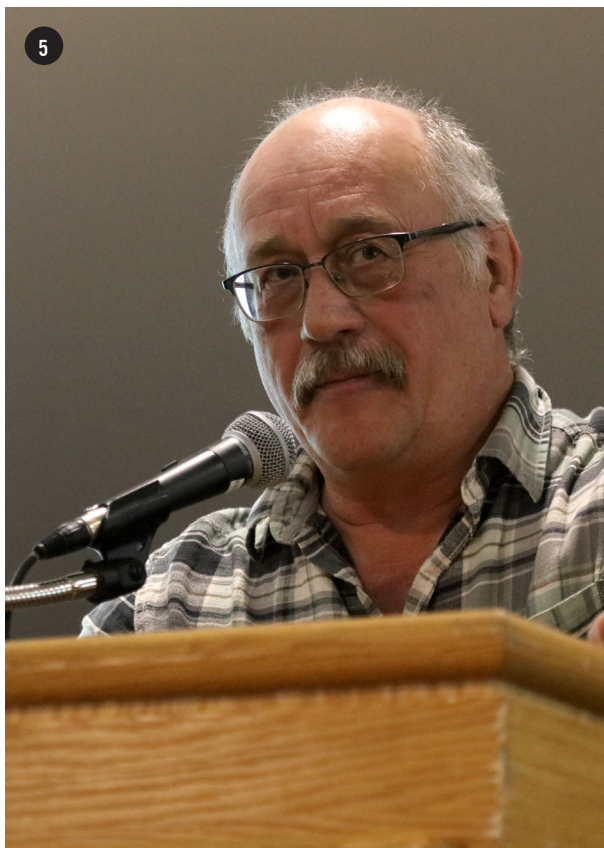


and Norm Denney (industry) were acclaimed, with Sarah Gooding elected to the public position.

Following the evening break, attendees heard two presentations, one from Allan Goodard, and the other from Barry Mjolsness. Allan Goodard, manager and curator of the Breton and District Historical Museum provided an overview of the museum itself and the history of logging and sawmilling in the Breton and Winfield areas. Allan divided his presentation into two parts, the first discussing the era of the river drives on the North Saskatchewan River from the turn of the 20th century until the early 1920s; and the second, focussing on the lumber industry in the Breton area from the mid 1920s until the mid 1950s.

Established in 1943, Spray Lake Sawmills turned 75 years old in 2018. Second-generation owner, Barry Mjolsness provided an overview of Spray Lake Sawmills history. He began with a video presentation and provided a personal account of the challenges and successes over the years. Located in Sundre, Alberta, Mjolsness Brothers was founded in 1943 by Chester

Mjolsness. His brother Lloyd partnered in 1946. The company name was changed to Spray Lake Sawmills in 1954 when operations commenced in the Spray Lakes area south of Canmore, Alberta. A permanent mill facility was constructed in Cochrane, Alberta in 1974. Second generation Mjolsness's purchased the company in 1980, with Barry becoming the sole owner in 1989. In 1996, Spray Lake Sawmills opened up their Top Spray operation, a facility that provides a range of mulches and composts for landscaping needs, and in 2005 a post and pole treating plant was added to the operation. Spray Lake Sawmills employs over two-hundred full-time staff, with another fifty seasonal positions. During the anniversary ceremony, Barry focussed first and foremost on the staff recognizing them as family, stating that "people are our strength". Barry then went on to say "Back in those days (referencing the early 1950s), there were no computers, there were no iPhones, there were no iPads. It was like I work, I sweat, I persevere." The family owned company has persevered the various economic downturns over the decades and has successfully worked within the eastern slopes, one of the most sensitive landscapes in Alberta.





**PREVIOUS PAGE:**

1. Attendees at the 15th Forest History Association AGM
2. Bruce Mayer opening up the 15<sup>th</sup> Forest History Association AGM
3. Norman Willmore, Minister of Lands and Forests, October 1960
4. Cynthia Strawson providing an overview of the U of A Forestry 50<sup>th</sup> Calendar project

**CURRENT PAGE:**

5. Ken Yackimec discussing scanning NAIT Forest Technology yearbooks
6. Allan Goddard providing an overview of the Breton Museum and the history of John Walter, and how logging and sawmill operations in the Breton area played a large role
7. Barry Mjolsness proudly presented the 75 year history of Spray Lake Sawmills
8. Peter Murphy describing the role John McLaggan played in history, and how today FHAA members were able to find a descendent
9. John William McLaggan, early 1900s

## 2019 FHAA EXECUTIVE

Peter Murphy,  
*President*

Katie Lamoureux,  
*Vice President*

Bruce Mayer,  
*Secretary Treasurer*

Norm Denney, *Director*

Graham Legaarden, *Director*

Ken Yackimec, *Director*

Gord Sanders, *Director*

Dave Wall, *Director*

Sarah Gooding, *Director*





## 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION AGM MARCH 18, 2020

**CHATEAU LOUIS CONFERENCE CENTRE  
11727 KINGSWAY NW, EDMONTON, ALBERTA**

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





1. Group Picture of the FHAA 2019 Attendees

2. Rick Smith

3. L to R: Bernie Simpson and Allan Goddard

4. L to R: Herb Cerezke and Dave Morgan

5. Deanna McCullough

6. Christie Tucker











1. L to R: Katie Lamoureux, Cliff Smith and Bruce MacGregor

2. M.J. Munn-Kristoff pouring through the minutes from the 2018 AGM

3. L to R: Peter Murphy and Katie Lamoureux

4. L to R: Daniel Martin and Jason Handfield

5. Ken Vanderwell

6. Fred Paget reading the latest Trails and Tales

7. Steve Ferdinand

8. Richard Briand

9. Attendees at the 15<sup>th</sup> Forest History Association AGM











1. Lorne Goff, the night before his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

2. L to R: Con Dermott, Norm Denney and Barry Mjolsness

3. Bob Bott and Peter Murphy

4. Andy Neigel

5. L to R: M.J. Kristoff-Munn, Tanis Blocka and Anne McInerney

6. Craig Rose reading the latest Trails and Tales

7. Dan Ferguson

8. L to R: Gerald Carlson, Gary Davis and Lorne Goff

9. Dave Patterson

10. Jason Pankratow



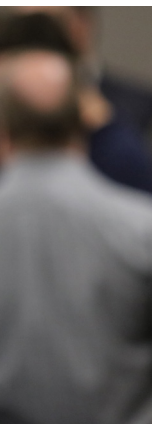








1. Maria Sharpe
2. L to R: Terry Jessiman and Todd Lynch
3. L to R: Forrest Barrett and Jeff Henricks
4. L to R: Norm Denney and Fred McDougall
5. Wes Nimco reading the latest Trails and Tales
6. Ross Spence
7. Doug Smith
8. Lucas Ullyot
9. Andy and Kathi Neigel

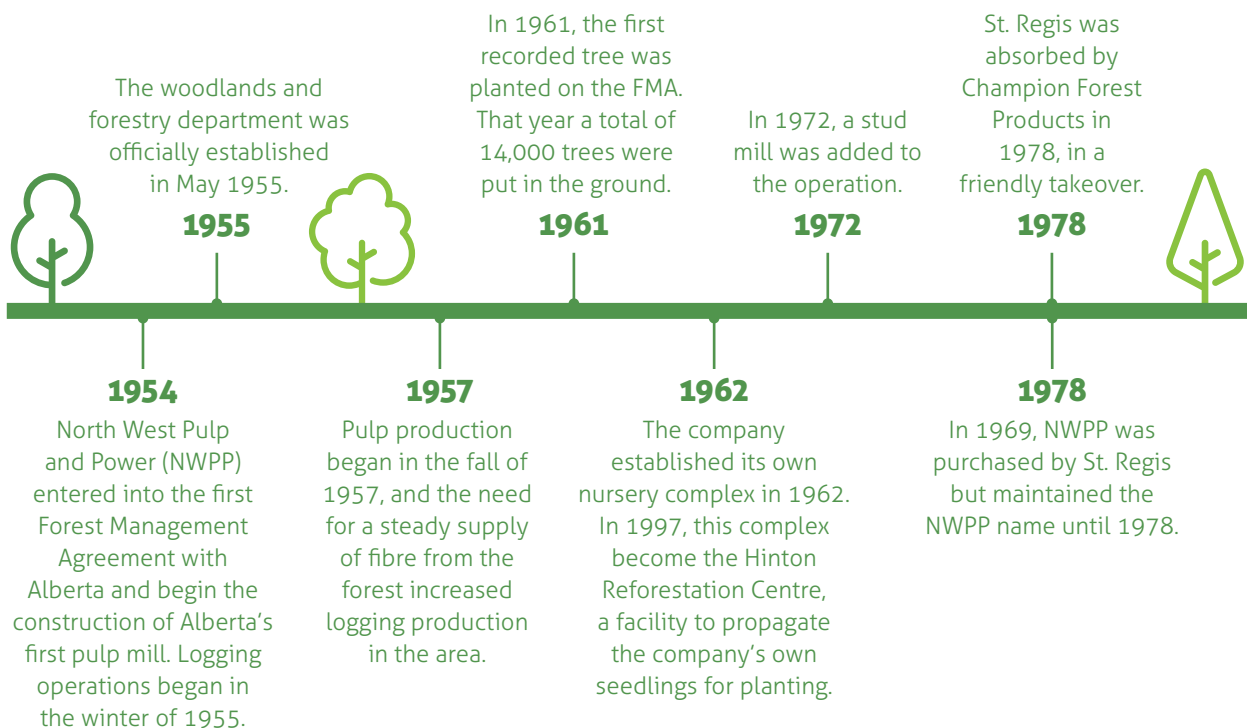




# HINTON AND EDSON WOODLANDS, 300 MILLION TREES PLANTED – THE TIME LINE THAT BROUGHT US HERE...

BY JED BEGIN

Hinton Wood Products operates on the oldest Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area in Alberta and events leading up to the planting of seedling number 300 million could make up a novel but here are some of the highlights:

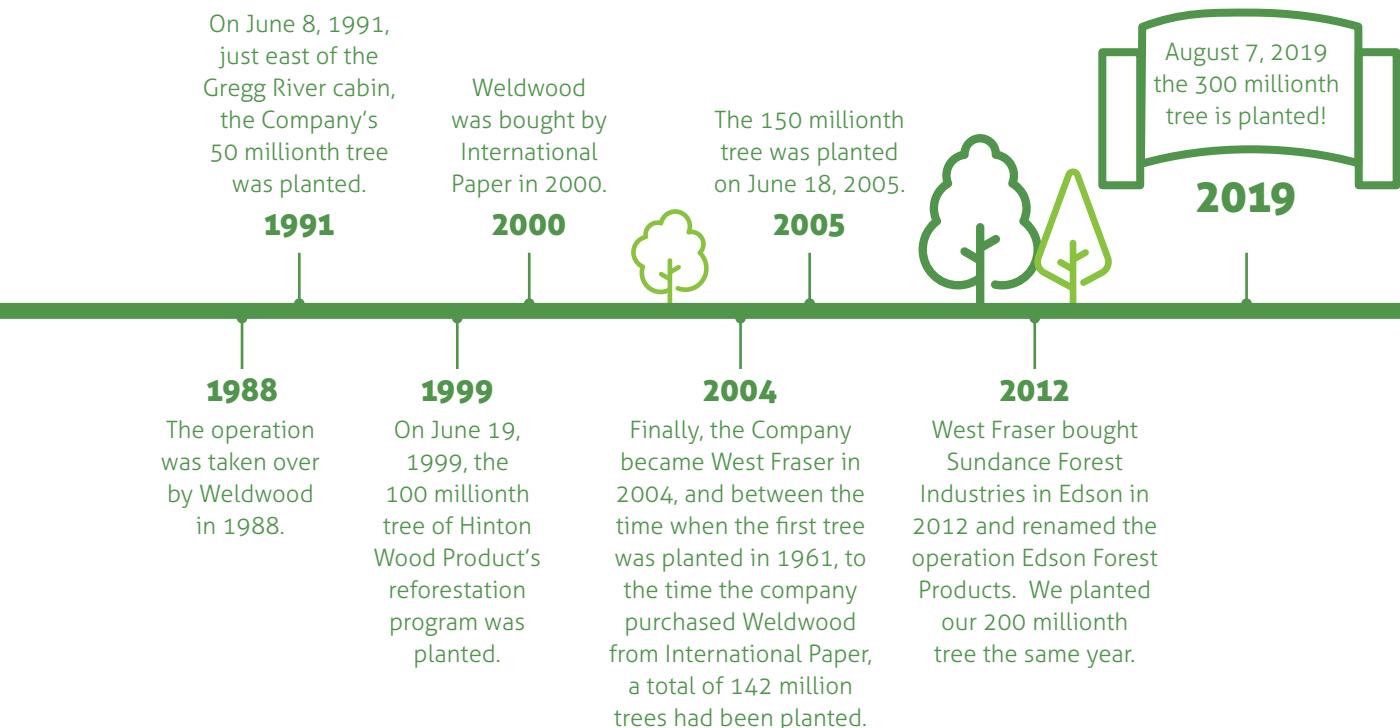






Much of what happened over the years in the Hinton/Edson area was missed in that abbreviated time line. Logging and reforestation have made its mark on the landscape. As you drive through the area today you will see the success, (and failures) of one of the oldest reforestation programs in North America. Over the years, the trial and error, research and development, and the blood sweat and tears of the thousands of forestry workers, ultimately pioneered many of the systems and processes that have led to the modern planning, harvesting and silviculture practices employed in Alberta today.

Hinton Wood Products and Edson Forest Products use both natural regeneration and artificial regeneration (planting) to restock its forests. Sixty percent of harvested areas are planted, while the other forty percent are naturally regenerated. Planted tree species are ecologically suited to each site. In 2018, over 12 million trees were planted on the Hinton and Edson FMAs. Over the years there have been challenges and setbacks, from wildfire to floods, the lean years where poor markets made sawmilling a challenge and finally our ongoing fight with the mountain pine beetle. We have persevered and adapted, coming up with innovative solutions that would not have been dreamed of when the first tree went into the ground in 1961.





West Fraser is the largest producer of softwood lumber in North America and certainly the one of the largest players in Alberta's forest industry. The company is committed to the sustainability of our operations and is a responsible community partner. West Fraser is looking forward to being here when the 350 millionth tree is planted.

The Company plans to continue to use the Gregg cabin site to mark significant benchmarks in its forest management history. On each such occasion, a small clearing is made in the forest and a children's grove of trees is planted, along with a commemorative tree, by the families and friends of our woodlands staff. In future years, the children who participate can return here and track the progress of their plantations, as have those involved in our previous milestones. We encourage all to visit the Gregg cabin site and take a walk down our commemorative trail to see our forests grow!

#### Previous Page:

1. L to R: Town of Hinton Mayor Marcel Michaels, MLA Martin Long and MP Jim Eglinski; August 7, 2019

2. Hinton Wood Products plaque celebrating planting 200 million trees on June 15, 2012

#### Current Page:

3. Staff and family planting trees in cutblock near ceremonial plaque location; August 7, 2019

4. Staff, family and friends attend the West Fraser 300 millionth tree planting celebration; August 7, 2019

5. Diane Renaud showing children and staff how to successfully plant a seedling; August 7, 2019

6. Plaques celebrating West Fraser's 300 millionth tree planting; Hinton Forest Management Agreement area; August 7, 2019

7. The Dominion Forestry Branch built the Greg Cabin in 1917 as a patrol cabin for forest rangers use in the Hinton area

8. L to R: Jed Begin and Martin Long, MLA West Yellowhead constituency; plaque presented on behalf of the Government of Alberta; August 7, 2019

9. Jed Begin, General Manager Hinton Wood Products, opens the 300 millionth tree planting celebration; Gregg Cabin; August 7, 2019

10. L to R: Bruce Mayer, Jed Begin and MLA Martin Long; print of thanks to the Alberta Government of behalf of West Fraser; August 7, 2019

11. L to R: Jeff Morris and Diane Renaud, recently retired silviculture forester; August 7, 2019









# MANNING FOREST PRODUCTS PLANTS 50 MILLIONTH SEEDLING

BY STEVE BLANTON

**1994**

First tree  
planted  
July

**2005**

50  
millionth  
tree

On July 31, 2019, over 40 people joined Steve Blanton, Woodlands Manager from Manning Forest Products, to help plant the company's 50 millionth seedling. In 1993, the company opened as Manning Diversified Forest Products. Partners Real Arsenault, Alphonse Dechant, Steve Kauffman, Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement, Robert Schmidt, Norm Boucher, Frank Lovsin and Ben Sawatsky saw an opportunity for economic development in the farming community north of Peace River. There was an ownership change in the early 2000s with some of the original owners wanting to retire.

The company was bought by West Fraser Mills in November

2015, and re-named Manning Forest Products (MFP).

The summer of 2019 was challenging for everyone in the Manning area. First, there was a major wildfire that started in May and burned vigorously for a month, resulting in evacuations and significant disruptions to people's lives. Then, in July, there was record rainfall that gave the agriculture industry one of its worst crops in recent memory. The celebration was originally planned for May, but with the out of control wildfire in the vicinity, it was postponed indefinitely. The celebration was almost cancelled for the year, but some of the woodlands staff at MFP convinced

1. Steve Blanton planting the 50 millionth tree; Manning Forest Products 50 millionth tree planting; July 31, 2019

2. L to R: Derek Bakker, Andy Shandro, Steve Blanton, Wally Born, Bruce Mayer, Tom Patreau, Glen Gache and Darius Salkauskas; Manning Forest Products 50 millionth tree planting; July 31, 2019

3. Steve Blanton holds his ceremonial tree planting shovel that has been autographed and flagged with all the important tree planting events the company has been involved with since it began; July 31, 2019

4. Attendees at the Manning Forest Products 50 millionth tree planting; west of Notikewin, Alberta; July 31, 2019





the rest that after the summer that we were having, a celebration was needed. So, July 31 it was!

The wildfire calmed down, the rain let up and we went tree planting. There was the "official" tree to plant, but everyone also took part in planting a few trees. There were a few smart remarks about planting quality, density and production, but everyone gave it a try. The people that attended all had some connection to MFP and the forest industry. There were a few dignitaries such as Dan Williams (MLA), Bruce Mayer (ADM), Brian Balkwill (West Fraser Vice President) and Terry Ungarian (County of Northern Lights Reeve). There were also many that were connected to MFP's planting history such as Jason Schamber (planting foreman on the crew that planted the first

seedling in July 1994), Brian and June Schmidt (original owner Robert Schmidt's wife and son). Planting contractors, nurseries, Alberta government, West Fraser, Alberta Forest Products Association and local Municipalities all sent representatives. I had a story for almost everyone that was there.

I was selected by MFP to plant the 50 millionth seedling, since I was there when the first seedling was planted in 1994. It was quite an honour. The shovel I used was the same shovel that planted the first seedling. The shovel has been used a few times over the years planting trees of significance; the first tree in 1994, the 20 millionth tree in 2005, and the 50 millionth tree in 2019. MFP thanks all those that joined us for this event.

5. L to R: MLA Dan Williams presenting a plaque from the Alberta Government to Steve Blanton in honour of Manning Forest Products 50 millionth tree planting; July 31, 2019

6. West Fraser's Brian Balkwill providing a company overview and comments on the importance of reforestation to the company at the Manning Forest Products 50 millionth tree planting; L to R: Brian Balkwill, Rob Baron, Derek Bakker, Greg Neale and Darius Salkauskas; July 31, 2019

7. Manning Deputy Mayor April Doll, Steve Blanton, County of Northern Lights Reeve Terry Ungarian and MLA Dan Williams; Manning Forest Products 50 millionth tree planting; July 31, 2019

# LAND ADMINISTRATION AND CROWN TIMBER OFFICE'S

*Editor's Note: During the summer of 2019, a building at 105th Street and 100th Avenue transformed from the long remembered white stucco siding, to its original red brick façade, unveiling a Land Administration and Crown Timber Office's sign. Information in this story is obtained from the Alberta Culture's Heritage Resource Management Information System (HeRMIS) and Wikipedia. This building dates back to the late 1880s.*



Opened in 1893, this building served as the crown land, timber and registry office for several years and may be the oldest such building in the province. The style of architecture appears to have been copied from the old Hudson's Bay Company warehouses in Edmonton and elsewhere. During World War One, the 19th Alberta Dragoons occupied the building and remained there until the late 1930's when the Edmonton Fusiliers took it over and remained there for the duration of World War Two. The 19th Armoured Car Regiment occupied it for the next few years.

Victoria Armouries (as it was called for more than three decades) was then used mainly for the offices and laboratories of the Provincial Government Department of Health.

The Land Titles Building was a federal government office built in Edmonton in 1893. It later became the Victoria Armoury, and was used by three Edmonton regiments. It is "likely the oldest existing Land Titles Office in Alberta, one of the oldest extant buildings in the province, and certainly the first purpose-built registry office". Located at what is now 10523 - 100 Avenue, the building was

constructed as a larger replacement to the much smaller first Dominion Lands Office in Edmonton (which is now represented at Fort Edmonton Park). It housed the Crown Land, Timber and Registry Office for the District of Alberta in the North-West Territories. This was the place that settlers registered their claims (land title) to free lands under the *Dominion Lands Act*. The design of the building is based on a basic plan drawn up by Thomas Fuller, Chief Architect of the Dominion, but is similar to the design of a typical Hudson's Bay Company warehouse. The original design is a





1. Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton building at 10523 – 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue

2. Land Administration and Crown Timber Office's sign revealed during building remodelling, Edmonton; Fall 2019

bisymmetrical fenestration pattern, which includes a jerkinshead roof with narrow, hipped dormers. Two additions have been made to the building over its lifetime.

At one point the federal government attempted to move its offices across the river to the rival settlement of Strathcona, but an angry mob sabotaged the effort and there was an armed standoff with the North-West Mounted Police. In 1912, the Land Titles office moved out of the building and it became an armoury. It was then home to several different Edmonton regiments, in succession, over the next half-century: the 19th Alberta Dragoons (1915–39), Edmonton Fusiliers (1940–46), and the 19th Alberta Armoured Car Regiment (1947–48). Subsequently, the building became the offices and laboratories of the Provincial Government Department of Health. The building has been a Provincial Historic Resource since 1977. Since 1995, the building has been the home of the

Edmonton chapter of the Elizabeth Fry Society, a women's charity, which moved there from former offices in the McLeod Building.

100<sup>th</sup> Avenue in downtown Edmonton was once home to some of the city's earliest settlers. The city was originally founded in 1795, as a Hudson's Bay trading post because of its close proximity to the North Saskatchewan. In 1876, Treaty 6 was signed between Queen Victoria and regional First Nations, including the Plains and Woods Cree and the Assiniboine, as well as others. In 1892, Edmonton was incorporated into a town, and a year later in 1893, the Crown Land, Timber and Registry office was constructed on 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue. That single year would prove to be an interesting one.

In the late 1800s, as the Canadian Pacific Railway made its way from coast to coast, the Calgary and Edmonton Railway (C&E) was built in 1891 as a link between the two municipalities. The rail line ended in the town of Strathcona, and did

not cross the river to the Edmonton settlement. The railway encouraged many settlers to head farther north from Calgary, and many community leaders expected Strathcona to become a bustling metropolis. With those expectations, talks began to arise of moving the original Land Registration Office, which had been located in Edmonton since 1884, to Strathcona. Edmontonians did not like this idea.

Edmonton residents, including Edmonton's first mayor, Matt McCauley, took matters into their own hands to ensure settlers would continue to make the ferry trip across the river to stake their land claims. "One dark night in June 1892, the land office was being loaded onto wagons for a furtive trip across the river. It seems boosters of that impetuous overnight clapboard sensation — otherwise known as Strathcona — had convinced Interior Minister Edgar Dewdney or 'Dirty Dewdney' as The (Edmonton) Bulletin called him,

that the office would be better located close to the end of the recently-completed Calgary and Edmonton Railway," reads documents on the HeRMIS website.

One account said that Reverend Fauquier, a Roman Catholic priest, alerted the citizens of the move. The Bulletin wrote in a separate account that the land office employees bought a classified ad that night, notifying the public of the new location across the river.

"Mayor Matt McCauley, who had already garnered a reputation for expedition, led a troop of indignant residents to the offending wagons, quickly removed the 'whiffletrees' and the nuts on the axles, and placed a guard around the wagons," the documents continue. By removing the whiffletrees and nuts, the wagons became completely immobile, placing McCauley and his accomplices at a great advantage over the office employees. The Northwest Mounted Police led mounties from Fort Saskatchewan to supervise and support the land office's move. On the

way, however, they were met by McCauley and the concerned citizens. "McCauley told (NWMP Captain Arthur) Griesbach that the 'building will not be moved without bloodshed. I am prepared to take chances, if you care to do the same.' Griesbach backed off and four days later, the land office was back in business in its old location," the HeRMIS website continues. The Edmonton Bulletin wrote later that, "(T)he excitement had barely time to subside, when on July 11, 1892, tenders were called for a new land office to be built in Edmonton." That building was constructed on 100th Avenue, and was known as the Land Titles Building.

The Land Titles Building was designated in 1977 as a Municipal Historic Resource, which means it is protected and preserved by the City of Edmonton to showcase the development and history of the city's development. Built 84 years before its designation, the Land Titles Building is the oldest Federal administration building in Alberta.

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# HOMING PIGEONS FOR REPORTING FIRES

REPRINTED: CANADIAN FORESTRY JOURNAL; MAY 1919

The Standardization Committee of the Canadian Forestry Association has under consideration the employment of pigeons to be used in carrying fire reports from the field to ranger stations. Full information on the subject is being obtained and a bulletin will shortly be issued on the subject which will be available to all interested. It is also hoped to have experimental work carried on during the present year.

The Dominion Parks Branch (DPB) have recently been in communication with Mr. P.E. Edleman, electrical engineer, New York. DPB Commissioner J.B. Harkin, in transmitting an extract from a letter received from Mr. Edleman, has the following remarks to make:

"Mr. Edleman recently wrote me suggesting that as homing pigeons had proved so effective in the recent war, that there appears to be no reason why they should not be adopted for forest fire protection work. While I think wireless telegraphy or telephones will eventually be adopted for communication in connection with forest fire protection, it strikes me that in the meantime the use of pigeons would offer a simple and cheap means of communication between points

at present without other means of communication. Attached hereto is an extract from Mr. Edleman's letter explaining his scheme:

"I propose simply to setup one or more homing pigeon stations or nests. Two birds will be carried by each ranger and when he needs help, he will release one, then ten minutes later the other with message. The birds fly at once to headquarters to which they have been trained, at about fifty miles per hour, and as proven under far more difficult battlefield conditions than are very likely to be met with in your parks, are 98 per cent perfect. The birds can stand the most severe weather without harm. In this country young birds cost under \$10 each and trained birds, good ones, about \$25 each. They live about 14 years. An ingenious system of working has been developed, so that absolutely reliable results are obtainable. No special experts are required, except one man to look after the whole system in a given area, as he can readily train in the men sufficiently to handle things right. The men will carry the birds on a special holder lightly strapped to their backs or other suitable manner. The upkeep is insignificant, as the food for a bird for a whole year

costs only about \$2.00 or under 20 cents monthly. The birds are clean and healthy and will be treated as pets by your men, especially as they come to know their value.

"I realize that every new plan is likely to be doubted, but here is one so evident that as soon as unimpeachable and most up-to-date correct data came to my attention, I at once remembered your problems and communicated the result to you.

"I would recommend that one man, who is a pigeon expert, be hired to look after the entire system and teach your other men the essentials, as they can learn them far easier than they could learn a telegraph code or the handling of a telephone system. This man should preferably be a returned soldier, who has been with the army homing pigeon service and previously handled pigeons as a hobby, as it takes a good man to make the plan a success. Such a man would gladly work for a nominal fair stipend and welcome the opportunity. It makes no difference as long as a good pigeon man who is wide-awake is put in charge of the system. The birds are kept in trim by continued practice from time to time."





# MILLAR WESTERN MARKS 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH APPRECIATION DAY FOR EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES



1. Millar Western sawmill, 1938

2. Hauling logs to sawmill with early tracked cat, circa 1932

On August 27, 2019, Millar Western employees, their families and special guests gathered to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the company's initial incorporation. It was in 1919, that founder J.W. Millar laid the foundation for the business now known as Millar Western Forest Products, a company employing more than 700 people in the sustainable management of forest resources and manufacture of forest products.

The celebration took place during the company's annual employee appreciation day, held in Whitecourt. The day featured a variety of family activities, a barbecue, and a ceremony that included dignitaries from all levels of government, as well as representatives from the Forest Products Association of Canada and the Alberta Forest Products Association. In all, more than 1,100 people took part in the event.

Mac Millar, Chair and CEO of Millar Western Industries, reflected on the many changes that have taken place in Whitecourt and in the company over the past century. "When my grandfather came to Alberta all those years ago, he was drawn by the extensive resources and enterprising spirit of this province," said Millar. "He'd be amazed to see the growth that has taken place since then in our home communities of Whitecourt, Fox Creek and Edmonton, and very proud to see this company of hard-working people still going strong."

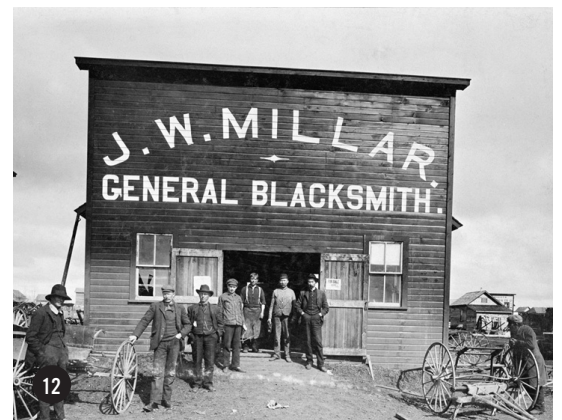
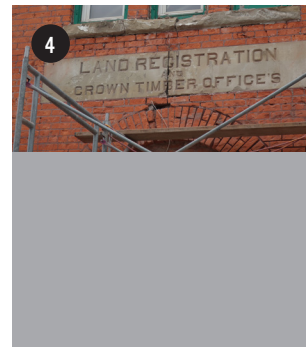
On behalf of fellow employees, Everett Wolf Tail, Anita Stark and Craig Jeanveau presented Mac with a forest-themed artwork, in appreciation of the Millar family's support of company employees, families and communities.

In bringing greetings from the Province of Alberta, Agriculture and

Forestry Minister Devin Dreeshen commended the company for its role in the industry's progress. Said the Minister, "For generations, now, Millar Western has played a strong part in the development of the province's forest sector, contributing to advancements that have helped make Alberta a world leader in sustainable forest management and renewable resource development."

Dignitaries joined Mac and Craig Armstrong, President and CEO of Millar Western Forest Products, in the ceremonial planting of a white spruce tree. The tree has since been placed in a heritage area on Millar Western's Whitecourt mill site. Growing there, near a cabin and blacksmith shop built by J.W. in 1922, the tree will serve as a lasting reminder of this milestone in the company's history.









1. L to R: Derek Nighbor (Forest Products Association of Canada), Minister Devin Dreesen (Agriculture and Forestry), Paul Whitaker (Alberta Forest Products Association), MP Arnold Viersen (Peace River), MLA Todd Loewen (Central Peace-Notley), MLA Martin Long (West Yellowhead), Mac Millar, Mayor Maryann Chichak (Town of Whitecourt) and Mayor Ron Govenlock (Woodlands County); planting ceremonial tree; Millar Western's 100th Anniversary; August 27, 2019



2. L to R: Craig Armstrong, Mac Millar and Ron Govenlock; Millar Western's 100th Anniversary, August 27, 2019

3. L to R: Craig Armstrong, Minister Devin Dreesen and Mac Millar

4. Ceremonial shovel, Millar Western's 100th Anniversary; August 27, 2019

5. L to R: Mac Millar, Everett Wolf Tail, Anita Stark and Craig Jeanveau; Artwork presented to Mac Millar on behalf of the employees; August 27, 2019



6. L to R: Whitecourt Mayor Maryann Chichak, Woodlands Mayor Ron Govenlock, MP Arnold Viersen, Agriculture and Forestry Minister Devin Dreesen, Board Chairman Mac Millar, President and CEO Craig Armstrong; Dignitaries at Millar Western's 100th Anniversary; August 27, 2019

7. Ceremonial plaque mounted to rock, Millar Western's 100th Anniversary; August 27, 2019

8. Plaque presented by Agriculture and Forestry for Millar Western's 100th Anniversary; August 27, 2019

9. Steam jammer at sawmill, 1920s

10. Hauling logs to sawmill with International truck, circa 1941-42

11. First J.W. Millar sawmill, 1926

12. J.W. Millar General Blacksmith, first operation in 1919

13. Hauling logs on sleigh with six horses, 1920s





# LA CRETE SAWMILLS TURNS 30

DEVELOPED FROM MATERIAL AND PHOTOGRAPHS SUBMITTED BY RUTH AND JOHN UNGER

Locally owned and established in 1989, La Crete Sawmills Ltd. began with four employees hired for the initial construction of the mill with a focus of marketing our products into Japan. Over the course of the last 25 years, our market has expanded to cover North America as well as overseas. Currently, we operate as a team of approximately 110 dedicated employees that strive to produce a quality product to meet our own high standards. We specialize in the lumber production of spruce and aspen as well as the production of quality wood pellets. Our mill's annual capacity is 64 million board feet; the lumber mill operates a two-line sawmill with two dry kilns, a planer, and a remanufacturing facility. The wood pellet mill began operation in January 2003 in a brand new 17,600 square foot building, and is capable of producing up to 65,000 tonnes of pellets annually.

"When a group of nine investors from this area collaborated to form La Crete Sawmills in 1988," recalls company president and general manager, John Unger, "only one of us had a background in forestry. After he went on to other pursuits, another gentleman who had some background in logging came on board." The team of visionary entrepreneurs initially purchased property

from Unger's parents and chose to construct the mill on a sloping parcel of land close to Highway 697 about six kilometres southeast of La Crete. "The sloping terrain allows for a decent runoff into a pond that we can use as a reserve to fight fires if necessary," Unger explains. A crew of four was hired to build a mill to house a complete planer mill the ownership had obtained from Gibsons, B.C., and a dehumidification dry kiln that were used in the early years. "Over the years we've bought many different mills," Unger recollects. "In 1991, we bought a mill from Fort St. James, and another in 1993-94 from near Barrhead, although we only kept what we needed of that one and sold the rest to a scrap dealer. Later, we acquired part of a mill from 100-Mile House, B.C. You might say we've pieced our operation together from other peoples' boneyards and from mills that have either been upgraded, shut down or auctioned off."

In addition to the 75 acres of land where the mill is located, La Crete Sawmills owns an adjoining 70-80 acres the company uses as a reserve for stacking logs. As well, part of that land is rented to neighbors for use as farmland. The preparation of the wood for market begins with the firm's two debarker's. A two-line sawmill then cuts the wood into pre-determined lengths before

1. Helen Teichroeb (accountant) and Lori Bergen (office manager) join management crew in front of the new La Crete Sawmills sign; September 2019

2. Knelsen Sand and Gravel truck hauling logs over La Crete Sawmills weigh scale

3. Staff picture in front of La Crete Sawmills office, 2016

4. First staff picture in front of the new La Crete Sawmills office, 1996



it proceeds to one of the two dry kilns, and extended planer and a remanufacturing facility. In keeping with the company's firm commitment to quality, La Crete Sawmills has its own in-house quality control people. "Before the wood leaves the bush and again before it leaves our yard, it is inspected by different people," Unger points out. "We have a woodlands manager who oversees what comes in from the bush and a yard man who ensures grade when the wood comes to the yard. Once inside the sawmill, certain width and dimension qualifications have to be met. If the lumber does not meet regulations, it's either sawed a second time or chipped." Until 1996, approximately 70% of La Crete Sawmills products were sent to the Japanese market. "That's really how this mill got started, doing specialties for Japan," Unger reports.

The team of investors that presently gives guidance to business matters at La Crete Sawmills, says Unger, is firmly committed to a teamwork model in its efforts

to achieve maximum productivity and profit. "As president, I run the business in accordance with a fairly basic maxim," he offers. "My business philosophy in a nutshell is this: if I have a penny and you have a penny, when we exchange pennies, we both have a penny. But if I have an idea and you have an idea, when we exchange those, now we both have two ideas. That is the basic idea that guides our weekly management meetings where about a dozen individuals plan and assess. "In other words," Unger elaborated, "I believe in using my people because I believe that the majority of employees will respond positively when they're given a fair chance to be a contributing member of the team. By the way, I got that thing about the pennies and the ideas from some beneficial literature I once read. Most of what I know and use when it comes to running this business, I've heard from others or read somewhere."









1. Supervisor Management Crew, Monday morning meetings, 2019

2. Back Row (L to R): David Janzen, George Friesen, Jake K. Wiebe and Isaac Dyck; Front Row (L to R): Raymond Knelsen and John Unger; La Crete Sawmills Shareholders, 2011. The remaining three shareholders in 2019 are John Unger, George Friesen and Raymond Knelsen.

3. Lumber wrapped in the yard ready to be shipped

4. La Crete Sawmills fleet of trucks

5. Ruth and John Unger celebrating 25 years of La Crete Sawmills, 2014

6. La Crete Sawmills wood pellet fuel, product made from shavings and sawdust

7. La Crete Sawmills office staff 2016; Back Row (L to R): Frank Neustaeter, John Unger, Barney Wiebe, Gerry Wieler, Jake Penner and Aaron Doepel; Front Row (L to R): Marlene Doerksen, Helen Teichroeb and Kayla Doerksen.

8. Aerial view of the La Crete Sawmills facility



# TWO TEENAGE FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN 1944 BUSH FIRE HONoured WITH MEMORIAL PLAQUE

REPRINTED: GRANDE PRAIRIE DAILY HERALD TRIBUNE, JOHN WATSON, NOVEMBER 7, 2019



Recognizing 75 years since a bush fire blazed through Moose Hill, the Peace Country Historical Society has established a plaque commemorating two teenagers who lost their lives battling the flames. The fire raged from Webster to Bad Heart on May 4, 1944, claiming the lives of Raphael Kline, 17, of the Sexsmith District and Wilfred "Tattoo" Derocher, 18, of Grande Prairie. The teens were hired alongside four others, including Stanley Kryczkowski, 20, as part of a crew to protect the Sanborn Mill, located around 14.5 kilometres northeast of Webster.

"There was no stopping it ... it would crown and burn in the tops of the trees first, then balls of fire would fall down and burn swiftly back along the ground," said Mildred Sanborn, one of the mill owners, in an account published in the 1980 *Wagon Trails Grown Over*. Jeff Henricks, who led the memorial research project, described how Kline, Derocher and Kryczkowski, became separated from the rest of the team while battling the flames at the Sanborn mill site. "These were kids who'd never seen a fire before in their lives or anything like this and they didn't know what to do," said Henricks. He said they had been directed to rescue trapped horses from a nearby barn that had been set alight by the fire. After freeing the animals and not seeing anyone else remaining at the site, the men decided to abandon the site. Another theory written by Mildred Sanborn, recounted the three may have been frightened by exploding tires, prompting them to run in the opposite direction from the rest of the group.

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**THERE WAS NO STOPPING IT ... IT WOULD CROWN AND BURN IN THE TOPS OF THE TREES FIRST, THEN BALLS OF FIRE WOULD FALL DOWN AND BURN SWIFTLY BACK ALONG THE GROUND**

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Both accounts agree the trio attempted to run through the flames and seek sanctuary in a burned-out clearing where the flames would not consume them. "We'll be dead heroes!" said Kline, half joking-as recounted by Kryczkowski. As the three stumbled through the flames, Kryczkowski said Kline had fallen and presumably knocked himself unconscious on a stump. Rather than continue running, Derocher went back for Kline in an attempt to rescue him. "Wilfred chose to try to save his friend rather than run to try to save himself," said Sanborn in a 2010 interview for *Telling Our Stories*. "They found the bodies the next day, only about 10 yards from the mill site clearing. Wilfred was lying over Raphael trying to shield his friend with his body. We have always hoped that the smoke got them before the fire."

Kryczkowski later said he had also attempted to go back for Kline and Derocher but was stopped by the flames. Henricks described Kryczkowski's survival via the hike from the mill site to Webster, shambling through the flames for several hundred metres until finally reaching unburnt forest. His skin had been dripping off his hands to the point of bones protruding through what was left. No one who operated in the area were spared in the aftermath of the inferno, as livestock,

equipment, granaries, stables and more were destroyed. It was later discovered that wildlife in the area had also succumbed, as the bodies of many moose and deer were found. The origin of the fire was never determined.

Following the event, accounts were recorded in the *Edmonton Journal* and the *Herald-Tribune*. The story would later resurface in 1980 by the Sexsmith Historical Society, in June 1989 in the *Western People* magazine by Evelyn McGuire, and again in June 2010 by Jean Rycroft. "Only those who saw the fire that day will ever be able to believe how fast and complete the destruction was," wrote Sanborn. Kline's father, Joe, and sister, Iris, would discover his body along with Derocher's lying next to him the morning following the wildfire during a search orchestrated by the RCMP. "A number of other persons were severely burned: Jess, Bob and Mildred Sanborn, Stanley Kryczkowski, who is recovering in the Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital," stated the *Herald-Tribune* in its May 11, 1944 issue. Kryczkowski would spend three months in the Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital recovering from his injuries. The monument to Kline and Derocher was erected at the approximate site where the two had fallen this year on May 4, which marked the 75th anniversary of their efforts and their sacrifice.



**PREVIOUS PAGE:**

1. Plaque commemorating the death of Raphael Klein and Wilfred Derocher

2. Klein and Derocher memorial site; L to R: Kari Matechuk, Forrest Barrett, Owen Spencer, Wally Born, Mike Kingsbury, Jeff Henricks; May 4, 2019 (Pat Wearmouth took picture)

**CURRENT PAGE:**

3. Jeff Henricks with memorial plaque; May 4, 2019

4. Owen Spencer installing plaque; May 4, 2019

5. Jeff Henricks providing a historic account of the wildfire incident

6. L to R: Wally Born, Pat Wearmouth and Jeff Henricks; May 4, 2019





# 1969 NAIT FOREST TECHNOLOGY 50<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

BY WAYNE BOWLES

Eight of the 1969 NAIT Forest Technology Class met from June 4 to 6, 2019 at the Maskuta Creek Campground, just west of Hinton, for a camping 50th reunion. They are in touch with many more members of their class but these were the only ones who could get away for this occasion.

1. Standing (L to R): Bill Gladstone, Terry Turner, Terry Thompson, Larry Harbidge and Wayne Bowles. Sitting (L to R): Brad Gibson, Don Badger and Blaine Schiedeman. Photo taken at the Maskuta Creek Campground; June 5, 2019

2. Standing (L to R): Brad Gibson, Wayne Bowles and Don Badger. Sitting (L to R): Mel White and Terry Turner. Photo taken in St. Albert; October 2019

3. Standing (L to R): Brad Gibson, Terry Thompson, Blaine Schiedeman, Larry Harbidge and Wayne Bowles. Sitting (L to R): Bill Gladstone, Peter Murphy and Don Badger. Photo taken at the Maskuta Creek Campground; June 5, 2019



# 1970 NAIT FOREST TECHNOLOGY 49<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

BY PETER MURPHY

Five of the NAIT Forest Technology Class of 1970 met at the working home of Dave and Joan Krangnes at New Norway. The Krangnes' operate a nursery and greenhouse operation after several years with the Alberta Forest Service at Slave Lake and the Olds Agricultural College. Most brought campers and settled by the homesite. Among others in the class are Pat Wearmouth from the Grande Prairie area and Jim Gould, fire specialist in Australia. Roy Dixon, a remote sensing specialist for the Province of Manitoba was a regular. Several others have attended over the years. We always have spirited discussions and activities often around a bonfire. Pete checks our cruising skills estimating tree heights and usually takes a few cores with his favorite increment bore!! They are eagerly planning for their

actual 50th anniversary reunion, which will again be held at the Krangnes family home at New Norway.

A retrospective by Dick Ireland captures the essence of the NAIT/FTS program and the opportunities it provides. *"The Class of '70 shows great diversity. From their base education, several of these folks had careers or worked in South America, New Zealand and Australia, United States in addition to Canada in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and the Northwest Lands and Forest Services. Several also went on into fields of Education, Business, and Horticulture. The strong foundation of the NAIT education, largely under the direction of Peter J. Murphy, facilitated the amazing diversity and scope of careers for the Class of 1970, 50 years ago!"*





1. L to R: Dick Ireland taking selfie, Brock Allen, Peter Murphy, Jim Halvorson, Dave Krangnes (behind), Bob Wilson. Bob became District Forest Ranger for the B.C. Forest Service at Terrace, now his home place. The others worked for various Forest Services including the Alberta Forest Service, Jim later becoming High School teacher, Dick an industry forester and consultant after attending the UofA Forestry program and the MBA program at UBC. July 27, 2019

2. L to R: Brock Allan, Peter Murphy, Jim Halvorson, Dave Krangnes and Bob Wilson; July 27, 2019

3. L to R: Bob Wilson, Peter Murphy, Brock Allen, Dave Krangnes, Dick Ireland and Jim Halvorson; July 27, 2019

4. A culminating dinner at the Krangnes' home table. L to R: Brock Allen, Bob Wilson, Sheila Allen, Joan and Dave Krangnes, Susan and Jim Halvorson, Linda Wilson and Dick Ireland. Photo by Peter Murphy







# 1984 NAIT FOREST TECHNOLOGY 35<sup>TH</sup> YEAR REUNION

BY WALLY BORN

On August 16 to 19, 2019, 16 members of the 1984 NAIT Forest Technology class along with nine spouses (2 NAIT and 1 Sir Sanford Fleming Grads), gathered for a reunion north of Edson. Gracious hosts for the event were Dawn Bateman-Olsvik and Andy Olsvik. The first members of the class arrived on Friday evening with greetings from the hosts, a hot dog roast, some beverages and a great outdoor fire that was kept roaring by Michelle Dry. The acreage was a fantastic outdoor setting, large grassed open area surrounded by aspen stands with a trail leading down to a creek that many took the time to enjoy. The weather was also cooperative with only one small shower Saturday afternoon.

On Saturday, as more of the class arrived and as we reconvened for lunch, Terrill Cromie received a crisis call from work resulting in his unfortunate, early departure. Before Terrill departed, we had a very quick class picture to ensure his presence was captured. By early afternoon, we were all mustered awaiting for the arrival of our last classmate Pam (Smith) Gladders. Pam had completed her shift as a 911 dispatcher at about 4am, when she and husband Barry departed Vernon, BC for Edson. After lunch, a beanbag toss tournament was arranged with Garth Davis, class social convener, acting as the tournament organizer. While some of our teams were out rather early, the final pairings for the show down were Darrell Walde and Dawn Bateman-Olsvik VS Joanne Walde and Linda



Lecky. There was also time for some cribbage with Joanne Walde schooling Bill Black (aka Mr. Fallowfield) in the fine art of playing crib.

Ross Risvold and Howard Anderson, from the 1984 FTS instructor cadre joined us to catch up, share a few stories, memories and knowing Ross maybe a tale or two. The popcorn balls brought by Howard and his wife were a hit, taking many of us back to our childhoods. Ross was even recruited as a fill in on one of the beanbag toss teams. As the Beanbag toss ended, the DJ arrived. Hearing tunes from that era generated a few more memories and discussion. Of course, some of those memories were of the folks who couldn't make it like Hairy Wild Roy (Campbell), Keith Beraska in his rain slicker during a 'water event' in the residence, and Helmut Roeben with a pitcher six shooter. Other stories may have included gerbils, a late-night fire alarm, Hector the ejector, a horse's skull in an elevator, food (??) in the cafeteria and some refitted rooms as a prank and then revenge (karma). After an awesome supper, the DJ transformed into the "Karoke Lady" with a wide variety of songs played and, shall we say, talent on display. I think it is safe to say the surprise performance came from Marisa Bovo, who did a hip hop song she learned from her kids, complete with moves and a lot of style followed by a rendition of "Shut up a your face", showing a great range in musical selection and singing abilities. No one will ever forget Greg Lecky's plea about Kraft dinner during his part in "If I had a million dollars".

The event concluded Sunday with brunch in the Olsvik's garage. There were a lot of handshakes and hugs as folks said their good-byes. Stay tuned for the 40th anniversary in 2024.

1. L to R: Debbie Allen, Garth Davis, Dawn Bateman-Olsvik, Marisa Bovo, Greg Lecky, Michelle Dry, Kelly Black (Fallowfield), Dennis Mudrack and Andy Olsvik

2. The lunch shot before Terrill Cromie left. L to R: Garth Davis, Wally Born, Kelly (Fallowfield) Black, Dawn Bateman-Olsvik, Terrill Cromie, Michelle Dry, Greg Lecky, Shelia Restorick, Dennis Mudrack and Andy Olsvik











1. Sunday morning breakfast in the Olsvik garage

2. Saturday evening campfire

3. Keep on Cruising Forest Tech '82-'84 shirt

4. Beanbag toss tournament

5. Assorted pictures from the 1982 – 1984 FTS Class

6. Back Row (L to R): Garth Davis, Wally Born, Dennis Mudrack, Joanne (Muller) Walde, Darrell Walde; Middle Row (L to R): Shelia (Restorick) Ghostkeeper, Kelly (Fallowfield) Black, Maris Bovo, Dawn Bateman-Olsvik, Andy Olsvik; Front Row (L to R): Kent McDoanld, Debbie (Allen) Brown, Michelle Dry, Pam (Smith) Gladders, Greg Lecky

Missing: Terrill Cromie

7. L to R: Michele Dry and Instructor Ross Risvold

8. Instructor Howard Anderson





# FIRE PERMITS FROM THE PAST

1

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA  
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND MINES  
FOREST SERVICE

F.S.A. 176  
300 Bk-1-34

No. **19148**

## FIRE PERMIT [FREE]

Issued under authority of The Prairie Fires Act and Regulations for the Prevention of  
Prairie and Forest Fires

*April 28* 193*4* (Date) *Goodwin* (Place)

This Permit authorizes.....  
of..... (P.O. Address)  
to set out fires on the following described lands, viz.:..... Quarter Sec. *7* Tp. *42*  
Rge. *1* West of..... Meridian, for the purpose of.....  
Date in effect..... 193*4*, Date expires..... 193*4*  
The burning must be done in compliance with The Prairie Fires Act and the Regulations for  
the Prevention of Prairie and Forest Fires, and the following conditions:.....  
Countersigned by *P. A. Shrimman*  
*R. G. Reid*  
Minister of Lands and Mines.

NOTE—This permit is not valid unless countersigned, and is subject to revocation.  
THIS PERMIT IS GOOD FOR 10 DAYS ONLY FROM DATE OF ISSUE. [Over]

The information provided through fire permits has not changed much over the years.  
Two fire permits have recently been discovered, one from 1934, the second from 1969.



2

Form B

Form AFS 176

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA  
Department of Lands and Forests  
Alberta Forest Service

**FIRE PERMIT (FREE)** 150067

Issued under authority of The Forests Act, 1961, and regulations thereunder.

THIS PERMIT authorizes Hector Toutant  
of Lac La Biche (P.O. Address)  
to kindle fires on the following lands: F 1/2 Sec. 15  
Twp. 29 Rge. 3 West of 4 Mer. for the  
purpose of burning stubble & grass  
Burning shall be done in compliance with The Forests Act, 1961, regulations made thereunder,  
and the following conditions: No burning in woods  
over the M.P.H. All fire to be  
put out before fire is out  
Issued April 29, 1969 Expires May 8, 1969  
Countersigned by [Signature]  
(Forest Officer)  
I have read and understand the conditions and regulations on the reverse side, and accept full  
responsibility.  
Hector Toutant  
(Permittee)  
NOTE: This permit is not valid unless countersigned and may be cancelled at any time. This  
permit is good up to a maximum of ten days from date of issue.

1

SETTING OF FIRES AND THE USE OF FIRE

During the close season (1st day of April to the 1st day of December, inclusive), no person shall set out a fire, except under permit and subject to the conditions prescribed by the regulations.

Conditions under which burning may be done:

The land on which the fire is kindled must be completely surrounded by a fire-guard consisting of land covered with snow or water, or burnt-over land, or ploughed land free of inflammable matter or waste, not less than 20 feet in width. Such fire must be guarded during the whole period of its continuance by three adult persons provided with the proper appliances for extinguishing fire.

Sec. 2. (1) Any person who either directly or indirectly, personally or through any servant, employee or agent—

(a) kindles a fire and lets it run at large on any land not his own property;

(b) permits any fire to pass from his own land or land occupied by him; or

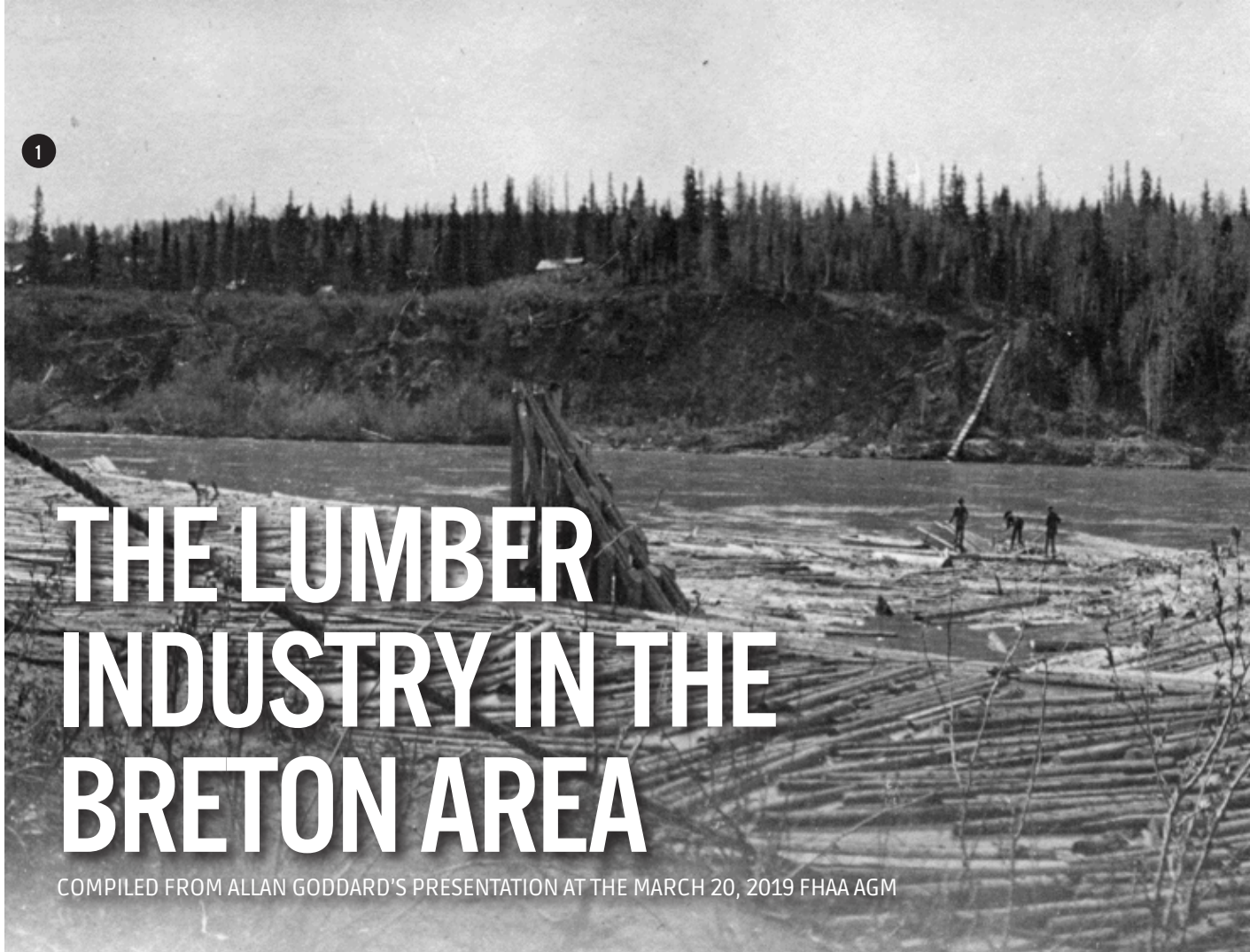
(c) allows any fire under his charge, custody or control or under the charge, custody or control of any servant, employee or agent to run at large—

shall be guilty of an offence and shall on summary conviction thereof be liable to a penalty of not less than twenty-five dollars and not more than two hundred dollars, and in addition to such penalty shall be liable to civil action for damages at the suit of any person whose property has been injured or destroyed by any such fire.—(The Prairie Fires Act.)

1. The Lands and Mines, Forest Service Fire Permit was issued to G. Nelson for the burning of meadow grass on his homestead near Goodwin, Alberta on April 28, 1934. According to Owen Spencer, Forest Area Manager in the Grande Prairie Forest Area, "Nelson lived up on top of the DeBolt hill where the microwave towers are, north of DeBolt, which is well into the green zone today". Fire season in 1934 was April 1 to December 1.

2. The Department of Lands and Forests, Alberta Forest Service Fire Permit was issued to Hector Toutant of Lac La Biche on April 29, 1969, to burn stubble and grass. The fire permit was issued by forest ranger Harry Jeremy. Fire season in 1969 was April 1 to November 30.





# THE LUMBER INDUSTRY IN THE BRETON AREA

COMPILED FROM ALLAN GODDARD'S PRESENTATION AT THE MARCH 20, 2019 FHAA AGM

John Walter was an early Edmonton mill owner and business man, who acquired River Lot 9 on the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River, circa 1874, establishing a residence and later his sawmill operation. He was involved in numerous business ventures, starting in the lumber business in the 1890s. In the early 1900s, Edmonton was changing from a small settlement into a growing and thriving city. As the timber resources close to Edmonton dwindled, mill owners such as John Walter and the D.R. Fraser Lumber Co. started to look up river from Edmonton to fill the demand for lumber for the growing city. One of the primary-logging contractors to John Walter in the Breton area was Dave Ricker. Mr. Ricker established a logging headquarters just south east of present day Breton. A full set of buildings were constructed on the

property Mr. Ricker homesteaded. A large barn was built, and able to hold 50 head of horses. Many of the early settlers found employment with this logging company. Likely one of the reasons this site was chosen was for the spring that flows year round. After the death of Mr. Ricker and the demise of the company, the quarter was left vacant until 1919, when the Flesher family purchased it. This land remains in the Flesher family, and the spring still flows at about 50 gallons per minute. The property is also home to the Breton Soil Plots operated by the University of Alberta since 1929.

Many logging operators contracted to John Walter and D.R. Fraser. Names such as J. A. McDougall, Charlie Cropley, Charlie Lindell and Dave Ricker are only a few of the names associated with logging for John Walter. Each logging contractor

would have a log stamp to mark the ends of the log. The stamp was similar to a cattle brand but not heated. A heavy hammer hit the head of the stamp to leave the imprint in the end of the log. The logs were sorted by owner once they reach the mills in Edmonton, with the contractors paid accordingly. The Breton Museum is fortunate to have a log stamp, which belonged to the D.R. Fraser Lumber Co. It is a metal head similar to a sledge hammer head, with the letters DX.

The arrival of the railroad in the Breton area significantly changed local lumber operations with the railroad creating more reliable transport to markets. With the dissolution of John Walter's lumber company, many new lumber companies emerged.

With the extension of the railroad to the Breton area in 1926, many



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**AS THE TIMBER RESOURCES CLOSE TO EDMONTON DWINDLED, MILL OWNERS SUCH AS JOHN WALTER AND THE D.R. FRASER LUMBER CO. STARTED TO LOOK UP RIVER FROM EDMONTON TO FILL THE DEMAND FOR LUMBER FOR THE GROWING CITY.**

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lumber companies moved into the area. While numerous lumber companies operated in the Breton area at different times, three major companies stood out. The first is the Ross-Beard Lumber Company. J.W. (Joe) Ross and Charles Beard moved to the Antross area in 1926. Their mill was located 14 miles west of Antross, north of Buck Mountain. The first years they green planed their lumber at the mill, but as the Depression took hold and the market for lumber dropped, they built a planer operation at Antross and hauled the rough lumber from the mill and dry piled it at Antross to be planed and loaded on rail cars. Cliff Ross writes in the community history that one year on a seven-million board-foot cut, after expenses they made \$1,500.00, without taking anything for depreciation. In 1936, the sawmill and timber burnt in the forest fire. Joe Ross' brother,

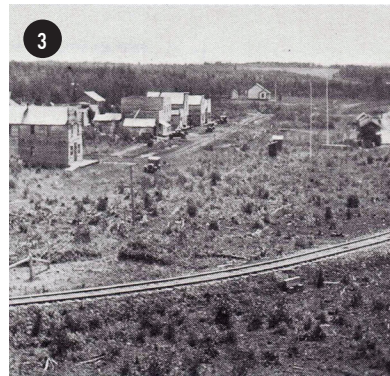
Hales took over the planer mill and had other mills supply him with lumber. In the 1940s, after things slowed down, Hales Ross move the operation to Grande Prairie.

The extension of the railway to Breton provided William Anthony of Anthony Lumber Co. Ltd. the opportunity to establish a mill and planer south of Breton with easy access to the rail line to load rail cars for the shipment of lumber. Anthony acquired several large timber berths held by the bank, having previously been leased to John Walter. The mill site was named Antross by combining the names Anthony and Ross from Ross-Beard who established a planer mill near the Anthony mill. During the 1930s, a small community developed around and near the mill site, with a store, post office and school for the men and their families who

1. Log boom in the North Saskatchewan River in the 1915 flood; City of Edmonton Archives EA-10-902

2. Ross-Beard Lumber Company; late 1920s; Breton Museum





worked at the mill and planer operations. The company survived the depression years, but by the late 1930s, timber losses due to forest fires and the harvesting was spelling the end of the business, even though lumber prices had improved. William Anthony passed away about 1940 and the company was split between his sons Mark and Les. Mark moved to Manitoba to start a lumber operation, and Les remained at Antross to finish and close out the harvesting and milling operations. By 1946, the operation was completed.

The D.R. Fraser & Company Ltd. was established in the early 1880s, in Edmonton by Daniel R. Fraser, his brother Alex and later a cousin John Macdonald. While the company engaged in other business ventures, the lumbering business was their primary focus. D.R. Fraser survived the flood of 1915 likely partly to the fact that they were not as financially extended as the John Walter operation. Daniel Fraser passed away in 1920 and his three sons William Fraser (Big Bill), Don and John took over operations of the company. The company did resurrect the river drive for a short period but it was both expensive and risky at times to continue. The Fraser's also ran a wholesale and retail operation in Edmonton with an office and retail yard on what is 97 Street today.

The announcement of the extension of the Lacombe Northwestern Railroad north from Rimbey, Alberta, in 1925 to the newly found hamlet of Breton was good news to the Fraser's. They held timber berths in the area bordered the railway. In 1926, they finished out the mill and planer operations at their Edmonton location, and relocated



the operations about 10 miles south of Breton, to a location called Fraspur on Poplar Creek. From this location, the company carried out their lumber operations during the late 1920s and through the 1930s. As with all the lumbering operations in the 1930s, it was not without its challenges due to the Depression.

As time passed, modes of hauling the logs from the bush to the sawmills began to change. In the beginning, horses were used almost exclusively. The newest addition was a steam hauler. The logs were skidded out of the bush to the landing by horse, where the sleighs were loaded. The steam hauler could pull up to 14 loads at a time to the mill over iced roads. A local historian and long time member of the museum Don Gillies, was born in the area and worked for Frasers as a millwright. When asked what happened with the steam hauler, Don said that some time in the 1940s they were using ice roads west of Breton near Buck Mountain when it broke through the muskeg and was hopelessly stuck. He said there wasn't enough equipment to get it out and as it was likely coming to the end of its useful life, it was dismantled with the boiler being taken to the planer yard in Breton to be used to clean equipment there. The rest was likely sent for scrap.

With the start of World War II, the markets improved and the following years were the most profitable for the company. By this time, the timber close to the Fraspur site had been harvested. A decision was made to relocate the sawmill closer to the timber, and upgrade and relocate the planer operations to Breton. The sawmill was moved west of Breton to Sec 34-48-6-W5 on Buck Creek. Other camps

were established over the next decade or so, and other logging contractors supplied rough lumber to the Frasers. Fraser's along with some of other lumber operators in the area used German POW's as labourers. In 1942, a separate logging camp was established to house the POW's, all who had been transferred from Lethbridge.

Cats began to be used to haul the sleighs instead of horses or the steam hauler, and then logging changed from standardized log lengths, to tree-length logging. In the late 1940s and 1950s, Fraser's also did work with their cats for the Department of Highways in the Breton area. In 1957, the lumbering operations of Fraser's came to an end when they concluded their planer operations at Breton. At that time, Fraser's became associated with Bothwell Bros. Ltd. of Edmonton, and for the next few years, they were in the road construction business. In 1963, the company dissolved and the assets sold. Of the many lumber companies who operated in the Breton area over the years from 1927 to 1957, they were the only company that was in operation the whole time.

1. John Walter's mill operations in Edmonton on the North Saskatchewan River, early 1900s; City of Edmonton Archives EA-10-1454

2. D.R. Fraser Camp 34 pictured from the west; 1930s; Breton Museum

3. Breton showing the new railroad; late 1920s; Breton Museum

4. D.R. Fraser and Company steam hauler hauling logs; 1930s; Breton Museum

5. Linn truck hauling lumber; late 1920s; Breton Museum

6. A jammer used to load logs onto a sleigh. The jammer consists of a pole A-frame with a pulley attached at the top that a cable runs through; the cable would be pulled by horses to move the logs onto the sleigh. Early 1900s; City of Edmonton Archives EA-10-1415







# BOB PETITE HONoured WITH JOHN SCHNEIDER HISTORICAL AWARD

On May 15, 2019, Bob Petite received the John Schneider Historical Award from the Vertical Flight Society (old American Helicopter Society) at the Forum 75 Convention in Philadelphia, Pa. Bob was the first Canadian to receive the award for his work writing and preserving helicopter history.

Standing proudly holding his award, Robert Petite explained the delicate design of the award was made in the likeness of Leonardo da Vinci's sketch of the aerial screws. The design precedes any modern flying machine but is believed to have contributed to the development of helicopters, the same aircraft that Petite has spent 25 years detailing the history of. "I knew I always had an interest in aircraft. I remember seeing them fly, the full planes. But I never thought it would end up like this," Petite said. "I still love it, I still work hard at it." Now with two published books and another on the way, Petite is

a leading historian on helicopters and was honoured with the historical achievement award from the Vertical Flight Society for contributing to the legacy of vertical flight aviation on May 15, 2019 in Philadelphia.

His passion started from his career as a forest officer with the Alberta Forest Service where he flew in Bell 47 helicopters to fight fires. The result was his first book on the complete history of the Bell 47s, and the second about helicopters in Alberta wildfire management. After 34 years with the forest service, Petite retired but kept busy pouring time into his niche passion, lending him



2

time to sift through the archives on aircraft in Alberta and at the Ottawa Aviation and Space Museum.

For Petite, he believes that history will be forgotten if it is not preserved. That's why he has also published around 50 articles for a helicopter magazine, including the first helicopter pilots of World War II, one of his favourite stories. "I'm always answering questions

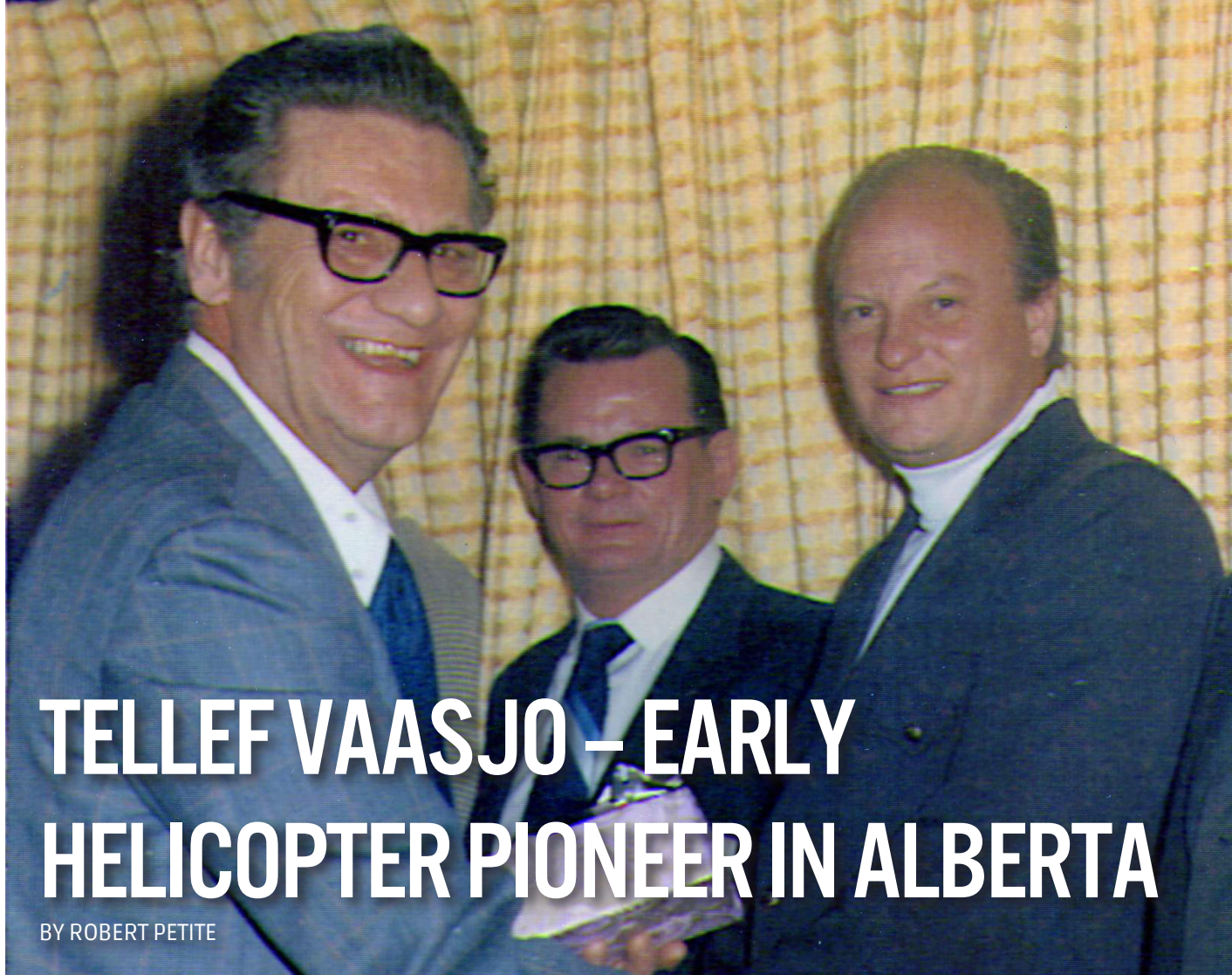
for people. A young mother got a hold of me, her grandfather was the first helicopter pilot with the air force and they didn't know much about him. Well, I had pictures and sent them stuff." He said. "It's just great to help people out too." Robert Petite's books can be ordered online at [www.helicopterheritagecanada.com](http://www.helicopterheritagecanada.com).

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1. Robert Petite sits and reads from his binder of published articles in his home office on June 6, 2019. Nykole King/Leduc Rep Staff photograph

2. Robert Petite receiving the John Schneider Historical Award. L to R: Roberto Garavaglia (Selections Committee), Robert Petite and Mike Hirschberg (VFS Executive Director); May 15, 2019





# TELLEF VAASJO – EARLY HELICOPTER PIONEER IN ALBERTA

BY ROBERT PETITE

The past December 2014, I had the opportunity to visit Tellef Vaasjo past president of Associated Helicopters Company Ltd. to drop off a copy of my recent book "The Bell 47 Helicopter Story." Associated Helicopters started back in Edmonton during 1950 by Tommy Fox who owned Associated Airways, a major charter operator in Alberta and the western North West Territories. Tellef originally from Cold Lake, Alberta, trained as a pilot with the RCAF in 1944. After farming for a few years after World War II, he decided to get back into aviation starting at Associated Airways in the spring of 1949. We reminisced about when the first Alberta helicopter company formed with one helicopter, a modified Bell Model 47D, purchased from Bell Aircraft Company in Buffalo, New York. Socony Vacuum Oil Company in Calgary was to use the helicopter on a summer geological program in northern Alberta. Bell Aircraft arranged to supply a pilot for the summer operation. Chuck Magner, an experienced helicopter pilot from the USA who had worked for Fabick Helicopters the summer before near Chard, Alberta was hired to fly Associated's first helicopter. The helicopter project

commenced on June 29, 1950. Tellef flew a fixed-wing aircraft on floats that was used to service the summer rotary-wing program along with other flying jobs.

Rex Kaufman, the president of the Associated Helicopters subsidiary approached Vaasjo later in the summer of 1950 to see if he would be interested in transferring to the new Associated Helicopters and training as its first helicopter pilot. This would be the start of long and successful career with Associated Helicopters in the commercial rotary-wing industry. Tellef Vaasjo started his helicopter conversion course with Chuck Magner on November 3, 1950 completing it on December 15, 1950. He remembered that he was Magner's first student. Most of the flying was at the downtown Edmonton Airport and around Elk Island Park. Chuck Magner's future goal was to become a helicopter pilot for Bell Aircraft. Returning to the USA, he later flew with Bell. Magner later died in an accident while flying a Bell 47 in Louisiana. Associated started small and eventually expanded to 26 helicopters over the years with Bell 47s, Bell 204s, Bell 206s, Bell 212s, Sikorsky S-55, Aerospatiale Astars, and a Super Puma. Tellef flew





L to R: Tellef Vaasjo (Associated Helicopters Operations Manager) presents awards to Jack Lunan (Chief Pilot), Bob Heighington (Line Pilot), Harvey Trace (AFS Pilot, past Forest Officer in Kinuso/Slave Lake Forest), and Paul Kristopovich (Line Pilot); Associated Helicopters photograph

in the field in the 1950s and instructed new pilots until 1955 when he became Operations Manager, the Chief Pilot, and flew when required as a spare pilot. In 1970, he took over as Director and Vice President eventually becoming President when Rex Kaufman retired.

Some of many Associated Helicopters accomplishments included the beginning of the first charter helicopter company in Alberta, operating the aircraft and helicopters for the Government Alberta Forest Service fleet, locating the RCAF Cold Lake airport, and discovering the nesting place of the Whooping Crane in Wood Buffalo National Park.

In 1969, Associated Helicopters was sold to Jim Pattison's Neonex International Ltd. in Vancouver, B.C. Associated Helicopters continued to run as it did before, separate from the influence of Neonex. Associated Helicopters continued to grow and expand. In 1977, Okanagan Helicopters Ltd. purchased Associated Helicopters. Associated continued to run as a separate company working close with Okanagan Helicopters.

Tellef decided to retire on June 30, 1986 after 36 years with Associated Helicopters Ltd. He has seen phenomenal changes in the helicopter industry from the early days. He is a true helicopter pioneer starting back in the days when the fragile helicopter had only been in commercial use for just five years. He was an excellent experienced pilot, top-notch manager, with great people skills. In 1987, Newfoundland businessman Craig Dobbin purchased Okanagan Helicopters and Toronto Helicopters, merging them with his company Sealand Helicopters to form Canadian Helicopters. The Associated Helicopters name soon disappeared with the sale of Okanagan Helicopters. Canadian Helicopters was the operating subsidiary of Canadian Helicopters International, part of the CHC Helicopter Corporation until November 2000. Canadian Helicopters was divested to form Canadian Helicopters Inc. The name changed to HNZ Group Inc. in 2012.



# BIRTH OF THE HELICOPTER INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA

BY ROBERT PETITE



Today, one only needs to look up in the sky to observe rotary wing helicopters skirting across the heavens carrying out various operations and duties. The commercial helicopter industry only had its infancy not long after the Second World War ended in 1945. The military were the first to use helicopters in the latter part of World War II, mainly in Germany, the U.S.A. and Great Britain. The western world's first production helicopter was the United Aircraft's – Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation R-4 "Hoverfly" two-place helicopter in Connecticut, U.S.A., which had its first initial flight on January 13, 1942. The Bell

Aircraft Corporation in Niagara Falls, N.Y., Helicopter Division was the first Company in the western world to be licensed to use its new Bell two-place Model 47 for civilian use back on March 8, 1946. The Bell 47 was certified by the United States C.A.A. (later F.A.A.) on April 8, 1946. Bell 47B deliveries commenced in late 1946 while the first Sikorsky S-51 commercial helicopter was delivered during the summer of 1946.

In Canada, it was the Royal Canadian Air Force (R.C.A.F.) who initially purchased seven Sikorsky S-51/H-5 four-place helicopters for training and search and rescue duties

commencing in 1947. The first commercial helicopters were also imported into Canada during 1947, a Bell 47B3 agricultural helicopter (CF-FJA) going to the Photographic Survey Company in Toronto, Ontario to be used initially in spraying and dusting of crops in southern Ontario. The first recorded use of a helicopter in Alberta occurred during 1948. The Canadian Air Force's first Sikorsky S-51 no. 9601 landed at RCAF Station Edmonton on Monday April 19, 1948, flown by Flight Lieutenant Robert T. Heaslip. It was based in Edmonton to be used with the Air Force's para-rescue unit. Okanagan Air Services' first Bell 47B3 CF- FZX based in British Columbia was used in Banff National Park to spray against the forest pest lodgepole pine needle minor during August 1948, on three small 20 acre plots.

A commercial Bell 47D helicopter owned by Fabick Aircraft out of St Louis, Missouri in the U.S.A. landed

at a local garage in Athabasca, Alberta on November 10, 1948. The United Geophysical Company was utilizing the helicopter for oil exploration surveys based out of Athabasca on seismograph operations. The contracting Bear Oil Company had previously used fixed-wing aircraft for the aerial surveys,

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### This was the first helicopter company formed in Alberta.

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plus boats along the Athabasca River to transport exploration parties around. They had even considered using a rotary-wing autogiro to carry out the surveys. The helicopter was used into the fall of September and October on the experimental exploration work. This new type of rotary-wing aircraft operation turned out to be very successful for the

exploring oil company. The R.C.A.F.'s first Sikorsky S-51 helicopter no. 9601 was demonstrated at an air show in Peace River on May 30, 1949. The helicopter was flown by Flying Officer Doug McBurney.

Fabick Aircraft was back again in the summer of 1949 this time based up along the Northern Alberta Railway tracks at Chard, north of Lac La Biche. Here oilman Michael L. Benedum pioneered the use of two Bell 47D helicopters on floats to transport portable aluminum towers in conjunction with gravity meter geophysical surveys. The air operations were completed without major road construction throughout vast areas of muskeg. The United Geophysical Company crews were searching for areas of potential wildcat well drilling.

Bell Aircraft Corp. salesman Tug Gustafson brought two Bell 47 helicopters up via Montana to northern Alberta near Fort McMurray for additional oil exploration trials.







The air survey work continued into the early fall. It was obvious that the use of helicopters in the search for oil and gas in Alberta was proving beneficial to the energy exploration companies. Gustafson began lobbying Calgary oil companies to use the new helicopter on their 1950 summer exploration programs. One company, Socony Vacuum Oil agreed to use the helicopter in their operations. Immediately Tug Gustafson contacted Associated Airways' President Tommy Fox in Edmonton about starting up a helicopter business. He encouraged Fox to purchase a Bell helicopter to use on the proposed Socony Vacuum Oil exploration operation in 1950.

The result was the formation of Associated Helicopters Ltd. a subsidiary of Associated Airways under new president Rex Kaufman. This was the first helicopter company formed in Alberta. In fact there were only four other commercial helicopter companies across all of Canada in 1950. These included Kenting Aviation Ltd., Toronto, Ontario; Spartan Air Services Ltd., Ottawa, Ontario; Okanagan Air Services Ltd., Penticton, B.C.;

and the Helicopter Exploration Company Ltd., Vancouver, B.C.

Associated purchased a modified used Bell 47D on wheels helicopter CF-GSL that was transported across Canada to Edmonton in the back of a new O.K. Construction dump truck. American pilot Chuck Magner was hired to fly the helicopter. He had flown for Fabick Aircraft in the Chard area during 1949. CF-GSL was ready for field operations by June 19, 1950. The helicopter was flown by Magner to the Fort Vermilion area where it was used on the first revenue oil and gas exploration work. The season ended by the early fall. Chuck Magner gave helicopter piloting instruction to Associated Airways pilot Tellef Vaasjo in the fall of 1950. Magner completed his training of Vaasjo and moved back to the U.S.A. Telleff received almost 34 hours of dual and solo flight time on CF-GSL.

Associated Helicopters Ltd. at number 10 hangar on the then Edmonton Municipal Airport started small and matured into a respected and very successful company in the helicopter industry over the years beginning when the helicopter was very new to the aviation world.

#### PREVIOUS PAGE:

1. Families gather at Associated Helicopters Hangar 10, Edmonton municipal airport, to see helicopter pilot and engineer head off on a spring contract; Bell 47G. A Helio-Courier aircraft is to the far left in the photo; Associated Helicopter photograph

2. Associated Helicopters Bell 204B CF-AHL is the first large turbine helicopter purchased; 1970s

#### CURRENT PAGE:

3. Associated Helicopters Bell 47J; pilot in front and three passengers in the back; 1950s

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**FEBRUARY 6–7, 2021**

**AFS OLDTIMERS  
HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

Athabasca, Alberta

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



**FEBRUARY 6–7, 2021**

**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



**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
FORESTRY 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
2020 EVENTS**

Contact Cynthia Strawson at  
[Cynthia.Strawson@ualberta.ca](mailto:Cynthia.Strawson@ualberta.ca)

*Photo by By Jeffrey Beall, Wiki Commons*



**MARCH 18, 2020**  
**16TH ANNUAL  
FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION AGM**

Chateau Louis Conference Centre  
11727 Kingsway NW, Edmonton, Alberta

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





# TOM DANIELS HONoured AT DES CROSSLEY DEMONSTRATION FOREST



Inside Education celebrated 20 years of forest education at the Des Crossley Demonstration Forest on October 18, 2019. Over 25,000 students have attended the Inside Education program over that time. During this event, Tom Daniels, West Fraser Sunde Forest Products Woodlands Manager was thanked for his support and leadership in forest education. The cabin at the demonstration forest was named the Tom Daniels Forest Education Centre.

1. Forestry school buddies; L to R: Brent Rabik, Bob Demulder, Tom Daniels and Mike Bratke; Des Crossley Demonstration Forest 20 year celebration; October 18, 2019

2. School kids and Alberta Wildfire staff; L to R: Sarah Julin, Rick Smit and Bertie Beaver (Paul Bussiere); Des Crossley Demonstration Forest 20 year celebration; October 18, 2019

3. Environment and Parks Minister Jason Nixon talking with students at the Des Crossley Demonstration Forest 20 year celebration; October 18, 2019

# RETIREMENTS



## LINDSAY KERKHOFF

*by Lindsay Kerkhoff*

I was born in 1954 in Edmonton, my father's career was in the oil industry, and my mother a stay-at-home mother. We moved to Calgary in 1962, and after receiving my high school diploma, I spent one year at the University of Calgary, then transferred to the University of Alberta, where I graduated with my BSc in Forestry in 1977. I was intrigued by Forestry as a career I felt I would enjoy, be challenged by, and there is the wonderful outdoor aspect. My first employment in Forestry was working on the summer timber management crews in the Slave Lake Forest and the next summer in the Footner Lake Forest. I spent an entire year on the Footner Lake T/M crew where I experienced a true northern winter. A few of the people I was fortunate to work with included Steve Luchkow, Phil Dube and Cliff Henderson, the superintendent. After I graduated, I was hired by Peter Denney and spent two years working for Sauze Forestry doing regeneration surveys, cut block layout, and timber cruising throughout northern Alberta.

I joined the Alberta Forest Service in July 1980, working for Gordon

Jones in the Silviculture Section of the Timber Management Branch. My main role was managing the TM250 Reforestation System, the grandfather reforestation system to the Alberta Regeneration Information System (ARIS). This was when there were no personal computers or cell phones, people could smoke indoors, and correspondence was really a cut and paste operation (with scissors and tape). All cutting edge technology, but it did allow me to learn the computer side of the business. In 1985, I transferred to the Reforestation and Reclamation Branch working for John Drew, Keith Branter, Steve Ferdinand, and later on, Cliff Henderson. One of my most memorable successes was converting the mainframe database to a PC platform, and then implementing the Silviculture Records Management System (SRMS) soon after. It was while developing SRMS that we came up with the cut block opening number, a pseudo geo referenced means of easily locating cut blocks on annual operating plan maps, a tool still in use today. I remained in that role until May 2000, when Doug Sklar asked me to rejoin the Timber Management Branch and manage the Timber Production and Reporting System (TPRS), a new software program. In that capacity I worked for Doug Schultz, and in 2017 we implemented FOREST (Forest Revenue, Scaling and Tenure System), the replacement for TPRS.

Some of my memorable times during my career in Forestry have been the

dozen or so times on fire duty; the most memorable managing the base camp for the cross-border wildfire south of Grande Prairie in July 2014. I was fortunate to be involved from start to finish. It's a great feeling of accomplishment when comments from people working at the camp were very positive. The people I worked with were always very professional and committed to making it work. I have been fortunate to work with and for many incredible people in the government of Alberta. When you have people like that around, you tend to want to go the extra mile for them. As for my retirement, my goals are simple, that being to move to southern B.C. and work on my golf game.



## STAN HOLMES

*by Stan Holmes*

I started work in Alberta on June 15, 2009. Prior to moving to Drayton Valley and taking on the Pembina Timberlands for Weyerhaeuser, I had been the Unit General Manager for Weyerhaeuser at their OSB Mill in Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan. My family and I had been in Saskatchewan since November 1, 1997; prior to that I'd been with MacMillan Bloedel on the West Coast for over 10 years,



starting May 1, 1987. Prior to that I was in consulting for a couple of years. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry Degree majoring in Forest Management from the University of British Columbia in 1985. We moved from Drayton Valley to Edmonton in April 2014, when I took on responsibility for Grande Prairie Timberlands as well as Pembina. I had always worked best when I was given the responsibility for a project and learned by my successes and failures. My first boss with MacMillan Bloedel told me I made a lot of mistakes, but I only made them once. He said "if you didn't make mistakes then you weren't trying hard enough". I always appreciated that and used that philosophy as I gained responsibilities in my career. My role was to help grow staff so they gained confidence and learned and grew in their job.

March 31, 2019 was my last day of work before retiring. I enjoyed my career, the people I worked with in industry and government, and I certainly appreciated the support I received from my Company throughout my nearly 32 years. I observed many changes over time; I endured the Forest Practices Code in BC, and always watched with interest when governments changed in each Province, and the impact they had on setting direction for our industry. I was also interesting to watch the evolution of more idealistic platforms when new governments came into power and how that modified somewhat through their term as they came to understand the industry a bit more and listened to their staff.

I worked with a lot of very good foresters through my career and certainly in Alberta. It was

gratifying to watch people grow in confidence as they were given more responsibility. Many were reluctant at first but as they gained confidence and understood that I would back them even if it wasn't a total success, it was a true joy to watch them grow professionally. I left a lot of very good foresters to take care of our operations when I left, and had the pleasure to work with a number of very good foresters who retired before me.



## JOHN ELLISON

*by John Ellison*

I was born in Middlesbrough, England, and at the age of four immigrated with my family to Bay Ridges and Pickering area in Southern Ontario where I completed my elementary and secondary education. Back then, the Pickering area was very much country living and farming oriented although bedroom communities for commuting into the greater Toronto area were beginning to develop. The rural country side setting during my early school years supported all kinds of outside activities which included fishing, hunting, camping and canoeing. This was the impetus for my interest in finding a career that had an outside escape to it! In 1974, I completed my Forestry Technician diploma at Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and then secured employment at Dryden Paper in Northwestern Ontario as a Forestry

Field Technician. After a few years, I left forestry field support work and moved into harvest operations and had a lengthy stint at developing my skills attached to unionized supervision, people management, and equipment use and their respective capacities. During my time in harvest operations, I worked with power saw and cable skidder operations and then later with full mechanical operations. The latter involved flail delimbers, coupled with grapple skidders and Koehring wheeled full tree harvesters, with roadside processors and slashers. They were giant pieces of equipment that were very well suited for harvesting the homogenous jack pine forests of Northwestern Ontario. For those unfamiliar with eastern jack pine, unlike Alberta, it grows well and can come close to rivalling lodgepole pine.

In 1981, I married Giselaïne, who supported my non-paid leave of absence to return to school for my HBScF at Lakehead University, which I completed in 1988. This period was a challenging time! School itself was challenging having been out of academia as long as I had, but during this time we had our first child, Philip. In 1988, I returned to fulltime employment at Dryden in harvest operations and in 1989 we had our second child, Marisa. By early 1990s I assumed responsibility for contract and company load and haul operations as well as mill inventory yard operations which entailed long hours and seemingly always being on call. From 1974 to 1994, I had worked exclusively in Dryden, but I had worked for five different companies including Dryden Paper Company, Reed Limited, Great Lakes Forest Products, Canadian Pacific Forest Products and Avenor

Incorporated. All of these different companies brought different challenges and changes. During most of my tenure I viewed myself as having opportunity to grow and advance in the organization. In the early 1990's, it became evident that there was more change and challenges for the Dryden operation and future opportunities were in my view becoming limited. Since then, the Dryden mill has changed ownership three more times; Bowater, then Weyerhaeuser and now Domtar. In 1994, I became aware of Alberta Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac). While Al-Pac commenced operations in 1993, it was still actively recruiting for key roles in 1994 and I was contacted for a Log Haul Coordinator position which I accepted, resulting in the Ellison family spending Christmas 1994 in Athabasca, Alberta.

Since December 1994 to my retirement in May 2019, I worked in numerous different roles and responsibilities at Al-Pac. Some more notable and lengthier stints were Log Haul Coordinator, Business Unit Leader of Clearwater Area, Business Unit Leader for Fibre Enhancement and Procurement, Project Management and most recent, Assistant Woodlands Manager. The move to Al-Pac and Alberta was good for me and also my family. I had plenty of challenges and career growth opportunity and working in a non-unionized environment was a breath of fresh air. Starting a large green field operation is very rare in the forest industry and while a lot of work, it was also a lot of fun. I look back with a lot of fond memories and have had the opportunity to work with many excellent employees and contractors. I would coin Al-Pac now as a mature company, with well

engrained policies and procedures, but Al-Pac is also a company that is always looking for opportunity and innovation, be it cost effective change, environmental performance or social responsibilities.

So when considering retirement, I always said if you have health and wealth and you get to the point in time where you like Saturdays more than Mondays, then it is time to have more Saturdays. I intend to play more golf, workout more, and I have just taken up curling. In general, I will be taking care of myself more than I have and we will likely shorten winters up a bit and as always, I will continue to strive to be better in all that I do and look for opportunities to be involved in new things.



## KEN BALDRY

*by Greg Boyachuk*

Ken Baldry started his career with Forestry in 1975, as an initial attack crew member in Worsley, Alberta. There he worked for Forest Officers Ken Porter and Terry Van Nest. Ken took over as the initial attack crew leader for the 1976 fire season. He worked initial attack and fire guardian for eight seasons. During this period he was also exported on major wildfires as sector boss and division boss with Lou Foley's overhead team. Ken worked in the oil patch for a few seasons, including two summers in the Yukon and Northwest Territories doing portable seismic

work. He was recruited in 1989 as the airtanker base manager in High Level. Part way through the fire season, and over a few rums at Dale Huberdeau's house, Ken expressed an interest in air attack. Two days later, he started training on a DC 6 group in High Level with air attack officer (AAO) Phil Robert. He got his training on DC6 and B-26 groups and all the required training hours while working at the tanker base. Ken was hired as a contract AAO in the summer of 1990. His first shift was training in Lac La Biche with Group 1 with Gordy Japp and Phil Robert. He received his provincial certification early in the 1990 season, and was assigned to a B-26 group.

Ken tried taking the 1995 season off from air attack, but was recruited in the spring for the Foggy Mountain wildfire as a heavy equipment co-ordinator. He worked this position for the majority of the wildfire, and then started his summer holidays. After two weeks, Revie Lieskovsky phoned saying that the Yukon had no AAO, so Ken packed his bags and went to the Yukon for the rest of the season. So much for the summer off! Ken worked with various groups over the next seasons; the DC6 group during the busy 1998 fire season, and then with the six B-26 super group in 1999. This group originally had a Cessna 310 birddog aircraft, but was quickly changed to a Turbo Commander for speed. Ken worked with this super group for nearly all of its five-year contract. Ken has worked in all areas of Alberta and with every Alberta airtanker group. Over the years he also worked in the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alaska, and has done quick strikes into Saskatchewan and Montana. Ken also worked on many of Alberta's largest wildfires,



including numerous shifts on the Fort McMurray wildfire in 2016, and the Chuckegg and MacMillan Complex wildfires in 2019. Ken's 31st year as an air attack officer was 2019, a fitting time to retire. During that period, he accumulated over 2,600 hours of flight time. In 2015, Ken was given the Max Mathon award, an award presented annually to an Air Attack Officer who demonstrates Leadership, Spirit and Dedication to Alberta's Air Attack Program; as determined by his/her peers. One of the nominees wrote: "No matter what AAO, from what generation you ask who they would like to have over their fire, his is more often than not, their choice. His reputation also goes past the Air Attack community. Fire crews, overhead and fire centre staff all value his calm, steady and thoughtful approach to fighting fire." We thank Ken for his outstanding contribution and dedication to Alberta's Air Attack Program.



### MAX MATTHEWS

*by Janet Miller*

Capping off a career with Millar Western that spanned more than 30 years, forester Max Matthews officially retired in 2019. After graduating from the University of New Brunswick forestry program in 1972, Max headed west to Alberta, where he worked in both public and private sectors – including timber cruising and silviculture projects

for the provincial government, and a term as woodlands manager for Imperial Lumber-Zeidler – before finding his permanent home at Millar Western. On starting with the company in 1987, Max filled roles in virtually all aspects of woodlands, from log haul and land use to scaling. From 1989 on, though, Max served as Millar Western's Wood Procurement Forester, playing a critical role in identifying and securing sources of timber to supplement company tenures and fibre-exchange agreements, and working tirelessly to expand and diversify the company's fibre supply. In this role, as well as in his extensive work on international, national and provincial scaling committees, Max represented Alberta's industry with great professionalism. In all undertakings, Max upheld the highest standards of his profession and served the best interests of his company, and all forest stakeholders, with an integrity that earned respect and goodwill from all.

Max also lent his efforts to community initiatives, notably including Millar Western's annual donation of a Christmas tree for the City of Edmonton. The safe harvest, delivery and installation of these massive trees was a challenging undertaking, one managed by Max with skill and a generous spirit. Whether teaching kids about trees and forestry at the Huestis Demonstration Forest or being interviewed by reporters, Max served as an excellent ambassador for his company, industry and profession. His extensive forestry knowledge, his willingness to lend a hand to all, and his ready sense of humour have all left a lasting mark on Alberta's forest sector – as has his cowboy fashion sense.

While Max's talent and determination have always been evident on the job, the same characteristics have also been very much on display in his extracurricular activities as a champion reined-cow-horse competitor. Max's friends at Millar Western and throughout the industry may have hoped his departure from full-time work might let him enjoy a little more time in the saddle. But, having launched his own consulting business, "Double M Contracting", Max remains as busy as ever, working for Millar Western and others. Looks like Max's ride into the sunset will just have to wait.



### M.J. MUNN-KRISTOFF

*Reprinted from Lakeside Leader,  
Pearl Lorentzen, July 24, 2019*

Founded in 2000, Lesser Slave Lake Forest Education Society hired M. J. Kristoff as the forest education coordinator. Her position morphed into executive director. She held that position until her retirement in June 2019. Born in Drumheller, Kristoff moved around a bit until her family settled in Edmonton when she was in Grade 4. In high school, an aptitude test suggested careers in nursing, teaching, or forestry. Since Kristoff didn't want to be a nurse or teacher, she studied forestry. By the time she graduated in 1984, she knew it was the right career for her. Kristoff's first experience teaching forestry education came when

she needed a job for three months before a trip to the Yukon and Alaska. She got a job with Alberta Forest Association teaching forestry education to children at schools in Calgary. Kristoff received lots of compliments, but still didn't feel ready to go into teaching. In April 1988, Kristoff moved to Slave Lake with her husband. In June, one of the worst floods in Slave Lake history destroyed all of their possessions. In July, they had everything they owned in a car and were in a car crash.

After a rocky start, Kristoff and her husband settled into life in Slave Lake. Her husband, Terry, worked at Zeidlers which became Slave Lake Veneer until 2017. Kristoff worked with Alberta Forestry until December 1989. She stopped work to have her first baby. For 10 years, Kristoff raised her three kids and did some contract work. Kristoff and her husband passed on their love of forestry to their kids. Two of their three children work in forestry. The other is a nurse in Slave Lake. While their kids were younger, Kristoff and her husband ran the Junior Forest Warden Program. Forest Wardens existed for a long time before that, but wasn't very active. Much to Kristoff's surprise, she realized she liked teaching people about forestry. This realization surprised her. "I struggle to learn," Kristoff says. She sees this same struggle in a lot of children, and enjoys helping them make sense of things. Especially, through hands-on teaching in the bush.

In 2000, a man named Chris Schischikowsky moved to Slave Lake area from Peace River. Schischikowsky had been involved in a forest education society up there, so he decided to start one here with the help of the local mills and Northern Lakes College. Kristoff

applied for the position of education coordinator. "This job fits right for me," Kristoff says. "I was very lucky. I want the kids to be as successful as I am." The goal of LSFES is to teach people about forestry. Since Lesser Slave Lake is on the southern edge of the boreal forest, there are lots of opportunities for field trips into the woods. In 2000, LSFES reached 1,200 kids. Now, it reaches around 9,000 each year. By 2005, LSFES had grown so much that Kristoff couldn't do everything on her own. LSFES, Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory and Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation, applied together for funding to hire an educator. For National Forest Week in September, LSFES does school forest tours for Grade 6 students on both ends of Lesser Slave Lake. Two days in Slave Lake area and one day in High Prairie. LSFES has programming for every grade which works with the existing Alberta curriculum. LSFES doesn't just teach children, it also has programs from college students.

The current LSFES board has delegates from the public and Catholic school boards, each of the four mills in Slave Lake, and the two in High Prairie, and one from Northern Lakes College. A major misconception people have about forestry is that all forests are the same, Kristoff says. The way the Amazon rain forests are managed is not the same as how the boreal forest is managed. Forests are a renewable resource, Kristoff says. People in forestry get into it because they like forests, being outside and "want to make sure we have forests forever." Kristoff has enjoyed her career. She and her husband will likely continue to do a bit of contract work. Kristoff retired, so she can travel with her husband. Their first trip will likely be to New Zealand. However, since she retired

they have been very busy with their first grandchild, family weddings and graduations, so they haven't made plans yet. For now, she and her husband plan on remaining in Widewater. When their house burnt down in 2013, Kristoff and her husband decided to rebuild it the way they wanted it, not to make it easier to resell.



### KIM RYMER

I was born in Quesnel, B.C. and brought up in Vancouver, B.C. My interest in forestry stemmed from both my father (KW Rymer) and my uncle (Ian Shiedel) being foresters. I attended the University of British Columbia and graduated from Forestry in the 1977 class. In 1977, after several summers of timber cruising, survival/check plots, road locations and the like, I took a job with the Lands Branch in Fort Saint John, B.C. The work was largely land use related, concerned with conversion of forest land to agriculture. It seemed that much of our time was spent winching the truck out of the mud – sometimes until the wee hours of the morning! In 1979, I accepted a job offer from Reid Collins and Associates in Vancouver; timber cruising, forest land valuation, forest inventory etc. Never got the International work that I wanted, but worked with some very excellent people. In January 1985, we moved to Indian and Northern



Affairs Canada (INAC) in Whitehorse, Yukon. As Yukon Regional Manager of Forest Management, I initiated such things as a preliminary forest inventory, managed cut harvest levels, and addressed issues such as log and chip exports from the Yukon. After seven years in the Yukon, a great opportunity came up with the start up of Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. in Northern Alberta near the Town of Athabasca (Al-Pac) (1992). Roughly 26 years later, I have had the privilege of working on a number of Al-Pac Forest Management Agreements, Forest Management Plans, and forest strategies for optimizing wood procurement using environmentally sound practices in the Forest Management Agreement area. This was accomplished alongside people such as Doug Sklar, Bob Nichol, Cal Dakin, Dave Cheyne, Sandra Cardinal, John Ellison, David Zelt and others.



### MARK MILL

*by Mark Mill*

In 1977, I received my diploma from Paul Kane High School in St. Albert, and spent a number of years travelling overseas to Europe, Africa, New Zealand and Australia. I also took training and worked in oil and gas drilling operations; and went to school in Calgary to learn computer programming (not my

type of subject). Years later, my neighbor Peter Murphy influenced me though friendly discussions to look into forestry as a career. In 1989, I graduated with a NAIT forest technology diploma and began working various seasonal positions in Slave Lake Forest, with Alberta Forest Service. In 1991, I was posted to Wabasca as a forest ranger and worked along side Chief Ranger Joe Smith. He instilled in me, many attributes to be a successful ranger; team work, prudent decision making, people skills, and immense fire knowledge through operational experience. In 1995, I moved to High Prairie as a forest ranger and worked with Chief Ranger Wayne Bowles. Eventually, I was promoted to area timber management specialist. In 2004, I moved to Grande Prairie as wildfire technologist. After nearly 32 years, January 3, 2020 will be my last day. I have been able to provide meaningful contribution to various fire management programs and fire incidents over the years. Future plans include playing hockey, family travel, volunteer opportunities, and the odd fly fishing excursion.



### DWIGHT WEEKS

*by Jon Taszlikowicz*

Hailing from St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Dwight got his start in forestry at an early age, tasked with getting the supply for the wood stove. During his high school years, he would earn pocket money working with the small forest operator neighbours, providing wood to Georgia Pacific or the German-owned Flakeboard Company. His family used to pick fir tips and his mom would make Christmas wreaths to sell by the truckload, many shipped internationally. Dwight also cut Christmas trees for sale in the United States. Being outside was in his blood at an early age. It was a natural progression that he would work for the Department of Natural Resources in St. Stephen after graduating from high school. Much of this work involved drafting. It was not long after that that he was accepted to the Maritime Forest Ranger School in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Following graduation, he again worked a short period for the Department of Natural Resources, but by the summer of 1978, it was time to get out in the world. He and his now-wife Khristi, travelled across Canada with only a couple of thousand dollars and a list of three to four contact names, ready to make a life somewhere out west.

One of those names was Clyde Norman at North Canadian Forest

Industry in Grande Prairie. Clyde met with Dwight and although there were no available positions in Grande Prairie, he recommended Dwight apply for a position in Hines Creek. July 17, 1978, was the beginning of Dwight's employment with Canfor. He stayed in a bush camp and supervised the tree planting operation that summer and fall. That winter he worked in the Doig River area, staying at camp and commuting to town on the weekends. In the spring, he decided to leave Hines Creek and take whatever job he could get in the Grande Prairie area. This again meant staying in camp, but working out of a trailer during spring breakup, monitoring traffic during road bans. This experience turned into a lifelong commitment to Canfor, in which Dwight fulfilled a multitude of roles. During the almost 42 years in which Dwight has worked at Canfor, he fondly recalls the earlier days in which he spent his time supervising tree planting, completing butt tallies on logs for harvesting contractors to be paid, and the many kilometres of ground covered throughout the FMA, conducting layout, timber cruising, and regeneration surveys. Later in his career Dwight's keen interest in forest management led him into Forest Management Plan development, growth and yield, and forest certification. Dwight has worked on four forest management plans through his time at Canfor, and often laughs about how the first spatial harvest sequence he created was with pencil crayons and paper maps. Dwight was also one of the early members involved in the development of the Foothills Growth and Yield Association and the Foothills Landscape Management Forum. Dwight also dedicated time to the

College of Alberta Professional Forest Technologists, spending three years on Council and serving as President in 2006.

Dwight was an active member of the Grande Prairie Lions Club for many years. One of his favorite activities with the club was the annual Christmas tree hunt, where they would go out to the bush as a club, and he would know exactly where the best trees were to fill up several trucks. These Christmas trees were then sold at various locations in town. Dwight loved running the chain saw, and watching the others heave those trees out to the road! Plans for retirement are undetermined at this point, but may include travel, golfing, spending more time with family and who knows, wreath making and Christmas trees?



### WALLY BORN

A retirement party was held for Wally Born on October 19, 2019, to celebrate Wally's 35 years of service with forestry in Alberta. He officially retired on January 2, 2020. He started with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) at the Grovedale Ranger District (DG2) in 1983, as an initial attack crew member between first and second years of NAIT forest technology. Graduating with Wally in 1984, were Keith Bereska, Roy Campbell, Garth Davis, Kelly Fallowfield (now Black), Helmut Roeben, Michelle Shesterniak and Andy and Dawn Olsevik. Seasonal

work included Grovedale, a variety of roles in the Slave Lake and Lac La Biche Forests, primarily forest management related. In July 1986, Wally became a permanent forest officer in the Wandering River Ranger District. Wally was joined there with his wife Colleen, and in 1987, a day before the Edmonton tornado, their daughter Carleen arrived. The fall of 1989 meant a move back to the Slave Lake Forest to the Kinuso Ranger District. In 1990, daughter Pamela was born. Setting a three-year pattern, Wally then moved into Slave Lake Forest headquarters as the Air Attack Officer, followed by a move in 1998 to High Prairie as the Senior Ranger. In the fall of 1997, Wally took a short hiatus to test the private sector with Kaizen Environmental. In January 1998, the company started to experience financial challenges, and Wally was able to rejoin the AFS in his role of Senior Ranger.

After the very challenging 1998 fire season Wally was successful in the newly created Airtanker Program Supervisor position in Provincial Forest Fire Centre in Edmonton. He would spend the next 13 years in Edmonton, becoming the Aviation Program Supervisor and the Manager of Aviation and Geomatics until 2012. During this time Wally introduced the Resource Tracking System (now Dispatch), a near real time resource tracking and safety system to Alberta. As residents of St Albert, the girls became active in the local Ringette association and Wally shared that time on the ice as an assistant coach and coach. In January 2012, Wally returned to his roots as the Forestry Program Manager in Grande Prairie and acted for a time as the Grande Prairie Area Manager when Jim Maitland retired and another Department reorganization



took place. In the fall of 2014, Wally returned to Edmonton as the Executive Director of the Wildfire Management. The organization evolved from offices with one desk-top computer to all staff positioned with laptops, tablets or iPads.

Over his career, Wally participated in or led changes to the national wildland fire program; from development of the Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy, a Canadian fire retardant standard, safety matrix for aircraft, helicopter pilot competencies and standards for satellite tracking of aircraft. Wally was instrumental in the development of a modernized national airtanker program, including the conversion of Alberta's four CL215Ts, and upgrading many of the airtanker bases in the province. Wally now has two grandchildren whom he intends to spend more time with, and has recently taken up bee keeping as a hobby for his retirement time.



### DAVE FINN

*by Dave Finn*

Brought up in Blairmore, I started with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) on June 13, 1988. The AFS office was a significant feature in Blairmore in the 1960's and 1970's. Harold Ganske, a Forest Officer there taught boxing and was my boxing coach when I was nine years old. I picked pine cones to sell to forestry also at age nine. \$7.00 a gunny sack was good money for a day raiding

squirrel caches on the ski hill behind the ranger station. A few years later, Peter Nortcliffe became a fly-fishing and church friend and, as it turned out, a life mentor. My summer jobs started in 1975 at age 15 (I lied about my age) planting trees for Atlas Sawmills and then onto the Blairmore Initial Attack Crew the following summer with Mike Yagos. My introduction to forestry came very early and naturally, it was just a part of the community and I grew into it. The coal mines in the Crowsnest pass and Sparwood offered better pay as I entered the full time work force at age 17 (still nursing that age lie along) but the bubble broke in the early 1980's with extensive lay-offs. As I was then married with a young family I needed steady employment and I did not want to spend my working life in a coal mine so I returned to forestry. As I had earlier decided that I would rather work than finish high school, I had to make up grade 12 courses to enter NAIT, which I did for the 1984-1986 class. I worked for two years following NAIT graduation at Grande Cache Forest Products doing cutblock layout where I met Tim Juhlin, Doug Sklar and the Forestry cohort there of Karl Peck, Don Brewer and Hugh Boyd (or, "Huge Boyd" as I came to call him whenever we were on the ice together). My break into the Alberta Forest Service (which it always has been to me despite the attempts by others to change the name over the years) came in June of 1988, with a successful eligibility list interview and Forest Officer placement to the Cold Creek Ranger Station with Jeff Henricks, who started the same day as me. Following that I moved to the LaCorey office (FO-II) in 1992, Beaver Lake office in 1996 (FO-II), Drayton Valley office (FPT) in 2000 and Rocky Mountain House (FPT

and WMS) in 2004. I remained in Rocky Mountain House until 2014 when I became the Edmonton Provincial fire behaviour specialist, my current and closing position. My last day of work will be January 24, 2020. My future will be closely linked to my home property and business, Dragonfly Greenhouses with my wife Ursula. Perhaps some travel but hopefully lots of time on the home quarter. I have two children and six grandchildren to spend time with, as well my workshop and music interests.

I consider every day that I worked to be a service to the Province. Our forest and water resources are some of our greatest assets and I feel fortunate to have been able to steward them. I have had a very rewarding career in forestry and wildfire management, and I feel that I have been a part of a greater team of dedicated people who have given their lives to this noble cause.



### RORY THOMPSON

Rory retired with over 40 years with the Government Forestry Division, just under 50 years in forestry total. He started his forestry career just out of high school with Sauze Forestry Service in the winter of 1972, then with the timber management crew that summer in Peace River. Rory worked on the timber management crew in Peace

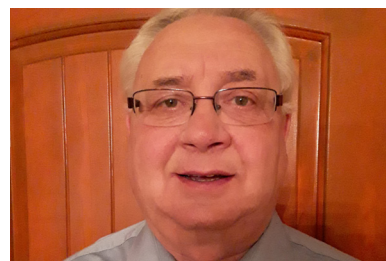
River and Rocky Mountain House while he completed a forestry diploma (1975) from NAIT and a forestry degree (1978) from the University of Montana. Maps used at the time were the early Phase 1 maps. In 1975, Phase II maps came out, an improved map used for reconnaissance cruising to help set Forest Management Unit boundaries and annual allowable cuts (AAC).

Rory's first posting was in Slave Lake as a project forester working mainly in silviculture. While at Slave Lake, he worked on the first government planting contract. Then, it was up to High Level in the summer of 1979 as a permanent employee, still focussed on silviculture. While in High Level, Rory was exposed to timber management, land use and fire suppression. The Alberta Forest Service had decided to reforest aspen areas with spruce and pine, through the Maintaining our Forests program. Those were busy times as thousands of hectares were converted to conifer stands from aspen stands.

After three years in High Level, it was down to a warmer climate in Lac La Biche for the next 13 years as the Forester-in-Charge. There were many small sawmills back then and government was responsible to cruise timber and determine cut areas with them so they could cut their AAC. Lots of fire duty as Rory was service on a Level 1 Overhead Team. He was a member of the Alberta Pacific Forest Management Task Force, a new way of working with the public on Forest Management Agreement (FMA) operations.

Rory then moved to Rocky Mountain House as the FMA forester for Sunpine Forest Products (now

West Fraser LVL). During that time, the government Forest Division re-organized into 10 areas and Rory became the first Forest Area Manager for Rocky Mountain House. In May 1996, Rory promoted to Executive Director, Northwest Boreal Region, but for family reasons after six months took a position in Edmonton in Timber Management where he worked until 2001. He then became the Senior Forestry Advisor to the Deputy Minister for a year. After working for a year in that position, Rory had a seven-year secondment to the FERIC fire research group out of Hinton, now part of FPInnovations. Rory's final role starting in 2007 was with Forest Industry Development, where he was responsible for bio-industry projects and market diversification. One project that he was proud of was the work that resulted in the re-opening of the Norbord OSB plant in High Level. Rory was a key member of the Critical Incident Peer Support program since its inception in 2007. Awards received over the years include the CIF Tree of Life Award, the Deputy Minister's Award, Achievement Award, Heroism Award, the Key to the Town of Rocky Mountain House, the Lac La Biche Allen Gauthier Memorial Award for community involvement and the Proctor Gamble Scholarship for academic achievement (NAIT).



## TIM JUHLIN

*by Tim Juhlin*

I grew up in the beautiful Crowsnest Pass and was blessed to hunt and fish with my dad from an early age. The two years I spent in Cubs and then Junior Forest Wardens weighed big in my life. I achieved the green, silver and gold badges of JFW and worked at the JFW provincial camp at Kelly's Bathtub near Hinton. The camp moved to the Blue Lake Centre where I worked for a summer and had opportunity to set up the obstacle course that people ran every morning. I worked one summer as a Junior Forest Ranger in Hinton. My supervisor was John Currat. My life was full on hunting and fishing adventures. For example, one summer I fly-fished on the Crowsnest River more than 75 times while sporting a cast on my right leg. I was always involved with the forest and it was just a natural for me to find employment in the woods. I guess being Swedish and having a grandfather called Magnus who logged on the south side of Crowsnest Mountain also contributed to my natural bent to forestry.

Upon graduation from the Crowsnest Consolidated High School, I enrolled in the Forestry Program at the University of Alberta. Graduating with a BSc. in Forest Science in 1977, I was offered a job with Revelstoke Lumber in the



Crowsnest Pass as a scaler. This job quickly turned into a Forester/Log supervisor position that I fulfilled for three years, reporting to Gary Leithhead, a well-known forester in Alberta. One day while on this job an old logger named Elmer Strandquist showed me how to properly locate a switchback. On completion of that road location, I said to Elmer "Isn't it my job to locate these roads?" and he replied. "Yes, it is, but I wanted you to learn how to do them right!" This 'on the job training' would become a great asset with the next company I would work for. In 1980, I was hired by Doug Sklar with British Columbia Forest Products (BCFP), located in Grande Cache. There with a team, we located a mainline road system. The Smoky, Ghost and Simonette haul roads were located. I located, designed and oversaw the construction of the Simonette main out to 60 kilometres from the mill. For a time we lived in Whitecourt developing harvest plans for BCFP in the Benbow Gas plant area. Some of our team also cleared what became the ANC pulp mill site. When interest rates soared to 19 percent in 1982, the BCFP project collapsed and I was transferred back to Grande Cache where I spent my time doing road and block layout, supervising harvest contractors for the afternoons. During my time with BCFP, our Woodlands team received the Alberta Order of the Bighorn for harvest plans located within caribou habitat, primarily based on my harvest planning designs for the Simonette area.

Grande Cache was a difficult place to grow a garden and our family made the decision to move in 1989. I worked for a time in Lac La Biche for the Ed Bobocel mill, but finally landed in Edson with Sundance Forest Products where a new mill with difficult start up

conditions prevailed. All aspects of my forestry skills were required as I was the Forestry Manager for a two-year period in the midst of unstable funding and upper management. I left Sundance and moved to Edmonton in 1991. In Edmonton, I began working with Jim Pearson at Timberline Forest Inventory Consultants primarily focusing on the development of the Alberta Pacific Forest Industries (ALPAC) Forest Management Area. I was asked to work out of the ALPAC office and moved my family to an acreage on Mission Road near Lac La Biche, a good location for a garden. ALPAC was a greenfield start up, and working again with Doug Sklar, Dave Fox, and Kim Rymer, we began the process of developing harvest plans for millions of cubic metres of deciduous fibre. Later I moved from harvest planning to work on the Detailed Forest Management Plan. I spent great amounts of time with Kim Rymer and Dave Cheyne in the completion of the DFMP and the starting of the First Stewardship Document. I was a member of the team that won an Emerald Award for the public engagement process that Kim Rymer spearheaded. During my last four years at ALPAC I was able to work flexible hours, so moved my family to Coleman and was able to obtain a Masters degree in Christian Ministries from Briercrest Biblical Seminary. It took almost seven years part time, but upon completion I was debt free, largely due to ALPAC's flexibility and my wife's contributions for which I am grateful.

In 2001, I began employment with the Government of Alberta as a planning Forester working with Darryl Johnson, Jean Lussier and Sam Wirzba and I coordinated the writing of the C5 Forest Management Plan. This placed me back in my home town of Coleman in the

beautiful Crowsnest Pass. In 2007, our children were all through high school and my wife Sheila and I took on a new adventure and travelled to Guatemala as missionaries with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. We spent our time working on the William Cornelius Vocational Training Centre and started Trees for Global Renewal. The stories would take a week to tell but I will just say that working with the Nature Defenders of Guatemala, we planted several thousand hardwoods on the side of a mountain at 900-foot elevation east of Lago de Izabal. I became an intermediate Spanish speaker during this time and, looking to the future, hope to become fluent.

I interviewed from Guatemala in 2009 for a Forester's position in the Calgary Forest Area and was successful in becoming an Area Forester for the C5 Forest Management Unit, returning to the beautiful Crowsnest Pass. On January 1, 2011, I shot a whopper of an elk during the late 300B season that scored 335 net and it is just one of the prettiest sights I am forced to view daily in my stairwell. In the last two years, I have been working out of Calgary as the Forester for the Spray Lake Sawmills Forest Management Area. I am, however, glad to be moving into retirement where I expect to be hugging grand children, fishing and hunting more often, and traveling with Sheila possibly to New Zealand in the near future. I also will be publishing some poems and one hunting novella and may take a stab at some serious writing.



## BART McANALLY

by Mike Undershultz

I've always wondered if Bart was a vampire. Not in a creepy, bloodsucking sort of way, but because of his eternal youth. Maybe it's just me, but it seems that Bart has not changed a bit since I met him 25 years ago in Manning where he was stationed as a Forest Officer. At that point in his career, Bart already had about a decade of work with the Department under his Alberta Forest Service belt buckle. Bart, a native Albertan, was seduced into a career in natural resource management in 1982 as a Junior Forest Ranger member in Hinton. He then graduated NAIT Forest Technology in 1983, and shot off on a whirlwind tour of Alberta small towns. First was a posting on a seasonal timber management crew in High Level in 1983. From 1984-1988 he continued on as a seasonal crew member undertaking silviculture surveys, timber cruising, and recreation guardian work. In the winters Bart was doing what he does best... exploring the globe.

Eventually Bart did land a Forest Officer position in Smith where he worked from 1988-1991. Around this time, it appeared that Bart was simultaneously bitten by the travel bug and the love bug. So, it was off for a year-long honeymoon, travelling with his better half, Maureen. Luckily upon returning he was able to land another Forest

Officer position, this time in Manning where he remained until 1998.

During this time, Maureen undertook a teacher exchange and the young couple headed to Australia. For that 1996 school year down under, Bart had his dream job - a fisherman house husband. It was not long after returning to Canada that Bart accepted a job as a Wildfire Ranger in Calgary. After about seven years in the wildfire program, Bart had an interest in reclaiming his summers to spend time more time with his wife and young kids. In 2005, he had the opportunity to join the forest health team as the Forest Health Technician in Calgary. After a decade of learning the ropes in the business of forest pest management, Bart was promoted to Calgary Forest Health Officer in 2015 and has not looked back since.

With Bart's departure in the new year, I asked him about his short and long-term retirement plans. He said the first order of business is "to get organized this winter". Fortunately, Bart is getting organized for an exciting year that includes a 175 kilometre Sunshine Coast trail hike on the west coast in July 2020, heading across Canada in a camper van to hike in Newfoundland in August and September, and if all goes according to plan he will be escaping the next Canadian winter to hike and camp in New Zealand. Over the next 10 or so years, Bart and Maureen plan on spending the winters somewhere warm, moving around every month or so. The following decade will likely be snow-birding to some of their favorite destinations they will have recently discovered. After that, the plan is to set up a routine and fully retire. Bart mentioned he is really looking forward to spending time with his wife and family, and hopefully some friends along the

way. But it may not all be fun and games, as Bart may pick up odd jobs and maybe a contract or two to help fund future travel plans.

Over his more than 36-year career, Bart noted his highlight has been working with the Forest Health group. "As you know I have worked in land use, timber management, wildfire and recreation, and by far the most adaptive hard working crew that really cares about their work has been this forest health bunch" noted Bart. He added, "I don't have enough fingers to count all the top notch folks in our group. I felt supported respected and I could not have asked for a better group of professional people to work and socialize with. Thank you for making my last few years enjoyable."



## BILL BLACK

by Bill Black

I was born in 1958 in the small community of Fergus Ontario, established in 1833 by Scottish settlers, and home to the Fergus Highland Games and Scottish Festival (<https://fergusscottishfestival.com/>). I spent much of my time growing up in local and farm woodlots or at the lake fishing, hiking or hunting. The woods were a second home and one of my primary interests. The relationships between the fauna and flora and the quiet calm of the woods was an amazing classroom. In high school I pursued sciences that could be applied to my study of forests,



lands and wildlife including the first Environmental Science courses provided at the time. From there it only made sense to continue to pursue my studies after high school. I attended Sir Sandford Fleming College in Lindsay, Ontario, and attained two technical diplomas over three years of study (1977 – 1980).

I arrived in Grande Prairie, Alberta on May 5, 1981 to work as the Recreation Maintenance Crew Leader for the summer. I quickly took to the area and the people and in the fall of the same year, I accepted a job as a Forest Ranger at the Grovedale Ranger Station. I feel extremely fortunate to have mentored under Chief Ranger Stan Clarke, FOIII Frank Lewis, FOIII Don Podlubny and to have worked with Rangers Al Malcolm, Andy Gesner, Karl Peck, Roger Meyer, Ron Williams and Simon Earl ... and I was a Forest Ranger!! How many kids from Southern Ontario can say that? I met the future Mrs. Black, Kelly Fallowfield, while she worked in the district as a Tower Person. After 8 ½ years we left the Grande Prairie Forest to work in the LaCorey Ranger District of the Lac La Biche Forest.

LaCorey was a completely different landscape than Grovedale. Our move took us from the east slopes to the jack pine and black spruce fuel complex of Alberta's northeast. As well, the deep wells of the foothills were replaced with the heavy oil in-situ developments in the Cold Lake area. It was the land of lakes, and fishing became a favourite pastime. After years in the asbestos forest of Grande Prairie, I was introduced to large campaign fires in isolated locations and the comforts of the Canvas Hilton. In 1994, we closed the LaCorey Ranger Station and moved operations into the Bonnyville Provincial

Building. Kelly and I purchased an acreage and settled off site to raise a family. While in LaCorey are family grew to include daughters Robyn (1992) and Kaitlin (1994). The opportunities associated to the workload here eventually lead to a promotion and in the spring of 1999, I accepted a Land Management Specialist Position in Athabasca.

Athabasca has been very good to us. We moved our household to our Hilltop Home the last week of June 1999. On the Canada Day Long Weekend we attended our first Magnificent River Rats Festival; what a great show and amazing presentation space, I was hooked. Two years later I became a member of the committee that presented the Canada Day festival and remained involved, presiding over the committee for six of my 10 years with them. The challenges of a diverse workload continued to foster my growth as a regulator. Challenge however wasn't specific to workload. During my time in Athabasca change has become the singular constant in our work. We experienced amalgamation of Districts, Forests and Regions. The historic structure of field delivery shifted from a technical delivery focus to a combined technical and professional management model, and ultimately the redistribution of workload components and associated staff within Government and Regulatory service providers. During my 20 years in Athabasca, I have been lucky to be surrounded by staff committed to the delivery of a program ensuring environmental protection through the respectful development of resources, the protection of the public's interest, regulatory compliance and professional integrity. Through the application of chaos theory, it has been my hope to create conditions

within the cycle of change for positive growth and program improvements. When I left home and headed west my Mother reminded me, "that everyone is entitled to my opinion." I held onto that truth and lived by it throughout my time, at all my postings and in all my positions.

I have worked closely with management and staff during challenging and difficult times and seen the benefits of our efforts. At retirement, I left good people behind in challenging times. While change carries the challenge, I would offer that fundamentally the work hasn't changed. Most change is based on ideology, priority and strategy. That said, I believe it is still about the right thing, right place, right time with proof of limited long-term adverse effect and the ability to offset impact of the developmental footprint and ultimately eliminate any impacts created. I am pleased and proud to have worked with good people in public service in the many iterations of "The Forestry" over the course of my career. I plan to continue living large in retirement. Its time to reverse the work/life balance. Plans are in the works with nothing specific to report at present. It's a big world and every day it seems there are more opportunities to grow and learn ... many of them at our fingertips. Who knows where the retirement road leads but one thing's for sure, an adventure looms on the horizon.

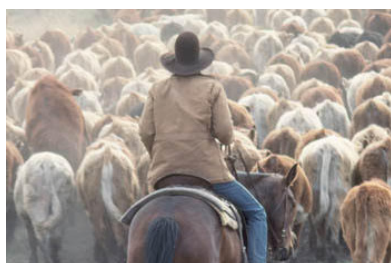


## CRAIG ARMSTRONG

by Janet Miller

After a distinguished career spanning more than four decades in Canada's forest sector, J. Craig Armstrong has announced his retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of Millar Western Forest Products Ltd. On January 1, 2020, Craig stepped down from his CEO role to accept a new appointment as Vice-Chair of the Millar Western Board of Directors. Over the course of a 32-year career with Millar Western, Craig made major contributions to the company's growth and advancement. Having worked previously with Prince Albert Pulp and St. Anne Nackawick Pulp and Paper, he joined Millar Western in 1987, becoming part of the team that would launch Alberta's first bleached chemi-thermomechanical pulp (BCTMP) mill in 1988. As Vice-President of Pulp Sales and Marketing, he played a leading role in the development of the international market for BCTMP. In subsequent years, Craig took on increasingly senior positions in the company, culminating in his 2010 appointment as Millar Western's President and CEO. While leading Millar Western, Craig also contributed significantly to the progress of the Alberta and Canadian forest sectors, serving in executive

and board roles with industry organizations including the Alberta Forest Products Association, Forest Products Association of Canada, Bi-national Softwood Lumber Council, and Sustainable Forestry Initiative. To each of his roles, Craig brought his outstanding leadership qualities, business acumen, industry knowledge, and personal integrity. As Vice-Chair of the Board, Craig will serve Millar Western in an advisory capacity and continue representing the company in industry associations including FPAC and the Bi-national Softwood Lumber Council.



## TIM KLEIN

At about the age of 12, Tim watched a forestry truck pull into the ranch yard and then listened as a man in a uniform talked to his Dad. In a few minutes, his Dad walked out of the house with his bedroll and left to fight fire. It was only a mile and a half walk through the smoke laden air to the local ranger station, so Tim walked there to watch the excitement of firefighters gathering and orders given. In the years that followed, Tim tended to spend time at that same ranger station and shadowed then chief ranger Ed Beebe. There, he spent time in the tool cache sharpening shovels, painting axes and repairing snowshoes. Mostly it was just getting in Ed's way and doing anything to avoid chores at home! Finally, Ed kicked his backside and told him to get a paying job, and on April 12, 1974 after attending the lookout

course in Hinton, he headed for Hotchkiss tower. Working lookouts in the summer and a problem wildlife job in the winter, Tim would soon see even more variety of jobs. As a fireline radio operator, he became interested in the telecom field that kept him in close connection with the lookout program. It was a good fit when the call went out to refurbish the old tower steel and do so "in house". The telecom field brought other interesting ventures. Tim was part of a team to prepare for the unknown of Y2K, attached to the G8 Summit in Kananaskis and on the first complete overhead team exported to the United States. He also taught the radio portion of the lookout observer course, a role that led to Tim chairing the course for many years. A decision to start a program of replacing the tower structures saw Tim seconded to the provincial fire center to work under the guidance of Gordon Graham. The objective was to work closely with the Construction and Maintenance section and the contractors to kick this capital project in gear. The secondment lead to permanent placement in Edmonton as a Wildfire Detection Technician. Interspersed throughout the years were too many other tasks and projects to mention here. He has no regrets other than leaving the outfit on February 29, 2020.





### ROY CAMPBELL

Born and raised in Westmount, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Roy retired from the Alberta government on February 7, 2020. He attended the Riverview Rural High School, the College of Cape Breton Business Management, and NAIT Forest Technology from 1982 to 1984. Moving to Alberta in 1976, Roy worked a number of construction jobs in Calgary, driving taxi on the side. His first job with the Alberta Forest Service was in 1983 as the warehouseman in Fort Assiniboine and Swan Hills District, Whitecourt Forest. From there, Roy went to Footner Lake Forest on the timber management crew and a forest officer on wages. In December, 1985, he became a permanent assistant timber management technician at the Footner Lake Forest headquarters. Roy then moved to the High Level District as a forest officer from 1986 to 1989, then moving to the Brazeau District, Rocky Clearwater Forest from 1989 to 1991. Roy was then promoted to Forest Officer III and IV, Senior Ranger from 1991 to 1999, at the Cold Creek District in the Whitecourt Forest and later Yellowhead Forest Area. This was a time of major changes with the centralization of districts. The next move for the Campbell family was to Grande Prairie, where Roy was the forest protection officer and then wildfire and air operations officer from 1999 to 2004. He was then promoted

to Wildfire Manager in Calgary from 2004 to 2009. Roy was then seconded to the wildfire operations group at FPIInnovations until his retirement on February 7, 2020. Roy was a logistics section chief on a number of wildfire incidents over the years, had a hand in establishing both the Grande Prairie and Calgary fire centres, and supported design of the provincial logistics section structure and training. Retirement for Roy will be completing the list of things not done over the years, another work project or two, and hunting and fishing with friends.



### RICK BLACKWOOD

*Submitted by Rick Blackwood*

Born and raised in Edmonton and Peace River, it didn't take long to realize growing up, the big city was not really where my heart was. After gathering lots of outdoor experience, I decided to pursue forestry as a career path in the hopes that it would provide a variety of opportunities to move in to as a natural resource degree with both planning and operations elements. I was most interested in pursuing a position as a National Park Warden, and was lucky enough to get a seasonal position in Jasper National Park for the summers while still going to the University of Alberta. I stayed on after graduation as a seasonal warden in the summer doing both

front country and backcountry work, and pro ski patroller and avalanche controller in the winter at Marmot Basin. Permanent positions within the National Parks system were very hard to come by, so after five years of seasonal work, and needing something a bit more stable after getting married, in 1984 I took an opportunity with the Alberta Forest Service, and the rest is history. Various stints in Edmonton and Slave Lake in Extension Services, Reforestation, and Field Operations helped me to gain experience, and in 1992, I took a secondment to the fledgling Model Forest Program, with what was then the Foothills Model Forest in Hinton. It was a wonderful growth experience that allowed me to work with a wide range of interest groups and industry, and after about 8 years, Mr. Henderson called and said it was time to "come home". I then took on the role as Manager of the Bow Forest Area in Calgary, and with ongoing change and reorganization over a 10-year period, that role shifted to Land and Forest Manager and then Area Manager of the combined Bow and Crow Forest areas, the Southern Rockies Area. Great times and great people again along the way. The last stage in Edmonton saw me in roles including Assistant Deputy Minister of Fish and Wildlife, Integration and finally Strategy, along with the role of Stewardship Commissioner for the Land Use Secretariat. Edmonton will continue to be home for a while but something smaller and with a few less people and cars is most likely in the cards down the road. I am very thankful to have worked with some of the best people I have ever met in the forestry community, many of them great teachers and mentors.

# OBITUARIES

## RAYMOND RANGER

by Robert Udell

Born April 7, 1938 in Lloydminster, Raymond Ranger passed away on April 20, 2018 at 80 years of age. Ray Ranger began working at North Western Pulp & Power during the construction phase of the pulpmill in 1956. When Ray told Des Crossley he had roots in Lloydminster, Des (who also grew up there, descendent of a Barr Colonist) gave him a job in the Forestry Department. Ray's first days on the job was joining a company crew, flying out to the Berland tower to support the Alberta Forest Service fighting a wildfire. Fortunately it rained, helping extinguish the wildfire, however, the heavy rains limited the amount of supplies and food that was brought in. The crew ate moose meat and potatoes for about a week. Later, Des encouraged Ray to take formal training as a forest technician. In 1958, Ray attended the ranger school in Dorset, Ontario. Coming back to NWP&P, he continued to work in Forestry, rising through the ranks to become Jack Wright's assistant in the forest management and inventory group, where Ray ran the permanent sample plot program. Later he became the head of the Land Use Department and made some important contributions to the bottom line of the company through his dealings with the oil patch and CNR. He was also, along with Don Laishley and me (Bob Udell), a member of the triumvirate that negotiated the 1988 Forest Management Agreement that set the stage for the ensuing major expansion. Years of ill health caught up to him in the 1990s and he went off on long term disability, moving with his wife Sarah to Marshall, Saskatchewan, where he owned a farm left to him by his uncle. He officially retired sometime in the 2000s. Ray was a colourful character and a great guy.

## WILLIAM 'BILL' DAVIES

Born in Nordegg, Bill passed away on January 17, 2019 at the age of 89. A child of the Coal Branch in the heart of the Alberta Rockies, Bill grew up in the coal mining town of Mountain Park. Bill went on to serve in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, as a Forest Ranger, and as a civil servant championing Alberta's Co-op Home Action Program. During his retirement

years, Bill researched and authored several publications on the Coal Branch, its mines and people, as well as mapping the Mountain Park Cemetery and assisting in the Cemetery's preservation. Bill attended Basic Ranger Training at the Forestry Training School in 1961, and was the Chief Ranger to the Pine District, Whitecourt Forest from December 1962 to October 1966.

## MARY CHAWRUN

Mary Chawrun passed away on May 2, 2019 at the age of 92. Mary began working as a cook at the Forest Technology School in Hinton in 1963, shortly after the training school moved from Kananaskis. In the mid-1970s, Mary became head cook, retiring in 1985 after 24 years. The following training school directors provided their insight on Mary. Peter Murphy recalls how valuable the local residents were in supporting the training school, covering surge capacity and willingly working split shifts. Bernie Simpson recalls Mary was there in 1973 when he arrived, and how she took over from the unreliable staff they had. Ross Risvold says Mary was very well respected by all the staff, and he would have coffee with her when he needed sound advice and wisdom.

## JOSEF NIEDERLEITNER

Josef Niederleitner was born in Klosterneuburg, Austria, January 8, 1928. He was the eldest child to parents, Josef and Katherina. His childhood was spent in the Vienna and Tullner Feld areas, where he took an interest in and helped with many things including maintenance of agricultural crops, caring of domestic stock and past time pursuits such as fishing and hiking. He would have attended his early years in school at this time as well. He had talents in literatures, swan, learned to fly gliders; he could also work draft horse and oxen, used the scythe, and was an accomplished marksman. At a young age (15/16 years) he became a soldier in the German infantry (late 1944), despite interest in him as a potential pilot. He would have seen very unique thing as at that time, include the first military jets. His military experience was short lived when he was wounded in action. During the closing weeks of the war he was hospitalized, having received several gunshots. He was a veteran at 17



years of age. Following the war he worked as a civilian police officer in southern Austria and won the respect of many fellow officers, as well as an exciting series of experience in "occupied Austria". He also worked in a German foundry and learned a trade as a "moulder".

In the early 1950s he immigrated to Ontario, and then moved to Yellowknife where he worked in the Giant Mine and assisted geologist. These years would have been pivotal in his interest in the outdoors, hunting and fishing. Moving to Edmonton in the mid-1950s he was hired on with the Department of Lands and Forests, working for Frank Platt. Work there included taking aerial photography, fire mapping and determining the location of lookout towers. In 1971, Joe took a research position with the Canadian Forest Service focussed on wildfire detection, including use of infra-red cameras. In 1977 he returned to the provincial government and worked on the lightning detection system and did a review of the wildfire detection system.

Joe retired in 1987 and moved to the west coast. When in Edmonton, Joe married Frieda Steigner and they had three children, Joe, Sherry and Susan. Joe founded and was president of Club Austria for 30 years, bringing a venue for new Austrian immigrants to celebrate their culture.

### LOU FOLEY

Born on July 10, 1946, Lou Foley passed away on April 11, 2019 at the age of 72. Lou was born and raised in the Kinuso and Slave Lake area, eventually going into the "family business" of forestry and wildfire management. With a career spanning over 40 years, Lou live and worked in almost every corner of Alberta, making friends wherever he went. Following in the footsteps of his grandfather Albert and father Pat, Lou started working for the Alberta Forest Service in the early 1960s, becoming a Forest Officer in Kinuso in 1967. When Lou retired in 1995, he was the Manager of Wildfire and Aviation Operations. Lou went on to a second career with Vanderwell Contractors in Slave Lake following his retirement from government. Far from shy, Lou could always be counted on to offer up one of his smartass comments or good-natured jabs to anyone within sight or ear shot. Honest and kind to a fault, he was as open with his love and compassion as he was with his opinions. The impact he had on the people fortunate enough to know or

meet him cannot be measured, each and every one of them having or sharing at least a couple of "Lou Stories". He will be loved and missed by many.

Lou is survived by his loving wife of forty-eight years Sheila; two sons, Hudson and Jason; and his three granddaughters, Meaghan, Ciara and Fiona.

### GORDON THOMAS

Gordon Thomas, born in Edmonton on October 11, 1932, passed away on August 11, 2019 in Westlock at the age of 86 years. Brought up in Bruderheim and Edmonton, Gordon moved to Flatbush in 1947, where he farmed for most of his life. He worked in sawmills in winter from 1947 at Flatbush, Spurfield, Freeman River, Timeu, Kinuso, Faust and the Smith area. In summer he operated heavy equipment building roads at Strathmore, Calgary and the Flatbush area.

### TELLEF VAASJO

Tellef Vaasjo passed away on September 3, 2019 at the age of 96. He was born, grew up and met his wife Jean in Cold Lake, Alberta. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1943, where he pursued his dream of being a pilot. After the war he briefly flew cargo airplanes in Northern Canada until he began flying helicopters in 1950. When he retired in 1986, Tellef was President of Associated Helicopters in Edmonton. Peter Murphy provided the following information on Tellef. "He and Frank Platt worked closely to get the first AFS helicopter and to train staff on how to use them, and to set up a contract of services from Associated Helicopters. We organized a course for Fire Control Officers in the early 1960s at FTS Hinton. Frank arranged to have Tellef talk about helicopters, their capabilities and limitations; safety around them; including use of the winch for lowering staff from hovering. It was a commanding set of presentations, partly because the topic was new and possibilities exciting. His well-organized talk and first-hand knowledge were commanding; and he was very personable with no 'airs', just an expert with neat stories to share. We tried recording it, but our vintage device was not up to it, but we made notes and assembled a reference that served as an introduction to helicopters for starters. Frank brought the helicopter out to Hinton the following fall. He gave the same presentation to students (all AFS at that time), and gave each one an opportunity

to descend on the winch, all 20 plus some of us staff. In retrospect, a challenging bit of flying to do about 23 descents in an afternoon, but all much appreciated and it made the point about safety procedures.

### MIKE LAMBE

Mike passed away on July 22, 2019 after a series of health issues. Following graduation in Ontario, Mike moved to Alberta in the mid-1970s and worked on the timber management crew in Grande Prairie. He then moved to Fox Creek as a Forest Officer, leaving there in 1986, moving to Slave Lake. Mike left the Alberta government in 1999.

### DON WILLIAMS

*by Glen Gache*

The unexpected passing of Don Williams this past year was a terrible shock to all that knew him. Born December 4, 1963, Don passed away on November 16, 2019 at 55 years of age. It will leave a hole in the hearts of many friends and colleagues as Don's career spanned many years in the department in various locations. Don conducted seasonal work throughout the province until he was posted as a Forest Officer at the Manning Ranger Station in the fall of 1988. Don was an excellent officer and was involved in multiple work specialties throughout his career. These included supervision and management of various programs and active participation in timber cruising, reforestation, harvest operations, lands management, and all components of forest protection program including fire suppression. Don had many interests that involved being in the field and had a great fondness for the wilderness and in all forms. He was an avid hunter and angler, and took opportunities to assist department initiatives such as wildlife surveys and most recently had contributed extensive time to the Grizzly Bear survey project in the Peace Region.

Don loved to read and was especially fond of his music; Rolling Stones, The Doors, Pink Floyd, and the Tragically Hip come to mind. He would make

many treks to attend concerts no matter where they occurred on the continent. Some of Don's biggest friends over the years were his dogs Sunny, Mr. Mouse, Benny, Uday, Qusay and Tupac. They provided him not only companionship but hours of entertainment. He truly loved his dogs as well as his pheasant farm. Don took much pride in his acreage located west of North Star where he resided for most of his career, where his buildings and surroundings were always kept immaculate and well maintained. Although he valued his privacy, Don had a warm personality, big heart and welcomed many people over the years to the Peace Region from coworkers to industrial clients and contractors working on behalf of the department. Don's career as an Officer in all his roles began at the Manning Ranger Station office up until the time of his passing. He was truly one of a kind and will be dearly missed.

### DALE FRANK

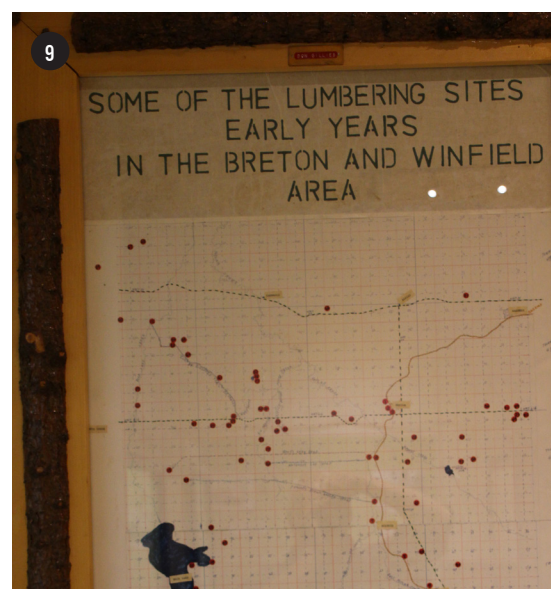
Born November 1, 1941, Dale passed away on June 28, 2019 at the age of 77 years. Born and raised in Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba, Dale spent his early years working at various jobs in Manitoba, spending 11 years employed by Tanco at Bernic Lake. In 1978, Dale moved to Whitecourt, Alberta as the carpenter foreman with the Alberta Forest Service in the Whitecourt Forest. Dale retired in 2003. If he wasn't in his carpenter shop working and whistling, he could be found at his desk doing the daily crossword puzzle. As a finishing carpenter, Dale excelled in cabinetry, creating intricate designed desks, rocking horses, and chairs for the little ones. Dale's passion was golfing, which is how he spent his summers travelling western Canada and in the winter, parts of the United States playing different courses on family vacations. Being an avid hockey and football fan, he never gave up on his "Habs" and "Riders", no matter how badly they played.



# FOREST HISTORY PHOTO CORNER

## BRETON AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

On December 1, 2018, Peter Murphy, Bruce Mayer, Katie and Simon Lamoureux visited the Breton and District Historical Museum, where curator Allan Goddard gave a fantastic tour of the collection, and a short overview of the influence John Walter's Edmonton operations had on the entire Breton and Winfield areas. The museum collection is a must visit.







1. Display of tools used in the early logging and sawmilling days

2. L to R: Simon and Katie Lamoureux and Peter Murphy; Breton Museum; December 1, 2018

3. L to R: Peter Murphy and Allan Goddard; Breton Museum; December 1, 2018

4. D. R. Fraser and Company, large logging and sawmill company in the area in the late 1800s and early 1900s

5. Instructions on building your own farm sawmill

6. Display of the tools and requirements for a homesteader in the 1900s

7. L to R: Tom Willis, Peter Murphy and Allan Goddard; Breton Museum; December 1, 2018

8. Display of tools used in the early logging and sawmilling days

9. Map showing the location of Breton and Winfield sawmills in the late 1800s and early 1900s

10. L to R: Local resident, historian and D. R. Fraser's grandson, Tom Willis, with Peter Murphy; Breton Museum; December 1, 2018





## BILL MCPHAIL COLLECTION

Bill McPhail worked for the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) from the 1940s, until his retirement in 1985. In 1954, Peter Murphy and Bill McPhail worked together cruising timber in the Fort McMurray area, part of the Northern Alberta Forest District. Bill was the compassman on the canoe trip down the Athabasca River; as they worked on the first forest inventory in the area, part of the provincial forest inventory program. Peter Murphy and the McPhail family provided this collection of photographs.







1. L to R: Bill McPhail, Peter Murphy, Jack Robson and Paul Dworshak; fly-camp on the Muskeg River; Fort McMurray area; 1954; Peter Murphy photograph

2. Alberta Forest Service DC3 CF-IAE in Fort Smith; Wood Buffalo wildfires; 1970s

3. Alberta Forest Service Courier CF-AFC in Fort Smith; Wood Buffalo wildfires; 1970s

4. Associated Helicopters Bell 204; Wood Buffalo wildfires; 1970s

5. L to R: Paul Dworshak, Peter Murphy at the motor, Al Baisley (cook) reading, and the dog; Moving camp along the Athabasca River; 1954. Peter Murphy said; "this was likely taken in late August as we were heading back upriver. When we got to the Embarras Portage trading post, the AFS arranged to lend us a river skiff and rented a 15 HP outboard motor to come back south. We lashed the two remaining canoes to the sides, also loaded with gear. The third canoe was damaged when a snag being felled for firewood fell back and landed across its bow. It was accepted that "them's the breaks". We got to load it onto a Northern Transportation barge at Embarras Portage to ship to Waterways, later to Edmonton on the Northern Alberta Railway. We had consulted with Reg Loomis by AFS radio messages relayed through Dewey Feland on Heart Lake tower and Len Kolstad at Lac La Biche. We agreed we would run long cruise lines due east and west of the river to fill in gaps in the sampling. It was slow travelling, but quite luxurious to be moving without paddle power.

6. Fire camp in Wood Buffalo National Park; Wood Buffalo wildfires; 1970s

7. L to R: Paul Dworshak, Peter Murphy at the motor, Al Baisley (cook) reading, and the dog; Moving camp along the Athabasca River; 1954.

8. Peter Murphy at cruise camp; Athabasca River; 1954

9. L to R: Peter Murphy, dog and Paul Dworshak; Athabasca River; 1954

10. L to R: Gene Simms, Bill McPhail, Harold Wilde, Not Identified, Not Identified, Harold's brother; Athabasca River to House River; September 1972

11. L to R: Clayton Thayer, Bob Wilson, Art Robinson and Bob Glover; 1960s





## PATRICK HENDRIGAN COLLECTION

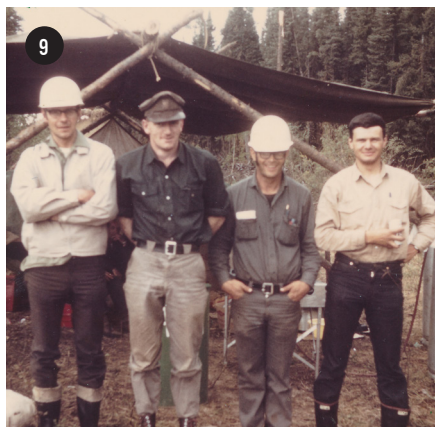
Patrick Hendrigan spent the summer of 1956 as a towerman on Carbondale Lookout, and then cruised timber with Johnny Booker out of the Calling Lake Forestry cabin. After a short stint in Conklin as a seasonal ranger, Patrick took on a number of different roles throughout the world. His work with the Royal Canadian Signal Corp. took Patrick across Canada and, as a United Nations Peace Keeper, a year each in the Sinai Peninsula (UNEF 1) and the Congo (previously Belgian Congo). Patrick was then a sailor with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans out of Nanaimo; a hunting guide on the Spatsizi Plateau; a fire lookout in the Rocky and Peace River Forest Districts; and then a Forest Ranger with Alberta Forest Service. In total, he worked 31 years in dedicated service towards environmental protection, retiring in 1993.





## FRANK LEWIS COLLECTION

Frank Lewis started as a Party Chief cruising timber in Fort McMurray on January 1, 1968, working for Cliff Henderson. He was promoted to forest officer in Fort McKay in the winter of 1969-70, then moving to the Three Creeks District in the Peace River Forest in 1975. In 1980, Frank and family moved to Grovedale in the Grande Prairie Forest, and just under two years, moved to High Level. In 1984, Frank moved for the last time to Hinton, retiring as Chief Ranger. Frank spent 30 years with the Alberta Forest Service, retiring in 1997.



1. Carbondale Lookout, Crowsnest Forest; 1956

2. Old Calling Lake Forestry cabin, Lac La Biche Forest; 1956

3. 19 year-old Pat Hendrigan at the Conklin Ranger Station, Lac La Biche Forest; 1957

4. Crew of rangers and seasonal staff building Battle Tower, Peace River Forest; 1970s

5. Fire camp, northeast Alberta; 1970s

6. Fire camp, northeast Alberta; 1970s

7. Pat Hendrigan with snowshoes, Slave Lake Forest; 1980s

8. L to R: Terry Van Nest, Dave Bartesko, Bob Hilbert, Darren Fanton, Frank Lewis (Fire Boss), Lyall Gill, Ed Dechant; Talbot Lake Overhead Team, Slave Lake Forest; 1981

9. L to R: Fred Schroeder (Plans Chief), Dale Huberdeau (Fire Boss), Frank Lewis (Service Chief), Bob Plankenhorn (Operations Chief); Algar Lake Overhead Team, Athabasca Forest; 1971

10. L to R: Rick Bambrick, Frank Lewis (Chief Ranger), Len Norman, Stew Walkinshaw, William (Bill) Gilmour; Hinton Ranger Station Rangers; 1988

11. L to R: Bob Hilbert, John Bradley, Not Identified (with cart), Frank Lewis; Peace River Overhead Team at the Fort Chipewyan airport; June 26, 1979



# FOREST HISTORY PHOTO CORNER



The 35th Annual AFS Oldtimers Hockey Tournament was held at the Athabasca Multiplex on February 8 and 9, 2020. The 2021 hockey tournament is planned in Athabasca for February 6 and 7, 2021.







1. Alberta Forest Products Association Board; Back Row (L to R): Neil deGelder, Chuck Rutledge, Ken Vanderwell, Craig Armstrong, Joerg Goetsch, Mark Feldinger, Ron Dunn, Nathan Corser, Ray Ferris, Arnold Fiselier, James Gorman, Fred Dzida, Jason Fisher; Front Row (L to R): John Unger, Howie Ewashko, Minister Devin Dreeshen, MLA Martin Long, Paul Whittaker and Jason Boucher; Jasper; September 26, 2019

2. L to R: Jason Pankratow, Morgan Kehr, Mike Tucker, Pat McIlwaine and Sean MacNeil; First Alberta firefighters to be exported to Australia as part of the larger Canadian contingent; December 3, 2019

3. Game on, at the 35th Annual AFS Oldtimers Hockey Tournament; Athabasca; February 8 and 9, 2020



The 44th Annual Eric Huestis Curling Bonspiel was held at the Athabasca Multiplex on February 8 and 9, 2020. The 2021 curling bonspiel is planned in Athabasca for February 6 and 7, 2021.

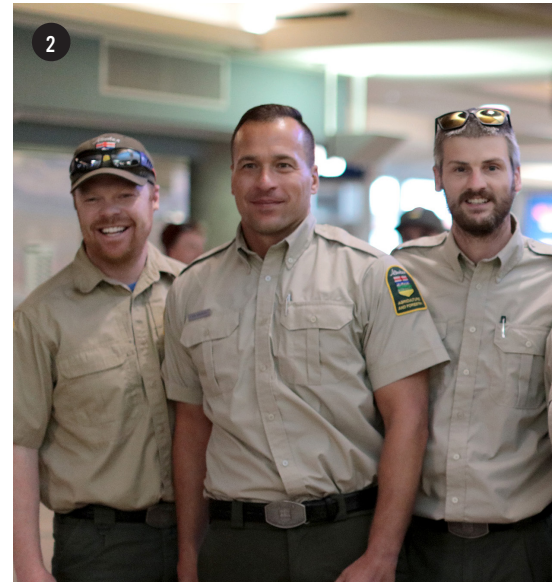
4. Curling underway at the 44th Annual E.S. Huestis Curling Bonspiel; Athabasca; February 8 and 9, 2020

5. L to R: Roy Campbell presented with retirement pulaski from Chad Morrison; February 4, 2020

6. L to R: John Ellison, Derek Bakker, Maria Sharpe, Colin Bentley, Andrea Sharpe, Dave McArley, Cal Dakin and Vince Giberson; 44th Annual E.S. Huestis Curling Bonspiel; Athabasca; February 8 and 9, 2020

7. Back Row (L to R): Ed Chartrand, Craig Dockrill, Trevor Boe, Connor Wollis, Donnie Hansen, Dave Cheyne (injured) and Michel Michon; Front Row (L to R): Alan Gammon, Neil McNalty, Graham McAulay, and Russ MacDonald; AFS Oldtimers winners; Athabasca; February 8 and 9, 2020









1. L to R: The Hutchison Family (Wendy, Cam, Tom and Cullen), Susan Eliuk, Troy O'Connor, Jessica Barrett and Jeff Henricks; 44th Annual E.S. Huestis Curling Bonspiel; Athabasca; February 8 and 9, 2020

2. L to R: Russell Murphy, Rob Anderson, Stephen Willis, Melissa Bulldog, Mike May, Marc Freedman; Returning from export in Australia; February 10, 2020

3. L to R: The Hutchison Family (Cullen, Tom, Cam and Wendy); 2020 Huestis A Winners; 44th Annual E.S. Huestis Curling Bonspiel; Athabasca; February 8 and 9, 2020

4. L to R: Shannon O'Dwyer, Kelly Krywiak, Trina Grosse and Mathew Christie; 2020 Winkist B winners; 44th Annual E.S. Huestis Curling Bonspiel; Athabasca; February 8 and 9, 2020

5. L to R: Graham Legaarden and Bev Wilson; Wally Born Retirement; October 19, 2019

6. Removing rime ice from Watt Mountain; January 26, 2010

7. L to R: Jason Cottingham, Krista Woods, Mark Newman, Jessie Baron and Richard Paton; Alberta Firefighters heading to Australia; January 6, 2020

8. L to R: Alberta Wildfire Prevention Managers; Christie Tucker, Patrick Loewen, Chad Morrison and Adam Gossell; December 23, 2019

9. L to R: Gerald Carlson, Tony and Cory Sikora; Lou Foley Memorial; September 14, 2019









1. L to R: Forrest Barrett, Amanda Harrison, Kent Jennings, Rick Moore, Mat Christie, Tanya Letcher, Ed Trenchard and Tom Patreau; Alberta Firefighters to Australia; December 21, 2019

2. L to R: Alexandra Rutherford, Jorge Camacho-Tornero, Sam Mazurik, Bertie Beaver (Steven Mazurik), Joe Lyons; Peace River Santa Claus Parade; December 3, 2019

3. L to R: Gordon Bisgrove and Ken South; Lou Foley Memorial; September 14, 2019

4. Foresters Meeting Spring 1994; Manning Air Tanker Base, Peace River Forest; Back Row (L to R): Jim Nowasad, Calgary; Gary Ehrentauf, Edmonton; J.P. Bielech, Manning; Jim Kitz, Edmonton; Al Hovan, Blairmore; Gord Brown, Fort McMurray; Scott Milligan, Peace River; Karl Peck, Peace River; Keith Kowalyk, Rocky Mountain House; Gerry Matthews, Manning; Bob Anderson, Rocky Mountain House; Ian Hamilton, Edmonton; Jean Lussier, Grande Prairie; Dave Cook, Peace River. Middle Row (L to R): Paul Steiestol, Fort McMurray; Tom Lakusta, Edmonton; Ron Dunnigan, Edmonton; Dale Darrah, Whitecourt; Paul Hostin, Edmonton; Phil Dube, Manning; Vern Danes, Edmonton; Margarete Hee, Whitecourt; Rory Thompson, Lac La Biche; Craig Quintilio, Edmonton; Bert Cieselski, Rocky Mountain House; Dave Beck, Grande Prairie; Sharon Robertson, Whitecourt; Kevin Freehill - Manning. Front Row (L to R): Doug Stewart, Lac La Biche; Ray Luchkow, Lac La Biche; Al Benson, Peace River; Paul King, Edmonton; Con Dermot, Edmonton; Bill Gladstone, Calgary; Rick Blackwood, Calgary; Carl Leary, Forest Superintendent Peace River Forest; Tony Sikora, Edson; Steve Ferdinand, Edmonton.

5. L to R: Doris Braid, Bill Bereska and Deanna McCullough; Wally Born Retirement; October 19, 2019

6. Kevin Hunt, Wildfire Technologist High Level Forest Area; Canadian Fallen Firefighter Foundation's memorial event; September 8, 2019

7. L to R: Janis Braze, Kevin Vander Haeghe, Shawn Barraclough, Ken McDonald and Wally Born; Wally Born Retirement; October 19, 2019

8. L to R: Bernie Schmitte, Hugh Boyd, Revie Lieskovsky and Dan Lux; Wally Born Retirement; October 19, 2019











1. Alberta Forest Service Timber Inspectors, 1941; Back Row (L to R): T.H. (Ted) Hammer, L.R. (Larry) West, J.L. (Jack) Janssen, Carl Ranche, Ed Noble, Donald Buck, Vic Mitchell; Front Row (L to R): Charlie Carter, F.E. (Fred) Smith, Frank Neilsen, R.S. (Robert) Wylie, D. A. (Donald) McKay, William (Scottie) Lang, W.E. (Bill) Cronk

2. L to R: Hugh Boyd and Nipper McClanaghan; Lou Foley Memorial; September 14, 2019

3. L to R: Gordon Armitage, Paul Rizzoli and Gary Davis; Lou Foley Memorial; September 14, 2019

4. Whitecourt Unit Crew in Hagland; L to R: Patrick Vanderveen, Andre Combden, Jackson McCuaig, Sara Jay Nogel, Corey O'Brien, Dominic Guzman, Chris Kelly and Andrew Kalyan; Chuckegg wildfire; June 1, 2019

5. Back Row (L to R): Alan Gammon, Mathew Christie, Stephen Mills and Chad Williamson; Front Row (L to R): Kyla Larder, Russell Murphy, Ryan Good, Tracy Parkinson, Rod Houle and James Degrazia; Rocky Base, Chuckegg wildfire; August 20, 2019

6. Jalisco firefighters that supported Alberta during the 2019 fire season. During their debriefing, MLA Jackie Armstrong Homeniuk and Edmonton Eskimo's Genaro Alfonsin Romero and Diego Jaír Viamontes Cotera joined the evening. The deployment happened under the Memorandum of Understanding between Alberta and the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Territorial SEMADET (Jalisco); July 26, 2019. Far right side is Forest Officer Jorge Camacho-Tornero, Alberta's liaison to the Jalisco team.

7. L to R: Jim Skrenek, Paul Rizzoli and Bruce MacGregor; Lou Foley Memorial; September 14, 2019











1. L to R: Genaro Alfonsin Romero (Eskimos player), Cristobal Antonio Peña de León (crew member), Jorge Armando Gómez Quiroga (crew leader), Diego Jaír Viamontes Cotera (Eskimos player) and Hector Enrique Rizo Jiménez (crew member); Jalisco firefighters meeting Edmonton Eskimo representatives during their debriefing; July 26, 2019



2. L to R: Genaro Alfonsin Romero (Eskimos player), Héctor Gilberto Trejo Varela (senior agency representative), and Diego Jaír Viamontes Cotera (Eskimos player); Jalisco firefighters meeting Edmonton Eskimo representatives during their debriefing; July 26, 2019

3. Back Row (L to R): Derek Gagnon, Kelsey Friesen, Hilary Cameron, Amber Sigurdson, Leanne Mowat, Kevin Keats; Front Row (L to R): Leah Gurnett, Kelly Burke, Cory Davis, Bertie Beaver, Patrick McIlwaine, Travis Fairweather, Christie Tucker; Canada Day at the Alberta Legislature; July 1, 2019

4. L to R: Incident Commander Scott Elliott, MLA Dan Williams, Premier Jason Kenney, Terry Jessiman, Minister Devin Dreesen and Dene Tha' First Nation Chief James Ahnassay; High Level; May 21, 2019

5. L to R: Bruce Mayer, Agriculture and Forestry Minister Devin Dreesen, Alberta Premier Jason Kenney, Municipal Affairs Minister Kaycee Madu, Shane Schreiber; Spring 2019 Media Wildfire Update; May 21, 2019

6. L to R: Patrick Loewen, Todd Lynch, Mike Milner, Jason Pankratow and Kevin Topolnicki; Battle Complex; July 2, 2019

7. L to R: Morgan Kehr, Trevor Lamabe and Andre Corbould; Manning Wildfire and Airtanker Base; Battle Complex; June 30, 2019

8. Removing rime ice at the Sulphur Repeater site; Canadian Aerospatiale AS350 B2 C-FSLB; January 11, 2019











1. L to R: MLA Martin Long, MLA Tany Yao, Minister Devin Dreeschen, Forest Area Manager Terry Jessiman and Forester Stephanie Grocholski reviewing Chuckegg wildfire maps; High Level Forest Area; May 26, 2019

2. L to R: Brian Lopushinsky and Tom Patreau; Chuckegg Complex; June 12, 2019

3. L to R: Kevin Topolnicki and Premier Jason Kenney; McMillan Complex; June 2, 2019

4. Henry Auger with Eagle Feather Staff; National Aboriginal Day; Peace River; June 21, 2019

5. Peace River crews with Manup Supervisor Ardie Chalifoux (white hardhat). Crew PFZ 12 - Dennis Laboucan (leader), Damian Laboucan (subleader), Clint Ross Laboucan, Frankie Noskey, Phillip Whitehead, Davonne Nahachick, Houston Laboucan, Wilson Junior Laboucan; Crew PFE04 - Lean Knott (leader), Bradley Lizotte (subleader), Kelly Bauer Jr., Lester Cardinal, Clayton Ghostkeeper, Tristan Ghostkeeper, Nelson Goodswimmer, Terrance Hamelin, Robert Kilkenny; Battle Complex; June 21, 2019

6. Aerial picture of Foothills Forest Products sawmill; Grande Cache; June 3, 2019

7. L to R: Kelsy Gibos, Tom Patreau and Jarrod Schroeder; Chuckegg Complex; June 12, 2019

8. L to R: Morgan Kehr, Ambrose Jacobs and Nipper McClanaghan; Slave Lake Forest Area; June 5, 2019

9. Impressive fleet of airtankers (Canadair CL-215Ts, Lockheed L-188 Electra's and Air Tractor AT802 Amphibs; Slave Lake Airtanker Base; June 12, 2019

10. L to R: Leslie Lozinski, Rick Moore, Northern Lights Reeve Terry Ungarian, MLA Dan Williams, Trevor Lamabe; Battle Complex; May 25, 2019

11. L to R: Bruce Mayer, Kevin Parkinson, Morgan Kehr, Darren Tapp; Loon River Airtanker Base; June 9, 2019



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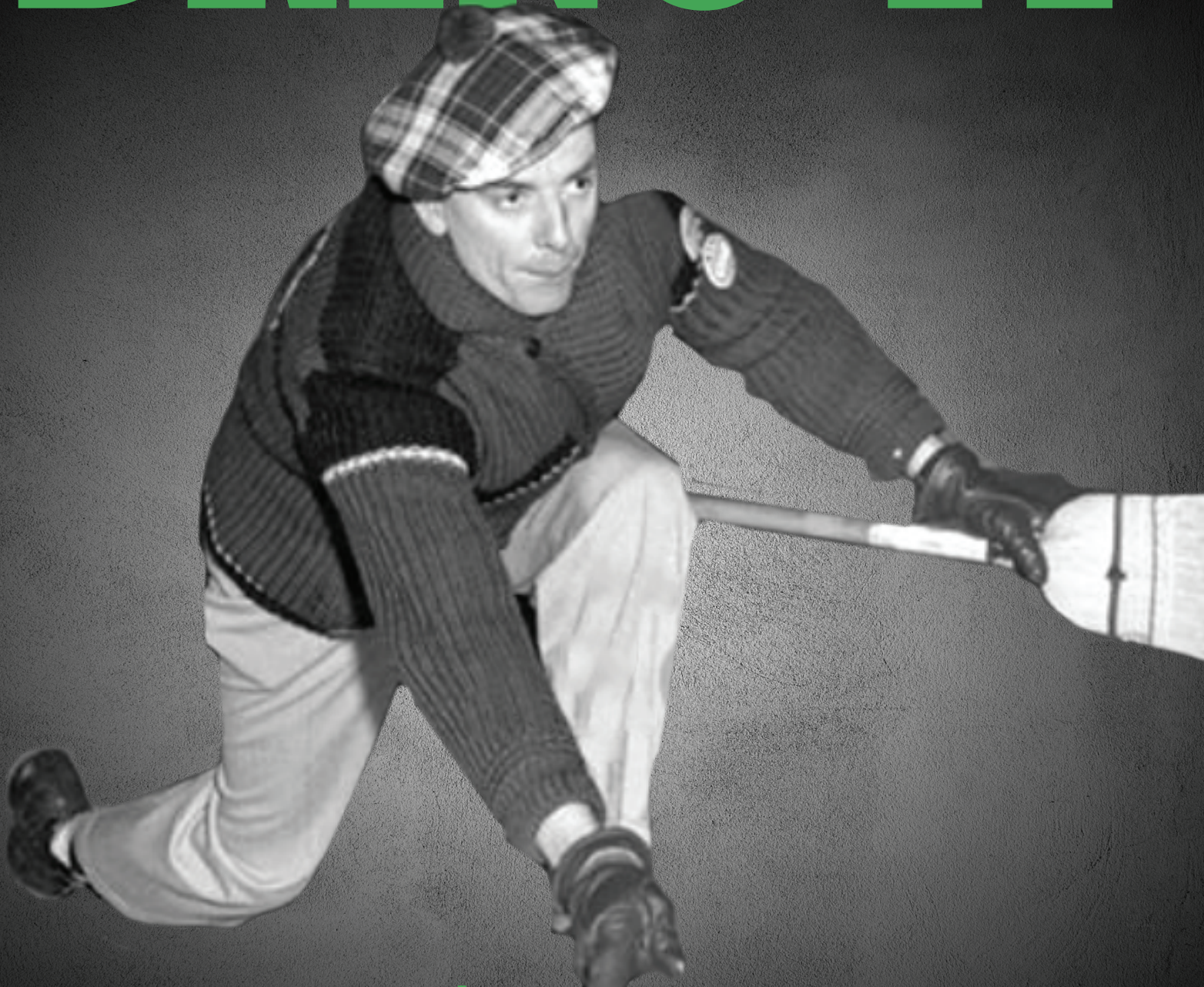


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