



TRAILS & TALES

A COMPENDIUM OF THE FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA



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1919 FIRES LAC LA BICHE



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TREVOR WAKELIN
FHAH DIRECTOR

TRAILS & TALES

NEWSLETTER OF THE FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

MARCH, 2006



AGM SET FOR MARCH 14, 2006

President Arden Rytz invites all members and interested individuals to the second Annual General Meeting of the Forest History Association of Alberta on March 14, 2006.

The meeting will start at 7 p.m., at the Best Western Westwood Inn, 18035 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton.

"It is significant that the FHAA's first year coincided with Alberta's Centennial year," says Arden. "Forestry in all its aspects has played a tremendous role in the development and life of the province, and we're fortunate that so many are dedicated to the task of documenting and preserving this history for today and future generations."

Arden says the first year has seen some good strides made in building FHAA membership, working towards charitable organization status and exploring protocols for archiving interviews and cataloging artifacts.

"I urge all members and other individuals interested in preserving this valuable and fascinating history to join us on March 14, and continue their financial and personal support of the association," Arden says.

Items on the agenda will include FHAA business and the election of three directors, acceptance of the financial statements, and a review of past activities and future plans.

Dues for 2006 (\$25) will be collected at the door, or may be mailed to the FHAA care of Bruce Mayer, Treasurer, 22 Hutchinson Place, St. Alberta, Alberta, T8N 6R3.

For more information on the meeting, contact Bruce Mayer at (780) 644-4656.



Waterlogged - Bob Stevenson sends this photo of pilot Frank Arman and a Bell 47J-2 near the confluence of Wabasca and Muddy rivers, 1966. He writes: "The machine refused to start after we endured a 'micro-burst' shower, forcing us to check and dry the wiring harness and plugs before it would fly. The J-2 was our vehicle for a tree growth and spruce budworm project in the Wabasca area."

If you have any historical tidbits or anecdotes we could use in future newsletters, please contact David Holehouse, Secretary.

Please see overleaf for information on how to join the Forest History Association of Alberta

For more information, contact Arden Rytz, President, (780) 466-2072, rytz@telusplanet.net

David Holehouse, Secretary, (780) 432-0112, dholehouse@mediamatchwest.com

Bruce Mayer, Treasurer, (780) 644-4656, bruce.mayer@gov.ab.ca

HISTORICAL NOTES ON CHISHOLM SAWMILLS

By **PETER MURPHY**

Chisholm Sawmills was built around 1915 by Tom Chisholm, who started as a tie contractor for the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway. He set up camps along the Athabasca River to make ties for the coming railroad.

In 1915 he built a steam-powered sawmill at Chisholm that initially produced 60,000 fbm per shift. Logs were cut and decked along the Athabasca and floated down as needed. Both the logging and mill were major operations. In 1932 they started a box factory and hired Tom Matty to manage it. Tom

later became manager of the entire operation, transferring to Swanson Lumber when they bought the operation in 1941. Tom Matty served as President of the Alberta Forest Products Association and Rocky Mountain Section of CIF.

The year 1935 was the year of the big flood on the Athabasca. The company lost three million board feet of logs that broke the booms in the high water and "ended up at Fort Chip" according to legend. The last drive was in 1937 and the big steam sawmill was shut down. Instead, a new planer mill was constructed and rough lumber was brought in for processing.

In their ongoing search for timber, in 1941 they punched in a rough road to the west end of Fawcett Lake and built a camp and sawmill. The mill was steam powered, using sawdust for fuel, and the concrete bases for the boilers are now all that remain of the operation. In 1942 it began producing rough lumber that was hauled to Smith by truck and then by rail to Chisholm for planing.

Logs were winter cut along the lake, especially the south shore and at Paul Lake. They were skidded tree-length and decked on the ice, then held to the shore in booms after breakup. The logging camp was built on rafts so it could be moved east on the lake to follow the logging.

Logs were boomed in batches to the sawmill using the home-built tugboat "Edith" that was powered by a diesel engine from a TD-9 Cat. Tom Matty explained how they would put the engine back into the Cat when they did not need the tug. The tug was also used to move the camp. That operation continued until 1949.

Tom Matty told about the time the tug crew cut out a boom-full of logs to haul to the mill, cinching the boom chains and tying the tow-line to the tug. It was late evening when they finished, so about 9:00 p.m., putting the tug into towing speed, they headed into the cabin for dinner, to visit and play cards. Around midnight they went to check their progress and found they had not untied the boom from shore – there were some red faces and laughs about that.

Floating logging camp
on Fawcett Lake, 1940s



JOIN THE FHAA TODAY!

You and your family can be part of the Forest History Association of Alberta and some exciting future projects for a very modest investment.

Membership fees are:

Individual:	\$25.00 per year
Family:	\$40.00 per year
Corporate:	\$250.00 per year

Simply send your cheque and the information requested below to:
Forest History Association of Alberta, 22 Hutchinson Place,
St Albert, AB, T8N 6R3.

For more information contact Bruce Mayer, (780) 644-4656,
bruce.mayer@gov.ab.ca, or David Holehouse, (780) 432-0112,
dholehouse@mediamatchwest.com.

Please provide us with the following information and submit it along with your membership payment:

Name of individual or company:

Name of spouse if you desire a Family Membership:

Full mailing address:

Telephone: () _____

Fax: () _____

E-mail address: _____

TRAILS & TALES

Newsletter of the Forest History Association of Alberta

Annual General Meeting a big success

SECOND AGM DRAWS MORE THAN 30 FHAA MEMBERS

The FHAA held its second annual general meeting on March 14, 2006 at the Best Western, Westwood Inn, Edmonton, with thirty-four members in attendance. President Arden Rytz conducted the meeting with updates being provided by Arden, Treasurer Bruce Mayer and Secretary David Holehouse. Elections were held for

three of the executive positions with Arden Rytz and Cliff Henderson being re-elected and Bob Newstead replacing David Holehouse as secretary. Many thanks go out to David for his support and input to the FHAA – neither of which will be lost as David will be around to support the association (and Bob) where he can.

Those in attendance received a copy of the 2006 Lookout calendar produced by Hope and Tim Klein, and the 2006 Silvacom Historical Calendar donated by Bob Morton and Tom Grabowski of Silvacom Ltd.

Guest Speaker, Dr. Peter Murphy, gave a presentation on *David Thompson and the Athabasca Pass* and a book he is co-writing with FHAA members Bob Udell and Bob Stevenson, *Hard Road to Travel*.

Join the FHAA today!

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

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22 Hutchinson Place, St. Albert, AB
T8N 6R3.

For more info contact Bruce Mayer at
(780) 644-4656 or Bruce.Mayer@gov.ab.ca

Name (Individual, Family or Corporate): _____

Mailing address: _____

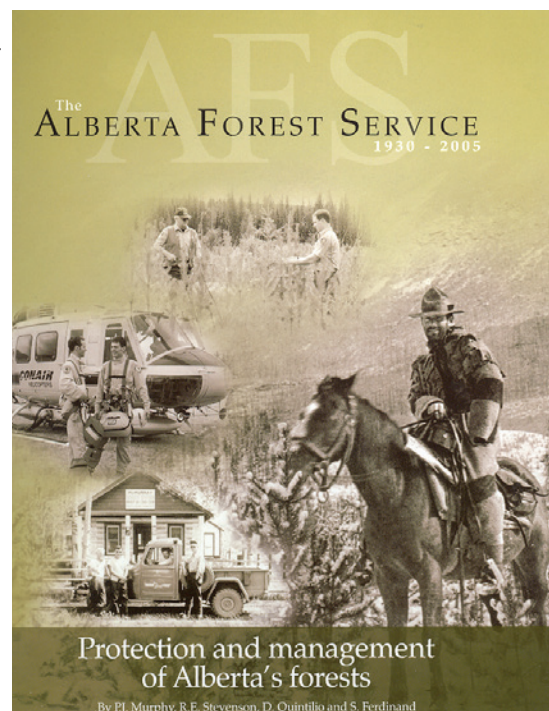
Ph: _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail: _____

Forestry history book hits the shelves

Hot Off the Press!! *The Alberta Forest Service, 1930-2005: Protection and management of Alberta's forests*. An important contribution to the preservation of the history of the Alberta Forest Service, this book was written by four well-known and highly regarded veterans of Alberta's forest management and fire protection community – Peter Murphy, Bob Stevenson, Steve Ferdinand and Dennis Quintilio. Publication of this remarkable work would not have been possible without the sponsorship of Sustainable Resource Development and the vision of Cliff Henderson.

For information contact
Bruce Mayer at (780)
644-4656. or Bruce.Mayer@gov.ab.ca.



Forestry program celebrates 40 years

FIRST GRADUATING CLASS MADE UP OF 25 STUDENTS

Can you believe it – it has been 40 years since the first NAIT Forest Technology class graduated from the Forest Technology School in Hinton. A joint partnership in 1965 with the Department of Lands and Mines and the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, saw the first year, of a new two year forest technology training program, held in Edmonton, with the second year held in Hinton. This second year in Hinton was designed to give students every opportunity to learn and practice forestry in the new Cache Percotte school forest. Many of the graduates of this first NAIT class went on to successful careers with the Canadian Forest Service and



Back Row (L to R): George Nemeth, Brian Carnell, Gordon Bisgrove, Horst Rohde, Stan Lux, Blaine Dahl, Brent Simmonds, Revie Lieskovsky, Ron Gordey, Rod Gustafson. Middle Row: Jack Susat, Don Campbell, Bruce Cameron, Emanuel Doll, Bart Presley. Front Row: Larry Huberdeau, Louis Kilarski, Archie Smith, Dennis Cox, Bill Kovach, John Edwards, Francis Donnelly, Ken Paulson, Bruce Robson. Missing: Arnold Mogdan. Instructors were Dick Altmann, Stan Lockard, Jack Macnab, John Wagar and Peter Murphy.

Alberta Forest Service. The FHAA hopes to report on any anniversary

celebrations that might occur – Revie, Larry, Dennis, Peter, anything for us?

FHAA PHOTO CORNER

Rypien
brothers
sawmill
southwest of
Calling Lake,
1950s.



Photo courtesy Rypien family



Photo courtesy Roy Campbell

Peter McLaren
Lumber Co.
log flume,
Crowsnest
forest, 1912

Arsenault
Sawmill, High
Level, 1964.
Note the grain
elevators



Photo courtesy Cliff Smith

FHAA receives charity tax status

Good news - the Forest History Association of Alberta has received Charitable Tax Status. The FHAA qualified for tax-exempt status as a registered charity because it 'advances education and benefits to the community by gathering, collecting and preserving artifacts about the history of forestry in Alberta and educating the public on their value'. Payments that do not qualify as tax-exempt are: membership fees; basic fees for admission to an event or program; or purchase price of a ticket to win a prize.

Donations will be used to complete projects such as interviewing individuals about forest history in the province; scanning, cataloging and inventorying photographs; and inventorying historical artifacts. Individuals, families or companies wishing to donate to the FHAA may do so by sending a cheque to the Treasurer, FHAA, 22 Hutchinson Place, St. Albert, Alberta T8N 6R3.

TRAILS & TALES

Published by the Forest History Association of Alberta.

Current membership: 83

Please send story ideas to
Bruce Mayer at (780) 644-4656

FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION
OF ALBERTA

TRAILS & TALES

Newsletter of the Forest History Association of Alberta

100 years of Alberta forest history

The Dominion Forests Reserves Act passed in 1906

More than 100 years ago the Government of Canada passed the Dominion Forest Reserves Act, authorizing forest reserves to be set up "for the maintenance and protection of the timber growing or which may hereafter grow thereon, for the protection of the animals and birds therein, and the fish in the waters therein, and for the maintenance of conditions favourable for a continuous water supply."

The three Forest Reserves in Alberta defined in this Act were the Cooking Lake Dominion Forest Reserve (114 square miles/ 295 km²), the Cypress Hills Dominion Forest Reserve (18 square miles/ 47 km²) and the Kootenay Lakes Dominion Forest Reserve (54 square miles/ 140 km²) – now part of Waterton Lakes National Park. The nucleus of the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve would not be defined until 1910.

Joseph Stauffer was forest ranger for southern Alberta, responsible for the area south of the Saskatchewan River. He described how the fall of snow was very light and fires began to run in the woods early in March. Fires burned between the Red Deer and James Rivers and between the Red Deer and Fallen Timber Creek. The Fallen Timber fire, "after desperate fighting by all the available men we could get, got beyond control on a very windy day, and burnt about 50 million [board] feet."

Stauffer noted the continual stream of land seekers going into the timber districts. "This makes it very difficult for a ranger to prevent fires being set out, as with the present staff of rangers it is impossible to keep track of travellers through timbered parts. In some cases I know of settlers squatting on timber berths."

He also added an observation about aboriginal burning: "I always understood that Indians would never set out fires in the forests, but this year I was convinced that they do; for hunting purposes, in season or out, in the Banff Park and out of it. They set out fires in the spring on their fishing and hunting trips in order to draw deer later for grazing."

And he signed off as usual: "Your obedient servant."

AGM News

The Forestry History Association of Alberta's 3rd Annual General Meeting will be held Wednesday March 14, 2007 at the Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel (10155 - 105 Street, Edmonton) from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

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

2007 FHAA memberships now being accepted!

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

Yearly membership fees are:

\$25 - Individual

\$40 - Family

\$250 - Corporate

Send your information and membership fees to:

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22 Hutchinson Place, St Albert, AB
T8N 6R3.

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bruce.mayer@gov.ab.ca

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Forestry program celebrates 40 years

First advanced ranger course made up of 12 students



The August 2006 Trails & Tales newsletter celebrated 40 years of the first NAIT Forest Technology Class. 1966 was also the year that 12 Forest Rangers graduated from the first Advanced Ranger Course. This 6-month course provided an educational upgrading opportunity for Alberta Forest Service staff.

Back row (L to R): Al Walker, Colin Campbell, Karl Altschwager, Harold Enfield, Ray Hill.

Middle row: Howard Morigeau, David Schenk, Dick Girardi, Oliver Glanfield.

Front row: Fred Facco, Harry Jeremy, Hyrum Baker

50 years ago - 1956

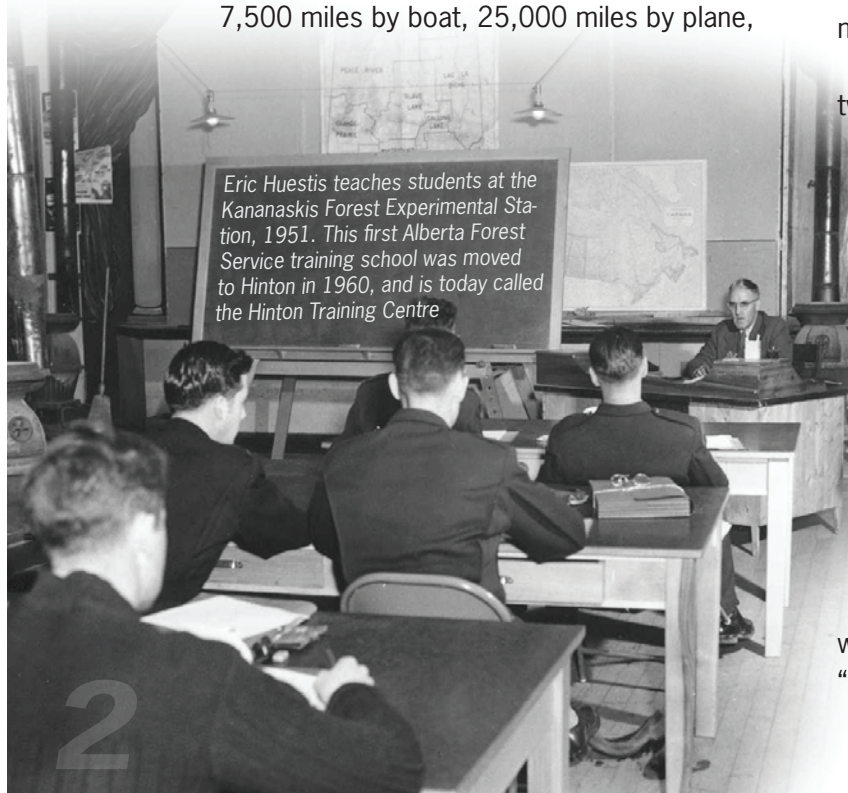
Eric Huestis was Director of Forestry; Norman Willmore was Minister of Lands and Forests. There were about 120 forest officers in the Northern Alberta Forest District (NAFD), not including the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve, which had about 48 forest officers. The summary from field diaries shows that these men (they were all males at that time) travelled 1.1 million miles on the job, including 29,000 miles on foot, 17,000 miles on horse, 5,000 miles by speeder, 7,500 miles by boat, 25,000 miles by plane,

16,000 miles by railway and 235 miles by bus. About 90 % was driving.

North Western Pulp and Power Ltd. (NWPP) had begun forestry operations in 1955; the mill was still under construction. The serious fire season that spring saw three fires burn in parts of the NWPP Lease Area. Whitecourt fire 36-1 burned south into the northern limits, a lightning fire started on the Berland and an oil-crew fire started in the Gregg River area. Although it was an inauspicious way to begin with the new company, Huestis encouraged an inclusive review of the fire season that finally got increased funding for fire control in the NAFD. Immediate improvements noted in the annual report included:

- Increase in heavy equipment included two D6 tractors, two bombardiers, 12 fire pumps.
- Improvement in fire suppression organization made by increasing permanent staff by four district Rangers and six assistants. Seasonal four-man standby fire crews used successfully in previous years were increased from six to eight this year.
- Heavy program of new construction and maintenance of roads and buildings carried out by field staff.

Among the major forest industries of the day were Imperial Lumber, Swanson Lumber, Grande Prairie Lumber and Chisholm Mills. Most lumber was rough-sawn by small mills in the bush then re-sawn and finished at central planer mills. Total harvest was about 2.7 million cubic metres produced by 1,071 "active operations".



Eric Huestis teaches students at the Kananaskis Forest Experimental Station, 1951. This first Alberta Forest Service training school was moved to Hinton in 1960, and is today called the Hinton Training Centre

The tale of Mostowich Lumber Ltd.

Steve Mostowich moved his operations from Chip Lake to the Fox Creek area in the fall of 1956. On his arrival, Steve helped construct the first service road, levelled the Forestry site and began constructing a road north of town to the Meekwap Lake area.

Site clearing and construction took place on Mostowich's first Meekwap Lake mill in the fall of 1956, with logging and milling commencing that December. This first open-air mill was located on the east side of Meekwap Lake, in 12-25-65-18-W5M.

In 1960, operations were moved six miles south of Meekwap Lake, to 16-18-64-18-W5M. This mill operated both summer and winter until the fall of 1962, when the mill was moved back to the east side of Meekwap Lake. At the same time, Steve began building a road north along the west side of Meekwap Lake.

In 1963, Mostowich Lumber began operations at their Meekwap Lake mill, north-west of the lake, in 13-3,16-4-66-18-W5M. This mill consisted of a sawmill and planer, and operated from 1963 to 1986, employing an average of thirty-five men.

Over the years, Mostowich has logged timber berths, quotas and a variety of wind damaged stands north of Fox Creek, in the Meekwap Lake area.

From 1967 to 1970, Mostowich Lumber logged on the north and east sides of Iosegun Lake. Two severe tornadoes swept through the Fox Creek area in 1965,



Aerial view of Mostowich Lumber Meekwap Lake sawmill, mid 1970s

Photo courtesy Steve Mostowich

one on July 26 and the second on October 1. The severest one in July touched down just to the west of the Meekwap Lake mill. The mill watchman remembered seeing flying debris and lumber from the strong winds. Luckily no damage occurred at the mill.

In 1986 Steve Mostowich opened a new sawmill, planer and kiln complex 6.5 kilometres east of Fox

Creek, in 5/6-18-62-18-W5M. Steve's two sons Ronald and Arnold now look after the operations. Steve purchased his first Meekwap timber berth through public auction, paying \$17.05 per thousand board feet. Of this, \$6.00 per thousand was for timber dues and \$11.05 per thousand was the bid price. In the early 1960's, manufactured lumber was sold in Edmonton for \$45.00 per thousand.



Mostowich Lumber mill near Fox Creek, late 1980s

Photo courtesy Bruce Mayer

FHAA receives charity tax status

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A brief history on Alberta's trail markers

More than 100 years of history visible on the landscape

The Dominion Forestry Branch started building trails in the Forest Reserves around 1906. Rangers would use blazes, stone piles, posts and/or signs, to mark the mile distance (mileposts) as a way to describe locations before there were maps and surveys. Wooden posts were easy to make on site with just an axe - cutting them square with a beveled top made them easy to distinguish from other stumps or snags. The posts were inscribed with a keil-type crayon with a wax base that stayed legible for a long time. More important posts were inscribed with a 'scribe' – a 'U-shaped draw-type chisel' that left a clean

rounded groove that could be used to print letters, numbers and symbols.

When Peter Murphy attended the University of New Brunswick in the early 1950s, he remembers "being shown how to score a post and hew it with a 2 ½ pound axe to get a nice smooth finish. We made quite a few during the forest inventory here to show tie points and the start of cruise lines." Further Murphy says "the best looking mile post markers I have seen were the ones along the Mountain Trail from Entrance to Rock Lake. Someone, perhaps Jack Glen, cut boards which he numbered on two faces and mounted under a small roof-like structure that he fastened to a tree or post every mile. They stuck out so they could be read from either direction. Mile 14 was at the forks on Solomon Creek by the wooden forestry bridge – it was then (late 1950s) the forestry road to Rock Lake. Summit Cabin near the head of Rock Creek is still known as Mile 58 Cabin – 58 miles from Entrance Ranger Station."

Anyone with stories or photo's of trail markers they would like to share? Contact Bruce Mayer at (780) 644-4656



Remains of an old forestry trail marker along the Ram River, Clearwater Area, 2002

Photo courtesy Dave Ferster

FHAA PHOTO CORNER

Tracked tractor and empty Estey trucks, McGillvray Creek. Turtle Mountain in left background (Frank, AB). June 1, 1926

Photo courtesy Van Camp family



Crew loading logs on two Estey trucks from skidway, McGillvray Creek. Crowsnest Pass, June 1, 1926

Photo courtesy Van Camp family



Portable sawmill in operation, T.S. 124, Brazeau Forest Reserve. February 23, 1927



TRAILS & TALES

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Current membership: 60

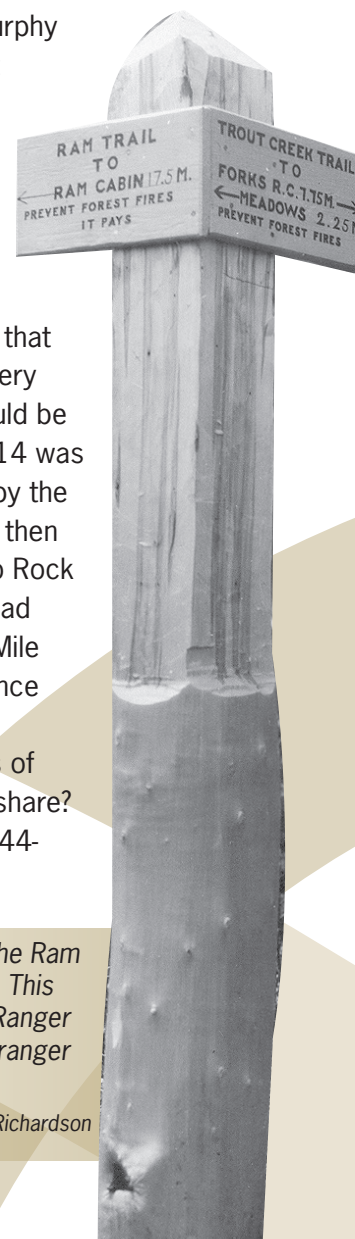
Special thanks to Peter Murphy for his contributions to this issue and Rob Harris for layout work

Please send story ideas to
Bruce Mayer at (780) 644-4656



Newly constructed trail marker in the Ram District, Clearwater Forest, 1940s. This marker could have been made by Ranger Wally Richardson while he was the ranger in charge of the Ram District

Photo courtesy Jack Richardson



TRAILS & TALES

Newsletter of the Forest History Association of Alberta

Third annual general meeting biggest and best ever

A RECORD 40 FHAA MEMBERS ATTEND THE 2007 EVENT

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



Dennis Quintilio and Bob Newstead

Butch Shenfield elected by acclamation.

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

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

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



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



Fred McDougall and Norm Denney

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Mailing address

Ph _____ **Fax** _____

E-mail _____

Arden Rytz - FHAA President

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

2008 Executive

Arden Rytz, President

Peter Murphy, Vice President

Bob Newstead, Secretary

Bruce Mayer, Treasurer

Cliff Henderson, Director

Fred McDougall, Director

Bob Stevenson, Director

Butch Shenfield, Director

Bob Udell, Director

Continued on page 3

Rytz continued from page 2

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

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

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



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

Eric Huestis - a short history

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

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

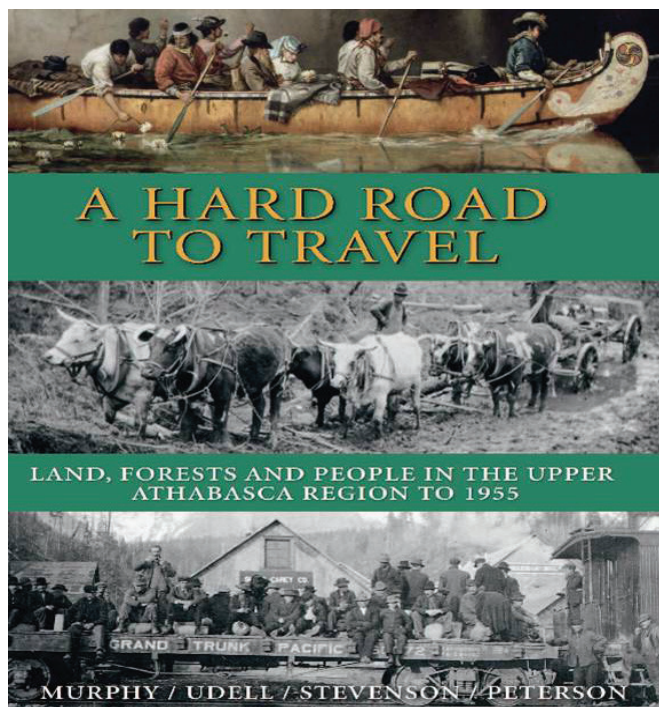


Huestis became Director of Forestry in 1948. He initiated several visionary actions during the 1940s; the green-yellow zone regulation in 1948 rationalizing agricultural settlement; the first provincial forest inventory in 1949 which became the basis for forest management; and recruitment of noted forester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

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

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

A Hard Road to Travel chronicles forest history



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

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

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

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

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

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

Obituary - Jim Clark (past FHAA member)

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

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

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

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

FHAA PHOTO CORNER



TRAILS & TALES

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2007 membership: 123

Layout by Rob Harris

Please send story ideas to
Bruce Mayer at (780) 644-4656

FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION
OF ALBERTA

TRAILS & TALES

Newsletter of the Forest History Association of Alberta

Huestis curling bonspiel re-'generated'

14 teams from across the province compete in the big event

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

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

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

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



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



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



Top: Jack Lunan piping in the E.S. Huestis trophy to the evening banquet, early 1970's.
Left: Ted Soltys piping in the E.S. Huestis trophy on Saturday, January 26, 2008.

AGM News

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

Peter J. Murphy, Vice President of the FHAA

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



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



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

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

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

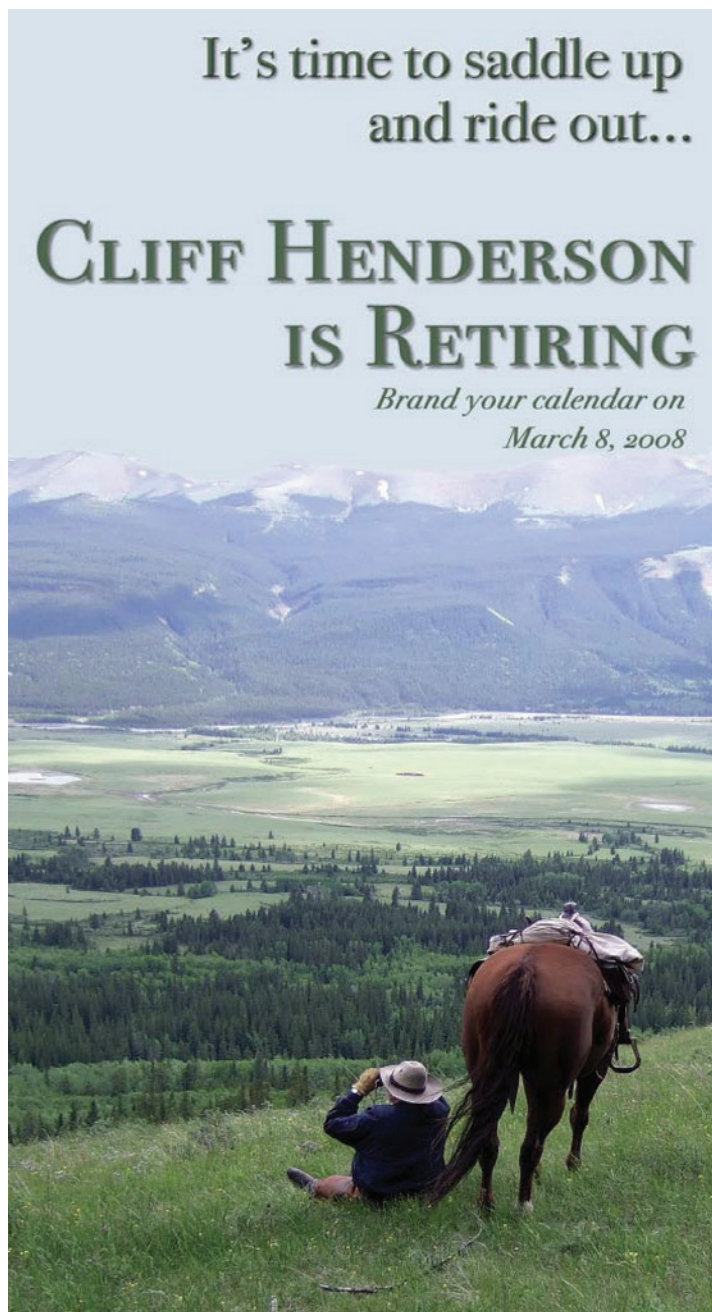
In January 1973 Peter took a position as associate professor in the Department of Forest Science at the University of Alberta and in 1975 became department chair; later associate dean for forestry, positions he held variously until his retirement in 1995. There Peter taught and conducted research in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

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



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

Cliff Henderson retirement Saturday March 8



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



Ashton@gov.ab.ca. Further information can be found at www.cliffhenderson.ca.

Billionth board foot of lumber sawn - 1983

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



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Quotable

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

The Forester – Dr. C.D. Howe, 1925

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

Stay tuned...

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

Other history news

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

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

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

Visit the Forest History Society of Durham, NC website at www.foresthistory.org.

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

Bertie Beaver turns 50!



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

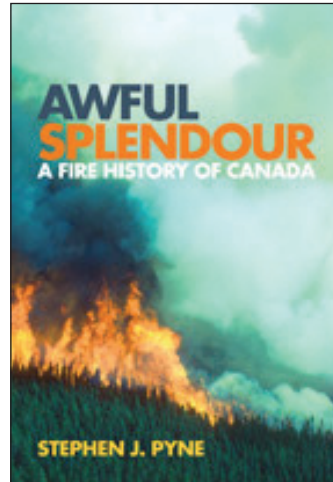


Hot off the wire



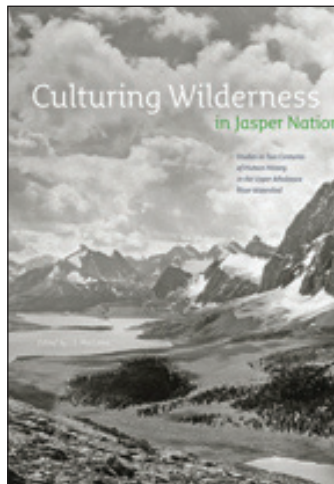
Awful Splendour – Stephen J. Pyne

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



Culturing Wilderness in Jasper National Park –

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



Adults need playgrounds. In 1907, the Canadian government designated a vast section of the Rocky Mountains as Jasper Forest Park. Tourists now play where Native peoples once lived, fur traders toiled, and Métis families homesteaded. In *Culturing Wilderness in Jasper National Park*, I.S. MacLaren and eight other writers unearth the largely unrecorded past of the upper Athabasca River watershed, and bring to light two centuries' worth of human history, tracing the evolution of trading routes into the Rockies' largest park. Serious history enthusiasts and those with an interest in Canada's national parks will find a sense of connection in this long overdue study of Jasper.

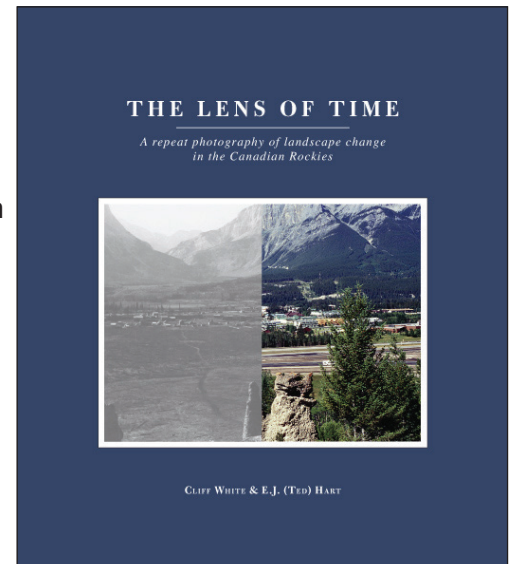
Lens of Time – Cliff White, E.J. (Ted) Hart

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

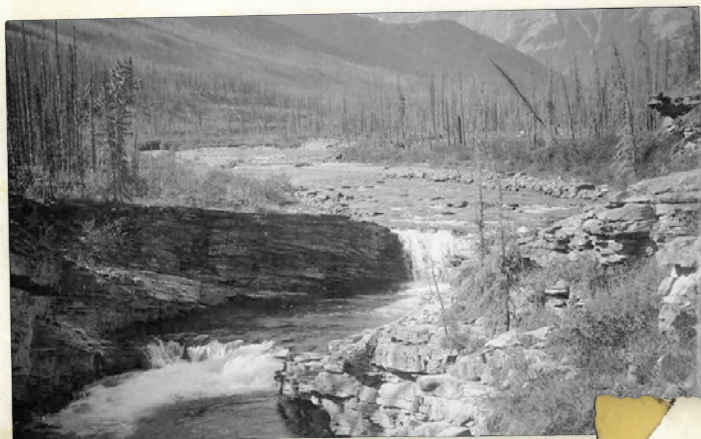
The sets of photographs generally follow ecological regions moving west from Calgary and the foothills, ascending through the low elevation montane zone of Banff National Park, upwards into the lower and upper subalpine. The authors then follow the historic photographers' routes for brief forays onto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

Front Ranges along the Red Deer and North Saskatchewan rivers. Moving north, the photographs depict the high windswept alpine zone and glacial ice of the Columbia Icefield, before passing through Jasper National Park and turning eastward to descend to the parkland region at Edmonton, Alberta.

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



FHAA PHOTO CORNER



Sheep Falls, 1920



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



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



Sheep Falls, 2007



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



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

TRAILS & TALES

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Please send story ideas to
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FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION
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TRAILS & TALES

Newsletter of the Forest History Association of Alberta

FHAA holds fourth annual general meeting

The FHAA held its fourth annual general meeting on Tuesday March 18, 2008 at the Coast Edmonton Plaza with twenty-two members in attendance. Janet Millar and Trevor Wakelin from Millar Western Forest Products Ltd. were introduced as guests for the evening. President Arden Rytz opened the meeting by reading a short note from Bob Steele, Director of Forestry from 1962 to 1973, and Deputy Minister of the Departments of Lands and Forests, and Energy and Natural Resources from 1973 to 1979.

In his letter Mr. Steele reminisced about being one of the 'nine' that were hired by Eric Huestis; "The year 1949

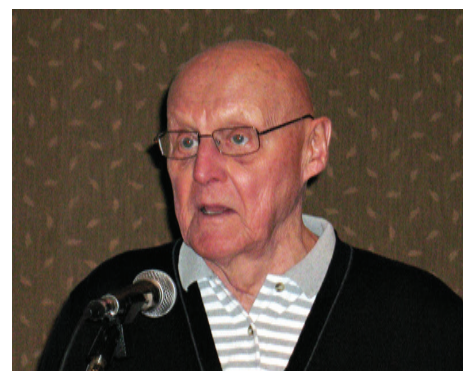
was a major one for the AFS when Eric Huestis hired 9 of our 1949 UBC forestry graduating class consisting of Owen Bradwell, Trev Charles, Jim Clark, Vic Heath, John Hogan, Bill Bloomberg, Stan Hughes, Charlie Jackson and Bob Steele."

Steele continued by saying "the year 1949 was also the start of the forest inventory. Four of us were assigned to work with the Photographic Survey Corporation in Toronto who had the contract."

Elections were also held for three executive positions, with Bob Udell, Peter Murphy and Bruce Mayer being

re-elected by acclamation.

Door prizes consisted of history books and CDs and a fleece jacket donated by the College of Alberta Professional Forest Technologists.



Arden Rytz, President, FHAA



Bruce Cartwright, Mark Storie, Jim Maitland, Alaina Maitland, Andy Gesner



Peter Murphy, Tom Grabowski



Terry Zitnak, Gail Tucker, Chris Valaire, Tom Grabowski

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100 years of history - Millar Western Forest Products

Janet Millar, Director Communications and great granddaughter of founder James William (J.W.) Millar, and Trevor Wakelin, Director Fibre Resources joined the evening session to provide an historic look and overview of Millar Western's operations. Millar Western is a family-owned, Canadian group of companies that has been in business for more than a century. In 1906, founder J.W. Millar opened a blacksmith shop in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, and was soon involved in logging in the area. By 1919, J.W. and partners had incorporated one of the first construction companies in Western Canada. In the 1920s, he expanded into logging and sawmilling in Whitecourt, Alberta, and in the 1930s, established a sodium sulphate mining and processing operation in Palo, Saskatchewan.

In the 1930s, J.W.'s sons Hugh, Allan and Keith joined the company and, in the decades that followed, oversaw the continued growth and diversification of the family enterprise, with a strong focus on the expansion of its various interests in the construction sector. Grandsons James, MacKenzie and Kenneth came on board in the 1960s and 1970s, preparing to lead the company's next phase of growth.

The 1980s was a period of rapid expansion for the business. In 1981, the lumber, construction and chemical companies were combined to form Millar Western Industries Ltd. Five years later, Millar Western Pulp Ltd. was established and, in 1988, it opened a bleached chemi-thermo-mechanical pulp (BCTMP) mill adjacent to the company's Whitecourt sawmill. The same year, a magnesium sulphate facility was added to the group's Whitecourt operations.

In 1992, Millar Western partnered with the Saskatchewan government to build the world's first successful zero-effluent market pulp mill. The facility was sold in 2007, after years of operation as one of the world's most technologically advanced, environmentally responsible



Janet Millar, Director Communications

Trevor Wakelin, Director Fibre Resources

BCTMP mills.

In 1993, the group expanded its lumber interests by purchasing and upgrading a sawmill in Boyle, Alberta. In 1998, this facility, together with the Whitecourt sawmill and BCTMP mill, were combined to form Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.

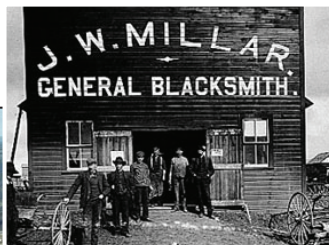
In 2001, Millar Western launched a new sawmill at the Whitecourt site on which it had operated a series of progressively updated sawmills since 1926. The high speed, high-efficiency facility has undergone significant additional investments since it opened, reflecting the company's commitment to keeping its operations current and competitive.

In 2007, the company purchased an Alberta lumber operation previously owned by the Mostowich family. Based in Fox Creek, the newest addition to Millar Western's lumber business is a two-line sawmill complex producing about 45 million board feet per year and bringing the company's total annual lumber production to 480 million board feet. This sawmill unfortunately was destroyed in a fire August 29, 2008.

In recent years, Millar Western has elected to focus on its core lumber and pulp businesses. In 2004, the group wound down its construction interests and, in 2007, sold its sodium sulphate plant in Palo.

Today, the group continues under the direction of Millar family members who, in the spirit of the company's founder, pursue intelligent growth and responsible development within Canada's progressive forest industry.

(Credit: Millar Western Forest Products Ltd. website)



Bob Newstead, Secretary of the FHAA

Bob joined the Forestry Branch of the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources in Prince Albert immediately following graduation. Having completed the two-year Forest Technology program at Lakehead College in 1965, he went on to acquire his BScF from the University of New Brunswick in 1968. After working for five summer seasons with the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, Bob and his wife Joy decided that the west offered “greener pastures” and they have not looked back since.

In 1971, Bob and Joy and their first son moved to Whitehorse, Yukon where Bob was employed as the Staff Forester and subsequently District Superintendent (North). Then, in the fall of 1972, with another son in tow, they moved to Edmonton to join the forest fire research team at the Northern Forestry Centre (NoFC) of the Canadian Forest Service. Working with a dedicated group of fire specialists, Bob's research responsibilities, for the next decade or so, focused primarily on the roles and effectiveness of fire retardants, airtankers and heli-buckets in fire suppression.

At this point in his career, with a recently acquired MSc and a young daughter on board, Bob accepted a position as Manager of the Technology Transfer and Communications unit at the NoFC. In conjunction with his provincial government counterparts in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta under the aegis of two five-year rounds of federal-provincial forest renewal and development agreements, this period was a heyday of public awareness and extension services, knowledge and technology transfer activities and educational initiatives.

With the culmination of the federal-provincial forestry agreements, it was time to move on again. So, Bob joined Canada's Model Forest Program as the Regional Coordinator for the prairie region where Model Forests were established in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. As a member of the Boards of Directors of each of these organizations Bob represented the interests of the Government of Canada as the primary funding agency. Upon reflection, this final decade (1992-2002) was undoubtedly the most rewarding aspect of Bob's varied career. Working in equal partnership with provincial forest management agencies, academic institutions, aboriginal groups, environmental organizations, forest industries, other municipal, provincial and federal agencies and a host of like-minded people from all walks of life provided endless



Bob Newstead with senior officials of the Forest Police Academy during a demonstration of forest fire fighting skills and equipment, Jagdaqi, northwestern Heilongjiang Province, China, June 1990

opportunities to learn and contribute to that elusive goal of “sustainable forest management”. Bob's role in the Model Forest Program afforded many opportunities to associate with the other seven Canadian Model Forest organizations and beyond, as the international Model Forest Network evolved.

Bob retired from the Canadian Forest Service in April 2002, but wasn't quite ready to hang up his hat just yet. He then took a contract position with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development as a Senior Policy Advisor (Science and Technology) until December 2003 before once again looking forward to those “greener pastures” full retirement had to offer.

Although Bob reports that there were innumerable highlights throughout his rewarding career, it was inevitably the people and places encountered that made it all worthwhile. Stints with the Canadian Institute of Forestry, the College of Alberta Professional Foresters, the Weldwood (Hinton Division) Public Advisory Group, the Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba Forestry Associations as well as on-the-job contacts all contributed to personal and professional fulfillment. Travels throughout Canada (to all three oceans), the United States, China, Scandinavia and Mexico reinforced the belief that we in the forestry community do not, cannot and must not learn and work in isolation of one another. Forest practices and progress are universal in scope and will call for our collective and world-wide vision and innovation if ever the sense of sustainable development is to be achieved.

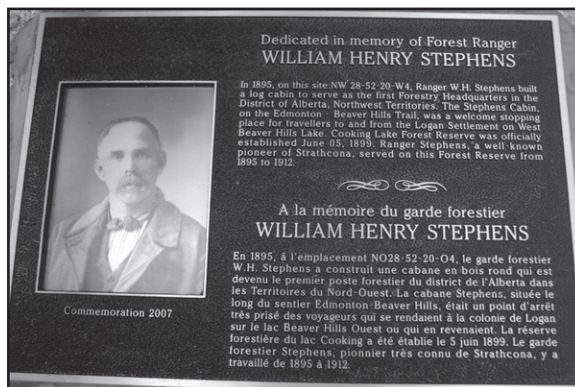
Bob and Joy continue to reside in Sherwood Park surrounded by family and friends. Three beautiful granddaughters and another grandchild on the way (end of November) have added a new and exciting dimension to their “life and times” some 40 years after “moving west”.



Bob Newstead

Dedication ceremony held in honour of Forest Ranger William Stephens

On June 1, 2008, a plaque was unveiled to honour Mr. William Henry Stephens and the first ranger station site in Alberta (1895). Family members representing five generations, along with a group of local dignitaries and numerous friends and people associated with this historic area participated and enjoyed the occasion. From this site, Ranger Stephens brought much needed protection to the area's forests and wildlife. In the past, widespread uncontrolled fires and trespass logging had removed much of the large white spruce and poplar forests east of Edmonton. Through Ranger Stephens efforts, the federal government made Cooking Lake one of Alberta's first Forest Reserves on June 5, 1899.



Plaque unveiled during the commemoration ceremony

In 1906, Ranger Stephens received help from five prominent local residents who each put-up a bond of \$1,000 and petitioned the government to establish a sixteen square mile reserve for 20 elk and 35 mule deer near today's Astotin Lake. This "Elk Park" was

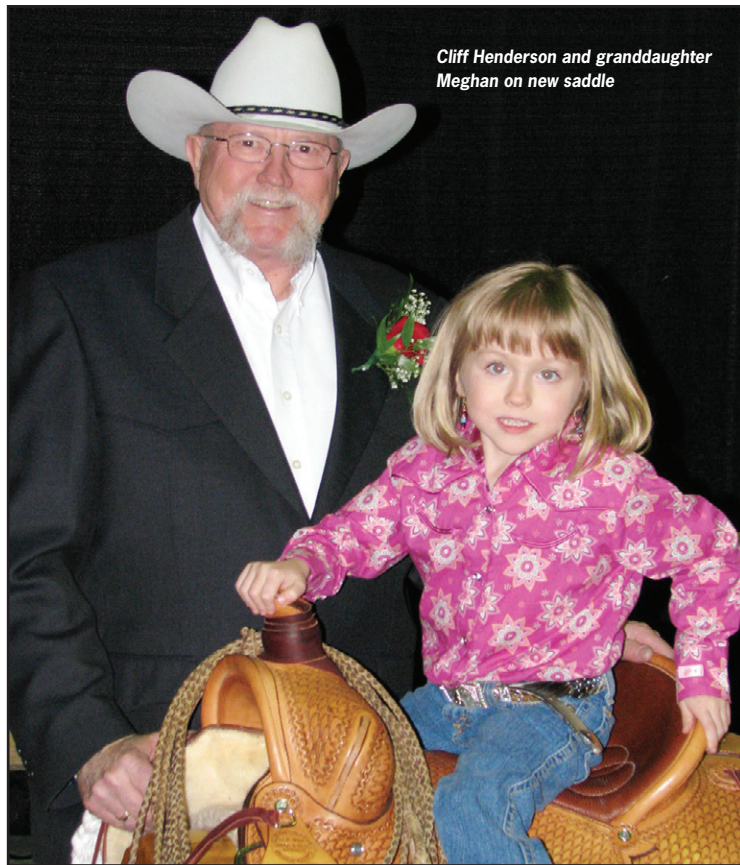
soon fenced and the protected wildlife thrived. In 1907, this park became the new home for the introduction of bison purchased by the Canadian government from a Montana rancher. Shortly after, the elk and bison required more space and in 1913, Elk Island National Park became part of the Dominion Parks system.

The original ranger cabin site is located within Elk Island National Park.

The commemoration was conducted as a partnership between the federal government and the Friends of Blackfoot Society; who are managers with the Alberta government of the Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Grazing, Wildlife Provincial Recreational Area.



Plaque unveiling (L to R) David Quest, MLA; Marilyn Peckett, Superintendent, Elk Island National Park; Mildred Stefiszyn, granddaughter of William Stephens; Cathy Schreiner, Director, Friends of Blackfoot Society; Jim Shewfelt, President, Friends of Blackfoot Society.



Cliff Henderson and granddaughter Meghan on new saddle

Chief Sorrel Horse retires!

On March 8, 2008 close to 400 family and friends came together to wish Cliff Henderson a happy retirement after more than 43 years in forestry with the provincial government.



Prior to retirement Cliff became an Honourary Chief of the Piikani Nation. Chief Reg Crowshoe and Cliff Henderson



Don Fregren, Ken South, Peter Murphy and John Benson at Cliff Henderson's retirement



Peter Murphy, Oliver Glanfield and Florence Glanfield

John Francis Hogan passed away May 31, 2008 at the age of 86. John was raised in the Nelson, B.C. area and graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1949. He was one of the "nine" immediately hired by Eric Huestis, including Bob Steele and Stan Hughes, to fill the forester ranks of the Alberta Forest Service. John was initially assigned to the forest inventory project with the Photographic Surveys Corporation leading forest survey cruise parties down the Wabasca River and in the Fort McMurray area. He also served as Head of the Forestry Training School in Kananaskis from 1953 to 1955, taking over from Victor Heath. He moved to Blairmore in 1956 as Forest Superintendent of the Crowsnest Forest, then returned to Edmonton as Head of the Construction and Maintenance Branch until his transfer to Highways in 1974. He returned to Nelson when he retired in 1978.

Obituaries

Garry Robert Leithead passed away July 12, 2008 at the age of 60 years following a lengthy but strong battle with cancer. Garry was well known to many through his work as a forester and 15 years as the Executive Director of the Alberta Forest Products Association. Although health reasons prompted his decision to leave in 2003, Garry remained active with special projects such as Alberta's softwood lumber trade negotiations. Garry was an Alberta-born and raised forester who trained at the University of Montana in Missoula. After a short time supervising reforestation crews for the Alberta government, he joined Revelstoke Companies as a district forester in Coleman, and later as chief forester based in Calgary. He took over from the helm of the AFPA from Arden Rytz in 1988.

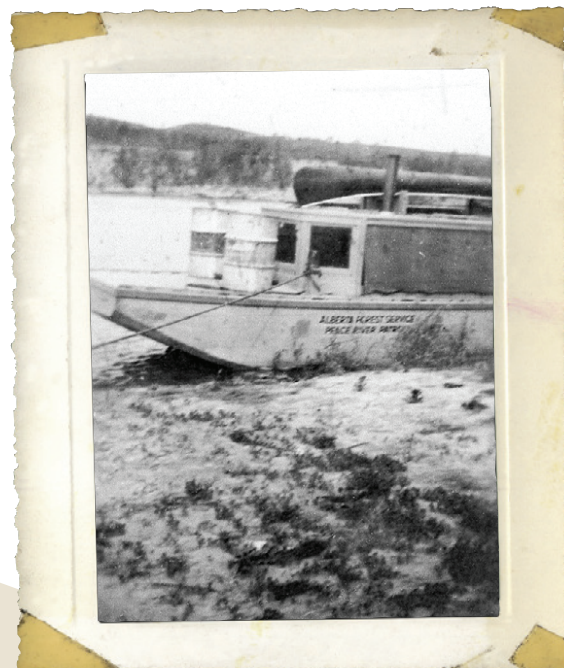


Alberta and Parks Canada employees share time with Charlie Van Wagner, the "Father of Canadian Wildfire Science." L to R: Simon Hunt, Lisa Steele, Rob Osiowy, Cliff White, Scott Jevons, Charlie Van Wagner, Bob Mazurik, Dennis Quintilio, Rick Arthur and Ian Pengally

Dr. Charlie Van Wagner was a chemical engineer before taking a degree in forestry at the University of Toronto and joining the Canadian Forestry Service in 1960. He has worked until his retirement at the Petawawa National Forestry Institute on many aspects of forest fire, including fuel moisture, fire behaviour and danger rating, prescribed fire, and fire ecology, with many publications on these subjects to his credit.



Repeat photographs of the Red Deer Ranger Station taken as part of the Mountain Legacy Project. Top photo: 1917. Bottom photo: 90 years later, 2008



Alberta Forest Service Patrol Boat at Peace River, June 14, 1932; Photo courtesy Peace River Centennial Museum

TRAILS & TALES

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TRAILS & TALES

Newsletter of the Forest History Association of Alberta

Fifth Annual General Meeting held March 18, 2009

The FHAA held its fifth annual general meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at the Coast Edmonton Plaza with twenty-eight members in attendance. Bob Udell and Rick Arthur were introduced as guest speakers for the evening. President Arden Rytz was unable to attend and Treasurer Bruce Mayer provided the introductions and overview of the previous year's activities and plans for the future. Past activities included funding to the Foothills Research Institute on the publication of the book *Mountain Trails*, memoirs of an Alberta Forest Ranger in the Mountains and Foothills of the Athabasca Forest 1920-1945, Jack Glen's story; and partnering with the Foothills Research Institute on the development of a DVD entitled *The Roots of the Present Lie Deep in the Past*, a historical perspective on North American Forestry policies and practices. Mayer provided an overview of a website that is under development for the FHAA. It is anticipated the new website will be up and running in 2009. One future project the FHAA



Left to Right: Lou Foley, Cliff Smith and Butch Shenfield

is working on is a physical, historic and photographic history of old Dominion and Alberta Forest Service patrol cabins and ranger stations. Lowell Lyseng has developed an initial spreadsheet identifying 275 sites to be investigated from a review of 1956, 1967 and 1984 map sources. The 2008 financial statement was presented and accepted. Elections were also held for three executive positions, with Cliff Henderson, Bob

Newstead and Arden Rytz being re-elected. Arden Rytz and Bob Newstead retired from their President and Secretary duties and will continue to support the executive as FHAA directors. FHAA directors will meet in early 2009 to nominate a new President and Secretary. In the mean time Peter Murphy will act as President, and Bruce Mayer will act as Secretary. Congratulations were given to the two members for their role on the FHAA executive. Door prizes consisted of history books and CDs and a fleece jacket donated by the College of Alberta Profes-

Cont'd on Page 2



Left to Right: Peter Murphy, Michelle Shesterniak and Rick Arthur



Left to Right: Cliff Smith, Trevor Wakelin, Fred McDougall, Con Dermott and Darrell Latimer

Fifth AGM attended by 28 members

sional Forest Technologists.

The initial evening presentation consisted of viewing the National Film Board DVD, *Water for the Prairies*. This 1951 Lawrence Cherry film looked at measures to preserve water flow from the Rocky Mountains and provided an overview of the Alberta Forest Service and the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board. AFS Rangers Robin Huth and Bill Shankland were included within the documentary.

Following the movie Bob Udell presented an overview of projects undertaken through the Foothills Research



Bob Udell holding a copy of *The Resilient Forest*, a 2007 publication

Institute Adaptive Forest Management/History Program. The book *Mountain Trails* and the CD *The Roots of the Present Lie Deep in the Past* were but two of the recent successes of the program, both with funding from the Forest History Association of Alberta. Further information can be found at

the Foothills Research Institute website, www.foothillsresearchinstitute.ca.

Rick Arthur drew the last slot for the evening and gave a great presentation on the Mountain Legacy Project. From the 1880s through the 1950s surveyors with the Geological Survey of Canada, the Department of the Interior's Dominion Land Survey, and other government departments conducted photo topographic surveying of the mountains in Western Canada. The images left a



Rick Arthur and the Mountain Legacy Project presentation



Left to Right: John Collins, Andy Gesner and Grant Sprague

legacy of systematic photographs with nearly complete coverage of much of the landscape. Over 140,000 glass plates have been discovered in archives, with most residing in the National Archives of Canada. Students working on the project retrace the steps of the early surveyors and take a series

of high resolution digital 'repeat' photographs. Interesting differences are then visible when comparing the photographs, showing a snapshot of then and now. Further information on the Mountain Legacy Project can be found at the University of Victoria hosted website, <http://mountainlegacy.uvic.ca>.



Eleanor and Adele Claydon. Eleanor is the daughter and Adele is the granddaughter of Forest Ranger Dexter Champion.



Forest Ranger Dexter Champion was born and raised on his family's homestead, about seven miles west of Priddis. He started his career with the Alberta Forest Service in the spring of 1931 as a seasonal lookoutman on Moose Mountain

Lookout, where he took his young bride Louise, spending three and a half seasons. In 1934 Champion became patrolman at Kananaskis Lakes, later becoming Assistant Ranger there for the following three years. He moved successively to the Ghost River, Castle River and Cypress Hills districts before becoming Chief Ranger at Rocky Mountain House in 1947 and Timber Inspector at Athabasca in 1950. He helped to develop forest fire prevention training at the early Forestry Training Schools when they were held in Kananaskis.

In 1956, Champion moved to Hinton to join the new North Western Pulp and Power Ltd. pulp operation as forest fire prevention officer. He held that position for 11 years, then moved up to Mill Safety Supervisor and finally Fire Chief before his retirement in 1965. Besides his many professional contributions during his "Forestry" days with North Western Pulp and Power Ltd., he gave generously of his time to public service causes including the Boys Scouts, which he also served as a Commissioner; Chamber of Commerce as member and president; and Kiwanis as a promoter of the Yellowhead Highway as the second Trans-Canada Highway.

Bruce Mayer, Treasurer of the FHAA

Bruce started his career with the Alberta Forest Service in 1979 on a trail maintenance crew, constructing bridges and improving trail drainage for off-highway vehicle use in the Ghost Ranger District. Also initiated that summer was the construction of the Fallen Timber Campground, a campground designed especially for access and use by individuals with 4x4s, trikes and various motorcycles, including 'trials' bikes. The object of trials riding was for the rider to negotiate man-made or natural obstacles (rocky trails, creek banks, picnic tables, rock barriers, etc.) without the riders feet touching the ground; most all the time at a very slow rate of speed.

Mayer switched from business at the University of Calgary to forestry, and Mayer graduated from NAIT's Forest Technology Program in 1983. Seasonal work further included member and leader on the Canmore Ranger District Kananaskis Initial Attack Crew from 1981 to 1984; foreman of the Kananaskis fuel modification crew during the winters of 1983 and 1984; and seasonal forest recreation guardian in the Ghost Ranger District during the summers of 1985 and 1986. Although plenty of seasonal work was available, the early 1980s hiring freeze didn't allow

for a permanent posting as a Forest Officer until 1986 in Fox Creek.

Mayer moved to Calling Lake as the Forest Officer III in 1992 and subsequently became the Senior Ranger and then Forest Area Manager in Athabasca before moving to Whitecourt as the Fire Manager in 2000. In April 2002 Bruce moved to Edmonton as the director of the Wildfire Policy and Business Planning Branch. In April 2003 a Departmental secondment saw Bruce take on the newly created Consultation Team Lead working with a half dozen other ministries in the development of the provincial First Nation consultation policy.

In 2005 Mayer returned to Forest Protection where he was the Acting Director Forest Protection Branch in 2006, Director Forestry Business Services Branch from January 2007 to December 2008, and most recently Executive Director Forest Protection Branch.

Bruce is married to Elaine and they have three children, a boy and two girls, the youngest who graduated Grade 12 in spring 2009. Bruce is an ardent history fan and chaired the steering committee for the publications of the *Alberta Forest Service history book Protection and management of Alberta's forests, 1930-2005*.



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For more info contact Bruce Mayer

Ph: (780) 644-4656
E-mail: bruce.mayer@gov.ab.ca
FHAA@albertaforesthstory.ca

Recent forestry retirements

Revie Lieskovsky



On November 15, 2008 friends and family gathered to toast Revie into retirement after 26 years with the provincial government; this on top of Revie's 16 years with the Canadian Forest Service. Revie graduated from the first NAIT Forest Technology program held in Hinton in 1966. His early career was spent as a researcher with the CFS working on prescribed burns, fire weather indices and retardant mixtures and airtanker drop patterns; information that is still used today as a basis for the current aerial firefighting program. Revie was instrumental in developing a top notch airtanker and rappel program for Alberta. He retired as Director, Wildfire Operations.

On December 31, 2008 Murray retired after 44 years in the forest industry, the last 35 here in Alberta. A graduate of UNB in 1964, Murray was Woodlands Manager in Whitecourt with Simpson Timber, later Blue Ridge Lumber, and spent twelve years as Chief Forester for West Fraser Mills Ltd. Murray has also been an active volunteer spending 20 years with the school division and over 30 years involved in hockey in Alberta, as a coach, mentor coach, clinic instructor and scout. Murray was awarded the 2007 Meritorious Award by Hockey Alberta for his dedication and commitment. Murray was the first president of Alberta Registered Professional Foresters Association and leaves a long legacy of forest management accomplishments in the province.



Murray Summers

Daryl D'Amico



Daryl graduated from the University of Missoula in 1969 and began working with the Alberta Forest Service forest management planning section under Charlie Jackson. Other graduates at the time were Tony Sikora, Dennis Quintilio, Dennis Dube, Don Fregren, Jim Nowasad, Garry Leithead, Peter Murphy and Con Dermott - heck of an alumni! Daryl moved to Hudson Bay, SK to work for Simpson Timber and then to Whitecourt in 1974 when Simpson Timber was awarded their FMA. Daryl worked for Simpson Timber, and later Blue Ridge Lumber and West Fraser Mills as a management forester until his retirement.

On May 23, 2009 another forestry retirement party was held with Don Harrison retiring after 35 years with the department. Don's career spanned many roles and locations from Forest Officer in Rocky Mountain House, Slave Lake, Blairmore, Lodgepole, Nordegg to Timber Management and Forest Protection Technician in Calgary, and Forest Area Manager in Hinton. Don moved to Edmonton as the Manager, Wildfire and Aviation in 2000 and helped coordinate the response to the 1999 Alberta Fire Review. With the reorganization in 2001, Don became the Director of Wildfire Service Branch, later Forest Protection Branch. The last eight months Don was Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of Forestry Division. Don is currently working with the State of Jalisco, Mexico on the development of a wildfire management program.



Don Harrison

Donations of Prints: George Schultz and Bob Guest

The Forest History Association of Alberta is proud to acknowledge recent donations received. On August 14, 2008 George Schultz donated an original oil painting of Copton Lookout painted by artist and friend Robert Guest in 1966. On October 23, 2008 artist Robert Guest donated an original oil painted he had recently finished of Kvass Lookout.



Above: Copton Lookout painted by Robert Guest, 1966

Right: Helen and George Schultz with painting in background



Above: Bruce Mayer accepting painting of Kvass Lookout from Bob Guest

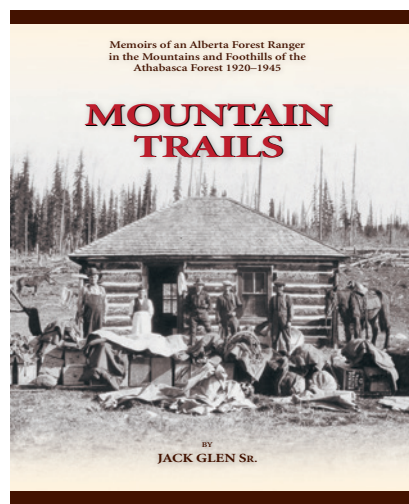
Right: Robert and Myrtle Guest



Hot off the wire



Mountain Trails – Jack Glen Sr.



Jack Glen (1891-1983) was a farm hand, wrangler, railway builder, police officer, forest officer, firefighter, artist, writer, inventor and gardener over his long life and varied career.

This book tells the story of a 25 year chapter of that career, commencing

when he left the Royal Northwest Mounted Police force to become a Dominion Forestry Branch (and later Alberta Forest Service) ranger in the frontier community of Entrance.

His story is full of adventures, colourful characters, and the challenge of bringing law and order to a previously untracked and mostly uninhabited wilderness. This story of the early roots of forest management and administration in Alberta also provides compelling insight into the nature, the character and the daily struggle of the men and women who lived and worked at the very edge of civilization as we now know it.

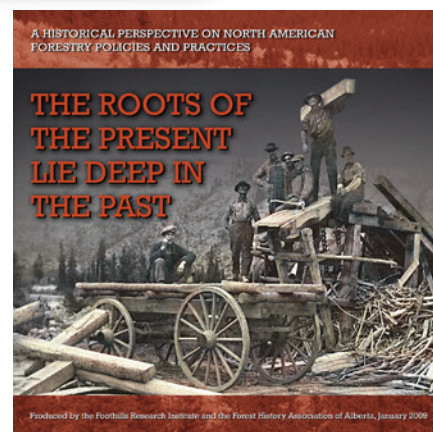
This book can be purchased through Foothills Research Institute for a cost of \$35.00 CDN (soft cover) or \$50.00 CDN (hard cover) plus shipping and handling. Please contact Fran Hanington by phone at (780) 865-8330 or by email at fran.hanington@gov.ab.ca if you are interested in purchasing this publication.

Forest History Association of Alberta members are eligible for a 25% discount on their purchase.

The Roots of the Present Lie Deep in the Past

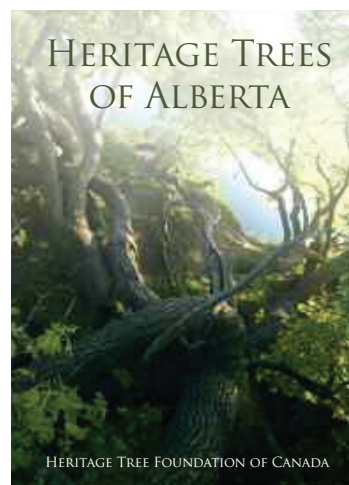
From October 2-6, 2004 over 1,500 delegates attended the joint Canadian Institute of Forestry/Society of American Foresters convention and annual meeting at the Shaw Convention Centre in Edmonton, Alberta. This CD contains the voiceover and PowerPoint from the October 4 plenary session on forest policy and forest history: *"The Roots of the Present Lie Deep in the Past"*. The speakers in order were Charles Kay,

Adjunct Professor in Political Science at Utah State University; Cliff White, Manager of Heritage Resources Conservation in Banff National Park; Tom Maccagno, a lawyer and Western Canadian historian from Lac La Biche; Char Miller, Professor of History from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas; and Peter Murphy, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry of the University of Alberta.



Heritage Trees of Alberta

In September 2008 the Heritage Tree Foundation of Canada published the remarkable book *Heritage Trees of Alberta*. With hundreds of volunteers and over 900 tree nominations, managing editor Libby Fairweather and organizers put together a comprehensive collection, complete with maps and historic and personal stories of the heritage trees. The book follows in the traditions of the Alberta Forestry Association's Trees of Renown project and publications, and the heritage tree project undertaken in Ontario. Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) and the Forest History Association of Alberta are

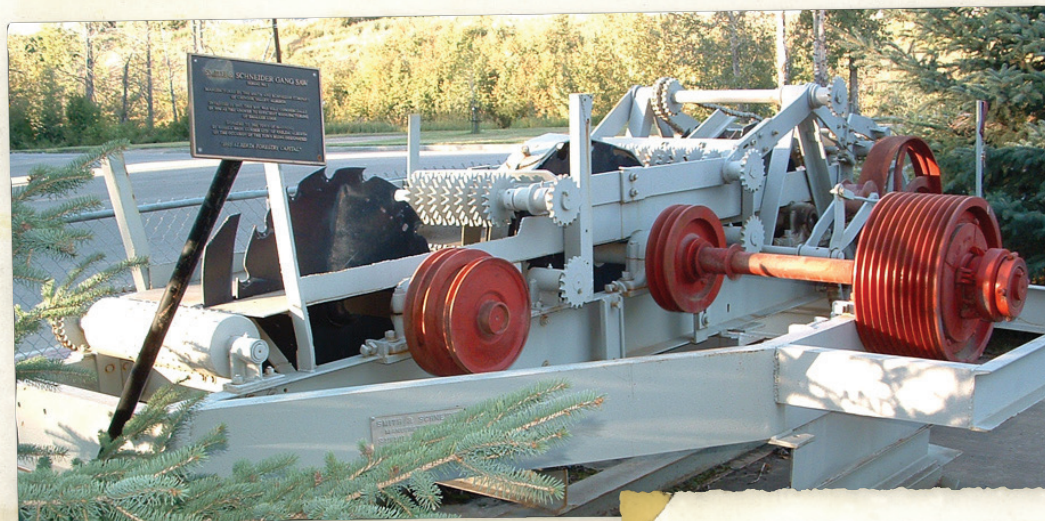


working with the Heritage Tree Foundation on a joint database for the Heritage Trees of Alberta and the Trees of Renown.

Heritage tree nominations can be made on both ASRD and Heritage Tree Foundations websites (www.srd.gov.ab.ca/forests/treesofrenown.aspx and www.heritagetreefoundation.com/index.htm).

To order your copy of *Heritage Trees of Alberta* go to www.heritagetreefoundation.com/publication.htm.

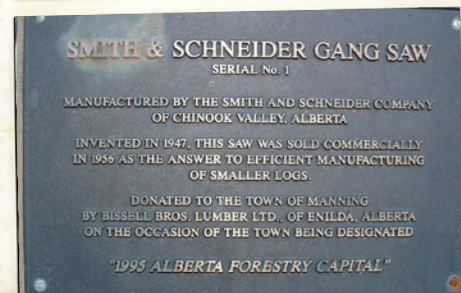
FHAA PHOTO CORNER



Bissell Brothers Lumber of Enilda donated this gang saw to the town of Manning for its 1995 Alberta Forestry Capital designation. Tim Klein remembers hauling the gang saw to Peace River with Chief Ranger Phil Dube. Peter Wiebe, the Alberta Forest Service mechanic foreman, then sand blasted, painted and prepared the gang saw for display. This gang saw was manufactured by the Smith and Schneider Company of Chinook Valley, Alberta.



Stan Hughes and Bob Steele with the newly acquired Dornier CF-AFB fixed wing aircraft, 1964



L to R: Art Peter, Peter Nortcliffe and Art Evans standing in front of monster Douglas Fir, Crowsnest area, 1980s



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



The Upper Saskatchewan Ranger Station from the late 1950s before Abraham Lake was created. Butch Shenfield was able to take a repeat of the same location in June 2009 while the damn was low in water. Note the foundations in the foreground of the picture.



TRAILS & TALES

Published by the Forest History Association of Alberta

Current membership: 55

Layout by Rob Harris

Please send story ideas to
Bruce Mayer at (780) 644-4656

FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION
OF ALBERTA

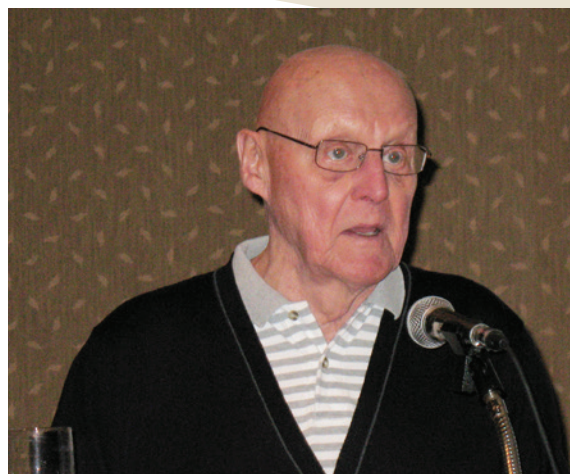
TRAILS & TALES

Newsletter of the Forest History Association of Alberta

Arden Rytz, founding member and first president passes away

Forestry lost a good friend and champion with the passing of Arden Rytz on January 28, 2010. Arden, who was 87, lived in Edmonton with his wife Sophie. He received his forestry degree from the University of British Columbia in 1950. His remarkable career as a forester started during summers with the Canadian Forest Service, then to permanent employment with the Imperial Lumber Company looking after their seven lumber operations in Alberta. Arden's greatest contributions occurred during his association with and employment as Executive Director of the Alberta Forest Products Association of Alberta.

A celebration of Arden's life will be held at a date still to be set.



FHAA President Arden Rytz providing opening remarks at the 4th AGM in March 2008

6th Annual General Meeting to be held March 17, 2010

Join us at the Coast Edmonton Plaza for the 6th Forest History Association of Alberta annual general meeting. Please note the January 1, 2010 membership renewal had the wrong date of Thursday March 17,

2010 – the correct date is WEDNESDAY March 17, 2010.

Meeting format will be similar to those in the past, will start with required business of the association (updates, financial report and elec-

tion of 3 directors) and will finish the evening off with short history presentations, including some 'home' movies. This year's elections will also include filling the vacancy created with the passing of Arden Rytz.

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For more info contact Bruce Mayer

Ph: (780) 644-4656
E-mail: bruce.mayer@gov.ab.ca
FHAA@albertaforesthstory.ca

Rytz a champion of forest management

Reprinted from the August 2007 FHAA newsletter (small revision made)

Raised and schooled in Edmonton, Arden served in the Air Force as a radar mechanic in both the United Kingdom and Southeast Asia. In 1950 Arden graduated from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver with a forestry degree.

He spent his summers gaining experience working with the Canadian Forest Service at the Kananaskis Forest Experimental Station during the summers of 1947 and 1948. The summers of 1949 and 1950 were spent in northern Alberta doing a variety of studies in tree growth and forest inventory.

In September 1950 Arden was hired by Imperial Lumber Company of Edmonton as a forester for their seven operations in the province.

At that time, these operations ranged from Rocky Mountain House in the south, to Marlboro in the Edson Forest, Athabasca, Lac La Biche, Kinuso, Barrhead, Blue Ridge and eventually Grande Prairie, Topley and Burns Lake in B.C. In 1955, Arden was made production manager of the Imperial operations, with expansions occurring in the Grande Prairie and Footner Lake Forests. Arden stated that during the period from 1955 to 1960 'Imperial Lumber Company was the only operation in Alberta to produce over 100 million board feet of lumber in one year'. During this time he was also appointed vice-president of Imperial's Quality Spruce Mills in Topley, B.C.

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



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

brief that the Association presented to its membership asking it to accept the concept of timber tenure that would lead to the Quota System. Arden recalled vividly how pleased he was the Association Membership unanimously voted to approve this approach to government at the 1964 Annual Meeting. The presentation by the Association on this brief to government, ended up with the establishment of the Quota System in 1966.

In 1967 Arden left Imperial Lumber to take the position of staff forester with the Northern Interior Lumbermen's Association in Prince George, B.C. where he worked for about eighteen months on new lumber grading standards.

As a result of efforts of some members of the Alberta Forest Products Association, Arden and his

family were lured back to Alberta in 1968 where he was asked to take over as manager of the AFPA.

Arden held that position, later Executive Director, for 20 years until his retirement in 1989. During Arden's tenure, major changes to the timber management regulations were made to address new procedures such as weight scaling, metric measurement, and inventory volumes in respect to timber cut below a 10 inch diameter stump. Regeneration standards were developed which are now periodically amended and updated.

In 1972 Arden felt privileged to represent the forest products industry along with Bob Steele, deputy Minister of Lands and Forests representing the government, on a trade mission to Japan, hosted by Premier Lougheed, then Premier of the Province of Alberta. This mission was the forerunner to many negotiations and visits that led to greatly expanded

Cont'd on Page 3

A distinguished career in Alberta forestry



Arden Rytz, chair of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, Rocky Mountain Section, 1971-72

trade.

Arden also spent many hours representing forest industry's position on timber harvesting on public lands to the Environmental Council of Alberta during their 1978 hearings for their 1979 report. Arden and Bob DeGrace were instrumental in the formation of the Canadian Lumber Standards Accreditation Board, and subsequent formation of the National Lumber Grades Authority. Arden was also the Canadian liaison on the American Lumber Standards Committee with the US Department of Commerce. The Canadian Wood Council recognized his efforts in 1989 with the prestigious Paul Bunyan award.

In 1987 at the AFPA Annual Meeting, members agreed to expand membership to include the panel board and pulp and paper industries, a step for which Arden had long advocated. A detailed proposal was approved in 1988, thereby creating his 'one voice' for forest industry. Arden retired the following year.

Arden had always participated in volunteer forestry organizations. A 50-year member of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, he was active in the Rocky Mountain Section, in 1971-72 serving as Section Chairman and a Councillor 1956-59, 1969-70 and 1982-83. He was also an early and effective proponent of the Registered Professional Foresters Association in Alberta and was one of the ten charter members of the prototype RPF association when legislation was passed in 1985.



Canadian Institute of Forestry, Rocky Mountain Section meeting, Red Deer, 1952. (L to R): Arden Rytz, Des Crossley, John Hogan, Jack Devlin, Reg Loomis, Eric Huestis (in shadows), not identified (coffee cup)

Arden was also elected to terms on the Board of Directors. Arden was subsequently recognized with designation as RPF 001 of the Alberta Registered Professional Foresters. Also interested in the history of forestry, Arden became a charter member of the Forest History Association of Alberta in 2004 and was elected as its first President, serving to 2009.

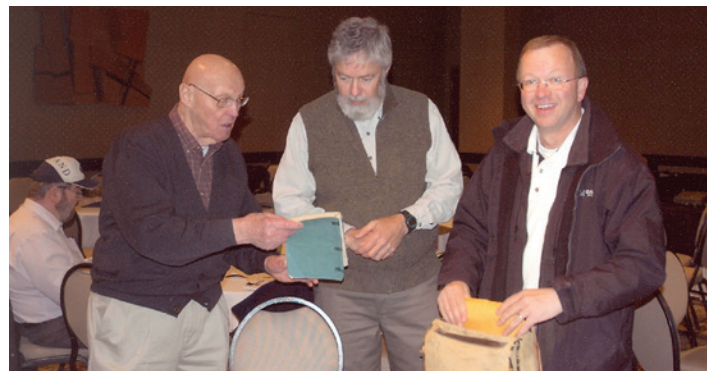
Following retirement, Arden and Sophie continued to travel and spend quality time with their children and grandchildren at their cabin at Muriel Lake. Even there, Arden was active in a local committee to maintain the environmental quality of the Muriel Lake area.

Arden was born March 10, 1922 and passed away January 28, 2010. He and Sophie were married in May 1952. They had three children, Curtis a dentist in Calgary who has two daughters, Ardene, a dental assistant in Victoria who has one daughter and Brad who they lost in 1996.

Arden was a strong champion of sustainable forest management in Alberta, and had a deep interest in saving, promoting and sharing our valuable forest history.



Four influential foresters of the time. (L to R): Des Crossley, North West Pulp and Paper; Reg Loomis, Alberta Forest Service; John McLanahan, Canadian Forest Service; and Arden Rytz, forest industry



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

Jack (John) Holden – Forest Ranger in Wabiskaw (Wabasca)

Excerpts taken from the Land Forest Wildlife magazine, Spring 1965, Vol. 8, No. 1

The community of Wabasca is 300 kilometres north of Edmonton within what was the Slave Lake Forest and now Lesser Slave Area. Forest Rangers have been in the community for years doing fire suppression, game guardian and general forestry and land administration duties. The following is a story of one individual, Jack (John) Holden.

To the district of Wabiskaw in 1942 came a slight, quiet, English born forest ranger named Jack Holden. Twenty-two years later, in November 1964, he retired from public service. A diary of his term of duty is a fascinating story of semi primitive official service. All of it and Jack, the central character, represent enough material for a most unusual biography.

Jack arrived at a home-
stead about 50 miles
north of Edmonton with
his parents in 1904.
When he grew up and
sought work he reached
the logging camps in the
Slave Lake region and
mixed a variety of logging
jobs, including the old
style “river drives”, with
trapping. He seemed
destined to earn his living
in Alberta woods; a destiny
confirmed by subsequent
events.

During his logging employment Jack became a firefighting foreman and in this role caught the eye of a forest superintendent. Shortly his firefighting services were engaged more directly when he joined the Slave Lake ranger staff. Following a brief headquarters indoctrination period he was dispatched

to Wabiskaw where he remained for the duration of his employment.

A forest ranger stationed at Wabiskaw and, for that matter, at many other Alberta points, especially during the 1930s and 40s, needed the courage to act independently. He was required to apply forestry and fish and wildlife regulations in many different circumstances and without the necessity for seeking precedent or advice at headquarters. Indeed headquarters was often so remote it might not be reached in time to provide effective support. The ranger in such situations, and Jack Holden was one, had almost invariably to act on his own initiative. This kind of duty soon “separates men from boys”.

In time Jack Holden became a totally accepted member of the community of Wabiskaw by the

native inhabitants. So accepted, in fact, that he eventually became an important counsellor to many of them. At the time of his retirement he knew possibly more about the personal lives of his woodlands associates than anyone in his district.

After many trips on foot, by canoe and on horseback to the most remote sections he became familiar with every corner of his terrain. A ninety-mile hike to the settlement at Smith was a normal jaunt. Jack could make the trip handily with two “sleeps”. When he set out with a crew to investigate a “smoke” he led them with confidence, knowing the shortest and easiest routes and packing his own gear on his back along with the rest of the team. Today he



Ranger John Holden and two important means of conveyance, his birch bark canoe and showshoes. Both articles are hand crafted.

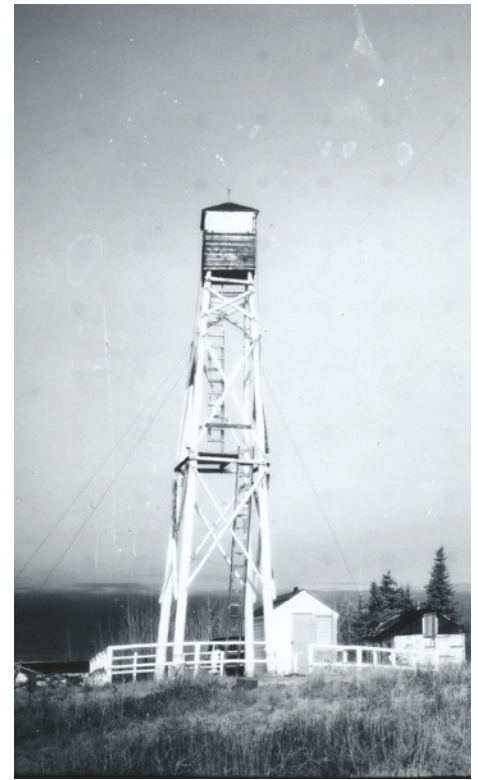
Holden (continued)

can discuss what are otherwise little known canoe routes that will undoubtedly excite the holiday “voyageur” in future.

Hand in hand with Jack’s assurance on the trail came a mutual trust between his office and his Indian co-workers. He conducted his official affairs with all of the impartiality he could muster. He listened and learned, he trusted and was in turn trusted, his counsel, when requested, must have been sagacious and objective yet, in his own words, “he tried to remain aloof from personal feuds”. Jack’s personal philosophy is typical of the true woodsman: relaxed, broad and receptive to the inevitable; acknowledging persistence

in attainment and the whimsical rationality of all forms of human behaviour. He attacked his duties with vigor and determination but met adversity with good humor and he knew just when to resign. He scrapped with anyone who threatened a pledge he might have made to his associations. As a result, throughout his district he claimed almost universal trust. Men followed him willingly and, when the need arose, obeyed his firefighting instructions to the letter and without question.

In 1964 Jack retired staying on in his own small cabin he owned in Wabiskaw. As he pointed out, “after 22 years, where would I go?”



Wabasca Crawl Tower mid 1960s



Wabasca Ranger Station mid 1960s



Lower left are the old forestry building and Holden's residence. Above them, within the fenced area, are new forestry office and house compound. The wooden Wabasca crawl tower is on the hill at right.

FHAA launches new website

The Forest History Association of Alberta recently launched a newly designed website. The new site contains a treasure trove of information, including historic documents, meeting minutes, newsletters, photos and the Association's governance documents. Discover Alberta's forest history at <http://albertaforesthistory.ca>.

**Forest History
Association
of Alberta**

February 10, 2010

<div style="background-color: #4f81bd; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; text-align: center;">home</div> <div style="background-color: #4f81bd; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; text-align: center;">about us</div> <div style="background-color: #4f81bd; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; text-align: center;">governance</div> <div style="background-color: #4f81bd; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; text-align: center;">historic documents</div> <div style="background-color: #4f81bd; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; text-align: center;">meetings</div> <div style="background-color: #4f81bd; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; text-align: center;">newsletters</div> <div style="background-color: #4f81bd; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; text-align: center;">photos</div> <div style="background-color: #4f81bd; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; text-align: center;">membership</div>	<div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Discover Forestry</p> <p>Alberta's forested landscapes began to recover about 10,000 years ago following retreat of the glaciers.</p> <p>Today's forests are the product of thousands of years of change. The climate has warmed and cooled and is believed to be warming again. Patterns of rainfall have varied, and disturbances such as fire have both created diversity within the forest and influenced the boundary between forest and prairie.</p> <p>The many historical aspects of the forest itself are intriguing from a human perspective.</p> <p>People followed close behind the recovery of Alberta's forest. To them, the forested landscapes would have been important for the production of fuel, shelter and associated plants and animals. Aboriginal people, as recently as the early 20th century, used fire to create and maintain conditions that supported wildlife and food crops such as berries, adding to the diversity of the forest.</p> </div> <div style="float: right;">   </div>
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Mark your calendar



**AFS Oldtimers Hockey
25th Anniversary**

Get the Foil On!

Redwater Arena
Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010

Area Rep:
Phone No.:

Entry: \$50 - Ice Time
Meal
Jacket
Meal Only: \$10
Jacket Only: \$40

25 Years 2010

February 27, 2010

25th Anniversary of AFS Oldtimer Hockey ... the Tradition Continues

Location: Redwater Arena; contact Rod Houle at Rod.Houle@gov.ab.ca for further information



March 6 and 7, 2010

34th Annual E.S. Huestis Forestry Curling Bonspiel

Location: Athabasca Multiplex; contact Greg Boyachuk at Greg.Boyachuk@gov.ab.ca for further information

THE 34TH ANNUAL E.S. HUESTIS FORESTRY CURLING BONSPIEL

WHAT: A SEMI-COMPETITIVE, FUN, SOCIAL EVENT

WHEN: MARCH 6-7, 2010

WHERE: THE ATHABASCA MULTIPLEX

WHO: ANY CURRENT, FORMER OR RETIRED SRD/PARKS STAFF (AT LEAST 2 PER TEAM) AND FAMILY/FRIENDS
ANY COMBINATION OF MALE/FEMALE PLAYERS

COST: \$160.00 PER TEAM

INFO: PLEASE E-MAIL GREG BOYACHUK (Greg.Boyachuk@gov.ab.ca) BY FEBRUARY 1, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ENTERING A TEAM



- GUARANTEED 3 GAMES
- CATERED SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER
- SPONSORED SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST
- CHARITY CASINO AND AUCTION FOR THE CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION
- DRAW TO THE BUTTON CONTEST
- 50/50 DRAW
- EXCELLENT PRIZES

March 17, 2010

6th Annual Forest History Association of Alberta Annual General Meeting

Location: Coast Plaza Edmonton (10155-105 Street); contact Bruce Mayer at Bruce.Mayer@gov.ab.ca for further information



September 27-29, 2010

CIF-IFC Annual General Meeting & Conference

Location: Jasper; contact admin@cif-ifc.org for further information

Join the Canadian Institute of Forestry for their conference on "Regional Land Use Planning in a Global Economy". Timing and location of this conference are significant with the 200th anniversary of David Thompson and his exploration for a route across the Rockies; similar to the new challenges facing us today on land use planning.

October 2, 2010

50th Anniversary Hinton Training Centre

Location: Hinton Training Centre; contact Crystal Miller at Crystal.Miller@gov.ab.ca for further information

The Hinton Training Centre, previously known as the Forestry Training School, Forest Technology School and Environmental Training Centre, is celebrating its 50th anniversary in Hinton. An open house is being planned for Saturday October 2, 2010 showcasing recent renovations to the facility, live demonstrations of simulators and rappelling, and a theme based display in the John C. Wagar Gymnasium. The theme will be "HTC through the decades", starting in the 1950s working right up to 2010. To celebrate this event, the Hinton Training Centre plans on pre-selling 50th anniversary brass belt buckles and t-shirts. The training centre is looking to receive photographs or stories of people or events that you feel should be included in the timeline, or even recorded for future history. For further information contact Crystal Miller at (780) 865-8318 or Crystal.Miller@gov.ab.ca.

Obituaries

Dennis Dube was born June 30, 1941 and passed away June 3, 2009 in Edmonton. Dennis had a long and rewarding career with the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) and made many important contributions to forest fire research in Canada and internationally. Dennis received his B.Sc. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana in 1966 and his M.Sc. in Plant Ecology from the University of Alberta in 1976. Dennis began his career with CFS in 1971 and became a full-time employee in 1973 working out of the Northern Forestry Centre (NoFC) in Edmonton, Alberta. Focusing on fire ecology he sought to enhance our understanding of fire's role in forest ecosystems and was a strong advocate for the use of prescribed fire in maintaining healthy and productive forests. From 1980 to 1984 he was the NoFC Fire Project Leader where he built strong relationships with provincial and territorial fire management agencies in Canada and played an active role in the Intermountain/Interior West Fire Council. After a one year hiatus as Forester for the City of Winnipeg he moved to Ottawa and became the CFS's Forest Fire Scientific Coordinator where he became more actively involved in international fire research and management activities. In 1991 Dennis returned to his Alberta roots and became the Director of the Forest Resources Program at NoFC (which included the fire research project) and remained in that position until late 1998 when he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. An amazing attitude, tenacity, and determination guided his journey over the past 10+ years as he dealt with the tumour with courage and grace. Dennis touched many lives and will be remembered for his passion and concern for our environment, love of people, enthusiasm for sports, reading, movies, and pursuing life.

Zoltan Licsko was born July 21, 1927 in Hungary and passed away August 10, 2009 in Whitecourt at 82 years. Zoltan began work in the Forest Surveys Branch of the Alberta Forest Service in 1958 first as a compiler and later a photogrammetrist and technical assistant. In 1967 Zoltan became the forester in Whitecourt Forest, focussing his next 15 years on reforestation activities. He was instrumental introducing new and progressive practices in forest management in such areas as tree planting, stand conversion from deciduous to coniferous, thinning and most notably the use of heavy equipment for site preparation, specifically his use of the Martini plow in the Meekwap Lake area.

Les (Lefty) Pliska passed away December 16, 2009 at the age of 83 years in Edson. Lefty started working for the Alberta Forest Service in Edson in 1961 first as a towerman prior to settling into the warehouseman position until his retirement in 1987.

Peter Nortcliffe was born February 20, 1929 in Harrogate, Yorkshire, England and passed away December 21, 2009 at the age of 80 years. Peter worked for the Alberta Forest Service from 1964 to 1993, starting in the far north, later spending much of his career in the Crowsnest Pass until retirement. Peter was the last Forest Officer to be stationed at the remote Embarras Ranger Station, located along the Athabasca River south of Lake Athabasca.

Erling Winquist was born March 9, 1933 at Vasa Park, Pidgeon Lake, and passed away in Fort Saskatchewan January 2, 2010. Erling was a photogrammetrist with the Alberta Forest Service from 1953 until his retirement in 1988, 35 years. Erling was witness to, and involved in many of the new forest management inventories identified and used over the years, from the first aerial photograph inventories conducted in the 1950s establishing the Phase I inventory to work on Phase II and Phase III inventories. The Alberta Vegetative Inventory (AVI) was becoming the new tool when Erling retired. Erling organized and coordinated the yearly E.S. Huestis Curling Bonspiel from its inception in 1966 to 1988.

Joe Machovec was born October 2, 1931 and passed away January 17, 2010 at the age of 78 years. Joe worked for the Alberta Forest Service as a Forest Ranger/Officer in the Sheep River district from 1957 until his retirement in 1977. He will be remembered as a passionate man of the environment.

Arden Rytz was born March 10, 1922 and passed away January 28, 2010 at the age of 87 years. Further information on Arden is provided in this newsletter.

A touch of the past...

The following is from a letter written by Forest Supervisor A.C. St. Clair (Department of the Interior, Forestry Branch, Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve, Office of Bow River Forest) to Forest Ranger William Foran (Lineham, Alberta) on October 10, 1917 with regards to construction/improvements to be made on the Bighorn Water Supply:

"Sir: I am sending you to-day eight (8) men, hired through Barris and Company Employment Agents, for work on the Bighorn Water Supply. These men are hired at 45¢ per hour, subject to a deduction of 30¢ per meal. You, of course, realize that we are paying these men pretty high wages and therefore the work should be carried through as rapidly as possible, and if you find any of them are not efficient workmen, of course, you will let them go."

Ensuring cost effective operations still exist today!

Robert Guest, towerman and renowned artist, provided a number of sketches and prints for use as art work in the Department of Lands and Forests Land Forest Wildlife magazines published from the 1950s to 1970s. The story line on the back of the Spring 1965 edition said:

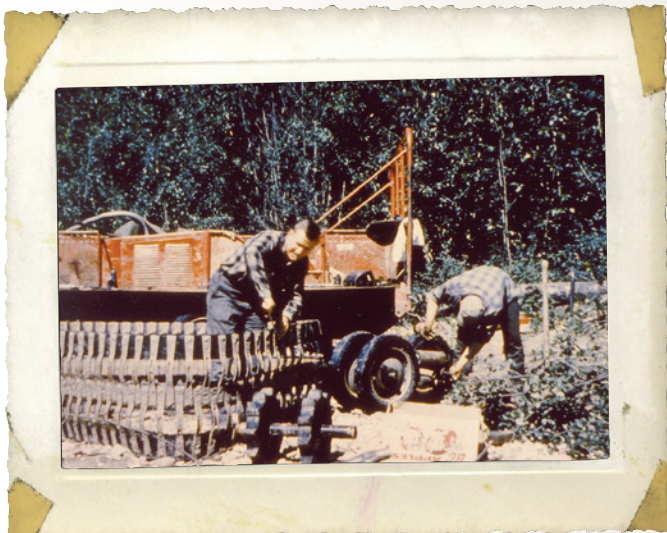
"A graduate of the Alberta Institute of Technology and Banff School of Fine Arts, 27-year-old Bob has already created a number of excellent sketches and canvasses. All deal with the outdoor world and they illustrate his deep affection for nature. We expect to hear a great deal more about this young man's talent in future. (Underline provided by the Trails and Tales editor.) He applies skill, enthusiasm and diligence to an extraordinary degree."

For those who remember the June 2009 Trails and Tales newsletter, two of Bob's original paintings were donated to the Forest History Association in 2008. Bob recently donated a third painting to the FHAA in the fall of 2009.

What is the origin of the word Ranger? (From the Illustrated Canadian Forestry Magazine, May, 1921)

Ranger is derived from the old French word, "renc", meaning row or rank. It was the official title of the keepers of the royal parks. The Rolls of Parliament for 1455 listed "Foresters and Rangers of Oure For-estes".

FHAA PHOTO CORNER



Doug Lyons and Fermen L'Hirondelle repairing a track on M8 Bombi, Slave Lake Forest timber cruise, 1959

Doug Lyons and Gordon DeGrace of the Alberta Forest Service Timber Management Branch conducting a quota draw, mid 1960s



FHAA PHOTO CORNER



Sign from the Embarras Ranger Station, 1960s



Retired from the Alberta Forest Service, Oliver Glanfield (R) spends his time as curator of the Fort Chipewyan Bicentennial Museum. John McLevin (L) is the Forestry Manager in Fort McMurray.



Rock cairn on mountain top south west of Nordegg. Location used as reference starting point for Mountain Legacy Project crew taking repeat photographs of the area



Butch Shenfield looking for camera station reference points with the Mountain Legacy Project crew in September 2009. Upper Saskatchewan prescribed burn in the background



Alberta Forest Service Ranger meeting, Northern Alberta Forest District, Grande Prairie, 1941 (photo Dennis Pegg collection) Back Row (L to R): Vic Mitchell (Chief Ranger at large), Louis N. (Doonie) Donovan (Radio Operator, Grande Prairie), Bert Speers (Spirit River), D.B. Harrington (Sturgeon Heights), Harry Hembold (Peace River), Pete Comeau (Grande Prairie), Hugh MacDonald (Superintendent, Grande Prairie), Art Sherman (Halcourt). Front Row (L to R): Not Identified, W.V. (Bill) Morison (Worsley), Frank L. Cavette (Debolt), Wm. Mason Wood (Blueberry Mountain), Sherman G. (Trix) Willis (Sexsmith)

(Right) Aerial view of Pelican Spruce Mills, Upper Wells, north of Wandering River, August 1973



Alberta Forest Service Radio Branch staff, April 1946 (photo credit Sam Fomuk)
L to R: Don Bruce, Hugh Short, Charlie Curran, Bob Poirier, Ron-
nie Linsdell, Gordon Fowlie, Al Schultz, Jack Dempsey

TRAILS & TALES

Published by the Forest History Association of Alberta

Current membership: 55

Layout by Rob Harris

**Please send story ideas to
Bruce Mayer at (780) 644-4656**

FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION
OF ALBERTA

TRAILS & TALES

Newsletter of the Forest History Association of Alberta

Sixth Annual General Meeting held March 18, 2010

The sixth annual general meeting was held on Wednesday March 17, 2010 at the Coast Edmonton Plaza with 37 members in attendance. Bruce Mayer provided an overview to the evening and introduced the new Forest History Association of Alberta President Peter Murphy. The directors committee met in September 2009 and elected Peter as president, following the resignation and then passing of Arden Rytz, and Bruce Mayer as secretary, with the resignation of Bob Newstead. Peter Murphy provided thanks to Bruce Mayer for organizing the meeting and then spent time delivering a well received overview of past president Arden Rytz's life and accomplishments

including his work establishing the quota system, silviculture practices in the province and the Forest History Association of Alberta. Peter said "since Arden did not have direct line authority, all work he achieved was accomplished through power of persuasion and the strength of his own character". Fred McDougall also added his thoughts stating that "before the quota system was established the timber industry in Alberta was producing less than half a billion board feet per year. Within four years that grew to three billion, a six-fold increase. The timber industry would never have been able to do that without the security and

Continued on Pg 2



President Peter Murphy providing introductory remarks and an overview of Arden Rytz's life and accomplishments



Membership at the 6th Annual AGM March 17, 2010

tenure brought to the sawmill operators. Arden transformed the timber industry in the province with his work on the quota system. Arden was a very modest individual and we have not fully recognized or acknowledged his contributions; he is right up there with Huestis, Loomis and Crossley. He was a builder of the industry, a major contributor to the forest industry in Alberta."

Mayer provided an overview of the previous year's activities from the Trails & Tales newsletter in February to completion of a working website (www.albertaforesthstory.ca), work on the lookout calendar book, the forestry cabin inventory project and the completion of a Certificate of Gift document to use when collecting pictures, artefacts, interviews, etc. Mayer went through the pages of the new website online and encouraged everyone to review and provide feed-

back on content and suggestions for additions or improvement. A big thank you went out to volunteer Kurt Gonzales for his work developing and populating the website.

Elections were held for four executive positions. Butch Shenfield was acclaimed for a three year term as the government member; Bob Stevenson was acclaimed for a three

Continued on Pg 3



L to R: Bob Newstead and Cliff Smith



L to R: Ian Whitby, Butch Shenfield and Bill Tingie



Fred McDougall talking about the contributions of Arden Rytz. (L to R): Ed Gillespie, Con Dermott, Trev Wakelin, Fred McDougall, Bob Newstead, Bob Udell and Craig Rose



New display developed for the Forest History Association of Alberta

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

FOREST HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

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

Yearly membership fees are:

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\$250 - Corporate

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Name of spouse (family membership): _____

Mailing address: _____ Postal Code: _____

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Send your application and fees to:

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

For more info contact Bruce Mayer

Ph: (780) 644-6656
E-mail: bruce.mayer@gov.ab.ca
FHAA@albertaforesthstory.ca

year term as the public member; Trev Wakelin was elected for a three year term as a forest industry member; and Cliff Smith was elected for a two year term as a forest industry member, replacing the late Arden Rytz. Door prizes consisted of history books presented to Hans Zurcher,

Ian Whitby, Eleanor Claydon and Wayne Williams.

A number of movie clips were played from converted 8mm and 16mm films of A.E. (Tony) Earnshaw, Radio Superintendent, Alberta Forest Service and Dale Huberdeau, Forest Area Manager, Waterways Forest

Area. Clips from Earnshaw movies included Lovett Lookout in the 1940s and a portable SPF radio with pack horses. The Huberdeau clips showed Dale at the Fort

McKay Ranger Station in the 1960s and Air Spray B26 airtankers taking off from either the old Fort McMurray or Rainbow Lake airtanker bases.

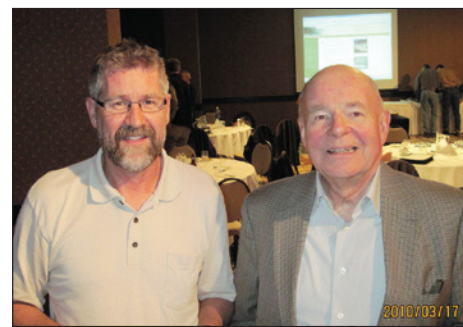
Final presentation for the evening was from Bob Udell who gave an overview of the projects and books finalized by the Foothills Research Institute over the last few years; many of which either FHAA members have participated in or the association provided financial support to; and an overview of the latest Adaptive Forest Management/History Program project, the Northern Rockies Ecotour project. The project team will be developing a travel companion guide outlining the many features and current and past activities occurring within the study area. Further information can be found at the Foothills Research Institute website, <http://foothillsresearchinstitute.ca>.



L to R: Bill Tinge and Lowell Lyseng



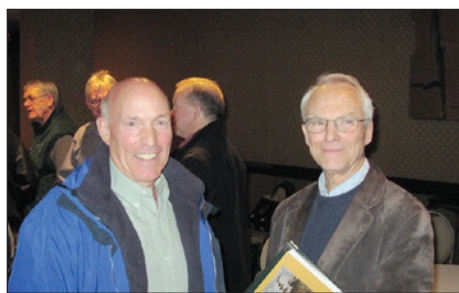
L to R: Con Dermott, Jeff Henricks and Tim Klein



L to R: Cordy Tymstra and Fred McDougall



L to R: Ed Gillespie and Con Dermott



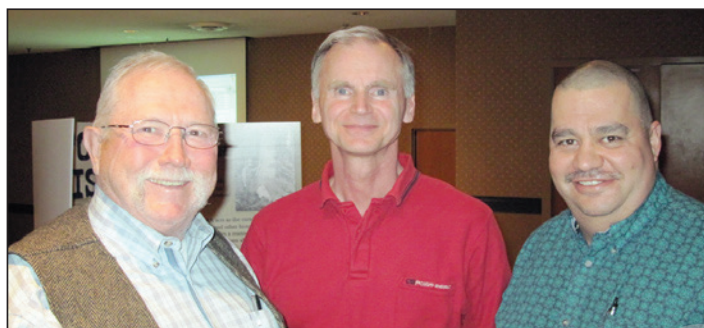
L to R: Daryl D'Amico and Peter Murphy



L to R: Trev Wakelin and Steve Ferdinand



L to R: Andy Gesner, Tom Archibald and Jim Maitland



L to R: Cliff Henderson, Bruce Cartwright and Morgan Kehr

Fred McDougall, past Director FHAA

Fred was born in Lethbridge, Alberta in 1937 and attended school in both Edmonton and Calgary, later graduating from the University of New Brunswick with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry in 1959. Following graduation, Fred joined the Alberta Forest Service in 1959 as a Forester at Peace River working on timber sale and planning activities; supervision of forest land use activities; planning and supervision of reforestation operations; and supervising small sawmill operators in their woodlands operations.

In 1963 Fred joined Swanson Lumber Co. Ltd. as Assistant Production Manager, responsible for road and cut block layout and operations supervision for seven contract sawmills. In 1964 Fred returned to the Alberta Forest Service as Forester-in-Charge of the Woods Operations Section, Forest Management Branch. While in this position, Fred was instrumental in the development of weight scaling systems for both short logs and tree length stems, and played an important role

in designing and coordinating the quota reconnaissance surveys that established the sawlog volume estimates used for the establishment of provincial timber quotas. In 1969, he was promoted to Head of Forest Management Branch becoming responsible for the overall administration of the *Forests Act*, including land use and provincial silvicultural programs. In this position Fred was the principal author of a new *Forests Act* which was enacted in 1971. This initial Act still forms the basis of Alberta's forest management legislation and policies. In the early 1970s Fred managed the location, design, budget approval and construction of the Pine Ridge Forest Nursery project. Fred was later promoted to Director of Forestry in 1974,

managing the forest fire control, forest management, forest land use and silviculture/reforestation programs.

In May 1978, Fred was appointed Deputy Minister of Renewable Resources, Department of Energy and Natural Resources. Fish and Wildlife Division was added

Continued on Pg 5



Three Directors of Forestry who would later carry the title of Deputy Minister (L to R): Fred McDougall, Eric Huestis and Bob Steele, c. 1979



Fred McDougall on woods inspection in the Doig River area, 1964

to the Renewable Resources group in 1979, and the Bureau of Surveying and Mapping in 1981. In this position Fred became responsible for land use and resource planning, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Forest Industry Development program which successfully supported a major expansion to Alberta's forest industry with the addition of two major hardwood kraft pulp mills (Diashowa and Alpac), two CTM pulp mills (Millar Western and West Fraser), a newsprint mill (Alberta Newsprint), a major expansion at the Hinton kraft pulp mill, a laminated veneer lumber mill, two oriented strand board mills (Pelican at Edson and Drayton Valley), and numerous major sawmill expansions. Most of these developments required the negotiation of forest management agreements. Fred was the principal negotiator for the province. As Deputy Minister, Fred obtained approval for major enhancements to the forest fire control program in the early 1980s culminating in the delivery of the first of four CL215 water bombers on October 10, 1985. Fred was appointed Deputy Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife when the new Department was created in 1986.

On August 1, 1989 Fred joined Weyerhaeuser Canada as Vice-President and General Manager of the new Alberta Division. The Alberta operations consisted of sturdi-wood (O.S.B.) panel plants at Edson, Drayton Valley and Slave Lake; a major sawmill and planer mill at Drayton Valley; a planer mill in Boyle; and sawmills at Hangingstone and House River. In his position with Weyerhaeuser, Fred negotiated new stumpage agreements for the oriented strand board industry and was an active participant in the Alberta Forest Products Association, particularly in matters related to the U.S. softwood lumber countervail. Fred was also responsible for the establishment of Alberta's second wood-fired power plant which was



Alberta Forest Service staff in front of the first Canadair CL215 water bomber purchased by Alberta, October 10, 1985. (L to R): John Benson, Director of Forest Protection; Owen Bolster, Supervisor of Wildfire Operations; Fred McDougall, Deputy Minister; Cliff Smith, Assistant Deputy Minister; Gordon Bisgrove, Manager Wildfire and Aviation

located next to the Weyerhaeuser oriented strand board mill and sawmill at Drayton Valley. The plant was owned and operated by Drayton Valley Power Ltd. Fred retired from Weyerhaeuser in May 1995, and has remained active in forest management activities doing consulting work.

Following his retirement Fred purchased a small farm near Spruce Grove and began breeding and raising horses for show jumping. Several of these horses have shown at Spruce Meadows, and one horse, Bristol, was the Alberta Show Jumping Association Reserve Champion in 2007. Fred was made Honorary Member of the Alberta Forest Products Association at their 60th Annual General Meeting on September 26, 2002 and was recognized as a Golden Year Member of the Canadian Institute of Forestry at their Annual General Meeting on September 23, 2009.

Fred married Gail on October 19, 1968 and they have two children, Ian and Nancy. Nancy married Darren Kirkpatrick on June 9, 2007 and provided great joy to grandparents Gail and Fred with the birth of their son Thomas on January 25, 2009. On June 9, 2010 Ian graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Alberta and is currently articling with an Edmonton law firm. Gail and Fred enjoy time with their family and summer visits to their property at Beartrap Lake, near Bonnyville. Fred has been an active member and director of the Forest History Association of Alberta since 2005.



Gail and Fred McDougall on holidays in Quebec City, 2008

St. Jean Lumber (1984) Ltd. - Submitted

In 1934, William (Willie) St. Jean and three of his sons, Philias, Ovila, and Robert purchased a steam engine, sawmill, planer, and shingle mill from Alex Hamilton of Lac La Biche and set it up in the Parent School District near Wandering River. During that first year, they made twelve hundred packages of shingles, which they sold for 75 cents a package.

From 1934 to 1938, they did custom work by sawing and planing for local farmers. The St. Jeans' share of lumber was hauled by team and wagon to Lac La Biche. They sold the shingle mill in 1938 when asphalt shingles became available. In 1938, the St. Jean's rented J. G. Fowler's sawmill and set it up at the mouth of the La Biche River. Lumber was shipped by scow to Athabasca, with a full scow containing roughly forty-three thousand board feet.

When the quota system was established in 1966, Ovila was issued a timber quota with a volume of 1,278m³ per year, within Forest Management Unit L3, north of Wandering River. Most of the logging on the quota was completed near May Tower.

By 1968, Ovila had bought out his father and brother's shares. Ovila and his family then set up a sawmill at its present site near Breynat, in SE 4 Sec 25 Twp 70 Rge 17 W4.



St. Jean's mill, Athabasca River, 1930s

Prior to this, sawing was done in the bush, with employees staying in camp for the winter months. St. Jean Lumber purchased its first logging truck in 1972, and was the first company to haul logs on the new Highway 63.

Many improvements have been made over the years from the original steam powered mill starting in the 1930s to a diesel caterpillar unit in 1975 and then electrical power in 1989. A beehive burner was added in 1986; a change from line skidders in the bush to grapple skidders occurred in 1986; the first feller buncher was purchased in 1992; and the planer mill was rebuilt in 1992, after a fire in 1991. In 1994 a weigh scale was added to the operations.

In July 1998 St. Jean Lumber planted its first tree, and celebrated the planting of its one millionth seedling in May 2004.

Additional improvements included the addition of a debarker, chipper, chip screens and chip bins in 1998 and a post mill in 2000. In 2005, St. Jean Lumber produced 145,000

posts. Bush operations improved with the purchase of a Komatsu delimber in 2001. From 1980 to 1990, additional harvest volume came from fire salvage from the Round Hill Tower and the May Tower fires. Additional salvage came after 2002 from the House River fire.

In 1984 the company was re-named St. Jean Lumber (1984) Ltd. with Ovila and his son Odean as the principal owners. In 2002, Odean and wife Emily bought out Ovila's shares of the company and the timber quota. An additional quota was issued to St. Jean Lumber (1984) Ltd. in June 2004 for volume in Forest Management Unit L8, an area St. Jean had previously operated in under commercial timber permit. In 2003, St. Jean stopped using the beehive burner and began selling all wood fibre not produced for chips as hog fuel to Alpac. St. Jean Lumber is proud they utilize 100% of each tree hauled into the yard.

The entire mill was rebuilt and opened in May 2005 after a devastating fire on October 6, 2004. Additions to the new mill included a small debarker for smaller diameter logs, and a hew saw. A twin overhead scragg was installed replacing the carriage head rig, and a ten inch edger, small edger, trimming station, a centralized electrical room and an external hydraulic system were all added.



St. Jean Lumber's new mill addition with burner, late 1980s

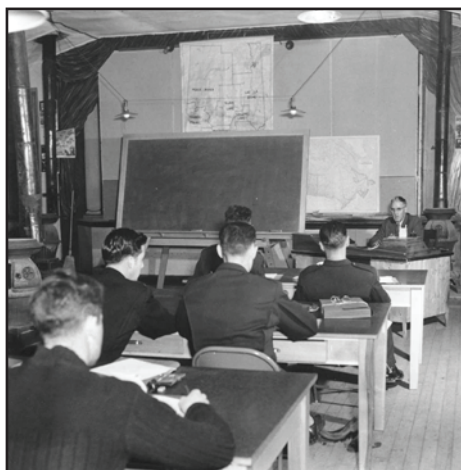


Aerial view of the St. Jean Lumber (1984) mill yard near Breynat, 2001

Hinton Training Centre celebrates 50 years

The Hinton Training Centre celebrated its 50th anniversary on October 2, 2010 at the school in Hinton. An overview of the event will be provided in the next Trails & Tales newsletter.

At the recent tree planting ceremony on August 25, 2010, Peter Murphy, first director of the training school, credited Eric Huestis for his foresight on the need for training; Ted Hammer for his determination to have Hinton as the location of the forestry training school; Frank Platt for his drive in fire management training; and Rocky Hales, Edson Fish and Wildlife Officer, for his support of integrated resource management training. Following the tree planting ceremony Peter Murphy presented Rob Galon, current director, a framed tree cookie from a 4,200 year old tree that was uncovered along Solomon Creek in the Cache Percotte Forest.



Director of Forestry and Commissioner of Game Eric Huestis seated at front of class during one of the first training classes held at the Forestry Training School, Kananaskis, 1951



Jack Macnab and Peter Murphy, Forestry Training School, Hinton, 1960



Peter Murphy with a 4,200 year old tree cookie he presented to the Hinton Training Centre on its 50th Anniversary.



Peter Murphy and Rob Galon with ceremonial planting shovel, August 25, 2010



Peter Murphy and Rocky Hales discussing course curriculum, Forestry Training School, Hinton, early 1960s

Peter Murphy, first director of the Forestry Training School and Rob Galon, current director of the Hinton Training Centre putting final touches to planting of 50th anniversary tree; August 25, 2010

Recent forestry retirements

Rob Thorburn



On May 3, 2010, Rob retired from the Hinton Training Centre with 35+ years of service with the Alberta government. Rob started with the Alberta Forest Service as a Junior Forest Ranger in 1972. The main project was to assist Harry Edgecombe in the construction of the log AFS Museum at the training centre in Hinton. Rob then worked seasonally in timber management and forest protection before graduating from NAIT's Forest Technology program in 1976. After graduation, Rob first worked as a Forest Officer in Whitecourt transferring then to Keg River and Fort Vermilion. Rob then moved to High Level as the air attack officer and later the Forest Officer III in the High Level district office. Rob moved to the Forest Technology School in 1986 as a fire instructor, became the senior fire instructor and then retired as the Director of the Hinton Training Centre, a position he held since 2003. Following retirement Rob embarked on a North American motorbike ride, first across Canada and then through the United States. Rob's plan is to complete the trek in late fall 2010.

On May 17, 2010 Mamoon retired from the Provincial Warehouse and Service Centre with 35+ years of service in the provincial government. His career started in June 1974 while completing a diploma in Marketing Management at NAIT. Mamoon worked seasonally in the refurbishing shop, cleaning hose and fireline tools, and then upon graduation returned full time to the Forestry Depot in the Forestry Construction and Maintenance Division. From 1977 to 1980 Mamoon worked in the welding shop fabricating propane stoves, aircraft refuellers, garbage bins, generator trailers, lookout towers, cupolas, etc. for use by Forest Rangers in the field. From 1980 to 1991 Mamoon was the warehouseman for Fish and Wildlife doing their purchasing, inventory control, shipping and receiving; most of the time at their south side warehouse. In 1991 Mamoon returned to the Depot where he spent the remainder of his career first as a forestry warehouse section supervisor, then administration section supervisor and then the Manager of the Warehouse and Service Centre. Mamoon, and his predecessor Jamie McQuarrie, are credited with the establishment of a nationally recognized wildfire inventory management system. In retirement, Mamoon now has time to focus more on his love of painting (<http://mamoonsartcorner.com>).



Abdul Mamoon

Craig Quintilio



On July 23, 2010 Craig retired from the Alberta government after 38+ years. Upon graduation from Missoula with a BSc in Forestry in 1972, Craig worked as a forester in Burns Lake, B.C. Following a short stint there Craig joined the Alberta Forest Service in 1972 and until 1975 worked as a planning forester with the Timber Management Branch in Edmonton. From 1975 to 1983 Craig was a forester in the Grande Prairie Forest. In 1983 Craig returned to Edmonton and worked in many roles until his retirement. Over the years Craig was a landscape forester, Manager of the Forest Revenue Section, Assistant Director of the Timber Management Branch, Acting Director Forest Management Division, Director of the Program Support Division, Land Administration Division and Forest Protection Division. From 2002 until 2010 Craig was the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Public Lands and Forests Division and then Lands Division. Craig is enjoying retirement catching up with outdoor pursuits and playing with his grand children.

Retirements - Continued

On September 8, 2010 Bob Guest was recognized by staff from the Foot-hills Area on his 25 seasons as a lookout observer. Bob first started at Copton Lookout in 1961 eventually making his way to Adams Creek Lookout in 1997. 2010 was Bob's 25th and final season with the department. Bob was raised in the Peace River country south of Beaverlodge and is a professional artist with works represented in various national and international collections. Along with his paintings Bob is an accomplished historian and writer with a love for nature and landscapes. Bob and his wife Myrtle continue to reside in Grande Cache.



Bob Guest



Jan Schilf

On August 30, 2010 Jan retired from the department after a 32+ year career. Raised in Edmonton's river valley Jan developed a love of forestry and the outdoors at an early age. With her family behind her, Jan enrolled in and graduated from the University of Alberta with a BSc in Forestry in 1978. Jan began her career with the Alberta Forest Service as a technologist working for the Reforestation and Reclamation Branch and then as the forester in charge of the genetics program at the Pine Ridge Forest Nursery in Smoky Lake, specializing in seed production research. In September 1990, Jan moved to the Reforestation Branch in Edmonton as a tree improvement forester with the Genetics Section where she spent her time measuring and writing up results related to seed production, provenance and progeny tests. In 1997 Jan began a new role as forest tenure specialist which she held until her retirement. In this position Jan was involved with forest tenure policy development, tenure renewal and administration of the quota system. Jan plans to spend her retirement exploring Canada with her husband and their truck and camper, maybe the world, and continuing her work with the College of Alberta Professional Foresters.

Doug retired on July 30, 2010 with a 40+ year career in forestry, the last 38 years with the Alberta government. Doug moved from New Brunswick to Alberta on December 27, 1972 starting on a timber management crew in Slave Lake in March 1973. Doug moved to Kinuso as a Forest Officer in 1974, then Assistant Land Use Officer in Slave Lake Headquarters, and then in 1975 as Forest Officer in the Slave Lake district. Doug and Mildred were married on April 5, 1975, at which time Doug required written permission to leave the Forest for his honeymoon. In May of 1978 Doug moved to the South Wapiti Ranger Station and then Grovedale in 1979. In 1981 the family headed to Fort Vermilion where Doug was the Forest Officer III. In 1987 the Ellison's returned to Slave Lake where Doug stayed for the rest of his career. In 1990 Doug was promoted to Forest Officer IV in charge of the silviculture program for the Slave Lake Forest. There he was responsible for planting millions of trees over the next decade. Doug became a Forest Protection Technician in 1998 specializing in aerial ignition, fire behaviour and wildfire investigations.



Doug Ellison

Retirements - Continued

Al Hovan



On September 10, 2010 Al retired from the Alberta government after a 32+ year career. Al began working for the Department of Environment in the water surveys branch in 1973. He then worked summers for the Alberta Forest Service Forest Land Use Branch on a range survey crew while attending the University of Alberta forestry program. Upon graduation in 1979, Al was hired on permanent as a planning forester assigned to collect range information for numerous integrated resource plans. From 1979 to 1983 Al worked throughout the province as the Green Area range improvement program coordinator. From 1983 to 1986 he was the range forester responsible for five forests in the provincial range program. A move to High Level in 1986 took Al into the reforestation program for the Footner Forest. Al moved to Slave Lake in 1988 in a timber forester role, later heading up the Slave Lake Forest timber management section in 1992. Subsequent roles saw Al as the forester in charge of the new Marten Hills District, the Forest Area Manager, the Public Lands and Forests Manager and since 2006 the Land and Range Program Manager in the new Lesser Slave Area. Al is enjoying retirement spending time seeing the sights on his motorbike.

In December 2008 after 38+ years in forest industry, Norm retired from Weyerhaeuser as the Vice President of Timberlands Canada. Norm graduated with a BSc in Forestry from Missoula in 1970 while working summers for Sauze Forestry throughout Alberta. After graduation he began working for Swanson Lumber out of Edmonton, then High Level and then running the Swanson sawmill at Embarrass on the Athabasca River north of Fort McMurray. In early 1980 Norm went to work for Pelican Spruce Mills in Edson at the new Oriented Strand Board operation. In the late 1980s Norm moved to Edmonton as the Alberta Forestlands Manager holding that position until 2006 when he became the Canadian Timberlands Vice President. Norm served as the Director of the Registered Professional Foresters Association and President of the Alberta Forest Products Association. Norm is enjoying retirement on land near High River and volunteering with the Alberta Stewardship Network and the Rotary Club. He also spends time on horseback and riding his motorcycle around Canada and the United States.



Norm Denney

Gordon Miller



On February 12, 2010 Gordon retired from the Canadian Forest Service after 30+ years. Gordon received a Ph.D. in Entomology from Simon Fraser University and served as a research biologist with the B.C. Ministry of Forests prior to joining the Canadian Forest Service in 1980. Gordon served as a research scientist and Program Director at the Pacific Forestry Centre, Director of Operations, Director of Science and Director-General of the Science Branch at the Canadian Forest Service Headquarters in Ottawa; and most recently as the Director-General at the Northern Forestry Centre in Edmonton. Gordon spent the last year and a half coordinating national initiatives on behalf of the Canadian Forest Service. On his retirement Gordon was quoted to say, "in University I originally wanted to be an undersea explorer, but no one was hiring at that time so I went into entomology instead. It's a field I couldn't have dreamed would lead to such an enjoyable career."

Hot off the wire



ALLIGATORS OF THE NORTH *The Story of the West & Peachey Steam Warping Tugs*

Harry B. Barrett & Clarence F. Coons
Foreword by Ken Armonson, R.P.F.

Alligators of the North

The book *Alligators of the North* is now available through the Canadian Forestry Association. Built in Simcoe, Ontario from 1889 through to the 1930s, the Alligator was a common sight in forest operations on rivers and lakes across eastern Canada and the USA up until the 1950s. The Alligator was a sturdy scow equipped with a winch and mile-long cable to tow massive booms of logs and even haul itself overland – hence the name “Alligator”.

Alligators of the North may be purchased at local bookstores, can be ordered on-line at www.dundurn.com, or can be ordered through Dave Lemkay, Canadian Forestry Association at (613) 649-2616 or manager@canadianforestry.com.

Forest History Associations around the world



Within Canada

British Columbia

<http://www.fhabc.org/>

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<http://albertaforesthstory.ca/>

Ontario

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Canadian History and Environment Network

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Outside of Canada

Forest History Society

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American Society for Environmental History

<http://www.aseh.net/>

National Museum of Forest History (American)

<http://www.nmfs-history.net/>

European Society for Environmental History

<http://eseh.org/>



Above: Teams curling at the 34th E.S. Huestis



Left: Ted Soltys and Greg Boyachuk piping in the Huestis trophy at the 34th E.S. Huestis Forestry Curling Bonspiel; Athabasca Multiplex; March 6 and 7, 2010



Above: Eric McGhan, Deputy Minister Sustainable Resource Development drops puck to start the 25th Annual AFS Oldtimers Hockey tournament. Dave Cheyne from Alpac on the left and Jim Wagner from Fish and Wildlife Division, SRD on the right; February 27, 2010; Redwater

Obituaries

Gordon Matthews Gordon passed away on March 10, 2010 at the age of 98. The Dirty Thirties was a tough time for Gordon with no work for him in his home town of Plunkett, Saskatchewan, so he headed west across the provinces hiding in boxcars, desperately looking for any type of employment. Eventually, Gordon made his way to Banff and later Lake Louise where he worked for outfitters like Ike Mills and Jim Boyce. Gordon broke his back in 1945 shoeing an unruly horse, and luckily was not permanently injured. After regaining his strength at the Bar C Ranch, Gordon was offered a full-time job with the Alberta Forest Service. Gordon worked with the AFS at the Ghost, Elbow and Kananaskis from 1947 until his retirement in 1975. When Gordon was off patrolling the forest, fighting the many fires or dealing with countless emergencies, his wife Ida would remain at the station selling fishing and hunting licenses and sending in the daily weather reports. After retirement, both Gordon and Ida contributed to the many organizations well known in the Cochrane area – the Horseshoe Club, the Seniors Curling Club and the Rebekah Lodge. Both gave countless hours of their time, effort and dedication to these organizations.

Mike Watson Upon graduation as a Forest Technologist from NAIT, Mike briefly worked for MacMillan-Blo-

dell in the Queen Charlotte Islands. Returning to NAIT he worked 25 years as the Education Lab Technician and Instructor. A natural teacher, Mike was charming and will always be remembered for his extraordinary kindness, pleasant smile and willingness to assist. He was well liked and highly regarded by many of his peers and students. Mike loved the outdoors and he delighted in introducing his students and family to the joys of just tramping around the bush. A bush day would usually end with a big bonfire to sit around and tell stories. Mike passed away suddenly on April 5, 2010 at the age of 56.

Bill Wuth Wilhelm (Bill) Max Wuth was born in Edmonton, Alberta January 4, 1931 and passed away on September 12, 2010 in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, at the age of 79. Bill worked a number of jobs from cat skinning to logging and in 1955 was instrumental in founding Headhunters Diesel Ltd. settling in Edmonton. Bill's love however, was the forest and in 1962 he started his career with the Alberta Forest Service as an Assistant Ranger at Embarrass Portage on the Athabasca River. After a long career with the AFS, covering most of the province, Bill retired and continued his taxidermy business until 2005.



Hinton Training Centre 50th Anniversary Belt Buckle Order Form

The Hinton Training Centre (HTC) is taking orders for its 50th Anniversary Belt Buckle. Deadline for orders will be **January 14, 2011** with expected delivery of the buckles March, 2011.

Buckle Dimensions:	3" wide x 2" tall
Price:	\$25 each (includes GST)



Number of buckles:	
Order Total:	

Make cheques payable to the: **Hinton Training Centre Staff Fund**

Send order form to: Marg Bish, HTC
1176 Switzer Drive, Hinton, AB T7V 1V3
Fax: (780) 865-8266
E-mail: marg.bish@gov.ab.ca

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For further enquiries please contact Marg Bish at (780) 865-8204



Dennis Quintilio, Tom Archibald, Rob Thorburn, Cliff Henderson, Al Walker and Bruce Mayer; April 27, 2010; Rob Thorburn retirement party, Hinton



Pancakes, eggs, bacon and sausage cooked by Deanna McCullough, Jules LeBoeuf and Bruce Mayer, Provincial Forest Fire Centre K-Days pancake breakfast, July 23, 2010



Daryl D'Amico with the dress and work uniforms he donated to the Forest History Association of Alberta, January 24, 2010



Peter Murphy standing beside the wood heater used to heat the Kananaskis Forestry Training School, located now at the AFS Museum in Hinton, 2010. The wood stove is visible in the 1951 picture behind Eric Huestis. (Page 7)



Gordon Baron and Mike Dubina at the Provincial Forest Fire Centre K-Days pancake breakfast, July 23, 2010

TRAILS & TALES

Published by the Forest History Association of Alberta

Current membership: 100+

Layout by Rob Harris

Please send story ideas to
Bruce Mayer at (780) 644-4656



TRAILS & TALES

Newsletter of the Forest History Association of Alberta

Hinton Training Centre celebrates 50 years

On October 2, 2010 hundreds of people showed up to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Hinton Training Centre. A pancake breakfast started off the day followed by tours

of the Alberta Forest Service Museum, the classrooms and other facilities, and a rappelling and fire simulator demonstration. The day culminated with an evening event celebrating the accomplishments of the training centre staff over the years, including all of

the school directors. Hinton Training Centre staff did a bang up job with a "walk through time, training history" display in the John Wagar gymnasium. A ceremonial cake cutting was done at noon by Bruce Mayer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Forestry Division and Crystal Miller, Facilities and Events Coordinator, Hinton Training Centre.

The training centre has been known through a number of names over the years. Starting as the Forestry Training

School in Kananaskis in 1951 and continuing to Hinton in 1960, the name changed to the Forest Technology School in 1965. In 1992 the name became the Environmental

Training Centre, followed in 2003 by the current Hinton Training Centre name. Over the history of the training centre since its move to Hinton in 1960, there have been eight directors, all but one were able to attend. John Wagar was appointed director in 1973 when



Peter Murphy moved to the University of Alberta, but suddenly passed away shortly after.

The evening event was a celebration of challenges and accomplishments over the years, led by the training centre directors, with Master of Ceremonies Jules LeBoeuf. The following are quotes from each of the individual directors:

Peter Murphy

"The beginnings that we had were really inauspicious – we had very humble beginnings, starting in 1951. It has been quite a ride. By the time I took over in 1956, we had heard stories about the tarpaper shack that the school was – and it was just that. It was adequate, but in the cold weather, in the fall, the snow would blow in through the cracks around the window and under the doors and the students would huddle around those three potbellied coal-fired heaters, making a really informal classroom arrangement. That was my first year. I hadn't been a teacher before – so it was a steep learning curve for all of us. But what really showed up, and it didn't take very long, was that it wasn't the facilities, it was the students, and that

Continued on Pg 2

Annual General Meeting

Come one, come all to the 7th FHAA Annual General Meeting on Wednesday March 16, 2011 at the Coast Edmonton Plaza. The meeting will commence at 7 PM. Ken Armson, President of the Forest History Association of Ontario, and author and retired Ranger Robin Huth are the invited guest speakers. Should you wish to stay overnight, room discounts are available by calling 1-800-663-1144 and quoting booking code CEP-GFC9243.

point was already made this evening. I'm sure the others will make the same point. But the students were just phenomenal; they were there because they wanted to be. They all were keen. They were there to learn. They were there to argue and discuss and point out whether they thought we were right or wrong. They were just so enthusiastic that we were

buoyed by their enthusiasm and it carried us a long way under some difficult conditions. And it seems to me that right through this whole 50 years, our students have reflected those same qualities."

Commenting on all the great instructors hired and their accomplishments, Peter said "these guys all contributed so much and we are building on what they left. So, finally, I wanted to say thanks to all of you, and all who you represent, for your support and encouragement of what this school has done because what we've got now is just mind-blowing. It's a far cry from what we ever envisaged. So congratulations and thanks a heck of a lot."

Bernie Simpson

Following up after Peter Murphy, Bernie said: "you [Peter Murphy] mentioned Eric Huestis was one of the driving forces behind establishing this training centre, and in my mind Eric was the greatest administrator and director that the organization has ever seen. He was a marvelous man and I think most people would agree to that. In order to survive, all organizations, or organisms for that matter, have to undergo change. You just can't stay as you are and survive. The forces for change come from two sources - from outside the organization and from within the organization. From within the organization, our staff itself came up with ideas for new courses and training aids. As an example we went from the old smoke and mirrors fire simulator, to laser discs created by Dennis [Quintilio] and Rob [Thorburn] and their group. That was really a wonderful thing."

"The second year NAIT program really formed the bulk of our workload here. We had pretty big classes, like 50, 55 students or more, that took a lot of time. We were able



Training Centre Directors Back Row (L to R): Rob Galon, Rob Thorburn, Don Podlubny, Ross Risvold, Dennis Quintilio. Front Row (L to R): Peter Murphy, Bernie Simpson

to staff up and provide the right level of instruction and administration required to run the program. During my years at the training centre we also built a strong program focussed on in-service forest fire control training."

Dennis Quintilio

"Well, it was a great day and, like the other directors have mentioned, a lot of quality

events that were well attended. Not a surprise for any of us that have been associated with the school. There have been a lot of positive comments on the overall day. I arrived at the Forest Technology School as a Senior Fire Control Instructor in the fall of '79 when Harry Edgecombe retired. And, as we just heard, this school had established a reputation for - and I remember this - long days, intense classroom instruction and field training with highly qualified instructors that also knew how to have fun. That hard work and hard play was, to me, you know, just part of this institution." Dennis remarked that after 11 years as an instructor, "I moved up to the director's office in 1990 when Bernie retired and, like the saying goes, it's lonely at the top. All those problems and issues that looked insignificant on the outside were now major challenges, particularly when Ralph [Klein] launched his reorganization and budget review. We had a lot of pressure to increase utilization in those years - I guess that will never go away - and that became a priority for survival, even if students had to come

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Bertie Beaver welcoming visitors to the Hinton Training Centre



Part of display in the John Wagar gymnasium

from outside the department.” Strong partnerships were made with local forest industry and the development of the Foothills Model Forest proposal was a major initiative. “A working committee was appointed on this model forest proposal and you know when the 10 sites across Canada were announced, we were selected and we were surprised, honestly. And it was actually the top rated proposal, and we are now coming up to the 20th year of the program.”

“I’ve made many trips back to the Hinton Training Centre, since leaving and I always enjoy the visits with the staff here, particularly the ones I’ve worked with and a lot of them are here this evening. And I’m always impressed with the continuous improvements knowing how difficult it is to get these budget enhancements. It’s been a great ride and we’re going to hear from more of the directors. But, in my mind, this institution has deservedly survived as a unique in-service training centre and it’s a privilege to have participated in your 50th anniversary. So thank you and hope the program, like Pete says, runs another 50.”

Ross Risvold

“Welcome everyone to the FTS / ETC / HTS 50th year celebration. It’s super to see all of the Directors in attendance. We were asked to say a few words about, ‘what does this school means to me’? And this is to be accomplished in about 3 minutes or the MC will physically pull away from the lectern.

So very briefly, I’m going to approach this in four areas. First as a student of the FTS, then as an instructor, a director and finally I am going to relate a little bit about the



Edith and Vigo Nielson. Vigo was the head cook at the training centre from late 1980s to 1998.

school and its importance to the Hinton as a community.

As students, we received an excellent education which included very high level decision-making processes. I’ll never forget Stan Lockard when he was lecturing about laying out roads. He would say, if you come to a big rock, you either go this way or you go the other way. Stan could always make you laugh and this helped sustain high morale with the students.

As an instructor, wonderful memories were provided by students and staff. These included the camaraderie and visiting the local watering holes which created incidents we won’t mention at this time. As Dennis Quintilio mentioned I became Director during the days of the Alberta Government’s cutbacks. We were told we had to be self sufficient and could not rely on Government funding.

To the surprise of many in Edmonton, we were successful. Why? Because of the staff and the great cooperation of people within the forestry community. The forestry culture was truly unique and it’s ‘can do’ approach helped this school be successful over the years.

Last, what does this unique institution mean to Hinton? As a former Mayor of Hinton and as a former student, instructor and director of this institution I have an understanding of it’s positive impact on the community. Any town in Alberta or Canada would love to have it because it is a major contributor to community diversification. It puts through around 10,000 students / visitors a year. No other single organization or initiative in Hinton creates this type of visitor and tourism activity year after year after year.

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Retired AFS Ranger Gordon Campbell in the AFS Museum

The HTC is also home to the Foothills Research Institute and FPinnovations wildland fire research group. These groups contribute dramatically to research and development and have an excellent reputation provincially, nationally and internationally. The institute, all its staff and programs are an absolute resource for the community."

Don Podlubny

Reorganization discussions and budget rationalization continued when Don Podlubny became the director. "There were a lot of things going on that just about sunk the ship, and I was a part of it in some ways. But the big factor here was the staff that came together and did a lot of things to strengthen the centre. We don't give the staff enough credit in what has happened to make the facility what it is today. We have the structure, the engineered buildings and we spent money. We spent a million and a half dollars fixing up these buildings. The staff here with people such as Terry Van Nest and Jim Fri-



Murray McDonald and Mike Dubina



Pool anyone?

esen brought in programs that were national and international in context. They had people coming in from all around the world and that basically saved our day."

"We're getting to the end, but I really want to thank the staff that I worked with, the people in the past, the ones that I actually went through NAIT with, Al Walker, Dick Altmann, Stan Lockard - they really set the pace. And Peter Murphy, I remember going into his office a couple times. What was really enjoyable for me, was that after about a month I was sitting at my desk as the director and I had to sign some certificates. They brought in this pile for me to sign and I started smiling because I used to be at the other end getting the certificate with somebody else signing it, and so that was a real high point in my career."

Rob Thorburn

I think one thing that all of us as directors and staff in the past here

at the centre had in common was the role that we played in helping to pioneer and shape the technology landscape, technology that we're all now familiar with in the delivery of training in forest, wildfire and wildlife management. From the first wildfire simulator in 1967 that was spearheaded by Peter Murphy, through to the first class room of IBM 8086 personal computers that Bernie Simpson supported, then from there on to the implementation of interactive laser-discs and CD-ROMs in Ross Risvold's and Don Podlubny's era, the institution really has had a lot of firsts!...a lot of firsts in terms of waving the flag in leading edge technology!

"Now, what we began to realize was that the continuously spinning wheel of technology at the Training Centre was starting to develop a momentum and more importantly, that there was a gravitational pull starting to be developed with this momentum.

Continued on Pg 5



Jack Wright, Ken South, Peter Murphy

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FHAA@albertaforesthistory.ca

What was being done at the centre was starting to capture the attention of others, not just in Canada, but around the world. As heads faced towards the training centre, other good work here at the centre, particularly in the area of research and the level of expertise that the instructors had, and the ability to hold classes led by some of the greatest subject matter experts from across the country, was starting to be noticed by people from around the world. Hinton was no longer just a dot on the map, it had become a centre of excellence that has become world renowned. HTC, as it stands today, has been a leader. It still is a leader. It has taken calculated risks to get there and HTC could not be a winner if those risks had not been taken."

In talking about the focus on training and legislation that is driving accountability, Rob commented, "this has been evidenced more substantially in recent years by the push from governments, to hold companies and agencies responsible and liable for injury and fatalities that may result from the work that they do. There is a major cultural shift that's occurring. This centre must continue to solicit buy in from staff and empower them to remain leaders in this field, certainly to continue to pursue the leading edge of new technology, to bring the best of the best together in a classroom to deliver their knowledge and expertise, and not to just facilitate the training, but also to become experts in it as well - continuing research, as we have been doing, and continue to spin the wheel of momentum that began back in the late 1960's. And just as the book "Horses to Helicopters" alludes to, we have to build the future, but always preserve the past. Now, just as this institute has made an impact on the men of yesterday in the horses' era, so it will on the people of today in the era of laptops, internet, satellites and other high tech mediums. And it's



Ben Janz and Wally Chrysler

because of this training that's second to none that the continued momentum draws people in, remaining professional, remaining successful, remaining a leader in the delivery of forest related education, research and technology over the last 50 years and upholding the title of the day, a world renowned centre of excellence dedicated to exceptional client service."

Rob Galon

Rob was the last speaker for the evening. "Thank you for that introduction Jules [LeBoeuf]. As the last speaker of the evening, I would like to share what I think my true purpose is here tonight. It is not to follow up Rob Thorburn and his discussion on how we added or grew our training through technology, or Ross Risvold who discussed the future and the challenges associated with tight fiscal times and generating revenue – my real purpose here as the last and current acting Director, is to tell you how proud and

fortunate I believe I am, to have had a hand in contributing to the Department and our clients. To me, the centre is a magical place. Earlier tonight we heard six other stories that shared similar observations, with the insight and leadership that grew from Peter Murphy during our early days at the field station in the Kananaskis Valley to the facility that we are today. Along the way we survived the downsizing in the 1980s and 1990s, budget cuts during the Ralph Klein era, abolishment of instructor positions in the master agreement, the departure of the second year NAIT Forest Technology program, and of course, multiple attempts from various organizations to take over the facility. Throughout these challenges, the centre has become stronger. We added programs, we forged new alliances, we added research partners, we grew ... and I think, through these changes we learned, discovered and we certainly created new roots to support our foundations. And so tonight, I ask that you stand and raise your glass and toast 'to 50 years of instructors, administrative staff, partners, supporters, students and their families. Without you the Hinton Training Centre could not have been the resounding success that it is today.' Thank you."



Crew at Rappel demonstration

Bob Udel, FHAA Director

Born on June 4, 1943, Bob was raised in Melissa, Ontario, a small community located in forested country about 150 kilometres north of Toronto. Completing high school there, and following a summer working in a local sawmill, he enrolled in the forestry program at the University of Toronto. Summer work provided experience cruising with Canadian International Paper at Noranda, Quebec; road location with Kimberly Clark at Longlac; and forest pathology research with the Canadian Forest Service at Maple and across southern Ontario. In his graduating year, Des Crossley, Chief Forester for North Western Pulp and Power, Ltd. at Hinton, offered him a position. Crossley, in an interview with Peter Murphy later said "he prided himself on hiring only the best and brightest".

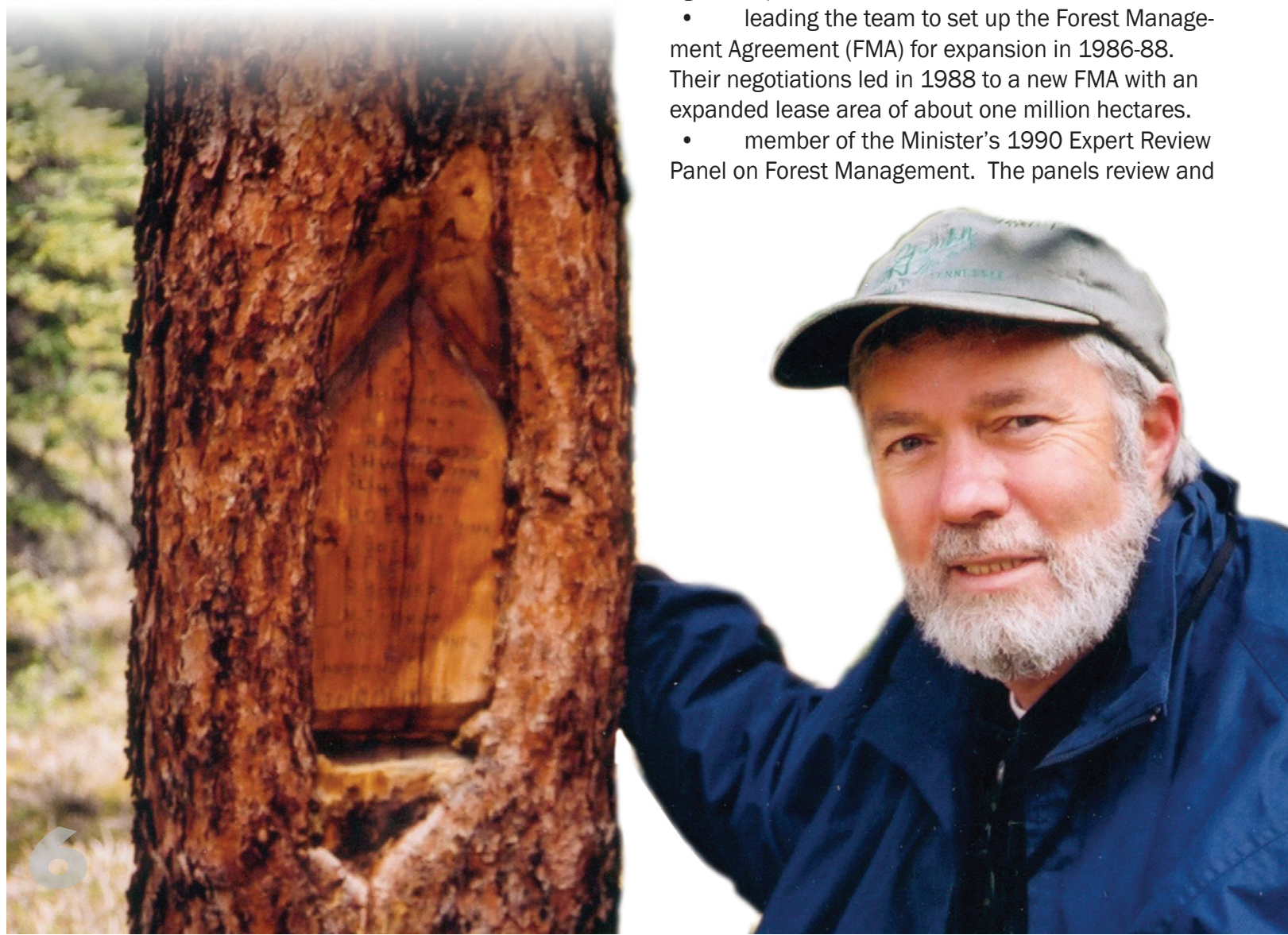
During his next five years at Hinton, Bob worked with Steve Ferdinand laying out cutblocks; re-measured company permanent sample plots with Jack Wright;

and worked on silviculture projects with Bob Carman. In 1968, Bob then became Section Head for Development and Protection. In 1970, Bob returned to Kenora, with the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests as a management forester, and later as forest management supervisor in Fort Frances, Ontario.

In 1975, Des Crossley invited Bob to return to replace Jack Wright who was to become Chief Forester. From that time Bob was largely responsible for forest management planning, including new initiatives in recreational use, trails and interpretation. He was selected in 1987 by Don Laishley to succeed retiring chief forester Jack Wright. At that point he became the forestry team leader within an expanded Forest Resources department.

During the next eventful 25 years his achievements included:

- author of the 1977 and 1986 company management plans.
- leading the team to set up the Forest Management Agreement (FMA) for expansion in 1986-88. Their negotiations led in 1988 to a new FMA with an expanded lease area of about one million hectares.
- member of the Minister's 1990 Expert Review Panel on Forest Management. The panels review and



analysis in 1990, supported by 133 recommendations, led to commitments to extensive improvements in forest management both within the Alberta Forest Service and forest industries.

- co-chaired the committee to develop the proposal that led to establishment of the Foothills Model Forest (FMF) in 1992. This application was initiated by Udell with the Weldwood group and Dennis Quintilio at the Forest Technology School in response to the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers invitation. They were successful in a collaboration that has grown now to over 100 partners, including Jasper National Park. Bob served as president of the FMF from 1992 to 2005.
- co-chaired the Weldwood/Alberta Government team developing the Linked Planning Process of 1994 – now embedded in Alberta-wide forest management planning guidelines. This step formalized the now-accepted practice of linking harvesting planning with silviculture in an integrated approach. The concept has since expanded to include sustainable forest management for a wider range of goods and values.
- lead negotiator on FMA changes in 1995, 1998 and 1999.
- served on a number of other industry committees and task forces including the Albert Forest Products Association's Forest Management Committee, the Forest Products Association of Canada's Forestry Section, the Alberta Chamber of Resources and the National Forest Strategy consultations.
- co-chaired an industry/government task force leading to a suite of recommendations on an Enhanced Forest Management Policy for Alberta.
- Sustaining the Legacy – Udell led the team, and participated in the writing of, a major history and timeline of the Weldwood operation at Hinton, of other lands within the model forest and of the evolution of forest policy in Alberta as reflected in the Hinton forest management agreements. The book: "Learning from the Forest," was published in 2003; a second book – "A Hard Road to Travel", was published in 2007.
- one of the significant technical contributions



Tom Peterson and Bob Udell autographing *Hard Road to Travel* books

initiated by Bob Udell was refinement of the calculation of growth and yield of lodgepole pine.

Bob retired from Weldwood in 2004 and also retired as President of the Foothills Model Forest, but continues as Program Lead of the Adaptive Forest Management and History Program. In retirement, Bob continued to work

as a forestry consultant as well as doing volunteer work for the Forest History Association of Alberta and the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF). Among the achievements since retirement include recipient of the Alberta Centennial Gold Medal and the CIF Canadian Forestry Achievement Award; co-author of "The Resilient Forest", editor of the Jack Glen story "Mountain Trails", and program coordinator for the new Northern Ecotours Project.

Bob has always been community minded. One of his major avocations continues to be music, first expressed through his bluegrass band "Stumped", later named "Loggerhythm", which has played both locally and provincially and at CIF annual meetings. More recently Bob has been the Director and Chair of the Foothills Male Chorus, a 25-man chorus based in Hinton. He conducts the chorus, chairs the operating committee of the chorus, lead and sings bass in the Pilgrims Octet, a male chorus adjunct; he is also a member of the Blue Diamond Quintet, a mixed singing ensemble. Bob's talents also appear on the stage, where he has starred as Tevye in Fidler on the Roof productions, Jud Fry in Oklahoma and other roles in Joseph's Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, My Fair Lady and Camelot.

Bob and his wife Joan have three daughters and four grandsons living in Mississauga, Ontario. He and Joan enjoy travel, hiking and skiing and music.

Correction from the October 2010 Trails & Tales Fred McDougall was misquoted as saying within 'four years that grew to three billion, a six-fold increase'. The correction is that the timeframe was actually 40 years – should read, "Within forty years that grew to three billion, a six-fold increase."

Early History of Forestry Training

Director of Forestry, Robert Campbell described the need for skilled rangers as early as 1910, but it was not until the 1960s that formally trained people became available to hire. Until that time rangers were usually hired on the basis of their experience in the bush or on farms. On the job, it was “sink or swim” – they either learned through trial and error or left. It was inefficient, but time and budgets left little time for frills like training.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s federal and provincial programs to assist the unemployed were set up; many of these comprised forestry work camps to build roads, trails, log buildings and campgrounds. Formal training got its start in these camps, first to teach basic working skills to mostly urban-raised candidates, then basic surveying and forestry. These camps were closed by the end of 1940 when all efforts were focussed on the Second World War.

Wartime experiences clearly showed the importance of training, and in Alberta the first forestry training began in 1947. Ranger Bill Shankland was charged with putting together a one-year course for returning war veterans. The plan was to start in January to teach basics in Calgary, and then move to Kananaskis in March for applied field instruction. Students were then to

be sent to work with rangers for the spring and summer, returning for instruction in the fall. Dick Radke, who finished his career as Forest Superintendent in Whitecourt, was a successful graduate of that course. It was difficult to get the students back that fall so that session was cancelled, but it was a good

start. Many instruction manuals and courses were developed in the late 1940s by J.R.H. (Herb) Hall and delivered at ranger meetings in the foothills districts.

In 1950 a joint Alberta Forest Service and National Park Service training course was held in Banff, with Rangers Robin Huth, Jack MacGregor, Jack Roy, Larry Bunbury, Ben Shantz, Frank Jones, Ron Lyle, John Elliott, Rex Winn, Bert Coast, Ernie Ferguson, and Gordon Watt as Alberta Forest Service (AFS) attendees, along with twelve Park Wardens.

Following the success of the 1950 course, Eric Huestis, Director of Forestry, asked foresters Victor Heath and Bill Bloomberg to organize an AFS program that would focus on the more specific needs of AFS forest rangers. The first Forestry Training School was held under their direction in the fall of 1951, with a class of 20 rangers.

Training was held using the building and residential facilities at the Kananaskis Forest Experiment Sta-

In 1911, Mr. R.H. Campbell, Director of Forestry, presented a list of what the qualifications of a forest ranger should be. [Annual Report of the department of the Interior for the year ending March 31, 1910 - Sessional paper 25. 1911. Ottawa] He began by stating that: “the success of forest administration rests to a very large degree on the intelligence, the faithfulness and the practicability of the forest ranging staff. The work of a forest ranger is arduous and requires a man of energy and strong physique. The qualifications for appointment as a forest ranger should be as follow:

He should be between the ages of twenty-five and forty.

He should be sober, industrious and physically fit.

He should be able to read and write and have sufficient knowledge of arithmetic to transact the ordinary business of the reserve, such as calculating the dues on permits.

He should be able to handle horses and to ride.

He should be experienced in work in the woods, should be accustomed to handling an axe and should be able to estimate and scale timber.

He should be able to handle a gang of firefighters or men working on roads or trails.”

To this list, forester and inspector of Forest Reserves Abraham Knechtel added the ability to: “locate and estimate timber, do a logging job, run a sawmill, build log houses and have education enough to report intelligently to the department.”

tion, the former prisoner-of-war camp. The results were so successful that this basic in-service program was continued in to the 1970s when it was phased out as graduates of the NAIT forestry program became available.

The Forestry Training School (FTS) was held each fall at Kananaskis until 1959. John Hogan ran the school from 1953 to 1955 and Peter Murphy took over in January, 1956. The FTS program was extended from the original 10 weeks to over 12 weeks, with a new course for Fish and Wildlife officers held during the summer of 1959. Increased training needs for forest officer staff and the increased lookout training requirements led to the construction of a new Forestry Training School at Hinton. The school was officially opened by Minister Norman Willmore in October, 1960, with a 20-man Basic Ranger course as its first offering. Alberta partnered with the Junior Forest Warden program in 1960, operating it out of FTS. The Junior Forest Ranger program was later added in 1965. The FTS in Hinton started with the Basic Ranger course, but quickly expanded based on government, industry and municipality needs. Courses soon included an Advanced Forestry course, a complex of courses in forest fire management, and a variety of programs in forest management, fish and wildlife and parks.

Rytz recognized at FILS

On November 4, 2010, Forest History Association of Alberta president Peter Murphy provided a memorial to Arden Rytz, a long time supporter of the Forest Industry Lecture Series. During his 40 years of practice Rytz was remembered as a strong leader in forestry and forest policy both in Alberta and internationally. He was always a strategic thinker, a visionary – brilliant, creative and innovative.



A new two year Forest Technology program was created in 1964 in partnership with the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). Second year of the program was held in Hinton, with the first graduating class in 1966. The graduating class included Dennis Cox, Revie Leiskovsky, Gordon Bisgrove, and Larry Huberdeau. Instructors were Dick Altmann, Stan Lockard, Jack Macnab, John Wagar and Peter Murphy. Early instructors at NAIT included George Ontkian, Mick Lalor, Dick Hillson and Joe Rickert.

In 1970 the University of Alberta began their forestry program with the first graduating class in 1974. Members of that class included Doug Sklar, Rod Simpson, Keith Branter, Brydon Ward and Fred Moffat. Instructors included the first Chairman of Forest Science Jack Schultz, Jim Beck, Jack Heidt, Jock Lees, in January 1973, Peter Murphy, and soon after Bruce Dancik and Kare Hellum.

An early forestry worker program was started at Grourd in the 1960s, later succeeded by the forestry training program at Portage College in Lac La Biche, with the first Forestry Crew Worker program graduating in 1981. Instructors there included Margarete Hee, Brock Allen and Ken Scullion. These were later complemented with programs at Grande Prairie College and the Woodland Operations Learning Foundation (W.O.L.F) programs based at Slave Lake.



Listening to hear the hinge break, Eldon R 'Ole'

Mac Millar recipient of AFPA honorary life membership

On September 23, 2010 Fred McDougall presented Hugh Mackenzie (Mac) Millar with the Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA) Honorary Life Membership. The following is Fred's presentation. "Mac successfully followed in the personal example set by his uncle A.J. Millar, with the result that tonight we recognize Mac for his consistent and significant help and support for the Alberta Forest Products Association, and for his major contribution to the growth and development of the Alberta forest industry. Following graduation in 1970, Mac joined Millar Western taking on increasing responsibilities in the company's forest operations. At that time, Millar Western was producing 16 million board feet annually, primarily boards, not dimension framing lumber. Millar Western was then one of the largest sawmills in the province.

In the 1970s Mac became involved in a major expansion of the business, which included the completion of a new planer mill in 1978 and a larger and more efficient sawmill in 1980. In 1988 Millar Western began production at Alberta's first chemi-thermo-mechanical (CTM) pulp mill. This was a significant addition to Alberta's forest industry, as it was able to use aspen and had much better wood recovery than the kraft pulp mills. Millar Western pioneered the development of markets for CTM pulp from western Canada. A second CTM pulp mill was opened in Meadow Lake in 1992, the first such mill to have no effluent discharge. In the early 1990s Millar Western was instrumental in the development of the 25 mega watt Eagle River wood-fired power plant near Whitecourt, another first in Alberta.

The Boyle sawmill was built in 1996 and now produces about 150 million board feet annually. In 2001, the sawmill at Whitecourt was replaced with a high speed, high efficiency facility which has been continuously improved to the point where it now produces approximately 300 million board feet per year. A new sawmill is now under construction at Fox Creek, which

will produce about 60 million board feet per year. A new 27 mega watt syngas power plant is being built on the Millar Western site at Whitecourt, which will demonstrate much higher efficiencies and lower emissions than traditional steam boiler plants.

So Mac has taken Millar Western from a single sawmill producing 16 million board feet per year in 1970, to three modern lumber mills capable of producing over 500 million board feet annually. Along the way, he has built a 310,000 air dry metric tonne per year pulp mill, and has facilitated the development of two wood fired power plants.

These impressive accomplishments are enhanced by the fact that Millar Western has also been an industry leader in forest management. Mac has always supported the development of talented people, and many years ago selected Trevor Wakelin to lead his forest management and fibre supply team. Under Trevor's leadership and with Mac's full encouragement and support, Millar Western has been a leader in the industry in developing successful forest management programs and policies.

Finally Mac has been a strong supporter of the Alberta forest products industry and the AFPA, serving on a number of forest industry associations and related organizations from the AFPA as president from 1984 to 1986, to Forintek, the Canadian Wood Council, the Alberta Research Council, the U.S. National Forest Products Association as Canadian liaison, the Forest Advisory Council to the Government of Canada, and on the Business Advisory Council to the Faculty of Business at the University of Alberta.

As impressive as it is, this list of accomplishments does not adequately describe Mac's contribution to his native province. Quite simply, Mac has not only extended the proud history of one of Alberta's oldest lumber companies, he has built it into a fully integrated, major forest products company of international stature."

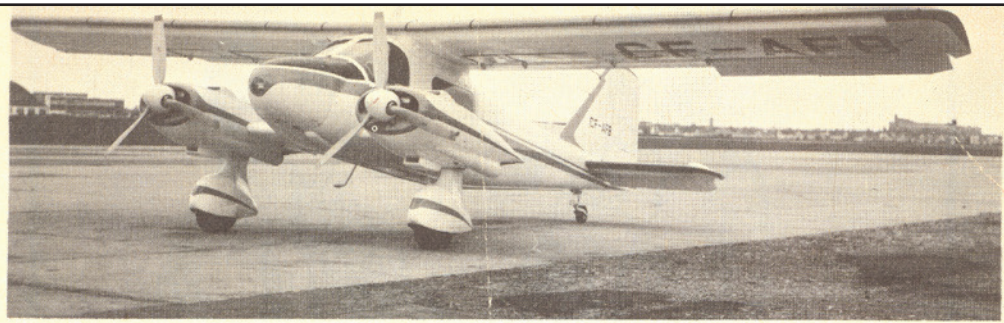


Fred McDougall and Mac Millar

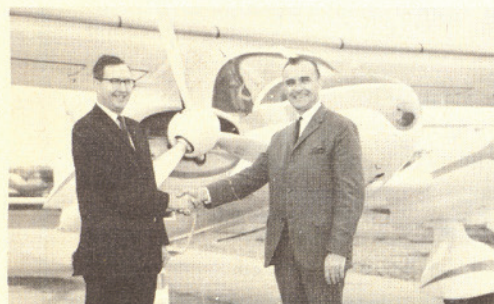
Don Hamilton in the Aviation Hall of Fame

Don Hamilton, owner of Air Spray (1967) Ltd. will be inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame on May 26, 2011. At 86, Don has been flying for more than 65 years, and will be honoured because of his outstanding career in aviation. Don bought his first plane for \$2,945 right after the Second World War ended and began crop spraying in the Moose Jaw area before moving to Cold Lake around 1949. He earned money flying trappers and fishermen in and out of the area and hauling fish to the plant in Cold Lake. He later flew contractors back and forth from Edmonton while they built an airport at Cold Lake. In the mid 1950s Don began work in the far north working on the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line and then with the many oil companies exploring at the time.

In the summers of 1970 and 1971 Don partnered with an individual with a bombing contract fighting forest fires in northern Alberta. In 1972 he bought out his partner, starting his forest fire suppression business, Air Spray Ltd. Over the years Don has had many contracts with provincial agencies providing airtankers, including B26 and Electra L-188s.



Notice anything different about the plane pictured above? It's a Dornier 28, twin engine, light bush aircraft manufactured in Germany and sold exclusively in Canada and Alaska by Hamilton Aviation Sales Ltd. Don Hamilton claims this to be the first true, twin engine light bush plane. It has a cruising speed of 170 m.p.h., lands and takes off at 45 m.p.h., which makes it ideal for landing on short unimproved landing strips, and can easily be fitted with wheels-skis and floats. The unique mounting of the engines allows for maximum visibility and the nose can be easily removed for unobstructed access to the instrument panel. Pictured right, Al Asmussen, world renowned Ferry Pilot, removing the nose with just a screwdriver. Al flies everything from the lightest planes to the biggest jets all over the world. He is the only man we know who is on his second passport book this year. Below left, Don Hamilton, left, with Bob Kostynuk, Edmonton Manager of Delta Acceptance Corporation Limited. Delta supplied the funds for a "lease purchase" on one of these planes. Although Hamilton are primarily in airplane sales they do have four planes leased out. Right, Al Asmussen hands over the keys of their newly purchased craft to Bob Steele, Director of Forestry, with Stan Hughes, Senior Superintendent of Forest Protection, left, and Frank Platt, Assistant Senior Superintendent, looking on.



Frank Crawford sawmills

In 1943, Frank Crawford purchased a small sawmill from Chester Overholt and then bought a timber berth from the Alberta Forest Service. This first timber berth was north of Athabasca, directly north of the Calling River bridge and ran parallel to the river. The sawmill was powered by a V-8 Ford engine. A crew of three men would log for one day, and then saw the next – sawing approximately 6,000 board feet per day. A mule and team of horses were used to skid and bring the logs to the mill.

Over the next few years Frank's mill was moved and located to new timber berths, again mainly along the Calling River. At one mill three miles south along the Calling Lake road Frank built a cook house, horse barn, and bunkhouse. He operated there until the spring of 1945, sawing about 10,000 board feet per day for the Imperial Lumber Company. Eight men were employed and six horses were used for skidding and hauling. In the fall of 1945, Frank moved his mill east about three miles on the old Calling Lake road near Five-Mile Creek. He set up the mill and built the necessary buildings. There he sawed about 12,000 to 15,000 feet daily. Frank remained at that location until the winter of 1949-50. During the first nine or ten years, Frank used crosscut and Swede saws to fell and buck trees.

In 1950 Frank moved his sawmill to Sucker Creek, north of the Jean Baptiste Gambler Indian reserve at Calling Lake and sawed there during the summer months. In the fall, the mill was moved east of McCullough Lakes (south of Calling Lake), and lumber was sawed for the Bridge Branch, Department of Highways. Bridge piles were sawed in 30-foot lengths. A planer was also set up to plane dimensional lumber. Frank supplied the lumber for building the Athabasca bridge as well as several other bridges throughout the province. In 1952 he moved to Whitecourt and continued to saw for the Bridge Branch. A sawmill and planer were set up, with camp for a crew of 25 men. Frank then moved operations to Barrhead for a couple of years, and then in 1955 bought a large timber berth four miles west of Calling Lake. Rock Island Lake became home for the Crawford mill in 1960. This mill was sold to Eugene (Sarge) Bissell of Wabasca in 1961, when Frank went to work for the Depart-



Frank Crawford mill, home quarter, along Hwy 813, spring 1995

ment of Highways as a road foreman, building roads in the Athabasca area.

During the spring of 1968, forest fires swept through the area north of Athabasca leaving a great deal of fire-killed timber. Frank Crawford purchased a large quota of this burned timber west and south of Calling Lake. He bought a complete sawmill and a jackladder and set the mill by a small lake (locally known as Otto Lake) west of McCullough Lakes. During the winter of 1968, Frank logged 60,000 trees and placed them into the lake to preserve them from cracking and insect infestation. In the summer, when they were sawing these trees into lumber, they used a steel airboat to gather the floating logs in the lake into an enclosure near the mill site and used the jackladder to lift them out of the water to the mill landing. In this manner, about 18,000 board feet of lumber was sawed daily. This operation went on well until January 1970, when the sawmill was completely destroyed by fire. Frank then rented a mill from Bill Kocuipchuk of Edmonton and continued operating at Otto Lake until the summer of 1972 when this mill also burned, leaving trees still needing to be sawed.

Frank then worked in Grande Prairie for Procter and Gamble, building logging roads for the pulp mill operation.

He worked for fourteen months and with additional funds from his farming, was able to purchase another sawmill – from the Konior Brothers. The mill was re-established at Otto Lake to saw the remaining logs and then moved to their farm in 1974. With this old conventional sawmill (head saw and carriage) and a three-saw edger, Frank sawed and also



Crawford sawmill at Otto Lake (west of McCullough Lake) late 1960s

Continued on Pg 13

planed approximately one million board feet a year from the timber berths they had purchased. They operated mostly during the winter months until 1986.

By then timber regulations had changed and sawmill operators were required to harvest down to four to six inch diameter butts. It was not profitable to use the old style sawmill on this small timber. In 1986 Frank had a two-saw scragg sawmill built with a vertical edger that had a cluster saw. This enabled him to manufacture from 15,000 to 25,000 feet per day, using the 4 to 6-inch logs. The boards were of good, even-cut quality. In 1974 timber dues were about \$6 per thousand board feet, with planed lumber being sold for approximately \$180 per thousand. In the early 1990s, the Crawfords purchased a Randle sawmill for cutting squared timbers, and a Pendue sawmill for building logs, lathes, tongue-and-groove shiplap, log cabin siding, or regular dimensional lumber. A debarking machine was also purchased with the chips and waste products also being sold as product. Bush operations



Jackladder at Crawford sawmill, Otto Lake (west of McCullough Lake) late 1960s

changed over the years from buck saws and horses to feller bunchers and skidders.

(Frank Crawford sawmill information from Reflections from Across the River: A History of the Area North of Athabasca.)

Instructions to Forest Officers

(This excerpt from the Timber Disposal Manual was produced by the Department of the Interior, Forest Service in 1929, and provided instructions to Forest Officers charged with inspecting timber operations.)

Close supervision should be given at all times, particularly during the preparations for the operation and its preliminary stages. A careful checking at this time of all violations of the conditions will frequently save endless difficulties later. In the course of their work officers

should be firm but courteous, and should aim to secure compliance with the conditions by persuasion rather than by a resort to penalties. Supervision should be intensive enough to ensure unsatisfactory work is being corrected before it has gone very far; when sales expire while there is still a number of conditions not complied with, laxity in supervision is indicated.

The purchaser is responsible for the actions of his contractors and, except in matters of trifling importance, it is with him

and not with the latter that the supervising officer must deal. It makes no difference if the contract between the purchaser and contractor holds the latter responsible for the fulfilment of all the conditions of the sale. In brief only the assignment of the sale (when approved) can relieve the purchaser of his obligations. Similarly, supervising officers should point out unsatisfactory work to foremen or superintendents rather than attempt to have it corrected through individual workmen.

The Power of Prayer

Excerpt from an interview of Eric S. Huestis on January 20, 1976, conducted by Robin Huth

On February 22nd, one year a big fire started from a tie-hauler's lunch fire. If the fire had jumped the river, the town of Rocky Mountain House would have been in serious danger. All the townspeople were organized; schools closed, families handy with cars ready to drive out and men were at the bank of the river with wet sacks, mattocks, shovels, etc. Eric Huestis was driving a light delivery Model T truck back and

forth picking up men to take to help out at the river. The last man he picked up was the Anglican minister, a very young and very devout person. When he got out of the truck, he asked Huestis what he could do. Huestis' reply was "get down on your knees and pray because we aren't being effective on the fireline." The preacher did that. Fifteen minutes later, the wind switched and it started to snow. There was little snow that winter. In fact, it was necessary to shovel snow from under the trees onto the logging roads in order to get any kind of sledding for the log haulers.

The 1910 Fires in Alberta's Rocky Mountain and Foothills Regions

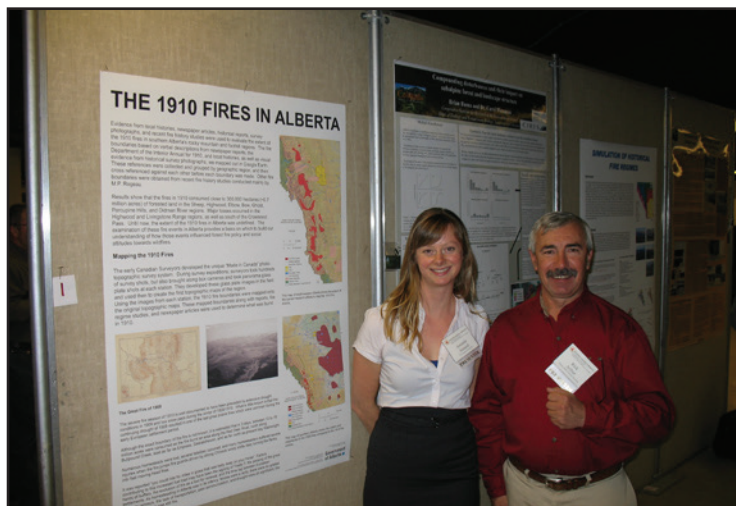
Summary of a paper presented by Mandy Annand and Rick Arthur

Fire history studies are an important tool for understanding the role previous fire events played in structuring today's landscape. The year 1910 was a monumental year for wildfire events in the northern U.S. and Canada. These fires had a profound influence in setting forest firefighting policy that still has implications today.

While the ecological and societal effects of the

1910 fires have been studied closely in the U.S., little research has been done on the magnitude of these fires in Canada until recently. In Alberta, the 1910 fires were monumental both in terms of the area burnt and the development of forest fire policy in the Dominion Forestry Branch. As part of her honors studies, Mandy Annand (Mountain Legacy Project, University of Victoria) teamed up with Wildfire Prevention Officer, Rick Arthur, U of A Forestry Professor Emeritus, Dr. Peter Murphy, and former Parks Canada Resource Conservationist, Robert Watt, to define the scope of the 1910 fires in Alberta. The study also examined the evolution of Dominion forestry and fire protection in the context of the 1910 fire events.

Evidence from local histories, newspaper articles, historical reports, survey photographs, and recent fire history studies were used to evaluate the extent of the 1910 fires in southern Alberta's Rocky Mountain and foothill regions. Results show that the fires in 1910 consumed close to 300,000 hectares (~0.7 million acres) of forested land in the Sheep, Highwood, Elbow, Bow, Ghost, Porcupine Hills, and Oldman River regions. The social impacts of the 1910 fires were keenly felt in the communities south of the



Mandy Annand and Rick Arthur, Spokane WA, October 2010

Bow River and in the Crowsnest Pass. Fire events also occurred in the Athabasca, Brazeau, and Clearwater Forests. Comparatively smaller fires occurred in the Rocky Mountains (Banff) Park region.

The establishment of the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve in 1910 reflected the emergence of a new era in western Canada's fire fighting policy. Examining the

1910 fire events in Alberta provides a basis on which to deepen our understanding of how those events influenced forest fire policy and social attitudes towards wildfire. Rick Arthur and Mandy Annand recently presented their research findings at the 3rd Annual Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference, hosted by the International Association of Wildland Fire in Spokane, WA.

To see conference proceedings for an extended abstract and the full paper and map, go to <http://mountainlegacy.ca/research/projects.html>.



COMPASSMAN & CRUISER

Washing feet and socks after day in the bush, Eldon R. 'Ole' Olin

Recent forestry retirements

Steve Luchkow



Steve Luchkow retired from Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd. (DMI) on October 15, 2010. Steve graduated with a Forestry Degree from the University of Alberta in 1977. His career as a forester with the Alberta Forest Service took him from the Footner Lake Forest to Whitecourt Forest to Edmonton and back to Footner Lake again. His last role before leaving the AFS was forester-in-charge at Footner Lake. Steve started work with Daishowa Canada Company Ltd., later DMI, in 1988 and held many positions until his retirement. Steve and his wife Janet moved to Garden Bay, B.C. overlooking Pender Harbour on the Sunshine Coast. In the spring they intend to start building their new house. Steve intends to keep involved in forestry where he can.

Steve and his wife Janet, Iguazu Falls, widest falls in the world located between Argentina and Brazil

A retirement party was held for John Huey on January 15, 2010. Friends celebrated with John his 40 years in the wood business. "Starting my career working in the sawmill cleaning up sawdust on weekends during the school term, progressing to lumber piler for the summers, to loader operator, to logger, to forest technician, to forester and then into management has shown me how important everyone's role is in completing the picture." Following graduation from high school in Princeton, BC in 1972, John enrolled in a six week course at Malispina College, Nanaimo. His first job was with Rayonier in Holberg, Vancouver Island setting chokers and then running front end loader on the road construction crew. John then attended Selkirk College and graduated in 1976 from the forest technology program.

From there John took a temporary position with Atlas Lumber in the Crowsnest Pass with Gary Leithhead, and then later obtained a permanent position with Canfor in Hines Creek working for Doug Sklar. After five years with Canfor, John enrolled at the University of Alberta graduating in 1983. With jobs in the forestry sector scarce, John went back to the Crowsnest Pass with Atlas Lumber. Shortly after that John was transferred to the mill in Sundre. There John managed the bush operations and sawmill for Sunpine Forest Products until joining the Alberta Forest Service in the woods operations section in Edmonton. John then accepted the woodlands manager job with Sundance Forest Products in Edson. After a few lean years, markets and selling prices went on a positive tilt and expansion requirements had John partner with other forest industry players on fibre rationalization agreements to ensure expansion.

John was involved in many organizations in his 20 years in Edson, including the Chamber of Commerce, minor hockey, the golf course, and Rotary. He and his wife of 31 years, Wendy will be moving to the Kootneys in the spring, challenging each other on the golf course.



John Huey

Retirements - Continued

Marty Alexander



Marty Alexander retired from the Canadian Forest Service on November 12, 2010 after nearly 35 years of service. At the time, he was a Senior Fire Behavior Research Officer stationed at the Northern Forestry Centre in Edmonton. His primary research interests remain as wildland fire behavior and forest/grassland fire danger rating, including the practical and scientific application of such knowledge to fire/fuel management and other disciplines. Marty was one of the architects of the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System and also served as one of the co-coordinators of the International Crown Fire Modelling Experiment in the Northwest Territories from 1995-2001. He has been heavily involved in fire behavior training on a national and international basis. In 1993, Marty was made the first Honorary Life Member of the Forest and Rural Fire Association of New Zealand.

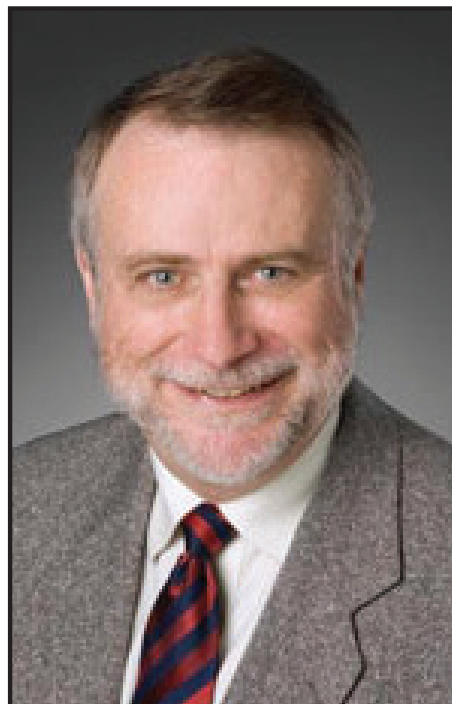
Marty has served on many teams and advisory and program committees over the years providing expert advice and coordination of program sessions. In 2003 he received the Wildland Fire Safety Award from the International Association of Wildland Fire (IAWF) for his research and efforts in fire behaviour and firefighter safety. In 2010, Dr. Alexander received the Canadian Forestry Achievement Award from the Canadian Institute of Forestry. Marty begins his 'second career' initially undertaking a U.S. Joint Fire Science Program sponsored project aimed at synthesizing the currently available information on crown fire behaviour in conifer forests.

Jim Farrell retired from the Canadian Forest Service in December 2010. A graduate of the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Science, Jim began his career in 1973 working for Abitibi Paper Company (later Abitibi-Consolidated) in Manitoba and Ontario, supervising forestry operations, and buying and selling logs for company mills. He also worked with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Toronto.

Jim joined the federal public in 1983 as the senior forestry officer in Saskatchewan. He later became Director of Forestry Development for Ontario, where he was responsible for federal-provincial programs and for research and development programs in forest-landscape management, fire management, forest health and climate change.

Prior to his appointment as Assistant Deputy Minister of the CFS in March 2007, Jim was Director General of the Policy, Economics and Industry Branch, where he was responsible for domestic and international forest policy, economic analysis, industry and market access issues (including forests and climate change), overseas market development and industry research partnerships.

He resides in Ottawa with his wife, Janet. They have three children.



Jim Farrell

Margarete Hee



transferring to Fort McMurray in 1981 she was the Forester i/c of the Forest and Land Management Team. Returning back to Lac La Biche in the fall of 1982 to start a family, Margarete taught the newly created Forestry Crew Worker Program at Portage College as senior instructor till 1985 when she moved to Edmonton to work as a Land Use Specialist with the Operations Section, Forest Land Use Branch.

In 1988, Margarete transferred to Whitecourt with her children, where she filled a number of roles including FMA/Operations Forester, FM Team Lead, the Regional Chief Forester and Woodlands Area Senior Integrated FM/LM Planning Forester. Contributing to significant organizational and technological changes, forest management, wildlife and wildfire initiatives, she also was involved in Level 1 fire suppression (Logistics, Fire Information and Aircraft Operations). Moving to Edmonton in 2002, Margarete first took on the role as the Provincial (FM) Stewardship Forester and upon invite in 2004 by Craig Quintilio joined the Land Management Branch to be part of the Integrated Land Management Project Team and lead the Land Use Planning, Recreation and Tourism Unit engaged in numerous land management initiatives and issues management until she retired.

Margarete has been involved in a number of initiatives over the years including (to name a few) the Land Use Framework and Regional Planning Template Development, Foothills Model Forest Local Level Indicator Activity Team, Provincial/Regional FM Compliance Audit Team, Provincial/Regional Ground Rules Development and Negotiation, Access Management Planning, Provincial Herbicide Task Group, Provincial Fire Salvage Strategy, Business and Stewardship Program Review Protocol, Efficient Land Use Strategy, Recreation Strategy, Provincial Trail Mapping and Database Initiative, Guardian Program Development and Training. Margarete was also actively involved with CIF Rocky Mountain Section Council (1986 to 1992) and was chairman in 1991. She fondly remembers the advice and support provided to her by many forestry and land management professionals and colleagues, from a variety of government, industry, consultant and volunteer communities of interest.

Margarete has two grown children, Ryan who works in Slave Lake as a Silviculture Forester for West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd. and Danielle who works in Grande Prairie as an Environmental Technician for Ridgeline Environment Inc.. She will be enjoying semi retirement in the Edmonton area and looks forward to working on a "new" career path and eventually some day becoming a grandmother.

Retirements - Continued

Margarete Hee retired from Sustainable Resource Development on December 31, 2010 after 33.5 years of service. While going to university in the mid 1970s, Margarete worked on timber management and planting crews in the High Level, Grande Prairie and Valleyview areas, was a U of A teaching assistant, a photo analyst with Canadian Forest Service and enjoyed thinning, planting, measurement plots and a log drive while on a student work exchange in Sweden. Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry (Honors with Distinction) from the University of Alberta, she received the Canadian Institute of Forestry Gold Medal in 1977 and later in 1999 graduated from the Alberta Advanced Forest Management Institute. With few permanent positions available in the late 70's and a desire to travel to New Zealand, Margarete initially tackled seasonal work as the crew leader supervising the Fort McMurray Junior Forest Ranger girls crew and also worked in the Cold Creek, Fox Creek and Whitecourt areas on the timber management crew.

Margarete was hired in 1978 as the first female field forester by Larry Huberdeau (whom she is still so thankful to for his support and the risk he took at the time) in the Lac La Biche Forest, working on Phase III Ground Truthing, Maintaining our Forests program, and Silviculture projects. Later

Obituaries

Sam Fomuk passed away on September 30, 2010 at the age of 87. Sam's family emigrated from the Ukraine and homesteaded in the Hylo, Alberta area in 1932. Sam started his 50-year career with the Alberta Forest Service in April 1945, working the Brazeau Tower for a wage of \$3.50 per day. Over the many years, Sam worked as a radio technician and lookout man, with time spent after Brazeau at Nose Mountain, Kakwa, Wadlin and Whitesands. When Sam started, radio communication was done by telegraphy, with the operators at both ends needing to know Morse Code. Sam is fondly remembered for his knowledge of radio communications and his ability to fix and repair radio's; and his technical knowledge and proficiency with firearms and ammunition.

Don Hutchins passed away on October 27, 2010, days after his 85th birthday. Don began as a radio operator with the Alberta Forest Service in Whitecourt in 1954. He retired in 1986 as the office manager (known as forest clerk in earlier years) of the Whitecourt Forest Headquarters. Don assisted in his early years in the local and provincial training of lookout personnel in the proper use of radio communication equipment.

Bob Miyagawa was born in Mission, B.C. on November 28, 1931, and passed away on November 21, 2010 at the age of 78. Bob started in a summer position with the Alberta Forest Service, Forest Survey Branch in 1955. The crew's summer was quite eventful when at one point they were stranded in the Tony Creek area, when a severe rain-storm isolated the crew on one side of the flooding Little Smoky River, and the horses on the other. Bob obtained his Bachelors degree from the University of New Brunswick in 1958 and was hired to work in the Forest Protection planning program, working on the expansion of the lookout tower system and the initial attempt at classifying forest fuels. At the same time Bob was also involved in the development of the 5/16th log rule for Alberta. Following an education leave to obtain a major in forest fire economics, Bob was placed in charge of the research section, responsible for computerization of forest fire data, implementation of infrared scanner capabilities and fire modelling work. In 1976 Bob was also given the responsibility of coordinating the use of forest pesticides in the province. A new forest protection pest management section was established in 1980 with Bob taking the lead role. Bob retired on April 30, 1987 after 29 years with the Alberta Forest Service.

Ken Porter passed away on December 1, 2010 at the age of 68 years. He was born in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan on April 15, 1942, and attended the Winding Trail School until grade 6 after his family moved to Baptiste Lake in the Athabasca area. The remainder of his schooling was in Athabasca. Ken started with the Alberta Forest Service as a towerman in 1962, then becoming a ranger in North Vermilion in 1963. Ken graduated from the Basic Ranger Course in November 1964, while a ranger in Calling Lake. There he met his future wife, Joan Sutton. He then attended the two year Forest Technology program at NAIT, moving to Worsley after his graduation. Ken picked up family and moved further north as the Forest Protection Technician in the Footner Lake Forest in 1975. In 1979 Ken was promoted to Chief Ranger in Fort Assiniboine, and the Porter's moved one last time. Ken retired from the Alberta government in 1996, and then started a second career coordinating the Alexander First Nation fire program.

Ken was a coach and mentor to many young rangers and will be remembered for his sense of humor, high standards and his work promoting Aboriginal training and employment. Ken was also involved in key roles on many fire overhead teams over the years. Many a ranger knew spring was coming when they received the Porter Pig Spleen Forecast!

Peter Denney passed away on January 19, 2011 at the age of 66 years. Born October 16, 1944 in Calgary, Peter graduated from the second NAIT forestry class in 1968. Early in his career he worked for Mike Sauze and later purchased and operated Sauze Forestry Service, a forestry consulting company. For the last 20 years Peter was the planning manager for Sunpine, later Sundre Forest Products. Throughout his career he never lost his passion to improve forestry practices in Alberta. After over 43 years in the forestry business, Peter retired from Sundre Forest Products on December 31, 2010.

Frank Crawford passed away on January 21, 2011 at the age of 82 years. Frank was predeceased by his wife of 60 years Eileen (Toots) on October 4, 2010. Frank operated many sawmills in the Calling Lake, Whitecourt and Barrhead areas over his 50 years in the lumber business. In 1984, Frank worked with his sons Craig and Chris to start the FJ Buffalo Ranch, adjacent to his sawmill and home quarter. A separate story on the Crawford sawmills is included in this newsletter.

FHAA PHOTO CORNER

John Elliott Collection



Loading logs, Alberta Box Company, Castle District, 1957



Construction of Cline Lookout, May 1960



Clearwater Ranger Station, Clearwater Forest, late 1950s



Construction of Edwards Mill, Upper Saskatchewan, Clearwater Forest, 1959



Johnnie Morells with pack string at Corbondale Lookout, 1957



Ray Smuland, Bert Varty and Pete Comeau; building cabin, Grande Prairie Forest, late 1950s



John Hogan cooking breakfast at the Photographic Survey Corporation timber survey camp, 1951



Les Zeller, Con Dermott, Bob Vanderwell and Kevin Kuhn



Bob Steele washing dishes at the Photographic Survey Corporation timber survey camp, 1951



Weekend off, Bob Steele in centre, Photographic Survey Corporation timber survey program, 1951

TRAILS & TALES

Published by the Forest History Association of Alberta

Current membership: 35

Layout by Rob Harris

Please send story ideas to
Bruce Mayer at (780) 644-4656



TRAILS & TALES

Newsletter of the Forest History Association of Alberta

Seventh annual general meeting - impressive gathering

A record 66 FHAA members attend the 2011 AGM

On March 16, 2011 the Forest History Association of Alberta celebrated its 7th annual general meeting with 66 members in attendance, the largest ever.



Ken Armson and presentation on the Forest History Society of Ontario

President Peter Murphy opened the meeting welcoming our two guest speakers, Robin Huth, retired Alberta Forest Service ranger and Ken Armson, President of the Forest History Society of Ontario. Peter talked

about the good things happening with forest history in Alberta, but stressed that the FHAA was part of a bigger picture. The Network in Canadian History & Environment (NiCHE) established a sub-committee focussed primarily on forest history, and has combined forces with the Forest History Society in Durham, North Carolina, to catalogue forest history resources in Canada and to provide recommendations on how associations and institutes might collaborate further.

FHAA executive members are working with NiCHE representatives. The Canadian Forest Service, through the leadership of Jim Farrell, recognized forest history as a legitimate research activity and arranged for grants to

be awarded to the Forestry Chronicle and the four active provincial history associations. The FHAA will be working on its website, oral interviews and digital cataloguing as part of funding received. Peter also mentioned the British Columbia Forest Service is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2012.

Bruce Mayer provided an overview of the previous year's activities from the Trails & Tales newsletters to further work completed on the website. He also reviewed with members the recently completed financial statements.

Elections were held for three executive positions. Bob Udell was acclaimed for a three year term as the industry member; Peter Murphy was acclaimed for a three year term as the public member; and Bruce Mayer was acclaimed for a three year term as the government member. Door prizes were presented to Tom Archibald, Norm Denney and Don Fregren.



Membership at the 7th Annual AGM March 16, 2011



L to R: Teresa Stokes, Darren Tapp and Gary Davis



L to R: Mel Meunier and Jim Lelacheur



L to R: Bob Morton and Dick Dempster



L to R: Dave Smith and Mike Putzke



L to R: Peter Murphy and Robin Huth



L to R: John McLevin and Bill Bereska

Guest speaker Robin Huth led the audience through an entertaining look at what it meant to be a forest ranger in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Robin's postings were at Coalspur, Lynx Creek and Jumping Pound Ranger Stations. A forest rangers work consisted of installing, maintaining and repairing phone lines, managing the forest reserves for cattle grazing operations, enforcing game regulations and approving and enforcing timber harvest and sawmill operations. Rangers also spent much of their summer on horseback patrolling their district for forest fires, and then suppressing the fires. Robin's stories also addressed the challenges faced by rangers' wives raising babies and young children in isolated locations, compounded when the ranger was away for long periods of time at courses or riding through the district.

Ken Armson provided FHAA members an overview on the start-up and accomplishments to date of the Forest History Society of Ontario. The FHSO had its first founding meeting in February 2010.



L to R: Keith McClain, Bob Udell, Ken Armson and Bob Fessenden



L to R: Dave Morgan, Steve Ferdinand and Greg Branton



Robin Huth's ranger diaries, Lynx Creek Ranger Station, 1947



L to R: Rick Blackwood, Morgan Kehr and Rob Anderson



L to R: Roger Loberg and Norm Denney



L to R: Ken Armson and Robin Huth



Further information available at:
<http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/>



Further information available at:
<http://www.bcfs100.ca/bcscrips/index.asp>

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

For more info contact Bruce Mayer

Ph: (780) 644-4656

E-mail: bruce.mayer@gov.ab.ca

Bob Stevenson – FHAA Director



Bob was born in Calgary, Alberta on July 29, 1937 and attended school there through to his grade 12 graduation. In 1956, Bob enrolled at the University of Idaho graduating in 1960 with a degree in Forestry and a Forest Entomology major. During the summers Bob worked for the United States Forest Service and in British Columbia on entomology and forest health related projects. Upon graduation Bob was hired by the Canadian Forest Service (CFS), Dominion Forestry Branch at their Calgary lab. In 1962 he took educational leave and enrolled in a Masters of Science at the University of Idaho to study the impact of the Engelmann Spruce Weevil on spruce regeneration. Bob worked as a Forestry Officer with the CFS for 20 years on forest health and insect and disease research projects, post burn and forest regeneration assessments throughout north western Canada. In 1970 the Calgary lab moved to the new Northern CFS location in Edmonton. Bob and his wife Erla moved to an acreage and woodlot east of Sherwood Park where they have resided for 41 years.

In 1980 Bob was hired by the Alberta government as the Director of the Information and Extension Branch, Fish and Wildlife Division, retiring in 1992. This position involved a variety of publications e.g. the yearly hunting and fishing regulations, a job that was done manually by typewriter and painstakingly proof read and edited to ensure that all documents were correct and delivered on time. Bob and his team finalized the widely acclaimed Hunter Education Manual and a sequel on fishing. He was active with Canadian Institute of Forestry presentations at many public hearings: e.g. the 1984 Eastern Slopes Policy, herbicide spraying and reforestation issues. In 1982, Bob worked to establish the Order of the Bighorn Award, a prestigious award that recognizes outstanding contributions to fish and wildlife conservation by individuals, organizations and corporations.

Since his retirement Bob has been active in recording the history of Alberta's natural resources including the people that make it happen. In recent years, he has contributed to two centennial books; *Fish, Fur and Feathers: Fish and Wildlife Conservation in Alberta, 1905-2005*; and *Alberta Forest Service 1930-2005, Protection and management of Alberta's Forests*. Other prominent publications involving Bob include: *A Hard Road to Travel, The Lands, Forests and People of the Upper Athabasca Valley; The Resilient Forest, Looking Beyond the Stumps and Mountain Trails, Memoirs of an Alberta Forest Ranger 1920-1945, the Jack Glen story*. Bob continues to follow issues influencing Alberta's natural resources and offers valuable reference and photograph support to people interested in the province's fish and wildlife and forestry history. In 2005 he received the Alberta Centennial Award for his contributions.



Bob and his wife Erla were married on June 30, 1962 and have four children, two boys and twin girls. Three of their four children and families live nearby, the fourth lives with his family in Salt Lake City, Utah. Bob and Erla have 10 grandchildren. Numerous family activities keep them busy along with gardening, trail riding, cross country skiing and raising some

livestock and poultry. Both are longstanding volunteer directors at the nearby Cooking Lake/Blackfoot Grazing and Provincial Recreation Area – the site of Alberta's first forest reserve, 1899.

1919 Fires and Lac La Biche

by Peter Murphy

There were two major fire events in 1919 – a major spring burn in the northeast part of Alberta, and summer fires on the eastern slopes. The Village of Lac La Biche burned on May 19, 1919, destroying all but three buildings: the railway station, church and railway tycoon J.D. McArthur's Hotel. The Hotel served as a post-fire nursing station. Since the telegraph lines also burned, word could not be sent to Edmonton until the next day when a locomotive made it across the burn enabling the Conductor to make a call. The province and Red Cross quickly responded with a relief train from Edmonton. This seems to have been the first recorded wildland-urban interface fire in Alberta. The smoke was so thick that residents thought there was an eclipse of the sun. Children were loaded into wagons and left in the shallows of the lake to keep them safe. The annual report of the Canada Department of the Interior for the year 1919 referred briefly to a large fire in the Battleford fire ranging district in Saskatchewan that burned over 2,740,000 acres (1.1 million hectares). However, there were actually several fires during the last two weeks in May, many of which burned together. Various reports suggest that they burned



Photo courtesy of Tom Macaggno, Lac La Biche

within an estimated area extending 450 kilometres west to east from near Boyle, Alberta to north of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and up to 150 kilometres at its widest point. The area within this roughly determined perimeter is 3.1 million hectares; actual area burned may well have been around 2 million hectares. The fire burned out McArthur's logging camp south of Lac La Biche and the extensive stands of spruce east across the border into Saskatchewan. There were many close calls among settlers, and many stories about saving their homes by putting children on the

roofs with wet sacks to put out falling embers while the parents cleared lines from which to backfire. A band of 23 Cree camped at Big Island Lake were overrun. Despite taking refuge in the lake, twelve died and of the eleven survivors many were badly scarred. Two Cree hunters also died on Wolf Mountain.

On the eastern slopes the 1919 fires were reported in the Crowsnest Forest, the larger ones in the Porcupine Hills and Racehorse Creek. There are also references to two big ones in the Bow River, Clearwater and Brazeau Forests.

Northern is 40!

On Thursday June 21, 2011 Natural Resources Canada, the Canadian Forest Service celebrated "40 Years of Innovation in Forestry" at the Northern Forestry Centre. Events for the 40th anniversary included planting a ceremonial tree, burying a time capsule, touring the building, visiting with old friends and a group picture. Research into wildfire, silviculture, insect and disease, forest economics

and social matters are but a few of the topic areas focussed on at the Northern Forestry Centre in its first 40 years; looking forward to the next 40.

Tom Rosser, Assistant Deputy Minister and Tim Sheldan, Director General with the ceremonial tree (right). They are actually asking themselves how long it will take to shovel a hole to fit the bole of that tree!



Forestry Round-up Poem

by Harry Edgecombe

Forest Rangers were required to own at least two horses – a saddle horse and pack horse. Since most of the travel and work was done by horse, rangers were always on the lookout for more good animals. One source was to catch horses running wild. Harry Edgecombe, ranger at the Meadows, wrote this poem about what turned out to be the last big forestry horse roundup. It was held in the Clearwater Forest around 1949.

The Forestry had a round-up
Upon the River Tay,
The riders brought the camp outfit,
and Walker hauled the hay.

There was Morris from the Red Deer
With his palomino steed
Noted for its endurance
And ever lasting speed.

Jack Walker rode old Nellie
The mare that like to bolt.
He said he could not ride her
Unless the horn he had aholt.

Ronnie rode in on Tony,
They made a rugged pair.
He said he would bend those horses
And never turn a hair.

Dick came in on Corbit,
A prancing little dun.
He said he would catch a stallion
Before the day was done.

Jack and Dick from the Big Horn,
Came in with horses four.
They said if these were not enough,
They would go back home for more.

The Brazeau sent Ben,
Who travelled all the way.
To catch those wildies
Or help, was what he had to say.

From the Meadows came Harry.
His horse was known as Dan.
The meanest little horse
That ever carried a man.

The wheel of riders gradually grew
Until we were short one cog.
Then Bill Winters from Moose Creek
Came in on Spotted Dog.

For days we chased those wildies,
Through crusts of drifted snow,
We trailed them through the mountains,
Or where ever they did go.

After five long days of riding,
Only seventeen head were caught.
So the forestry sent out Bloomberg
Who claimed to know a lot.

Next morning just at daylight
Jack Browning called the crew
We saddled up and headed west.
By ten o'clock Bloomberg was through.

For seven more days the chase went on.
Each day a band was caught,
Until thirty five head were corralled
On Bob Bugbee's feeding lot.

Now this is the story of the last round up.
The forestry said it did not pay.
So ask Superintendent Hall
And see what he will say.

Names of the people mentioned are listed
in order of appearance:
Morris Verhaeghe – Ranger;
Jack Walker – Ranger;
Ronnie Lyle – Ranger;
Dick Knorr – Ranger;
Jack and Dick Browning – Guides and Outfitters;
Ben Shantz – Ranger;
Harry Edgecombe – Ranger;
Bill Winters – Trapper;
Bill Bloomberg – Forester at Rocky;
Jack Browning – Guide and Outfitter;
Bob Bugbee – Guide and Outfitter;
Herb Hall – Forest Superintendent at Rocky

Route of the Columbia Express – Friends of Athabasca Pass

by Peter Murphy

David Thompson trudged over Athabasca Pass 200 years ago, mapping the overland route to the Pacific that would become the first 'Trans-Canada' road – to be the route of the "Columbia Express". It was developed by the North West Company and refined by the Hudson's Bay Company to carry mail and passengers for their Forts along the way between Lachine and York Factory on Hudson Bay, and Fort Vancouver near the mouth of the Columbia River. In July 2011 Canada recognized the Columbia Express as a national historic event.

The 140 kilometre portage over Athabasca Pass from Jasper House to Boat Encampment was the longest and most difficult along the almost 4,000 kilometre route. Parts of the original trail are still evident within Jasper National Park.

Jasper-Hinton historian and FHAA member Tom Peterson organized a two-day event for "Friends of Athabasca Pass". Over 40 'friends' gathered at Pine Bungalows in Jasper on the evening of August 18, 2011 to listen to Tom describe the routes used to access the pass and a history of its travelers. Tom, with FHAA President Peter Murphy, led a



Friends of Athabasca Pass gather at the Moab Lake trail head, August 19, 2011

tour to visit and walk on several of the accessible trail sites; followed by after-dinner video about Thompson's journey, talks by those who had crossed the Pass, and a presentation by Murphy about tie logging on the Whirlpool River and a survey record of part of the old trail. The session was part of a series of events in the Jasper-Hinton area during this bi-centennial of Thompson's journey.

Athabasca River Voyageur Canoe Brigade – Route of the Columbia Express

by Bob Udell

Between August 18 and 21, 2011 about 150 paddlers and volunteers participated in the Athabasca River Voyageur Canoe Brigade - one of a series of celebrations associated with the January 1811 "discovery" of the Athabasca Pass by North America's greatest mapmaker, David Thompson. This route up and over the Athabasca Pass to the Columbia River was pivotal for the North West Company, and later Hudson's Bay Company express brigades carrying mail and passengers between Hudson Bay and the mouth of the Columbia River for the next 40+ years – the Columbia Express.

Participants paddled in shifts in 25-foot canoes along the route from the mouth of the Maligne River in Jasper National Park to West Fraser's Emerson Creek Road bridge over the Athabasca River, 60 kilometres east of Hinton. The journey was interspersed with a number of stops with activities and presentations to share the historic event with communities along the way. Participants came



Athabasca River Voyageur Canoe Brigade starting out at Brule Lake, August 2011

from as far away as Germany and included the 7th and 8th generation direct descendants of David Thompson - Laverne and Benjamin Thompson. A number of people from Alberta's forestry community including FHAA board member Bob Udell and his wife Joan and her family took part in the Brigade.

RICK STEWART



Clearwater Area staff held a retirement function for Rick on March 25, 2011; his last day was February 28, 2011. Rick retired after nearly 40 years in forestry, both forest industry and government. First interested in forestry at age 12, Rick became a Junior Forest Ranger in Blairmore after graduating high school. He worked for The Pas Lumber Company, North West Pulp & Power and Cardinal River Coal before becoming a permanent Forest Officer in 1973 at Keg River. Other locations included the Highwood, Turner Valley, South Wapiti, Grande Prairie, Fort Vermilion, Beaver Lake, Calling Lake, Alder Flats, Drayton Valley and Rocky Mountain House. Rick was instrumental in championing the Alberta Forest Technologists Association (AFTA), becoming its first chairman in 1991. AFTA later became the College of Alberta Professional Forest Technologists where Rick continued to work over the years in many capacities.

ROB MANWARING

On March 31, 2011 Rob retired after nearly 39 years with the Alberta Forest Service, now Sustainable Resource Development. Rob started his forestry career as a lookout observer on Moose Mountain Lookout in August 1972, and then in April 1973 as a labourer and small crew foreman in the Elbow District, Bow Crow Forest. Rob and Cathy married on June 29, 1974 and lived in Grimshaw where Rob was working as an apprentice carpenter. Shortly after that the Manwaring's moved to High Level in the Footner Lake Forest, where Rob apprenticed under Bill Pederson. Rob received his journeyman certificate on February 27, 1978 and was then promoted to Carpenter June 1, 1978. The Manwaring's moved to Grimshaw when Rob was promoted to Carpenter II in July 15, 1982, Peace River Forest. He was then reclassified to Construction Inspector 1 on December 1, 1996 and Construction Inspector 2 on May 1, 2002, in charge of the provincial forest protection facility program. Rob was reclassified to Facilities Manager on July 1, 2005. Rob and Cathy have three daughters, Teresa, Tara Lee and Tania, and 7 grandchildren.



LOWELL LYSENG

On June 17, 2011 Lowell retired after nearly 38 years of inventory and mapping. On September 18, 1973, Lowell walked through the doors of the Natural Resources Building (now the Bowker Building on 109th Street) to start his career as a Drafting Technologist for the Timber Management Branch, Alberta Forest Service, Department of Lands and Forests. His supervisor was Erling Winquist and he worked alongside four other technologists; Pat Kenney, John Vandenbrink, Wally Rachel and Reg Schultz. Fred McDougall was the head of the Timber Management Branch, Charlie Jackson was in



charge of the Planning Section and Cliff Henderson was in charge of the Woods Operations Section. In the early years Lowell was a drafter of quota licences, extracted and compiled timber volumes and was a photo interpreter. In 1977 Lowell took a new job as Technologist III in the Resource Evaluation and Planning Branch working on the new Phase 3 inventory. In 1978 Lowell moved to Grande Prairie in a newly created Mapping Technologist position, working for Chief Forester Craig Quintilio. There Lowell also participated in land use, scaling, regeneration surveys, aerial seeding, campground and trail design and construction, and field checking the Phase 3 forest inventory. Many weeks were also spent on fire export in the early 1980s. In 1988 Lowell moved back to Edmonton as a Technologist III in the Resource Analysis Section following Erling Winquist's retirement. He was later reclassified to

Technologist IV in 1990 and Technologist V in 2004. As FMA holders took over more responsibility with the incoming AVI inventory, Lowell's roles and responsibilities changed. The focus was now on Crown Forest Management Units, AVI auditing, updating and reconciliation of spatial cutblock boundaries, wildfire mapping and the development of new inventory specifications and procedures. Lowell is also well known around the Huestis curling bonspiel community for his many years organizing, and the number of times his name is on the trophy.

BRUCE DANKIK

On Friday June 17, 2011 friends and family gathered to celebrate the many contributions Bruce Dankik made at the University of Alberta and the Devonian Botanic Garden over his 38 year career. Bruce graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry in 1965; a Masters in Forestry in forest genetics and ecology in 1967, and a PhD in 1972. His career began in 1965 as a teaching assistant evolving to instructor in Michigan before becoming an Instructor, Assistant Professor and Chairman in the Biology Department at Saginaw Valley College. In 1973 Bruce took an Assistant Professor role at the University of Alberta. In 1977 he became Associate Professor and then in 1984 a Professor, all in the Department of Forest Science. Since 1994 Bruce has been a Professor in the Department of Renewable Resources at the University of Alberta. During his tenure as professor Bruce was the Chair of the Department of Forest Science from 1989 to 1994, and Chair of the Department of Renewable Resources from 1994 to 1995. He then took on the role of associate Vice-President (Academic) from 1995 to 2000. On September 1, 2001, Bruce became the Director of the Devonian Botanic Garden.



Throughout his years at the University of Alberta, Bruce has also been the Editor, Canadian Journal of Forest Research; Assistant Editor-in-Chief, NRCC Research Journals; Editor-in-Chief, NRCC Research Press and Editor-in-Chief, Canadian Science Publishing. Bruce has chaired or been a member on many advisory committees including the Panel on the Environmental Effects of Forestry Operations in Alberta, Expert Panel on Forest Management, the Alberta Environmental Protection Advisory Committee and the Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board. He worked with colleagues on the 1984 and 1986 Alberta Trees of Renown publications through the Alberta Forestry Association. Bruce is an avid book collector and has been fly-fishing and tying flies since he was 12 years old. Retirement will include fishing his favourite waters along the foothills in southern Alberta and adjacent British Columbia, along the foothills of the Andes in northern Patagonia in Argentina, on the South Island of New Zealand, and the Yellowstone National Park area.

DIANNE L'HEUREUX

On June 30, 2011, Lac La Biche staff held a farewell for Dianne celebrating over 30 years with the Alberta government; 25 of them with Sustainable Resource Development. Dianne worked as a fire costing clerk, timber management clerk, information coordinator and wildfire prevention clerk. Those that spoke of Dianne at her farewell, all spoke of her dedication to her work and to the number of forest officers, superintendents and managers she had coached and trained over the years. Dianne is looking forward to 'summers off', working with her husband George on their farm.



JOHN SPENCE

On June 30, 2011 John completed his term as Chair, University of Alberta, Faculty of Agricultural, Environmental and Life Sciences, Department of Renewable Resources after two full five-year terms. The Department credits John for the multitude of initiatives he directed, including the appointment of 16 new academic staff, the creation of the Alberta School of Forest Science and Management, ongoing program accreditation reviews, and international partnerships (e.g. Mexico and China), while at the same time maintaining a strong research program at EMEND and contributing to undergraduate and graduate teaching. John was also a driving force behind the Wildland Partnership for Wildland Fire Science, a partnership between the University of Alberta, the Canadian Forest Service and Sustainable Resource Development. John is not in full retirement mode and will continue to teach entomology, ecology, conservation and evolutionary biology at the University. Dr. Vic Lieffers took over as Chair on July 1, 2011.



PAT WEARMOUTH

In July 2011 Pat retired after a 42 year forestry career, the last 30 years with Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd. at their Grande Prairie operation. After graduating the NAIT Forest Technology program in 1970 Pat moved to Prince George, B.C., and worked as a timber cruiser for a consulting company. Two years later Pat married his wife Barbara and they spent better part of a year traveling through Europe. Upon his return Pat enrolled in the University of Alberta forestry program, graduating in 1975. Work in the summer months was with the Alberta Forest Service in Slave Lake and Grande Prairie, either timber cruising or supervising tree planters. After graduation Pat worked as a project forester for the AFS in Grande Prairie. In 1976 Pat moved to Saskatchewan to start up a reforestation program for the Simpson Timber Company in Hudson Bay. Large scale planting projects were becoming the norm, utilizing the piece rate contractors as we do today. Says Pat, "this was the time when contract planting processes and seedling stock types were being worked out and there were lots of opinions and options to sort through". In 1981, Pat and family moved back to Grande Prairie, with a new



number of hobbies he plans to continue with in retirement; including Director in the Peace Country Chapter of the Alberta Historical Society, playing stand-up bass, singing coral music, reading, travel, volunteering and generally observing the world.

TED WELLS

Ted spent his last day as Warehouseman in Grande Prairie on July 15, 2011 with friends and colleagues. He officially retires on November 2, 2011 after a 26 year career with forestry. Ted moved to Alberta in 1975 and started work at the North American Stud Mill in Mitsue running a loader. He later operated a grader with Alberta Transportation in the Kinuso area before buying a farm in 1979. There he farmed and operated a grader for an oilfield company in the Shell House Mountain oilfield. From 1985 to 1989 Ted worked in the Kinuso Ranger Station as warehouseman, and as a carpenter and warehouseman in Slave Lake before getting a permanent warehouseman job in 1989. In April 1998, Ted became the warehouseman in Grande Prairie. He was regularly exported on wildfires in supply and service functions, the last few years as a Level 1 Logistics Service Chief. Ted spent two weeks prior to retirement on the Utikuma Lake complex at Red Earth. Ted and his wife Jo Ann sold their farm north of Clairmont and moved to Nova Scotia to retire.

role at Proctor and Gamble. Over the next 30 years Pat enjoyed a variety of roles including harvest/haul, forest planning and of course silviculture, which has been his focus over the long run. In Grande Prairie he was given the opportunity to interact with a variety of people and organizations involved in forestry; and recalls that “there was a lot of excitement in the industry and a fair amount of controversy during some of those years. The move from what had been termed ‘administrative’ forestry to a more ecological and social based forestry was occurring as well, and continues to evolve”. For Pat, memories include being involved in planting around 200 million trees, and working with groups to develop policies, plans and procedures used to guide forestry development and practices. Pat has a



DUANE POLLOCK

Duane spent 25 years as a warehouseman for the Alberta Forest Service, now Sustainable Resource Development, officially retiring September 15, 2011. Duane first received a telecommunications diploma at NAIT before following his wife to Wabasca where she had a teaching contract. Chief Ranger Joe Smith hired Duane in 1986 when a seasonal warehousing job came open. Three years later Duane took a permanent warehousing job in Rocky Mountain House. In 1999 after several months of study he challenged the warehousing technician exam at NAIT earning a diploma. Duane began going out to fires in the late 1990's as

a Supply Officer and eventually as a Logistics Service Chief on Type 1 fires. He supported fire organizations across Alberta, Ontario, British Columbia, and the Yukon Territories, further sharing his knowledge and experiences in teaching situations at the Hinton Training Centre. After several structure and organizational changes in the department, Duane was responsible for integration of warehousing to the entire department in the Clearwater Area, reducing duplication and waste, reducing costs by sharing of equipment and resources, and patching up old tired facilities in a group of warehouse buildings. He pointed out that the warehousing facilities in Rocky Mountain House were built before Fidel Castro first visited Cuba. Duane sold his home in Rocky Mountain House and after his last day of work June 15, 2011, he moved his belongings to an island lot he and his wife purchased near Vancouver Island. Duane and his wife Bernice moved to Macau, China in August for Bernice's two year teaching contract. They expect to move back to British Columbia for final retirement after a little more travelling around the east Pacific.

JOHN MCLEVIN

On August 31, 2011 John retired after almost 40 years with Sustainable Resource Development. John started as a compassman at Footner Lake in 1971, graduating NAIT in 1972. In May 1972, John started as a Forest Officer I on wages in Kinuso, becoming permanent on July 1st. John was promoted to Forest Officer II in Slave Lake and in December 1978 became a Forest Officer III in the Slave Lake Headquarters. John moved his family to Manning as Forest Officer III in July 1980, transferring later to Fort Assiniboine as the Forest Officer III 2i/c in June 1982. In May 1986, John moved to the Lac La Biche Forest Headquarters as a Forest Protection Technician, then Timber Management Technician and later again as a Forest Protection Technician. In the mid 1990s, the forest service underwent administrative and geographic changes and John was then assigned to the new Lakeland Forest Area. In August 2001 John moved to Edmonton to work in the Provincial Forest Fire Centre in the prevention and education section. In June 2005, John became a Wildland Fire Prevention Officer in the prevention and engineering section. In July 2007, John moved to Fort McMurray as the acting Forestry Manager, later becoming permanent in February 2009. John has been a strong proponent of FireSmart, through his leadership roles in Partners in Protection and work with local municipalities and the oil and gas industry.



DAVE MORGAN



On September 30, 2011 Dave retired with over 45 years working in forestry, the last 29 years with Sustainable Resource Development. While attending the University of British Columbia, Dave worked for the Alberta Forest Service during the summer of 1963 establishing permanent sample plots in west central Alberta. Dr. Jim Lee was the Party Chief and instrumental in designing the PSP system. The group consisted of Dr. Lee, a cook, and three crews of three, each headed by a forestry student. Joe Grigel (from the Crowsnest Pass – University of Montana), Bill Gilpin (from Edmonton – University of British Columbia) and Dave Morgan (from Lethbridge – University of British Columbia) were the crew leaders. Each crew had an International Travelall for transportation.

Dave graduated from the UBC with a BScF in 1965, starting work in June with Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Wood Buffalo National Park and Mackenzie Forest Service) at Fort Smith, NWT as Assistant Superintendent, Mackenzie Forest Service. In 1970, Dave transferred to Whitehorse, Yukon under DIAND (Yukon Forest Service) as Assistant Superintendent. Dave took leave from the Yukon Forest Service in the late 1970s to work on his master's degree program, but continued to work summer months in the Yukon. He completed his MScF from the University of Alberta in 1982. His thesis was on the use of large-scale aerial photography in forest inventories. In December 1982 Dave joined the Alberta Forest Service, Timber Management Branch, working for Ted Flanders and Director Don Fregren as the Head, Forest Measurement Section. In 1992, Dave became the head of the Biometrics Work Unit, and remained in that position within the Resource Analysis Section until his retirement in September 2011. After retirement Dave plans to do some long needed home renovations, travel, and increase the time he spends on his hobbies of photography and wood working.

KEN HIGGINBOTHAM

Ken graduated from Utah State University with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry in 1969 and a Masters of Science in Forestry in 1970. He then obtained a PhD in plant ecology from Duke University in 1974. Ken spent his university years working for the U.S. Forest Service and as a Research Assistant at the Utah State University. From 1975 to 1988 Ken was an Assistant and Associate Professor, Department of Forest Science at the University of Alberta. Courses taught were in forest ecology, silviculture and tree physiology. In 1985 Ken accepted a visiting Reforestation Specialist position with the Alberta Forest Service initiating work that lead to the revised provincial reforestation standards. In 1988 he became Director of the Forest Research Branch with the Alberta Forest Service; and in 1990 was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Forest Service (later Land and Forest Services). Accomplishments were new reforestation standards, initiation of the Alberta Forest Conservation Strategy, a revised stumpage system, initiation of an ecosystem management system and the reorganization and consolidation of the service. In 1995 Ken moved to British Columbia as the Vice-President and Chief Forester for Canfor Corporation. Although the job titles may have changed over the years at Canfor, Ken's role has always been focussed on forestry, environment and external relations. He has been the Vice-President Forestry and Environment since 2005, with responsibilities in both British Columbia and Alberta. Ken retires officially on October 31, 2011.

Ken and his wife Karen have five children and thirteen grandchildren, spread between British Columbia and Alberta. Although he has a number of at home projects to do, he also hopes to spend more time shooting skeet and sporting clays and will continue serving in the Vancouver Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. With forestry in his blood, you will know doubt see Ken picking up odd jobs in the future.



Doug Cameron Doug passed away on March 26th, 2011 at the age of 70 years. Doug served many years as the Forestry Technology School's warehouseman starting on April 25, 1966. He kept many an instructor and student well equipped for their forays into the woods to learn about forestry until his retirement on August 11, 1999. He is well known for the trademark cruise vest he wore at work.

Albert (Al) Walker Born February 12, 1938, Al passed away on April 19, 2011 at the age of 73. Al was a long time employee of the Alberta Forest Service. Al was the new Assistant Ranger at the Lovett Ranger Station when he attended and graduated from the Forestry Training School at Kananaskis in 1956. While at school, Al received word of his promotion to District Ranger at Conklin. He was then nick-named 'The Conklin Kid' by his classmates. Al was also stationed at Coalspur and Muskeg. In the early 1960s Al moved to Edson as the Land Use Officer. In 1967, Al moved to the Forest Technology School (now the Hinton Training Centre) where he taught until his retirement in 1995. Peter Murphy (Director at the time) said "we hired him for his woods skills, enthusiasm, ingenuity and adaptability – he was versatile and was always there to give a hand as needed".

Viggo Nielsen Viggo passed away on April 27, 2011 at the age of 78 years. He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years Edith Nielsen of Lac La Biche, two sons, four grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Viggo was the head cook at the Forestry Training School from the late 1980s until his retirement in 1998.

Judy Laviolette Judy passed away on May 7, 2011. She began her career with the Alberta Forest Service in 1984 working in many administrative roles with Forest Protection. Judy enjoyed quality time with her 5 grandchildren and was an avid traveller; visiting places throughout Europe, Southeast Asia and here at home in Canada.

Ron Lyle Born August 22, 1923, Ron passed away on June 20, 2011 at the age of 87 years. Ron was born in Gouldtown, SK, one of six children. His childhood was spent near Bergen, AB, and he attended school in Tilley. During World War II, Ron served three and a half years overseas in Italy and in France, returning to begin his 32 year career as a Forest Ranger with the Alberta Forest Service. After an early retirement to BC, he then joined the BC Forest Service where he worked until the age of 65. Ron Lyle was a Forest Ranger back in the days when all the work was accomplished on horseback. He spent a lot of time in the backcountry or at lonely patrol cabins with one loyal companion; a Pomeranian horse named Tony. Ron treasured the simple life and time spent on the trail hunting and fishing for his next meal. Ron dispensed tickets to poachers of big game, and sometimes had to send outfitters back to clean up their campsites. Rangers had to supply the lookout towers close to their station, monitor fish and game populations, and tend to the telephone lines that extended from southern to northern Alberta through the forest country for Alberta Forest Service use. A major job was fighting fires and keeping the backcountry safe.

Ron made local history in about 1949 when he took part in what was to become the last big forestry roundup of wild horses in the Clearwater Forest. Harry Edgecombe, ranger at the Meadow's Ranger Station, wrote a poem about the event: The Forestry Roundup. In 1952 Ron was badly mauled by a black bear and severely injured. The story tells how his strength of character, stamina and good sense helped him get back to where a network of Forestry friends could overcome many challenges to bring him safely into the hospital in Rocky Mountain House. Ron was stationed for many years at the Prairie Creek Ranger Station west of Rocky Mountain house, where he was living when he married Fran, and where children Dianne and Murray lived during their early years.

Teddy Gordon Bochon Ted passed away June 26, 2011 at the age of 65. He was born in Calgary on October 26, 1945 and moved with his parents to Lethbridge that same year; attending school there including the Lethbridge Collegiate Institute. Ted furthered his education in the

field of business administration attending Lethbridge Community College and the University of Lethbridge. In 1983 he received his Associate Degree in Fire Science from Spokane Community College. Ted began his working career in 1965 as a Park Ranger working with Alberta Provincial Parks at locations such as Willow Creek, Bragg Creek and Park Lake Provincial Parks. In September 1968, Ted became a firefighter with the Lethbridge Fire Department, later being promoted to Deputy Fire Chief in 1986. In 2002 Ted began to work for Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Forest Protection Division as a structural protection specialist, providing training and community wildfire planning across Alberta. His duties took him to many of Alberta's largest wildfires where he supervised crews assigned to community protection.

Julie Marie Beairsto Born April 15, 1948, Julie passed away on June 29, 2011 at the age of 63 years. Julie worked in aircraft accounts for the Alberta Forest Service, and subsequently Sustainable Resource Development, from 1983 until her retirement in 2007. Julie is survived by her husband Carl, two children and four grandchildren.

Donald Hamilton Born November 26, 1924, Don passed away on July 27, 2011 at the age of 86 years. Don is survived by his two daughters Lynn and Janis, and his eight grandchildren. Don was born in Havelock, Ontario and grew up in the Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan area during the depression years. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1943, graduating as a Pilot Officer navigator. After the war Don enjoyed life as a bush pilot in Northern Alberta, flying fish, trappers and supplies throughout the North. Eventually Don settled in Edmonton to raise a family and to establish his forest fire suppression company, Air Spray Aviation. Based in Red Deer, Alberta, Air Spray is recognized as a leader of aerial forest fire suppression around the world. Don's passion for aviation continued throughout his life. In May 2011 Don was inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame. Don was also a strong community supporter, serving on and donating to many charitable boards. See also: <http://albertaforesthstory.ca/docs/Newsletters/FHAA-Newsletter-Issue10-Feb2011.pdf>.

Gordon Fowlie Born October 8, 1919, Gordon passed away on August 12, 2011 at the age of 91 years. In 1938 Gordon attended the National Youth Forestry Training Program at the Highwood Ranger Station, a program funded by the Dominion Forest Service to provide work and training to unemployed youth. Gordon was the first towerman on Adams Creek Lookout, working there summers from 1940 to 1945. He then got a radio technician job with the Alberta Forest Service working for Radio Superintendent Tony Earnshaw. During the winter of 1945 he worked to help develop a para-cargo system to drop supplies into fire operations and lookouts. Test drops were carried out at Cooking Lake in the spring of 1946. Gordon worked on a light-weight cargo harness during the winter of 1946. This harness and cargo system was used into the mid 1970s. When asked about Gordon, Peter Murphy's response was that "Gordon was one of the stalwarts in the infant Radio Branch of the Alberta Forest Service, travelling by foot, horse, truck; and later planes and helicopters, to set up and keep running the radio communications system between fire lookouts, ranger stations and headquarters. It was an adventurous life, one he took in stride. We admired both his technical skills and stamina." Gordon retired from the Alberta Forest Service in 1976 after 35 year first as a lookout observer and later as a radio technician.

Max Mathon Born July 15, 1975, Max passed away unexpectedly on August 15, 2011 at the age of 36 years. Max was with the Department for over 11 years as a Helitack member, Forest Officer, Wildfire Ranger and Air Attack Officer in Edson, Fort McMurray and most recently in Edmonton at the Provincial Forest Fire Centre. Max was a truly genuine person who will be sadly missed by friends and colleagues. He is survived by his wife Laurie, daughter Ashley, son Eddie, brother Mark, mother and father.

Bob Steele passes away

Robert (Bob) Steele was born on August 30, 1923 in New Westminster, B.C., the sixth of eight children, and passed away on Saturday, October 1, 2011 at the age of 88 years. Bob was predeceased by his wife Iris, on July 4, 2011. Bob met Iris in Calgary in 1944 when he was attending a survival training course prior to heading to the Far East attached to an RAF Squadron, where he served as a navigator/bombardier during the Burma campaign. He returned in 1945, and married Iris in Banff, Alberta in 1947. Bob attended the University of British Columbia and graduated with a degree in Forestry in 1949.

In the spring of 1949, Eric Huestis, Director of Forestry, visited the University of British Columbia to explain his plans for the Alberta Forest Service, and his goals of improved forest management inventory and planning. Bob was one of the eight graduating foresters at the University of British Columbia that Huestis hired. Bob Steele, John Hogan and Trevor Charles were brought in and loaned to the Photographic Surveys Corporation (PSC) for two years to work on the forest inventory in Alberta. Owen Bradwell, Stan Hughes, Jim Clark and Charlie Jackson were hired to be assistant forest superintendents at Blairmore, Calgary, Rocky Mountain House and Edson. Victor Heath and Bill Bloomberg, a 1943 graduate of the University of Wales, worked on various assignments in Edmonton, including establishment of the Forestry Training School in Kananaskis in 1951. These eight men represented the start of a revitalized Alberta Forest Service working to meet evolving demands and pressures in Alberta.

In 1956, following his inventory and forest management work with PSC and Forest Surveys Branch, Bob was selected to be Superintendent of the Clearwater Forest, located in Rocky Mountain House. In 1963, Bob returned to Edmonton to be Director of Forestry (now the Assistant Deputy Minister) of the Alberta Forest Service. In 1973, Bob was appointed Deputy Minister of Renewable Resources first under the Department of

Lands and Forests, and then the Department of Energy and Natural Resources. In 1979, Bob was transferred as Deputy Minister to Telephones and Utilities, retiring in 1982. Throughout his forestry career Bob was active and influential with the Rocky Mountain Section (RMS) of the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF), including chairman of the RMS in 1961-62. His input provided meaningful resolutions to many provincial land use issues and forest fire policies which are the background of many of today's programs.

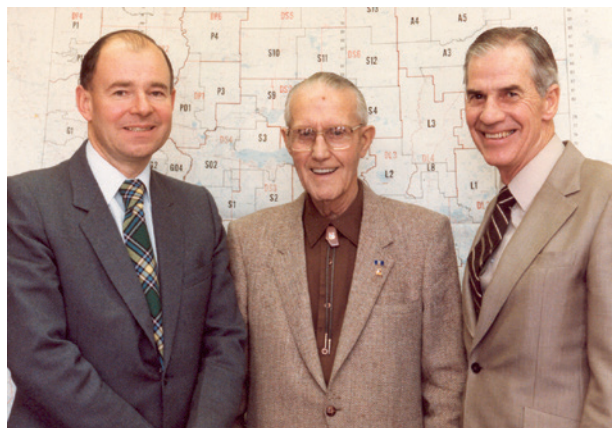
One of the first uses of aerial fire suppression was initiated by Bob as Forest Superintendent in 1958. Lightning had started a fire in the Atlas Lumber Company Camp 15 area on a weekend. He phoned Wetaskiwin AirSpray's Dave Harrington who flew down with his 200 U.S. gallon capacity Stearman crop duster, landing on the old gravel Highway 11 near the Shunda Ranger Station. He and Steele flew over the fire and decided water bombing

would be effective. Rangers loaded the plane on the highway and soon the fire was controlled. Steele commented that he was reprimanded for not obtaining approval first from head office, but no one was available to call at the time.

In 1969 as Director of Forestry, Bob reported that AFS head office was reorganized "because of increased interest in other uses of forest land and the necessity to implement greater administrative control of forestry policies and practices." Steele

reported in 1971: "The public has become much more concerned in recent years with the manner in which the forested areas of the province are being managed. This has resulted in careful and frequent reviews of forest land policies and practices and in greater complexities in administration."

Although progress had been made in building fire control capability, the system was severely tested in the spring of 1968. Bob is quoted as saying: "The many improvements during the year were marred by the worst forest fire year in Alberta's history. Fires destroyed almost one million



*Three Directors of Forestry who would later carry the title of Deputy Minister
L to R: Fred McDougall, Eric Huestis and Bob Steele, c.1979*



Forestry Tour, Thompson Creek, Upper Saskatchewan District, c1965

(L to R): Herb Hall, Minister Henry Ruste, unknown, Charlie Drain (possibly), Wally Hanson, Bob Steele, Ted Keats, unknown and Eric Huestis

acres of forestland, with most of the damage occurring during one week of extremely unfavourable weather in May. Settler fires became uncontrollable and swept into the forested areas in central Alberta with unprecedented vengeance. Only a small percentage of the fire-killed timber could be salvaged. This problem further demonstrates the necessity for greater control of settlers' burning practices and a much improved weather forecasting system."

Bob presided over a number of major developments, perhaps most notably in forest management and the development of the quota system, along with effective use of the growing aircraft fleet. Looking back in 2005 about his decade as Director of Forestry, he reflected "The fact that we developed (forest) management plans that were fairly comprehensive and enabled the province to become involved in a greater development of the timber resources is probably the best thing of that period. I took great deal of interest in it. I used to work extra hours all the time on management planning because I thought it was essential to do the job properly. I've always believed that you shouldn't get involved in things unless you know what you're doing or know what you're talking about. I think that

was probably the greatest thing, seeing the development of the forest industry to a significant extent in Alberta.

"I worked with Al Saunders on development of the Forest Technology program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. We got along very well and everything worked out very satisfactorily with the Forest Technology School at Hinton and NAIT.

"The other thing that I thought worked out very well was the organization of our field offices. We set it up so the offices would be more efficient and more self-sufficient. We allowed them more scope to manage the business out there on their own without being interfered with too much, because I felt there were too many people in head office wanting to know every little thing that was going on out there and it was not an efficient way of handling it.

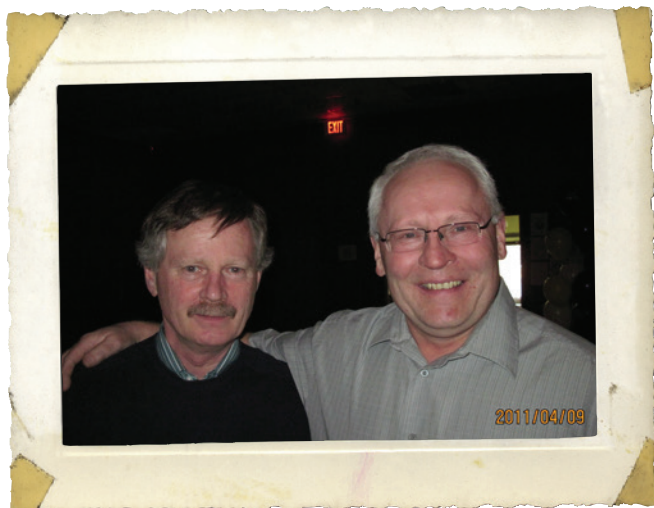
"There's no doubt that the use of aircraft made a tremendous difference. Pretty well every provincial government elsewhere in Canada eventually ended up with a lot of aircraft capabilities, but I think Alberta almost pioneered a lot of it and developed the ideas of how the system should be administered and what type of aircraft to use."



L to R: Brydon Ward, Terry Zitnak, Andy Gesner and Bruce Mayer, Lac La Biche, June 30, 2011



Patrick and Michelle Guidera performing at the Provincial Forest Fire Centre K-Days pancake breakfast, July 22, 2011



Jim Maitland and Darcy Beach, Peace River, April 9, 2011



Early 1950s Alberta Lands and Mines fire prevention poster, Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park Visitor Centre



Ashley Zavisha and Bruce Mayer, Zavisha Sawmills, Hines Creek, May 6, 2011

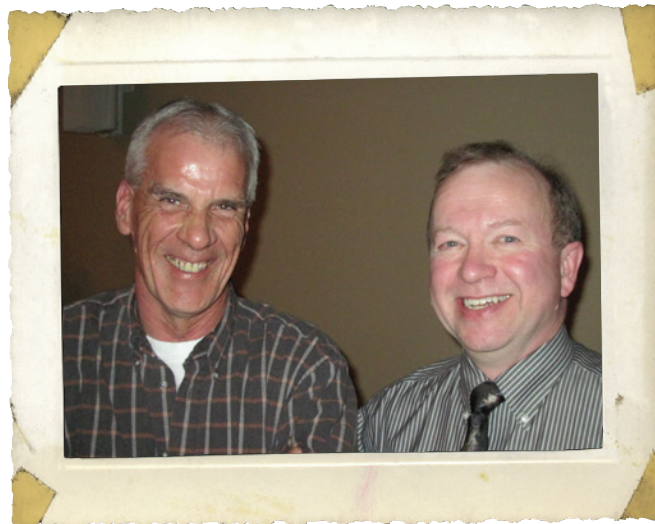
FHAA PHOTO CORNER



Gordon and Marg Bisgrove with Rob Manwaring at Rob's retirement party, Peace River, April 9, 2011



L to R: Brian Orum, Rick Arthur and Richard Paton at the base of a large white spruce tree found in the Spray Lakes valley, October 2010. Part of a larger stand, this tree measures 46.5 inches dbh and 115 feet tall.



Paul King, Rocky Wood Preservers and Butch Shenfield, Rocky Mountain House, March 25, 2011



Ashley and Gregory Zavisha, Zavisha Sawmills, Hines Creek, May 6, 2011



FHAA Directors meeting January 27, 2011
(L to R) Cliff Smith, Trevor Wakelin, Cliff Henderson, Peter Murphy, Bob Newstead, Butch Shenfield and Bruce Mayer



Fire patrol boat, the SS Rey, on the Athabasca River, near Athabasca, Alberta, 1916. This boat was based at Athabasca Landing and patrolled between Grand Rapids and Mirror Landing. It was 42 feet in length with a ten inch draught and a powerful engine to force the boat upstream against the fastest current. The skipper was the fire ranger and had a crew of an engineer, a fireman-stoker and whatever help was occasionally required. Patrol boats were on the alert for lightning strikes and campfires left by travellers who used the rivers as highways to the north.



L to R: Bob Mazurik, Chris McGuinty, Dennis Driscoll and Rob Thorburn, Peace River, April 9, 2011



L to R: Bill Griffiths, Bruce Hunter, Bruce MacGregor and Andy Gesner, Lac La Biche, June 30, 2011

TRAILS & TALES

Published by the Forest History Association of Alberta

Current membership: 114

Layout by Andre Lemay

**Please send story ideas to
Bruce Mayer at (780) 644-4656**



TRAILS & TALES

Newsletter of the Forest History Association of Alberta

Eighth Annual General Meeting – over 70 attend

On March 20, 2012 the Forest History Association of Alberta held its 8th annual general meeting with over seventy members in attendance. Mr. Neil Gilliat and Mr. Bob Udel were introduced as guest speakers for the evening. Mr. Don Lowe was also introduced as joining his brother in-law Neil Gilliat for the evening. Vice President Butch Shenfield opened the meeting welcoming all in attendance, particularly those attending for the first time. Butch indicated how he has enjoyed being a member over the last many years and offered to those new to the Association the value they would gain as members. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved, even as simple as with a tape recorder and interviewing others. He reminded the audience that there aren't a lot of 'timeline' pressures on members or Directors to get things done, but that we all collectively need to move the history agenda forward.

Elections were held for four executive positions. Cliff Smith and Bob Newstead were acclaimed each for additional three-year terms, Ken Yackimec was elected to the government position for a three-year term, and Norm Denney was elected for a one-year term to the second vacant forest industry position. Neil Gilliat provided an entertaining



Butch Shenfield providing opening remarks

history of how a couple of 'English guys', Neil and his cousin Rex Winn, were hired by Eric Huestis and sent to work for the Alberta Forest Service in the Athabaska Forest, Entrance District. Neil recalled that the interview was about fifteen minutes long and that he and Rex "often wondered if we were that

impressive, or were they looking for a couple of dummies to send into the bush". Work in their first few months consisted of working on the telephone line along the Big Berland River. As Neil recalled, "the forestry telephone system was something of a marvel in its day, it was technically possible to make a call from Entrance



Neil Gilliat, entrepreneur, author and retired forest ranger

to the Crowsnest on the one wire bush line, but conditions had to be very good and was not very practical. Within the forests it worked remarkably well and was the prime source of communication." A video of Neil's presentation will be posted to the Forest History Association of Alberta's website in the near future.

Bob finished off the evening with an excellent overview of the new Foothills Research Institute TransCanada Ecotours Northern Rockies Highway Guide that was in final edits and nearing publication. This book was co-written by Fred Pollett, Robert Udell, Peter Murphy and Tom Peterson. A further description is provided in the Hot off the Wire section of this newsletter.



Bob Udell, co-author of the TransCanada Ecotours Highway Guide



L to R: Marty Alexander and Rob Thorburn



Registration desk, left to right: Tim Klein, Norm Denney, Bill Ting and Ken Yackimec



L to R: Cliff Smith and Ed Gillespie



L to R: Fred McDougall and Bruce Mayer



L to R: Con Dermott, Neil Gilliat and Don Lowe



L to R: Bill Black Sr. and Gerald Sambrooke



L to R: Fred McDougall and Neil Gilliat



L to R: Ed Pichota, Rick Bambrick and Lou Foley



L to R: Darren Tapp and Bob Petite



L to R: Paul Rizzoli and Ken Scullion



L to R: John Brewer and Rob Thorburn



L to R: Richard Paton, Wally Born, Chris McGuinty and Stefan Best



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 23-24, 2013

37th Annual

E.S. Huestis Bonspiel

Athabasca Multiplex,

Athabasca, Alberta

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

February 23-24, 2013

28th Annual AFS

Old Timers Hockey Tournament

Athabasca Multiplex,

Athabasca, Alberta

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

March 21, 2013

9th Annual FHAA

Annual General Meeting

Coast Edmonton Plaza

10155 105 St

Contact Bruce Mayer at
Bruce.Mayer@gov.ab.ca
or (780) 644-4656
for further information

The 2013 AFS Old Timers Hockey Tournament and E.S. Huestis Curling Bonspiel



Come join us for some camaraderie and fun competition during the **37th E.S. Huestis Bonspiel and 28th AFS Old Timers Hockey Tournament!**

This year's tournament runs February 23-24, 2013 at the Athabasca Multiplex in Athabasca, Alberta

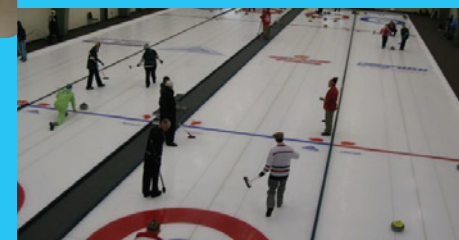
All current, former or retired ESRD staff are encouraged to participate.

The weekend includes:

- A catered Saturday Night Ukrainian Dinner
- Charity Casino and prize auction with proceeds going to Oksana Izio
- 50/50's, Door Prizes, Silent Auction and giveaways

Hockey Tournament Information

- Fun Tournament for ages 30+ at all skill levels
- For current, former and retired ESRD employees
- \$60 per player registration fee
- 3 games - two Saturday, one Sunday
- Dinner and Evening Entertainment
- Contact Charlene Guerin at Charlene.Guerin@gov.ab.ca to register and/or sign up as a volunteer
- Registration is open until January 18th, 2013. Preference will be given to the first 60 registrants.



Curling Information

- A semi-competitive, fun, social event
- Open to current, former and retired ESRD employees (minimum of 2 per team) and friends and family
- \$180.00 per team
- Contact Greg Boychuk at Greg.Boychuk@gov.ab.ca by January 18th if you are interested in registering a team (only the first 16 teams will be accepted)
- Guaranteed 3 games
- Draw to the button contest
- Doubles Board
- First Draws will be on Saturday, February 23 with playoffs on Sunday, the 24th



9th FHAA Annual General Meeting

Thursday March 21, 2013 | 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Coast Edmonton Plaza | 10155 – 105 Street | Edmonton, Alberta



Howard Morigeau and grizzly bear

A Grisly Tale

by Howard Morigeau

In September 1957 I was in charge of a one-man Ranger District in the southwest corner of the Slave Lake Forest. My station was beside Sweathouse Creek, near the south end of the Sunset House homesteading settlement; about 50 miles south of High Prairie. Ten miles further south, in the forested area, Sweathouse Lookout Tower covered the western edge of the Swan Hills region. At that time an elderly couple from the local settlement, Warren and Mrs. Paulson, were in residence; with Warren manning the tower.

One morning Nick Sosukievich, a Forester from the Edmonton office, arrived at my station en route to the tower to take panoramic photos of the area covered. Nick and I arrived about 11:00 a.m. to find the Paulson's still excited about a visitor they had at

first light that morning. Mrs. Paulson was up starting breakfast when "a large brown bear" was pawing at the screen door. She called to Warren who came out, walked within a few feet of the animal and retrieved his 30-30 Winchester from his truck behind the cabin. Since the bear showed no inclination to leave, Warren shot it once in the kidney area. After being shot, the bear crawled into the bush, dragging its hind quarters and bleeding profusely.

Since it was then several hours later, I expected the bear to be dead close by, so I borrowed Warren's Winchester and went to find it, thinking only of a "brown bear". After about 100 yards the bear regained the use of its hind legs and the blood trail diminished. After another 100 yards the trail led into a ravine choked with willow and

young spruce, where I could only see a few feet in any direction. I could smell the bear and started to wonder if it was wise to proceed further. I decided to step over a small log across the trail, and if I couldn't see it from there, I would leave. After stepping over the log and peering all around, I was turning to leave when I heard a sudden noise and swung around to find the bear rearing onto its hind legs to leap at me from behind a willow clump about 10 feet away.

I quickly fired and the bear fell headlong at my feet. Not knowing where my first shot had gone, I immediately put one by an eye and another by an ear. It was all over in a flash! A man can fire a lever-action Winchester very rapidly when necessary! On looking things over I began to shake on finding a large grizzly bear with my first shot between the eyes. I smoked roll-your-own cigarettes at the time, but spilled much of my tobacco on the ground before I could roll a smoke.

A number of people heard of the incident and a local cattleman, used to estimating the weights of steers, guessed that the bear weighed about 700 pounds. It made a local paper and came to the attention of Dr. Al Oeming, who had been instrumental in having the Swan Hills Grizzly protected. He came out about two weeks later to investigate and collected certain bones from which he could determine the bear's age. He wrote back to inform me that the bear had been 36 years old; quite an age for a bear! Perhaps it was an old timer finding it hard to fatten up for winter, to cause it to investigate the smells of food in the lookout cabin.

I still don't know if I actually aimed or just pointed that first shot! If it had been another inch higher this tale might have been even more grisly.



Lobstick just above Morley Flats, J.J. McArthur, Dominion Land Surveyor, 1889, Mountain Legacy Project

The Legend of the Lobstick

by Joe McWilliams

(Voices in the Forest, How Forestry Shaped the Lesser Slave Lake Region Published in the Slave Lake Lakeside Leader, November 29, 1995)

For the Aboriginal inhabitants of the boreal northern forests, trees have always sustained life. They provide wood for fuel, for building materials and for tools, as well as bark and pitch for other uses. One lesser known use of trees is as markers, or signposts. Although this practice has virtually disappeared, the making of 'lobsticks' was common in the days of travel by canoe and dogsled.

According to Alphonse Alook, an elder of the Bigstone Cree Nation in Wabasca, lobstick trees could often be found along rivers back in the 1920s and '30s, marking good camping places. Because Indian families traveled a lot in those days in search of food, Alook says, the lobsticks were a welcome sight. "A lot of people moved about by canoe back then," he says. "They didn't just camp any place. When (they) went

moose hunting they took the whole family, often camping in one spot for several weeks at a time. The lobstick – usually two or three trees together – served as a sign that there was a good spot, where someone else had had good luck in hunting, or perhaps where two or more trails crossed.

Hector Gullion, a longtime resident of Slave Lake, recalls coming across two lobsticks on the trail between Wabasca and Slave Lake, which he walked over three days in 1946. They were located in the Tub Creek area. Gullion says the trees were de-limbed, except for the crown, and the stubs of branches, so the trees could easily be climbed. "People didn't have maps and compasses to tell them where they were going, so they would climb these trees so they could see farther. You could also tell how far you had come and what was up ahead."

Another historical note about lobsticks shows up in the recollections

of Julia Nash, in 'Pioneers of the Lakeland', a Slave Lake history book. These were two de-limbed poplars (except for the crowns) on Dog Island. The two lobsticks she remembered were just behind the Nicklaus home. Nash had been told that lobsticks were made by two people who met on the trail, in commemoration of their meeting. "Call it an idea, custom or sentiment as you please, I only know the lobstick was real and flourished for some time in those early days when men freighted with teams. Men who hunted or trapped, or whatever occupation was theirs would sometimes meet on the trail and camp overnight at a place where trees were handy. Perhaps they were old friends, or in the course of camping together they might become friends. They would mark the meeting or event by making each other a lobstick."

Alook, who saw lots, and also made lobsticks as a boy and young man, says sometimes two branches would be left on the tree opposite each other about halfway up. This would then give the impression of a man standing with his arms out, with the crown of the tree resembling the head. This image may have had a similar significance to the Cree Indians as the Inukshuk does to the Inuit of the Canadian Arctic. In the latter case, the human image is built of stones, the only available material, and also serves as a signpost.

The Gage Canadian Dictionary says a lobstick was both a marker and a talisman. The dictionary suggests 'lob' comes from 'lob', as in 'lopped off' branches. Lobsticks, although quite common in the early decades of this century, are practically unknown today. But perhaps one or two of these sentinels still stand, somewhere along a remote waterway.



Bob Udell, Tom Peterson, Fred Pollett and Peter Murphy in Grande Cache during the TransCanada Ecotour Northern Rockies Highway Guide book launch, May 21, 2012

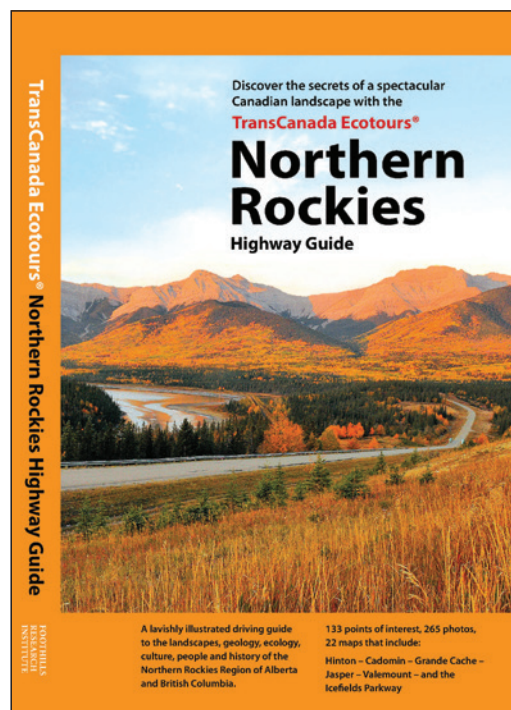
Hot off the Wire

TransCanada Ecotour Northern Rockies Highway Guide

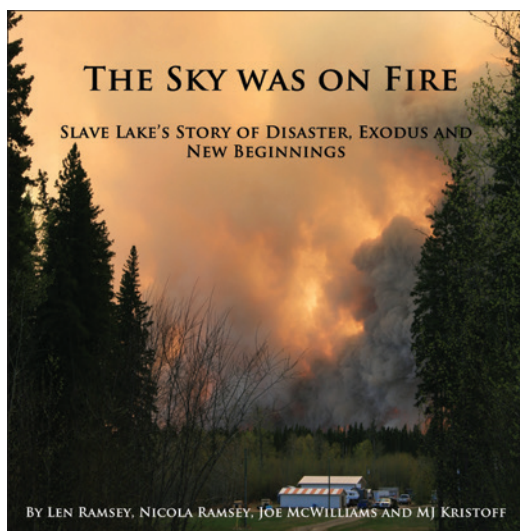
Co-written by Fred Pollett, Robert Udell, Peter Murphy and Tom Peterson

The Foothills Research Institute (FRI) produced the TransCanada Ecotour Northern Rockies Highway Guide, a self-guided auto-based tour through the foothills and Rocky Mountains of the Northern Rockies tourist region. The Adaptive Forest Management History Program of FRI developed this Northern Rockies Highway Guide as part of its continuing program to educate, inform and stimulate the imagination of people who travel through and stay to visit the landscapes in this area. By understanding our past, we shape our future.

Canada's highways are countrywide corridors through an ever-changing museum rich in natural and human history. The TransCanada Ecotour program was developed initially by the Canadian Forest Service in the 1970s and continues today as a bias-balanced window into the landscapes and the natural and human factors that have shaped, and are shaping them. This will be the ultimate guidebook to the landscapes, ecology, culture and history of the



Northern Rockies Region along major highway corridors and important byways. From Hinton to Valemount, Grande Cache to Cadomin, Jasper to Lake Louise. Rich photography, detailed maps, historical context and discussion of current issues illustrate the journey.



The Sky was on Fire: Slave Lake's Story of Disaster, Exodus and New Beginnings

Co-written by Len Ramsey, Nicola Ramsey, Joe McWilliams
and MJ Kristoff with foreword by Peter Murphy

The Sky Was On Fire: Slave Lake's Story of Disaster, Exodus and New Beginnings tells the story of the May 14 and 15, 2011 wildfire disaster using personal accounts and photographs submitted by over 100 contributors.

The disaster was unprecedented in Alberta history. Approximately 9,000 people were evacuated for 12 days; 433 single-family dwellings, six apartment buildings, three churches and 11 businesses were destroyed. The book does not contain all the answers as to how and why it happened. It tells of harrowing escapes, courage and fear, relief and despair, community and caring, sacrifice and service. It is a story of generosity and cooperation, of the massive effort to restore essential services, and of residents returning safely to begin to rebuild their community. The four editors of the project started working on it shortly after they returned home following the 12-day evacuation period in May of 2011. Supported by generous grants from the provincial government and the United Way of Slave Lake, the book took shape over a period of about 18 months, finally going to press in late 2012.

Contact information for purchase:

Mail: Len and Nicola Ramsey
509 - 13 Avenue SE, Slave Lake, AB T0G 2A0
E-mail: ramseynicola@gmail.com
Phone: 780-849-3348

Or purchase online at www.stagenorth.org



Helicopter Heritage Canada

Helicopters are a common sight in Canada today. The helicopter has been flying our skies for more than 65 years, since the Bell Aircraft Corporation (Now Bell Helicopter) certified the world's first commercial rotary wing aircraft for commercial use in this country back in 1946. Much has been written on Canada's early fixed wing aircraft history, including opening up the far north, however the history of helicopters in Canada has never been fully documented.

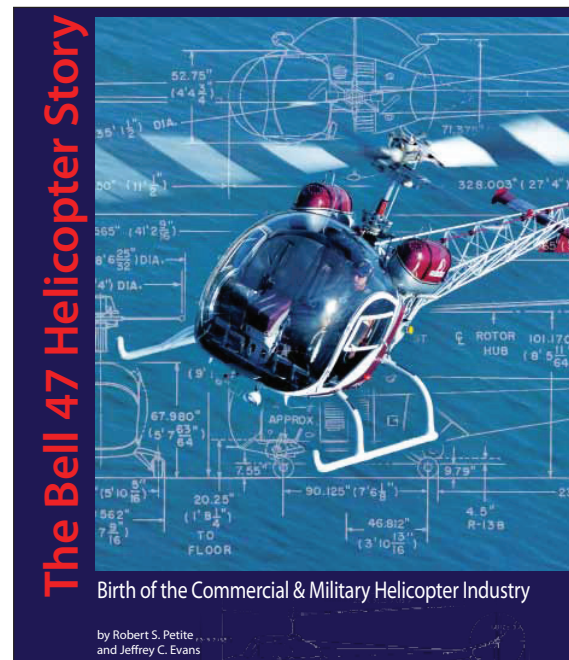
With this in mind, Bob Petite and Kenneth Swartz are hoping to keep Canada's helicopter history alive by preserving and documenting our rich aviation past. The end result will be a proposed book or books on more than 60 years of rotary wing flying across Canada. Bob Petite is concentrating on the piston age from the 1940s to the mid-1960s, while Ken Swartz is covering both the piston era and the second generation turbine age up to the present day.

Join Bob and Ken on their new website to explore
Canada's helicopter heritage:
www.helicopterheritagecanada.com/

The Bell 47 Helicopter Story, Birth of the Commercial and Military Helicopter Industry

Robert S. Petite, with Jeffrey C. Evans

For everyone interested in early helicopter history, the new book *The Bell 47 Helicopter Story – Birth of the Commercial and Military Helicopter Industry* is for you. This upcoming book is the most thoroughly detailed documentation to date of the development of the world's first commercial helicopter. Five Bell Model 47B-3 helicopters were imported into Canada in 1947. The book contains more than 950 black and white photographs, many never before seen in print, as well as more than 200 color photographs. The story begins before the end of World War II at the Bell Aircraft Corporation's leased auto dealership garage in Gardenville, New York. Here President Larry Bell set up his "Gyro Test" program to develop the Bell Model 30 Helicopter, under the direction of inventor Arthur Young and associates. The development and construction of four versions of the Model 30 are covered in detail. The successful Model 30 program morphed into the Model 47 helicopter and the birth of a new civil rotary-wing industry. All models of the Bell Model 47 are covered, from the preproduction Model 47 prototype to the moment when the last Bell 47 came off the production line. Military versions of the Model 47 are also detailed along with various types that never made it into production. Bell licensees for the Model 47 are part of the book coverage, including up to date information on the many variations of the basic Bell Model 47. The story ends with the sale of the Model 47 type certificates to Scott Churchill's Scott's Helicopters in Le Sueur, Minnesota in early 2010.



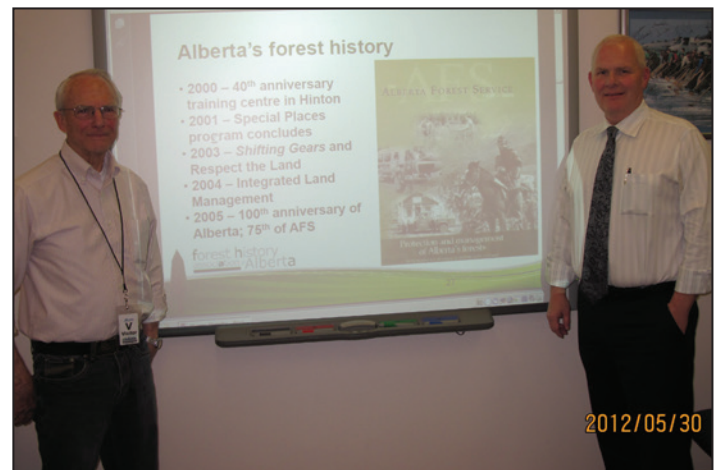
Scott's-Bell 47, Inc is the new name today. Early helicopter pioneer Harold "Hal" Symes called this outstanding historical and pictorial history book the "encyclopaedia of the Bell Model 47."

You will learn all about the early helicopter operators who purchased new Bell 47s and more. In fact, I am confident all readers will learn something new about the Bell 47 that they did not know before. This memorable Bell Model 47 history book will set new aviation standards, due to its in depth quality and amazing selection of photographs and detailed captions.

Further information is available at:
www.helicopterheritagecanada.com

Canadian Institute of Forestry Electronic Lecture Series Presentation

Peter Murphy and Bruce Mayer participated in the Canadian Institute of Forestry's National Electronic Lecture Series on May 30, 2012. This was the third lecture in the series of eight of the Looking Back, Looking Forward: The Ongoing History of Canada's Forests theme. Bruce Mayer gave an overview of forest history in Alberta and the Forest History Association of Alberta, while Peter Murphy previewed the history work that he and Tom Peterson have done on Tie Logging in Jasper National Park in the 1920s. Presentations are available on line at:
http://cif-ifc.org/site/audio_video.



2012/05/30



Spring-cleaner, spare that box of old photos!

Submitted by
David Brownstein February 21, 2012 to the
Network in Canadian History and Environment Forest History Project

Three cheers for the diligence and hard work of archivists! Without their labour it would be next to impossible to write informed historical narrative. In this blog entry, David Brownstein conducts a conversation with Tom Anderson, Provincial Archives of Alberta, and with Peter Murphy, Forest History Association of Alberta, regarding the Canadian Forest History Preservation Project. The project is a collaboration between the Canadian Forest Service, the Network in Canadian History and Environment (NiCHE), and the Forest History Society. The goal is to locate valuable forest history material in danger of loss or destruction, and aid in its transfer to an appropriate archive. The Canadian Forest History Preservation Project wants to hear from you if you know of any prospects: dbrownst@interchange.ubc.ca.

David Brownstein: Tom, tell us a little bit about yourself.

Tom Anderson: In 2003 I graduated from the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, at the University of British Columbia. I began work at the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA) in Edmonton, in 2004. I was a government records archivist for 5 years before moving to my current position as Team Lead, Private Records, where I am part of the group responsible for acquiring, preserving, and making available non-governmental records.

DB: Describe the PAA forest history holdings for us.

TA: The Provincial Archives is the repository for government records of enduring value, as well as private records of individuals, businesses, schools, associations, and societies in Alberta. Our holdings cover the whole of the province, and we are lucky to have extensive forest, environment, and resource-related records, tracing the development and history of forests and forest professionals. We hold records of those in government

responsible for forests from the federal field notes of timber and land surveys and management of timber berths, up to present-day provincial ministries, ranging from the departments of Mines and Minerals, Lands and Forests, and the Department of Sustainable Resource Development. The records, be they cabinet papers, memoranda, policy records, work diaries of rangers, films, photographs, forest cover maps, or even blueprints of ranger stations, cover all aspects of forest management.

We hold records related to forest officers and their training, forest protection, timber management, reforestation, land use and climate change, equipment, legislation and regulation, and research and recreation.

As our mandate to acquire records covers the whole of the province of Alberta and is not limited to government created materials, the PAA also has textual records, photographs and films of logging, mill owners, municipalities and their efforts to fight fires, environmental groups, aerial photographs created by Weldwood of Canada, records of various flyers and their companies, and even records of bush pilots in the province. The records either directly or indirectly document the change in forests and environment over time.

DB: How can people decide if they have anything of value that deserves archival protection?

TA: Any person, family, business, or group with forest history records can either contact you for assistance, David, or they can contact an archive to discuss the records in their possession. We look to acquire records that document the lives, work, history, and culture of the province, and donors that have some connection to forestry in any capacity should hold on to their materials and make sure to speak with us before throwing anything away! We get this question a lot, and so we recently published *Family Histories: Preserving Your Personal and Family Documents*, available in English and French, free to anyone who comes to the Provincial Archives.

In this case, we look for records that provide evidence of a life related to forests or forestry. We are interested in material created by industry workers, active or retired professionals in the area, students, families of workers, and those dedicated to forest preservation and utilization. We look for correspondence, diaries, photographs, albums, home movies, minutes and agendas of professional or

business meetings, maps, plans, and of course writings on how the forests and environment have affected the lives of Albertans, and how we have influenced our environment.

DB: From the point of view of a box of photos or letters, what is the difference between being kept at a private home in a basement or an attic, and being housed in the archives?

TA: I would say the difference is the length of time that the different places can preserve the records. Boxed in a cool, dark closet, protected from vast changes in temperature or humidity, paper and photos can last a long time at home. We have conservators on staff if people have questions about how to preserve materials at home. Many of us do not preserve our special records in optimal conditions, though, and there is always the possibility of a fire or flood in the home. There is no guarantee that a disaster will not happen at an archives; but depending on the repository, there are safeguards in place to ensure the safest possible environment for the records, and for the longest possible time. The Provincial Archives of Alberta for example stores all its records on site in special archival enclosures, in secured climate-controlled vaults, free of temperature or humidity changes.

DB: What should people keep in mind, when considering donating their material to the archives?

TA: Potential donors should consider that the records that become part of an archive is the legacy that we leave for future generations. Archives strive to ensure accountability, protect the rights of the people, and document all aspects of the lives of citizens. We want the holdings to be used and accessed; records at the PAA are, for the most part, open and available and free for use by anyone. The Provincial Archives is very lucky to have a number of exciting forestry-related collections of records. People must always keep in mind that we are dependent on donors. If societies, associations, businesses, or individuals do not donate their records, we cannot build on the good work of those who have donated and preserved the records of the past.

DB: How have PAA holdings been used by various researchers?

TA: Students, academics, amateur historians, genealogists, artists and writers utilize our holdings. I

know that environment and forest records were used in the creation of recent exhibits, and in research for park-related studies, books and presentations, including *The Alberta Forest Service 1930-2005* and *Laying Down the Lines: A History of Land Surveying in Alberta*.

DB: Peter Murphy, tell us a little bit about yourself – how did you become interested in forest history?

Peter Murphy: I was raised in Quebec and my outdoor-loving parents introduced me to forests in the Laurentians. That led me to the University of New Brunswick, where I graduated with a degree in forestry in 1953. I worked in the west during summers on a ranch and in forestry. At the end of my third year I worked in forest surveys for the B.C. Forest Service and again for a year after graduation. In my travels through most of the province I was impressed with the history of logging and sawmilling that was so evident, from Lumberton with its flumes in the southeast to Sawmill Row in Prince George and the plank roads from McBride to wet forests south of Smithers. I came to Alberta in the spring of 1954 and saw much the same historical changes as I travelled with forest surveys to Lake Athabasca, East Slopes to Edson, Grande Prairie and Peace River. Forestry was very much in transition, as author Robin Huth later so aptly described in his book, *From Horses to Helicopters*.

I got into training for the Alberta Forest Service in 1956, and so worked and travelled with staff throughout the province and became engrossed with their history and that of the forest industry. When we got our own training facility at Hinton in 1960, then the Forest Technology School, we could begin to collect some of the traditional old tools and equipment that were becoming obsolete and were able to build a modest museum in which to display them. In that way we could also give students and visitors a historical perspective. Students and visitors also gave us an opportunity to start recording lectures and interviews. As well, we inherited parts of the old Dominion Forestry Branch pre-1930 photograph collection; with my colleague Bob Stevenson, who had rescued a major set of them from a garbage bin, and adding private donations, we eventually produced a collection of over 4,000 images available to search on a CD in 2005 with support of the AFS.

In the meantime, in 1963 I completed a master's degree at University of Montana, and in 1968 had a six-month traveling fellowship in Britain, which considerably extended my appreciation of forest history. In January 1973 I

moved from Hinton to Edmonton to teach forestry at the University of Alberta until retirement in 1995. In 1985, as an extension of a lengthy term paper as part of my PhD program at University of British Columbia, the Alberta Forest Service published my history of forest and prairie fire control in Alberta. That laid the groundwork for several enjoyable post-retirement forest history projects. And the search for references provided a first-hand understanding of the importance of both public and private archival collections—both appreciation of their availability and despair at their absence. In retrospect, I seem to have bumped into forest history at every turn and enjoyed the many opportunities to explore it.

DB: Peter, as a researcher who has made extensive use of the archives, can you elaborate on Tom's account of how archival material has been used to write Alberta's forest history?

PM: I was lead author for Alberta Forest Service, 1930-2005, and can attest to the value of PAA. As well, I have drawn on PAA resources for *A Hard Road to Travel*, *Learning from the Forest*, and *Forest and Prairie Fires in Alberta*. In addition, I wrote two chapters for I. S. MacLaren's book *Culturing Wilderness in Jasper National Park*, for which I also drew on resources at PAA.

PAA is a leading repository for those studying forestry and forest-related topics, but is not the only one in Alberta. Archives such as University of Alberta, Glenbow Museum, and Whyte Museum of the Rockies also have much to offer. They, along with many local archives, such as the Jasper Yellowhead Museum and Archives, serve as important complementary sources of reference materials and photographs. There are also a few private collections of photos and documents that I hope can be consolidated into safer havens and made more conveniently accessible to other researchers. And, although our discussions have focused on the Alberta scene, we need also recognize the substantial collections and services of Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and the Forest History Society in Durham, North Carolina, of which I have been a member for 30 years and a past president.

The importance of archived records was impressed on me during the early 1980s when I was researching the contributions of the Dominion Forestry Branch (DFB) to forestry in Alberta. Until 1930 the forests of Alberta were a responsibility of the Dominion government. There

were few DFB files available at PAA, so on my first visit to the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) in Ottawa I was surprised that there were relatively few files there, too. I understood from one of the LAC archivists that upon the Transfer of Resources in October 1930, the government of Alberta insisted that all active files be sent to the Alberta Department of Lands and Mines in Edmonton, so that there were relatively few files left in Ottawa to be later transferred to LAC. I recalled then that when I started work with the Alberta Department of Lands and Forests in Edmonton in 1954 that there were great stacks of Dominion files in the basement of the Natural Resources Building, which, I understand, were soon after disposed of. My impression was that, unfortunately, the number of files was so overwhelming, that many were just stored, later to be thrown out. This was before PAA had been established, and which now ensures preservation of provincial government files.

However, that experience indicates that identifying and finding homes for privately held materials is also a matter of ongoing importance.

The forest history preservation project being conducted by NiCHE, the Forest History Society, and the Canadian Forest Service, is especially important in identifying which Canadian archives are able and willing to accept donations of new forest history collections. The next phases of the NiCHE project will be equally important—first to identify privately held collections in danger of loss or destruction and then to match them with suitable repositories that would accept and make them reasonably accessible for researchers. It is encouraging to see this project progressing so expeditiously.

Further information on the NiCHE Forest History Project is available at: <http://niche-canada.org/foresthstory>.

Further information on the Provincial Archives of Alberta is available at: <http://culture.alberta.ca/archives/>.

Director's Corner

Trevor Wakelin

FHAA Director

Trevor Wakelin is a strong supporter of forest history in Alberta and was a Director of the Forest History Association of Alberta from 2010 to 2012. Trevor retired from Millar

Western Forest Products on September 30, 2012 after 26 years. The following is a summary of Trevor's career as presented by friend Murray Summers while Trevor was inducted as an Honourary Lifetime Member of the Alberta Forest Products Association September 29, 2011.

Good evening. Tonight we wish to express our appreciation to a gentleman who has, through dedication and hard work..., vision and foresight..., and sheer, bulldog tenacity..., made an indelible mark on Alberta's forest landscape and on the province's forest industry.

I am speaking of Trevor Wakelin, who has for many years, now, worked toward the betterment of the entire forest industry across Alberta, and has done so every bit as diligently as he has done in serving the interests of his employer Millar Western. Trev's career in the forest sector spans nearly 50 years. It has encompassed woodlands management in three Canadian provinces, as well as his native New Zealand. Yes, for any of you who've struggled

to place his unusual accent (Trev doesn't think he has an accent, by the way), it's a layering of Canuck over Kiwi.



Trev was born in Wellington, New Zealand, and spent his first 24 years in that country. He graduated from the New Zealand Forestry School in 1964 and served in the New Zealand forest service until 1969, when a position with MacMillan Bloedel brought him to Canada's West Coast. Trev worked with Mac-Blo on Vancouver Island until 1986, when he left for Alberta to join Millar Western. And, just a few weeks ago, Trev marked his 25th

anniversary with that company. [Note: This talk was done September 29, 2011.]

For Millar Western, Trev has served as woodlands manager, chief forester and, now, director of fibre resources. Early on, Trev worked to modernize the company's approach to woodlands management, transforming it from a regular quota holder to one that took on many responsibilities of an FMA holder, long before it was granted its own forest management agreement area. Indeed, the eventual negotiation of Millar Western's FMA was one of Trev's greatest accomplishments, one demanding a great deal of his trademark perseverance.



*Trevor Wakelin receiving the Tree of Life Award from the Canadian Institute of Forestry;
L to R: Trevor Wakelin, John Pineau and Mark Kube*

Under his leadership, Millar Western foresters set new standards in detailed forest management planning, broadening the scope of plans to encompass long-range cumulative impacts assessment, integrated land management and biodiversity protection, and involving multi-disciplinary scientific teams in the development of DFMPs. Trev also worked to have his company, and industry, recognize the need to respond to public concerns about clearcutting and forestry in general, and to embrace independent certification as part of the answer. Trev played a big part in the AFPA effort to develop ForestCare, and worked hard to ensure his company would be the first to receive AFPA ForestCare certification.

But, though Trev has worn his yellow triangle proudly and served Millar Western loyally, he has been a representative not just of his company, but of the Alberta forest industry as a whole. And in that capacity, he has left a deep mark. Indeed, Trev is a man who never fails to leave a

lasting impression. If you ask 10 different people in our industry to describe Trevor Wakelin, you will find that their responses are remarkably similar.

For most, the first things that come to mind when they think of Trev, are words like “dedication... determination... perseverance... and tenacity.” Trev has taken on some of the most difficult and frustrating issues facing our industry, and then committed himself to doing whatever it takes to see them through. I don’t think anyone in our industry has logged more hours on airplanes, or sacrificed more of his time or peace of mind, to the endless challenge of negotiating fair trade in softwood lumber. I’ve been with him through many of the softwood lumber negotiations, and seen him dig deep into issues on behalf of the Alberta Softwood Lumber Trade Council and its member companies. Trev has dedicated himself tirelessly to upholding our industry’s interests in softwood lumber, the Land-use Framework process, and many other challenging files, past and present.



L to R: George VanderBurg, Mike Cardinal, Cliff Henderson and Trevor Wakelin in front, December 12, 2012

Another word people mention when they think of Trev, is “integrity”. Trev is a man, one who says what he means and means what he says. Trev has been entrusted, by companies throughout our industry, to be able to put his own and his company’s interests aside and to fight hard for the common good. He has been impartial and fair-minded in SLA negotiations, just as he has been honest, plain-spoken and straightforward in his dealings with all parties, including environmental organizations. Some may say, Trev’s plain-speaking may go just a little too far. As it turns out, environmentalists working on the Canadian Boreal Forest Accord didn’t much like it when he suggested that, “if they really care about woodland caribou, they should put them all in a zoo”. When I heard Trev say that I wasn’t sure if he meant the caribou or the environmentalists.

In thinking about Trev, he is first and foremost a passionate forester. As he describes it himself, that

passion is a simple one - grow more trees. But that simple answer masks the huge complexity of the task he sets for himself and all of us. For nearly 50 years, Trev has worked to promote better ways to manage the forest, in all its diversity. He has been a champion of innovative technologies and progressive practices, from GIS, to which he was an early convert, to enhanced forest management, for which he has long been an ardent advocate.

In thinking about Trev, people who first note his determination, resolve, strength and drive before long find themselves considering a less obvious, but equally important aspect of his character. And that’s Trev’s soft side – his kindness and good nature. Trev has developed a great many lasting friendships in all areas of our industry, and one thing each of his friends has had the good fortune to learn, is just how caring he is, and how concerned he is for the welfare of others. Trev’s softer side is also evident

in the pride and affection he shows when speaking of his family: his wonderful wife Pauline, who is with us tonight and has joined us all here in Jasper on so many occasions over the years; his son Soren, and daughters Erica and Ann Marie and of course his grandchildren. I understand Soren, Erica, her husband Robert and their son Brandon are here with us tonight.

Of course, each of Trev's sterling qualities has its pluses and minuses. The same courage and determination that come in so handy during protracted negotiations with an indignant ENGO or an intransigent US Trade Representative can sometimes start to look a lot like bull-headed, even dangerous, stubbornness, when applied to, say, his training regimen.

Trev started running marathons in his forties, and in the past couple of decades has completed more than 60. Trev's self-discipline in preparing for these marathons has, as you can imagine, been rigorous – and has involved running thousands of miles, through heat and cold, rain and snow.

A few years back, on a particularly frigid Saturday morning in Whitecourt, when, according to Jim McCammon, the wind-chill made it about 106 degrees below zero, Whitecourt residents reported seeing a bundled-up lunatic running down the icy shoulder of Highway 43 in the bitter cold. Of course, it could only be one person – Trev Wakelin, stubbornly sticking to his training schedule, no matter the temperature. Trev later allowed as how it had been pretty cold that morning, and admitted to having briefly – very briefly – thought of calling Pauline for a lift home, but he quickly dismissed that cowardly notion and completed his run. When he showed up for work on Monday, people noticed his nose and ears were in pretty rough shape, and the doctor later confirmed he had a good pretty case of frost-bite. Trev wasn't too concerned about any effect this might have on his good looks, mind you, but he was a little worried about potential ill effects on a few other key body parts that had become decidedly numb on the latter stages of the run home.

Trev is not what you would call a man of few words, and he loves to provide what he calls "brief updates". These generally turn out to be highly detailed reports that leave no nuance unexplored, no stone unturned and no one questioning the breadth of his knowledge on the subject. Similarly, Trevor sometimes finds it hard to provide a straight "yes" or "no" answer to a question – generally, at least a good five minutes is needed to explore and explain

his reasoning, which can twist and turn a bit – but, in the end, to the relief and sometimes surprise of his listeners, Trev will ultimately provide a firm "yes" or "no". And you may be guaranteed that Trev can then be trusted to stand by his answer, come hell or high water.

All ribbing aside, Trev has been one of the most active members of the Alberta Forest Products Association. He has taken a lead role in association activities and in other joint industry/government work on issues from enhanced forest management, to integrated land use, codes of practice, and stumpage and tenure, in addition to his work on softwood lumber. To give you the current list of affiliations, Trev serves as chair of the Alberta Softwood Lumber Trade Council, as a director of the Canadian Lumber Trade Alliance, and as Canadian Advisor to Habitat For Humanity International under the SLA Meritorious Initiatives program.

He also serves as president of Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta. In fact, Trev has been FRIAA's president since its inception in 1997. Working with Cliff Henderson, he was instrumental in establishing the association as a Government of Alberta Delegated Authority Organization. Under Trevor's leadership FRIAA has grown from its original mandate to manage the Forest Resource Improvement Program to the point that FRIAA now administers seven different government programs that benefit our industry. And, of course, Trev is a past president of the AFPA, and has served this association as a director, committee chair or committee member since 1986.

In each of these capacities, Trev has demonstrated his exemplary forestry skills, his extensive industry knowledge and his extraordinary work ethic. He has also exercised his deadpan sense of humour and his not-so-terribly-well-hidden soft heart. Above all, he has exerted the courage and tenacity that he shows in facing down any and all obstacles: tackling a current challenge to his health, for example, with the same vigor and determination he would bring to a good, clean fight with a trade opponent or the stiff, uphill portion of a long, hard run.

Trev, your many friends, collaborators and colleagues wish to thank you for all that you've done for the health of the forest, and the health of the forest industry, in Alberta. And, to that end, we would like to confer upon you an honorary membership in the Alberta Forest Products Association.



WAYNE CLOGG

After nearly 40 years in forestry Wayne retired on December 31, 2011. Born in Winnipeg, Wayne's family moved to the lower mainland of British Columbia in 1967 where he attended North Delta Secondary School until 1972. Unsure what to do upon graduation Wayne registered in the general sciences program at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and applied and was hired on by the British Columbia Forest Service (BCFS) on a suppression crew in Lund, north of Powell River. As Wayne describes it, "this was a life changing experience for me". He found himself on a small crew of five students, living in a bush camp for the summer and alternating days between various forestry projects and fighting fires in the Lund Ranger District. The Lund Ranger District stretched north to Bute Inlet encompassing many islands and inlets, and was accessible

only by air or by boat. The BC Forest Service had a fine fleet of water craft in those days and several were stationed in Lund, including the Silver Fir. Following first year, Wayne returned to the BCFS as a straw boss in Squamish. There, working on forestry projects and fighting fires Wayne decided to apply for the Forestry program at UBC. He spent the next four years studying forestry and working in various forestry jobs with both the BCFS and forest industry. Wayne married Cheryle after his first year of forestry, taking her along on his various summer experiences.

Wayne graduated from UBC in 1977 and went to work in Prince George with Industrial Forestry Service, a large consulting firm with many clients in central and northern BC. In those days, most forest companies in the Prince George area had few if any foresters on staff and they relied on consultants, primarily IFS, to carry out most of their forestry work. As a result, staff gained experience quickly in many facets of forestry, including everything from planning and stumpage appraisals to timber cruising, engineering and silviculture. Not only were they all exposed to a variety work, Wayne experienced a vast array of forest types in northern BC - everything from pine flats in Vanderhoof, to lush mountainsides adorned with devil's club in McBride and Williston Lake. He also had the rare opportunity to experience many of these areas in more or less their natural state, as development was just getting under way. With a daughter turning one and a son on the way, Wayne and Cheryle decided that it was probably time to give up the long fly camps and find a job that would bring Wayne home for supper on a more regular basis.

On June 1, 1980 Wayne went to work as a Forestry Supervisor for Chetwynd Forest Industries (CFI), a West Fraser company. West Fraser had recently acquired old stud mills in Chetwynd and Dawson Creek, along with the timber tenures, and were in the process of constructing a new dimension lumber mill to replace the mills and combine the tenure rights. As Forestry Supervisor, Wayne was involved from the ground floor setting up the forestry program and developing new operating areas to supply the new mill. In 1985, Wayne moved on to West Fraser's larger operations in Quesnel, first as Forestry Supervisor and later as Woods Manager. At that time, the massive spruce beetle infestation north and east of Quesnel had reached its full extent and West Fraser was extensively involved in salvaging and reforesting the attacked areas. Around this same time the area experienced what was thought a large pine beetle infestation in the Chilcotin country, south and west of Quesnel which involved extensive salvage and reforestation as well. Wayne said it's rewarding for him today to drive through those salvage areas and view the vigorous young forests which have replaced the dead spruce stands cruised and harvested in the 1980's.

Wayne's career took a turn in 1991 when he became General Manager of the Chetwynd Forest Industries mill in Chetwynd, exposing him to the lumber manufacturing side of the business. In 1993 the Clogg's returned to Quesnel with Wayne as General Manager for the Quesnel sawmill. The early 1990's was a period of new sawmill optimization technology. West Fraser took advantage of the new technology with major sawmill upgrades in both Chetwynd and Quesnel. In 1995 Wayne became Vice President Woodlands at West Fraser, a position he held from 1995 to 2005.

This was a time of tremendous growth for West Fraser as the company expanded in both Alberta and BC, and acquired its first two sawmills in the southern United States. West Fraser continued to grow with the acquisition of Weldwood (Hinton) in 2005 and 13 more sawmills in the United States in 2007 from International Paper. The Clogg family relocated to Vancouver in 2005.

In December 2011, after 32 years with West Fraser and nearly 40 years in forestry, Wayne retired as Senior Vice-President, Woodlands, a position responsible for woodlands and fibre acquisition. Hank Ketchum, Chairman, President and CEO, said of Wayne, "Wayne has been a key contributor to our success during his 32 years with us. He is a leader who reflects and has strengthened West Fraser's culture." Of his career Wayne said he had been "blessed to work with some of the greatest people in the world in this business, from colleagues and contractors to fellow foresters and sawmillers across the industry. I have found this fraternity to be truly the "salt of the earth", and this will likely be what I miss the most in the years to come."



DON COUSINS

Cousin Don retired on November 30, 2011 with over 35 years in forestry with the Alberta government. He first started his forestry career in 1973 with International Forest Fire Systems (IFFS) in British Columbia. When asked about those early years and IFFS, Don said "The company provided timber management crew services where we would do cruising, block layout, regeneration surveys and some reclamation work in Yoho Park. If a fire occurred in your area a Bell 206 helicopter would come pick you up and you would rappel into the fire. On board, there would usually be a spotter and two members with gear slung under the helicopter. You were expected to be out for up to 72 hours. We were moved around the south part of the province. In one summer I worked out of Avola, Kamloops, Merritt, Revelstoke and Yoho Park. It

was a pretty exciting life at the time. Training was not much, a dozen rappels down a scaffold 40 feet high, and off you went. Consequently on my first rappel, I started off fine but forgot to slow down and hit the ground wide open. I felt that one for a week." Don Law and Dan Wilkinson also worked for IFFS in 1973.

In 1972 Don worked in the woods of Northern British Columbia (Prince Rupert to Prince George) for CN Telecommunications repairing and maintaining the miles of telegraph lines. Don and seven others lived in an old box bunk car with a coal oil heater, staying mostly on remote railway sidings. As Don later recalled, this "was a real character building experience to say the least". On Don's first day of work the foreman gave him a Johnson bar and a spoon shovel and told him to dig a hole for a 40 foot pole in rock. New to the job Don said it would take him two days to complete the task. His foreman said if he did that it would be a new record and turned and walked away. We never did hear how long it took.

Don graduated Forest Technology at NAIT in 1976. Classmates included Rob Thorburn, Bill Lesiuk, Jack Budd, Evert Smith, Elaine Maskell, Kevin Heartwell, Gordy Oberg (Federal water resources), Bill Black (Environment and now consultant), Don Hildebrandt (Fish and Wildlife) and Mike Gibeau (Parks Canada). Following graduation Don began his Alberta career in May 1976 as a Forest Officer I in Debolt, Grande Prairie Forest. He was reclassified to Forest Officer II in 1978 and then became the Forest Officer III in Valleyview in 1983 when the Debolt Ranger Station was closed. During the mid-90s reorganization, Don became the Smoky River District Timber Management Technician and later Forest Protection Technician. In 2004 Don became the Wildfire and Air Operations Officer out of Grande Prairie. Don was promoted Forestry Program Manager in Smoky Area in July 2006, a position he held until his retirement. At his retirement Don was recognized by forest industry representatives for his relationship building and fairness while ensuring forest sustainability. Don was also recognized for his skills and mentorship in the aerial ignition program.

Upon moving to Debolt in the mid 1970s, Don started his life hobby (or second career) of raising and training dogs and dog mushing. Owen Spencer is quoted as saying "Don's ability of knowing how to work with dogs has taught him his

respect for humans, or perhaps it is his respect for his mankind that makes him so successful working with dogs. In either case, Don has a unique ability of reading people and dogs, and working well with both of them”.



KEN YACKIMEC

After a forestry career that started as a summer Maintenance Service Worker in 1974, Ken retired from the Alberta government on February 3, 2012.

Working a number of seasonal jobs in and out of the Alberta Forest Service, Ken was convinced by Larry Huberdeau, Lac La Biche Forest Superintendent to enrol in the NAIT Forest Technology Program. Ken graduated in 1983 and started a career with the Alberta government moving to Calling Lake, Rainbow Lake, High Level, Edmonton, Manning and Lac La Biche. Other graduates from 1983 include Doug Smith, Roger Marchand, Brian Wesolowsky, Bart McAnally, Mark Storie, Dave Heatherington, Brent Schleppe, Bruce Mayer and Joe Lyons. From the years 1979 to 1992 Ken worked as a lookout observer, aerial observer, timber cruiser, assistant party chief, Maintaining Our Forest project

Forest Officer, Forest Officer I, II and III, and Air Attack Officer. Ken enrolled at the University of Alberta in 1992 while working part time at the Provincial Forest Fire Centre in Edmonton, graduating with a BSc in Forest Management in 1995. Ken received his Registered Professional Forester number in 1999. After his degree, Ken worked as a Forester I and II, First Nations Consultation Advisor, and lastly, regional lead for the Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management Aboriginal Affairs Branch. In retirement Ken works as a contract Air Attack Officer and continues with his never ending projects, volunteering, acting in local plays and travel. Ken advises that his “tell-all book on living the forestry life is in preparation ...”.



JIM DANGERFIELD

Jim retired on July 15, 2011, after over 26 years of service with FPIInnovations. Jim held several positions in the forest sector starting with Natural Resources Canada and then the British Columbia Ministry of Forests. He joined Forintek in 1985 as Director of National Programs, and then four years later, he accepted the position of Vice-President, Operations – Eastern Region. He then returned to Vancouver and took on the position of Vice-President – Western Region of Forintek. In 2008, after his many contributions during the merger and through the transition, he was named Executive Vice-President of FPIInnovations. Jim continued to work toward the successful merger of the three research centres and the Canadian Wood Fibre Centre until his retirement.



KEITH MCCLAIN

Keith graduated from the University of Toronto in 1971 with a BSc in Forestry and in 1973 with a MSc in Forestry. Keith obtained his PhD in 1986 from Oregon State University. Keith is a Registered Professional Forester in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. Keith retired from the Alberta government in March 2012 with over 35 years in forestry. He continues to work today through the Foothills Research Institute on the Mountain Pine Beetle Ecology Program.

Keith began his career in 1973 with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources at the Northern Forest Research Unit in Thunder Bay. As a Research Scientist his work focussed on the regeneration and management of black spruce as a

component of the spruce-fir-aspen mixedwood forest. In 1990, Keith moved to Prince George, British Columbia where he provided leadership in the development of an applied research and technology transfer initiative for the Canadian Forest Service. From 1996 to 2003 he provided consulting services in areas of science, forest management, criteria and indicators and forest professional and technical education. In 2003, Keith was appointed to the position of Director, Science Policy and Strategy with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development where he promoted the acquisition of science for informed decision making and support to policy development. Encouraging the application of technology to achieve department goals and objectives was another important area of his responsibility.

Since 1992, Keith has been closely associated with the National Model Forest Program and was a member of technical committees at the McGregor Model Forest, and has served on the Board and Executive Committee of the Foothills Research Institute (2003-2012). Keith has been a member of the Canadian Institute of Forestry since 1967, acting in all roles on Council in the Central Ontario, Northern Ontario, Caribou and Rocky Mountain Sections. He is currently Associate Editor of the Forestry Chronicle. In 1997, Keith was recipient of the Canadian Institute of Forestry Tree of Life Award and in 2010 received the President's Award.



DIANNE GREGORY

Dianne began her career with the Alberta Forest Service as a part time land-use clerk in October 1989 working for Ed Dechant in the headquarters office of the Whitecourt Forest. Gordon Bisgrove was the Forest Superintendent at the time. In 1990 Dianne started working full time, half days for Ed Dechant in land-use and half days in timber management for Dale Darrah. Organizational changes and restructuring in the mid to late 1990s brought more roles to Dianne's position – receptionist, file clerk for the pilot provincial records management system, initiation of IMAGIS software program, etc. Superintendents or Regional Directors were Jerry Sunderland and Mike Poscente. The Virginia Hills fire in 1998 meant nearly a year focussed on verifying and paying invoices for the manpower and equipment used. Upon retirement on March 31, 2012, Dianne was asked

her thoughts of her career. The response was “looking back, it was quite an experience. I learned a lot and am most appreciative of the staff that I had worked for and with, and for all the people that assisted me along the way. Throughout my career, it was the staff that made each day. We were one big family.”



BILL LESIUK

On January 27, 2012 a retirement party was held for Bill in High Prairie recognizing his nearly 38 years with the Alberta government. Bill graduated NAIT in 1976, beginning his career with the Alberta Forest Service on the Slave Lake Forest timber management crew in May 1974. In the fall of 1975 Bill worked on the timber management crew in Blairmore and then as a guardian in the West Castle. In March 1977 Bill returned to Slave Lake Forest as the detection technician. In November 1978 Bill was promoted to Forest Officer II in Red Earth Creek, transferring to Turner Valley in April 1980. Bill returned to Red Earth Creek as the Forest Officer III in February 1982. He then transferred to Manning in April 1986. Shortly after that Bill was promoted to Forest Protection Technician in the Footner Lake Forest, and in June 1990 was promoted to Chief Ranger in

Fort Vermilion. With changes in the organization Bill moved to High Prairie in September 1995 as a Forest Protection Technician in the Lesser Slave Wildfire Management Area, and remained there until his retirement in 2012. Bill was a huge promoter of training spending many hours at the Hinton Training Centre and in the field training Aboriginal firefighters, new lookout observers and forest officers making them better in all aspects of their business.



JIM MAITLAND

After 37 years with the Alberta government, Jim retired on March 31, 2012. Jim graduated from NAIT in 1975 and started with the Alberta Forest Service on May 20, 1975 as an Assistant Ranger in the Three Creeks District, Peace River Forest. Graduates with Jim were Hugh Boyd, Don Harrison, Rick Arthur, Tony Znak, Roger Meyer, Mike Hancock and Bill McDonald. Jim recalls that Chief Ranger Ralph Oberg “wouldn’t let him do anything other than issue fire permits in the summer for the first couple of years, until he learned how to issue permits, got to know all the residents and realize the value of those connections and working with the local residents”. In June 1977 he was reclassified to a Forest Officer II in the Three Creeks District (DP6), Peace River Forest. In 1980 Jim became the District Ranger in East Peace under a centralized reorganization in the Alberta Forest

Service. In May 1986 Jim was promoted and moved his wife Noemi and family to Calgary, where he was the Timber Management Technician. The call of the Peace was strong and in May 1987 Jim and family moved back to Valleyview with Jim as the new Chief Ranger. A number of amalgamations and reorganizations occurred over the next decade and Jim was hired as District Superintendent (later Forest Area Manager) in the new Smoky River Forest Area. He then became the Wildfire Manager in Grande Prairie in 2000. In 2006 Jim took on a new role as Area Manager in the new Smoky Area until his retirement on March 31, 2012. Jim will be known for his knack at taking a ‘visual vacation’ in meetings, but still grounding others and providing realism and common sense comments at the right time.



JIM LUNN

A retirement party was held for Jim Lunn on March 24, 2012 celebrating his 31 years with the Alberta government. Jim graduated from Algonquin College in Pembroke, Ontario in 1977 and worked in Ontario at the Petawawa National Forestry Institute, Ministry of Natural Resources and Apex Forestry Consultants before moving west and beginning his career with the Alberta Forest Service. In April 1981 Jim joined the Initial Attack Crew at Shunda Fire Base, Rocky Clearwater Forest before moving on to be a Forest Officer in Nordegg. In June 1986, Jim moved to High Level, and then in November 1990, was promoted to Forest Officer III in Fort Vermilion, Footner Lake Forest. Jim then moved to Footner Lake Forest headquarters as Forest Protection Technician in May 1994. In November 1997 Jim moved to Slave Lake as a Wildfire Technologist. He was then promoted to Forestry Program Manager in July 2006 and remained in that position until his retirement in June 2012.



EVERT SMITH

Evert graduated from NAIT Forest Technology in May 1976. He worked as a Junior Forest Ranger leader in High Level and Fort Vermilion in the summer 1975 and after graduation became a project Forest Officer in Lac La Biche until January 1977. Evert worked as an Assistant Land Use Officer in Grande Prairie until spring 1979, when he moved to Nordegg as a Forest Officer until the spring of 1981. Evert then resigned and worked for an oilfield consulting company until returning to the Alberta government in the spring of 1986. On his return he was Initial Attack Crew leader in High Level and then a Forest Officer before transferring to Calgary in the fall of 1990. In the fall of 1995 Evert moved to Whitecourt as the Business Officer and held that role until 1998 when he became a Forest Protection Technician, still in Whitecourt. In 2003 Evert became the Land Use Specialist in Whitecourt, a position he held until his retirement in 2012. Evert retired on June 9, 2012 after over 35 years in government and private industry.



EVELYNNE WRANGLER

Evelynne graduated from the University of British Columbia with an Honours Degree in Forest Biology in 1971. Those early years consisted of research activities at the Canadian Forest Service's Northern and Pacific Region and University of British Columbia and Carlton University labs. In September 1972 Evelynne moved to the Northwest Territories doing administrative roles in fire control and land use. Following that role Evelynne returned to school from 1976 to 1978 obtaining her BSc in Forestry from the University of Alberta. Graduates in that class were George Robertson, Cindy Nason, Dave Cook, Stan Kavalinas, Audrey Gustafson, Janet Mclean, Dave Patterson, Jan Schilf, Lynn Embury-Williams and Brenda Yanchuk. In 1979, after a number of forestry roles in western Canada, Evelynne hired on as a Yield Analysis Forester with the British Columbia Ministry of Forests in Victoria. In January 1982, Evelynne returned

to Alberta as the Head, Forest Management Section, a role she held until 1992. One significant achievement was the delivery of the Quota tenure renewal and subsequent setting of provincial Annual Allowable Cuts in 1986. Over the next number of years Evelynne took on various policy and senior forestry advisor roles within the government. From October 2001 to March 2004 Evelynne participated in an Interchange Canada program with the Canadian Forest Service in Victoria leading their forest information group on national initiatives and partnerships. In April 2004 Evelynne returned Alberta as a senior advisor in forest policy and intergovernmental relations until her retirement in July 2012. Evelynne was well respected for her contributions, both within Alberta and across Canada, especially with respect to the various provincial, federal and territorial meetings and Canadian Councils of Minister committees. Evelynne also showed passion and commitment to forestry through her involvement and leadership in the British Columbia and Alberta professional foresters associations, the Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board and the Canadian Institute of Forestry to name a few.



HOWARD HERMAN

Howard retired on September 7, 2012 after 35 years with the Alberta government. While taking Forest Technology at NAIT, Howard worked during the summers of 1977 and 1978 with the Alberta Forest Service as a compassman and timber cruiser in the Lac La Biche Forest. In the spring 1979 Howard was promoted to Project Forest Officer at the Beaver Lake Ranger Station, Lac La Biche Forest, and in February 1980, Howard transferred as permanent Forest Officer to Rainbow Lake, Footner Lake Forest. In March 1981 Howard moved to Fort Vermilion as Forest Officer I and then II. In December 1983 Howard took a lateral transfer to Kinuso District, Slave Lake Forest. Howard was promoted to Forest Officer III and moved to the Cold Creek Ranger Station, Whitecourt Forest in February 1988. In August 1989 Howard was promoted to Forest Protection

Technician and moved to Fort McMurray in the Athabasca Forest. In April 1999 Howard and Jane moved to Hinton where Howard became a fire instructor at the Environmental Training Centre, later the Hinton Training Centre. In December 2007 Howard was promoted to Senior Wildfire Training Specialist and later manager in May 2011. Howard was a strong member of the aerial ignition team, first starting in 1993 mentoring under Terry Van Nest. Howard deployed most years and provided aerial ignition support to a number of wildfire incidents, Marianna Lakes in 1995, Mitsue in 1998 and House River in 2002.



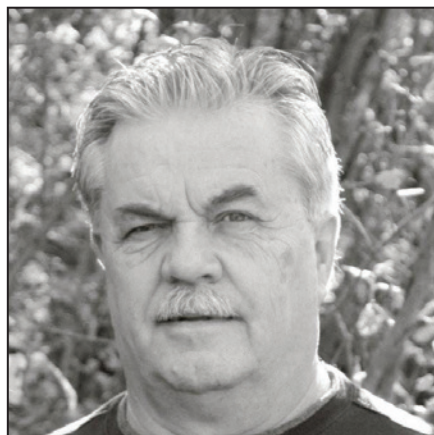
SHARON KOWALCHUK

Sharon started working for the Alberta Forest Service, Forest Land Use Branch on June 3, 1992, and later for the Forest Management Branch. Sharon worked for many managers over the years, Steve Ferdinand, Glenn Selland, Murray Anderson, Dan Wilkinson, Lou Foley, Rory Thompson, Dennis Quintilio, Doug Sklar, Ken McCrae, Robert Stokes and Darren Tapp. Her role changed over the years from administrative duties of typing and filing to supervisor of the administrative support group. Sharon retired after 20 years in June, 2012.



DAVE SCOTT

Dave began his career with the Alberta Forest Service as an Initial Attack Crew Leader in the spring of 1978 in the Spirit River District, Grande Prairie Forest. Following work timber cruising and as a project Forest Officer, Dave was promoted to permanent Forest Officer I at Spirit River in April 1981. In 1982, Dave was promoted to Forest Officer II, still at Spirit River. In January 1986, Dave transferred to High Level, Footner Lake Forest. As a forest officer, Dave spent his time working in fire, timber management and land management. Dave moved to the La Corey District, Lac La Biche Forest in May 1991 as Forest Officer III. Organizational changes in the late 1990s created the Lakeland Forest Area in the North East Boreal Region where Dave focussed his role in timber management. Later changes created the Waterways Lac La Biche Area where Dave focussed on his role in land management. Dave retired on August 17, 2012.



MEL WHITE

With over 40 years forestry experience, Mel's last day with Environment and Sustainable Resource Development was October 19, 2012. Mel first started with the Alberta Forest Service cruising timber in Fort McMurray during the summer of 1968. Cliff Henderson was the Forester in-charge at the time. Following graduation from the NAIT Forest Technology program in May 1969, Mel went to work for North West Pulp & Power in Hinton for just over one year doing silviculture (regeneration, planting and scarification projects) and fire protection work.

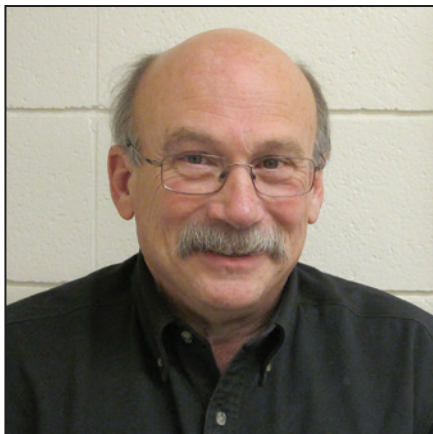
In September 1970 Mel entered the new Forestry program at the University of Alberta, graduating in the first class in April 1974. Other graduates included Bill Gladstone, Brydon Ward, Morley Christie, Fred Moffat, Rod Simpson and Doug Sklar. During the summers between years at U of A, Mel worked in Slave Lake on the timber management crew doing timber cruising and silviculture work (regeneration and tree planting projects). Con Dermott was the Timber Management Forester in-charge. After graduation Mel went to Footner Lake for three years working in timber management doing timber cruising and reconnaissance, silviculture, fire protection, mill studies/scaling, and preparing timber licences for harvest. Rick Keller, Gary Dyck and Henry Dejarlais were the Foresters during that time. Mel also worked in the capacity of Assistant Land Use Officer for just over a year with John Best and left in August 1977. High Level is where he met his wife Mary O'Hanlon, who was working in the front office.

In August 1977, Mel moved back to Edmonton and took the job of Geophysical Coordinator for one year working for Doug Lyons in the old Forest Land Use Branch. In 1978 he did some land use work in Rocky Mountain House for Cliff Henderson and with Joe Lowe in Forest Statistics in Edmonton. He then moved on to the Special Land Use Branch, Public Lands, in the fall of 1978 and was involved in the regulatory review and approval of coal and oil sand developments working for the likes of Terry Weedon, Bill Sanregret, Charlie Bachand and Fred Facco, who was the Director at the time. Also at that time Mel was a departmental member of the Conservation & Reclamation Review Committee of Environment, under the old Land Surface Conservation & Reclamation Act, Chaired by Dennis Bratton/Larry Brocke.

In June 1980 he moved to Grande Cache and Whitecourt to work for British Columbia Forest Products (BCFP) under their new Forest Management Agreement doing land use work (land agent) and silviculture (reforestation, thinning, planting). Doug Sklar was also working there as Forester-in-charge of woods operations. Economic downturns in the west coast industry left Mel unemployed in 1983. He then moved back to Edmonton where his wife Mary got a job in Program Support with Fish and Wildlife. During the period from 1983 through early 1988 he worked seasonally for a pipeline company doing sundry jobs, including warehouse and safety/first aid coordination.

In October 1988 Mel returned to the Special Land Use Section of Public Lands to continue his previous role as Leader, Special Projects Unit, in the review and approval of major projects relative to coal and oil sand exploration and development, as well as quarry (metallic and industrial minerals) operations. Mel was also involved in the review and approval of commercial tourism projects such as golf courses, ski hills and lodges, and eventually traded that off in 2006 to be involved in sand and gravel activities as well. Overall in his position he got involved in almost everything related to non-renewable resource development and land management that came outside of upstream oil and gas activities; including wind farms and run-of-river hydro projects.

During the past 24 years in Edmonton, Mel worked for Charlie Bachand, Loren Winnick, Dan Grahn and Julie Lefebvre as Managers, and Ron Raitz, Rick MacDonald, Glenn Selland and Jeff Reynolds as Directors. Comments provided by industry on Mel's work included "...we have dealt with numerous senior management and departmental staff over the years and you rank at the top for your knowledge, professionalism and most of all your helpful, candid and friendly nature", and "... you have brought honor to the government and meaning to the importance of public service".

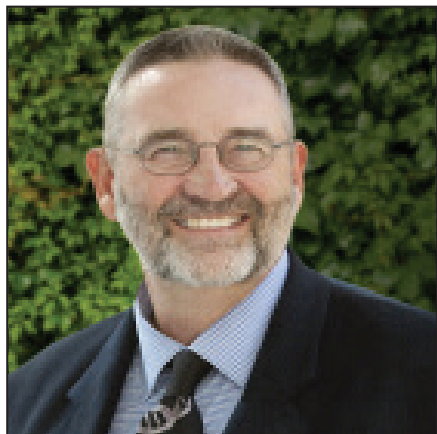


JIM LELACHEUR

After 35 years in the forest industry, Jim LeLacheur retired December 31, 2012. Jim graduated with a Forestry Degree from the University of British Columbia in 1978 and worked as logging supervisor and camp superintendent for the grapple yarding division of Jacobson Brothers Forest Products in Williams Lake. He then moved to the Kootenays as Woods Manager for Westar Timber. In 1990 Jim joined West Fraser's 100 Mile House operation as Woods Manager. In 1996 the LeLacheur's moved to Hinton where Jim became the Sawmill Manager at Weldwood's Hinton mill. In 1999 he was appointed General Manager Forest Resources and Lumber.

After progressive roles in woods and lumber manufacturing, Jim became Chief Forester Alberta operations in 2007. Never shy to participate in a spirited debate, Jim has been a champion of sustainable forest management practices and forest research in Alberta. He was a board member of Canada Wood Council from 2000 to 2003, and was member of a number of government industry committees - forest policy steering committee, provincial Mountain Pine Beetle committee, Alberta Forest Products Road Map to name a few. Jim was also a leading voice on the Alberta Softwood Lumber Trade Council and Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement Alberta British Columbia working group. Jim will also be remembered for his leadership at the Foothills Model Forest (later Foothills Research Institute) as board member from June 2003 to December 2012 and President from April 2005 to May 2010. He is also a registered professional forester in both British Columbia and Alberta.

Jim's wife Donna graduated with a Forestry Degree from UBC in 1979. They have been married for 33 years and have two children – son Keith, a University of Alberta engineering graduate and daughter Kirsten, a University of Alberta business graduate. Jim is an avid fly fisherman and plans to retire in the Okanagan where he and his wife, Donna, can spend more time on the water.



PATRICK GUIDERA

Pat began his career with the Alberta Forest Service in 1975 out of the Slave Lake Forest cruising timber and conducting regeneration surveys. The summer of 1977 took Pat to Teepee Lake Tower as a lookout observer. Moving south to the Bow Crow Forest, Pat was a Junior Forest Ranger supervisor out of Sundre in the summer of 1978 and Forest Guardian out of Turner Valley during the summer of 1979. Following graduation from NAIT Forest Technology in 1979, Patrick returned to Slave Lake as a Forest Officer I and then II. He was promoted to Land-Use Officer from 1984 to 1987, and then Silviculture Technician IV from 1987 to 1989. Pat then moved to Edmonton where he completed a BSc in Forestry at the University of Alberta in 1992. During that time he was a Teaching Assistant at the University of Alberta. From 1992 to 1996 Pat was a second year forest management Instructor at the Environmental Training Centre. He then obtained

a Diploma of Silviculture from the University of British Columbia in 1997. In 1996 Pat took a role as forestry consultant to the Chihuahua Model Forest in Mexico. Pat returned to Alberta as a Senior Manager in Rocky Mountain House from 1996 to 2002, and then Regional Executive Director from 2002 to 2003. In 2003 Pat moved to Edmonton as a Senior Manager in the Strategic Forest Initiatives Division. In 2006 Pat took on a secondment with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development as an Executive Director in Rural Development Strategy. Upon his return to Sustainable Resource Development Pat took on the Senior Manager Bio-Economy Initiatives role in the Forest Economics Branch. From 2010 to his retirement on December 31, 2012 Pat was seconded to Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions as Director, Forest Technologies. On January 1, 2013, Pat started full time with Alberta Innovates in the same role. Pat is well known for his musical talents in bluegrass circles and was Past President of the Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society, Entertainment Director of the Blueberry Bluegrass and Country Music and Founder of the Cabin Fever Bluegrass Band.



WES EROR

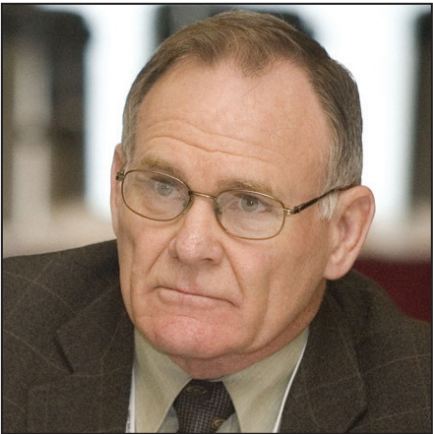
After 45 years with the Alberta government Wes's last work day was December 21, 2012, with his official retirement on March 31, 2013. Fresh from high school, Wes joined the Alberta Forest Service as an Assistant Party Chief in Fort McMurray working for Cliff Henderson supervising timber cruising crews and the Maintaining Our Forests conversion program. Highlights for Wes were the hospitality of the northern communities, the diversity of the work and terrain, and being able to work with the different types of equipment, from boats, including river tug boats, to the railroad speeders used to access remote areas and communities such as Conklin, Chard, Anzac and Waterways. It was in the north where Wes was first exposed to search and rescue, a volunteer commitment he still has today.

In 1971 Wes moved to Rocky Mountain House to work in the Land-use Section with a major focus on erosion control and reclamation on the various old seismic programs in the west country. Equipment used over the years included various ATVs, wheeled Terra Jets, tracked PassParTouts, Bobcats, and J5 and J10 tracked Bombardiers. Here Wes was exposed to his first campaign fire, the Black Mountain Fire in the Nordegg area. In 1974 Wes moved to Edmonton to work on a Phase III inventory program for the Athabasca Forest. In 1976, he moved back to Rocky Mountain House where he spent

the next 36 years working in a variety of forestry disciplines including timber cruising, timber management operations, silviculture, land use, forest health and forest protection. Wes showed his adaptive nature with the release of every new piece of technology right from the first computer, to digital cameras and GPS units. He embraced the departments “Go Book” initiative and became one of the areas primary users of the new tool that allowed him to spend more of his time in the field. He was particularly pleased that he no longer had to load the back of his truck with rolled up maps...everything was in one handy little machine!

Wes provided a valuable service to the government by training many of its employees in snowmobile and ATV/UTV safety over the years. Through this interest Wes has made many key friends and relationships with various West Country stakeholders as an active member with the Rocky ATV and Caroline Snowmobile Clubs and has spent many hours out west on his own time recreating and repairing trails that have been damaged by over use or irresponsible users. Wes didn’t care much for the paperwork that came with the job, but relished in every minute that he was able to be outdoors.

Wes will be missed for his extensive knowledge and history of the area, his support to the genetics program and the help provided to all staff including his commitment as response officer. At a recent recognition event, Wes was asked what kept him going for the past 45 years and responded by saying “just keep me in the bush, and I’m happy”.



TREVOR WAKELIN

Trev Wakelin retired September 30, 2012 after 26 years with Millar Western and nearly 50 years in forest industry in three western Canadian provinces, and his native New Zealand. A full history of Trev is under the Past Director section.

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Dennis Rees Born November 5, 1921, Dennis passed away on November 1, 2011 at 89. Dennis was born in Brynmawr, Wales and came to Edmonton in 1925. He served in Scotland with the Canadian Forestry Corps during WWII. After his return from overseas Dennis was employed as a timber auditor with the Alberta Forest Service from 1952 until his retirement in 1974.

Pat Rehn Born July 5, 1932, Pat passed away on November 3, 2011 at the age of 79. A life long resident of the Wildwood area, Pat spent his life in the sawmilling industry.

Chuck Spencer A graduate of the Maritime Ranger School, Chuck started his career with the Alberta government in 1998. He worked as a scaler, helitack member and Forest Officer in Wabasca and Slave Lake. In 2008 Chuck left government to work in the resource industry. During the summers he filled the role of Industry Liaison in Slave Lake. Chuck passed away on November 3, 2011 after a short battle with cancer, at the age of 38.

Bill Nigro Born January 11, 1914, Bill passed away on November 3, 2011 at the age of 97. Bill grew up on the family homestead in Jeffrey, Alberta and in 1925 moved to Edmonton where he graduated from St. Joseph's High School. In 1938 he graduated from St. Michael's College of the University of Toronto with a BSc in Chemistry. Bill then completed two years of medical school before joining the war effort working for CIL in Nobel, Ontario. In 1946, Bill moved to Edson to work for the family's lumber business. The S&A Sawmill was located where the current Edson Walmart is located. Bill was the first president of the Edson Kinsmen Club and served on Town Council. Bill and his family moved to Edmonton in 1956 where he became president of the Hett and Sibbald lumber company. Bill also served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Alberta Forest Products Association from 1968 to 1970. Bill was one of the early players in the

lumber industry when it consisted of bush sawmills and centralized planer mills, and was a leader in the industry when the Quota system was introduced in 1966.

Fred Moffatt Fred passed away on December 1, 2011 at the age of 61. Fred began his career as a planner with the Parks Branch in 1974, while Parks was still under the Department of Lands and Forests. Fred graduated from the first University of Alberta forestry class in the April 1974. Early in Fred's career he was a planner for what would become Kananaskis Country and Peter Lougheed Provincial Park. In 1976 Fred moved to Valleyview as the first field park planner to work out of an area office, a role that is across the province today. In 1978 Fred moved back to Edmonton still in a park planning role. In 1991 Fred became the Regional Director for Parks in Vulcan, and then assumed the responsibility for Parks, Fish and Wildlife and Water Resources under the new Department of Environmental Protection, Natural Resource Service. In 1995 he moved to Lethbridge in this same capacity. As part of ongoing reorganization Fred moved back to Edmonton in 1998 as the Executive Director of Field Operations, a position he held until 2007. Fred was very involved with the Canadian Parks Council and the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

Stanley Rupert Hughes Stan was born in Edmonton on April 22, 1920. When he graduated from Strathcona Composite High School in 1939, he applied to work with the National Forestry Program and was sent to the Astoria Camp, one of four located in Jasper National Park. There he worked under the direction of Terk Bailey, who later became Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests for Ontario. The crew was assigned to start building the first Jasper-Banff road. In June 1940 he left to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Trained as a wireless operator he was sent to England in 1940 then served in South Asia. He enrolled in the Forestry program at the University of British Columbia when discharged in 1945 and graduated in the Class of 1949. Stan was among the group of seven UBC

graduate foresters hired by Eric Huestis that included Bob Steele, who later became Deputy Minister.

Stan was posted as assistant superintendent for the Bow River Forest, stationed in Calgary and promoted to Superintendent in 1953. While there the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board was established and in 1955 Stan was seconded to be their Administrative Officer. This was during the time of major construction and development, including the Forestry Trunk Road, new ranger stations and lookouts, introduction of a FM radio system and increased forest protection resources. In 1963, when the Eastern Rockies agreement neared its end, Stan moved to Edmonton as Construction Supervisor under the Forest Protection Branch. He was appointed to head Forest Protection in 1965, playing a leadership role in that position for ten years. In 1975 he was appointed as special projects assistant to the Deputy Minister and retired June 30, 1975.

While Hughes was with the Forest Protection Branch he was a member of the Canadian Committee on Forest Fire Management and was chairman of that national committee for three years. The committee developed mutual aid policies and practices for Canada including the exchange of manpower, aircraft and fire equipment between provinces to meet national fire emergencies. This group also initiated the formation of a national fire equipment depot in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the forerunner of the present Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC). As well, he was a Canadian representative on the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Fire Control Working Group of the North American Forestry Commission. In that capacity he was inspired by the cooperative work among U.S. agencies that resulted in the Boise Interagency Forest Fire Centre that lent impetus to the setting up of the CIFFC and initiated Canada-US diplomatic negotiations that resulted in the international exchange agreement later signed by heads of the two governments. This led to his authoring of the paper in the 1970s paper titled "Mutual Aid is Important to the Control of Forest Fires in Canada".

Among his many Forest Service memories was travelling to Bogota, Columbia in 1973 with Carson Macdonald and Bill Wuth. The capital city was threatened by eleven forest fires and they requested advice from Canada. The 3-member

Canadian team flew down and inspected the fires and made both short- and long-term recommendations for fire control. In 1979 he participated on a Fire Review Panel in the Northwest Territories with Peter Murphy (Chair) and John Mactavish.

Stan passed away on December 10, 2011. He made major contributions to forestry and forest protection throughout his career, and was a 50 year member of the Canadian Institute of Forestry.

Joe Bracke On December 26, 2011 Joe passed away at the age of 89 years. Joe worked for the Alberta Forest Service from 1950 to 1982 as a forestry accountant or head office clerk as they were often referred to in the early years. For many years Joe was invited to the Forestry Training School in Kananaskis and later Hinton where he taught Forest Officers about the myriad of AFS forms, including expense accounts, invoices, time sheets, property transfers, write-offs and inventory. Peter Murphy remembers him being good humoured, patient and kind, especially when discussing the time-consuming concern of tracking gas drums, a test of any student's endurance. Joe retired at 59, finishing his career working for the department in the internal audit division.

Ken Dutchak Born August 6, 1952, Ken passed away on January 2, 2012 at the age of 59 years after a lengthy battle with cancer. Ken was with the Alberta government for over 33 years starting with the Alberta Forest Service in 1978 in the Resource Data Division working on reconnaissance data. He moved to the Wildfire Management Branch in early 2000 bringing his skill and knowledge to a new group. Ken was an ardent volunteer and his presence at charity functions, including the Motorcycle Ride for Dad, will be missed.

Les Bates Les passed away on January 12, 2012 at the age of 74. Les worked shortly for the Alberta Forest Service as a Forest electrician working at lookouts and rangers stations. When he left the AFS Les started up his own electrician business in Lac La Biche, farming in the Owl River area.

Bill Luoma Bill was born in Rocky Mountain House on March 4, 1936 and remained a Rocky resident his entire life. He was a quiet and humble man and enjoyed the company of family and friends. With the support of his father-in-law Art Fisher, Bill and his brother in law, Gordon Leavitt began Rocky Wood Preservers. Bill and his wife ran the business until she retired from the book-keeping and Bill semi-retired. Rocky Wood Preservers employs more than 40 families from the Rocky Mountain House area. Before hiring a full-time forester for the company, Bill looked after everything including annual operating plans, silviculture activities, hiring of contractors and staff, etc. Bill had a “good feel” for proper forest management and kept foresters, staff, and the government often catching up to his wisdom and style of getting the business done well. Barry Mjolsness, owner Spray Lake Sawmills, called Bill a true jack-of-all-trades. “He managed the forest operations, operated equipment as required, built and repaired whatever needed tending to and marketed their products on the side. He provided a much different slant on being a general manager than what we often think of today.” Bill was extremely proud of his grandchildren; he played with them and read to them when they were small. As they grew into young adults he enjoyed their energy and was always thankful that he got to spend time with them. Bill passed away on February 3, 2012 at 75 years of age.

Richard Nesby Richard was born on June 27, 1950 and passed away on March 1, 2012 at 61 years of age. Richard was a long term senior photo interpreter with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and a key member behind the development of the Alberta Vegetation Inventory forest classification system. He had a love of adventure and traveled widely, and was an avid naturalist and bird enthusiast.

George Ontkian George was born in Coaldale, Alberta on March 6, 1928 and passed away on March 21, 2012 at age 84. A UBC forestry graduate, he worked for about two years with the Canadian Forest Service, eight years with the Alberta Forest Service at Rocky Mountain House, then about 22 years with the forestry program at NAIT, retiring in 1986.

George was raised on the family farm in the Lethbridge area during the hard times of the 1930s. As his son Christopher explained in his eulogy: “Whether tending to the livestock, seeding and harvesting grain and vegetable crops, or helping to prepare the land for the next growing season, my Dad developed a profound appreciation for the land and the natural world. This appreciation and his ingrained work ethic would continue to characterize my father throughout his life”.

After completing high school he decided to take a year of what was then known as “Normal School”, which enabled him to teach grades 5 and 6, after which he obtained his permanent teaching certificate from the University of Alberta. After working a summer at a tree nursery in Brooks, he recognized his interest in trees and knew he was not suited for life as a primary school teacher. He enrolled in Forestry at the University of British Columbia, graduating in 1956. His yearbook description presciently noted that he “would like to end his days digging up and planting wee seedlings”.

He first worked for the federal Forestry Research Branch in Calgary, but after about two years found his heart just was not in research. In 1957 he took a job with the Alberta Forest Service in Rocky Mountain House, assigned to the Clearwater Forest of the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve as Assistant Superintendent. In 1960 he transferred to the position of Forester to pursue his first love, forestry field work and silviculture. He inaugurated many of the early planting and seeding trials in the Clearwater Forest and established an outstanding reputation in reforestation and forest management.

In 1964 the Alberta Forest Service and NAIT negotiated an agreement to support a two-year Forest Technology program. The arrangement was to offer the first year at NAIT to take advantage of their technological strengths then to move to the Forest Technology School at Hinton

to focus on forestry practices and fieldwork. George was selected to lead the forestry program at NAIT and remained as an instructor there almost continuously until he retired in 1986. His son Christopher said that he enjoyed: “teaching his forestry students about many subjects, including meteorology, soils, geology, measurement science, botany, and entomology, but his favourite time of the year was always in the fall, when he would get a chance to teach hands-on field work”. Peter Murphy commented: “His was a difficult task at NAIT - to take new students to get them oriented, enthused and well grounded in the basics. That we had an essentially zero dropout rate in the second year is a testimony to the success of his efforts”. Students developed a lasting appreciation of his keen interest in them and in the forest.

After retirement in 1986 George and his family moved to New Zealand for a year then returned to settle in St. Albert with their garden and to be nearer to their son, his wife Amy and two granddaughters, Jada and Zoe. George had met the love of his life, Betty, during his time with the AFS; married in 1965, she predeceased him in 1990.

Joseph Brodoski Joe passed away April 5, 2012 at the age of 83. He began on the fire standby crew in Fort McMurray in the early 1960s, later becoming the equipment operator. Joe returned to his farm in the Hyllo area on his retirement in the 1990s.

Jack Grant Born December 18, 1921 John (Jack) Walter Grant passed away on June 15, 2012 at the age of 90. Jack worked for the Alberta Forest Service from 1951 to 1981 retiring as a dispatcher in the Provincial Forest Fire Centre. He started as a Ranger at Keg River on February 25, 1951. He moved to Hines Creek in 1953, then promoted to Chief Ranger at Peace River around 1956. In 1958 Jack moved to Edmonton as an Aircraft Dispatcher, renamed to Fire Control Dispatcher around the mid 1970s. Upon retirement in 1981 Jack was hired on special project until the late 1980s to train summer students in firefighting.

Ken Hall Born March 14, 1924 Ken passed away on June 16, 2012 at the age of 88. Ken was born in Vancouver, B.C. and moved to Chilliwack at the age of four. After high school he first went to work as an apprentice machinist, before enlisting in the navy during World War II. Ken attended the University of British Columbia where he attained a degree in mechanical engineering. He continued his apprenticeship while going to school. He began his engineering career in B.C. sawmills, starting in Port Alberni, where he met his wife Betty. The majority of his working life was spent in the pulp and paper industry. From an early age Ken was a talented craftsman. He applied these skills, along with his abilities as a machinist and an engineer to fulfill his dream of building a steam engine, machining each part himself. He was an active member of the Northwest Steam Society and he and Betty spent many wonderful days on the SS Oesa. Ken also gave his time to the preservation of the SS Master. He was passionate about preserving this piece of B.C.'s maritime history. Bob Udel is quoted as saying “the Hinton operation (sawmill and pulp mill) owes much to Ken’s vision and tenacity in building the case for expansion, acquiring the capital from Champion for the project, negotiating terms with the Province and overseeing the construction before retiring”. Ken was the Vice President and General Manager for Champion Forest Products in Hinton at the time.

Mansel Davis Born October 21, 1936 in Saskatchewan Mansel passed away in Sundre July 3, 2012 at the age of 75 years. After his 1955 high school graduation in Huxley, Alberta, Mansel went to work at the Athabasca Ranch near Entrance. There he met Rex Winn and Bill Hannington and his interest in the Alberta Forest Service began. Mansel worked for a short time in the kitchen at the North West Pulp and Power mill in Hinton in January 1956, and then went to work for the Department of Highways. Mansel applied to the Alberta Forest Service in early 1957 and was interviewed by Ted Hammer, Chief Timber Inspector (also in charge of Fire). In an interview Mansel had said that the interview was “more like a visit with an old friend”. Following the interview Mansel was offered the Assistant Ranger job in Edson working for Hank Ryhannen. In his interview Mansel said his first job was working with Rex Winn hauling gravel from the Hinton area to Cabin Creek and then to Huckleberry Lookout. Rex Winn would blast the face of the gravel pit and Mansel would load the gravel

with the C3 cat. Other rangers in the forest were Eric Dawson, Hank Ryhannen, Neil Gilliat and Vic Fischer.

Mansel was transferred to Rock Lake (District 55) to work with Vic Fischer in spring 1957. Much of their summer work consisted of patrolling trails and ensuring their backcountry cabins were in good condition. Over the course of a patrol they would ride 13 miles to Eagles Nest cabin, 12 miles to Mile 58 Summit cabin and then an additional 18 miles to Big Grave Flats cabin. If time permitted then they would head to Sheep Creek cabin, or do that on another patrol. One work project in the fall of 1957 consisted of building an 8' x 20' "rat proof" shed to store the new forestry Peterborough freight canoe at Clark's crossing on the Big Smoky River. Mansel spent his 21st (October 21, 1957) birthday snowed in at Rock Lake. His 1951 Chevrolet car couldn't get through the snow. In late fall 1957, Mansel worked with Al Walker and Don Crawford constructing the 100 foot Huckleberry Tower. Mansel said they slept in tents and were 'colder than hell". One other project was to round up all the forestry horses in the Hay River valley, upstream of the Hay River Ranger Station. Forestry had 29 in inventory and the job was to round them all up and keep 10, sell the rest. Mansel went to the Forestry Training School in Seebe (Kananaskis) in the fall 1958, and while there was promoted to District Ranger at the Muskeg Ranger Station (District 50). Mansel and Marilyn were married in 1960 and moved in to the newly constructed forestry house at Muskeg. Hamel and Kvas Lookouts were built during the time Mansel was at Muskeg. Each of the sites were scouted out by Art Lambeth, Chief Ranger from Hinton.

On June 11, 1964 Mansel moved to the Debolt Ranger Station, Grande Prairie Forest under Superintendent Ray Smulund. The workload was totally different at Debolt, with Mansel and Stan Clark issuing on average 2,500 fire permits per year due to the increase in homesteading and clearing land. Winters were kept busy with the Norton sawmill south of Goodwin and Canfor in Grande Prairie. In December 1971 Mansel was promoted to Chief Ranger at the Sundre District, Bow Crow Forest. When the Davis family moved in January 1972 it was minus 42 F at Debolt and plus 32 F at Sundre. Forest Officers in Sundre were Peter Bifano, Leonard Kennedy (replaced by Bob Pinel when Len moved to Turner Valley as Forest Officer III) and Jim Young (replaced by Frank Vandriel when Jim

moved to the Ghost as Forest Officer III). While in Sundre Mansel was Line Boss for Stan Clark on his provincial overhead team and was deployed to a number of wildfires in northern Alberta in the early 1980s. Mansel retired on October 21, 1991, his 55th birthday after over 35 years with the Alberta government. The Davis's moved to Sundre where Mansel volunteered at the Royal Canadian Legion and the Sundre Historical Society.

Palmer Peterson In August 2012 Palmer passed away at the age of 84 years. Palmer was one of the early helicopter pioneers who flew for the Alberta government and Associated Helicopters. Many will remember him assisting with cruising projects or on wildfires.

Jack Gosney Born March 4, 1925 Jack passed away February 6, 2012 at the age of 86 years. He was raised in the Coal Branch south of Hinton, when the communities of Mountain Park, Cadomin and Mercoal were major coal mining centers. He developed an early interest in fishing and hunting and also breaking mountain horses to pack and ride. Jack teamed up with Oklahoma cowboy Ed Coast who raised horses on the McLeod River. Ed's oldest son Bert later joined the Alberta Forest Service. Jim Babala, a local outfitter bought out Ed Coast in 1949 and Jack worked for him as a guide that summer and fall. Jack married Doris Crawford whose father Angus was the Ranger in the Coal Branch. Doris's brother Don was a Ranger in the Hinton area for many years. Jack worked in the coal mines as a young man but in 1959 when production slowed down he applied for a job with the Alberta Forest Service and was stationed at the Gap Ranger Station in southern Alberta. He was very respected by the local ranchers. He later transferred to the Hinton/Robb district and after seven years with the Alberta Forest Service left to work for North Western Pulp and Power in Hinton. Jack was a faller with the company until he retired at the age of 65.

During retirement years Jack enjoyed many fishing and hunting trips with his horses, family and friends. Some of the Forest Service friends included Harry Edgecombe, Bernie Simpson, Al Walker, Ken South, Bob Stevenson, Pete Murphy, Cliff Henderson and Dennis Quintilio.

Roger Light Born September 28, 1955, Roger passed away on July 27, 2012 at 56 years of age. Roger graduated from the Maritime Forestry School in 1979 and headed west to Alberta in 1980 where he landed a seasonal position working for the Alberta Forest Service. He worked seasonally in Grande Cache, Lethbridge and Crowsnest Pass before receiving a permanent position in High Level in 1982. Roger and family moved to Fox Creek in 1988, Whitecourt in 1997 and then returned to High Level in 1997 where Roger became a Forest Protection Technician. In November 2002 Roger moved back to Whitecourt as a Forest Protection Technician where he remained until his passing. Roger filled many roles in addition to his regular duties, workplace health and safety lead, wildfire investigator, aerial ignition boss and wildfire safety officer. He will be remembered as having a sense of humor, steady, trustworthy and kind. He always got the job done.

Bill Cooper Bill was born in New Brunswick on June 8, 1951 and passed away August 8, 2012 at 61 years of age. Bill began his career with the Department of Energy & Natural Resources in 1974 as part of the timber management crew working under the supervision of Joe Lowe. Bill's work involved the acquisition of sample volumes for the Permanent and Local Sample Plot programs. Those who knew Bill were familiar with his interest in computers and other electronic devices, and as early as 1980, Bill was recognized for his aptitude for using computers to help with timber cruising (CRUZCOMP) and data sharing with timber industry on the PSP and LSP data. In 1981, Bill became a Timber Production Control auditor under Howard Morigeau where he stayed for the next 10 years. Bill was recognized for his ability to work co-operatively and fairly with the different companies he was assigned to audit. In October 1991, Bill was appointed to the Provincial Scaling Supervisor position where he remained until his passing in 2012. During this time Bill was instrumental in the revisions and improvements to the timber scaling procedures used in the Province. Not only was Bill's reputation on scaling recognized within Alberta but he was also recognized as one of the scaling experts in Canada, representing the government on the Canadian Standards Association committee for scaling roundwood.

Bill's love of computers resulted in the development of the Micro Scale program that is in use today by companies in the Province. He also worked on the Timber Production and Revenue System which resulted in the ability of timber companies to electronically transfer weigh scale data and sample load data into the Department. Bill will be recognized as someone who was always willing to provide assistance and pass on his knowledge and experiences to all people. Max Matthews said "Bill had the unique ability to satisfy industry requests without compromising his commitment to the Crown". He also said that Bill lived up to the 17th century Quebec scalers motto – Without Fear of Favour (meaning their services could not be favoured or bought).

Brian Wesolowsky Brian was born December 16, 1961 and passed away on September 27, 2012 at 50 years of age. Brian graduated NAIT Forest Technology in 1983 and worked for the Alberta Forest Service in Whitecourt and Fox Creek. Brian left the Alberta government in 1990 starting West Sky Resource Consultants, working primarily for the forest sector. He also filled the role of air attack officer for the Alberta government in the early 1990s.

Ernst Klaszus Ernst was born December 11, 1929 and passed away November 10, 2012 at 82 years of age. Ernst was born in Tilsit, East Prussia and came to Alberta in 1965 working as a pastor and educator. Known as "Mr. Tree" Ernst was Chief Warden for the Alberta Junior Forest Warden and will be remembered for his legacy of trees planted.

Michael (Mick) Lalor "Mick" was born in Pine Falls, Manitoba on April 29, 1929 and passed away in St. Albert, Alberta on December 23, 2012 at age 83.

Besides his devotion to his family, Mick essentially had three major and successful careers – 16 years as a forester on the East Slopes area with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS), working out of Calgary; 15 years with the Forest Technology program at the Northern Alberta Institute (NAIT) in Edmonton; and an overlapping 25-year tree farm and market stall at Old Strathcona Market to 2012.

Mick was raised in the pulp-mill town of Pine Falls, the youngest of four brothers. When his two oldest brothers left to fight in WW II and his other brother left for Medical School, Mick was on his own. As his son Darcy said, he “was the oldest Lalor in a tough northern mill town”, and quickly learned how to take care of himself and others. He loved the surrounding forests and spent a lot of time by himself with his dog Butch, hunting, fishing and running a trapline. He was also renowned for his singing voice. Like most boys in Pine Falls, Mick played hockey. Coached by his brothers, as Darcy put it, “Never the biggest guy, but always the biggest heart – he played defence with grit and determination.” During the war, at age 14, he was good enough to be called up to play with the adults on the Pine Falls Senior hockey team.

His outdoor interests led naturally to take forestry at the University of New Brunswick. He not only made the UNB Varsity team in hockey, but also the football team and captained that team to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport national semi-finals. During summers he worked in the forests of the Miramichi, where he noted, “those were real woodsmen” – a commendation he did not give lightly, but an observation that influenced his teaching career. He also worked summers on forest surveys in Manitoba and Alberta.

Following graduation in 1956, Mick moved to Alberta to start as a forester with Forest Surveys Branch of the AFS in Edmonton to work under Reg Loomis. He spent the next two field seasons working on the forest inventory south of Slave Lake. In the fall of 1957 he moved to Calgary as Forester for the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board; later transferring to be the first designated Forester for the Bow River Forest, then part of the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve. Mick’s main interest was silviculture and forest renewal. In those earlier years there was not a mandatory reforestation policy, and budgets for silvicultural work were very small, so Mick had to start virtually from scratch to develop techniques and programs and to improvise to get work underway. There were very few nursery grown seedlings, either. However, Mick was able to reforest many cutover areas by using minimum-security crews. They initially dug wild seedlings from thickly growing patches of naturally regenerated areas. In this way they were able to reforest many sites in both the Bow River and Crowsnest Forests, starting a now-legacy of many stands of

healthy maturing forests. He also initiated thinnings and set up highly popular Christmas Tree cutting areas.

In 1964 a new Forest Technology program was developed at NAIT. This was a two-year program developed cooperatively with the then Forest Technology School at Hinton. The first year was held at NAIT and the second year at Hinton. When fellow forester George Ontklean left, in the summer of 1971 Mick moved to Edmonton to take charge of the program at NAIT. He recognized the importance of woodsmanship and ability to apply practical skills as well as technology. With that in mind, he set up at field camp at Kidney Lake, west of Fort Assiniboine, at which first-year students spent five weeks in the fall. Totally committed to improving forestry practice, Mick worked tirelessly to inculcate his knowledge, field skills and a work ethic among his students which made them and the Forest Technology program recognized nationally for their quality and performance. Mick retired from NAIT in 1987.

His third, overlapping, career started in his retirement year when he partnered in setting up a Christmas Tree farm west of Legal. Planting a variety of conifers, they began selling cut-your-own trees about eight years later. He was part of that still-successful operation for seventeen years. In the meantime, he had also leased a market stall at the Old Strathcona Farmer’s Market in Edmonton which he ran for 25 years. His products were Wild Rice from the lakes of his home area of northern Manitoba, Maple Syrup from Quebec and cranberries that he hand-picked in the Swan Hills each August, all with the help of his family. During 1988 to 1990 he wrote a series of articles and stories about the forest environment and forestry practices for *Heritage Link* to illustrate the dynamics of the forest ecosystem and its sustainability. He was presented with the *Tree of Life* award by the Rocky Mountain Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry in recognition of his many contributions to forestry.

In 1960 Mick married Rose Marie and together raised five children Fintan, Darcy, Clancy, Suzette and Braedan. They spent a lifetime encouraging and supporting them and their grandchildren, including participation in sports and outdoor activities. We extend our respect for Mick and send condolences to his family.

FHAA PHOTO CORNER



L to R: Eric Huestis and Fred McDougall at Deputy Minister Robert (Bob) Steele's retirement



L to R: Barry Mjolsness and Morgan Kehr at the Spray Lake Sawmill, January 10, 2012



L to R: Morgan Kehr, Jean Lussier, Ross Spence and Bruce Mayer, Blairmore Ranger Station, February 8, 2012



Don Lowe with his Fish and Wildlife Officer uniform donated to the Forest History Association of Alberta, March 20, 2012



Completion of the new Kimiwan Tower, Peace Area, January 19, 2012 (L to R: Bruce Mayer, John Brewer, Tim Klein, Hugh Boyd, Shawn Barraclough, Al Law and Neil Anderson)



L to R: Steve Blanton and Real Arsenault at the Manning Diversified Forest Products mill outside of Manning, March 15, 2012



Hugh Boyd presenting Jim Lunn a chrome pulaski on his retirement, March 24, 2012



L to R: Bruce MacGregor, John McLevin, Ken Orich, Jim Maitland at Jim Lunn's retirement March 24, 2012



L to R: Stefan Demharter and Rob Stauffer at the new Millar Western Fox Creek sawmill, April 4, 2012



L to R: Mike Adams and Barry Gladders, Tolko High Level Division, April 25, 2012

FHAA PHOTO CORNER



L to R: Hugh Boyd, Patrick Loewen and Herman Stegehuis at Don Cousin and Jim Maitland's retirement; the truck Jim Maitland drove in background, May 5, 2012



L to R: Brian Davies, Bruce Mayer and Stan Warnock at the Blue Ridge Lumber sawmill, April 27, 2012



L to R: Gordon Graham and Dennis York at Evert Smith's retirement, April 27, 2012



L to R: Dan Rohlert, Woodlands Manager and Jim LeLacheur, Chief Forester; West Fraser, Hinton Wood Products; May 4, 2012



L to R: Dave Cook, Tom Archibald and Cliff Henderson at Don Cousin and Jim Maitland's retirement May 5, 2012



L to R: Jack Wright, Jim LeLacheur and Bob Udell, all past Chief Foresters at Hinton FMA planting 200 millionth tree in the Hinton Division, West Fraser Hinton Forest Products, June 15, 2012



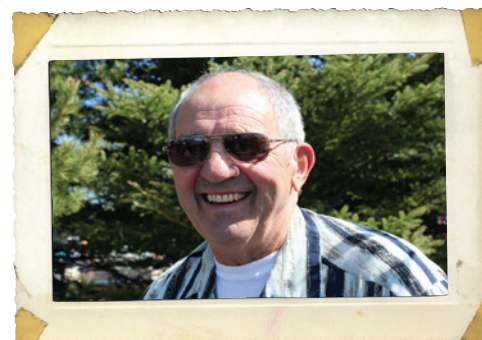
L to R: Gary Smith with Hugh Boyd in Zama City, July 13, 2012. This was Gary's 40th summer fighting wildfire.



L to R: Peter Murphy, Evelynne Wrangler, Don Gelinas and Mark Kube at Evelynne's retirement June 15, 2012



L to R: Dan Wilkinson, Sharon Kowalchuk and Murray Anderson at Sharon's retirement party, June 25, 2012



Bob Vanderwell attending Jean-Luc Deba Memorial at Canyon Creek, May 20, 2012

FHAA PHOTO CORNER



Ambrose "Jake" Jacobs at a recognition event for his 40th summer fighting wildfire, June 2012



L to R: Chris Kennedy, Bert Boucher, Ricky Boucher, Jason Boucher and Brian Boucher at the Boucher Brothers sawmill, Nampa, August 15, 2012



West Fraser senior executives with Minister Frank Oberle, December 7, 2011 (L to R: Jim LeLacheur, Wayne Clogg, Frank Oberle, Hank Ketchum, Dave Lehane)



L to R: Bruce Mayer, Darren Tapp, Jim Stephenson (Canfor) and Roger Loberg (Weyerhaeuser), Grande Prairie, August 31, 2012



L to R: Brad Thorlakson, Hank Ketchum, Al Ward, Minister Diana McQueen, Craig Armstrong and Howie Ewashko, Jasper, September 28, 2012

On September 8, 2012 the new outdoor classroom at the Hinton Training Centre's Cache Percotte Forest was dedicated the Murphy Classroom, in honour of Dr. Peter Murphy. Dr. Murphy was instrumental in the development of a top notch forestry training program in Alberta. Construction was completed by Wade Berry with logs from the Cache Percotte Forest.



L to R: Rob Galon, Director Hinton Training Centre presenting Peter Murphy with keepsake framed photograph of the new outdoor classroom



L to R: Don Podlubny and Hinton historian Tom Peterson



L to R: son Tom, Peter Murphy and daughter Sharon



Retired Forest Officer Don Crawford and his wife Carol

FHAA PHOTO CORNER



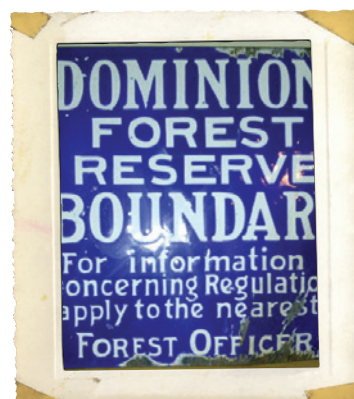
On December 12, 2012 Trev Wakelin was presented with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal by George VanderBurg, Associate Minister of Seniors and MLA for Whitecourt-St. Anne. Left to Right: George VanderBurg, Mackenzie Millar, Bruce Mayer, Craig Armstrong, Jim Rennie, Rob Seidel, Ben Sawatsky and Trevor Wakelin (front)



Cache Percotte Trail sign identifying trail built by Junior Forest Rangers, 1966



Dominion Forest Service sign posted primarily along the eastern slopes prior to transfer of forest resources to Alberta in 1930. This sign is now located in the Southern Rockies Area office in Calgary



Dominion Forest Service sign found by Keith McAllister in the Whitehorse Valley, just south of Cadomin

Thousand-year-old Tree — The Whirlpool Point Pine

Species:

Limber pine

Pinus flexilis

Location:

Upper North

Saskatchewan River

Nominated by:

Betty & James H.
(Harry) Horton

Among the scenic features along the David Thompson highway west of Nordegg are the gnarled and windblown limber pines growing on exposed rocky ridges. The name "limber" comes from the nature of the small branchlets which are usually quite flexible and can be gently bent without breaking.

There are two schools of thought about their distribution. One is that limber pine needs plenty of "elbow room" in which to grow so it is normally found at timber line where there is lots of space between trees. At lower elevations, the tree and brush competition is usually too severe, but in a few exposed rugged sites like these, too harsh for other species, limber pine may also find its needed growing space. The other story is perhaps more interesting. Ecologists have noted that the ranges of Clark's Nutcracker and limber and whitebark pine are the same. The major food of the birds is the seeds of these pines. The birds collect seeds when they ripen in late summer, and store them where they can be relocated during the winter — on the rocky, windblown ridges where the snow blows away — coincident where these trees are found. The trees therefore may be dependent on the birds for their growing locations.

However it happened, this tree found rooting space in a crack in the rock along the North Saskatchewan River. Because the soil was so limited and poor, it grew very slowly. It was nominated by the

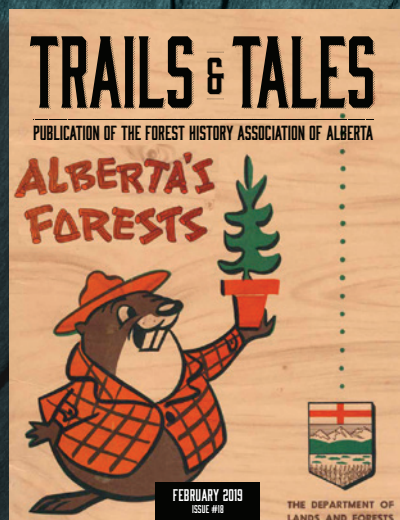
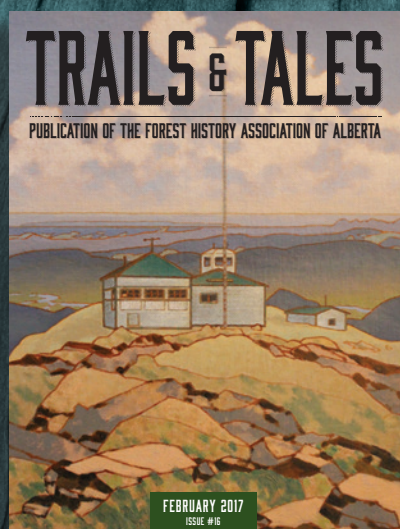
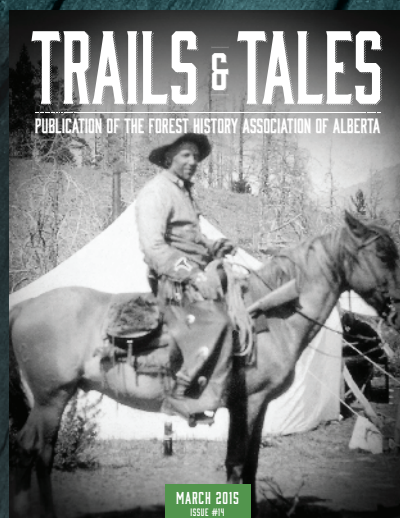
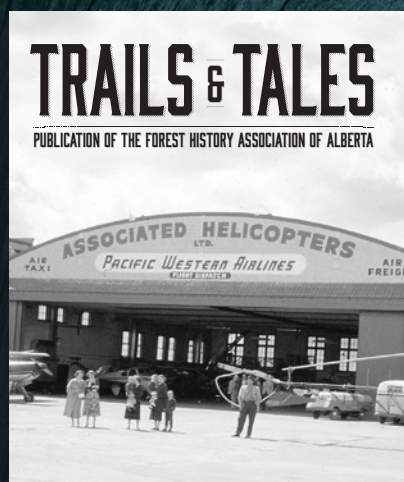
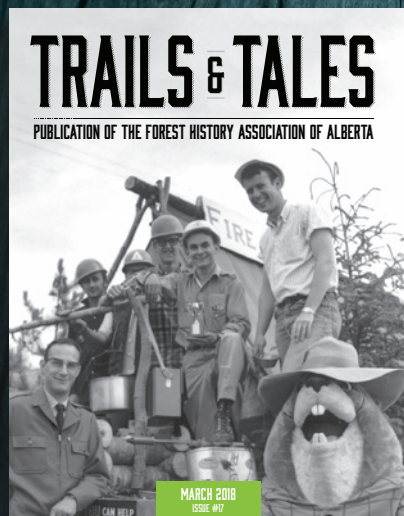
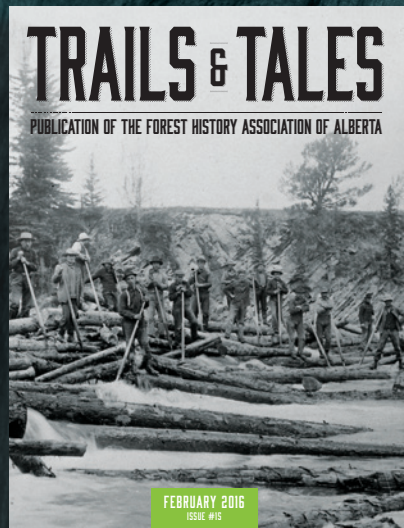
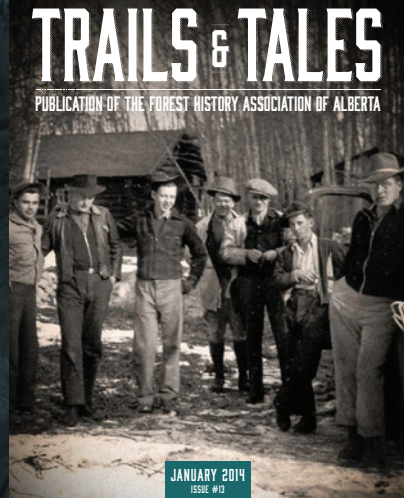


Hortons because of its unique and picturesque shape, a tree they had come to admire over the years.

When the "official" measurements were taken by Fred Sutherland and Ted Loblaw, they sampled for age but found it had the expected heart rot. However, the coring of the sound wood from the outside 10 centimeters showed an astounding age of almost 400 years! Since the outer core is only less than one-fifth of the total radius, it is likely that tree is well over one thousand years old!

Assuming a conservative 1000 years, the tree would have been firmly established in its niche for 80 years when William the Conqueror landed in England, and would have been a venerable 500 years old when Columbus set sail in 1492. David Thompson would have seen it in virtually its present size and shape when he explored his way up the North Saskatchewan valley in 1801. Further studies will be made to try to estimate the total age more closely.

The close-up picture of the trunk shows how the pattern of branches tells a graphic story of a long life of struggle in that harsh exposed environment—but a story of survival and tenacity of life.



TRAILS & TALES

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