

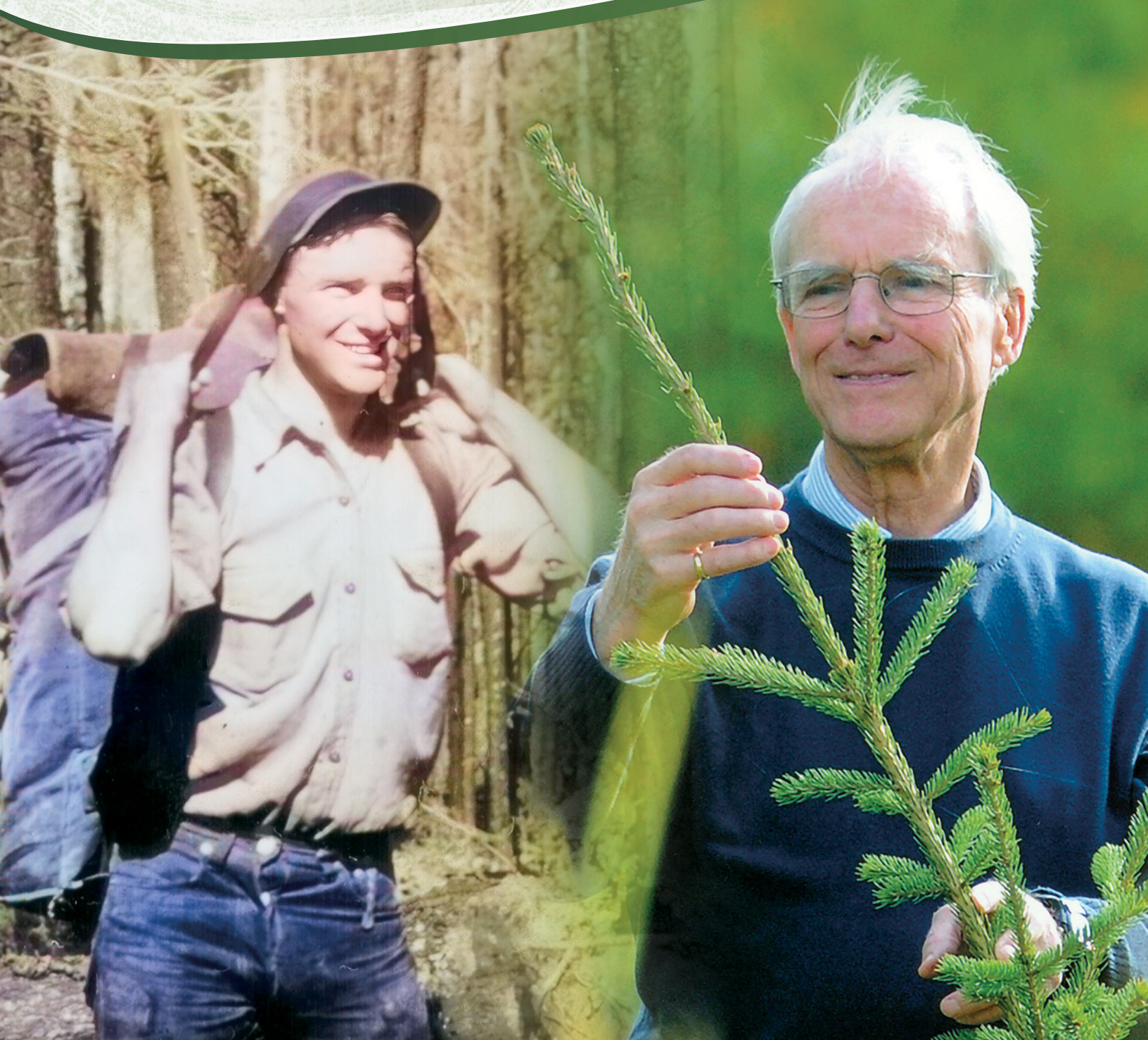
# Trails & Tales

PUBLICATION OF THE FOREST HISTORY  
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

FEBRUARY  
**2023**

ISSUE #21

COVID-19 EDITION





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



**39<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL**

**AFS OLDTIMERS  
HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

**FEBRUARY 10-11, 2024**

**ATHABASCA MULTIPLEX**

**ATHABASCA, ALBERTA**

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



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**06**

**ALBERTA LOSES A GREAT  
FORESTER AND HISTORIAN  
PETER MURPHY PASSES  
AWAY**



**28**

**WEYERHAEUSER CELEBRATES PLANTING  
250 MILLION TREES**



## ON THE COVER:

Left: Peter Murphy with pack and  
tumpline, cruising timber with the Forest  
Surveys Branch; Muskeg River; Lac La  
Biche Division; 1954

Right: Peter Murphy inspecting recent  
leader growth on a white spruce tree;  
Kevin Ma photo; St. Albert; September  
24, 2010

**2022 MEMBERSHIP: 81** (MEMBERSHIPS TRACKED ON A CALENDAR YEAR BASIS)



# FIRST VIRTUAL AGM DRAWS OVER 30 PEOPLE

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting planned for March 18, 2020 was cancelled at the last minute due to the escalating COVID-19 pandemic challenges and restrictions. As COVID-19 was sweeping the world, Zoom, Webex and Microsoft Teams became the new reality. A virtual annual general meeting was held on September 22, 2020, with over 30 people joining the Webex call. Bruce Mayer opened the call providing instruction on the virtual platform tools. Matt Fisher from Silvacom CS was introduced as the guest speaker. President Peter Murphy commented on how disappointed he was the spring annual general meeting was cancelled but thanked Bruce Mayer for organizing this virtual webinar. Peter thanked Bruce for the 'annual yearbook', a good historical record; and Katie Lamoureux for her recent presentation at the September 2020 Canadian Institute of Forestry Annual General Meeting. Katie's presentation told the story of the Oblate Lumberman, and the First Powered Sawmill in Alberta at the Lac La Biche Mission. Issue #19 of Trails & Tales newsletter was published in March 2020. Special thanks were given to Michelle McBride for her creative flair and layout skills in the newsletter; and to Bob Newstead for his

support in reviewing and editing draft newsletter content. Work continues with the designer on the Compendium edition, a compilation of Issues one to 12, the first ones of the history association.

There are nine directors within the association, elected on a three-year rotation; three representing government; three representing forest industry; and three representing the public. The directors provide oversight, guidance and focus on the yearly work of the Forest History

Association of Alberta. Positions up for election at the 2020 AGM were the government position held by Bruce Mayer, the forest industry position held by Gordon Sanders, and the public position held by Peter Murphy. With uncertainty as to how long the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on public gatherings would last, it was proposed and accepted that the current director membership terms be extended for one year. The regular rotation and voting would recommence at the next annual general meeting, hopefully to be held in spring 2021.



Matt Fisher providing an overview of the updated website at the first virtual FHAA AGM; September 22, 2022



Matt Fisher, Manager of Business Development at Silvacom CS provided an overview of the work his team has been doing on the Alberta Forest History Media Catalogue. The work is a partnership with the Forest History Association of Alberta and the Alberta Forest Products Association. Financial support for Phase 1 of the work was provided by Canfor, Mercer, Tolko, West Fraser, and Weyerhaeuser. A big thank you goes out to the Forest Resource Improvement

Association of Alberta for their support and coordination. Work consisted of a new logo and website for the Forest History Association of Alberta, and the framework for uploading and displaying all types of media (photographs, videos, documents, etc.). Matt's presentation showed how searches could be done, and how media could be uploaded. The intent was for the new site to go live fall 2020.

## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Forest History Association AGM

**March 15, 2023**  
**7PM – 10PM**

**Chateau Louis Hotel and Conference Centre**  
**11727 Kingsway NW, Edmonton, AB**

Contact Bruce Mayer at [Ranger2@shaw.ca](mailto:Ranger2@shaw.ca) or (780) 916-3604 for further information.

## 2021-22 FHAA Executive

**Katie Lamoureux**  
*President*

**Vacant**  
*Vice President*

**Bruce Mayer**  
*Secretary Treasurer*

**David Wall**  
*Director*

**Gordon Sanders**  
*Director*

**Norman Denney**  
*Director*

**Sarah Gooding**  
*Director*

**Graham Legaarden**  
*Director*





# SECOND VIRTUAL AGM DRAWS OVER 40 PEOPLE

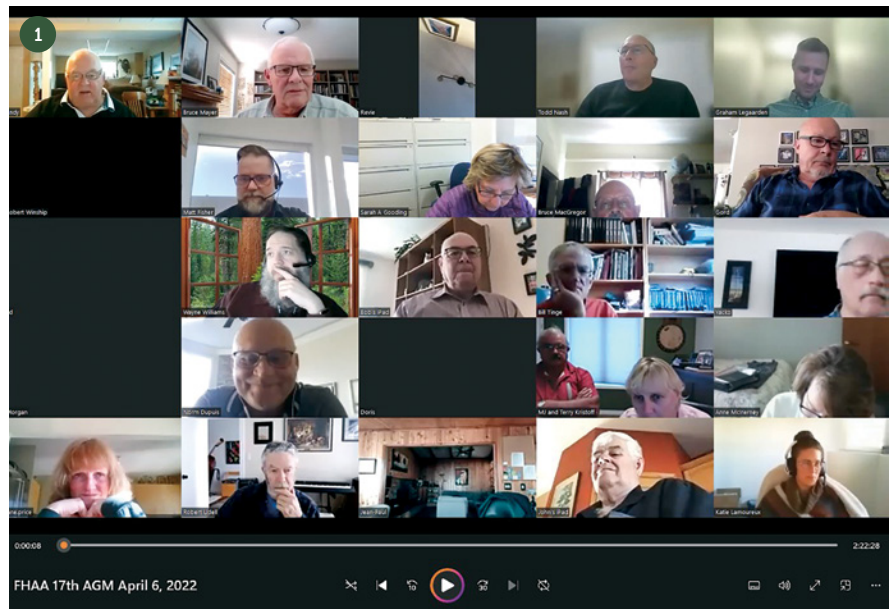
The 17<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting was held virtually on April 6, 2022 with over forty members joining the call. Bruce Mayer opened the call providing an overview of the agenda, and instructions on how to use the various functions within Zoom. A special thanks was given to Todd Nash for use of the MNP Zoom account as it allowed for a longer timeframe, and more people to attend. Matt Fisher from Silvacom CS and Norm Dupuis from the Alberta Forest Products Association were introduced as the guest speakers. Bruce Mayer provided a tribute to the late Peter Murphy, one of the original founders of the Forest History Association of Alberta. Peter left a remarkable legacy in forestry education, forest and wildland fire policy, and the forest history of Alberta.

President Katie Lamoureux commented how impressed she was with over 40 people attending the second virtual meeting, hoping that this would be the last one, and we can all get together again in spring, 2023. She noted that it was an accomplishment that the FHAA was able to continue during the pandemic still working on projects. Katie thanked Bruce for his support to the FHAA and was impressed to hear what work is being done through the other forest history organizations across Canada when she attended the bi-annual Canadian Forest History Network meeting. Katie closed with condolences for Peter Murphy's passing, but she had hope that everyone finds empowerment and

excitement to carry on the legacy of Peter's love of forest history.

Publication of the Trails & Tales Compendium edition was completed in January 2021 and included a compilation of Issues 1 to 12, those issues not published in the recent format. The Canadian Institute of Forestry published a FHAA article on an old federal Land Registration and Crown Timber Office's building undergoing repairs in its Spring 2020 Leader publication. During 2021, the FHAA was able to acquire interview cassette tapes from Robin Huth's family. The interviews were from research work done prior to publication of the Alberta Forest Service's 1980 book *Horses to Helicopters*. All interviews have now been digitized.

There are nine directors within the association, elected on a three-year rotation; three representing government; three representing forest industry; and three representing the public. The directors provide oversight, guidance and focus on the yearly work of the Forest History Association of Alberta. At the September 22, 2020 FHAA AGM, positions were all extended for one year in an attempt to bridge the COVID-19 pandemic challenges. Unfortunately, no meeting took place in 2021, so an election of all nine directors was required to get the rotation back to the correct three-year cycles.





## Remembering Peter Murphy

2

- Founding member FHAA
- AFS, Forestry Training School
- Dean, UofA Forestry
- Professor Emeritus Forestry
- Incredible Forest Historian and Author
- February 20, 1930 to October 29, 2020



1. Screenshot of attendees at the virtual FHAA AGM; April 6, 2022

2. A tribute to Peter Murphy was given at the virtual FHAA AGM following his passing in October 2020

# Thank You!



## 2022 FHAA Executive



**Katie Lamoureux**  
*President*

**Graham Legaarden**  
*Vice President*

**Bruce Mayer**  
*Secretary Treasurer*

**Ken Yackimec**  
*Director*

**Gordon Sanders**  
*Director*

**David Wall**  
*Director*

**Sarah Gooding**  
*Director*

**Deanna McCullough**  
*Director*

**Normand Dupuis**  
*Director*





# ALBERTA LOSES A GREAT FORESTER AND HISTORIAN

## PETER MURPHY PASSES AWAY

Graduating from the University of New Brunswick in 1953 with a B.Sc. in Forestry, Peter worked for the B.C. Forest Service, moving to Alberta in 1954 to join the Alberta Forest Service (AFS). In 1956, he became head of the AFS Training Branch. This led to establishing the Forestry Training School (now Hinton Training Centre) at Hinton in 1960 where, in addition to in-service training, offered the second year of a two-year forest technology program in cooperation with the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. His tenure in Hinton led to the development of wildland fire, and forest and land management training core to the management of Alberta's forests. Peter was instrumental in establishing the Junior Forest Ranger program in Alberta, and formalizing lookout

observer training and Indigenous firefighter training. He completed a M.Sc.F at the University of Montana in 1963, and a Ph.D. at the University of British Columbia in 1985. Peter's particular interests were in forest policy, forest fire behaviour, fire history and history of forestry.

Peter Murphy taught and conducted research in forest policy and forest fire management at the University of Alberta from 1973 to 1995, during which time he also held positions of Chair of Forest Science and Associate Dean for Forestry in the Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry. Since his retirement in 1995, Peter, as Professor Emeritus, continued to champion forestry training and capturing the rich forest history of Alberta. His professional contributions

include Chair of the Technical Committee (TC) on Sustainable Forest Management for the Canadian Standards Association 1998-2004, and member of the TC from 1994 to 2004; President, Canadian Institute of Forestry 1993-94; President of the Forest History Society (Durham, NC) 1993-95; President, Alberta Registered Professional Foresters Association 1985-86; President of the Forest History Association of Alberta from 2010 until his passing, and member of the Alberta Forest Management Science Council from 1996 to 1999. He was a Community Technical Advisor with the Tree Canada Foundation since 1996 and was instrumental in establishing the St. Albert Grey Nuns White Spruce Park. Peter spent his last day tending to seedlings he had planted in St.



Albert's White Spruce Forest. Along with Bruce Dancik, he served as co-chair of the *Trees of Renown* project in the 1980s.

He is author or co-author of five books and contributed chapters to three others. Books include the *History of Forest and Prairie Fire Control Policy in Alberta*; *Alberta Forest Service 1930-2005: Protection and management of Alberta's forests* (2005); *A Hard Road to Travel* (2007); *Learning from the Forest* (2003); and the *TransCanada Ecotours Northern Rockies Highway Guide* (2012)

book. Peter, with colleague Robert Stevenson, created a user-friendly searchable CD program and database they built with support from the Alberta government, and contractor Axia. When published in 2002, the CD contained over 6,000 images, indeed, an impressive collection. This work was the precursor to the new Alberta Forest History Media Catalogue accessed through the Forest History Association of Alberta website.

1. Peter Murphy, with packhorse, returning from Dolly Lake, Willmore Wilderness; 1993

2. Moving camp down the Athabasca River, by the Embarras airstrip; L to R: Bill McPhail and Jack Robson; summer 1954

3. Peter Murphy at cruise camp on the Athabasca River; near Fort McKay; summer 1954

4. L to R: Bill McPhail, Peter Murphy (tump line on head), Jack Robson, and Paul Dworshak; fly-camp on the Muskeg River; Fort McMurray area; 1954







1. Peter Murphy at the Sulphur Cabin; Willmore Wilderness; late 1950s

2. L to R: Jack Macnab and Peter Murphy (Forester in charge), the first two instructors at the new Forestry Training School in Hinton; 1960

3. Hinton Mayor William Switzer at the podium for the opening of the new Forestry Training School in Hinton; October 1960

L to R: William Switzer, Mayor of Hinton; Eric Huestis, Director of Forestry, Alberta Forest Service; Heber Jensen, Deputy Minister Lands and Forests; Norman Willmore, Minister of Lands and Forests; Mrs. Dot Willmore; Mrs. Joan Murphy (hidden) with two daughters; Peter Murphy, Director Forestry Training School

4. Peter and Joan Murphy, forestry class event; Forestry Training School; Hinton; November 1960

5. Forestry Training School sign on the new school and residence; 1960

6. Peter Murphy (center) explains the use of a precipitation gauge to lookout men Maxwell and Stipdonk; Forestry Training School; Hinton; 1960





1. L to R: Peter Murphy with Fish and Wildlife Officer Rocky Hales discussing law enforcement training; Forestry Training School; Hinton; early 1960s

2. Group at the Rock Lake trailhead at the end of the horse trip; Rock Lake; 1993

L to R: Gerry Wilde, Peter Murphy, Doug Cameron, Harry Edgecombe, Larry Stordock, and Arnie Johansson

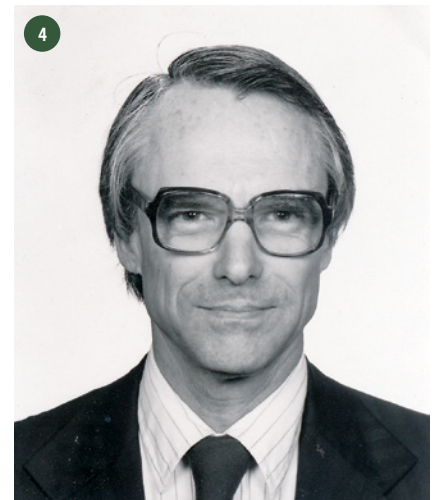
3. Peter Murphy sharing the report written on the Northwest Territories 1979 fire season and wildfire program; Fort Smith; 1980

L to R: Not Identified; Peter Murphy, Associate Dean Forestry, University of Alberta; John Mactavish, environmental management consultant, retired Deputy Minister of Lands in Forests, Nova Scotia; Stan Hughes, forest fire management consultant, retired head of forest protection, Alberta Forest Service

4. Peter Murphy at the University of Alberta; Edmonton; February 14, 1984

5. Peter Murphy and Tom Grabowski; Forest History Association of Alberta AGM; Edmonton; March 18, 2008

6. Rick Arthur and Peter Murphy visit an old Eau Claire logging camp used following an 1894 wildfire; Spray Lakes area; August 28, 2009





## The Story of Peter's Book

Submitted by Jeremy Bluetchen

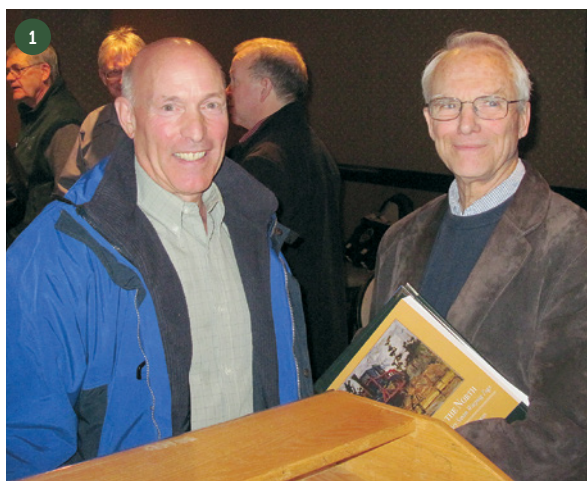
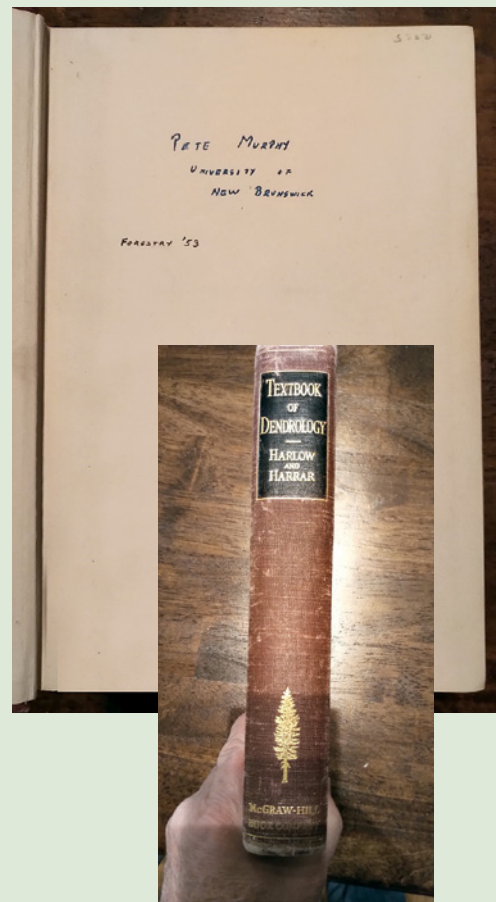
I attended NAIT, and then got my degree from the University of Northern B.C., so, in my early career, I was not that aware of Peter's contributions. Back in the early 2000s, I was working at Silvacom, and one day Bob Morton was touring Peter through the office. A few months earlier my mother was at an Edmonton Library book sale and purchased a 1950s Yale forestry textbook for me. The inside of the cover of the book was inscribed with Peter Murphy's name.

As Bob was showing Peter around and they neared my cubical, I stood up, and without saying anything, handed the book to Peter. Bob did not have a clue what was going on and gave me a very puzzled look from behind Peter. Peter took the book and stopped dead in his tracks, remaining quiet for a few moments simply staring at the book. He then opened the book and stared this time at the inscription. Bob was now looking even more puzzled, then Peter spoke.

Peter said, *"Thank-you, this is the first forestry book I ever owned. I am not sure when it went missing. Where did you get it?"* I told him about the Edmonton Library book sale and my mother. He explained that a student must have borrowed it, and somehow the book had ended up in the Edmonton Public Library System.

Peter then went on to say, *"This book takes me back to the first day I arrived in Fredericton to go to school (1949). I can remember getting off the train in a slight rain, with the air filled with that distinctive smell of fresh cut wet wood. The smell was spilling out of an area down the tracks, where a man was unloading large logs from a train car."*

Peter then asked if he could keep the book, I said yes. Peter kept a firm grip on the book and took my details, a few days later he sent a package with many of his publications.





1. L to R: Daryl D'Amico and Peter Murphy; Forest History Association of Alberta AGM; Edmonton; March 17, 2010. Daryl and Peter worked together on the forest management plan for the White Spruce Forest in St. Albert.

2. L to R: Jack Wright, Ken South, and Peter Murphy; Hinton Training Centre 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary; Hinton; October 2, 2010

3. Peter Murphy providing a tribute to the late Arden Rytz at the Forest Industry Lecture Series; University of Alberta; Edmonton; November 4, 2010

4. Forest History Association of Alberta directors meeting; Alberta Forestry warehouse; January 27, 2011

L to R: Cliff Smith, Trevor Wakelin, Cliff Henderson, Peter Murphy, Bob Newstead, Butch Shenfield, and Bruce Mayer

5. Authors at a book signing for their new TransCanada Ecotours Northern Rockies Highway Guide book; Jasper; May 2012

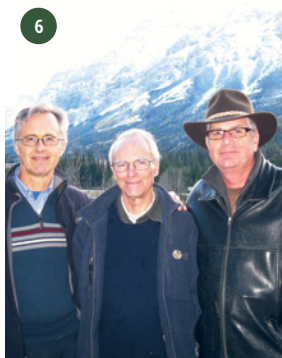
L to R: Peter Murphy, Fred Pollett, Bob Udell, and Tom Peterson

6. Two students with their instructor Peter Murphy; Wildland Fire Canada conference; Kananaskis; October 3, 2012

L to R: Peter Fuglem, Peter Murphy, and Brad Hawkes

7. Son Tom Murphy, Peter Murphy, and daughter Sharon Murphy outside the Peter Murphy Classroom; Cache Percotte Forest, Hinton Training Centre; Hinton; September 8, 2012

8. Peter Murphy presenting his Whirlpool tie logging research at the Foothills Research Institute AGM; Edmonton; October 3, 2011







1. L to R: Dennis Quintilio, Charlie Van Wagner, and Peter Murphy at the Wildland Fire Canada conference; Kananaskis; October 3, 2012

2. L to R: Robin Huth and Peter Murphy; Forest History Association of Alberta; Edmonton; March 18, 2015

3. Peter Murphy researching old tie logging on the Whirlpool River; Jasper National Park; summer 2013

4. L to R: Peter Murphy and Tom Peterson at the Hinton Training Centre 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary tree planting; Hinton; August 25, 2010

5. Peter Murphy with wood stove he used in the Forestry Training School in Kananaskis before the facility was closed; Hinton; August 25, 2010



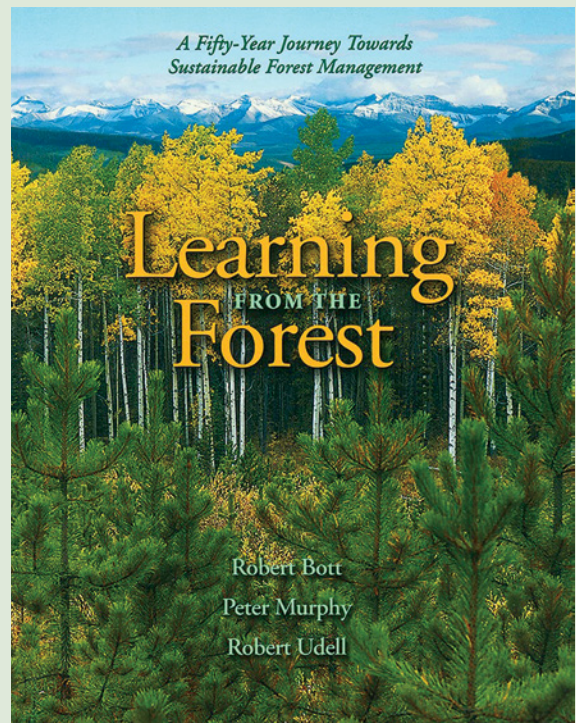
Robert Bott, Peter Murphy, and Robert Udell co-authored *Learning from the Forest* in 2003. The attached story written by Bob Bott, is a good example of Peter's quest for knowledge and his ability to pass on those learnings.

## A Walk in the Woods, a Walk Through Time

The core team that prepared this book (*Learning from the Forest*) met in January 2001 to review our work and get up to speed on the latest developments at Hinton. We saw technological marvels in the mills and woodlands, and we heard managers describe sophisticated strategies to meet the new century's myriad challenges. But what brought us together in the first place was a keen interest in both human and natural history, so we were especially thrilled by Peter Murphy's discovery of two lodgepole pine snags on the edge of a cutblock near the hamlet of Robb. The harvest contractor, using the latest cut-to-length stumpside processing system, obligingly cut cookies (cross-sections of the dead trees, about thirty centimetres above ground) so Murphy could study the rings. We already knew that the mature pine stand being harvested had originated from regrowth after a fire in 1896, and Murphy expected the rings on the snags would tell the story of the site during the preceding century or two.

He was right about one of the snags, but the other one turned out to be much, much older – most likely dating from the late fourteenth century. The older snag apparently survived the fire, around 1686, that cleared the ground for the second tree to begin growing about two

years later. Both trees died much later but remained standing to the present. Murphy pieced together a fascinating history of these few hectares. The big events were the fires that swept through in 1387, 1595, 1686, 1708, 1740, and 1896. In between, there were years of lush growth, and times when drought or long winters resulted in just the tiniest increments. There are scars, perhaps indicating another tree fell against the more wind-firm survivors. A charred ring on the stump of a harvested tree nearby indicates that yet another low-intensity fire occurred in 1908. It was a wonderful reminder that despite the seeming vastness of the foothills forest, and the apparent uniformity of many stands, each tree is a unique individual and each site a unique ecosystem. The snags also reinforced that the forest and the landscape operate on different time scales than humans. In 1387, for example, Chaucer had just begun writing the *Canterbury Tales*, and the Ming Dynasty was consolidating its power in China after overthrowing



the Mongol Empire. Even in 1896, the most recent "big year" in this site's history, Alberta was still part of the North-West Territories, and the Robb area was known only to a few Aboriginal people and government surveyors.



# THE HISTORY OF LUMBER GRADING IN ALBERTA

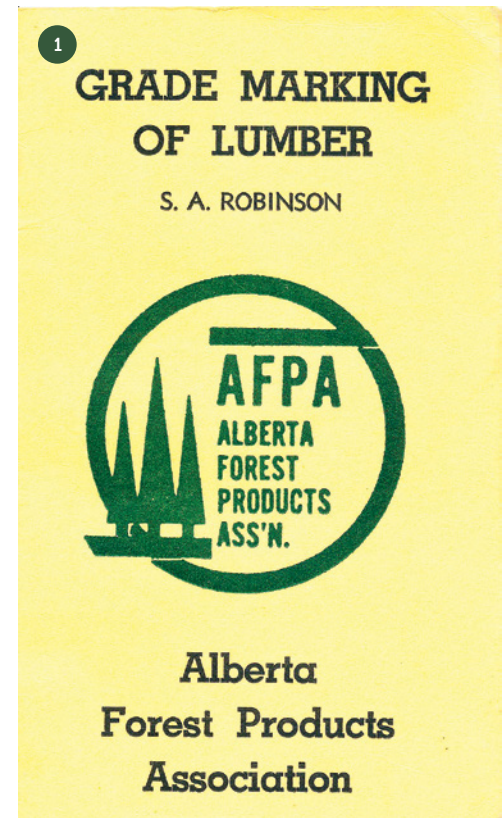
*Presentation by Norm Dupuis, retired director Grade Bureau, AFPA*

At the April 6, 2022 virtual Forest History Association of Alberta annual general meeting, Norm Dupuis gave a presentation on the history of lumber grading in Alberta. Brought up in Falher, Norm started working for Swanson Lumber in High Level in 1976. The mill at the time consisted of a planer only, and four dry kilns. Harvesting and sawing was done by the smaller mills in the area; Boucher and Brewster were two. Here Norm got an interest in lumber grading and had the opportunity to attend a course taught by Clayton Anderson. He then spent eight years with Boucher Bros Lumber logging and managing their planer mill. Norm started as a grading field inspector with the Alberta Forest Products Association in 1986, taking over the director of the grade bureau when Clayton Anderson retired in 2003. Norm officially retired at the end of April, 2022.

The Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA) was formed in 1942 when local sawmills got together and saw the advantage of a coordinated approach to timber rights on Crown lands, markets, products, and quality of lumber. Lumber grading at the time was done mill by mill, with those that understood building requirements selling into that market. In 1960, the National Building Codes were established, a turning point for

Canada and the United States. The codes established that all buildings constructed with wood needed to have a grade stamp, ensuring specific design criteria was met. At that time Arden Rytz, production manager for Imperial Lumber, pushed hard for the AFPA to be the organization that monitored the grade program for member sawmills. The AFPA hired Sid Robinson, an American knowledgeable in lumber grading to set-up the program. At the same time the Canadian lumber standards were being developed through the Canadian Lumber Standards Accreditation Board (CLSAB). The American Lumber Standards Committee was established as well in the United States. In setting up a grading program, AFPA member sawmills wanted to be compliant with both the Canadian and American standards, as lumber was being sold in both countries.

There were no grade rules in Canada at the time, so Sid Robinson brought the Western Wood Products Association (WWPA) grade rules into Alberta and developed a small handbook for grade marking of lumber. The three main grade rules at the time described construction, standard and utility lumber. This allowed the AFPA to be accredited under the Canadian and U.S. systems



as the monitoring organization in Alberta. Once the rules were in place, then the training began, with the first grade school held in April 1960. Part of Sid Robinson's role was to also hire a grade inspector for the AFPA. At that first grade school, he became impressed with Clayton Anderson, who was then hired, starting a 43 year career with the AFPA running their grade bureau.

The Canadian Lumber Standards Accreditation Board is a federally registered non-profit organization responsible for ensuring that "Canadian Standard Lumber" is accurately graded and identified in accordance with CSA-O141 Softwood Lumber as required by the National Building Code of Canada. The CLSAB is overseen by a board of directors carefully chosen to provide a balance of lumber producers, lumber users, standards bodies, research



2

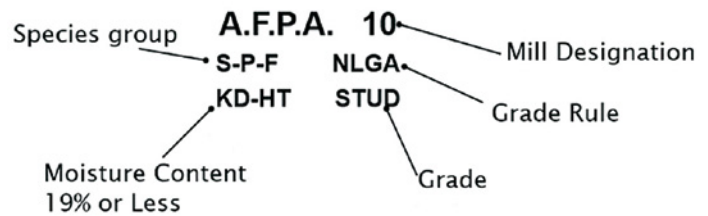


## History of Lumber Grading In Alberta

Presented by: Norm Dupuis

3

## Grade Stamp Information



4

## AFPA Grade Stamps

**A.F.P.A. 10**  
**S-P-F NLGA**  
**KD-HT** **2**

**A.F.P.A. 10**  
**S-P-F NLGA**  
**KD-HT** **STUD**

**A.F.P.A. 10**  
**S-P-F KD-HT NLGA**  
**MSR 2100Fb 1.8E**

**A.F.P.A. 10**  
**S-P-F NLGA**  
**KD-HT** **3**

5

## AGENCY Quality Control



6



7



8



organizations, financial institutions, and government. The work of the CLSAB is recognized and relied upon by government and standards agencies in Canada and overseas and referenced in the National and Provincial Building Codes across Canada. Lumber grading in Canada is an all-encompassing system which includes training and supervision of graders; consensus-based grading rules, product standards and regulations; contract responsibilities; review of mill grading and operations by CLSAB Accredited Agencies; and review of agencies' performance by CLSAB.

1. Cover of the first lumber grading standard developed by Sid Robinson for the AFPA; 1960
2. Norm Dupuis presenting at the virtual FHAA AGM; April 6, 2022
3. This photo shows how to read a grade stamp, and what each symbol means
4. Example of the various grade stamps used in Alberta
5. As part of the grade testing, lumber pieces like this are used to test students knowledge of structural and visual grading rules
6. Clayton Anderson, the AFPA's Grade Bureau director from 1960 to 2003
7. Norm Dupuis (R) conducting an inspection on a lift of lumber
8. Students taking their grading test, measuring and inspecting lumber



In setting up the Alberta program, two main points were considered; what accreditation requirements do you need to have in place to be accredited by the CLSAB, and what additional requirements are necessary to be accredited to certify company lumber. That was accomplished through Sid Robinson's early work, and the work of Clayton Anderson. In 1968, Arden Rytz was hired as the executive director of the AFPA, and one of his first goals was to have one set of grading rules for Canada. In 1971, the National Lumber Grading Authority (NLGA) was formed, with Arden as its first board chair. The NLGA special product standards have evolved over the years, adding finger joined structural lumber, machine graded lumber, and vertical stud lumber. The NLGA has both visual and design rules. The design rules (strength, bending/break) are developed by the Canadian Wood Council and implemented through grading standards by the NLGA. Training as well has changed over the years, from the WWPA to the NLGA standard. Students need to know the different types of trees and how

they grow; they need to know and understand math, especially fractions; and need to understand the structural and visual standards to be certified as a grader. The one-week course ends with a test using 80 pieces of lumber, where the students measure and grade each piece, determining loss from splits, cracks, rot, and other defects. The AFPA grade bureau consists of a director and two field inspectors, who then go to each sawmill once per month. Prior to COVID-19, the inspections were unannounced. On site, the inspectors look through as many packaged lifts of lumber as possible, looking piece by piece to confirm each piece meets its grade stamp designation. If a particular lift is off grade by more than 7.5 per cent, a hold is put on all company shipments until the issue is rectified. The inspections are a key part of the AFPA's role in meeting the CLSAB accreditation standards for mills selling lumber to North America or other markets. With over 62 years of experience, the AFPA's grade bureau remains a successful part of open markets and safe construction materials.



1. Examples of grade stamps first used under the Western Wood Products Association standards. The grade stamp shows construction grade white spruce and lodgepole pine, using WWP rules. A.F.P.A. 78 is the identifier for the now inactive Nelson Lumber.

This piece of shiplap was found during renovations of an old house in Edmonton. The wood is unique in that with the grade stamp number 59, there is also a reference to white spruce as opposed to the SPF we see today. Norm Dupuis provided the following information on the grade stamp:

**AFPA 59** – belonged to Winterburn Planning Mills Ltd., and Tower Wholesale Lumber Ltd. from Winterburn, Alberta; both now inactive.

**White Spruce** – wood products graded were identified by their species until the 1980s, when logs were all combined going through sawmills. At that time SPF (spruce, pine, fir) became the species identifier on the grade stamp.

**3 Com** – 3 Common is a 1" rule used for boards, mainly fencing and sheathing. 4 Com was a lower grade used for similar products but was cheaper and not as nice looking.

**WWPA** – Western Wood Products Association. This was the American grade stamp used in Alberta from 1960 to 1971. Canada created its own national grade rule in 1971 (NLGA 1971), with pushing from people like Arden Rytz, then the Executive Director, Alberta Forest Products Association.







# THE SILVER SCREEN & THE WILD ROSE: A HISTORY OF FILM AND ALBERTA

Submitted by Leslie Lozinski

From October 2020 to February 2021, the Lac La Biche Museum presented its production, *The Silver Screen & The Wild Rose: A History of Film and Alberta*. This temporary exhibit is a multimedia experience and a tribute to film, both as a technology and as an industry. The first half of the exhibit takes the visitor through the development of film technology and how these developments affected movie making as an industry. It showcases multiple pieces from the Museum's collection, including a lamp house, a motion picture camera, film editing equipment, and multiple projectors.

The second half of the exhibit explores the evolution of the film industry in Canada, with a focus on Alberta. Topics include famous movies filmed in Alberta, local film making company *Karvonen Films*, and the award-winning *Loyalties*, filmed and set in Lac La Biche. A small section is devoted to the charming origin of Bertie Beaver as a gift to the Alberta Department of Lands and Forests from Walt Disney.

1. Display of films, costumes and film equipment; Lac La Biche Museum; Lac La Biche, Alberta; October 2020
2. Mickey's Canadian Cousin; A display of the Walt Disney caricature, Bertie Beaver; Lac La Biche Museum; 2020



# BLUE RIDGE LUMBER CELEBRATES 200 MILLIONTH

*Submitted by Stacey Pike, Silviculture Superintendent*

On July 14, 2020, West Fraser colleagues, members of the local forestry office, and West Yellowhead MLA Martin Long, celebrated the planting of the 200 millionth seedling by Blue Ridge Lumber (BRL). We planted our first seedling in 1975; the first million was hit in 1979, and since then, BRL has planted on average over 6 million seedlings yearly. In 2020, Blue Ridge Lumber planted over 9.3 million seedlings, nearing our record of over 12 million seedlings, after the Virginia Hills wildfire in 1998.

A small in-person ceremony took place at our improved seed orchard

to plant the 200 millionth seedling. To date, we have planted over 25 million improved seedlings on our Forest Management Agreement area, thus making the orchard the perfect place to recognize this important milestone. This huge accomplishment shows our dedication and serious commitment to renewing our forests and the sustainable stewardship of the lands. This accomplishment would not have happened without the hard work and dedication of all of our employees and contractors, past and present.







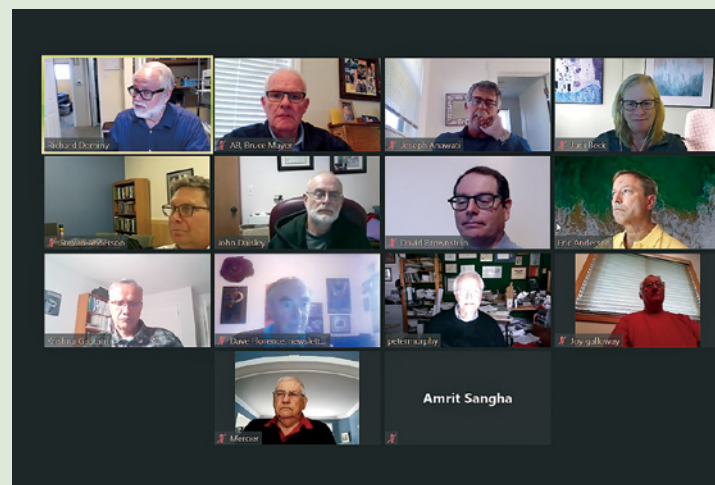
1. L to R: Stacey Pike (Silviculture Superintendent) and Shane Sadoway (Planning Superintendent) planting Blue Ridge Lumber's 200 Millionth Seedling; Blue Ridge, Alberta; July 14, 2020

2. West Fraser Blue Ridge Lumber employees, contractors, and guests; Blue Ridge 200 Millionth Seedling Planting Celebration; Blue Ridge, Alberta; July 14, 2020

3. L to R: Ryan O'Dette (Blue Ridge Lumber Woodlands Manager), Richard Briand (West Fraser Chief Forester), and West Yellowhead MLA Martin Long; Blue Ridge 200 Millionth Seedling Planting Celebration; Blue Ridge, Alberta; July 14, 2020

## Canadian Forest History Society Network

For nearly a decade, the Forest History Association of Alberta (FHAA) has been a member of the Canadian Forest History Society Network. Chaired by the Canadian Forest Service, this informal network provides an opportunity for forest history groups to share accomplishments and best practices and build relationships with members in those other forest history groups. Members include the British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec forest history groups, the Canadian Forest Service, the Canadian Institute of Forestry, and the Forest History Society in Durham, North Carolina. At almost every FHAA annual general meeting Peter Murphy would recognize that the FHAA is part of a bigger picture, a larger group, and that forest history doesn't recognize borders.





# BURNT TIMBER THINNING TRIALS

In 1986, the Alberta Forest Service conducted thinning trials in the Burnt Timber area of the old Ghost Ranger District, Bow Crow Forest. The 1970 Timber Creek wildfire burned 1,506 hectares. The burnt stand held around 40,000 stems per hectare and was thinned to a 2.5 metre spacing. Ken Snyder, Manager Forest Management Training Unit at the Hinton Training Centre, returned to the Burnt Timber area 33 years later, to see the results of the thinning work he completed.



1. Burnt Timber Thinning Trial, 33 years later; Burnt Timber area northwest of Cochrane; May 2019

2. Field trip to review results of the Burnt Timber Thinning Trial

L to R: Jason McAleenan, Kirk Hawthorn, Tim Juhlin, Ross Spence, Lee Martens, Ken Snyder and Bart McAnally; Burnt Timber Thinning Trials; Burnt Timber area northwest of Cochrane; May 2019



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COMPASSMAN

*Submitted by Collin Williams*

In 1955, the Phase I Forest Inventory was nearing completion. My oldest brother, Warren Williams was a second year Civil Engineering student at the University of Alberta. He got a summer job with the survey company Stewart, Weir and Stewart (as they were then known). The job was to ground truth aerial photos of timber stands in the Marten Hills, northeast of Lesser Slave Lake. The survey crew consisted of a few land surveyors like my brother, and "scientists" from the University of Montana, who would do the actual sample plots once they found the plot locations. The contract supplemented work the Alberta Forest Service was doing on this early inventory. The surveyors would pin prick the photos at the desired sample locations, flip them over then draw their traverses on the back. You old timber cruisers will remember what traverses were!

Access roads were in short supply north of Lesser Slave Lake in those days, so the crew travelled by horseback from the end of the road and set up a base camp some miles distant. Each surveyor/scientist pair then created fly camps some distance from the base camp. Warren recalls a string of 18 horses, a cook and a wrangler to support the effort. One workday as Warren compassed through the bush carrying a sharp "boy's axe", he stumbled and nicked his knee with the axe. It bled for a while then stopped, and he thought no more of it. That evening after he and his partner had supper, Warren was bent down, cleaning the dishes

by the creek, an artery popped in his knee, and he began to bleed heavily. They bandaged the wound with everything they had and cinched it with a belt.

It seemed to stop bleeding, so Warren went to bed. When he awoke, his sleeping bag was soaked with blood and he was too lightheaded to stand, having lost a significant amount of blood. His partner ran off to the base camp and came back some hours later with a horse. Warren then had to ride back to the base camp and then to the trail head where he was driven to the hospital. By then the wound had clotted sufficiently and the doctor bandaged the site and pronounced him good to go.

He was given "light duties" for a couple of days including taking the truck back to the town of Slave Lake

to pick up supplies and another four horses. He then had to saddle and load the packsaddles of the four new recruits, then head off for the base camp. It became dark and he had difficulty following the trail back, striking matches to try and find his way. One of the new horses decided to depart the group and go his own way, trying to rid himself of the packsaddle as he did. Fortunately, Warren's diamond hitch was up to the task, and nothing was lost. It took some time to get them all back on the trail. Warren arrived at the base camp at 1:00 am, then had to unload and care for the horses before going to bed himself. A trying day, but he was a farm boy with experience dealing with horses, and he didn't think the tale even worth mentioning for 66 years.

Although not from the cruising party Warren Williams was on, this photo shows what a cruising party might look like with their horses and pack string.



# THE LEGEND OF THE LOBSTICK

Story by Joe McWilliams

Reprinted from 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 here 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."

"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." Another historical note about lobsticks shows up in the recollections of Julia Nash, in 'Pioneers of the Lakeland', a Slave Lake history book. There 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.

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 'lop', 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.

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

2. Lobstick along the Athabasca River near the settlement of Fort Mackay; early 1900s





# THE STORY OF GIS AND ALBERTA FORESTRY

*Submitted by Barry Northey*

Things have changed a lot since I started working for the Alberta Forest Service around 1980 and have changed more since I retired in 2017. These are some of my recollections and experiences; you will have your own. Generic references to Forest Management Branch (FMB) always imply the involvement and leadership of Bev Wilson and Daryl Price. Computer training and use in the 1970s into the 1980s was usually on mainframes with APL and Fortran, the go-to programming languages. Work was done using punch cards, with multi-sheet printouts of results. Personal computers didn't arrive until the late 1980s, early 1990s and were deemed to be mainly for secretarial use only, due to the presence of a keyboard. For most, computers were to be resisted at all costs. My first real computer acquisition took three years and 26 approval signatures. It smoked along with 64k RAM and dual 5¼ inch floppy drives, nirvana. Word Perfect and Lotus 123 were the main software packages; Simeon for e-mail didn't come along for another few years. At that time, the internet (www) was in its infancy, the Alberta Supernet was a long way off, as was GIS.

But there were some forward looking people. Forester Jake Schaeffer contracted Roger Tomlinson (the father of GIS) in the 1980s to see how GIS could help the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) do its work. The Bow Crow Forest was chosen for the test and staff submitted about 80 proposals, all of which

were to make a map, except for two that I submitted that required some spatial analysis. GIS was done on a mainframe or high end workstation; pen plotters made maps and spatial data were scarce. Paper maps had to be "digitized" to create spatial data. NAD 27 was the standard. Little happened as with most studies, but I caught the GIS bug. Resource Data Division, later Resource Information Management Branch chose the MicroStation route as publication grade maps were their priority. This set the stage for the computer-aided design (CAD) vs GIS tug-of-war that was to linger for several years. Esri's first GIS platform was ArcInfo Workstation but it was expensive, command line driven, ran on UNIX workstations and used the coverage data model, relegating it to GIS professional use only. ArcView GIS came out in 1991 as a relatively inexpensive, easy to use, programmable viewer, opening the GIS world to more people, especially once the open shapefile data format was released. Other competing products such as MapInfo were also being used in the Government of Alberta (GoA). There were many things yet to be sorted out.

I jumped at the chance to do a GIS pilot project in Edson in the 1990s when Bev and Daryl initiated it even though I had little to no GIS experience. While waiting for software and a SUN workstation to arrive, I wrote up a GIS implementation strategy paper in consultation with Bev. As part of

the process, I interviewed some folks in B.C. that had several years of GIS implementation experience. Bev and Daryl signed off, but it fizzled out as a "nice to have, never going to happen". I recently found that short proposal and things turned out pretty much as proposed. Only the software names have changed.

The key take-away message from the interviews was to promise little but deliver a lot. This contrasted with most proposals that promised much and delivered little. Bev saw the potential for using GIS in forestry and other natural resource management fields and was an early user/adaptor/supporter of GIS technology. Imagine knowing where the things that you are managing are located and what they are. Bev was the first person hired by Daryl Price in FMB to bring Esri GIS into FMB's operations using command line ArcInfo Workstation on a command line Unix OS Sun workstation. Bev was primarily self-taught as was the case for most GIS people in the early days. Some of those early users included Terry Turner in landscape design, and Don Page and me in GIS.

Integration of GIS and various tools into forestry included the following initiatives and people:

- Acquisition of TerraSoft and then an ArcInfo Workstation and a Sun workstation to conduct timber supply and other analyses.



- Don Page created the first ArcView GIS Theme Loader program. FMB took up its deployment with help from Brian Fairless, leading to the province wide use of Layer Loader (GISmo/FMB contract), Layer Manager 1 (Doug Crane FMB) and today's Layer Manager 2 (Jon Dewalt).
- Creation of a provincial forestry GIS coordinator. The primary goal was to help get the regional users heading in a similar direction after the staffing reductions of the mid-1990s. There were differing staff capabilities, interests, equipment, and opinions about GIS implementation in each region.
- Alberta Culture's Historical Resources information was published by Alberta Township Survey in tabular form and Bev showed me how to spatially enable it for easier access. You know it today as feature class "*A Listing of Historical Resources*".
- We discussed the need for a GLIMPS (Geographic Land Information Management Planning System) like program and how to get it going only to learn that Diana Brierly at Alberta Agriculture was already on the case. Rather than reinvent the wheel, we punched a hole through Alberta Agriculture's firewall to get access to GLIMPS to help us with landbase net downs. This got us on the Citrix path. Hat tip goes to Jim Hammel, Daryl Seeger, Madeleine Carriere, and others for their IT support.
- FMB enhanced the Digital Integrated Disposition (DIDs) dataset by decoding various restriction number codes to text fields using coded value domains.
- More recently, FMB pushed for the production of BaseFeatures

SDE in TTM. We weren't getting much traction until Bev showed ADM Bruce Mayer the difference between polygon area in projected units and area in geographic units and that was all it took.

- Recently, I was made aware that GoA staff were trying to locate spatial Watercourse Code of Practice Crossing Guidelines on GeoDiscover. FMB converted the source PDF maps to georeferenced, FGDB rasters (a cell-based spatial datasets similar to a photograph) over two decades ago, along with an attributed hydro arc layer. These are available to GoA staff using Layer Manager. This effort was in large part due to Bev's push to spatially enable data, even those that were not directly needed by FMB.
- GIS on Citrix, file geodatabase delivery, and internal GIS training programs were some of the outcomes of new GIS skill sets.
- For years, FMB took on the initial packaging of the ArcGIS for Desktop 9x series for workstation and directed all GIS software installations on Citrix servers.
- The Derived Ecosite Phase version 2 was released in January 2021 on the Open Data portal. Hat tip goes to Bev, Mike Willoughby, and others.
- Bev organized the first post wildfire season assessment of the use of GIS in emergency wildfire mapping after the Virginia Hills wildfire near Whitecourt in the 1998. This led to Ken Dutchak acquiring an Alberta-wide, up-to-date IRS satellite imagery that provided road network information. FMB worked with Don Harrison in wildfire management on a wildfire mapping training program strategy, with Sun Hua and Steve Simser tasked to implement.

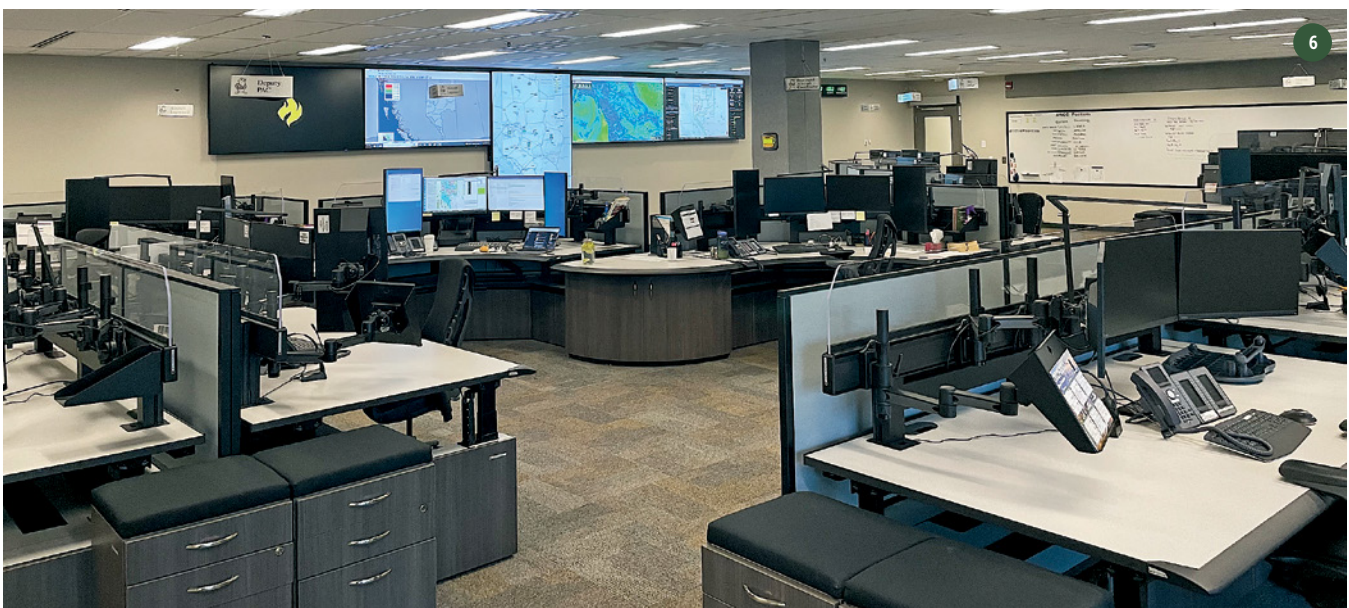




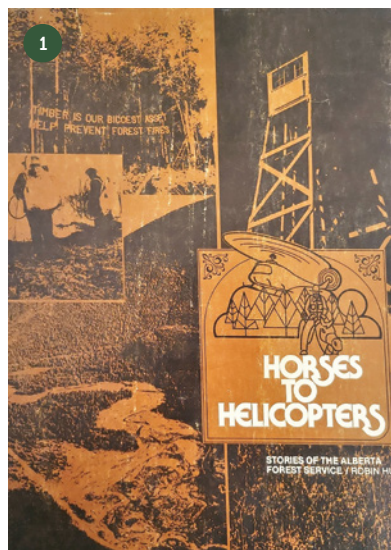
Today, staff take the many IT tools they have for granted, the GIS tools and programs are no exception.



1. Founders of Alberta's GIS  
L to R: Dwayne Anderson, Merve Henning and Dave Hargreaves; Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
2. Access updates being done by Sirka Kadatz; 1980s
3. L to R: Steve McTavish and Steve Tang; early computer systems; Alberta Bureau of Surveying and Mapping; 1980s
4. Early tape drive system; Alberta Bureau of Surveying and Mapping; 1980s
5. One of the first government 286 computers; early 1990s
6. Computers used for data entry and GIS in the new Alberta Wildfire Coordination Centre dispatch room; fall 2022



# ROBIN HUTH'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO FOREST HISTORY



In 1980, the Alberta Forest Service published *Horses to Helicopters*, a remarkable 50-year history of the organization. The author, Robin Huth, interviewed dozens of people for this project. Robin's cassette tapes were saved by his son Chris and have now been digitized by the FHAA.

1. Cover of the book *Horses to Helicopters*, written by Robin Huth and published by the Alberta Forest Service; 1980

2. Collection of cassette tapes used by Robin Huth for his interviews of Alberta Forest Service staff as research for the book *Horses to Helicopters*; late 1970s

3. Collection of cassette tapes used by Robin Huth for his interviews of Alberta Forest Service staff as research for the book *Horses to Helicopters*; late 1970s. These cassette tapes were stored in a shoe box.



## GERTRUDE THE PELICAN'S STORY

Submitted by Bill Tinge

If you have been to the former ranger station in Wabasca, you have likely seen a stuffed pelican occupying a corner of the office, named Gertrude. He/she (who knows?) was plucked off the beach of North Wabasca Lake, by myself and the campground caretaker, John Auger, as we inspected the campground prior to its opening in the spring of 1988. Stuffing a dead and decomposing pelican carcass into a garbage bag wasn't exactly pleasant and I'm not sure why we picked it up, but it was soon in the freezer at the warehouse. Surprisingly, Chief Ranger Joe Smith was interested in our find, but didn't say much. It was soon forgotten, until

Joe came back from a meeting in Slave Lake with our pelican, stuffed, resurrected and quite regal. It turns out Howard Gray, the Forest Superintendent, had our bird stuffed. Gertrude soon occupied a prominent position on the filing cabinets, in full view of all those who entered. Gertrude got its name almost immediately from a comedy skit by Red Skelton, a comedian from a TV show popular in the late 1960s that only us older baby boomers likely remember. Gertrude and Heathcliff were two goofy seagulls, close enough to a pelican, so the name Gertrude stuck. And apparently Gertrude is well travelled. Shockingly, Gertrude was given away to an oilfield consultant from Saskatchewan who collected such artifacts, but the manager in charge insisted on Gertrude's return. I think highly

of the consideration both Joe and Howard displayed in preserving that bird. Pelicans were, and continue to be, a unique feature of the Wabasca environs and preserving Gertrude for public display was the right thing to do.





# OHVs can cause wildfires

Keep your hotspots clean



Alberta



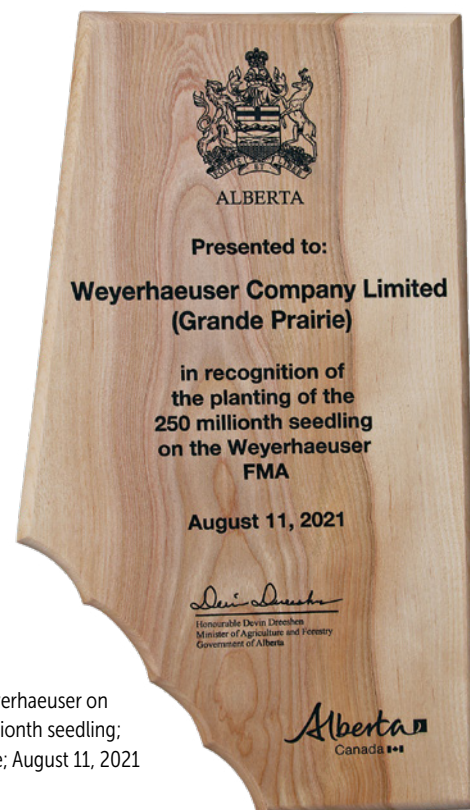


# WEYERHAEUSER CELEBRATES PLANTING 250 MILLION TREES

On August 11, 2021, Weyerhaeuser Grande Prairie Operations celebrated the planting of 250 million trees. Local, provincial, and federal politicians joined the celebration at the Weyerhaeuser Tree Grove at Bear Creek, just south of Muskoseepi Park, where a white spruce and a lodgepole pine were planted, a commitment the company has to plant two trees for every one harvested. First owned and operated by Procter and Gamble in 1974, Weyerhaeuser assumed operations in 1992.

Other tree planting milestones include:

- **May 2, 1974**  
first recorded tree planting
- **June 1, 1982**  
10 million trees planted
- **July 1, 1995**  
50 million trees planted
- **June 12, 2003**  
100 million trees planted
- **July 20, 2016**  
200 million trees planted
- **August 11, 2021**  
250 million trees planted



Plaque presented to Weyerhaeuser on planting their 250 millionth seedling; Grande Prairie; August 11, 2021





1. Guests at the Weyerhaeuser 250 Millionth Tree Planting

L to R: Jason Krips, President and CEO, Alberta Forest Products Association; Wendy Crosina, Director Forest Sustainability, Weyerhaeuser; Devin Dreesen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry; Dana Quartly, Timberlands Manager, Weyerhaeuser; Jackie Clayton, Mayor of Grande Prairie; Tracy Allard, MLA for Grande Prairie; Chris Warkentin, MP for Grande Prairie-Mackenzie; and Leanne Beaupre, Reeve of Grande Prairie County; Grande Prairie; August 11, 2021

2. L to R: Devin Dreesen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry; and Dana Quartly, Timberlands Manager, Weyerhaeuser; Grande Prairie; August 11, 2021



3. Jason Krips, President and CEO, Alberta Forest Products Association; Grande Prairie; August 11, 2021

4. Wendy Crosina, Director Forest Sustainability, Weyerhaeuser; Grande Prairie; August 11, 2021

5. Weyerhaeuser Tree Grove sign; Grande Prairie, Alberta; August 11, 2021





# THE NORTHERN FORESTRY CENTRE... BUILDING ON 50 YEARS OF FOREST RESEARCH

Submitted by Stacey Stankey



Celebrating 50 years of Forest Research dedication plaque; Northern Forestry Centre; Edmonton, Alberta; June 21, 2021

The Canadian Forest Service's Northern Forestry Centre (NoFC) celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021. When it opened in 1971, there were around 70 research and technical staff. Since then, NoFC has grown into a facility housing more than 180 Government of Canada staff, conducting collaborative forest research and providing federal policy and program delivery across three Prairie provinces, Nunavut, and the Northwest Territories. Officially opening on June 21, 1971, more than 500 people attended the event - front-page news in the Edmonton Journal. In opening the centre, then Director General M. H. Drinkwater said the work done at the centre would focus on some of the most pressing issues of the day *"to be able to determine the impact of changes on the forest before they occur."* More than 50 years later, that priority hasn't changed and NoFC's main research activities continue to focus

on some of the biggest challenges facing Canada's forests -- climate change adaptation, forest restoration, wildland fire, and pests and disease. Research and program activities also support sustainable forest management, forest fibre innovation, and economic development and opportunity.

NoFC is one of five research centres of the Canadian Forest Service. Notable initiatives involving NoFC researchers include ongoing delivery and innovation of the Canadian Wildland Fire Information System (CWFIS); the Ecosystem Management Emulating Natural Disaster (EMEND) project; development of prediction models for forest pest mortality; and Climate Impacts on Health and Productivity of Aspen (CIPHA). NoFC also houses many important research resources, including: a 7,000 square foot greenhouse; a state-of-the-art Dendrochronology Laboratory; a

"Burn Lab," which contributes to ongoing knowledge of forest fuels and fire smoke behaviour; and an arthropod research collection, which contains 150,000 specimens of 9,000 arthropod species. The heart of much of the work that takes place at the Northern Forestry Centre involves close collaboration with important stakeholders and partners across governments, industries, Indigenous communities, academia, NGOs, and other research organizations. Whether it is testing willows and poplars as natural ways of treating wastewater, using artificial intelligence to detect conifer seedlings in drone photos, or discussing the annual fire season with international stakeholders, strong partnerships have been integral to NoFC's success. In addition to research spaces, NoFC maintains the *We Walk Together Forward Indigenous Learning Centre* (ILC).



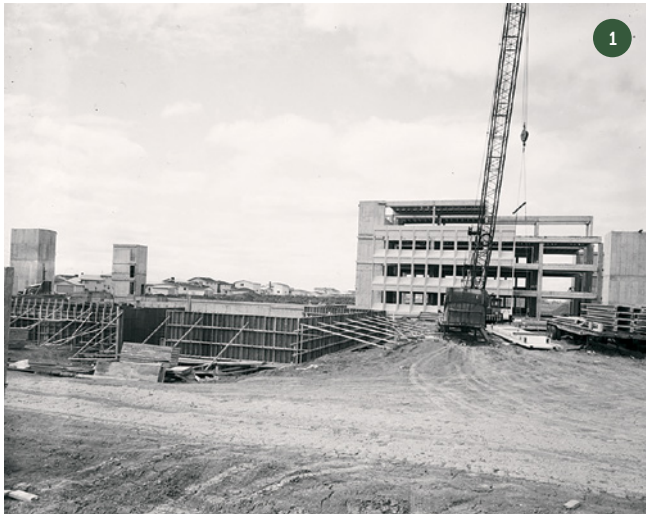
The ILC provides staff with a venue to learn and engage in reconciliation activities. The space also provides a culturally respectful atmosphere for staff to engage with Indigenous partners to build collaborative work partnerships.

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, NoFC celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary virtually through a number of online events. These included a lecture series on regional science activities, and the dedication of two on-site lab spaces to NoFC alumni (the *Yash P. Kalra Soils Laboratory* and the *Yasu Hiratsuka*

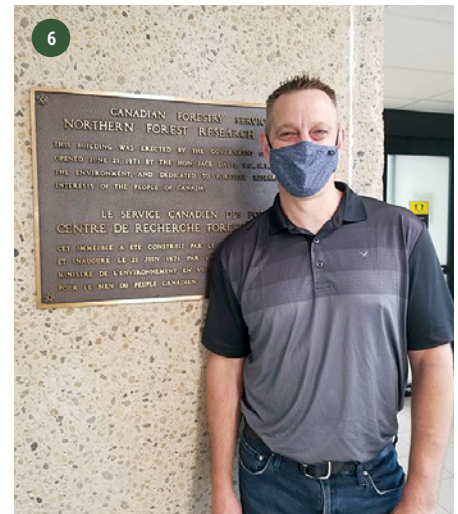
*Forest Pathology Herbarium*). Now in its 52<sup>nd</sup> year of operation, Michael Norton, NoFC's seventh and current Director General, says *"the centre continues to build on its original mission, providing forest science expertise to help ensure a healthy forest and a strong forest sector for Canada well into the future."*

More information on the Northern Forestry Centre can be found here: <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/science-and-data/research-centres-and-labs/forestry-research-centres/northern-forestry-centre/13485>

1. Construction of the new Northern Forestry Centre; Edmonton, Alberta; 1970
2. Invitation for J.R.H. (Herb) Hall, to attend the opening ceremony; Northern Forestry Centre; Edmonton, Alberta; June 21, 1971. Mr. Hall was the Chairman, Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board.
3. Opening ceremonies; Northern Forestry Centre; Edmonton, Alberta; June 21, 1971
4. Northern Forestry Centre; Edmonton, Alberta; early 1970s







1. Aerial picture of the Northern Forestry Centre; Edmonton, Alberta; early 1980s

2. Northern Forestry Centre's arthropod collection contains 150,000 specimens of 9,000 species

3. Laboratory at the Northern Forestry Centre; Edmonton, Alberta; 1990s

4. Northern Forestry Centre Director Generals; L to R: Tim Sheldan (current DG), Gordon Miller (at his retirement), Boyd Case (Assistant Deputy Minister), Dave Kiil (retired); Edmonton, Alberta; 2008

5. Director General Mike Norton hosting a Zoom call for the Northern Forestry Centre anniversary; June 21, 2021

6. Director General Mike Norton beside the original dedication plaque; Northern Forestry Centre; June 21, 2021



# SPRAY LAKE SAWMILLS PLANTS 65 MILLION SEEDLINGS

In June 2021, Spray Lake Sawmills celebrated an important milestone, planting their 65 millionth seedling. This commitment to sustainable forest management supports building healthy forests; forests that have multiple ages of tree stands and supporting a wide array of plant and animal species. Owner and President Barry Mjolsness participated in planting the ceremonial 65 millionth tree.

1. L to R: Darrell Panas and Barry Mjolsness; 65 millionth tree planting; McLean Creek, Sec 20, Twp22, R5, W5M; June 2021

2. Barry Mjolsness planting the ceremonial 65 millionth seedling; McLean Creek, Sec 20, Twp22, R5, W5M; June 2021

3. Group shot for the planting of Spray Lake Sawmills 65 millionth seedling; McLean Creek, Sec 20, Twp22, R5, W5M; June 2021

L to R: Dee Iscaro (Folklore Contracting), Jonathan Clark (Folklore Contracting), Barry Mjolsness (Spray Lake Sawmills), and Ed Kulcsar (Spray Lake Sawmills)





# SPRAY LAKE SAWMILLS SIGN C5 FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

On Saturday July 17, 2021, two timber quotas in the C5 Forest Management Unit were converted into a Forest Management Agreement under the Crowsnest Forest Products name. Agriculture and Forestry's Minister Devin Dreesen and Spray Lake Sawmills Owner and President Barry Mjolsness signed this agreement with MLAs Peter Guthrie, Roger Reid, Miranda Rosin, and Cochrane Mayor Jeff Genung in attendance. The tenure conversion provides the security vital for Spray Lake Sawmills continued investment in the forests, company, its people and in the surrounding communities. The Government of Alberta retains its roles and responsibilities as regulator.



1. Spray Lake Sawmills Owner and President Barry Mjolsness and Agriculture and Forestry Minister Devin Dreesen signing the C5 Forest Management Agreement; Cochrane, Alberta; July 17, 2021

2. Spray Lake Sawmills senior leadership; L to R: Arnold Fiselier, Jodi Blain, Barry Mjolsness, Ed Kulcsar, and Pat Findlater; Cochrane, Alberta; July 17, 2021

3. Back Row (L to R): Pat Findlater (Chief Financial Officer, Spray Lake Sawmills), MLA Peter Guthrie, Arnold Fiselier (Chief Executive Officer, Spray Lake Sawmills), Shannon Marchand (Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Forestry), Jason Krips (President and CEO, Alberta Forest Products Association), and Tim Schultz (Chief of Staff, Agriculture and Forestry)

Front Row (L to R): Ed Kulcsar (Vice President, Woodlands, Spray Lake Sawmills), Jodi Blain (Office Manager, Spray Lake Sawmills), MLA Miranda Rosin, MLA Roger Reid, and Minister Devin Dreesen (Agriculture and Forestry),





# U OF A FORESTRY SINCE 1970 – 50 YEARS OF GRADUATES!

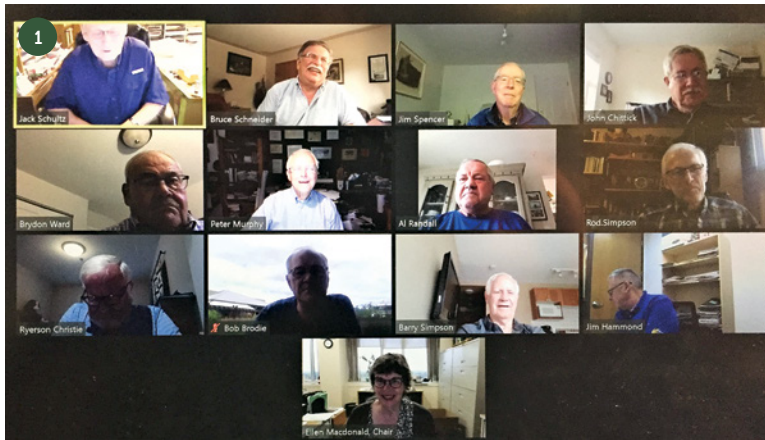
During 2020, the University of Alberta celebrated 50 years of its forestry program. Starting in 1970, hundreds of professional foresters have since graduated, protecting, improving, and enhancing Albertan's forests for the future. In recognition of this milestone, Peter Murphy said, *"Kudos to Dean Fenton MacHardy and Professor Steve Pawluk for getting this forestry program started at the University of Alberta in the fall of 1970; and to then-new Forest Science Chair Jack Schultz with professors Jim Beck and Jack Heidt for pioneering new courses and getting the program started. It was my pleasure to join them in January 1973. I appreciated their help and student patience as I came up to speed in this exciting new undertaking. Our curriculum broke with tradition to focus on the forest ecosystem and how it functioned, with management designed for a range of uses and activities for sustainability in a broad sense. We hoped this approach would enable you graduates to adapt practices to a variety of conditions in Canada and throughout the world – and successfully so! Thanks to all of you for doing so well with your inherent capabilities and application of the knowledge you acquired."*

On Jim Beck's application letter for the new program, Department Chair Ellen Macdonald commented, *"I really like the clear indication of the intent and focus of the program on a holistic approach to forest management, valuing all the different ecosystem components."*

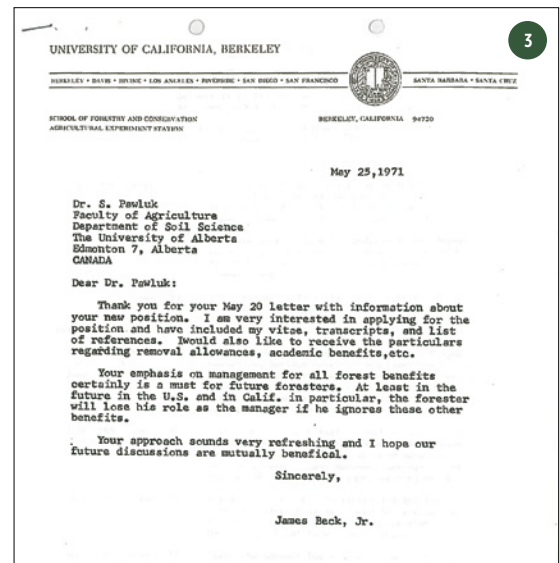
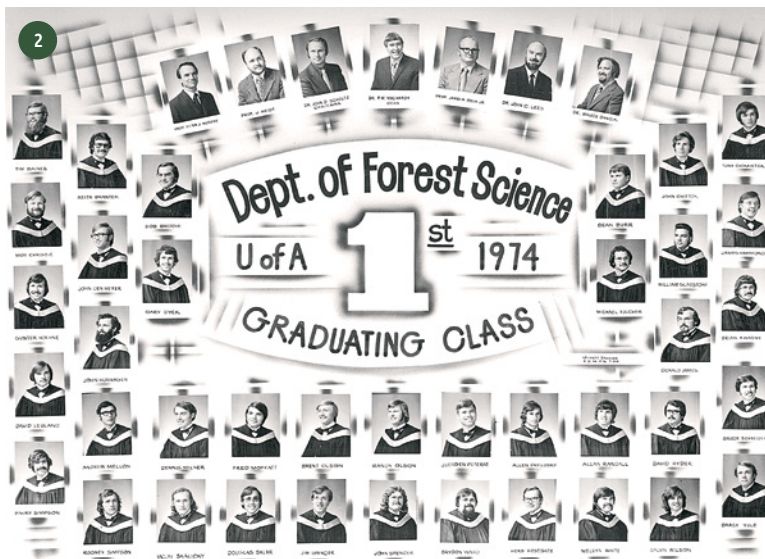


1. Cover of the calendar created to recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, John Acorn photo of a great gray owl
2. In gathering information for the 50<sup>th</sup> year recognition, Department Chair Ellen Macdonald (bottom left) held a Zoom call with Professors Emeritus Peter Murphy (top middle), Bruce Dancik (top right), Jack Schultz (first department Chair – top left), and Ken Higginbotham (bottom right); Edmonton, Alberta; July 2020





1. Department Chair Ellen Macdonald hosting a Zoom meeting with graduates of the first forestry class with their professors; Edmonton, Alberta; July 2020
2. First graduating class, University of Alberta Department of Forest Science; Edmonton, Alberta; 1974
3. Jim Beck's covering letter for his application for professor in the new UofA forestry program; Edmonton, Alberta; May 25, 1971



**"I REALLY LIKE THE CLEAR INDICATION OF THE INTENT AND FOCUS OF THE PROGRAM ON A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO FOREST MANAGEMENT, VALUING ALL THE DIFFERENT ECOSYSTEM COMPONENTS."**



# ALBERTA'S FORESTRY DIVISION RECOGNIZED FOR ACTION ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

This past summer (2022), dedicated staff from Alberta's Forestry Division were recipients of a Premier's Public Service Award for *Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion*. This award recognizes the effort of a small team over the last five years to promote diversity and end disrespectful behaviour across the Forestry Division. This passionate team continues to take positive action to knock down barriers, driving positive culture change. Award recipients include Nicole Galambos, Lee Woodham, Ben Jamieson, Derek Bakker, Jillian Moorley and Kelsy Gibos – supported by Assistant Deputy Minister Daniel Lux during the award ceremony held on June 17, 2022.



1. Back Row (L to R): Nicole Galambos, Kelsy Gibos  
Front Row (L to R): Derek Bakker, Ben Jamieson, Lee Woodham, and Jillian Moorley



# TOLKO CELEBRATES 65 YEARS IN FORESTRY

Tolko Industries first oriented strandboard mill (OSB) and first greenfield constructed mill came online in High Prairie in 1994. When the mill curtailed in 2008 due to the unprecedented economic downturn, Northern Lakes College used the facility to run an innovative trades development program for students. In 2017, Tolko began a number of capital projects to update and improve the mill ensuring a successful production re-start in 2018. The mill's capacity is 700 million square feet of OSB sheeting products. Now one of the most modern and productive dimension lumber mills in Alberta, Tolko purchased the old High Level Swanson Lumber sawmill facilities from Diashowa Marubeni (DMI) in 1999. Completed in 2020, High Level is also home to a joint venture pellet plant, which Tolko owns with the Drax Group. This state-of-the-art pellet plant reduces Tolko's carbon footprint and brings economic, employment, and other spinoff benefits to the community. Tolko also constructed a state of the art thermal energy plant in High Level, making use of their and other mills fibre waste. The sawmill produces 423 million board feet of dimension lumber per year. When built outside Slave Lake in 2006, Tolko's new OSB mill became the largest continuous OSB press in North America, and the only continuous press in North







America that produces OSB and laminated structural lumber (LSL) on the same line. Unfortunately the economic downturn meant the mill didn't come into full production until 2014. The Slave Lake mill produces 830 million square feet of OSB and LSL products yearly. Throughout its three facilities, Tolko has nearly 700 employees in Alberta, with a combined conifer and deciduous harvest close to 2.5 million cubic metres.

1. Minister Devin Dreesen, Agriculture and Forestry with CEO Brad Thorlakson, Tolko Industries, signing the High Prairie Forest Management Agreement; Edmonton; November 4, 2021
2. Signing of the 20-year High Prairie Slave Lake Forest Management Agreement; February 22, 2022  
Back Row (L to R): Pat Rehn, MLA Lesser Slave Lake; Dan Williams, MLA Peace River; James Gorman, Vice President Corporate and Government Relations, West Fraser  
Front Row (L to R): Brad Thorlakson, President and CEO Tolko Industries; Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development Minister Nate Horner; D'Arcy Henderson, Vice President Canadian Woodlands, West Fraser
3. Signing of the 20-year High Level Forest Management Agreement; September 13, 2022  
L to R: Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development Minister Nate Horner; John Unger, President and CEO, La Crete Sawmills; Allan Bell, Chief Forester Prairies, Tolko; D'Arcy Henderson, Vice President Canadian Woodlands, West Fraser
4. Light pillars at the Tolko High Level sawmill facility; February 11, 2022









1. Aerial view of Tolko's High Prairie oriented strand board plant; fall 2022
2. Debarked logs heading to the sawmill; High Level sawmill; March 8, 2018
3. Aerial picture of Tolko Industries High Level sawmill and thermal energy facility (foreground); High Level, Alberta; February 23, 2023
4. Interior of the High Level sawmill; March 8, 2018
5. Star cooler that allows boards to cool after the heating process on the press; Slave Lake OSB facility; November 20, 2015
6. Aerial picture of the Tolko Industries and Drax High Level pellet plant; High Level, Alberta; February 23, 2023



## The Loggers Lament

*Submitted by  
Derrick Downey –  
Author Unknown*

I headed for the logging woods and took my  
chopping ax  
I had to earn some money quick to pay my  
income tax

I felled me down a whopping tree and  
hauled it to the mill  
I figured that I had enough to pay that  
doggone bill

The scaler took his cheating stick and  
ambled down the log  
When he got through a figuring up - my  
mind just slipped a cog

Cause he took two inches off for bark - the  
rest he took for rot  
When Jessie James pulled a trick like that -  
the highwayman was shot

But the scaler - he's an honest man - he  
gypped me fair and square  
He said "I'd give you more my friend, but the  
scale just isn't there"

So, I had to sell my logging truck, and I hocked  
my chopping ax  
I had to find another way to pay my income  
tax

I'm going off to logging school, I'm gonna  
learn to scale  
It's a dam good way to rob a man, and still stay  
out of jail



# WHERE IT ALL BEGAN: LAVINGTON PLANER

Reprinted: Summer-Fall 2021 Tolko Circular

Tolko's first facility, Lavington Planer, began in 1956 in B.C.'s North Okanagan region, as a small two-acre business venture that would become Lavington Planer Mill Ltd. (LPM) in 1961, and Tolko Industries Ltd. in 1972. Now a thriving international organization with operations across Western Canada and several partnerships in the U.S., the company has survived and prospered in ever-changing markets during its 65-year history. Here we highlight the key role that Lavington Planer played in Tolko's early success. When you ask Al and John Thorlakson about Tolko and how it began as a modest enterprise 65 years ago, it quickly becomes clear that Lavington Planer Mill has a special place in their hearts. It was there that their father, Harold first launched the family business that would later become Tolko Industries, a leading Canadian forest products company with thousands of employees offering a diverse suite of products for customers worldwide.

*"The Lavington mill is important to me because it's the origin of Tolko and reminds me of a farmer's homestead,"* says Al Thorlakson. Al, who was appointed President in 1972, became the company's Chief Executive Officer in 1981. In 2010, he retired as CEO, taking on his current role as Executive Chairman. He adds, *"I remember from my summers working at Lavington Planer as a teenager that everyone there was treated like family."*

John Thorlakson, Harold's second-born son and older brother to Al, also thinks fondly of Tolko's first operation. *"Lavington Planer was the starting*

*point for the present company,"* says John. *"Dad was proud of the facility and extremely customer-focused. He worked tirelessly to make the new business succeed."* Born in 1909, Harold was the sixth of eight children of Thorlakur and Ingibjorg Thorlakson, who had both immigrated to Canada from Iceland in the 1890s. Growing up on a farm on the Vernon Commonage taught Harold and his siblings the value of hard work, integrity, cooperation, and resourcefulness. Through their upbringing, the children developed a solid work ethic and an entrepreneurial mindset, qualities that Harold later instilled in his three sons Doug, John and Al. Al says, *"When we were growing up and were faced with challenges or setbacks, my father would tell us to 'Put your mind to it, figure out a solution, and just get 'er done!'"*

Prior to launching his business in forestry, Harold worked for Edmonton-based Union Oil Company during the Depression and into the 1940s. It was here that he fine-tuned his business acumen and knack for numbers. According to those who knew him, Harold also became an excellent negotiator who could zero-in on cost-saving approaches and potential business opportunities. Harold's lifelong dream was to venture out on his own and become an entrepreneur, so after 14 years with Union Oil Company, he decided to move his family back to B.C. in 1947. Harold and Jemma also understood the importance of family and wanted to raise their sons back home in the Okanagan.

Jemma's nursing career meant the family had a steady income when Harold left Union Oil to start his own business venture. Al adds, *"Without the certainty of Mom's income as a nurse and her support of his decision to leave Union Oil, Dad would likely have stayed with the oil company."* After a few early business ventures sharecropping fruit trees near Kelowna, B.C., and raising sheep and cattle, Harold started a part-time horse-logging venture in 1952 to augment his income. *"Harold and his younger brother Joe decided to set up their new operation on a two-acre parcel of farmland they rented from Wilbert and Mabel Jeffers near the small community of Lavington, about 15 kilometres east of Vernon,"* says Al.

Harold had a strong aptitude for business but was not mechanically inclined, so he rented a small, hand-built planer from a local mechanic by the name of Theo Fandrich, who also maintained the equipment. Joe soon moved his portable bush sawmill there on a separate parcel, and his rough-sawn lumber was finished at the newly established planer mill, which Theo Fandrich operated. *"After the Second World War, Canada's economy was booming, and demand for building construction increased rapidly right through the 1950s,"* says Al. *"At that time, Lavington Planer was focussed on supplying products to local customers who were building homes, churches and schools. Dad realized that there was an opportunity to sell not only the lumber he had, but offer customers complete packages of building materials including timbers, studs, and shiplap that he*



*had purchased from other planer mill operations."*

For the first few years, Harold worked and lived on-site at Lavington during the week and traveled home to Kelowna to be with his family on the weekends. Gemma worked as a nurse at Kelowna General Hospital. Business was picking up speed, and Harold wore many hats in order to deliver product to his customers on-time. *"Dad used his old three-ton Chevy farm truck to deliver lumber to customers throughout the Okanagan, mostly in Kelowna,"* says Al. *"He negotiated the purchase of rough lumber from bush mills, drove the forklift, helped feed the planer and did whatever was needed around the mill. He sold the lumber, and he delivered it."* By the late 1950s business was doing so well it became clear that Harold needed more help around the mill. Tolko's very first employee, Bruce Jeffers, was the son of Wilbert and Mabel Jeffers who owned the farm where Lavington Planer was renting property. Previously a surveyor who worked in the Three Valley Gap area, he and Harold began their professional relationship on a handshake and a promise that no matter what, *"We'll make it work."* Bruce stayed with Tolko for 40 years! John says, *"Dad knew how to hire great employees. The crew he hired at Lavington Planer included people like Bruce Jeffers, Clarence Dunbar, Mel Hall, John Yarmy, Joe McClusky, Bob Stringer, Derry Ewart, Jake Wierenga, and Yosh Ouchi. They were a great team."*

Harold knew that if he took the profits out of the business there would be very little growth, so he always made it a priority to re-invest the profits to build and expand the company. In addition to the housing boom of the 1950s, one of the most significant projects that helped establish LPM as



a major player in the Canadian forest products sector was the construction of the Kelowna bridge. Prior to the bridge, people had to wait to board a small ferry that slowly crossed lake Okanagan. Harold recognized the business opportunity and met with the superintendent of the project's contractor, Dominion Bridge. Before long, LPM was the primary supplier of lumber for the construction of the bridge, which was completed in 1958. *"That bridge helped make Kelowna the commercial centre of the Okanagan,"* says Al. *"Lavington Planer kept growing by small steps after the bridge contract, but the bridge was the catalyst that substantially elevated Harold's business."*

Brad Thorlakson, who is Al's second of three sons and Tolko's President and CEO, is proud of the company's history and how far Tolko has come since 1956. He says, *"It all started with just one mill, Lavington Planer, and a small but dedicated team of employees. We were a small upstart that grew little by little. When Tolko purchased Riverside in 2004, the company essentially doubled in size overnight! Our ability to adapt and evolve has really helped us remain*



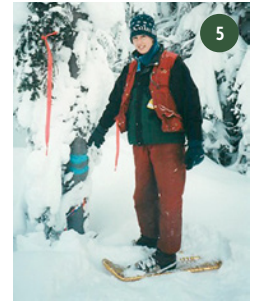
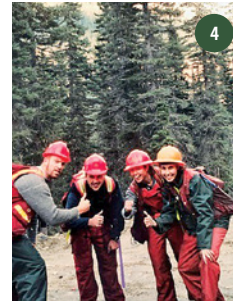
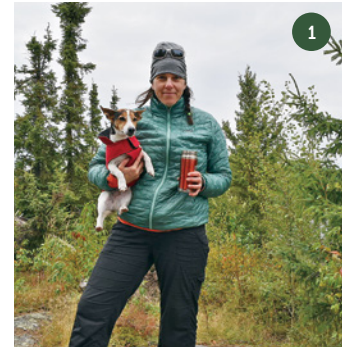
*competitive in a challenging and cyclical industry. It's been quite a journey!"*

1. LPM's first hand-fed diesel-powered Berlin planer mill, 1959; shavings pile in the foreground
2. The Lavington planer facility, 1962, with the J&HM sawmill in the background and the Jeffers' farmhouse in the foreground

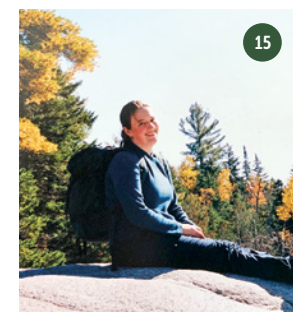
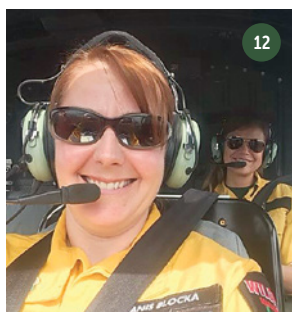
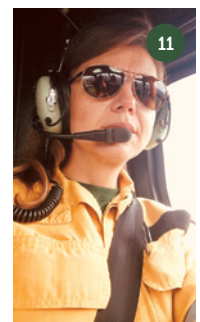


# FORESTRY WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE

February 11, 2021 was the United Nations International Day of Women and Girls in Science. To celebrate, we collected photos from a few of the women that work for Agriculture and Forestry's Forestry Division.



1. Nicole Galambos
2. Jacquie Dewar
3. Jennifer Koch
4. Kelly Purych
5. Lee Woodham
6. Nicole Gagne
7. Erica Samis
8. Crystal Inson
9. L to R: Leah Lovequist, Jocelyn Tanton, Cadence Mutch, Hannah Cottingham, Bobbie Jo Goodwin, Sonya Fourie, Brae Milne, Alesha Warkentin, and Alanis Estanque
10. Sara Bence
11. Shawna Lund
12. Tanis Blocka and Shawna Lund
13. Kelsey Gibos
14. Jill Moorley
15. Natascha Forneris





# MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**FEBRUARY 10–11, 2024**

AFS OLDTIMERS  
HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Athabasca, Alberta

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



**FEBRUARY 10–11, 2024**

E.S. HUESTIS  
CURLING BONSPIEL

Athabasca, Alberta

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



**March 15, 2023 7PM – 10PM**

18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FOREST HISTORY  
ASSOCIATION AGM

Chateau Louis Hotel and Conference Centre  
11727 Kingsway NW, Edmonton, AB

Contact Bruce Mayer at [Ranger2@shaw.ca](mailto:Ranger2@shaw.ca)  
or (780) 916-3604 for further information



**August 15-17, 2023**

CLASS OF 1968 55<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

Prairie Creek Inn  
South of Rocky Mountain House

Contact Ed Pichota at [epichota@telus.net](mailto:epichota@telus.net)  
for further information



# JAKE'S 50<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF FIREFIGHTING

On April 27, 2022, the Slave Lake Forest Area hosted a celebration to recognize 2022 as Jake's 50<sup>th</sup> year of fighting wildfires with Alberta Wildfire. Brought up in Calling Lake, Alberta, Ambrose (Jake) Jacobs started wildland firefighting at the age of 15 as a timekeeper on a 28-person Indigenous crew. These crews had a crew boss, three straw bosses, a cook, a flunky (helper), a timekeeper and 21 firefighters. Throughout his career to date, Jake has fought over 1,000 wildfires, been on multiple exports in and out of the province and has mentored many junior and senior firefighters alike.







1. L to R: Quintin Hartman, Paul McKenzie, Brent Fremaniuk, and Ambrose Jacobs; early 1990s

2. L to R: Dale Thomas, Curtis Hodge, Ambrose Jacobs, and Anand Pandarinath; Remote Hanger; Slave Lake; 1990

3. Alberta Forest Service Ball Tournament; Whitecourt, Alberta; 1991

Back Row (L to R): Shawn Ingram, Ambrose Jacobs, Glen Gache, Doug Smith, and Mike Lambe

Front Row (L to R): Maurice Lavallee, Mom (unknown), Curtis Hodge, Betty Wudarck, Barb Friske, and Bear (Mike Lambe's dog)

4. Ambrose Jacobs doing planting checks, lots of water and heavy grass; Wabasca Ranger District; 1993

5. Ambrose Jacobs providing a safety briefing to wildfire crews; SWF-042-2011; Slave Lake Forest Area; 2011

6. Ambrose Jacobs and moose antlers; Slave Lake Forest Area; early 2000s

7. Ambrose Jacobs with hose and water on the fireline; SWF-042-2011; Slave Lake Forest Area; 2011

8. Ambrose Jacobs on the fireline; Slave Lake Forest Area; late 2000s

9. L to R: Bruce MacGregor, Morgan Kehr, and Ambrose Jacobs; March 24, 2012

10. Ambrose Jacobs with Al and Karen Hovan; Slave Lake Forest Area warehouse; April 27, 2022

11. Jake with the Lesser Slave Lake Fire Department

L to R: Joel Flemmer, Zach Pavcek, Ambrose Jacobs, Jim Meldrum, Joanne Hunter, and Riley Paschal; Slave Lake Forest Area warehouse; April 27, 2022

12. Ambrose Jacobs and George Kelham (Slave Lake Helicopters); Slave Lake Forest Area warehouse; April 27, 2022

13. L to R: Bruce Mayer, Ambrose Jacobs, and Gordon Bisgrove; Slave Lake Forest Area warehouse; April 27, 2022

14. Latham Fisher's father, Steve, worked for Jake on an initial attack crew 20 years ago.

L to R: Latham Fisher, Ambrose Jacobs, and Steve (The Hulk) Fisher; Slave Lake Forest Area warehouse; April 27, 2022

15. Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal recipient Ambrose Jacobs with Deputy Minister Shannon Marchand, Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development; Edmonton, Alberta; October 5, 2022



# VANDERWELL CONTRACTORS PLANTS 100 MILLIONTH TREE

*Submitted by Mike Haire, Woodlands Manager*

In 1991, the government of Alberta assigned the responsibility for reforestation to operators harvesting under long term tenure agreement with the Crown. Bob Vanderwell, Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd. (VCL), was a big believer in ensuring we not only meet our obligations but exceed them related to reforestation to ensure there are forests in the future. The company has never strayed from that commitment and has been involved in many trials and improvements to reforestation in Alberta over the past 30 years.

Bob continued to show his passion and commitment to planting trees in 1995-96 when he started buying private land, investing in establishing spruce and pine in areas where they had been cleared, and where the previously cleared land was left without any reforestation having taken place. Of the 102 million trees planted since 1992, five million trees were planted on the company's private land. We continue to invest in the intensive management of the private lands by harvesting and reforesting the same as we would on Crown land. In fact, in the fall of 2022, we started implementing a commercial thinning operation on some of these planted areas. Believe it or not these 25-year-old spruce trees do have logs in them, and by completing commercial thinning, the trees will become larger more quickly.

On July 6, 2022, the company held a small celebration with special guests to recognize their contribution to

the achievement of this significant milestone. This was a fun event for everyone, and it allowed the company to thank and recognize our service providers related to our reforestation program. This included Next Generation Reforestation (NGR), Slave Lake Helicopters, Coast to Coast (C2C) Reforestation, Bushmen Enterprises, the Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA), the Government of Alberta (GOA), and of course a couple of our truck drivers, Devon Atfield and Jim Ross.

Interesting facts and statistics related to this group and tree planting in general:

- NGR has planted over 478 million trees in Alberta and B.C. since 1984.
- NGR has planted almost 47 million trees for Vanderwell since 2009.
- In 2022, NGR will plant close to 25 million trees in Alberta and B.C. between mid April and the end of July. They will plant 4.7 million for Vanderwell alone.
- The average tree planter plants 3,000 trees per day. To put that in perspective, that is approximately 6 trees per minute of work, or 1 tree every 9 seconds. Some of the most experienced planters can hit numbers of 4,000 to 5,000 trees per day!

- A fully loaded "bag" of trees that a planter carries with a harness around their shoulders and hips, weighs about 40 lbs and has approximately 270 trees in them.
- Each planter will burn the equivalent number of calories as a marathon runner each day of work.
- Slave Lake Helicopters has transported over 175 million trees for a variety of companies over the past 20+ years.
- C2C, which is a co-operative of seedling nurseries, grows and facilitates the growing of over 60 million trees per year in Alberta.







1. Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development Deputy Minister Shannon Marchand presents a plaque to Ken Vanderwell; Marten Hills area north of Slave Lake; July 6, 2022

2. NGR Reforestation's Kris Zimmer helping Ken Vanderwell plant a tree; Marten Hills area north of Slave Lake; July 6, 2022

3. Group picture of those in attendance for the 100 millionth tree plant celebration; July 6, 2022

L to R: Kris Zimmer NGR, Lawrence Fraser NGR, Caitlin Burge NGR (with baby), Caitlin Schulz GoA, Dennis Froese VCL, Tanis Blocka GoA, Nicole St.Jean VCL, George Kelham SLH, Mike Haire VCL, Dave Flynn Bushman, Jamie Kjellgren Bushman, Shannon Marchand GoA, Ken Greenway GoA, Ben Brown Bushman, Ken Vanderwell VCL, Gord Sheepwash NGR, Jason Krips AFPA, Will Sheepwash NGR, Chris Belanger VCL, Darian Boeder SLH pilot, Iain Johnston GoA, Brett Hauber SLH pilot; Marten Hills area north of Slave Lake; July 6, 2022





# DELTA HELICOPTERS LTD. CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

*Submitted by Kathy Stubbs*

Incorporated by Don and Kathy Stubbs in 1972, Delta Helicopters Ltd. celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> year in business in 2022. Looking back, our beginnings were pretty humble but, like many Alberta businesses, we grew with the times. In 1973, we purchased our first helicopter, a two passenger piston engine Bell 47G2. Our first customer was Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas, located at Zama City, in northern Alberta. The next spring (1974), Delta opened its first base of operations at High Level. Initially we worked from the old airport which is now a part of the High Level industrial area. We also added another Bell 47 to the fleet. In 1978, we moved our operation north of High Level to what is now known as Heli-port Road. We increased our fleet adding two more Bell 47s and moved into the more modern four passenger turbine engines, buying Hughes 500s from Petroleum Helicopters out of Louisiana. In 1984, we purchased a hangar at the Footner Lake Airport and moved our operation again. Today, we still own the initial hangar and over the years, purchased two more hangars on what is now referred to as the High Level Airport. In 2019, we anxiously watched the High Level wildfire, briefly moving operations to Fort Vermilion during the height of the wildfire's advance.

In the 1980s, we started to operate Bell products starting with the Bell 206, then adding the Bell 204. While the Bell 206s were used to water bucket and scan wildfires, the ten-passenger Bell 204 was a major step

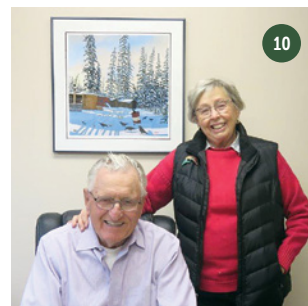
up, moving larger crews and heavier loads. In 1986, we decided to move our head office and overhaul facility to the St. Albert Airport, a location more central to our operations, which now spanned Western Canada. Today, our head office is still located on our own licenced certified heliport just north of St. Albert. We also maintain bases at Lac La Biche, Rainbow Lake, Slave Lake, Fort McMurray, High Level and Fort St. John, B.C. Today, Delta's fleet is made up of Bell 206s, Bell 204s and Bell 205s. We also operate Eurocopter AStar's, and the pride of our fleet is a Bell 212.

Over the past five decades, Delta Helicopters has supported the forest sector across Western Canada. From supporting tree planting operations, wildfire suppression, cone harvest and regeneration surveys, Delta has strived to provide the equipment and expertise required. Just as the forest industry has changed over

time, so has the helicopter industry grown and improved its operations. In reflecting over the past 50 years, we had no idea when we started Delta that we would still be involved this many years later. It has been an exciting life and Don and I feel that we and our family have been so fortunate to be involved in the Canadian helicopter industry for the past five decades. To this end we are deeply appreciative of the many people that have touched our lives and made it what it has been, including staff, suppliers, and customers, with out whom none of this would have been possible. Thank you! It has been a privilege.







1. Kathy and Don Stubbs in front of the Delta Helicopter Bell 204 fleet; High Level airport; 1990s

2. Don Stubbs (R) receiving the Carl Agar Award from Fred Jones; Helicopter Association of Canada; 2016

3. Delta Helicopters Bell 206Bs and a Bell 204B; Wildfire MWF-013-2007; 2007

4. Delta Helicopters hanger; High Level airport; 2022

5. Delta Helicopters Bell 204Bs C-GTNP, C-GJLV and C-FAHO; High Level airport; September 29, 1985

6. Delta Bell 204 slinging fuel barrels; 2018

7. Delta Helicopters Hughes 500C C-GXDD; FMU F12-L12 planting project; Footner Lake Forest; June 7, 1984

8. Delta Helicopters Bell 206Bs, one refueling; 2015

9. Firefighters boarding Delta Helicopters Bell 204B; Wildfire MWF-013-2007; 2007

10. Don and Kathy Stubbs; St Albert office; 2022



# FORESTRY CLASS REUNIONS

Fall 2022 brought back face-to-face reunions following nearly two-years of COVID-19 restrictions. Both the Forest Technology School 1981 and 1982 graduating classes held reunions in September 2022; the Class of 1981 at the Devon Lions Campground, and the Class of 1982 at Ken Birkett's place northwest of Cochrane.

## CLASS OF 1981 REUNION



1. Back Row (L to R): Kelly Drolet, Kris Killoran, Terry Yanke, Greg Clegg, Steve Otway, Dave Wallace, Dave Lind, Kenton Miller, Leslie Sullivan  
Front Row (L to R): Len Stroebel, Wes Nimco, Dave Boe, Robert Toma, Dawn Service, Herman Stegehuis, Jerry Kress, Shawn Milne, Norman Volk, Ross Risvold

2. Back Row (L to R): Wes Nimco, Greg Clegg, Dave Wallace, Steve Otway, Kelly Drolet, Dave Lind, Leslie Sullivan  
Front Row (L to R): Jerry Kress, Bernie Simpson, Gordon Baron, Andre Backman, Shawn Milne, Norman Volk, Ross Risvold

Attended, but missing from the picture were Howard Anderson and Dane McCoy

3. Back Row (L to R): Brian Panasiuk, Mel Cadrain, Mark Missal, Rick Moore, John Dyck, Ken Birkett, Andy Neigel, Morgan Kehr

Front Row (L to R): Lorraine Cappel, James McKay, Kevin Ledieu, Tim Robert, Jeff Brooks

## CLASS OF 1982 REUNION







# WOMEN'S FOREST CONGRESS, A HISTORIC FIRST

*Submitted by Katie Lamoureux, Silvacom*

The Women's Forest Congress (WFC) was a historical event – the first ever congress for women forest professionals, but it also felt like a historical milestone for me. It was held in the middle of a year where I had just returned to work at Silvacom as a new mom, a uniquely female experience. It was such a privilege to attend a conference where I observed women walking where I've walked, walking ahead of me, and walking completely different paths, but all through the forest! Silvacom sent eight female team members from across Canada to Minneapolis, Minnesota for this extraordinary event. The colleagues I attended with are my mentors and valued friends. I can honestly say that I've never travelled internationally with such an enjoyable group of people before. From the time we left Canada on October 16, 2022 and met together for the first time at the conference hotel, the good will towards each other and growth goals we had as a team, were evident.

At the beginning of the congress, we spent time identifying why it was strange and important for the congress to exist. For most, this was the most women in forestry they'd ever seen in one place. We were encouraged to educate and empower ourselves and others regarding the demographics that we identified with. Building equity and diversity into our thoughts, strategies, and goals meant that we would return home renewed and empowered to take authentic action towards DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) at Silvacom and in the local forest industry. We admitted our struggles in the industry and our excitement about how far we've come as individuals. We mourned the difficulties



that many people still face, examples include the difficulty of breastfeeding while working in the field, the distrust we feel as professionals in decision-making roles, and the responsibility to be a breadwinner for a family. We admired how far women have come in the industry throughout history. Rachel Kline, from the US Forest Service, presented on the legacy of women in forest history, how historically women spoke earlier than men about environmental stories and were well-known in their circles, but are not remembered well in the history books. A version of Rachel's presentation is available on the Forest History Society's YouTube channel (see link copied below). Author and Environmental Communicator, Natalie Warren, spoke about a historic adventure that she and a friend embarked upon. The friends were the first women to paddle the route from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay. The paddle route was a familiar coming-of-age journey for many men, and Natalie and her friend intended to claim it's power for their young lives. Natalie's keynote address is on YouTube and the link is also below.

Some additional highlights included the format of the congress, the opportunities to connect with people through meetups during breaks and visiting the Twin Cities. The format of keynotes and breakout sessions was familiar, but they had spaces for innovation and networking, art stations for creativity and recharging, a lounge for relaxing, movement sessions like yoga and Zumba, local and healthy snack options, and even a room dedicated to moms who brought their little ones and needed to nurse or comfort them. People gathered in creative commons, networked in hotel lobby seating areas or between movement sessions and breakfast. While in the lounge I even witnessed some unscheduled presentations, it was an exciting time. My colleagues and I made reservations at a local restaurant to try local favourites upon recommendation of the hotel concierge, visited the Mall of America, and stopped off at a local park where birds, a waterfall, and falling leaves made a good morning even better.

The Women's Forest Congress was an inaugural event that is marked in time. It was born from a desire to build on a rich history of the American Forest Congress (begun in 1882) and other worldwide knowledge sharing events such as the World Forest Congress. It may not be an annual event, but the goal is that it will happen again in some format. Whether the congress itself is held in the same form we attended or not - the learnings we experienced, relationships we built, and declarations we made will live on in us and the communities and industries we will live, work, and raise our children in.

- Rachel Kline's women in history presentation: [https://youtu.be/0JxzDU\\_IWUE](https://youtu.be/0JxzDU_IWUE)
- Natalie Warren's Keynote Address: <https://youtu.be/5IsRkqM454E>
- WFC Declaration: <https://womensforestcongress.org/2022-congress/2022-wfc-declaration/>



1. L to R: Katie Lamoureux, Sophie Aasberg, Jillian Dyck, Libby Price, Vanessa Nhan, Fionnuala Carroll, Madeline Sousa, and Emma Derenowski; Minneapolis, Minnesota; October 17, 2022

2. L to R: Madeline Sousa, Katie Lamoureux, Vanessa Nhan, and Jillian Dyck: October 17, 2022

3. L to R: Katie Lamoureux, Vanessa Nhan, Emma Derenowski, Jillian Dyck, and Fionnuala Carroll; Minneapolis, Minnesota; October 18, 2022

4. L to R: Libby Price, Katie Lamoureux, Sophie Aasberg, and Jillian Dyck; Minneapolis, Minnesota; October 18, 2022



# FRIAA CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

*Submitted by FRIAA*

This year (2022), the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) marks its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Tasked with collecting and administering funds paid by industry to enhance Alberta's forest resources, FRIAA is the only forestry organization of its kind in Canada – and a look back on its history reveals plenty to celebrate.

Before FRIAA was established in 1997, the Government of Alberta collected fees from forestry companies and delivered the Forest Resources Improvement Program itself. But that year, it was decided it would be more efficient and effective for an independent forestry organization to focus on the delivery of the program and to report on activities to government. With authority delegated by the Minister responsible for Forestry, the newly formed FRIAA took on the responsibility of collecting FRIAA dues and administering the Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP). Over FRIAA's 25 year history, more than \$308 million in funding has been provided for projects that enhanced the quality, management, and sustainable yield of Alberta's forest resources, as well as promoting integrated resource management in Alberta.

Under the leadership of its first president, Trevor Wakelin, FRIAA exceeded early expectations. This success came with expanded responsibilities. Within its first two years, a new program had already

been added to FRIAA's portfolio. Following the 1998 fire season, the Cutblock Reclamation Program was launched to replant over 24,000 hectares of forest that had previously been reforested and subsequently lost to wildfire. This program was re-established in 2006 and renamed the Wildfire Reclamation Program, the name it still bears today. In May 2000, the Government of Alberta delegated administration of its Community Reforestation Program to FRIAA. FRIAA was now responsible for overseeing the replanting of areas harvested under the Community Timber Program, as well as collecting the reforestation levies that fund these efforts. Five million seedlings were planted in just the first few months, and by 2007 that number had grown to more than 35.7 million, on approximately 19,000 hectares of Crown land.

As FRIAA celebrated its tenth anniversary, Alberta's forests were also faced with a new threat. In 2006, the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) infestations that had devastated much of B.C.'s pine forest started sweeping across the provincial border. In tandem with Alberta Forestry Division's response, FRIAA established a new Mountain Pine Beetle Program to help participants detect, control, and limit the spread of the beetle. From forests to log yards to seed orchards and progeny sites, FRIAA supported monitoring and intervention anywhere that MPB might attack and supported regional planning initiatives to sustain

a coordinated response between government and industry. By 2018, FRIAA had contributed over \$27 million to MPB control activities, with 5,399 hectares of ground surveys and 13,667 kilometres of aerial surveys completed and over 61,000 infested trees removed to protect their neighbours.

The early 2010s were an eventful time for FRIAA, with several new programs launched and two new presidents taking their turn at the helm – Bruce MacMillan was appointed president after serving eight years on FRIAA's board of directors and was succeeded in 2013 by Murray Summers. The successful Incidental Conifer Replacement Program that had been established in 2006 was extended until 2012. FRIAA continued to collaborate with the Government of Alberta during the economic downturn in 2009-2010, with its Fire Hazard Reduction and Forest Health Program and the Forestry Worker Employment Program combining to create more than 3,020 person months of employment. The Mountain Pine Beetle Forest Rehabilitation Program and the FRIAA FireSmart program were both introduced in 2013, each contributing to the continued abundance and quality of Alberta's forest resources. These were followed by the launch of the Caribou Land Restoration Program in 2014, which was replaced four years later by the Caribou Habitat Recovery Program that still operates today, supporting Alberta Environment and Parks in



sustaining and improving habitat for caribou.

2019 and 2020 saw FRIAA once again expanding its offerings and impact. The Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances Program became available in 2019, enhancing carbon sequestration and creating jobs in rural Alberta by supporting reforestation of fire-affected sites that were slow or failing to regenerate naturally. In 2020, the introduction of the Community Fireguard Construction Program and the FRIAA Forest-Sector COVID-19 Safety Measures Program brought FRIAA's number of active programs to an all-time high of ten, while its original cornerstone program, FRIP, distributed a record \$25.9 million. With all funds for COVID-19 safety measures distributed and all approved fireguard construction projects completed by March 2022, FRIAA demonstrated its capacity to deliver timely support in an efficient, effective manner.

This legacy of agility, responsiveness and efficiency will be carried into the future as FRIAA continues to adapt and evolve with Alberta. By keeping operations lean and working closely with government, industry and communities, the association has been able to maximize program dollars and direct them to projects that create enormous impact on the quality of forest ecosystems in Alberta, the safety of communities that could be threatened by wildfire, and countless other concerns that are of vital importance to our province's future. As FRIAA prepares for another year's work, and operating under Richard Briand as the association's fourth president, we are honoured to stand side by side with the forestry community and excited to keep the same commitments we made at our founding – to be efficient, effective, collaborative, and dedicated to enhancing Alberta's forest resources for the benefit of all who make their home here.

1. FRIAA Board of Directors and Management Team; My Wild Alberta, Royal Alberta Museum; February 2012

L to R: Craig Rose, Bruce Mayer, James Bocking, Dave Kiil, Trevor Wakelin, Murray Summers, Bruce MacMillan, Jurgen Moll, Todd Nash, Barry Gladers, Byron Grundberg

2. FRIAA Board of Directors and Management Team; Whitecourt; May 7, 2013

L to R: Dave Kiil, Bruce MacMillan, Byron Grundberg, Murray Summers, Jurgen Moll, Craig Rose, Bruce Mayer, Todd Nash







1. FRIAA Board of Directors and Management Team; September 20, 2013  
L to R: Dave Kiil, Craig Rose, Cliff Henderson, Jurgen Moll, Dave Wall, Bruce MacMillan, Byron Grundberg, Norm Denney, Murray Summers, Todd Nash, Rob Seidel, Bruce Mayer



2. FRIAA Board of Directors and Management Team; June 19, 2014  
L to R: Todd Nash, Dave West, Cliff Henderson, Murray Summers, Dave Kiil, Dave Wall, Byron Grundberg, Bruce Mayer, Norm Denney, Craig Rose



3. FRIAA Board of Directors and Management Team; Zoom Meeting; December 7, 2020  
Top (L to R): Murray Summers, Bruce Mayer, MJ Munn-Kristoff, Allan Bell  
Middle (L to R): Craig Rose, Rob Seidel, Daniel Chicoine, Andy Neigel  
Bottom (L to R): Todd Nash, Dave Wall, Richard Briand, Sherry Norton



# FORESTRY DIVISION, WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT RETIREMENTS

On September 23, 2022, Forestry Division and wildfire management retirees from the past two years gathered with colleagues at the Devon Lions Campground.



1. Cory Davis presenting retirement marquetry to Quintin Spila; Devon; September 23, 2022

2. Cory Davis presenting retirement print to Nick Nimchuk; Devon; September 23, 2022

3. Retirement event organizers Kim Kasper and Kim Edwards; Devon; September 23, 2022

4. L to R: Morgan Kehr, Dan Lux, and Bruce Mayer; Devon; September 23, 2022

5. Bruce Mayer cutting the retirement cake; Devon; September 23, 2022

6. Peace River alumni; Devon; September 23, 2022  
L to R: Shawn Barracough, Tom Archibald, and Chris McGuinty

7. Group picture of the retirees; Devon; September 23, 2022

L to R: Nick Nimchuk, Ralph Kermer, Chris McGuinty, Morgan Kehr, Jeff Henricks, Deanna McCullough, Paul Kruger, Quintin Spila, Darren Tapp, Kevin Hakes, Bruce Mayer, and Doris Braid

8. L to R: Ben Jamison and Derek Bakker; Devon; September 23, 2022



# ALBERTA FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Alberta Forest Products Association held its 80<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting from September 28 to 30, 2022, in Jasper, Alberta. Updated board of director and staff pictures were taken outside the Jasper Park Lodge golf course clubhouse.



1. Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA) Board of Directors; September 29, 2022; Jasper, Alberta

Back Row (L to R): Ken Vanderwell (Vanderwell, Slave Lake), Greg Zavisha (Zavisha Sawmills, Hines Creek), Arnold Fiselier (Spray Lake Sawmills, Cochrane), Ross Lennox (Canfor), Tom Macher (International Paper), Dyon Armstrong (Dunkley Foothills Forest Products), Andrew Meyer (Drax), Satoshi Miyake (Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries), Jason Krips (President and CEO, AFPA)

Front Row (L to R): David Anderson (Millar Western Forest Products, Whitecourt/Edmonton), D'Arcy Henderson (West Fraser), Janis Simkins (Tolko Industries), Roger Ashfield (Mercer International, Peace River), Nathan Corser (Yellowhead Wood Products)



2. Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA) Staff; September 29, 2022; Jasper, Alberta

Back Row (L to R): Raymond Gendi (Director, Grade Bureau), Jason Krips (President and CEO), Forest Battjes (Forestry Educator, Work Wild), Sheila Harrison (Vice President, Policy), Brock Mulligan (Senior Vice President), Chris Breen (Senior Manager, Forest Policy), Craig Werner (Environment and Regulatory Affairs), Carola von Sass (Health, Safety and Transportation), Graham Legaarden (Director, Forest Policy), Bryce West (Quality Supervisor)

Front Row (L to R): Sheryl Hill (Executive Assistant), Monique Holowach (Policy Analyst), Morgan Pike (Communications Analyst), Aspen Dudzic (Director, Communications), Leslie Loudon (Senior Financial Officer)

Missing: Rory Koska (Program Director, Wood Works!), Jerry Calara (Technical Advisor, Wood Works!), Stuart Doerksen (Quality Supervisor), Anna Kauffman (Senior Policy and Economic Analyst)





—  
**Soak it.  
Stir it.  
Soak it  
again.**

*Alberta*



# PARTNERS IN PROTECTION FIRESMART CANADA RECOGNITION EVENT

Submitted by Ray Ault

FireSmart Canada held an appreciation night for Partners in Protection (PiP) at the Westin Hotel in Edmonton. The evening of sharing FireSmart stories and visiting old friends was held on Halloween night during the Wildland Fire Canada 2022 conference. The need for a multi-agency partnership to address wildfire in and around communities started in the late 1980s. Partners in Protection was incorporated in 1993 as a not for profit to advance the

growing concern around wildfire in the wildland-urban interface area. The brand FireSmart was established in 2002 as part of the launch of the *FireSmart Manual: Protecting your Community from Wildfire*.

The FireSmart brand was transferred to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre in 2021 and Partners in Protection was discontinued as an organization. FireSmart Canada continues to build upon the past

efforts of Partners in Protection to support and promote community wildfire resilience through partnerships with government and industry.

**Editors Note:** FireSmart Canada is in the process of documenting the history of Partners in Protection, looking for milestone dates, and those that were on the board or acted in the chair or executive director positions. If you have information or pictures you would like to share, contact can be made with Ray Ault at [Ray.Ault@ciffc.ca](mailto:Ray.Ault@ciffc.ca).



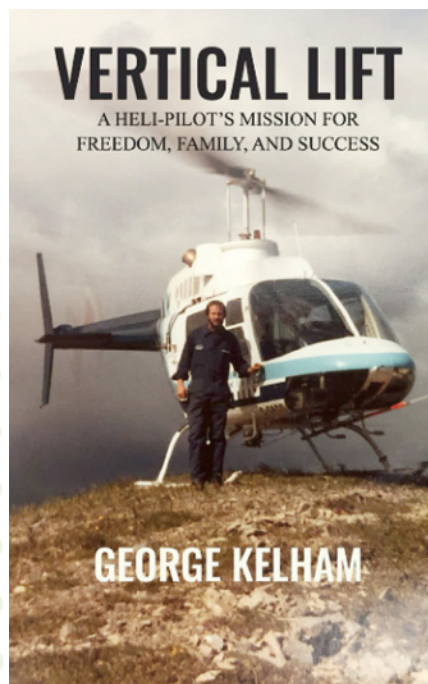
Back Row (L to R): Kelly Johnston (past Executive Director PiP), Mike Flynn (Executive Director, FireSmart Alberta), Rick Arthur (past president PiP), Quentin Spila (FireSmart Canada), Mag Steiestol (retired Alberta Forest Service), Kelvin Hirsch (retired Canadian Forest Service), Bill Bereska (retired Alberta Forest Service), Revie Lieskovsky (retired Alberta Forest Service), Pat Guidera (retired Alberta Forest Service), Chris Dallyn (Saskatchewan government), Troy O'Connor (Fire and Flood), Luc Bibeau (Yukon Wildfire), Mike McCulley (B.C. Wildfire), Jeff Berry (Conair), Derek Sommerville (Fire and Flood)

Front Row (L to R): Erik Hanson (B.C. Wildfire Revelstoke), Maya Milardovic (Cooperators Insurance, past VP PiP), Kelsey Winter (FireSmart B.C. Chair, past director PiP), Don Mortimer (past director PiP), Brent Schleppe (retired Alberta government), Deanne Suddaby (office manager PiP), Mike Benson (FPInnovations), Ray Ault (FireSmart Canada), Magda Zachara (FireSmart Canada), Terry Studd (Fire and Flood)



# HOT OFF THE PRESS

## VERTICAL LIFT: A HELI-PILOTS MISSION FOR FREEDOM, FAMILY AND SUCCESS GEORGE KELHAM



**B**orn into a nation divided by race and class, and a home cleaved by tragedy, George Kelham's wants were few. He wished for a happy family, a place to belong, and the freedom to find success through hard work. Oh, and somehow, to fly...

Conscripted into service as a teen by a country at war with itself, George's first experience on a helicopter was spent peering out its open door with a gun on his hip. As he fought to keep himself and others alive, he vowed that someday he'd be that guy: the one who dropped platoons into thick wilderness, and the one everyone longed to see show up for rescue after. A pilot.

Fleeing home at the behest of his parents when it became clear how little those in command valued the life of young men, George journeyed the world alone through the unforgiving terrain of African nations, London's wild, wonderful, and impoverished punk rock scene, America's stretching highways, and through the relentless cold of Canadian winters. Through it all, George held on to his dream. Little did he know, obtaining a pilot's license would only be the beginning of a much wilder ride.

*Vertical Lift* is the dramatic and inspiring true story of how one man can lose everything, time after time, before eventually achieving freedom, family, home, and success.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

George Kelham is a former United Nations pilot who has lived and worked in such places as Rwanda, South Africa, Greenland, Mozambique, Tanzania, Botswana, Britain, The United States, Guatemala, Somalia, Canada, and the former nation of Rhodesia. He is president of the successful helicopter company, Slave Lake Helicopters, which he owns in partnership with his wife, Debbie. The Kelhams reside in both Northern Alberta, Canada, and in Southern Nevada, USA.

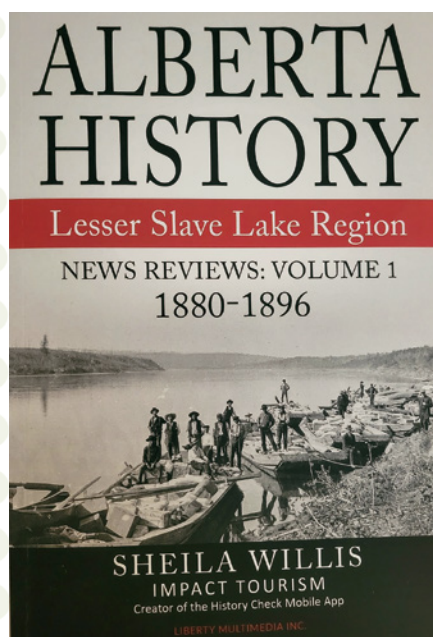


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## ALBERTA HISTORY, SLAVE LAKE REGION, NEWS REVIEWS: 1880-1896 SHEILA WILLIS



Colonial & Indigenous relationships, the fur trade, methods of transportation. From 1880 to 1896, these changes were happening faster than ever before!

From starvation, epidemics and land surveys primarily affecting the Indigenous people – to the beginnings of missions and the exploding gold rush – this book documents key events that helped shape the Lesser Slave Lake region.

The author provides an overview of these transformations by extensively documenting the news stories of the time, offering a rich and diverse lens to relive one of the great expansion periods in Alberta's history.



Sheila Willis lives in Smith, Alberta, a hamlet in the Lesser Slave Lake region. She acquired her passion for local history from the stories shared by her father-in-law.

To promote historical and rural tourism, Sheila created the *History Check* mobile app. Originally intended to place the stories of northern Alberta history on a map for travellers to explore, the app grew to encompass the entire province and also includes tourism services.

Sheila has received two Alberta provincial awards for her work: an Outstanding Achievement Award for Heritage Preservation, and a Marketing Award for tourism. She has also been shortlisted for a Governor General's Award in community programming.

With that under her belt, she has moved to authoring books about the local history, its people, and events. This is the second of those books, with the first becoming a bestseller on Amazon! Her next three books are already in progress. You can find more of her storytelling through videos and social media online at Sheila's Shenanigans: Short and Tall Tales of Life in Alberta.



**HISTORY  
CHECK**



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# QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S PLATINUM JUBILEE MEDAL

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Provincial) commemorates the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second to the Throne as Queen of Canada. On October 5, 2022, Deputy Minister Shannon Marchand recognized ten current and recently retired Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development staff with a platinum jubilee medal. Ambrose Jacobs, Brian Stanton, and Bruce Mayer were the three Forestry Division recipients.



Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal recipients.

L to R: Bruce Mayer, Ambrose (Jake) Jacobs, and Brian Stanton with Assistant Deputy Minister Daniel Lux, and Deputy Minister Shannon Marchand; Edmonton, Alberta; October 5, 2022





# RETIREMENTS



## LINDA POWER

In May 2020, Linda retired after 28 years working for the Government of Alberta. Employed in a variety of roles, Linda focused on supporting the forestry and wildfire programs, under a variety of departmental name changes and leaders. Fort McMurray will remain home, a place where she and husband Dave raised five children. With the nine grandchildren, their family now numbers 19.



## KAY HANKINSON

Kay Hankinson retired in November 2020, after over 40 years of dedicated and passionate service to Alberta Forest Service and successor departments. Staff members

of the Lac La Biche Forest Area have described her as *"the most professional, hardest working admin person I've ever met"*, and *"she gave it her all every day"*, and *"she was a dedicated employee, the ultimate team player, made things happen and represented the Department and GoA well"*.

Kay Hankinson began her career with the Alberta Forest Service in 1980 in Wandering River, signing on a for a three-month term as part of the STEP program. She had previously worked in the GoA from 1965-1971 in the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Youth. Kay and her husband Doug moved to Wandering River in 1971, following work in the oil and gas industry, and have lived there ever since. At the time, the Wandering River Ranger Station, headed by Chief Ranger Dave Brown was a hive of activity in northeast Alberta, with staff managing land-use, timber harvesting, recreation and of course wildfire response. The first office at Wandering River was a converted tool shed, and the "facilities" were an outdoor biffy.

Over time, Kay's responsibilities increased and like many government employees she had to wait an extended period to become "permanent" which was not until 1999. During 2003 Kay began to travel helping out the Lac La Biche office, and then with the closure of the Wandering River Ranger Station in 2016, Kay found herself travelling every workday to Lac La Biche. She made the hour (each way) commute for many years in all the

seasonal conditions that northern Alberta endures, a testament to her dedication.

When Kay describes her fondest memories of work for the Forest Service, they are all about the people, and the many staff that came and went through Wandering River and Lac La Biche. Her retirement has left a big hole in the office, one that is apparent to staff who continue to work there every day. There is a not a day that goes by where the staff at the office do not miss Kay and the work that she did to hold the place together. Your forestry family misses you, Kay!



## CHRIS MCGUINTY

*Submitted by Chris McGuinty*

Chris was born in Ottawa and spent his formative years in the Ottawa Valley developing his appreciation for the outdoors. This time spent fishing and hunting made it easy for him to decide that a career within the field of forestry was the way to go. Chris is one of those Sir Sandford Fleming College guys that came west to seek his fame and fortune. He achieved neither, but certainly became rich in many other ways including a 30+



year career with the Government of Alberta. In 1985, Chris made his way to Lac La Biche from Ontario with his wife to be Kristine. Working on the Wandering River initial attack crew, and Kristine as the forest guardian out of Beaver Lake, they both decided that Alberta was where they were going to set down roots. It was an easy decision to make because the people they had the pleasure of working with were so supportive.

Opportunities to do different jobs and begin to learn the job of a forest technician in the Lac La Biche Forest, continued over the next number of years, cumulating in a wage forest officer position in Calling Lake, in 1988. It was a time when there were lots of opportunities, and perhaps an expectation within the Alberta Forest Service, that technically trained folks take advantage of these opportunities, and move to different areas of the province to learn and progress their forest officer career. A move, in 1989 with his young family to Manning to continue his forest officer career, proved to be a great experience. One of the main appeals of the forest officer position to Chris at the time was how diversified it was. Engaged in the many facets of land and resource management, such as timber harvesting, oil and gas activities, public recreation, wildfire suppression, and even cattle grazing, offered amazing learning opportunities. Working with fellow Albertans in all these different areas of making a living was one of the great rewards of Chris' career. This diversification was an important consideration from a career perspective when Chris made his decision to stay and make Alberta his home.

Organizational change, and a desire to focus on wildfire management, led Chris to make the move to Peace River in 1996. The wildfire

technician role in the Northwest Boreal Region led to many wildfire deployments, and enhanced learning opportunities within the diverse field of wildfire management in the coming years. Chris continued to work in Peace River, and in 2001, moved into a newly created position as wildfire prevention officer. This move to the "prevention" side of the business offered Chris new learning opportunities in the areas of the 3 E's (enforcement, education, and engineering - FireSmart). Wildfire operations continued to be a focus for Chris particularly in the area of wildfire behaviour. Multiple deployments as a fire behaviour analyst to incidents in Alberta, and other jurisdictions within Canada, became a rewarding part of Chris' career. He also had opportunities to provide leadership on incident management teams that dealt with a number of significant wildfires within Alberta such as the Flat Top and Zama wildfire complexes. After spending 21 years in the northwest corner of the province, it was time to move to Edmonton, and contribute at a provincial scale. In 2011, he moved into Wildfire Management Branch headquarters as Manager, Wildfire Operations, and enjoyed being on teams on various projects such as the modernization of the Alberta Wildfire Coordination Centre, and the development of the AWARE application. Chris retired on September 14, 2020, and has started an emergency management consulting business, Certified Incident Support Inc. He plans to continue to be active in the areas of incident preparation and response but is looking forward to spending more time camping and kayaking with his wife Kristine and getting more saddle time on his newly acquired electric fat bike.



### **RALPH KERMER**

*Submitted by Ralph Kermer*

I started my wildland fire career in the summer of 1980 between my 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years of the forest tech program at Lakehead University. At around noon on a Sunday in early May, I got off the train in the small northern Ontario community of Armstrong. I carried my stuff to the base, was shown a room in the bunkhouse and told to grab my boots and report to the warehouse to be on the 1<sup>st</sup> up crew. Welcome to fire, no training, no orientation, no intros, just you're a firefighter now, it was awesome. However, first action was later in the month on a campaign fire north of Thunder Bay. Day one I saw my first flames, 40 feet high and roaring like a jet plane in a dense pine stand. Our crew was told to "go catch it", so we did. Day two we got pulled from our line by helicopter just before a crown fire hit our line. I tried for the next 40 years to find the same excitement and adrenaline I had on those first two fire days but never did, although I came close a few times.

In September 1982, after three seasons in Ontario, I moved to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories to start a permanent position in the wildland fire program with the federal government. During the five years in NWT, I married a local girl,



Shelley and our daughter Krista was born. In August 1987, a few months after the feds transferred the wildland fire program to the Government of the NWT, I accepted a promotion to be the head of the fire program in the Fort Simpson area of the NWT. The area was about 21 million hectares with six communities and a total population of less than 2,000. We had eight crews spread out in four of the communities and seven lookout towers. Soon after arriving in Fort Simpson our daughter Lindsey was born.

We started off the 1996 year with a move to Fort Nelson, B.C. where I started work for the B.C. Forest Service, Protection Branch. The job description was pretty much the same as the one in the NWT. The Fort Nelson area was about 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the province with four initial attack crews. There was a large interaction with guides, outfitters, B.C. Parks, and B.C. Wildlife Service regarding building and approving prescribed burns. I was also a member of Type 1 incident management teams. From 2001 until retirement, I was a member of the western cadre of the national Advanced Fire Behaviour Course. This interest and enjoyment of teaching took me to Alberta's Hinton Training Centre at the start of 2009 to work as a wildfire training specialist. By this time, it was just Shelley, me and our dog as the girls were off in university and beyond. In September 2020, I retired from the government.



## MORGAN KEHR

*Submitted by Morgan Kehr*

I was born and raised on a mixed farm near Vulcan, Alberta, where we spent most of our free time in the mountains near the Highwood River, Cataract Creek, Livingstone River and Porcupine Hills. I was going to be a farmer, but Dad didn't own enough land, so he suggested I look for something to do until he was closer to retiring. I worked one summer in Beauvais Lake Provincial Park, and decided cleaning outhouses wasn't for me, so I should get an education. Forestry looked cool until I could go farming, so I enrolled in Forestry at NAIT. I spent the summer of 1981 on a Provincial Helitack crew based out of Shunda, Rocky Clearwater Forest. Our crew was sent to High Level for some of the large wildfires, during our first week of work. One evening while there, we were playing ball on the lawn in front of the diner, and a B26 group buzzed, barrel rolled, and hammer-headed over us. They had a stellar day hitting multiple lightning strikes, and I thought this is really cool. I think I knew then that I was in this for a while.

I graduated from NAIT in 1982 and continued to work seasonal for many summers during the hiring drought. I was able to jump from summer wildfire crews to winter trail crews, and to fuel modification crews, until getting on as a permanent forest officer in 1987, in Blairmore. I

enjoyed great mentors at a variety of jobs, from grazing to land-use, to recreation management, but not a lot of wildfires in the Crowsnest Pass, so I transferred to High Prairie to get more wildfire experience, and I did. We then started a series of moves, at about five-year intervals and promotions with postings in Kinuso, back to the Crowsnest Pass, Edson, Whitecourt, Edmonton, Calgary, and back to Edmonton.

Shortly after getting on permanent, I told my Dad I wasn't coming back to farming, I had found my career. He told me "good", and if he hadn't had to take over the family farm due to his father's illness, he would have tried to be a forest ranger too. There are many good memories; some don't seem good until you reflect on them. Those that stand out are:

- High Prairie and Slave Lake spring invitational wildfire seasons in the early 1990s.
- The 1998 fire season, the whole thing! 20 weeks on large wildfires from May 3 to October 30, with duty officer shifts in between.
- Montana 2000, with Ken Orich's team, managing a complex near the Flathead River. This led to the injection of ICS into Alberta and eventually Canada through CFFC.
- The 2001 Chisholm wildfire. That was my certification wildfire for Type 1 Incident Commander: a challenge rolling two Type 1 teams (one east of the river and one west of the river), into one Type 1 team.
- 2002 House River wildfire with Hugh Boyd and Andy Gesner. Spent one evening with Andy looking for a washer. (Long story best told in person)
- 2003 fire season; thought we were having a slow start in Alberta, went on export to Ontario. Then



we got busy in Alberta. I rode my motorbike to work one August day, got sent to the Lost Creek wildfire, and then to B.C. Upon return in late September, I rode my motorbike home in a snowstorm, with six inches of wet snow on the highway.

- 2011 Richardson wildfire; this was our first crack at Area Command, and I thought Hugh Boyd was going to fire me.
- Then there was the 2015 fire season, 2016 Fort McMurray, and the 2019 fire season, including export to Australia in December 2019.

Import and export assignments, and later working with partners through CIFFC and the NW Compact has always been interesting. I have been fortunate to see all provinces and two territories, the northwest states, Guadalajara, Mexico, and Australia because of those partnerships. I have two great kids that grew up with all the moves and wildfire assignments, both of whom turned into adults with careers of their own. Throughout it all I found great mentors and lots of good people to work with. Without that, I probably would have wound up to be a poor dirt farmer. Thanks to everyone who made it a great career.

You'll be able to find me at my acreage southwest of Stony Plain in retirement. Right now, with COVID-19 encouraging my hermit tendencies, I am busy with blacksmithing, reloading, hunting and odd jobs around the acreage. Keri and I will be seeing more of Canada with the truck and trailer when able, enjoying family (getting larger with the addition of a new granddaughter), and more camping, fishing, and hunting. I won't have to wait for rain to be able to plan some of that now!



## BRENT BOCHAN

*Submitted by Brent Bochan*

Having been regularly exposed to remote outdoor camping experiences while I was growing up in Edmonton, I developed an appreciation for the great outdoors early in life. After watching several episodes of the Junior Forest Rangers, my interest in natural resource protection was stimulated and convinced me in those earlier years that pursuing a job in some sort of forest or resource management would provide the greatest satisfaction as a career when I was older. After graduating from high school in June 1978, I was very fortunate to be promptly accepted at the highly popular, Forest Technology course at NAIT and commenced in the program that fall.

Between semester years I was able to obtain a job at St. Regis (Alberta Ltd.) in Hinton as an initial attack crew member. After graduating in 1980, I returned there as an initial attack crew supervisor, and as the seasons changed, moved on to operator of a Bracke scarification unit, then conventional tree faller, cable skidder operator, landing attendant for hot-logging operations and ended as a greenhouse worker in May 1981. All those jobs paid well for the time.

Realizing I had failed to save too much money for the spring break-up period, I was getting a little concerned about finances when

offered a last chance to obtain employment with the Alberta Forest Service as a "project forest officer", looking after the M.O.F. duties (Maintaining our Forests) in Fort Vermilion. I accepted the job without too much hesitation or being aware of what the pay or even where Fort Vermilion really was. After finally finding a map on how to get there I packed up all my worldly possessions, questioned myself one last time if I was making a good choice, and departed Edmonton in the wee hours on the morning of June 20, 1981, to the great northlands accordingly. After an 11-hour road trip, I arrived at the Fort Vermilion Ranger Station office just in time before it closed for the day to introduce myself, and was promptly whisked off for a further five-hour helicopter trip with chief ranger John Graham to pick up empty barrels from fuel caches across the district and get a brief introduction to the lay of the land I would be working in, bugs and mosquitoes included. After a year in that job, I obtained a permanent position as a forest officer in that district, gaining a lot of valuable fire experience in the field, crossing paths with many other departmental individuals that would pass through that office on fire overhead export teams. The rest is history.

I continued with the department and in March of 1987, transferred with my young family southwards to the Grovedale district and mentored under chief ranger Stan Clark and assistant chief ranger John Bradley. A whole new workload experience awaited as ground conditions were not a limiting factor, and activities occurred year-round. Work, the array of clients and fellow staff to work with was exciting and ever-changing. The call of the mountains that often-occurred mid-way through the summer could be readily satisfied



by a brief road-trip from the back door of the office or a stint at one of the man-up bases close to them. Departmental reorganizations, district boundary changes, and office relocations, especially the one in 1995 that required career-stream choices be made, resulted in staff vacancies that provided opportunities to work in most of the other land-use areas within the district and for discovery of new and interesting things. I chose the path of the land-use stream but remained active in the fire control function as workloads would allow.

Because of that, I never had the yearning to move to another location and remained in the Grande Prairie area with the support of my growing family for the remaining 33 ½ years to retirement on October 30, 2020. During that entire period, I continued to retain field working responsibility for at least one of the districts' land-use areas (but often more than just the one), in addition to simultaneously filling an acting Compliance Assurance Officer position, Operations Section Head and Lands Team Lead position between 2005-2020. The job evolved into something far more different at the end than what I signed onto in 1981, but I have always considered myself to be a Forest Ranger.

I was very fortunate over all the years to have worked with a huge number of great, caring, committed clients and people within all the government departments and will miss those interactions and the challenges presented on many aspects of the job. I can honestly say that I never had "nothing" to do ... there was "always" something. You just had to look around the corner for the next task to be done and the next challenge. As for retirement, I am planning to spend some quality time with our first grandchild,

taking the opportunity to go fishing on nice days, getting a few home improvement jobs completed, and hopefully taking a few trips within Canada to visit some of the sights and locations I had not had the time to get to in earlier years.



### BOB HELD

*Submitted by Richard Briand, Tom Daniels and Bob Held*

Bob Held's career in forestry started in 1980, when he moved here from Ontario and enrolled in the NAIT Forest Technician program. With an impressive head of hair, he learned the basics of forestry, and knew he had made the right choice. Upon graduation, he worked for the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) in the Whitecourt Forest. He spent a lot of time fighting wildfires and "had a lot of fun on the fireline". In 1988, Bob left the AFS and went to the University of Alberta to earn his Bachelor of Science in Forestry. Upon completion, he went back to work for the Alberta government, although the department had been renamed as the Lands and Forest Service (LFS). He was based in Edmonton working for the Timber Management Branch. This was when he started down the path as a timber analyst. Some of his peers at the time were Shongming Huang, Paul Hostin and Tom Lakusta.

In 1993, Bob's position was cut as Ralph Klein worked aggressively to balance the provincial budget.

Bob didn't skip a beat and landed a position with The Forestry Corp as a growth and yield analyst, then progressed to undertake timber supply analysis duties. He was involved in a number of projects including supporting Sunpine Forest Products on their first Forest Management Plan. Keith Branter was the Woodlands Manager for Sunpine at the time and was impressed with Bob's work ethic. Bob was on-call 24/7 and was very responsive to the numerous, wide-ranging questions that Keith and the Sunpine team threw at him. Keith recognized that there would be tremendous value in having Bob join the Sunpine team, and made the offer, which Bob accepted in July 1997. Once he was settled in Sundre, Keith continued his practice of bringing Bob problems that stretched his knowledge of the Company's mill operations, and how to analyze forest inventory information to support mill decisions and planning. Bob excelled in this environment, and the Sunpine operation benefited.

Several iterations of corporate change occurred over his work career with the company. At the time of his initial hiring, Sunpine was a 50/50 partnership of Bruce Buchanan and Louisiana Pacific; Bruce purchased the LP share later in 1997. In 1998, Sunpine was purchased by Weldwood of Canada, which was owned by Champion International and, in 2000, Champion International was purchased by International Paper. Finally, in 2004, the operation was purchased by West Fraser Mills Ltd. with the subsidiary being renamed to Sundre Forest Products.

Bob went on to complete all analytical aspects of several amendments to the Sundre Forest Management Plan, including a new submission under the Pine Strategy,



when Mountain Pine Beetle started to rear its ugly head in Alberta. He also completed all aspects of the timber supply for the 2008 Forest Management Plan. Over several years of valuable contributions, West Fraser recognized the benefits of having internal analytical expertise that Bob could contribute. He began to advise the Company's other divisions as they worked on landbase classification, growth and yield, timber supply and the growing list of non-timber analyses that were required for Forest Management Plans. In 2019, Bob was officially appointed the Senior Resource Analyst for West Fraser. This created provincial responsibilities for analytical work across West Fraser divisions in Alberta. Early in his career, Bob recognized the value of centralized, clean databases and developing standardized methods for his work. He passed his methods on to the team of resource analysts in the Company. West Fraser will continue to benefit from, and build upon, this legacy for years to come.

It would be an oversight to not also acknowledge Bob's participation in the Foothills Growth and Yield Association (FGYA) from the date of inception in 2000, until 2019. Over that period, he served as Chair of the FGYA, and was on the Executive Committee of the Forest Growth Organization of Western Canada (FGROW). Bob always supported the need for empirical data and emphasized the importance of using data to inform decisions. He credits timber cruising early in his career as being foundational to being a strong analyst. He was a steady, strong advocate for the work of the FGYA.

Bob retired in September 2020 after a great career that helped influence forest policy in timber analysis and Forest Management Plan development. He is transitioning

into full retirement in a part-time consulting role. Bob lived in Sundre for the first six years of his time with Sundre Forest Products, then built a house on an acreage just outside of Caroline, where he currently resides. He enjoys biking, hiking, spending time in his hot tub, woodworking and landscaping. We wish him nothing but the best in a well-earned retirement!



### **DARYL PRICE**

*Submitted by Daryl Price*

I was born in Edmonton in 1959 at the old General Hospital, a stones throw away from the Forestry Building. I have lived in the Edmonton and Sherwood Park area for most of my life. My parents were originally from Lethbridge. I attended Salisbury Composite High School in Sherwood Park graduating in 1977. My parents lived next door to Revie and Helena Lieskovsky, so I guess I was somewhat influenced by Revie in my decision to pursue forestry as a career, as it sounded very "cool" being able to work outside in the forest. Little did I know that my entire career would be spent working in an office, crunching numbers, and writing letters and briefing notes on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor, Forestry Building in downtown Edmonton!

I attended the University of Alberta, and graduated with distinction, obtaining a BSc in Forestry in 1981. While attending UofA, I spent two summers working at the Northern Forestry Centre measuring the pre- and post prescribed burn vegetation condition on several research strip-plots near Hondo, Alberta. This also included a couple of side trips, with Revie and Bob Newstead, to Hay River, Northwest Territories, and Slave Lake, to test the dispersal of different types of airtanker retardants. I also spent the summer of 1980 on the initial attack crew in Whitecourt (the old DW3 District), where my long-time friend Karl Peck, was the crew leader. That was the extent of time I spent on the wildfire side of the forestry business.

On May 4, 1981, I started as a project forester in the Management Planning Section of the Timber Management Branch, where I was responsible for calculating new Annual Allowable Cuts (AAC), in all the non-Forest Management Agreement Forest Management Units. The new AACs were required before renewing the timber quotas in 1986. New forest management plans were also prepared at the same time. I became a supervisor pretty much from day one and hired two forest technicians to assist with this major project. My first task was to test and implement a new mainframe computer system called TIMPLAN (Timber Management and Planning System), which used the recently completed Phase 3 Forest Inventory data and various "management" assumptions to create a harvestable landbase with yield curves. We then fed this information into Timber Ram, a computer program also used by the US Forest Service, for determining sustainable timber supplies. We purchased our first desktop computer in Timber Management Branch, an



IBM PC with one 5.25" floppy disk, and 512 MB of memory (having less horsepower than a handheld calculator today). With a digitizing table and the new computer, we sampled how much area needed to be "netted out" of the landbase, to account for timber harvesting ground rule deletions, determined using the Phase 3 township level hardcopy maps.

In 1990, I became the manager of the Forest Statistics Section looking after the Phase 3 forest inventory (stored in a mainframe computer called AFORISM or Alberta Forest Inventory Storage and Maintenance System), as well as the Timber Management Statistics Binder, which included summaries of the provincial AACs and timber allocations. With the downsizing in the mid-1990 Klein years, the old Timber Management Branch was combined with the Land Use, Reforestation and Research Branches to create the Forest Management Division. I became the Senior Manager, Forest Resource Information Centre, looking after forest inventory (which now included AVI), statistics, spatial data management, timber supply analysis and reforestation data. One of the first projects led by my section, was the development of a new database to replace SRMS (Silviculture Record Management System), namely ARIS (the Alberta Reforestation Information System). Along the way, there were several other tune-ups and re-organizations within the Forest Service, and we were shuffled across various departments. I ended my career as the Director, Forest Resource Analysis Section, Forest Stewardship and Trade Branch, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry after 39 1/2 years.

One thing I learned early in my career is that change is inevitable and shifting priorities and departmental reorganization is an ongoing process. Unfortunately, long gone are the days when managers had direct control of their budgets (which were much larger by the way), and there were no IT or corporate rules to follow. We were able to accomplish many things during this time by thinking outside the box, and my section helped to successfully bring forestry into the digital world. I had the opportunity to work with several great bosses and leaders in both the government of Alberta, and forest industry (far too many to name). Passionate, dedicated, and hardworking staff have always been the foundation and strength of the "Alberta Forest Service", and I was fortunate to work with, and learn from some of the very best during my career.

Highlights of my career include being an advocate and supporter for the collection of replicable, transparent and verifiable forestry-related data (able to withstand the scrutiny of the Auditor General), and was an early promoter of the use of desk-top computers and analytical software including ArcGIS, to assist with day-to-day decision making in the forest service. As part of the province's plan to diversify the economy in the late 1980s and early 1990s, surplus conifer and deciduous (previously considered a weed species) were allocated to create Timber Development Areas, and eventually new FMAs, which led to the development of new manufacturing facilities, and a significant increase in the size of Alberta's forest industry.

There was lots of number crunching to do back then, as residual chips from sawmills had to be factored into the pulp mill wood supply, as well as accounting for how much roundwood was needed to produce a tonne of each type of pulp or strand boards. At that time, the objective was to provide roughly an 80% secure fibre supply. Other notable projects I was involved with included; the Daishowa court case (where we successfully defended Alberta's forest management system and planning process); working through the details of FMA data sharing (e.g. AVI); providing input to the Alberta Forest Management Science Council; development of protocols for Enhanced Forest Management; reporting performance metrics under the departmental business plan; development of the Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard (technical protocols for establishing long-term sustainable timber harvest levels); development of more rigorous AVI audit protocols; creation of the Spatial Data Directives; creation of the National Forestry Database; and various committee work, under the direction of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers.

My wife Deborah and I plan on travelling once it is safe to do so after the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are hoping to see eastern Canada. We also want to get back into golfing, camping, fishing, and spending more time visiting with family and friends.



## DARREN TAPP

*Submitted by Darren Tapp*

My first job with the Alberta Forest Service was a long time ago. We were coming back from NAIT's spring camp (1984), and Thor Knapp asked if anyone needed a summer job. Dwight Lovlin and I stuck up our hands, and the next thing we knew we were on the way to Worsley, to be planting checkers in the Doig River burn. Greg Clegg was the forest officer in charge, and Kurt Frederick was the forest officer III. We stayed in tents for about six weeks, and by the time the project wrapped up, we still hadn't been paid. I remember borrowing fifty bucks from Greg to buy gas to get home.

The summer of 1985 after graduating, I was in High Level on the Footner Lake timber management crew. Paul Hostin was the assistant party chief (APC), and Vern Neal was the forest officer IV. I don't remember where Paul went, but Roy Campbell replaced him as APC. Sometime in August we got laid off, so I went to Saskatoon, and was maintaining about 400 apartments for a few months, when Roy called and asked if I wanted to come back to work. January in High Level (1986), sounds great, bunkhouse accommodations, even better. I am on my way. I worked with Michelle Shesterniak on the superior tree program. Spending days driving

around the forest looking for really big trees was great. Drilling the 25 mm core sample in -30 C not so great. The best thing was shooting the top three feet off the trees to collect scions, to send to Smoky Lake for grafting.

The summer of 1986, I worked as patrolman in DF2 (High Level), followed by another winter working on the superior tree program, but with Keith Beraska this time. One morning we were out past Jean D'or Prairie and heading east, when we met an oncoming car. As the car went by, it must have kicked up a rock as the driver's side window of our truck shattered. Glass crumbs were everywhere, -20 C temperatures, winter gear on, heater on high, carry on! At that time, we had a Forest Officer Eligibility List, basically a draft list that chief rangers would use to fill vacant forest officer positions. My first permanent forest officer position was as the timber management crew party chief in Footner Lake. About six months later, Gerald Sambrooke called and asked me to move into the High Level ranger district. Darryl Johnson was the forest officer III, and the other forest officer IIs were Dave Scott, Jim Lunn, and Dave Weir. Gerald moved down to the Rocky Clearwater Forest in short order and was replaced by Bob Petite. Darryl moved south, and Tom Archibald was his replacement. We had a lot of great times, forest-wide ranger meetings twice a year, curling bonspiels, trap shoots and Dale Huberdeau's winter ski-doo trip out to Thurston Lake. Oh yeah, and I got married to my high school sweetheart. I think her parents eventually forgave me for taking their daughter way up to High Level, but it took a while.

After a couple of years, I transferred down south into DW4, the Fort Assiniboine-Swan Hills ranger district.

Ken Porter was the chief ranger, the two FOIIIs were Dale Asselin and Brian Cutrell, and the other FOIIs were Brent Schleppe, Ken Snyder and Alfred Schmutz. We had lots of fun curling, canoeing the Athabasca and dirt-biking in the sandhills. About that time, the provincial economy was in dire straits (again?!?), so I took three eight-month leaves of absence and went to UofA to get forester training. We moved to Whitecourt, and I started doing timber supply work for the Whitecourt Forest but keeping closely linked with the Forest Resource Analysis shop in Edmonton.

I transferred into the Forest Resource Analysis section in Edmonton a few years later continuing with a MBA/MF program. When I finished I started working in the Strategic Forestry Initiatives Division for Howard Gray, Jerry Sunderland and Dan Wilkinson. I was doing FMA negotiations and other fun tenure related stuff. In 2011, I applied on the Forest Management Branch Executive Director job and was offered the position. I still remember going over to Human Resources on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the South Petroleum Plaza to sign up, and there was Hugh Boyd (Wildfire Management Branch Executive Director). We looked at each other, and it was "are we really doing this?", but we both signed.

The last year and a half as the Executive Director, Wildfire Management Branch has been a significant change. I really appreciate the patience staff have shown in answering all of my questions and putting up with some off-the-wall ideas. My time in Wildfire Management Branch has also been the most difficult of my career, implementing 'workforce reductions', not something I would care to repeat. I want to be clear that this is not the reason for my decision. My wife and I have always had a 'freedom



55 plan', ever since we first opened a joint bank account in High Level (I wanted to spend my newfound wealth, Sharon wanted to save it for later...turns out later is now). I know there are a lot of highly talented and motivated people who put in significant effort to keep the train rolling. People who choose public service do it for a variety of reasons. Getting paid is certainly one of them, but there are many others, making a difference in how public resources are managed, protecting people and resources, and maybe flying around in helicopters.

As for my future plans, well, those are still unfolding. COVID-19 has kept us from spending Christmas with our families for the first time ever, and other travel has also been curtailed. My official retirement date from Alberta public service became effective Friday April 16, 2021.



### DAVE KENT

Born into a military family, by the time Dave finished high school in Edmonton, he had attended nine different schools, and lived in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, California, and Florida. Dave graduated from the NAIT Forest Technology program in 1983, followed soon after with a BSc in Forestry from the University of Alberta in 1983. During summers of 1982 to 1984 Dave worked with the Alberta Forest Service in Footner

Lake on the timber management crew. In the summer of 1985, Dave worked on the initial attack crew in Wandering River, Lac La Biche Forest. Following university, Dave moved to Chetwynd, B.C., working for Canfor. Responsibilities included planning and harvesting. In the fall of 1989, Dave moved to Houston, B.C. with Northwood Pulp and Timber as a forestry supervisor, a generalist role that included planning, harvesting, reforestation and road building. In the spring of 1994, Dave joined Weyerhaeuser Company Limited in Edson, retiring May 1, 2021. During his time with Weyerhaeuser, Dave had a variety of roles from planning, silviculture, harvesting, the purchase wood program, land-use, Operations Manager, and most recently Timberlands Manager. In 2000, Dave successfully completed the Alberta Advanced Forest Management Institute certificate program.



### BRENT SCHLEPPE

*Submitted by Brent Schleppe*

I was born in Lethbridge, Alberta in 1962 and raised in Calgary and Edmonton. During my time in Edmonton, I worked on my parent's family farm developing an interest in horticulture and forestry that fit my love for boreal forests and the great outdoors. An occupation in Forestry seemed like a perfect career path and future. I attended the NAIT Forest Technology program in 1981, graduating in 1983. My first summer job with the Alberta Forest

Service was as a timber cruiser in the Footner Lake Forest, High Level, Alberta. This was the beginning of a truly amazing career, 37 years of adventure, friendships, and rich life experiences that I could never have imagined. Career highlights and locations include timber cruiser, Footner Lake Forest, summers of 1981 and 1982; provincial wildfire rappel crew, summers of 1983 and 1984; initial attack crew leader and timber management crew supervisor, Edson Forest, 1983 to 1985; forest officer I, LaCorey Ranger Station, Lac La Biche Forest, 1985 to 1987; forest officer II, Swan Hills Ranger Station, Whitecourt Forest, 1987 to 1991; forest officer III, Fort Assiniboine Ranger Station, Whitecourt Forest, 1991 to 1997; forest protection technician and wildfire behaviour specialist, Whitecourt Forest HQ; Senior Manager, Foothills Forest Area, Hinton, 2000 to 2003; Wildfire Manager, Foothills Forest Area, Edson, 2003 to 2006; Forestry Program Manager, Foothills Forest Area, Edson, 2006 to 2008; Foothills Area Manager, Edson; 2008 to 2013; Regional Regulatory Approvals Manager, Upper Athabasca Region, Edson, 2013 to 2015; Regional Resource Manager, Upper Athabasca Region, Edson; 2015 to 2017; and Regulatory Approvals Enhanced Business Process Project Manager, Edmonton, 2017 to 2020. The departments and divisions changed many times over the years, from the Alberta Forest Service, Environmental Protection, Environment, Sustainable Resource Development, and Environment and Parks.

I was very lucky and grateful to have a couple of key mentors and coaches (Ken Porter, Chief Ranger and Cliff Henderson, Forestry ADM) that supported me early and mid-way through my career. They really contributed to my development, work competencies, and life skills

that I have used in all my work in the Alberta Public Service. Key career accomplishments and highlights include working on Type I wildfire incident management teams across Alberta and Canada; certification as a planning section chief and fire behaviour specialist; collaborative development of access strategies, long term access plans and operating ground rule approval for Weldwood, Hinton Division; development and implementation of FireSmart plans in collaboration with Jasper National Park; mountain pine beetle control operations in the Foothills Forest Area and Willmore Wilderness Park; support to flood monitoring and recovery to the severe flooding in southern Alberta; collaboration with the Alberta Energy Regulator to develop a new digitized OneStop enhanced regulatory approvals system for Alberta Environment and Parks. The new electronic system reduced *Water Act* application average approval times by the Department from 140 days to 60 days. Additionally, I was the provincial project lead that eliminated *Water Act*, *Public Lands Act*, and *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* backlog applications requiring department approval. The elimination of this backlog supported post COVID-19 economic stimulus plans by enabling economic development and freeing up staff to work on new development projects requiring legislative approval.

My wife Sylvie and I will be keeping our permanent family residence at Thunder Lake west of Barrhead, Alberta, spending summer months water skiing, cycling and swimming. I will also continue to work as an alpine ski race coach during the winter months at Apex Ski Resort near Penticton, B.C., where we reside at our second home on Skaha Lake south of Penticton. I will continue

to coach until I can no longer keep up with the athletes! Conditions are quite a bit warmer in B.C. than Jasper for coaching skiing in the winter, I'm not as hardy as I used to be! I think Alberta is still the best place to live in the world, so we have no plans to leave the province on a permanent basis and want to enjoy our retirement years traveling and enjoying this beautiful province.



## ROSS SPENCE

*Submitted by Ross Spence*

Born and raised in Calgary we were always spending time outdoors camping, fishing, hunting, or getting firewood for the wood stove at our grandparent's summer cabin in the Columbia Valley, B.C. It seemed natural that a career in the outdoors would be a natural fit. After high school I tried university for a couple years but that wasn't for me, so I finally found the Forest Technology program at NAIT and graduated in 1987. I worked seasonally on the Edmonton timber management permanent sample plot (PSP) remeasurement crew for a couple summers, travelling around the province to all the various ranger stations on our 10-day shifts. This was a good opportunity to see the many places that I would like to work out of, and the others that did not appeal to me. I then spent a winter in the Whitecourt Forest as the assistant party chief on the timber management crew. After that, I went

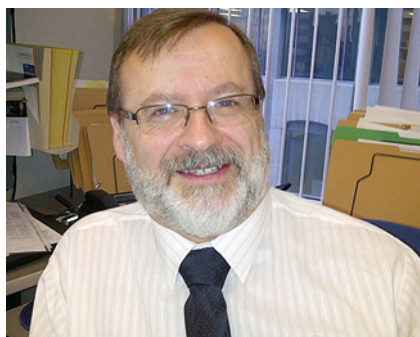
to the Ghost Ranger Station, Bow Crow Forest, northwest of Cochrane in 1988 as a forest guardian in the recreation program. I took the winter off to travel Europe with my soon to be wife Rhonda. In 1989, I returned to the Ghost Ranger Station, this time as the forestry aide IV looking after the recreation program, along with added forest officer duties. At that time, the Alberta Forest Service still held interviews for the "Eligibility List," and I received a permanent forest officer position at the Ghost Ranger Station in the spring of 1991. I worked there until 1996 when the department went through another of its various reorganizations, and the ranger station closed. Staff then moved to the old Bow Crow Forest headquarters building at Bearspaw and I worked there until my retirement. From a forest officer, I transitioned to the forest management specialist, Land and Range program manager in 2009, and back into wildfire and forestry as the Calgary Forest Area Manager in 2017.

One of the most memorable moments was my first ride in a helicopter, more precisely on the end of a rope. After work one day, our crew went down to watch the flooding Pembina River just north of the Lodgepole Ranger Station, when a car with a man and his wife tried to cross the flooded road. They were swept away but were able to get themselves out of the vehicle and hold on to some willows to keep from going further downstream. With the help of a local helicopter company, we rigged up a rope to the cargo hook of the machine. Another man on site with the Canadian Forest Service had a lifejacket so he went in first and pulled the woman to safety. I happened to be next to him when he handed the lifejacket and rope to me, so in I went and was able to support the stricken man as the



helicopter pulled us both out. The local RCMP detachment nominated us for awards, and I received the "Medal of Bravery" at Rideau Hall in Ottawa from the Governor General of Canada the following year. Other career highlights were the various wildfire exports, a feral horse roundup, the Forest Operations Monitoring Program development team, forest harvesting blockades, and dealing with species at risk like the Sage Grouse in the southeast part of the province, a strange place for a forest technologist to be. My time spent living and working at the Ghost Ranger Station was the highlight of a great career in forestry.

Time now will be spent with my wife Rhonda in our truck camper pursuing various outdoor adventures with our mountain bikes, fishing boat or other outdoor gear in tow, exploring the many wonders Canada and the rest of North America.



## DAVE COISH

*Submitted by Dave Coish*

On July 17, 2021, Dave will officially retire from the Government of Alberta (GoA) having worked more than 40 years in forestry, including nearly 31 years with the GoA. Dave has had the good fortune to have had a great and diverse forestry career that spanned three provincial governments (Newfoundland & Labrador, Alberta, and British Columbia), the federal government, and industry (Syncrude,

Suncor, and Champion Forest Products). Dave gained an interest in forestry having lived close to a forestry office in his hometown of Lewisporte, Newfoundland. His neighbour worked as a ranger at the forestry office and hearing incredible stories of wildfires and watching the flurry of activities that ensued at the ranger station when a fire broke out, Dave developed a fascination for forest fires, Bell 47 helicopters and Canso water bombers. Although Dave first pursued engineering as a career following high school, he later realized that forestry was his true passion. After two years in engineering at Memorial University, Dave decided to transfer to University of New Brunswick and enroll in the Forestry program, specializing in fire science. In 1980, Dave ventured out to Alberta, was hired as a summer student by Syncrude to supervise land reclamation projects. Dave liked Alberta so much, he decided to make Alberta his home. In 1981, he transferred to University of Alberta where he completed his BSc in Forestry in 1983. Some of his graduating classmates include Rick Blackwood, Tom Varty, Todd Nash, John Huey, Gerry Matthews, and Phil Anderson.

Fresh out of university, Dave got a job on a helitack crew, the year the helitack program became a provincial program managed out of the Provincial Forest Fire Centre under Terry Van Nest, Ray Ault and Denis Sanregret. Dave was assigned to a replacement crew, which turned out to be an incredible opportunity for a new person to Alberta to see the province (from the air) and to meet many forestry staff, some of whom have remained close friends. Dave enjoyed the work so much, he returned to the helitack program the following summer. Bridging his time between the two fires seasons,

Dave worked as a wage forester in the Timber Management Branch (Dave Morgan) writing Phase III forest inventory manuals. In 1984, Dave settled down, got married and started a family. With that huge responsibility, he felt he needed a longer-term position that kept him close to home. In January 1985, Dave got a job with the Canadian Forest Service (the NoFRC) working in growth and yield research. However, two years later and a desire to gain more operational experience, an opportunity came up with Champion Forest Products in Hinton that he couldn't pass up. Oliver Hennula and Bob Udell offered him a position to work on a survey crew that involved locating and laying out several main haul roads in the company's FMA expansion area (one of which was the Willow Creek Road), work that involved plenty of helicopter time and use of OHVs (mostly an Argo). The work ended with Champion late in the fall of 1987 and Dave returned to the Alberta Forest Service, to work in the Forest Land Use Branch under Norm Rodseth. In October 1988, Dave moved to Rocky Mountain House, to work in the Rocky Clearwater Forest (with Greg Anderson and later with George Robertson), as a Forester in charge of forest recreation, timber quotas and extension services. One of the many duties under this position were the backcountry patrols by horse, helicopter, quad and canoe - an unbelievable perk that resulted in many adventures and memories that will be forever cherished. In early 1996, Dave accepted a position with the B.C. Forest Service in McBride, B.C. as a silviculture practices forester followed by a promotion to timber officer. Missing Alberta, Dave returned in May 2000 to work in the Forest Management Branch as a forest management planning forester (Rory Thompson and Robert Stokes). During that time, Dave worked on

a number of forest management plans (Canfor-GP, Weyerhaeuser (GP, and Drayton Valley/Edson), Sundance, Sundre, Spray Lake and the C5 forest management unit). In 2007, Dave moved into management to work in a newly created position as forestry advisor on First Nation consultations (Dennis Driscoll), followed by information manager, and eventually to the Lands Planning Branch, Environment and Parks as an assistant director, a position he held until retirement.

Dave's interest in wildfire never diminished throughout his career. Offering his support at every opportunity, he served on a number of type 2 teams as service chief during his time in Rocky and on several type 1 overhead teams (Chisholm, House River and Lost Creek fires) in logistics and aircraft management. The camaraderie, the opportunity to work with old friends as well as new ones, and of course, the rush from being in the midst of the action was always something Dave appreciated about working in forestry. In summary, Dave's career has been one wild ride, filled with many rewarding experiences, challenges, accomplishments, and very fond memories. Looking back over the years, he recalls many good and not so good times, with the good times far outweighing the not so good ones. Dave says his fondest memories are of the many people he had the great pleasure to work with and to learn from over the years. Dave is now looking forward to pursuing a new chapter in his life ... one that includes, his family, his grandchildren; woodworking/renovating (a long time passion); tending to a couple of properties he has in Newfoundland (and some quality time fishing); travel (once COVID-19 is a distant memory); volunteering; and of course, some much needed R&R.

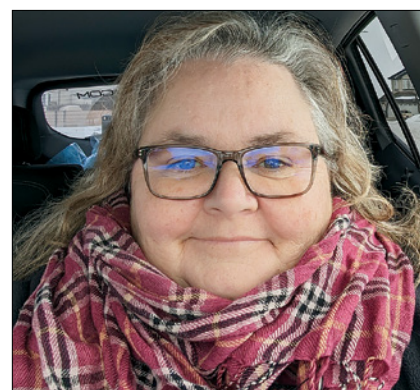


### GEORGE ROBERTSON

*Submitted by George Robertson*

While I grew up in Edmonton, I have not lived in the big city since I graduated from the University of Alberta (Class of 1978). Mom and Dad enjoyed the outdoors and exposed me and my younger brother to hunting and fishing, primarily along the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains. While I don't hunt anymore, I still enjoy fishing as an excuse to get me outdoors near clean, clear water surrounded by forests and wildlife. If a fish bites my hook, then that is a bonus. Becoming a forester seemed a logical way in which I could enjoy the outdoors and make a living. I am sure this was true for many of my forestry classmates and colleagues. Early on in my career I was doing initial attack and rappelling from helicopters, managing an airtanker base, cruising timber, planting trees, running scarification contracts, laying out cutblocks....and having a blast doing all of that. As careers go, I moved into more senior roles within the Alberta Forest Service and spent more time in meetings and less time in the field. Those early formative years were a great way to understand how legislation, policy and operations were inter-connected. I also understood how forestry was so linked to Alberta's public lands and the challenges in making good land use decisions.

Every place that I have worked in my career has been enjoyable for the uniqueness, the opportunities, and the people. During my career I have worked in High Level, Peace River, Edson, Rocky Mountain House, and Whitecourt. It is Whitecourt where I have worked the longest and that is where I am retiring. My son is involved with the Whitecourt forest industry and my daughter is settled down in Edmonton. I can be stream fishing in the summer months within 30 minutes of my house....and how can you beat that!



### TRACEY STEWART

*Submitted by Tracey Stewart*

January 1967, as the country is about to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Canadians were encouraged to do a Centennial project. My parents like to tell people I was theirs. Fast forward to grade 8, I did a career survey in school that, based on answers, said I should be a forest ranger. I was a kid in a 100% city family who really wanted to live like Grizzly Adams. I decided then and there that was what I wanted, and never changed my plan. I went to the NAIT Forest Technology program from 1989 to 1991. That was when second year was in Hinton at the Forest Technology School. I earned a couple scholarships and used the funds to buy my dream vehicle, a red jeep.



In 1990, I was a recreation guardian in the recreation hot spot of Valleyview, mainly Americans on their way to Alaska, and locals letting off steam. This is where I learned that forestry is all about the people! My first supervisor was Don Cousins, and our Chief Ranger was Jim Maitland. In 1991 and 1992 I was on the Valleyview initial attack crew, not a real fire district, but I did get to do an export to Ontario - a great experience. My first ranger position was in Rainbow Lake from 1992 to 1996. Now we're talking wildfire, and just as busy in the winter with oil and timber. I loved the north lifestyle, but alas, the "south" beckoned (being closer to family) and my next position was in Slave Lake, from 1996 to 2000. I remember it rained a lot during the fall of 1996 and summer of 1997 and I thought *"What have I done; I will never get another wildfire again."* Then came 1998 and 1999 and I didn't worry about that anymore.

I went back north to High Level as a forest protection technician in 2000, then wildfire operations officer from 2001 to 2003. This was a great experience, but the opportunity for a brand new challenge and being closer to family pulled me back south to the Provincial Forest Fire Centre in 2003. I originally started working for Bruce Mayer developing the standard operating procedures and internal review programs. My supervisors changed over time from Deanna McCullough to John Brewer, Herman Stegehuis, Patrick Loewen and Chad Morrison. Did the government like to re-organize a lot or was it me? Hmm. In 2009, I had the Junior Forest Ranger program added to my workload. There I got to end my career working with the best team of people: Kim Edwards, Trevor Nichols, and Kira Place.

Now it's all about the next generation and having more time with my son Merak and family, all but one within a half-hour of beautiful downtown Morinville. I promised my son a puppy when I retired (he's been asking for about 12 years) and that happened this spring. I'm not sure which is the bigger challenge, raising a teenager or a puppy. It's too close to call. In my spare time I'm working on building my crafting empire! I look forward to seeing you over a card table (or campfire) sometime. While I don't miss the daily grind of working (nope, not even a little), I miss, and will be forever grateful for, all the amazing people I have had the pleasure of working with; and, becomes friends with over the years.



### DAVE HEATHERINGTON

*Submitted by Dave Heatherington*

I was brought up in Edmonton but had a love for the outdoors with lots of time spent at our Lake Isle cabin as a kid. My father Ross finished his career with the Alberta Forest Service (Construction and Maintenance section), and always spoke highly of the people and the organization. That and a couple years as a Junior Forest Ranger in the Cypress Hills and Blairmore solidified it for me. Like others my age, my path into forestry may have been influenced by watching the CBC show *'The Forest Rangers'* as a kid. I attended the NAIT Hinton Forest Technology School graduating in May 1983. From

1980 to 1986, I worked seasonally in the Slave Lake Forest on the timber management and Maintaining Our Forest (MOF) crews, doing regeneration surveys, timber cruising, block layout and tree planting checks. At that time Carson McDonald was the Superintendent, Gordon Bisgrove was Forest Protection Officer, Keith Branter Chief Forester, and Bruce MacGregor led Land Use. I worked for Dave Laing, Dean Isles, Dave Blackmore, Jim Mason, Mike Newman, Paul Scott, Larry Kaytor and Gary Harmata. Some of my crew colleagues included Larry Volgart, Joe Lyons, Bill Schmidts, Bruce Yeski, Eric Enokson, Judy Schwetz, Rick Alguire, Diane Peacock, Bart McAnally, Lorne Johnson, Christine Hansen, Blaine Renkas, and Mark Coolen. The last two years of my time in the Slave Lake Forest were at the Red Earth Ranger District, where I worked as initial attack crew leader and land-use assistant. I worked with Gary Schneidmiller, Russ Stashko, Bill Lesiuk, Norm Begin and Rick Alguire. My crew colleagues included Herman Noskeye, Daryl Gish, Roger Tetreault, Doug Anderson, Blaine Renkas, and Carol Schimanke.

My first forest officer position (FOI-II) was at the Fort Vermilion Ranger Station. I worked with John Graham (Chief Ranger), Doug Ellison (FOIII), Brent Bochon, Steve Blanton, Lyall Gill (Chief Ranger), John Brewer (FOIII), Dave Myhre, Evert Smith, and Evelyn Calliou. The workload was primarily wildfire and silviculture in the summer and land-use and forest management for the rest of the year. I worked there from 1986 to 1989. In 1989, I was transferred to the Bow Crow Forest at Blairmore, as a FOI-II. I worked with Art Evans (Chief Ranger), Ian Dunk (FOIII), Darryl Johnson (Chief Ranger), Pete Nortcliffe, Al Gehman, Norm Hawkes, Bill Thresher, Doug Nicol, Morgan Kehr,

Brent Seeley, Ken Snider, and Mike Alexander. The workload consisted of forest management, silviculture, land-use, range, and recreation management.

In 1997, I transferred to the Mackenzie Forest Area, Hines Creek Ranger Station as a forest officer II and was later promoted to senior ranger. I worked with John Brewer (Area Manager), Miles Gouche, Wayne Smith, Kari Caron, Carol Lundgard, Glen Gache, Don Williams, Pauline Heck, Doug Smith, Ken Yackimec, Jeff Poeckens, and Joe Lyons. The workload primarily consisted of wildfire, land-use and forest management. In 2000, I moved to the Grande Prairie Forest Area as the forest management specialist. The work primarily consisted of forest management, but I still was involved with wildfire export and some land-use work. I worked with Ed Ritcey (Area Manager), Jim Maitland (Area Manager), Jean Lussier (Chief Forester), Michelle Shesterniak, Dion Lawrence, Phil Temple, John Bradley, Brent Bochon, Shaun Zwerzinski, Bruce Sanders, Victor Boisvert, Don Cousins, Roy Campbell, Bob Yates, and Maxine Lightfoot. In 2003, I took on the role of compliance assurance officer for the Grande Prairie - Smoky Area. As this was a new position the workload consisted of developing and leading the area compliance and enforcement program. Many of my contacts were still the same. In addition, I worked with those from the Valleyview Ranger Station, Eugene Baranski, Craig Brown, Emile Desnoyers, Don Cousins and Owen Spencer.

In early 2006, I took on the role of operations and approvals section head, after John Bradley retired. This role consisted of leading the area land-use approvals and monitoring and inspection program. I worked

with many of the same people in Grande Prairie, but now included Marissa Schutz, Christine Ikonikov, Ryan Derksen and Bonnie Duperron. It was during this time that I was a member of the Enhanced Approval Process (AEP) Team, Integrated Standards and Guidelines. This work contributed to significant efficiency to land management application preparation, review and approval. This later became a key component of the 'One Stop' online automated application system. On November 27, 2013, I started with the newly formed Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) as authorizations manager, north central. Essentially following the work that I had been doing with Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) that was now housed with the AER. Some of the other folks that had moved from ESRD to the AER that I now worked with were, Elizabeth Grilo, Marcus Ruehl, Marissa Schutz, Colin Bentley, Shelley Iverson, Heather White, Nicole Nutt, Mike Taylor, Brian Sabatier, Kali Hennessey, Tara Hosick, Tom MacMillan, Steven Stryde, Dina Johnson, Dave Mowers, Melisa Styba, Linda Sagan, Craig Melin, and Gary Sasseville. I finished my career with the AER, as the authorizations manager northwest on February 14, 2020, as the result of organizational downsizing, effectively retiring on that date.

My accomplishments over the years included supervising and leading several teams of excellent staff, EAP Integrated Standards and Guidelines team member, Hinton Training Centre land management inspection training team member and instructor, type II incident commander, and completion of the Alberta Advanced Institute of Forest Management certificate program. I had the opportunity to work with really good people, both government

and industry colleagues. The Alberta Forest Service years were special and some of my favourite personal and work memories, especially the opportunity to see much of Alberta, both on the ground and in the air.

Lynda and I moved from Grande Prairie to Nanaimo in 2021 and are still working on where to put down roots for the longer term. Plans are to spend time with and help out my two adult daughters, Kyla (Calgary) and Katie (Victoria). After finishing with the AER, I acquired my class II driver's licence and was hired as a school bus driver with First Student Canada in Grande Prairie. I now drive school bus on a casual/part time basis with both First Student and Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public School. As well I'm a casual delivery driver with FedEx. I'm really enjoying these jobs; they are a lot of fun.



## DAVID WALL

*Submitted by Dave Wall*

I was born and raised in Grand Falls, Newfoundland, a pulp and paper town dating back to 1907. I graduated from the University of New Brunswick in 1982 with a BSc in Forest Engineering, and then spent another 1.5 years towards a Masters of Forest Engineering before abandoning that to enter the work force and start paying off student loans. In April 1984, I started working for Miramichi Pulp and Paper Ltd., in Newcastle, NB, as a forest engineer. The first



seven years involved doing a timber supply analysis for a 25-year Forest Management Plan (FMP) using a new 286 computer. After the submission and approval of the FMP, I took on responsibility for the plan, layout and silviculture programs. During that period, I introduced data recorders to the forestry group for collecting and processing of field data. After several winters I then moved to operations and began supervising the log-haul operations. While in Miramichi, my wife Joan and I had our two children. As well, I achieved my RPF and P. Eng. designations.

In November 1990, I took a transfer to another one of Repap's operations in The Pas, Manitoba, Repap Manitoba Inc. I started out responsible for forest management planning and silviculture, as the forest management supervisor. After 2.5 years I took on a new role in timber harvesting operations as woodlands development superintendent, responsible for introducing and implementing mechanized harvesting operations, moving away from cut and skid operations. A year after taking on the woodlands development role, I assumed responsibility for woodlands contracts, scaling and the purchase wood program. In 1996, I became the woodlands manager for the Repap Manitoba Operations, responsible for all aspects of the woodland's operations, including forest management planning, access development, timber harvesting, forest renewal, and fibre purchasing. Repap's Forest Management License Area was approximately 11 million hectares. In the late summer of 1997 Repap sold its' Manitoba operations to Tolko.

During the sale, I was approached to consider a woodlands manager role in Alberta with Millar Western Forest

Products Ltd. In September 1997, I took a position with Millar Western as woodlands manager at their Boyle operations. This was a new position within the Boyle woodlands group, as it was previously being managed from Whitecourt.

After 3.5 years in the role as woodlands manager for Boyle operations, a new opportunity came available as woodlands manager for both the Boyle and Whitecourt operations. In April 2001, I started in the new expanded role, responsible for all aspects of the Alberta woodlands operations, including supplying fibre to the Whitecourt BCTMP pulp mill, and sawmills in Whitecourt and Boyle. In July of 2007, I made a career change and took on the enjoyable role of operations manager of the Millar Western Boyle sawmill. This new role was responsible for the day-to-day operations of a two-line sawmill, and a planer mill. The sawmill and planer mill had been running three-shifts consuming surplus logs from wildfire salvage operations. In 2007, the mill was running two shifts but in 2009, after years of poor markets, the Boyle operation reduced to a single shift operation.

In July 2012, I saw my migration back to the forestry world within Millar Western. With Trevor Wakelin's retirement I assumed his role of director, fibre resources, responsible for direction and oversight of corporate strategies related to Millar Western's long term fibre supply for each of the manufacturing facilities; fibre by-products; forest stewardship; forest certification; silviculture; growth and yield; Millar Western's private land woodlots; forest research; forest carbon, forest biomass, climate change effects on forestry; government relations; and aboriginal affairs. I remained in this

role until I retired in 2021. During my 23+ years with Millar Western, I sat, served, and worked on numerous committee's working groups and boards. These included:

- Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA), Board of Directors
- AFPA Forest Management Committee and numerous working groups
- Forest Product Association of Canada (FPAC)
  - Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA) working group
  - Forestry Committee
  - Aboriginal Affairs Committee
  - Environmental Committee
  - Species at Risk Committee
- Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) Resource Committee
- Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, numerous working groups.
- Board of Directors, Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA)
  - Have been serving on the FRIAA Board since 2013
  - Held position of Director and Treasurer
  - Current term 2021-22, Treasurer

My retirement plans are to enjoy life, spend time with family, especially my grandkids, and travelling. I plan on getting eight hours sleep a night, something I did not achieve much during my working career. As well, I'm looking forward to doing what I want when I want with no schedule.



## KEN SNYDER

*Submitted by Ken Snyder*

I grew up in Calgary after my parents moved west from southwestern Manitoba when I was about three. As a city boy, it was somewhat surprising to my parents that I wanted to pursue a career in forestry, but it was likely that my love for the outdoors and our forested areas was fostered by the amount of time spent fishing and camping. After taking a year off from high school to work, I attended the NAIT Forest Technology program and graduated in 1985. My first job following graduation was with the Alberta Forest Service in High Level as a compassman on a timber management crew. Most of the summer was spent on regeneration surveys and planting checks, dealing with mosquitoes, deerflies, and horseflies. After a short stint, I was able to find work with a greenhouse outside of Calgary for the fall months, until I found another short-term job with the Alberta Forest Service in February 1986, at the Ghost Ranger Station. The job was to set-up thinning trials in regenerating pine. Plots were established at various spacing levels to monitor the effects. *Side note: I was able to return to this site in May 2019 with staff from Calgary and Edmonton. It's not often you get to see results of your work after 33 years.* In May 1986, I was

on my way back to High Level. For the next three years, I worked in the Footner Lake Forest in a variety of positions including the timber management crew in High Level as a cruiser and assistant party chief, in Rainbow Lake as the airtanker base manager, inspecting land-use dispositions, and running scarification projects in Fort Vermilion. What I remember was lots of insects, bears, being wet most of the time, some awfully cold winters, cruising in waist deep snow, and loving every minute of it as I worked with a lot of great people. I also remember interviewing and being accepted to the Forest Officer eligibility list and waiting for a permanent posting.

I received my first permanent forest officer position in June 1989 in Fort Assiniboine, Whitecourt Forest, where I spent my next six years. I spent the first two years working out of the Swan Hills satellite office doing land-use inspections, and then the next four years doing timber management work out of Fort Assiniboine. This was a great district for a young officer to gain a variety of experience in timber management, land management and wildfire. I remember the variety of timber management circumstances I was involved in including inspections, block layout, planting and scarification projects, timber scaling, and completing a five-year timber harvest plan for the district's Miscellaneous Timber Use area (now Community Timber Program) prior to my departure in 1995. A big change to my life came in 1992 when I moved my bride-to-be from Calgary to Fort Assiniboine on Boxing Day, what a culture shock for her! However, she persevered, and we were married in the fall 1993. About a 1½ years later, things became a little shaky as the Alberta Forest Service was going through downsizing and my wife lost her job with a company,

she was working for in Barrhead due to restructuring. As such, I applied for a lateral transfer for the first posting available. In July 1995, we were on our way to Blairmore.

Being closer to family and a larger community, my wife was happier, and I was excited to get to know the district as soon as possible. On my first foray into the field, I ran into something I was not expecting - cows. At the time, I was not aware that most of the Eastern Slopes are covered in range allotments. I also soon learned about the amount of random camping that was occurring. These became part of the workload, reviewing and setting conditions for approvals on various forest, land and range management dispositions, conducting inspections, and of course an active role in wildfire pre-suppression and suppression. My role evolved over the next few years to leading timber revenue and timber production monitoring activities for the district. With the introduction of a new penalty policy and procedure in 1998, I began coordinating the enforcement program for the district, until becoming the compliance assurance officer for the Southern Rockies Area in 2003. Both my children were born in Blairmore, my son in 1999 and my daughter in 2002. I find it interesting looking back that I had interviews scheduled the dates both my children were born, both interviews were done by telephone, and I scored second on each. It seems I was meant to stay a little while longer. In the summer 2003, the Lost Creek wildfire threatened the communities of Hillcrest and parts of Blairmore. I was responsible for looking after the enforcement of the Forest Closure and scheduling 24-hour security at all access points. What I remember most is how a community pulls together and how



much trust people put in the local officer in their community.

My final move came, in March 2004, to the Hinton Training Centre. I started as a training specialist responsible for developing, delivering, and evaluating training courses provided to department staff and industry stakeholders, and eventually becoming the manager of the forest and land management training program. Highlights for me have been working with a wide variety of department staff in various areas across the department and other ministries to develop and deliver a variety of training programs including the guardian training, timber production monitoring, mobile office end user training, enforcement, and timber scaling to name a few. The best part of the job was to utilize knowledge I gained throughout my career to coach and develop others. I did not expect the stay would be this long, and I find it funny that I end my career where it all started with my graduation from the Forest Technology School in 1985.

I am excited to be moving into retirement to do many of the things I don't have enough time to do now, including photography, spending more time with family and friends, and getting back into fishing. I also have enough projects that have been started and not finished to keep me more than busy for the next year. My last official day with the Forestry Division is June 25, 2021, after a little more than 35 years of service. It seems like a long time when you are starting but seems like it went fast when you are finished. It's been a great journey filled with a lot of opportunities, a variety of challenges, and several changes (both large and small). However, my greatest reward has been working with a lot of great people across the province, which is what I will truly miss.



### JOHN BELANGER

*Submitted by John Belanger*

I grew up on a farm just outside of Villeneuve, Alberta. Like most 18 year old kids who just finished high school, I didn't really know what I wanted to do with myself. That was until I ran into Bart McNally, who was enrolled in the NAIT Forest Technology Program. Bart was a family friend, who could only say good things about the program, quickly convincing me that the Forestry program was just what I was looking for. I was accepted into the NAIT Forest Technology Program in September 1983. After completing my first year at NAIT, I was able to find seasonal employment in 1984 with the Alberta Forest Service as a compassman on the High Level timber management crew. I completed my second year of NAIT in 1985 and then it was back to High Level as a seasonal cruiser on the timber management crew. When funding for the crew was no longer available, I transferred to the Peace River Forest where seasonal funding was plentiful. Between October 1985 and December 1987, I was fortunate to work in a number of seasonal positions which included cruiser, initial attack crew leader, recreation guardian and wage forest officer. My first permanent posting was in the Fort McKay District as a forest officer I (1988 - 1990). Fort McKay was a great training ground for a young

ranger. There were lots of wildfires in the summer and plenty of land-use dispositions and timber dispositions to inspect when you weren't fighting wildfires. There was even a little time to start our family. Elaine and I had two boys while stationed in Fort McKay.

From Fort McKay we moved to the Robb District in the fall of 1990, until 1994. Robb was a great district to raise a young family. Lots of fishing to be had only minutes from the Ranger Station if you like that kind of stuff. In 1994, it was time to uproot the family once again and move to the Lac La Biche Forest, where I worked in the Beaver Lake District as a forest officer II, and later the regional forest protection technician for the northeast region. In 2000, I became the provincial wildfire operations coordinator at the Provincial Forest Fire Centre in Edmonton. In 2006, I was successful in obtaining a management position as a senior advisor within the Aboriginal Consultation Unit of Sustainable Resource Development. Finally in 2010, my "dream job", as I like to refer to it because of its logistical component, came up as the manager of the Provincial Warehouse and Service Centre. It was a great way to cap off my career in forestry. I will miss the work but most of all I will miss the people who are or were part of our forestry family! As far as retirement plans go, Elaine and I hope to travel more in the coming years. I would like to see more of Canada and if Elaine has her way, we will be seeing Europe as well.



## BOB WINSHIP

*Submitted by Bob Winship*

In June 2021, Bob Winship retired from a long and successful career in forestry spanning 44 years, most of that in Alberta. He grew up on the banks of the Red River immediately north of Winnipeg but spent his childhood summers on Lake of the Woods around Kenora, Ontario which probably instilled his love for forests at an early age. After graduating from high school in Winnipeg, he enrolled in the forestry program at Lakehead University and graduated with a BSc in Forestry in 1977. Following graduation, job prospects were slim, so he became a small tree planting contractor working the so-called Northern Ontario Clay Belt region with a subsidized crew of young offenders (seemed like a good idea at the time). During a moment of frustration with contracting that first season, a chance encounter at a highway coffee shop landed him a job with Weldwood in Longlac, Ontario doing harvest planning and logging supervision for an operation supplying a plywood mill and early waferboard plant.

After a few years, Weldwood had Bob checking out locations for more waferboard plants in western Canada, which led to the opportunity for the Company to acquire a newly-built but never-ran plant in Slave Lake Alberta in 1980. The Slave Lake waferboard plant really was in many

respects the first development to begin the utilization of the province's vast aspen resource, which in turn became the impetus for the big expansion of the Alberta forestry sector (and economic diversification for the province) in the 1980s and 1990s. It was an interesting experience trying to convince those who had a long-standing conifer bias in all things forestry that aspen had value for Alberta - those who worked it were often seen as of lesser importance. The utilization of the aspen/poplar forest was an important point in Alberta's forest history that led to many additional developments in forest management, research, and industry. It was a great experience for Bob working with the Alberta government to begin developing policies and tenure terms to suit a deciduous focus, and otherwise learning how to overlap tenures in a mixedwood forest resource.

The Slave Lake assignment for Bob was to be a two-year stint according to his employer. But he and his family came to really enjoy the community and the Province, which resulted in both a family and career life in Alberta from that point onwards. After a few years in Slave Lake, Norm Denny convinced Bob to join him in an upstart company called Pelican Mills which was pioneering oriented strandboard (OSB) in North America. The opportunity involved building wood supply at another greenfield start in Drayton Valley, where the company was building a second OSB facility and a sawmill. As the second employee in the forestry side of the business for this venture, it was all "ground-up" development. Again, it was a case of developing one of the first true mixedwood forest management agreements and management plans in the province. After a few years of a successful start-up, the business was bought

out by Weyerhaeuser Company, who were looking elsewhere in Alberta at the time, and eventually ended up acquiring Edson and Slave Lake OSB as well as the Procter & Gamble assets in Grande Prairie and Grande Cache.

This mix became the opportunity for Bob to develop and maintain the rest of his career. His roles included forest operational and management planning, silviculture, harvest and haul supervision, woodlands management, and strategic forest resources and business management. He was responsible for several forest management plan developments and forest management agreements. Bob served the Alberta Forest Products Association as a board member, and as a member or chair of many committees (including co-chairing the original Forest Policy Steering Committee). He served on numerous government committees or advisory groups covering a wide range of topics and issues such as forest management policy, legislation, manuals etc., Indigenous relations, land-use management and policy, regional land-use planning, and mountain pine beetle management. Bob also had many opportunities to do committee and project work with other natural resource sectors, bringing perspectives to the forestry sector. He also served on a number of Boards or committees for environmental stewardship groups, and research projects and programs for provincial, federal or university sponsors. From Bob: *"Ours is a noble profession, and it is an honour to have been involved in the use and management of this precious resource for the Province of Alberta, I hope I made a difference. I owe a great debt of gratitude to all the colleagues and mentors along the way who helped me, from all areas of professionals – government, industry,*



*research and service providers. Thank you. To the next generation, our forests will be more important than ever to society – it's about stewardship – do the right thing."*

Bob and his wife Lorri will remain in Alberta in retirement, spend more time with their adult children and grandchildren here as well, and hopefully spend more time recreating in the forest (nice to hike on trails now instead of a compass line through bush). And of course, Bob is always willing to volunteer to serve on any initiative for the cause of forest management.



## TERESA STOKES

*Submitted by Teresa Stokes*

I hail from Shelburne, a small farming community in southern Ontario, where trees were few and far between. My first inkling of my interest in forestry came from the 1960s show, *The Forest Rangers*, and a subsequent work experience with the Junior Ranger Program solidified my decision to enroll in forestry at Lakehead University. I graduated in 1985 and made my way to Alberta in 1989, where I accepted a wage forester position with the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development permanent sample plot program. My first supervisor, Axel Winter, made sure I received a proper Alberta welcome. This job provided me with an excellent introduction to Alberta forests taking me to High

Level and Blairmore and many places in-between. I continued to work in the forestry division and onto intergovernmental relations until 2010. In 2011, I took the leap to the rangelands program in the Public Lands Division where I remained until my retirement in August 2021. Retirement plans...keeping my options open.

Excerpts from a note Teresa sent out upon her retirement. After 30+ years with the department in a variety of roles, I have decided it is time to retire. I will be taking a few weeks of leave starting June 11, 2021 and will transition into retirement on August 27, 2021. As I look back on my time with the Department, I have learned so much from, and have appreciated the support and collaboration of many colleagues. It is the people whom I have had the privilege to work with that have made it so worthwhile. You will be truly missed. I leave you with a few of the things I am thankful for during my time with government. I am thankful for:

...the diverse work opportunities I was able to pursue because it meant the Department's support for professional growth (e.g., forestry (first job), executive assistant, APACK, rangelands and public lands);

...the early days of forestry field work and rangelands spring training, it showed this easterner why Albertans love Alberta;

...forest management Christmas parties because it meant someone would get Bev Wilson's signature tablecloth (I had the privilege of wrapping it in creative ways);

...birthday celebrations because it meant cake and silly homemade hats;

...the variety of projects and work because it resulted in great collaborations (e.g., forest management plans, mountain pine beetle advisory committee, CIF-IFC International conference, 100 Years of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife celebration, Value of Nature to Canadians, EAP, Onefour, grazing rental, compliance, land exchanges and sales, mooring disturbance standard, land trust grant program engagement...to name just a few);

...the mess to clean up after a party because it meant we were having fun;

...the many briefing note rewrites (eye rolling emoji) because it taught us patience (and to not throw out version one (eye wink emoji));

...the crazy timelines because it meant pulling together under pressure and the satisfaction of delivering;

...the exceptional administrative support because without you I would continue to flounder;

...coffee breaks because this is where the real conversations happen (e.g., family updates, snack envies, politics of the day discussion, teasing, laughter...);

...the talented and passionate people I have had the privilege of working with because it means Alberta's public lands are in great hands;

...for the memories because you truly made the last 30 years unforgettable.



## JOE LYONS

*Submitted by Joe Lyons*

Well, everyone, the time has come. I cannot believe I am writing this. I thought about it for a long time and am still not sure what to say. I left New Brunswick at the age of 18 and started work with the Alberta Forest Service on April 28, 1980 in High Prairie as a member of a four man initial attack crew. I graduated from NAIT Forest Technology in April 1983. Over the years I worked numerous seasonal positions in fire control as well as timber management in roles such as crew member, crew leader, man-up supervisor and timber cruiser. Much of my career was spent in the Slave Lake and Peace River Forests. I also worked for four years in the private sector. I finally accepted a permanent position as a wildfire ranger on April 5, 2004 in Peace River, the town where my mother was born in 1926.

Over the years I have had the pleasure to work with some truly wonderful people. I want all of you to know that I am very grateful for the time I was able to spend with you and the help I received from so many of you. The one thing we can take with us in retirement are the memories of all the good times and people that we got to work and spend time with. Going on export to wildfires was almost like going to a family reunion. The thing I will miss the most is working with old friends on overhead teams, and the crews

on the fireline. Anyway, change is a part of life and I feel I must move on to the next chapter of mine. I will be moving back home to the Miramichi region of New Brunswick. I want everyone who I have worked with over the years to know that I enjoyed spending time with them, and I will miss them. If any of you ever venture out to the Maritimes, you will have a place to stay. My last day in the office will be October 1, 2021. My official retirement date is December 23, 2021.



## JEFF HENRICKS

*Submitted by Jeff Henricks*

As a kid growing up in Toronto, I had always wanted to be a forest ranger working in the mountains after watching many Walt Disney outdoor adventures. I started my forestry career in Sudbury as a Junior Forest Ranger in 1979. I graduated in forestry from Sir Sandford Fleming in May, 1981 and worked in central Ontario. In the spring of 1985, I obtained a forestry job in Manitoba. Axel Winter, with the Alberta government at the time, stopped by where I was working, we chatted, and he offered me some seasonal work in Alberta. From there the journey to Alberta started, January 2, 1986, 8<sup>th</sup> floor, timber management branch. So, blame Axel! As I recall, the first person I met when I started was Charlene Guerin who was our clerk at the time.

I relocated that spring to Lac La Biche and worked continuously in various areas of the province until

I retired. I stayed in Lac La Biche from 1986-1987, where I worked on a timber management (TM) crew as a forestry aid III. Others I worked with were Wally Born, Doug Smith, Deanna McCullough, Jules LeBeouf, Kris and Chris McGuinty, and Quentin Spila. My next opportunity took me to Slave Lake from 1987-1988, where I worked as a forestry aid IV on a timber management crew. Later, I transitioned into a role as a wage forest officer after moving to work in Nojack (Cold Creek Ranger Station, Whitecourt Forest) from 1988-1989, where I worked with Dave Finn. I spent the next few years (1989-1994) working in Fox Creek as a permanent forest officer II, with Bruce Mayer and others in the Whitecourt Forest, including Darren Tapp, Ken Snyder, and Kevin Hakes. I moved north to Fort Vermilion in 1994 to work as a forest officer III and forest prevention technologist until 1999. Others in the High Level and Peace River areas I worked with included Tracey Stewart and Tim Klein. I began to migrate south and made Grande Prairie home in 1999. There I worked as a fire prevention technologist until 2006 when I became our prevention officer. I retained this position until 2012, when I moved to Edmonton to move into the role of senior investigator and wildfire prevention officer. It was here that I stayed until my decision to retire in 2021.

Over the course of my career, I have worked with many amazing people along the way and was involved with countless projects and opportunities. So many places, so many people that provided me an opportunity or provided guidance. Larry Huberdeau, Brydon Ward, Dennis Driscoll, Howard Gray, Gordon Bisgrove, all inspired me... I always enjoyed ranger meetings to hear their views or vision. Many years later, I shared an office with Jim Maitland in Grande Prairie who provided me



great mentorship... the delete button became empowering!

The Huestis forestry bonspiel was an incredible opportunity to see the people in the organization from top down. I had just started work when I was introduced to Earling Winqest who ran this classic event. He found me a team to skip. At the 1986 bonspiel in St. Albert, an elderly gentleman came up to me...none other than Eric Huestis, asking a few questions and providing me some curling tips from the back boards. I remember asking someone "who is that guy?" To the young people, never miss an opportunity like that, at the time I had no idea of his legacy in the organization.

A few specific memories include: the 1986-1987 Lac La Biche TM crew, Doug Smith and Co.; a bush camp and moving the outhouse in the middle of winter out of "necessity"; a fire camp with meat pits and no outhouse; wash water bucketed in and dropped into a "water crib", (please, no slough water); drinking water in battered old milk cans; a shower?... sure, when you got out of the bush in a week or two. We have moved forward, but the memories are never forgotten.

Wildfire management was nothing I ever saw myself doing 40+ years back, let alone investigating wildfires. More than half my career has been spent conducting wildfire investigations, what an opportunity. This field has allowed me to work with many individuals and organizations from outside Alberta and Canada. I had the fortune, or misfortune to be involved with two major wildfire incidents in Alberta, where I made a promise to myself to provide closure to the people of those two communities as to the events that led to the wildfire cause. I apologize as I leave unable to fulfill that promise.

My career was enriched when I asked to assist with a project to learn more about the people whose names are engraved at wildland firefighter and Peace Officer memorials at Hinton, Edmonton, and Ottawa. No words really can do justice to that opportunity. During my career, we endured far too many hardships with the loss of life and injury to staff. Please ensure those lost are not forgotten. More recently, I had the opportunity to assist the Government of Guam's Forestry Department with wildfire investigation training and support to the development of their investigation program. I never thought the jungle could burn so easily!

Retirement for me will be family time, wildfire investigation consulting, building a cottage back in Ontario, curling and coaching in the winter. For those starting your journey, embrace the opportunity, leave your mark, and enrich this organization while you are here. This has been a journey worth taking!



### CLARK SHIPKA

*Submitted by Clark Thomas Shipka*

I attribute my passion for forestry to my grandparents, parents, brother, and sister. My father was born and raised in the coal town of Luscar, Alberta. Subsequently, even after Luscar shut down coal mining operations in 1955, my grandparents, parents and siblings

would visit the Coal Branch, Hinton and Jasper regions year-round. Activities included hiking, scrambling, backpacking, camping, fishing, Nordic skiing and huckleberry picking. Every autumn we would consume our time with the hunting of mule deer, moose, bighorn sheep and elk. Two months after high school graduation in 1976, I enrolled in the forestry program at UofA. My brother Wade commenced UofA forestry in 1978. Wade was a silviculture forester working for Blue Ridge Lumber owned by Alberta Energy Company, until his passing in 1991. In 1979, I was hired for a summer position by Jack Wright, chief forester for St. Regis Alberta Ltd. The duties included tree planting, juvenile spacing of overstocked lodgepole pine stands and recreational trail maintenance. Tree planters were entirely company unionized employees and were housed in a trailer camp, now the helipad of Highland Helicopters in Hinton. One pine stand that I spaced in 1979, was harvested in 2018 in preparation for a gas plant. The timber yielded 143 m<sup>3</sup> per hectare, with the dominant trees 30cm diameter and 20 metres in height. During my career in Hinton, the company had five different names: St. Regis, Champion International, International Paper, Weldwood and finally West Fraser.

I was hired again by Jack Wright after graduating in May 1980. My duties from this period until autumn 1981 were operating a skidder for tree planting seedling supply, juvenile spacing using a brush saw and general forestry labourer. These positions were classified under the unionized International Woodworkers of America. In 1981, I was promoted to silviculture survey coordinator, a full-time position responsible for all the regeneration and post-harvest surveys on the St. Regis FMA. I had

it made! I was converted into a sponge, absorbing every ecological concept that fell onto my path. I had numerous valuable mentors, such as Bill Mattes, Neil Holder, Brian Kirstein, Morris Archibald, Bob Udell, Brian Allan, Jack Wright, and Dave Presslee. Throughout the 1980s, the forestry department was a bonded social group. We all had interests in the outdoors. Together we hunted, fished, hiked, and skied. We went on canoe trips to Myrtle Lake, ski toured in the Bald Hills, Little Shovel Pass and Whistler Creek. I was involved with the grooming of the Spruce Management and Pine Management ski trails under the direction of Bob Udell. This evolved into a passion for Nordic skiing.

The art and science of silviculture was evolving in the 1980s. I was involved with ecological based silviculture systems using nutrient regime and moisture class to successfully meet our obligations. We were focusing on harvesting and processing trees at the stump and using natural regeneration strategies on lodgepole pine sites. Success was high. I was involved with site preparation using the Crossley plow, shark finned barrels, anchor chains, C+H plow, Simpson plow and Bracke scarifier. Later, I researched and operationally used a Bracke moulder, Donaren moulder, disc trencher then excavator mounding. We did not have the use of herbicides for control of vegetative competition, therefore there was an urgency to initiate aggressive mounding treatments after harvest and follow up with large vigorous seedlings. In 1988, we initiated our transition to contract tree planting by entering into a relationship with Dirk Brinkman. Others followed the next season and company planting crews were now in the past. At the same time, we were transitioning from company harvest crews to contracting.

While working in silviculture from 1980 to 2006, I had the opportunity to move into other seasonal experiences. I worked in land-use, permanent growth sample plot inventory, road layout, winters of cut block layout, haul supervision, company crew harvest supervision. I was night shift harvest supervisor, where I was involved with the right-of-way harvesting for the current Willow Creek Road and Polecat Roads. I was involved with summer student recruitment from 1991 until 2017. These students are now experiencing rewarding careers in natural resource disciplines. I enjoyed annually conducting the UofA Forestry 101 operational field tour and the NAIT biological sciences fall tour from the Weald Group campsite. Weldwood, sponsored me to enroll in the inaugural first class of the Alberta Advanced Forest Management Institute. This program consisted of six, two-week modules that ran from 1993 to 1998. One of my career highlights.

In 2006, I had the opportunity to transition into operations supervision. Here, I stayed until my retirement in June 2021. I worked with many successful contractors who were highly skilled innovators and entrepreneurs. I gained enormous respect for these individuals and their families. I have recently retired; however I am living with my spouse in the subalpine forest in British Columbia and we go Nordic skiing every day from our doorstep. I am still learning from the forest.

*Addendum by Janine Schroeder:*

Clark Shipka worked his last day for West Fraser in the summer of 2021. His parting gift to all of us was a request that instead of a stuffy retirement party he wanted to hike Folding Mountain with the woods group. What a great gift to all of us

and one we will remember forever. The hike was an excellent way to commemorate a long and interesting career. Clark was an invaluable member of our operations and woodlands team. He was always the first to take out new employees and show them around the FMA. His tours are well known for being the best, as he knows the history behind every road, bridge, and block. This paired with his exceptional ability to remember dates makes for an interesting day. A drive with him would conjure memories like "I remember when we scarified that block in 1992 and the machine got stuck" or "that is where the Christmas fire started." There was a very little that could faze Clark. Clark had the resilience and ability to work through the challenge be it a wildfire, a change in workload, a new contractor, or a rolled log truck. Clark's endless energy and passion for Forest Management will be missed.



**LYNN BERGERON**

*Submitted by Janine Schroeder*

For Lynn, forestry was a career that she stumbled into but fell in love with. Lynn had always had a love of the environment which began early in her life after some exposure to the outdoors in the cadet program. Her path was not linear which is why her career is so interesting. She graduated



from the University of Winnipeg with a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1984. After her graduation she spent a year backpacking in Europe with the highlights of the tour being Morocco and Turkey. The money must have run out at some time and when she landed back in Canada, she decided to return to the University of Winnipeg to pursue an Honors degree. She wrote a thesis on *"The Distribution and Habitat of Three Annual Smartweeds Throughout the Prairie Provinces"* which was published in the Canadian Field Naturalist publication. After her graduation in 1986, Lynn took on various roles in different companies over the next decade. There was an interesting range of positions from mapping the ecology of the Great Sandhills in Scepter, Saskatchewan, staking claims in the Omneca Valley in B.C., and surveying for a mine exploration company in the Yukon. Listening to this part of the story, you realize there must have been a certain level of grit that was required of employees back then that you no longer see. Activities at this time included hover-exiting helicopters to living in a trapper cabin in -30C (after leaving the fuel on the helicopter accidentally). Other images to consider are mice crawling on you at night in said cabin. Most of Lynn's work in this decade consisted of ecological mapping (a passion of hers), soil sampling, surveying, and timber cruising.

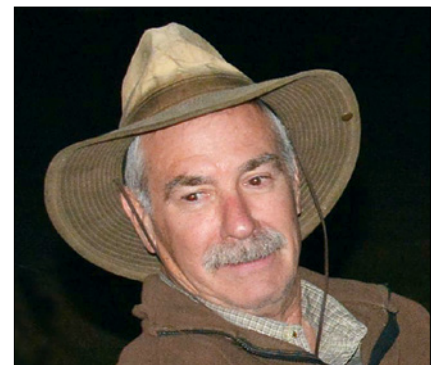
In 1996, Lynn was offered a job as an area silviculturist for Hinton Wood Products by Dave Presslee. After some consideration, she accepted the position with Weldwood and moved from Prince George, B.C. to Hinton, Alberta. Her two working areas were the Athabasca and McLeod Working Circles. She enjoyed the position but was open to a shift when a company crew logging supervisor role

opened in 2004. The company crew supervisor was a unique position which involved managing the union logging crew. Lynn was the first full time woman in this position, but it did not take her long to establish that she was proficient at managing the crew, the equipment and applying the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The crew respected her, and she made a point to be fair to all employees. This role was one that Lynn enjoyed the most. After the company crew position, Lynn shifted gears again and accepted a land-use manager position in 2006. A keen accountant took her aside in the first couple of weeks to walk her through the financial mess the land-use department was in. She took this information in stride and set about re-working the land-use agreements the company had with other users of the land base. She created a database to map oil and gas leases so that road use charges could be calculated and then collected. This was in the energy glory days when salvage operations would generate more fibre annually than a large logging company might produce. There was a glut of salvage on the landbase which Lynn took pride in cleaning up. This role transitioned, in 2012, into a role famous for its lack of thanks, road maintenance.

As the road maintenance supervisor, Lynn oversaw 3,000 kilometres of forest resource roads including 160 bridges and thousands of culverts. This role, as anyone knows, was thankless. It was quickly discovered that no one called the office to let anyone know that the roads were in good shape. The dust was too much, the washboard too deep, the snow unplowed, the ice too icy, and on and on. For those who worked close to Lynn's cubicle there was nothing funnier than when the nonsensical complaint made it to her office

phone. For a brief moment, you could hear Lynn chewing on her tongue while the complainant requested dust control in the middle of winter. I say "moment" as that is how long it was. Lynn would swiftly dole out the justice that anyone should for someone requesting dust control in the winter. Aside from dealing with complaints there was a never ending list of capital projects, culverts to replace, contracts to negotiate and crews to supervise. Lynn was able to do all of this as she had strengths in both the office and field side.

Lynn worked her last day at Hinton Wood Products in the summer of 2021. She is dearly missed by all the woodlands staff at West Fraser. Her well deserved retirement has been filled with the small pleasures that retirement should: making coffee in the morning, walking her dog, tending to the chickens, and trips home to see family. She is hoping to do a Europe backpacking trip with her nephew when COVID-19 is quieter. Lynn can still be seen frequenting Camp-29, the Big Horn trail, Canyon Creek, and a few other secret spots on the FMA that she'll never tell.



## DAVE WALLACE

*Submitted by Dave Wallace*

I grew up in southern Alberta on a small ranch, west of Nanton, worked seismic in the winter months and construction, drove truck, finished concrete and most trades during the

summer months. I still had a desire to go into forestry and was eventually accepted at the NAIT Forest Technology program (1979). My father grew up with Dick Mackey, who worked for the Alberta Forest Service and gave me the recommendation I needed to go to NAIT. The second year of the program was in Hinton at the Forest Technology School. Following graduation, I started work at the St. Regis pulp mill in the forestry department, on the initial attack crew, as lead hand. The forest protection section included fire protection, scarification, and reclamation. I was fortunate that an employee in the forestry division moved on and I was offered full time employment.

The job entailed moving from summer-oriented positions (tree planting/silviculture) to winter cruising (permanent growth sample plots). That's the beauty of working in forestry, so many avenues to work in. The early 1980s saw a downturn in the economy, both my wife and I were laid off and I worked other jobs to make ends meet. I was able to get back on the fire crew in the summers and then got a full-time job on the scaling crew as a tally man. This involved scaling tree length piece work for the company's union harvesting crews. In 1986, the pulp mill announced an expansion which meant more annual allowable cut, access requirements, planning and more stump-to-dump harvest contractors. I was hired as the forest protection supervisor (included land-use, silviculture, site preparation). With the expansion came modern logging techniques, which included the delimber, and as a result we immediately started piling and burning in the winter months. Hylo MacDonald (Edson Alberta Forest Service) worked with us to develop a program to track and monitor the

hazard reduction program. We were required to infrared scan the burn areas every spring, so Warren Kehr and I went to Birmingham, Ontario to get level 1, infrared certification on the new Agema IR cameras.

By 1991, reorganization within the forestry and woodlands departments saw three separate area-based management areas (districts 1, 2 & 3) which included planners, a silviculturist, harvest supervisors and a manager. At this time, I was assigned compartments 9 and 17 in the McLeod Working Circle to plan and develop. This meant layout, initial and final approvals, road construction and gravelling, and harvest supervision, all within my area of interest. It was a busy time. Up to that time we had always cut road right-of-way in the winter months, hauled the wood out and started building road the next summer. We listened to our road construction contractors and continued building through the winter months, this method allowed us to keep up with expansion requirements. Here, the harvesting contractor needed to work closely with road construction to reduce frost from being pounded into the ground.

In early 2000, I was given a task from Bob Udell to initiate development of the *Historical Resource Act* requirements on our landbase. We eventually contracted the services of Lifeways of Canada Ltd., based out of Calgary, we were the first major forest company in Alberta to do so. Lifeways still apply for the annual permit, complete field work and reporting for Hinton Forest products. Given my time in forest protection and wildfire experience, I was the company representative for the initial FireSmart program development and went on with department guidance to FireSmart the landscape from the

Jasper Park Gates to Aspen Heights, just west of Hinton, Carldale and Robb Highlands. A lot of planning and public meetings were held to harvest in what people consider their "backyard". We had a few rather large wind-driven wildfire events on the FMA. I recall standing with John Graham, Chief Ranger from Robb in the early morning hours watching 300-foot-high flames crest the hills near the Gregg River mine. Rob Stauffer tracked me down at my wife's Christmas party at the Jasper Park Lodge for another wildfire west of Hinton, unfortunately it was 4:00 AM in the morning. Again I had to leave my wife on her own. Not happy....

An influx of mountain pine beetle in the mid-2010s saw a requirement for baiting throughout the FMA and a requirement for baiting stations around the entire wood yard (three Lindgren traps every 50 metres). I built and managed the tri-bait Lindgren funnel traps for two seasons until it expanded to over ninety bait stations and management of such was contracted out. The retirement of fellow employees left a void of experienced road construction personnel, and I was tasked with upgrading the Sundance Road south of Edson, when the company purchased the Sundance mill and associated FMA. New alignment, bridge replacements and building a road to a 10-metre top running surface was a rather large undertaking and was a challenge given soil conditions in the area. Gravel sources had to be developed and it was accomplished. Only a third of the total distance has been completed to date, with several short sections beyond upgraded to meet safety and road integrity. The Brown Creek Road and, lastly, the Watson Creek Road systems were the last road construction projects I worked on.



*Addendum by Janine Schroeder*

Dave Wallace retired from Hinton Wood Products in December 2019 and has been greatly missed around the office and out in the field. Dave had a long and interesting career on the Hinton FMA. He was our resident expert on a list of things including FireSmart, pile burning, scanning, gravelling and road construction to name a few. Dave always ran a well-organized program to make sure our fire equipment was ready and get us out for the annual fitness test to make sure we were in good shape. Dave was quick witted and had a way with equipment that made it evident that he grew up on a ranch. Dave did not shy away from hard work. I remember watching him from our office window taking care of a flood in the parking lot. Just a lone man and a shovel solving a problem. This was Dave's nature. See a problem, fix it, and move on. We are all hoping the list of problems to fix is slightly smaller in retirement. All the best Dave.

**KEVIN HAKES***Submitted by Kevin Hakes*

Well, 43 fire seasons, over 37 combined years with government of Alberta, with 31 years as a forest officer. I started in the summer of 1980 in the Grande Prairie Forest at the Spirit River Ranger Station on the initial attack crew. I worked seasonal and during the summer of 1989, I was

asked to take on the sector boss role in Grovedale District. At that time, I decided to make forestry my career. I applied to NAIT in June and was accepted in July to attend Forest Technology in the fall 1989. In the spring of 1991 after graduating, I was given my first full time forest officer job in Whitecourt. Over the next 10 years I saw lots of change in the department, going from a generalist and doing everything, to specialist in one field. I moved through the different fields, from timber management, land-use and finally into wildfire. In 2016, I moved to the Hinton Training Centre and took on a wildfire training specialist role, finally retiring in the summer of 2022.

**DORIS BRAID***Submitted by Doris Braid*

I was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, growing up in the neighbourhoods of Ottewell and Highlands. After graduating High School in 1976, my first job with the Government of Alberta was working administratively, for the Department of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife in the Assistant Deputy Ministers office (ADM). I also worked in the Public Trustee's Office (Attorney General) for a few years, before moving to the Department of Energy and Natural Resources in 1983, where I started my journey with the Alberta Forest

Service. The first of many wonderful people I worked for was Don Fregren, Director Timber Management Branch. I fondly remember how happy I was working in a job that was fun and making it feel like family. In 1985, my husband started a job at Syncrude in Fort McMurray and I was very fortunate to move into the forestry office, working for Bill Fairless and Gordon Armitage. The field office experience was invaluable as I was able to see firsthand what the wildfire seasons were all about. I was lucky enough to go on many helicopter and field trips; but the highlight was climbing Cambrian Tower. I was determined to get to the top but I'm not sure how I made it down. In 1988, I became a mother of twin boys, and we moved back to Edmonton. I am proud to say that Geoffrey is now a Forester and Andrew is a Biologist (both with the GoA). In 1989, after 18 months at home, I returned to work in timber management for Con Dermott and Craig Quintilio. In 1992, I joined the ADMs office to support Cliff Henderson. This resulted in 16 fun-filled years until his retirement in 2008. A couple of brief stints followed with Don Harrison and Doug Sklar in their acting ADM roles, then in 2010 Bruce Mayer became the ADM. I've had the privilege of working for Bruce for almost 12 enjoyable years. For me, Bruce has been the stoic helmsman in the storm of change in the GoA, the department and in the division.

After nearly 42 years with the GoA, I feel incredibly fortunate to have worked for so many of the pivotal forestry leaders, and I'm thankful for the many rewarding experiences and great people (government and industry) that have supported me, touched my life, and made a difference. My retirement plans are somewhat curtailed as a result of COVID-19, but they include the usual spending quality time with family and my two grandchildren, reading

more books, gardening, a few house upgrades and travel when safe to do so. I am forever thankful to have been a member of the forestry family!



### BRUCE MAYER

Bruce started his career with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) on May 7, 1979 working seasonally on trail, initial attack, and fuel modification crews and as a forest guardian in the Ghost and Canmore (Boundary) Ranger Districts, Bow Crow Forest. He graduated from the NAIT Forest Technology program in 1983, continuing to work seasonally until his first permanent forest officer posting in Fox Creek, Whitecourt Forest. His next moves were to Calling Lake, Lac La Biche Forest, and Athabasca when the Calling Lake office closed in 1995. Bruce was promoted from senior ranger to manager of the Athabasca District, later Forest Area in 1998, then moving to Whitecourt as the wildfire manager in December 2000. After a short stay, Bruce moved to Edmonton in April 2002, as the director, wildfire policy and business planning. After a secondment as the department's Aboriginal consultation director, Bruce returned to wildfire in August 2005 as the assistant director, then acting director, wildfire management branch. Bruce spent the next two years as director, forestry business services, and then in 2009 became the executive director, wildfire management branch. In September

2010, Bruce moved to his last role as the assistant deputy minister of Forestry Division. This was an 11 year stint, in the company of ten deputy ministers, eight ministers, and six premiers. Over that time Bruce's team led or supported the Slave Lake wildfires in May 2011; Zama wildfires in 2012; the southern Alberta floods in June 2013; the Gainford train derailment on October 19, 2013; the Obed tailings dam failure on October 31, 2013; the 2015 wildfire season; the Fort McMurray wildfire in May 2016; the Kenow wildfire in August 2017; and northwest Alberta wildfires in 2019 (High Level, Manning, and Slave Lake). He retired on January 31, 2022. Bruce served as chair of FRI Research and the Canada Wildfire NSERC Strategic Alliance; and director of Canada Wildfire, the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, FPInnovations and the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta. He is currently the secretary treasurer of the Forest History Association of Alberta.



### NICK NIMCHUK

*Submitted by Nick Nimchuk*

I was born and raised in Edmonton, growing up only three blocks away from the Forestry Depot. I was a member of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets for seven years achieving the rank of Warrant Officer First Class and graduated from the cadet pilot training program in 1973. With that introduction and training, I was an

active pilot for 30 years obtaining commercial pilot and instrument ratings. My interest in meteorology developed from flying training. Following graduation from St. Joseph High School in 1973 I enrolled in the University of Alberta meteorology program. I was recruited to the Alberta Forest Service as a seasonal employee in 1979 by classmate Steve Rothfels, under weather section head Ed Stashko. Ed was preceded by Jock Mclean and Blaine Coulcher. Wildfire had many interesting aspects, fire behaviour, aircraft, and public safety. I was successful in obtaining a permanent position as a fire weather meteorologist in 1980. Ben Janz became section head in 1980.

Alberta had watershed fire seasons from 1980 to 1982, particularly 1981, with some of the largest wildfires and the highest numbers in modern history. The fire weather analysis of the 1981 season resulted in my publication of the paper *"Wildfire Behaviour Associated with Upper Ridge Breakdown"*. It is now recognized as an important contribution to the literature of critical fire weather patterns. Post 1982 fire season saw the development of the pre-suppression system in Alberta, with province wide application of the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System. Weather staff conducted extensive danger rating system training across the province. Wildfire management planning in Alberta transitioned from a reactionary to proactive process. We developed useful "rules of thumb" with respect to the danger rating system, such as the temperature and relative humidity crossover, and its relation to the Fine Fuel Moisture Code and Initial Spread Index.

Alberta's first five remote automatic weather stations (RAWS) were deployed from 1982 to 1984. Alberta



was the first Canadian wildfire management agency to use the GOES satellite system for RAWs weather data transmission. This technology allowed near real time information about the wildfire environment, supporting firefighting operations. The lightning detection network was developed from 1981 to 1983 with Alberta being the first agency to use computerized map displays for lightning locations. The development of the Fire Behaviour Prediction System significantly advanced fire science with fire weather forecasting playing a key role in its application. Fire weather forecasting in the field during the 1980s and early 1990s relied on fax transmission of weather data that required five minutes to transmit a page of information. This information was then hand plotted on weather maps. Workdays in the field would start at 0530 to retrieve, plot and analyze weather maps to brief field staff by 10 AM. Field briefings from the Provincial Forest Fire Centre (PFFC) consisted of an audio only conference call. The RAWs system expansion in the 1990s started filling in gaps from the manual observation network. Use of cellular and radio data transmission brought real time access to fire weather conditions at PFFC. The lightning detection network grew and was upgraded through private public partnerships with the major power utilities into the early 1990s. I became the fire weather section head in 1990.

In the mid 1990s, we developed fire weather briefing technology to visually bring the briefing in its entirety to field headquarters across the province. The recognition of the critical fire weather patterns is a key role of the weather section, as wildfire weather history provides valuable insight into the wildfire

environment conditions that lead to extreme wildfire behaviour. This is something I strove to be part of our meteorologist's toolbox. The 2001 fire season saw my first major wildland-urban interface event at Chisholm, an almost identical event to the 1968 Vega (Slave Lake) wildfire. Pattern recognition allowed the section to provide a warning of the extreme wildfire conditions two days prior to the major wildfire run. A most rewarding aspect of our efforts came from direct feedback of wildfire personnel who benefited from our forecasts and warnings over the seasons.

Wildland-urban interface wildfires became the dominant theme of the new millennium in Alberta. The Flat Top (Slave Lake, 2011) and the Horse River (Fort McMurray, 2016) wildfire events made indelible marks on all wildfire staff in Alberta. The overarching take-away from these wildfires was that the public was kept safe because of the service and sacrifice of firefighters. In 2017, a decision was made to automate all wildfire weather observations with a major expansion of the RAWs network to over 120 sites across the province. Cellular technology allows smart devices to access real time wildfire weather conditions from most of the new RAWs sites, a huge improvement. The amount of information and tools accessible to wildfire management staff has drastically increased over the past two decades. It is critical for wildfire staff in the field to maintain awareness of the local wildfire environment through familiarity with the basics of the wildfire triangle - fuel, weather, and topography.



### KEITH MURRAY

*Submitted by Keith Murray*

Prior to graduating from the University of New Brunswick in the forest engineering program, I was searching for someone to share an adventure with and found that person in Andrea. Upon graduation we set off for British Columbia, first to be married and then to start a career. I was fortunate enough to pick up summer work with Weyerhaeuser in Merritt, B.C., and that translated into full-time work in Weyerhaeuser's Kamloops operation. Mountain pine beetle was emerging as an issue in Tweedsmuir Park, and the forest industry was receiving major criticism for its land management and timber utilization practices. It was exciting times that saw an increase in public engagement and environmental responsibility. After spending five years in Kamloops, we decided to cross the country again to work for Irving Woodlands in Sussex, New Brunswick. After two years of building roads and supervising harvest and haul operations for Irving, the call of the west led us to Whitecourt, Alberta, and work with Millar Western in 1987. Along with work life, we also spent a significant amount of time in Jasper hiking and skiing and after the first year we were hooked and decided Alberta was home.

It was exciting times in Alberta as the government was looking for

forest industry investment and Millar Western was just completing construction of their BCTMP mill. The industry was growing rapidly, annual allowable cuts were increasing and there were new logging and silviculture contractors to be hired and trained, and a large wood supply to access and develop. There were lots of folks moving to Alberta to work in the industry and many great friendships were developed in these years. My love of the mountains and the outdoors led me to get involved as a chaperone for the outdoor education program at Hilltop High School, which was taught by one of the teachers, Gord Chouinard. We led over 50 trips with students into the backcountry in Mount Robson and Jasper Parks. There was a great deal of satisfaction working with the students and instilling knowledge and ethics of spending time in a wilderness setting. Environmental responsibility was again becoming a forest industry issue and the Alberta industry decided to create an auditing process to demonstrate environmental responsibility to the government and public of Alberta. Always up for a challenge I was Millar Western's representative on the Forestcare committee, and over the course of two years we built a rigorous audit program that examined practices in both woodlands and manufacturing facilities. I was appointed as the environmental manager for Millar Western's solid wood divisions and tasked with leading the group through the auditing and certification process. This role led to increased involvement with the manufacturing facilities and further broadened my experience.

After 17 years with Millar Western the next stop on the trail was with the Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA). The AFPA was transitioning

from an issue driven organization to a high level, lobbying group that began to engage with politicians, and senior level government staff. These were very rewarding times as we were able to establish great relationships with all levels of government and provide meaningful input into management of issues such as water, air, wildlife, and the importance of a sustainable fibre supply. One of the satisfying aspects of the job was creating honest and frank relationships with government, industry, and public stakeholders in promoting the benefits of having a healthy forest industry on the landscape. Some of the most satisfying groups that I participated in were the Clean Air Strategic Alliance, the Alberta Water Council, and the various caribou committees. I have always possessed a love of wildlife and wild places and having the opportunity to participate in some of the research work carried out by fRI Research was especially rewarding. The highlight of my career was being able to spend time with Gordon Stenhouse of fRI Research learning about grizzly bears and participating in the capture and collaring program. We had many great conversations about grizzly bear management, and I will be forever thankful to fRI Research and Gord for allowing me to participate. I can honestly say that through the years I have met and talked with many dedicated people from both industry and government and created long-lasting friendships. I would like to thank all the folks in government that I was able to interact with on a regular basis and two folks who especially stand out are Bruce Mayer and Bev Yee. Thank you for all the honest conversations and your assistance in helping to move the forest industry forward.

What happens when you retire you might ask. First on the agenda was

helping my neighbor harvest his crop, getting the opportunity to drive big John Deere equipment and grain trucks. I have now gone through the full cycle of harvest and planting and plan to continue helping my neighbor. Most important is I get to spend quality time with my wife, Andrea and our two Border Collies. I now have lots of time to hike the mountains, cross country ski in winter and spend time in kayaks, canoes and bicycles in summer and reconnect with nature. I'm always looking for partners to explore the backcountry. Take care all and don't let your job steal important time from your family and friends.



## DEANNA MCCULLOUGH

*Submitted by Deanna McCullough*

In 1981, I started the Bachelor of Science program in Forestry at the University of Alberta, and subsequently received my degree in 1986. In 1983, I got my first seasonal job with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS). I was hired as a forestry aide II (FAII) on the timber management (TM) crew in Peace River. I could not have been happier or more excited. I loved the work, being on a crew, living in tent camps, getting flown to and from work locations, and driving for miles on Honda 110 trikes to various projects. It was then that I was certain that I had chosen the right career. My next wage positions with the AFS were in Slave Lake and



Lac La Biche forests working on forest management projects. One of the highlights was supporting the provincial tree improvement program by identifying superior white spruce trees, shooting the tops off these trees, and collecting scions (the ends of the branches) for the provincial Pine Ridge Forest Nursery (PRFN) to graft onto root stock. I also was involved in various stand tending projects and other silviculture work. My next move was to Smoky Lake to work at PRFN where I was involved in the establishment of the contract seedling program. Prior to the contract seedling program, PRFN supplied almost all the seedlings forest industry required for reforestation harvested areas. The contracted seedlings were grown at nurseries in Alberta and British Columbia.

In 1989, I moved back to Edmonton and remained there for the rest of my career. My first position was silviculture forester with the former Reforestation and Reclamation Branch. Some of the key projects included development/administration of the herbicide program, Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP), and the Public Lands Development Program. Another highlight was working with Whitecourt staff, Blue Ridge Lumber and Forestry Canada to implement a sheep grazing trial on reforested areas. In 1997, I moved into the position of executive assistant for the Assistant Deputy Minister and gained knowledge of the complex issues faced by the division/department, and issue management. After over five years in that position, I moved back to the branch and held management positions involving wildfire policy, legislation, internal and external program reviews, business planning, capital planning initiatives (e.g., the CL-215 conversion and the upgrades of airtanker bases), science,

information, and the Junior Forest Ranger program. In 2009, following department/division reorganization, I transferred out of the division to manage a branch that provided public outreach and web services for the department. A highlight was the development of the Bow Habitat Station in Calgary into a successful public outreach facility.

In 2011, following the wildfires that burned into Slave Lake and surrounding areas, I returned to Wildfire Management Branch to manage the review of the Flat Top Complex. Coming back to Forestry, and working with management, staff, the review committee, and other experts to complete the Flat Top Complex review and implement the recommendations was the high point of countless peaks in my career. During the last years of my career, my position continued to evolve, with financial management and personnel administration becoming increasingly complex. I retired from my career on March 11, 2022. I am grateful for the countless opportunities, experiences, life lessons, and, most importantly, for the outstanding individuals who mentored, inspired, and supported me during my career.



### JOERG GOETSCH

*Submitted by Joerg Goetsch*

I was born in Germany, and at age 11 immigrated to South Africa. Due

to the political unrest caused by apartheid policies, we returned to Germany and from there immigrated to Alberta in 1980. I had just turned 15 and thought for sure that we landed in the wrong country, as I saw no forest anywhere near the Edmonton International Airport. A couple of weeks later we went on a weekend trip to Jasper, which completely relieved my fears, lol! My connection to forests started early in life. I was born in a place called Bad Berleburg, a small town established over 750 years ago in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. It is surrounded by forests and low mountain ranges, with many small towns that were settled as far back as the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC. Time spent with my grandparents mushroom picking and hiking introduced me to forests and associated recreational activities. When I lived in West Berlin, my Dad took me quite often for walks in the forest surrounding Berlin in a district area called Spandau. It stretched along the border separating east and west Germany (Spandau was part of territorial exchanges between the Allied occupying powers and the Soviet Union, which controlled the East German territory). This was really my first experience with no people around and a wonder and awe at the natural ecosystem surrounding me. Probably one of the most impactful moments I experienced was when I watched our local district forester from my bedroom window. He released his long haired pointer hunting dog, who chased down a jack rabbit and brought it back to him. I thought that was pretty cool and became interested in all things forest related.

I started as a forest officer in training and aerial observer in Fort Chipewyan in the summer of 1985. After graduating from Forest Technology School in 1986, I was able to return to Germany to study intensive forest

management in private forestry districts surrounding my birth town. Upon returning I got on as a compassman with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) in High Level for the winter of 1986. By springtime I'd had enough of hip deep snow and tried to get a different job, but only landed a tree planting gig at Babine Lake near Smithers, B.C. I did not last long and soon accepted a maintenance worker role with the City of Camrose, where I mostly did boulevard and park maintenance, along with pushing breeding pairs of swans to their nests to see if their young had hatched to get their wings clipped (I don't recommend this experience to anyone!). I later became a repair grinder guy for Stelco Steelpipe for a few months, before starting as a scaler for Buchanan Lumber in High Prairie, Alberta. After scaling all winter, I joined the woodlands group in the spring, designed annual operating plans and laid out roads and cutblocks over the summer months. In the fall and winter, I became the operations logging foreman. I resigned from Buchanan Lumber after a disagreement over me firing a couple of truck drivers that I had caught smoking marijuana. The very next day the local Chief Ranger called me up. He had heard I had resigned and asked quite cheerfully if I wanted to become a forest officer for the AFS. I accepted of course and became a forest officer in Manning from 1989 to 1992. During this time Daishowa Canada (DMI) built the Peace River Pulp Mill, and some of their start up blocks were harvested under my area of responsibility. In 1992, I accepted a woodlands supervisor role with DMI, which ultimately led to my 30-year career with them and Mercer International. I retired June 1, 2022 as the director of strategic initiatives for western Canada for Mercer International Inc.

Over my career I had many accomplishments, being married and having two great kids; helping several females advance in their careers in a male dominated work environment; implementing big process changes like portable chipping; selling over \$30 million in carbon credits; representing company interests in numerous provincial and national forest industry associations; being on the Board of Directors for Alberta Innovates; and President of Peace River Logging. As well, I became the first person in Alberta to become a Registered Professional Forester through the College of Alberta Professional Foresters' Syllabus Program; I was awarded an honorary Bachelor of Technology degree in Technology Management from NAIT; and I received the Forest Products Association of Canada's 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award. Retirement plans include hunting, fishing, side by side riding, travel, cabin, and reading.



### **TERRY ZITNAK**

*Submitted by Ken Yackimec*

Growing up in Guelph, Terry was fascinated by her professor father's efforts to transform their two-acre yard back into a southern Ontario temperate forest. By the time she was in her teens, she had been exposed to many different landscapes in many different places as the family were inveterate travellers, probably as an antidote to the days when they could not travel freely in postwar Slovakia.

Combine those experiences with an emerging independent spirit and the University of Toronto Forestry undergrad program seemed like a natural fit to her. That program was the state-of-the-art in Canadian forestry at the time and she was exposed to some of the legends of forestry in this country, such as Ken Armson. Upon graduation with honours in 1983 and with the independent spirit becoming stronger in her by now, she decided to try northern Ontario, which is a whole different world than southern Ontario and, more prosaically, where there were jobs. She worked seasonally in Timmins, Kirkland Lake and then achieved her first salaried posting as a district forester in Nipigon. From 1987 to 1994 she enjoyed the northern Ontario lifestyle and work challenges while living in Red Rock, and eventually met her forester husband there. In 1994, she pulled up stakes and moved to Alberta with her husband and young child when he was offered a very tempting position with Alberta Pacific.

In 1995, by this time a young mom with two children, one a squalling babe in arms and the older boy who had been diagnosed on the autistic spectrum, she was hired by Brydon Ward as the first female chief forester with the responsibility for forest management in the Northeast Boreal Region, an area which encompassed the old Athabasca, Lac La Biche, and Slave Lake Forests. Here she fearlessly butted heads with the likes of Cliff Henderson, Frank Crawford, Don Podlubny, Jim Cochrane, Bruce MacGregor, and Dale Huberdeau. When it came to Dale, after helping him "refine" his administrative skills, she soon became a close friend and was included on some of his famous patrols, including a hair-raising jet-boat ride across Lake Athabasca in a squall that even had Dale worried.



Somehow, she survived and thrived and got a reputation as one who could handle the tough stuff. She was soon tested when she had to deal with the Fort McMurray and Lac La Biche staff trauma and her own personal grief during Dale's illness and death. Later, she had to deal with sudden co-worker deaths a few more times, and it never got easier.

Somewhere around this turn-of-the-century period she became a single mom with a nanny, navigated the transition from the remnants of the old Alberta Forest Service through Environmental Protection, just plain Environment, and the new Sustainable Resource Development with a fair bit of grace and in her spare time attracted a hapless fellow forester as a suitor and soon to be new (or slightly used) husband in 2001. Once they moved to the lakeside acreage and she got involved in Scouts Canada, Big Brother Big Sisters as well other small town activities such as collecting stray cats, Terry really was committed to the Lac La Biche area long term, although she would still leave it at the drop of a hat to go travelling every chance she got. She enthusiastically showed her kids a good part of the world including China, Japan, Iceland, and most of Europe including a nostalgic trip back to the home village in Slovakia. She even included husband Ken when she felt he might come in handy to run a canal boat, lift heavy luggage or even to drive in the simpler places like Vienna at night. For her the most meaningful trip of all was a fundraised Boy Scouts trip to Belgium and France to tour WW1 and WW2 sites. At one of the many, many cemeteries we got to observe one of the Boy Scouts plant a flag on her great great-uncle's grave, a grave Terry had located. The family had not known of his location, so it was very moving, and especially so when we

sent the picture to the soldier's sister who was 95. Totally worth the trip! Terry also organized and went with great joy on road trips with some of her friends and co-workers to really culturally significant places like Las Vegas. This is why we are poor.

Back at work, during this time of rapid changes to the GoA, her career positions also transitioned from that of chief forester to operations coordinator, Public Lands and Forests manager, Northeast area manager, executive director for Lower Athabasca Region (then Environment and Sustainable Resource Development), and finally executive director for the Operations Service Branch in Environment and Parks with linkages back to Forestry. That is a lot of reorganizations to live through, but Terry never lost her sense of humour through it all, at least not for long. As anyone who worked with her (or lived with her for that matter) knows, Terry always had the courage to ask hard questions, to make hard decisions and make an impact on some pretty hard heads. However, she was also empathetic and supportive when times were hard, helping staff through emergency situations whether they be personal, or work related. During the 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire, as she lay in bed at home with a broken ankle, she still managed to coordinate a response to making sure the water plant was up and running as soon as practical, while hosting a co-worker who was temporarily homeless, and worrying about her absent husband who was flying over "the Beast" day after day with the airtankers.

As a woman in a largely male profession, she has mentored co-workers of both sexes over the years and has provided her viewpoint and given freely of advice and encouragement they often needed

to go forward in their own lives. She also just gave them a shoulder to cry on when needed. After building her newest organization for the last two years, she finally decided she was done in early March 2022. Oddly enough, now that she has finally put that load down, she is eager to pick up the old backpack and head out again on a long walk in Europe. Just before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019, Terry and Ken walked 800 kilometres of the Camino Santiago in Spain, and because it was so easy (Hah!), this summer, if a thousand plans and arrangements stay in place, they will walk and bike another old medieval trail called the Via Francigena, that runs about 2,000 kilometres from London to Rome. Ken is once again going along to pull the luggage cart and sample the local wares. Should be fun! Or not. We'll keep you posted!



### CRYSTAL MILLER

*Submitted by Crystal Miller*

I started working at the Environmental Training Centre (Centre) a few years after graduating from Grant McEwan College, the secretarial word processing program. I started working in the bookstore in 1995 a couple days a week. At the time, the bookstore sold supplies, managed NAIT Forestry Students' room and board rental along with maintaining its finances. A change of staffing allowed me to work an additional day in the receptionist

office and a couple more days in the program and events section. In 1997, the department was looking to privatize the Centre's residence and kitchen resulting in the program and event's lead to take a package and depart the Centre. When this occurred, I took over the position to ensure clients had a seamless transition. The privatization was cancelled, and this was when the Wildfire Management Branch took over the management of the Centre. Soon after, the Environmental Training Centre name changed to the current name Hinton Training Centre.

I started working full-time in what is now known as client services (CS). This was the beginning of a most rewarding career. Working directly with the Centre's director, GoA partners, non-GoA clients, NAIT, UofA and many others to utilize the Centre for meetings, conferences, and of course, our own wildfire training courses. There were many projects that I was part of over the years – Wildland Fire Firefighter Memorials, Hinton Training Centre's 40<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, along with the Alberta Winter Games to name a few. Over the years, my position advanced and changed to include overseeing the Centre's facilities and as liaison between the Centre and Alberta Infrastructure's maintenance. This included being part of the renovations of Mountain View Residence interior in 2000 and the exterior in 2021. My duties also included ordering and arranging installation of furnishings and classroom training implements. I became a contract manager for Cache Percotte camp, Client Service/ Security, and Bedbug Pest Control.

As the Client Service and Facility team supervisor learning "on the job" and taking the supervisor program continued in my growth as a supervisor. Procedures and

guidelines were prepared for tasks the team worked on. I encouraged the team to make decisions; they grew in confidence and would make suggestions to best complete the task and the procedures would be updated on a regular basis. Each successful event that the CS team and I worked on and effectively completed made me proud to be part of this team and part of the Hinton Training Centre staff. There was a lot of change, challenges, growth, fun, and laughter. I was part of the Centre's social club for several years planning staff functions, lunches, bowling, and curling. One area, in which I am extremely proud, is my annual involvement as lead in the Santa's Anonymous drive to collect food and presents for a needy family in Hinton. The staff at the Centre always met or beat the expectations to this cause.

Special memories that I hold dear. The first glimpse of a staging camp I had was when a wildfire occurred outside Hinton in December 1998. The Centre was a staging camp for the wildfire crews, and I was able to work in the residences to assist them with their requirements during their stay. I was one of eight staff to attend a Premier's Award ceremony for the Hinton Training Centre and was able to meet the premier. Meeting so many people from Mexico, Africa, Hong Kong, Germany, Japan, USA, and many others from across Canada was rewarding. Unexpectedly, I met a distant relative on my father's side while he was instructing at the Centre. Meeting so many people was a definite highlight of working at the Hinton Training Centre. I will never forget the final two years during my time at the Centre, February 2020 to March 2022. The days of COVID-19 and working from home with wires strung throughout so I could securely connect to work. As the lead of the

CS team, I was one of the few who could work at the office. The locked down building was so very quiet, and I would miss the interaction of the staff and clients. During the Centre's workshops, staff functions like Halloween and Christmas, or other special events, there were many laughs throughout the years. The staff whom I worked with from 1995 to 2022 were the best group of people to spend 7.25 hrs a day, 240 days a year with.

I retired at the beginning of March 2022 and my husband retired the following month. This has given us the opportunity to camp in our fifth wheel trailer in Alberta and B.C. Much of my extra time will be spent with my elderly mother and assisting with childcare of my young niece and nephew. Currently, I do not have any short-term travel plans, but I am looking forward to travelling in the upcoming years.



### BARB TESTAWICH

Barb Testawich started with the Alberta Forest Service around 1988, working in the warehouse first as a seasonal person washing fire hose, then working her way up to stock keeper, and eventually as the warehouse supervisor. Barb spent her entire career within the Peace River Forest Area. Barb hung up the keys to the 1-ton at the end of June 2022. Thank you, Barb, for all the memories!





## BEVERLY WILSON

*Submitted by Bev Wilson*

Bev grew up in Bow River, southeastern Alberta (which often led friends and colleagues to wonder how she ever knew what a tree looked like), where her involvement in Girl Guides led to her love of the outdoors. Bev spent as much time camping as possible and when she saw that the NAIT program spent the first month of school at camp, she knew the Forest Technology program was for her. After graduating from NAIT in 1979, Bev worked on timber management crews for the Alberta Forest Service in Peace River and Whitecourt. She accepted a project forest officer I-II position in Fort Assiniboine/Swan Hills District (DW4), Whitecourt Forest in June 1981. She was one of the first women hired as a district ranger in the province. Being a district ranger in those days was not just a job, it was a lifestyle, especially for those living at a Ranger Station. Forest Officers got paid to fly in helicopters, ride trikes, cross-country ski, snowshoe and snowmobile, among many other outdoor activities. The district also offered the opportunity to learn many different facets of forestry, including timber management, land-use, and fire. Bev has many funny anecdotes from this time in her career about trying to fit into a uniform tailored for men, as well as how the local loggers felt about her being a forest officer.

Bev started in the forestry program at the University of Alberta in the fall of 1986. In 1988, Bev took the first course in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) offered at the UofA, which gave her a life-long passion for GIS and spatial data. Bev graduated from UofA in 1989 and started working for Edmonton-based consulting company, Silvacom. In her three years at Silvacom, Bev learned a lot about GIS and GIS software, AVI and spatial data in general. In 1992, Bev went to work in the Forest Statistics Section of the AFS Timber Management Branch in Edmonton. Throughout her forestry career, Bev was involved in several professional forestry organizations. She served on the council for the Canadian Institute of Forestry – Rocky Mountain Section (CIF-RMS) several times and is the current Director/Chair. Bev was also on the council for the original professional organization, the Alberta Registered Professional Foresters Association (ARPF), when it became the College of Alberta Professional Foresters (CAPF). In 2009, Bev was awarded the Canadian Institute of Forestry's Presidential Award, in recognition of her contributions to continuing competency (CCP), through programming CIF-RMS Technical Sessions, as well as for her work in developing the CCP for CAPF. Bev was also the recipient of several departmental awards for work done on various projects. In February, 2021, Bev was honoured by her colleagues in the geomatics Community of Practice (COP) with a presentation and plaque.

Bev was always the "idea" person, who depended on colleagues like Barry Northey, Don Page, Karl Peck, Doug Crane, Michal Pawlina, Mike Willoughby, and Sarah Green, among others, to actually implement the ideas. Bev was able to pioneer the use of geomatic software and

processes and spatial data in forest management with the support of GIS champion Daryl Price (her supervisor for 28 years). She saw her role as being a problem solver, always objective-driven and results-oriented, with a deep desire to provide her colleagues with the data and tools they needed to do their jobs. Over Bev's more than 36 years in government, here are some of the accomplishments, mostly as a member of a team, that she is most proud of:

- Conversion of spatial data to GIS-ready formats;
- Creation of the first net landbase using programming and geoprocessing;
- Supporting the development of forestry-based GIS training modules for staff;
- Initial compilation of provincial AVI datasets, in support of MPB modelling;
- Development of a MPB SSI models, calibrated for Alberta, Saskatchewan and Yukon;
- Formation of Communities of Practice (COP) for internal and external forestry GIS users, as well as the Interprovincial Resource Analysts Forum (IPRAF), a COP for provincial government resource analysts;
- Development of provincial AVIE (AVI Extended) dataset for internal government use;
- Development of Derived Ecosite Phase (DEP), an Open Data ecologically-based dataset;
- Development and implementation of Spatial Data Directives and the SDD Data Submission Portal;
- Development and management of AVI standards;
- Documenting the history of forest inventory standards in Alberta;

- Being a role model and mentor to other women in the profession.

Bev and Peter have been married for more than 36 years and have two children. She is an avid sewer and will continue to sew for Days for Girls and for friends and family. Bev has been involved with Girl Guides most of her life and she and Peter will continue to look after maintenance of the two Girl Guide camps owned by Edmonton Area Girl Guides. For the time being, she will maintain her RPF status and keep up to date with the profession through CIF.



### BERT CIESIELSKI

*Submitted by Bert Ciesielski*

Born and raised in Edmonton, I attended the UofA originally in Engineering but switched to Forestry on the recommendation from a friend. Having spent a fair amount of time outdoors as a kid, it sounded like a good idea. I began to work summer jobs with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) in the Edson area starting May 15, 1985 to 1987. After graduation in 1987, I took an AFS job in Peace River in 1988 which led to my first project forester position doing mostly silviculture. Permanent jobs were hard to come by back then, but I was able to get my first permanent forester job in Fort McMurray in 1990 and stayed there for eight years. I

was fortunate to have a string of really good supervisors in my early career, Dave Cook, Ray Luchkow, and Garry Ehrentraut. They gave me good advice and helped me achieve a long career in Forestry. I left northern Alberta in 1998 for a forester job in Drayton Valley and spent the next 24 years as an area forester and then senior forester in the Drayton Valley and Rocky Mountain House areas. Too many people, committees, projects, and wildfires to list here but I can say I have made many lifelong friends throughout Alberta. I was able to witness and be a part of tremendous changes in forestry in Alberta. The variety of work and the people, both government and industry, were the best parts of a great career. I retired on May 31, 2022 and have no regrets. My plans for retirement include having many adventures with my wife Jewel, looking after our ranch outside of Drayton Valley, working part time, travelling, hunting, fishing, and playing hockey and golf for as long as I can.



### BOB FLEET

*Submitted by Bob Fleet*

Born in Toronto, Ontario, Bob was raised in southern Ontario, Port Credit and Mississauga. He studied forestry at the University of Toronto (UofT) and graduated with a BScF in 1980. The graduating class of 46

had 12 women which was a new development and began a good trend that continues to this day. Prior classes might have had one or two women, or none. At the time there were two undergraduate forestry schools in Ontario, UofT, and Lakehead. Both were excellent schools, in addition to the many technical forestry programs. Forestry lineage included a great uncle Hank Perrier, who grew up in B.C., and spent his logging career with Canfor and its predecessors, both on the island, and in the Chilliwack area. Bob spent his first summer during university working for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment monitoring emissions from industry mills and refineries across all of southern Ontario (from Sarnia to Cornwall). Second and third summers were spent working for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in Brockville, Ontario on the fledgling hybrid poplar program sponsored by Dr. Louis Zuffa and Bill Raitanen. Upon graduation he worked initially for the hybrid poplar program, then transferred to a white pine project, designed to improve the growth and silvics of white pine, an historic and commercial crop in southern Ontario.

In 1983, he accepted a two-year forester-in-training apprenticeship with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, transferring from beautiful Brockville (part of Ontario's Thousand Islands) to the extreme northwest part of the province, to the Ignace district, during the infamous 1983 fire season. From a forest perspective, the move was from the Great-Lakes-St. Lawrence forest (white pine, red pine, oak, maple, walnut, poplar, yellow birch, and other dense hardwoods) to the Boreal Forest (jack pine, white and black spruce, poplar, and birch). Ontario's forester-in-training program was a structured program that included exposure not just to



forest and fire management but also to land-use planning, fisheries and wildlife management, nurseries, and commercial forestry. At the time he was a forester-in-training, wildlife management was focused on moose management, caribou was in the distant future. Ironically, many of the things done to support moose were apparently to the detriment of caribou. Upon completing the two-year forester-in-training program, he was offered a posting in Sioux Lookout, Ontario as a management forester, tasked with writing for approval the management plans for the Caribou East and Caribou West forest management units. In all of Ontario, these forests were unique in that they have perhaps the longest fire interval, over 250 years, because of the unique geomorphological traits of the land base. Much of the forest was the equivalent of a hydroponic garden, with white spruce established initially on sphagnum moss on the tops of boulders and the roots in the surface water on the ground. Appropriately, the vast majority of the Caribou East and West forests have been classified as provincial park.

After completing the forest management plans, he transferred to Queen's Park (MNR's Toronto head office) as the provincial planning specialist, with oversight of all the forest management plans in Ontario. Part of this role included participation in the Class Environmental Assessment for Timber Management in Ontario. This was a hearing that from start to finish took almost seven years. It remains the guiding enabler for forest management in Ontario to this day. After a respectable stint as Ontario's provincial planning specialist, he transferred to Timmins district as the Forest Management Supervisor, with oversight of the three in-house management foresters, and their staff. The forests at that

time were named the Porcupine, the Romeo Malette, and the Timmins Forest. During the six years in Timmins, the MNR "reorganized" and changed from managing by discipline (forestry, lands, wildlife, fisheries, compliance) to managing by area. That meant instead of having oversight of three forests, and the forest management only, each supervisor now supervised one area, but all the disciplines (forestry, lands, wildlife, fisheries, compliance). It was a fun change, and everyone was out of their comfort zone and on the learning curve.

In 1994, after 14 years with the government of Ontario, Bob pivoted to the private sector and joined Grant Forest Products, a private family oriented strand board (OSB) company in Ontario. This is what led his career to Alberta. Grant Forest Products was a one mill company when they hired a government forester with no industry experience, to be the woodlands manager, with a one million cubic metre annual allowable cut. In 1998, Grant Forest Products purchased the Timmins OSB mill from Tembec, doubling the size of Grant. In 1997, the government of Alberta issued a Request for Proposal for a wood supply in High Level, Alberta that ultimately was awarded to a partnership named Footner Forest Products (a partnership between Grant Forest Products and Ainsworth Lumber). A state-of-the-art OSB mill was constructed in High Level with a continuous press. The first board was pressed October 12, 2000. The mill has run successfully since 2000 with a brief hiatus during the 2008+ housing crisis. One of the most interesting days of his career was the infamous "auction" by the government of Alberta, for deciduous timber allocations (DTA) on forest management units G15 and G16. At the time working for Grant, Bob was

in the room for the auction, where his budget on both sales was surpassed in the first minute. Ultimately Tolko was awarded the DTAs, at a remarkable \$150 per cubic metre.

Bob was back on the learning curve when Grant expanded into South Carolina, learning about southern yellow pine plantations, and rules in the U.S. In 2009, Grant ceased operations, and assets were sold. Ainsworth acquired 100 percent of Footner; Georgia Pacific acquired the Englehart and South Carolina mills; and the Timmins mill was dismantled and sold to operators in eastern Europe. In 2010, Bob and two partners started BioSynergy Pellets in Walkerton, Ontario. This business ran successfully manufacturing premium dense hardwood pellets selling to the thoroughbred horse racing industry as well as to home heating and to institutional users (colleges, cities, kilns, etc.). This facility was tethered to the dense hardwood furniture industry in the area. In 2011, Bob joined Tolko Industries, which brought him back to Alberta forestry. Tolko then owned a sawmill in High Level, and OSB mills in High Prairie and Slave Lake. As Vice President of Forestry and Environment at Tolko, he worked closely with the forest's ministry (multiple names over the years) to preserve Tolko's timber tenures to enable the reopening of both the Slave Lake and High Prairie OSB mills. These mills had been closed since the housing crisis of 2008 - 2009. Tolko will forever be grateful to the forest's ministry and senior Alberta government staff for their faith and support of Tolko, despite the promptings of more than one Minister.

As part of Alberta's plan to eliminate beehive burners in Alberta, Tolko worked closely with both the Ministry's of Environment and

Agriculture and Forestry (then named) which resulted in the construction of a large scale pellet mill in High Level adjacent to the Tolko sawmill. Again, the Alberta government worked closely and patiently with Tolko to a win-win solution that was good for Alberta and good for Tolko. For much of Bob's Tolko career he had oversight of the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta. This is a truly innovative and unique to Alberta program, supporting the full utilization of Alberta's AAC in a genuinely sustainable manner.

A highlight of Bob's Alberta experience has been the numerous Indigenous relationships and opportunities he took part in. These included two commercial logging operations in High Level; a dunnage facility near High Prairie; the operation of the mill log yard at High Prairie, and other opportunities in the works or on the drawing board.

Many of Bob's Indigenous relationships will endure past retirement. As part of Bob's role at Tolko, he enrolled in the Rotman School of Management's Director's Education Program, through Simon Fraser University, passing the required exams to secure the designation ICD.D. During Bob's career, he served as both a Director and then Chair of the Ontario Forest Industry Association (Ontario's equivalent of the AFPA); the Board of Governor's of the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement; director on the board of Footner Forest Products; director and as the chair of Northern Pellets Inc.; and director on the Board of Lavington Pellets Inc.

In January 2023, after a 43-year forestry career, Bob retired from Tolko. In retirement Bob intends to spend more time with his family

including his wife Lola, their three children and three grandchildren. Bob is an avid golfer and skier and has bought a fishing boat to help keep him busy.



### STEVE ANDERSON

*Submitted by the Forest History Society*

After 26 years of service to the Forest History Society (FHS), FHS President and CEO, Dr. Steven Anderson, will be retiring in the spring of 2023. Steve became the leader of FHS in 1997, coming from Oklahoma State University where he served as Professor of Forestry and Program Leader of the Forestry, Wildlife and Aquaculture program. During his tenure, FHS thrived, taking on numerous important archival collections, including the records of the Weyerhaeuser Company, the American Tree Farm System, the Forest Landowners Association, the U.S. Forest Service Headquarters History Reference Collection, and the Global Fire Monitoring Center. He helped double the FHS endowments, established the FHS annual fund, and increased annual giving by six-fold.

Programming significantly increased under his leadership. He expanded the FHS Issues Series books, *Forest History Today* magazine, the scholarly journal *Environmental History*, and other publications; spearheaded the development of the "If Trees Could Talk" middle school curriculum;

and initiated early social media efforts. He served as co-executive producer of the regional Emmy award-winning film "America's First Forest: Carl Schenck and the Asheville Experiment." Released in 2016, the film has reached over 5 million viewers on 387 PBS stations in 47 states.

Anderson led the FHS team through a \$7.1 million capital campaign for a new library, archives, and headquarters. Opened in January 2019, the 16,750 square foot state-of-the-art facility has quickly become a point of pride for the forest and conservation community. According to Bob Izlar, FHS Board Chair, "Anderson leaves the Society in the enviable position of a professional and dedicated staff; strong, diverse support; no debt; and room to accommodate library and archive material well into the future." The Society's new strategic plan aims to continue this growth during the next ten years.

In his role as FHS President, Anderson built strong relationships with U.S. and international forestry and environmental history associations, the U.S. Forest Service, and corporate forestry leaders interested in preserving the history of their industry. He was one of three founders of the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations.

**Editors Note:** Steve has been a member of the Canadian Forest History Network since its inception and has been a strong supporter of the history groups formed. Peter Murphy was on the FHS board and served as Chair, and through his leadership with the Forest History Association of Alberta, made sure the linkages with the FHS remained strong.





## ROD SIMPSON

*Submitted by Rod Simpson*

I was born in Edmonton in 1952. Although we were raised in the city, our family had farming roots and loved the outdoors. While growing up I inherited an early appreciation for the forests and streams and for all that goes along with them. Following high school, I enrolled at the University of Alberta in math and physics but after a couple of years, I looked for something that could lead to a career better suited to my interests and settled on forestry. The Forest Science Department at the University was just getting underway in 1971, and Jack Schultz and Jim Beck had an easy time convincing me to take a step in that direction. In the fall of 1971, I joined a great group of classmates and started my journey in forestry with them. I graduated with the first class in 1974. My coursework included the study of forest hydrology and after taking the summer to get married to Jane (my partner for almost 50 years now) we headed to Utah State University where I started a graduate program in watershed management. It didn't take too long to figure out that it wasn't the career I wanted so we moved back to Alberta.

In 1975, I started working for the Alberta Forest Service in the Forest Land Use Branch under Gordon Smart – first in land-use planning

(multiple use planning with Ken Wilson) and then in watershed management (with Ron Davis). I spent the last few years of the 1970s as the head of the watershed management section. The Branch carried on the work of the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board, an organization set up in 1947 to manage the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve respecting its many values and users, but it was also involved in many of the early innovations and advances in land and natural resource stewardship in throughout Alberta's forested areas. In 1980, we moved to Grande Prairie where I worked as a field forester. I worked with Craig Quintilio and many other great people, and along the way received a practical education in an array of forestry field activities, practices, and policies. These ranged from genetics and reforestation to forest tenure and management to wildfire management and most things in between. In 1983, I had an opportunity to return to the University of Alberta and work on a Master's in Business Administration and at the same time work part-time for Chuck Geale in the Program Support Branch. Chuck was a great mentor, and I had the best of both worlds, learning at the University while continuing my practical education with Chuck and others, this time in the administration and management of the Alberta Forest Service – its people, financial resources and assets.

During this time, I was seconded to work with Al Brennan and his staff in the Forest Industry Development Division (known as FIDD). I had some direct experience with several of the initial forestry investments that took place in Alberta in the mid-1980s. In 1987, I was approached to join Champion Forest Products where I worked mainly with Don Laishley as an analyst on matters related to the

expansion and redevelopment of the Hinton pulp mill and sawmill. Again, a great group of forestry people with a great tradition in forest management. I couldn't have asked for a better chance to learn about the industry. In 1989, we returned to Edmonton where I rejoined FIDD and later, the Alberta Forest Service. Al had hired me as director of the Forest Industry Development Branch and for a few years I was hands on, supporting many of the development initiatives that were underway or just getting started. It was a time that offered a lot to Alberta. There was the remarkable growth in the industry throughout much of the province, but FIDD also had a great team of people that were involved in forest products marketing and trade, and forest product research. It also offered a lot professionally.

In 1991, I took over from Chuck as Director of the Program Support Branch. This was an interesting and busy time. Government finances were constrained, and thought was being given to finding new (and hopefully more efficient) ways of prioritizing and delivering government services. This included revisiting stumpage policies and in 1992 we contracted the consulting firm KPMG Peat Marwick Stevenson Kellogg (PMS&K) to undertake a review of Alberta's timber dues policy. This foray into forest economics provided me with a footing for future work related to timber pricing and valuations.

It also introduced me to Perry Kinkaide, a Partner with PMS&K. They were a firm with roots in industrial engineering and efficiency and, by the 1990s broad expertise in the full range of management consulting disciplines. In 1993, Perry approached me about joining the firm. He worked extensively in the NWT and had just

started a review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the northern wildfire management program. This allowed me to quickly get immersed in the consulting world – and it didn't slow down. The project also started a long relationship with people in the NWT on matters that ranged from wildfire operations to aircraft use and financing to forest tenure and stumpage policies to forest business opportunities. In 1993, we also started the development of a 20-year forest management strategic plan for Manitoba. With this start, the forest sector project work evolved to include matters like operational effectiveness, strategy, finance, acquisitions, and valuations. Clients included a variety of governments, industry, and NGOs.

Management consulting also led me out of what might have been a comfort zone. I gained confidence applying my skills to problems in other sectors. As an example, in the late 1990s, I started a long consulting relationship with the Edmonton Police Service helping them address operational efficiency among other management and stakeholder concerns. In later years this extended to work with other municipal police services and the RCMP. We also developed outsourced management and advisory services with clients like FRIAA and organizations in Alberta's and Canada's recycling sector (oil, tires, electronics, beverage containers). Over the years I've been fortunate to have worked on hundreds of different projects that have touched many parts of the forestry discipline, and then everything from operations management to economics to human resources to finance to technology and to managed services.

While my consulting career started with PMS&K, the corporate affiliation

evolved through mergers and spin-offs into KPMG, KPMG Consulting, BearingPoint, Redstone Management Consulting and most recently MNP. Notwithstanding changes in organizations and names, over the last 30 years I've worked with many of the same people assisting clients as they address some fascinating questions. After moving around quite a bit early in my career, the people, and the variety of challenging projects in consulting have kept me comparatively focused. I retired as an MNP partner in June 2021 but still work part-time for a few clients under that banner mainly in areas related to forest trade and stumpage policy, and forestry valuations. "Pseudo retirement" as Bruce calls it.



### DAVE CHEYNE

*Submitted by Dave Cheyne*

After 42 years in the forest products industry, I finally decided to retire – June 2022. I took a cross-Canada route to get to my final destination at Alberta-Pacific, where I happily resided for 23 years. I was born and raised in the small town of Toronto (in the Beaches area), where I completed all my elementary and secondary schooling, and then on to the University of Toronto, where I graduated in 1980 with a BSc Forestry. Toronto, throughout the 1960s and 1970s was much

smaller than today's mega-city, and I enjoyed the sports leagues and biking trails throughout the city. My interest in forestry was inspired by my father who took us camping in my youth and then was further encouraged by my 1974 summer sojourn with Ontario's Junior Forest Ranger program, where I was sent to Ignace in the Northwest part of Ontario. At the camp in Ignace, I was befriended by Derek Sidders, where these two semi-precocious 17-year-olds became friends for life and interacted in forestry for the next 48 years. The Junior Ranger program exposed the inmates to forest harvesting, silviculture, and fire control. Throughout my four-year journey at UofT, I spent every summer in Ignace, working for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) in the boreal shield country. My work program was primarily involved in mechanical site preparation, post-harvest evaluations and monitoring, provenance trials and when conscripted, fire control.

After graduation I continued to be employed by the OMNR in Northwest Ontario in silviculture and planning, and then moved to Head Quarters OMNR and the Forest Resources Inventory (FRI) section. At that time the FRI was on the vanguard of digital inventories using novel GIS systems. In 1984, I decided to enhance my capabilities by returning to school, at Laurentian University in Sudbury, where I was enrolled full-time in the two-year MBA program. The program garnered myself two worthwhile ingredients for moving forward in my life; 1) an excellent foundation in business principles and strategic planning, and 2) I met Katie, a shy undergrad, who I married in 1987. After graduation in 1986, I decided to become more industry oriented and joined Woodbridge Reed and Associates



(WRA) a leading consulting firm based in Vancouver and Montreal; WRA was later assimilated by H.A. Simons Engineering. Katie and I moved to Montreal, a truly cosmopolitan city (despite being the homeland of the hated Habs!) and started a fascinating six-year career path in forest industry strategic planning and investment analysis throughout Canada and the Northern USA. I had site visitations at more than 50 sawmill / pulp and paper complexes in four provinces and eight states. Planning all aspects of a greenfield market Chemi-Thermo Mechanical Pulp mill (CTMP) in Thunder Bay Ontario was the highlight of my career with WRA.

In 1992, Ontario plunged into a severe recession that truly disadvantaged the forest products industry. By Q1 1993, after being laid-off by WRA, Katie and I made the decision to leave Ontario and take up the offer of employment with the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) at the Northern Forestry Centre (NoFC) in Edmonton as the "Aspen Specialist". At NoFC I renewed my friendship with Derek Sidders, and we proceeded to tour about the prairie provinces exporting our "wisdom?", organizing conferences and field days, and consuming federal dollars on operational research sites. Some of these trials actually provided value to forest management decisions. I also was allowed by the CFS to join the USA based Aspen Co-operative where I met and garnered friendships with Alberta based industry foresters. Through the Alberta chapter of the co-op, Steve Luchkow and Florence Niemi, (Diashowa), and Perm Sieusahai (Slave Lake Pulp) all become good friends and professional associates. It was also

at NoFC that I obtained a marvelous mentor and one of the truly great minds in Western Canadian forestry – Dr. Stan Navrital. My route through the Western Canadian industry then started in late 1995 when I joined Slocan Forest Products as their Corporate Forester for Hardwood investments, based at the Fibreco CTMP mill at Taylor, near Fort St John, B.C. This was the period of the *Forest Code* in B.C., an adversarial situation that did not create successful forest stewardship. With Slocan I'm proud to have planned and implemented industrial high-effort under-story protection harvesting strategies (with the assistance of Lorne Brace – a very shrewd operational research forester, and Derek Sidders). Slocan also offered me the opportunity to deliver a large endowment to UNBC for an mixedwood chair and a research greenhouse.

In 1999, the antagonistic B.C. climate drove me to accept a position with Al-Pac as their Management Forester; I joined a group of some of the most competent professional I have ever met. Katie and I, plus three little girls, then moved to Lac La Biche (LLB) to start this final chapter of my career. I was very lucky to immediately meet and partner with Tim Juhlin to assist in preparing a Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP). Tim is without doubt one of the kindest and most knowledgeable professional foresters in Alberta, I learned some much about Alberta through him. In the 23 years at Al-Pac, I managed two Forest Management Plans, four stewardship reports, the provinces largest AVI program, public engagement activities, and Al-Pac's Growth and Yield program. In particular, the Western Boreal Growth and Yield Association, allowed me the opportunity to work with

committed scientists Phil Comeau and Mike Bokalo, individuals who enhanced my understanding of the quantitative intricacies of forest management.

I look back with a lot of fond Al-Pac and Alberta memories and have had the opportunity to work with many excellent employees, contractors, and Alberta government foresters, most prominently, Kim Rymer, Dave Fox, Don Pope, George Dribnenki, Gitte Grover, Elston Dzus, Roger Butson, Cal Dakin, Ted Gooding, John Cosco, Steve Lewis, John Nash, Jamie Bruhua and Janis Braze. During my period with Al-Pac, in 2008, I was nominated by Geoff Clark (and accepted) the three term with Collage of Alberta Professional Foresters (now Alberta Association of Forest management Professionals) as Vice President, President and Past-President. Dealing with foresters throughout the province was engaging and enlightening for it provided opportunities to view forest management through other's eyes. I should also thank John Caldwell for the yearly opportunity to corrupt young minds through a presentation at NAIT Forestry, always interesting with questions from a much younger generation. Writing Al-Pac documentation to meet the multitude of regulatory requirements was always gratifying because I was able to have as my sidekick, a resource savant and writer extraordinaire, Bob Bott.

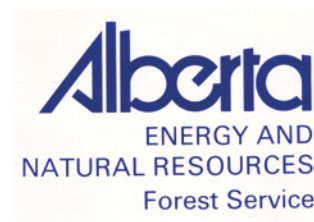
The two-year work-at-home COVID-19 sojourn (March 2020 to April 2022) allowed me to mentor Dave Kamelchuk, my Al-Pac replacement, and slide gracefully into retirement. However, I truly missed the continual face-to-face camaraderie of the Al-Pac woodlands group, quota holder

foresters, contractors, GoA foresters in the last two years of my career. It's the people you interacted with, versus the work deliverables, that you truly remember and will miss, thanks for the memories. Moving into retirement, I'm gratified that I'm still playing hockey (since 1965 to the present; minor leagues to senior hockey to beer leagues and now Old-timers) and continue to be an on-ice Alberta Hockey Official. I hope to also lose golf balls continually to the *Gods of the Woods* in Alberta.

In the immediate term, Katie and I intend to travel throughout North America and hopefully a number of countries in the UK and Europe. I and friends also hope to continue to explore the many lakes and rivers via canoe in Saskatchewan's boreal shield. Finally, we'll be staying in LLB for the immediate term to enjoy the long spring and summer nights, tend our large garden, and hike and ski in Winston Churchill Park. May the Forest be with You.



**DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS**



Forestry Division staff celebrating pink shirt day; February 2020

L to R: Danielle Kjosness, Paul Elliott, David Price, Amy Wotton, Jessica Juravinski, Sandra Candeias, Kent Schonknecht, and Darren Fearon





# OBITUARIES

## **WILLIAM 'BILL' MCPHAIL**

Born in 1930, Bill passed away on September 20, 2019 at the age of 89 years. Bill started working for the Bridge Branch in the late 1940s, moving to the Lands and Forests Forest Surveys Branch around 1951. Reg Loomis, Bob Steele, Roger Sund and John Holden were there at the time. After talking with the Director of Forestry Eric Huestis, Bill moved as assistant ranger to Grande Prairie in January 1955. He then moved to District 21A of the Northern Alberta Forest District (NAFD) as a forest officer II, staying there until 1959. He then moved to Breton (District 4), then to Strachan (District 1A), where Ben Shantz was the Chief Ranger. In an interview with Bill, he said the late 1950s and early 1960s is when the NAFD started merging with other forests like Rocky Clearwater. Bill attended advanced ranger training during the winter of 1967-68, then transferred to the Rocky District. He retired in 1985 and returned in 1989 supervising the Rocky Clearwater Forest student fire crew, where his wife Jenny cooked. Bill retired fully in 1995 at the age of 65.

## **BILL BRESNAHAN**

Born March 1, 1944, William 'Bill' John Bresnahan passed away in Hinton, on March 7, 2020, at the age of 76. Bill had a long and diverse career as an educator, instructor and manager for adult and youth outdoor adventure programs, Alberta firefighter and military survival courses, and resource industry occupational health and safety training. He loved

outdoor pursuits and was completely in his element while paddling, back-packing, skiing, fishing, and hunting. Rob Thorburn, retired director at the Hinton Training Centre, said *"Bill was a valued colleague at the Hinton Training Centre, a respected outdoor survival instructor, and a very dependable team member on our Wildfire Incident Command Team. He took pride in everything he did, and his warm and caring personality will sadly be missed."*

## **JIM LELACHEUR**

Born in Prince George, British Columbia on December 9, 1955, Jim LeLacheur passed away on March 15, 2020, at 65. 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 for the Alberta operations in 2007. Never shy to participate in a spirited debate, Jim was 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 and 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 was also a registered professional forester in both British Columbia and Alberta. After 35 years in the forest industry, Jim retired December 31, 2012.

In recent years, Jim enjoyed a well deserved and fulfilling retirement in Vernon. He could be found in the company of his family and close group of great friends, on a fishing trip, woodworking at home, enjoying sunsets near and far, or sitting on the dock at Kalamalka Lake. Jim could always be found sharing a laugh and making memories with his wife Donna, including recently celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Retirement also brought the excitement of Jim's four grandchildren, who meant the world to him. Above all, Jim loved his family who loved him just as much and he will be deeply missed.

## ART PETER

Born in Medicine Hat on September 17, 1934, Art passed away on March 31, 2020, at 85 years of age. Although born in Medicine Hat, he was raised in the Cypress Hills and Elkwater. Art attended grades one to nine in a little one-room school in Elkwater, then high school in Medicine Hat. He met his future wife Marilyn there. At that time all the country students lived in the dormitories. Art worked for Alberta Parks in Cypress Hills for two summers in the mid-1950s, then through the Parks Superintendent Carl Larson, Art got a job interview with Ted Hammer in the Alberta Forest Service (AFS). Art joined the AFS in July 1958, arriving in Whitecourt on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, on his way to Fox Creek. In an interview with Peter Murphy, Art said that his father had worked for the Alberta Lands and Forests in the early 1930s, and his and Carl Larson's interest in forestry, led Art to follow that same path.

Marilyn joined Art in Fox Creek in August, 1958, where they lived for 11 months in the 12 by 16 foot tool cache, while the Assistant Ranger house was being built. Although they had electricity, there was no running water. The Peter's never got to live in the new house, as Art transferred to Lodgepole as the ranger in charge in June, 1959. Art also took his forestry training in Kananaskis in 1959, the last year, before the Forestry Training School moved to Hinton. While at Lodgepole, Art said in his interview, the Pembina oilfield was "booming, and it was nothing to have 40 to 50 rigs operating". After six years, Art bid on and was successful on the Chief Ranger job in Fox Creek, moving the family there in the fall of 1966. Art was only there 2 or 3 days and was off to Hinton to take the advanced ranger training course. In December, 1966, Art was transferred to the Robb Ranger District. Art moved to Rocky

Mountain House in fire control in 1968, and then to Whitecourt in fire control in 1974. Spending less than two years in Whitecourt, they moved to Edmonton in 1976. Art and family then moved to Fort McMurray, and 20 months later, Art transferred to Peace River as the Forest Superintendent. In 1981, Art made his last move in the AFS to Calgary, as the Superintendent of the Bow Crow Forest, retiring May 2, 1993. In retirement Art was instrumental in getting the Tree Canada program widely established in Alberta.

During the Peter Murphy interview, Art commented on the importance of wives to the forestry organization. *"I think when you're in a two-man district like we were before they started centralization, if it hadn't been for the wives, we wouldn't have been able to carry on our work. They were always involved in dispatching, sending out initial attack crews, delivering messages, getting groceries or something. We had to have them because if we were out on a fire there was no other way to get the supplies needed. There was no secretary. It had to be the wife."*

Art Peter was considered a leader within the forestry organization. Upon his passing, Fred McDougall (retired Deputy Minister) said *"I knew Art through his distinguished work in the Alberta Forest Service. He was smart, knowledgeable, dedicated, hard working, and successful in all of the many positions he held throughout his remarkable career. He made a positive and major contribution to forestry in Alberta. Art was highly respected, and very well liked. He leaves behind many very positive memories with all of us who had the pleasure of working with him over the years."* Cliff Smith (retired Deputy Minister) said *"Art was a true leader who made a significant mark*

*on the forestry profession and his loyalty to the AFS and its people was truly remarkable."*

## JACK WRIGHT – AN ALBERTA FORESTRY PIONEER

*Reprinted: Tyler Waugh, Hinton Voice April 30, 2020*

**Editors Note:** Additional information added from Jack Wright Interviews for the 40th Anniversary History Project – Weldwood of Canada Ltd, 1997.

A former long-time resident of Hinton is being remembered as a pioneer of the forest industry, and a champion of outdoor recreation. Jack Wright first arrived in Hinton with wife Margaret in January, 1957, to work in the forestry department of Northwest Pulp and Power Ltd (NWP&P), where he oversaw the development of forest management plans and forest inventory programs. He retired in 1987, and in the 30 years he worked in the industry, he is credited with establishing forestry philosophies and practices that endure today. Wright was raised in Pembroke, Ontario, where he first developed his love for the outdoors, including fishing and canoeing on the Ottawa River from his family's cottage on the river. Forestry beckoned him as a career, and he enrolled in the BScF program at the University of Toronto, spending his undergraduate summers working for the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) at the Petawawa Research Centre, as well as two summers at the CFS Kananaskis Research Centre. Upon graduation in 1953, he joined the Forest Management Institute of the CFS based out of Ottawa, conducting research and working on the development of aerial stand volume tables (ASVT).

Coming to Hinton in 1957, he developed aerial stand volume tables



to become one of the pillars of the Company's inventory and stand development forecasting for its management planning system. He also worked on the establishment of the Company's 3,000-plot permanent sample plot program, a program which continues today. Jack wrote the first detailed forest management plan in Alberta in 1961, with an update and revision in 1966. When Chief Forester Des Crossley retired in 1975, Jack was promoted to the position. In addition to his work with the Company, Jack was very active in other organizations, both industry and government, that were furthering the knowledge and practice of forestry in Alberta and across Canada. In Alberta, he was active in the Forest Management Committee of the Alberta Forest Products Association, as well as the Rocky Mountain Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry. Nationally, he was a member of and served terms as Chair of the Forest Management Committee of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association. He also served on the Forest Research Advisory Committee of the Canadian Forest Service, and he was chairing the committee when he led a review of the efficacy and value of CFS research at its research centres across Canada.

*"He was instrumental in setting up the forest inventory and forest management programs at Hinton in the early days that set the gold standard for management planning and forest management across Canada,"* said Bob Udell, who worked, volunteered, and performed with Wright in Hinton over the years. *"He was a tireless and fearless spokesperson for the company, the industry and forestry in general."* After his retirement Wright continued his involvement as a member of the Company's Forest Resources Advisory Committee for 27 years until leaving

Hinton in 2016. Richard Briand, Chief Forester for West Fraser in Alberta, said Wright's ongoing legacy is one of long-term focus, policy development based on research and science, as well as frugal spending and innovative solutions. *"Also don't be afraid to be the first to do something if you know it needs to be done"*, Briand added.

After retirement, Wright spent countless hours working on local ski trails, particularly the Camp 29 trails; brushing, grooming and track setting with the help of the company who kept the road plowed, and provided him an old double-track skidoo to do the job. For many years he also kept the Wild Sculpture Trail in shape by brushing and clearing deadfall.

*"These trails were part of his legacy, as he started the recreation program at NWP&P. He was also very active in the Friends of Switzer Park,"* Udell shared. Udell added that both Jack and Marg were active in the arts community of Hinton. Marg taught piano for many years as well as leading the community band and seniors' choir. *"Jack played cornet in the band, and he and Marg sang in a number of choirs over the years"*, Udell said. Jack Wright passed away April 22, 2020 in Calgary. He was 89.

## CON DERMOTT

Born October 20, 1938, Con Dermott passed away on July 3, 2020 at 81 years of age. Brought up in Mirror, Alberta, Con spent a lot of time on his trapline, tramping through the woods, and hunting birds with his father. In high school, Con worked as a callboy on the railroad. After grade 12 graduation in 1957, Con worked for Foundation Construction in Edmonton on the Butterdome and several Loblaw's stores. He became interested in forestry from a neighbor,

Jack Holmes, who became a ranger with the Alberta Forest Service, then after attending the University of Montana in Missoula, began working for the Canadian Forest Service. Con started in Missoula in fall 1959, graduating in spring 1963. Others either finishing or there at the time were Don Fregren, Cliff Smith, and Carson McDonald. During the summer of 1961, Con worked for the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) doing site classification surveys in the Berland River area; soil and fertilization work in Kananaskis; and site classification in Manitoba. With the CFS, he surprisingly worked for research officer Jack Holmes. In 1962, Con worked for the Alberta Forest Service forest surveys branch. He worked with Jack Cumberland in Whitecourt and Mike Lalor in Calgary. After graduation in 1963, Con returned to Calgary working for Mike Lalor as party chief, cruising the north and south Burnt Timber valleys, and the James and Red Deer River areas around Sundre. He went to Slave Lake in January 1964 cruising and marking timber, and tree scaling. In September 1964, Con began to work out of Lac La Biche, but soon returned to Slave Lake to fill a recent vacancy working for superintendent Neil Gilliat as the forester-in-charge. Under Neil's leadership, Con planned many of the northern forest management units in anticipation of future forest industry development. With timber management technician Chuck Ratliff, they developed and implemented new techniques of reconnaissance surveys.

Con was promoted to superintendent of the Footner Lake Forest in 1973 replacing Chuck Geale, then was moved to the Bow Crow Forest in Calgary in 1974 replacing Larry Gauthier. There Con learned the importance of public involvement in forest management practices. In

1977, Con moved to Edmonton as director of the new Reforestation and Reclamation branch. A new tree nursery was completed in Smoky Lake, a new genetics section was started, abandoned millsites, sawdust piles and coal exploration trails and sites were reclaimed. At the same time the new Maintaining our Forests program began, a focus to afforest land to off-set losses from energy industry activity. In 1985, Con then became director the Timber Management Branch, working on new utilization policies. His last move was to Forest Protection in 1993 until his retirement in October 1995. After 32 years with the Alberta Forest Service, Con then began a second 20-plus year career with Vanderwell Contractors in Slave Lake, working on various forward-thinking, legacy building projects. One major accomplishment was supporting Bob Vanderwell in purchasing over 10,000 acres of land for future plantations. Con was fortunate enough to travel full circle starting and finishing his working years in the place he loved the most.

## MAUREEN PULHUG

Maureen passed away August 12, 2020. Maureen was very dedicated to Forestry Division. She started with Forestry in 1997 in Hinton, and advanced through the administrative stream, moving to Edmonton, supporting the Executive Director Wildfire Management Branch. Maureen cared very much about her work and those she worked with. Over the last few years, Maureen faced her health challenges privately and bravely, with such a positive attitude, strength, and faith. She will be greatly missed.

## DON LAISHLEY

*Submitted by Robert Udel*

On September 18 2020, Don Laishley, of West Vancouver, passed away at the age of 85 years from complications of Alzheimer's Disease, leaving to mourn his wife Marilyn Louise, daughters Brenda, Deborah, Jan and son Rob, six grandchildren, and his sister Phyllis. Born and raised in Nelson, B.C., Don had an active childhood and adolescence filled with fishing, hunting, music, and sports. At age 16, he began studies at UBC, but unable to decide on a major he dropped out, returning in the mid-50s to enroll in Forestry. He graduated with a BScF in 1960, the first graduate from the faculty's new harvesting option. While at UBC, he joined the university's men's eight rowing team, which won gold at the 1954 British Empire Games and, in 1955, defeated heavily favoured Russia in the semi-final at the Henley World Championships, winning the silver medal. In 1999, Don and the other team members were inducted into the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame. After graduation, he worked for Kootenay Forest Products in Nelson before moving to Kamloops and working for Savona Timber. Leaving Savona after a few years, he struck out on his own as a forest consultant until, in 1969, he joined Forestal International in Vancouver as Senior Project Manager. By the mid-70s he had worked his way up to the position of President and CEO of Forestal. His international work with Forestal took him to projects in 35 countries around the world. During this period, he also continued his education by attending the Senior Executive Program at the Sloan School of Management, at MIT.

In 1984, internal conflicts over the direction of Forestal led to Don leaving the company and returning to private practice, domestically and internationally. Meanwhile, his son

Rob had graduated in forestry from UBC in 1985 and began working at Weldwood's Hinton forestry operations. While visiting Rob in Hinton, Don renewed acquaintances with Hinton's Vice President and Resident Manager Ken Hall, a former colleague from Forestal. Ken was aggressively pursuing an expansion of the Hinton mill and woodlands operation in the belief that the existing mill was too small to continue to be economically viable. He asked Don to join him in Hinton as Forest Resource Manager and help with that mission, which he did in 1986. When a major expansion was approved by the Province and Champion, Weldwood's parent corporation, Don led the negotiations for a new forest management agreement, signed in 1988. The expansion of the operation, effectively doubled the size of the pulpmill, with the building of a new sawmill underway.

Don led the team responsible for managing the expanded one million hectare industrial forest. He mentored many young foresters and continued the advancement of a world class forest management and environmental stewardship programme, including the 1988 hire of Alberta's first forest industry biologist, Rick Bonar. The forestry/wildlife programme became one of the pillars of a 1991 proposal for a Model Forest at Hinton, in a nationwide competition announced by the Canadian Forest Service. This proposal, a joint initiative of the Company, the Forest Technology School and Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, was adjudged the best proposal in the national competition. It led to the establishment of Foothills Model Forest in 1992, an institution that continues today as fRI Research, one of the very few remaining of the original 10 Model Forests. Don was



its first Board Chair and served six years on the Board. He was a tireless advocate for the programme.

Don served on a number of senior provincial and national committees during his tenure in Hinton, including the Alberta Forest Products Association Board, the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association Board, and the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy. Returning to Vancouver company headquarters in 1994, Don continued as Weldwood's Director of Forest Strategy, where he focused on wildlife habitat biodiversity, model forest practices, and environmental and science issues. He also re-connected with UBC, as a guest lecturer and mentor in forestry, as a member of the Harry Hawthorne Foundation, and as a member of the UBC Library Board. After retiring in 2000, Don rounded out his career by consulting to a number of First Nations communities in the Nicola Valley region of British Columbia. In 1996, Don received the Canadian Forestry Achievement Award from the Canadian Institute of Forestry, one of three foresters (Des Crossley, 1970; Bob Udell, 2006) from the Hinton operation to be granted this most prestigious award by the Institute – an unmatched achievement by any company in Canada.

## BRYDON WARD

*Submitted by Sue Ward*

Born May 8, 1946 at the Calgary General Hospital in Calgary, Alberta, Brydon passed away on September 22, 2020 in Lac La Biche, Alberta at 74 years of age. He received his education at Central Collegiate High School in Calgary, graduating in 1964. Although Brydon grew up in the city, he had an early love of all things outdoors. He and his brother Tim spent countless hours camping,

fishing, and hunting. When he was around 12, his dad would drop him and Tim off in Kananaskis with some eggs and potatoes and a canvas tent and leave them for weekends of camping alone, winter and summer. These were undoubtedly the roots of his deep appreciation for nature that shaped his life. Brydon attended the NAIT Forest Technology course graduating in 1968. Other classmates included Conn Brown, Thor Knapp, Ken South, Ed Pichota, Rick Bambrick, and Kelly O'Shea. He later attended the University of Alberta and graduated in their first forestry program in 1974. Brydon and Susan (Christie) were married in 1971, just before Brydon attended university. Classmates at the UofA included Keith Branter, Rod Simpson, Doug Sklar, Ryerson Christie, Fred Moffat, Bill Gladstone, and Mel White.

During the summer months while at NAIT and UofA, Brydon worked a number of jobs, first with the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board in 1964 and 1965, a towerman at Pigeon lookout and assistant ranger in 1966 and 1967 for the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) in the Bow Crow Forest, and assistant superintendent at the provincial tree nursery at Oliver. Following graduation from the UofA, Brydon worked a bit in Edmonton as a silviculture forester, then moved to Edson as a timber management and silviculture forester. In 1979, the family moved to Calgary where Brydon took on the role of recreation and land-use forester, Bow Crow Forest. Here AFS leadership in Calgary recognized the importance of the forested landbase to recreation users, and began marking and hardening trails for all-terrain use, and building the Fallen Timber campground, accessible to dirt bikes. In 1985, the Ward's moved to Edmonton where Brydon became the assistant director Program Support Branch. Brydon's final move

was to Lac La Biche in 1987 as the superintendent of the Lac La Biche Forest. In 1991, the title changed to regional director, Northeast Boreal Region, Sustainable Resource Development. Responsibility covered the old Fort McMurray, Lac La Biche and then Slave Lake Forests. Brydon retired in May, 1996, starting Common Sense Resource Management Consulting. One to never sit still, Brydon worked for Alberta Pacific Forest Industries from 1997 to 2004 in tree improvement and corporate relations, then on contract with Sustainable Resource Development Alberta Wildfire from 2004 to 2016 as a wildfire information officer, and liaison for the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range Maple Flag exercises.

Highlights of Brydon's career included achieving his goal to be a superintendent; chairman of the Rocky Mountain Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry; president of the Registered Professional Foresters Association; chairman of a joint conference of the Canadian Institute of Forestry and the Society of American Foresters in Edmonton in 2004 with 1,600 delegates; wildfire information officer for 12 years working with great people; being a grandfather to twins; and married to Susan for 48 years. Brydon was very community minded serving or chairing on the Lac La Biche Golf Course board, Portage College board, town councillor, the Forest Education Society, the Regional Health Authority, the Canadian Legion, the Rotary Club, and the Lac La Biche Regional Health Foundation. In his spare time Brydon was also a wedding commissioner. The Annual Brydon Ward Memorial Golf Tournament started in 2021 is held in Lac La Biche and has been attended by numerous classmates.

## ZACHARY POWDER

*Submitted by Bernie Schmitte*

Zachary Powder passed away October 21, 2020, in the Fort McMurray hospital at the age of 92. Zachary was born in Fort McKay on January 20, 1928, to Alphonse and Louise Powder. He was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Mary Powder. Zachary was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, teacher, provider, mentor, and friend. Zachary was a well respected elder in the Fort McKay community. At an early age of 14, Zachary followed his father to fight wildfires in the Fort McKay area. This led to a 50-year career, as one of Alberta's finest wildland firefighters.

As a young man growing up in Fort McKay, Zachary took to the trapline with his father, cut firewood for the Athabasca River steamboats, and of course fought forest fires when the call came. Zachary was a great storyteller, and loved to recall tales from the fireline, and how he "whipped those rangers" into shape. Zachary had fond memories of working as a deck hand on the river boat *Athabasca*, earning \$30.00 a month. He was passionate about trapping and spending time on the land, and in the bush with his father, brothers, and uncles. In the early days, going to town (Fort McMurray) meant a four hour ride with your dog team, or paddling up the Athabasca River. In 1956, Zach took his dog team to Fort McMurray to purchase a marriage licence for \$2.00. That full day trip led to 64 years of marriage and happiness for Zachary, his loving wife Mary and their family.

Zachary had an appreciation for the power of wildfires and the ecological benefits wildfire brings. In his words, he called it a cleaning of the bush. Those who fought fire with Zachary, looked to his knowledge and wisdom

for their safety and well being on the fireline. Zachary was innovative in firefighting, and on many occasions led firefighters through the night to contain wildfires before they became too difficult to control. Remembered as a passionate firefighter and dedicated to his family, many of the Rangers who were posted in Fort McKay commented on his passing. Zach was an incredible firefighter, a pleasure to work with, and a kind and generous person.

Hugh Boyd first met Zachary in 1977, on a wildfire north of Fort McKay. Zach approached Hugh and introduced himself. "I know you are a ranger and the fire boss, but if you don't listen to me, I will get a big green stick and hit you with it." Hugh commented that Zach taught him how to fight fire in the north, and he took on his work and life with honour, passion, concern, intelligence and caring. He was the strongest and toughest man I ever met. Bruce MacGregor first met Zachary in 1979, while working on a fire north of Edra tower. Zach came to Bruce and said "*Ranger, I have an idea, we should fight this fire at night.*" Bruce was a bit skeptical of the idea, but Zach replied, "*come I'll show you.*" Zach and his crew set up pumps and laid out hose during the day, took a rest in the afternoon, then they built fireline through the night. After a few days they almost had the fire licked, when a larger fire blew up, and overran their fire. Without radios or good communications, Zachary was the one person who got everyone out safely. Years later, when Bruce became the Chief Ranger in Fort McKay, Zach was the first to greet him, and said "*remember me?*" Bruce replied, "*how could I forget.*" The 1979 fire was the start of a lifelong friendship.

Darryl Johnson remembers the struggles Zach had with the Federal

Government in 1993 while applying for Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security. Zach never had a birth certificate, and the group of rangers in Fort McKay helped Zachary through the process, because "*Zach was part of the forestry family.*" Darryl's son Chris spent many days with Zach at the Fort McKay Fire Base. Chris was only seven at the time, but Zach always had time for him. Darryl's daughter remembers Zachary as a gentle soul.

Firefighting was Zachary's passion; it was in his blood. His love for firefighting was second only to his family and friends. In his heart, he fought fires right up to his very last day.

## PETER MURPHY

Born in Montreal on February 20, 1930, Dr. Peter Murphy passed away on October 29, 2020 at 90 years of age. Dr. Murphy was foundational in establishing the forestry program at the University of Alberta and served as a professor of forestry for 23 years and continued guest lecturing in the program until his passing. He was instrumental in creating the Forest Industry Lecture Series which has connected forest researchers, students, and international industry twice a year since 1974. A graduate of the University of New Brunswick, Peter will be remembered as 'everything forestry'. In 1956, Peter became head of the Alberta Forest Service Training Branch that led the establishment of the Forestry Training School (now Hinton Training Centre) in 1960. Peter's tenure in Hinton led to the development of wildland fire, and forest and land management training core to the management of Alberta's forests. In 1973, Peter moved to the University of Alberta as a professor in the newly created forestry program. In 1975, Peter



became the chair of the Forestry program at the University of Alberta, a position he held until his retirement in 1995.

As a faculty member, Peter taught and conducted research in forest policy and forest fire management. He completed an MScF at the University of Montana in 1963, and a PhD at the University of British Columbia in 1985. As Professor Emeritus, Peter continued to teach forest policy and forest history courses at the university. On top of all of Peter's accomplishments, he was also a renowned forest historian, authoring many books, delivering hundreds of presentations, and creating a passion for Alberta's remarkable forest history. One could always be amazed at how Peter could weave a story and still deliver a 150 slide presentation in the required 30 minutes - sometimes he went over.

Peter was a gentleman and scholar, loved bluegrass and classical music, delivering a good pun and a good story. His favourite place in the world was in the Alberta forests and mountains. Peter spent his last day tending to seedlings he had planted in St. Albert's White Spruce Forest.

## JOHN BERASKA

*Submitted by Keith Beraska*

John Beraska passed away peacefully on October 31, 2020, at the age of 82 years. John grew up on a family farm near Wandering River, Alberta, the second oldest of nine children. His first job with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) was in 1960, at the Wandering River Ranger Station. Oliver Glanfield was the district forest officer at the time, and seeing potential in John, encouraged him to pursue a career in Forestry, which John did. John's first posting as a ranger was to the Woking District in

the Grande Prairie Forest, followed by a succession of moves to Wanham, New Fish Creek, and Valleyview. John then moved into the Grande Prairie Forest Headquarters, where he was responsible mainly for fire prevention duties. In 1977, John transferred to the Provincial Depot in Edmonton, where he took on a role as an aircraft dispatcher. John also spent many years travelling the province as a bird dog officer in the provincial air attack program. He retired from the AFS in 1991 and remained in Edmonton. He will be deeply missed by his family and all who knew him.

## TED COFER

*Submitted by Diane Cofer*

Ted passed away on December 12, 2020 at 74 years of age. Brought up in Wandering River, Ted started with the Alberta Forest Service in June 1964 as a timber cruiser. Bill Bereska, also from Wandering River, recruited Ted. In 1966, Ted took a forest officer position in Fort McMurray, transferring to the Cold Creek Ranger Station in the Whitecourt Forest in July 1970. In September 1970, Ted took on a temporary six month position as aircraft dispatcher at the Depot in Edmonton. He then took on a permanent aircraft dispatcher position in September 1972, then in October 1972, moved to Whitecourt as the assistant fire control officer. In December 1980, Ted moved to Slave Lake as the assistant fire control officer, later fire control technician. In 1995, after 32½ years, Ted retired and bought the Ladybug Greenhouse in Widewater. Ted enjoyed playing in the dirt and seeing the end result. After the greenhouse burned in the 2011 wildfire, he retired for the second time. Retirement was gardening and golfing with his wife Dianne, and spending time with family.

## JIM BECK

*Submitted by the University of Alberta*

Dr. James (Jim) Beck was a graduate of U.C.L.A. Berkeley and one of the first two professors hired to start the forestry program at the UofA in 1971. He was chair of the Department of Forest Science from 1983 to 1989 and then was Chair of the Department of Renewable Resources from 1995 to 2001. Jim was a self-professed "fibre beast", yet he was the main agent of change in the forestry program during his two terms as department chair. He made the forestry program more diverse, more global, and more ecological. He also was a strong proponent of the Environmental and Conservation Sciences program. Jim mentored and taught literally generations of forestry (and ENCS) students. He was a great (and patient) teacher, a great administrator and strong advocate for things he believed in. His great skill was to see a problem and find a solution. He threw himself into projects, developing his own timber supply model, and he put together one of the first recordings of Alberta birds. Generations of students have learned bird calls from his recordings. He became a butterfly enthusiast later in life. He and his wife Barb loved the theatre and the symphony, and his support of UofA Bears and Pandas hockey is legendary. Dr. Beck passed on February 16, 2021.

## DAN JENKINS

Dan (Robert Daniel) Jenkins passed away on March 26, 2021 at Kelowna General Hospital, 22 days after suffering a major stroke. At 88 years of age, he lived a long, fulfilled life. Dan grew up in Grassland, Alberta, one of 10 children in a large farming family. He hunted, fished, and trapped from a young age, and always loved the outdoors. He worked for many

years for the Alberta Forest Service and was very proud of the work he accomplished. In 1988, he took early retirement, and he and Martha moved to Peachland. They continued to make major hunting trips up north, as well as fishing and camping trips, which they had done for many years. His witty sense of humour, and endless 'life' stories were enjoyed by many.

### TIVADAR (TED) SZABO

Born in Ecs, Hungary May 6, 1938, Ted passed away on May 11, 2021, at 83 years of age. He was a bright student who loved learning and was fortunate to live close enough to be able to attend The Benedictine High School of Pannonhalma as a day student. Subsequently, the communist government would not allow him to go to University, so while working as a machinist on a train at the age of 18, he and others made the risky decision to run the train across the border, surviving explosives on the track to become a refugee in Austria, during the Hungarian Revolution in 1956. An accomplished soccer player as well as academic, he received a scholarship to attend the Universite Catholique de Louvain in Belgium to study physics before deciding to come to Canada to follow his brother. He arrived at Pier 21 with \$20 and a newspaper and made his way to B.C. He attended the Sopron Division of the Faculty of Forestry at UBC and had many exciting summer jobs fighting forest fires and even helped to build the West Coast Trail! He then pursued his Ph.D. in Forestry and Engineering at Virginia Tech where he met his wife-to-be Barbara.

He worked in many different roles in forestry and science and loved working so much that he only just retired a couple years ago. His last position was as director of Forest

Product Innovation at Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions. He was an accomplished gardener, even managing to successfully have a backyard vineyard in Edmonton! Incredibly hard working, when he was physically able, his idea of a good time was building a fence. He was always incredibly good at math, physics and chemistry and was a secret weapon for his children if they needed help in these subjects, even at the senior university level. His knowledge was always sharp and there was nothing he could not solve. He loved his family very much, especially adoring his grandchildren, and always had time and some gruff wisdom for them. They also brought out his impish sense of fun. He provided a stable, loving home, a contagious love of learning and higher education, and engendered an incredible respect for his strength and resilience. He was much loved and respected and will be missed.

About Ted, colleague Dalibor Houdek said, *"I collaborated with Ted for nearly two decades. He was the ultimate out of the box thinker with great sense of humor. I don't think there was a forest products science paper he wouldn't have read and remembered it enough that he could talk about it."*

### TYRONE (TY) LUND

Born March 31, 1938, Ty passed away on February 28, 2021, at 82 years of age. There are many things that Ty will always be remembered for. First and foremost was his strong personality and dedication to whatever he believed in. Ty was a very tough man both physically and mentally, very few people challenged Ty Lund and came out winning the argument. Ty had a true love for nature and being outdoors. Ty also had a strong sense of civic duty,

he truly believed that he was put on earth to serve his fellow man. Ty was born in Rocky Mountain House in 1938 and was a third generation family farmer outside of his lengthy political career that began in 1980 when he was elected as a councillor for the Municipal District of Clearwater. After serving nine years on county council, including the final three as reeve, Lund made the jump to provincial politics.

Ty was first elected as a member of the Alberta Legislative Assembly in 1989, completing his final term in 2012. He held an impressive six terms representing the Rocky Mountain House constituency. Among the many positions he fulfilled throughout his service career, the most significant was the inception of the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA), during his time as the Minister of Environmental Protection. Ty was first appointed to this role in 1994 and was then reappointed in 1997. During those challenging times, a need arose for streamlining and restructuring the department and its programs. As a delegated administrative organization, FRIAA was to be managed by a board of directors representing government, industry and the public. FRIAA was (and is) ultimately accountable to the Minister. At its inception, FRIAA was to administer the Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP) for the purpose of enhancing forest management activities and increasing the understanding of forest resources in Alberta. Based on the initial successful implementation of FRIAA's governance model and the administration of FRIP, FRIAA has been delivering programs to enhance Alberta's forest resource for 25 years.



## CHESTER MJOLSNESS

Born October 14, 1919, Chester passed away peacefully at home with his loving family at his side on March 5, 2021 at the age 101 years. He leaves to mourn his loving wife, Martha of Bottrel; two sons, Brian of Atlin, B.C. and Barry (Lorna) of Calgary, Alberta; and daughter, Lorie (Royce) of Cochrane, Alberta. Chester will be greatly missed by eleven grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by first wife Beryl in 1996, son Steven in 1956, daughter Cindy in 2017, great-granddaughter Leisha-Daun in 1995, sisters Gladys and Marion, and brother Lloyd.

Born in Didsbury to Minnie and Louis Mjolsness in 1919, Chester was raised on the family farm west of Sundre where he learned the value of hard work, honesty, and integrity – lessons he carried throughout his long and prosperous life. Along with his brother Lloyd, Chester owned and operated M & M Farming, but his real love was in the logging industry. First operating as Mjolsness Bros. Ltd. in Sundre, Chester founded Spray Lake Sawmills, first in Canmore, and then in its current location in Cochrane. Chester always said, *"If you find a job you love, you will never have to work a day in your life."* Guided by his values and keen business sense, Spray Lake evolved into the major employer and great corporate citizen it is today. After Chester sold the business to his son Barry in 1980, he began an exciting retirement. Never one to slow down, Chester spent the next thirty years pursuing his passion for hunting and traveling to exotic locations around the world. Chester was such a positive force in the lives of so many people. A mentor, role model, business leader, philanthropist, he was, more importantly, a great

husband, father, grandfather, and friend. A perfect example of "a life well lived".

## NORM RODSETH

Born on April 7, 1937, Norm passed away on May 10, 2021 in Edson, Alberta at the age of 84. Brought up in Calgary, Norm received his Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of British Columbia in 1960 and married his fiancée, Janet, later that year. They moved to Grande Prairie to start their new life together and welcomed three daughters to the family. Norm's career with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) started in Grande Prairie in 1958 timber cruising. Norm was promoted from fire control officer to forest superintendent in the Footner Lake Forest in 1974. He then transferred to the Edson Forest, serving as forest superintendent until 1985. The family then moved to Edmonton in 1985 where Norm was the head of the recreation section, Land Use Branch. They moved back to Edson in 1992 upon Norm's retirement from the AFS.

His retirement at an early age allowed the couple to enjoy travelling to Florida, Mexico, camping in the Yukon/Alaska, a cross-Canada camper trip to the Maritimes, and a trip to Australia and New Zealand. All trips included fishing. An avid fly-fisherman, Norm was president of the Edson chapter of Trout Unlimited.

## JAMES FARGEY

Born in 1927, James Fargey passed away in May 2021. He touched countless lives, from his church, the YMCA, Habitat for Humanity, the Canadian Wood Council to name a few affiliations. He always brought his level-headed, thoughtful, and dedicated self to everything. Coming from a farm in Belmont, Manitoba

he learned the value of hard work and commitment to family and community. As the big brother to two sisters, he gave endlessly and was always their pillar of strength. The supporting role continued throughout and in all areas of his life. After graduating from the University of Manitoba in 1949 with a Bachelor of Arts he moved to Drumheller to work in the banking industry. Not long after he joined his family in Edmonton to work with his father in business. He remained with the business until his retirement (and beyond). His career with Western Archrib in engineered wood products lasted over 60 years, and a passion he maintained until the end. He was and still is highly respected amongst his staff, colleagues, clients, suppliers, competition, and industry. A leader in the design, manufacture, and custom fabrication of glued-laminated structural wood systems since 1951, Western Archrib's product line included the manufacture of Douglas fir glulam, spruce pine glulam, and Alaskan yellow cedar glulam into beams, columns, and mass timber panels. Western Archrib is certified to manufacture in accordance with the national standards of Canada, the United States, and Japan. Jim loved skiing, hiking, travel and much more and shared his enthusiasm for whatever he was involved in with anyone interested in participating, including arranging hiking trips with the church with 15+ teenagers, a brave man. A leader in all areas of his life, it was always, how not can we do whatever he had his mind set on. He was always on the move and his life was exceptionally full plus he never hesitated to bring others along.

## KÅRE HELLUM

Alberta lost an internationally recognized leader in forestry and silviculture, with the passing of Kåre

Hellum. Born in Norway on April 5, 1934, Kåre passed away on July 9, 2021 at the age of 87. Dr. Andreas Kåre Hellum studied forestry at the University of British Columbia and completed a PhD at the University of Michigan. Kåre worked for the Alberta Forest Service in the early 1970s as the head of silviculture, before moving to the University of Alberta as a silviculture professor. Kåre lived his life enthralled with nature and his heritage. His home, career, and art were inspired by it. He worked much of his life educating the world on maintaining their forests. He had a passion for art and his muse were the plants around him and the stories from his childhood. He brought a strong sense of heritage which he passed along to everyone who knew him. He made this world a better place and for that, he leaves a long legacy behind.

Dr. Hellum is one of few westerners to have visited the nation of Bhutan, which is located between India and China. While there, Hellum organized a Bhutanese foundation for forestry research, in addition to painting the local flora. A previous book, *"A Painter's Year in the Forests of Bhutan"* is the result of his research and original artwork from Bhutan, which portray several species of flora never seen by North Americans. Hellum has also written a series of handbooks on how to identify selected tree seedlings native to Bhutan, Guyana, Thailand, and Malaysia, and cites examples of what further work is necessary if reliance on indigenous tree species is to be pursued in reforestation. He was also the author of *Listening to Trees*, the story of a man's lifelong journey to salvage the world's declining forests. Alberta Views stated, *"Dr. Hellum's final argument is compelling. If we don't listen to trees, he asks, how will we*

*be able to see them as our partners in making a better world?"*

## BARRY MARSDEN

Barry Marsden was born June 15, 1939 in Vancouver, British Columbia and passed away July 27, 2021 at the age of 82 years. Following the death of his father Kenneth, a logging manager for Canfor, Barry moved to Creston, B.C. with his mother Agnes, a nurse. Mechanically minded, Barry was curious and passionate about aviation from a young age. He started flagging for crop spraying aircraft at the age of 13 before he began his aviation career in 1958, earning his flying licence flying for Skyway Air Services of Langley. He attended the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology's Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Program, then began his aviation career as a mechanic and pilot at Skyway. In 1969, Barry co-founded Conair Aviation, a spinoff of Skyway, and dedicated his career to protecting the world from wildfires. He was an exceptional leader who put people first with an unwavering commitment to safety and innovation. Conair Group Inc. grew to become the largest fixed-wing aerial firefighting company in the world. Barry believed in the power of partnership with colleagues, customers, and competitors and in 2001 founded Cascade Aerospace, a world-class maintenance, repair and overhaul facility in Abbotsford, B.C. For over 52 years, Barry was committed to continually improving aviation and aerial firefighting services globally, and he did so with integrity and a willingness to take calculated risks. An accomplished pilot with over 10,000 flight hours, as well as an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer, Barry was also an avid boater. He began sailing with friends in the 1970s and was a proud member of the Royal

Vancouver Yacht Club. At every chance, over the next 40 years, Barry explored B.C.'s coast with his family and significantly contributed to the design and engineering of his last vessel Marbella - so many happy memories. Barry was quiet and intensely thoughtful, a mentor and true friend. His fortitude was an inspiration to all who knew him, and, to his family, he was our rock. Barry leaves behind an incredible legacy in recognition of his contributions to the growth of Canada's aviation industry. He was the first Western Canadian Chairman of Aerospace Industries Association of Canada and recognized with a Masters Air Pilot award from the Guild of Air Pilots & Air Navigators in London, England. He also received the Freedom of the City of London and became a liveryman of the Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators. He was a recipient of the médaille de l'aéronautique from France, honoured with British Columbia Aviation Council's Lifetime Achievement Award, an inducted member of Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame, and a recipient of the Order of British Columbia and the Order of Canada. In 2008, Barry was appointed to the B.C. Premier's Economic Advisory Council to provide advice and recommendations to the government on enhancing the province's economy. Barry was recognized as a man of vision and dedication, who personifies the qualities of an exceptional leader and entrepreneur, constantly striving for excellence and innovative ideas, energy, and integrity. His visionary leadership made Conair Group a world leader in the development of aerial fire control aircraft, and led to the founding of Cascade Aerospace, a multi-dimensional engineering, maintenance, and management services organization, resulting in major contributions to Canada's aviation industry.



## CARSON MCDONALD

Born in Rocky Mountain House on July 22, 1937, Carson passed away on April 11, 2021 at 84 years of age. Growing up on the family farm in the Strachan valley was typical of the time; no electricity, no running water, no indoor plumbing, with heating and cooking done on wood stoves. He and his siblings attended the one-room Pleasant Vale school up to grade eight. Grades nine to 12 were taken at the residential composite high school in Red Deer. Carson graduated in forestry from the University of Montana in Missoula in the early 1960s. He briefly worked for the U.S. Forest Service before returning to work for the Alberta Forest Service as a forester in timber management, first in the Rocky Mountain House, then Slave Lake and Lac La Biche Forests. In the late 1960s, Carson moved to the Provincial Forest Fire Centre as a fire control officer. In May 1977, Carson was promoted to forest superintendent in Slave Lake, Slave Lake Forest, staying there until December 1985. His next opportunity was as superintendent, Pine Ridge Forest Nursery at Smoky Lake. In 1994, Carson returned to Edmonton, this time as director, Program Support, until his retirement in August 1995 after 30 years with the forest service. Following retirement, Carson worked with KPMG and BearingPoint as a consultant focused on business planning, performance measures, and wildland fire reviews and continuous improvement.

## LORNE GOFF

*Submitted by Garry Goff*

Born in Grande Prairie, Alberta on March 21, 1939 Dad passed away in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta on August 13, 2021. Dad was raised on a farm near Bezanson, Alberta, with lots of cousins in the area, attending

High School in Grande Prairie. In the late 1950s he and his brother Gerald went to southern B.C. to work in the logging camps there. I think this is where his passion for working in the forest industry developed. He then worked for a garage in Grande Prairie before applying to work for the Alberta Forest Service (AFS). Not to say that Dad was a packrat, but I found a copy of his original application to join the AFS when I was going through his things. After finishing basic ranger training at Hinton in 1963 his first posting was as an assistant ranger at Debolt, before moving on to South Wapiti in 1964 as assistant ranger. The next move was to Sunset House in 1964 as a ranger. The ranger station there was south of Sunset House on a hill over the Sweathouse Creek. In 1965, it was off to Slave Lake as the land use officer. In 1970, Dad was promoted to Chief Ranger in High Prairie. In 1970-71, he took the Forest Technology course in Hinton. I remember that there was a lot of trash talk between the young NAIT students and the "old forestry guys" as to who would come out on top in the Bull of the Woods competition held at the end of training. Dad was determined that he was going to show these young guys a thing or two and did just that by winning the individual Bull of the Woods trophy. Dad went back to Slave Lake in 1971 as the fire control officer. While working as the fire control officer Dad built the first "modern day" airtanker base in Alberta, that served as a model for future bases in the province. I know that he was extremely proud of the base that he helped design and that it served as a model for future bases. Dad had left high school early to work on the farm and in the logging industry. If he was going to progress his career any further, he had to obtain his high school diploma. Through night classes, getting credit

for some of the forestry training he had taken and credits for the erosion control report that he completed and was published by the AFS he obtained his diploma and graduated from high school in 1977. This is the same year that I graduated from high school. I always thought that that was a big accomplishment for Dad and was proud to have graduated the same year as him. From Slave Lake it was on to Edmonton in September 1977 as the head of fire operations for a couple of years before moving to Fort McMurray with a promotion to forest superintendent. Next came Peace River, as superintendent, for a few years. Then he transferred down to Rocky Mountain House where he finished up his career, retiring in 1995. I asked dad when he went to Rocky what the biggest change was. He replied that it was really nice to be able to put his feet up on a rock there in the south instead of having them sink in the muskeg up north.

## LARRY KENNEDY

Larry was born on September 15, 1932, in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, and passed away on September 14, 2021 in Comox, B.C. one day shy of his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. Larry attended high school in Red Deer and continued his education at the University of British Columbia, where he caught the eye of his future wife Claire when he rappelled off the top of the UBC library clock tower. Larry was the climbing chairman of the Varsity Outdoor Club and continued to be a pioneer in the mountain community. He married Claire in 1957. Larry graduated in 1957 as a professional forester, starting his career working in the Black Forest in Germany. He then returned to Canada, working for Des Crossley as a summer student with the Canadian Forest Service. When he graduated, he worked at Northwest Pulp and

Power for a few months before leaving first to Ontario Lands and Forests briefly, then back to Alberta. Larry joined the Alberta Forest Service in 1959 where he rose to head of silviculture for the Province of Alberta.

Never one to find satisfaction inside an office, Larry and Claire decided to return to Rocky Mountain House and take on the challenge of ranching. As if that wasn't enough, they also created Terratima Lodge in 1974 with the help of family and friends. Terratima was the first Nordic ski destination of its kind in Alberta, an exceptional place that brought together families for many generations. Claire and Larry moved to the Comox Valley in 2008. Larry volunteered with Search and Rescue and continued to share his love for the woods and wild spaces with his family. Sundre Forest Products Tom Daniels recalls, "*Larry was one of the first members of SPIRT (Sunpine Public Involvement Round Table), and over many years he provided his insight and ideas about forest management*".

### GLEND RADBOURNE

Glenda Radbourne passed away September 19, 2021. Glenda worked for the Alberta Forest Service for over 35 years, starting out in the Manning warehouse. Glenda was a lady of many hats, working seasonally as a warehouse person, fire guardian, patrol person, camp supervisor, and as a supply unit leader, ordering manager, logistics section chief 2, and facilities unit leader on wildfire incidents. Glenda had a positive impact on all people she worked with or came across. As a patrol person, Glenda was known by everyone in the farming and outlying communities and was always that key person everyone went to for a

fire permit, or just advice. Glenda and her late husband were huge in the community, owning a large ranch. Besides her family and work, she put a lot of energy into the schools in Manning, and the local food programs.

### TED LOBLAW

Born September 4, 1929 in Banff, Alberta, Ted passed away on September 11, 2021 in Calgary at 92 years of age. He started as a predator control officer with the Alberta Forest Service in 1952, working between the James River and Highwood, Bow River Forest. The rabies control program ended in 1955, and Ted then went to Mockingbird Lookout as a lookout observer. After two months, he was promoted to assistant ranger at the Elbow Ranger Station. Except for his horses which came later, he moved everything in his car, including his two dogs, camping gear, bedroll, and everything else he owned. Ted got married there in the spring of 1957. Although they did game work, other duties included recreation, wildfire, and range management work, inspecting forage utilization, and counting livestock in and out at the end of the season. Next step for Ted and family (three children) was as a forest officer II at the Clearwater Ranger Station. Work included wildfire in the summer and timber management in the winter. The Fisher's and Murray's had year-round sawmilling operations, and five winter-only timber operators. Next stop was to Nordegg in 1963, a four-man ranger district with considerably more recreation and wildfire work. Minimum security prisoners were used for project work in the area. In July 1967, Ted transferred to the Crowsnest Pass as a forest officer II at the Castle Ranger Station. Timber management was the main workload, with small mills on Lost

Creek and another on Goat Creek. Most timber went to Cowley and Coleman sawmills. In 1971, the Bow and Crow forests were centralized into the Bow Crow Forest, and Ted was promoted to forest officer III at Blairmore (District DB6), which included the Porcupine, Coleman, and Castle River districts. In August 1973, Ted was promoted to the chief ranger back at Nordegg, which now included the Nordegg, Shunda and Upper Saskatchewan districts. After 14 years as the chief ranger, Ted retired with 33 years of service.

### CHUCK RATLIFF

Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on November 13, 1937, Charles "Chuck" Ratliff passed away on October 13, 2021 in Grande Prairie, Alberta on October 13, 2021 at 83 years of age. He moved with his parents to a homestead in Bonanza, Alberta, in 1938. He grew up there with his younger sister and brother, and learned to garden, hunt, and fish. He became skilled at all three and enjoyed these activities all his life, supplying his family with wild meat and fresh vegetables. When young Chuck, then known as Charlie, was ready to begin high school, he moved to Kenaston, Saskatchewan, to live with his aunt and uncle and completed his high school education there. He then spent four years working on seismic and pipelines and took on the dangerous job as blaster. He then began his long career with the Alberta Forest Service, which he loved as he was an avid outdoorsman and had a deep caring for forests and the animals that resided there. He had a varied career that included fighting forest fires and teaching at the Forest Technology School. He ended his career working in Grande Prairie as forester in charge of forest land-use. He was never afraid of a challenge, whether it was riding on



the roof of a cabin in a flood, flying in bird-dog aircraft, coming face to face with grizzly bears (that might have scared him a little), or ending up in helicopter crashes. Chuck was known as an outdoorsman, expert antler carver, and storyteller. Henry Desjarlais recalls a story from Slave Lake Forest about Chuck; *"One December, the forest management crew moved their camp to mark timber south of Wabasca. After setting up camp with only about two hours of sunlight left, he had the crew head into the forest to get as much done as possible while it was still light. He didn't let grass grow under his feet."*

### MARK FROEHLER

Born May 26, 1957, Mark passed away on July 16, 2021 at the age of 64 years of age. Mark started his career with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) on February 14, 1977 at the Pine Ridge Forest Nursery. In 1978, Mark took an education leave to attend the NAIT forest technology program, graduating in 1980. Classmates included Brent Bochon, Barry Gladders, Marian Cowen, Owen Spencer, Brian Stanton, Stu Walkinshaw, and Collin Williams. Mark became a project forest officer in Blueridge and Whitecourt on March 7, 1982, moving to the Beaver Lake Ranger Station, Lac La Biche Forest on June 16, 1986. Mark then became a regional forest protection technician. Mark was on the organizing committee for the AFS Oldtimers Hockey Tournament for over 20 years; and, for the Jack Lunan, later Forestry Classic Golf Tournament for close to 30 years. Mark was also an active community member, volunteering on countless Kinsmen and Rotary activities.

### LESLIE LOZINSKI

On January 30, 2022 Leslie left us after a courageous battle with cancer. Leslie had many good friends and appreciated all of them. Leslie was very talented and strove for excellence in all her undertakings; Bethel Queen of Job's Daughters, synchronized ice skating, gardening, quilting, and sewing, and showcased her artistic abilities in everything she did. She always enjoyed travelling, from visiting the polar bears in Manitoba, to an encounter with a camel in Dubai. Her travels took her around the world one and a half times. Leslie started to work for Alberta Forestry Division out of Lac La Biche as a wildfire information officer in 2009. Leslie is remembered for development of the *Farm and Acreage* magazine, a tool for home and landowners in making their sites FireSmart. She was also the lead in the branding program in the creation of Alberta Wildfire.

### LEO DRAPEAU

Leo passed away on March 26, 2022. After forty-five years, Leo Drapeau retired from the Alberta government on May 5, 2016. Leo acquired his interest in forestry as a Junior Forest Ranger first in Sudbury in 1966 and again in Rocky Mountain House in 1967. He enrolled in the Forest Technology Program at NAIT in 1969 with 65 others. At the end of the first year, 25 remained. His first job between first and second year was supervising a tree planting operation with Northwestern Pulp and Power in Hinton. When the work ran out, he talked with Hank Ryhanen in Forest Protection about work. This led to his first job in the Footner Lake Forest in 1970. He was put on the midnight bus from Edmonton by buddies, after spending the night "talking" in the bar, arriving in High Level the next morning ... in the rain

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

### HANK SPENCER

Born in 1923, Henry "Hank" Spencer passed away on April 18, 2022. Hank Spencer's work with forestry led to an innovative seedling container used by government and industry for years. The following is a write-up of the Spencer-Lemaire containers.

Spencer-Lemaire Industries Limited was incorporated in 1961 by Henry A. Spencer and Claude J.M. Lemaire,

both professional engineers, for the design, manufacture, and distribution of plastic products. Experimental work on the development of seedling containers began in 1963 with co-operation and encouragement from the Alberta Department of Agriculture and the Alberta Forest Service, as well as Northwestern Pulp and Power (Dr. Des Crossley), of Hinton, Alberta. Dr. Les Carlson of the Canadian Forest Service in Edmonton established appropriate regimes for container growth of seedlings. About 1975, Simpson Timber built a Roottrainer container nursery at Blue Ridge, Alberta. Earlier, Dr. R. (Dick) Tinus of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service helped to design large Roottrainers for growth of seedlings for the great plains of central U.S.A. Spencer-Lemaire has patents on the original Roottrainers design and its subsequent improvements, and the Ronaash Roottrainers name is a Registered Trademark. Ronaash Limited, of Scotland, is the authorized manufacturer and distributor of Roottrainers for Europe and the Middle East. Spencer-Lemaire and Ronaash now provide Roottrainers for successful growth of seedlings of all kinds, world-wide.

### DARBY PAVER

Darby passed away on April 21, 2022. He worked for the Alberta Forest Service from 1972 to 1995. Darby started as a forester in Rocky Mountain House, then transferred to Grande Prairie working for Mort Timanson, before moving to Slave Lake. Prior to moving to Alberta, Darby worked for private industry in British Columbia. In Slave Lake, Darby was the silviculture forester, and colleague Pat Guidera said, *"he certainly contributed to excellence in silvics, and taught many of us about the art and science of reforestation"*.

### GARY GIESE

Born November 22, 1931 in Saskatchewan, Gary passed away in Whitecourt on April 22, 2022 at the age of 90. Gary was a forest ranger with the Alberta Forest Service from 1959 to 1987. He started working as an assistant ranger at the Pine Ranger Station, Whitecourt Forest Division (just west of Fox Creek), and attended Forestry Training School basic ranger training in the fall of 1960. He then moved to the Robb Ranger District, Edson Forest Division, as a forest officer I in 1960. In 1966, Gary transferred to the Fox Creek Ranger District as the officer in charge (forest officer II). During that time, Gary attended the advanced ranger course. Following centralization, Gary became the chief ranger at Fox Creek, until his retirement in 1987. Gary had a passion for the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. He enjoyed working with his hands, from tying flies to woodworking.

### GORDON ARMITAGE

On May 21, 2022 Gordon Armitage passed away after a canoeing accident on the Ells River. Gordon was 81 years of age. Gordon was brought up in Ottawa and spent his younger years exploring the outdoors in the forests near his home, and on the Ottawa River. His guidance councillor at Lister Collegiate suggested forestry as a career, something Gordon knew would keep him in the outdoors. Although starting in the class of 1966 at the University of New Brunswick, Gordon took time off, and graduated with the class of 1968. He worked for the McKenzie Forest Service in Fort Smith and Yellowknife fighting wildfires during the summers of 1964 and 1966, worked for the Canadian Wildlife Service in Wood Buffalo Park during the winter of 1965, worked for Canfor as a chokerman in Wass

Lake, B.C. in the summer of 1965, and as production foreman for American Can (Marathon) in northern Ontario during the summer of 1967.

Upon graduation, Gordon and his wife moved to Slave Lake with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) as an assistant forester in charge of silviculture, working for Con Dermott. They arrived as the rains hit, following the disastrous 1968 spring wildfires. In the mid-1970s, Gordon moved to Whitecourt Forest as a forester II, working for Dick Radke. He was then promoted to the superintendent of the Athabasca Forest, moving to Fort McMurray in 1986. Gordon retired in 1995 from the AFS, starting a second career working for the Fort McKay First Nation, and their Fort McKay Group of Companies.

Gordon was an outdoorsman all his life and passed away enjoying what he loved. Gordon became a member of the community wherever he lived and was named the Fort McMurray male Senior of the Year in 2018. The award was in recognition of his volunteer activities with the Fort McMurray search and rescue group, the Waypoints board, and the Rotary Club.

### NICK PAULOVITS

Nick Paulovits passed away on July 14, 2022 at the age of 83 years. Nick was well known in the Slave Lake Forest as a lookout observer, aerial observer, and detection officer. The following information was prepared by Doug Ellison for the Sam Fomuk Award that Nick was presented on his retirement in October 2012. Nick Paulovits came to Canada from Hungary in 1957 (age 30), lived and worked in Ontario for a while, then moved west to Alberta and worked on ranches in the south. He then worked in B.C. for Roy Hargraves



wrangling horses and guiding tourists in the Mt. Robson area. He then moved back to Alberta where he worked in sawmills, the bush, trapped and eventually ended up in Slave Lake, where he started working for the Alberta Forest Service. In 1968, he was the lookout observer at Flat Top Tower just south of Slave Lake, when the 1968 Vega fire took its run from Vega to just south of Slave Lake. Nick was the first person to warn forestry officials that the fire was coming.

Nick eventually moved into the detection officer position in Slave Lake and began looking after all the towers, as well as doing aerial observer duties. Nick was a very independent person with a very observant, keen, alert, practical, technical and inventive mind. If he had a problem, he'd analyze it, and develop a plan and a solution. You might not like it or understand how it works, but it will work, and work well. In his role, Nick also did replacement tower shifts. Whether by air or ground, Nick came with a complete set of his own tools to the tower. During the day he provided all lookout duties as required, but when the sun set, the tools came out. Whether it was carpentry, plumbing, electrical, steel maintenance, gas fitting, it was a buzz of activity. He would catch a few hours sleep and start another day of lookout duties. I know of several instances of people wanting gardens, and upon their return there was enough good soil to start that project. I also know of times where tower guy wires needed replacement, and during the night the holes were dug, a new deadman was put in and cable strung and attached. There isn't a tower in the Slave Lake area that Nick did not man or repair during his time. To my knowledge, Nick was the first person to start installing portable shower units at

towers, all materials and expertise he provided.

When back at headquarters, he did aerial observer duties, always talking and working with lookout observers locating smokes and fires. He is also one of the few people I know who could direct a pilot into a wildfire, from headquarters on the radio. During the fall and winter back at the Slave Lake warehouse, you would find Nick getting ready for next year. Repairing fire hose and repairing shovels and axes on machines he modified. Another job that Nick took pride in was refurbishing and replacing cupolas. He developed his own harnesses and hook ups, so he could use a helicopter to remove and replace cupolas in the fall. He preferred to do the work himself with the pilot, keeping everyone else at a distance. For all his gruffness at times, he truly loves the tower life and tower personnel.

### MAX STANCHFIELD

Originally from the Lac La Biche area, Max passed away on January 28, 2021, in Stewart, B.C. He was a forest ranger in the Peace River and Footner Lake Forests, stationed at the Steen River Ranger Station in the 1960s. Max attended the basic ranger course at the Forestry Training School in Hinton in 1961. He was active with the Junior Forest Warden program in High Level with Harry Edgecombe. After leaving the Alberta Forest Service, Max started an oilfield trucking company in Rainbow Lake in the 1970s. In the late 1990s he moved to Stewart, B.C., and established a logging transport business and invested in real estate rental properties.

Emanuel Doll recalls, *"Max was well liked in the community, was always joyful and had a great sense of humour which he skillfully harnessed*

*to motivate crews. He had great organizational skills and was a very energetic and dedicated ranger. He built the Steen Tower airstrip, Whitesands airstrip and others. He was one of the first to introduce using trees as corduroy in muskeg areas. Those airstrips stood the test of time with minimal frost heaving."*

### CAROL CRAWFORD

Born December 11, 1940, Carol passed away on November 19, 2021, just shy of her 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. Not your typical country gal, she loved the country, horses, deer, birds, and good, fresh air. A musician with a unique touch on the piano, accordion, and guitar, she wrote many songs and poems about life, the Lord, and victory. She went to MacTavish Secretarial College, and she said that was only because that was one of the few options given to women in her day. Always diligent, she proved herself an excellent administrator retiring from the Forest Technology School in Hinton, Alberta, and then pursuing her passion of investing and assisting her daughter, Bonnie with R. Work Group for 30 years.

### GARY FLATH

Born in Medicine Hat on July 27, 1935, Gary passed away in Courtney, B.C. on July 17, 2022, just ten days short of his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. Gary enjoyed a long and rewarding career as a helicopter pilot in the Canadian Armed Forces until 1982. He accrued 25,000 flying hours, during his 53 years as a pilot; was lead pilot for the "Dragonfly" formation helicopter team; received the Star of Courage for a rescue on Mt. Whatcom, in Washington State; 442 Squadron was awarded the Chief of Defense Staff Unit Commendation for outstanding devotion to duty for the heroic service in the rescue of passengers from the MS Prinsendam.

Gary then flew 12 years for the Alberta government, during which he re-enlisted into the Reserves twice to serve in UN peace-keeping missions in the Sinai, Egypt and RWAH Tegucigalpa, Honduras; then later for private industry until retirement at age 73.

Gary was a man of all seasons, a hunter, fisherman, card player, star gazer, scenic photographer, runner, curler, golfer, baseball, and hockey player (including the Old Timers League). He enjoyed a full life of traveling, going yearly to the Penticton Jazz Festival; spending time with family and his many friends with whom he greatly enjoyed sharing stories of his life experiences and adventures. He was a proud veteran and member of the following: Courtenay Legion, Lions Club, Evergreen Seniors; the 888 (Komox) RCAFA Wing. Gary served his community, attended events, and told jokes with his classic good humor. In his company you would learn he was a positive person who cared for and respected all cultures, loved music, especially East Coast and country music, old movies, his Tilley hat, politics, Blue Jays baseball, his Montreal hockey jersey and of course his signature glass of red wine in hand. Gary lived a full life, was one of a kind and he did it his way.

### GEORGE BENOIT

George Clarence Benoit has gone camping! Born in Antigonish, Nova Scotia on August 25, 1945, George passed away in Lethbridge, Alberta at the age of 77 on October 25, 2022. George loved the outdoors his whole life, so after finishing his schooling, he enrolled and graduated from the Maritime Forest Ranger School in Fredericton, New Brunswick in 1970. He worked one year in Newfoundland before moving

to Alberta in 1971 where he found his calling with the Alberta Forest Service. His career took him all over Alberta and he eventually retired in 2010. The work he enjoyed most was fighting forest fires, and anything that got him out of the office, whether it be mill studies, oil field or land-use inspections was good with him! He met his wife at the bar one day after work, where she rescued him from the unwanted amorous attentions of another female. He continued to keep their relationship interesting by dropping her in a mud puddle on their first date! They eventually married in 1977 and were together for another 45 years, raising two sons. George's greatest joy was camping and trying to "skunk" his boys at cribbage.

### STEPHEN FERDINAND

A graduate of the Sopron Division of the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia, Steve passed away in August 2022 at 85 years of age. Following graduation in 1960, Steve was hired by Des Crossley at Northwestern Pulp and Power (NWP&P) in Hinton. He initially started in the forest inventory program, but was soon put in charge of production layout, i.e., photo interpretation and forest type mapping, harvest design and volume estimates by harvest block, and block layout in the field. When Bob Carmen left the company around 1967, Steve was put in charge of silviculture and continued developing the containerized seedling program. Working with Hank Spencer, he designed the Spencer-Lemaire Ferdinand containers that replaced the old hard-shell Ontario Tubes that Carmen brought with him from Ontario. Bob Udell replaced Steve as section head for production layout at that time. Steve left NWP&P and started with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) in Edmonton in March

1974. He worked in various positions for the next 28 years, including liaison with AFS regional staff and in silviculture, reforestation, woods operations, forest recreation and integrated resource planning. Steve was instrumental in importing Scandinavian reforestation tools into Alberta; the Marttiini plow, Lannen back-hoe for drainage work, Bracke scarifiers, and pine thinning. Steve retired in 2002.

One of Steve's memorable contributions was the salvage of a box of materials laying around an Edmonton AFS office destined for records disposal. Inside were the "Zimmer Files", with images, reports, and other details of a controversial program in the early 1970s by STOP (Save Tomorrow, Oppose Pollution) that targeted Des Crossley's forestry program at Hinton. The author, Arnand Zimmer, was making headlines in Alberta with his assertions of environmental destruction and lack of reforestation. Fred McDougall dispatched Kåre Hellum to locate every one of Zimmer's photopoints and do a detailed analysis of the environmental and reforestation status at each location. Hellum's report emphatically refuted the assertions of Zimmer and no more was said. At least, that was until Steve approached the Forest History Program at fRI Research with the idea of doing a follow-up report 35 years after the fact to take another look at those sites. The 2007 report by Ferdinand, Robert Stevenson and Robert Udell confirms Hellum's forecasts and again refutes the claims of Zimmer. Steve was also co-author with Peter Murphy, Robert Stevenson, and Dennis Quintilio on the *Alberta Forest Service 1930-2005: Protection and management of Alberta's forests* book.



## BENJAMIN JANZ

Born in New Hamburg, Ontario on October 29, 1926, Ben passed away in Edmonton, Alberta on December 24, 2022 at 96 years of age. Ben was an avid photographer, each year creating a flower calendar from his travels around Alberta. Ben was a meteorologist with the federal Meteorological Branch and supported wildfire researchers and firefighters on the Darwin Lake research burns in 1974. Ben then joined the Alberta Forest Service and was the weather section head from 1980 to 1990. Marty Alexander (Canadian Forest Service), Dennis Quintilio (Alberta Forest Service (AFS), Forest Technology School, Hinton) and Ben Janz (Alberta Forest Service, Provincial Forest Fire Centre Weather Section) developed and taught the first advanced fire behaviour course based on the new fire danger rating system in the early 1980s. This course became the forerunner to the national advanced wildland fire behaviour course.

Nick Nimchuk, recently retired weather section head, recalled that Ben was a great mentor and teacher. He recalled that *"Ben taught high school in southern Alberta after attending the University of Manitoba where I believe he majored in mathematics and physics. He joined the federal Department of Transport Meteorological Branch in the late 1950s or early 1960s serving for a number of years in Gander, Newfoundland, when it was still a major airline hub for overseas flights. Ben was the meteorologist on duty in Edmonton during the record setting snowfalls (eight feet with 20-30 foot drifts) in southern Alberta in April 1967, tens of thousands of livestock were lost. He was also on duty when a blizzard struck the Edmonton International Airport in 1971, a Pacific Western Airlines Boeing 707 freighter*

*crashed on approach near Leduc that night."*

Cliff Smith, then Director of Forest Protection, said *"Ben came on board the Forest Protection Branch shortly before me and made an immediate impact. I had utmost respect of him, not just because of his meteorology credentials, but also his interest in fire behaviour. Through his role he contributed a lot to our knowledge of fire science in the 1980s. As a newcomer to the Branch, I considered him in many ways as a mentor. His am and pm weather briefings were a highlight to look forward to during the daily grind. He was not a fan of the late Bill Matheson (ITV) who he considered "all show", and Ben took great delight in comparing his AFS weather forecasts (which were, for the most part much more accurate) to the TV version. He was an integral part of the fire operation, particularly during those very active years in the 1980s."*

About Ben, Dennis Quintilio said, *"In the eighties and nineties we were making annual horse trips into the Willmore Wilderness and Ben would write up a weather forecast for our destination and was more right than wrong on every trip. This helped a lot to figure out days to stay in camp and days to travel. During those same years I would call in from a base camp on campaign fires and ask Ben for a personal forecast when I was worried about wind shifts later in the day. He would always ask me to go out in a clearing and describe the cloud cover, then he would work up his forecast."*

## HAROLD MINCHAU

Born in 1932, Harold Henry Minchau of Wetaskiwin passed away on December 15, 2022 at 90 years of age. Harold spent the first 7+ decades of his life anchored in the farming

community of Pipestone, west of Millet. At the age of 14 he met his true love, the newly arrived neighbour girl, Irene Hirsekorn. They married on July 31, 1953 and worked together as they took over his parents' farm. He strove to be a good steward of the land and was happy if his machinery was John Deere green. He was a self-taught builder, welder, machinist and more. A grain elevator and several sawmills were among his many projects. Harold's favourite place was in the bush. He spent 50+ years logging in "the West Country" and operated heavy logging equipment until he was 86.

## JOSEPH SMITH

Born in Edmonton, Alberta on December 22, 1936, Joe Smith passed away on January 3, 2023, in Victoria, B.C. at the age of 86. Brought up in High Prairie, he lived in the area for 25 years before joining the Alberta Forest Service (AFS). Around the age of 11, Joe joined the son of forest ranger Albert "Monty" Alfred on a four-day pack trip to Goose Mountain Tower. This trip and his appreciation of the outdoors got him interested in forestry. When Joe was a mid-teen, he rented horses to the AFS for their forest survey work. In 1957, he spent nearly three months working for Doug Lyons on the forest survey crew around the Smith, Alberta area. Joe was the cook, packer and sometimes compassman. Crew member Don Fregren told Joe that *"he was the worst cook he'd ever seen."* With work winding down, Joe went logging on Vancouver Island for a while, returned to High Prairie, and worked falling trees for Clarke and Smith Lumber Company in the winter, and driving truck and school bus in the summer. Joe married Jeanette on May 31, 1958. He then worked for Swanson Lumber out of Slave Lake falling trees and driving

truck; Jeanette working at the camp kitchen.

In the summer of 1962, Joe was on the Kinuso, Slave Lake Division, standby (initial attack) crew. Later in the year, he worked with others building House Mountain Tower. In April, 1963, Joe started as the crew foreman for the standby crew in Slave Lake, then in May 1963, was accepted as an assistant ranger at Rock Lake, out of Hinton, Edson Forest, moving there on May 5, 1963. Living in an uninsulated 16x20 tool cache with three children, led Joe to the Robb Ranger Station that fall working for Gary Giese. While in Robb, he helped build the dock at Fickle Lake and the Lovett lookout. Joe attended the three-month basic ranger course in Hinton in the fall of 1964, moving to the Muskeg Ranger Station working for Ernie Stroebe in December 1964. During that time, Joe helped build the Kvass Lookout, and spent winters looking after the two sawmills in the area, laying out cutblocks for harvest. In the spring of 1966, the Smith's moved to Calling Lake where Joe worked for Dennis Howells. There were a lot of small sawmillers, local timber permit holders and wildfire activity while there. Joe said, *"the dry fall of 1967, led to an explosive spring 1968 fire season. The spring was very dry, cold, and windy, with the wind blowing from the southeast for weeks. On Sunday, May 19, 1968, it seemed like the whole settled area and forest was on fire. The one wildfire in Calling Lake went to 104,000 acres, and I stayed on that wildfire from May 20<sup>th</sup> until October 16<sup>th</sup>."* During the summer of 1967, Joe attended the first bird dog officer course, later called the forest bird dog officer, and now air attack officer. He continued that role for 17 years. Over 50 million board feet of burnt timber was salvaged during the winters of 1968 and 1969, keeping the rangers

hopping with permit approvals, block, and mill inspections. Joe attended the six-month advanced ranger course in Hinton in 1970.

Joe moved to Wabasca in 1971 as a forest officer III, second in command, then in late 1972 back to Kinuso on a lateral transfer. With a lack of trained bird dog officers, Joe spent the entire summer bird dogging aircraft. In the fall of 1973, Joe moved to Edmonton working for Carson McDonald as the air attack boss. With the aircraft fleet changing from Snows, Thrushes and Steerman's, the infrastructure also changed, from 38 fire bombing airstrips to 15 airtanker bases. Over the next five years Joe spent time expanding the aircraft fleet and building permanent airtanker bases, all built to the new DC6 standard.

In 1979, the Smith's moved again, this time to Edson, with Joe as the forest officer III in the Edson District. He then took a promotion to a forest officer IV, forest protection technician in the Whitecourt Forest in 1981, working for forest protection officer Bob Miller. When a new forest protection technician position was created in the Edson Forest in 1982, Joe moved back working for forest protection officer Hilo McDonald. In March 1988, Joe took a promotion to Wabasca, Slave Lake Forest, as the chief ranger, forest officer V, retiring in April 1993, after 30 years of service. In retirement Joe did some contract cruising and firefighter training. Joe and Jeanette had three daughters, five grand children and three great grand children.

### FRANK LIGHTBOUND

Born on April 5, 1932, Thomas "Frank" Lightbound passed away in Lethbridge, Alberta on January 10, 2023 at 90 years of age. Frank was born, raised and educated in

Lethbridge. He became interested in the National Parks and was employed on trail crews and as a fire lookout at Waterton Lakes Park, then later as a Park Warden in Banff and Kootenay National Parks from 1950 to the early 1960s. He later attended the Forest Technology School at Hinton and was employed as a ranger with the Alberta Forest Service being posted in the Clearwater and Crowsnest Forests. He was the last permanent occupant of the Livingston Gap ranger station, and while posted there was active in the Maycroft Community Association. When the station was closed during the winter of 1970-1971, he moved to Blairmore where he resided until after his retirement in October, 1985. For a time during the 1970s he was a member and later chairman of the local police commission. In October 1986, he moved to Lethbridge where he has resided ever since. Having been involved in range management while employed by the Alberta Forest Service he continued to take part in cattle drives and roundups with friends in the Maycroft area for many years. During his retirement, he enjoyed camping, hiking, whitewater rafting and exploring National Parks, historic sites and wild areas from Montana to Texas.

### MIKE CARDINAL

Born on July 17, 1941 in Calling Lake, Mike (Melvin) Percy Joseph Cardinal passed away in Edmonton on January 12, 2023. Mike was a trailblazer throughout his life and leaves an influential legacy. He had an unmatched work ethic that was instilled into him by his parents. Mike had vision and impacted many lives through his life's work. He dedicated himself to improving the lives of people in Alberta, especially Indigenous people. His dream was for our people to be educated,



self-sufficient and successful. He spent most of his career with the Government of Alberta in various roles. In the earlier part of his career, he developed a Transitional Housing Program, and had an instrumental role in the Job Corps.

Mike was especially proud of the 19 years (from 1989 - 2008) he spent serving as an MLA and loved making a difference for his constituents and Albertans. He was a Cabinet Minister for 15 of those years and was the first Status Indian to take on this role in Alberta. From 1992 - 2008 Mike's cabinet posts included Minister of Family and Social Services and Aboriginal Affairs, Associate Minister of Forestry, Minister of Resource Development, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, and Minister of Human Resources and Employment. Mike dedicated himself to all these roles and although he could be a force, he also was kindhearted and worked in a very humble way. His goal was always to help people, in his community, his constituency and Alberta. His proudest career accomplishment was the work he did to reform the welfare system in Alberta. The people he served respected and appreciated his dedication, and many became close friends over the years.

## KENNETH SNYDER

Born in Deloraine, Manitoba on June 7, 1964, Ken passed away on January 16, 2023 at the age of 58. Ken grew up in Calgary and followed a career in forestry. He graduated from NAIT in 1985 and worked in various areas and positions in Northern Alberta until he got a permanent position as a forest officer in Fort Assiniboine (Whitecourt Forest) in 1989. In 1992, he met his wife to be at his high school reunion and they married in 1993. About 1 ½ years later, many companies were

downsizing and restructuring. His wife lost her job in Barrhead, and he made a lateral move to Blairmore in 1995. Both his children were born in Blairmore, his son in 1999 and his daughter in 2002. In March of 2004, he made his final move to Hinton, later in a management position at the Hinton Training Centre. He retired in June 2021. He thought it was funny that he ended his career in the same place it started, 35 years later. He made a morning ritual of reading books (which had to be paperbacks). This changed over time as life became busier with two growing children. He also enjoyed a variety of movies, his favorites being a Clint Eastwood western or Marvel Comics. Ken was old school with all he did. He fought the internet for as long as he could, refused to text because it was impersonal and wanted a paper trail of his bills. Things changed over time, especially when COVID-19 hit. He finally came around and changed with the times. He later found his passion in photography. He loved to drive to Jasper in the wee hours of the morning, looking for wildlife, before the tourists came out. He always had plenty to say and grumbled when they got in the way of that "perfect shot" or scared them off. Some of his pictures were framed for family or submitted as door prizes at the company Christmas party... and treasured by its recipients. He had a way about him, always coming up with off-handed comments that would have you laughing. Where he came up with the ideas, was a mystery. Imagine being an employee at the Tim Horton's drive thru and getting an order for half a muffin or an order for a \$20 bill.

## TERRY SEABORN

Born in Rivers, Manitoba on June 11, 1950, Terry passed away in Edmonton, Alberta on February 17,

2023, at the age of 72. Terry began working as a Clerk Typist I-II with the Forest Administration Branch, Alberta Forest Service, Department of Lands and Forests on June 4, 1969, retiring on June 30, 2015, after 46 years. Terry spent all her career in Edmonton in various roles supporting program delivery. Throughout the years, Terry worked in three governments and under nine Premiers (Social Credit – Harry Strom; PC – Peter Lougheed to Jim Prentice; and NDP – Rachael Notley); for eight departments (Lands and Forests, Energy and Natural Resources, Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, Environmental Protection, Environment, Sustainable Resource Development, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, and Agriculture and Forestry); 22 Ministers, 14 Deputy Ministers and nine Assistant Deputy Ministers. Terry was the knowledgeable go-to for all matters human resource and program support. Terry's sister Lori remembers the Bowker Building, the first office where Terry worked, as having a pneumatic tube system that was used to shoot memos up and down stairs. Modern technology of the time.

A man wearing a red jacket and sunglasses is crouching next to a campfire. The fire is burning brightly, and the man is looking towards the camera. The background shows a wooded area with bare trees, suggesting a cool season. The ground is covered with dry leaves and rocks.

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[Albertafirebans.ca](https://albertafirebans.ca)

Alberta



# FORESTRY PHOTO CORNER

## ELMER A. JOHNSON COLLECTION

Raised east of Sundre on the Red Deer River, Elmer Johnson worked for his dad in the early 1940s, sawing timber and laying out roads on the north side of Burnstick Lake. From 1949 to 1951, he worked summers with the Geological Survey running a pack outfit in the Grande Cache area. In 1952, Elmer started with the Alberta Forest Service as an assistant ranger at the Clearwater Ranger Station working for Harry Edgecombe. A large part of the work involved maintenance of fire trails and the telephone lines. He attended basic forestry training in Kananaskis, in the fall of 1953. In spring 1954, Elmer was promoted to district ranger at the new Sunset House district, 19B, Slave Lake Division. Work there involved wellsite and seismic line inspections, timber cruising, fighting wildfires, and issuing fire permits for the new homestead expansion. In spring 1956, Elmer moved to Slave Lake as the chief ranger, becoming assistant superintendent in 1958. In 1960, Elmer left the forest service. These pictures are from a slide collection Elmer Johnson provided to Peter Murphy during his May 2000 interview.







1. Alberta Forest Service 47J helicopter CF-KEY outside the Slave Lake headquarters; Slave Lake Division; late 1950s

2. Alberta Forest Service fixed wing Courier CF-IYZ outside the Slave Lake headquarters; Slave Lake Division; late 1950s

3. Boosting battery on the Alberta Forest Service fixed wing Courier CF-IYZ; Red Earth; Slave Lake District; late 1950s

4. Salt Prairie Lookout; Slave Lake Division; late 1950s

5. Sweathouse Lookout; Slave Lake Division; late 1950s

6. Construction of Trout Mountain Lookout; Slave Lake Division; late 1950s

7. Winter camp while building the Trout Mountain Lookout; Slave Lake Division; late 1950s

L to R: Al Werner, Bill Lukin, and Phil Nichols



## HENRY DESJARLAIS COLLECTION

This is a collection of photographs Henry Desjarlais shared from his early days in the Alberta Forest Service.







1. Alberta Forest Service Fort McMurray office, second floor to the left; Athabasca Forest; 1965

2. The first day was spent getting the crew truck unstuck and building road. 1971 was a very dry year in that part of the country, so we were able to utilize the seismic lines a lot. Wentzel River cruise; Footner Lake Forest; 1971

3. Robert Cleary, the cook in the foreground, was the best cook we ever had in any of our years in a cruise camp  
L to R: Henry Desjarlais, Robert Cleary, Dale Gobin, Buck Dryer, Paul X (UofA student); FMU F8 cruise camp 2; Footner Lake Forest; approx. 1974

4. Tents and kitchen at the first cruise camp in F8, helicopter sitting; FMU F8; Footner Lake Forest; early 1970s

5. Two people in the tall grass conducting a regeneration survey; Margarete Hee in front; Watt Mountain cruise; Footner Lake Forest; early 1970s

6. John McLevin measuring a tree, Wentzel River cruise; Footner Lake Forest; 1973

7. A timber cruise south of the Rainbow Lake Highway and east of the Chinchaga River. Driving on the permafrost over time, caused it to melt before all the crews had completed their plots. The nodwell got stuck and sunk, the crew spent the next day getting it out; Footner Lake Forest; early 1970s

8. Henry Desjarlais' crew south of the Caribou Mtns around 1973. Randy Panko standing up, next to Big John (John McLevin). I believe it's Ken Olson on the far side. We were camped near the Wentzel River just outside of Wood Buffalo Park. Wentzel River cruise; Footner Lake Forest; 1973

9. Don Lalonde (in picture) was the officer-in-charge of this scarification project north of the old bridge on the east side of the highway in Fort McMurray. I was the spare towerman at the time and helping Don. Athabasca Forest; 1965



## BLACK MOUNTAIN WILDFIRES – 1971 AND 2022

In researching the names from the Rocky Clearwater 1971 Black Mountain wildfire overhead team pictures, comparisons of the Rocky Mountain House Forest Area 2022 Black Mountain wildfire came up. The 2022 wildfire burned some of the same area burned in 1971, 51 years later. While not there now, the 1971 team and firefighters stayed at the Lund Brothers sawmill site, west of Nordegg. Evidence of the camp and sawdust pile is evident in the 1971 group overhead team picture. Both wildfires started from lightning, one August 7, 1971, the other July 18, 2022. Sizes varied, with the 1971 wildfire being 74 hectares: the 2022 wildfire over six times in size at 488 hectares. Photos of the 1971 and 2022 overhead teams are included with this summary.







1. Standing (L to R): Len Stroebel, Derek Gough, Gavin Hojka (Incident Commander), Ryan Good, Milan Skrecek, Andrew Butler

Sitting (L to R): Tracy Parkinson, Tanya Letcher, Pam Morrison, Josee St-Onge

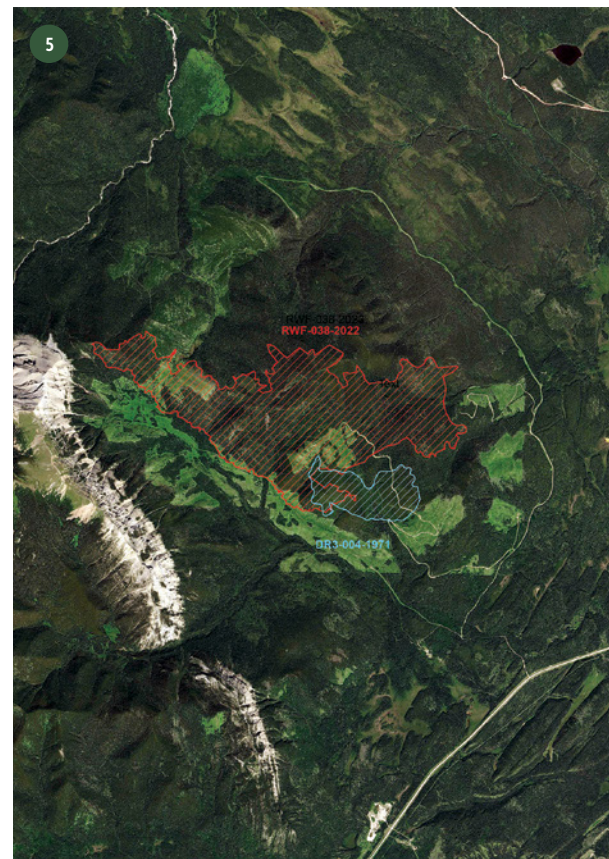
2. L to R: Mag Steiestol (Service Chief), Bob Glover (Line Boss), Cliff Henderson (Plans Chief), Murray McDonald (Fire Boss); Black Mountain wildfire west of Nordegg, Alberta; 1971

3. L to R: Fred Schroeder, Not Identified (red hard hat), Mag Steiestol, Not Identified (short one over Cliff's right shoulder), Cliff Henderson, John Vavrek (red ball cap), Bob Glover, Murray McDonald, Floyd Schamber, Jock Kay, Bob Wilson

4. L to R: Laura Hoybak, Colby Lachance, Clifton McKay, Mark Schaplowsky, Cory Davis, Lee Ruthven, Todd Lynch (Incident Commander), Logan Vanlmschoot (Parks), Evan Stewart (Rockyview County)

5. Boundaries of wildfires DR3-004-1971 and RWF-038-2022 overlayed on image of the Black Mountain area west of Nordegg

6. Timekeeper Wes Error on the Black Mountain wildfire; 1971  
L to R: Not Identified and Wes Error





# FOREST HISTORY CORNER







1. L to R: Clayton Thayer, Bob Wilson, Art Robinson, Bob Glover; Grande Prairie; 1960s

2. Fire control officer Norm Rodseth testing out the new winch rappel system; Footner Lake Forest; 1960s

3. Federated Co-op Sawmill north of Smith, Alberta on the Athabasca River; 1970s. The planer and sawmill came from the Ellefson mill at Calling Lake, with Federated Co-op operating the site from 1966 to 1978.

4. Staff from the Alberta Forest Service were chosen by the Canadian government to assist and advise the Colombian government on nearly a dozen wildfires that were threatening the capital city of Bogotá; March 1973

L to R: Bill Wuth, Carson McDonald, and Stan Hughes

5. L to R: Bob Hilbert, Bob Glover, Stan Clark, and Mort Timanson; Whitemud Cabin; Grande Prairie Forest Headquarters; early 1980s

6. L to R: John Brewer, Mark Froehler, unknown contractor; Whitecourt Forest; early 1980s

7. L to R: Howard Pratley, Chuck Geale, Peter Murphy, and Art Peter; cross-country skiing; 1980s

8. Con Dermott and Cliff Henderson, woods inspection; Whitecourt Forest; mid 1980s





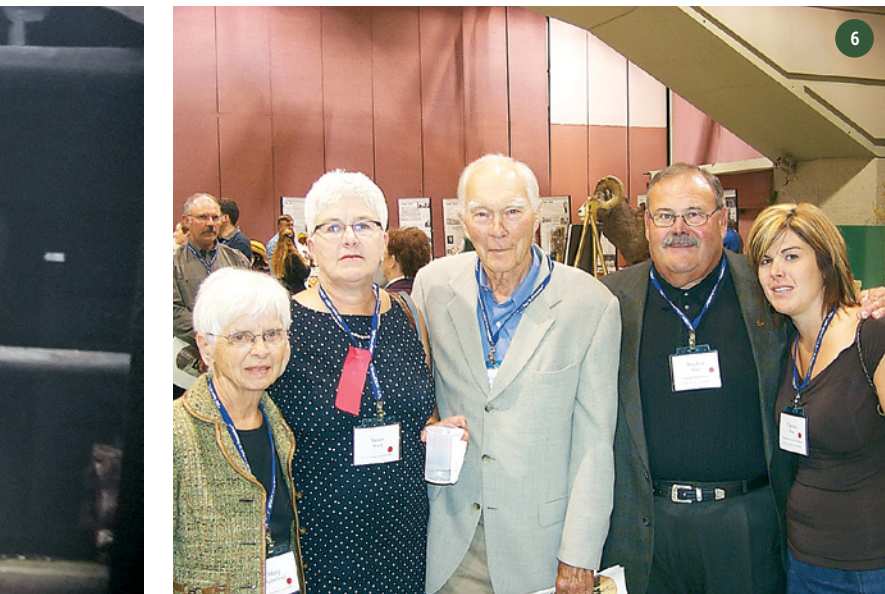






Original "ping-pong ball" aerial ignition device built by the Alberta Forest Service's Roy Kruger from an Australian prototype developed at the Northern Forestry Centre; late 1970s

Dennis Quintilio provided history on the aerial ignition device when shown the picture. *"This was the replacement for the Australian prototype developed at NoFC. MOT did not like the mounting of the machine in the front seat of the helicopter with no anti-fire mechanism built into the combustion cylinder. We packed a squirt bottle of water in case of a jam after the glycol was injected to start the combustion inside the permanganate capsule. AFS (Roy Kruger) built the ping pong machine in the mid 1970s to solve this problem but took a while to perfect and stabilize the machine in flight to get good ignition patterns from a remotely operated system on a short line below the helicopter. I flew with the pilot on the first test run in Lac La Biche when Bert Varty had a range burn set up across the road from his acreage. He had a big crowd and fire crew, and the ignition went great, until the pilot did a pedal turn on the final ignition strip to see the results and forgot to turn the machine off, and a line of ping pong balls went across the fire guard. There was a short period of initial attack panic. The ping pong balls were a replacement for the cylindrical capsules in the Australian prototype as they could feed nicely into the combustion chamber. I think we bought every ping pong ball in Edmonton for the testing operations. John Murraro from the Canadian Forest Service built the aerial ignition device (AID) machine that was approved for use internally in helicopters as water could be injected into the combustion chamber in case of a malfunction. The ping pong ball machine was discontinued after the AID machine was perfected. In 1980, John Murraro had built the flying drip torch in B.C., and Larry Huberdeau brought a helicopter in from B.C. that had been flying the machine on spring slash burning operations for use on DND-4 (wildfire in the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range). Lou Foley was the Fire Boss, and I came from Hinton to fly with the machine and figure out heights, speed and mixing protocols for wildfire operations which were different for slash burning. We learned a lot and the early eighties were good years to introduce what is now a routine burnout and backfire component of wildfire operations using the flying drip torch."*



1. Joined by Junior Forest Wardens and Cubs and Scouts, Slave Lake Forest Superintendent Carson McDonald celebrated planting a tree for National Forest Week; Slave Lake; May 1982

2. L to R: Pilot Pat Quayle, Jack Burbidge (leader), Gary Lynch, Morgan Kehr, Joe Lyons, and Dave Coish; summer 1984

3. Bev Wilson conduction regeneration surveys; Whitecourt Forest; 1980s

4. Forest Officer Mark Froehler (R) with unknown contractor; Whitecourt Forest; early 1990s

5. The Meadows forestry cabin was taken apart log by log and restored at the Rocky Mountain House museum. This picture is from the dedication ceremony.

L to R: Bob Lenton, Bob Glover, Gerald Sambrooke, Greg Anderson, and Lorne Goff; Rocky Clearwater Forest; 1990s

6. The Sutherland and Ward families celebrating Alberta's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forest Service; Edmonton, Alberta; September 8, 2005

L to R: Marg Sutherland, Sue Ward, Fred Sutherland, Brydon Ward, Christie Ward









1. Brydon Ward at his retirement party; Lac La Biche; February 4, 2012

2. Millar Western Forest Products Fox Creek sawmill; Fox Creek; May 24, 2012

3. Hugh Boyd and Zachary Powder; Waterways Forest Area; 2014

4. Darryl Johnson's retirement; Calgary; October 24, 2015

L to R: Nathene Arthur, Bev Wilson and Rick Arthur

5. L to R: Hugh Boyd, Zachary Powder (mid 80s), and Bruce MacGregor; Fort Mackay; December 17, 2015

6. Coffee out with a group of influential women foresters; Edmonton; 2015

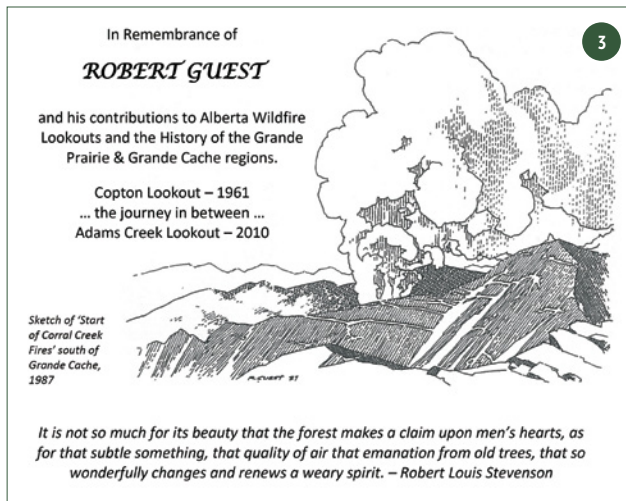
L to R: Deanna McCullough, Jan Schilf, Bev Wilson, Anne McInerney, Teresa Stokes, and Evelynne Wrangler











3

1. Highwood Canfor Woods Inspections 2019; L to R: Chris Joly, Rupert Hewison, Kirk Hawthorn, Andre Savaria and Kent Schonknecht; Highwood area, Canfor logging; March 12, 2019

2. Recognition plaque for Robert Guest at the Adams Creek Lookout; Edson Forest Area; August 22, 2019

3. Wording on the Robert Guest recognition plaque, Adams Creek Lookout; Edson Forest Area; August 22, 2019

4. Wandering River Gang; L to R: Brian Stanton, Kay Hankinson, Don Bunter, and Billy Tchir; November 2020

5. Double rainbow at Whitecourt Tower; Whitecourt Forest Area; summer 2020

6. Team involved in packing and moving Peter Murphy's history file collection for further documenting and archiving; St Albert, Alberta; November 14, 2020

L to R: Bertie Beaver movers - Cordy Tymstra, Graham Legaarden, Chad Morrison, Ciaus Smith and Bruce Mayer

7. Painted saw blade, Crestview Sawmills; La Crete, Alberta; March 2021

8. Still Riding! L to R: Ian Whitby, Jerry Sunderland, Dave West, and Howard Gray; August 2021

9. Edson Forest Area unit crew member Kevin Rvachew carrying melon-rolled fire hose from the fireline to the helipad for transport; Arrow Lake Complex; Nakusp, B.C.; July 19, 2021

10. Peace River patrol person Glenda Radbourne; Peace River; Spring 2021



6



10









Rejuvenated Winnifred Tower cupola, Lac La Biche Museum; June 2021



Osborne firefinder and stand in the Winnifred Tower cupola, Lac La Biche Museum; June 2021

The Winnifred Tower cupola and firefinder pictures were provided by Ken Yackimec.

Ken said, "Here are a couple of pictures of the old Winnifred tower cupola that I have owned for some years now looking a lot happier in the Lac La Biche museum. They are doing a forestry display and I talked them into letting me move

it in and equip it like a circa 1979 tower. Fair bit of work as we had to clean it, paint it up, disassemble it, move it inside in pieces and put it back together. I actually also found all my tower messages, and weather information that had

been filed by forestry for years from my 1979 season, so it will look pretty close to real with the correct messages, forms etc. The firefinder was put together from spare parts with Tim Klein's help."

1. Brian Lopushinsky and Marc Freedman incident management teams on team transition day; Arrow Lake Complex; Nakusp, B.C.; August 5, 2021

2. Alberta and British Columbia wildland firefighters group picture; B.C.; summer 2021

3. Retired forest officer Darryl Johnson riding east of Carbondale lookout; summer 2021

4. Bruce Mayer and Ron Dunn; Dunkley Foothills Forest Products; Grande Cache; September 9, 2021

5. Alberta Wildfire's Peace River Junior Forest Ranger crew completing trail maintenance work at the Dixonville Community Association community forest; August 9, 2021

L to R: Rachael Dodds (crew subleader), Stella H., Ana F., Sarah G., Natasha S., Lauren L., Masaii P., and Jennifer Cooke (crew leader)









1. FHAA President Katie Lamoureux presenting at the forest history session of the Canadian Institute of Forestry annual general meeting; September 17, 2021

2. Bertie Beaver with other mascots at the Edmonton Elks football game; September 11, 2022

3. Joe and Jeanette Smith; Victoria, B.C.; May 2022

4. L to R: Bernie Schmitte, Bruce Mayer, and Nick Grimshaw presenting Bruce Mayer with a retirement Pulaski; Edmonton; February 23, 2022

5. Bruce Mayer receiving the Picea Mariana award from Canada Wildfire; June 6, 2022

6. Norm Quilichini (R) presenting Tim Klein with his retirement Pulaski; Peace River; June 22, 2023

7. Darryl Johnson sitting inside "Little Red", a restored truck used for road access wildfires in the 1980s; Coleman; Calgary Forest Area; July 1, 2022

8. Old Alberta Forest Service gate at the Fish Creek campground; west of Nordegg; June 6, 2022









1. L to R: Tim Schultz, Chief of Staff; Ken Vanderwell, President Vanderwell Contractors; and Nate Horner, Minister Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development; Vanderwell's sawmill; Slave Lake; summer 2022

2. L to R: Bertie Beaver and Sparky with "Little Red"; Coleman; Calgary Forest Area; July 1, 2022

3. Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development wildland firefighter staff with Crowsnest Pass Fire Rescue firefighters; Coleman; Canada Day event; Calgary Forest Area; July 1, 2022

L to R: Patricia Wandler (patrolperson), Thomas Linderman (HAC member), Storm Liversuch (HAC member), Michael Kanafay (HAC member), Alexandra Rutherford (HAC leader), Marc Ernst, Brittany Dorion, Justin Verigin, Brooklin Bellavance (patrolperson), Lt. Kent Fehr, Capt. Darryl Johnson, and Sparky (Jordan Castle). Bertie Beaver is in the back of "Little Red".

4. Incident management team assigned to the Kazan Wildfire Complex north of Lake Athabasca; Fort McMurray Forest Area; July 2022

L to R: Mike Tucker (Incident Commander), Evan Stewart (WUI team Clearwater Regional Fire and Rescue Services), Kent Jennings (Operations Section Chief), Jarret Whitbread (FBAN), Ed Trenchard (Plans Section Chief), Aaron Townsend (Structure Protection), Kim Edwards (Logistics Chief), Caroline Charbonneau (Information Officer), Jake Walch (WUI team High Level Fire Department)

5. A barge loaded with tankers and barrels of helicopter fuel arrives in Fort Chipewyan to support ongoing wildfire activity; Fort McMurray Forest Area; July 8, 2022

6. Sustained action crew wildland firefighters unplug suction lines on wildfire pumps; Fort McMurray Forest Area; July 2022

L to R: John Gilchrist and Jarrett Kasper

7. Barge approaching Fort Chipewyan with truck and three trailers of fuel, vehicle, and other items to support the Kazan Wildfire Complex north of Lake Athabasca; Fort McMurray Forest Area; July 8, 2022











1. Wendy Crosina receiving the Forest Products Association of Canada 2022 Women in Forestry Award of Excellence; September 22, 2022

L to R: Kate Lindsay (FPAC), Tom Grabowski (Silvacom), Wendy Crosina (Weyerhaeuser), David Graham (Weyerhaeuser), Derek Nighbor (FPAC)

2. The Mike Cardinal Plantation was dedicated in October 2004 by Vanderwell Contractors for the late Ministers' support of forestry in Alberta. This photo showing growth of the planted trees, was taken 18 years later, August 11, 2022

3. Wildfire Management Branch Executive Director Nick Grimshaw and Forestry, Parks and Tourism Minister Todd Loewen; Wildland Fire Canada 2022; Edmonton; November 1, 2022

4. Bertie Beaver at the Edson Animal Rescue Society Halloween party; Edson, Alberta; October 31, 2022

5. Information officer Victoria Ostendorf with Bertie Beaver in the High Level Christmas parade; December 2022

6. Retired forestry personnel, Rocky Mountain House Tim Horton's; January 5, 2023

Left side front to back: Bob Lenton, Ed Pichota, Gary Mandrusiak, Dianne Thompson, at the head of the table Cheryl Flexhaug. Right side front to back Dennis Frisky (fur cap), Bob Glover, Dave Finn, barely visible behind Dave is Brenda Lenton, Shirley McGowan.

7. Woods tour, High Level area; High Level Forest Area; January 12, 2023

L to R: Mike Cardinal, Band Manager, Tallcree First Nation; Chief Rupert Meneen, Tallcree First Nation; Dan Lux, ADM Forestry Division, Forestry, Parks and Tourism; Nick Genier, logging contractor for Tallcree First Nation









1. Back Row (L to R): Jamie Bruha, Aaron Hayward, Connor Wallis, Scott Jennings, Noel St Jean, and Terry Jessiman; Front Row (L to R): Russ McDonald, Kent Jennings, and Troy Milledge; AFS Oldtimers and E.S. Huestis; Athabasca; February 11, 2023

2. Rocks to play; AFS Oldtimers and E.S. Huestis; Athabasca; February 11, 2023

3. Alaya Barrett learning to curl from her parents Colton and Jessica Barrett; AFS Oldtimers and E.S. Huestis; Athabasca; February 12, 2023

4. Back Row (L to R): Chad Williamson, Trevor Holtze, Winston Delorme, Lee Ruthven, and Kyle Elliott; Front Row (L to R): Colin Paranich, Nick Brown, and Al Hovan; AFS Oldtimers and E.S. Huestis; Athabasca; February 11, 2023

5. Curling teams at the AFS Oldtimers and E.S. Huestis; Athabasca; February 11, 2023

6. Mike Lutz and Jeff Henricks; AFS Oldtimers and E.S. Huestis; Athabasca; February 11, 2023

7. Back Row (L to R): Michael Lutz, Jeff Scammell, Trevor Boe, Wayne Williams, Craig Bylsma, and Doug Smith; Front Row (L to R): Shawn Gordon, Kevin Dwyer, and Michel Michon; AFS Oldtimers and E.S. Huestis; Athabasca; February 12, 2023





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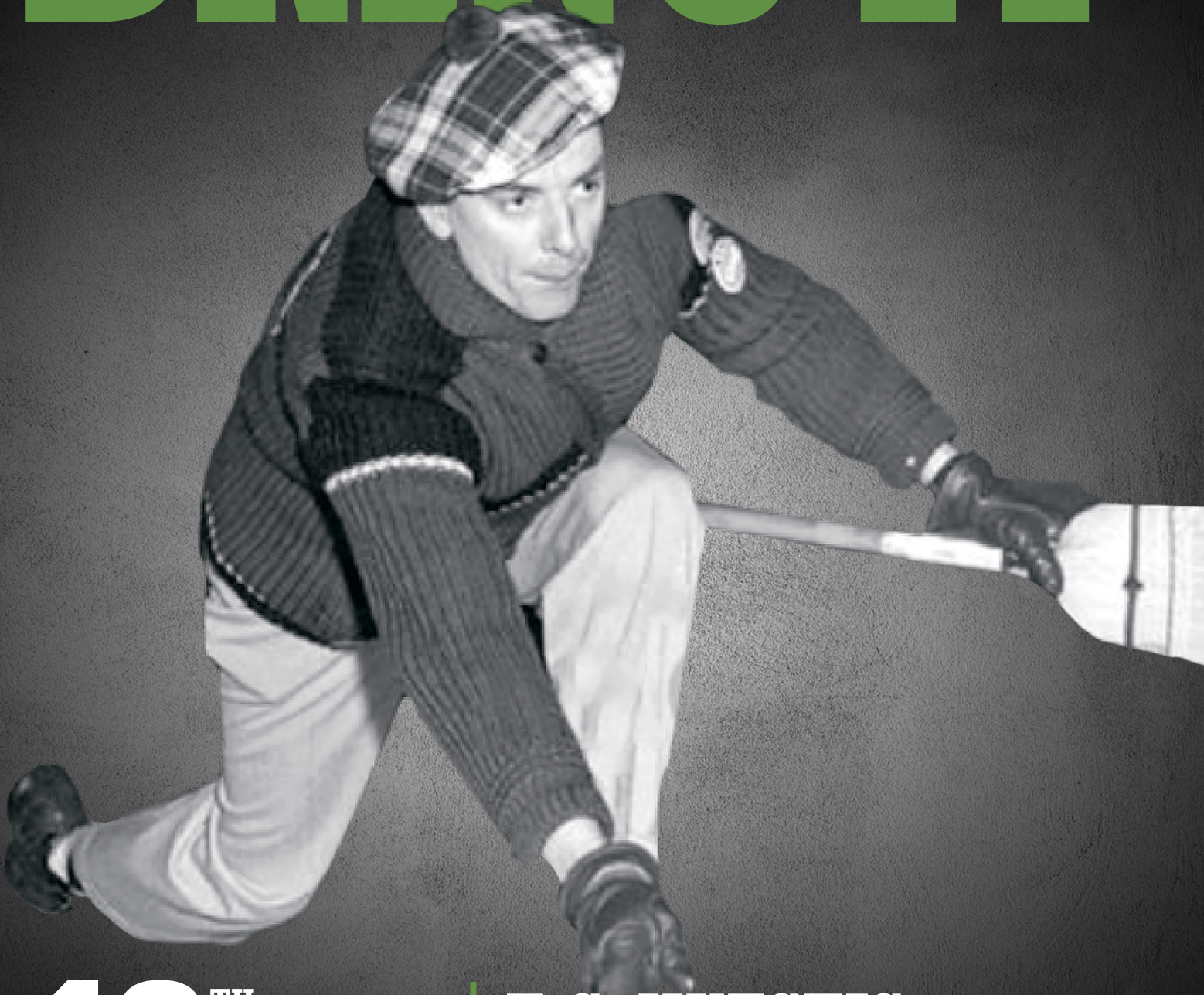
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Contact Charlene Guerin at [Charlene.Guerin@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Charlene.Guerin@gov.ab.ca) to register to play hockey and/or help with the tournament.



# Trails & Tales

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