

TRAILS & TALES

Newsletter of the Forest History Association of Alberta

Eighth Annual General Meeting – over 70 attend

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

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

Neil Gilliat provided an entertaining



Butch Shenfield providing opening remarks

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

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



Neil Gilliat, entrepreneur, author and retired forest ranger

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

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



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



L to R: Marty Alexander and Rob Thorburn



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



L to R: Cliff Smith and Ed Gillespie



L to R: Fred McDougall and Bruce Mayer



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



L to R: Bill Black Sr. and Gerald Sambrooke



L to R: Fred McDougall and Neil Gilliat



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



L to R: Darren Tapp and Bob Petite



L to R: Paul Rizzoli and Ken Scullion



L to R: John Brewer and Rob Thorburn



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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 23-24, 2013

37th Annual

E.S. Huestis Bonspiel
Athabasca Multiplex,
Athabasca, Alberta

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

February 23-24, 2013

28th Annual AFS

Old Timers Hockey Tournament
Athabasca Multiplex,
Athabasca, Alberta

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

March 21, 2013

9th Annual FHAA

Annual General Meeting
Coast Edmonton Plaza
10155 105 St

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

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



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

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

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

The weekend includes:

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



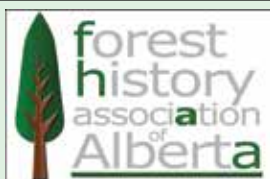
Hockey Tournament Information

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



Curling Information

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



9th FHAA Annual General Meeting

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

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



Howard Morigeau and grizzly bear

A Grisly Tale

by Howard Morigeau

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

The Legend of the Lobstick

by Joe McWilliams

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

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

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

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

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

Another historical note about lobsticks shows up in the recollections

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

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

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



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

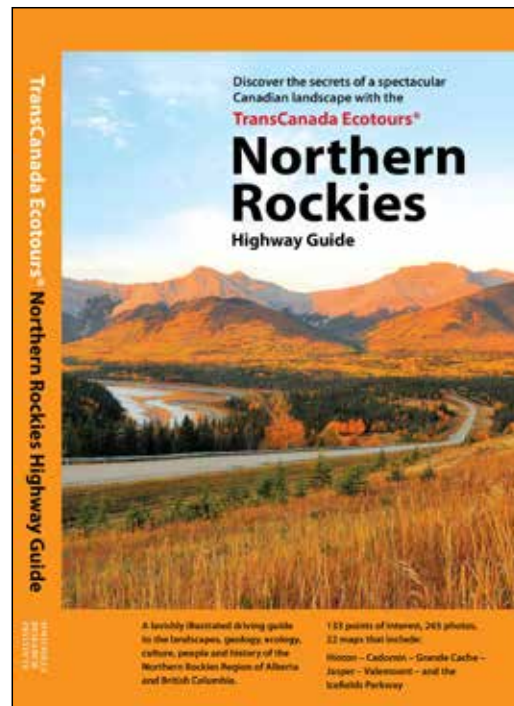
Hot off the Wire

TransCanada Ecotour Northern Rockies Highway Guide

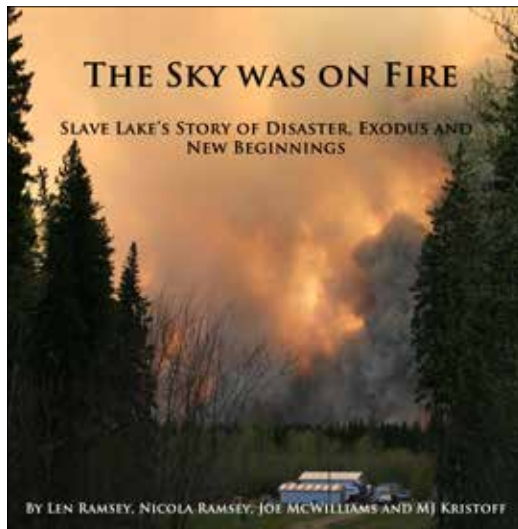
Co-written by Fred Pollett, Robert Udell, Peter Murphy and Tom Peterson

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

Contact information for purchase:

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

Or purchase online at www.stagenorth.org



Helicopter Heritage Canada

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

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

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

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

Robert S. Petite, with Jeffrey C. Evans

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



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

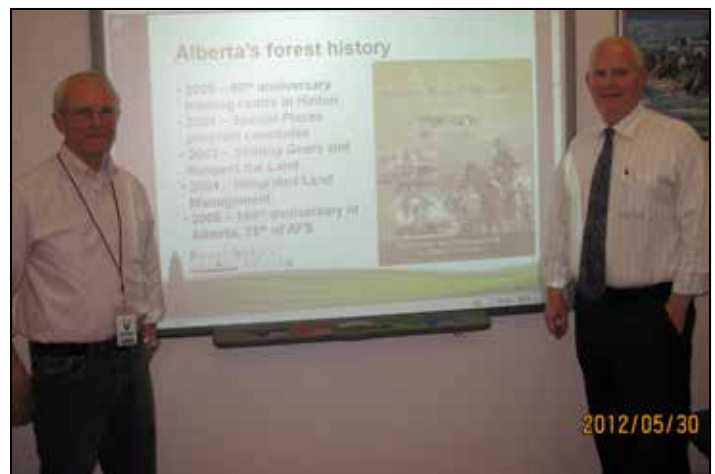
You will learn all about the early helicopter operators who purchased new Bell 47s and more. In fact, I am confident all readers will learn something new about the Bell 47 that they did not know before. This memorable Bell Model 47 history book will set new aviation standards, due to its in depth quality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

Further information is available at:
www.helicopterheritagecanada.com

Canadian Institute of Forestry Electronic Lecture Series Presentation

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

http://cif-ifc.org/site/audio_video.





Spring-cleaner, spare that box of old photos!

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

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

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

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

DB: Describe the PAA forest history holdings for us.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Director's Corner

Trevor Wakelin

FHAA Director

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

in the pride and affection he shows when speaking of his family: his wonderful wife Pauline, who is with us tonight and has joined us all here in Jasper on so many occasions over the years; his son Soren, and daughters Erica and Ann Marie and of course his grandchildren. I understand Soren, Erica, her husband Robert and their son Brandon are here with us tonight.

Of course, each of Trev's sterling qualities has its pluses and minuses. The same courage and determination that come in so handy during protracted negotiations with an indignant ENGO or an intransigent US Trade Representative can sometimes start to look a lot like bull-headed, even dangerous, stubbornness, when applied to, say, his training regimen.

Trev started running marathons in his forties, and in the past couple of decades has completed more than 60. Trev's self-discipline in preparing for these marathons has, as you can imagine, been rigorous – and has involved running thousands of miles, through heat and cold, rain and snow.

A few years back, on a particularly frigid Saturday morning in Whitecourt, when, according to Jim McCammon, the wind-chill made it about 106 degrees below zero, Whitecourt residents reported seeing a bundled-up lunatic running down the icy shoulder of Highway 43 in the bitter cold. Of course, it could only be one person – Trev Wakelin, stubbornly sticking to his training schedule, no matter the temperature. Trev later allowed as how it had been pretty cold that morning, and admitted to having briefly – very briefly – thought of calling Pauline for a lift home, but he quickly dismissed that cowardly notion and completed his run. When he showed up for work on Monday, people noticed his nose and ears were in pretty rough shape, and the doctor later confirmed he had a good pretty case of frost-bite. Trev wasn't too concerned about any effect this might have on his good looks, mind you, but he was a little worried about potential ill effects on a few other key body parts that had become decidedly numb on the latter stages of the run home.

Trev is not what you would call a man of few words, and he loves to provide what he calls "brief updates". These generally turn out to be highly detailed reports that leave no nuance unexplored, no stone unturned and no one questioning the breadth of his knowledge on the subject. Similarly, Trevor sometimes finds it hard to provide a straight "yes" or "no" answer to a question – generally, at least a good five minutes is needed to explore and explain

his reasoning, which can twist and turn a bit – but, in the end, to the relief and sometimes surprise of his listeners, Trev will ultimately provide a firm "yes" or "no". And you may be guaranteed that Trev can then be trusted to stand by his answer, come hell or high water.

All ribbing aside, Trev has been one of the most active members of the Alberta Forest Products Association. He has taken a lead role in association activities and in other joint industry/government work on issues from enhanced forest management, to integrated land use, codes of practice, and stumpage and tenure, in addition to his work on softwood lumber. To give you the current list of affiliations, Trev serves as chair of the Alberta Softwood Lumber Trade Council, as a director of the Canadian Lumber Trade Alliance, and as Canadian Advisor to Habitat For Humanity International under the SLA Meritorious Initiatives program.

He also serves as president of Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta. In fact, Trev has been FRIAA's president since its inception in 1997. Working with Cliff Henderson, he was instrumental in establishing the association as a Government of Alberta Delegated Authority Organization. Under Trevor's leadership FRIAA has grown from its original mandate to manage the Forest Resource Improvement Program to the point that FRIAA now administers seven different government programs that benefit our industry. And, of course, Trev is a past president of the AFPA, and has served this association as a director, committee chair or committee member since 1986.

In each of these capacities, Trev has demonstrated his exemplary forestry skills, his extensive industry knowledge and his extraordinary work ethic. He has also exercised his deadpan sense of humour and his not-so-terribly-well-hidden soft heart. Above all, he has exerted the courage and tenacity that he shows in facing down any and all obstacles: tackling a current challenge to his health, for example, with the same vigor and determination he would bring to a good, clean fight with a trade opponent or the stiff, uphill portion of a long, hard run.

Trev, your many friends, collaborators and colleagues wish to thank you for all that you've done for the health of the forest, and the health of the forest industry, in Alberta. And, to that end, we would like to confer upon you an honorary membership in the Alberta Forest Products Association.

Retirements



WAYNE CLOGG

After nearly 40 years in forestry Wayne retired on December 31, 2011. Born in Winnipeg, Wayne's family moved to the lower mainland of British Columbia in 1967 where he attended North Delta Secondary School until 1972. Unsure what to do upon graduation Wayne registered in the general sciences program at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and applied and was hired on by the British Columbia Forest Service (BCFS) on a suppression crew in Lund, north of Powell River. As Wayne describes it, "this was a life changing experience for me". He found himself on a small crew of five students, living in a bush camp for the summer and alternating days between various forestry projects and fighting fires in the Lund Ranger District. The Lund Ranger District stretched north to Bute Inlet encompassing many islands and inlets, and was accessible

only by air or by boat. The BC Forest Service had a fine fleet of water craft in those days and several were stationed in Lund, including the Silver Fir. Following first year, Wayne returned to the BCFS as a straw boss in Squamish. There, working on forestry projects and fighting fires Wayne decided to apply for the Forestry program at UBC. He spent the next four years studying forestry and working in various forestry jobs with both the BCFS and forest industry. Wayne married Cheryle after his first year of forestry, taking her along on his various summer experiences.

Wayne graduated from UBC in 1977 and went to work in Prince George with Industrial Forestry Service, a large consulting firm with many clients in central and northern BC. In those days, most forest companies in the Prince George area had few if any foresters on staff and they relied on consultants, primarily IFS, to carry out most of their forestry work. As a result, staff gained experience quickly in many facets of forestry, including everything from planning and stumpage appraisals to timber cruising, engineering and silviculture. Not only were they all exposed to a variety work, Wayne experienced a vast array of forest types in northern BC - everything from pine flats in Vanderhoof, to lush mountainsides adorned with devil's club in McBride and Williston Lake. He also had the rare opportunity to experience many of these areas in more or less their natural state, as development was just getting under way. With a daughter turning one and a son on the way, Wayne and Cheryle decided that it was probably time to give up the long fly camps and find a job that would bring Wayne home for supper on a more regular basis.

On June 1, 1980 Wayne went to work as a Forestry Supervisor for Chetwynd Forest Industries (CFI), a West Fraser company. West Fraser had recently acquired old stud mills in Chetwynd and Dawson Creek, along with the timber tenures, and were in the process of constructing a new dimension lumber mill to replace the mills and combine the tenure rights. As Forestry Supervisor, Wayne was involved from the ground floor setting up the forestry program and developing new operating areas to supply the new mill. In 1985, Wayne moved on to West Fraser's larger operations in Quesnel, first as Forestry Supervisor and later as Woods Manager. At that time, the massive spruce beetle infestation north and east of Quesnel had reached its full extent and West Fraser was extensively involved in salvaging and reforesting the attacked areas. Around this same time the area experienced what was thought a large pine beetle infestation in the Chilcotin country, south and west of Quesnel which involved extensive salvage and reforestation as well. Wayne said it's rewarding for him today to drive through those salvage areas and view the vigorous young forests which have replaced the dead spruce stands cruised and harvested in the 1980's.

Wayne's career took a turn in 1991 when he became General Manager of the Chetwynd Forest Industries mill in Chetwynd, exposing him to the lumber manufacturing side of the business. In 1993 the Clogg's returned to Quesnel with Wayne as General Manager for the Quesnel sawmill. The early 1990's was a period of new sawmill optimization technology. West Fraser took advantage of the new technology with major sawmill upgrades in both Chetwynd and Quesnel. In 1995 Wayne became Vice President Woodlands at West Fraser, a position he held from 1995 to 2005.

This was a time of tremendous growth for West Fraser as the company expanded in both Alberta and BC, and acquired its first two sawmills in the southern United States. West Fraser continued to grow with the acquisition of Weldwood (Hinton) in 2005 and 13 more sawmills in the United States in 2007 from International Paper. The Clogg family relocated to Vancouver in 2005.

In December 2011, after 32 years with West Fraser and nearly 40 years in forestry, Wayne retired as Senior Vice-President, Woodlands, a position responsible for woodlands and fibre acquisition. Hank Ketchum, Chairman, President and CEO, said of Wayne, "Wayne has been a key contributor to our success during his 32 years with us. He is a leader who reflects and has strengthened West Fraser's culture." Of his career Wayne said he had been "blessed to work with some of the greatest people in the world in this business, from colleagues and contractors to fellow foresters and sawmillers across the industry. I have found this fraternity to be truly the "salt of the earth", and this will likely be what I miss the most in the years to come."



DON COUSINS

Cousin Don retired on November 30, 2011 with over 35 years in forestry with the Alberta government. He first started his forestry career in 1973 with International Forest Fire Systems (IFFS) in British Columbia. When asked about those early years and IFFS, Don said "The company provided timber management crew services where we would do cruising, block layout, regeneration surveys and some reclamation work in Yoho Park. If a fire occurred in your area a Bell 206 helicopter would come pick you up and you would rappel into the fire. On board, there would usually be a spotter and two members with gear slung under the helicopter. You were expected to be out for up to 72 hours. We were moved around the south part of the province. In one summer I worked out of Avola, Kamloops, Merritt, Revelstoke and Yoho Park. It

was a pretty exciting life at the time. Training was not much, a dozen rappels down a scaffold 40 feet high, and off you went. Consequently on my first rappel, I started off fine but forgot to slow down and hit the ground wide open. I felt that one for a week." Don Law and Dan Wilkinson also worked for IFFS in 1973.

In 1972 Don worked in the woods of Northern British Columbia (Prince Rupert to Prince George) for CN Telecommunications repairing and maintaining the miles of telegraph lines. Don and seven others lived in an old box bunk car with a coal oil heater, staying mostly on remote railway sidings. As Don later recalled, this "was a real character building experience to say the least". On Don's first day of work the foreman gave him a Johnson bar and a spoon shovel and told him to dig a hole for a 40 foot pole in rock. New to the job Don said it would take him two days to complete the task. His foreman said if he did that it would be a new record and turned and walked away. We never did hear how long it took.

Don graduated Forest Technology at NAIT in 1976. Classmates included Rob Thorburn, Bill Lesiuk, Jack Budd, Evert Smith, Elaine Maskell, Kevin Heartwell, Gordy Oberg (Federal water resources), Bill Black (Environment and now consultant), Don Hildebrandt (Fish and Wildlife) and Mike Gibeau (Parks Canada). Following graduation Don began his Alberta career in May 1976 as a Forest Officer I in Debolt, Grande Prairie Forest. He was reclassified to Forest Officer II in 1978 and then became the Forest Officer III in Valleyview in 1983 when the Debolt Ranger Station was closed. During the mid-90s reorganization, Don became the Smoky River District Timber Management Technician and later Forest Protection Technician. In 2004 Don became the Wildfire and Air Operations Officer out of Grande Prairie. Don was promoted Forestry Program Manager in Smoky Area in July 2006, a position he held until his retirement. At his retirement Don was recognized by forest industry representatives for his relationship building and fairness while ensuring forest sustainability. Don was also recognized for his skills and mentorship in the aerial ignition program.

Upon moving to Debolt in the mid 1970s, Don started his life hobby (or second career) of raising and training dogs and dog mushing. Owen Spencer is quoted as saying "Don's ability of knowing how to work with dogs has taught him his

respect for humans, or perhaps it is his respect for his mankind that makes him so successful working with dogs. In either case, Don has a unique ability of reading people and dogs, and working well with both of them”.



KEN YACKIMEC

After a forestry career that started as a summer Maintenance Service Worker in 1974, Ken retired from the Alberta government on February 3, 2012.

Working a number of seasonal jobs in and out of the Alberta Forest Service, Ken was convinced by Larry Huberdeau, Lac La Biche Forest Superintendent to enrol in the NAIT Forest Technology Program. Ken graduated in 1983 and started a career with the Alberta government moving to Calling Lake, Rainbow Lake, High Level, Edmonton, Manning and Lac La Biche. Other graduates from 1983 include Doug Smith, Roger Marchand, Brian Wesolowsky, Bart McAnally, Mark Storie, Dave Heatherington, Brent Schleppe, Bruce Mayer and Joe Lyons. From the years 1979 to 1992 Ken worked as a lookout observer, aerial observer, timber cruiser, assistant party chief, Maintaining Our Forest project

Forest Officer, Forest Officer I, II and III, and Air Attack Officer. Ken enrolled at the University of Alberta in 1992 while working part time at the Provincial Forest Fire Centre in Edmonton, graduating with a BSc in Forest Management in 1995. Ken received his Registered Professional Forester number in 1999. After his degree, Ken worked as a Forester I and II, First Nations Consultation Advisor, and lastly, regional lead for the Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management Aboriginal Affairs Branch. In retirement Ken works as a contract Air Attack Officer and continues with his never ending projects, volunteering, acting in local plays and travel. Ken advises that his “tell-all book on living the forestry life is in preparation ...”.



JIM DANGERFIELD

Jim retired on July 15, 2011, after over 26 years of service with FPInnovations. Jim held several positions in the forest sector starting with Natural Resources Canada and then the British Columbia Ministry of Forests. He joined Forintek in 1985 as Director of National Programs, and then four years later, he accepted the position of Vice-President, Operations – Eastern Region. He then returned to Vancouver and took on the position of Vice-President – Western Region of Forintek. In 2008, after his many contributions during the merger and through the transition, he was named Executive Vice-President of FPInnovations. Jim continued to work toward the successful merger of the three research centres and the Canadian Wood Fibre Centre until his retirement.



KEITH MCCLAIN

Keith graduated from the University of Toronto in 1971 with a BSc in Forestry and in 1973 with a MSc in Forestry. Keith obtained his PhD in 1986 from Oregon State University. Keith is a Registered Professional Forester in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. Keith retired from the Alberta government in March 2012 with over 35 years in forestry. He continues to work today through the Foothills Research Institute on the Mountain Pine Beetle Ecology Program.

Keith began his career in 1973 with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources at the Northern Forest Research Unit in Thunder Bay. As a Research Scientist his work focussed on the regeneration and management of black spruce as a

component of the spruce-fir-aspen mixedwood forest. In 1990, Keith moved to Prince George, British Columbia where he provided leadership in the development of an applied research and technology transfer initiative for the Canadian Forest Service. From 1996 to 2003 he provided consulting services in areas of science, forest management, criteria and indicators and forest professional and technical education. In 2003, Keith was appointed to the position of Director, Science Policy and Strategy with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development where he promoted the acquisition of science for informed decision making and support to policy development. Encouraging the application of technology to achieve department goals and objectives was another important area of his responsibility.

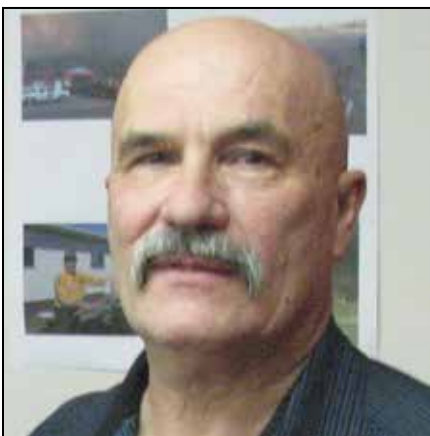
Since 1992, Keith has been closely associated with the National Model Forest Program and was a member of technical committees at the McGregor Model Forest, and has served on the Board and Executive Committee of the Foothills Research Institute (2003-2012). Keith has been a member of the Canadian Institute of Forestry since 1967, acting in all roles on Council in the Central Ontario, Northern Ontario, Caribou and Rocky Mountain Sections. He is currently Associate Editor of the Forestry Chronicle. In 1997, Keith was recipient of the Canadian Institute of Forestry Tree of Life Award and in 2010 received the President's Award.



DIANNE GREGORY

Dianne began her career with the Alberta Forest Service as a part time land-use clerk in October 1989 working for Ed Dechant in the headquarters office of the Whitecourt Forest. Gordon Bisgrove was the Forest Superintendent at the time. In 1990 Dianne started working full time, half days for Ed Dechant in land-use and half days in timber management for Dale Darrah. Organizational changes and restructuring in the mid to late 1990s brought more roles to Dianne's position – receptionist, file clerk for the pilot provincial records management system, initiation of IMAGIS software program, etc. Superintendents or Regional Directors were Jerry Sunderland and Mike Poscente. The Virginia Hills fire in 1998 meant nearly a year focussed on verifying and paying invoices for the manpower and equipment used. Upon retirement on March 31, 2012, Dianne was asked

her thoughts of her career. The response was “looking back, it was quite an experience. I learned a lot and am most appreciative of the staff that I had worked for and with, and for all the people that assisted me along the way. Throughout my career, it was the staff that made each day. We were one big family.”



BILL LESIUK

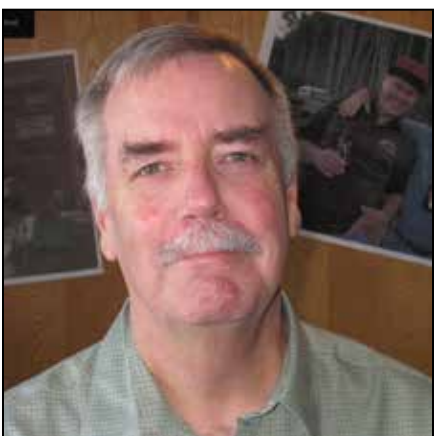
On January 27, 2012 a retirement party was held for Bill in High Prairie recognizing his nearly 38 years with the Alberta government. Bill graduated NAIT in 1976, beginning his career with the Alberta Forest Service on the Slave Lake Forest timber management crew in May 1974. In the fall of 1975 Bill worked on the timber management crew in Blairmore and then as a guardian in the West Castle. In March 1977 Bill returned to Slave Lake Forest as the detection technician. In November 1978 Bill was promoted to Forest Officer II in Red Earth Creek, transferring to Turner Valley in April 1980. Bill returned to Red Earth Creek as the Forest Officer III in February 1982. He then transferred to Manning in April 1986. Shortly after that Bill was promoted to Forest Protection Technician in the Footner Lake Forest, and in June 1990 was promoted to Chief Ranger in

Fort Vermilion. With changes in the organization Bill moved to High Prairie in September 1995 as a Forest Protection Technician in the Lesser Slave Wildfire Management Area, and remained there until his retirement in 2012. Bill was a huge promoter of training spending many hours at the Hinton Training Centre and in the field training Aboriginal firefighters, new lookout observers and forest officers making them better in all aspects of their business.



JIM MAITLAND

After 37 years with the Alberta government, Jim retired on March 31, 2012. Jim graduated from NAIT in 1975 and started with the Alberta Forest Service on May 20, 1975 as an Assistant Ranger in the Three Creeks District, Peace River Forest. Graduates with Jim were Hugh Boyd, Don Harrison, Rick Arthur, Tony Znak, Roger Meyer, Mike Hancock and Bill McDonald. Jim recalls that Chief Ranger Ralph Oberg “wouldn’t let him do anything other than issue fire permits in the summer for the first couple of years, until he learned how to issue permits, got to know all the residents and realize the value of those connections and working with the local residents”. In June 1977 he was reclassified to a Forest Officer II in the Three Creeks District (DP6), Peace River Forest. In 1980 Jim became the District Ranger in East Peace under a centralized reorganization in the Alberta Forest Service. In May 1986 Jim was promoted and moved his wife Noemi and family to Calgary, where he was the Timber Management Technician. The call of the Peace was strong and in May 1987 Jim and family moved back to Valleyview with Jim as the new Chief Ranger. A number of amalgamations and reorganizations occurred over the next decade and Jim was hired as District Superintendent (later Forest Area Manager) in the new Smoky River Forest Area. He then became the Wildfire Manager in Grande Prairie in 2000. In 2006 Jim took on a new role as Area Manager in the new Smoky Area until his retirement on March 31, 2012. Jim will be known for his knack at taking a ‘visual vacation’ in meetings, but still grounding others and providing realism and common sense comments at the right time.



JIM LUNN

A retirement party was held for Jim Lunn on March 24, 2012 celebrating his 31 years with the Alberta government. Jim graduated from Algonquin College in Pembroke, Ontario in 1977 and worked in Ontario at the Petawawa National Forestry Institute, Ministry of Natural Resources and Apex Forestry Consultants before moving west and beginning his career with the Alberta Forest Service. In April 1981 Jim joined the Initial Attack Crew at Shunda Fire Base, Rocky Clearwater Forest before moving on to be a Forest Officer in Nordegg. In June 1986, Jim moved to High Level, and then in November 1990, was promoted to Forest Officer III in Fort Vermilion, Footner Lake Forest. Jim then moved to Footner Lake Forest headquarters as Forest Protection Technician in May 1994. In November 1997 Jim moved to Slave Lake as a Wildfire Technologist. He was then promoted to Forestry Program Manager in July 2006 and remained in that position until his retirement in June 2012.



EVERT SMITH

Evert graduated from NAIT Forest Technology in May 1976. He worked as a Junior Forest Ranger leader in High Level and Fort Vermilion in the summer 1975 and after graduation became a project Forest Officer in Lac La Biche until January 1977. Evert worked as an Assistant Land Use Officer in Grande Prairie until spring 1979, when he moved to Nordegg as a Forest Officer until the spring of 1981. Evert then resigned and worked for an oilfield consulting company until returning to the Alberta government in the spring of 1986. On his return he was Initial Attack Crew leader in High Level and then a Forest Officer before transferring to Calgary in the fall of 1990. In the fall of 1995 Evert moved to Whitecourt as the Business Officer and held that role until 1998 when he became a Forest Protection Technician, still in Whitecourt. In 2003 Evert became the Land Use Specialist in Whitecourt, a position he held until his retirement in 2012. Evert retired on June 9, 2012 after over 35 years in government and private industry.



EVELYNNE WRANGLER

Evelynne graduated from the University of British Columbia with an Honours Degree in Forest Biology in 1971. Those early years consisted of research activities at the Canadian Forest Service's Northern and Pacific Region and University of British Columbia and Carlton University labs. In September 1972 Evelynne moved to the Northwest Territories doing administrative roles in fire control and land use. Following that role Evelynne returned to school from 1976 to 1978 obtaining her BSc in Forestry from the University of Alberta. Graduates in that class were George Robertson, Cindy Nason, Dave Cook, Stan Kavalinas, Audrey Gustafson, Janet Mclean, Dave Patterson, Jan Schilf, Lynn Embury-Williams and Brenda Yanchuk. In 1979, after a number of forestry roles in western Canada, Evelynne hired on as a Yield Analysis Forester with the British Columbia Ministry of Forests in Victoria. In January 1982, Evelynne returned

to Alberta as the Head, Forest Management Section, a role she held until 1992. One significant achievement was the delivery of the Quota tenure renewal and subsequent setting of provincial Annual Allowable Cuts in 1986. Over the next number of years Evelynne took on various policy and senior forestry advisor roles within the government. From October 2001 to March 2004 Evelynne participated in an Interchange Canada program with the Canadian Forest Service in Victoria leading their forest information group on national initiatives and partnerships. In April 2004 Evelynne returned Alberta as a senior advisor in forest policy and intergovernmental relations until her retirement in July 2012. Evelynne was well respected for her contributions, both within Alberta and across Canada, especially with respect to the various provincial, federal and territorial meetings and Canadian Councils of Minister committees. Evelynne also showed passion and commitment to forestry through her involvement and leadership in the British Columbia and Alberta professional foresters associations, the Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board and the Canadian Institute of Forestry to name a few.



HOWARD HERMAN

Howard retired on September 7, 2012 after 35 years with the Alberta government. While taking Forest Technology at NAIT, Howard worked during the summers of 1977 and 1978 with the Alberta Forest Service as a compassman and timber cruiser in the Lac La Biche Forest. In the spring 1979 Howard was promoted to Project Forest Officer at the Beaver Lake Ranger Station, Lac La Biche Forest, and in February 1980, Howard transferred as permanent Forest Officer to Rainbow Lake, Footner Lake Forest. In March 1981 Howard moved to Fort Vermilion as Forest Officer I and then II. In December 1983 Howard took a lateral transfer to Kinuso District, Slave Lake Forest. Howard was promoted to Forest Officer III and moved to the Cold Creek Ranger Station, Whitecourt Forest in February 1988. In August 1989 Howard was promoted to Forest Protection

Technician and moved to Fort McMurray in the Athabasca Forest. In April 1999 Howard and Jane moved to Hinton where Howard became a fire instructor at the Environmental Training Centre, later the Hinton Training Centre. In December 2007 Howard was promoted to Senior Wildfire Training Specialist and later manager in May 2011. Howard was a strong member of the aerial ignition team, first starting in 1993 mentoring under Terry Van Nest. Howard deployed most years and provided aerial ignition support to a number of wildfire incidents, Marianna Lakes in 1995, Mitsue in 1998 and House River in 2002.



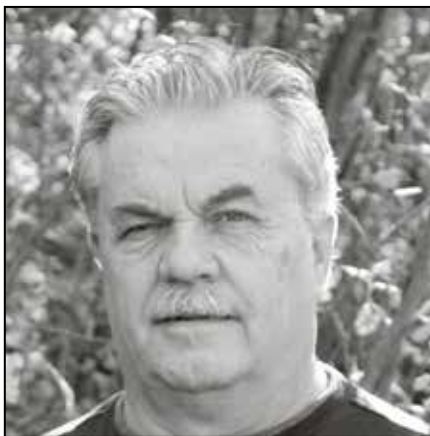
SHARON KOWALCHUK

Sharon started working for the Alberta Forest Service, Forest Land Use Branch on June 3, 1992, and later for the Forest Management Branch. Sharon worked for many managers over the years, Steve Ferdinand, Glenn Selland, Murray Anderson, Dan Wilkinson, Lou Foley, Rory Thompson, Dennis Quintilio, Doug Sklar, Ken McCrae, Robert Stokes and Darren Tapp. Her role changed over the years from administrative duties of typing and filing to supervisor of the administrative support group. Sharon retired after 20 years in June, 2012.



DAVE SCOTT

Dave began his career with the Alberta Forest Service as an Initial Attack Crew Leader in the spring of 1978 in the Spirit River District, Grande Prairie Forest. Following work timber cruising and as a project Forest Officer, Dave was promoted to permanent Forest Officer I at Spirit River in April 1981. In 1982, Dave was promoted to Forest Officer II, still at Spirit River. In January 1986, Dave transferred to High Level, Footner Lake Forest. As a forest officer, Dave spent his time working in fire, timber management and land management. Dave moved to the La Corey District, Lac La Biche Forest in May 1991 as Forest Officer III. Organizational changes in the late 1990s created the Lakeland Forest Area in the North East Boreal Region where Dave focussed his role in timber management. Later changes created the Waterways Lac La Biche Area where Dave focussed on his role in land management. Dave retired on August 17, 2012.



MEL WHITE

With over 40 years forestry experience, Mel's last day with Environment and Sustainable Resource Development was October 19, 2012. Mel first started with the Alberta Forest Service cruising timber in Fort McMurray during the summer of 1968. Cliff Henderson was the Forester in-charge at the time. Following graduation from the NAIT Forest Technology program in May 1969, Mel went to work for North West Pulp & Power in Hinton for just over one year doing silviculture (regeneration, planting and scarification projects) and fire protection work.

In September 1970 Mel entered the new Forestry program at the University of Alberta, graduating in the first class in April 1974. Other graduates included Bill Gladstone, Brydon Ward, Morley Christie, Fred Moffat, Rod Simpson and Doug Sklar. During the summers between years at U of A, Mel worked in Slave Lake on the timber management crew doing timber cruising and silviculture work (regeneration and tree planting projects). Con Dermott was the Timber Management Forester in-charge. After graduation Mel went to Footner Lake for three years working in timber management doing timber cruising and reconnaissance, silviculture, fire protection, mill studies/scaling, and preparing timber licences for harvest. Rick Keller, Gary Dyck and Henry Dejarlais were the Foresters during that time. Mel also worked in the capacity of Assistant Land Use Officer for just over a year with John Best and left in August 1977. High Level is where he met his wife Mary O'Hanlon, who was working in the front office.

In August 1977, Mel moved back to Edmonton and took the job of Geophysical Coordinator for one year working for Doug Lyons in the old Forest Land Use Branch. In 1978 he did some land use work in Rocky Mountain House for Cliff Henderson and with Joe Lowe in Forest Statistics in Edmonton. He then moved on to the Special Land Use Branch, Public Lands, in the fall of 1978 and was involved in the regulatory review and approval of coal and oil sand developments working for the likes of Terry Weedon, Bill Sanregret, Charlie Bachand and Fred Facco, who was the Director at the time. Also at that time Mel was a departmental member of the Conservation & Reclamation Review Committee of Environment, under the old Land Surface Conservation & Reclamation Act, Chaired by Dennis Bratton/Larry Brocke.

In June 1980 he moved to Grande Cache and Whitecourt to work for British Columbia Forest Products (BCFP) under their new Forest Management Agreement doing land use work (land agent) and silviculture (reforestation, thinning, planting). Doug Sklar was also working there as Forester-in-charge of woods operations. Economic downturns in the west coast industry left Mel unemployed in 1983. He then moved back to Edmonton where his wife Mary got a job in Program Support with Fish and Wildlife. During the period from 1983 through early 1988 he worked seasonally for a pipeline company doing sundry jobs, including warehouse and safety/first aid coordination.

In October 1988 Mel returned to the Special Land Use Section of Public Lands to continue his previous role as Leader, Special Projects Unit, in the review and approval of major projects relative to coal and oil sand exploration and development, as well as quarry (metallic and industrial minerals) operations. Mel was also involved in the review and approval of commercial tourism projects such as golf courses, ski hills and lodges, and eventually traded that off in 2006 to be involved in sand and gravel activities as well. Overall in his position he got involved in almost everything related to non-renewable resource development and land management that came outside of upstream oil and gas activities; including wind farms and run-of-river hydro projects.

During the past 24 years in Edmonton, Mel worked for Charlie Bachand, Loren Winnick, Dan Grahn and Julie Lefebvre as Managers, and Ron Raitz, Rick MacDonald, Glenn Selland and Jeff Reynolds as Directors. Comments provided by industry on Mel's work included "...we have dealt with numerous senior management and departmental staff over the years and you rank at the top for your knowledge, professionalism and most of all your helpful, candid and friendly nature", and "... you have brought honor to the government and meaning to the importance of public service".



JIM LELACHEUR

After 35 years in the forest industry, Jim LeLacheur retired December 31, 2012. Jim graduated with a Forestry Degree from the University of British Columbia in 1978 and worked as logging supervisor and camp superintendent for the grapple yarding division of Jacobson Brothers Forest Products in Williams Lake. He then moved to the Kootenays as Woods Manager for Westar Timber. In 1990 Jim joined West Fraser's 100 Mile House operation as Woods Manager. In 1996 the LeLacheur's moved to Hinton where Jim became the Sawmill Manager at Weldwood's Hinton mill. In 1999 he was appointed General Manager Forest Resources and Lumber.

After progressive roles in woods and lumber manufacturing, Jim became Chief Forester Alberta operations in 2007. Never shy to participate in a spirited debate, Jim has been a champion of sustainable forest management practices and forest research in Alberta. He was a board member of Canada Wood Council from 2000 to 2003, and was member of a number of government industry committees - forest policy steering committee, provincial Mountain Pine Beetle committee, Alberta Forest Products Road Map to name a few. Jim was also a leading voice on the Alberta Softwood Lumber Trade Council and Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement Alberta British Columbia working group. Jim will also be remembered for his leadership at the Foothills Model Forest (later Foothills Research Institute) as board member from June 2003 to December 2012 and President from April 2005 to May 2010. He is also a registered professional forester in both British Columbia and Alberta.

Jim's wife Donna graduated with a Forestry Degree from UBC in 1979. They have been married for 33 years and have two children – son Keith, a University of Alberta engineering graduate and daughter Kirsten, a University of Alberta business graduate. Jim is an avid fly fisherman and plans to retire in the Okanagan where he and his wife, Donna, can spend more time on the water.



PATRICK GUIDERA

Pat began his career with the Alberta Forest Service in 1975 out of the Slave Lake Forest cruising timber and conducting regeneration surveys. The summer of 1977 took Pat to Teepee Lake Tower as a lookout observer. Moving south to the Bow Crow Forest, Pat was a Junior Forest Ranger supervisor out of Sundre in the summer of 1978 and Forest Guardian out of Turner Valley during the summer of 1979. Following graduation from NAIT Forest Technology in 1979, Patrick returned to Slave Lake as a Forest Officer I and then II. He was promoted to Land-Use Officer from 1984 to 1987, and then Silviculture Technician IV from 1987 to 1989. Pat then moved to Edmonton where he completed a BSc in Forestry at the University of Alberta in 1992. During that time he was a Teaching Assistant at the University of Alberta. From 1992 to 1996 Pat was a second year forest management Instructor at the Environmental Training Centre. He then obtained

a Diploma of Silviculture from the University of British Columbia in 1997. In 1996 Pat took a role as forestry consultant to the Chihuahua Model Forest in Mexico. Pat returned to Alberta as a Senior Manager in Rocky Mountain House from 1996 to 2002, and then Regional Executive Director from 2002 to 2003. In 2003 Pat moved to Edmonton as a Senior Manager in the Strategic Forest Initiatives Division. In 2006 Pat took on a secondment with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development as an Executive Director in Rural Development Strategy. Upon his return to Sustainable Resource Development Pat took on the Senior Manager Bio-Economy Initiatives role in the Forest Economics Branch. From 2010 to his retirement on December 31, 2012 Pat was seconded to Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions as Director, Forest Technologies. On January 1, 2013, Pat started full time with Alberta Innovates in the same role. Pat is well known for his musical talents in bluegrass circles and was Past President of the Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society, Entertainment Director of the Blueberry Bluegrass and Country Music and Founder of the Cabin Fever Bluegrass Band.



WES EROR

After 45 years with the Alberta government Wes's last work day was December 21, 2012, with his official retirement on March 31, 2013. Fresh from high school, Wes joined the Alberta Forest Service as an Assistant Party Chief in Fort McMurray working for Cliff Henderson supervising timber cruising crews and the Maintaining Our Forests conversion program. Highlights for Wes were the hospitality of the northern communities, the diversity of the work and terrain, and being able to work with the different types of equipment, from boats, including river tug boats, to the railroad speeders used to access remote areas and communities such as Conklin, Chard, Anzac and Waterways. It was in the north where Wes was first exposed to search and rescue, a volunteer commitment he still has today.

In 1971 Wes moved to Rocky Mountain House to work in the Land-use Section with a major focus on erosion control and reclamation on the various old seismic programs in the west country. Equipment used over the years included various ATVs, wheeled Terra Jets, tracked PassParTouts, Bobcats, and J5 and J10 tracked Bombardiers. Here Wes was exposed to his first campaign fire, the Black Mountain Fire in the Nordegg area. In 1974 Wes moved to Edmonton to work on a Phase III inventory program for the Athabasca Forest. In 1976, he moved back to Rocky Mountain House where he spent

the next 36 years working in a variety of forestry disciplines including timber cruising, timber management operations, silviculture, land use, forest health and forest protection. Wes showed his adaptive nature with the release of every new piece of technology right from the first computer, to digital cameras and GPS units. He embraced the departments “Go Book” initiative and became one of the areas primary users of the new tool that allowed him to spend more of his time in the field. He was particularly pleased that he no longer had to load the back of his truck with rolled up maps...everything was in one handy little machine!

Wes provided a valuable service to the government by training many of its employees in snowmobile and ATV/UTV safety over the years. Through this interest Wes has made many key friends and relationships with various West Country stakeholders as an active member with the Rocky ATV and Caroline Snowmobile Clubs and has spent many hours out west on his own time recreating and repairing trails that have been damaged by over use or irresponsible users. Wes didn't care much for the paperwork that came with the job, but relished in every minute that he was able to be outdoors.

Wes will be missed for his extensive knowledge and history of the area, his support to the genetics program and the help provided to all staff including his commitment as response officer. At a recent recognition event, Wes was asked what kept him going for the past 45 years and responded by saying “just keep me in the bush, and I'm happy”.



TREVOR WAKELIN

Trev Wakelin retired September 30, 2012 after 26 years with Millar Western and nearly 50 years in forest industry in three western Canadian provinces, and his native New Zealand. A full history of Trev is under the Past Director section.

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Obituaries

Dennis Rees Born November 5, 1921, Dennis passed away on November 1, 2011 at 89. Dennis was born in Brynmawr, Wales and came to Edmonton in 1925. He served in Scotland with the Canadian Forestry Corps during WWII. After his return from overseas Dennis was employed as a timber auditor with the Alberta Forest Service from 1952 until his retirement in 1974.

Pat Rehn Born July 5, 1932, Pat passed away on November 3, 2011 at the age of 79. A life long resident of the Wildwood area, Pat spent his life in the sawmilling industry.

Chuck Spencer A graduate of the Maritime Ranger School, Chuck started his career with the Alberta government in 1998. He worked as a scaler, helitack member and Forest Officer in Wabasca and Slave Lake. In 2008 Chuck left government to work in the resource industry. During the summers he filled the role of Industry Liaison in Slave Lake. Chuck passed away on November 3, 2011 after a short battle with cancer, at the age of 38.

Bill Nigro Born January 11, 1914, Bill passed away on November 3, 2011 at the age of 97. Bill grew up on the family homestead in Jeffrey, Alberta and in 1925 moved to Edmonton where he graduated from St. Joseph's High School. In 1938 he graduated from St. Michael's College of the University of Toronto with a BSc in Chemistry. Bill then completed two years of medical school before joining the war effort working for CIL in Nobel, Ontario. In 1946, Bill moved to Edson to work for the family's lumber business. The S&A Sawmill was located where the current Edson Walmart is located. Bill was the first president of the Edson Kinsmen Club and served on Town Council. Bill and his family moved to Edmonton in 1956 where he became president of the Hett and Sibbald lumber company. Bill also served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Alberta Forest Products Association from 1968 to 1970. Bill was one of the early players in the

lumber industry when it consisted of bush sawmills and centralized planer mills, and was a leader in the industry when the Quota system was introduced in 1966.

Fred Moffatt Fred passed away on December 1, 2011 at the age of 61. Fred began his career as a planner with the Parks Branch in 1974, while Parks was still under the Department of Lands and Forests. Fred graduated from the first University of Alberta forestry class in the April 1974. Early in Fred's career he was a planner for what would become Kananaskis Country and Peter Lougheed Provincial Park. In 1976 Fred moved to Valleyview as the first field park planner to work out of an area office, a role that is across the province today. In 1978 Fred moved back to Edmonton still in a park planning role. In 1991 Fred became the Regional Director for Parks in Vulcan, and then assumed the responsibility for Parks, Fish and Wildlife and Water Resources under the new Department of Environmental Protection, Natural Resource Service. In 1995 he moved to Lethbridge in this same capacity. As part of ongoing reorganization Fred moved back to Edmonton in 1998 as the Executive Director of Field Operations, a position he held until 2007. Fred was very involved with the Canadian Parks Council and the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

Stanley Rupert Hughes Stan was born in Edmonton on April 22, 1920. When he graduated from Strathcona Composite High School in 1939, he applied to work with the National Forestry Program and was sent to the Astoria Camp, one of four located in Jasper National Park. There he worked under the direction of Terk Bailey, who later became Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests for Ontario. The crew was assigned to start building the first Jasper-Banff road. In June 1940 he left to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Trained as a wireless operator he was sent to England in 1940 then served in South Asia. He enrolled in the Forestry program at the University of British Columbia when discharged in 1945 and graduated in the Class of 1949. Stan was among the group of seven UBC

graduate foresters hired by Eric Huestis that included Bob Steele, who later became Deputy Minister.

Stan was posted as assistant superintendent for the Bow River Forest, stationed in Calgary and promoted to Superintendent in 1953. While there the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board was established and in 1955 Stan was seconded to be their Administrative Officer. This was during the time of major construction and development, including the Forestry Trunk Road, new ranger stations and lookouts, introduction of a FM radio system and increased forest protection resources. In 1963, when the Eastern Rockies agreement neared its end, Stan moved to Edmonton as Construction Supervisor under the Forest Protection Branch. He was appointed to head Forest Protection in 1965, playing a leadership role in that position for ten years. In 1975 he was appointed as special projects assistant to the Deputy Minister and retired June 30, 1975.

While Hughes was with the Forest Protection Branch he was a member of the Canadian Committee on Forest Fire Management and was chairman of that national committee for three years. The committee developed mutual aid policies and practices for Canada including the exchange of manpower, aircraft and fire equipment between provinces to meet national fire emergencies. This group also initiated the formation of a national fire equipment depot in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the forerunner of the present Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC). As well, he was a Canadian representative on the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation's Fire Control Working Group of the North American Forestry Commission. In that capacity he was inspired by the cooperative work among U.S agencies that resulted in the Boise Interagency Forest Fire Centre that lent impetus to the setting up of the CIFFC and initiated Canada-US diplomatic negotiations that resulted in the international exchange agreement later signed by heads of the two governments. This led to his authoring of the paper in the 1970s paper titled "Mutual Aid is Important to the Control of Forest Fires in Canada".

Among his many Forest Service memories was travelling to Bogota, Columbia in 1973 with Carson Macdonald and Bill Wuth. The capital city was threatened by eleven forest fires and they requested advice from Canada. The 3-member

Canadian team flew down and inspected the fires and made both short- and long-term recommendations for fire control. In 1979 he participated on a Fire Review Panel in the Northwest Territories with Peter Murphy (Chair) and John Mactavish.

Stan passed away on December 10, 2011. He made major contributions to forestry and forest protection throughout his career, and was a 50 year member of the Canadian Institute of Forestry.

Joe Bracke On December 26, 2011 Joe passed away at the age of 89 years. Joe worked for the Alberta Forest Service from 1950 to 1982 as a forestry accountant or head office clerk as they were often referred to in the early years. For many years Joe was invited to the Forestry Training School in Kananaskis and later Hinton where he taught Forest Officers about the myriad of AFS forms, including expense accounts, invoices, time sheets, property transfers, write-offs and inventory. Peter Murphy remembers him being good humoured, patient and kind, especially when discussing the time-consuming concern of tracking gas drums, a test of any student's endurance. Joe retired at 59, finishing his career working for the department in the internal audit division.

Ken Dutchak Born August 6, 1952, Ken passed away on January 2, 2012 at the age of 59 years after a lengthy battle with cancer. Ken was with the Alberta government for over 33 years starting with the Alberta Forest Service in 1978 in the Resource Data Division working on reconnaissance data. He moved to the Wildfire Management Branch in early 2000 bringing his skill and knowledge to a new group. Ken was an ardent volunteer and his presence at charity functions, including the Motorcycle Ride for Dad, will be missed.

Les Bates Les passed away on January 12, 2012 at the age of 74. Les worked shortly for the Alberta Forest Service as a Forest electrician working at lookouts and rangers stations. When he left the AFS Les started up his own electrician business in Lac La Biche, farming in the Owl River area.

Bill Luoma Bill was born in Rocky Mountain House on March 4, 1936 and remained a Rocky resident his entire life. He was a quiet and humble man and enjoyed the company of family and friends. With the support of his father-in-law Art Fisher, Bill and his brother in law, Gordon Leavitt began Rocky Wood Preservers. Bill and his wife ran the business until she retired from the book-keeping and Bill semi-retired. Rocky Wood Preservers employs more than 40 families from the Rocky Mountain House area. Before hiring a full-time forester for the company, Bill looked after everything including annual operating plans, silviculture activities, hiring of contractors and staff, etc. Bill had a “good feel” for proper forest management and kept foresters, staff, and the government often catching up to his wisdom and style of getting the business done well. Barry Mjolsness, owner Spray Lake Sawmills, called Bill a true jack-of-all-trades. “He managed the forest operations, operated equipment as required, built and repaired whatever needed tending to and marketed their products on the side. He provided a much different slant on being a general manager than what we often think of today.” Bill was extremely proud of his grandchildren; he played with them and read to them when they were small. As they grew into young adults he enjoyed their energy and was always thankful that he got to spend time with them. Bill passed away on February 3, 2012 at 75 years of age.

Richard Nesby Richard was born on June 27, 1950 and passed away on March 1, 2012 at 61 years of age. Richard was a long term senior photo interpreter with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and a key member behind the development of the Alberta Vegetation Inventory forest classification system. He had a love of adventure and traveled widely, and was an avid naturalist and bird enthusiast.

George Ontkean George was born in Coaldale, Alberta on March 6, 1928 and passed away on March 21, 2012 at age 84. A UBC forestry graduate, he worked for about two years with the Canadian Forest Service, eight years with the Alberta Forest Service at Rocky Mountain House, then about 22 years with the forestry program at NAIT, retiring in 1986.

George was raised on the family farm in the Lethbridge area during the hard times of the 1930s. As his son Christopher explained in his eulogy: “Whether tending to the livestock, seeding and harvesting grain and vegetable crops, or helping to prepare the land for the next growing season, my Dad developed a profound appreciation for the land and the natural world. This appreciation and his ingrained work ethic would continue to characterize my father throughout his life”.

After completing high school he decided to take a year of what was then known as “Normal School”, which enabled him to teach grades 5 and 6, after which he obtained his permanent teaching certificate from the University of Alberta. After working a summer at a tree nursery in Brooks, he recognized his interest in trees and knew he was not suited for life as a primary school teacher. He enrolled in Forestry at the University of British Columbia, graduating in 1956. His yearbook description presciently noted that he “would like to end his days digging up and planting wee seedlings”.

He first worked for the federal Forestry Research Branch in Calgary, but after about two years found his heart just was not in research. In 1957 he took a job with the Alberta Forest Service in Rocky Mountain House, assigned to the Clearwater Forest of the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve as Assistant Superintendent. In 1960 he transferred to the position of Forester to pursue his first love, forestry field work and silviculture. He inaugurated many of the early planting and seeding trials in the Clearwater Forest and established an outstanding reputation in reforestation and forest management.

In 1964 the Alberta Forest Service and NAIT negotiated an agreement to support a two-year Forest Technology program. The arrangement was to offer the first year at NAIT to take advantage of their technological strengths then to move to the Forest Technology School at Hinton

to focus on forestry practices and fieldwork. George was selected to lead the forestry program at NAIT and remained as an instructor there almost continuously until he retired in 1986. His son Christopher said that he enjoyed: “teaching his forestry students about many subjects, including meteorology, soils, geology, measurement science, botany, and entomology, but his favourite time of the year was always in the fall, when he would get a chance to teach hands-on field work”. Peter Murphy commented: “His was a difficult task at NAIT - to take new students to get them oriented, enthused and well grounded in the basics. That we had an essentially zero dropout rate in the second year is a testimony to the success of his efforts”. Students developed a lasting appreciation of his keen interest in them and in the forest.

After retirement in 1986 George and his family moved to New Zealand for a year then returned to settle in St. Albert with their garden and to be nearer to their son, his wife Amy and two granddaughters, Jada and Zoe. George had met the love of his life, Betty, during his time with the AFS; married in 1965, she predeceased him in 1990.

Joseph Brodoski Joe passed away April 5, 2012 at the age of 83. He began on the fire standby crew in Fort McMurray in the early 1960s, later becoming the equipment operator. Joe returned to his farm in the Hyllo area on his retirement in the 1990s.

Jack Grant Born December 18, 1921 John (Jack) Walter Grant passed away on June 15, 2012 at the age of 90. Jack worked for the Alberta Forest Service from 1951 to 1981 retiring as a dispatcher in the Provincial Forest Fire Centre. He started as a Ranger at Keg River on February 25, 1951. He moved to Hines Creek in 1953, then promoted to Chief Ranger at Peace River around 1956. In 1958 Jack moved to Edmonton as an Aircraft Dispatcher, renamed to Fire Control Dispatcher around the mid 1970s. Upon retirement in 1981 Jack was hired on special project until the late 1980s to train summer students in firefighting.

Ken Hall Born March 14, 1924 Ken passed away on June 16, 2012 at the age of 88. Ken was born in Vancouver, B.C. and moved to Chilliwack at the age of four. After high school he first went to work as an apprentice machinist, before enlisting in the navy during World War II. Ken attended the University of British Columbia where he attained a degree in mechanical engineering. He continued his apprenticeship while going to school. He began his engineering career in B.C. sawmills, starting in Port Alberni, where he met his wife Betty. The majority of his working life was spent in the pulp and paper industry. From an early age Ken was a talented craftsman. He applied these skills, along with his abilities as a machinist and an engineer to fulfill his dream of building a steam engine, machining each part himself. He was an active member of the Northwest Steam Society and he and Betty spent many wonderful days on the SS Oesa. Ken also gave his time to the preservation of the SS Master. He was passionate about preserving this piece of B.C.'s maritime history. Bob Udell is quoted as saying “the Hinton operation (sawmill and pulp mill) owes much to Ken’s vision and tenacity in building the case for expansion, acquiring the capital from Champion for the project, negotiating terms with the Province and overseeing the construction before retiring”. Ken was the Vice President and General Manager for Champion Forest Products in Hinton at the time.

Mansel Davis Born October 21, 1936 in Saskatchewan Mansel passed away in Sundre July 3, 2012 at the age of 75 years. After his 1955 high school graduation in Huxley, Alberta, Mansel went to work at the Athabasca Ranch near Entrance. There he met Rex Winn and Bill Hannington and his interest in the Alberta Forest Service began. Mansel worked for a short time in the kitchen at the North West Pulp and Power mill in Hinton in January 1956, and then went to work for the Department of Highways. Mansel applied to the Alberta Forest Service in early 1957 and was interviewed by Ted Hammer, Chief Timber Inspector (also in charge of Fire). In an interview Mansel had said that the interview was “more like a visit with an old friend”. Following the interview Mansel was offered the Assistant Ranger job in Edson working for Hank Ryhannen. In his interview Mansel said his first job was working with Rex Winn hauling gravel from the Hinton area to Cabin Creek and then to Huckleberry Lookout. Rex Winn would blast the face of the gravel pit and Mansel would load the gravel

with the C3 cat. Other rangers in the forest were Eric Dawson, Hank Ryhannen, Neil Gilliat and Vic Fischer.

Mansel was transferred to Rock Lake (District 55) to work with Vic Fischer in spring 1957. Much of their summer work consisted of patrolling trails and ensuring their backcountry cabins were in good condition. Over the course of a patrol they would ride 13 miles to Eagles Nest cabin, 12 miles to Mile 58 Summit cabin and then an additional 18 miles to Big Grave Flats cabin. If time permitted then they would head to Sheep Creek cabin, or do that on another patrol. One work project in the fall of 1957 consisted of building an 8' x 20' "rat proof" shed to store the new forestry Peterborough freight canoe at Clark's crossing on the Big Smoky River. Mansel spent his 21st (October 21, 1957) birthday snowed in at Rock Lake. His 1951 Chevrolet car couldn't get through the snow. In late fall 1957, Mansel worked with Al Walker and Don Crawford constructing the 100 foot Huckleberry Tower. Mansel said they slept in tents and were 'colder than hell". One other project was to round up all the forestry horses in the Hay River valley, upstream of the Hay River Ranger Station. Forestry had 29 in inventory and the job was to round them all up and keep 10, sell the rest. Mansel went to the Forestry Training School in Seebe (Kananaskis) in the fall 1958, and while there was promoted to District Ranger at the Muskeg Ranger Station (District 50). Mansel and Marilyn were married in 1960 and moved in to the newly constructed forestry house at Muskeg. Hamel and Kvas Lookouts were built during the time Mansel was at Muskeg. Each of the sites were scouted out by Art Lambeth, Chief Ranger from Hinton.

On June 11, 1964 Mansel moved to the Debolt Ranger Station, Grande Prairie Forest under Superintendent Ray Smulund. The workload was totally different at Debolt, with Mansel and Stan Clark issuing on average 2,500 fire permits per year due to the increase in homesteading and clearing land. Winters were kept busy with the Norton sawmill south of Goodwin and Canfor in Grande Prairie. In December 1971 Mansel was promoted to Chief Ranger at the Sundre District, Bow Crow Forest. When the Davis family moved in January 1972 it was minus 42 F at Debolt and plus 32 F at Sundre. Forest Officers in Sundre were Peter Bifano, Leonard Kennedy (replaced by Bob Pinel when Len moved to Turner Valley as Forest Officer III) and Jim Young (replaced by Frank Vandriel when Jim

moved to the Ghost as Forest Officer III). While in Sundre Mansel was Line Boss for Stan Clark on his provincial overhead team and was deployed to a number of wildfires in northern Alberta in the early 1980s. Mansel retired on October 21, 1991, his 55th birthday after over 35 years with the Alberta government. The Davis's moved to Sundre where Mansel volunteered at the Royal Canadian Legion and the Sundre Historical Society.

Palmer Peterson In August 2012 Palmer passed away at the age of 84 years. Palmer was one of the early helicopter pioneers who flew for the Alberta government and Associated Helicopters. Many will remember him assisting with cruising projects or on wildfires.

Jack Gosney Born March 4, 1925 Jack passed away February 6, 2012 at the age of 86 years. He was raised in the Coal Branch south of Hinton, when the communities of Mountain Park, Cadomin and Mercoal were major coal mining centers. He developed an early interest in fishing and hunting and also breaking mountain horses to pack and ride. Jack teamed up with Oklahoma cowboy Ed Coast who raised horses on the McLeod River. Ed's oldest son Bert later joined the Alberta Forest Service. Jim Babala, a local outfitter bought out Ed Coast in 1949 and Jack worked for him as a guide that summer and fall. Jack married Doris Crawford whose father Angus was the Ranger in the Coal Branch. Doris's brother Don was a Ranger in the Hinton area for many years. Jack worked in the coal mines as a young man but in 1959 when production slowed down he applied for a job with the Alberta Forest Service and was stationed at the Gap Ranger Station in southern Alberta. He was very respected by the local ranchers. He later transferred to the Hinton/Robb district and after seven years with the Alberta Forest Service left to work for North Western Pulp and Power in Hinton. Jack was a faller with the company until he retired at the age of 65.

During retirement years Jack enjoyed many fishing and hunting trips with his horses, family and friends. Some of the Forest Service friends included Harry Edgcombe, Bernie Simpson, Al Walker, Ken South, Bob Stevenson, Pete Murphy, Cliff Henderson and Dennis Quintilio.

Roger Light Born September 28, 1955, Roger passed away on July 27, 2012 at 56 years of age. Roger graduated from the Maritime Forestry School in 1979 and headed west to Alberta in 1980 where he landed a seasonal position working for the Alberta Forest Service. He worked seasonally in Grande Cache, Lethbridge and Crowsnest Pass before receiving a permanent position in High Level in 1982. Roger and family moved to Fox Creek in 1988, Whitecourt in 1997 and then returned to High Level in 1997 where Roger became a Forest Protection Technician. In November 2002 Roger moved back to Whitecourt as a Forest Protection Technician where he remained until his passing. Roger filled many roles in addition to his regular duties, workplace health and safety lead, wildfire investigator, aerial ignition boss and wildfire safety officer. He will be remembered as having a sense of humor, steady, trustworthy and kind. He always got the job done.

Bill Cooper Bill was born in New Brunswick on June 8, 1951 and passed away August 8, 2012 at 61 years of age. Bill began his career with the Department of Energy & Natural Resources in 1974 as part of the timber management crew working under the supervision of Joe Lowe. Bill's work involved the acquisition of sample volumes for the Permanent and Local Sample Plot programs. Those who knew Bill were familiar with his interest in computers and other electronic devices, and as early as 1980, Bill was recognized for his aptitude for using computers to help with timber cruising (CRUZCOMP) and data sharing with timber industry on the PSP and LSP data. In 1981, Bill became a Timber Production Control auditor under Howard Morigeau where he stayed for the next 10 years. Bill was recognized for his ability to work co-operatively and fairly with the different companies he was assigned to audit. In October 1991, Bill was appointed to the Provincial Scaling Supervisor position where he remained until his passing in 2012. During this time Bill was instrumental in the revisions and improvements to the timber scaling procedures used in the Province. Not only was Bill's reputation on scaling recognized within Alberta but he was also recognized as one of the scaling experts in Canada, representing the government on the Canadian Standards Association committee for scaling roundwood.

Bill's love of computers resulted in the development of the Micro Scale program that is in use today by companies in the Province. He also worked on the Timber Production and Revenue System which resulted in the ability of timber companies to electronically transfer weigh scale data and sample load data into the Department. Bill will be recognized as someone who was always willing to provide assistance and pass on his knowledge and experiences to all people. Max Matthews said "Bill had the unique ability to satisfy industry requests without compromising his commitment to the Crown". He also said that Bill lived up to the 17th century Quebec scalers motto – Without Fear of Favour (meaning their services could not be favoured or bought).

Brian Wesolowsky Brian was born December 16, 1961 and passed away on September 27, 2012 at 50 years of age. Brian graduated NAIT Forest Technology in 1983 and worked for the Alberta Forest Service in Whitecourt and Fox Creek. Brian left the Alberta government in 1990 starting West Sky Resource Consultants, working primarily for the forest sector. He also filled the role of air attack officer for the Alberta government in the early 1990s.

Ernst Klaszus Ernst was born December 11, 1929 and passed away November 10, 2012 at 82 years of age. Ernst was born in Tilsit, East Prussia and came to Alberta in 1965 working as a pastor and educator. Known as "Mr. Tree" Ernst was Chief Warden for the Alberta Junior Forest Warden and will be remembered for his legacy of trees planted.

Michael (Mick) Lalor "Mick" was born in Pine Falls, Manitoba on April 29, 1929 and passed away in St. Albert, Alberta on December 23, 2012 at age 83.

Besides his devotion to his family, Mick essentially had three major and successful careers – 16 years as a forester on the East Slopes area with the Alberta Forest Service (AFS), working out of Calgary; 15 years with the Forest Technology program at the Northern Alberta Institute (NAIT) in Edmonton; and an overlapping 25-year tree farm and market stall at Old Strathcona Market to 2012.

Mick was raised in the pulp-mill town of Pine Falls, the youngest of four brothers. When his two oldest brothers left to fight in WW II and his other brother left for Medical School, Mick was on his own. As his son Darcy said, he “was the oldest Lalor in a tough northern mill town“, and quickly learned how to take care of himself and others. He loved the surrounding forests and spent a lot of time by himself with his dog Butch, hunting, fishing and running a trapline. He was also renowned for his singing voice. Like most boys in Pine Falls, Mick played hockey. Coached by his brothers, as Darcy put it, “Never the biggest guy, but always the biggest heart – he played defence with grit and determination.” During the war, at age 14, he was good enough to be called up to play with the adults on the Pine Falls Senior hockey team.

His outdoor interests led naturally to take forestry at the University of New Brunswick. He not only made the UNB Varsity team in hockey, but also the football team and captained that team to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport national semi-finals. During summers he worked in the forests of the Miramichi, where he noted, “those were real woodsmen” – a commendation he did not give lightly, but an observation that influenced his teaching career. He also worked summers on forest surveys in Manitoba and Alberta.

Following graduation in 1956, Mick moved to Alberta to start as a forester with Forest Surveys Branch of the AFS in Edmonton to work under Reg Loomis. He spent the next two field seasons working on the forest inventory south of Slave Lake. In the fall of 1957 he moved to Calgary as Forester for the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board; later transferring to be the first designated Forester for the Bow River Forest, then part of the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve. Mick’s main interest was silviculture and forest renewal. In those earlier years there was not a mandatory reforestation policy, and budgets for silvicultural work were very small, so Mick had to start virtually from scratch to develop techniques and programs and to improvise to get work underway. There were very few nursery grown seedlings, either. However, Mick was able to reforest many cutover areas by using minimum-security crews. They initially dug wild seedlings from thickly growing patches of naturally regenerated areas. In this way they were able to reforest many sites in both the Bow River and Crowsnest Forests, starting a now-legacy of many stands of

healthy maturing forests. He also initiated thinnings and set up highly popular Christmas Tree cutting areas.

In 1964 a new Forest Technology program was developed at NAIT. This was a two-year program developed cooperatively with the then Forest Technology School at Hinton. The first year was held at NAIT and the second year at Hinton. When fellow forester George Ontklean left, in the summer of 1971 Mick moved to Edmonton to take charge of the program at NAIT. He recognized the importance of woodsmanship and ability to apply practical skills as well as technology. With that in mind, he set up at field camp at Kidney Lake, west of Fort Assiniboine, at which first-year students spent five weeks in the fall. Totally committed to improving forestry practice, Mick worked tirelessly to inculcate his knowledge, field skills and a work ethic among his students which made them and the Forest Technology program recognized nationally for their quality and performance. Mick retired from NAIT in 1987.

His third, overlapping, career started in his retirement year when he partnered in setting up a Christmas Tree farm west of Legal. Planting a variety of conifers, they began selling cut-your-own trees about eight years later. He was part of that still-successful operation for seventeen years. In the meantime, he had also leased a market stall at the Old Strathcona Farmer’s Market in Edmonton which he ran for 25 years. His products were Wild Rice from the lakes of his home area of northern Manitoba, Maple Syrup from Quebec and cranberries that he hand-picked in the Swan Hills each August, all with the help of his family. During 1988 to 1990 he wrote a series of articles and stories about the forest environment and forestry practices for *Heritage Link* to illustrate the dynamics of the forest ecosystem and its sustainability. He was presented with the *Tree of Life* award by the Rocky Mountain Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry in recognition of his many contributions to forestry.

In 1960 Mick married Rose Marie and together raised five children Fintan, Darcy, Clancy, Suzette and Braedan. They spent a lifetime encouraging and supporting them and their grandchildren, including participation in sports and outdoor activities. We extend our respect for Mick and send condolences to his family.

FHAA PHOTO CORNER



L to R: Eric Huestis and Fred McDougall at Deputy Minister Robert (Bob) Steele's retirement



Don Lowe with his Fish and Wildlife Officer uniform donated to the Forest History Association of Alberta, March 20, 2012



L to R: Barry Mjolsness and Morgan Kehr at the Spray Lake Sawmill, January 10, 2012



L to R: Morgan Kehr, Jean Lussier, Ross Spence and Bruce Mayer, Blairmore Ranger Station, February 8, 2012



Completion of the new Kimiwan Tower, Peace Area, January 19, 2012 (L to R: Bruce Mayer, John Brewer, Tim Klein, Hugh Boyd, Shawn Barraclough, Al Law and Neil Anderson)

FHAA PHOTO CORNER



L to R: Steve Blanton and Real Arsenault at the Manning Diversified Forest Products mill outside of Manning, March 15, 2012



Hugh Boyd presenting Jim Lunn a chrome pulaski on his retirement, March 24, 2012



L to R: Bruce MacGregor, John McLevin, Ken Orich, Jim Maitland at Jim Lunn's retirement March 24, 2012



L to R: Stefan Demharter and Rob Stauffer at the new Millar Western Fox Creek sawmill, April 4, 2012



L to R: Mike Adams and Barry Gladders, Tolko High Level Division, April 25, 2012

FHAA PHOTO CORNER



L to R: Hugh Boyd, Patrick Loewen and Herman Stegehuis at Don Cousin and Jim Maitland's retirement; the truck Jim Maitland drove in background, May 5, 2012



L to R: Brian Davies, Bruce Mayer and Stan Warnock at the Blue Ridge Lumber sawmill, April 27, 2012



L to R: Gordon Graham and Dennis York at Evert Smith's retirement, April 27, 2012



L to R: Dan Rohlert, Woodlands Manager and Jim LeLacheur, Chief Forester; West Fraser, Hinton Wood Products; May 4, 2012



L to R: Dave Cook, Tom Archibald and Cliff Henderson at Don Cousin and Jim Maitland's retirement May 5, 2012

FHAA PHOTO CORNER



L to R: Jack Wright, Jim LeLacheur and Bob Udell, all past Chief Foresters at Hinton FMA planting 200 millionth tree in the Hinton Division, West Fraser Hinton Forest Products, June 15, 2012



L to R: Gary Smith with Hugh Boyd in Zama City, July 13, 2012. This was Gary's 40th summer fighting wildfire.



L to R: Peter Murphy, Evelynne Wrangler, Don Gelinas and Mark Kube at Evelynne's retirement June 15, 2012

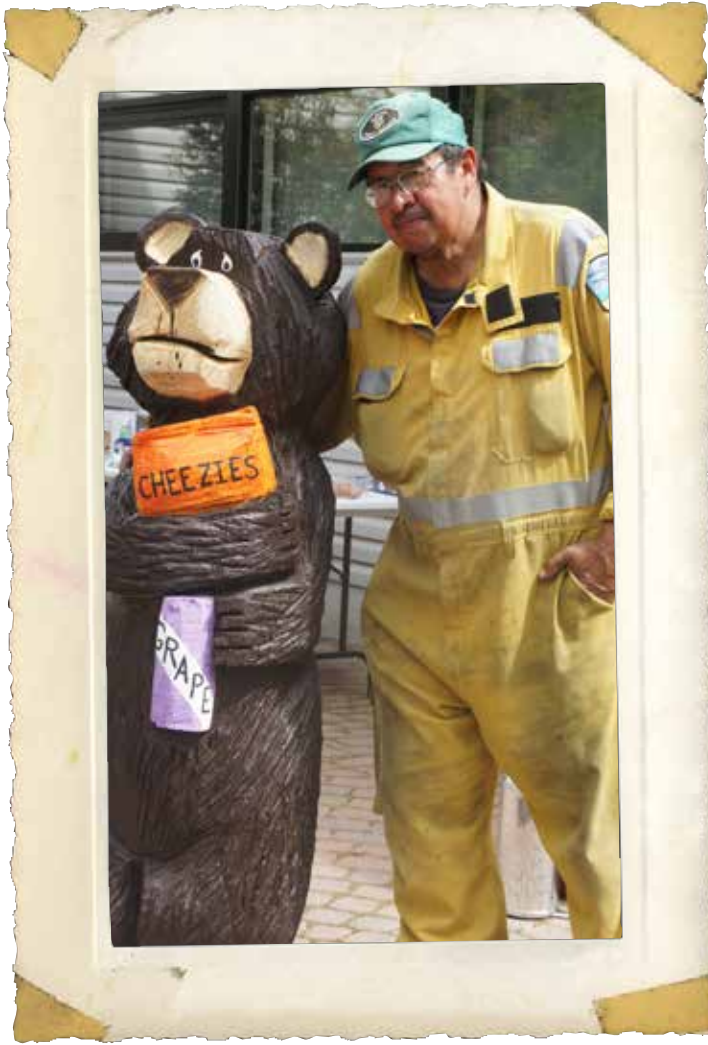


L to R: Dan Wilkinson, Sharon Kowalchuk and Murray Anderson at Sharon's retirement party, June 25, 2012



Bob Vanderwell attending Jean-Luc Deba Memorial at Canyon Creek, May 20, 2012

FHAA PHOTO CORNER



Ambrose "Jake" Jacobs at a recognition event for his 40th summer fighting wildfire, June 2012



L to R: Chris Kennedy, Bert Boucher, Ricky Boucher, Jason Boucher and Brian Boucher at the Boucher Brothers sawmill, Nampa, August 15, 2012



West Fraser senior executives with Minister Frank Oberle, December 7, 2011 (L to R: Jim LeLacheur, Wayne Clogg, Frank Oberle, Hank Ketchum, Dave Lehane)



L to R: Bruce Mayer, Darren Tapp, Jim Stephenson (Canfor) and Roger Loberg (Weyerhaeuser), Grande Prairie, August 31, 2012



L to R: Brad Thorlakson, Hank Ketchum, Al Ward, Minister Diana McQueen, Craig Armstrong and Howie Ewashko, Jasper, September 28, 2012

FHAA PHOTO CORNER

On September 8, 2012 the new outdoor classroom at the Hinton Training Centre's Cache Percotte Forest was dedicated the Murphy Classroom, in honour of Dr. Peter Murphy. Dr. Murphy was instrumental in the development of a top notch forestry training program in Alberta. Construction was completed by Wade Berry with logs from the Cache Percotte Forest.



L to R: Rob Galon, Director Hinton Training Centre presenting Peter Murphy with keepsake framed photograph of the new outdoor classroom



L to R: Don Podlubny and Hinton historian Tom Peterson



L to R: son Tom, Peter Murphy and daughter Sharon



Retired Forest Officer Don Crawford and his wife Carol

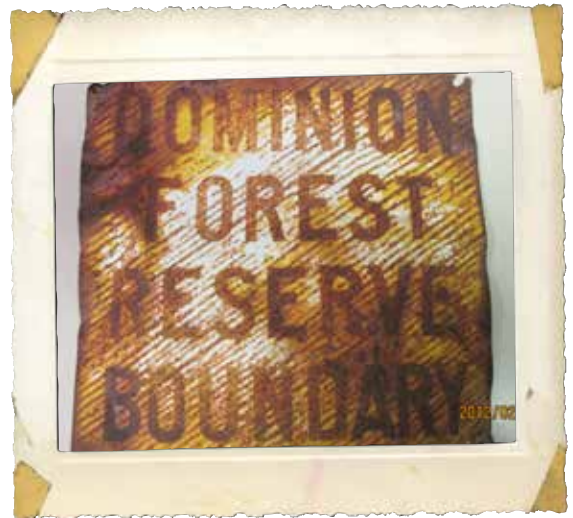
FHAA PHOTO CORNER



On December 12, 2012 Trev Wakelin was presented with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal by George VanderBurg, Associate Minister of Seniors and MLA for Whitecourt-St. Anne. Left to Right: George VanderBurg, Mackenzie Millar, Bruce Mayer, Craig Armstrong, Jim Rennie, Rob Seidel, Ben Sawatsky and Trevor Wakelin (front)



Cache Percotte Trail sign identifying trail built by Junior Forest Rangers, 1966



Dominion Forest Service sign posted primarily along the eastern slopes prior to transfer of forest resources to Alberta in 1930. This sign is now located in the Southern Rockies Area office in Calgary



Dominion Forest Service sign found by Keith McAllister in the Whitehorse Valley, just south of Cadomin

Limber Pine at Whirlpool Point along the Upper North Saskatchewan River August 17, 2012



Thousand-year-old Tree — The Whirlpool Point Pine

Species:

Limber pine

Pinus flexilis

Location:

Upper North
Saskatchewan River

Nominated by:

Betty & James H.
(Harry) Horton

Among the scenic features along the David Thompson highway west of Nordegg are the gnarled and windblown limber pines growing on exposed rocky ridges. The name "limber" comes from the nature of the small branchlets which are usually quite flexible and can be gently bent without breaking.

There are two schools of thought about their distribution. One is that limber pine needs plenty of "elbow room" in which to grow so it is normally found at timber line where there is lots of space between trees. At lower elevations, the tree and brush competition is usually too severe; but in a few exposed rugged sites like these, too harsh for other species, limber pine may also find its needed growing space. The other story is perhaps more interesting. Ecologists have noted that the ranges of Clark's Nutcracker and limber and whitebark pine are the same. The major food of the birds is the seeds of these pines. The birds collect seeds when they ripen in late summer, and store them where they can be relocated during the winter — on the rocky, windblown ridges where the snow blows away — coincident where these trees are found. The trees therefore may be dependent on the birds for their growing locations.

However it happened, this tree found rooting space in a crack in the rock along the North Saskatchewan River. Because the soil was so limited and poor, it grew very slowly. It was nominated by the



Hortons because of its unique and picturesque shape, a tree they had come to admire over the years.

When the "official" measurements were taken by Fred Sutherland and Ted Loblaw, they sampled for age but found it had the expected heart rot. However, the coring of the sound wood from the outside, 10 centimeters showed an astounding age of almost 400 years! Since the outer core is only less than one-fifth of the total radius, it is likely that tree is well over one thousand years old!

Assuming a conservative 1000 years, the tree would have been firmly established in its niche for 80 years when William the Conqueror landed in England, and would have been a venerable 500 years old when Columbus set sail in 1492. David Thompson would have seen it in virtually its present size and shape when he explored his way up the North Saskatchewan valley in 1801. Further studies will be made to try to estimate the total age more closely.

The close-up picture of the trunk shows how the pattern of branches tells a graphic story of a long life of struggle in that harsh exposed environment—but a story of survival and tenacity of life

TRAILS & TALES

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