



Season's Greetings, Everyone!

What a year! We have all been working full tilt with the busy summer season, a transition of government and new mandate priorities.

I am very grateful to work with a group of dedicated and passionate colleagues, and am always inspired by the quantity and quality of work I see around me. Thank you for your commitment to our team. The hard work you've done this year has not gone unnoticed.

I want to encourage you all to fully enjoy the season and come back refreshed and excited for all the possibilities for the New Year. The holiday can be a great time to sit back and enjoy what we've accomplished over the past year. You've truly earned it.

I look forward to working with you in the coming year, and seeing what 2018 will bring.

Best wishes,

Tim Sheldan
Deputy Minister

Advisory Group Vision:

"True to our proud histories, informing ministry staff through balanced and timely communication"

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The Dirt Contents, December 2017

Click on a # to jump to page

IN THIS ISSUE		RECOGNITION		AROUND THE MINISTRY
Join Facebook Group	2	Richard Dominy Retires	8	Golfing Ireland
Fire Season 2017: Re-cap	3-4	Alex Ryland End to Era	8	
Wildfire Liaison Officer	5-6	Erica Reid - AG Member	9	
Right Equipment-Low Cost	6	Bralorne-Takla Remediation Ceremony	13	
Successful Author	7			
Campsite Expansion	9-10	Photo Contest Winners		
GIS Community of Practice	11			
BCTS Drone - Haida Gwaii	12			
Wheels of Progress - 1949	14			
Climate Action - Electric Car	15			
CISM	16			

Fire Season 2017: Re-cap

Submitted by: Ryan Turcot, BCWS



B.C. will remember 2017 as one of the worst wildfire seasons on record.

It was the first season since 2003 to prompt a Provincial Declaration of Emergency, and it was record-breaking by measure of:

- the amount of land burned (over 1.2 million hectares)*
- the total cost of fire suppression (\$566 million)**, and
- the amount of people displaced (roughly 65,000 evacuated)

In stark contrast to the summer that was to come, B.C. observed an unusually quiet spring wildfire season. Between April and the end of June, 255 wildfires had burned 1,625 hectares of land. In an average fire season, there would have been about 420 fires and 26,800 hectares burned in this time span.

Although wildfire activity was low during this time, the province was experiencing notably severe flooding during the spring season. Hundreds of firefighters and other personnel from the BC Wildfire Service were brought in to assist with flood response efforts.

The fire danger for many regions of B.C. began to climb significantly throughout June, although crews were still observing relatively few fire starts. The Cariboo region in particular saw unseasonably hot and dry conditions, as well as record-high Build Up Index (BUI) ratings in several areas. (The BUI is a numeric rating of the total amount of fuel available for combustion, in the event a wildfire does occur.) These developing conditions set the stage for what was to become one of the worst fire seasons on record.

A series of events that took place between July 6 and July 8 dramatically escalated the fire season, and it

continued...

quickly became clear that firefighters and personnel were coming face-to-face with one of the most challenging summers of their careers.

On July 6 a wildfire, which people now know as the Elephant Hill fire, was discovered just outside of Ashcroft, B.C. Within its first 24 hours, the fire grew to over 1,000 hectares in size, burned through numerous properties on the Ashcroft Indian Reserve and in the Boston Flats mobile home park, and prompted the entire village of Cache Creek, B.C. to evacuate. Meanwhile, a series of widespread thunderstorms between July 7 and July 8 led to the majority of over 180 new wildfire starts—the majority of which occurred in the Cariboo. Given how high the BUI indices were in the Cariboo, many of these wildfires grew rapidly and behaved aggressively. This high spike in wildfire activity prompted a Provincial Declaration of Emergency on July 7.

The majority of major “Wildfires of Note” from the 2017 wildfire season occurred during this early-July period. As these fires escalated, a number of communities were threatened.

Outside of this event, firefighting crews were generally successful at containing new wildfires while they were still small. In August, a second wave of heightened fire activity was observed, with several Wildfires of Note cropping up throughout southeastern B.C. and the Southern Interior.

Fires and hectares by fire centre:

Cariboo Fire Centre: 270 fires; 870,147 hectares
Kamloops Fire Centre: 263 fires; 216,383 hectares
Southeast Fire Centre: 375 fires; 90,683 hectares

Prince George Fire Centre: 251 fires; 29,772 hectares
Coastal Fire Centre: 144 fires; 8,269 hectares
Northwest Fire Centre: 40 fires; 265 hectares



What is a Wildfire Liaison Officer?

Submitted by: Ken Waite, retiree, Kelowna BC



I lived at 108 Mile Ranch for 14 years until this past June. A timely move to Kelowna, as many of our friends that we had left behind were evacuated on July 6. I returned at the request of the BC Wildfire Service as a liaison officer when the Gustafson wildfire threatened 100 Mile and continued with the Elephant Hill wildfire that ravaged communities and rural areas from Ashcroft to Bridge Lake.

My duties began as a contact/advisor between the Incident Management Team and 100 Mile House Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). This EOC was comprised of Mayor, councillors, MLA and regional district representatives, RCMP, Natural Resource District staff, MOTI, ESS and me as the BC Wildfire Service liaison and several other key people whose responsibilities ranged from utilities to

public health. On these large fires, local governments are responsible for issuing official declarations for evacuation orders and alerts for their jurisdiction based on information and recommendations from the wildfire incident commander. It's a high-pressure decision implemented efficiently considering the enormous impact it has on residents, businesses and ranchers. My role was gathering information such as road access, values in the area and any other information that would assist in the decision.

Much of my time was spent gathering intel from the various agencies to brief the Incident Management Team (IMT) and conversely briefing elected officials and the people in the EOC on wildfire control strategies and progress. I wasn't a public information source but rather a behind the scenes contact which resulted in

a very large cell phone bill for the 6 weeks of my deployment.

When I wasn't liaising, there were other tasks. I assisted the SPCA with safe entry into evacuated areas to tend to animals left behind or obtained authorizations for others to move livestock. I was also a "tour guide" for the information officers and regional district staff to the rural areas.

Over the course of the summer, I worked for three different BC IMT's and one Alberta IMT and was stationed in 100 Mile and then Clinton fire camps (aka tenting). The Elephant Hill fire was a monster compared to Gustafson and my last 4 weeks were spent communicating between the Kamloops and Cariboo Fire Centres, two regional districts, and many other agencies. An interesting project was trying to get

continued...

Wildfire Liaison Officer continued...

a drone flight authorized so the regional district could map lost structures and notify the owners. With 15+ aircraft working the fire, a Notice to Air Men (NOTAM) and uncontained fire it was almost an impossible task that didn't happen until things settled down.

A personal difficulty I faced, due to my behind the scenes role, were questions from friends and residents that I was unable to answer about their property, when they could return home or detailed information about the fires.

On the positive side, I worked with many dedicated and professional individuals who spent long hours in their tireless efforts to control these fires. Along the way, I learned a little Spanish from the Mexican crew and how cricket is played from the Aussies.

I snapped a photo of the Elephant Hill poster that sums up the summer for me. It's also a visual of the impacts this fire season had on many people, animals and our environment. The beast trampled many things, but was finally tamed.

Right Equipment / Lowest Cost

Submitted by: Lars Hulstein, BCTS HQ

Chasing blue skies and the last of the fall colours, Scott Mitchell and Lars Hulstein from BCTS HQ spent the week of Oct. 2-6 travelling from Terrace to Fort St. John. They visited the five northern BCTS business areas plus the regional office in Prince George discussing local timber supply and sustainability issues.

Yoanda Chua, one of our new BCTS HQ administrative assistants, helped set up travel arrangements for us. Because this was a one-way trip the local car rental agencies quoted an additional cost of up to \$1500 to retrieve the car and bring it back to Terrace. Thinking that was an unreasonable expense, but still needing to source a

means of transport, Yoanda rented a U-Haul cube van for the duo resulting in a significant savings to the BC taxpayer and some stylish wheels—dual wheels that is...

Now that's a fine example of thinking out of the box, or the cube...van.

We saved between \$950-\$1000 (that's using National's quoted fee of \$1400 to pick up the car in Fort St. John, the cheapest car rental cost currently, and factoring in fuel).

Oh, and the memories.....priceless!



Scott Mitchell and the late evening chariot pickup in Terrace.

Lars Hulstein - Fueled by bad 7-11 coffee and Doritos, the team reaches its final destination in Dawson Creek.



Woodlands Supervisor—Successful Author!

Submitted by: Christi Howes, Communications & Engagement Specialist

Larry Fielding, RPF, a Woodlands Supervisor for BC Timber Sales' (BCTS) Silviculture program in Prince George, is also the successful author of a children's book series the X-tails. "I love my job with BCTS. I'm in a position where I work with both a small team and large one," says Fielding. "I can practice forestry and get in the field. As a supervisor, a highlight is working with staff to help them develop and grow."

Fuelled by a desire to write and read original stories to his children and a passion for outdoor activities, Fielding wrote the first book in the X-tails series, *The X-tails Snowboard at Shred Park*, in 2013. There is now a new Christmas book and a total of eight books in the independently published series, suitable for kids aged 2-10, all of which were written in Fielding's family log house north of Prince George on Ruby Lake. He spends the majority of his vacation time visiting schools and sharing his books with kids. "I love being an author and sharing my stories with kids. It's great to see how much they enjoy them," says Fielding.

Fielding's also been giving back to the community. Fifty percent of the royalties from his book *The X-tails Ski at Spider Ridge* are used to buy sports wheelchairs and other recreational equipment for kids with physical disabilities and mobility-limitations. In January, the Fielding's were able to purchase a pair of sports wheelchairs for School District 57's Early Learning Program in Prince George. His website <https://thextails.com> provides links to a host of not-for-profit fundraising and charitable contribution opportunities as well as being an avenue for purchasing his books or requesting school visits.



The X-tails books chronicle the outdoor adventures of Flight the gorilla, Mischief the wolf, Dazzle the bear, Crash the hippo, Charm the kangaroo and Wisdom the lion. These best friends encounter all sorts of fun and mischief in their off road-equipped X-van, while meeting new friends along the way. "As an author, I continually challenge myself to come up with original story ideas," says Fielding. "It keeps me going and keeps it fun." A big attraction for parents to the books is the positive themes that Fielding sneaks into each story, including anti-bullying, sportsmanship, believing in yourself, and inclusion to name a few.

Fielding is currently at work on an X-tails colouring book for the [Let's Play Program](#), a program that is directed at pre-school and elementary aged children in BC with mobility related physical disabilities and promotes inclusive play. The colouring book features the X-tails characters using adaptive sports equipment.



Richard Dominy's Final Farewell – December 22nd

Richard has been with the Newsletter Advisory Group for a very long time and this will be his last official newsletter to be sending out to our retirees and others.

We all would like to recognize Richard's time and dedication to the Ministry Newsletter from vetting stories, to managing the photo contests to supporting all the tracking of retirees' emails, and address changes!

Here is his brief bio sent to all the regular ministry staff:

"Here's to our meeting again someday!

Now is the time for me to say farewell but not goodbye.

Thirty-six years seem to slip by so quickly; where did they go...

My forestry career began with me working for the Alberta Forest Service in Bragg Creek and Jumping Pound Ranger Stations near Calgary. To a prairie boy the Rockies seemed so amazing. Friends I worked with said you must get a university education. So first it was the University of Calgary and then to Edmonton to complete my degree at the Uni-

versity of Alberta.

Further to that was a two year stretch in 1999 to 2001 back to the U of A to receive my MBA and MF.

My forestry timeline:

- Cranbrook – 1981 – 1985
- Invermere – 1985 – 2003
- Prince George – 2003 – 2009 (start of BC Timber Sales)
- Victoria HQ – 2009 to Present

Fondly remembered is my time in the East Kootenays—the Serengeti of North America—and the abundant wildlife that I got to see every day. The scenery rather kicks ass too—check out Lake of the Hanging Glacier, the Bugaboos and many others! And my time in the northern forests around Prince George, I learned so much about the scale of forestry in the North!

Of course, this message is bitter-sweet but my new life begins December 23rd.

There will be projects for me with the BC Forest History Association, the Canadian Institute of Forestry, my local Community Association, the Royal Canadian Legion—and I

am sure more will emerge.

A friend told me that 'in retirement' there will be NO Saturday and Sundays LOL!

So until we meet again all the best and remember why you are here—to take care of the land!"

All the Best - Richard!



The End to an Era

I've been on the DIRT Advisory Group for the past 5 years, and what a great time it has been! I always look forward to our quarterly meetings, reviewing the draft articles and chatting with our group members from across the Province. I'm passing on my role as an Advisory Group member to my co-worker, Erica Reid, as I'm making the move back to Ontario. It's incredibly hard to leave BC (my co-workers think I'm crazy for going back to Onterrible); however I miss my nieces, family and friends too much! My entire forestry career has been on Haida Gwaii. After graduating in 2011 from the University of Toronto with a Master of Forest Conservation, I came to Haida Gwaii to work as a Steward-

ship Technician with FLNRO. I stayed on the FLNRO side of the district office until late 2013 when I made the switch to BC Timber Sales. Since then, I've been an Engineering Technician, an Operations Technologist, and most recently a Practices Forester. My new job with The Regional Municipality of York (the area just north of Toronto for those of you not familiar with Ontario) will be an Area Forester, and I'll be working in more of an Urban Forest context. Thank you for letting me be a part of DIRT for the past while; hopefully there's a similar style of newsletter at York Region that I can be a part of.

Cheers, Alex Ryland

Welcome Erica Reid to the Newsletter Advisory Group

My name is Erica Reid and I am pleased to join The Dirt team, albeit a little sad as I am filling Alex Ryland's role, my dear friend and co-worker, who has left us to move back to Ontario.

I've been asked to share a little bit about myself. Originally from Calgary, I moved to Toronto to pursue a double major in Forest Conservation and Indigenous Studies at the University of Toronto. I spent my summers in Tofino, followed by a brief stint in New York City, where I considered a career in urban forestry. However, the west coast was calling and I moved to Haida Gwaii to participate in the Haida Gwaii Semester, an immersive and rewarding natural resource management program. Haida Gwaii has been my home ever since and I am lucky to be a part of the Haida Gwaii District family, as a Practices Forester with BC Timber Sales. In this role, I have been able to explore my passions for public engagement and silviculture.

I live with my jack-of-all-trades partner Adrian, our three dogs and six chickens. I can't imagine living anywhere else and deeply appreciate the recreational opportunities, culture and camaraderie of the islands, not to mention the chance to garden year-round.

Looking forward to contributing to the newsletter, hearing from you and getting my hands Dirt-y!



RSTBC Jumps to a Fast Start in Delivering More Public Campsites

Submitted by: Ben H Heemskerk, Northern Region, Recreation Sites and Trails BC



After the province announced the Campsite Expansion Program as part of the BC Parks Future Strategy in November 2016, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) quickly stepped up to the plate to deliver an additional 197 new public campsites for the 2017 camping season. Another 258 new campsites are under development for early 2018.

Over a five-year period, British Columbia is investing up to \$22.9 million to build over 2000 new campsites across the province to meet the ever-increasing demand for public recreation. Approximately 870 of the new sites will be in provincial parks, while more than 1100 will be in recreation sites.



Recreation sites are located on provincial Crown land outside of parks and settled areas, and provide a rustic camping experience different from that offered at provincial parks. Most recreation sites are in remote areas accessed by backcountry forest roads. Only basic amenities, such as outhouses, fire rings and picnic tables, are provided.

For 2017, RSTBC's campsite expansion efforts focussed on high-demand areas where new development could be implemented quickly and successfully. Operationally favourable projects were initiated in the Lower Mainland, on Vancouver Island, in the Okanagan, Squamish, Kamloops and Mackenzie areas, and in the Kootenays.

continued...

Campsite Expansion continued...

In the Stave West area near Vancouver, RSTBC collaborated with the District of Mission and the Seyem'Qwantlan First Nations to expand recreation opportunities within the Mission Interpretive Forest. To minimize impacts to forestry operations, a new recreation site with 60 campsites was developed at Rock Creek. The new site has been designed to accommodate motorized recreation users. Future plans include developing a nearby staging area and motorized riding trails. A site host and reservation system provide an enhanced visitor experience in the densely populated Lower Mainland. Two additional recreation sites in the Stave West area are planned for the spring of 2018.

The Chek Canyon Recreation Site near Squamish was formerly a day-use site for rock climbers. While the original site had no camping facilities, it was used extensively for overnight camping by climbing enthusiasts. Developing campsites and facilities at Chek Canyon contributed to new camping opportunities in the area while addressing a number of health, safety and environmental issues associated with unmanaged camping. Thirty new campsites were developed in two loops at the site. In 2017, this popular user-maintained site was over-filled during weekends and more than 90% full during the

week, attracting rock climbers from all over Canada and the US.

An extensive campsite expansion project at the Halfway Hot Springs Recreation Site near Nakusp turned an area with former management issues into a model campground. This site was previously a day-use area for public access to the hot springs. Over time, the site became overcrowded and degraded with people camping overnight without camping pads, adequate toilets, and other facilities. RSTBC constructed 20 new campsites, upgraded the toilets, trails and hot spring pools, and improved the access road and parking lot. The site is now a popular family-friendly camping destination with an on-site host, ongoing maintenance, and a modest user fee for services provided.

For 2018 and beyond, RSTBC will continue to develop a range of new public camping opportunities to increase campsite capacity, improve the overall camping experience, and enhance access for persons with disabilities.

For more information on recreation sites and trails, please visit: www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca.



Alistair McCrone and Teressa McMillan at the Chek Canyon campsite expansion project near Squamish.



Island Lake Expansion – Road upgrades and new campsites constructed at the Island Lake Recreation Site near Winfield.

Geographic Information Systems Community of Practice

Submitted by: Chris Ens, Geospatial Services Team Lead, Thompson Okanagan Region

On October 24 and 25, 2017, the GIS Community of Practice held a rare in person meeting in Victoria. The GIS Community of Practice is sponsored by FLNRORD, but includes members from across the natural resource ministries.



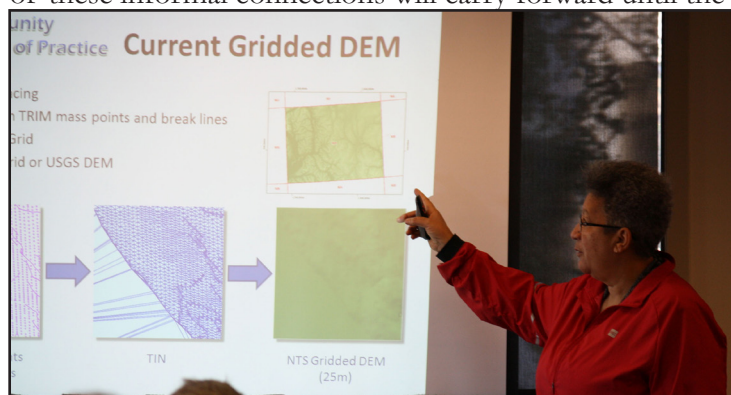
For this meeting we welcomed more than 160 government GIS staff from across the province representing more than 10 agencies.

We developed the conference theme “Innovation is our Direction” to try to capture the link between our business and the PSA’s Corporate Plan, “Where Ideas Work”, where the idea of Innovation features prominently. We also felt our conference goal of connecting GIS staff, sharing our work, and learning from one another lays the foundation for fostering innovation.

During our first morning we held plenary sessions that linked directly with our conference theme. Genevieve Racine from the PSA’s Innovation Hub gave us a presentation on innovation and led us through a group challenge map exercise. We followed up that session with a panel discussion reflecting on past GIS innovation in government. Our panel of Todd Glover, Tim Salkeld, and Kevin Jardine helped us to appreciate the many changes our business and technology have been guided through over the past couple decades and to understand what precipitated innovative changes and successes.

The remaining day and a half was focused on community members sharing their work through presentations, lightning talks (short 5 minute talks where slides are auto-advanced), and a map/poster gallery. Presentations were grouped together by theme into one hour blocks. We had enough presentations to offer concurrent sessions in different rooms so all attendees had a choice of presentations to attend. Our rhythm of presentation sessions, followed by a few lightning talks, followed by coffee breaks allowed for variety and time to ask questions and network.

GIS is a discipline that is facing rapid change as technology advances have made access to geographic information mainstream. In short order we have gone from GIS being a desktop exercise for experts to now enabling clients with geographic data on their mobile devices, publishing interactive maps to the web, and capturing our own imagery with drones. This expansion of GIS has made it impossible for any single GIS person to be an expert at everything and has increased the importance of maintaining a professional network. This event helped connect GIS staff around the province to learn from one another and to recognize the expertise among our ranks. The benefits of these informal connections will carry forward until the next time we are able to organize such a meeting.



BCTS Drone and Pilot on Haida Gwaii Speed Response Time

Submitted by: Christi Howes, Communications & Engagement Specialist, BCTS

This past October, heavy rain triggered a landslide east of Queen Charlotte that knocked out the power and blocked the main road between Queen Charlotte and Skidegate. The road was reopened and power restored within the day thanks to Eliot King, Practices Forester with BC Timber Sales (BCTS), and a BCTS drone. King, a certified drone pilot, then living and working on Haida Gwaii, flew the BCTS drone over the slide and provided aerial imagery to a Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) geotechnician in Terrace. Within a few minutes, MOTI had the information they needed to make a decision. The site was determined to be safe, and work soon began

to clear the debris and reactivate the power. “I was really impressed with how quickly things can work; the efficiency and user friendliness of the technology—the drone took the photos, which I transferred to my cell and emailed to MOTI. It was a seamless integration of the different systems,” said King.

Had the drone and pilot not been on Haida Gwaii, it would have taken at least 24 hours for an MOTI geotechnician to arrive onsite. “This was all done for a one-time purchase of a couple 1000 dollars, so it was a cost effective solution,” said King. “The drone runs on an electric motor. There’s no fuel necessary, so there’s also a limited carbon foot print.” Using drones to get an initial assessment in potentially unstable conditions is not only fast, it’s safe. “There is no human risk to using the drone in a potentially unstable situation rather than a field person taking photos,” explained King.

BCTS has a fleet of 14 drones. “We purchased our first drone in February 2015 for less than 1000 dollars,” said Brian Quinn, Senior Manager, BCTS Business Information. “We wanted an eye in the sky, a view from above we could normally only get from a helicopter, for a fraction of the cost.” BCTS uses drones to carry out visual assessments of cut blocks, help assess free growing areas and check cut block boundaries or site degradation levels and waste. They currently have 26 trained and certified pilots for their drones. “We went for the gold standard of training and were fortunate to hire one of the foremost UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) experts in



Canada,” said Quinn. “We’re sharing the airspace with commercial aircraft and take safety very seriously.” The four day course consists of two days of ground school training with a UAV certified trainer, one day of policy and review of the BCTS Flight Operations Manual, and one dedicated day and three evenings of flying in the field.

The BCTS Flight Operations Manual was developed in house and documents both pre and post flight protocols, emergency procedures, checklists as well as flight logs and battery logs. “Our operations are unique. Every new mission we create a business case for. We take the existing field method, price that out and compare it to the flight mission,” said Quinn. BCTS’ drone program is saving costs and time and is focussed on continuous improvement, innovation and achieving results.



Qingcen Cai

Bralorne-Takla Remediation Closure Ceremony

Submitted by: Joanna Runnells, M.Env.Sc., P.Geo., EP, Sr. Program Geoscientist, Crown

Contaminated Sites Program



ADMS Dave Peterson and Kevin Kriese, along with Gregg Stewart and I from the Crown Contaminated Sites Program (CCSP) (part of the Crown Land Opportunities and Restoration Branch) had the privilege of attending a traditional potlatch hosted by Takla Lake First Nation (TLFN). The TLFN hosted this closure ceremony which included an on-site ceremony, following the remediation of the Bralorne-Takla mine site. It was an incredible privilege to be included in these community events.

It took more than 11 long years to get to this point. The Bralorne-Takla Mine was a historic mercury mine that operated during World War II. It's located within the TLFN traditional territory approximately 180 km north of Fort St. James and approximately 37 km east-northeast of the community of Takla Landing.

Investigations started in 2005 then halted between 2009 and 2012 as a relationship was built between the CCSP and the TLFN. From 2012 onward, every field visit included at least one TLFN member. The remedial option was jointly selected by BC and TLFN. The remediation contractor was evaluated on use

of TLFN resources, resulting in labourers and equipment being from the TLFN community. Over the life of the project, the main TLFN environmental monitor was involved in more sampling events than any other team member!

Remediation included the removal of all hazardous wastes (liquid mercury, asbestos, soils with leachable metals), and the construction of two covered landfills for the remaining contaminated material containing mercury, antimony, arsenic, cadmium and other metals and hydrocarbons. The two mine openings were capped with concrete covers. The site was planted with native species. Ongoing monitoring includes regularly scheduled inspections of the cover, monitoring of vegetation growth, and sampling of surface and groundwater.

Both the contamination of the land and the use of materials from their territory in wartime activities impacted the TLFN. The closure ceremony was a chance to let go and to celebrate. It was an incredibly powerful event. Everyone from the community was involved, with a big focus on youth and elders. As guests we were seated with the Cariboo clan and invited to dance with them. The gift giving stretched for hours and showed overwhelming generosity. This was a career highlight I will continue to hold in my heart.

The CCSP biennial report is due out in April 2018 or you can contact me - Joanna.Runnells@gov.bc.ca.



The Wheels of Progress Roll in New Denver (1949)

By C. R. Tippie

The Wheels of Progress Roll in New Denver

By C.R. Tippie

Although some districts are classed as back in the bush, from these come many queer machines. From our proud district we wish to introduce to you a piece of machinery designed and built by a local trapper from Sandon. This, although a queer looking contraption, has proved to be of much more value than the old pack horse or pack board. This little piece of machinery is called a Trailmobile and has to be licensed like any other motor vehicle.

It is a three-wheeled vehicle, the wheels of which are rubber wheelbarrow wheels. It is approximately 6 feet long and 30 inches wide. It is powered by a Briggs and Stratton air-cooled motor and is belt driven. It has two speeds and is capable of taking a 200 pound load plus the driver up a 20 to 25 percent grade. The trails used by this machine are the old pack trails and although at one time in good shape they have had little or no work done on them the last few years. The rear and power axle is one piece with the drive gear keyed on. This gives better service than with a differential because in a case where one wheel goes off the trail the other one is still driving. Two belts are used in both the low and high gear and one set must be taken off as this is the only way to change gears. The speed of this machine is from 3 to 5 M.P.H. in low gear and from 9 to 12 M.P.H. in high gear. The weight is about 400 pounds and the cost estimated at \$500.00



Some may think this is just another useless contraption and would like to call our bluff but the owner is willing to take you for a ride that will really open your eyes. The machine shown in the attached prints is the original model built four years ago. Little has been spent on upkeep and the machine has been used winter and summer. No estimate of mileage can be given but it must be considerable as every mining magnate that has come to Sandon during the present lead-zinc boom has made the trial run and probably several more trips to old properties for sampling of ore. All have the same remarks to pass: "The poorest of riding beats the best of walking."

For servicing lookouts and to convert the hay-burner on patrol districts to gas, this unit should be well worth investigating. What the bears will say about a gas buggy out ridge-running after they have vacated the valleys to them, is hard to say but progress is being made. The trappers and prospectors are discarding the pack boards - the Forest Service soon the packhorse.

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Have a story from the "past"? Send to
[*The Dirt*](#) Newsletter Advisory Group!

Climate Action-Chevy Bolt Electric Car

Submitted by: Gerry MacDougall, Regional Executive Director, Thompson Okanagan



With thanks to the support and leadership of Trish Dohan, ADM and her CSNR Asset Teams, Regional Operations recently took delivery of the first fully electric vehicle in FLNRORD's fleet. Clive Lawrence CSNR Area Vehicles Coordinator delivered the keys to me on October 20, 2017, and it will soon be sporting the BC Government logo.

This completes one of the elements of the Thompson Okanagan Region (TOR) Climate Action Plan and demonstrates leadership for our ministry and government service. With all of us having grown up with the previously inextricable link between transportation and petroleum, fully electric vehicles are a mind bender. Petroleum is easily found and will always be a potent source of energy. While electricity is also readily available, at least in developed areas, it takes longer to recharge a battery than it does to refill a gas tank and up until recently, vehicles with a range of 380 km were not mainstream. Relying on an electric car for transportation requires a different way of thinking about energy and transportation. This change in the way we think is one of the key elements of our TOR Climate Action Plan.

To be clear, this vehicle is unlikely to be found traversing a fire guard, pulling a culvert trailer or packing a chain saw. What it will be doing is providing transportation locally and between our office centers throughout the region. The longest route between our Kamloops and Penticton offices is 283 km via Princeton and that passes by FLNRORD offices on the way. You'll just have to remember to plug it in once you get there.

What's next?

Most of the TOR offices will soon be equipped with electric vehicle (eV) charging stations. Over the months ahead, the learnings about eV transportation will be shared with our Climate Action Teams. As future vehicle acquisitions occur, asset recommendations will consider the best "fit" for electric vehicles in the context of our fleet needs. In the meantime, we will figure out how to adapt and identify the advantages and disadvantages all the while appreciating an emissions free vehicle that will not require "pay at the pump".

p.s. I drove the car from Williams Lake to 100 Mile House for our DLT meeting, and had another 70-80 km of battery life left!

In times of trauma, FLNRORD's Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program is a resource for all employees

Submitted by: Kelly Vijandre, Senior Policy Advisor, Lands Branch, Rural Development, Lands and Innovation Division



Back row (L-R): Richard Grice, Bruce Ramsay, Dave Wilford, Luke Clarke, Erik Hanson, Eric Smith, Troy Larden
Front row (L-R): Karen Powell, Elisabeth Deom, Ailsa Siemens, Edi Torrans, Delee Anderson, Kelly Vijandre, Barb Drennan. Missing from the photo: Robbie Keddie and George Warr

Founded 27 years ago by the former Protection Branch, in response to a critical incident, the ministry's Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team was established to support staff exposed to a traumatic event. Since 1990, FLNRORD's CISM program has continued to support ministry employees in a commitment to support the health and well-being of all staff.

The CISM program is an organized, comprehensive and research based approach to responding to critical incidents. The CISM team's work is founded on a model focused on resistance, resilience and recovery following a critical incident. This peer support model is designed to support staff in preventing, reducing, controlling, understanding and managing stress symptoms resulting from a critical incident.

The CISM team is comprised of 15 volunteer peers from throughout the ministry, who have received specialized training from the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation.

So what exactly is a critical incident? A critical incident is any situation that causes an individual to experience

unusually strong emotional reactions, which have the potential to interfere with their ability to function either at the time or later. Examples of critical incidents include, but are not limited to, the death of a friend, colleague or family member, witnessing a motor vehicle accident, natural disasters, close calls in a vehicle, aircraft, etc.

The goals of the CISM program are to:

- Help build resilience to critical incidents.
- Reduce the effects of stress responses resulting from a critical incident.
- To accelerate the recovery process.
- To provide support in a defined way.
- To assess the need for further services.

These goals are achieved through the three parts of the CISM program:

1. Education and awareness sessions – delivered to staff to raise awareness of the program and common responses to critical incidents.

continued...

CISM continued...

2. Interventions – facilitated by trained CISM peers following a critical incident.
3. Follow-up – initiated by CISM peers following an intervention to check-in / provide any necessary referrals.

This past summer, BC experienced a natural disaster with an unprecedented wildfire season which had unprecedented impacts on staff. Many of our staff were on the front lines fighting the wildfires, coping with evacuation orders, and continuing to fight wildfires to protect and support our communities while living under evacuation notice. The impact of this critical incident on our staff was, without question, profound and complex. The 2017 fire season can definitely be considered a critical incident, and it drew on the CISM program in new and different ways.

During the 2017 wildfire season, in addition to CISM's regular business (providing immediate support following a critical incident) the Team strived to maintain an ongoing presence onsite for staff at various Fire Centres, Dis-

trict offices and fire camps, and to provide information to staff at critical junctures (e.g. transitioning to days off and at the end of season).

As we move farther from the end of the fire season, the CISM team continues to provide support to affected offices and staff through interventions and education sessions. The CISM team is appreciative to all of the staff, managers and executive who have drawn on CISM resources during the prolonged critical incident experienced during the 2017 fire season. In support of our broad and diverse ministry, the CISM team continues to be dedicated to offer many levels of support to our staff. The CISM team is available for information and education sessions as requested, and we are available for support 24/7 at the CISM hotline.

For more information, please visit the CISM program intranet page [here](#).

In the event of a critical incident, the CISM program can be accessed 24/7 by calling 1-800-661-CISM (2476).

4 Friends, 100 golf balls and 7 rounds of golf in Ireland?

Submitted by: Steve Dodge, retiree

Sounds like an enchanted tour of the Emerald Isles and when a friend sent me the book "A Course called Ireland" way back in 2011 with a scribbled sticky note saying, "We've got to do this, September 2017" it seemed like a clever idea. But back then I was a brand-new District Manager, the buddy who had sent the book to 3 of us was a High School Principal, another was a partner in a law firm in and the entrepreneur amongst us had just bought a condo on a golf course in Maui. In addition to this, we were (and still are) happily married with children currently in some form of post secondary studies.

So, at first glance the chances of this happening were 50-50 at best, but after reading the book by Tom

Coyne I think we all decided that we needed to try and jump through the hoops to make it a reality.

Flash forward to 2017, the two civil servants have retired, and the 2 others can operate their empires via their cell phones. Three of the spouses have given the thumbs-up and my part time jobs working for Census Canada, Canada Post and Elections BC convinced my wife not to give the thumbs down! Time to book the southwest swing through Tailor Made Golf tours and book the flight to Dublin.



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Golf Ireland continued...

Fortunately, I was able to use points to upgrade to Premium Economy for the flight from Vancouver-Toronto-Dublin and my travelling partner from PG upgraded as well so we enjoyed our quick flight over the Atlantic with assistance from the remnants of Hurricane Harvey. Unfortunately, the open bar and free movies resulted in zero sleep and only one of us managed to deplane with their wallet (I had mine) but after an hour of frantic phone calls all of his credit cards were cancelled.

They say that to avoid jet-lag you need to force yourself to stay awake, so after we rendezvoused with the Barrister and checked into our Air BNB we decided we better start taking in the sights of Dublin. After an hour of meandering the streets and a pint at the Brazen Head (established in 1198 and claiming to be the oldest Pub in Ireland) we found ourselves only a block away from the Guinness Storehouse, so we headed over to see what all the fuss was about. Four floors of interactive displays explain the history and methods to create this robust stout with lessons on how to pour the perfect pint (takes over 2 minutes). The 7th floor offers a panoramic view of Dublin where you can enjoy your “free” pint with 200 of your new-found friends before taking the opportunity to visit the 5th floor Pub.

The next day our fourth arrived and we visited the Temple Bar area (Bar, as in sand bar along the river) with my wallet less friend's cousin from Belfast joining us for the afternoon. A quick visit to the Jameson Distillery reminded me that I will never be a whiskey connoisseur. On the way there we were able to witness the 98th annual Liffey River swim meet where 300 men and 200 women braved the chilly waters for 2.2 km. Maybe that's what Jameson is good for as it was only 8 C and wetsuits are not allowed?

The next day the trip began in earnest as we picked up our rental van and headed due west towards Galloway and Doolin. The remnants of Hurricane Harvey arrived at the same time as Ireland's west coast was being bombarded with 70-90 km winds. Luckily the wind soon subsided, and nobody needed to buy any more golf balls!

The next 11 days are a bit of a blur (luckily my camera kept track of our adventures) as we drove 1100 km and, played Lahinch, Doonbeg, Ballybunion, Tralee, Dooks,

Waterville and Old Head with 2 sightseeing days built in. We stayed at 5 Bed and Breakfasts in Doolin, Ballybunion, Killarney, Waterville and Kinsale where I had the full Irish Breakfast (Hold the Black Pudding) 7 out of 10 times! I think we only ate dinner at 2 restaurants with an Irish Pub being our go to establishment and of course sampled several varieties of beer with Guinness being our favourite.

Highlights: All of the Golf Courses! These courses were all ranked in the top 30 in Ireland with Ballybunion being #1 and Dooks #30. Many of the other golfers playing were travelling in Lavish buses or Executive Helicopters. Despite our shabby appearance in comparison, we were treated like kings at every stop.

The Cliffs of Moher! At the highest the Cliffs are 800 feet straight down to a boiling Atlantic (The Cliffs of Despair scene in the Princess Bride was filmed here) and you can easily hop the 3-foot wall to look right over the edge if you dare (at least 50% of the people do).



Making birdie on #18 at Ballybunion after I stuffed my 2nd shot to 8 feet. Tom Coyne mentioned in his book that if there was a better approach to a finishing hole than the 2nd shot to the vaulted 18th, he was yet to play it!

The rugged beauty at every turn along the coast and the lane and a half wide highways with 100km/hr speed limits. The passenger side of your car will be scraping bushes unless you drive down the middle of the road! The Island where Luke Skywalker is living as a Hermit in the Force Awakens is just off the Ring of Kerry near Waterville and you can see similar looking sights constantly.

continued...

Golf Ireland continued...

The Full Irish Breakfast? I had heard of it before, but was surprised at how quickly it was created for you each morning. It consisted of 1-2 fried eggs, 2-3 pieces of bacon, 1-2 links of sausage, a white and black pudding (don't ask), some form of potatoes and 2 pieces of pale toast. A Snickers bar was all we ever needed at lunch time.

Playing Old Head Golf Links which is perched on top of the Old Head of Kinsale a tee bone shaped rocky outcrop of spectacular views on every hole. The last shot of our tour was fittingly played by our organizer who despite not making a putt beyond 8 feet all tour, managed to roll in a 20-footer for birdie!

The people of Ireland! From our Van driver Cal in Dublin who ensured we were into our Air BNB and gave us a ride to the airport on his day off to the Air Canada employee who was waiting at check-in for our return trip with my buddy's wallet (60 Euro's still inside)!

The golf isn't for everyone as the rough is a windswept 6-12 inches long quagmire that we named "schmag". It's everywhere and loves to eat golf balls. The par 3's have almost no landing areas before the greens which are undoubtedly up-hill into the wind. Other than that, we had no problem in not hiring a caddy as all courses had yardage books and the caddy masters went out of their way to give you pointers.

The only drawback was that I was in Ireland during the annual provincial golf tournament in Williams Lake, I won't make that mistake again, FORE!



The first stroke I ever played in Ireland was my drive on the opening hole at Labinch more than 20 years ago. I urge you to follow my footsteps, for as the ball leaves the clubface to wing over this restless and hummocky and tumbling terrain...you will know without being told that here is links golf - the reason you have crossed an ocean -in its purest and most joyous form.

- James W. Finegan, "Emerald Fairways and Foam-Flecked Greens"

The Dirt Photographers!

Time to get out and snap some photos! *The Dirt* Advisory Group increasingly requires good quality digital photos for the quarterly newsletter. We acknowledge that there are skilled photographers among ministry staff and would like to showcase your photos in each quarterly edition.

Categories

Photos can consist of:

- Workplace images – individuals or groups/teams in office and field settings; health, wellness and social activities;
- Community involvement;
- Wildlife; or
- Scenic.

Submission Details

- Deadline for submissions is changed with each edition and will be noted on the previous edition.
- Images can be submitted to: FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca
- The contest is open to all ministry employees and retirees.
- Interested staff can make submissions to as many editions (season/category) as they want, but there is a limit of 5 images per category.
- We are looking for recent photos; please limit your entries to shots taken within the past 2 years.

View and Select your Prize!!

PRIZES

Don't forget to try your hand at writing a limerick or poem. Send [The Dirt](#) Advisory Group your ideas!

Prizes and Judging

- There will be an overall “Best” image in each category;
- Judging will be done by the Advisory Group;
- Images will be judged on composition, clarity, exposure, creativity, relevance to the ministry and category fit;
- The winner of the “Best” image in each category will be sent a prize for their photo (see Prizes available);
- Individuals can win only one prize; and
- All winners will be announced with their photo in the edition of the newsletter.

Technical Specifications/Requirements

The following specifications and requirements have been established to ensure that images can be used in a variety of applications.

1. All images must have relevance to the ministry and be submitted in digital format.
2. All images must be in full colour or black and white.
3. Photo dimensions (image size) should be at 300 dpi and preferably in a JPG format and sent to FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca.
4. Images can be digitally enhanced (i.e., colour/exposure adjusted composite photos are okay), but not digitally altered (i.e. NO “Photo-Shop” images must portray subjects and/ or material in photo as they were captured).
5. When submitting images, some descriptive information is to be included – category or image and location.
6. All images submitted, whether or not selected as a winning image, may be published in future issues of the newsletter or potential other sources (The [Dirt Facebook](#) account)

For further information, contact:

FLNRNews@gov.bc.ca

DEADLINE IS MARCH 16, 2018.

December Edition Photo Contest Winners!

Only received photos from 4 people, so they are all winners!

Scenic Category - Motor Vessel Forest Patrol - Near Dufferin Island

Photo taken by: Dacen Brooks, B.Sc., Natural Resource Officer, West Coast Region, Compliance and Enforcement Branch



Photographers, please contact the [Advisory Group](#) to claim your prize or contact [Sonia Donison](#) directly.

Workplace Category - Larch cone in one of the plantations in Mackenzie district. It is still in an experimental stage on how well this species can do at this latitude.

Photo taken by: Monika Singh, Advisor, First Nations Relations, Mackenzie Natural Resource District



Have a photo for the next “Photo Contest?” Review the contest guidelines and send your photo’s to [The Dirt Advisory Group!](#)

Workplace Category - Accounts payable staff at the William's Lake Fire Center during August wildfires.

Photo submitted by: Valerie Nelson, Sr. Financial Analyst, Corporate Services



Valerie Nelson, Kim Hegarty, Andrea Frederick, Cassandra Ennis, Taffe Potulicki, Yvonne McNeil, Norma McDonald, Jen Kelsall, Nicole Adams, Janelle Harder, Elaine Jennings, Tammy Buckles, Jeff Cui, Cara Nelson

Workplace Category - Long Liner, comes from the Yukon and is the largest tanker in Canada.

Photo taken by: Kim Hegarty, C.S.P., Resource and Contract Administrator



Have a photo for the next “Photo Contest?” Review the contest guidelines and send your photo’s to [The Dirt Advisory Group!](#)



**Merry
Christmas**
from the Dirt
Advisory Group!

Sheila Tucnik

The Dirt is a quarterly newsletter for all employees and former employees.

Sonia Donison is providing management, coordination and production for the newsletter. Questions or comments about the newsletter should be directed to Sonia at 250 356-9638 or via [email](#).

Call for Stories/Ideas

The success of the newsletter depends upon the active engagement of staff throughout the organization. One way for people to support the newsletter is to share your ideas, news, stories, successes, experiences with revitalization and learning, celebrations and photos for use in future editions of the newsletter. People are asked to check with Sonia at 250 356-9638 or via [email](#) about their idea or ideas for an article prior to writing the story. Stories are to be submitted no later than 2 weeks prior to each quarterly edition (March, June, September, December). Article deadlines for the next edition is March 16, 2018.



[SUBMISSION GUIDELINES](#)